

Three of the four Sunday themes for the weeks after Easter refer to 'Life'. 'The Bread of Life'; 'The Resurrection and the Life'; 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'.

The collect for the third Sunday after Easter reflects this theme exactly:-

'..... Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in Him; raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness .....

Over the past weeks and months we have been inundated with literature about the forthcoming Billy Graham mission to London and via satellite links to the whole of the U.K. We have been encouraged to take part in the planning to ensure we make the most of this great occasion. Christian 'Life and Witness' classes have been organised throughout London, including Teddington and Richmond. The 'Church Times' this week reports that almost 20,000 people took part in the first training classes in London. They described the situation as people 'flocking' to the meetings. The Training Director is quoted as saying, 'There is a real groundswell of support for the mission in many churches' and that, 'people are keen to learn how to share their faith with others'.

I hope all of us will support the Mission actively. How we share our faith and help people cross the threshold from interest and sympathy to a commitment is difficult to know. What is undoubtedly a major help is the witness of our own personal lives and lifestyles. On one occasion some years ago in our Church, the then Bishop of Kensington, Ronald Goodchild, spoke of not wanting more full-time ministers, but more believers on the 07.57 to Waterloo. (I am sure he felt the same way about the other trains too!).

All Christians know the weight of the difficulty is presenting 'the life' as the most important thing to people to experience and have as the rock on which to build their lives. However with the coming ministry of Billy Graham to help us and our personal witness in how we reflect this influence on our lives a great start can be made in our witness to our community.

*Alan Taylor*

## **A Vision of the Promised Land**

In Melbourne in January 1989 I had, during the 5th World Assembly of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, a feeling similar to what Moses must have felt as he caught sight of the Promised Land across the river Jordan after the long and arduous journey through the wilderness (only to be told he would not enter it himself). Like Moses, I shall probably not live to enter the Promised Land myself; but like Moses, I know that those who follow will certainly do so one day.

The vision of the Promised Land which I had in Melbourne was the vision of a world at peace and of a united human family. What inspired the vision was the experience of sharing in a great international and interfaith conference, people from every country and every religion united in a common commitment to peace, discussing 'Building Peace through Trust: the role of religion'.

Just how far away the Promised Land of peace still is, and how inimical to trust religion can be, has been sharply brought home to us in recent days by two factors within current events. While there has been considerable easing of tension between the great power blocks of East and West, there has been a resurgence of bitterness in two areas where religion has been a contributory factor. In the Christian land of Ireland the bitter feuding has grown more bloody between groups claiming allegiance to catholic and protestant traditions; and the Muslim world has been set aflame by the sad and deplorable Salman Rushdie affair.

It is not my purpose here to comment on either of these areas of conflict, except to say that despite these apparent set-backs to the cause of peace and human unity, there is wonderful evidence that the vision of the Promised Land of peace is not unrealistic.

In our multi-religious gathering at Melbourne Christians were united in their dedication to peace, and Muslims were prominent in their commitment as well. Daily Christian worship played an important part for those of us who were Christians, and I was delighted personally to be welcomed very warmly by the Roman Catholics to their daily Eucharist. When an amiable Indian priest (an old friend) embraced me at the 'peace' and said 'Thankyou for coming' I knew this was a mark of Christian fellowship and not merely a case of my being welcomed 'on their terms'.

I had a feeling of being part of the essential Christian fellowship at the Eucharist, as we do at St. James's, where I am quite sure my Roman Catholic friends from Melbourne would feel as much at home as I did at their worship - and have done on many previous occasions in many parts of the world, including Rome itself.

I do not bear a 'high church' label (or even a 'low church' one) though I have to admit that I feel more at home in worship when our Lord's Body and Blood are held in reverence as the focal point of his sacrifice and of our commitment to the New Covenant. To that extent I suppose I may be more 'catholic' than 'protestant' by inclination. But in the context of genuine Christian fellowship such as I have shared with my dear Roman Catholic friends from many countries, I find it quite impossible to comprehend the kind of bitterness which has all too often been a feature of the often bloody history of the Christian Church, with the burning of such 'heretics' as the great Jan Huss (who gave his name to the church in Prague where Jean and I celebrated our Ruby Wedding in the company of an international group of Roman Catholic friends).

