

Sometimes, as one train pulls alongside another or halts alongside another train on an adjacent platform, one has the opportunity, fleetingly, for a second or two, looking out of the window into the other train, to look into someone's face before that person realises they are being watched. Or perhaps you may have experienced this the other way round - you may have discovered someone looking at you. And what happens! We smile or grimace turn away or turn red, dive into our newspaper or handbag. I suppose we are all too well-mannered to be deliberately staring at someone, usually we are simply looking out of the window, staring into space, and quite accidentally eyes meet - never knowing who the other person is, never seeing that person again, or even being able to recognise them again.

Sometimes one can find oneself staring into a face which is tranquil, sometimes closed, sometimes angry or sometimes pained. That split second before we have a chance to put on the emotional make-up, which is not usually a smile but a turning away, can indeed be most revealing. The life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus is, for Christians, the central shaft of light onto the nature of God. In the life and death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth we look into God without make-up, without layers of hiding or any deceit. For his life, death and resurrection show what God is like: Jesus of Nazareth is the face God presents to the world.

God doesn't shrink away from recognition or demand more than we are capable of, even if it is only very partial, or for a split second, or through a glass darkly, but rather God shows himself in the values Jesus of Nazareth demonstrates; the kind of life this Jesus lives and dies is the kind of life God requires. So that looking out on this Jesus we not only find a picture of God, God looks out through this Jesus onto His world, onto us, and what picture does He find?

But the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, which finds its most powerful focus in the days of Holy Week and Easter in the middle of this month, is not like a drama with a single beginning, a developing, messy plot and a definite end. It is constantly beginning, constantly messy, constantly ending. The resurrection is not about cancelling out the suffering and death of Jesus, but transforming it. I am reminded of T.S.Eliot's lines:

The Son of Man is not crucified once for all . . .  
But the Son of Man is crucified always.

Equally, one could paraphrase and say:

The Son of Man is not risen once for all . . .  
But the Son of Man is rising always.

For we do not just look back to Palestine 2,000 years ago. We look out on the world and within ourselves today. Wherever we glimpse the heart of love which leads through pain or suffering, we glimpse the heart of God, the heart which led Jesus to his death because he loved his brothers and sisters. Wherever we glimpse the heart of love which is bringing hope, life, peace or justice, we glimpse the heart of God revealed in the New Life of the risen Christ.

Let the fleeting days of Holy Week and Easter change your vision, and give you a glimpse of God, and your glimpse of God will change the way you live your life.

O God who took our flesh  
may we so see, taste and touch you  
that we may discern and celebrate  
your broken and risen body in the world today,  
through Jesus of Nazareth, our brother, your Son.

*Brian Leathard*

## Services for Holy Week and Easter

<b>Palm Sunday</b> 12 April	08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion with Procession and Distribution of Palms 18.30 Words and Music for Holy Week 21.00 Compline
<b>Monday in Holy Week</b> 13 April	09.15 Morning Prayer 21.00 Music and Compline
<b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b> 14 April	09.15 Morning Prayer 09.30 Holy Communion 21.00 Music and Compline
<b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b> 15 April	09.15 Morning Prayer 21.00 Music and Compline
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 16 April	09.15 Morning Prayer 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> 17 April	09.15 Morning Prayer 11.00 Open-Air Service, Sainsbury's, Hampton 12.00 Three Hours' Devotion
<b>Easter Eve</b> 18 April	20.00 Lighting of New Fire and Easter Ceremonies
<b>Easter Day</b> 19 April	08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Easter Songs of Praise



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**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** \*

**Wednesday 29 April** \*

**8pm in Church** \*

**ALL ARE WELCOME** \*

**A great chance to hear and ask questions about your parish:** \*

**What has happened in the past year?** \*

**What is going to happen in the coming year?** \*

**Who are the members of the Parochial Church Council?** \*

**What do you expect from your parish?** \*

**What are you prepared to do for your parish?** \*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Living the Good News in Peru**

One evening last year David and I, travelling down the tedious M1 listened to a tape, telling the experiences of Fr. Edmund Gornal, a priest from the Roman Catholic diocese of Lancaster, who had recently returned after spending six years ministering to the Indians in the remote mountains of Peru. This inhospitable and poverty stricken area of South America is helped to survive by people from the Lancaster diocese who maintain two priests there - though the mountains of Cumbria and Lancashire are much less rugged and dangerous than those of Peru, where life is so different.

