

Christ Church 'Information' Eastertide 2000

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Dear Friends,

Holy Week is the most important week of the Church's year, and as we once more journey to Jerusalem, following the events of the last days of Jesus' life, may we all enter a deeper understanding of the Passion so that our Easter celebrations are the more joyful.

It has been a busy Lent so far, and I would like to thank David Simpson, Louise Roberts, Brenda Thurgood, Jane Simpson and Ian Christie for giving us such an interesting and informative series of discussions on Wednesday evenings. It never ceases to amaze me what interesting jobs people have and what varied situations crop up.

Thank you to all who came to the Annual Parochial Meeting and especially to John

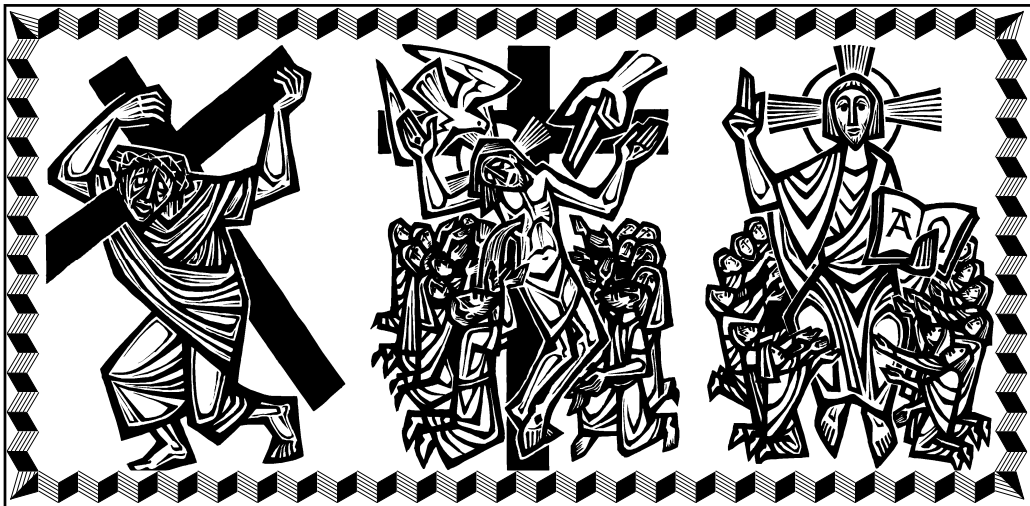
Davey, our Treasurer, for his high-tech presentation of our accounts. To date the Windmill Fund stands at around £2500, so that means we're half way. It's likely that the windmill itself will be built in June, and you'll find more details of that inside.

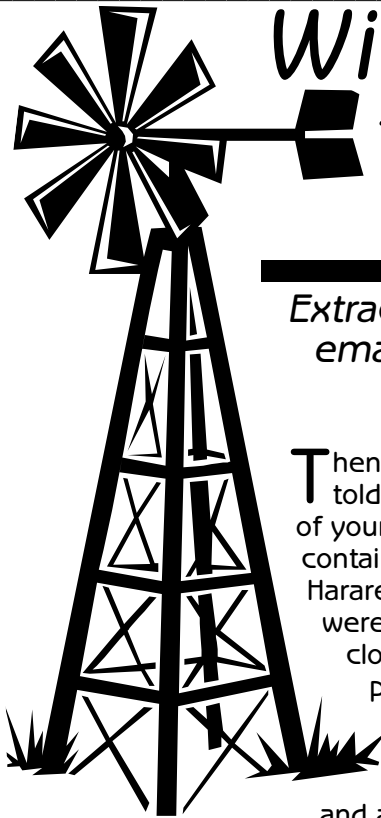
We're having to think seriously about the future funding of Christ Church News so this smaller and briefer version is entitled Christ Church Information. We hope to return to the previous format as soon as possible, but it is expensive to print and we need to work out the best way around that.

