

Walking through Covent Garden market or Camden Lock is a fascinating experience. Stalls with every conceivable kind of goods for sale abound, and often amongst all the indifferent, second-rate stuff, exactly what you have been searching for. It may not be quite to your pattern, or made of the material that you had envisaged, but you know that you must have it. It is an unexpected joy.

Many people walk through life as if they are in a market, looking at that way, sampling this way. Very many have never had any idea of what the Christian faith looks like, because they have only seen it distorted by men and women who call themselves Christians. Some people equate Faith with the Church in one form or another, or with one way of morality or another. It is none of these things.

Christian Faith is the faith which has Easter at its centre, which acknowledges Jesus as the Risen Lord who alone has conquered death. Once found amongst the other examples of faith in the world market it is not to be missed. It is never a bargain, it is never cheap. The price we have to pay is no less than that of ourselves as we seek to follow, understand, and shape ourselves on Jesus. Lent is a time which we can use to renew our faith, prepare ourselves for Easter afresh.

We are encouraging new methods of enquiry and discovery this year; Housegroups which will already be under way by the time you read this and a different emphasis in Holy Week. If you can use either of these vehicles to find or renew your faith it will be infinitely worthwhile. Do give them a try and enjoy a really Happy and Joyful Easter, when it comes.

Nicholas Chubb

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

As you will have read briefly in February's Spire our Holy Week activities are going to be led this year by a member of a religious order, Brother Edward from the Society of St. Francis. There was a short article last year on the work of a Friar before Brother Donald came to speak to us. Brother Edward will be staying with us from Palm Sunday until Good Friday and will lead all the weekday services except the Children's Service on Good Friday. I hope that many people will take this special opportunity of joining in what has been arranged.

The programme will be as follows:

Palm Sunday 31st March

9.30 Parish Communion
18.30 Pageant of the Church

Monday 1st April

9.30 Holy Communion
20.00 "Saying our Prayers" Wayside

Tuesday 2nd April

9.30 Holy Communion
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 "Looking at Ourselves" Wayside

Wednesday 3rd April

6.30 Holy Communion
12.00 Austerity Lunch Wayside
20.00 The Way of the Cross

Maundy Thursday 4th April

20.00 Parish Communion followed by refreshments

Good Friday 5th April

10.00 Children's Service and making of Easter Garden
12.00 Three Hours Service

Saturday 6th April – Easter Eve

20.00 Renewal of Baptismal vows and lighting of Paschal candle

Sunday 7th April – Easter Day

8.00 Holy Communion
9.30 Parish Communion
11.30 The Easter Story for young children
18.30 Festal Evensong

MOTHERING SUNDAY

There will be a special Non-liturgical Service on Mothering Sunday at 4.30 p.m. 17th March. There will be refreshments after the Service and it is hoped that there will be something for the children to give to their mothers during the Service. This will be a good opportunity to break the austerity of Lent for one day to come and celebrate this special day.

THE MOTHERS UNION

We are holding a **JUMBLE SALE** on Saturday, 9th March at the Parish Hall, School Road, Hampton Hill from 1.30 p.m. We shall be glad to receive any jumble after 10 a.m. at the Hall or if you wish it to be collected please phone 979-3748.

Our **MARCH MEETING** will be in Wayside on Wednesday, 6th at 2.30 p.m. when Mrs. Pat Evans the Vice-President for the Kensington area will give a talk on Israel. Any visitors will be welcome.

The **AUSTERITY LUNCH** will be held in Wayside on Wednesday, 3rd April from 12 - 1.30 p.m. with a minimum charge of 50p. There will be a Bring & Buy Stall and a Raffle. All proceeds are donated to Christian Aid.

**ST. JAMES'S
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 1985
PARISH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD
7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.**

Time is fast approaching for our important Annual Parochial Church Meeting, so please book the date in your diaries now. The ACM is formally preceded by the Meeting of Parishioners at which the two Churchwardens are appointed for the next twelve months. The Annual Church Meeting, which all those on the St. James's Church Electoral Roll are entitled to attend, elects 20 persons to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), of which as a general rule at St. James's, not more than 12 should be of the same sex. We are always looking for new blood, so if you are willing to serve please look out for the nomination forms to appear shortly at the back of the Church. The annual meeting will hear reports on the proceedings of the PCC, the financial affairs of the parish, the fabric of the Church, and the proceedings of the Deanery Synod. There will also be reports from various church organisations and their representatives will be available to answer your questions. In the meantime please check with Mrs. Jennifer Lloyd that your name is on the Electoral Roll. Coffee will be served before the Meeting. Do come. It's far from boring!