Muslims have from the beginning been prominent members of the World Conference on Religion and Peace as have Jews also, and together they have helped us to understand how reconciliation may be possible in the bitterly divided Middle East.

I shall never forget the passionate plea for total non-violence which I heard delivered during the 2nd World Assembly of WCRP at Louvain in Belgium by a Muslim, a semi-blind professor of medicine from Cairo. This unforgettable speech first made me realise that the Promised Land of peace was a real possibility in a multi-religious world.

Christianity and Islam have alas historically been the two most blood-thirsty religions in the world. Yet the essence of both is peace. The very word Islam means peace and surrender. Jesus Christ taught absolute non-violence and set the example of this way on the Cross. By His Resurrection He made clear to us that the way of love and non-violence leads not to defeat but to total victory.

But still we can't bring ourselves to believe Him. When faced by real enemies the last thing we can do is to love them. Though we believe, like the bishops at the 1978 Lambeth Conference, that 'the use of violence is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel' yet like the bishops at the 1988 Lambeth Conference we 'understand those who, faced with injustice, see no alternative to the use of violence in order to win freedom'. (This immediately upset the Irish bishops at the 1988 Lambeth Conference, who saw it as a possible justification for the IRA.)

The 1988 Lambeth Conference would seem to have been suggesting that in order to win freedom from injustice it may sometimes be necessary to do what is contradictory to the Gospel! Jesus and His way of love are evidently unable to offer freedom from injustice. But Mao Tse-Tung ('Freedom comes out of the barrel of a gun') would seem to know the way. So if we think like that we had better become Communists and reject Jesus or suspend the Gospel until justice has been achieved.

At Melbourne, all religions found common ground in believing, in the words of the 'Melbourne Declaration' that 'Non-violence is love and love is the most powerful force against injustice and violence'. All religions found in this the essence of their faith. That is what we have to build on. That is the ground of our hope of the Promised Land.

At Melbourne I was told by the Japanese lay Buddhist group Risho Kosei-kai that over 300,000 copies of the prayer leaflet produced by the Week of Prayer for World Peace had been translated and distributed in Japan. There is another wonderful ground for hope. This Japanese group has declared its intention of working with me to extend the Week of Prayer for World Peace among all nations and all religions in the world. So despite things like the continuing hatred and slaughter related to the Irish conflict, and the explosive situation of the Rushdie affair and its implications not least for hostages in Lebanon, we must continue to believe in the deep truths of religion and that it is true religion which can lead us to the Promised Land.

As the distinguished Swiss Catholic theologian Hans Küng said in a marvellous lecture in London last November to the World Congress of Faiths: 'No world peace without religious peace'.

We U.K. members of WCRP were greatly honoured when our own dear Hannah Stanton was appointed by the Nominating Committee of WCRP International at Melbourne to be one of six Honorary Presidents. All are world religious leaders: a Japanese Buddhist, one of the founders of WCRP, Nikkyo Niwano; Sri R.R. Diwakar, a Hindu close follower of Ghandi; Major General S.S. Uban, a Sikh; Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Miss Hannah Stanton.

*Gordon Wilson*



*Perhaps we should think of 'God', not as a noun but as a verb ('I am').*

*God is active and we, as Christ was in His passion, should be passive.*

*- Our Archdeacon, the Ven. Timothy Raphael, in our church on Passion Sunday.*

## Vicar Found

We have a Vicar! It is with great pleasure that the Churchwardens announce that the Rev. Brian Leathard, Senior Chaplain at the University of Loughborough, has accepted the living of the parish of St. James. We look forward to welcoming Brian, his wife and daughter to the parish in September. Details of the Institution will be announced as soon as they are available. Meanwhile arrangements are under way to tidy up the Vicarage garden and to update the vicarage itself before it receives its next incumbent.

By September we will have been without a vicar for 15 months - a source of concern to many local clergy and lay people alike. Why the delay?

When I last wrote about our search for a new vicar it was at the time when our Patron had just placed an advertisement in the Church Times. It was as a result of this advertisement that Brian Leathard applied for the post of vicar. He came down to Hampton Hill to see the church and to meet the Patron and myself and was subsequently interviewed by both Churchwardens on a more formal basis. With the support of the P.C.C. Alan and I decided to recommend Brian's appointment to the Patron. He agreed to our recommendation.

