

At the beginning of Lent two years ago I was asked to preach in the chapel of the Concentration Camp at Dachau. Dachau is a very pleasant, prosperous suburb at the end of the Munich metro system. But the pain and desolation of the camp still rages. The very silence of the walls and emptiness of the barracks screams out with the anguish of those who were held and murdered there. The emptiness, the silence, the damp, peaty air was oppressive, its now sanitized order an affront to those who jailed others and those who were jailed there. Even the new Chapel of Remembrance was built in grim concrete, in blocks which had walled in the prisoners of an earlier generation; it is built half underground, half on the surface and as one goes down the ramp to enter the chapel within the soil on which so much blood was spilt, one shivers at entering into this earth. The descent into the pit, of which the Psalmist speaks, is all too real. In this wasteland words seemed banal, unnecessary.

Prophetic, as always, T.S. Eliot reminds us in **The Wasteland**

What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow  
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,  
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only  
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,  
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,  
And the dry stone no sound of water.

All of us know of the wasteland within us - with no well-defined paths, no trim edges or signposts to guide. The dazzling beating down of the sun of improvement, success, contentedness; the brilliant light of achievement, influence, position: all this is eclipsed by the darkness of the wasteland within us - at some time, in some place, through some experience.

But, yes, there are ways out. Busy-ness is one, in church and outside. Busy-ness to cover over the cracks with papers from committee-meetings, projects, hobbies. Papers soon trodden underfoot as debris, and the cracks widen. Or dependencies on food or alcohol, or clothes or cars, or people - but that leads us to sink under the ever growing weight of it all. Or assertiveness, 'I'm alright mate', 'I fought my way out' - go-getting in career, relationships or faith. But with a going and getting so assertively that no time is spent 'at home', in oneself, taking stock of just where we have gone and what we have got.



Remember that Jesus of Nazareth was driven into the wasteland - for forty days and nights, we read. He was offered ways out, ways to escape the endless beating down of the sun, to drink fine wine and fill his belly, to lord it over the nations, to take power, assert authority, to busy-ness and influence.

But our Living Stone would hear no sound of water, our Rock took no route to a place of shadow. He waited in the Wasteland until his path was clear - the path of fulfilment, which was at the same time the path of letting-go of self. The path led not away from, but into, conflict, like the path from the chapel at Dachau, which leads up into the world of conflict. But a world of conflict through which one can walk, not immune, but with God who, like us, has waited in the Wasteland; dwelt in the heap of broken images and overcome, who through his brokenness creates the possibility of our wholeness.



**John 12:20-33**

*Brian Leathard*

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**Performance of St. John's Gospel**

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**by Paul Alexander**

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**Sunday 17 March at 7.30 pm**

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**St. James's Church**

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**Tickets £3 from the Vicarage**

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# Holy Week and Easter Services

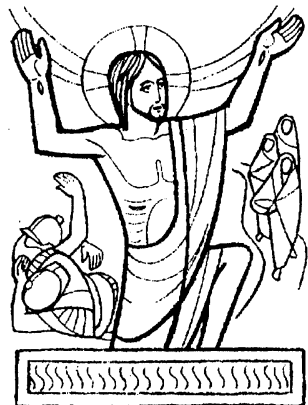
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	08.00	Holy Communion
24 March	09.30	Parish Communion with Palms and Procession
	18.30	Music and Readings for Holy Week
	21.00	Music and Compline
<b>Monday</b>	09.15	Morning Prayer
25 March	21.00	Music and Compline
<b>Tuesday</b>	09.15	Morning Prayer
26 March	09.30	Holy Communion
	21.00	Music and Compline
<b>Wednesday</b>	09.15	Morning Prayer
27 March	21.00	Music and Compline
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	09.15	Morning Prayer
28 March	19.30	Coffee and Hot Cross Buns
	20.00	Celebration of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist and Washing of Feet
<b>Good Friday</b>	09.15	Morning Prayer
29 March	10.30	Procession of Witness to Sainsbury's, Hampton
	12.00	Three Hours' Meditation and Devotion: My Song is Love Unknown