RLB

THE COMMON FUND ASSESSMENT — REASONABLE OR NOT ?

Those of you who read our Annual Accounts, and I hope that is most, will be aware that, for some years, the largest item of expenditure has been our payment to the Diocese under the heading of Common Fund assessment. This is our contribution to the central body of the Church which collects, by way of a levy, the sum it requires to meet its expenses, the biggest of which is the cost of clergy stipends and the provision of parsonages.

Until 1982 the amount we paid to the Common Fund was based entirely on our income as shown by our Accounts, but it was then felt that this was unfair on those parishes who had been successful in stewardship and had raised their incomes substantially. In effect they would be subsidising other parishes who did not make the same effort.

In that year, therefore, it was decided to change the method of assessment and during the next three years there was a gradual changeover to the present system which is known as the Potential Income system. This starts with the number of families assumed to be supporting us, as indicated by the number on our Electoral Roll, Stewardship membership, Christmas and Easter Communicants, etc. and applies that to an amount, decided by the Diocese, as the average giving per week which it is considered would be appropriate for a family in our Parish. Taking 1984 as an example, our Family Count was 181 and our

Potential Giving was assessed at £1.72 per week. After adjustments and allowances, our Quota Assessment by this method was £12,009 and this was the amount we paid for that year. This compared with £8,068 for the previous year.

For 1985 the Diocese have decided that our Potential Income should be increased to £2.29 per week, which with a Family Count of 183, makes our Potential Giving £21,792. At the same time they have asked us to increase our contribution to the Diocese to £16,810.

This leaves us with a large problem in that at present our actual income is far short of our Potential Income. For 1984 our income from all sources (Stewardship, Collections, Hall lettings, Wayside, etc.) was approximately £20,000 and for 1985 it is not expected to be greatly different. If out of this, we have to pay a Common Fund assessment of £16,810 we will be left with £3,190 only to meet our own normal expenditure, which last year totalled £10,407. Obviously we must either reduce our payment to the Fund, cut our expenditure or raise our income.

In the short term it is unlikely that we can raise our income substantially, but I think it must be our long term aim. I would therefore ask you to consider whether the Diocesan estimate of our potential of £2.29 per week per family is reasonable as an average contribution to the Church, and if it is, what should we all be doing to make it a reality. Remember that we are classified as a comparatively wealthy parish and that a large part of what we pay to the Diocese goes towards making up the shortfall from other less affluent parishes. Perhaps I may also suggest that, as in the Diocese, where the richer parishes help pay for the poorer, so at St. James we should be applying the same principle.

H.S.

IN MEMORIAM: LEONARD MELVILLE

"The Lord has called a disciple." — these were the final words in the announcement of the death of Leonard Melville on January 20th. How very appropriate that his funeral service took place on the Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul in the presence of a large congregation.

We all mourn the loss of such a kindly, generous man, conscientious in all he undertook to the very last. When the Rev. R.H. Brunt persuaded the Parochial Church Council to invite the Wells Organisations, a Group of Companies of Fund Raising advisers and Consultants, to assist in improvement of the Church finances, he found a very willing ally in Mr. Melville. Leonard accepted the office of Chairman of the Stewardship Committee in 1961 and continued in that capacity until 1983, witnessing the success of the first and subsequent Stewardship renewal Campaigns. In his way of life he exemplified the Stewardship of Time and Talents. A regular worshipper at the 8.00 a.m. Communion Services, he also took a big interest in Catechumenate Meetings.

He held the office of Treasurer to the Parochial Church Council for many years until 1962 and was a Churchwarden with Mr. Wigginton until 1963.

He will be missed by so many in the local community and by the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Association. We extend our deep sympathy to Dilys, Rosalind, Richard and the four Grandchildren. St. James is the poorer for the passing of such a devoted and devout member of the Church.

L.R.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

The Talmud tells us that "a little light dispels a great deal of darkness". By the time this magazine is being read many of the family of St. James's will have been meeting together to consider the quality of the ministry of our church. Does our light shine in the window or under the meal tub? How can it be inspired to shine brighter, attracting others to it?

