

Turn things upside down and experience what it means to be an Easter people

LEADER COLUMN

PETER VANNOZZI



'We are an Easter people and "Alleluia!" is our song.'

Pope John Paul II

What on earth is the Church for? Or heaven, for that matter? The Bible offers various answers - the Body of Christ, a family, the people of God, the new Israel, and many more. Yet it is the late Pope's definition that strikes me as Easter approaches: *'We are an Easter people...'*

I wonder what he meant? Easter is the central point of the Christian Year. In the week leading up to Easter Day, Holy Week, the narrative of the events of that week is retold. More than that, experienced now. People are invited to be with Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem and was acclaimed by the crowd. They can

'Despite the efforts to crush and destroy the One whom embodies the life of God in the world, Jesus showed that the life of God cannot end. Easter themes are therefore new life, hope, joy, triumph.'

be with him in the upper room sharing his last meal with his disciples.

Similarly, people can be with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, with him at his arrest and trial, walk with him to the cross, stand there at the foot of the cross. Throughout all this, people are encouraged to ask, 'What does this mean?'

When Easter comes, there is then the opportunity to peer into the empty tomb, and to wonder. More than that, this day defines what people can be - what the Church is to be.

'We are an Easter people...'

How does Easter help us to understand what it means to be an 'Easter people'?

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Despite the efforts to crush and destroy the One whom embodies the life of God in the world, Jesus showed that the life of God cannot end. Easter themes are therefore new life, hope, joy, triumph.

To be an Easter people is to have such themes at the centre of one's life. An individual will seek new life for their own self, but also a community will seek it together.

An Easter people seeks to live in the light of the raising of Jesus and cannot be a rigid and static entity. If it is, then what can it make of the Easter event where death is no longer final? Conventional expectations are turned upside down.

In his 2006 Easter Day sermon in Canterbury Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams said this: 'The Church does not exist just to transmit a message across the centuries through a duly constituted hierarchy that arbitrarily lays down what people must believe; it exists so that people in this and every century may encounter Jesus of Nazareth as a living contemporary.'

I think that Dr. Williams here is saying something very similar to Pope John Paul. An Easter people will know and will want others to know that Jesus is indeed a 'living contemporary.'

What might it mean to encounter Jesus in this way? When people encountered Jesus as a contemporary in the first century, their reactions were diverse. Some hated him and wished to silence him. Others heard that there was a chance for them to start again.

Some who felt judged by Jesus rejected that judgment. Others accepted his judgment and changed. For some the word of grace he spoke was just not acceptable. For others, life took on new meaning as a result.

An Easter people is one which has had this encounter, thrived on it, and then cannot but want others to know of it. An Easter people can have no hidden secret truths, no mysteries that cannot be revealed, no belief in a private revelation to a privileged few.

I wish you a very happy Easter in the hope that indeed the Church can be an Easter people with 'Alleluia', 'Praise God,' as its song.



The monthly column of news and events from Hampton Hill and beyond

There were two very different events before the start of Lent. **Concordia Voices** sang Choral Evensong for Candlemas on 3 February. This was a beautiful and moving service. Then on Shrove Tuesday 20 people enjoyed a meal at **Piazza Firenze** on Hampton Hill High Street.

We are pleased that **Peter Lockyer** is now back home and in church following his time in hospital.

At **Bishop Michael Colclough's** last eucharist in Kensington a large congregation expressed its appreciation of his ministry through a standing ovation. Each deanery paid tribute to Bishop Michael and he received a cheque to help him on his way to St. Paul's Cathedral.

The **Revd. Lindsay Mackenna** left All Saints', Hanworth, on 3 February to return to his native Scotland to be Provost of Dundee Cathedral. Lindsay was a great help during the interregnum and since.

Congratulations to **Duncan Robinson**, son of Coryn and Ian, on his engagement to **Helen Thornton**. They are both currently living and working in Singapore and will be married in Scotland later this year.

Hampton Hill Junior School is looking for more voluntary helpers to hear children read, to help with maths games and also with cooking. If you have some time to spare, please contact the school office on 020 8979 3019.

Peter Vannozzi celebrates his first anniversary as vicar on 20 March.

Do you have any news to share? Contributions to Susan Horner.

Registers

For January:

Baptisms

20 Violet Rose East, Hampton Hill; Elspeth Grace Brown, Hampton Hill.

Funeral

30 Joan Palmer, 84, Hampton Hill.

Bound for South Africa

There is a small group going to South Africa from 16 October to 4 November. The journey will include Johannesburg, Mpumalanga, Kruger National Park, Natal Battefields, Drakensberg Mountains, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Stellenbosch, Cape Town and many more places.

