

On the Cross on Good Friday Pontius Pilate had an inscription mounted in three languages which read: "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews". When he was challenged he answered "What I have written, I have written". He was in no doubt as to who Jesus was. But even that great title was too narrow to describe the Kingship of Jesus. On Ascension Day it is as if the common experience of the people is widening that title to something like "Jesus Christ the King of the whole world". And if challenged christian people would respond "What we have experienced, we have experienced". For the New Testament is not a collection of lovely legends for the most part, (although some stories can be argued to have been possibly inserted later). It is an account of the experience of the People of God and how they were touched by a Real God. At Pentecost comes the description of the indescribable; the overpowering presence of the Holy Spirit of God in a few weak, distraught, disciples. So powerful was the presence that Pentecost (or Whit Sunday as we English still like to call it) has been called the Birthday of the Church.

Both Ascension Day and Pentecost fall in May this year, Ascension Day on 16th, Pentecost on 26th. For many years we have marked Ascension Day with an Evening Eucharist. This year we shall also spend some time considering where we got to in our Lenten Groups, and where we are journeying to.

Undoubtedly Lent and Holy Week were an inspiration to many people and the two different approaches to our Faith were complementary. One was concerned with the activity of God in our society, the other concentrated on our individual response to God's Love demonstrated on the Cross and in the Resurrection. These two approaches need to go hand in hand. One without the other makes us become rigid and lifeless. The Church can so easily become (in the past it often has) a monolithic, overpowering, steamrolling organization, about as effective as a charging rhinoceros, instead of a loving, gentle, caring community concerned not only with its own welfare but pre-eminently with the spiritual and physical welfare of the world. The individual can so easily become (indeed in the past many have) an introspective, short-sighted, ineffective person like an insect whose only ambition is survival.

The Pentecost experience of the Apostles and early disciples united the individuals into one body, the Church which proclaimed and proclaims Christ as King. Let us show that to the world.

Nicholas Chubb

## THANK YOU

Our grateful thanks go to Mrs. Longhurst, of 57 Windmill Road, Hampton Hill, for delivering some twentyfive copies of the Parish magazine in her neighbourhood, every month, for the last fifteen years, and has now handed this task over to another. It is such dedicated service that enables some seven hundred and fifty copies of the magazine to be delivered to individual homes throughout the parish each month.

Alwyne Loyd

## LENT COURSE

This short report on the Lent Course is only an interim measure, a much fuller report will be prepared by the Stewardship Committee in due course but at this time not all the resultant material has been gathered in and studied in any depth. It is hoped, for example, that the results of the survey undertaken during the course will all be put together and some conclusions drawn from them.

There were altogether thirteen groups which met, some very small, four or five people and some as many as twelve or thirteen, which means that well over a hundred people were involved which is a very high proportion of the total congregation. One of the results of the course, whatever else it produces is that many people who hardly knew each other before now know them better and have learned something of their point of view, a result which can only be good. The age range of the participants was also wide, from thirteen to well over eighty, so was combined the enthusiasm of youth with the wisdom of maturity, another positive result.

The Course was about the Church to-day and its role in the Community. We were given several extracts from books to study and questions to wrestle with based on these extracts as well as from our own experience. The Church has always been involved in the community here in Hampton Hill as well as further afield. But what should its involvement be in future? If its mission is to bring people to a better understanding of Christianity, then as well as improving our own understanding we need, perhaps, to have a smaller unit to which interested people can be invited, some sort of house group for example, before introducing them to the full panoply of the Church.

In order to bring together all the people who took part in the Lent Course, as well as anyone else, there will be a special service in Church on Ascension Day, May 16th, in the evening. At this service it is hoped that as well as joining together in worship and praise we can also hear about any future plans and look back over the Course and see what has come out of our deliberations.

Helen Taylor

## THE CHURCH CHOIR

I make no apology for raising this issue once again. I feel that it will be for the last time as if no action is taken I do not believe that we will have a Church Choir to discuss. The current membership is five adults and six children. In time the children will prove their worth but at the moment it is the adults who make most of the "noise". With membership levels so low the demands of membership would, I feel, be regarded as intolerable by most members of the Church. Recently Margaret, I and the children (36% of the choir) were going out to tea to celebrate my Mother's birthday. We felt compelled to arrange to leave the party to come to take part in Evensong because the choir cannot really function without all adults being present. In the event my Mother was unwell and the party postponed but it has brought home that due to lack of support from one's fellow Christians demands of choir membership have become unacceptable.

None of my family wish to leave the choir as it would leave only one bass, two altos and four children. However unless membership is dramatically increased we feel we have no alternative. What worries me is I believe that most Church members want a choir. I have heard many times "If the choir sang in the morning I would join" and also "Why doesn't the choir sing in the morning", and even more recently after the recent experimental youth service "How nice to have the choir in the morning". I believe the only possibility of attracting sufficient people to Choir membership is for it to sing at the morning service and hope that some of its new members would occasionally sing at Evensong. If this does not happen I do not think the choir will last another twelve months.

