

Easter in March is a chilly prospect. It might be snowing, blowing a gale, pouring with rain, or shining gloriously in full sun with all the spring flowers making our hearts feel light and happy. How many people's attitude to Easter will be affected by such considerations as whether it is worth taking a holiday or not?

If these things made you cry "O No!", I ask you to think again. Last month we realised, yet again, how shallow is many people's understanding of Christmas. If that is so I am sure that the majority have even less understanding of Easter than they have of Christmas. And yet Easter is the key to Christianity. It is unique. We could dispense with almost everything else but we could not dispense with Easter. For it demonstrates once and for all the Lordship of Christ, the omnipotence of God. The one thing, it is often said, that is certain about this life is death. This seems a rather cruel thing to say. And yet for the Christian it is not a sad thing but rather a joyful one. Jesus' friends expected everything to collapse around them when Jesus died on Good Friday. Then they found to their astonishment that not only was Jesus alive again on Easter Day but that He continued to be present with them in a way which He had not been before. He was alive in their hearts and minds, an ever present Companion. This was their joy then, and it has continued to be the joy of Christians ever since. So the joy of Christians does not depend on the weather or anything else which does not last. It depends on the knowledge that Jesus is their friend and that His love will continue to hold them after death.

It all seems quite ridiculous to the non believer. It always has done and it always will. The Resurrection was a stumbling block to the Jews and nonsense to everyone else. Expanding that more widely today we can mention any group of people who come into our mind, irrespective of nationality. There are Christians in every continent and skeptics in every country.

What cannot be contradicted is the joy of Christian people filled with faith in the Resurrection. St. Augustine called Christians "Resurrection People". Let us who call ourselves Christians show that joy and that faith and demonstrate that Easter and the Resurrection is for us the central and all important fact of our lives.

Nicholas Chubb

AREA SYNOD 1st FEBRUARY

The Bishop of Kensington, on his first day back at work after a break of three months away due to illness, greeted us all evidently fully recovered. After the formalities we were due to air and discuss the Final Report of the *first* Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission. (Bishop Mark is Anglican Chairman of the *second* Commission, which takes over from where the first one finished). It was all to be within the context of the much wider document on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry put out by the World Council of Churches. Bishop Mark handed over the chairmanship in order to be able to speak. In a fascinating forty minutes he explained that there was remarkable agreement over the Doctrine contained in the World Council's statement; a discovery that Christians of all denominations had deep strands of theology and faith in common; there was a great deal we could share. The difficulties lay much more with the

ARCIC statement. This was because it was dealing largely with issues which were historical fact in this country in the 16th and 17th centuries and had been exported to Chicago and Sydney in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of the matters were really local to England and Europe. Bishop Mark's Commission's job was to try and chart the way forward from here. A large factor was *trust*. Inevitably authority was a major issue together with the importance put on the interpretation of Scripture and the doctrine referred to in the Thirty-nine Articles in the Prayer Book. There then followed not so much a debate as an open discussion in which varying views were put, including one salutary point that the Church of England is a numerically very small number in world-wide Christianity. At the finish there was no vote taken (Area Synods have no teeth in these matters – the Diocesan Synod does). Altogether a very informative day during which the haunting refrain TRUST sang out. Do we trust Christians of other traditions or not? In our answer to that lies the way forward.

Nicholas Chubb

THE UNITED SERVICE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The United Service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held, for the first time since the United Services began over twenty years ago, at St. Theodore's R.C. Church in Station Road, Hampton. This proved to be a most enjoyable occasion. The form of service used was that set out by the week's organisers. Father Joseph Sculley preached and the hymns chosen were a lively mixture of the traditional and the more modern, and with a variety of instruments accompanying the singing. The Service was well attended and the little church was full, but the most valuable feature was the warmth and real oneness we all felt with each other whether Non-Conformist, Anglican or Roman Catholic. Our friends at St. Theodore's were especially delighted with the singing, they thought it sounded so full blooded after their own poor efforts! Tea was served in the Presbytery afterwards and people were able to have a chat. The success of this service and the real fellowship that we found there were largely engendered by the series of very well attended ARCIC groups which met last autumn, when people had come to know each other and exchange beliefs and opinions. Let us hope that the Lent groups will be able to build on this foundation.

