

EASTER EGGS

One of the subtle changes that has taken place in High Street shopping over the last few years is the all-the-year-round selling of chocolate cream eggs. Delicious that these pleasant confections are now readily available for everybody whenever they wish for them! But what a pity that the practice is steadily eroding the idea of the special Easter Egg.

Not very many years ago it was quite an excitement to watch the shops gradually fill with all kinds of special foods, gaily wrapped, as the chief Christian Festival approached. Now the currency seems to have been debased and the special Easter Eggs that are available tend to be of the exotic, highly priced kind that set more store on being 'different' than on having anything to do with Easter.

So Easter itself suffers. Not many would think that, to the Christian Easter is of more importance than Christmas. And yet it is so. Not only does it hold the promise of the meaning of Life after Death, but it also gives a meaning to the here and now. Just because Jesus achieved the humanly impossible and rose from the dead it means that we can live our lives in a spirit of having been set free from all that clogs and weighs our life down on earth. Whatever the problems (and most of us have many) we can share them with Our Risen Lord and know that He has experienced the depths and has overcome them. A Christian is one who in a special sense is joined with Christ and is, as St. Paul puts it, a 'new creation'. Christianity never has removed problems from the world, not will it. What it does do is to enable Christians to meet the whole range of human experiences in a fresh way, a confident way.

April also contains St. George's Day (23rd April). No-one is really sure who St. George was and when he lived. Some think that he is just a mythical character who never existed at all! But it is worth recalling what he stands for. Not just England because that would degenerate into nationalism of the kind which is too much to be seen in all parts of the world. George stands for all that is good and truthful and courageous; he defends the defenceless and delivers men and women from evil; he is not afraid to stand up to, and fight, evil in whatever guise it presents itself; he is humble and puts himself at the service of others. Not a bad picture of a man to have in front of us when there is so much that needs to be fought, so much that is good to be protected. The trouble is there is no St. George to do it for us — it has to be you and me.

Nicholas Chubb

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On the evening of Friday, 5th March many members of St. James' met at All Saints, Hampton with members of the other Hampton churches for the annual celebration of the Womens' World Day of Prayer, which this year celebrates its Diamond Jubilee.

The service this year was the product of the women of Ireland, North and South. They had met at the Christian Renewal Centre in the beautiful village of Rostrevor near the border between north and south to begin their work, and the

theme they had chosen was: The people of God – gathered for worship – scattered for service.

Battling her way to speak to us after 'one of those days' Connie Brunt gave us many guidelines for further thought. She read us some letters she had received from Ireland, letters which poignantly reminded us that we take for granted being able to speak our minds without fear of reprisal.

She suggested that often today stress is put on the value of service, and indeed where would such activities as the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group be without such service, but she reminded us that service is the by-product of worship and that worship must always be of central importance. We must try to achieve a state of receptive calmness in order to see the wonderful and unconditional outpouring of the love of God – a love which we can make manifest when we go our separate ways out into the world. She brought home to us how our worship together would join with our own individual experience to take each one of us a stage further.

I suspect that we all left feeling that in the many wise thoughts and ideas which Connie put to us there was for each one a personal message striking a chord in our own heart and illuminating our communal worship.

Carol Tipper

PANCAKE PARTY

My! What a Party! February 20th Pancake night in the Hall was well attended by the children with the finest lungs. It was lovely to watch them as they went from one well organised competition or game to another. They really worked hard. Alan Taylor was a splendid M.C., with his strong voice – and a piercing whistle when even he could not make himself heard. He was well supported by members of the Social Committee.

The adults who braved it enjoyed the spectacle of so much carefree enjoyment and most of them joined in too. Nicholas, Susan and Naomi were present and entered into the games with gusto. (Sarah, unfortunately, was not well that weekend). Towards the end of the lively evening we gathered our chairs up to face the dais where Ruth Mills perched on the edge of the platform and organised and conducted a spirited sing-song. She was great!

During the evening we were treated to fruit drinks or comforting hot (it was very cold outside) punch, a glass of wine with our "Ploughman's supper" enhanced by hot pancakes. The ladies who fried all these deserve an extra special 'Thank You'. (Incidentally, the rather poor specimens in the local paper were a very bad example, most pancakes turned out perfectly crisp and tossable) just right for the Pancake Race after supper, which was hilarious. Each competitor had to run the length of the hall and back tossing a pancake eight times altogether.

