

Lincoln cathedral is a magnificent building; wonderful and ancient glass; beautifully carved screens and it seems (to the casual observer) to have a thriving, dedicated congregation who use the building, as well as keeping this amazing monument in excellent repair for us tourists to enjoy. Lincoln would make a great venue for a Parish Outing. In the cathedral is a fine bronze casting of Bishop Edward King (1829 - 1910) showing him with a kindly, caring face, as indeed his reputation was for being a man of great holiness; once described by Owen Chadwick as, 'the fragrant flower of the Oxford Movement'.

Holiness; not just for bishops but for all of us. Lent is now with us and I hope being observed in some way by each of us that draws us closer to God. For Christians, Lent can be a time for seeing things that perhaps we have not seen before. It is a time for giving things up, letting things go and taking time out. If we do these things it may happen that, by travelling a little lighter, we may be led along new paths of faith and understanding in our discipleship of Christ and in our worship of God, being open to change and to letting God's Spirit renew our lives.



The last three verses of 'To keep a true Lent', by Robert Herrick:

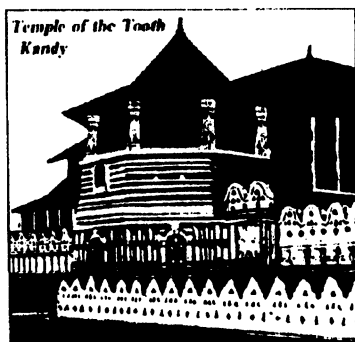
No; 'tis a fast, to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soule.

It is to fast from strife,
From old debate
And hate;
To circumsise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

From the Vicar in Sri Lanka

It's 4 am on a Sunday morning - the streets dark and empty. The air is pleasantly cool. Ramani and I join the Dean of Colombo cathedral, and five members of St. Michael's Parish Church to embark on a journey of support and investigation to the most northerly point of Sri Lanka to which one can travel. After a prayer for safe travel (repeated several times throughout the journey!) we set off through the empty suburbs, over the bridge which marks the boundary of the city. Sleepy policemen struggle to put on caps and pick up their guns as we approach their checkpoints intruding on their dozing. Speeding through village after village the kilometres flash by. As the sun rises at 06.15 we are already north of Kururegala (the centre of Sri Lanka's second Anglican diocese) and within striking distance of Anuradhapura, one of the ancient capitals of the Sinhalese kingdoms.



Break for a picnic breakfast at 06.30 - we stagger out of the jeep. As soon as the food appears so do the monkeys - 5, 10, 20 of them. One even manages to get into the jeep before being chased off. With sandwiches, coffee and nature's call answered, we begin the next stage of the journey. The road soon deteriorates, for now this is the only road leading to the north - a road mined and fought over for years. Several times we are checked by the military, searched, made to walk between checkpoints - what a strange mixture we must seem. We pass convoys of lorries spending days waiting permission to go on to Jaffna, where the government forces have no control or sway.

At 08.30 we reach Varuniya - the last town in the military zone, the most northerly town in control of the government. We breakfast again with the Anglican priest here - the Archdeacon of Jaffna - and listen to his stories - his urgent plans to build a transit camp for refugees and displaced persons now being sent back to to the north. It is a harrowing saga, with personal tragedy too.

At 09.30 we travel just three miles to the very edge of the controlled land to the village of Ganeshapuram (Ganesh is a Hindu deity in the form of an elephant, puram means 'village' in Tamil). Here, within earshot of regular gunfire, refugees have been 'settled', 145 families each on ¼ acre of land. 8 wells and 6 pumps, no electricity, no roads, no toilets, no drains. Huts of wood and palm leaf roof, these people have nothing except their pride, their hope, their skilled labour as farmers. Many have been displaced 6 or

7 times, pushed around by the arbitrary fortunes of war. The Anglican catechist and the Hindu priest share the same hut.

At 10.00 the farmers meet to discuss their plans, as floods have destroyed their latest onion crop. They want help with purchasing and planting chilli plants. We agree to support them, say how much they can each borrow - discuss terms for paying it back in cash or in crop form. Next on the agenda is a toilet for the pre-school the Colombo support group has set up. Then two suggestions from the village to increase their common income. They want three hand-powered machines to produce and sell poppadums - they can grow the grain flour - and they want a machine to packet and seal, so that they can market their own produce. That way they will increase their earnings on a packet of peanuts from 4 cents per packet to 36 cents per packet.

