

To write about the glories of Easter when there are high winds and storms all around is not the easiest of tasks. Much simpler to wait until the spring flowers are showing and we can talk about New Life.

But that in itself is far too easy. It means that we are thinking of Easter only in English or European terms and that just won't do when we claim that Faith in the Risen Christ is relevant to those who live in hot desert lands or icy cold tundra, jungles of concrete or jungles like the Amazon, high-rise flats or rural villages, mansions of the multi-millionaires or the poor in shanty town shacks.

One of the common traps, into which most of us fall, is to forget that the whole human race is the family of God. We are so used to pigeon-holing people that we drift into a way of thinking that eliminates some people from being able to enter the Kingdom of God, while at the same time assuming that others are destined for it without really trying. We allow ourselves to drift into not really thinking through our Faith and allowing it to degenerate into a set of moral codes of behaviour. This is tending to happen at the moment when there is so much talk about the churches stopping the rot in society; that is preaching honesty and good behaviour, self-discipline and all the rest.

But being a Christian is being a person who believes in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Not an easy thing to believe ever. It has always been unpopular and inconvenient. The result of believing is that our lives are transformed into something quite different from anything else they could be. Because death has been conquered once and for all we can show unlimited joy. We have the promise of a gift which we could in no way earn - eternal life. And this means that we need no longer be selfish, self-centred people who prey upon others. We can be content and happy people, sharing our Faith with all the others who believe the same as we do. We can also put away our jealousies about other Christians and forget the man-made human divisions amongst Jesus's followers.

The characteristic which should mark out all Christian people is JOY. That is a quality which cannot be properly described.

I do wish you all a Joyful Easter.

Nicholas Chubb

Times of Services

We usually alter the times of our church services when the clocks change for Summer Time. At the P.C.C. meeting on 16th February, we agreed to continue holding the services at the same times as they have been. This means that Evensong will continue to be at 16.30 and Prayer 'n' Praise will continue at 18.30 until further notice.

The Healing Ministry will be part of the Parish Communion on the first Sunday in the month in May, July, September, November, January and March.

Why Holy Week?

That may seem an odd question to ask in a Parish Magazine. But sometimes it is right to ask the simplest of questions in order to understand why we do the things we take for granted.

If we read the Gospels as a whole and not in little pieces as we usually do, we shall find a striking difference between St. John's Gospel and the other three, Matthew, Luke and Mark. Where the other three put the account of Jesus's last week at the end of the story, John puts the bulk of Jesus's Ministry into the one week, starting with Chapter 7. So that two thirds of Jesus's activities are recorded as taking place in one week. No wonder it became known as 'Holy Week'.

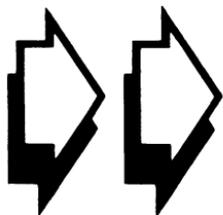
From the earliest times it seems the Christians in Jerusalem took part in activities which reminded them of what had happened in Jesus's life during that week. And the tradition continued without a break for a long time. What used to happen in the fourth century is recorded by a woman named Etheria or Egeria who went on her travels and wrote down what she saw. There is an account of some of the places associated with Moses (for instance the Golden Calf) and an account of how Christians made preparation for Easter. It seems that three particular activities struck Egeria. The first was the Procession on Palm Sunday from the Mount of Olives back into the city of Jerusalem; the second was Maundy Thursday on which there were two Eucharists (as well as the preparation of oils for the Baptisms which would take place on the Saturday - Easter Eve or Holy Saturday); and thirdly there was the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. These customs or variants of them spread to Africa and Spain and eventually to Rome and Salisbury in England. (During the Middle Ages Salisbury was one of the Liturgical centres of England and we have the details of what occurred in the Liturgy).

So what are we trying to do in our time is not only to relive the events of Holy Week for ourselves but also to be a witness to those who 'pass by', as Egeria did.

This year we are holding various services during Holy Week. These culminate in the Eucharist and Agape (fellowship meal) on Maundy Thursday, the Children's Service and Three Hours' Service on Good Friday as well as the open-air service outside Sainsbury's and the Procession to Teddington, and the renewal of Baptismal vows on the Saturday evening.