Wishing you all a very joyful Eastertide,

All best wishes

Celia Thomson





Windmill2000

The Windmill Project

*St Matthew's Filabusi and
Christ Church West Wimbledon*

*Extract from the Dean of Bulawayo's
email description of his visit to St
Matthew's Filabusi*

Then we had a church council meeting where I told them of your generous gift to them as part of your Lenten effort. The Ndebele are more contained than the Shona (the tribe around Harare) but they received the news with joy and were particularly pleased that I could be in such close contact with you. They discussed the pros and cons of the windmill's construction and came up with the following plan of action: that I would write to Stewarts and Lloyds (the supplier) to confirm the order and ask when they would require payment and that they would be asked to come and put up the windmill in early June. The reason is that with the good rains, the water table is a bit high at the moment and the road to the garden impassable to vehicles. I should send you a copy of the windmill's design. It is an Australian invention that transformed both their outback as well as the Karroo desert in South Africa by making underground water easily available without the use of fuel or electricity and in areas where wind is plentiful. However they are expensive by local standards and are not usually seen in the tribal areas.

Then they came forward with their future plans which we try to help with as far as possible: an equipped clinic which the village health worker could run so that they did not have to travel 10km to the nearest one; used barbed wire to protect the mission area as the sticks they have now are too environmentally unfriendly where wood can be precious; a community hall for local meetings - all intending to draw the community around to the mission as a community centre.

I then visited (or slid my way up to) the vegetable garden, although February/March is our bad month for vegetables because of the rainy season, but they will be planting in April. The stone reservoir is in place already and the windmill people would just have to pull up the present hand-pump and lay pipes to the reservoir. With my clerical Sunday blacks covered in mud, I was then taken to the Rectory and regaled with a lunch of home-grown chicken, rice, mealies (maize cobs) and tomato relish. I left amidst much song and farewells (with half a cooked chicken and some pumpkins sugar cane and green beans to take home to my wife). Mpumpulwane was doubtful about me going back the way I came and sent me via another village but I got stuck on the way and had to retrace my steps and was directed onto another road which was fine except I was confronted by the Tshali River which was at least door level over the causeway but we (a local teacher and Mpumpulwane's daughter) crossed after an anxious moment or two.

The journey after that was uneventful except for a spectacular electrical storm around Mbalabala which is surrounded by ironstone hills and I had to reduce speed down to my field of vision which was a just few metres in front of me. And then home for a Zizz and be ready for Evensong.

Friday 19th May

in aid of

Windmill 2000

Cream Teas

&

Home Made Cakes

from 2:30-5:00 pm at 11b Lansdowne Road

also

A Bring-and-Buy Table

Christ Church Walkers

All the Barts' *Earlier in the year John Barrett led us on a visit to Smithfield to visit the churches of St Bartholomew the Great and the Less, and the hospital of Bart's.*

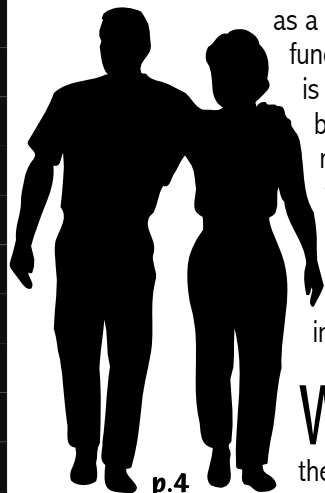
We began our visit by walking through the hospital's gateway, built in 1702, with a statue above it of King Henry VIII and onto Bart's the Less, the parish church of the hospital. The present church was built in the 1820s, but is on the site of a former church dating from the 12th century. Most of the church fittings are Victorian, but there is a small kneeling figure of Robert Balthorpe, surgeon to Elizabeth I.

