

There is no lack of precedent for religious leaders criticizing the leaders of the State. Way back in Old Testament times Moses started it all when he was very angry with Aaron for creating the Golden Calf while his back was turned! The Prophets of the Old Testament repeatedly castigated the Jewish leaders for ill-treating the poor and the outcast and in terms which seem very modern and up to date. John the Baptist hardly praised the leaders of his time when he called them a brood of vipers. He lost his head literally for criticizing the morals of the King and Queen. In our own country Thomas a Becket drew the memorable phrase from King Henry the Second 'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?'

So we should not be surprised if we find that in our own day, throughout the world, christian and other leaders from time to time feel the urge to criticize those in power when they can see that power being misused. Most people feel that totalitarian states have not been challenged enough in the early stages of their life which is why Stalin and Hitler, President Marcos and the various dictators of South America have wielded such enormous and vicious influence. To say nothing of South Africa.

Who would be so foolish as to say that such things could never happen in England? We have in our history plenty of examples of politicians who have abused the power which they have either taken or which they have been granted by the people. The imminence of a General Election gives us the opportunity to reflect on what has happened recently in our country and try to judge what would be best for the future. Is it good for any individual or party to hold uninterrupted power? Does this not encourage arrogance and abuse? The English parliamentary system relies upon checks and balances to ensure that no one set of ideas holds indiscriminate sway for long. Is unbridled capitalism or socialism a good thing? What about particular sections of the population having privileged status and, in effect, ensuring that no-one can break into the status quo? We have to recognize that our national community is made up of very varying and different elements which all need to be acknowledged and taken into account and integrated into a whole. Since percentages are the expression of all kinds of commodities these days we do well to remember that the present parliament is itself a strange mix; the party with the majority of seats at Westminster was elected with only 44% of the votes cast, or less than half. Which means that over half of the people have those representing them in Parliament whom they have not chosen. Is this right? Whatever our thoughts on the matter perhaps the greatest mistake to make is not to express our opinion by not voting. If we do not vote we have no case to argue that 'they' are doing what we do not want or believe is right.

John the Baptist is remembered by the Church on 24th June. He was courageous and out-spoken and much praised by Jesus. What better example could we have? Christians are not here to divide the community but they are here to stand up for justice and against oppression of whoever may be the current victim. That means not just supplying the needs of the poor and underprivileged but actively working for wrongs to be righted. On a practical level that is a lifetime's work.

Nicholas Chubb

MAUNDY SERVICE WITH AGAPE

There was something quite inspired and special about the Maundy Thursday evening Communion Service with Agape. ('Agape' is defined by the dictionary as "a love-feast held by the early Christians at Communion time when contributions were made to the poor". We do not of course mean the second definition: "With gaping mouth!").

Some fifty of us gathered in a semicircle around the edge of the chancel floor extension. This had the result of our being so close to the chancel and Altar that everything appeared almost larger than life. On three occasions during the service, after each reading and the Gospel, food in the form of egg sandwiches and small sausages on sticks was passed round whilst the choir sang. At the Communion itself everyone, including the few children present, partook of the bread and the wine. For the bread we broke off a piece from a loaf ourselves. The inclusion of the children is exceptional to this one occasion in the year only. The address, the readings, the singing and the organ music all seemed to me to have a heightened spiritual inspiration.

The service itself coming at such an important time in the Church's calendar was intrinsically very special but our closeness to the Altar certainly enhanced it. It is a pity that so few of the congregation have heeded Nicholas's subsequent invitation for us all to come further forward at services. Someone I spoke to on the subject suggested, I suspect to some extent with tongue in cheek, that the back few rows should be in future roped off!

Dick Waltham

"HURRAY FOR JESUS!"

"Here comes Jesus!" were the shouts that were heard on Good Friday morning at St. James's service for children by the children.

This was the culmination and climax of a week of studying life in the times of Jesus, acting, making folders, models etc, with the aim of giving children the historical background to the Easter celebrations.

