

The whole story of Jesus of Nazareth's days of suffering, his death and resurrection is full of the stuff of human life. The carnival atmosphere of the entry into Jerusalem, what we call Palm Sunday, the teaching, the encounters with a wide cross-section of people, the love and trust, yet also the seeds of betrayal, at supper on Maundy Thursday, the devastating loneliness of night in the Garden, the arrest and trial, the desertion by friends, the fear of what was to come, and the barbarity of execution cannot fail to move us most profoundly. It is not surprising that the friends of this man were terrified and looked to each other to try to work out what had happened to them and to their friend Jesus in the last few days, for now everything was lost.

Furthermore it was in that feeling of being lost that they heard the news of the empty tomb, news from a person on the fringes, whose witness would be inadmissible in law as she was a woman. The news they heard was that the tomb where the corpse had been laid was empty. An empty tomb then as now proves nothing. In the accounts of Luke and John the disciples ran to verify the story, for this seemed to add to their fear, not even the body of their friend was safe.

And yet after this, Jesus is met, is found, is seen and felt by the community of the disciples and by others. In these new encounters with Jesus he is to be discovered in ways very similar to those known from his earlier public ministry although the encounter is so often with a stranger. How does his happen? The stories of Jesus after his resurrection are not about visions or apparitions, but are rooted in ordinary human experience. He walks along the road with people, he eats with people, he gives advice and help, but at the same time his identity is hidden.

The disciples' experience of the grave, once sealed with a stone and now being empty, and their encounters with this stranger, who, at the same time is recognisably their Jesus, highlights this bursting energy. Nothing can confine God, not the stone at the tomb, nor death itself, not human logic or reason, nor preconceived ideas. Easter liberates us into discovering God in all aspects of human experience, in all facets of God's creation, in all our brothers and sisters, however strange or well known they may be; God's boundless love can be and is discerned. The promise is fulfilled:



'Do not be afraid; it is I, The First and the Last; I am the Living One.'

Brian Leathard

A Community Building for Hampton Hill

The Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity announced at its public Annual Meeting on 29 January that it would give its support to a project for a Community Facilities Building in Hampton Hill which had been proposed by the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group. What can we tell the people of Hampton Hill about the Project?

What we wish to do is as follows: We hope to buy or lease the site of St. James's Parish Hall in School Road, Hampton Hill from St. James's Parish Church; then we hope to retain and refurbish most of the big Hall part of the building, but to demolish and rebuild the remaining part of the site so as to get more useful accommodation.

We aim to end up with a modernised Hall, which may be capable of being divided or opened up; a new kitchen; possibly a reception area/coffee bar; rooms for the CCG Volunteers and Coordinator; a large meeting room; a counselling room or small meeting room; as well as storage space.

But all the big hurdles still lie ahead. Can we get all that on such a small site? Planning permission? Building, Fire and Safety Regulations? Total cost? At best it will be many months before building could begin, and many more months after that before anything would be ready for use.

When, and if, the new building is completed we want it to be used for as wide a variety of community uses as possible, including, one would guess, several of the present uses of the Church Hall. Hampton Hill badly needs facilities for the very young, and for the elderly and disabled, and for the age range in between. We would hope to see some drama, or music or arts activity in the new building and we believe there is a growing need for caring for children after school hours. We imagine people will still need to hold Wedding receptions and the like and we hope the meeting rooms and similar accommodation will be of use to many sorts of local organisations.

And so we must start considering now how to run and manage the community facilities in such a way that the whole community has a share in its activities and every local organisation is involved in its use and success. But again there are all the big hurdles and decisions ahead of us - a management committee? or Company? or Trust? And who will be willing to join us in the long-term enterprise?

David Wilson, Chairman CCG

Participation in Worship

Would you like to extend the ways in which you already participate in our worship?

On Saturday 28 April, from 10am to noon, many possibilities will be explored: reading, leading intercessions, offering the gifts, being a sidesperson, singing in the choir or a group, playing an instrument, dancing, helping with refreshments Please let the Vicar know of your interests, and do come along.