I hope all our regular worshippers will make the special effort needed to set some extra time aside for worship and witness in a week which is for all of us something very special.

Nicholas Chubb



For our arrangements for Holy Week

and Easter - Please see last page

Gift Wrapped

How lovely there is such a thing as gift-wrapping. It makes any present so much more attractive. A beautifully wrapped gift provides great pleasure even before you look inside and find out what the actual present is. Really pretty paper and matching bows and ribbons show you the care of the giver, they draw your attention to the gift, make you want and appreciate it.

These thoughts might be inspired by Christmas which is just three weeks past as I write. But actually they came to me as I walked out of church last Sunday morning. Our Vicar here (in Somerset) is on holiday, I had gone to the only communion service available, in the next village, and it made me appreciate St. James's more than ever.

I had just attended a 1662 Communion Service, said by a very elderly canon. "Said" is the operative word. In exactly half an hour we had got through. That is what it felt like. There were about 15 of us in the congregation. No music - words spoken quite automatically because they had obviously been said so often - parts almost unintelligible because the speaker was too familiar with them - readings in the same monotonous voice - no pause for thought - no sermon at all. It was a pity. I was particularly aware of my disappointment because I had two young girls with me who had been confirmed quite recently and who clearly found it very hard to follow.

True, the substance was there, but strictly for the initiated only. If you were not a regular church-goer and feeling your way towards worship and faith, you would hardly feel nourished by this high-speed monologue from the altar. This kind of service would not make you want to come again. I felt maybe we had done our "duty and service" in paying homage to God by saying all the right words - but did He enjoy this form of offering?

In the Eucharist God makes the most amazing gift to us, new every Sunday; and in a true joyful celebration we can really worship and honour Him. But to my mind the gift-wrapping is very desirable.

Music makes it a celebration; lay participation makes it all much more meaningful for everybody; silences give time for reflection; a sermon helps to open up the word (break the bread, digest the food); exchanging the Peace makes more real the one body we claim to be. And these gift-wrappings may attract those who do not yet know that there is nourishment to be found in the Communion Service - a gift to be discovered.

Maybe there is a danger that occasionally the wrapping becomes too important - a pretty box without real contents. In some non-liturgical services we might run the risk of offering no real food for thought. But on the whole I think we are fortunate that usually our Sunday worship is lovingly gift-wrapped.

Hilde Bucknell

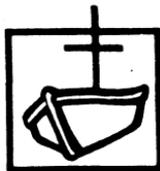
(Roger has now retired and joined Hilde and the children more or less 'full time' in Haselbury Plucknett. We wish them all well.)

Mission to Seamen

On Sunday 17th January the speaker at the Prayer 'n' Praise Service was Lt. Commander David Lermite of the Mission to Seamen who showed slides of the work undertaken by the Society World-wide. He is most anxious that our church should play a more active role in this work, quite apart from any contribution which the Charities Committee might make to the Mission's funds. But, in view of the fact that, as an island country, we are so dependent on our seamen, both Royal Navy and 'Wavy Navy' (as we have been made aware in two world wars) all of us could remember the work of the Mission in our daily prayers.

The Society was founded in 1835 by the Rev. Dr. John Ashley who started visiting seafarers on sailing ships in the Bristol Channel. Recently a plaque commemorating his work was unveiled at Clevedon.

I first became interested in the Mission over 50 years ago through a young teenager who spent a few days with us while his ship was berthed in Glasgow ... we were living in a Clyde-side resort then ... the lad's home was too far away. He had just finished his first voyage to Buenos Aires and back. He told us what a welcome he had received at the Mission in that port ... 'it was like a bit of home'. To a lonely sixteen year old that meant a lot. Over the years he paid many more visits to that Centre, eventually marrying the daughter of the Superintendent and bringing his bride back to Devon



During the war our little town of Gourock suddenly became an international port ... with sailors coming ashore and finding nowhere to go. 'Toc H' ran a club for them, but had no sleeping accommodation. Eventually both the British Sailors' Society and the 'Flying Angel' (as the Mission is fondly called) set up 'home' in our area. A converted shop was quickly turned into a restaurant with a quiet room and dormitory included. A resident chaplain was appointed ... Rev. Christopher who had worked for many years in Japan; a lay manager Joseph McCulloch took over the running of the place. What a haven it became for so many men. Volunteers were needed to help, I joined a team to run the Mission on the staff's free day. We four took it in turns to cook the meals (we were all wizards with 'Dried eggs') to wait at table, to act as cashier and to be the washer-up. The men were all so grateful and so pleased to have somewhere to relax. If they needed help, either spiritual or practical, the Chaplain was on hand. That is just one personal glimpse of what the Mission can do for men.

