

It does seem crazy! May, a wonderful spring month, sandwiched between two Bank Holidays, yet the only way to be sure to have a peaceful long weekend is to stay at home and avoid the interminable delays on the roads, the overcrowded trains and heavily delayed flights. Staying at home has much to recommend it. Yes, if you have a home in which to stay. Take a walk through any part of central London this month, or any month, and you will soon realise the true proportions of homelessness. Stroll back to Waterloo one evening to take the train and you will be brought face to face with the dehumanising effects of poverty and homelessness in the heart of our capital. A recent Salvation Army report estimates that there are about 75,000 people homeless in London alone. 75,000 people is the entire population of Basingstoke or Bedford.

The problem is complex and growing. As there is a variety of need, so there is also a variety of response. Many organisations, including the churches, do sterling work in trying to alleviate the situation. Sometimes this is in short-stay hostels and the provision of meals or clothing. Other organisations aim to provide a diversity of accommodation at fair and affordable prices through Housing Associations and trusts.

Yet, on the other hand, there are many people living alone, or whose families have left home, who have empty rooms in their homes. Have you ever thought that you might be part of the answer? Some people desperately need to live in London because their work is here, but cannot afford a mortgage. Because of this many local authorities and private companies cannot recruit staff - teachers, nurses, train drivers, secretaries and more. There are also people who would be willing to provide lodgings for the homeless or those with particular needs. A confidential mechanism exists to bring together those needing accommodation and those offering it, short-term or long-term. It is operated by the Bishop of London's Chaplain for the Homeless. If you would like more information please let me know.

When you decide to stay at home for the long weekends this month, think whether you might be able to offer someone else the same opportunity.

When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there? "And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?" (Sydney Carter)

Brian Leathard

The Crypt at Christ Church, Spitalfields needs at least 1,000 men's overcoats and 1,000 pairs of men's shoes each year for its work among the homeless and destitute. If you can spare a coat or a pair of shoes please bring them to church as soon as possible.

A Prayer for Christian Aid Week, 14th -19th May

Lord God, you have created us of many races and cultures in a rich diversity. Yet we are one people, rejoicing in the world you are making, growing in understanding and in what we share together. This Christian Aid Week, help us in all we do to know the poor as sisters and brothers, members of one community. We dream that children will have enough to eat, we dream of men and women discovering their dignity, and we hope for the dawning of your Kingdom. Show us how to begin to make those dreams a reality, how we ourselves must change and be changed.

Christian Aid



Christian Aid exists to combat the poverty and injustice suffered by so many in the world. It seeks to put into practice Christian teaching about human dignity and the equal worth of all people as well as love for our neighbours - especially those in the developing world.

Christian Aid believes the most effective and respectful way to bring about lasting improvement to the powerless is to put into their hands the means to help themselves. It has no staff overseas, believing that the people themselves are best able to use the money that you provide.

Apart from helping with development, Christian Aid sends money for relief when disaster strikes, to provide food, medicine, transport and shelter. It also helps with the education of people about the causes of poverty and their removal.

Not all Christian Aid money is spent abroad. A proportion is allocated to development education projects in the UK and Ireland, and about 1% of its income goes to help work with different racial groups in deprived areas.

Christian Aid is a division of the British Council of Churches and its board is drawn from all types of people. Both at home and abroad it works with all who share its concerns, whatever their colour or creed.

Please welcome the collector who will call during Christian Aid Week from 14th to 19th May and, if you feel able to help with the collection yourself, contact Margaret or David Taylor on 977 1342 if they have not already contacted you.

CELEBRATE PENTECOST !

Saturday 2 June

2 - 6 pm

Workshops to prepare worship
Teas, Rounders, FUN
Church and Spire open
Church Archives available

6 pm onwards

Barbecue and Games

Sunday 3 June

8.00 am

PENTECOST
Holy Communion

9.30 am

Parish Communion, followed by Parish Lunch -
Everyone bring something for a common meal



Come on, Let's Celebrate!

The Renovation of the Church Spire

The spire renovation arose out of the Diocesan system of regular surveys of all churches. In theory, every church is inspected by its architect every five years.

Following the last quinquennial, our architect, John Deal, asked for a more detailed survey of the outside of the spire, particularly where its base meets the tower.

So Messrs. Larkins put their ladders in place, and in October 1988 John Deal climbed to the top of the spire in company with Mr. Dosell, the steeplejack. Resulting from this an outline specification was prepared, producing a budget figure of at least £10,000; possibly a great deal more.

Clearly costs of this sort were beyond the resources of our smallish congregation and so we sought help in two ways.

We reckoned that there was a great deal of affection for the spire in our local community, so we launched a parish-wide appeal, delivered into 3,000 households.

We also reckoned that the Diocese would be sympathetic, particularly as we were without a Vicar, so we asked them for a grant towards the cost.

