

Easter has gone, leaving with us its message of joy, resurrection and hope. There comes sometimes a lifting of the veil and we understand, dimly, that death has been put aside, that a new kind of life will eventually open out for us. But until that moment arrives, life can be full of love and peace - as Jesus promised, he came to earth for us 'to have life and have it more abundantly'.

We have cleaned, tidied and adorned the church for two very different events this week: one day we had the funeral of Norman Jackson, V.C., with great family pride, deep mourning and a guard of honour, to pay respect to a brave man whose courage in the second World War inspired his comrades and strengthened their resolve in the struggle. A few days later, came fresh flowers and an air of happy rejoicing for a wedding, an event marking a movement forward into partnership, mutual responsibility and developing love. These are two great milestones in the road through life, we mark them in different ways, but in both we recognise the universality of human experience and in both we may see the hand of God and his work of resurrection and love.

Norman Jackson's life came to an end indeed, but there was thanksgiving for his bravery and disregard of his own safety, gratitude for his subsequent life, remarkable for the depths of family love there revealed. The wedding of Mark and Angela is a beginning of this same family love, as with joy and anticipation they join their lives, looking back, looking forward - we all do this every day with mixed emotions. We look back sometimes with gratitude, surprise, regret, we look forward with hope or great expectations or with sadness and fright.

But, strengthened as we are by the Easter message, with faith, hope and love renewed, we can rejoice not only in the new beginning of the wedding, but also in the hope of resurrection and fresh life shown in the death and funeral. In both we see, through the eyes of faith, the miraculous work of God. A famous philosopher wrote 'Whoever is moved by faith, is conscious of a continued miracle in his own person'. How we pray to be conscious of such a miracle, both in ourselves and in our daily lives.

*Margaret Taylor*

## **From Christ Church, Nazareth**

In late February, Suad and myself were invited by the Church in Japan to address gatherings for the Women's World Day of Prayer. It was a time of refreshment and strengthening. However, I couldn't help but reflect that it was the first time I visited the Far East, in September 1982, that the massacres of Sabre and Shatila occurred. This time it was Hebron . . . . How I pray God for peace, that this may have been the last . . .

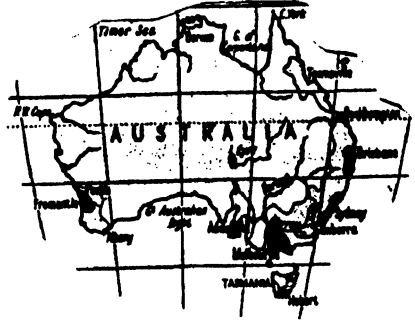
In the midst of a troubled world, Easter continues to be for us Christian Palestinians an emblem of justice, peace and hope. May it be so also for you.

*Archdeacon Riah Abu El Assal*

# From the Vicar in Australia

Down under! It may be below the equator, but apart from the water going down the sink in the opposite swirling direction, life here seems as one might expect.

Flying from Perth to Sydney - the breadth of Australia - one realises how vast this country is. Vast and sparsely populated. It takes four hours to fly over this continent and almost all that time one sees barren earth or vast corn-fields, open-cast mines or the open sea - but only very rarely a town or village. Westwards there is no landfall until South Africa, Southwards only the Antarctic, Eastwards the vast Pacific Ocean.



Here in Sydney are more contrasts - the small stone buildings around the harbour mark the site of the penal colony - jail, army barracks, Governor's Lodge: yet now they sit side by side with the Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, this bright vibrant city spreading across the hills and islands. Signs of the city's past and its future (especially the Olympics in 2000) could hardly be more contradictory.

Fitting in with this ties with Britain are clearly becoming fewer and fewer. Australia has taken on board that its future lies in Asia. Its trade, its geography, its connections are more and more with this quickly developing region. Now many Asian migrants are in positions of influence and decision making in commerce and the professions. Nowhere have we come upon any racial tension or discrimination, but upon a commitment to making this country a success - energy, verve, 'get-up-and-go' are all around.

