

*Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem
the city that kills the prophets
and stones those who are sent to it.
How often I have desired to gather your children together
As a hen gathers her brood under her wings.
And you were not willing.*

With these words Jesus speaks to all who would listen. But that was exactly the problem - nobody seemed to listen to what he was really saying. In the days when Jesus spoke these words, just like today, Jerusalem was an important, life-giving city to several different communities. Of course, as the city of David, Jerusalem was the focus of temple worship and religious teaching for Jews. It was also a commercially vibrant city with people trading their goods and services from around the known world. The Bible tells us that people of all languages and races made their home in the city at this time. Furthermore, it was a city and land under occupation. The Roman forces imposed their will through vassal states and compliant rulers. Jesus' words, seen in this context, were to a diverse city and were about allowing such diversity to reflect the inclusiveness of God.

Since the time of Christ Jerusalem's diversity has of course continued. In the Old City, surrounded by high walls and with narrow streets across it, one can still find many different communities living cheek by jowl. In fact the Old City of Jerusalem is known by its four distinctive quarters: Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Armenian, all held together within the city walls. Outside the walls today's city embraces Palestinians, both Muslims and Christians as well as Jews, religious and secular. So the words of Jesus are as important today as ever they were. For remember these words are about including people within God's love rather than excluding.

Jesus was concerned with the whole brood being defended under the hen's wings and not only with some of the brood. For me this picture was brought into sharp focus once again as I, with Ramani, spent a few days in Jerusalem in February. What we saw in Jerusalem and across the West Bank was an attempt at exclusivity. The powers of the State of Israel were using huge force to lay sole claim to the land which is shared by both Palestinians and Israelis. This force included road blocks, turning off water supplies, shelling homes, demolition of Palestinian property, confiscation of Palestinian lands to build Jewish settlements.

I am convinced that the only way forward for both Palestinians and Israelis is for peace to be built upon justice. Such justice must include the rights, hopes and responsibilities of both communities. Exclusivity does not create peace, for it is wholly unjust.

At Easter, we remember the events of Christ's trial in Jerusalem and his crucifixion outside its walls. We proclaim his resurrection which begins in this city and includes the whole world. At first the women who came to the tomb were frightened, for they didn't understand that new life is built upon costly sacrifice. The sacrifice which

brings peace to Jerusalem and to all people is to allow God's generous love to reach every part of our lives. The good news of Easter is for all, as is the peace God gives to the world when we stop claiming for ourselves and proclaim his love through our actions.

HAPPY EASTER!

Brian Leathard

EASTER AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH HAMPTON HILL, 2001

Palm Sunday 8th April

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion with procession
of palms and The Passion reading

Monday to Wednesday 9th - 11th April

9.00pm The Way of the Cross

Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Parish Communion of the Last Supper
and the washing of feet

Good Friday

10.30 - 11.00am Children's Worship

12 - 3.00pm Three Hour Devotion

Easter Eve

8.00pm The Vigil and lighting of the new fire

Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion: Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

CLEANERS WANTED

Our noble band of cleaners would welcome some more volunteers. Cleaning is done on a rota basis, usually on a Friday or Saturday, at a time to suit yourself. If you feel you could help, even occasionally, please ring Margaret Taylor on 8979 3961. If you have young children, do bring them along. They usually like to help!



THE COMMON FUND

You may or may not know that as a Parish we contribute an annual amount towards the running of the diocese, called the Common Fund. Last year St. James's contributed £43,515. In 2001 the sum will be £45,675. These are not inconsiderable amounts and you would probably like to know how they are costed.

The Costs of Ministry at St. James's in 2001

Stipends	16,585)	
National Insurance	2,238)	These figures are the total for all the clergy in the Parish
Pension	4,500)	
Council Tax	2,302)	
In-service Training	474)	
Housing	5,371	
Clergy Indirect Costs per Parish	4,827	Includes curate in training, ordinand training, support for retired clergy etc
Central Costs per Parish	7,074	Includes administration, church school support, National Church Responsibility etc.
Total costs	43,371	

This amount is also partly funded from the diocesan Historic Resource Income by £8,107. The surplus of £10,411 is our contribution towards the support of other Parishes via the Common Fund.