## Easter Eve

19.30 The Easter Ceremonies and party

## EASTER DAY

08.00 Holy Communion  
09.30 Parish Communion  
18.30 Easter Songs of Praise



Easter Sunday

# OPEN HOUSE

**Wayside**

**25 St. James's Road**

**Hampton Hill**

**10.30 to 12.00**

**MONDAYS**

*Come and join us for a  
coffee and chat*



## **Wanted Please**

Do you have any strong folding card tables, trays or small sugar bowls that you do not need? There is a need for these in Wayside for use particularly at the 'Open House'.

Please contact Mr. or Mrs. Bridges (979 6865) if you can help by providing any of these items.

\* \* \* \* \*

The spiritual and physical appetites need not always be at odds in children's prayers, as this nine-year old confirmed:

'Please, God, make me like Readybrek - ready to serve'.

- 'Oh come on, all ye faithful' by Derek Nimmo

## What is a Miracle?



A blind person who recovers their sight? A congenitally deformed foot restored to normal? A nun long confined to a chair with arthritis healed and using public transport to go about her Lord's business? People with skin complaints healed at a touch? Medically hopeless cancer, brain damage, spinal damage - healed? Sick souls restored to life and joy? A dying man bringing light to his whole community? A patient in hospital cured of the paralysing effects of a stroke under the very eyes of two who had just prayed in faith?

A massive haemorrhage arrested at the moment of a prayer for help? The dying slipping away peacefully and swiftly, amazing those who had expected them to linger much longer? Would you say these were miracles?

All these things and many more have happened, well attested and witnessed, during the life of the Julian Group and the healing Ministry of St. James's Church. Yet, do people want miracles or does a miracle demand more of them than they are willing to give? Do people allow themselves to believe a miracle even if it happens in their very midst? Christ said 'Blessed are they that do not find me a stumbling block'. Do you? Do you say 'I won't accept this' or is your reaction 'Praise the Lord!'. Jesus asked the blind men who wanted their sight restored 'Do you believe in my power to do as you ask?' They answered, 'Yes, Lord' and they were healed. What would your answer be?

I believe in Christ's power to heal. I pray to him in faith and leave the rest in his hands. Miracles? - Yes, there have been miracles. Long term healings? - Yes. I have never known nothing to happen. There is sharing, glory, peace, healing of memory, love in abundance, wonder, newness of life, praise.

O Lord, grant us faith not to find you and your words and deeds a stumbling block to trip over but a mounting block into the Kingdom of Heaven which is in very truth at hand. Amen.

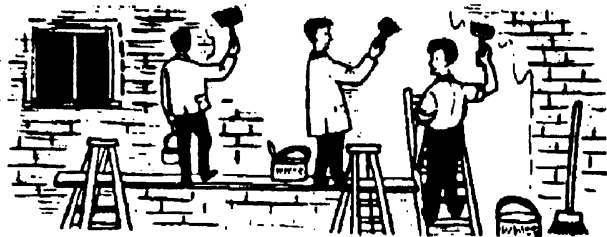
*Margery Orton*

\* \* \* \* \*

Pray not for Arab or Jew or Westerner,  
for Iraqi or Kuwaiti,  
but pray rather for yourselves  
that you may not divide them in your prayers  
but keep them all together in your hearts.

*(based on words by a Palestinian)*

## Church Spring-Clean



The church interior was last re-decorated in the early sixties. Not surprising, therefore, that it looks pretty dingy.

Plans are now afoot for a complete re-decoration, but it may be many months, perhaps even next year, before work starts.

In the meantime, the Properties Committee suggested, and the P.C.C. agreed, that a thorough clean would brighten the place up. This is in no way to criticise those pitifully few volunteers who, week in and week out, do the basic cleaning of the main areas, but rather to point out the magnitude of their task.