In all this there was tremendous self-reliance, commitment to unrelenting hard work. From the Colombo team side too there was no paternalism - the money has to be re-paid to the common fund, the crops have to be properly managed. But for the first time in years these marginalised people, shunted from pillar to post, have the confidence and hope to make their own decisions and plan their medium-term future.

While we sat in the blazing sun under a palm thatch (the pre-school building) two boys were sent back to run to the town and bring fresh king coconuts for us to drink - and don't forget the straws. The hospitality and generosity of the people of Ganeshapuram, who have nothing except their dignified humanity, was heartbreaking and humbling.

We sat, mainly in silence, on the long, hot, dusty journey 300 km south to Colombo. There was little to say but much to reflect upon.

Brian Leathard

Go, See and Act

The Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 4th March. Services will be held at the United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill at 2.30 and 8.00 pm.

The Order of Service has been prepared this year by women of Jerusalem from the Lutheran, Episcopal, Latin, Malakite Catholic, Armenian and Arab Orthodox Churches, against the background of the many and complex problems of the Middle East.

Pray not for Arab or Jew
for Palestinian or Israeli
but pray rather for ourselves
that we might not divide them in our prayers
but keep them both together in our hearts.

(A prayer of a Palestinian Christian)

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 27 March	08.00 09.30 18.30 21.00	Holy Communion Parish Communion with Procession of Palms Service with Music and Dancing for Holy Week Compline
Monday in Holy Week 28 March	09.15 21.00	Morning Prayer Compline
Tuesday in Holy Week 29 March	09.30 21.00	Holy Communion Compline
Wednesday in Holy Week 30 March	09.15 21.00	Morning Prayer Compline
Maunday Thursday 31 March	09.15 19.30 20.00	Morning Prayer Refreshments Parish Communion and Institution of the Lord's Supper



Good Friday 1 April	09.15 11.00 12.00	Morning Prayer Hampton Council of Churches Service of Witness outside the old Hampton Sainsbury's Three Hour Service of Devotion
Easter Eve 2 April	09.15 20.00	Morning Prayer Service of Light, followed by Easter Celebration at 68 Park Road
EASTER DAY 3 April	08.00 09.30 18.30	Holy Communion Parish Communion Choral Evensong

CRISIS 'Open Christmas' Shelters

I was up and about very early on Christmas Eve. I bought the daily papers from the kiosk by Russell Square tube station. My attention was immediately drawn to a striking photo on the front page of The Guardian. It was a close-up portrait of an elderly lady. She was gazing into the middle distance with a Mona Lisa-Like smile on her lips, somehow both contented and sad. 'Who is she?', I really wanted to know. I was surprised on reading the caption. She was a guest, a homeless woman, at CRISIS' Open Christmas.

On reflection I should not have been too shocked because our work is all about people and the photograph was clearly a real person. The image achieved what is so rare in the portrayal of homeless people. It had captured the subject's dignity and individuality and yet somehow projected the sadness that is such a strong facet of homelessness.

This Christmas, CRISIS has done its best to provide help to hundreds of homeless people up and down the country. We hope that it has gone some way towards preserving their dignity. We witnessed a lot of sadness but we achieved a lot too.

CRISIS' temporary shelters in London proved an enormous success providing three hot meals a day, medical care, dentistry, hairdressing, clothes, entertainment and Companionship for 2,000 single homeless people over the Christmas period (23rd - 30th December).

The largest shelter, a disused warehouse at Pages Walk (off the Old Kent Road), London SE1, saw around the anticipated 600 people each day. But the new west London site, a disused store in Acton, catered for more people than expected - up to 180 people per day. The mobile Open Christmas, a converted truck, also saw higher numbers on its daily visits to Deptford, Waterloo and Kentish Town - up to 265 a day.

In some cases our resettlement workers were able, with great difficulty, to find more permanent accommodation. On the closure of the shelters, 50 people had been found temporary accommodation to move on to. Figures from this year's 'Open Christmas' for the use of services include:

- 9,000 hot meals were served, including 700 Christmas dinners.
- 1,250 visits to the medical team, with respiratory and stomach problems being the most common complaints.
- 1,600 sets of clothing were given out.
- Over 500 people had a hair cut.
- Around 300 people took part in voluntary TB screening.
- Around 150 people were helped by the advice and resettlement team.

