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## WHEN THE 'IMPOSSIBLE WAY' BECOMES THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY

### A Meditation

Imagine that you are in a cave, your life has become a complete impasse, the rocks have fallen outside as destruction threatens the countryside. You are locked in the darkness, no way out through the way you came in; no way out at all save high up in the roof of the cave, so high that only a faint light gleams, there must be an aperture. But it is no way out for you because for all your life you have been terrified of heights. It would be heaven to be free of the choking darkness but to climb up to that dizzying height seeking the source of that entry of light is quite beyond your strength, you are finished.

Then you notice a dampness round your feet, and there is splashing and trickling, water is seeping into your grave and with it creeping things, things which threaten immediate destruction beyond the fear of drowning which seems inevitable. So there is nothing for it, to save yourself, for the instinct for self-preservation is very strong in man, you start to climb for now the impossible way has become the only possible way if you wish to save yourself from inertia and sudden death. You could have waited to starve to death, to suffocate to death, resigning yourself, but not this onslaught of unknown and unimagined evil. So not even daring to look up but knowing there is light up there and not daring to look back for all is darkness and destruction you take the impossible way, feeling with your hands, clinging with your toes, a foothold, a handhold at a time, slowly, slowly; sometimes you slip a little backwards but you cling on doggedly until strength returns, you try another direction when the ledge you are on leads nowhere, you try because you have to, there is no other way. Up you go, seeking salvation and at last the dimness clears little by little, now you can see where to put your feet, the next hold for your fingers and progress is easier, still hard, still needing every ounce of your resolution, but this is getting stronger as you struggle on for the light is getting brighter all the time. Now you can feel warmth for the light has taken on other qualities, hope is there, comfort for your chilled and frightened soul; your efforts are renewed, you know you are nearly there, you are saved, redeemed from seeming destruction. Even in the depths there has been something there saying, "Man, save yourself" and now, climbing ever closer to that steady, calming source of light and hope and comfort and salvation you know that that something is and was outside yourself, yet in you but unknown to you until you approached.

So with the world, with the nations, with small pockets of people ever growing as individuals lit with the light, bringing light to others. The impossible way — the way of the foolish, the way of the childlike, the climbing way leading ever upwards away from destruction towards salvation and love and the light of the world above, shining and enlightening our worlds — will be seen in the light of God to be the only possible way for all else is death to the body, the spirit and the soul.

Great and glorious is our Lord God, great and glorious is our Lord Jesus Christ coming to us, abiding in us, helping us, chiding us, leading us in the Holy Spirit. O Holy Spirit, ever present, breathing out of the essence of Almighty God, be with each one of us, breathing into us with every inspiration of ours, thy inspiration so that man breathes as God, that God's will may be truly done,

through man, as it is done in Heaven. Thy glorious kingdom come in people Lord, in the whole world and over the face of the entire earth.

Come Lord Jesus Christ, come Holy Spirit, and having come let us be still with thee and know our God, our way, our truth and our light.

Margery Orton

## ONE WAY TO CELEBRATE EASTER

In Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary definitions of to celebrate are: to distinguish by solemn ceremonies, to perform with proper rites and ceremonies or to publish the praises of.

Good Friday and Easter, the greatest festival in the Christian year, certainly deserves to be celebrated. It is such a remarkable sequence of events that no words seem adequate to describe its distinction and importance. The two components are inextricably interwoven: the resurrection could of course not have happened without Christ's death, and the meaning of this death can only be understood after and together with His resurrection. But they are nevertheless quite separate. The drama of those two events 2000 years ago is enormous.

From Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday to Good Friday we see an accelerating sequence of sad events. From the Last Supper onwards they gather momentum and end in a crescendo of agony on that cross on Friday afternoon. Dark, sombre colours, deep discordant notes on the organ – and then there is this hiatus, the gap – nothing – Jesus is dead and all through Friday night and Saturday nothing happens. Silence – utter defeat – total incomprehending despair – imagine what the disciples and Jesus's mother must have felt like. They were totally lost. All was just simply black. That very slow, subdued, solemn chorale immediately after Christ's death in Bach's St. Matthew Passion expresses the sadness; only it also contains an element of peace which I think could not have been there at the time. Only if you have lived through that blackness can you appreciate the dazzling splendour of Easter morning. God raised His Son. Jesus is alive again. Everything He said is true: the loving Master is with His friends again. But now in new, everlasting power. Trumpets and fanfares, an array of shining, brilliant colours.

That was 2000 years ago. But it is just as important for us now as it was for the people around Jesus then. God made it happen once and for all.

I think that hiatus, that gap between the death of the Lord and His resurrection is meant to be used to try and understand all this. In our ordinary modern life within the family and indeed the world, we cannot easily live that gap. For the ordinary Christian the whole of Holy Saturday cannot be given up to quiet contemplation. But in using a liturgy that goes back to the very beginnings of the Church the Catechumenate shows us a way to celebrate Friday to Sunday that is a very effective help indeed in making present for us now the events of 2000 years ago and beginning to grasp their meaning.

From Friday evening, when we remember the crucifixion and think of Jesus words "take up your cross", we fast all through Saturday – a sign of preparation and repentance; the Lord died *for us*. And the night from Saturday to Sunday is spent watching and waiting. In an all night vigil we consider nine readings from the Bible, beginning at the creation, via the exodus from Egypt and Isaiah's Suffering Servant, right through to Christ's resurrection

– the entire story of God's salvation for His people. Every single step is an essential component of the whole. The sequence of readings which was established hundreds of years ago was obviously chosen by inspired people. If these readings were not enough food for thought, they were augmented by the incredibly beautiful songs that the Catechumenate movement has produced, all based on passages from the Bible. And then there was the setting: our whole church most lovingly decorated with exquisite displays of yellow and white flowers, our table bearing a precious garland of white and red carnations offset by dark green foliage, the tall pascal candle silently burning on one side. The vigil had its climax towards sunrise with the Eucharist. The newly risen Lord inviting His followers to the first communion with Him. By dying and rising again He has become transcendent; Christians everywhere and anytime can share the Pascal meal with Him and claim the power of His blood to wash them clean in the sight of God. During the silence of the Eucharist we heard a solitary bird outside greeting the rising sun with its melodious song. A feast for the eyes, the ears and the soul. God the creator of those beautiful flowers, that lovely birdsong, and those friends around us, had given us His Son to be our redeemer. After the Eucharist followed the feast for the body; we had a festive meal together in a friend's house which was in the truest sense of the word a breakfast.

In His everlasting mercy God gives us a new chance every day to learn His ways. The Easter Vigil was a big step forward.

Hilde Bucknell

#### **SUPPORT GROUP FOR CHRISTIAN PRISONERS IN THE SOVIET UNION**

A number of our congregation will no doubt remember the visit to our church last November of the Reverend Ted Baines who spoke to us on behalf of Keston College.

Keston College (in Bromley, Kent) carries out extensive, objective factual study of the state of religious communities in the Soviet Union, and East European countries ruled by communist governments. The results of this research often lead to exposing instances of suppression of religious freedom. I quote from some recent information sent to me from Keston College:-

"The Council of Prisoners' Relatives, and other Christians of different denominations have already appealed to the authorities from within the Soviet Union, but to no avail. They are therefore asking Christians in the West to appeal on their behalf. It is natural to feel that letters from the West might do more harm than good, but these prisoners and their families are already known to be believers, have already used their names and addresses on appeals to the authorities, and have evidently weighed up for themselves the advantages and disadvantages of having their names used on appeals made from the West and decided that this is the best course of action for them.

A guiding principle in this is that they know the situation better than we do and so we are simply doing what they ask us to do . . . ."

My present interest in this cause began after attending a huge rally in Hyde Park (of Christians from every part of the country) in order to press for release by the Soviet authorities of a Baptist believer – George Vins.

