

Recently, as the news from Bosnia has become worse and worse, with no prospect of peace or reconciliation seeming at all possible, I took off the bookshelf something I read a couple of years back during Lent. In a sense it is not a 'Lent' type book at all, not overtly spiritual or demanding upon the reader - but, for me, it proved a real stimulus. It is by Gerard W. Hughes, a Jesuit priest and it is called *Walk to Jerusalem*. It is a book on two levels, for it is an account of a journey made mostly on foot from Scotland to Jerusalem. It is also the account of an inner journey - a journey into oneself, and in so travelling, one is travelling deeper into God.

Yes, I was fascinated by the account of the outward journey, the trudging in the rain and sleet, the frustration when things went wrong. Alarming, some of Hughes' most inhospitable encounters were when he asked clergy for help - hot water or a chance to dry some clothes; some of his most moving encounters were set in the very regions of the former Yugoslavia, which are now being torn apart and whose people - especially their most vulnerable - are being abused and brutalised.

The other, inward journey begins with the outward experiences and encounters but seeks to use such experiences as signposts which point out the difference between false values and true values, self-centredness and self, hope and despair, love or its absence. Such is not only a Lenten journey but a journey which the followers of Christ are called to make every day. So an encounter with a barman in Yugoslavia, in which the barman asked Hughes why on earth he was doing such an insane thing as walking to Jerusalem produced in Hughes some fruitful thoughts. Hughes tried to explain the purpose of his journey but the bemused barman offered him another beer and said 'Yes, but what can the little people do?'

Of course, the answer is that little people can do nothing as long as we are distorted by our narrow, self-centred vision of ourselves. This takes us right to the heart of Easter - the crucifixion and the resurrection. For Good Friday is about dying to self, letting go of all that we cling to - materially, emotionally, religiously; letting go even to the very losing of life, like Christ on the cross. Only then can we discover resurrection, the freedom of the risen life, the new life, the life into which we are baptised and grow; the life in which we are one with Christ. The Easter life is the life of Christ's peace - a peace struggled and sweated over, a costly, risky path to take - but it is a life, an Easter life which channels God's creative love and peace through you and me.



Bishop Helder Camara wrote:

Lord, what is the point of your presence
if our lives do not alter?
Change our lives, shatter
our complacency,
make your word
flesh of our flesh,
blood of our blood,
and our life's purpose.
Take away that self-regard
which makes our consciences feel clear.
Press us uncomfortably.
For only thus
that other peace is made.
Your peace.

Make that your prayer and your life this Easter. Do please join us in any of our Easter worship.

May the peace of the crucified and risen Christ be with you.

Brian Leathard

*** * * Annual Parochial Church Meeting * * ***
Sunday 25 April at 11 am

Once again your Parochial Church Council is preparing for the Annual Meeting of its share-holders - the members of the congregation of St.. James's Church! We shall meet after the Eucharist on 25th April, in church, so please either stay after the service and coffee, or come specially to discuss our church life together, think about our plans for the building and financing of the new Church Hall (will it bear an original name?) and our ideas for spreading the gospel and the development of Christian life and Christian education in Hampton Hill.

Please join in the discussions, vote for P.C.C. members and consider our choice of the new churchwarden to replace Alan Taylor, from whose spirituality, energy, willing use of time and interest in, and great knowledge of, building work, we have all greatly profited. Come along on 25th April, air your views, put forward your objections and make your voice heard!

After the meeting we shall continue to enjoy our fellowship over lunch - all contributions will be gladly received.

We look forward to a fruitful, thoughtful and happy A.P.C.M.

Margaret Taylor

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 4 April	08.00	Holy Communion Parish Communion with Procession of Palms and Dramatic Reading of the Passion
	18.30	Words and Music for Holy Week
Monday in Holy Week 5 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
	21.00	Music and Compline
Tuesday in Holy Week 6 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Holy Communion
	21.00	Music and Compline
Wednesday in Holy Week 7 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
	21.00	Music and Compline
Maundy Thursday 8 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
	19.30	Coffee and Hot Cross Buns
	20.00	Parish Communion and Institution of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday 9 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
	11.00	Hampton Council of Churches Service of Witness at old Hampton Sainsbury's
	12.00 - 15.00	Three Hours Meditation
Easter Eve 10 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
	20.00	Service of Light - Lighting of Paschal Candle
EASTER DAY 11 April	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	18.30	Easter Songs of Praise
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WANTED

Wedding Photographs

Were you, or your parents, grandparents, or even great-grandparents, married at St. James's church?