If you are keen to hear more please telephone either Gwyneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709 or Griselda Barrett 020 8979 3331.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

WITH CLIVE BEAUMONT



Clive met his wife, Maria, playing hockey in France in 1983. They moved to Hampton Hill three years later and, after trying one or two churches beforehand, settled at St James's in the mid 1990s. They have a daughter, Frances, who was christened at the church and who is now at Leeds University.

I hesitated before agreeing to appear in this column as I confess my faith is not all that it should be! The 50s, in which I grew up, were characterised by the phrase 'children should be seen and not heard' and for most, including me, you did as you were told on pain of punishment!

Being 'ushered' to church and Sunday school with one arm gently up your back was part of the whole unquestioning era for kids at that time, and it's taken me a while to reappraise how I really feel about my faith. What I do know is that I love St James's and all who sail in her - it really is like a big family, with friends, young and old. And, as with all big families, it provides endless and enjoyable opportunities to act out your beliefs and values.

I signed up to the Visitors Group a few years ago and, following some formal training, I've been privileged to meet some wonderful people - many in their 80s and 90s with a true zest for life who give you as much if not more than you give them. A particular favourite of mine even dispenses sherry and nuts for elevenses!

At St James's, you're surrounded by people who genuinely care and who behave as neighbours and Samaritans are supposed to. I was incredibly lucky five years ago to meet a man who'd been a serious alcoholic. By the time we became friends, he was losing control of his life and his health was deteriorating rapidly. He was, however, a source of great inspiration to me because he never lost his Christian faith nor his love for his fellow man and woman. Even when he was living the most appalling existence shortly before he died, he never ceased to make me smile and always generated love and respect.

So, whether your faith is strong or weak, you'll find a genuine home at St James's - a place where all are made welcome.

Fellowship of the human spirit

The central objective of all our church activities is mission. We have already featured those concerned with the business affairs and running of the church, but there are groups, just as important, that build our community by fellowship in study and recreation. They should provide a vehicle not only for our own togetherness, but also for people who would like to find out more about us without commitment. The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides are an important part of that and also provide excellent training and social contact for young people of all ages. We will be doing a special feature on our uniformed organisations later in the year.

Jays Sunday School

The Jays Sunday School meets from 9.40am-10.15am every Sunday, except the main school holidays and the first Sunday in the month, when there is an all age service in church. They leave the 9.30am service during the first hymn and return for a blessing or communion.

There are three classes, ranging in ages from three years to 14 years old, held in the church hall. Activities include arts and crafts, drama, games, quizzes, and discussion groups, depending on the age group. Sometimes all classes combine for a specific project.

They also go to the cinema, have sleepovers and parties, and are involved in key services. Older children lead the Intercessions several times a year in church.

Children are welcome. For more information contact Lou Coaker Basdell on 020 8979 2677.

Ladies Casual Choir

The Ladies Casual Choir sings for fun and to enjoy the company of others with similar casual ideas! The average age is not young, so they work on the principle of 'use it or lose it'.

The choir meets on alternate Wednesdays in the vestry from 10.30am-11.45am. Although singing is the main object, fellowship is equally important. New members are always welcome.

For more information telephone Eila Severn on 020 8979 1954



BEHIND THE SCENES

CHURCHATWORK

PART FIVE: BUILDING COMMUNITY



Study Groups

In Advent 2007 on Monday evenings in church the vicar led study groups on the teaching of certain Christian leaders, including St Francis of Assisi, St Ignatius Loyola and Charles Wesley. The present Lent course is called *Exploring Prayer*.

Two regular groups meet - the *Tuesday Group* meeting at 10.30am every other week for much of the year in a parishioner's home. Usually this is to study the previous Sunday's bible readings.

There is also the Monday evening *Fellowship Group* meeting in the vestry at different times in the year.

If you would like to join any of these groups look for details in the magazine, the pew sheets or speak to the vicar.

Social Events

The Social Committee is responsible for arranging and organising events to bring the congregation together. These include quiz evenings, meals, an Easter Egg hunt, trips to cathedrals or even a zoo, catering for all ages and interests.

Following the St James's Day service in July, the committee arrange lunch, usually a barbecue, and



entertainment. This takes place in the hall and vicarage gardens. Details of events are advertised in *The Spire*, on the website, the pew sheets and inside the church on the notice boards. The next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt.

St James's Theatre Club

St James's Theatre Club began in 2006 and has been to see comedies, tragedies, ballet and musicals. The primary focus is Richmond Theatre (where we enjoy some good discounts) and the nearby Orange Tree, but recently a small group went to the National Theatre to see Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara*. It is a great way to meet people and have fun at the same time. You don't have to be a regular at St James's to join in. Transport can be arranged.