Thank you Social Committee – another success.

Alison Thompson

HAMPTON THINKING DAY SERVICE

On February 21st the Brownies, Guides and Rangers of Hampton District gathered in St. James' Church for their annual Thinking Day Service. The service began with a rousing hymn, during which an impressive number of Colours were presented. The theme of the service was Creation, and some

excellent singing was provided by the choir, 1st Hampton Hill Guides, who also gave the readings and led the prayers. Thanks must go to their Guider, Miss Vicky Verity, for organising such a meaningful act of worship. It was lovely to have so many parents and friends with us and they were warmly welcomed by the Vicar. After the Service the Guiders gathered in Wayside to say goodbye and thank you to Mrs. Mary Bonfield who was retiring as District Commissioner after six years' service. The Guides acted as hostesses serving tea and refreshments and this was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and presentation of gifts and flowers to Mary by the Division Commissioner, Mrs. Clare Dove.

Ann Friswell

MICHAEL BRUNSON

The CYC had the pleasure of Michael Brunson coming to talk to them recently. The evening started with Michael telling us a little of how he started out in life (reading a degree in theology) and how he changed his mind and became a journalist working with Cliff Michelmore. Later he got a job in the I.T.V. News Department. After this introduction, questions were asked by all, about everything; from how the news is brought together, to how to avoid getting shot at while reporting in countries at war. This evening was very interesting to all who attended, and we would like to thank Michael once again for coming to talk to us. This is David Friswell, CYC, reporting for the "Spire".

APCM

As announced last month, the Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Church Meeting are to be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 28th April. Apart from the period from 7.30 to 8 p.m. when coffee and biscuits will be served, the evening will be devoted to the business of the meetings themselves in the hope that ample time will be available for discussion of matters affecting the life of our church whilst still enabling us all to get home at a reasonable hour. In addition to the more formal matters to be dealt with, there will be an opportunity to question representatives of groups and committees associated with the church, and we do hope that those who have not recently been on the PCC especially will make the most of this opportunity. It would help if those wishing to raise major matters would give the Vicar notice of them beforehand. Only those on the Electoral Roll can vote at the Church Meeting itself, and we hope that those eligible will have made sure by now that they are on that roll. During the evening, elections will take place as last year for the two posts of Churchwarden and the 20 members of the PCC who have to be elected, and this year it is time, once more, to elect representatives to the Deanery Synod. These elections are perhaps the most important part of the APCM: nomination papers (together with Agenda papers) will be available in church well beforehand, and it is hoped that a last minute rush to secure nominations can be avoided and that all who can will turn up to the meeting to vote. Although any changes agreed will only become effective next year, it is proposed to discuss ways of encouraging a regular turnover of our representatives. For example, as regards the PCC, we could decide to elect representatives for three years, one third retiring each year, or we could place a limit on the number of years of continuous service. Do come along and have a say in the affairs of your church — it promises to be an interesting evening.

Ron Bridges

APCM

(ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 28th APRIL

PARISH HALL

8 pm

Coffee and biscuits from 7.30 pm

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: Monday, 10th May – Saturday, 15th May, 1982

The Christian Aid collections for 1982 will be sent by the Hampton Council of Churches to the Christian Aid General Fund. In the parish we have managed to increase our total collections each year, 1979 – £350, 1980 – £426, 1981 – £453, so I hope we shall be able to make £500 in 1982. Each year since I took on the job of organising the collecting in 1979, I have been helped by a faithful band of collectors, and I will be asking for their help again this year. However, since 1981 I have lost a few regular helpers, and would be grateful for some more volunteers, so we can cover our parish commitment.

I shall be distributing my letters appealing for help to my collectors between **April 11th and 17th** and hope they will be able to assist me again this year, plus new volunteers. I shall have each collector's Parcel containing envelopes, collectors' badge, certificate of authority and posters, available in church on **Sunday, 25th April, 1982.**

Collectors should distribute the envelopes to the houses they are calling on during the week May 3rd – 9th on any day to suit themselves, and then call to collect the envelopes during the week May 10th – 15th.

Many thanks for your help in advance.

NB: See Dates to Note for Christian Aid Service 2nd May.