The workshop took place at "Wayside" during Holy Week, run by Pam Atkinson and Bridget Fairbairn, parents and several other helpers, including some very helpful 14-year old girls. It was attended by some 25-75 children each morning.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, acting out scenes like Palm Sunday and the Last Supper in the forecourt, colouring worksheets inside, or planting seeds and making unleavened bread in the kitchen. The relaxed atmosphere with plenty of helpers and activities going on, sunshine and inevitable 'tuck shop' was a reminder of the first workshop run last summer at St. Michael and St. George, which eventually produced the play Pilgrim's Progress.

On Thursday, troops of kids with towel covered heads and dressed in various eastern garments could be seen crossing the road to the church to condense the week's work into a play for the next day. Some were carrying flowers, ivy and branches. No, not for waving in the Palm Sunday scene, but to place in the Easter garden at the back of the church, between rehearsals.

The service on Good Friday brought the events of Holy Week right into April 1987 and we had a very real sense of being there at the time, and feeling involved with Jesus as things happened around him. Our imaginations were caught and taken back into history by a radio broadcaster and reporter bringing the daily news much as we hear news on TV today.

But there is something about children; their innocence(!), acceptance or simply their beautiful singing that touches our insulated adult hearts and brings things home to us. Perhaps that's why Jesus said we had to become like little children before we could come to him.

And the Good News brought by God's reporter, Jesus, is that death isn't the end. Not just death at the end of our lives, but any kind of death or deadness or difficulty in our lives, isn't the end. Jesus has the power to break through those situations and bring life; His regenerating and enlivening Life into those very circumstances and into our maybe hardened hearts.

The children went away from the church carrying dead, crusty bulbs. But you know what can spring forth out of them, don't you?

Joanna Vince

VISITOR FROM TANZANIA - BENENIAH KILWALE

Billed as 'the man who rides the motorbike' we were very pleased to greet Beneniah Kilwale, over here at present on a course at Liverpool School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. A few years ago the Administrator of a small rural hospital in Southern Tanzania came to speak to us about the needs of his hospital. Gidgeon Mahagama subsequently became well known to us and we set about raising money to buy a motorbike so that the work of the Medical Assistant in visiting the surrounding villages could be made easier. Since then we have sent money to buy various items of equipment from a crash helmet to a foetal stethoscope, as well as to buy petrol, which is very expensive in Tanzania.

The hospital is at Milo 7000ft. up in the mountains and four hours drive along a mud road to the nearest town, Njombe. There is then a tarmacked road to the capital Dar-es-Salaam many miles away. A very seriously ill patient has therefore to travel long distances in some discomfort in order to obtain the necessary treatment. The hospital at Milo was originally set up many years ago in some buildings left behind by the Germans (it is now gradually being rebuilt, very appropriately by a German Missionary Society) and until recently had neither running water or electricity. A water project was undertaken a few years ago by Christian Aid which provides not only for the hospital but also for the village of Milo itself. While this was very good for the hospital it was equally welcomed in the village, especially by the women who did most of the water collection. A maize grinding mill was also provided by C.A. and this has also helped to lighten the women's workload. One of the next things that it is hoped to be able to do is to extend piped water to the nearest village. Having a clean water supply is very desirable but alongside it needs to go an understanding of sanitation in general and the proper construction of pit latrines in particular, and the even more essential persuasion to get people to use them.

The problem of providing electricity has also been solved to a large extent but the situation is not entirely satisfactory as the generators providing the power use

diesel oil which is expensive, and alternative means of producing electricity are being explored. Before the power arrived the hospital staff sometimes found themselves performing operations, usually Caesarian Sections, and using ether as an anaesthetic, using an oil lamp!

Beneniah's official title is Medical Assistant, something of a cross between a doctor and a nurse and one of his duties is to visit the seven surrounding villages monthly to hold a clinic, hence the motorbike. During the months of April, May and June the weather is cold and wet and the lack of proper waterproof clothing and a good crash helmet have twice caused him to be ill with bronchitis. As he will be here for another few months it is hoped that we will be able to buy these for him to take back with him. The commonest cause of admission to the hospital is not, surprisingly some exotic tropical disease, but pneumonia and T.B. Treatment clinics are held as out-patients for T.B. and leprosy regularly and defaulters are chased up; by Beneniah on his motorbike.