Problems then followed thick and fast. Robin Rogers' patronage expired and passed into the hands of the Bishop of London. Brian Leathard went on holiday to the Middle East for a month. So it was not until mid-January that all the interested parties could begin the process of interviews and negotiations. Brian was unable to resign from his present post until mid-February, by which time he had missed the resignation date for Easter and would therefore have to fulfil his university contract which runs until 31st August 1989.

We are sad that Brian and his family will not be with us sooner, mindful of the enormous effort many people are making to keep the parish up and running. (Here is perhaps not the place to voice the reservations many of us have about the efficiency of the Church's appointments procedure.) We are delighted that Gordon Wilson is back among us and cannot adequately express how valuable his ministry has been during the interregnum.

We look forward to September with great hope and confidence, and trust that Brian and his family will be included in the prayers of all parishioners.

*Lesley Mortimer*

*Please come to the*  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Wednesday 26 April**  
**7.30 for 7.45 pm**  
**Parish Hall**  
**OPEN FORUM ON CHURCH PROPERTIES**  
Coffee and Biscuits will be served

## Letter to the Editor

I am writing in response to Margery Orton's article 'Midnight Mass' in 'The Spire' of February, in which she invited reactions to her doubts about the candlelit start to the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve.

I have lived in Hampton Hill for some years now and attend church fairly regularly. It is amazing therefore that this was the first year I have attended Midnight Mass at St. James's.

I entered the dimly-lit church - warm, candles flickering and picking up gleams from the flowers and decorations. The choir were singing carols. I felt over-whelmed with peace and tranquillity. As a mother of two small children peace and tranquillity are often a bit hard to find, especially at Christmas. Life for me is full of light, noise and boisterous fun. But this lone visit to church on Christmas Eve was my treat, and I did appreciate it. In the soft light of the candles there was time to reflect without distractions on true family love and the message of Christmas. I was alone, but did not feel it. Sitting in the darkened church I felt very much a part of the larger family of St. James's. I felt a real sense of mystery, too.

Certainly I can understand the confusion of those less familiar with the form of service and the words of the carols. But the fact that the service will be candlelit is published in the list of Christmas services delivered to every household. Others, like Margery, would be welcome to come armed with torches!

For me the church on Christmas Eve was an oasis from which I emerged refreshed and, despite the lateness of the hour, ready to enjoy the light and noise of family Christmas due to start only a few hours hence, when the children woke to find their stockings on the bed .....

*Jane Newman*

## Women's World Day of Prayer

This year, the service for this area was held at All Saint's, Hampton, on Friday 3rd March. It was very well attended, especially by members of St. James's.

The interdenominational service was planned and written by a small band of devout Christian women in Burma, and the theme was 'Lord, teach us to pray'. They called to us to recognise and reclaim the power, the urgency and the deep need of prayer in our lives. In the address, given by Mrs. Raphael the Archdeacon's wife, we were given several suggestions on how to help improve our time at prayer. One tip I thought very useful, was how to use each finger of one hand as a reminder of who and what to pray for.

A ladies' choir augmented the hymn singing and the many readings were beautifully done, thank you Janet for your contribution. Thanks too, to all the members of the local committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer who put such a lot of hard work into organising yet again a very successful day.

*Marion Nevill*

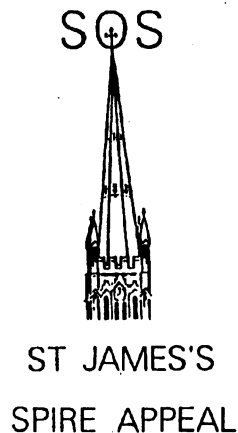
## Spire Appeal

At the time of writing, our Appeal is newly launched, with some preliminary Press cover and the distribution of an appeal letter to every household in the Parish. Many thanks to all who took part in this delivery through some 3000 letter boxes.

Already there has been an encouraging response, with about £2,500 currently donated, and we hope that by the time you read this, the amount will be much larger. We are very grateful for every contribution and whilst we aim to acknowledge individually all those we can identify, we have to use this article to say 'thank you' for many anonymous gifts.

Further fund raising activities are in the pipe-line, but for the present, please note in your diaries our Open Day on Saturday 17 June, when the Church and the Spire will be open from dawn (well, about 10.00!) to dusk.