Fr. Gornal described aspects of his work and life in Peru, explaining that, twenty years ago, before entering the priesthood, he had been a nurse and so had some medical knowledge and experience. His first assignment in South America, before going to the mountains, was to help in a coastal district devastated by floods; here was cholera, together with all types of deprivation and other disease, with no doctors, no food, housing or clothing. He delivered sixteen babies during his year there - all survived, together with their mothers, although he had neither instruments nor analgesics! Here in this remote place, where the temperature could reach 104° with 80% humidity, he was a medical worker first and a priest second and so entered into the everyday life of the community and becoming a part of it without question.

But it was in the parish in the mountains and the surrounding district where the greater part of his ministry was carried out, among the Indian descendants of the Incas, primitive

and enclosed, eking out a hard existence in houses made of mud, with only corn and potatoes to eat - meat a once-a-month luxury. The roaring Peruvian inflation (one day it rose by 300%) touches the peasants not at all, because they live by barter and do not use money. Describing the district hospital as 'like an abattoir', Fr. Gornal talked of walls and floors caked with dirt and blood, with rats everywhere. There are no government funds available for areas far away from the capital and often 'patients' with conditions like stomach cancer which are discovered to be inoperable, are sent home to die without even having the incisions stitched - like the woman with the open wounds left by investigative surgery who was taken home on llama back, a journey of three days across the mountains; Fr. Gornal sutured the wounds, so, as he said, at least she died with dignity and did not bleed to death. Apart from the 'hands-on' medicine, the priests with their support from Lancaster carry out educational medical work covering hygiene, nutrition and child-care, they try to bring health programmes to the scattered rural communities, deliver vitamin courses and training schemes for self-help. Such a mere scratch on the surface of the needs of the Indians makes a great difference to their lives; they have been despised and ignored by the authorities since the Spanish conquest 300 years ago, they receive no education and are outside the monetary system. Their only assistance comes from the church which not only tries to address the problems of health but also those of agriculture, water provision and education.

As though life were not hard enough for his Peruvian parishioners, Fr. Gornal described with frightening and vivid detail how they are harassed by terrorists of both left and right wings, especially those from the ultra-left 'Shining Path'. At one terrible Mass, a terrorist took over the pulpit, harangued the congregation and, being disturbed by a crying baby, shot it in its mother's arms. 'We wept for two hours' said Fr. Gornal 'and it made me question certain aspects of my faith - I feel now more strongly than ever that we have to be involved in politics - you cannot breathe without politics, every act here is a political one, whether it is giving vitamins to children or stitching up the bleeding'.

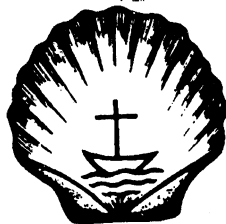
The ancient Incas believed that their gods were around them everywhere and were omnipresent in their lives, and when they became Christian, our God took that central place. So people walk gladly miles to church to meet Him and many become the catechists who take the gospel and the sacraments to their fellows and who become the church in their own villages. This great involvement of the laity has much to teach the hierarchy of the church for the church is the laity, not the clergy. 'We, the priests' said Fr. Gornal 'come to the people at the invitation of them (the laity)'.

So, feeling, knowing, that God is with them always, the mountain people lead lives more full of joy than sorrow and express their happiness exuberantly. A Mass can take three to four hours with constant interruptions for singing and dancing - when Fr. Gornal became accustomed to the altitude of 10,000 feet he could sing and dance with the best! These people he found always open, accepting and loving and, at the end of his six year ministry, he knew, as they did, that God was with them. He learned, said Fr. Gornal, much from his Indian friends and as the tape finished and we came back from the mountains in Peru to the MI in Hertfordshire, I knew that I also had learned much from both priest and people in the distant Peruvian mountains.