Despite Tanzania's economic difficulties education is free and so is the health service although neither compare with our own of course. Tanzania and it's people are still very poor and deserve every help we can give them, at the same time remembering how lucky we are.

Helen Taylor

JOE BOYLE - THE EPILOGUE

At a simple ceremony on 14 April a memorial to Lt. Col. Joseph Whiteside Boyle, D.S.O. was unveiled in our churchyard where he had been buried for sixty years. His remains had been exhumed on the same day of 1983 and re-interred in his home town of Woodstock, Ontario with much ceremony. He had died on 14 April 1923 at Wayside after a spectacular career as gold prospector in the Yukon and later as head of an allied mission to Russia in 1917 and as the man who re-organised the Russian railways. He received many decorations for this work and for the valuable work he did at that time for the Rumanians. Subsequently, his grave was provided with an ancient cross and urn (moved with his remains to Canada in 1983) by Queen Marie of Rumania who also arranged for orange lilies to be placed on his grave. Legend has it that she was the lady in black who visited the grave on 14 April each year during her exile from Rumania.

The ceremony this April was conducted by our Vicar and was attended by Edwin Bennett and his wife from Canada and Mr. and Mrs. Fogg (Mr. Fogg was the English member of the Canadian Committee for the repatriation) in addition to Vera Rockliffe, who with Len had been much involved in co-operating with the Canadians for some years, and Bill Robinson, as well as myself. Orange lilies were placed on the memorial for the occasion.

Ron Bridges

MOTHERING SUNDAY IN MADEIRA

As advised, we took a taxi from our hotel to the "English Church" of Funchal, Madeira for Morning Prayer service on a bright but breezy Mothering Sunday morning. It drove up the hillside above the harbour and dropped us at the bottom of a typically steep and narrow, cobblestoned road. On the wall was painted an arrow and the words 'English Church first green gate in wall on right'.

We followed directions and the gate opened onto a lovely garden with the domed church sitting squatly in the middle. We had just had time to glimpse white tablecloths and sparkling glasses laid on tables on the lawns before being greeted enthusiastically by the vicar - Canon Walter, ex army chaplain, Chaplain of Port Said, Norfolk country parson called out of retirement in 1980 to fill his present post of 'Chaplain of Madeira'.

The church was built in 1822 as a Consular Chapel, outwardly it boasts a very Wren-like facade complete with pillared portico which now houses the table with visitors book and second-hand bookstall in aid of church funds. The interior is based on the Temple erected over the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem - circular, under a central dome from which the All-seeing Eye gazes down on chaplain and congregation. There is no chancel, the roof is supported by white marble pillars and the altar alcove is lined with carved mahogany panels and topped with a blue ceiling scattered with gold stars.

Apparently, in 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte passed through Funchal on H.M.S. Northumberland heading for exile on St. Helena. The Consul General of Madeira visited him on board bearing gifts of fruit, books and some casks of the famous local Madeira wine. He was paid in gold luis, some of which were said to have been placed under the foundation stone of the church. (We also heard the wines could not be accepted by Napoleon and had to be returned; they have been selling the contents of the infamous casks ever since!).

Morning Prayer proceeded with a full congregation, the hymn singing was led by Canon Walter whose voice announced to all his Swansea birth. We prayed for the Queen and named members of the Royal Family, the King of Portugal and President of the United States. The service concluded with a rousing rendering of the National Anthem.

Most of the congregation then departed to the garden but we chose to remain with several others to take part in a shortened but very moving Eucharist. When at the altar rail, I couldn't help but marvel at the very large arrangement of Amaryllis beside the altar - fascinated to see a flower that we normally grow as a single specimen used in such profusion. On the window sills were enormous bowls of arum lillies and maiden-hair fern - both grow wild on the hillsides of this beautiful sub-tropical island warmed by the Gulf Stream.

We then joined the others in the garden which also houses the vicarage and a lending library that appears to rely on departing expatriots for its content - be they leaving this world or just those shores. There are numerous old tomes as well as the latest in paper-backs.

We paid 150 escudos each (about seventy pence) and chose to have coffee, rather than a glass of Madeira, as we had the cobbles to negotiate back to the hotel. We sipped it under the poinsettia and jacaranda trees beside the hibiscus and rose bushes - a mixture of foreign and home that epitomised the whole event.