But another contrast does seem strange - I'm writing this at the beginning of Holy Week and people are starting to don their autumn and winter clothes. For us, Easter is naturally accompanied by fresh growth, the return of the sun, bursting bulbs in the gardens. Here the rains are coming, the barbecues are being put away for the winter, and people are checking that their heating systems work!

Yet in all this - in all these contrasts of space, of people, of climate, of history, Easter does assert a unity in this diversity. The unity is provided in this - that the love at the heart of all things is not negated or denied, not broken or crushed by Good Friday but confirmed by it. Out of the darkness light shines in myriad ways.

As we read in the Book of Tobit:

Oh! See what the Lord our God has done  
And exalt him in the sight of all things!

*Brian Leathard*

## Growing in Prayer

For the sixth year running a day had been set aside in the busy life of Westminster Abbey to explore through words and silence that giving of attention to God that we call prayer. It was a most wonderful day and I would like to share some of the thoughts that our leader, Father Michael Hollings, explored with us.

Prayer is a relationship not only with God but also with each other. A relationship of love. God initiates prayer. He always begins the conversation because he loves us. He asks everything of us. Prayer is often a struggle. We need to persevere. Pray as you can, not as you can't. Always pray with hope. Say your prayers from your heart. Express your anger if you are angry with God. There is a need of faithfulness and love in prayer. It takes humility to pray. The background of our own personal prayer is the entrance to community prayer.

Fr. Michael also talked about meditation and silent prayer as well as vocal prayer. In meditation the object is to come closer to the love of God - to come to know God. The important thing is to know him as a loving father, a loving friend, rather than to know about him on an intellectual plane. Let your own mind and heart be moved. Out of meditation comes praise, penitence and thanksgiving. Keep something of scripture with you during the day and keep coming back to it - a kind of chewing the cud.

As for silence, many of us are afraid of it. We are so surrounded by noise these days - the washing machine, the dishwasher, the radio, television, etc. - noise can be so stressful. Don't be scared to move into silence in prayer. In the depth of silence is the depth of love. Our silent God speaks in a still small voice. We desperately need this silence in our lives. After a successful retreat we come home refreshed because we have absorbed the silence. We have to be an oasis of prayer in the desert of our heart. Think of the silence of Mary (Mary pondered all these things in her heart) and the silence of Jesus. Silence is important in the development of prayer. From our silence springs loving thanksgiving, sorrow for our many sins and deep intercessory prayer as well as much needed personal prayer.

In the words of our morning prayer:

*O Lord, I know what to ask of you; you alone know what are my true needs. You love me more than I know how to love myself. I dare not ask either for a cross or for consolation. My heart is open to you. Visit and help me, for your great mercy's sake, strike me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up. I worship in silence your holy will and your inscrutable ways. I offer myself as a sacrifice to you, putting all my trust in you. I have no other desire than to fulfil your will. Teach me how to pray, pray yourself in me. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

God will help us to pray in love and take us into his heart if we give him the opportunity.

*Janet Jeffries*

# A Kind of Resurrection - A Visit to an Ashram near Delhi

I noticed the gates immediately, despite the noise. They were made of iron: tall, strong and rather handsome. The noise came from a crowd of boys, shouting slogans, chanting songs and banging drums. Hardly the welcome I expected at an ashram (a religious community), which I had always imagined as a place of peace and quiet.

Only months before these boys had been all but dead: to their parents and the outside world. Coming from desperately poor homes, they were handed over as children to carpet-makers. All sorts of promises were made, but that was almost the last that was heard of them. They were taken a long way away; taught how to knot carpets sitting at a frame for hours on end, their eyes strained in the poor light, their lungs filling up with dust, their fingers sore. They were virtually slaves while their masters made fat profits selling beautiful carpets to countries like ours.

Mukti Pratishthan is an Indian organisation supported by the churches through Christian Aid. In the last few years they have become experts at tracking down these lost children and literally freeing them from carpet factories. They take them to the ashram I visited, feed them up, and put some brightness back in their eyes.