On Sunday 3rd February we had the pleasure of welcoming the grandfatherly figure of the Rev. Bill Rowatt, retired vicar of a country parish in Cornwall, to preside at our Family and Parade Service. He told us that Candlemass was always celebrated in his church although generally it had ceased to be an important festival in the Church's year. Alan Taylor had just read the Beatitudes with magnificent conviction and Mr. Rowett drew our attention to verses about the lighted candle and that Jesus tells us that we must shed light amongst our fellows. He demonstrated to the enthralled young people (and equally to we older ones!) with some small night lights, the little light that is each one of us burning in certain circumstances — weakly with no shelter flickering and wavering; then hidden uselessly under a flower pot; then stifled to death dying visibly in full view under a glass jam jar and finally sheltered by a purpose-built lamp glass ready to be effective on any window sill. But there was more; we were shown how one little light could give light to another and yet another. "If I had brought enough candles" he said, "this whole big church would be lighted so that there would be no need of electric light". But there was still more. ***The light, the first candle had to be lit. The match had to be struck, the candle ready. It didn't light itself!***

What lights the candles that are ourselves? What more do we need than we have already got to make us burn brighter and to be able to pass our light to others? The answer is surely the same light that fired the disciples. The light of the teaching and promises of Jesus and of the baptism in the Holy Spirit of which John preached and which, according to Christ's promise, they received at Pentecost and which only Christ, the true light of world can give.

If our Lent deliberations (and we have gone into this sort of exercise in depth before in St. James's history) come to this sort of conclusion then, this time they will bear fruit and come out from under the meal tub or the jam jar and our light will truly shine because the match will have been struck by the source of all light and not merely from that generated by man himself.

We hear very little in the Church of England about that baptism which is more than water — but nevertheless all over the world the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit is new birth and Christian revival together with the gifts and fruits of the Spirit which accompany it. Shouldn't we study to find out more about this?

M.O.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On Sunday, 20th January, I went with a large group from St. James's to Evensong at St. Mary's, Hampton. It was a lovely service, held to mark the week of prayer for Christian Unity. I always enjoy worshipping with Christians from other Churches and denominations, and this was no exception.

By the time I arrived the Church was fairly full and I had to walk to the front to find a seat. It was nice to receive a welcoming smile and "A very good evening to you" from the person I sat beside. The singing was beautifully led

by St. Mary's Church choir, and a thought provoking sermon was preached by Dr. Humphrey Fisher, a Reader at St. Mary's.

Coffee and biscuits were served after the service at the back of the Church and there was an opportunity to meet and talk with people from the other churches. I particularly enjoyed meeting a lady who had been a Sunday School teacher for fifty years and who is still 'going strong'!

Betty Stewart

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

CHRISTINGLE January 6th

I would like to thank Margaret Hillman, A.C.S.L. Brown Pack for the very enthusiastic "Epiphany Story" which she produced for the Christingle Service, almost every boy in the Pack took part. In addition 2 Scouts and a Guide read the Lessons and a good number of Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides formed the Procession of Light. It was very pleasing that the Group were so involved in this beautiful service.

URGENTLY NEEDED Cub Scout Leader for Gold Pack which meets on Wednesday evenings. If anyone feels they can offer this service to the community please contact me (977-5041).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New style Family Service	—	March 3rd	—	Parade Sunday
Jumble Sale	—	March 16th	—	Parish Hall
St. George's Day Service	—	April 28th	—	St. Mary's College
A.G.M.	—	May 17th	—	Parish Hall

Michael J. Childs, GSL

PEACE-KEEPING BROTHERHOOD *Excerpt from Scouting Magazine Jan. '85*

"I would like to take this opportunity to say how encouraging it was to hear of the sterling service to the nation that the Scouts in El Salvador are providing for a country at war for many years between Government forces and those of the FMLN.

It must have been with great relief that the citizens of this little Central American Country heard of the proposed talks to be held for all interested parties with the aim of bringing about a cease-fire and then on to democratic elections held in conditions agreed by both sides.

That these talks were even able to take place in an atmosphere of relative neutrality and security is thanks largely to the intervention of the Scout Association in El Salvador and also to that of the Red Cross. In facing angry crowds and ensuring security, in order that the talks could be held, they deployed fortitude and Scout-like behaviour. This enabled them to do their duty to all in this war-torn country. Such a constructive attitude to Society is a credit to us all in the world-wide Brotherhood of Scouting.