*Margaret Taylor*

# DAWNLIGHT

From the peal of bells composed on themes from the production, to the procession of the full cast singing the Story of Caedmon, with its haunting refrain sung by the children, and the final hymn, the keynote of DAWNLIGHT was integrity - in all senses of that word. There was the artistic integrity of a presentation of variety formed into unity by the creative vision of Stuart Ward. There was the integrity of the contribution of each member of the company, in whatever capacity, helping to meld varieties of talent and experience into a satisfying whole. There was integrity of production; the whole occasion being honestly itself, seriously intent on being a good performance, while enjoying the informality of being done by the congregation, for and within the community. And there was also a clear integrity of purpose - the focal theme proclaiming that, then and now and for ever, Jesus Christ is Lord.



There was colour. There was grace of movement in the dancing; some strong acting and instrumental playing; clarity of reading and singing; joy in the animals and trees of the wood. There was theological wisdom complemented by thoroughly funny bits, most especially in the Lindisfarne boatmanship, but also in dry and beautifully timed humour in the spirit of Saint Cuthbert.

DAWNLIGHT gave us a delightful evening's entertainment; musical and visual pleasure; an occasion for thought and also for laughter. It was a wholehearted effort, presented with that lightness of touch which can be recognised as joy. It was evangelism at its best - attractive, confident and satisfying. Thanks to each one who contributed to this happy success.

*Mary Haynes (a visitor to the parish)*

Eighth week of rehearsals - another look at my script that I was supposed to have learnt by last week - how on earth do actors in repertory learn ten times as much as this, word perfect each week? - while we still mumble into the ground, fluff our lines or dry up completely. When we started rehearsals (was it really October?) for a performance in March, we had almost no idea of the amount of commitment, dedication, enthusiasm, persuasion and sheer persistence that Stuart Ward required and showed in bringing out the hidden talents (sometimes deeply buried!) of his cast. It was not until a week or so before the performance that most of the actors and narrators began to appreciate the many other things with which Stuart had been concerned, and realised how many other people were involved in this enterprise. The music Stuart wrote and the musicians who performed it which provided a key element in the dance sequences and in other scenes. The creation of over forty costumes, plus armour, head-dresses and other accessories largely produced by Margaret Revis - I myself had ten different items of clothing and equipment; the Jays and those who had worked with them and provided their costumes and make-up; those who had produced the stage props including

painted trees, the holy banner, the beautiful Lindisfarne Gospels and the blessed relic of St. Cuthbert, and those helping with scene shifting, lights and sound. Through it all Stuart brought shape and cohesion to the performance despite our worst endeavours to maintain primeval chaos and, true professional to the last - in the best sense of the word, provided himself with the only monastic haircut. I hope that the audience enjoyed this richly rewarding, whole-parish production, as much as we did.

*Pip Rowett*

### **The Story of Caedmon (from Dawnlight, by request)**

1.

In Hilda's Abbey of Streaneshalch  
A simple herdsman lived,  
He knew not how to read or write,  
But humbly tended his sheep and cows.

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

2.

At, evening, after they all had fed,  
Each man was handed the harp  
And in the manner of the time,  
Sang verses of his own making.

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

3.

Caedmon, for that was his name,  
Had no such skill to sing.  
He slipped away to his cows and swine  
Before the harp had reached his place.

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

4.

He lay down in the stable straw  
And, sleeping, had a dream,  
An angel called him, 'Caedmon  
Servant of God, sing to me!'

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

9.

His songs were for those like himself,  
Who neither could read nor write,  
He sang of all created things,  
And how Christ came to save us all.

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

5.

'I cannot sing' said the herdsman,  
'I have not the voice nor skill',  
'Yet,' said the angel, 'You shall sing,  
'Sing to me of God's creation.'

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

6.

In his dream, he started his song,  
Shaping the words into verse,  
How we should praise Heaven's King,  
And give all glory unto Him.