The ashram is also temporary home to adults who have been freed from virtual slave labour. They are taught another trade - brickwork, carpentry, metal work - so that they really can go back to their villages with money in their pockets.

The men I met had helped build the ashram where they were staying, with its workshops, kitchen, guest room, dormitories, washrooms and, right in the middle of the courtyard, a cool, round, shady area for meeting and prayer.

Isn't that a story worth telling in Christian Aid Week? I think of it these days every time I hear Psalm 24:

Lift up your heads, Oh ye gates;  
Even lift them up, ye everlasting doors;  
And the King of glory shall come in.

For it was these same men who had made the iron gates, and the same children, freed from carpet factories, who sang as they opened the gates up and let us in. I think the King of glory went in with us, found wherever the dead are brought to life, and sad eyes learn to sing again.



*Michael H. Taylor,  
Christian Aid Director*

## The Early Church 9

Montanus (160-189), Prisca, and Maximilla believed themselves to be the mouthpieces of the Holy Spirit, calling for abstinence from sex, fasting, and strict religious discipline. They gave ecstatic utterances about the forthcoming thousand year reign of Christ, and expected all good christians to acknowledge them as inspired. This movement, Montanism, was a reaction against Gnostic excesses, and came to be known as 'The New Prophecy'. Tertullian, in about 207, was led by this to declare that the Church needed no ordination by apostolic succession, but was constituted by 'spiritual men'.

Reaction to both Gnosticism and Montanism promoted formulation of the New Testament canon. As Gnostic sects accepted some part of Scripture, and drew wild conclusions from them, Irenaeus and others said it was necessary that Scripture should be authoritatively interpreted by the living tradition of the Catholic Church. This important statement foreshadows the attitude of the medieval church (for example, antagonism to translations of Holy Writ into the common tongue; for ordinary folk might then read it, and no doubt reach heretical conclusions).

Tertullian was a follower of Irenaeus, and held the view that pagan philosophy was the mother of heresy. Thirty seven works of his survive, written in vigorous Latin. Western theology owes to him the terms 'Trinity', 'One substance in Three Persons', 'Christ is One Person in two natures'. He formulated the problem of 'original sin' - the fault of Adam inherited by all mankind.

### Origen 184-254

Origen is a great figure. He had read the works of Clement, who was a cheerful man, stressing God's mercy. Origen was different, stern, austere, renouncing not only evil, but anything seen as an obstacle to higher ends. He had profound knowledge of the classics and the great philosophers. His memory was prodigious, but this sometimes led him to rely on it without checking, making trivial errors.

When he was 18, his father, Leonides was martyred, and he felt strongly that he was a member of a martyr church.

Although rejecting Plato's works in general, he was sympathetic to that philosopher's doctrine that the soul was near to the Divine Spirit, but was forced to live in a material world which was not its true home (this is near to Dualism - that spirit is good and matter evil; heretical, because God created both heaven and earth, so earth could not be intrinsically evil).

Origen was anxious that christians in dispute with the Jews should not use inaccurate texts of the Old Testament, thus laying themselves open to easy defeat by Rabbinical disputants. He therefore compiled the 'Hexapla', a vast synopsis of the Old Testament, with six parallel columns containing, (1) The Hebrew Text, (2) The Hebrew Text in Greek characters (to help pronunciation), and the four main Greek versions. For the Psalms he added two more translations, one of them from a jar found in the Jordan valley (reminiscent of the Dead Sea Scrolls).

# Do you wish to use the new church hall?

In preparation for the opening of the church hall, the management committee would like to ask all parishioners if they, or any of their acquaintances, anticipate a need to use the hall in the coming months?

The purpose of this questionnaire is merely to gauge early interest; it does not in any way preclude non-respondents from booking the hall. Whilst the hall committee will do its best to accommodate requests for bookings, it cannot guarantee to meet all requirements.

If you would be kind enough to provide as much of the information requested below as possible, it will greatly assist us in planning the hall's use.

