

The churchyard at St. James's is a real asset. Not only is it a useful shortcut, it is also a place to use, to enjoy the quiet, the impression of nature in cultivated care, without being over-regimented. Some of the graves are lovingly tended, others have been rather neglected and a few we know to have been damaged. It is also listed as a place of local scientific note, because of its flora and fauna. As I write the snowdrops are in bloom, against the odds. Soon the cycle of growth will bring crocus, daffodil and then bluebell to carpet the churchyard, transforming the stark winter scene until it seems but a distant memory. Our churchyard is indeed a place for all seasons, with something new to offer whatever the month of the year.

This natural cycle seems to add extra emphasis to this month's celebration of the central theme of our faith - Christ's death and resurrection. If we mark them and attempt to live them day by day the events such as the entry of Christ into Jerusalem, the tightening grip of the encounters of Holy Week, the betrayal, arrest, torture, mocking and execution of Christ also seem to follow and inexorable cycle. These events seem to have a momentum of their own, culminating, almost inevitably in the crucifixion.

And yet, the resurrection asserts that this inevitability does not end in death, but in life, in fullness of life, in life transformed. For the resurrection is not some sort of spiritual eraser, with which we wipe out the events of Holy Week - far from it. The point of the resurrection is that it comes because Christ lived through the events of rebuttal, betrayal, imprisonment crucifixion and death.

When the Christian community meets together, Sunday by Sunday, and supremely on Easter Day to break bread and share the common cup over which Jesus agonized, on the night before he was killed, we are affirming that the truth about his life, his death and his resurrection is the truth about our lives too. For we are sure that once and for all the case for love has been made and has been won. And furthermore, we are part of it.

For Christian people Holy Week and Easter is not about an attempt to recapture a dim ancient memory of a man called Jesus in far off Jerusalem, but of committing ourselves to continue and to grow in a reality which betrayal, torment and death could not destroy then - and cannot destroy now.

We will sing on Easter Day

*Love's redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won...
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened Paradise*

So please use the cycle of nature in the churchyard and also use the pattern of Holy Week and Easter to immerse yourself in the conviction of the risen life,

now; and in living it out. You will, of course, be very welcome to join us at any of the services during Holy Week and Easter.

Brian Leathard

Services during Holy Week and Easter 1997

Palm Sunday	23 March	0800 Holy Communion
		0930 Parish Communion & Reading of the Passion
		2100 Compline
Monday	24 March	0915 Morning Prayer
		2100 Compline
Tuesday	25 March	0930 Holy Communion
		2100 Compline
Wednesday	26 March	0915 Morning Prayer
		2100 Compline
Maundy Thursday		0915 Morning Prayer
		2000 Parish Communion & Washing of Feet
Good Friday		0915 Morning Prayer
		1100 HCC Open Air Service, Old Sainsbury's
		1200 - 1500 Three Hour Service
		1930 DIY 'Messiah' (in aid of Organ Fund)
Easter Eve		0915 Morning Prayer
		2000 Easter Liturgy & Lighting of New Fire
EASTER DAY		0800 Holy Communion
		0930 Parish Communion

THE JULIAN GROUP

This group ran for a number of years until about three years ago. It derived its name from Dame Julian of Norwich's words "Prayer one-eth (units) the soul to God".

The purpose of meeting was to engage in quiet prayer for healing - for self, loved ones or those others known to be in special need. The meetings lasted for one hour which was spent in silent confession, in praise and thanksgiving, in intercession and, finally, the "laying on of hands" for healing through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who attended, regularly or from time to time, said they greatly benefitted in one way or another. Meetings will start on Tuesday 11th March punctually at 2.30 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. Do please come if you feel the call. You will be more than welcome.

(We could meet on Wednesdays if this was found to be more convenient).

Margery Orton

3rd HAMPTON HILL SCOUT GROUP

You may have noticed at the February Church Parade that we did things a little differently. We decided to return to our ways of old(!) in finishing up on parade in the courtyard and dismissing from there. Watch for improvements in the coming months (perhaps in numbers attending, too).