Alwyne Loyd

CONFIRMATION

On 9th May the Bishop of Kensington will be coming to St. James' for Confirmation. 11 candidates will be presented from St. James' and 12 from St. Mary's, Teddington. The service will be at 6.30pm and will take the form of the Parish Communion. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the church. We hope that many people will be present over and above the immediate relatives and friends of the candidates. We want to welcome into the full fellowship of the Church those who have made the special dedication necessary. So often Confirmation is regarded as the "end" rather than the "beginning" of a new life in Christ. Let us do all in our power to stand beside and nurture those who have taken this important step and pray that they may find their new-found life full of joy and strength within the family of St. James'.

HAMPTON HILL AT HOME

Over the last few years St. James' has sponsored some evenings at which newcomers or people recently arrived in the area have had the opportunity of meeting their neighbours over a cup of coffee and hearing a little bit about the origins of Hampton Hill by means of a short talk illustrated with slides.

The last of these was about three years ago and we are now proposing to hold some evenings during the early summer and invite all who wish to come to make a note of the following dates: May 17th (at St. James' Parish Hall), June 16th (at the Parish Hall), July 8th (hopefully at Rectory School). In due course each household will receive an invitation for a particular evening, but if you cannot manage that one do feel that you can come to one of the others. To those who are recently arrived we say "do come and find out that you are among some friendly folk"; to the long-established we say "come and find out who your new neighbours are and remind yourself of some of the history you have forgotten!"

Nicholas Chubb

The Parish Hall needs YOU!

'One of the best Halls in the district' — a description used by one of our recent hirers.

Certainly, we'd like it to be, and the Hall Management Committee, now in its twelfth year, has been able to make many improvements since taking on the job. The latest has been new roof covering, the next will probably be new stage curtains.

The Hall is in use six days a week, every morning, afternoon and evening for most of the year: the cleaning and odd repairs and renewals have to be fitted in when possible, often on Sundays, but with these we can cope.

We do, however, need help with more major things, especially the annual 'Spring-clean' — which has usually taken place in the Autumn! Last year we brought it forward to the Summer with such success that this year we have decided to set aside two Saturdays during the Nursery School holiday: 14 and 21 August.

If you are willing and able to help, please note the dates now: further details will follow.

Jack Gostling

THE AREA DEAN

John Cotgrove has been Vicar of All Saints' Hampton for the past 18 years and Area Dean for just over 10. During that time he has become much loved in his parish and well known to all the parishes of Hampton Deanery. We at St. James' owe him a particular debt of gratitude for the way in which he helped during the long interregnum. We knew that he was always ready at hand to help with any problems that might arise. Now the time has come for him to move and we wish him well as he takes up the responsibilities of the parish of Linton near Cambridge. He leaves Hampton in June but relinquishes the post of Area Dean in April.

The new Area Dean will be the Vicar of St. Mary's Hampton, the Rev. J.A. Rogers. Being a close neighbour he is already known to some and we wish him well and assure him of our prayers.

JOE BOYLE

Most of you will have read or heard about the application by some Canadians to obtain permission to exhume the remains of Lt. Col. Joe Boyle who was buried in St. James' Churchyard in 1923. At the time of writing we do not know the outcome of the application. Some parishioners have written to the Chancellor of the Diocese of London and lodged objections. As a result the Chancellor is considering whether or not to hold an open Consistory Court here at St. James'. If he decides to do so it is likely that it will not be before May at the earliest. In the meantime all is as it was and the grave will continue to be kept tidy by us.

CHRISTIAN UNITY

During January our prayers and attention were given to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Nowadays this Week of Prayer is a definite feature of our Christian vocation when we try to focus attention on the healing of the divisions among the followers of Jesus Christ. What were our thoughts about this vitally important matter of Christian Unity?

Perhaps some people may feel that enthusiasm for Christian Unity is no longer so evident as in previous years a decade or more ago. During those years of the Second Vatican Council and its aftermath there were events which occurred in quick succession of a kind which were dramatic both for the character and structure of the Roman Catholic Church and its relations with other Christian Churches throughout the world. For example, the introduction of the vernacular in Roman Catholic worship and the recognition by the Vatican of other Christians as "Separated Brethren" were events of tremendous importance in fostering both unity, and a sense of ongoing unity into the future, among millions of Christians of many denominations.