There will be a great deal happening in and around the Spire that day - further details to follow - but please **BOOK THE DAY NOW!**



*Jack Gostling*

*Stop Press* The talk by Margery Orton on 15 March, together with the raffle held on that occasion, raised £129 for the Spire Appeal Fund.

## Mothers' Union Activities

In February we met for a social afternoon with an exchange of paper-back books. On 1st March - St. David's Day - a member of the local Welsh Society came to talk to us. He was the Rev. David Thomas and he spoke of St. David himself who lived between 500 and 600 AD in Cardigan. St. David was a man who lived simply, given to meditation and prayer. He was a scholar and an inspired preacher travelling all over Wales. He was a student of theology and an organiser of the foundations of the Church of Wales, eventually becoming a bishop. He died in 605 AD. The Rev. Thomas made his talk so interesting that I am sure we were all sorry when he finished.

*Hettie Burgess*

On 3rd May a visit is planned to St. Alban's Abbey leaving the church at 9.30am and returning at 3.30pm. A guided tour of the abbey and lunch in the refectory will be included. There are 35 places and the cost will be £3 plus lunch.

At 8pm on Monday 8 May, in either Wayside or the church, Mrs. Ivy Guttridge of the Wolverhampton Inter-faith Centre will give an illustrated talk. Ivy was a delegate at both the Women's Conference and the World Assembly of the World Conference of Religions for Peace held in January at Melbourne, Australia. This should be an interesting and challenging event and all visitors will be welcome.

*Jean Wilson*

# Church's Urban Fund

## Concert - 21st April

At 8 pm on 21st April we shall be presenting a musical concert in church - when you will hear singing and instrumental music and see dancing.

Since most organs are in churches, much organ music has been written to be part of the church's services - but there is a vast amount of concert music, since the French, especially, have loved organ recitals in their churches. There are also many large (ie many hundreds of pipes) organs in English City Concert Halls, including London's Royal Festival Hall, where regular organ concerts are held.

This concert is in aid of the Church's Urban Fund, so please support us, and help St. James's Church to achieve its target for this most necessary cause. The old phrase 'silver collection' now hopes for much more and may soon read 'paper and pound collection'.

*Olive Hayward*

## Coffee Morning

A coffee morning on 9th March at 21 St. James's Road raised £120 for the fund.

## Social Committee

I am very pleased to be able to report that the sum of £57.40p has been given to the Church Urban Fund following the recent Folk Dance evening.

This, in addition to the donations made from the profit at the Harvest Supper and the Parish Carol singing, means we have given a total of £121.32p to the Fund. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in any way, particularly with gifts for the raffle and providing food at little or no cost, and not the least important, sparing time to help the occasions to be so successful.

*David Lloyd*

## Our Target

We have a month or two left and still some way to go, to reach our target of £1,000 for this fund which is to support many projects in inner city areas and to enable workers in those areas to be financed for many years ahead. The aim is to be able to spend £4m a year for 20 years. Let us help the church to be able to put its money where its mouth is.

## Folk Dance

First of all we arrived; there were not many people there but gradually more came. The guide came down to teach us. We all worked together and none of us minded when we made a few mistakes. We all joined in and had a great time. And when it was time for food, well, the people had organised it perfectly. Over all an excellent night, and I think it is a shame that we do not have it more often.

*Catherine Roe (aged 9½)*

God gave man one mouth and two ears, so why don't we  
listen twice as much as we speak. - Chinese Proverb

## 24-hour Fast

Go without food for a day and be a life-saver.

Please take part. Go without food from 7pm on Friday 21st April to 7 pm on Saturday 22nd April. The money you receive from sponsors will go to 'World Vision' who fund life-saving projects around the world.

Last year wells were sunk in Ghana, seed-packs were distributed in Mozambique and a hospital was equipped in Kampuchea. We raised £1,000 in Hampton Hill towards the nationwide total of £1.5m. Droughts and floods and wars make it necessary for these life-saving efforts to be annual events. The money does reach the troubled areas. Please be generous this year.

I hope that by now you have signed up at the back of the church to take part, but if this is not for you, then I hope you have sponsored someone else.

Going without food for a day is not very difficult. You are allowed tea, coffee and fruit-juice. I have heard people say that they could not possibly go without food for a day, but think how lucky you are - you can eat a meal after 24 hours, others less fortunate do not know when their next meal will be.

