

Christ Church Information

May 2001

**Revd Celia Thomson,
Christ Church Vicarage, 16 Copse Hill, London, SW20
OHG**

Dear Friends,

Already my Study Leave seems a long time ago! But it was a wonderful time for me and I hope those who are interested have seen a copy of the report I wrote. I felt refreshed and renewed by my time away, and it was lovely to come back to find the heating mended and the church newly decorated.

In this issue we pay tribute to our dear friend Eric Clark who died on 9 April. His funeral will long remain in my memory as a joyful as well as sad occasion, with the never-to-be-forgotten contributions from Eric's Nigerian and Sierra Leone connections. In his Christian witness and ministry, who knows the true number of lives he touched both near and far from here. We shall miss him greatly.

In the immediate future we have many things to look forward to but perhaps most importantly for the life of the church, the Confirmation service on 15th July. Bishop Peter will be with us again to confirm the six young people and one adult who will be making their commitment to Christ, and we will also be welcoming six adults from St John

the Baptist, Kingston Vale, as they too commit their lives to Christ.

In the meantime, Christian Aid Week has come round again. Although it is a great deal of work for those who organise and carry out the house-to-house collection (not to mention counting the money afterwards) I remain convinced that the types of small-scale projects set up by Christian Aid in many different corners of the world do make a great deal of difference to those who lead their lives in less fortunate circumstances than our own. May we do even better this year than we did last year!

All best wishes

**Celia
Thomson**

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

Thought for the Season

Spring 2001

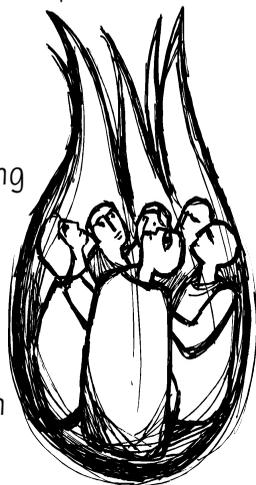
In the weeks after Easter we are not only focussing on the resurrection in our gospel readings, but also preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



In John's gospel, Jesus gives the title Paraclete to the Holy Spirit. The Paraclete is the Spirit of truth who gives guidance along the way of all truth. John's Jesus had many things to say that his disciples could never understand in his lifetime; but then the Paraclete comes and in the experience and enlightenment of his coming, many things fall into place.

When God gave the Son, divine revelation was granted in all its completeness: Jesus was the very Word of God. Yet that Word, the Word incarnate as a human being, spoke under the limitations of a particular culture at a particular time in history. It is the Spirit who is present in every time and culture who helps every generation of Christians understand anew the revelation of the Word made flesh.

In attempting to deepen our understanding of the way of all truth, the way of discipleship, perhaps we should pray this Pentecost, as so many have before us:
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.



Celia Thomson

Who's Who At Christ Church

A big thank you to Wendy Hamilton, who has stepped down as Churchwarden after a four-year term. And to Val Hancock, Margaret Metters (PCC Secretary) and Helen Reed for serving on the PCC, who all stood down this year.

We welcome Sue Rocksborough Smith as our new Churchwarden, and Clare Pickard as a new PCC member. Pat Spencer returns to the PCC after an absence of a few years, and Wendy Hamilton will stay on the PCC as an elected member. Welcome and thank you, too, to all who stood for election again. Churchwardens: Sue Rocksborough Smith
**Jenny Tomlinson

Church Wardens :

**Jenny Tomlinson

Sue Rocksborough Smith

Elected PCC Members:

John Barrett

Wendy Hamilton

Mary Ann Bown

**Colin Holloway

**Monica Brown

Clare Pickard

**Lynda Coleman

Gill Pilcher

Ian Christie

Pat Spencer

John Davey (Treasurer)

Brenda Thurgood

Our Reader, Simon Rocksborough Smith, is a member of the PCC by right of office.