Thank you,

Hall Management Committee

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Name of individual or group:.....

Nature of activity:.....

Contact name & address:.....

..... Contact tel:.....

Please indicate below the period(s) you would ideally like to book by placing a number "1" in the appropriate space(s). If alternative period(s) are acceptable, insert a number "2" as appropriate:

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

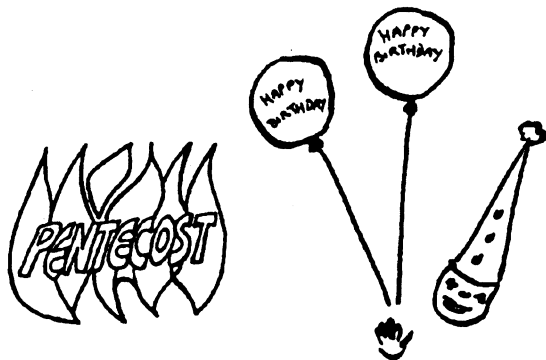
Do you require any special equipment to be available (If yes, please specify)?.....

.....

Do you have any other comments or requests?.....

.....

Please return this completed form to: Mona Gow, 31 Chelsea Close, Hampton Hill



**Everybody is welcome to come and celebrate the birthday of the Church**

**BIRTHDAY PARTY — Saturday 21st May from 3 to 6pm — Rectory School**

A special afternoon of drama and music (modern and traditional)

Clowns and Balloon Race; Police Dog Team; Bouncy Castle

Fun for all the family

Entrance free - Refreshments available

**ALSO SUPPER PARTY — Tuesday 24th May at 7.30 pm — St. James's Church**

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## **Let's Celebrate**

Bishop David of London writes:

There is much to celebrate in the life of the Diocese, not least in the number of people we see being confirmed each year: upwards of 2,500 in 1993. For Celebration '94 in St. Paul's on June 19th at 6.30pm I hope you will bring a group from your parish to share in this encouragement, and to remind us of Jesus' call to make disciples. To worship together in our Cathedral will contribute much to the nurture of those new to the faith. I hope you will make every effort to come.

At the service, which is more particularly for those new to the life of the Church, the stories will be told of how some people came to the faith and of what has happened to them since their Confirmation.

If you would like to go to the service, please contact Stuart Ward (979 4906).

## Norman Jackson V.C.

The funeral of Norman Cyril Jackson, V.C., who lived in Burtons Road, was conducted by the Rev. Ray Carter in our church on Wednesday 6th April.

He was born on 8th April 1919 in Ealing and at the outbreak of the last World War joined the RAFVR and trained as a Flight Engineer. He won his Victoria Cross by outstanding heroism on the night of 26th April 1944, after flying 30 missions.

On returning from a bombing raid over Germany his Lancaster bomber was hit by cannon fire from a German fighter. Fire broke out on the starboard wing, adjacent to a fuel tank. Although injured by shell splinters, he grabbed a fire extinguisher and climbed out onto the wing to try and put out the fire. His parachute opened and the rigging spilled back into the cockpit. He was severely burned and when the plane was again attacked, he was hit once more, lost his grip and fell to earth. His parachute was two-thirds burned and he was fortunate only to break a leg on landing. He spent ten months in hospital and was a prisoner of war.

His Victoria Cross was presented to him by King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

After the war he joined Distillers and retired in the mid seventies. He had by then, with some help, built his own bungalow (notable for a representation of a Lancaster bomber in a window) and, together with his wife Alma, raised a family of seven, all of whom were present at the funeral with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The coffin carrying his medals was borne by six airmen from R.A.F. Benson, which also provided a guard of honour. Standard Bearers of the Royal British Legion and the R.A.F. Association, together with representatives of other associations including the V.C. and G.C. Association, attended. At the Twickenham cemetery, a trumpeter played the Last Post.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Mrs. Jackson and the family.

*David Lloyd*

## Magazine Appeal

We would like to thank all who have contributed so far. Do not worry if you have not done so yet - there is no closing date!

