

'I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fulness.'

John 10.10

'Do you believe in life before death? We do.'

Christian Aid Week Theme

Pictures of life and death have assaulted us from every side these past few months: the New Life of Spring in the bursting forth of flower and tree, the tenuous but determined hold on life of Kurdish refugees. On the other side we see the Death of the natural environment in the fires and oil of the Gulf, the extinguishing of human life in the tragedy of mass hunger in African countries such as Mozambique, Somalia and Ethiopia. Each of us is involved in such life or death and each at a variety of levels: we all consume oil and depend on its ready availability, each of us requires the environment to produce food, and we have the power to demand the provision of supplies at prices we can afford. Again each of us gives to charity and so each of us is directly involved in redressing injustice to a small degree. Each of us is bound to the other in our common humanity, in our sharing life as God's children.

We could all go on to consider areas in our lives: at work, in our families, at school, in which new life, new possibilities arise and in which death occurs: the list would be a reflection of our individuality but would show just how much we have in common.

In typically bleak vein, the Irish writer Samuel Beckett reminds us that 'We give birth astride the grave' and that underscores the narrow path we tread, the faltering hold on life which is ours. Yet at a funeral recently the presence of a new born baby who needed to be fed at her mother's breast during the service reminded me of the wholeness of life of which death is a part.

The message of Christ is clear - life in its fullness is God's purpose for his children; but do our lives reflect that or do we deny it, negate it, ignore it by our actions?

Christian Aid is an official agency of the British and Irish Churches whose role is to 'Strengthen the World's Poor.' It is our voice, the voice of the church in challenging, stimulating, assisting people to enter into the fulness of life which is for all. This year for the first time that message of life in its fulness, now, will enter millions of people's lives through television advertisements during Christian Aid Week (May 13 - 18), but it must sow seeds which last for more than a week.

Living life, affirming its goodness and fulness, for all, is relatively easy on your knees, but less easy when making decisions about the effects of our purchasing power in the supermarket, or our investments or money in the bank, our use of chemicals in the garden or our meat-based diet resulting in the demise of the rain forests. The point is that we are now more intimately connected with the whole of the globe than ever before.

All our action, or inaction, has a knock-on effect.

We choose how we live our lives - in fulness for all, or in death. Yes, we do believe in life before death, in all its fulness, every week, every day, but do our lives reflect it?

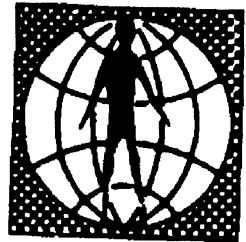
So this Christian Aid Week - go for a week full of life.

Brian Leathard

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* **Christian Aid** *
* **Bread and Soup Lunch** *
* **at The Vicarage** *
* **Saturday 18 May, 12 noon - 2 pm** *
* **All welcome** *
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Christian Aid Week

Please welcome the collector who will call during Christian Aid week (13 to 18 May), and if you feel able to help with the collection yourself, please ring Margaret Taylor on 977 1342, if she has not already contacted you.



A Prayer

Tender God, this Christian Aid Week, teach us to open our eyes and hearts to see and feel injustices which surround us.

Let us learn to weep with the grieving, to embrace the outcast, to speak out for the silenced. Strengthen us, so that we may act in love and in celebration of the gift of life you offer us all. May our lives become places of healing in your broken world.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ.

Amen.

On the next pages are two descriptions of the lives of Overseas Partners with whom Christian Aid has cooperated.

Living with risk:

Gono Unnayan Prochesta (GUP), Bangladesh

The danger of flood is something that the people of Bangladesh have to live with. In 1987 and 1988 there were massive floods which wiped out crops and undid much of the useful development work being done among the poor. The aim of many organisations there now is to help rural people cope with flooding which seems likely to recur.

GUP is an organisation of Quaker origins which has been a partner of Christian Aid for many years. Its work centres on community organisation, encouraging groups of small farmers and landless people to form 'samities' to discuss and organise their own affairs. Over the years it has run health programmes, agriculture, livestock and fishery projects, and given legal advice and credit facilities to these groups, as well as organising relief and rehabilitation after flooding.

Today, GUP has two new emphases. First, it is developing schemes which help people to be prepared for the dangers of flooding. For example, schools rebuilt after the last floods have been designed as shelters for the future; tube wells are now being put on platforms above the flood level; the use of seeds which suit winter harvesting is being encouraged as most flooding occurs in summer; and there are experiments with floating hen coops.