For more information on future events contact Ria Beaumont on 020 8943 4336.



This is just a sample of the groups that are run at St James's. If you have any ideas for group activities which would interest you in the future contact the Vicar, Churchwardens, or any member of the PCC.

The circle of life begins and death is banished on the cross

The Church began a new cycle of the Christian Year on Ash Wednesday (6 February), which takes us right through to Pentecost or Whitsunday (Sunday 11 May).

Easter Day is at the heart of it on Sunday 23 March. Over the course of a year the Church celebrates the work of God in a structured way. Our human experience of time is consecrated, set apart, as we see that all time is God's time even though God is beyond time.

Time is a setting for God's grace - it is not purely functional. We can see the Christian Year as being about having a collective Christian memory. It is more than just a mere remembering, though, for we remember in order that things from the past make a difference to us now. So if we recall the death of Jesus, it is so that it means something and makes a difference now.

Lent originally began as a season of preparation for adults being baptised at Easter, and also as a time for those separated from the Church

due to sin to prepare to be welcomed back into the Church's fellowship. It began on Ash Wednesday. Ash is a sign of penitence, of our mortality and need of God's grace.

Various things happen in churches during Lent. At worship, music is restrained. There are no flowers in church. The priest's vestments and the covering on the high altar and pulpit are simple.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent used to be called 'Refreshment Sunday'. Now modern Mothering Sunday gives us a lighter moment in the midst of the restrained and serious feel of the season.

Holy Week takes the Christian on Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through to the empty tomb of Easter Day. There are special services, found in a book called 'Common Worship: Times and Seasons' produced centrally by the Church of England, but adapted for local use.

Palm Sunday: with a procession of palms acclaiming Christ as king and with the reading of

an account of Jesus' suffering and death, laying out the sequence of events of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday: there is a rich series of themes - humility and Christian service expressed by Christ's washing of the disciples' feet which the presiding priest enacts during the service; the institution of the eucharist; the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. This year at St. James's we will remember his time in the garden with the church remaining open for an hour after the service for a watch of prayer. The sanctuary will be stripped at as we recall Christ's desolation.

Good Friday there are many ways in the Christian tradition to keep this day. It is an incredibly important day. Jesus died on this day and Christians should, if at all possible, be in church on this day. At St. James's there will be a service in the morning with children especially in mind. In the afternoon there will be a simple service centred on the reading of the account of

the suffering and death of Jesus according to St. John, the bringing of a plain cross into the bare church, and holy communion will be given from bread and wine remaining from the service the night before. It is a widespread custom not to celebrate the eucharist on Good Friday, but nonetheless many churches offer the option of receiving holy communion. St. Paul writes, after all, that 'as often as you eat the bread and drink the cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.' (*1 Corinthians 11.26*)

Holy Saturday: there is no special liturgy for the daytime on this day. Rather, it moves to the Easter Liturgy which can be celebrated at midnight or dawn on Easter Day or, as at St. James's, on Saturday evening. At this liturgy rich symbolism is used as the worshipper celebrates Christ's 'Passover' from death to life.

In the service we move from darkness to light as the Easter Candle is prepared, lit and then brought into a darkened church. In the semi-

darkness we move from the old to the new, reading from the Old Testament and then hear the Gospel of the resurrection in the now fully lit church. We recall passing from death to life in baptism as we renew our baptismal vows. This year for the first time at St. James's the service will move into the first eucharist of Easter which is a very common practice. This eucharist celebrates the living Christ with us. At the Easter Liturgy Easter has begun, and we proclaim that Christ has risen.

All the resources of the Church are used to celebrate Christ's resurrection - music, flowers, bells, colour - and Easter hymns use the word 'alleluia' with great frequency. It is not a word used at all in worship during Lent. The Renewal of Baptismal vows will also be part of the Parish Communion and the Easter Candle will burn at all celebrations of the eucharist until Pentecost 50 days later. It is our principal symbol of the resurrection during the Easter season.

Easter at St James

Sunday 16 March: Palm Sunday
8am Holy Communion.

9.30am Procession of Palms/Parish Communion. 8pm Compline.

Mon 17 March: Monday in Holy Week
8pm Compline with Holy Communion.

Tue 18 March: Tuesday in Holy Week
9.30 am Holy Communion. 8pm Compline.

Wed 19 March: Wednesday in Holy Week
7am Holy Communion. 8pm Compline.

Thursday 20 March: Maundy Thursday
8pm Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, followed by Watch of Prayer for one hour.

