

A few weeks back I went to see a widower, aware that it was the time of year when, two years earlier, his wife had died. I had heard from neighbours that he wasn't coping very well and wouldn't let anyone get at all close to him - indeed very few people ever managed to get over the doorstep.

So I was pleasantly surprised when I rang the doorbell and was greeted with a smile and an invitation to enter the house. He offered me tea, which I was very happy to accept. The house was cold - physically cold; but it also felt cold, as if all warmth of human life and love had left it. As is so often the case my host tried to show me into the 'front room', clearly unused and rather damp. I suggested we stay in the kitchen - asking whether this is where he spent most of time. "No" he said. "I usually sit in the back room." "Well, why don't we sit there then" I suggested. There was embarrassment and then a grudging acquiescence.

I certainly hadn't realised what I had suggested, for the back room - two years after the death of this man's beloved wife - was still almost exactly as it had been at the time of her death. It felt as if we were sitting in the middle of a museum set. All the clutter associated with a sick person at home was still there - bed brought downstairs, zimmer frame, clothes, pill tray, mementos. Nothing had been moved or disposed of in the intervening two years.

The gentleman concerned relaxed into the chair in which he obviously spent most of his waking hours. We drank our tea and I asked him about the photographs around the room - and then about the evidence of his wife's last illness. This holding onto those last weeks and hours, by holding on to the objects in the room, really disturbed me. It felt like living in a past which could never return, living in a present which was unreal, and living as if there could be no future.

Yet, presumably this was how Mary Magdalene must have experienced the tomb on the early morning of Easter Day - the past destroyed, the present empty, the future hopeless - as if the tomb was a place to hide in against the past, the present and the future.

But the Easter story wasn't and isn't about easy answers or quick fixes. The betrayal, the agony of the last days and hours, the searing pain of death, the hopelessness of burial and the terrible-seeming tragedy of an empty tomb, are experiences from which none of us is immune. In her confusion Mary Magdalene asked, apparently, the gardener, "Tell me where they have taken Jesus?". But the truly shocking news, when Mary realises that she is in conversation with Christ, is that he says, "Don't hold on to me."

Mary Magdalene had to learn not to cling to the past, not to hold on to the Jesus she had known. She had to surrender that loyalty in order to discover the reality of the risen Christ. Only by ceasing to cling to experiences, realities and relationships that have had their day can we open ourselves to God's future - for God is a God of the future as well as of the past and the present. And the resurrection teaches us, above all, that God is beyond loss, beyond all death - with nothing to protect us from the shock of his constant, endless love.

Brian Leathard

*Do join us at St. James for any of our services during Holy Week and Easter.
You will be very welcome.*

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

A prayer for Christian Aid Week

*May our hands be your hands,
O God,
gathering in the harvest.
May our feet be your feet,
bringing good news for the poor.
May our hearts be full of your
compassion,
inviting all whom we meet
to open their heart too,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

Christian Aid Week, 9-15 May 1999

Could you be a collector?
If you could collect in a street near you,
please call:

Margaret Taylor
977 1342

Four legs

Money isn't everything - in fact, for some people in Tanzania, it is nothing at all. As Rogate Mshana of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania puts it, 'People don't value money in the rural community. They value things, their own property. When they see the legs of a cow they are very happy.'



Make your gift go further with Millennium Gift Aid

After 2,000 years of witness to the way of Jesus Christ, we can feel enormously encouraged by the part churches have played in pressing for a historic gesture to celebrate this Christian anniversary. We want nothing less than a new start for the world's poor. Together, through faithful prayers, committed fundraising and urgent campaigning, Christian Aid supporters have highlighted the plight of poor countries and communities, and shown God's care for the world.

**'I want the
Millennium to
be remembered not
just nationally
but internationally
for the redemption
of debt and
the reduction of
world poverty.'**

Gordon Brown,
Chancellor of the Exchequer

**The UK government has
responded to people's
concern for the poor with
Millennium Gift Aid.**

If you are a taxpayer, you have a special opportunity to make a gift on behalf of the world's poorest countries **and make it count for more.** Until 31 December 2000, on gifts of £100 or more, the Inland Revenue will also give to Christian Aid the basic rate tax paid on that amount. You don't have to make your gift as a lump sum; you can choose to give in instalments. If you pay tax, your gift of £100 will be worth nearly one-third more than this to Christian Aid.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS IN CHURCH