We walked from the garden, shut the green gate, leaving behind a pocket of England on this Portuguese island, four hundred miles off the coast of West Africa, Mothering Sunday 1987.

Margaret Lawrence

NEW CLINIC PROPOSALS

The Local Authority are proposing to build a new Clinic in the Hampton area. Two sites have been put forward as possibilities for this, one in the grounds of St. Mary's Hospital and one near Buckingham Road School. The future of the Hospital might be more secure if there were a Clinic in the grounds and there is a path leading from Oldfield Road. On the other hand people may feel that a site near Buckingham Road School would be more central. The Council would like to know what people think and they would also welcome suggestions as to which services should be provided besides an Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic. If you have any comments on this matter please put it in writing and send it to the Council.

PEACE BE WITH YOU

The following is an extract from an article in the Daily Telegraph on 18.4.87 written by The Revd. Peter Mullen, vicar of Tockwith & Bilston with Bickerton.

"Peace? It was the signal for everyone to grasp at his neighbours in a most unseemly style. Plenty of that hugging and kissing, and the same watery-eyed sentimentality we see on "This Is Your Life". It was embarrassing and contrived: programmed spontaneity. They did it because they were told to do it. But it was bogus familiarity. They were watching themselves display the approved emotions.

Five minutes of this, and a raucous din in a holy place. But this was supposed to be Holy Communion. And "holy" means awful, other, strange. It was not awful - only awful.

Becoming intimate takes time. Instant familiarity, whenever it is fostered, is only insincere".

Having read the above extract, I must also admit to having some uneasy feelings whenever attending the 9.30am parish communion. Am I going to be shaken by the hand, hugged, or kissed? Do I do the same to others? Does one have to have been a regular church-goer for a period of time, before moving from a hand shake to a kiss. How far down the pews and along the pews does one go passing 'The Peace'? The last parish communion at 9.30am I attended, there were at least a dozen people from the congregation in the aisle going to other people standing elsewhere, but I stayed in my place. Oh dear, am I doing the right thing?

Would it not be simpler to clasp the hands of the people sitting immediately next to, in front, and behind us? Then, maybe, everyone will feel included in the christian show of fellowship, and it would not detract from the beauty and solemnity of the service.

It would be interesting to know what and how other people feel about this, and whether my feelings are shared by others.

At this point I would like to add that, as a regular attender at the 8.00am communion service, the situation does not arise, as 'The Peace' is not passed in a physical sense, but in the simplicity and calm of a shared act of worship at the start of the Lords Day.

Marion Nevill

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING EVENING

I can hardly believe it is a year since the last Box Opening evening, the time seems to go so quickly. However, it is! The date will be Monday 6th July from 7 - 10pm at 68, Park Road, refreshments will be available and we shall also have a Bring and Buy Stall. Come along, bring your Box, have a cup of coffee and meet your friends.

PROMISES 13

"He has given us His promises, great beyond price, that through them we may come to share in the very being of God".

We are told that we must be "Holy, as He is Holy and so receive the promised gift of Grace". We are to "exert ourselves" to follow Christ's teaching - knowing it and believing it. We are warned that there are many who call Jesus Lord but do not really know Him. "They stumble when they disbelieve The Word".

We are reminded "you must, therefore, keep in your hearts that which you heard from the beginning; if what you heard still dwells in you, you will yourself dwell in the Son and also in the Father and this is the promise that He Himself gave us - the promise of eternal "life". Moreover, Jesus assures us that "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The path to eternal life lies here on earth. We are told that it is a narrow one and those who find it are few. A sobering thought!

"My children, love and faith must not be a matter of words" (or occasional thought) "it must be genuine and show itself in action". "This is how we know that we belong to the realm of truthif our conscience does not condemn us then we can approach God with confidence and obtain from Him whatever we ask because we are keeping His commandments and doing what he approves". We are told "to fight gallantly, armed with faith and a good conscience" but we are warned that "it was through spurning conscience that certain persons made a shipwreck of their faith".