The atmosphere, as always, was extremely warm and friendly. This year, over 2,000 volunteers helped CRISIS to make this the best possible Christmas for homeless people. Amateur entertainers came in each day. Games and books were available and arts and activities provided. Volunteers, of course, provided the best thing of all - companionship, to those who very rarely have anyone to listen.

The 'Open Christmas' was not confined to London. For the second year running, CRISIS funded and advised other organisations around the country who opened shelters over Christmas, and for the first time, CRISIS in Manchester took 55 young

homeless people from the North-West to the Lakes for a five-day Christmas break from life on the streets.

Now that Christmas is over we will concentrate on our fundraising work and providing grant support to other homelessness agencies. This goes on all year round. We will also be preparing for next winter! Thank you to all that supported us.

Mark Scothern, Director of Crisis

The Early Church 7

Marcion

In Paul's writings he refers to the old Jewish Law as being unnecessary for gentile christians: 'If the Law is necessary to salvation, then Christ died for nothing'. (Galatians 2.21).

Marcion came from Asia Minor, and wrote a book called 'Antitheses', (perhaps 1 Timothy 6.20 alludes to this), in the early second century. He exploited the Pauline antithesis between Law and the Good News of Christ to a great extent. His book lists contradictions between Old and New Testaments, in order to argue that the Jewish god, creator of this unhappy world, was a different being from the Father of Jesus.

He thought it inconceivable that the Christ could be born of a woman, and rejected stories of Jesus' birth as imposed falsifications.

He declared that the first generation of Christians had completely misunderstood Jesus. He was repelled by sexual reproduction, which 'filled him with nausea', and which 'had been devised by the (inferior) Old Testament deity'.

As the New Testament in many places supposes a continuity between Old and New Covenants, Marcion stated that the documents had been corrupted by Jewish sympathisers. St. Paul was his hero, but as the apostle says that the Old Testament contains divine revelation, cuts had to be made to restore Marcion's idea of the original text. He took it for granted that there would only be one authoritative gospel, and chose that of Luke; but not Luke as it stands - full of references to Old Testament revelation; no, the text must have been got at again. Luke's gospel in its pure, original form was, he declared, written by Paul.

So, very little remained of the New Testament, which met with Marcion's approval. But he is the first person to draw up a list, (a very little list), of what he considered the authentic New Testament canon, based on the assumption that the Eleven Apostles had failed, more or less wholly, to understand Jesus.

He went to Rome, where he was excommunicated in 144.

But what *was* the true interpretation of Old and New Testament? What books should be in the NT canon? Who had authority to declare this?

To be continued.

Stuart Ward

The New Hall

'When is the new Hall going to be finished?'

A question put with increasing frequency as the outer shell take shape, and one to which I can only answer 'Not as soon as was forecast when we started building'.

The project is now about two months behind programme, and is very unlikely to be finished before the end of April.

Dismal weather and slow performance by some trades, particularly in the key area of roof construction and covering, have contributed to the delays. Both the job architect and the builder's site agent have now moved elsewhere, with some inevitable loss of continuity.

All concerned have been urged to speed things up and with (possibly) better weather, we look for improved progress.

In the meantime, a Hall Management group has been formed, and will report to the P.C.C. on two matters: the provision of furnishings and equipment, and a suggested uses and lettings policy and programme.

Jack Gostling

Pentecost 1994 - 'On Fire'

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. This year, the churches of the Hampton Council of Churches will be joining together to celebrate, along with churches throughout the country, and there will be a local party - 'ON FIRE' - to which all in the community will be invited. Please note the date - Saturday 21st May. There will be much to interest all ages.



Special Pentecost services will be held in the local churches on Sunday 22nd May, and two weeks of special events will follow. Further details of all the whole programme will be available later.



Sunday 6th March sees the beginning of Lifeboat 'Week' in the Greater London area, which ends with Lifeboat Day on Tuesday 15 March. We would ask you to remember the work of all involved in the Institution in your prayers, both those at sea and those giving support from land.