Through pressure from the West, he was subsequently released! (There is a good deal of evidence to show that a believer will be less badly treated by the authorities if they know that people in the West have heard about the believer and are concerned).

I felt prodded into action once again by the Lord when one day whilst reading Hebrews, Chapter 13, I saw the words:- "Remember those in prison as if you were there with them; and those who are being maltreated, for you like them are still in the world".

I knew this to be God's 'go-ahead' sign for me and after much thought and prayer on the matter, I have approached our Vicar regarding this.

The P.C.C. have now given me official encouragement to go ahead in the matter of forming a group of those of us who might feel it right to help in this kind of work.

If anyone who feels interested would contact me:- Bea Page, 979 9613 (evenings only), I could perhaps arrange a meeting in order that interested people may first know what would be involved.

It may be that eventually we could draw in other denominations in the area who are not already involved in such work on their own account!

Bea Page

### WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

"Someday the demand for disarmament by hundreds of millions will, I hope, become so universal and so insistent that no man, no nation, can withstand it." President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

So ran one of the headings of the important handouts at a meeting of the World Disarmament Campaign, in association with the United Nations Association, held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, April 12. This was attended by 2600 people from all over Britain, and I was there.

The handouts included an important speech by Earl Mountbatten of Burma, delivered at Strasbourg on May 11, 1979. I quote one paragraph from it: "There are powerful voices around the world who still give credence to the old Roman precept — if you desire peace, prepare for war. *This is absolute nuclear nonsense* and I repeat — it is a disastrous misconception to believe that by increasing the total uncertainty one increases one's own certainty." Another handout was "The Church and Disarmament. The Lambeth Conference Declaration". I have both these documents if people would like to read them.

The speakers, including Fenner Brockway, Lord Soper, John Ferguson (President of the United Nations Association in the U.K.), Lord Philip Noel Baker, Bishop Montifiore, spoke firmly and powerfully. They left the audience in no doubt that nuclear war would mean desolation and destruction to many countries, and would perhaps end life, all life, on this planet — the grass, the flowers, the insects, the birds, the animals, mankind, you and me; God's miracles.

There are enough nuclear weapons in being, and more are being made every day, to kill everyone in the USA and in the Soviet Union 25 times over, and the rest of mankind 10 times over.

I don't think people realise what this nuclear conflict would mean. It is a situation which mankind has never faced before. I find that I am looking at this beautiful spring as if I may not see it again. And I may not, because I am getting on, as they say; but it must go on for the young people and the children: the joy of the daffodils at Easter, the sun shining on the April beauty of the English spring.

There are many people who are aware of the danger. We were told at the meeting on Saturday that the anti-war lobby in America is strong; there was a speaker from Holland reporting on how committed are Dutch disarmament

organisations; we had a Conservative M.P. on the platform, also a Trades Unionist; a Japanese young woman spoke who had lost relatives at Hiroshima. The churches are alerted; representatives of the various organisations at the Central Hall went away resolved to take the situation seriously, and to form Joint Councils representing all organisations and individuals in every district. One of the speakers said that by next summer there will not be a stadium large enough to hold everyone who wishes to attend a similar meeting to this one!

The Special Disarmament Assembly of the United Nations held in 1978 appointed a committee at Geneva to prepare plans to end nuclear weapons and to achieve total disarmament by progressive phases. The committee in Geneva is now at work; it will be reporting to the 1982 United Nations Assembly.

People must make their voices heard; there is not much time. I would like to know what other organisations are already working on a possible Joint Council in this area. There are a number of us who would like to join in.

I am sure that many, Christians and members also of other faiths, will be holding this situation in their prayers in faith and hope and joy and love and trust. We need also to make this confidence known; the world needs it.

Hannah Stanton

## THE ST. ALBAN'S CONGRESS OF FAITH, WHITSUN 1980

### Theme — The Human Crisis

We are living at a time of gathering crisis in human history. It is one in which the scale of power in human hands is escalating in a way that has no parallel in the past and that imparts a whole new dimension to human responsibility for life on earth. Physical power through nuclear fission, mental power through micro-electronics, emotional power through mass communications — these and other forms of power have won for man an awesome capacity to shape the world about him to serve his own ends.