Helen Taylor

FAITH AND OUR VISION

A group of us from all the churches in the Hampton Deanery met in SS Peter & Paul Church hall on Saturday 8th February to examine some of the bases for our Traditional Beliefs, namely the Historic Creeds. The discussion was led by Canon John Halliburton who directed us towards thinking about the language of the Creeds. The importance of language being that it must connect with previous experience either in our conscious life or our subconscious for the message to be understood by us, so that we will be sufficiently committed to the ideas. John explained that God can connect with us via images that result in two important things, one, a disclosure about himself and, two, commitment to his cause. The Nicene Creed is an example of one such disclosure to the people

living in Nicea in 325 AD who drew up a statement of their orthodox beliefs in a language that the people could understand by relating to the pictures so created, then commit themselves as Believers in Christ. The Creeds are pictures of God which contain very deep and fundamental truths but today some of the imagery may be difficult and we should think about changing the language without altering the beliefs.

We were able to attempt to do this for ourselves as we formed into small groups of eight and each took one statement of the creed to examine. The task was to attempt to explain each statement of belief to an audience of secondary school children who were largely uninformed about Christianity. To choose images which would connect with their own experiences was immensely difficult. My own group had to present an exposition on the clause "I believe in the Holy Ghost". Individually we all benefited from defining the important characters of the Holy Spirit, which we could all understand because we all had some knowledge or previous experience, but projecting this message to the school-children was not going to be easy. Our solution, which we later presented to the whole group was to start with a Video of "Live Aid" with Bob Geldof at which they could all experience the spirit of generosity, goodness and power as it spread across the world and explain to them that this was "in our belief" the Holy Spirit at work. We would then explain that events like this have been occurring for the last 2000 years to alleviate pain and suffering in the world and would continue to do so whenever and wherever people responded to a connection with God by committing themselves to his causes.

Moya Smith

SEMINAR ON HEALING – ST. STEPHENS

It would have been worth attending for the written syllabus alone and a bonus to each session was the excellent exposition given by Rev. Rick Williams. The singing was inspirational and most beautifully and devoutly led by Lulu Williams the possessor of a most lovely voice; the musicians' performance was an act of worship in itself. No-one could help being inspired and uplifted.

The seminar's first session – A Biblical Basis for Healing – dealt firstly with the O.T. emphasis on a system of rewards and punishment and secondly the N.T. emphasis on the healing ministry of Jesus which was one of love and forgiveness and to which nearly one fifth of the gospels is devoted. (Out of 3779 verses in the 4 gospels 727 relate specifically to the healing of both physical and mental illness). "Sickness is a destructive and evil phenomenon which Jesus waged war upon" and instructed his disciples to do likewise.

'Jesus our Model' was the second session and as in every session numerous explicit biblical references accompanied the inspiring exposition.

The third session concerned the practicalities of 'Bringing Healing to a Person' and described the conception of The Whole Man comprising spirit, soul and body combined. We studied the various categories of Jesus' healings. We were guided as to how to pray, how to assess the root causes of the lack of well-being; spiritual, emotional, physical? and how to proceed, to interact, when to use laying on of hands and when to stop.

The final session concerned the use of the spiritual gifts in healing and by what means the gifts of power are received and how all true disciples should expect to experience them. We were shown how to use the various gifts and were reminded that the gifts are "imparted in embryonic form". They start small and grow as faith, trust and experience grow.