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

HELP NEEDED

VOLUNTARY TREASURER FOR SPEAR

SPEAR is a small local homelessness project providing emergency accommodation, resettlement and outreach programmes for single homeless people. They need a treasurer to work with their coordinator and finance worker and advise the management committee. This would involve not more than 2 or 3 hours per week, including 6 management committee meetings per year. If you are interested, ring 891 4734 for details and an application form.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS FOR THE VCG

Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group urgently requires volunteer drivers to take elderly and disabled people to and from hospital, clinic and doctors appointments locally. An allowance is paid to cover petrol expenses, so it costs nothing other than your time. For further details, call at the Greenwood Centre or contact Deirdre Curran on 979 9662 (10a.m. - 4p.m. Mon. - Fri.).



FEELING the COLD?- GETTING WET?

Two scarves . . . two-and-a-half pairs of gloves . . . five umbrellas . . . have all waited sadly but patiently for several weeks on the coat-pegs at the back of the church for someone to claim them, preferably their owners. We have now moved them, but they are claimable. Please see me if you think you have lost something in church.

Dick Wilde

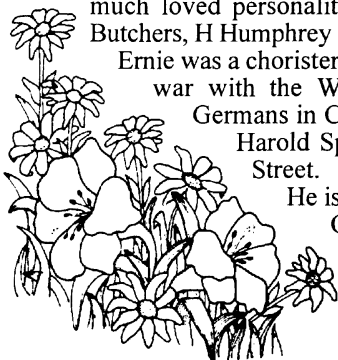
ERNIE HUMPHREY

Ernie Humphrey died in Devon on 14th February aged 82. He was a much loved personality in Hampton Hill when he ran the Family Butchers, H Humphrey and Son, at 22 High Street, now Pasta Paradiso.

Ernie was a chorister at St. James's Church. He served in the 1939 war with the Welch Regiment) was taken prisoner by the Germans in Crete and in 1950 he married Pam, daughter of Harold Spink, Tobacconist and Newsagent at 18 High Street.

He is survived by Pam who lives at 5 Raleigh Road, Ottery St Mary, EX1 1TG and by his daughters Sarah and Caroline and son Jeremy who appropriately works for the Meat and Livestock Commission.

Tony Cavan



EASTER

THE LENS THROUGH WHICH WE VIEW THE STORY OF JESUS

What would we make of the story of the Jesus if the only record were Mark's Gospel up to chapter 16 verse 8? (and the most reliable early manuscripts do not have Mark 16:9-20) Does the life of Jesus seem like good news?

It reads more like a tragedy. It is the story of a good man's progressive alienation and final defeat. According to Mark, his last words are a cry of dereliction "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", a desperate contrast with the optimism of his opening words of imminent expectation "The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News."

At first the crowds follow him everywhere, but gradually they withdraw. His family and the people of his village turn very cool towards him. The disciples run away when Jesus is arrested. He is betrayed by one of his close friends. One of his very best friends denies all knowledge of him. Finally, on the cross, he appears to lose even the faith which had sustained him.

And yet, the Gospels leave us in little doubt that the story does not end there. In the mystery of his resurrection, his pattern of life is totally vindicated by God. The discovery, in the resurrection, that the Son of man was truly the Son of God enabled Jesus' followers to reread his life story and to detect its profound, transcendent and universal significance.

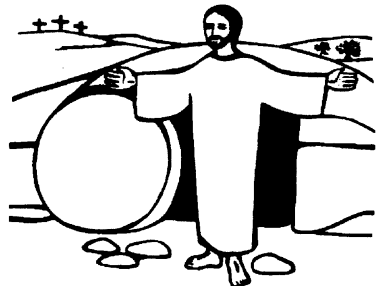
The good news and Easter message is that Jesus shows us how to be truly human, how to live in the face of suffering and death with our hearts set on the Kingdom of God.

Like him, we shall experience initiation, temptation, occasional encouragements but also loneliness and dereliction. But we shall also experience resurrection. We experience these things already, as the separate aspects and forces of our personality are brought together into the 'likeness of God' as we learn to live with and for others. Crucifixion and resurrection are never separated.

Through the lens of Easter we no longer see a tragic story, but the utopian truth of the Kingdom of God made topical - a world turned upside down.