Do you have a photograph of the event?

To celebrate our 130th Anniversary we hope to have a display in July of wedding photographs covering as long a period as possible.

If you can help, please 'phone

Mrs. Helen Taylor on 979 7042.

Our New Hall - Progress Report

As soon as the sale of 'Wayside' was completed, our Architect, Structural Engineer and Quantity Surveyor were given the go-ahead.

Work is proceeding apace with the necessary production of working drawings, specifications and Bills of quantities, so that the final Council approvals can be obtained and tenders for the building be invited.

Dependent upon progress with these processes, we hope that building work will start in July.

Before then, alterations have to be made to the Vicarage, including re-siting the garage and garage drive, and work on these should start in a matter of weeks.

Of immediate impact is the temporary classroom and loo structure now placed in front of the Vicarage to accommodate the Sunday School and other groups until the new Hall is ready for use.

Lastly, a word of appreciation to Steve and Ann Croft, the new owners of 'Wayside', for so kindly allowing the Sunday School to continue to meet there while we were waiting for planning consent for the temporary classroom.

More next month.

Jack Gostling

* * * **130th Anniversary Celebrations** * * *

Please book these dates - more to come.

Sunday 4 July 9. 30 am

David, Bishop of London, to preside at Parish Communion and the Blessing of the Foundation Stone of our new Church Hall

Saturday 17 July Church Open Day

Sunday 25 July 11. 00 am

Timothy Raphael, Archdeacon of Middlesex, to join our celebration of St. James's Day



Thanks

The Peninsula School Feeding Association thanks St. James's for its donation of £130, collected in church a month or two ago, towards its School Feeding project.

They provide a supplementary 'meal' of a cup of soup and a slice of brown bread and peanut butter to over 157,000 underprivileged children in 368 primary schools in the South African Peninsular each school day.

Christian Aid Week -

16 to 22 May

Please can you help as a collector this year for this very worthy cause?

The theme is again:

'We believe in life before death'

but this year concern is particularly with issues of trade and fair dealing in the world.

Last year our 28 collectors brought in over £1500, despite the recession and this year the need is as great as ever. Many have been collectors for years, but if we had more volunteers, more ground could be covered and we would each be able to have a smaller number of houses to call on.

Do please think about doing this satisfying and worthwhile task and give me a ring on 977 1342 to find out more.



Margaret Taylor

..... through a glass darkly

I am very much in accord with Stuart Ward's view of the message of the bible in the March 'Spire'. It brings into sharper focus some thoughts of my own about our recent discussions in the PCC about the 'Decade of Evangelism'. However, although I agree with him, Stuart may well wish to distance himself from the more extreme views I express below.

Evangelism means preaching the gospel, and we are called to do this. However, for me, the word 'evangelism' in a modern context has an uneasy ring about it. I think of Wembley crowds addressed by men brandishing the bible like a talisman, and rousing shallow emotion unsupported by sensible practical instruction. Calling for people to come forward and 'believe' or 'be saved' has an instant appeal for the spiritually hungry. Many must be disappointed to find that 'being saved' at such a meeting is at best a vague indication of a signpost to a straight and narrow way, rather than a magic carpet to enlightenment.

The three traditional signposts for Christians are the bible, doctrine, and an informed conscience. A Quaker might add a fourth, 'the spirit of the meeting', which seems to me to be a good one too. There are others. Although I know that to some Christians the bible has complete clarity and certainty, I am not comfortable unless I am reassured in my interpretation of it by other signposts. For one thing I only understand, or perhaps think I understand, a very small part of the bible. The gospel to me is the

interpreted teaching of Christ rather than the literal word of the bible. Moreover, preaching the gospel is not just reading the signposts to someone, or even telling them what one thinks they say, it is actually treading the way oneself. Many people who do not call themselves Christian tread the path; they have their own signposts, and I see them as evangelists, too.