The healing sessions themselves with their openness and sharing, with the sometimes bizarre evidences of the Spirit at work, the praying in tongues, could have been met with mixed emotions by those from conservative congregations. However, the truth remains — people *are* once more being healed all over the world; people are prophesying, praying in tongues, using the gifts of revelation, wisdom, and knowledge, and exercising the power of Jesus to heal in their role of Christ's present-day disciples.

Margery Orton

A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR LONDON'S HOMELESS

As always, a year had gone into preparing this party for the homeless; so many people had taken part and so much love had gone into the knitting of five to six hundred sets of hats, scarves and mittens — all colours blended with care. In the bags had gone socks, towels, soap, handkerchiefs and razors with a parcel of goodies to eat.

Then the doors were open and the men and women — not so many of the latter — poured into the warmth. So many came all the nooks were filled and in the end we had to serve some dinners on the pavement with the promise of entrance into the hall as soon as we found a space.

Carols were sung, everyone was in festive mood and the thought of going out to sleep on London's pavements was forgotten for a while. The Cardinal came, as he usually does, to shake hands with all the guests; he is 'our Cardinal' they told us and they meant it, for some haunt the steps of the Cathedral and he knows them.

One lady gave me a picture of the Holy Face. She said, "Love is a circle, it comes from God to people and back to Him, and tonight you have lifted me up into that circle". For me the Face of Christ was hidden in those around me who had looked to us for love and friendship. Often the world is a cold place for those who have hit the bottom and loneliness must be the hardest part for people who become homeless. One couldn't help but notice the difference in those who came with a friend!

Mother Teresa says, "Everyone needs to be somebody to somebody". We can only hope we made our guests feel that they were very much 'somebody' to us! Our very grateful thanks to all of you who share in our work here or for India.

Violet Woods
Co-Workers of Mother Teresa

PS: If anyone would like to help in knitting for the parcels, they will be very welcome. (977 6043)

P.C.C.

At our recent meetings (11 December, 21 January and 11 February) we have been considering the results of our Stewardship Review (and our inability to meet the 1985 Common Fund Assessment) and making plans for the Lent Course, our "Mission Audit" and the A.P.C.M. These matters have all been reported in The Spire, as has the decision to write to our M.P. to express our concern over the proposed legislation on Sunday trading. The Vicar wrote to Toby Jessel about this in January and we now understand that there will shortly

be a public meeting about this issue. The Vicar has also written on our behalf to Barney Hayhoe, M.P., making a strong case for the retention of St. Mary's Hospital, Hampton.

We are very grateful for a bequest of £500 by Mrs Casey and have given some thought as to how best to spend this. Two cruets for our holy communion services have already been purchased and we are considering the possibilities of improving the church lighting or providing new curtains for the south and west porches. We have also received £175 for the use of Wayside for one and a half days by Thames T.V. As a result of the Christingle Service, £100 has been sent to the Children's Society, and about £320, collected in church at Christmas, has been sent to Christian Aid.

Finally, we have agreed the form of a memorial to Lt. Col. Joe Boyle, whose remains were exhumed from our churchyard and re-buried in Canada with much ceremony nearly three years ago. This will be paid for by the Canadians who have yet to approve our proposals.

Ron Bridges

From a letter from Milo Mission Hospital, Tanzania

. thank you for the cheque for £86 towards the petrol for the motor cycle, and thank you all again for keeping us going. You should know that whatever you give keep the life or the pulse of this hospital go on ticking, what you give belong to God and therefore you are doing the right thing in sharing the resources that you have

Yours always, Gideon

A MEDITATION

"It takes courage and love to come to me and also a great need. Blessed indeed are the weak for their need is their salvation. Be not afraid or ashamed to call upon the Lord for the Lord will hear the caller, who at the moment of the call shall be with God in Heaven, God on Earth, for the Lord knows those that seek in reality and He has a care for their need.