Beavers have been quiet (if you can apply the word quiet to 24 boys aged 6 to 8 years!). This term Cubs are planning pancakes on tin cans and a science evening. The Scouts will have their first camp of the year at Easter (brave souls) and are entering the district first aid competition where they have had some success in recent years. The Ventures are the real nutters, though, as they will have entered two teams in the Southern 50 Challenge by the time you read this. The Challenge is to walk 50 miles in 24 hours. Good luck to them.

Some dates for your diary:

A Barn Dance will be held at St. Francis de Sales Church Hall on 22nd March, a great evening with bar, fish and chip supper and a few 'games'. Tickets from Marion Moody 941 2243 £7.50 adults, £5.00 under 12s.

Our Fun Sports Day will be held on 12th July. As many of you know, this is a fun day, but this year plans are afoot to make this event very special indeed. Watch this space.

Our final bit of news is the best bit. The new headquarters will now be going ahead this year. The Hampton Fuel Allotment Trust has recently offered us up to £200,000 to finance the new building. We are all as pleased as Punch and look forward to working with the youth of our community in our own purpose-built hall. A huge vote of thanks to H.F.A.C. and to all the members of our group and their outside contacts, who have put in an immense amount of time and work to get us this offer.

Paul Fitchett 941 7186

A NEW REMEDIAL EXERCISE CLASS

A new exercise class has started on Thursday afternoons from 3.30 - 4.30 in the small Church hall. This class, run by Margaret Woddell, is rather unusual as it is a seated exercise class suitable for anyone who needs to keep mobile and active but who does not want to leap around in a leotard. Margaret specialises in classes for those with health problems or any condition which precludes vigorous exercise.

The class is designed to work through the whole body using all the joints and muscles, increasing both strength and flexibility. Exercising can be fun, as we have found in this class, so why not come along on a Thursday afternoon and give it a try. Classes cost £3 and no pre-booking is necessary.

For more information, phone Margaret on 979 3737.

VISIT BY BISHOP MICHAEL



The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt. Rev. Michael Colclough, visited St. James's on Wednesday 22 January. Brian had planned a full day for him, starting with a question-and-answer session with Year 9 pupils at Rectory School, where he

also met the headteacher and R.E. staff. Next, at Hampton Hill Junior School, Bishop Michael took the theme of "dressing up for a party" and explained the work of a Bishop using his vestments and mitre.

The next calls were on our oldest and youngest parishioners, Chrissie Hockley and Thomas Miskin, and on the largest employer in the parish: Sainsbury's. Despite the press picture, the Bishop did not actually have time to do his shopping!

In the evening, Bishop Michael attended the P.C.C. and led a Bible Study. He was presented with a framed copy of the cartoon below as a memento of his day, which concluded with Compline in Church.

Bishop Michael told Brian that he found the parish "purposeful and with a sense of direction".



CHURCH SPRING CLEAN MARCH 14TH AND 15TH



Two days? Past experience is that we have to do all the high level cleaning - the aisle roof trusses, gable windows, chandeliers, column caps, the East and West windows and quite a bit more, before we can do the things at floor level. That is, all the floors to be Hoovered, washed, sealed: pews etc. polished. The chancel, baptistry, vestry, both porches, the nave and aisles - even the clock chamber if we have time. Plenty to do then, and plenty of help needed!

If you can give a few hours on either the Friday or Saturday, please add your name to the list in the Church from the 2nd March.

Jack Gostling

CANDLEMAS

On Saturday 1st February history was made at St. James's! As part of our celebration of the Presentation of Christ in the 'Temple we had a Sung Eucharist by the Patmos Scholars who were led by our own Chris Hodges. The exquisite music by William Byrd was a five part Mass and Motets for Candlemas which, Chris is sure, is unlikely to have been sung liturgically since Byrd's time. Combined with our familiar Rite A service, this was a most moving occasion. It was followed on Sunday morning by a service for Candlemas. The Liturgical Dancers set the scene for the "Presentation of Jesus" at the Temple. Two young dancers, Caitlyn and Serena danced most expressively as the two doves brought for sacrifice. Next came the acolytes, Anusha, Natasha and Aita and the lighting of candles throughout the whole congregation. The role of Simeon was acted by the Vicar and Anna by Mona Gow. The Holy Family were represented by the Miskin family; baby Tom brought by his parents for presentation at the present day.