Thus I believe evangelism, or preaching the gospel as I have defined it, occurs when someone speaks or acts according to the gospel, even if they have not read it. As I said, I believe evangelism is achieved by some people who are not Christian; Gandhi gave a message of the strength of non-violence to the world which will last as long as history. I am sure there are many unknown saints who profess religions other than ours. May our Decade welcome them as fellow evangelists, and may we learn to work with them to the glory of God.

Dick Wilde

A Time of Renewal

The Convent at Ham Common with its peaceful interior and delightful garden has become a favourite place of mine. It was therefore with anticipation of rest and renewal that I joined the parish Quiet Day.

In my quiet time at home I had been reading a book on prayer and meditation called 'Open to God' by Joyce Huggett. I wanted not to 'do' but to 'be' - to spend my time in prayer and silence. For some time I had been feeling that my prayer had become stale and that I did not seem to be 'growing'. I was searching for a closer walk with God and although I did not feel like making what I imagined to be a mammoth effort I knew I was being called to listen to God.

The weather was surprisingly warm enough to listen to God in the garden. I found a quiet spot and lost myself in its beauty. Praise and thankfulness seem so natural when one is surrounded by the delights of nature. After some time of prayer and reflection I decided to explore and to my joy found myself in a grassy avenue carpeted with daffodils and myriads of large purple crocuses. I felt so close to nature and its creator that I was sorry I had to go inside for lunch.

We had decided to be silent for the whole day. It is surprising how even the slightest noise can impinge upon one's consciousness and become a major distraction. After lunch we took part in an Ignatian based meditation. This was presented so beautifully by our Leader, the Rev. Joan Kitney, that a great sense of peace came over me and I received enlightenment concerning a personal problem.

A little time was left to ourselves and I lapped up more of Joyce Huggett's words on prayer in another of her books, 'Listening to God'. A friend and I lovingly showed each other extracts from our reading that we found moving and before long it was time for tea and the end of our day. Or was it an end? - I felt it was more of a beginning - a time of resolution and challenge - a time of resurrection - a time to grow and be thankful for the yearning and searching spirit, the gift that only God can give to us. Our dissatisfac-

tion is often our Father's doing after all! So:

'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
O Lord, my heart is ready, my heart is ready;
my mind awake, attent, alert;
my spirit open and ardent,
abandoning all else,
holding itself in leash,
straining the eye of faith,
hearkening for your step, distant and nearer,
leaping with love,
throbbing loudly, yet lying still;
Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'
(Dean Eric Milner-White)

Janet Jeffries

Brownies Thinking Day

At a recent Sunday service, different Brownies gave us individually some thoughts on being a Brownie. Here are extracts from the thoughts of Annalie Croney who has just left the Brownies.

One of the last things I did in Brownies was three weeks of a special session which Brown Owl did to get qualifications to be a Community Worker. We talked about the environment, families and body image. It was really interesting. You could say anything!

At Brownies, we always did badges. We did First Aid and a nurse came in and tested us on what we had learned. We also did our cycling badges. We went swimming many times and we always got Brown Owl into the pool eventually! Every Brownie did their swimming badge.

We were all involved in the St. James's Church Open Day last year. We were waitresses - but got no tips! This was part of our Hostess badge work - but we really enjoyed it. We were allowed to go up the bell tower. I'm not sure what badge that was for - probably the mountaineering badge or a bravery badge!

Talking about the church, Brian came in and gave us a talk on life as a vicar. We didn't realise how much work he had to do during the week. We just thought he worked on Sundays!

My best moment was when I became the Imp Sixer. When the new Brownies were ready to be enrolled, I was very nervous in case I forgot my words. After every enrolment, we all would sit down and sing songs. Besides being fun, Brownies aims to teach us to think of others before ourselves and do a good deed every day. I would just like to thank Brown Owl for all the time, energy and effort she puts into Brownies. We all appreciate it very much - and like her very much too.

If anyone is interested in the Brownies, please contact Brown Owl, Lesley Brough, on 943 0683.

Scout Group News

The Beaver Colony's new colours were dedicated at the 9.30am Service on 7 March.