** denotes member of the Deanery Synod, elected for a three year term in 1999 and automatically a member of the PCC.



Memories of the Revd Eric Clark, OBE

I'm not really aware of my first meeting with Eric Clark or exactly when he came to Christ Church. It must have been when he came to Wimbledon in the early 1970s to be Warden of Robert Mennell International Students Hostel in Arterberry Road – the building now occupied by the Beaumont Home. Never one to push himself forward, Eric got on in his quiet but determined way trying to make a home away from home for many students who must have found England a bewildering and cold place.

After his many years in Africa, cold was the thing Eric hated most and he tried whenever possible to escape part of the English winter. 'I go to warm my feet up' he would say when embarking on a trip to Africa or South America or India. But, of course, he also had other objects in mind.

After a long spell as teacher and headmaster in Christian schools in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, Eric became involved in trying to promote what would now be called sustainable agriculture. He was very aware that young people in third world countries were being tempted away from the land to cities where they may end up destitute and that in many areas the land was being badly managed – denuded of trees and becoming a desert. He was always a supporter of charities like Oxfam, Action Aid and Christian Aid which aimed to help people learn skills and give them tools which would enable them to help themselves. In his retirement he supported a school for orphans in Kenya which aimed to teach its pupils a skill so that they would not be destitute. He personally took tools,

sewing machines and typewriters several times. And in England he was a fervent supporter of Crisis for many years – collecting clothes, bedding, food and money and arranging its transportation to central London.

Eric's motto was to live simply that other could simply live. Honoured for his work in West Africa he wore his knowledge and honours lightly. He always said his knowledge of theology was limited as he had only had time to complete a one-year course when he was ordained to go out to Africa just before the start of the Second World War. But to me and many others he was an example of a Christian truly living out his faith. He took his Christian calling seriously and followed the teachings of the Oxford Movement which he had encountered during the 1930s.

When he retired from his work at Robert Mennell House he moved to a small flat in Rosemary Cottages where he helped maintain the garden for many years. Plants of all sorts were important to Eric as were birds and his love of birds sparked his friendship with Ray Linney, for many years postman in Arterberry Road. They shared many bird watching holidays together and as Eric's health deteriorated Ray and his family were an invaluable support to him.

His years of association with the Church Mission Society meant that Eric was a mainstay of our Christians-in-Contact group at Christ Church and for years he visited other churches on 'deputation' talking about the work of the Society. And it was his

THE SIERRA LEONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION (UK) BRANCH
FUNERAL SERVICE OF OUR CHIEF PATRON
Principal REV. ERIC D. COLBATCH-CLARK



At Christ Church, Copse Hill, Wimbledon
On Wednesday 18th April, 2001.

THE SCHOOL SONG (Verses 1 & 4)

On the western side of Freetown, Upon an ancient site,
There a great and massive building stands,
A witness to the light.
There lived a band of comrades true,
A band that's ne'er been rent
Since the Fathers to the Old Boys gave
The glorious name "REGENT".

*Live forever, sundered never, fluttering never
Grammar School!*

*Live forever, sundered never, Regentians true!
School, school, school, school, school, school!
God Bless our Grammar School!*

Oh! 'tis not the nerve or sinew, Or learning store alone,
That the School upon her sons bestow
Which stamps them for her own.
'Tis manhood's gleam in boyish eyes,
Steadfast and true and keen -
The heart that never quailed at need,
The soul that ne'er was mean. *Live forever...*

NB. While the coffin is being taken out, all Old Boys will form a Guard of Honour at the Church Main Exit Door, singing:

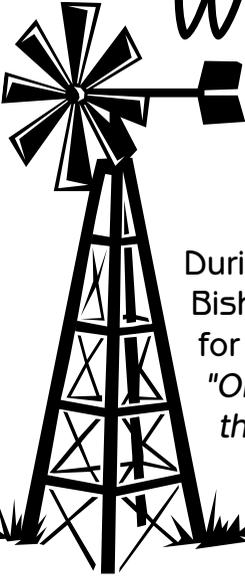
Goodbye Brother, Goodbye Brother, If I dont see you any more. I hope to meet you in that Blessed Kingdom, If I dont see you any more.
Goodbye Eric, Goodbye Eric, If I dont see you any more. I hope to meet you in that Blessed Kingdom, If I dont see you any more.
Depart in body, but not in Spirit, If I dont see you any more. I hope to meet you in that Blessed Kingdom, If I dont see you any more.