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Our Treasurer was very pleased to receive the following letter from Keith Robinson, General Secretary of the Diocese:

"I am writing to thank you for completing your 2000 Common Fund payment of £43,000 in full. As I am sure you know, the Diocese faces a financially challenging time and your timely payment allows us to be better stewards of our resources. We are most grateful.

Please do share my gratitude with your PCC and congregation."

Dear Reverend Leathard

Children from the Jack and Jill School visited St. James's recently. These are some extracts from their letters of thanks, together with their own illustrations.



Thank you for showing us around the church.
You explained it very well. *Emily R*
I especially liked the stained glass.
My favourite was the Sower. *Isabelle*
I liked the picture of St. James on the wall.
It was amazing. *Felicity-Louise*
On the way there we looked out for drain covers.
Harriet

I thought the church was really pretty and I will remember that the church is a living building.

Olivia

I liked it when we looked for the smallest window that had a lark on it. The organ sounded fantastic.
The shell looked nice on the vicarage.

Emily
Rishika



I particularly liked the golden eagle for resting the bible on.
I also liked the wine symbol with the grapes and the glass of wine.

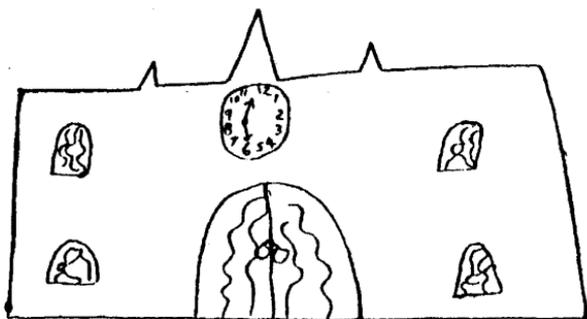
Freya

I wasn't christened when I was little, neither was my mum, but I have seen someone being christened. She didn't scream.

Sophie

I loved the visit to the church. It was beautiful.
Have fun in the future.

Freya E.



At its meeting on 16th January, the PCC agreed to the Parish taking on a mission partner with the Church Missionary Society Link Scheme.

The Aims of the Scheme

Through its mission partners the scheme connects congregations in Britain with the world-wide Christian fellowship. Mission partners serve in Africa, Asia, Europe and the middle East, and through them linked congregations can

- gain a greater understanding of God's work in a different part of the world or a different culture
- contribute to that work through prayer, support, letters and visits
- be challenged in their own mission here through what they learn from Christians overseas
- give financially to the CMS to help to maintain mission partners in their valuable work
- make connections between local and world-wide mission.

Our Mission Partner is Joanna Udal, who has been selected to serve in the Sudan as Assistant to their new Archbishop, Joseph Marona. She has also been chosen as the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative within the Episcopal Church in Sudan.

Many will know Joanna as the curate at St Augustine's, Whitton, through her involvement with Jubilee 2000 and with Churchlink West London. She has also sung with the Apocalypse Singers. She is a very able and committed person.

Joanna has recently visited the Sudan for three weeks, and begins her mission in April. Before she leaves she will be visiting St. James so that we can get to know her and hear about the work she will be doing. She will also visit us when she is home to share her news with us.

N PARTNER

What is required of us?

- A commitment to focus interest and informed prayer on Joanna's ministry and the people she works with.
- Action to initiate and deepen our interest in mission as a Parish, and a willingness to be stimulated in our mission by Christians in Sudan.
- Financial support for the CMS so that the Gospel can be made known through its work. This coming year we will be donating £750 to the work of the CMS.
- The appointment of a Link Correspondent to ensure continuous contact with Joanna, and make the best use of her Link Letters.
- To review the link for effectiveness on a regular basis.
- To enter into a covenant agreement on the above basis with the CMS and Joanna. (This has already been agreed by the PCC)

The Link Correspondent

This is the person who will correspond regularly with Joanna, and share her news with us by, for example:

- Arranging for extra link letters to be sent out for reading and prayer at home.
- Printing some or all of the letters in *The Spire*.
- Reading some letters out in church.
- Including prayer requests in intercession for Joanna and her colleagues.
- Displaying Joanna's picture, profile and letters on the notice board.
- Finding others in the Parish willing to correspond with Joanna.