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

7.

In the morning he told his friends  
About his wonderful gift.  
They led him then to the Abbess,  
To sing to her as in his dream.

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

8.

St. Hilda commanded that straightway  
He should cease tending the kine,  
And learn the words of the Book of God  
Turning them by his gift to song.

*Lord, teach us all to be humble,  
And serve you all our days.*

*Stuart Ward*

## Letters to the Editor

Congratulations Janet Jeffries on having the courage to express your thoughts about the new lights. It takes a certain fortitude to 'cast the first stone'. Herewith, my own brickbat.

Janet said it all. The beautifully sympathetic re-decoration of the church, so in tune with our much loved Victorian building, desecrated by these brash, crude (and expensive) carousels. So sad that we will now be labelled 'the church with those tasteless lights'. Like Janet, I too have waited for them 'to grow on me'; alas, they continue to offend.

Was it too much to ask for the sophisticated lighting needs to be met in more discerning way which was not so at odds with the architectural character of the building? I understand the P.C.C. had professional advice on their choice and installation (from the designer?). Reminds me of the cautionary tale of 'The Emperor's New Clothes'.

I've tried to choose my words with care. My dictionary states 'desecrated' means 'to divert from a sacred purpose', 'discerning' reads 'to distinguish by the eye or understanding'.

*Margaret Lawrance*

Brave, brave Janet Jeffries, for having the courage to write what most people seem to think. I haven't spoken to **anyone** who likes the new lighting. My first thought was 'absolute sacrilege'. They so dominate the church that one hardly notices the wonderful re-furbishment of the structure. In a modern setting they would, no doubt, look well, but in our church, they strike a discordant note in an otherwise beautiful symphony.

*Joan Worth*

I was amazed one Sunday morning to find that new lighting had been installed. My first thought was that I was inside a famous cinema named the Granada at Tooting, where I once lived. I was awaiting the organ to rise from underground as it did there; however, I awoke to reality, I was in St. James's Church.

I must say I am really puzzled, with so much poverty in the world, why we at St. James's are spending vast sums of money on all these re-furbishments? We are continually being asked to give money for one thing or another. It would be nice if members of the church were asked for their approval.

*Ron Metcalfe*

## Traidcraft

The sale of Traidcraft produce in church at the March family service and on Mothering Sunday, was successful both in arousing interest and taking money! We shall appear again occasionally, both at Informal Services and at 9.30 am Parish Communion and hope that many of you will become regular customers. **Next Sale 26 April.**

*Margaret Taylor*

## Christian Aid Week - 11 to 17 May



Last year our collectors worked hard and with great success; our total contribution to Christian Aid was £1780, from 28 collections, sundry donations and an Austerity Lunch at the Vicarage. It would be good if we could reach £2500 this year!! Could you possibly help by volunteering to do collecting or organising some fund-raising event? Many of our collectors have helped for years and would appreciate smaller rounds - if there were more of us, we could cover more ground, whilst perhaps calling on fewer houses each. Doing house-to-house collecting always appears to be a very daunting task, but really it can be both entertaining and satisfying. Would you like to give it a try? Give me a ring on 977 1342 and I will tell you more!

*Margaret Taylor*

## Scout Group News

In January, Cubs attended a District 5p party at which £300 was raised for the Mayor's Fund. Scouts, Cubs and Beavers went on a District outing to Esher Cinema to see Fiebel Goes West. The venture Section won the District 5-a-side football competition and they are also taking part in the Night Owl competition.

Unfortunately, the BEAVER COLONY (boys aged 6 - 8) will have to CLOSE at Easter unless a leader can be found. It is not necessary to have previous experience in Scouting; support and training can be provided. Please contact John Nielsen on 941 0352 for more information. Assistants are also needed for the Cub pack - contact Akela, Maureen/Colin Hucklesby, 898 9609.