I would not try to justify the introduction of a choir at morning service just to perpetuate a Church Choir for its own sake. I believe that a choir is a great help to congregational singing and has much to offer to this Church and the Glory of God. I know that there are several people who deeply feel that a choir standing separately and wearing robes is dividing the congregation and making some people appear more important than others. All I can say is that a choir by its very nature has to stand together to sing properly and keep to the beat. It is traditional in the Anglican Church for a choir to be robed in the same way as the Vicar, Readers and servers wear robes. The main thing is that wherever we stand, whatever we wear we are equal in the sight of the One matters. Nothing fools him!

The reason that there is no choir at morning service is that there was a decision of the P.C.C. when it introduced communion with the altar at the Chancel steps that there should be no choir. That decision made sense as there was nowhere to put a choir so that it could operate effectively. With the new Altar position this is no longer the case and the choir should now be reintroduced. I would agree that the traditional arrangement of Celebrant at high altar, choir in chancel and congregation in the body of the church does give the effect of separating celebrant from congregation. With our new layout as the congregation is concentrating on the celebrant most people would not even be aware of the choir when it was not singing. The help it can give with the singing and the training it can give to our children is however invaluable.

I am sure this matter will soon be discussed by the P.C.C. and I would urge all members of the Church to make their views known to the members of that council. I am sure all P.C.C. members will be pleased to know the wishes of the congregation in general. In the final instance it is the common mind and wishes of the congregation, not P.C.C., which must prevail.

Paul Revis



What strange ideas people have about the cross! A man spoke to me after a service and said he had an awful temper. 'That must be my cross,' he added. I said to him, 'That is not your cross — it is your wife's cross but your sin!'



From Christian Herald

## HOLY WEEK

Brother Edward from the Society of St. Francis, an Anglican religious community for men and women, stayed in the parish from Saturday 30th March to Saturday April 13th. He spoke to Groups of people every day of the week and a number expressed their gratitude for what he said. We have tried to capture the flavour of what he said in the following articles.

### **Palm Sunday Evening**

Rather than preaching at Evensong, Brother Edward chose to demonstrate how God has provided means of help to us for every stage of our life in the Sacraments of the Church. He asked various people to take the part of the receivers of the Sacrament while he spoke a commentary on what was taking place. Each short tableau was interspersed by a talk, a reading from the Bible and a singing of a verse from a hymn.

The beginning was a dramatic presentation of the Commissioning of the Disciples to take the Gospel into all the world.

Then we were taken through Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, Marriage, Penitence, Unction and the Eucharist. Many said they had been helped by this explanation and the good attendance of about 75 people encouraged larger numbers than usual to attend the mid-week addresses and services.

### **Monday**

On Monday evening, Brother Edward, SSF, gave a talk at Wayside entitled "Saying our Prayers". It was essentially a practical guide on what to say and how to say it.

He started by telling us to sit on a hard chair –back straight, feet, ankles, arms, hands and neck all relaxed, and then to take one simple phrase such as 'Jesus, Lord', and to repeat it several times as a help to going down into oneself, to the core of concentration. Once this state was achieved (subsequent distractions were to be repulsed by repetition of the original phrase), we should thank God for the good things in our lives, in particular for the blessings of the last 24 hours, and after this we should move on to pray for others, remembering particularly those whom we find it hard to like.

Prayer is like being in charge of a rosebed we were told. We can sit in a deckchair in the garden reading a book while the roses wilt and die, or we can connect the hose to the pipe, turn the tap and by watering the bed revive the flowers. We do not supply the water or the power but we must connect the hose and turn the tap to gain the necessary benefit.

When we examine why we dislike some people, we can see that what we most hate about them is what we hate in ourselves, that in fact we are very much alike, and this thought leads on to the subject of Tuesday's evening talk, "Looking at ourselves".

### **Tuesday**

Brother Edward declared that most people suffered from one or more of three fears, the reasons for which went back far into one's personal history, and these were: (a) fear of blame and criticism, (b) fear of failure, (c) fear of insecurity.

Once recognised, positive thought and action could be taken to overcome them. In the first case, wearing or having in one's pocket a cross which one could hold on to when facing a difficult, critical situation was a positive help.

Criticism should be accepted quietly, contemplated, and either acted upon or forgotten. The hatchet buried and the spot unmarked. If it was absolutely necessary to criticise others, this should be done after making appreciative remarks, i.e. the oblique approach rather than the frontal assault.

Fear of failure is a symptom of our times when material success is so highly prized, when getting and spending can dominate our lives. The answer to this is to remember that we are all given different abilities, and as long as we use our particular gifts as well as we can, we cannot be failures in the eyes of our Creator.