This is a two-way relationship which will be a positive way of focusing our commitment to the CMS. It is important that we maintain regular contact with Joanna, so it is wonderful news that **Chris and Fiona Hodges** have agreed to be our Link Correspondents.

BOOKS of the BIBLE

★ MARK ★

Marks' Gospel is where the word 'gospel' originated – in Ch1:1 In effect he says what 'you are now about to read is a gospel'. That opening fact sets the tone for Mark's entire writing; he is always 'up front', no time wasting, direct and to the point. His account of Jesus' actions is certainly not a biography of Jesus' life – he, like John, omits anything about Jesus' birth or childhood. Instead Mark concentrates on the servant aspect of Jesus' life rather than on Christ the KING or the LORD Jesus. Although it is the briefest of the four gospels, Mark carries a message of urgency as the tales of Jesus' actions unfold.

Living amongst Roman rulers, John Mark (to give him his full name) directed his gospel largely to a Roman readership, rather than the Greeks or the Jews whom Luke and Matthew addressed. Like our modern day perception of the ancient Romans, Mark's gospel moves quickly and pragmatically from event to parable, from parable to miracle and miracle onto the next event. It has been said the Mark's gospel is the businessman's (or woman's) gospel. No nonsense; just facts. Perhaps this is the reason that the apostle Paul declined to have Mark accompany him on his second missionary journey after being together on their first with Barnabas. We know Paul is 'wordy' and probably quite different in character. However any perceived differences would have been overcome because Paul sends Mark's greetings to the Colossians and considers him only one of just three Jewish Christians who "work with him for the Kingdom of God".

I like the way that the various translations show expressive language in Mark's gospel. For example when demons are exorcised by Jesus (several instances) the afflicted person "shrieks", either for his attention or during the healing. In other miracles, Mark, like the other gospel writers, declares that most of them are unrecorded however his gospel is the only one to record the feeding of the 5,000 *and* the 4,000. Jesus uses the fact that the 9,000 were fed when challenging the disciples about their concern of only having one loaf on board the boat (8:14-21). Mark leaves us 'hanging' with Jesus' words "Do you still not understand?"

Mark also reports that Jesus ". . . did not say anything to (the people) without using a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything." Mark's message is summed up for me in the healing of a boy with an evil spirit, where the boy's father exclaimed "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (9:24)

Richard Melville

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Wednesday 11th April 10.30am - 1.00pm

See Freda for details.

Also **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP**

Good Friday 13th April 10.30 - 11.00am

This year the theme is "You're making a difference". The countries we are highlighting are Bangladesh, Uganda and Brazil, places where we can indeed make a difference.

Around the world, individuals and groups have campaigned to drop the debt, bought fairly traded goods and given their time and money to support development initiatives through Christian Aid and its overseas partners. For each person, this might have meant a small action, but the overall effect is tremendous. Giving, acting and praying for the world's poorest people really makes a difference, and will continue to do so. In Bangladesh, for instance, we tell the story of Torina, who has been able to start her own rickshaw business and is training to become a traditional birth attendant. In Brazil, Zaires is building a new home for himself and his family thanks to the profit from his agricultural co-operative's fairly traded tea. Herbert, from Uganda, can now go to school as a result of his country's debt relief.

Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, Christian Aid Week raised £12 m for the world's poorest people, with at least £600,000 of this coming from reclaimed tax. But Christian Aid Week is more than a fundraising exercise. It has become a festival, with around 25,000 churches celebrating their commitment to justice and to ending world poverty. Christian Aid is the agency of the British and Irish churches and works through local organisations in some of the world's poorest countries. It works with all who are committed to making a difference to the lives of these people, whatever their faith.

We here at St. James's have about 30 committed Christian Aid collectors, many of whom have been 'doing' Christian Aid week for many years. A few more collectors could "**make a difference**" to our team. Please think hard about giving a few hours to Christian Aid Week this year - we really need you! Ring me on 8979 3961 if you want more information or if you would like to help to make a difference by distributing and collecting envelopes (it's a good idea to form pairs if you are new) or by counting the money at the end of the week.



It's amazing what you can get online these days!"