Second, GUP is engaged in tree-planting, and sees this as being in tune with worldwide environmental concern as well as important for the preservation of soil in Bangladesh. There is a nursery to raise coconut, betel leaf, guava, mango and other tree species, and in 1989 some 13,000 were planted in 12 chosen areas. 129 women were appointed as 'caretakers' of the trees for three years. Most of the women were destitute, and getting 5kg of wheat per day for every 100 trees tended greatly benefits themselves and their children. Further tree-planting projects and related training courses are under way at GUP.

The director of GUP is Mohammed Aatur Rahman, who has been involved in relief and development work since his student days, and set up GUP shortly after the liberation war of 1971. He is a leading figure within non-governmental organisations in Bangladesh.

Christian Aid made a grant of £95,333 in 1990.

A new life for children:

Colonia Pirai in Bolivia, South America

If you are the child of a poor family in the Bolivian countryside, there is a strong chance that your family will leave and head for a city like Santa Cruz, hoping to escape from poverty.

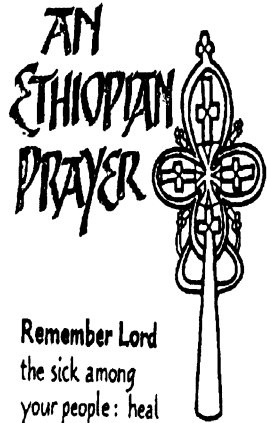
In the squalid shanty-town there are no water, electricity or sewerage systems, and the strains of poverty and unemployment continue. So the second, more horrible, chance is that you will be abandoned or lost.

Children who are abandoned have tough lives on the streets, some finding odd jobs as hawkers or street vendors, others turning to crime or prostitution. They do not have the education for a skilled job, and there is fierce competition even for the unskilled ones.

Outside Santa Cruz is a farm set up by three priests in 1973 which offers the chance of a better life for children between 5 and 15 years old. They are brought to Colonia Pirai where they find an atmosphere of care and mutual respect. They learn to run the farm, which rears pigs, ducks, chickens, and to grow fruit and vegetables. There are workshops for training in carpentry, mechanics, sewing and shoemaking, a formal school and a basic health service.

Christian Aid has supported Colonia Pirai since 1981 and in 1989 made a grant of £13,794.

Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, with life expectancy 47 years, and infant mortality 111 per thousand. It exports sugar and cotton. High inflation and government austerity measures, imposed in order to get International Monetary Fund loans, add to poverty.



Remember Lord
the sick among
your people: heal
them in your compassion.

Remember Lord the fruits
of the earth: bless them and
keep them without loss.

Remember Lord the
down-coming of the rains,
and bless them.

Remember Lord the seeds
and fruits of every year:
bless them and make
them abundant.

Remember Lord the safety
of humankind and beasts.

Remember Lord the
afflicted and distressed.

Remember Lord the poor
who are under oppression:
have pity on them and
make them the dwelling
place of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Sarabande for the morning of Easter

My joy at the Easter morning service was heightened by the sensitive interpretation of the resurrection events performed by our Liturgical Dance Group. Dancing to a difficult composition entitled 'Sarabande for the morning of Easter' by Herbert Howells, the group quite captured my imagination and made the early morning visit by Mary of Magdala to the tomb so realistic. Rosalie Meyerowitz's interpretation of Mary's feelings and actions was outstanding. Not only facial expression but her movements as a whole revealed the depth of her feelings as she danced. It was as if the gospel had come alive and was happening before my eyes. Margaret Revis as Jesus was reverent and very peaceful. Peace emanated from her very stillness. The arrival of the disciples, their wonder and fear, the presence of the angels all heightened the drama still further.



I felt this was by far the best performance our dancers have presented and I very much appreciated their contribution to my Easter Day. They had indeed a wonderful story to tell and did so with feeling and talent. Many congratulations to you all.

Janet Jeffries

Stewardship

Stewardship giving over the last four quarters, and for the preceding four quarters, was as follows:

April - June	1990	5,493	1989	4,286
July - September	1990	5,436	1989	5,073
October - December	1990	5,862	1989	5,883
January - March	1991	<u>7,052</u>	1990	<u>7,080</u>
12-month totals		23,843		22,322

Church Fabric Loan Scheme

Under this scheme interest-free loans are made to the church. The money is invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England and St. James's Church Fabric Fund receives the benefit of the interest earned. Please contact John Smith on 977 3641 if you would like to have more information with a view to helping parish finances in this way.