(drawing on Radical Christianity by Chris Rowland and Being Saved by Peter Mullen)

John Williams



PARISH DIRECTORY

It has been suggested that there should be a parish directory. We have some lists of congregation members, for instance the Electoral Roll, and these would be used as a basis for the directory. This would then be available for reference by any member of the congregation wishing to get in touch with others. It would also be an opportunity to have an idea of the talents people are prepared to offer to church events or other members. These might include cake-making, wheelchair pushing, car-driving, listening, singing, bell-ringing, visiting, keeping an eye on a neighbour by phone. . . . many others that I can't imagine. You may not feel you have a particular talent but would like to offer whatever you can do and would be open to suggestions as the need arises.

To maintain security, this register would be kept by me and a few trusted members of the church - for instance, the Vicar, the Churchwardens, maybe a few others - suggestions and misgivings can be expressed to me - and relevant details available to any who request them under the conditions set by the person whose details they are.

I hope that is clear. Please speak to me if it is not.

There will be forms to complete in the church, and I hope everyone will fill them in and, as time goes on, encourage new members to add themselves to the list.

Ruth Mills 9775165



REPORT BACK FROM THE JUBILEE 2000 EVENT AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

On the evening of Sunday 7th March, about 4000 people filled - and overspilled - St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London for a Jubilee 2000 event, hosted by the Bishop of London.

The public meeting was addressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown. Also speaking were Ann Pettifor, Director of Jubilee 2000 Coalition, Pedro Manjaze from the Mozambique Campaign and Wangari Maathi, the Jubilee 2000 co-ordinator in Kenya.

In his speech, Mr Brown declared his personal support for Jubilee 2000. He said: "I say to the churches and to all who support Jubilee 2000 - as I do - for your work, from that great Human Chain that enveloped Birmingham last year, to the missionary work and sacrifice in the farthest corners of our globe every year, we thank you". He said debt relief is not just an economic issue. "Debt relief is also a moral issue. Unsustainable debt is a burden imposed from the past on the present, which is depriving millions of their chance of a future".

Ann Pettifor thanked the Chancellor for his international leadership in the debt debate, but drew a standing ovation from the crowd when she told the Chancellor that the proposed \$50 billion cancellation by the end of the year 2000 was not enough. U\$50 billion is just 6% of the total debt owed by countries the World Bank has defined as severely indebted. It is a welcome start. Like the referee at a pole-vaulting competition, the Chancellor is

ratcheting up the jump and inviting his colleagues in the G8 to go for gold. "But it is not high enough yet, Chancellor, to have any real impact on the poor". The two speakers from Africa were very well received and the programme of events included drama, African drums and the Kingdom Choir. An excellent evening for all who were there. I must give special mention to Rose Frier who made her own way to the Cathedral and back home again. Thank you, Rose, for your support and action. I look forward to being with you in Cologne. For some, the event did not end at 9p.m. About eighty London supporters held an all night vigil outside the Treasury. At 10a.m. on Monday 8th March a small delegation was received by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, a fitting end to a very well planned event.

Ann Peterken 891 5862

(Note: lots of excellent information on Jubilee 2000 on website www.jubilee2000uk.org)

THE BISHOP'S PROGRESS



On Tuesday 23rd February Bishop Michael of Kensington and Archdeacon Malcolm Colmer came to walk the Parishes of Hampton. A goodly number of St. James's parishioners met the episcopal party in Dean Road as they left the parish of All Saint's. Brian seized the opportunity to steer the Bishop into Rectory School for a brief visit. It was quite providential to have such an event during its OFSTED inspection! We then proceeded down Dean Road, diverting into Bishops Grove and Chapter Way to visit the travellers and speak to residents. At this juncture Dick, Jack, Jean and I parted company to inspect the house that is being bought for Freda in Pigeon Lane. Hurrying over the bridge we caught up with the party in Uxbridge Road. Bishop Michael continued to chat to passers by in Park Road and the High

Street. They seemed remarkably unsurprised, though pleased, to meet the Bishop, complete with crook and large retinue. Bishop Michael displayed great energy as he darted in and out of undertakers and shop, exuding bonhomie.

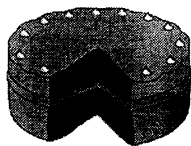
Our perambulation ended at the Parkside Café where a room to the rear of the building, overlooking a court yard, had been provided. A sandwich lunch was laid on, and we were joined by local dignitaries and business people including Deidre Curran of the VCG, Councillor Barbara Alexander, and Mr. Cavan the baker.