Margaret Taylor

QUIET DAY AT BROOK PLACE ON 17TH FEBRUARY

Timothy Raphael, our former Archdeacon, came from Cheltenham to lead our reflections. In his introductory notes he wrote "Prayer is moving through fantasy to reality and gathering the courage to act." A good introduction indeed to a fruitful day when subject, leader, beautiful surroundings and sunny weather all came together to give us a sense of hopeful revival and a fresh understanding of the love of God.

In four short addresses Timothy used the imagery of water, talking first about baptism the most important fact of Christian life when water refreshes, cleanses, renews and supports. Baptism admits us to the ministry both of others and ourselves - it gives us the strength when life becomes difficult, always to find occasions of thankfulness if we look hard enough. Next he mused on the miracle of Cana, Jesus' "mission statement", moving from the ordinary to the special. He stressed that this miracle took place at a joyous party where happy relationships were being celebrated. Jesus, he said, "put the bubbles in the water" when he changed it into wine.

After lunch came thoughts about Nicodemus the new birth of water and spirit - a fresh start is always possible especially given the power of the Holy Spirit, the "go between", who makes us present to God. Sin, Timothy suggested, is the falling short of ideals, behaviour, hopes, but God always renews within us resources for wholeness. He can meet our deepest needs to ensure that "what will survive of us is here". Remember that the past is history, the future is mystery, but the present is a gift from God who "smiles at us, takes us in his hands and turns us round to smile at him". Thank you to Timothy for his inspirational leadership and thanks also to Freda for arranging a thought provoking, happy and much enjoyed day.

Lord God you come to us through the humblest gifts of water and of bread, and reach out to us through the gifts of friendship and love. Help us to enjoy the mystery of your abiding presence and to know that whenever we look for you, you have already found us, and whenever we seek your peace it is already in our hearts.

Margaret Taylor

FROM THE FEBRUARY REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 4 Ruby Anne Harley-Kemp, 33 Windmill Road
11 Martha Poppy Curtis Cranston, 153 Broad Lane

Funerals

- 9 Elsie Nutting, Laurel Dene 92
15 Jason Guyett, 1 Beech Nut, Staines Road, Feltham 37
20 David Thompson, 26 Cross Street 51



This month St. James's Church had a visit from Year 4 children from Hampton Hill Junior School. There was also a visit from the young children of the Jack and Jill School. Excerpts from their thank-you letters, which contained great "pearls" of wisdom and were most artistically decorated, appear elsewhere in this magazine.

We extend our grateful thanks to all who very kindly gave their time and energy to spring-cleaning the church. We also thank Ruth Mills for organising a very pleasant evening of poetry reading and a pot-luck supper.

We would like to remind you that Vestry Hour is on Monday evenings from 7.00 - 8.00 pm. At this time a member of the clergy will be available and able to answer questions and advise about arrangements for weddings and baptisms, or deal with any other routine business.

We were all very pleased to welcome Brian and Ramani back from their visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank. Brian was at a conference in Jerusalem.

Congratulations to Greta Rosten who celebrated her 70th birthday in March. Greta recently swam 102 lengths of Feltham Pool in aid of the Shooting Star Children's Hospice Trust and raised over £1000. Well done, Greta!

Please remember in your prayers the less fortunate people among us who have been in hospital or having treatment. Brian Jeffries and Billie Williams have now returned home from hospital, and we remember also Sue and Gloria.

It is nice to see the churchyard looking so clean and tidy. The contractors sent by the council are tending it very well and it is well worth a visit.

DATES TO NOTE IN APRIL

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|---|--------|---|
| 1 | 11am | Annual Parochial Church Meeting |
| 3 | | St. Richard of Chichester, Bishop, 1253 |
| 8 | 6.30pm | Apocalypse Singers "Music for Holy Week" St. Mary Hampton |

Services for Holy Week and Easter - see separate box

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| 11 | 10.30am - 1pm | Children's Workshop |
| 23 | | George, Martyr, Patron of England, 304 |
| 25 | | Mark the Evangelist |

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ADVANCE NOTICE: QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 19TH MAY

PARISH WEEKEND 2001

A reminder that this year's Parish Weekend will be held at Wychcroft, near Godalming, from 22nd - 24th June. Details from Ruth Mills (8977 5165).

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