How is he to use these new instruments now at his call? For good or for ill? To create or to destroy? In the past, similar questions, present then as now, have been resolved by the containing institutions of society — by the family, the clan, the tribe, the nation, the church. Now, these institutions, though necessary still, seem no longer able to control and harness human power on its emergent scale, unless by extinguishing those individual freedoms that are at the very heart of man's being. Yet, uncontrolled and unharnessed such power can only in the end destroy.

What then is to be done? If the institutions of society are becoming less and less able to meet the challenge confronting them, then surely nothing less can suffice than a transformation of the values which underlie and motivate them, the values that decree the uses to which man applies his power. For this, we must turn anew, and as never before, to the deeper teachings of the world's religious traditions, there to seek motivations in our lives that transcend the limitations of self, transcend humanity and reach out to that divine Source, however called, that is immanent in the inner life of every human being.

It is with this aim before it, and to seek joint enlightenment on the theme of impending crisis, that this Congress of Faiths is being held. Each of the great Faiths represented here has its own particular path and a recognition of this diversity of paths is of the essence of this coming together. Each has its own contribution to make towards opening the minds and hearts of men and women to an awareness of the crisis ahead and to an acceptance of the guidance to be found in the teachings of its own tradition.

Norman Bonner Gash (Organising Group)

## NEW FACELIFT FOR THE WELCOME SERVICES (2)

From June to December we have an exciting vista: we have agreed to follow through people, men and women, who throughout the ages have heard the Voice of God. We are selecting characters from the Old Testament and also modern (and not so modern) men and women who have "Heard a Voice".

June 8		Our Welcome Service will high-light a modern dilemma: "Better red than dead". Jeremiah stands for compromise and Joan of Arc for confrontation. France faced a choice between these two ways in 1940
July 13	Sea Sunday	Jonah
July 27	Patronal Festival	Elijah and James
August 10	The Tourists	Abraham: Traveller, Man of Faith Father of Nations Dag Hammerskjold: Secretary of the UN, Traveller, Man of God Mary: Mother of Jesus Mother Teresa: Mother of the Poor in Calcutta
September 14		
October 12	Harvest Festival	Amos: Herdsman and dresser of sycamore figs. St. Francis: Lover of all natural things.
November 9	Remembrance Sunday	Moses and Martin Luther King: Leading their people out of bondage.
December 14	Dedication Festival	Isiah and John Wesley: Dedicating themselves to the ministry and mission to which God called them.

## GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTY (Yellow Area) 12 JUNE 1980

The next Good Neighbourhood Parish party will be held in the Parish Hall, School Road, starting at 7.45pm on Thursday 12 June and finishing around 10pm. An invitation letter will be delivered to all those people living in the Yellow Area of the Parish covering the Chambery estate, between 24 May and 1 June. However any person resident in the Parish, who has never been to one of these parties and would like to come along, will be very welcome.

After we have held this party we shall have covered the whole Parish, all four areas in just over a year, Red 28 June 1979, Blue 17 October 1979, Green 18 February 1980 and Yellow 12 June 1980.

The little committee that runs these parties has decided to give them a rest after this one and we shall start again in the Spring of 1981.

Alwyne Loyd

## AUSTERITY LUNCH 1980

Thanks to the generosity of the diners, £32.45 profit was raised at the Austerity Lunch in Holy Week. This sum will go to Christian Aid.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1979

GENERAL FUND - RECEIPTS

<u>1978</u>		
4,985	Pledged Giving	8,420
1,270	Other Giving and Donations	743
1,429	Refund of tax on Deeds of Covenant	2,085
426	Other Income	725
		<u>          </u>
<u>8,110</u>		<u>£11,973</u>

