

It was G. K. Chesterton who was honest enough to say

*'I may not practise what I preach, but
for heaven's sake don't preach what I practise.'*

It is of course **both** that we are required to do. Each supports and encourages the other, each completes and complements the other. This month we certainly have plenty of opportunity to do both. The Sundays of Easter remind us, through the readings from the Bible, of what it was like for the first friends of Jesus of Nazareth. Slowly, falteringly they came to move from the terror and despondency of the resurrection morning to a deeper understanding that this resurrection means even death could not destroy the love, God's love, which they saw their friend Jesus not only preaching but also practising.

So this month too there is ample chance for us to live out the Easter faith in some very down to earth ways. First we have a responsibility and a duty to cast our vote in the local elections on May 7th. I am delighted that the church hall is again being used as a polling station, because the church is deeply committed to enabling our common life to be rooted in truth, honesty and justice. Second, Christian Aid Week requires collectors and contributors, 'Walk the City' for Christian Aid on Sunday afternoon May 17th is a sponsored (or just for fun) walk around the City of London's one square mile of amazingly interesting churches. All are welcome. Also during this month the Young Church are having their Talent Show on Sunday 10th May at 4 p.m. in the Hall. The proceeds are to go to Teddington Memorial Hospital's new chapel. Then of course, Jubilee 2000 is placing a human chain around Birmingham on Saturday May 16th for the G8 Summit of World leaders, a chain to break the chains of unpayable debt owed by the world's most impoverished countries. You could be part of it!

Yes, May provides ample opportunity to practise what we preach and to preach what we practise. Mission Statements are very common these days, every enterprise and business seems to have one. Unusually perhaps, St John's Gospel has its mission statement right at the end of the work; after the stories of the resurrection. St. John's Gospel makes it clear that the purpose of having recorded all this Good News about Jesus of Nazareth was not to create a biography, or to preserve a history, but rather in order

'that the world might believe'

That, surely, is our aim, just as much in what we say as in what we do, 'that the world might believe' that God's undying, unquenchable love matters above all else, and that we are called to share it in every part of human life, in what we practise just as much as in what we preach.

Brian Leathard

An Ethiopian prayer

*You have created all creatures
with your word.*

*You carry them all
without being weary.*

*You feed them all
without ceasing.*

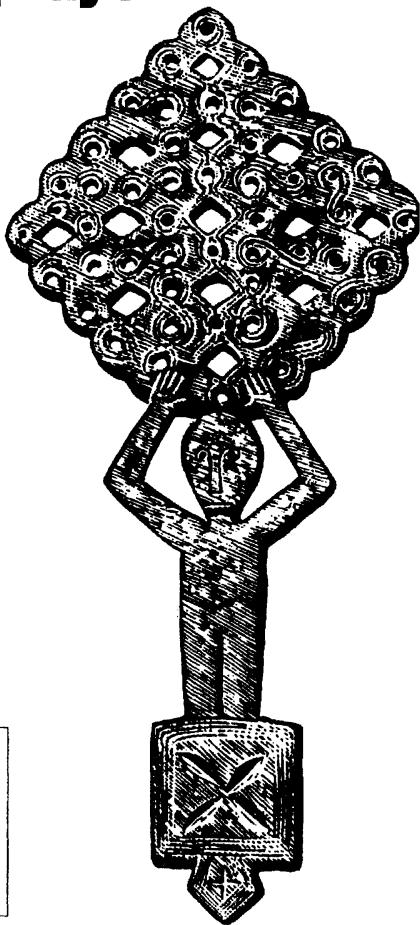
*You think about them all
without forgetting any.*

*You give to all
without being diminished.*

*You water all the earth
without running dry.*

From the liturgy of the Ethiopian
Orthodox Church

Christian Aid supports development projects run by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to bring clean water and better farming methods to rural communities.



This illustration by Andrew Davidson shows a traditional hand-held Ethiopian cross from the Institute of Ethiopian Studies in Addis Ababa.

FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES'S

are invited to a tour of the Church
followed by sherry in the Church Hall

at 5 p.m. on Sunday 3rd May

The Candle

In your time of silence
Light a candle in your mind.
Watch it burning brightly
And tranquillity you'll find.

Keep your faithful eyes upon it
Burning there for you -
A symbol of remembrance
Of all that's good, and sweet and true.