The candlelit service made us feel the continuation into the "Here and Now" of the ancient ceremony of Candlemas.

Rosalie Meyerowitz

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB: HAMPTON HILL PLAYHOUSE

Teddington Theatre Club's new theatre in Hampton Hill High Street has aroused tremendous interest. The shell has now been completed and a Theatre Consultant is advising on fitting out the interior.

Meanwhile I continue to fundraise so that this can be started at the earliest possible date. It is such a fine building and the completed theatre will be such a marvellous local facility that many local people wish to be associated with it. To this end, I encourage you to donate:

£1000 and become a Founder Member for life, with name on the Board of Benefactors,

£500 and have the Name of your choice affixed to the back of one of the Theatre Seats,

£50 to Buy and Name a Brick,

Or any other donation.

Equally important is for as many people as possible to join the club as members and be part of the body administering the building and its activities.

Full information may be obtained from me, Eric Yardley, The Appeal Coordinator, 17 The Wilderness, Park Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 IHS (Tel: 0181 979 7904). Arrangements for parties to see inside can be made by mutual agreement.

Eric Yardley



CHILDREN'S CORNER



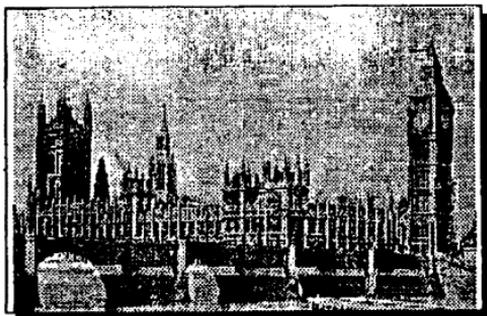
Most of this month is filled with Lent, a serious time in the church's calendar when many people "give up" something they really enjoy. Lent is often a time to fast, but on the fourth Sunday in Lent people are allowed to relax a little, and enjoy Refreshment Sunday. It is also Mothering Sunday.

Long, long ago, in the middle ages, young children were sent away to "service" where they lived in another home and were servants, doing cleaning and many other jobs that adults now do. They only had one day off in the year and that was Mothering Sunday, when they were allowed home to see their family. As they walked through the woods they would gather the wild spring flowers, primroses, snowdrops and bluebells to make a posy to give to their mothers.

It was a family gathering and simnel cake would be served with 12 balls of marzipan on top to represent the apostles. Prayers to remember, and ask for God's blessing on, mothers and family were said, as we do now.

General Election 1997

Soon we shall have to vote. What are the issues?
How should we vote?



What Local Churches Have to Offer *A Guide to Action*

"Why Get Involved?" - "Setting Up A Local Group"
"What Will The Congregation Think?"
"Praying About The Election" - "Exploring The Issues"
"Getting To Know The Candidates"
"Spreading the Word" - "Taking A Stand"

AND MANY MORE USEFUL TIPS AND HINTS -

The diocese has published this guide and the parish
has requested a copy.
Start praying and thinking now.

* * *

CORRECTION: The recipe in last month's Spire should have been headed 'From Etha's Kitchen'. We apologise to Etha for mis-spelling her name.



The Travellers are expanding: Several members of the Young Church are joining the band. Are there any other talents, of any age, out there? Any instrumentalist (who can read music) and any singer will be welcomed. Please contact Prill and Martin Hinckley on 979 0528.

AROUND THE SPIRE

We are very pleased to report that there has been a good initial response to the Organ Donor appeal. So far the amount raised is in the region of £1000. It is certainly not too late to decide to sponsor one of the pipes: So do come forward with your offers.

Bishop Wand Church of England School is holding its 3rd Annual Art Exhibition and Sale on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March from 6.00 - 9.30p.m. and on Saturday 22nd March from 10.00 - 1 p.m. You are welcome to browse and buy.