Friday 21 March: Good Friday
10.30am All-age Service, hot cross buns. 2pm Liturgy of Good Friday.

Saturday 22 March: Holy Saturday
8pm Easter Liturgy.

Sunday 23 March: Easter Day
8am Holy Communion.
9.30am Parish Communion.



YOUNG SPIRE

WITH PRILL HINCKLEY



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Palm Sunday

How does Palm Sunday get its name?

- It is when the palm trees in Jerusalem burst into bloom
- It is when Jesus and His disciples feasted on hearts of palm at the last supper
- As Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the people waved palm branches

What Jewish festival did Jesus travel to Jerusalem to celebrate?

- Passover
- Purim
- Yom Kippur



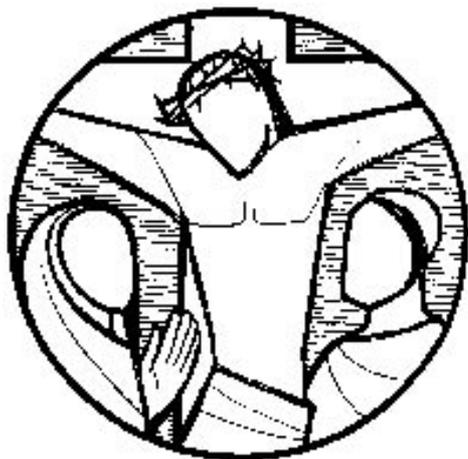
Maundy Thursday

Where was Jesus praying when he was arrested by armed men?

- On a hill called Calvary
- Gethsemane, a garden near Mount of Olives
- The temple in Bethany

Who betrayed Jesus?

- Judas
- Nicodemus
- Pilate



Good Friday

What is Good Friday?

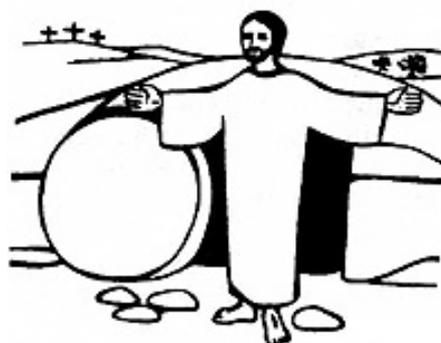
- It commemorates the last supper of Jesus and His disciples
- It commemorates Jesus' death on the cross
- It commemorates when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey

What condemned prisoner did Pontius Pilate release just before sentencing Jesus to die on a cross?

- Barabbas
- Simon of Cyrene
- Zechariah

How long was Jesus' body in the grave?

- Until it got dark and the disciples rolled away the stone and released Him
- Three days
- Three hundred years until archaeologists discovered the tomb



Easter Sunday

Why do we celebrate Easter?

- To celebrate surviving winter and the arrival of spring
- To commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- It is the celebration of spring planting

Who was the first to see Jesus after His resurrection?

- The guards, just before they ran away
- Mary Magdalene
- His disciples, Peter and John

CHARITIES AND LINKS

WITH ANN PETERKEN



Making a difference: 2008 planned giving

Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2008

Raising funds to build one primary school is beyond most parishes, but together London parishes can raise enough to build three primary schools - one in each of London's link dioceses of Angola, Lebombo and Niassa.



Please read the appeal leaflet carefully and think about your own response. For more on this go to www.london.anglican.org/News for Bishop Richard's endorsement.

St James's will give £9000 through planned giving this year to charities both here in the UK and overseas.

Each year we budget to give 10% of our parish income, as part of our parish outreach. The list of recipients is displayed in church and on the website.

Our donations will include £500 to Bishop Wand School to help support a full time chaplain.

On the overseas front, we are increasing our support of St Luke's Hospital in Milo and including the Rainbow Fund for South Africa, a local charity that supports the Rainbow school in Guguletu near Cape Town.

In October several members of our congregation will be visiting the Rainbow school.

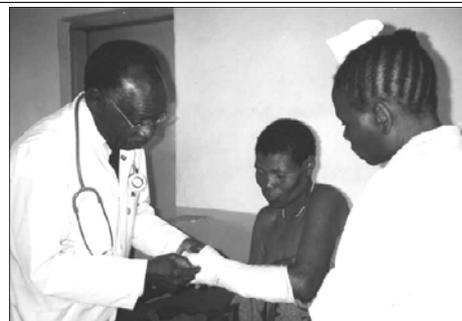
Throughout the year we have special collections for particular causes, such as the Lent Appeal.