So light your prayer candle -
All darkness drive away
That your mind may be as vellum
To receive what God may say.

"Come to me, abide with
Before your worldly day begins,
Be with me in silence
While I wash away your sins

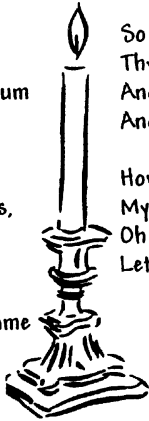
In the kindly light of candle flame
Be purified by fire,
Give yourself to me, my child,
To higher things aspire.

So keep your daylight watching eye
On the candle of your mind,
And as I walk before you,
You shall not be far behind.

My light shall light the paths you take
Which may at first seem dark,
But always in your tinder box
Shall be that vital spark.

So tend the candle in your mind,
Thy worship-gift to me.
And I shall note its faithful light
And be always there with thee."

How the words come flowing, Lord.
My prayers, my love, my praise.
Oh my Almighty Father,
Let me serve thee all my days.



*Margery Orton
Candlemas 1998*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SUMMER HOLIDAYS

There will be no Sunday School on the eight Sundays from the 19th July to 6th September inclusive. However, on these Sundays the church hall will be open during the morning service, and children of any age, with or without their parents, will be free to use it. We will provide some toys for the younger ones, perhaps the older ones would prefer to write or draw. There will be no planned activity - children will be free to do their own thing. We will provide lemonade for the thirsty.

We need at least three volunteers to help with each of these sessions. We hope we can work out a rota, including perhaps one or two parents or grandparents and one or two members of the younger congregation for each Sunday. Churchwardens will also help. We hope that we will have to ask each volunteer to help with one session only.

If you are willing to help, please let Brian or one of the churchwardens know.

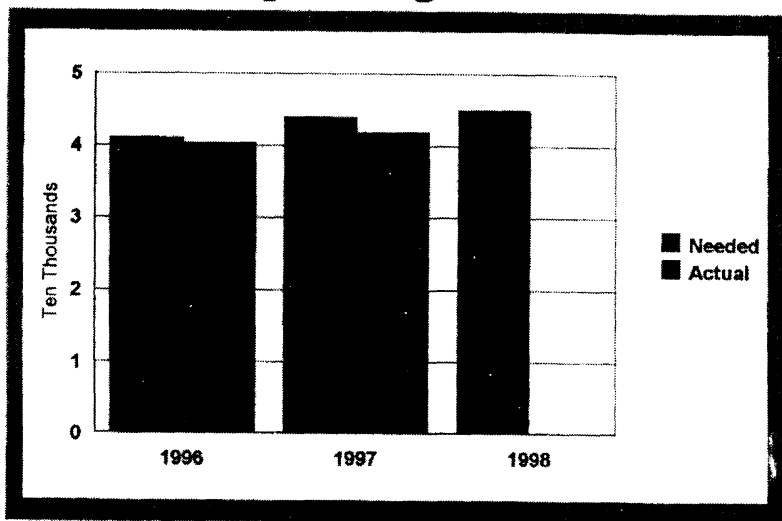
Dick Wilde

£200 A DAY

That is how much it costs to run the parish of St. James. Staggering, isn't it! Thank God that planned giving through Stewardship and the tax refund we get from covenants amounts to £150 per day. Without that regular support from 100 or so of the congregation at St. James's, the gap would be too big to bridge. We have managed so far to bridge it every year through fund raising, plate collections and hall letting fees. But costs are always increasing - and it is planned giving which gives us confidence for the future.

The graph below shows how giving has increased over the last couple of years, but at a slower rate than we had planned - and needed.

Stewardship Giving 1996 - 1998



This year we need an additional £3,650 through Stewardship - £10 per day - to make sure we have enough income to cover our expected additional expenditure, such as increased gas and electricity bills, increased wages and pension contributions for the clergy and a fairer share of the diocese costs. If you are in Stewardship, can you increase your giving? Any amount would help. If you are not yet in Stewardship, can you make this the year you join? At any level. And covenanting increases the value of your donation by a quarter.

For further information, see the notice board in Church and take a form, or contact Brian Leathard (the Vicar) on 979 2069, Pip Rowett (the Stewardship Recorder) on 892 4736 or Andrew Craig (the Stewardship Committee Chairman) on 979 2997. Whatever contribution you can make, big or small, we will be delighted to hear from you.