When we hear of efforts like these and those of all Scouts abroad involved in doing their best in places such as Lebanon, it really makes us proud to say we belong to a truly international Brotherhood. It gives us an example which we must never fail to try to follow for the common good of all".

BISHOP DESMOND TUTU

On Monday 19th November Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Prizewinner and newly appointed Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, gave the annual Drawbridge Lecture in St. Paul's Cathedral. This was a memorable occasion. St. Paul's was filled to capacity to hear Bishop Tutu, who gave an inspiring talk lasting well over an hour, infused by a radiant love of humanity, stemming from his deep conviction in the power of the Christian spirit. But the poignant eloquence with which he speaks about his people's sufferings is a heartfelt appeal to the conscience of each one of us.

Bishop Tutu was passionate in his belief that the churches must not shirk political involvement. A god who required a division of religion and politics would be "an aloof figure dwelling in an Olympian fastness unconcerned about his people". But "the Christian god cares about people who starve, who are uprooted from their homes, whose families are separated". The Bible stated unequivocally that he who said he loved God, but hated his neighbour, was a liar. Jesus Christ mingled with the outcasts, fed the hungry, succoured the oppressed, healed the sick, clothed the naked, gave sight to the blind. "Which Bible are people reading if they say that religion and politics do not mix?" Bishop Tutu asked. The Bible's response to a situation of injustice and oppression was a deeply revolutionary one.

Bishop Tutu said that apartheid denied the whole spirit of Christianity and was as evil and immoral as Nazism. He described the South African government's policy of forced removals to the 'homelands' as the "final solution" of apartheid. Over 3 million blacks had been uprooted from thriving and settled communities, and dumped – liked potatoes – in to spuriously independent 'homelands', ghettos of misery and starvation, which being too arid to sustain the population, ensured a continuous supply of cheap African labour to the white economy. Whilst ethnic differences among whites were ignored, the blacks were segregated according to their tribal origins and forced to become aliens in the land of their birth. (His own 'travelling document' described his nationality as "Undeterminable at present"!)

The Bishop told the story of a little girl in a shed in a resettlement camp, who said that she was forced to borrow food because her mother had no money. "When we can't borrow food we drink water to fill our stomachs." Children starved in South Africa as the result of deliberate government policy. Their fathers, if they were lucky, would become migrant workers, living for eleven months of the year in cramped single-sex hostels in the middle of large towns. Women who came to join their husbands were forced to become squatters, sleeping under plastic coverings. Sometimes these were torn down by the police, and the women were reduced to sitting on sodden mattresses in the cold winter rain. This happened in a country which had a public holiday named Family Day!

Bishop Tutu called on the west to apply economic pressure to South Africa. If he were to say this at home he would be liable to a five-year prison sentence – such was the importance of foreign investment to the South African regime. He believed that a co-ordinated policy of economic sanctions offered the best hope of ensuring peaceful change and preventing rapidly increasing bloodshed.

Bernard Wigginton

HELP C.C.G.

Are there any lively Mums with school-age children who would be prepared to give Community Care a couple of hours help from time to time? It does not need to be heavy commitment, but it would be good to have some new faces and a fresh approach.

There are many areas where help would be useful – for example: a stint in the office, doing some driving for the housebound or maybe, visiting etc.

If these ideas appeal to you please contact CCG at 35 High Street, Hampton Hill, or phone 979 9662 and ask for Anita Fox.

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

26th January Alan Edward Passmore to Lorna Eleanor Durran

FUNERALS

18th January	Lilian Maud King	aged 89	Laurel Dene
25th January	Marjorie Josephine Hurst	aged 70	31, Rectory Grove
25th January	Leonard Melville	aged 75	106, Park Road
25th January	Ethel Mary Dean	aged 79	Laurel Dene

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
2nd Dec.	130	178	152	12
9th Dec.	101	145	177	18
16th Dec.	103	143	146	7
23rd Dec.	89	96	175	7
24th Dec.	250	300	132	44
28th Dec.	92	107	—	25

Plate collections and Christian Aid envelopes at Christmas £123

30th Dec.	72	117	176	6
-----------	----	-----	-----	---

Banker's Orders for December £259

6th Jan.	45	55	89	6
13th Jan.	105	116	145	10
20th Jan.	107	119	116	15
27th Jan.	103	142	139	26