Where there is fear of insecurity, people build up around themselves a barricade of material possessions because they do not trust God. Such a barricade is ephemeral, the only real security is a total reliance upon God. We should memorise the motto 'Worry is Atheism'.

Returning to the theme of our relationship with others, Brother Edward stated that we all have a besetting sin which it is our duty to discover and to attempt to conquer. Our loved ones will tell us what that sin is if we ask them! Given that we have so much work to do on ourselves, it ill behoves us to spend much time criticising others; nor should we indulge in gossip which can cause enormous harm in the community. Before opening our mouths we should ask ourselves: (a) Is it true? (b) Is it kind? (c) Is it necessary?

Given these down-to-earth instructions and immensely helpful precepts, we departed for home, many of us, I suspect, to have our besetting sin confirmed!

Carol Kemmis

### **Wednesday**

On Wednesday, 3rd April, as part of his programme for Holy Week, Brother Edward presented to us "The Way of The Cross".

This was enacted in mime by a group of our Church members, as a series of short scenes from Jesus being condemned to death to his crucifixion and resurrection.

Between scenes, brother Edward recounted the story and we all sang single verses of "Glory be to Jesus" and "There is a green hill far away".

The costumes and actions were simple, yet I felt that the entire congregation was transported back in time to that fateful week long ago. It was a very moving experience for us all.

During his address that followed, Brother Edward reminded us that we have constantly searched for new answers to our problems. Many advances have been made in material terms, but we still lack a sense of fulfilment because we have failed to attend to our spiritual needs.

Brother Edward offered us an evening to remember, and in a very practical way gave us cause to reflect more deeply on our faith.

Susan Roberts

### **Maundy Thursday**

After the Eucharist we met for an Agape (a meal of fellowship) with coffee and Hot Cross Buns.

### **Good Friday**

Brother Edward took the theme of the Seven words of the Cross and spoke about each one in turn, setting it in the context and relating it to our lives. He encouraged us to realise how we are all sharers in the activity although we often try to smother our consciences, taking the same attitude as a famous Cardinal in Paris who, as a young man, had once looked on a crucifix and admitted feeling "I know you died for me but I don't care a damn".

The following are the words from the Cross so that you can look them up at home, together with a short sentence from Brother Edward's address.

1. "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do". (Luke 23.34)  
"Is there someone I cannot forgive?"
2. To-day you will be with me in Paradise". (Luke 23.43)  
"The penitent thief received more than he expected . . . . he found someone who still cared for him".
3. "Here is your mother, here is your son". (John 19,26,27)  
"Is there anyone who needs an awful lot of support whom I can help?"
4. "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27,46)  
"The dereliction is a hallmark of Jesus whole life . . . . In spite of darkness we must hang on."
5. "I am thirsty". (John 19.28)  
"Christianity is the only religion in which God looks for men as well as man seeking for God . . . . we always look at things from our point of view."
6. "It is finished". (John 19.30)  
"Not the words of a defeated man . . . . Total failure can be transformed by entrusting to God".
7. "Father into your hand I commit my Spirit". (Luke 23.46)  
"The Church has often been nearly done. The Church has the power of God".

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 13 - 18**

### *This week, charity begins with the homeless*

In this year's Christian Aid Week (May 13-18) public attention will be focussed on the Third World's millions uprooted by drought, war or oppression. On posters depicting mass flight is the campaign slogan 'This Week Charity Begins with the Homeless'.

It is Christian Aid's hope that the recent outpouring of relief assistance to famine victims will have sharpened public interest in preventive measures of development, for in the long term homelessness is a matter for justice rather than 'charity'.

With that aim Christian Aid's 3,000 local committees are hoping to beat last year's £4.8 million Christian Aid Week total.

Some 17 million envelopes will be delivered and collected by 400,000 house-to-house collectors during the Week.

## **HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The membership of the Hampton Council of Churches consists of the seven churches in Hampton and Hampton Hill. The Committee of this Council seeks by every possible means to increase contact, fellowship and understanding between Christians of different traditions in this area and beyond. This is a continuous task which deserves the prayers and support of all local Christians as they deepen their commitment to Our Lord.

During the past year the Committee has continued with its established activities and initiated new projects. These established activities include three united services which were attended by large numbers of people. In addition,

the Christmas and Easter Services Leaflets, which gave full details of the services of the seven churches, were published and distributed to hundreds of local homes with the co-operation of many people. Another venture was the ecumenical visiting of the Nurseryland Development to establish contact with newcomers to this area. This work had begun at an earlier date. Complementary to these activities was the meeting of the clergy in their fraternal which is a vital aspect of inter-church contact.