We want the spring-clean to be finished in time for Easter, and we therefore plan to carry it out from Tuesday 12th to Monday 18th March. During that time we hope to clean down as much of the roof timbers, stonework and walls as we can reach, before going on to washing, scrubbing and polishing or sealing the floors, woodwork and furniture. Even the heating ducts will be taken up (to yield who knows what surprises!).

In a job of this size and nature, there is scope for help from a wide range of ages and abilities - the main essential is a willing heart!

There is a large sheet in the church onto which names can be entered for any part (morning, afternoon or evening) of the six days in which we reckon to do the job. If you would like to help, please put your name there. Any questions to me or to Alan Taylor.

*Jack Gostling*

## Women in the Synod

Some 40% of those elected in the latest elections to the General Synod of the Church of England are new faces, and one of the striking outcomes of those elections was the increase in the numbers of women members.

In the first elections to the General Synod in 1970 only 22% of the lay members were women. Now half are.

Women deacons are now numbered among the clergy. In the previous elections, they elected 10 representatives, but after the recent elections, 25 of the clergy members are women deacons.

# Royal National Lifeboat Institution

March 4th sees the beginning of the London Lifeboat Week, culminating in the Flag Day on March 12th. The Twickenham and District Branch of the RNLI, together with many other branches, like to commence Lifeboat Week with a church service and Brian has kindly agreed to hold this year's service at St. James's on March 3rd. Our thoughts at these occasions cannot be better expressed than in the words of the newly approved Lifeboat Prayer:



Merciful Father, all things in heaven and earth are held within your loving care, look with favour upon the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Protect and bless the crews of all their lifeboats and all who risk their own safety to bring help to others.

Guide all who work for the Institution that they may be faithful to the vision of its founders, so that it may always be seen as a beacon of hope and light to those who find themselves in peril on the seas . . . . .

If anyone would like to help us during Lifeboat Week, please contact John and Jill Denton on 979 7033.



## **Beyond All Pain: A Personal Selection by Cicely Saunders**

published by S.P.C.K.

Cicely Saunders, founder and Director of St. Christopher's Hospice, has been called 'the woman who changed the face of death'. Motivated by her faith, she believes that God is present in every suffering and every death. 'Beyond all Pain' is Dame Cicely's own selection of poems and prayers which have been of particular encouragement and support to her in her work with the terminally ill. Some have been written by her patients and carry the unmistakable marks of first-hand experience. This book will be an invaluable source of comfort and inspiration to those who are dying and to all who are coping with the pain of loss. I was given the book by a doctor friend when my mother died. I found it to be of immense comfort. I found it met my need again when my father-in-law died of lung cancer in The Princess Alice Hospice. It can be a lovely gift for someone who has been bereaved if one judges the timing of giving it to them.

*Janet Jeffries*

## **This month We Commemorate . . . . .**

(among others)

### **Edward King (8 March)**

**Bishop of Lincoln, Teacher, Pastor**

After being successively Chaplain and Principal of Cuddesdon Theological College, he became Regius Professor of Pastoral Theology at Oxford in 1873 and then Bishop of Lincoln in 1885. He was taken to trial before the Archbishop of Canterbury over alleged disobedience in ritual matters. He was described as a saint, simple, sane, sensible, strong, and a saint who made saintliness infinitely attractive. He died in 1910.

### **John Keble (29 March)**

**Priest, Pastor, Poet**

Elected at the age of 19 to one of the much coveted Fellowships of Oriel, he later published a book of poems, 'The Christian Year', and in 1831 was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford. He was the author of several of our hymns, including 'New every morning is the love . . .'. He took a leading part in the Oxford Movement and became a close friend and adviser of Newman, but he worked to keep the High Church Movement a part of the Church of England. From 1836 until his death in 1866, he was Vicar of Hursley, near Winchester. His beauty of character impressed all who came into contact with him. Keble College at Oxford was founded in his memory.