The character and initiative of Pope John XXIII had a tremendous effect on the willingness of Christians to grow together in those years. To-day many people may feel that the pace of Christian Unity has slowed during the last few years. For example, some Christians may reflect disappointment in the lack of organic union between denominations. Such feelings are understandable but are outweighed beyond measure by the work of the Holy Spirit in transforming the daily relationships both among individual Christians and their Churches to which

each person belongs. So the dramatic events of earlier years in establishing a firm basis for Christian Unity have been followed by a quieter period of prayer and a growth of understanding among Christians of varied Christian traditions. So the unusual united gathering of earlier years has become the normal Christian fellowship of to-day!

During December of last year I had the privilege of experiencing the reality of Christian Unity at a weekend preaching course which was organised by our College of Preachers at the Roman Catholic Cenacle Convent at Burnham. The authorities there permitted us to celebrate the Holy Communion in the convent chapel. Spiritually, this was of tremendous value even though we did not together share the Eucharist. Here was Christian Unity being an opportunity for Anglican and Roman Catholic alike to share their experiences of the Christian vocation without any sense of artificiality or awkwardness. Both recognised the integrity of the other viewpoint yet remaining true to personal conviction. Clearly this experience was a practical example of the progress that has been achieved with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in recent years.

My conviction is that in the years ahead relations between Christians and their different Churches will become closer as understanding increases and knowledge grows of the varied Christian traditions. One fact that will assist the achievement of this objective is that Christians agree more than disagree about matters of fundamental theological principle. This is not considered on some occasions when disagreement seems dominant and triumphant! This existing wider agreement will have to be linked to a so far unresolved problem. This will be the achievement of a united Church in which strong personal convictions will be able to co-exist. This achievement may seem impossible at the present time. Yet our forefathers would not have anticipated the present degree of progress. Perhaps our challenge to-day is to pray more and to feel more for the unity which is the Will of God.

David Dore

ST. JAMES'S AREA WASTE PAPER COLLECTION

It is with reluctance that David and I have finally decided to wind up the paper collection. For record purposes we would like to give you a short summary of the work done by the paper collection.

In 1974 David started the collection in a very small way because he was keen on conservation. He actually went round knocking on doors asking people if they would be prepared to save paper. After about 18 months the price dropped and the collection was stopped for a while. £650 had been collected for local charities. In the summer of 1976 Hannah Stanton came to David and said that CCG were in great need of finances and we agreed to try and start the collection again and set ourselves the target of raising £1,000 for CCG. We again went round the streets asking people to collect and started the road steward scheme. The £1,000 was handed over to CCG in January 1978.

We then continued to collect for local charities and raised another £2,350. The charities which have benefitted are:-

Hampton Hill Old People's Welfare Committee

The Friends of Laurel Dene

League of Friends of the Maddison Clinic, Teddington

Francis de Sales Charities Group

Hampton and Hampton Hill Old Folks Dinner

League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital

League of Friends of St. Mary's Hospital, Hampton
Twickenham and District Association for Mental Health — Centre 32
CCG Coffee Shop
CCG Premises Fund
CCG Housebound and Handicapped Care Group

Altogether we have collected £4,000.

For those interested in records we collected 163 tonnes of newspaper and 52 tonnes of magazines!

We are very grateful to the church for allowing us to use the facilities at Wayside to store the paper and to make coffee on Collection days.

We are very sad that the collection has had to stop. David and I are both keen on conservation and we had an enormous amount of support from the local community both in collecting paper and helping on collection days. We made a lot of friends and there was certainly a strong community spirit on the days of the collections whatever the weather. In all the years we never once had to cancel a collection because of bad weather or lack of support.

To all who helped in the collections a very big thank you.

Janet Nunn

AROUND THE SPIRE

We congratulate Michael Severn and his wife on the birth of their second baby, Lesley Anne, baptised near Adelaide on March 7th. Michael is very fit and still playing Rugby for S. Australia!

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We send our very best wishes to Rosalind d'Alberst, (nee Pyne) and her husband Freddy on the birth and recent baptism (also March 7th), of their first child, Amber Rose. Roz was a long-term member of St. James's Y.P.F. and of the choir and now lives just outside the parish in Ormond Drive. She has recently joined the Liturgical Dancers (bringing with her her professional expertise) and it will be such a pleasure to see her once more involved in St. James's "happenings".

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It has been so good to welcome back some of our invalids to the services. Laura Collins, Violet Clark and Stan Childs after their respective sojourns in hospital and Miss Laurie Brown after her recent illness. We give thanks for their recovery.