If you do not like the idea of seeking sponsors you can simply donate what you would have spent on food that day.

If you haven't a sponsor form yet, I will be pleased to drop one round to you if you give me a ring on 979 4858.

I know this is another appeal for money but suffering in the world does not stop because you gave last year or even last month. Please join in and help.

*Margaret Revis*

## Magazine Appeal

Many thanks to those who, as this issue goes to print (mid-March) have already responded to our appeal in last month's 'The Spire'. At this early stage, donations received total £140.

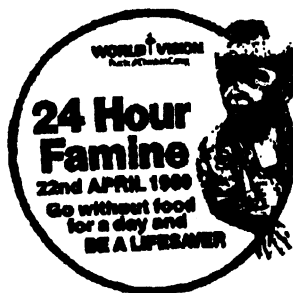
## Hampton Christian Community Drama

It is proposed to form a group to present, each year, a play for children involving actors of all ages and usually with some musical content, and an adult religious drama to be performed in local churches. A high standard will be aimed for. The children's play will probably be staged around Easter and the Religious drama in June of each year, starting in 1990. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Stuart Ward of 98 Uxbridge Road.

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He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes.

He who does not, remains a fool forever. Confucius





## Parish Summer Outing

This is planned to take place on Saturday 1st July 1989. We intend to go to Peterborough where we will be joined by Nicholas and Susan Chubb for the afternoon. A trip on the Nene Valley Steam Railway is available as well as the opportunity to visit the Cathedral for those who would like to. A picnic lunch will be taken. More news will be available at a later date but I am sure many of you would like the chance to meet up again with Nicholas and Susan, so please note the date in your diary and plan to come with us.

*David Lloyd*

## Mrs. Edna Shackleton

The recent sudden death of Edna is a sad loss to her family and all her friends.

She had been very ill for the past year and at no time did she ever complain of her own suffering and anguish but, with her caring personality, was far more concerned with the well-being of others, as many of us can testify, receiving many of her frequent telephone calls, her conversations always bright and cheerful.

She was very interested in the theatre and our church and gave them her full support. She will be greatly missed from each group.

*Monica Heaford*

## From the Registers

### Baptism

February	26	Christopher Daniel Moore	8 Ringwood Way
		Rosamund Elizabeth Parker	62 Uxbridge Road

### Funerals

March	2	Donald Creek	Fareham Road, Feltham
	3	Jack Humphrey	31 Fairlight

### Memorial Service

March	9	Edna Shackleton	7 Ringwood Way
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## Services and Dates to Note

April	2	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion
3.	<u>The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary</u>		
4	09.30	Holy Communion	
	20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Upstairs and Downstairs at Buckingham Palace', Wayside	
5	14.30	Mothers' Union Meeting, Wayside	
	20.00	Healing Ministry in Church	
6	19.15	Holy Communion	
	20.15	Liturgical Committee, 30 Burton's Road	
8	09.30	Churchyard Working Party	

	9	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	11	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	13	19.15	Holy Communion
	16	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Evensong
	17	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches, United Reformed Church
		20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road
	18	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Life in the Law Courts', Wayside
	20	19.15	Holy Communion
	21	20.00	Church's Urban Fund Musical Concert in Church
	22		Life-saving Fast
	23		<u>St. George's Day</u>
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	25		<u>St. Mark</u>
		09.30	Holy Communion
	26	19.45	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Parish Hall
	27	19.15	Holy Communion
	30	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
May	1		<u>St. Philip and St. James</u>
	2	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: 'In Search of Plants', Wayside
	3	09.30	Mothers' Union Visit to St. Alban's Abbey
	4		<u>Ascension Day</u>
		20.00	Parish Communion
	6	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
			Christian Aid Coffee Morning in church
	7	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
<b>Advance Notices</b>			
May	8		<u>Julian of Norwich</u>
		20.00	Talk by Mrs. Ivy Gutridge, Wayside or church
	11	20.00	P.C.C. (Provisional)
	13		Pentecost Eve Service, St. Mary's, Twickenham
	14		<u>Pentecost</u>
	17 to 20		Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park
	24		M.U. World Day of Prayer
June	17		Open Day (Church and Spire)
July	1		Summer Outing to Peterborough

**Copy Date for May Issue: 9 April**