

Dear Friends,

Easter will be upon us in a few weeks, and so I thought it would be a good thing to start thinking about it now.

Although the person in the street makes such a big thing about Christmas, Easter is, without doubt, the most important Festival of the Church's year. Without Good Friday and Easter Day there would be no Christianity as we know it.

How fortunate are the countries in the Northern Hemisphere, where Easter falls in the Spring. Spring is the right season for Easter, because of the Easter lessons which the Spring-time teaches us, and two words often associated with the Spring, light and life, are good words to think over at Easter time.

Spring is the season of light. The dark days of Winter are over, the sun is shining more often and more strongly, and is rising sooner and setting later to lengthen the hours of daylight. Every Spring dawn reminds us of the women who went to the tomb when the sun was rising and the first light of day was breaking. It is not surprising that many old Easter customs are connected with the dawn, and are observed at daybreak.

Spring is the season of life. The gardens, the fields and woods have been dead all the Winter, and the world of birds and animals has been still too, as they sheltered in quiet nooks from the rain and the cold. In Spring they all come to life. Green growth appears, buds peep out, and flowers soon follow; lambs are born, birds build their nests; creatures whose custom is to hibernate all Winter leave their hiding places in search of food, and start to enjoy the sunshine once more.

The word 'light' occurs very often in the Bible, and often in positions of importance. The author of Genesis, when picturing for us God creating the World, describes God beginning with the creation of light (Gen. Ch. 6, v. 3). The Psalmist speaks of God as a light to man (Psalm 27, v.1). Jesus compares Himself to light (John Ch. 8, v.12). Jesus bids us reflect the light of His goodness in our own lives (Matt. Ch. 5, v. 14-16). If Jesus had not risen from the dead on Easter Morning, the light of joy would never have shone again in the hearts of the first disciples, and in our own hearts today, and much of the light spoken of in Scripture would be quenched for ever.

The word 'life' also occurs often in the Bible, where it sometimes simply means animate existence in this world as opposed to being dead and senseless matter, but especially in John's Gospel, and Paul's Epistles, life often has a much deeper meaning, and signifies the life of the soul. The fact that Jesus did not remain in the tomb on the first Easter Day, but rose from the dead, is an assurance to us that we too live on after what is death as far as this world is concerned, it is a message of life. On each Easter morning we rejoice not only at Our Lord's new life, but at the promise of our own.

We have been thinking of two words 'light' and 'life' separately, let us now place them together. We must have light in our life. The light that shines out from the teaching and example of Jesus, was dimmed by His death, but shone out again in splendour

when he rose from the dead, and today continues to shine; it is the light that we must follow in our actions and daily lives. If we do so, it will lead us to the light of everlasting life.

May you all have a Blessed Easter, filled with the joy of the risen Lord.

*Don Rawlins*

## **Welcome Home**

We are delighted to have Canon Gordon Wilson and Jean back with us after their visit to New Zealand and Australia, and hope soon to be able to print an account of their travels and of the World Conference on Religion and Peace.

## **Spring in the Churchyard**

Great progress has been made with clearing the churchyard during the fine winter months. Not only has the Community Service Project made considerable inroads into previously uncharted territory, but we, ourselves, have been working hard to clear the area between the holly hedge in Park Road and the north side of the church. Here we have uncovered some interesting graves and cleared unsightly old tree stumps which will make the area easier to maintain. Elsewhere, in the middle of the churchyard brambles, ivy and holly have been cut back and already bulbs are blooming in the spring sunshine.

Now as spring approaches, we are already considering how maintenance can be carried out. The dates for the monthly Saturday morning working parties for this year are as follows:

4 March	6 May	1 July	2 September	4 November
8 April	3 June	5 August	7 October	2 December

We start at 9.30 am and finish about 12.30 pm with a coffee break about 11.00 am, but if you can only spare an hour, this would be helpful and there are plenty of easy jobs.

In addition to our regular working parties we need someone to cut the lawns (a simple job which can be done in your own time with our electric mower). Also, we should like more volunteers to look after specific areas. Ron Metcalfe, Michael Brunson and Walter Blaschke have taken over areas but we should like more volunteers. The advantage of this arrangement is that work can be done in your own time which some may prefer to joining in working parties.

Helping in the churchyard is a very satisfying job so why not undertake to look after a small area yourself? Please phone us on 979 6325 if you could help take over a small area, or would be prepared to cut the lawns.