***** APCM *** ** APCM *** ** APCM *****

DO NOT FORGET - WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL IN CHURCH

7.00 pm Holy Communion (St. Mark the Evangelist)

7.30 pm Coffee and Chat

**8.00 pm MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Churchwardens to be chosen

Deanery Synod Representatives to be elected

Parochial Church Council Members to be elected

(Nomination Forms now available in church)

Come and hear what has been happening at St. James's

and ask questions!

More details from the Vicar

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Serving for the First Time - An Experience

We helped serve for the first time on Sunday 4 February. It was certainly quite an experience.

Jeremy handled the water and the wine quite well. First he had to take the bottles from the front. He thought it was quite tricky after he had dropped three bottles! Then he gave the water and the wine to Brian the Vicar to pour into the cups. He also had to wash the Vicar's hands which was quite tricky.

Geoffrey had to carry the Cross so he quickly said his magic word and turned into He-man because the cross is quite heavy. He had to take it out of the vestry and put it in the holder, and at the end of the service he had to take it back round the church to the vestry. He only broke one light! He also had to take the money from the front, he tried to make a swift exit! He gave the money to Brian to bless. He also helped with the Christening candles.

It was really quite enjoyable and we would like to thank Lesley for showing us what to do and everybody who made it easier for us.

Jeremy Atkinson and Geoffrey Nunn

The Broadcasting Bill - an Update

So, pressure pays! Not for the first time, the government has had second thoughts, and what appeared to be a perfectly straightforward up-and-down idea has had to be changed!

In this case, the idea was that new licences, which will allow the operation of what currently is the ITV network, and will in future be called Channel Three, would simply be 'sold' to the highest bidder, and that the successful contractors would be subject to the lightest of touches when it came to regulation.

But there was plenty of adverse reaction, not least from the General Synod of the Church of England. Much of that reaction was to voice concern that the government was paying far too little regard to programme standards.

The result is that for the very first time, the programme contractors will be required to include 'a suitable amount' of both religious and children's programmes. 'I hope', said the minister responsible for broadcasting, David Mellor, 'that this will be seen as representing a genuine desire on the part of the government to respond to the concerns expressed about the future of religious broadcasting.'

However, what Mr. Mellor understands by religious broadcasting, and what the congregation of St. James', Hampton Hill, or any other parish church, understands by it, may in time turn out to be rather different. For the government has also made it clear that a certain amount of ownership of local television and radio stations or channels by specific religious organisations is also to be allowed.

So while it is certain that some of the more traditional religious programmes, services, for example, or discussion programmes, and yes, even Harry Secombe's 'Highway', will continue, the way is now open for the screening in Britain of American-style religious programming, either made, paid for, or sponsored by specific churches or religious groups. And there is every possibility that in time, such programming will not simply be restricted to obscure, minority channels. Those who promote it are bound, in time, to bid for access on national television channels, too.

In other words, the government's enthusiasm for promoting competition may now have led to its arrival in religious broadcasting. The future impact of the government's welcome decision to guarantee religious broadcasting a place on the new Channel Three is a development which the Church of England is now going to have to consider very seriously. It's a new challenge that it must meet with new and imaginative thinking.

Michael Brunson

Our hope lies not in the man we put on the moon,
but in the man we put on the cross.

Don Basham

Amazon Rain Forest

It is difficult for us to imagine the world of the Amazon Rain Forest - where a walk in the subdued light and quietness might be disturbed by the roar of approaching torrential rain which will take ten minutes to penetrate the canopy above - but we were greatly helped by the fascinating talk and beautiful slides on the evening of 8th March. We were greatly privileged to have for our speaker Professor Ghillean Prance, a world authority on his subject and the Director of Kew Gardens.

He quickly made us aware of the vast size of the area and of the tremendous variety of trees in each part of it: in one small sample area 179 different species were found, despite the generally poor soil. There is a corresponding richness in the associated insect, animal and plant life.