To date £12,000 has been loaned. Interest so far credited to the parish (for one quarter only as yet), together with some donations made to the Fund, comes to about £450.

Spring has Come!

Does the onset of Spring Cleaning fill you with horror or with joy? Whichever it is the result is always happiness, and so it is in our own dear church.

I had thought before that it looked lovely each time I entered but when I arrived after the event I was surprised by the improvement. Everything shone and the colours were clearer.

The south porch is splendid with the cleaned walls and shining tiles and the doors into the church beautifully restored by Jack Gostling and David Nunn. It made a perfect entrance and background for the Easter flowers as no doubt it was timed to do.

Many times I have written that we are fortunate to have such good speakers among the congregation. This time we are thankful that we have Jack Gostling, David Nunn and Alan Taylor with their practical skills, and love.

A special effort was made in the Baptistery by Alan Taylor and Jack Gostling who both got soaked while working on it and cleaning the unnecessary away. The Vicar and others worked away around the windows of the south aisle. I think they were all very happy with the result and so are we.

We must thank the busy band of volunteers who scrubbed and cleaned and polished throughout the church, giving what time they could over the week allotted to this great effort.

Thank you all for the time and energy you expended. I hope that you enjoyed doing this, as we now enjoy the results of your labours.

Alison Thompson

Parish Records

All our old parish registers for births, marriages and burials and the banns books have now been removed from the church to the Diocesan Record Office for safe keeping. As we did not have the proper facilities for storing books, eg a fire-proof safe, and as some of them were deteriorating, this seemed a wise move.

The address of the Diocesan Record Office is 40 Northampton Street, London EC1 (071 606 3030). The office is open Tuesday to Friday from 9.30 am to 4.45 pm. Anyone who wishes to consult any of these records (or those of other churches) is welcome to do so.

We do have photocopies of the Burial Registers and the work of matching the entries in the books with the actual graves in the churchyard is progressing well. We hope to have a properly named and numbered plan ready before the end of the year.

Helen Taylor

If the church, our church, is to succeed in passing on the faith to those with little or no prior contact with the church, then it must first develop structures to help assimilate and introduce them to the faith.

At the moment our liturgy is primarily based on or around the sacraments, which 'presumes' the faith of those participating. Few come forward for adult baptism. The preparation for marriage and baptism is essential but inadequate to deal with a full introduction to the christian faith, and confirmation classes are essentially for the committed - so where will these people be

allowed and indeed encouraged to unlock the hidden meaning of Christ's teaching, to understand the meaning of the sacraments, to be introduced to prayer etc.?

Thanks to Rupert Brunt and Seymour Harris I obtained this experience through the Neo-Catechumenate. Other Anglican parishes are experimenting with their own versions of the Roman Catholic Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and I'm sure there will be other approaches. But it is vital that, if this 'Decade' is to effect anything, we at St. James's must develop or adopt an approach which meets the people where they are and makes them truly welcome.

Trevor Atkinson



How did Christ evangelise, how did he bring the gospel truth to the people? In two ways. He preached and he healed. His answer to the question 'Are you the Messiah?' is the same today as it was to John the Baptist's disciples. 'The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are clean, the deaf hear, the dumb speak, the dead are raised to life and the poor are hearing the good news'. Pause, reflect: are not Christ's words Gospel truth; through the ever widening portals of God's gift of medicine and of divine healing we can and do witness the truth of this. If we can see that Jesus's words are true in this instance, can we not accept that his words, the living words of God, are true in all other respects?

Let us seek, knock, come - so that we may find his salvation, have God's secrets revealed to us, be refreshed and strengthened according to his promises. God said 'This is my beloved son, listen to him'. Christ himself tells us 'If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, then ask what you will and it will be done for you by my father in heaven'. God affirms that man lives by every word that comes from his mouth.

What is the quality of our life? Should we not constantly be seeking to improve it, to be able to live it in all its abundance, fullness and glory as is God's wish and purpose for us?

Margery Orton

Flower Festival

It is a long time since we have had a Flower Festival in our church, so this year it has been decided that we shall hold this event at the end of July to celebrate our Patronal Festival of St. James. The Flower Festival will be combined with Gift and Open Days and will run for three days from Saturday 27 July to Monday 29 July, from 10 am to 5.30 pm on each day. During the two weekend days we hope also to have some musical items performed in the church.

The flower arrangements will be on the theme of 'gifts' and will be staged by the Hampton Hill Floral Art Club with some back-up help from members of our own congregation. As we shall obviously have to pay for the flowers, a cost estimated at around £250, donations towards this beforehand would be very welcome. Garden flowers and greenery will also be required on Friday 26 July.