It isn't easy, it is very hard even to try to be "Holy as He is holy" - we can't do it in our own strength but we have God's promise that His strength is made perfect in our weakness if we offer ourselves to Him and learn of Him. This is His command, to give our allegiance to His Son Jesus Christ, to know Him and to love one another in the kind of way He shows us, through His word and through our prayers, in His sort of love and faith. It is when we do this "that we dwell in Him and He in us". And how are we to know that this is true? "We know it from the Spirit that He has given us" and those who do commit their souls to him, consciously, day by day "doing that which is good, their maker will not fail them". We may have to suffer for following and acting in our faith but Peter tells us, writing of his experience of his Lord, "to cast all our cares on Him" for we are His charge and that "the God of all grace will restore, establish and strengthen us on a firm foundation".

FAITH IN PRINT

As many of you will remember each of the Churches in the Hampton Council of Churches were asked to give some money so that books on Christian matters could be bought and donated to the local Public Libraries. The books have now been purchased and it is hoped to hand them over to Hampton and Hampton Hill Libraries in the next few weeks. Some posters advertising the books will be displayed and it is hoped that any small ceremony attached to presenting the books will receive some Press coverage. A list of the books available will be on display in Church so that people know what books there are, and hopefully they will make use of them. There are some excellent titles included in the list, many of which will be familiar to you, but there are others that are not and may be well worth looking at especially as some are rather expensive and would probably be ones that it would be useful to see before purchasing.

CHRISTIAN VIDEOS

As more and more people acquire Video Cassette Recorders so the supply of specifically Christian Tapes are being made. In the future we hope to carry an article on what we know to be available. So far we know that The Scripture Union Bookshop in Richmond and the Bridge at Holy Trinity Hounslow keep fairly good lists. The St. Paul's Bookshop in Kensington High Street also has many titles although it is not very easy for us to reach it. Collins Liturgical Publications also has a list. Would anyone who has any knowledge of where good Christian Cassette Tapes can be obtained please let me know. It may be that we can buy some Tapes for individuals to hire or it may be that we can direct people to where they can get what they want. Keith Griffiths from the London City Mission told us in the autumn that he finds this a good way of opening up discussions in some of the otherwise impenetrable blocks of flats in which he works. More about this maybe after the Christian Resources Exhibition.

LIBRARY

A number of excellent books that are available for borrowing in the church now, deal with the field of counselling. They belong to the Wayside Monday Centre, but anyone interested in the art of helpful, constructive listening is welcome to make use of them. Enquiries to Hilde Bucknell, 979 3529.

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

St. George's Day Parade 26.4.87 Mrs. Doris Childs was kind enough to invite me to this annual Scout Movement Service. It took place as usual at St. Mary's College, Twickenham, in the Chapel. The majority of the congregation comprised of boys in uniform - a splendid sight, which was accompanied by the constant hum of conversation. Flags from all the Groups in the Twickenham District were brought up during the first hymn, then followed prayers and readings interspersed with hymns and the sermon. The Rev. Victor Vine of Teddington Methodist Church gave a fascinating sermon on "accepting the challenge", examples of people who had done so ranging from Moses - the Saints - Robert Baden-Powell - Mother Theresa to Terry Waite. Banners with all these names on were brought to the front by uniformed boys. This gave the sermon extra interest, especially for the younger ones. The point was made about the

challenge of Scouting. The good weather enhanced the spectacular parade which followed, accompanied by stirring music from the ATC Band. It was over all too quickly, and then followed the crush to get home. We decided to avoid the rush by joining the queue for ice-creams, which finished a super afternoon.

Debbie Nunn

Scout Troop Easter Camp. The Scouts went to Broadstone Warren Camp site for Easter Camp. The weather was good, there was not a bit of rain all through the Camp, but the temperatures did drop at night. We found this dog called Ben which followed us around everywhere and even followed us on our 6 mile hike. We also built a big tree tent. The tent was up on a platform which we had to make by lashing poles together. Two people slept in this tent, who were Ben Payne and Mark Mulberry. Some boys also made bivouacs and had to sleep in them. We played lots of wide games and the leaders won as usual! We came back on Saturday and I think we were all glad to get back.