One of the new projects of the Committee was the 'Living Faiths' series of talks at which local Christians had the opportunity to hear and meet representatives of the Jewish, Moslem, Hindu and Buddhist Faiths. People who attended these meetings were impressed by the quality of the speakers and understood more clearly the convictions of followers of these religions.

Less formally there were two forms of activity which brought local Christians literally into the open air with its refreshing possibilities! First, the Committee were able to provide the framework for Inter-Church Cricket Matches which were very successful and enjoyable. Secondly, a float was entered by the Council of Churches in the Hampton Carnival in September gaining the 'Best Private Entry' award. Successful new projects!

Such is the range of contact and activity between local Christians. For these diversity does not seem to be an adequate word in what is clearly a situation of growing witness to the ideal of unity in Jesus Christ.

David Dore

### **WAYSIDE MONDAY CENTRE: EVENING SESSIONS**

The evening sessions of the Wayside Monday Centre will be discontinued after Monday, 20th May until 7th October, when it is hoped they will start again.

The morning sessions will continue normally.

R. Wilde  
for Management Group

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### **CLEANER WANTED**

for Wayside  
ground floor Rooms  
2 hours weekly (flexible)  
£2. per hour.  
If interested please contact:  
Stella Walker,  
42 St. James's Road.  
Tel: 979-4452

## **THE GLIMPSE**

*Kingfisher  
darting, shrilling,  
flash of blue,  
glimmer of red –  
Intense delight  
this summer evening.*

*Christian –  
Light in the world,  
do I give  
such pleasure  
as I flash  
in and out of people's lives?*



– CORAL MILLS

## AROUND THE SPIRE

We still have a number of people who are not well, some of them are in hospital and others at home. Coral McCarthy is back in hospital and is rather frail as are her two sisters back at home. We continue to send them our love and prayers.

Miss Girling is also still in hospital where she has been for some time now. The Magazine Committee has been hard hit by the absence of almost all its usual members. Alison Thompson is also in hospital and has recently had an operation, we hope that she will soon be fully recovered. Chris Richards and his family have now returned to 'Down Under' and Margery Orton has been away dealing with a family crisis. We send our sympathy and love to Margery and Len in their bereavement. Len's sister died recently in totally unexpected and tragic circumstances when a garden wall collapsed on top of her.

As a result of our appeal for an Advertisement Manager in last months issue of 'The Spire' Alwyn Loyd has gallantly offered his services in this capacity and is now to be seen hot-footing it up and down the High Street in pursuit of would-be advertisers. Our thanks to him and we wish him every success, which we shall need if the Magazine is to survive an issue which is still somewhat in doubt.

Many of you will have seen the new Altar frontal made for Festivals by Margaret Lawrance showing some of the symbols associated with St. James, the shell and the fishing net for example, and we are all full of admiration for the work done by her, and we thank her very much for this very acceptable addition to our other frontals. Margaret herself would like to thank Jack Gostling for all his help in providing both the frame it was made on and the one to which it is now attached. Both these had to be made specially and Margaret was very appreciative of all the work that this entailed.

## FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
Bankers Orders for January £692				
Feb. 3	133	204	101	12
10	80	126	92	8
17	102	136	414	30
24	111	156	125	18
Bankers Orders for February £446				
Mar. 3	48	168	162	15
10	103	145	195	—
17	83	185	97	16
24	107	150	94	21
31	98	228	297	20



## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptisms

March 24th Camilla Alice Latham Doyle Coleshill Road, Teddington

### Marriages

April 6th Kevin William Russell Smith and Sarah Jane King  
 Maurice Paul Meades and Susan Elizabeth Gray  
 20th Christopher James Bassett and Susan Jane Small

### Funerals

March 14th	Jane Philip Lee	7 Wolsey Road	aged 84
14th	Agnes Violet Whatford	43 Laurel Road	aged 94
15th	Patricia Mary Forbes	15 Seymour Road	aged 67
21st	George Albert Hill	67 Uxbridge Road	aged 72
April 4th	'Ginger' Francis	lately of the "Windmill"	aged 57
16th	Ellen Alice Foster	30 Chelsea Close	aged 81
17th	Edna Lilian Rice Read	Laurel Dene	aged 84

## DATES TO NOTE

May 5th	Easter 4 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Family Service 18.30 Parish Communion followed by discussion on "Mission Audit"
10th	20.00 Liturgical Committee
11th	10.30-16.00 Parish Quiet Day at St. Michael's Convent, Ham
12th	Easter 5 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion 18.45 United Service for Christian Aid Week at Percy Road Methodist Church
13th-18th	Christian Aid Week
16th	ASCENSION DAY 20.00 Parish Communion and Celebration
19th	Sunday after Ascension Services as usual
21st	Deanery Synod
26th	PENTECOST (Whit Sunday) Services as usual
29th	Area Synod
June 1st	15.00 Confirmation at St. Dionis, Parson's Green
2nd	Trinity Sunday Services as usual