Much damage has been done in recent times both to the forest itself and to the Yanomami and other indigenous Indians. The main culprits are gold miners, using mercury to separate the gold from the rock and so poisoning the rivers, and the cattle ranchers, destroying huge areas of forest (and often simply burning the timber) to produce only very low grade pasture land. Roads are built to service the miners and ranches, and hydroelectric schemes are constructed, without much thought, where much unnecessary damage is done. White people have brought diseases (such as the common cold) with devastating effects upon the Indians who had no immunity to them.

But the outlook is now better. In 1982, our speaker and others were not allowed to arrange a conference to advise the governments concerned on how the forest might be both used and preserved. Now they are invited to do so. What can be done? Dr. Prance acknowledged how much he had learned from the Indians. They collect produce from the different trees, without harming them, to provide food, medicines, and materials for all their needs. And when they cultivate areas of the forest, they grow many different species and varieties of fruits and space out the plants so that they are not easy prey to disease and infestation. Their cultivation follows a pattern and after several years an area returns to natural forest.

Such methods can be encouraged. Reservations are now being established where produce, such as fruits and rubber, may be gathered but the forest itself may not be destroyed. Studies of farmers working in these ways show that they are able to earn very good livings - much more so than those 'mining' the forest in a destructive manner. Recommendations can be made as to where hydroelectric schemes (basically environmentally friendly) can be built with the minimum of disturbance to the natural forest life. The World Bank can be persuaded to listen much more to environmental advisers before allocating funds for development. So there is some hope for the future.

Dr. Prance's concern as a Christian for the preservation of the wonderful diversity of creation was evident. We thank him for stimulating our concern and for reminding us that we are all stewards of the natural world and must play our part in caring for it.

Ron Bridges

Stuart Ward Presents

THE EDWARDIAN DRAWING ROOM

An evening of musical fun and drama !

Featuring Ballads, Comic Songs, Ragtime, Recitations, etc.

Come along and join in the fun

- dress as you wish or wear something Edwardian

Refreshments will be served by charming waitresses

THE PARISH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HAMPTON HILL

8pm, Saturday 12 May

Admission £3 - Children £2

Tickets from Stuart Ward or members of the Social Committee

Profits will be given to the Church

The Vicarage Revealed

Many people have made favourable comments about the improvements to the Vicarage, both inside and out. The front of the house can now be seen clearly for the first time in years and this has been quite a revelation. There have also been comments about the cost of these changes!

The Vicarage and its grounds **do not** belong to the parish but to a body known as the Parsonages Board which is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Vicarages throughout the Diocese. The clearing of the large, very overgrown and neglected hedge at the front of the house was deemed particularly important as it obscured the front door and imposed a considerable security risk.

The care and maintenance of the church and the churchyard are the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council. Where larger sums of money than are usually required need to be found, it is often necessary, as well as calling upon members of the congregation, to look for help from outside. This was recently the case, of course, when money was needed to repair the church spire.

It should therefore be realised that money raised for the spire from the local community (including the church members themselves) was spent on the repairs to the spire and nothing else, and the Thanksgiving Event on 1 April will, we hope, show our grateful thanks for all the support we have received.

30th April – 6th May



**MIND
WEEK**

'HOLY WEEK' EASTER WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN



Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 April

From 10.00 to 12.00 in St. James's Church

All Children and Adult Helpers Welcome

(Enquiries to Pam Atkinson on 979 6166)

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To Any Prospective Skiers

As several people from St. James's Church go skiing we thought it would be nice to organise a joint skiing holiday in 1991. If you have never skied but would like to try, now is your chance. We are proposing that we go to Alpe D'Huez from 6 to 13 April. The holiday will probably cost an adult about £500 (slightly less for under 12's). This price does not include ski clothing. If you are interested in skiing and mountain sunshine, then please contact one of us.

