

A WINTER'S JOURNEY

As the snow flakes still come dancing towards my window, driven by an icy wind, I think back to the moments when we seemed absolutely engulfed by snow on our trip to Hamburg just before the end of December. As everybody will know who had to travel anywhere by car this winter in snowy conditions, it is not exactly pleasant to be on the road when everything around is a white whirling mass. It looks nice enough on picture postcards or through the window of a warm room. But being stuck behind a lorry on the motorway is a different matter. Apart from the snow from above there is that thrown up by the lorry's wheels. Although numerous snow-ploughs were in evidence – the flashing yellow lights of these enormous monsters a very welcome sight in the sea of white – the two lanes that they cleared on the motorway were separated by an ever higher ridge of snow. Overtaking became more and more hazardous, especially since our windows were iced up. Most cars were covered in a thick layer of ice all round. A thickening overall snow cover and more and more bizarre drifts began to really worry us. The weather and traffic report on the radio in a motorway restaurant was most discouraging. Roads closed in areas very near our destination. Conditions getting worse by the half hour. Would we get through? One would not know if one was stuck until it had actually happened. With two small children it seemed almost foolhardy to carry on.

But we did, and thank God we finally arrived safely. From the registration number of a car that had been in front of us for a long time we gathered that they were heading about 50 miles further north. They could not possibly have made it. There the snow reached the roof tops of cars, villages were cut off, electricity mainlines brought down etc. nothing very new this winter.

Once in Hamburg we enjoyed a real picture-book winter. The snow stayed, one to two feet deep everywhere and much more in drifts; the sun was out many days; and temperatures were well below freezing point reaching -20°C (40° below freezing point F) some nights. Icicles on eaves, some up to 6ft. long, were an irresistible target for small boys.

No strikes? – well, there was one in the steel industry. Feeling was running very high on both sides, the struggle was called bitter – and what did they settle for in the end? Something like 5%.

The play combines the elements of music, drama and mime, and incorporates a recorder consort, trumpet, piano and organ, as well as the voices of many of the congregation, in speech and song. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us, at 4.30 pm, on Palm Sunday, April 8, in this musical reflection of the last week of Christ's life on earth.

SING

Our Ladies' Monday Afternoon Choir would still welcome new members to come and enjoy a few hours singing every other Monday afternoon in the Vestry at 2.30 pm.

We have been asked to sing again to several of the local old people's homes and gatherings; the first will be at Hampton Court House on Monday February 19, then Laurel Dene and also at Brenda Oliver's home. The Darby & Joan Club also want us. I must say it is very encouraging to be asked back a second and third time!

We don't claim to be good singers, just enthusiastic – if you are interested please 'phone me and I will give you any further information you may want.

Eila Severn
979 1954

MOVE

For those who need, or maybe prefer, to move to music, they can do this in the Parish Hall at 2.00 pm every Tuesday. Once again all are welcome. It is up to you how hard you work at the exercise-routines. If you would just like to come one week and watch what we do, please feel free.

P.Y. & E.S.

TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club continues to flourish. We now have 39 paid up members and we occasionally have visitors who are most welcome.

We try to offer a varied programme and are always pleased when members themselves take over the evening.

One such occasion was on February 6 when Pat Young and Eila Severn demonstrated some Keep Fit exercises. Some of the braver members joined in, they did do well!

We celebrated our 10th birthday in October and invited past chairmen to join us at our party. We were very happy to see Kath Brooks and Angela Davies.

We make regular visits to the Albert Hall to listen to good music, these evenings are greatly enjoyed by those who attend.

On the whole we are a friendly club and very pleased to welcome new members. We have an interesting programme for the future months including Hannah Stanton's speaking on China, a musical quiz evening arranged by Ida Wills and Vera Phillips, a talk on Humane Research regarding animals, and a demonstration on Faberge eggs, to name but a few. We meet every other Tuesday at Wayside, dates to be found in the Spire.

One sad note, just before Christmas we lost a loved friend and member, Connie Wright who lived at Wayside, a very brave person who will always be remembered.

M.R.

VIEW FROM THE PEW

On the first Sunday in each month we are pleased to welcome the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies to the 9.30 am Family Service – and what a nice full church we have as a result.

The form of the service is slightly modified on these occasions to help the young people to get a better understanding of the meaning of the bible readings and also to ensure that the service does not go on for too long.

This generally works out well enough, but there is one change in the service which I feel should not have been made. I refer to the deletion of the confession and absolution. For many of us the family service is the only one we attend each week and we miss out on our corporate act of repentance.