## Stewardship

Stewardship giving over the last four quarters and the corresponding period twelve months earlier has been as follows:

April - June	1993	£8,098	1992	£7,065
July - September	1993	£7,457	1992	£6,888
October - December	1993	£7,944	1992	£7,335
January - March	1994	<u>£8,111</u>	1993	<u>£8,474</u>
Total for 12 months		£31,610		£29,762



## Around the Spire

The wedding took place in our church on 9 April of Mark Bulford and Angela Bull. Mark's mother, Mrs. Daphne Bulford, died recently after a long illness and so the occasion was tinged with sadness. We wish the newly-weds every happiness in their life together.

Many will remember the wedding in our church in September 1990 of Jane and David Revell. Since they had to move to the Leeds area because of their work, we have seen them in church several times. Now we are very pleased to be able to report that Jane had a baby boy, Thomas, on 19th March.

Connie Brunt recently celebrated her eightieth birthday, and we send her our very best wishes.

Having reported last month that Chrissie Hockley was home from hospital, we now have to say that she is in hospital again - at Kingston this time - after breaking her leg. She has been joined there by Dorothy Edmonds who also had a fall, in her case breaking her thigh. She has had an operation but is home again now. Another recent casualty is Ali Sazegar who was knocked down by a car in Kingston. He is also home from hospital now but having to take things quietly for some time. We are thinking of them all and hope that they will soon be feeling much better.

Sadly, both Margaret Shackleton and Muriel Longhurst have now died. Margaret's funeral has taken place in Yorkshire and Muriel's here. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

Pam and Trevor Atkinson, and Jeremy and Hannah, who have been home in Hampton Hill for a month or two, have now returned to Salisbury near Adelaide to continue their missionary work there for at least a while longer. Our prayers are with them, and we hope to hear from them before too long.

Ann Douglas (née Stuart) is to be ordained priest in St. Alban's Cathedral on 23 April, and she and Graham and their two daughters are to move into what will be her parish, in the Watford area, in June. We pray for Ann's ministry there and that they will all be very happy in their new home.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

Feb.	13	Amelia Holly Lear	82 Connaught Road, Teddington
Mar.	13	Robert John Guy	77 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington
	27	Daniel George Marillat	3 Fairlight, Uxbridge Road
	27	William Philip Charles Pocket	93 High Street

### Funerals

Feb.	16	Phyllis Mary Macnamara	22 Sanders Close	
Mar.	3	Phyllis Anita Beecham	1 Edward Road	Aged 67
	18	Muriel Longhurst	57 Windmill Road	Aged 62
	31	Catherine Wiffen	36 Uxbridge Road	Aged 44

## Dates to Note

May	1	12.30	Buffet Lunch in aid of Church Funds, 273 Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill.
	2		<b>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles</b>
	3	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
		20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	4	14.30	Women's Forum, Church
	8	14.00	St. James's Nursery School May Fair, Greenwood Centre, School Road, Hampton Hill
	9	20.00	Properties Committee, 21 St. James's Road
	10	20.15	Stewardship Committee, 16 Cranmer Road
	12		<b>Ascension Day</b>
		20.00	Parish Conunion
	14		<b>St. Matthias the Apostle</b>
	15	16.00	United Service for Christian Aid Week, United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill
	16 to 21		<b>Christian Aid Week</b>
	18	20.00	Women's Forum, Church
	21	15.00	'On Fire' Party, Rectory School
	22		<b>Pentecost</b>
	24	19.30	'On Fire' Supper Party, St. James's Church

## Advance Notices

Jun.	11		<b>St. Barnabas the Apostle</b>
	19	18.30	'Let's Celebrate', St. Paul's Cathedral
	24		<b>The Birth of St. John the Baptist</b>
	26	17.00	Laurel Dene Service

**COPY DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE: 8 MAY**



**ST. JAMES'S NURSERY SCHOOL**

**GREENWOOD CENTRE,**

**SCHOOL ROAD, HAMPTON HILL**