## **Stewardship**

Stewardship giving for the four quarters of 1990, and for those of 1989, was as follows:

		£		£
January - March	1990	7,080	1989	5,549
April - June	1990	5,493	1989	4,286
July - September	1990	5,436	1989	5,073
October - December	1990	<u>5,862</u>	1989	<u>5,883</u>
		23,871		20,791

## **Scout Group News**

For the first time the Group held their annual Carol Service in the church. The service was conducted by members of the Group and was a most enjoyable occasion.

The group are now meeting in the hall at Hampton Hill Junior School, Beavers and Scouts on Friday evenings as before, and both Brown and Gold Cub Packs on Wednesdays.

In January, the Beavers had a cinema outing and the Ventures held another training weekend for the arduous Southern 50 event, which will take place in February.

*Susan Horner*



# Mona's Pineapple Cake

(by popular request)

- 4 oz. Brown Sugar
- 4 oz. Butter/margarine
- 10 oz. Raisins
- 6 oz. Glacé cherries
- 15 oz. Crushed pineapple

Put together in a saucepan and simmer for 15 minutes.

When cold add:

- 1 teaspoon Bicarbonate of soda
- 4 oz. Self-raising flour
- 4 oz. Plain flour
- Pinch of salt

Fold together and put in 8" or 9" cake tin.

Cover with greaseproof paper and bake for 1½ hours at 180°C.

## Around the Spire

His many friends are delighted to see Pip Rowett so much better after a long period of very poor health. At last the medical experts have diagnosed the cause of the trouble, and the treatment he is now receiving, prior to an operation, is obviously most effective.

We welcome back Hal and Eila Severn from their long holiday visiting Michael and family in Australia, and indeed visiting many parts of that country, and also Honolulu and San Francisco on the way home. We also welcome back from Australia and other parts John and Moya Smith. We are thankful for all of their safe returns, especially at a time when concern is felt for travellers by air, and it was good that they were all able, despite the heavy snow fall - a bit of a shock after Australia - to join in the fun at the splendid Pre-Lenten Parish Party.

Recently several new shops have opened in the High Street - a baby clothes shop, a very welcome coffee shop and a very well-stocked wool and haberdashery shop. These all make most acceptable additions to our High Street facilities and we wish them every success in their new ventures.

## From the Registers - January

### Baptism

13 Martin Hinckley 115 Burtons Road

### Funerals

14 Ernest Charles Martyn 14 Glenmill, Hanworth Rd. Aged 80

22 Bessie Guntrip Laurel Dene Aged 91

23 Elizabeth Emily Stevens 149 High Street Aged 81

25 Lena Mary Wright 77 Uxbridge Road Aged 84

### Interment of Ashes

26 Henry Atkinson 71 St. James's Avenue

## 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 ( <b>Ministry of Healing</b> on the first Thursday in the month)

Please see separate list for Holy Week and Easter Services



## Other Services and Dates to Note

Mar.	3	09.30	Informal Service - The R.N.L.I.
		18.30	Choral Evensong
	4	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
		20.00	Tuesday Club: 'The Flora of Mexico', Wayside
	7	20.00	Institution and Induction of Rodney Cash as Vicar of St. Augustine's Church, Whitton
		10	18.30
	13	20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. James's Church
		17	19.30
	19		<b>St. Joseph of Nazareth</b>
		19	20.00
21	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry	
	23	19.30	Teddington Choral Society Concert, St. James's Church
24 to 31		<b>Holy Week and Easter - see separate list</b>	
	Apr. 2	20.00	Tuesday Club: Members' Evening, Wayside
6		19.30	The Little Orchestra Company Concert, St. James's Church
	7	09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Choral Evensong

### Advance Notices

Apr.	16	20.00	Tuesday Club: Flower Arranging, Wayside
	21	11.00	<b>Annual Parochial Church Meeting</b>

**COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE: 10 MARCH**