The Holy Spirit is as a dove who alights from the fathomless heaven to bring peace to the troubled mind, solace the grieving heart and strength to the faltering. Seek the Lord and as often as you seek him so shall His peace be with you. Seek Him wholeheartedly and ever increasingly shall you find him until you shall throw off the fetters which bind you and walk freed from their weight into the joy and knowledge of God. Hear these words and know that ever increasingly you shall come to know that they are true words. The Lord has need of you. Rise up, place your hand in His and you shall find faith and love and a happiness that shall increase with the knowledge of God".

Written down 14.12.64.

M.O.

MY MONEY

"Why should I give more to the church? I don't think I agree with the way the money is spent". How often we hear this sort of cry. Well, it is lucky employers don't think the same way! They pay on merit (what we are worth to them) and give us cost-of-living rises. Do they ever say "We don't agree with the way you spend your money, so you can't have a rise for the next one or five or ten years"?

Think about it and ask yourself:

"What is St. James's worth to me? — What is the wider church worth to me?"

And since they exist to help me with my faith you might ask:

"What is my faith worth to me? What is God worth to Me?"

Not easy, but I think the answer is in your pocket.

We may not like it, but the fact is churches are being closed due to lack of money. Do we want St. James's to close, because we are not prepared to pay our way?

Eila Severn

ESSENTIALS

If we submit to the authority of the Church and accept that we need to meet our Diocesan Quota, how *do* we go about raising the necessary money? How much more *can* each one of us afford to give?

What we can afford is such a relative thing: most of us can afford to spend quite a lot on say eating out, hair dos, theatre, other outings, or non-essential clothes. If we see a real need we are quite capable of making sums available by just not spending them in our accustomed way. It does come down to what we consider a real need. People can be so generous: Bob Geldof's success is impressive, and when a child needs an expensive operation that can only be carried out abroad, much poorer communities than ours have raised incredible amounts of money. What *is* our faith worth to us?

In determining what are negotiable expenses it may be helpful to consider that basic unemployment benefit for a married couple (without allowance for rent) might be something like £50 per week plus £18 per child. What *are* our essential expenses, and how much do we get through just because we are accustomed to it? How about giving up all non-essentials for Lent and giving the savings to the church?

Hilde Bucknell

* * * * *

I wondered could you use me Lord in your great plan divine,
I haven't much to offer Lord, but all I have is Thine.
For you've redeemed me by your precious blood, so I'm not my own.
Please show me where I fit in, Lord, make me a living stone,
So the temple you are building will truly glorify your Son
And the part I play, however small, will earn the words "Well done".
As I seek the scriptures for the answer to my plea,
His word just like a two edged sword spoke directly to me:
"You're precious in my sight, child, you're the apple of my eye".
"Your name is graven on my palm, child, my ear is opened to your cry."
And the love of Jesus filled me as the waters fill the sea.
Yes, empowered by the Spirit, Lord, You could use even me.

V.C.

MISSION AUDIT

The words "Mission Audit" have now been bandied about in church circles for a few years. They refer to the need for all churches to examine and try to measure, in as independent a manner as possible, what they are achieving in terms of evangelism and social action, to reach conclusions based on their examination and to follow their conclusions through.

Last spring each parish in the Kensington area was asked to consider some preliminary questions prior to a Deanery Synod meeting on 21 May at which Bishop Mark and our Archdeacon spoke on the spiritual and practical aspects of the subject. The PCC has now been presented with a much more comprehensive set of questions to look into before a visitation by the Bishop, the Archdeacon or the Area Dean at a date (in 1986 or 1987) as yet unknown. The questions seek to establish facts relating to our parish and congregation and the way in which we operate, and then to stimulate discussion on such matters as our relationship to the wider community and what should be our priorities.