Both appeals were successful: within six weeks, over £5,000 was given locally and soon after that we were promised a grant from the Diocese of £7,000, subject to a few strings.

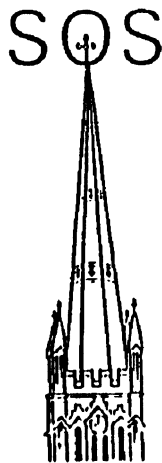
One of these was that we needed a formal permission, or Faculty: this in turn required a further detailed and wider specification, the effect of which was to include a lot of remotely possible contingencies, and inevitably, a much higher price, which then had to be scaled down again.

By August, we had a realistic target figure of a minimum of £23,000 cost, and a maximum £28,000; and by September, although a long way short of these figures, we were sufficiently confident to put the work in hand.

What was done? The cross was taken down, repaired, re-coated with glass fibre and resin, and refixed.

The whole spire and tower was cleaned down and a great deal of crumbled and loose stonework removed or refixed and repointed. Lichen growth of many years was removed from all the spire faces, which were then chemically treated to prevent re-growth.

The roof around the base of the spire was renewed with an asphalt membrane and



ST JAMES'S
SPIRE APPEAL

lead flashings. The bell louvres were treated with preservative.

Lastly, the gables and finials of the south aisle were repaired and made safe.

The eventual bill has still to be calculated, but looks likely to be around £27,000 or just under.

Our net income from the Appeal looks to be about £16,000, to which we add the initial grant of £7,000, to make £23,000. However, the Diocese has now agreed a further grant to ensure that our costs are covered.

I have done a rough analysis of the Appeal income.

Our Open Day in June raised about £2,000, of which half came from the raffle of items given by local traders. £250 came from a Car Boot Sale by the HHA. £300 from raffling the dolls' house made by Sid Heaford. £1,300 from our Christmas Fair. £800 net profit on the sale of souvenir mugs and notelets. Nearly £300 from Margery Orton's history exhibition and from the Harvest Supper. Something over £800 from concerts given by our four local schools. And nearly £300 from three school girls who ran in the London mini-marathon. In all, £6,000 from various special events.

The balance of £10,000 came as cash donations: about £1,000 from local businesses, and the balance from private individuals. A special mention goes to our anonymous benefactor, who as a result of his challenge, encouraged gifts of £1,400 to add to his £1,000.

Further mention to our youth groups for their individual efforts, and to our two local printing firms, Keystone Copy Centre and Four Winds Press, who did a tremendous amount of printing without charge.

Last and least likely among our benefactors is the Tax Man: £2,475 worth of donations were made under deeds of deposited covenant, and so we should recover a further £206 each year for the next four years.

We have much to be thankful for in such a successful financial outcome, and I do heartily thank all those who have in any way given of money, time, effort and prayer to bring it about.

We are also grateful to our Archdeacon, Tim Raphael, for much wise guidance, and for putting his weight behind our grant applications.

As to the work, now completed, we have to thank John Deal for the way in which he has thoroughly and conscientiously examined and supervised the work, and in particular for never shirking the ascents of the spire both inside and out.

And lastly, thanks to our steeplejack, Reg Dosell, and to his daughter Lisa, who carried out the work so thoroughly and well, and in addition have produced in a video recording a bird's eye view of our church and its surroundings.

Jack Gostling

The above report was presented at the Thanksgiving Service on 1 April.

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Some thoughts on Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, as we call it, and as I was being driven to church by a kind friend, my mind was full of a tree-lined route and of the doomed man riding on a donkey, no pomp and ceremony here but a terrible foreboding by those who feared for their friend Jesus.

The people who stood under the palm trees with waving fronds were wondering what it was all about, but we know; and St. James's church was filled, yes filled, with people come to remember and to think about it, and these people were not sad, because they had come to celebrate the victory of good over evil and the beginning of Christianity.

As I entered the church, I was greeted by children presenting palm crosses which later we held aloft to be blessed. Because I was sitting in one of the front pews, I did not see the entry of the Vicar and procession through the main door at the rear of the south aisle but the music and singing of 'Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning' made me turn around to see our dancing ladies making their sedate and graceful way up the nave, waving their palm branches, as long ago they were waved, followed eagerly by the Sunday School children. The procession was so large and leisurely that the congregation took up a much repeated chorus of 'Hosanna'.

In the service itself, a dramatic reading of the gospel (Matthew 27 - the trial and crucifixion of Christ) by men and women of the congregation was followed by another of Brian's splendid sermons.

The Peace is always a joy at St. James's for to be greeted by so many good friends warms the heart.

And then there were the children who looked so pretty and behaved so beautifully, especially when invited to sit on the chancel floor and watch the preparation of the Bread and Wine.