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My father and I would like to thank Mr. Robinson for the kind remarks he made in the March "Spire" about my mother. Also to the many friends who attended her funeral, and for all the kindness shown to her during her latter months, by the Vicar and Hannah Stanton. Their support was a great comfort to us during that time.

David Thompson

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I would like to thank all those who by their visits, cards and good wishes helped to cheer me up during this long period of inactivity. I have now progressed from crutches to a stick and hopefully look forward to resuming my old job of delivering the Posters round the Parish.

Stan Childs

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I would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to all my kind friends of St. James's, for their love and prayer. It has been a great comfort to me, especially when I was in hospital and not able to see, to know that I had so many letters and get well cards. The Lord gave me the words the night my sight went: "Be still and know that I am God". What a wonderful message! It has been with me all the time, keeping me cool, calm and collected. I have been very ill, but through the help of the Holy Spirit able to smile through the storm with Jesus by my side. Again "Be still and know that I am God" came one night in hospital, and next morning I could see. All I can say is Thank You and Praise the Lord.

Violet Clark

DONATIONS TO "THE SPIRE"

It is nearly a year since we launched an appeal to help the PCC to avoid having to substantially subsidise The Spire. The amount received was very helpful, some people being very generous indeed and some undertaking to make a yearly payment.

We have just received three donations for this year and thank the donors, and, in anticipation, anybody else who enjoys reading The Spire and would like to send a contribution. A £1 note buys very little nowadays, but goes a long way towards the cost of 12 yearly issues of our parish magazine. Any gifts you wish to make, as previously, to Mrs. M. Orton, please.

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Pledged Giving	Other Giving
28 February	82	93	75.00	10.00
7 March	135	185	118.00	22.00
14 March	95	111	210.00	13.00
21 March	116	126	405.00	15.00

Chemists Additional Duty Rota

April	9	Moss, E Ltd, 14 Broad Street, Teddington
	11	Martin, F G (Chemists) Ltd, 28b Priory Road, Hampton
	12	Martin, F G (Chemists) Ltd, 28b Priory Road, Hampton
	18	Manley, D G, 122 High Street, Teddington
May	2	Kirby, E & R, 53 High Street, Teddington
	3	Kirby, E & R, 53 High Street, Teddington
	9	Boots the Chemists, 59 Broad Street, Teddington
	16	Thomas, D R, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington

BAPTISM

7th March Mark Richard Stone, 1 Longford Close

WEDDINGS

13th February Ian Fisher and Janet Elizabeth Trappmann
 20th March John David Farrington and Janette Susan Ridgers

FUNERAL

5th March Laura Williams, aged 90 Laurel Dene

DATES TO NOTE

APRIL 10 HOLY SATURDAY

19.00 Quiet hour of meditation and preparation for Easter

11 EASTER DAY

8.00 Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

18.30 Festal Evensong

13 10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James' Avenue

18 1st SUNDAY AFTER EASTER, LOW SUNDAY

Morning services as usual

18.30 "Risen with Christ" – a Devotion for Congregation and Choir

20 20.15 Liturgical Committee, 63 Park Road

21 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church

22 20.00 Hall Management Committee, 21 St. James' Road

23 ST. GEORGE'S DAY

25 2nd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER, ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

Services as usual

14.30 Scouts and Cubs St. George's Day Parade

26 14.30 Ladies' Choir, Vestry

27 20.00 Social Committee, 5 Oxford Road, Teddington

20.00 Hampton Council of Churches, Wayside

28 19.30 for 20.00 APCM, Hall

29 10.30 Young Families Group, TC, Wayside

MAY

1 ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, APOSTLES

2 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Morning services as usual

18.45 United Service for Christian Aid Week, St. James'

4 20.00 PCC, Wayside

5 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church

6 10.30 Young Families Group, "St. John Ambulance Group", Wayside

9 4th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Morning services as usual

18.30 Confirmation with the Bishop of Kensington

10 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry

11 10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James' Avenue

13 10.30 Young Families Group, TC, Wayside

14 19.30 Scouts AGM, Hall

Regular Weekday Events

Monday 10.30-13.00 and 20.00 - 22.00 Monday Wayside Centre

Tuesday 19.30 Choir Practice, Vestry

Thursday 10.30 - 12.00 Young Families Group, Wayside

19.15 Holy Communion

20.00 Koinonia

Sunday 19.30 Church Youth Club, Wayside