Our list of people willing to help with the flowers on an everyday basis is not great, so if you feel at any time you would like to help, do please come forward. Money for flowers is also very welcome at any time.

On the Saturday evening we hope to have a barbeque, and on the Sunday there will be only one main service, followed by a buffet lunch. Other refreshments will be served throughout both days so there will be scope for everyone's talents. The tower will be open for tours, and we hope to have displays of photographs, linen and plate, and various items for sale.

We hope to make the St. James's Festival 1991 a very special one, a memorable and enjoyable occasion. Do come along, do offer your time, talents and money. However small, all contributions, of whatever kind, will be welcomed.

Helen Taylor

Around the Spire

A rather nasty virus infection has been affecting many of those in Laurel Dene. The worst is now over happily and we hope all those who have been ill will soon be fully recovered. Also, thanks to all the staff for all their extra care.

After many difficult months, Mr. Ted Churchill died on Sunday 8 April, only a week after being moved with his crippled wife, Alice, to a new home in Sussex. We send Alice our love and hope that in her new surroundings her leg will improve.

Pam and Trevor Atkinson, Jeremy and Hannah are off again to Australia, this time possibly for good. We hope the work they are doing there prospers and that they will be happy in Salisbury. Bon voyage to them. Our love and prayers go with them.

Brief Notes

A volunteer is needed to deliver 'The Spire' to houses in Wolsey Road, School Road, School Road Avenue and Holly Road. Anyone willing to undertake this monthly task should contact Mr. A. Loyd on 943 3568.

As we go to press about £300 has been received as a result of the **Magazine Appeal**. Hopefully, much more is on the way!

Lenten self-denial produced some £220 which is being sent off to Christ Church School, Nazareth.

Do not miss the opportunity to visit the **Christian Resources Exhibition** at Sandown Park from 15 to 18 May, 10 am to 5.30 pm daily.

Scout Group News

Six new boys were invested in the Cubs last term. As the Cub Section now only meets on Wednesdays, they have been using Wayside on occasional Mondays to do badge work with small groups. Some boys have been on a farm visit as part of their Animal Lover badge.

The Ventures entered two teams in the arduous Southern 50 competition in February and four of the participants from our group managed to complete the course. Venture Scouts also took part in the District Night Owl event.

Ventures and Scouts camped at Buckmore Park, Chatham over Easter where the activities included climbing, abseiling, go-carting, archery and shooting.

Susan Horner

Tuesday Club

Meetings at Wayside, St. James's Road, at 8 pm:

May	14	Bernie's Pictures
May	28	Miss Merson - Regional and Traditional Cookery of Great Britain
June	11	Annual General Meeting
June	25	Royal Star and Garter Home
July	9	Rev. Bulton - Padre of London Airport (Heathrow)
July	23	Buffet Supper

From the Registers - March

Baptism

3	Lee Michael Buckle	74 Pigeon Lane
	Steven Lee Buckle	74 Pigeon Lane
10	Kim Louise Fitchett	1 Edward Close
	Benjamin James Wilstead	28 Wolsey Road

Funerals

11	Cecilia Florence Culverhouse	23 Linksvie Road	Aged 90
14	Richard Charles Holmes	33 Ringwood Way	Aged 61

Regular Weekly Services

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

Other Services and Dates to Note

May	5	09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Choral Evensong
	9		Ascension Day
		20.00	Confirmation by Bishop Roderick Coote and Parish Communion, St. James's Church
	12	16.00	United Service, Methodist Church, Hampton
	13		Christian Aid Week begins
		20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
		20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. Richard's, Hanworth
	14		St. Matthias the Apostle
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Bernie's Pictures, Wayside
15-18	10.00-17.30		Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park
18	12.00-14.00		Christian Aid Bread and Soup Lunch, Vicarage

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19			Pentecost
		09.30	Parish Communion
		15.00	Games and Tea in Bushy Park
		18.30	Choral Evensong with Choir
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26		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	28	20.00	Tuesday Club: Cookery of Great Britain, Wayside
June	2	09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Choral Evensong



Advance Notices

June	5	14.30	Talk to M.U. on the Holy Land, Helen Taylor, Wayside
	11		St. Barnabas the Apostle Diocesan M.U. Festival
		20.00	Tuesday Club: A.G.M., Wayside
July 27, 28, 29	10.00-17.30		St. James's Flower Festival and Open Days

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