(Repeat and bid).

years in Africa that were so strongly represented at his funeral on 18th April when the address was given, at Eric's request, by his Nigerian friend Gerry Iheagwam, an appreciation given by the present Chaplain to Nigerians in London, and former pupils from the Freetown Grammar School in Sierra Leone sang the school song in tribute to him. As his coffin left the church they also sang Goodbye Eric. We shall all miss him.

Pat Spencer

Windmill2000



WINDMILL NEWS

During his recent visit to Zimbabwe, Bishop Peter **actually** saw the windmill for St Matthew's Filabusi. He writes:

"On 2nd May, the Dean and I visited the engineers in Bulawayo and demanded to see how the work was progressing. All the various parts are complete, but there has been a problem of supply with the bearings in

the main mechanism. All now appears ready for final painting and testing with construction planned within the next few months."

PRAYER, PRAYER & MORE PRAYER

Bishop Peter also writes: *"The biggest single need for the people of Matabeleland and the rest of Zimbabwe is prayer and solidarity of regular communication. Please pray for a just, peaceful and life-giving resolution to the current difficult and dangerous situation."*

Christ Church West Wimbledon

Open Gardens



Sunday 10th June 2001
2:00 - 4:00 pm

*Seven Gardens will be open.
Tea will be served at the Vicarage
between 3:00 and 5:00 pm*

★ Books

★ Plants & Cuttings

★ Cakes & Sweets

★ Grocery and Provisions Store

★ Children's Garden
(with a Windmill Hunt)



**Admission by programme available from 27th May
for which donations of £2.00 and upwards will be
invited in aid of Church funds**

Christ Church 'Information'

CHURCH DIARY

May to July 2001



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|-----------|---|---------|--|
| 6 May | <i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> | 17 June | <i>The First Sunday after Trinity</i> |
| 9 May | 8:00pm Deanery Synod | 21 June | 9:30 Holy Communion |
| 10 May | 9:30am Holy Communion | 24 June | <i>THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST</i> |
| 13 May | <i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
6:30pm Churches Together in West Wimbledon United service at St Saviour's, Raynes Park | 28 June | 9:30 Holy Communion |
| 13-20 May | Christian Aid Week | 1 July | <i>The Third Sunday after Trinity</i> |
| 17 May | 9:30am Holy Communion | 3 July | 11:00am Holy Communion |
| 19 May | 10:30am Walk from London Bridge to Rotherhithe | 5 July | 9:30 Holy Communion |
| 20 May | <i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> | 8 July | <i>The Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i>
Junior Church - End of Term |
| 23 May | 7:30pm Holy Communion
8:00pm PCC Meeting | 12 July | 9:30 Holy Communion |
| 24 May | <i>ASCENSION DAY</i>
8:00pm Sung Eucharist, followed by drinks at the Vicarage | 15 July | <i>The Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>
10:00am Confirmation - The Bishop of Kingston |
| 27 May | <i>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> | 22 July | <i>The Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i> |
| 31 May | 9:30am Holy Communion | 26 July | 9:30 Holy Communion |
| 3 June | <i>PENTECOST</i> | 28 July | 1:00pm Wedding of Melissa Young and Christopher Turner |
| 5 June | 11:00 am Holy Communion
8:00pm Churches Together in West Wimbledon Meeting | 29 July | <i>The Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i> |
| 7 June | 9:30 Holy Communion | | |
| 10 June | <i>TRINITY SUNDAY</i>
2-4:00pm Open Gardens Tea at the Vicarage 3-5 pm | | |
| 14 June | 9:30 Holy Communion | | |

BUT hallow THE
LORD
CHRIST
in your hearts.