Boost for St Luke's

Following the sad loss of Dr Douglas Lwoga (pictured, right) last year, we have received good news from Benaiah Kilwale, who sends his regards to all at St James.

He writes that the hospital has received a doctor and a midwife on a three year contract from the government, thanks to funding from the Bill Clinton Foundation - part of a scheme to support hospitals providing care and treatment clinics for HIV/AIDS patients in rural areas.

Benaiah has also found a retired doctor, Dr Simon Mbuligwe, who started work in February and is employed by the diocese.



Less good is news that the hospital needs a new generator; they are making do with a small portable one for emergencies only.

Christian Aid Quiz Night

Saturday 26 April, 7.30pm in the Church Hall

Quiz, supper and fun to raise money for Christian Aid

Tickets £10

(available in church or from the church office).

ECOGROUP

WITH CATHERINE GASH



Carbon Audit

As a first step to reducing our carbon footprint, we've had an audit of the church and hall.

In February, Dick Wilde and Catherine Gash met with Jonny White of CutMyCarbon (a local Hampton Hill company) to look over every part of the building.

On receipt of Jonny's report, we will consider what changes we might make to achieve carbon savings and thereby save money.

Lent Carbon Fast

If you're following the Tearfund *Carbon Fast* booklet, you'll be pleased to hear it has the

endorsement of the Bishop of London. Go to www.london.anglican.org/News for more information.

Concern for Our World: Exploring Fairtrade

Sunday 9 March, 3pm in the Church Hall

Come and hear David and Avril Brown speak about their visits to producer cooperatives and how Fairtrade helps these communities.

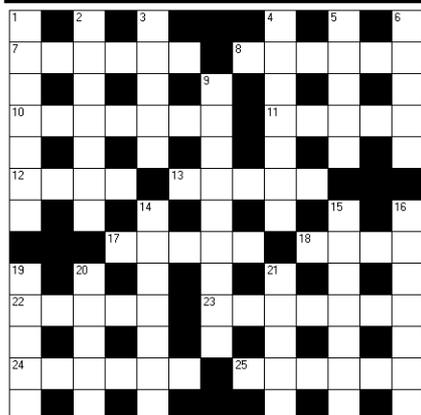
Tea and cakes will be served. Fairly traded craft items will be available for purchase. Donations for the Lent Appeal.

Fighting the Banana Wars and Other Fairtrade Battles

Hear about Harriet Lamb's new book (published by Ebury) at Borders in Kingston at 7pm on Thursday 13 March. Harriet is Executive Director of the Fairtrade Foundation.

Green tips for a better world

Reduce food miles by buying locally grown, seasonal produce where possible. When you need to buy food flown from overseas, look for Fairtrade products. Don't forget we can order many of these for you!



Crossword No 2008003

Across

- 7 Bigger (6)
- 8 9 down having charge of a diocese (6)
- 10 e.g. Rome or Lisbon (7)
- 11 Mother-in-law of Ruth (5)
- 12 Garden home of Adam and Eve (4)
- 13 Christian symbol (5)
- 17 She ___ no-one (Zeph 3.2) (5)
- 18 Description of the horse ridden by 3 across in Revelation ch. 6 (4)
- 22 ..they ___ the winepresses (Job 24.11) (5)
- 23 City where the disciples were first called Christians in Acts ch. 11 (7)
- 24 Country (6)
- 25 More hallowed (6)

Down

- 1 Darken (7)
- 2 Fell like the bindings on Samson's hands in Judges ch. 15 (7)
- 3 A king's wrath is its messenger, according to Proverbs ch. 16 (5)
- 4 Animal whose cubs are scattered in Job ch. 4 (7)
- 5 Fire an arrow like Jehoash in 2 Kings ch. 13 (5)
- 6 24 across whose 10 across is Madrid (5)
- 9 Priest (9)
- 14 Angel of the Abyss in Revelation ch. 9 (7)
- 15 Included in the canon of the bible (7)
- 16 Ropes for fastening animals (7)
- 19 ..the basin with its ___ (Ex 31.9) (5)
- 20 God (5)
- 21 ..observe them on the delivery ___ (Ex 1.16) (5)

Answers to February Crossword (200802):

Across 5 Royal 8 Publicly 9 Stubs 10 Ruthless 11 Forth 14 Jar 16 Battle 17 Oholah 18 Wed 20 Saint 24 Citizens 25 Clean 26 Nazarene 27 Aside.

Down 1 Spire 2 Abate 3 Viola 4 Elisha 6 Orthodox 7 Abbatial 12 Parables 13 Standard 14 Jew 15 Rod 19 Elijah 21 Final 22 Jewel 23 Asher.