Mark Mulberry & Paul Drewett

May Day Camp in rural Hampton Hill. 15 Cub Scouts together with 3 Leaders spent the weekend on The Triangle, our Camp site adjoining the river Longford. The day started well, but alas ended up with heavy rain and even hailstones. This did not upset the intrepid Cubs - in the afternoon other Leaders joined the Camp and led a hike to Hampton Court, the evening ending with a terrific Campfire. 3 parents volunteered to do the cooking and excellent meals were provided. It was great to see them marching through the Churchyard to The Parade Service the next morning. Altogether a very happy occasion. *Doris Childs*

Scout Group AGM 8.5.87 in the Parish Hall. The meeting opened with prayer, and then the G.S.L. welcomed District Commissioner Gerry Day and his wife, Nicholas, our Vicar, and David Dore, Lay Reader. Michael then gave an apology from his wife Yvonne, C.S.L. Brown Pack who was suffering from a swollen ankle - she sent her best wishes for the meeting.

The Minutes for 1986 were taken as read and duly approved. The G.S.L. then gave a short report on the Group mentioning some of the main events that had taken place, but as everyone had Reports from all the Sections giving very comprehensive details of the year's activities he would not enlarge on same. He was very pleased to announce that we now had a Beaver Section and thanked Ingrid, Sylvia and Angela, the new Beavers' Leaders team. He thanked all the Leaders for their loyal service, also the support and help received from the Church, particularly the use of the Hall and Wayside.

Our Chairman then gave a short report on the work of the Committee over the year. We had been very successful in our fund raising, some events proving more profitable than others. We had experienced Car Boot Sales, Jumble and Table Sales, Barn Dances, the Hampton Carnival, but special mention must be made of the Christmas Bazaar which this year exceeded all previous results.

Susanne Mulberry, our very efficient Treasurer then gave a few relevant facts of our financial situation. It was no longer viable to run two vans, the old one had been sold, but it was found necessary to spend a great deal to put the other one in order. We had experienced very heavy expenditure on equipment, the Triangle etc., but she hoped next year we might hopefully be out of debt.

Jim Drewett as Chairman and Susanne Mulberry as Treasurer were unanimously

re-elected, but the position of Secretary is still vacant. Most of the Committee were standing for re-election, but there are still a number of places to be filled. Roger Bucknell had done splendid work for the Group and will be sadly missed.

Nicholas then closed the evening with a short speech congratulating the Group on their achievements, he was particularly impressed with the various Displays around the Hall indicating the interesting work that went on. The Cubs and Scouts then entertained with a lively Campfire scene very ably conducted by Maureen. Parents and friends then drifted round the Hall for a convivial chatter over a glass of wine, and cheese and biscuits, very attractively provided by the Committee.

Doris Childs

AROUND THE SPIRE

St. James's Nursery School held its 30th Anniversary Fete on Saturday 9th May, and a great success it was. The enjoyable, colourful afternoon was opened by the Rainbow team, a great favourite with the little ones, and raised £420. Congratulations and very best wishes for the next 30 years.

We were pleased to hear that Stan Child's recent operation for cataract was successful. We send him our best wishes as well.

We also wish a rapid and complete recovery to Jack Gostling who has been laid low with a virus infection.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

April 26th Natalie Victoria King 84 Wordsworth Road

Marriages

May 16th Lucinda Ann Crickmore Page and Ian Ronald Davies

May 30th Martin Andrew Boniface and Karen Bishop

Andrew James Weston and Majella Kenneally

Raymond Paul Attewell and Julie Kim Gould

Funerals

April 16th Daisy May Edwards formerly of Rectory Grove aged 83

21st Albert Alexander Miller Laurel Dene aged 78

24th Rodney George May Laurel Dene aged 74

30th Betty Sims-Williams 179 Uxbridge Road aged 66

DATES TO NOTE

June	4	20.00	Stewardship Supper	
	6	10.00	Churchyard Working Party	
	7		PENTECOST	
		09.30	Children's Eucharist	
	9	10.30	Editorial Board	
		20.00	Properties Committee	
	10	20.00	Music and Ministry with Healing	
	15	20.00	Confirmation by Bishop of	
	16	20.00	P.C.C.	[Kensington]
	25	20.00	Liturgical Committee	
July	16	20.00	P.C.C.	
	26		St. James's Day	