From the church we walked into a courtyard of fine 18th century buildings, on three sides, reminiscent of an Oxford or Cambridge quadrangle. The fourth side was built in the 1930s. We then went into one of the older buildings, stopping on the grand staircase to admire two large canvasses by William Hogarth representing the *Good Samaritan* and *The Pool of Bethesda*, painted in the

1730s. Then into the magnificent Great Hall built as a centre for entertaining and fundraising for the hospital. There is much to see here, such as the boards around the walls recording hospital benefactors' from 1547-1905, a stained glass 17th century window showing Henry VIII, and several large paintings including one by Millais.

founded in the 12th century by an Augustinian monk, named Rahere, and is still on its original site. The only London hospital to do so. We also heard something of some of the famous people connected with it – such as Dr WG Grace (the cricketer), William Harvey who through his researches discovered the circulation of blood around the body and Richard Gordon who wrote the 'Doctor' series of books and worked here. From the hospital we walked the few yards to St. Bartholomew's the Great. On going inside what immediately impresses the visitor are the huge Norman pillars. This is the oldest church in the City of London having been founded, like the hospital, by Rahere in the 12th century. What we see today is roughly what Rahere would have seen just before his death in 1143, but over the next century or so the church was extended as far as the present day gateway onto Smithfield. But in the 1530s Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and priories and much of the church was pulled down, but fortunately many local people protested strongly, and what remained was permitted by the King to be used as a parish church.

In walking around the church we saw the tomb of Rahere erected 250 years after his death so the effigy is only a conjectural likeness, also an oriel window, dating from 1505, with the name of the prior at the time carved in stone beneath the window – but not in letters but in the form of a pictorial pun. There was also much else to see, before we adjourned to the cafeteria, in the hospital, for lunch.



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Whilst in the Hall John told us something of the history of the hospital which had been

Windmill Walk *'Where'er you walk, cool gales shall fan the glade, Trees, where you sit, shall crowd into a shade'*

The last Saturday in February may not have been as warm as narrated above by Alexander Pope but it was a very sunny morning for our sponsored walk on Wimbledon Common.

About 30 of us, from young people to senior citizens, gathered at 10 am at Christ Church, for our 4-mile walk. After about an hour we had walked along West Side, then off the road and onto a wet and soggy path over the Common.

When we got to the windmill we diverted to see Queensmere, but no one had brought bread with them so the ducks went without breakfast. By now it was past 11 am so we adjourned to the Windmill café for coffee and a rest – in the brilliant sunshine. Suitably refreshed we were then lined up by a photographer from the local *Guardian* newspaper, and at the appropriate time said 'cheese'.

We then made our way back along Windmill Road and Parkside. Everyone enjoyed the walk, the fresh air and the fellowship. Now comes the collection of the sponsorship money for a windmill for a rural community in Zimbabwe.

All donations gratefully received whether you were on the walk or not!



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John Barrett

Thought for the Season - Eastertide 2000

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Those are the words of the Easter acclamation which greet us on Easter morning after our journey through Lent and Passiontide. They are some of the most powerful words in human language, for they welcome us home to a right relationship with God. They fulfil the promise that all shall be well, the new covenant is entered upon and that Jesus in his risen power is with us always.

In one way its quite hard for us to enter the gospel story and feel the power of Jesus' resurrection, because we've always known about it. But in all four gospel accounts of the Resurrection, the witnesses started out with the unshakeable conviction that Christ was dead. From that starting point the appearances of the Risen Lord to the disciples are at once a mystery and an empowerment.

To enter into that glorious wonder and joy it may be helpful to imagine ourselves being with the disciples in

their moments of discovery. Imagine yourself entering the tomb with John, the beloved disciple, following Peter who has rushed in ahead. It was John who, inside the tomb, 'saw and believed'. Be with Mary in the garden outside as she encounters the one she mistakes for the gardener and then hears her name called. Listen for your name. Be with the disciples in the upper room and see the risen Christ appear and say 'Peace be with you', showing you his wounded hands and feet. Be with the disciples on the road to Emmaus and hear him explaining the scriptures. Allow yourself to be his guest at breakfast on the sea shore and hear him ask 'Do you love me?'

Entering into the stories in this way is to use our imagination to put us in touch with the reality that Christ has indeed risen, that we can meet him in the here and now, living within us and amongst us, pledge of our resurrection.

Celia Thomson

Christ Church Hall needs you

The Hall is doing well and has increased its revenue substantially over the last year. But much of this revenue is generated by weekend lets and the Hall needs to be opened and locked for each event. The idea of a weekend rota was suggested at the AGM on 4 April and I agreed to set it up. If you could offer to be 'key holder for a weekend' and unlock/lock for each event and check that the hall is left in a reasonable state, please let me know so that I can add you to the list.