In pursuing this matter, we must avoid "busy-ness" for its own sake and remember that the object of the exercise is to increase the effectiveness of the church's mission. To do this job properly, we need the widest possible participation. The PCC is devoting the morning of Saturday 8 March (from 10.00 to 12.45 in the church) to a consideration of Mission Audit and we warmly welcome *all* who are interested to come and join in the discussion. I do appreciate that when you read this, time will be short but if you are able to let me know beforehand that you propose coming, I will try to get working papers to you prior to the meeting. Do come anyway.

Ron Bridges

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH HALL

SCHOOL ROAD

THURSDAY 17th APRIL 1986

7.45 p.m.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS – APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH WARDENS

PCC REPORT – ELECTION OF NEW PCC

TREASURER'S REPORT – COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUR CHANCE FOR QUESTIONS

ENTER IN YOUR DIARY NOW

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee are organising a progressive Beetle Drive at Wayside on Saturday 22nd March from 7 pm onwards. Absolutely no skill is involved in playing this entertaining game and there will be some small prizes for the winners as well as refreshments for which a modest charge will be made. Come along and enjoy yourselves – bring your family and friends, all welcome.

On the May Day Bank Holiday, i.e. Monday 5th May there will be a Parish Ramble. Cars will leave the Church at 11 am, bring a picnic lunch and some good footwear.

We hope that the Summer Outing this year will be to Brixworth (Nicholas's old Parish) where we will be able to look at this very ancient and historic Church as well as the nearby Canal Museum and hopefully, have a trip on the Canal itself. The details of this trip have yet to be arranged, but we hope to go sometime in July.

AN INVITATION to interested members from all local churches for an Easter treat Saturday 5th April: Buffet Dinner Dance, in the Waldegrave Suite of Strawberry Hill College as part of the fund raising effort of St. Theodores for a new church in Station Road. Guest of honour Toby Jessel MP. Three course meal with entertainment from the James Alley Jazzmen. Tickets £10 each available from Charles McDevitt (Telephone 941 3463).

Cleaning person wanted 2 hours weekly for ground floor of Wayside, St. James's Road. Day and time by mutual arrangement. Pay £5. Apply to Stella Walker, 42 St. James's Road, 979 4452.

Our Beautiful Brass is always bright and sparkling thanks to a small team who work on a rota basis, so that the job is in fact lovingly done every week. I have been asked to try and find more help to ease the burden a little. The job can be done almost any time to suit you. If you feel you can help, please contact me and I will be very happy to give you more details.

Eila Severn, 979 1954

THE CHURCHYARD

As I write looking out on the snow-covered garden, it seems that now is not the time to remind people of Churchyard Working Parties. However, time marches on and we shall soon be seeing the bulbs in full bloom beneath the trees. We hope that by the time you read this article, the Park Road hedge will have already been trimmed by a few of our stalwarts on March 1st. Working will continue on the **first Saturday of the month in the mornings until October**; so why not come and join us! There are plenty of simple jobs such as raking up and sweeping. Bring your own tools if you can but we also expect to have two trimmers going this year to avoid the unpleasant work with hand shears. Janet and I would like to thank our regular helpers last year. When I was in hospital I was delighted to hear from Janet that she had a good turn-out. We look forward to seeing you again this year. You will, of course, get coffee and biscuits and a pleasant little "get-together" at 11 am.

David Nunn

3rd HAMPTON HILL BROWNIES

Brenda Oliver has now been gone for three months and has written to tell the Brownies that she is settling in well. Even after such careful and dedicated training adapting to being Brown Owl has not been easy, however, both the Brownies and myself are treading carefully but enjoyably the 'Brownie Footpath'.

Brenda left most things in an orderly fashion. However, something that does seem to have gone astray is the waiting list for the 3rd Hampton Hill Brownie Pack. In the last three months I have taken 10 names. It would be a great help to know of anyone who had given their name to Brenda prior to this. It is only fair to warn you that the wait could be a lengthy one. — Guiders are urgently needed — Anyone interested?

I shall try and keep you informed of regular events that happen in Brownies throughout the year. If anyone has any need to contact me please do not hesitate to do so at 18C School Road, Hampton Hill, Mx. TW12 1QL.