PAYMENTS

530	Repairs & Maintenance, including Roof	3,052
1,232	Heat, Light and Insurance	1,551
1,118	Vicar, Asst. Curate, Organist, Choir, etc.	1,114
3,217	Diocesan Contribution	3,611
863	Donations to Charities	1,278
	Magazine, Churchyard, Stewardship and	
1,484	Miscellaneous expenses	1,480
		<u>          </u>
<u>8,444</u>		<u>£12,086</u>

PARISH HALL

2,420	Income from letting and sundry receipts	2,812
1,617	Less running expenses including repainting	3,644
		<u>          </u>
<u>803</u>		<u>£ (832)</u>

WAYSIDE

527	Rent of flat, donations and sundries	888
364	Refund of maintenance premiums	-
		<u>          </u>
891		888
795	Less running expenses including purchase of furniture and fittings	1,325
		<u>          </u>
<u>96</u>		<u>£ ( 437)</u>

PARISH MAGAZINE

814	Income from advertisements, Transfer from General Fund and other income	886
809	Production costs	761

A copy of the full Accounts can be obtained from  
The Treasurer, Mr. G.I. Robinson.

## FAMILY MASTERMINDS QUIZ – 27 MAY

Which team were Division Three Champions in 1952? Who wrote Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen of Milan? Who said what, and why? For the answers to these and countless other problems which have been baffling mankind for centuries, make sure you are present in the church (South Aisle) on Tuesday 27 May at 8pm for the St. James's Family Masterminds Quiz. Two well-mixed teams led by Rupert and Connie Brunt will do battle with one another in a general knowledge quiz on both useful and useless facts to find the *Mastermind Team of St. James's 1980*. The Social Committee will provide its usual delicious coffee supplemented by biscuits for a mere trifle. Don't miss this enjoyable evening – the last occasion was over five years ago. So pencil the date in your diary and watch for further announcements.

R.L.B.

## ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

The Cub Scouts, Scouts and Venture Scouts of Twickenham District held their annual St. George's Day Parade and Service in the chapel of St. Mary's Training College, Waldegrave Road at 3pm on Sunday 20 April.

The 3rd Hampton Hill Group led by Group Scout Leader Michael Childs participated; the Troop colours were carried by Peter Brittain and Pack colours by David Nielson.

In a 'trendy' address a graphic description was given of the Armour of God by a speaker who ultimately attired himself in complete motor-cyclists gear including helmet and visor.

The Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Cllr. Tremlett, attended the service and reviewed the following March Past in surprisingly blustery and chilly conditions after the warm weather of the week before.

A.B.P.

**SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL FETE ON MAY 24 SPRING BANK HOLIDAY** but this year with a different venue. Come along to the Holly Road Recreation Ground on Bank Holiday Saturday and help your local Scout Group to raise some money towards the amount needed in order to have the necessary amenities installed in our new Headquarters. The Fete is to be opened by Steve Vidor, known as "The Golden Boy of Wrestling".

A.G.M. – The Parish Hall on Friday May 16.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 1979-80

Mesdames: Y. Childs, P. Drewett, G. Gostling, P. Hennessy, M. Lawrance, E. Sharman, P. Smith.

Messrs.: R. Bucknell, A. Loyd, D. Pailthorpe, D. Taylor.

There was a considerable change in the composition of the Social Committee during the year, following the retirement of several long-standing and experienced members. The new committee wish to record not only their own thanks, but those of all members of St. James's Church who over the past twenty years have benefited from the hard work and loyal service of Eila and Hal Severn. They and other former members of the committee have set a high standard which the new committee will try to maintain.

Over the past year a varied programme of social events was arranged including a Boat Trip up the Thames, a Barn Dance, a Tennis Evening, Parish

Picnic to Leith Hill, a Ramble, Harvest Supper, A Fireworks Party, Parish Carol Singing, A Tramps Supper and A Games Evening. The Committee also represented the church at Hampton Hill Sports Day in June 1979 and at the Carnival in September.

R.L.B.