AROUND THE SPIRE

As has been mentioned before the future of the Magazine in its present form is in a very precarious state owing to a financial loss. Most of the revenue to cover the cost of producing the Magazine comes from Advertising. The present Advertising Manager has recently resigned and now there is an urgent need for someone to replace him. You will have read elsewhere in this edition of the financial burdens being placed upon us and the magazine may be one of the first casualties in any cutbacks we have to make. The job of the Advertising Manager is to make contact with all our Advertisers once a year, at about this time, to find out if they wish to continue with their Advertisement, if they wish any changes to be made and if they do not wish to continue to find another to take his place. At the same time it is necessary to collect the money due for the Advertisement which may take a little time, although it may also be possible for other people to help with this task. If anyone feels able to take this job on, advice and help will be forthcoming but it is essential if the magazine is to continue that someone takes this job on **NOW!**

While thinking about the Magazine a mention must be made of the invaluable service which Chris Richards has rendered while a member of Editorial Board for the last two years. Chris is a professional journalist so we have been very fortunate to have had his talent among us. Now Chris, his wife Joanne and three delightful daughters are leaving us for Australia whence Chris first came. The English climate has something to do with their decision, so I am led to believe! As a keen Genealogist Chris says his main regret at departing is leaving the Public Record Office behind; know the feeling! We wish the Richards family God Speed and hope that they will take away some happy memories of their connection with St. James, Hampton Hill.

Another departure but of a different kind was that of Leonard Melville, sad and sudden. Leonard Rockliffe has written about Len elsewhere in this Magazine so it will suffice here to say that we shall miss his quiet humour and unassuming manner also his tremendous knowledge of so many different subjects. We send Dilys and all the family our love and prayers at this time.

Several of our members have been ill recently, one or two even in hospital, among them Maud Girling and Coral McCarthy; we hope that they will soon be better. Roma Bridges and Violet Clark have also been out of circulation for some time and we miss seeing them about. Chrissie Hockley, always about when well, has been 'Off the pavements' for a few weeks but we hope she, and indeed all the others know that they are not forgotten even when we don't see them for a while.

LENT GROUPS

Lent House Groups continue: Mondays 8 - 9.30 p.m. at 4 Byron Close;
Tuesdays 8 - 9.30 p.m. at 20 Embleton Walk, 11 Edward Road, 73 Burtons Road;
Wednesdays 8 - 9.30 p.m. at 40 Gloucester Road, Tedd., 19 St. James's Road,
75 Burtons Road and at 2.30 - 4.00 in Wayside or as arranged;
Thursdays 8 - 9.30 p.m. at 60 St. James' Avenue, 106 Park Road and 10.30 -
12 noon at 30 Burtons Road and 2.15 - 3.45 p.m. at 21 Longford Close.

DATES TO NOTE

March

1		Women's World Day of Prayer
2		Covis Training Day on Christian Doctrine
3		5th Sunday before Easter – Lent 2
	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	New Style Family Service
	16.30	Parish Communion
5	09.30	Holy Communion
	10.30	Editorial Board
	20.00	P.C.C.
6	19.15	Holy Communion
7	06.30	Holy Communion
9		M.U. Jumble Sale – Parish Hall
10		4th Sunday before Easter – Lent 3
	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	16.30	Evensong
12	09.30	Holy Communion
14	19.15	Holy Communion
15	06.30	Holy Communion
17		3rd Sunday before Easter – Lent 4
	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	16.30	Evensong
19	09.30	Holy Communion
21	19.15	Holy Communion
22	06.30	Holy Communion
24		2nd Sunday before Easter – Lent 5
	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	16.30	Evensong
26	09.30	Holy Communion
28	19.15	Holy Communion
29	06.30	Holy Communion
31		PALM SUNDAY
	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	18.30	Pageant of the Church

April

1	09.30	Holy Communion
	20.00	"Saying our Prayers" – Wayside
2	09.30	Holy Communion
	19.15	Holy Communion
	20.00	"Looking at Ourselves" – Wayside
3	06.30	Holy Communion
	12.00	Austerity Lunch – Wayside
	20.00	The Way of the Cross
4	20.00	Maudy Thursday Holy Communion followed by Refreshments
5		GOOD FRIDAY
	10.00	Children's Service and making of the Easter Garden
	12.00	Three Hours Service
6	20.00	EASTER EVE – Renewal of Baptismal vows and lighting of
7		EASTER DAY [Paschal Candle]
	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	11.30	The Easter Story for young children
	18.30	Festal Evensong