At the present time their work in the Gulf War zone is much appreciated. They can 'go to the Centre, telephone their families, watch a video film, meet other people and try to forget the horrors of being targets of missile attacks'. These are the words of the Mission's Bahrain Lay Chaplain, Mr. David Pellatt 'who recently became the first recipient of the Mission's new annual President's award for his work amongst sea-farers in the Gulf War Zone'. This was presented to him by the Princess Royal, the Mission's President when he was home on leave.

RALLY ROUND and HELP THE FLYING ANGEL!

Vera Rockliffe

Area Synod

An Area Synod without a major contribution from the Bishop must be an unusual thing. But that is what happened at Osterley on the 6th February. What took its place? First, and this would have happened anyway, an introduction to the 'Churches' Urban Fund'. Most of us will have read somewhere at some time that the Church at Large is being asked to raise £18,000,000 to finance help for projects in the Inner City areas of England. Of this large sum the Diocese of London is being asked to raise £800,000. Take heart! Already £250,000 has been raised, I think by outright gift. We in the parishes generally have not yet been asked for anything. On 19th June we shall be given £100 to take and use and increase. This will take place during a Diocesan Pilgrimage to St. Paul's Cathedral when it is hoped that at least 10 people from every parish will accompany their Area Bishop for a special service. In a year's time we shall be asked to return it (after the Gospel Story) suitably enlarged as a contribution to the Fund. The Metropolitan Police are being consulted at every stage of the planning and the first request is for Stewards to help marshal the expected crowds.

Then we had three contributions about various aspects of Spirituality. The first was presented by Prebendary John Pearce with a classic description of the main aspects of Christian Life; Centrality of the Cross and the need for forgiveness, Assurance and the certainty of Acceptance, the need for a Quiet Time, and familiarity with the Scriptures, God's Absolutes and the need for growth in recognition of these (Holiness is a gift, not something for which we struggle), Intercession ('having a bad press at the moment'), and finally the Practice of the Presence of God.

Next Sister Kathleen Lyons, a Roman Catholic nun from the 'Cenacle' community, spoke at some length about the Integration of Prayer and Action, or as she put it 'Contemplation in the Market Place'. There was tension between the Interiority of Prayer and the Action which breeds Assertiveness.

Finally Revd. Raymond Avent described the setting up of a scheme to train those who wished to become or were recommended to become 'Spiritual Directors'. There will be course in the autumn.

Altogether a very different Synod from usual. I wonder what is in store next time!

Nicholas Chubb

New Church Hall for St. Mary's, Twickenham

Some people had been sorry to see the old Hall go as they had watched the laying of its foundation stone, so it was decided to incorporate the old foundation stone in the new building and to place the two stones side by side. A nice gesture I thought.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone concluded with the prayer:-

O God, give us strength to look up and not down,
to look forward and not back,
to look out and not in,
and to give help wherever we can.

Alison Thompson

Holiday on Ice

On Saturday 30th January a party of 50 left by coach from St. James's Church for Wembley to see 'Holiday on Ice'. With the icy wind blowing, we wondered if we had made a wise choice in an ice show. Our fears were soon to disappear. From our seats we had a good view of the whole arena and we settled down to watch the show.

The first act was 'Disco Fever' which was fast moving and a good choice to get everyone into the mood and to forget the chill outside.

Next to follow was 'Invasion from Mars' which my daughter Samantha thought was the best part of the show. In her words, 'It was very funny with little green and black aliens with tyres inside their costumes which they used to bounce off the ice'.