*David and Janet Nunn*

# The Leprosy Mission

Just over a year ago a representative from the Leprosy Mission gave a talk at Prayer 'n' Praise. He explained the working of the Mission and how that, although many people think Leprosy has been eradicated in the world there are still 15 million or so who are affected mainly in third world countries.

For the sum of £15 many can be cured with modern medicines and even for those who have had the disease for some time the treatment is still very effective although taking longer and so costing more.

I offered to be the St. James's representative and during the past twelve months the sum of £135 has been donated by those who took collecting boxes that night.

Additionally many of you have donated your used stamps and four large packets have been sent to the Leprosy Stamp Bureau. Since its inception in 1971 over £76,000 has been raised from stamps and in 1988 a total of £7,702 was realised. All money raised by the Bureau is given to the Leprosy Mission in order that Leprosy sufferers worldwide may receive treatment in whatever form necessary. Thank you all for your help in this most worthy cause and I look forward to your continuing support in 1989.

If there is anyone who would like a collecting box for themselves or friends please let me know.

*David Lloyd*

Bearing reproach and shame,  
Suffering, pain, and loss,  
My soul undaunted still shall march,  
Holding aloft the Cross!

*Hayashi - a Japanese Christian leprosy sufferer*

*(From 'Escaped as a Bird' published by The Leprosy Mission)*

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## Holy Week and Easter - 19th to 26th March

### **Palm Sunday**

At 9.30 am the Parish Communion will include a Procession and Distribution of Palms, and at 6.30 pm we shall be presenting Stainer's 'Crucifixion' - a wonderful musical interpretation of the Passion Story with hymns for you - the listeners to the story - to join in and sing and so take part in the story.

### **Monday and Tuesday**

A sequence of Psalms and Readings will take place on Monday and a Penitential Service of Preparation on Tuesday, both at 8.00 pm.

### **'King of Sorrows' (Wednesday)**

It is hoped to present this dramatic sequence by Dorothy Sayers, originally written for radio, as a play-reading at 8.00 pm. It is a play following Jesus Christ on his way to Calvary, with passers-by commenting, with the soldiers' ribaldry, and with the two thieves sharing the agonies of crucifixion. It is realistic and dramatic.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Canon Gordon Wilson will be the Celebrant at a Celebration of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist and an Agape meal, also at 8.00 pm.



### **Good Friday**

There is to be a procession of witness at 11.00 am to Sainsbury's, Hampton where the Hampton Council of Churches are holding a short service. Soon after, at 12 noon, the Three Hours' Meditation and Devotion will start in our church. The theme will be 'At the foot of the Cross' and it will be taken by the Staff of Readers, Mrs. Lesley Mortimer and, to finish, Canon Gordon Wilson.

### **Easter Eve (Saturday)**

At 7.00 pm there will be a service containing the renewal of Baptismal Vows and a joyful Easter Preparation.

### **Easter Day**

The Celebrant at the 9.30 am Easter Sunday Parish Communion will be Canon Gordon Wilson and there will be a little extra music to help us rejoice at the Resurrection. In the evening at 6.30 pm we shall be singing lots of Easter hymns of rejoicing at the Easter 'Songs of Praise' service, with readings between the hymns.

\* \* \* \* \*

Do come along and support St. James's music presentations. It is quite a commitment for those who perform - and is most encouraging for them to sing to a good-sized congregation.

*Olive Hayward*

Both men and women readers are needed for 'King of Sorrows'. No part is long and there is plenty for the crowd to do. All will be welcome. Please let me know if you are interested in taking part, and give me names and telephone numbers.

*Hannah Stanton*

## A Meditation

This time of Lent is when we remember Christ in the barren wilderness. The world is often a wilderness of loneliness, temptation, fear and danger. Christ experienced all of these but rose above them through belief in God and the power of His word to show Man the way, the truth and the life to do the same - until even the wilderness is made fruitful.

'What has happened to the world?' men cry, 'What is happening to people that more and more they are behaving like animals, killing, robbing, raping, plundering?'. What has happened is that they have turned their backs on God. 'We know best,' they cry, 'We don't believe in that old rubbish, we don't need spiritual crutches, we can manage on our own,' and what a mess they are making of it.