May I suggest that the confession and absolution are reinstated for this service, and if the added time must be saved, why not miss out a few verses from some of the longer hymns?

WHICH HAT SHALL I WEAR?

When so many of us are connected with so many different things around the village it is sometimes difficult to decide in what capacity one – and everyone else – is serving at any one time.

On February 7 at the packed Community Care Social in our Parish Hall, attended by our M.P., the Mayor and local councillors, it was particularly interesting. St. James's hats had been replaced by Policy Committee hats, Scout hats, Bookshop hats, Coffee-Room hats, Chairmen's hats, etc., etc.

Wearing their new C.C.G. hats were two very attractive personalities – the two new co-ordinators. Fay Robins for internal affairs and Jan Murray for external ditto. The party was to introduce them to those of us who had not had the pleasure of meeting them before and to give us the chance to get to know them – and very nice it was too.

Two well known St. James's hats had been laid aside by David and Janet Nunn and I was very conscious of their work for the whole Community on the Paper Collection. Out of its local charity fund we were given a grant to pay for decoration, upholstery, cups and saucers and other equipment for the New Amenity Coffee and Tea Room opened on February 15 behind C.C.G. Bookshop when David "kicked off" for the rota of helpers – and who better to do so? Most of the structural work and decorations have been done by him and Janet; (the pretty upholstery is the work of Mary Ganderton).

We all hope that the new room will prove a comfortable and welcoming meeting-place for anybody feeling in need of a "cuppa", a rest and a friendly chat with other like-minded persons. It is something that the village has lacked up until now. It is open every day but Sunday from 10.30 to 12 am and 2.30 to 4.30 pm.

"St. James's hats" are worn by several of the rota of helpers but there is room for several more. You need to be healthy and friendly and prepared to give a couple of hours of your time either regularly or as "emergency help". Contact Margery Orton on 979 5868.

MUSIC CONCERTS

Malcolm Smith is to conduct another concert of the Richmond Band in church on Thursday March 29, beginning at 8 pm. The previous concerts by this band have been most enjoyable, the acoustics of the church seeming to be

excellent for it, and we are sure that those who went to the earlier concerts will greatly look forward to this one. Admission will be free, but small charges will be made for programmes and for coffee and biscuits afterwards.

There may just be time to get tickets for the outing by coach to the Golders Green Hippodrome on Tuesday March 13 to see the BBC Concert Orchestra (of which Malcolm is a member) for the recording of the programme "Friday Night is Music Night". The coach will leave the church at 6.30 pm sharp and tickets (£1), if still available, can be obtained from Roma or Ron Bridges, 979-6865.

R.E.B.

"EMPRESS OF INDIA" RIVER CRUISE

How do you fancy an evening on the river in an elegant and beautifully appointed Victorian boat with music and dancing upstairs (sorry, on the covered upper deck!), supper for all and a cosy bar downstairs (sorry again!) – and the dying rays of the setting sun playing on the water? If you do, then join us on the "Empress of India" on Friday April 27: we leave from Turk's Boats, Thames Side, Kingston, at 7.30 pm, and hope to reach Sunbury and to arrive back at Kingston by 11.30 pm. Just in case the sun's rays have little warmth, the boat will be fully heated, and in any event there will be the warmth of happy companionship. The music for dancing will cater for all tastes: the supper will not be so varied – and in order to keep down the cost, will be a simple one-course meal. Tickets are available from most members of the Social Committee at £3.25 each. We expect them to go quickly, so make sure that you are not disappointed.

R.E.B.

REVISION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL

The Roll has to be revised this year, not built up again from the beginning. If your name is on, and you live in the parish or, living outside it, you still worship here regularly, you do not have to do anything more about it; your name will remain on the Roll. But if you are a new member of the congregation, your name cannot be put on unless you make formal application for this by filling in one of the forms, which will be available in the church when this magazine appears, or you can obtain one from our Electoral Roll Officer, Margaret Lawrance, 41 Wellington Road. The last day for receiving applications will be Sunday April 1, and the revised Roll will be published a week later, Palm Sunday. You may have heard, as I often have, people speaking of the Electrical Roll: when you come to think of it, this is really a good descriptive name of what it is meant to be: a list of the **live wires** who belong to the church, who are allowing their spirits to become charged by the Spirit of God.

THE PLACE OF GROUPS

In a recent article in the Guardian about that remarkable Yorkshire Rector David Watson, he is quoted as saying: 'Christians need to belong to three sizes of group: the cell, the congregation and the celebration – or an area group, a local church, and the occasional much bigger gathering.' His own church membership of over 600 people is divided into 40 such groups or cells. This is the Church of England taking into itself what used to be one of the distinguishing features of Methodism – the class-system. Every Methodist, as well as regularly taking part in Sunday worship with all his fellows, was expected to belong to a smaller group or class which met in the week in which his faith and prayer and knowledge of God were nurtured and deepened, in which he was ministered to and as time went on also became increasingly able to minister.