Next was 'Highland Fling' followed by 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. All of the performances were followed by short comedy acts of which my favourite was a dancing couple. This was in fact one person and one dummy who were so good that we could not decide which one was real. I had decided it was the lady, when suddenly her head fell off! Wrong again!

The finale was really beautiful with marvellous costumes and a firework display which all lived up to its title of 'Finale Fantastique'.

I think everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon, and a special word of thanks to David Lloyd for arranging the outing.

Pam and Samantha Drewett

CALL-SIGN GABRIEL



PLUG INTO a teletext service and you could indeed get a text. BBC2's Ceefax has a Christian comment on page 294; and Channel 4's Oracle has its own wayside pulpi on page 564.

In France you use the access code 'Gabriel' to call up information on the Minitel system from a score of Roman Catholic dioceses, the Protestant Federation and the country's Orthodox news service.

THE LINGO

HEARD THE ONE ABOUT the Greek Orthodox nun working with Leprosy patients in India? Asked by a visiting bishop if she had learned the local language yet she answered: 'Oh yes, I've learned five of them:

*The language of smiling:
The language of weeping:
The language of touching:
The language of listening:
And the language of loving.'*

Come to the Lord - A Meditation

Come to the Lord when the Lord calls for thy time is the Lord's and He will not call you when it is not meet for you to come. 'I am with thee', set it down. Ask yourself what are the truest words you have ever heard. 'COME UNTO ME AND I WILL REFRESH YOU'.

These words are true words else the prophets had lied when they said 'The Lord said unto me' and would generations have set down and passed on the words of liars? Would the children of Israel, weak as they were, have found the strength to follow an empty liar out of Egypt and have been refreshed and fed in the wilderness without the Lord's strength being with them?

Now as then it shall be - Come unto me and I will refresh you. It is a Promise. The water and the wine of life and the bread of life refresh those that are in life but those that drink of the water and the wine of the Lord and eat His bread shall walk through life on earth and life eternal and shall not hunger and thirst.

Come when cold to the warmth of His love; come when sick to the comfort of his teaching and His healing presence; come when troubled in mind to seek for the peace which passes all understanding. When you can no longer walk alone then come and be refreshed and lean on the tower of His strength. Come unto me and so often as you come you will be refreshed. Bring your failings to me and I will ease the burden of them for I chose you before you chose me. Have faith in the Lord through whatever life brings because as your life is so shall you be and without your life you are not what you are, and even if life may lie through the valley of the shadow of death with me is the darkness lightened and death is altogether done away.

Come unto me all that are sick and heavily laden AND I WILL REFRESH YOU. Come to me in health, wealth and happiness and ye shall not be sick in soul, cold in love, troubled in mind and ye shall not stumble for walking alone for I shall walk with you and be your guide. Refresh yourselves with the life of my words, spoken to my prophets and to my Son which have been written for you to read. Read and learn, love and have hope and faith. Come unto me and I will refresh you.

Margery Orton

(Written down in September 1962 and found to be very true in experience)

Television

The P.C.C. has decided to purchase a second-hand television set projecting onto an 84 inch screen which can be used in church. There are many good video-recordings on Christian subjects. Do please recommend any you have seen or used. The cost of our new equipment is £700. Contributions towards defraying the cost will be welcome.

NOTICE OUTSIDE A CHURCH:

Services are at 9.30 am and 4.30 pm. Come early if you want a back seat.

Go without food for a day and be a Lifesaver

Will you join me in a 24-hour fast to help beat famine in really hungry countries.

The idea is that you ask people to sponsor you or you can donate the money that you would have spent on food. This will take place from 7 pm on Friday 11th March to 7 pm on Saturday 12th March. During this time you can drink water and replace meals with milk, fruit juice or any beverages. Children under 9 and diabetics should not take part, children from 9 to 11 are advised only to fast for 12 hours.

WORLD VISION who are running this project raised over £600,000 last year. One example of how the money was spent is the Ghana rural water project which will eventually provide safe drinking water to 100,000 people. Ghana's only safe source of water is below ground and WORLD VISION has supplied mobile drilling rigs. The money also went towards vaccinations against diseases which in this country are only a slight nuisance to our children but can kill the undernourished in Africa.