COME TO BIRMINGHAM and bring as many people as possible

MAY 16TH

A day of action to campaign for the cancellation of poor countries' debts

Saturday May 16th is an ideal opportunity to show world leaders the level of concern about poor country debt. It's also going to be a great day out.

Come to Birmingham to lobby the G8 summit

Take part in a day of action in Birmingham on Saturday May 16th, 1998, centred around the meeting of the world's most powerful countries, the Group of 8 (G8). There will be lots of events, ranging from workshops to street theatre. It'll be a chance to campaign for debt cancellation, learn about the issues, and have fun at the same time.

People's Summit

At the same time as the G8 summit is meeting, an alternative event called the People's Summit will take place, including the following events:

P8 summit

Delegates from eight poor indebted countries will discuss the issues important to them. The event will be backed up by a Christian Aid report showing the effects of debt in those countries.

Ecumenical public worship

An ecumenical service to remember those suffering because of international debt and to call on God's help to strengthen our campaign for justice.

People's tribunal

An opportunity to hear an alternative view from economists, aid agencies and grassroots campaigners.

Make a chain, to break the chains of debt

At 2 p.m. we will be calling on people to make a giant human chain encircling the G8 summit at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in central Birmingham. The chain will remain in place until representatives from eight indebted countries are able to present a petition to the G8 summit. To do this will need thousands of people, but to succeed would be big news and win the campaign lots of press coverage. **So please bring as many people as you can.**



If you would like to go to Birmingham, please contact Ann Peterken (891 5862)

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A VICAR

At the February afternoon meeting of the Women's Forum, Brian talked about just what he did with his time! He showed his diary of the previous week on an overhead projector, and we thought you would like to share it, just in case you still think that Vicars only work on Sundays!

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
8.00am Phone calls	Phone calls	(Day off this week)	In Church	Consultation with MP at the Greenwood Centre	Rectory Governors	School Assembly
10.00am Scatter Ashes Morning Prayer Admin Hampton Hill Junior School	Morning Prayer Flower Ladies Sermon	2 long phone calls 1 caller at the door			Holy Communion Deanery Chapter	Funeral in Church Crematorium
12. noon 3 visits	Funeral SW Middx Hampton Hill Junior School				2 visits	Consultation at Vicarage
2.00pm Consultation	Hospital visits at West Mid and QM Roehampton	Cinema	2 house visits 1 house communion 1 hospital visit	Janet	Prepare service sheet for Sunday	Attend a funeral
4.00pm Spiritual direction Train to Diocesan office	Finish sermon phone calls				1 family visit 1 refugee visit	Funeral preparations Hampton Hill Junior School Curriculum Review
6.00pm Wedding preparation	Supper Choir practice			Rectory Governors	Supper	Supper
8.00pm Write up notes 3 letters		Parish Party	Dinner Party	HCC at St James's	Hampton Church	Sunday School Teachers
10.00pm Dinner		Registers Prepare Altar		Home	Admin	Properties Committee write notices
Phone calls received / made 24 / 14	16 / 14	9 / 1	11 / 2	19 / 11	21 / 7	18 / 11
Mail received 11	7	9		6	14	10



Tea Dance
Saturday 16th May
3.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Music: Geoffrey Bowyer
and Cantanti Players
St. James's Church
Tickets £4.00

THANK YOU, RUTH!

For the last five years, St. James's has been fortunate enough to have the devoted - an overworked word but accurate in this case - services of Ruth Mills as one of our Churchwardens. In last month's Spire she wrote about doing things that "seemed to need doing" and certainly whatever Ruth has done has been undertaken with "all her might". She is not a person for half-measures and we all appreciate her ready willingness to involve herself whole-heartedly and with enjoyment. She especially enjoyed last year's Confirmation classes, to which she made a great contribution, and certainly the parish weekend witnessed to her enthusiasm, faith and powers of organisation. Ruth's faith and spirituality have indeed helped and encouraged us; we admire her capacity for hard work in gaining her degree in theology at King's College and we look forward to her next step on the academic ladder - the M.A. in Hebrew.

Not that we are saying farewell to Ruth - after all, she has worshipped here at St. James's since she was a child and some people have known her for many years. But we are saying "Thank you for everything - and now look around for something else to do with all your might!" No thank-you to Ruth would be complete without a word to Judith in appreciation of her ever-ready support and help - and we love all their T-shirts!!