Lots of volunteers will mean each of us may only need to cover 1 or 2 weekends per year.

Clare Pickard 020 8947 2196
(or leave a message at the cross aisle)

Bruno Bear News

If you are under 5 and would like to have fun on Thursday mornings come along and join us between 9:30 and 11:30 am - bring your parent or carer and give them a chance for a coffee and a chat whilst you play.

For more details parents/carers can phone
Louise Roberts (020 8879 0971) or Clare Pickard (020 8947 2196)

The Bruno Bear Club



Holiday: After a lively and long term (14 weeks) we are taking a two week break over Easter and reopen on May 4th.

Art & Craft: this term we have tried a variety of things - potato print painting, Mr Men collage, Spot colouring (to celebrate National Book Week), decorating biscuits, making Mothers Day cards and colourful animal collage pictures for Easter.

Toys: ride-on toys, climbing frame and slide remain popular but many children spend time in quiet play using a variety of construction blocks (duplo, stickle bricks etc.) - more of these would be appreciated if any of you have them in your cupboards!!!

Volunteers

Following our plea at the Church AGM for extra pairs of hands on the occasional Thursday we look forward to welcoming new faces to the group. If you can give a little time on an occasional Thursday to chat to parents and carers, to keep us on top of the washing up, to sort and tidy the books or perhaps to read to a small group or to help with that week's craft activity please, please phone Louise or Clare or just turn up on a Thursday. Also if you have friends or family with under-fives staying with you they are very welcome to join us for a Thursday morning.

Next term
look out for
spring cleaning
and possibly a
fund raiser for
the Windmill
Fund



Christ Church 'Information'

CHURCH DIARY April to June 2000



16 April *PALM SUNDAY*
10:00 am Procession of Palms and Eucharist
6.30 pm Music and Reflection on the Passion

17 April 8:00 pm Night Prayer and Address

18 April 8:00 pm Night Prayer and Address

19 April 8:00 pm Night Prayer and Address

20 April *MAUNDY THURSDAY*
No 9:30 am Holy Communion
8:00 pm Sung Eucharist and Watch until Midnight

21 April *GOOD FRIDAY*
10:30 Act of Witness, Raynes Park Station
12:00 noon Two Hour Reflection
2:00 pm Liturgy of the Day

23 April *EASTER DAY*
8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Parish Eucharist with Renewal of Baptism Vows
6:30 pm Evensong

27 April No 9:30 am Holy Communion

30 April *The Second Sunday of Easter*

2 May 11:00 am Holy Communion

4 May 9:30 am Holy Communion

6 May 3:30 pm Wedding of Abigail Taylor-Roberts and Richard Green

7 May *The Third Sunday of Easter*

11 May 9:30 am Holy Communion

14 May *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*
6.30 pm Christian Aid Service at Holy Cross, Motspur Park
No Evensong at Christ Church

14-20 May Christian Aid Week

18 May 9:30 am Holy Communion

19 May 2:30-5:00 pm Cream Tea at 11b Lansdowne Road

20 May 4:00 pm Wedding of Jane Maddocks and David Dunn

21 May *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

25 May 9:30 Holy Communion

28 May *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

1 June *ASCENSION DAY*
No 9:30 am Holy Communion
8:00 pm Sung Eucharist followed by drinks at the Vicarage

3 June 3:30 pm Wedding of Sharon Alderman and Garry Pfeiffer

4 June *The Seventh Sunday of Easter*

6 June 11:00 am Holy Communion

8 June 9:30 am Holy Communion

11 June *PENTECOST*
3:00 pm Pentecost Picnic at Sacred Heart Churches Together in West Wimbledon

15 June 9:30 am Holy Communion

18 June *Trinity Sunday*

22 June 9:30 am Holy Communion

24 June 4:00 pm Wedding of Alison Williams and Olaf Morgan

25 June *Trinity 1*

**A LARGE PRINT
DIARY IS
AVAILABLE PHONE
020 8542 4902**

But hallow the
LORD
CHRIST
in your hearts.