Afterwards we assembled at the Pantile Bridge to hand the Bishop over to St. Mary's Parish, only to discover that we had lost him on the way. He had been visiting another undertaker's and when he eventually breezed up, the Archdeacon was heard to remark that he knew shouldn't have let him out of his sight!

John Gossage

Scripture Simnel Cake - according to Norman Coffey

Ingredients 12 oz plain flour 8 oz butter
8 oz caster sugar (makes mixing easier)
3 eggs (good big ones)
Half a pint of milk (Gold Top for preference)
1 tablespoon of honey (be generous)
Pinch of salt



Flavouring (I use an egg spoon of cinnamon, half of ginger and a soupcon of nutmeg).

1 lb 4 oz mixed fruit and nuts (I use a mix of dried apricots, pears, peaches, dates, figs, mixed fruit, almonds and walnuts. Not necessarily all but usually five - source Sainsbury)

Caveat: Know your market before you include figs. There are those who are susceptible.

Preparation Flour - Sieve it into the bowl. It is at this stage you should add the salt and flavourings as you can mix them together more easily than if you wait until you've got a gooey mass.

Fruit - Chaqu'un, but I like mine lumpy. Apricots at most are halved, as are dates. Pears, figs and peaches (the last are in short supply) are just cut into lumpy pieces. Almonds leave whole and Sainsbury walnut pieces need only shaking through a colander to get rid of the walnut dust, if any.

Method Cream the butter and mix in the sugar (I do this by hand so that I can feel the grains of sugar disappearing. Keep at it until they have, as this is an important step. It also does wonders to your hands.) Add eggs one at a time well beaten with a tablespoon of flour. Mix well in. (By this time I'm using a spoon). Add the rest of the flour, fruit, honey and milk and mix thoroughly. Turn into a lined tin, 7" in diameter, and cook for two and a hours at 150 degrees C.

It's a very solid cake so its well worth slowing down the cooking of the outside by having a piece of thinnish cardboard under the tin and above it, the latter with a hole in the middle the size of a half crown; and wrap a couple of layers of brown paper round the circumference projecting about 2" above the rim. It might also be worth having a look at the mixture after about 30 minutes in the oven so that any over precocious fruit or nuts can be pushed under the surface with a barbecue skewer.

When it's cooked and the skewer comes out clean, and the cake makes a delightful grunting noise when you press it down a bit, remove from the oven and allow to stand on a rack for about 15 minutes. Then decant and return to rack. When cold place in a cake box and keep away for a few days to allow it a chance to settle down. On the other hand the cake freezes very well, though best to do so after the settling down period.

Cooks of a Biblical inclination may be interested in the sources of the original scripture cake recipe. You will be best served by the King James' version.

1 Kings 4:22 Judges 5:25 Jeremiah 6:20 1 Samuel 25:18 Nahum 3:12 Numbers 17:8
1 Samuel 14:25 2 Chronicles 9:9 Jeremiah 17:11 Leviticus 2:13 Judges 4:19 Amos 3:5

ANGLICAN PACIFIST FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday 14th February about twenty people gathered in the North Aisle for Songs and Prayers for Peace. Two members of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Sue Gilmurray and Tony Kempster, led us in songs and talked about some of the challenges which confront us with regard to war, the sale of arms (did you know that Britain is the second largest exporter of arms in the world and that 80% of conventional arms trade is now with developing countries?) and our own response as Christians.

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship was established in 1937. It has members in some twenty countries, is affiliated to the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interdenominational pacifist organisation, and has a sister organisation in the United States, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. In 1974 it founded the Week of Prayer for World Peace. Its members believe that "The Christian faith calls for the complete repudiation of war and the preparation for war". They proclaim this belief within the Anglican Church at all levels from parish to Lambeth Conference, calling for the Church to recognise the pacifist nature of the Gospel.

Throughout the evening we were challenged to think about the consequences of war, how we live out the Christian faith and question where we stand in relation to these issues. Some of the facts were quite shocking, such as the fact that since the Second World War 35 million people have been killed or wounded in wars worldwide, and the amount of shares held by the Church of England in GEC despite extensive lobbying; other denominations have sold most of their shares.

After the presentation we adjourned to the hall for refreshments and an opportunity for questions to be put to Sue and Tony. Our thanks to the both for their time and a most stimulating and thought provoking evening, to Ruth and Judith for organising it, and to the ladies who provided the excellent refreshments.