Margaret Taylor

WALK THE CITY for

Christian Aid



The second sponsored "WALK THE CITY" is on Sunday 17th May. Visit as many of the beautiful 44 City churches as possible on a lovely May Sunday afternoon. Sponsorship forms will be available in April/May and Young Church members will be asking for your support.

The Members of
St. James's Young Church
are proud to present



THE TALENT SHOW

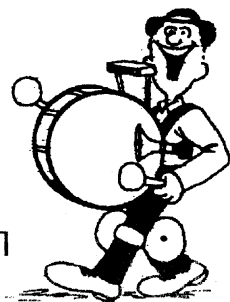


Sunday 10th May
4p.m. in the Church Hall

Tickets £2
(drinks & cake inc.)



All Proceeds to
Teddington Memorial
Hospital's New Chapel





Spring is here. St. James's has been beautifully cleaned and all is spick and span. Many thanks to all the willing workers who helped to make it so and particularly to Jack Gostling for organising this operation.

While on the subject of cleaning: - is anyone interested in taking on the job of cleaning the Church Hall? During school term-time, this requires approximately 1½ hours early each morning Monday-Friday. In the school holidays, the hours are reduced as there is less need. If you wish to apply for this job, please contact David Taylor on 977 1342.

We would like to send our condolences to David Lloyd and his family. His mother Ann Lloyd has died and her funeral was on 27th March. Our love and sympathy to the Lloyds at this sad time.

It is indeed sad news that Dennis Leatherdale has been readmitted to hospital. Our thoughts and prayers go out for him. There is better news of Violet Shell who is now home from hospital.

Anne and Peter Hale's daughter was married on 18th April. Also, birthday congratulations go to Moya Meredith Smith and Helen Taylor who both reached the age of 60 on 26th April. Happy birthday!

'The Women's Forum raised £140 from their soup lunch for the charity C.H.I.C.K. (Camping Holidays for Inner-City Kids). It was a great pleasure to see May French at the lunch with her charming new pet. The Women's Forum also made a profit of £40 on their dinner party which has been given to Christian Aid. Well done, ladies!

On Palm Sunday, we missed Dudley the donkey but we hear that he is grazing happily on 25 acres of fields in the Dordogne. We must thank Chris Hodges for the musical meditation for Holy Week on Palm Sunday evening.

The services over Easter were most inspiring. Thank you particularly to Brian for his talks during the 3 hour service and his work preparing the lighting of the Easter Fire and Easter Day services. We all felt spiritually refreshed.

It may be helpful to know that there is a shopping bus which goes to the small Sainsbury's and takes passengers for £1. For details please phone Deirdre on 979 9662.

Finally, thank you to Brownies Stephanie and Lucy who designed the cover for the Easter Spire.

FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 1 Scarlett Bethany Alexandra Tasso, 156 Uxbridge Road
8 Antonia Brace Bratt, 43 Holly Road

Funerals

- 11 Richard Bertie Barks, 4 Fitzwygram Close 85
24 Marion Baverstock, 26 Wolfenden Close, Hampton Wick 72

DATES TO NOTE IN MAY

- 1 St. Philip & St. James, Apostles
4 Bank Holiday - Have a good day!
10 1600 Young Church 'Talent Show'. Hall. All Welcome
1830 Churches Together Around Hampton, United Service to
celebrate Christian Aid Week, United Reformed Church
11 - 16 Christian Aid Week- Door to Door Collection
14 St. Matthias the Apostle
16 Jubilee 2000 Human Chain around Birmingham
17 From 1400 'Walk the City' around the Square Mile
20 1930 Women's Forum: Life and Music in Ethiopia
21 ASCENSION DAY. 2000 Parish Communion
24 Sunday after Ascension
25 The Venerable Bede, Priest Monk of Jarrow 735. Bank Holiday
26 Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury 605
31 PENTECOST

ADVANCE NOTICE:

- 3RD JUNE 1430 Women's Forum
Talk on The Church Bookstall by Jean Western

OPEN GARDENS

for the benefit of Christian Aid

This year the Open Gardens Day will be on 21st June.
If you have a nice garden, we would like to include it
on the list to be visited.

Please contact Margaret Taylor on 977 1342