### ST. JAMES'S WOMEN'S TUESDAY CLUB

In spite of the dark evenings this winter we have had a good attendance at our meetings, but now the lighter evenings are here, we look forward to seeing many more of our members attending.

Our future programme is very varied, it includes an evening coach outing in June, and ends as usual with a 'Summer Supper' in July. Please see dates and details in the Spire;

New members and visitors are very welcome, we meet every other Tuesday at 8pm in Wayside, and they can be assured of a very friendly atmosphere awaiting them.

D.W.

#### Summer Programme 1980

April	1st	—	Social Evening
	15th	—	"My Kind of Verse" (Poetry or prose)
	29th	—	"English Churches" — Mrs. Hill
May	13th	—	"European Journey" — Mrs. Lockyer
	27th	—	"World Tour" — Mrs. Parncutt
June	5th(Thurs.)	—	Evening Coach Outing to 'Outward Mill'
	10th	—	A.G.M.
	24th	—	"The Talking Newspaper" — Mrs. Ingham
July	8th	—	Open Evening
	22nd	—	Summer Supper

### ST. JAMES'S YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

Meetings Thursday 10.30am to 12 noon, Wayside, 25 St. James's Road.

May	1	Speaker from the Citizens' Advice Bureau
	8	Toddlers Club (TC)
	15	"Skin Care" — Practical demonstration by Mrs. Gill Colman, Jafra Cosmetics
	22	TC
June	5	Meet Mrs. Richardson, Headmistress of Carlisle Infants School
	12	TC
	19	Film show by National Childbirth Trust
	20	TC
July	3	Picnic in Bushy Park
	10	TC
	17	Coach Outing to Kenwood House and Hampstead Heath, North London, start at Wayside 10.30am, return by 3pm bring a picnic
	24	TC

PLEASE NOTE: on May 7, 2.30pm you are invited to a Special Meeting of the Mothers' Union. Details on May 1

## CHEMISTS' ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

May	18	F.G. Martin, 3 Station Approach, Hampton
	25	E. & R. Kirby, 53 High Street, Teddington
	26(Bank Holiday)	F.G. Martin, 28B Priory Road, Hampton
June	1	Boots, Broad Street, Teddington
	8	D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
	15	H. Hall, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

May		
11	No Welcome Service or Evensong in our church this Sunday, as we will be joining in the UNITED SERVICE which inaugurates CHRISTIAN AID WEEK at 18.45 in the United Reformed Church in Hampton Hill High Street	
12	10.30 Editorial Board (75 St. James's Avenue)	
13	20.00 Final Session of the Deanery Course at Twickenham	
14	20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)	
15	ASCENSION DAY : 10.30 Young Families' Group "Skin Care" (W); 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia	
16	19.30 Scout Group AGM (Hall)	
18	17.15 St. James's leads the service at Laurel Dene	
20	20.00 Liturgical Committee (19 St. James's Road)	
22	14.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia	
24	14.30 Scout Group Fete (Holly Road Recreation Ground)	
25	PENTECOST : All non-pledged offerings today for the Churches' United Appeal for Reconstruction in Rhodesia	
27	Family Quiz, arranged by the Social Committee (in South Aisle of the church)	
28	Properties Committee (19 St. James's Road)	
June		
3	20.00 Meeting of Clergy and Group Leaders to assess the Deanery Course of Christian Studies, and to consider future plans (Windsor Room, St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham)	
4	Mothers' Union : Branch Outing to Wisley	
5	10.30 Young Families' Group meet Mrs. Richardson, Head of Carlisle Infants School (W)	
9	Our Mothers' Union Branch joins in the Diocesan Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral	

## MARRIAGE

April		
12	Richard Victor Jack Gorton to Christine Anita Beecham	

## CREMATIONS AT THE SOUTH-WEST MIDDLESEX CREMATORIUM

April		
1	Norah Edith Sturgeon, Flat 15, 179 Uxbridge Road, aged 68 years	
18	Ethel May Coleman, 21 Winifred Road, aged 90 years	