Many children only know of God and Christ as swear words. Parents no longer tell their children of the Christian faith because they do not believe themselves, or if, in the remoteness of their minds there lurks belief, they are too busy or too occupied to be bothered to share what they believe with their children and so belief dies where it should begin to live - at the beginning. Christ said 'Who is not for me is against me,' but many are for Him secretly in their hearts when they bother to reflect or when a televised service, a snatch of a hymn, a phrase in a book nudges their consciousness; but their fleeting experience does not call them to action. Faith is not faith if nothing comes from it. Who is to know if you are for Christ or against Him?

If you are for Him, and there are many more who are for Him, far more than those who absolutely reject Him, then follow Him; do not be too busy to accord Him a little of your time, in thought, in prayer, in worship - after all He gave all the time He had for you, and His life for you on the cross. He is risen for you, and stands outside the gates of your soul knocking. Listen to that knocking, do not close the ears of your soul but rise up on your feet and let Him in.

Consider the things you are 'for'. If it is money, you have to go out after it and seek diligently ways, good or bad, of acquiring it. If it is gardening you take a spade, you make a start, sow seeds and tend them. If you are determined and diligent you are repaid in love and beauty - if you never start or give up, your plot is throttled by weeds. If you want to be a chess player, a doctor, a swimmer, a member of a band, an anything, you have to make an effort. So with wanting the world to be a better place, with wanting to be a follower of Christ, with wanting God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Christ would not have told us to pray for this if it were an impossibility. This will be achieved through men and women following the call and learning to act in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Not before.

Give a minute to real consideration. do I want to be one of them? Perhaps this is my time. Easter is coming, a time for being raised from darkness into light. Maybe my world will not change until something makes a change in me. Following Christ lies not in just 'doing things for Him' but in giving Him the chance to do things for us. He will if we give Him the chance. He has promised to.

*Margery Orton*

## St. James's Spire Appeal - 'SOS!'

In the days when our spire was newly built, the signal SOS (in Morse code by wireless telegraphy) was internationally recognised as a distress signal.

Improved radio telecommunications have led to its replacement by the phonetically easier 'M'aidez' or Mayday, but the message remains the same - 'Help!!'

We have sub-titled our Spire Appeal SOS as an acronym for Save Our Spire. Not dazzlingly original; trite maybe.

But we do, literally, have to save our spire, and we are in distress. AT LEAST £10,000 is needed to halt the effects of weather and pollution, and to restore the crumbling fabric.

We know that many are fond, proud even, of this familiar and elegant landmark, and we feel that there will be a widespread local concern to preserve it.

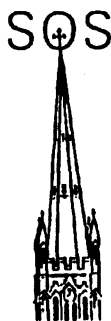
So we are appealing for help from all of you in our circulation area.

A programme of fund raising events will be organised, covering the three months or so which the repairs will take.

The first of these, advertised on this page, is a unique and fascinating history and tells graphically how Hampton Hill has grown round, and been influenced by, St. James's Church.

We shall shortly be announcing further events. If you have any ideas or offers of help, please contact any member of the Appeal Committee. They are:

Jack Gostling (Chairman)	979 3748
John Meredith Smith (Treasurer)	977 3641
Margery Orton	979 5868
Helen Taylor	979 7042



## ST JAMES'S SPIRE APPEAL

### THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF HAMPTON HILL

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK

by Mrs. Margery Orton

**8.00 pm WEDNESDAY 15th MARCH**

in the Parish Hall, School Road

UNIQUE VICTORIAN SLIDES & HISTORICAL RECORDS

Doors open 7.30 pm Tickets £2.00 (OAP's £1.00) at the door

**PROCEEDS TO ST. JAMES'S SPIRE APPEAL FUND**

# Be a Lifesaver

A Life-saving Fast is to be held on 22nd April.

In 1988 100,000 people up and down the country took part in a 24-hour sponsored fast which raised £1.5 million for life-saving projects round the world. I hope that everyone who took part last year will again help and that others will join them. The more people who participate, the more we raise, and the more we raise the more lives will be saved.

24 hours without food is not very difficult, and floods, famine and natural disasters make the need to raise money very important.

Please make a note of the date: 22nd April. We in the parish raised over £1,000 last year. Help us to do as well if not better in 1989.

More details will be available nearer the time and Sponsor Forms will be ready for you.

*Margaret Revis*



## THE JAYS

Fellowship for the  
young (aged 4+)  
Every Sunday except  
the first in the  
month  
at 9.20 am



## THE REBELS

Christian Youth Group  
for 10 - 14's  
  
Tuesdays  
6.15 - 7.30 pm

Meetings at Wayside, St. James's Road

For further information contact Pam Atkinson, 979 6166

In his address at the United Service on 22 January in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Rev. N. Setchell of the United Reformed Church told us of the rumour that at the next Vatican Council the Bishops would be bringing their wives - and that at the one after that, they would be bringing their husbands!