Should you wish to help in a more material way by either taking a 'lifeboat' to your place of work or helping with a local collection (not door to door), please contact us on 979 7033.

John and Jill Denton

Spring Clean

Help is needed to Spring Clean the church. The Spring Clean has been arranged for the weekend before Easter and we had hoped to carry this out during the evening of Friday 25 March and on Saturday 26 March.

However, owing to the performance of 'Elijah' by the Teddington Choral Society in the church on the Saturday, the work will have to be finished by midday on that day. Therefore, although the planned start times are 7.30 pm on Friday and 9.30 am on Saturday, if you can make an earlier start on either day, please contact me.

Jack Gostling (979 3748)

Let's keep the church clean!

Help is even more desperately needed to keep the church clean week by week. We need volunteers to go on a rota to do this work about once a month (if sufficient volunteer!). When the work is done is fairly flexible. Two working together take about an hour and a half. Bring your baby along with you!

We really mustn't leave this task to just one or two people so that they have to turn up each week. Please speak to Margaret Taylor (977 1342) to find out just what is involved, and try to offer your help.



Our New Organist

Geoffrey Bowyer joins us on April 1st as our new organist. We shall write more about him next month to welcome him, but if you would like chance to meet him before then, why not go to the 18th 'Just a Song at Twilight' on Friday or Saturday 4th or 5th March at 7.30 pm (there is also a matinée at 2.30 pm on the Saturday) at York House, Twickenham, presented by the Cantanti Camerati of which he is the conductor. Tickets may be arranged by telephoning 898 8020 between 6 and 7 pm.

Geoffrey is also the conductor of the Teddington Choral Society who are performing Mendelssohn's Elijah in our church on 26th March. Telephone 979 3385 between 5 and 7 pm to book, or get your tickets at the door.

Hannah Stanton

There will be a Memorial Service for Hannah at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields at 3.30 pm on Wednesday 27th April, the day of the first democratic multi-racial elections in South Africa. Make a note in your diary now.

Audio Visual

Please note that Audio Visual Maintenance Ltd. moved some time ago from Windmill Road (as stated in their advertisement in this magazine which unfortunately cannot be changed until June) to 48 High Street, Hampton Hill. Their telephone number is 943 1122.

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Hampton Hill Association

Tea Party and Fun Quiz amongst Friends

Saturday 19th March

2.30 to 6.00 pm

Greenwood Centre, School Road

Tickets (including tea) £2

from Joan Catt (979 9475), Dennis Dolan (979 8641),
Dorothy Weston (979 6673) or Joyce Doughty (979 2839)

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From the Registers - January

Baptism

9 Alexander George Edward Deboeck 5 Roy Grove

Funeral

14 Muriel Gething 95 Uxbridge Road aged 82

Interment of Ashes

31 Kenneth Gerald Rotter 54 Ashley Road, Walton aged 81
(formerly of 52 St. James's Avenue)



Dates to Note

Mar.	2	14.30	Women's Forum, Save the Children talk, Church
	4	14.30	} Women's World Day of Prayer, United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill
		20.00	
	6	09.30	Parish Communion (not Informal Service)
		21.00	Compline
	7	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	13	09.30	Mothering Sunday
			- Children's Eucharist and Parade Service
		21.00	Compline
	16	20.00	Women's Forum, Easter Music, Church
	17	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
		20.00	Taizé Service, St. Richard's Church, Hanworth
	19		St. Joseph of Nazareth
	20	21.00	Compline (in addition to normal services)
	24	20.15	Stewardship Committee, 16 Cranmer Road
	25		The Annunciation
		19.30	(or earlier, if possible) Spring Clean of Church
	26	09.30	(or earlier, if possible) Spring Clean of Church
		19.30	Mendelssohn's Elijah, Teddington Choral Society, Church
	27		Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week

*Please see separate list for details
of services for
Holy Week and Easter*

Advance Notices

Apr.	6	14.30	Women's Forum, Church
	15	19.30	Loki Ensemble, Church, in aid of Save the Children
	20	20.00	Women's Forum, Church
		20.00	Taizé Service, St. Francis de Sales
	27	15.30	Memorial Service for Hannah Stanton, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields
	29	20.00	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Church, followed by Welcome Home for Brian and Ramani

COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE: 13 MARCH