Please remember in your prayers those people who are ill or distressed and are in need of love and support: Ron and Mary Metcalfe and Roy and Kath Brooks. These couples have been coping with illness for a long while. We also pray for Fred Lansdown in the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton. Vera Bannister and Betty Ramsden have both returned to their homes after a stay in hospital. Good wishes to them both.

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

- to John and Nellie Mhandro. John has been voted 'Employee of the Year' at his place of work, Shepperton Motors. His wife Nellie is expecting a baby.

- to Sally Highley, who has graduated from Roehampton Institute with a diploma in Counselling Skills, which she uses in her work at the West Middlesex Hospital.

- and to Daphne Robey on, the birth of her granddaughter Lucy on 3rd February. Lucy is the daughter of Daphne's son David and his wife Debbie, and a sister for their two sets of twins, Charlotte and James and Edward and William. We wish them much happiness.

FROM THE JANUARY REGISTERS

Baptism

12 Suzanne Margaret Rosalind HEWITT, 5 Edward Road

Funerals

3	Gordon POPPLETON, 319 Hanworth Road	68
6	Arthur DAVY, 1 Rectory Grove	90
9	Pat SMITH, 5 Loxley Road	68
10	Charles CLARKE, 61 Rectory Grove	88
20	Victor James BREEDON, 2a Cross Street	75
23	Reginald Edward ROBERTS, 33 Laurel Road	75
24	Eugenie LEWIS, 3 Bishop's Grove	63
28	May Victoria Ballard Schneider KREIBERG	85
29	Rosalie Anna GRIFFITHS, 18 Mason Close, Oldfield Road, Hampton	91
30	Elsie SHARPE, 79 Winchester Court, Vicarage Gate, Kensington	82
30	Patricia MACK-HABES, 3 Garside Close, Hampton	78



HELP



We need a volunteer to deliver the Spire in Wolsey Road, School Road, School Road Avenue and Holly Road. It takes about 40 minutes once a month. Please contact Susan Horner on 979 9380.

Have you any photographs of Church events from recent years for a Parish Photograph Album? Prill Hinckley has kindly offered to organise this for us and photographs, with the date and names, can be given to her in Church or taken to 115 Burtons Road. If you take any photos in the future, please take an extra one for our records. Our thanks to Prill for undertaking this.

Hill Park Nursery School, based in our Church Hall, would like old Christmas and Birthday cards, magazines, scraps of fabric, egg-boxes, etc. Boxes for contributions are in the Church and the hall.



DATES TO NOTE

- 1 David, Patron Saint of Wales c.601
2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield
0930 Parish Communion
5 2.30p.m. Women's Forum: Living with Diabetes Katherine Gash
7 Women's World Day of Prayer
2.30p.m. & 8p.m. at United Reformed Church
Speakers: Mrs. Peggy Komlosy & Dr. Heather Scott
8 Parish Quiz Night Hall with refreshments 7.30p.m.
9 Mothering Sunday
0930 Informal Service
14 & 15 Church Spring Clean Help needed. See Jack Gostling
17 Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland c.460
19 Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
19 8p.m. Women's Forum: HIV Counselling Sally Highley
20 Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary 687
21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1556
See Box for Holy Week and Easter Services
31 Easter Monday, Bank Holiday

COPY DATE FOR APRIL MAGAZINE: 9 MARCH

FAMILY PARTY

SATURDAY, APRIL 19th at 6.00p.m.

in

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH HALL

* * * * *

An evening of enjoyment for everyone - of whatever age.

FOOD

ENTERTAINMENT BY PROFESSOR FUMBLE

Juggling and Conjuring

(Professor Fumble directs the Circus School at Molesey)

WASHBOARD CHRIS

One-Man Band

(Chris is outstanding - he can often be heard playing outside Bentall's
Centre in Kingston)

COME ALONG FOR AN UNUSUAL EVENING OF REAL FUN:

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

TICKETS: Adults £5.00, Children under 12 £3.00

FROM: STUART WARD, OR AT DOOR ON THE NIGHT.

ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF 'SAVE THE CHILDREN'