*Sing with your voices, sing with your hearts,
sing with your lips, sing with your lives,
be yourselves what you sing.
If you live good lives
you are his praise and his song.*

Saint Augustine of Hippo



Gill Gostling



Twickenham and District branch (of the R.N.L.I.) Continues its 175th Anniversary celebrations with a Coffee Morning at St. James's Church Hall on April 24th from 10a.m. to noon.

Any donations of cakes, books, plants or bric-a-brac would be most welcome.

Further information from Jill Goddard on 287 7438.



We begin on a joyful note for spring by congratulating Sue and Chris Hardy on the birth of their second baby - Welcome to William.

We also are delighted about Leslie Mortimer's new job with Westminster City Council. After Easter she will be working with their Single Regeneration Budget project which aims to raise the achievement level of ethnic minority children in Kilburn, Paddington and Bayswater.

Well done to our Young Church on raising over £700 on March 7th, with their Auction of Promises. The money will go to Send a Cow, a charity which sends livestock to third world villages. We hope enough was raised to send a cow, but if not several pigs, goats and chickens! Thanks also to all who made promises and those who bid so generously.

On 25th March we began our annual Church Spring Clean, brilliantly organised by Jack Gostling as usual. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make St. James sparkle for Easter. Over the same weekend, on Saturday 27th, the Women's Forum held their annual soup lunch for Charity, which provided good sustenance for all the workers!

Please remember Ron and Mary Metcalf in your prayers, Ron is recovering after his operation and Mary is also unwell. We pray for Jonathan Bignall who is in intensive care at the time of writing, and send his mother Linda our love. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Sadly we have to report the death of Dr. Diana Lister, who was GP to many of our parishioners, and will be sadly missed by our community. Our love and sympathy also to Mary Wilde on the death of her mother, Josephine Lewis. She was 96 years old.

The cover this month is a compilation of drawings made by Matthew Boylon, Alex Kenniwell and Kim Fitchett. They will each receive a small prize - Congratulations!

Finally a bit of a moan. Are we the only ones fed up with the numerous road works that are becoming a regular part of our lives in Hampton Hill and elsewhere? They seem to be on every street corner and junction, and cause such stress and annoyance and traffic congestion. We wonder if there is really a justifiable need for all this random digging up of roads and pavements. Does anybody know?

The Print Centre would like to apologise for the incorrect collation of pages in some copies of last month's "Spire". We do hope that this did not detract from your enjoyment of the magazine.

FROM THE FEBRUARY REGISTERS

Baptisms

28 George William Mundy, 20 Cherwell Court, Broom Park, Teddington

Funerals

1	May Nash, 127 Uxbridge Road	89
5	Lawrence Dowsing, Westholme Clinic, Worthing	88
8	Charles Jones, 137 Wordsworth Road	72
9	Ronald Morse-Woolford, 297 Uxbridge Road	72
17	Thomas Hillier, 13 Broadlands, Hanworth	81



DATES TO NOTE IN APRIL

- 1 **Maundy Thursday** 20.00 Parish Communion commemorating
The Last Supper
The Washing of Feet
- 2 **Good Friday** 09.15 Morning Prayer
11.00 Churches Together Around Hampton
Open Air Service
12.00 Three Hour Devotion
to 15.00
19.30 Handel's "Messiah" from Scratch in aid of
our £2000 in 2000 Appeal
- 3 **Easter Eve** 20.00 Lighting of New Fire
- 4 **Easter Day** 09.30 Parish Communion
- 5 **Bank Holiday**
- 11 Second Sunday of Easter
- 18 Third Sunday of Easter
- 19 St. Aiphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr 1012
- 21 Anseim, Archbishop of Canterbury 1109
- 22 **Diocesan Training Resources at All Hallows, Chertsey Road**
All welcome to attend.
19.30 Deanery Chapter
- 23 St. George, Patron Saint of England, Martyr 304
- 25 **Annual Parochial Church Meeting after Parish Communion**
- 27 Christina Rossetti, Poet 1894
- 28 Peter Chanel, Missionary and Martyr, South Pacific 1841
- 29 Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith 1350
20.00 Churches Together Around Hampton at All Saints
- 30 Pandita Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures 1922



COPY DATE FOR MAY MAGAZINE: 12TH APRIL