Fasting is not too difficult with a little bit of will power. It also gives you a very small insight into the feeling of hunger that these people must experience day after day.

If anyone would like sponsor forms please contact MARGARET REVIS (979 4858). There is not much time left so please 'phone today. If you feel that you cannot actively take part then you can sponsor others.

In some countries life is so fragile that a few extra pence from you can make the difference between life and death.

**POVERTY
IS CARRYING
YOUR WATER
FOUR MILES**



**IT'S JUST ONE DAY OF YOUR TIME
BUT TO THEM IT COULD MAKE
A LIFETIME'S DIFFERENCE.**

Margaret Revis

**WAYSIDE MONDAY CENTRE
A Listening Post**

All who are under stress, anxious,
depressed, lonely or bereaved
are welcome

Mondays (except Bank Holidays) 10.30 am - 1.00 pm
"Wayside", 25 St. James's Road

Olive Alderson

Olive Alderson will never be forgotten. She will be remembered for ever with affection and respect as a dedicated Headteacher at Hampton Hill Junior School for many years, a friend and colleague to so many, and a wife, mother and grandmother to the close family she leaves behind.

As a Headteacher she radiated enthusiasm, understanding, caring and warmth to both staff and children alike. Conversely she attracted loyalty, respect, dedication and regard from the same. To comprehend children's feelings and problems as she did showed her great sense of empathy, caring and fairness. She gave the school a noticeable aura of happiness combined with hard work and a relaxed atmosphere along with a well organised structure.

As a friend she showed interest in us all and she was always on hand for help and advice when needed. She had a great sense of humour and was such fun to be with.

As a family member she was dearly loved for so many reasons that it would be impossible to relate them. A great void is now present in that family and our hearts go out to Ted, Helen, Mark and the rest of the family.

Olive Alderson leaves a community saddened by her loss; her great wisdom and compassionate nature will be sorely missed.

Prill Smith

AUSTERITY LUNCH

Proceeds to Christian Aid

Wednesday 30th March — Wayside — From 12.00 to 13.30

The Scout Group

We must apologise to Margaret and Keith, the leaders for the time being of Brown Pack Cub-Scouts, for any embarrassment arising from last month's News. Margaret is soon to be married but not to Keith! We should of course have referred to Margaret Hillman (391 0094) and Keith Burgon (844 0055). We wish them both well.

VAN SALE — SATURDAY 26th MARCH

It was not possible to hold the Special Sale on 27th February as originally planned. Instead the event is to be held in the Parish Hall, School Road, on Saturday 26th March with doors opening at 10 am. It is to be called a 'Van Sale' - not because a van is to be sold or because items are to be sold from vans, but because the aim is to raise money for the restoration and refurbishing of the group's present van. Contributions of suitable items for sale will be gratefully received - they may be left at the Hall on Monday, Wednesday or Friday evenings, or collection may be arranged by 'phoning 979 7268. And do come to buy on the day.

From the Registers - Funerals

February 5 Harriet Webb

Laurel Dene

aged 87

Holy Week and Easter Services

March	27	Palm Sunday	18.30	Special Service
	28	Monday	10.00	Holy Communion
			20.00	Compline
	29	Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
			20.00	Compline
	30	Wednesday	10.00	Holy Communion
			12.00	Austerity Lunch
			20.00	Compline
	31	Maundy Thursday	20.00	Agape and Parish Communion
April	1	Good Friday	09.45	Children's Service
			11.00	Open-Air Service at Sainsbury's
			12.00	Three Hours' Service
	2	Easter Eve	19.00	Renewing of Baptismal Vows and Lighting of Easter Candle
	3	Easter Day	08.00	Holy Communion
			09.30	Parish Communion
			18.30	Evensong

Dates to Note

March	10	20.00	Liturgical Committee
	12		Church Spring Clean
	17	20.00	Properties Committee
	20	11.00	P.C.C. (<u>Accounts only</u>)
	26	10.00	Children's Workshop for Easter and Good Friday
April	20	20.00	Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Copy Date for April issue: 13th March

*If you are a Christian full of love,
joy and peace,
why don't you tell your face
about it?*