It was a lovely morning both inside and out and a lively lead into Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday. Then came the contrast of the Maundy Thursday evening eucharist. With the quiet church and the sincere congregation - smaller though it may be, it is to me the deepest and therefore possibly the loveliest of services - and it is quiet. This year we had hot cross buns - and very good ones too - and coffee, and a quiet chat before the service.

Brian preached on the meaningfulness of the action of Christ washing the disciples' feet, and he demonstrated its humility.

I am always so deeply impressed at the end of the service with the quiet and sorrowful stripping of the altar and chancel, and then as bid by our Vicar, when the lights were turned off, there was the silent departure of the congregation.

I remember attending a service in a Christian Science church in Bristol long years ago. To my surprise and concern, when the service ended, everyone walked around greeting friends and chatting. This was not done in my church in those days - if you wanted to talk you did so outside. How things do change! There is much to find in silence: 'Be still, and know that I am God'.

Alison Thompson

Good Friday The Three Hours' Devotion was led throughout by Brian, who most movingly looked at the involvement of various people in the Passion of Christ. What were their motives, their feelings; what scope had they for acting differently? How would we have acted? How would we act today if we were caught up in a similar situation? How do we act?

Our meditations were assisted by Bach organ pieces played by Olive.

Easter Eve Another time of quiet: in the darkened church, we listened to readings about the Passover and the Passion of Christ and then celebrated his resurrection with the lighting of the Paschal Candle. With candles of our own lit from the Paschal Candle to represent the new light in our own lives, we renewed our Baptismal Vows.

Easter Day And so we came to Easter Day. We were helped in our joyful celebration at Parish Communion by some special music, including pieces beautifully performed on the French horn by young Daniel Smith, and, at the baptism incorporated in the service, we introduced Daniel Breeze into the family of our church. All the children were brought very much into this - and, at the end of the service, were presented with Easter eggs. How good that the young - the new life of the church - are made so welcome.

In the evening, as on Palm Sunday, we enjoyed appropriate readings and music, provided by our choir under Olive's direction.

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'The Edwardian Drawing Room'

Don't forget this evening of musical fun and drama presented by Stuart Ward, which takes place at **8pm on Saturday 12 May** in the Parish Hall, School Road.

Dress as you wish or wear something Edwardian.

Refreshments will be served.

Tickets are now on sale: £3, children £2 - see Stuart Ward or a member of the Social Committee.

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Off to the Good Life?

The Atkinson tribe of Pam, Trevor, Jeremy and Hannah, and Grandpa Henry who is now 90 - fit but rather senile, hope to leave for our 'mission' to Australia in mid-May.

We are going at the invitation of the Archbishop of Adelaide, Keith Rayner (and the Priest in Charge) to live in the Anglican Parish of Salisbury in the Diocese of Adelaide, South Australia. The parish is described as 'in Australian terms, lower socio-economic in character and although we do not have the grinding poverty of poorer countries, nor the slums of European and North American cities, in socio-economic terms we are the Australian equivalent and share the same or comparable social and economic problems, and present the same difficulties and challenges to the Announcement of the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ!'

Apparently the parish comprises some 50,000 people and according to the last census 10,000+ were 'Anglicans'. However the church is dying literally. A congregation of 35 - 40 is mostly of elderly people with little or no contact with the vast numbers of immigrants and out-of-work young people. Yet this congregation is in fact drawn not just from the parish but from the whole of the city of Salisbury with a total population of 102,000. So the need is immense, and yet a 'mission' there each year for the last five years has failed to scratch the surface, and the church building itself (formerly of Bluestone and nearly a hundred years' old) has recently burnt down.

So what are we going to do? No easy answers, we're afraid. We and another Anglican family, Alex, Cynthia and their daughter Trudy, who are leaving their homes and jobs in Melbourne, are going to live in the parish, and we are all going to offer ourselves and our homes as a nucleus, as a witness to Jesus Christ. We have met with the seventy-two other Neo-catechumenal families who have been living and working in far more difficult and challenging situations amongst the truly poor in Western and Eastern Europe: their lives have been full of miracles but also of immense hardship - yet they are full of joy. If we were to look at our lives, or our lack of faith, then we would never go. We have not been granted work permits or immigrant status so we potentially go as the poor amongst the poor, the out-of-work amongst the out-of-work. Hopefully we can learn for ourselves that life comes not from money or possessions but from God. Pray for us, and for Alex, Cynthia and Trudy. Your prayers and letters will mean so much. We will see many of you in six months' time when we return to apply for migrant status again.

God bless you all.

Pam and Trevor Atkinson

Letters to: c/o The Church of St. John the Evangelist,
Post Office Box 97,
Salisbury,
S.A.5108,
Australia.