*Susan Horner*

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## GENERAL ELECTION

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Meeting with all the Parliamentary Candidates for Twickenham:

Toby Jessel (Conservative)  
Jeremy Hywel-Davies (Green)  
Michael Gold (Labour)  
Vincent Cable (Liberal Democrat)

*Arranged by the Teddington Christian Council of Churches  
together with the Twickenham and Hampton Councils*

**Tuesday 7 April at 8 pm**

Baptist Church, Church Road, Teddington

Questions should be sent in writing by 8 pm on Sunday 5 April to:  
Graham Hayman, 10 Gloucester Road, Teddington TW11 0NU, who will be in the Chair.



# Around the Spire

Alderman David Harris, who died recently, was a well-known and well liked inhabitant of Park Road for many years. His influence spread through many spheres locally and the schools and Old People's organisations particularly benefited from the interest he showed in their work. We send our love to his family, especially Seymour and Dawn, Quentin and Rowena.

Congratulations to David and Margaret Taylor on becoming grandparents to a lusty new grandson to be called Jack Frederick. Love to all the Taylor/Shepherd family.

Early in March, the hut of our Scout Group on the Triangle off Holly Road was destroyed by fire, apparently deliberately. It is not the first time that they have suffered from arson. This time, a drugs party appears to have been involved. £20,000 damage was done and most equipment was destroyed. Safe storage space is urgently needed. Offers of help to John Nielsen on 941 0352 please.

One Tuesday morning before that the Vicar found the vestry had been broken into and was strewn with the contents of various cupboards and drawers, as well as broken glass. After some clearing up had been done and everything checked the only loss seemed to be money from the box at the back of the church. The damaged window has now been repaired and everything restored to normal.

Other problems have been the accumulation (would you believe it?) of bags of rubbish in the churchyard by the gate into St. James's Avenue, and smokers who sit on the churchyard benches and leave cigarette ends on the ground.

## Easter Flowers

Helpers, please, at 9am on Easter Eve

(Saturday 18 April).

Greenery, flowers and/or donations also welcome.



## From the Registers - February

### Baptisms

2	Nikita Louise Diton	61 Wolsey Road
	Emily Louise Hide	16 Lindsay Road
	Charles Edward James Turner	33 Holly Road

### Blessing of Marriage

15 John Roth and Jennifer Mary Creening

### Funerals

3	Julia Michelle Lowe	156 Uxbridge Road	Aged 40
14	Phyllis Mary Nunn	151 Uxbridge Road	Aged 82
25	Stanley Luke Flood	60 Uxbridge Road	Aged 92
28	Alan Thomas Hallpike	Grenville Mews	

# Sunday Evening Services

The present pattern of Sunday Evening Services, at 6.30pm, is as follows:

First Sunday in Month	-	Choral Evensong
Second Sunday in Month	-	Prayer and Praise
Third Sunday in Month	-	Service of Prayer for Healing
Fourth Sunday in Month	-	Open Forum - a short act of worship and time to think or speak together
Fifth Sunday in Month	-	Prayer and Praise

## Dates to Note

April	5	<b>Passion Sunday</b>
	09.30	Parish Communion with Liturgical Dancing
	18.30	Choral Evensong and Musical Meditation
	21.00	Compline
	6 14.30	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	7 20.00	Meeting with Parliamentary Candidates, Baptist Church, Teddington
	12 to 19	<b>Holy Week and Easter - see separate list of services</b>



14	20.00	Tuesday Club: Tai Chi Chuan, Mrs. Janet Stowell, Wayside
15	20.00	Women's Forum, Easter Meditation, followed by Music and Compline, Church
25		<b>St. Mark the Evangelist</b>
29	20.00	<b>Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Church</b>
28	20.00	Tuesday Club: Flower Arranging, Graham Garrod, Wayside



## Advance Notices

May	1	<b>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles</b>
	6 14.30	Women's Forum, Sunday Trading?, Wayside
	11 to 17	Christian Aid Week
	12 20.00	Tuesday Club: Members' Evening, Wayside
	14	<b>St. Matthias the Apostle</b>
	17 16.00	United Service for Christian Aid Week, United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill

**COPY DATE FOR MAY ISSUE: 12 APRIL**