In these small Christian groups people not only grow in fellowship with God but in creative relationships with their fellow-members, with the result that, as someone has said, a little pool of creative harmony is formed in the midst of a confusing landscape. Such pools are greatly needed in the world as it is today: places not where we hide from reality, but where, with one another's help, we can penetrate more deeply into reality, understand it more fully, and deal with it more effectively. So a Christian group, praying, praising, studying, caring would – despite its tensions and problems and growing pains – be healing and helpful, calming and strengthening, not only for its own members, but for many other people too.

We had little pictures of such groups at work in the lections for Sexagesima Sunday. The little band who gather round the bed of their sick companion, praying for him, anointing him with oil, offering themselves to God in deep commitment and faith that they might be channels of God's supernatural power and desire to heal and make whole. The little communities who stood by and supported and encouraged Paul when things were going badly for him. The four men of faith who carried their paralysed and perhaps reluctant friend through all the obstacles to the feet of Jesus. Through the faith and love and fellowship of such groups – now as then – there can be an opening in time to eternity, and the Holy Spirit can break through – and then anything can happen, even to the point of miracles. The quiet pool may turn out to be petroleum-filled.

CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

March

- 18 D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington.
25 H. Hall, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill.

April

- 1 E. Moss, 14 Broad Street, Teddington.
8 F.G. Martin, 28b Priory Road, Hampton.
15 D.G. Manley, 122 High Street, Teddington.
22 F.G. Martin, 3 Station Approach, Hampton.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

March

- 10 19.30 Lent Study Group (and every Saturday in Lent) (68 Park Road).
- 13 18.30 Coach Outing to Golders Green Hippodrome; 20.00 Prayer Meeting and Lent Study Group (and every Tuesday evening in Lent) (75 Burton's Road).
- 14 19.15 Holy Communion (and every Wednesday evening in Lent); 20.00 Rehearsal for the Musical Drama of the Passion to be presented on Palm Sunday (other weekly rehearsals to follow as arranged).
- 15 10.30 Young Families Group: The Welfare of young children in hospital (W).
- 16 20.00 Liturgical Committee (63 Park Road).
- 17 14.30 Scout Group Jumble Sale (Hall).
- 18 17.15 St. James's leads the service at Laurel Dene; Summer time begins, and the time of Evensong is now 18.30 until October 21.
- 20 20.00 Tuesday Club: 'Decorated Eggs' (W).
- 22 20.00 Properites Committee (36 St. James's Road).
- 25 FESTIVAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION: Sunday services as usual.
11.00 Short meeting to consider formation of Adult Confirmation Group.
- 29 20.00 Band Concert in Church.
- 31 14.30 Mothers' Union: Jumble Sale (Hall).

April

- 3 20.00 Tuesday Club: Musical Quiz (W).
- 4 14.30 Mothers' Union: Branch Meeting (W).
- 5 Wayside Monday Centre Management Group (60 St. James's Avenue).
- 8 PALM SUNDAY: Morning arrangements as usual. 16.30 Welcome Service and Musical Presentation of the Passion – 'LEAVES OF LIFE'. Palm Crosses made by African Christians available at all services.
- 9 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Parochial Church Council (in vestry).
- 10 19.15 Holy Communion.
- 11 12.00 - 14.00 Austerity Lunch (all proceeds for Christian Aid); 19.15 Holy Communion.
- 12 MAUNDY THURSDAY: 19.45 Parish Communion, Dramatic Readings and Agape.
- 13 GOOD FRIDAY: 10.00 Children's Service; 12.00 - 15.00 The Three Hours' Devotion, conducted by Father George Sidebotham, CR, Master of the Royal Foundation of St. Katharine.
- 14 EASTER EVE: 20.00 Quiet hour of Meditation in preparation for Easter.
- 15 EASTER DAY: 08.00 and 12.10 Holy Communion; 09.30 Parish Communion, followed by the usual light refreshments; 11.15 Children's Service; 18.30 Evensong.
- 25 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.
- 27 PARISH BOAT TRIP.
- 28 PARISH QUIET DAY (at Ham).

BAPTISM

February

- 11 Richard James Wooton, 90 Marlborough Drive, Burgess Hill.

BURIAL

February

- 15 Dorothy Helen Williams, 61 Burton's Road, aged 87 years
(at Teddington Cemetery).