Leslie Brough, Brown Owl

AROUND THE SPIRE

Little Jack Horner with his plum had nothing on Ali Sazegar the other day when the latter helped Ron Bridges clean out the church gutters. Ali stuck in his hand and from the slimy black mud left by leaves and general debris pulled out an elaborate 'gold' necklace. It might well be quite valuable and has now been taken to the Police at Teddington. If you think it might have belonged to you, please get in touch with them.

Kath and Roy Brookes became grandparents on the 22nd January when their son, Robert and Cathy had a baby boy to be called Bengamin Paul. Congratulations to all concerned.

Last month Mrs. Ruth Gostling held a coffee morning in aid of the Special Care Unit at Kingston Hospital. It was a great success and raised £200. A cheque for this amount has now been sent off, and warmest thanks go to everyone who contributed.

About eighteen months ago Bea and Norman Page moved to Orpington in Kent, they bought a bungalow there near Norman's old Athletics Club. They quickly made friends. Bea in the local Church and Norman among his old acquaintances. A few weeks ago Norman had a bad stroke and about three weeks later died. We send our very sincerest condolences to Bea at this difficult time but she knows she has had our love and our prayers, and she has been very well supported by her new friends and neighbours.

Miss Girling, known to her family and friends as "Maudie" was a very faithful member of St. James's for many years until advancing age compelled her to give up her home and enter Laurel Dene. After a fall there she was admitted to West Middlesex Hospital where she was a patient for a long time and she died peacefully there on Friday evening, 7th February, 1986 at the great age of 94.

During the war she worked with the Red Cross and her nursing experience was a great help in her devoted care first of her parents and then her brother. She was always cheerful, friendly and kind and had a keen sense of humour.

An associate member of St. James's Branch of the Mothers' Union she thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the plays presented by Mothers' Union at parish concerts. For a long time she was one of the distributors of the parish magazine, even after she had left her house in Links View Road and moved into a flat in Rutland Lodge. By her passing Hampton Hill has lost another real "character". We shall all miss her.

MAGAZINE APPEAL

We are very grateful to all of you who have responded so quickly and so generously to the Appeal. Within the first week the amount received was £87.60. We have also taken note of the comments so far offered!

The Editorial Board

DATES TO NOTE

Sunday services are as usual unless otherwise specified.

March	4	10.30	Magazine Committee
	5		Electoral Roll Revision begins
		14.30	Mothers' Union – Keeping Lent (2)
	6	10.30	YFG Pram Service
	7	14.30	Women's World Day of Prayer
		20.00	Women's World Day of Prayer
			Both services in St. James
	8	10.00-12.45	Parish Meeting on "Mission Audit" in Church
	9	09.30	Special Children's Eucharist for Mothering Sunday
	12	20.00	P.C.C.
	14	20.00	Public Meeting at Rectory School re St. Mary's Hospital, Hampton
	16	11.00	Liturgical Committee
	23		Electoral Roll Revision Finalised
			Holy Week services printed separately
April	5	10.00	Churchyard Working Party
	9	12.00	Austerity Lunch
	17	19.45	Annual Parochial Church Meeting

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

March			
Palm Sunday	23		Palm Crosses will be distributed at all services
		18.30	A Special celebration – details later
Monday	24	20.00	Holy Communion and short address
Tuesday	25	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Compline and address
Wednesday	26	06.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Compline and address
Maundy			
Thursday	27	20.00	Parish Communion
Good Friday	28	10.00	Children's Service
		11.00	Service at United Reformed Church
		12.00	Three Hours Service
Easter Eve	29	19.00	Renewal of Baptismal Vows and lighting of the Paschal Candle
Easter Day	30	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		12.00	Children's Service
		18.30	Evensong

It is hoped that from this list of services everyone will be able to choose at least something as an "extra".