Paul and Margaret Revis

Ian and Coryn Robinson

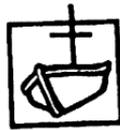
Around the Spire

The eyes seem to have it again this month when we have heard of at least two people having operations on their eyes, Catherine Jones and Len Orton, both of whom are making good recoveries. Various other people have also had problems with their vision, including Mrs. Ross whose eyes are now much improved after having both operated upon at the same time, Chrissie Hockley who is not sufficiently well to have the needed treatment, and Gordon Shackleton who lost the sight in one eye but is beginning to see with it again. We do wish them all well.



The Missions to Seamen

Would those who have boxes for the Missions to Seamen please hand them to Violet Clark by the end of April so that their contents may be sent on to the Missions.



Scout Group News

The Scouts will be camping at Chalfont at Easter and are hoping to have their summer camp in Staffordshire. A number of patrol activities are organised, including helping with churchyard clearing as part of their community service, and a visit to the Science Museum.

Three members of the Venture Unit completed the arduous Southern 50 Challenge in February and the Ventures also took part in the District Night Owl Competition in March.

The Beaver Section has a waiting list at present but all other sections - Cubs (8-10), Scouts (10-15) and Ventures (15-20, male or female) - have space for new members. Our hard-working leaders would also appreciate help from any interested adults on either a regular or occasional basis.

Advance Notice: The Scout Group will again be organising the **Annual Fun Day and Children's Races** on Holly Road Recreation Ground. It has been booked for 14 July and any local organisation which would like to have a stall should contact the GSL John Nielsen on 941 0352.

Sue Horner

Social Committee News

Please take a note of the following events and come along and join in the fun:

Saturday 21 April - Ramble: A steady stroll, not too hard going, suitable for all ages.

Saturday 12 May - The Edwardian Drawing Room: Please see separate block.

Saturday 16 June - Summer Outing: It is hoped to visit a 'Theme Park' where all ages are catered for. Details later.

A Beetle Drive and Quiz is planned for late September, and the Harvest Supper for early October.

From the Registers

Baptisms

February	4	Jane Knight. Sarah Knight and Anthony Edwards, all of Melanie Louise McLaren	54 Laurel Road 52 Wordsworth Road
	18	Thomas Edward Hide Dale Christopher Monk	16 Lindsay Road 59 Wordsworth Road

Funeral

February	26	Rupert William John Bunce	51 Park Road	Aged 23
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Regular Weekly Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion (except first Sunday in month)
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion (with Ministry of Healing on the first Thursday in month)

Other Services and Dates to Note

April	1	09.30	Informal Service
		15.30	Thanksgiving for spire renovation
		18.30	Choral Evensong
		21.00	Compline
	2	20.00	M.U. Evening Discussion Group, Wayside
	3	20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Meet Charles Dickens', Wayside
	7	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	8		Palm Sunday
		18.30	Music and Readings for Holy Week
		21.00	Compline
	9	21.00	Compline
	10	21.00	Compline
	11	10.00	Workshop for Children in church
		21.00	Compline
	12		Maunder Thursday
		10.00	Workshop for Children in church
		19.30	Hot Cross Buns
		20.00	Parish Communion with The Washing of Feet
	13		Good Friday
		10.30	Leave for Open-Air Service at Sainsbury's, Hampton
		12.00	Three Hours' Meditation and Devotion
		21.00	Compline
	14	20.00	Easter Vigil and Lighting of New Fire
	15		Easter Day
		18.30	'Christ is Risen': Music and Readings
	17	20.00	Tuesday Club: 'One Man's Embroidery', Wayside
	21		Ramble
	22	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	23	20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. Theodore's Church, Hampton
	25		St. Mark the Evangelist
		19.00	Holy Communion
		19.30	Coffee and Chat
		20.00	Annual Parochial Church Meeting (in church)
	28	10.00	Worship Resources Workshop, Church (until noon)
		19.30	HCC Lent Groups Service, St. James's Church
	29	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise

Advance Notices

May	1		St. Philip and St. James
	3	20.00	PCC, Vestry
	5	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	12	20.00	The Edwardian Drawing Room, Parish Hall
	13	16.30	United Service for Christian Aid Week
	16 to 19		Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park