All sections of the Group have been enjoying success recently. The Cubs gained 33 badges at the recent Badge Day, the best in the District. The Scout Troop won the District First Aid Competition and then went on to win the County competition. The Venture Unit came second in the District Five-a-side football competition.

The Group is holding a Sixties Disco at St. Francis de Sales Church Hall at 7pm on Saturday 3 April. All are welcome and tickets (£3) are available from Maureen Hucklesby (898 9609) or at the door.

The Scouts will be camping at Phasells Wood at Easter and the Cubs will be holding a weekend camp at Windsor in May.

Susan Horner

Save the Children

The Committee of the Teddington and the Hampsons Branch would like to thank you for your support on 27 February when the Loki Ensemble performed at St. James's Church. £288.50 was raised, money much needed for the Somalia appeal.

The next event being planned is a Barn Dance to be held on 17 April at 8pm at York House, Twickenham. If you would like a ticket (£6), please ask me.

Then comes a week of can shaking - door to door, and outside Sainsbury's and Tesco's. This will be from 25 April to 1 May which is very close to Christian Aid week, but if you can spare even half an hour it may affect a child's life: think about it and speak to me if you can help.



Kate O'Sullivan

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Do you know anyone
- not at present on our distribution list -
who would like to have this magazine
each month?

If so, please let Alwyne Loyd

(on 943 3568)

know their name and address

Around the Spire

Jean Western and Hettie Burgess are now both at home, Hettie permanently. She is making good progress at getting round her flat after her stroke in December. Jean is home temporarily before returning to West Middlesex Hospital to have her leg plasters removed and some essential physiotherapy to get her walking again after such a long period of inactivity.

Bill Jerman, the Headmaster of Hampton Hill Junior School, has damaged his Achilles tendon. He is out of hospital now but will be on sick leave for some time.

Muneaki Kitahara was baptised at St. James's earlier this year and is to be married here in June. Mune (as he has asked us to call him) works for Japanese Air Lines and is a regular member of our congregation. We welcome him and look forward to meeting his fiancé and to their wedding.

Keith and Elizabeth Lambert and their two children will be over here from Germany at Easter time for the baptism at St. James's of the children. Keith is now based in West Berlin. It will be a great pleasure to see them and to welcome Rachel and Craig into the family of the church.

We say goodbye to the Mitchell family, long-time residents of Hampton Hill, as they move to Sunbury. Hampton Hill will not be the same place without the familiar figure of Pat on her bicycle. We wish them all joy in their new home and hope to see them occasionally in the future.

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Prepare NOW for your congregation to join with others from all over London and come to:

'LET'S CELEBRATE!'



AN EVENING AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL TOGETHER WITH BISHOP DAVID TO CELEBRATE THE SHARING OF CHRISTIAN FAITH IN LONDON

SUNDAY MAY 23RD 1993, 6.30 PM

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From the Registers - February

Baptism

9 Muneaki Kitahara 7 Rectory Grove

Funerals

1 Ronald Bernard Skinner 36 Wolsey Road Aged 70
19 Henrietta Beatrice Webb 21 Links View Road Aged 93

Dates to Note

- April 3 10.30-12.00 Coffee Morning & Taster at the launch of
St. James's Recipe Book
19.00 Scout Group Sixties Disco, St. Francis de Sales Church Hall
4 to 11 **Holy Week and Easter - see separate list of services**



The Last Supper

- April 5 14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
7 14.00 Women's Forum, Music and Readings for Holy Week,
Church
17 19.30 Concert in church by the Little Orchestra Group
20.00 Save the Children Barn Dance, York House, Twickenham
20 20.00 Taizé Service at St. James's Church
21 20.00 Women's Forum, Sacred Music for Eastertide, Church
25 11.00 **Annual Parochial Church Meeting, followed by lunch,
Church**
26 **St. Mark the Evangelist**

Advance Notices

- May 1 **St. Philip and St. James, Apostles**
5 14.00 Women's Forum, Fair Trade Shopping, Church
12 20.00 Confirmation at St. James's Church by the Bishop of
Kensington
14 **St. Matthias, the Apostle**
16 to 22 Christian Aid Week
19 20.00 Women's Forum, The Work of Christian Aid, Church
23 18.30 Let's Celebrate! St. Paul's Cathedral

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