Christian Resources Exhibition

This year's Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park will be from Wednesday 16 May to Saturday 19 May, from 10am to 6pm daily. Admission costs £3 or £2 for children and Senior Citizens. A copy of the Exhibition Handbook is included in the price. As well as the exhibition itself, and there are over 200 stands, there are talks and training sessions run by various organisations and on a multiplicity of subjects. Whether you are interested or involved with young people, children, use of modern technology such as videos and computers, the psalms, healing, buildings and a host of other topics, then here is something of interest for you. Parking is free and there is plenty of space. Season tickets are available at £5 each. Do go if you can, you won't be disappointed.

Helen Taylor

On Saturday 16 June, we are visiting Wellington Country Park, Riseley, Reading. This is a 550 acre park with a lake, picnic areas, gift shop, refreshments, nature trails, children's animal farm, steam train rides and the National Dairy Museum.

Futher details will be announced later but in the meantime keep this date free and then come along with us on our summer outing.

David Lloyd, Social Committee



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Congratulations to Lesley Mortimer on being appointed Head of St. Mark's Secondary School, Fulham. Lesley takes over her new job in September and we wish her every success. Her present school, Drayton Manor, will surely miss her very much. John Latham from the URC, at present Deputy Head at Trinity School in Esher, has also been made Head of a school - in Milford, just outside Guildford. Our congratulations also to him.

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Stewardship Giving

	£		£	
April - June	1988	4,447	1989	4,286
July - September	1988	4,395	1989	5,073
October - December	1988	5,319	1989	5,883
January - March	1989	<u>5,549</u>	1990	<u>7,080</u>
Totals for 12 months		19,710		22,322

A Message from Rustington

We would like to thank out many friends for the wonderful 'send-off' which was given to us before we moved, and for the many gifts and cards.

We have hung the photograph of St. James's church in the entrance hall - a reminder of the many happy years which we spent in the parish.

We have been to the local parish church here several times, and have been made to feel very welcome.

Don and Muriel



OUTING TO CHANNEL TUNNEL EXHIBITION AND CANTERBURY

SATURDAY 19 MAY - All Welcome!

The Eurotunnel Exhibition Centre has a large model railway, viewing tower etc. With coach -

£7 (£6 for Senior Citizens and children). Why not also visit the Pilgrims Way Exhibition in Canterbury? (Reduced price - £2.50 or £1.50) 'Phone 979 8641, 979 2839 or 979 6673

Scout Group News

The Group has received a grant from the Fuel Allotment Trust which should enable them to lay on water and mains electricity to the Triangle. Working parties of parents and leaders are also carrying out maintenance tasks on the buildings on this site.

Group members have been out and about recently. A number of Beavers went on the District Outing to London Zoo and the Ventures have spent a weekend at Chalfont Heights, checking the locations and facilities for the Easter Camp there. The Scouts have had a survival training night sleeping under bracken or makeshift shelters - no tents! Many more activities are planned for the summer.

Susan Horner

From the Registers

Marriage

March 24 Murray Norval Taylor and Karen Elizabeth Lee

Marriage Blessing

March 31 Kenneth John Wiltshire and Wendy Margaret Howe

Funerals

March	1	Charles Henry Boulter	24 Windmill Road	Aged 85
	7	William Henry Morrell-Long	123 High Street	Aged 76
	9	Ellen May Green	102 Rectory Grove	Aged 82
	12	Charles Edward Gibson	12 Wellington Road	Aged 67
	30	Dorothy Alma Lawrence	36 High Street	Aged 86

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion (except first Sunday in month)
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion (with Ministry of Healing on the first Thursday in month)

Other Services and Dates to Note

May	5	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	6	09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Choral Evensong
	12	20.00	The Edwardian Drawing Room, Parish Hall
	13	16.00	United Service for Christian Aid Week, St. James's
	14		St. Matthias the Apostle
	15	20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Our Retired Home Beat Policeman', Wayside
	16 to 19		Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park
	16	20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. Mary's, Hampton
	19		HHA visit to Channel Tunnel Exhibition & Canterbury
	20	18.30	Ecumenical Vespers, St. James's
	24		Ascension Day
		20.00	Parish Communion
	26	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	27	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	29	20.00	Tuesday Club: Talk by a Probation Officer, Wayside
June	2	14.00	Preparation for Pentecost and Fun Day
		08.30	Church Urban Fund - Beating the Bounds of the Diocese, Heathrow Airport Chapel
	3		Pentecost
			Parish Lunch

Advance Notices

June	12	20.00	Tuesday Club: Talk on the Environment, Wayside
	16		Parish Outing
	18	20.00	PCC, Vestry
	20		Confirmation at St. Richard's, Hanworth
		20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, All Saints', Hampton

COPY DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE: 13 MAY



The Ministry of Healing

now forms a part of the
Holy Communion Service
at 7.15pm on
the First Thursday of each month