\* \* \* \* \*

A Coffee Party at Hannah's has recently raised £77 for the Church's Urban Fund.

# From the Registers

## Baptism

January 29

Anna Ballowe Jarvis

40 St. James's Avenue

## Services and Dates to Note

March	1	14.30	Mothers' Union, Wayside
		20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	2	19.15	Holy Communion
	3	14.30	} { Women's World Day of Prayer Services at All Saints' Church, Hampton
		20.00	
	4	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
		19.30	Folk Dance Evening, Parish Hall
	5		<u>Mothing Sunday</u>
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
	7	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club Open Evening, Wayside
	9	19.15	Holy Communion
		20.15	Properties Committee, 151 Uxbridge Road
	12	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
		18.30	Ecumenical Vespers, United Reformed Church
	14	09.30	Holy Communion
	15	20.00	'The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill', Parish Hall
	16	19.15	Holy Communion
	18		<u>St. Joseph of Nazareth</u>
	19		<u>Palm Sunday</u>
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion with palms and procession
		18.30	Stainer's 'Crucifixion'
	20	20.00	Psalms and Readings
	21	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Penitential Service of Preparation
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Talk by a W.P.C., Wayside
	22	12.00	Austerity Lunch in Aid of Christian Aid, Wayside
		20.00	Dramatic Reading: Dorothy Sayers' 'King of Sorrows'
	23		<u>Maundy Thursday</u>
		20.00	Parish Communion and Agape
	24		<u>Good Friday</u>
		11.00	Procession to Sainsbury's, Hampton
		12.00	Three Hours' Meditation and Devotion





25		<u>Easter Eve</u>
	19.00	Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Easter Preparation
26		<u>Easter Day</u>
	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	18.30	Easter Songs of Praise
28	09.30	Holy Communion
30	19.15	Holy Communion
April 2	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Informal Service
	18.30	Parish Communion
<b>Advance Notices</b>		
April 4	20.00	Tuesday Club Talk
	5 20.00	Healing Ministry in Church
	6 20.15	Liturgical Committee, 30 Burton's Road
	8 09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	11 20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	15 14.30	Mothers' Union
	17 20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road
	22	Life-saving Fast
	26	A.P.C.M.

COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE: 12 MARCH



### *Is God Here?*

*On my way to my morning church cleaning stint, I met one of our congregation. 'Aren't you afraid, in there on your own?' she asked. 'I'd find it creepy'. The answer should have been 'No, I'm not afraid, for God is there', because it says so in the little framed notice on the porch door.*

*But that set me thinking. When I open the church and walk in, is God there, waiting for me? If he is, then I should be saying 'Good Morning, God' as I open the door.*

*I don't think he is there, in that sense, waiting for me to go in or for anyone else to go in for that matter. Churches are no more or less than places where we gather to worship, to celebrate, to mourn, to hang monuments to our beloved departed. God is only there, if we are there. For he said - 'Lo, I am with you always', and that means no matter where we are.*

*Anna McLeay*

*A Bishop was astonished to hear little Mary say that a person must be brave these days to go to church. 'Why do you say that?' he asked. 'Well I heard my uncle tell my aunt last Sunday that there was a canon in the pulpit, the choir murdered the anthem and the organist drowned the choir'.*

*James A. Simpson*



## **Keeping our Magazine Afloat**

As you will appreciate, the parish is under financial pressure. We do not wish this magazine to be a burden upon its resources, and so we are making another appeal for your help as we have done in previous years.

Donations in response to our appeal last year came to a splendid total of over £600. But, despite that, and the substantial income from advertising thanks to the hard work of Alwyne Loyd and to all who advertise in the magazine, the expenditure arising from the magazine exceeded the income by some £240.

If you are able to contribute, we should be grateful if you would use the reply section below and the addressed envelope enclosed with this issue. You will understand that we are not able to acknowledge your donations individually but we do thank you most sincerely for them.

We are always pleased to receive general comments on the magazine and any suggestions you may have for its improvement. Also, the Editor will be pleased to publish any letters he receives which are of interest to our readers.

*The Editorial Board*

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I have please in enclosing a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ towards the costs of our Parish Magazine. (Cheques should be made payable to St. James's Church Magazine Account).

Name .....

Address .....