

Christ Church Information

Easter 2003

Christ Church Vicarage, 16 Copse Hill, London, SW20 0HG
Tel : 020 8946 4491

Dear Friends,

Most of us dread an interregnum – a leaderless period of indefinite length, with extra chores and duties, and sudden unexpected problems. It is suitable that ours began just before Ash Wednesday and the weeks of penance and preparation in Lent.

I cannot think of anything in life quite comparable with the departure of a Vicar. Apparently that does not officially take place until the moment when the priest is instituted into his or her new position. The many who saw and heard Celia proceed for the first time from her stall in Gloucester Cathedral to the lectern and read from the Gospel of St. Matthew, had it brought home to us once more that we at Christ Church have lost a priest of very high calibre.

So we could reluctantly concede that there is more to the interregnum than saving money for the diocese. We probably do need space after the departure of a Vicar, before the next one comes. Each is irreplaceable.

There are positive aspects too. We get to know our Archdeacon and our Rural Dean a bit more; we hear the Word preached by many and various priests; we become more adaptable, as visiting celebrants intentionally or otherwise do things differently; and often we find ourselves developing new skills and interests as we help to keep the church life going.

Let us pray then for those who have to make decisions in the parish, for those who will be choosing our new Vicar, and for ourselves.

Simon Rocksborough Smith
(Reader)

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

APPOINTING A NEW VICAR

In February, the Archdeacon of Lambeth met the PCC and explained the procedure for appointing a new Vicar for Christ Church. He outlined the need for change within Church organisation brought about by a shortage of both money and ordained clergy. Against this background the Bishop has decided to suspend presentation to the living at Christ Church with a view to exploring the possibility of Christ Church joining the Wimbledon Team. (This currently consists of St. Mary's, St. Mark's, St. John's and St. Matthew's). The suspension will run for a year and can be extended if the Bishop thinks that parochial reorganisation still needs to be explored.

The effect of this is that a priest-in-charge will be appointed to Christ Church rather than an incumbent with a freehold tenancy who would have been able to stay in post for as long as he or she chose. If we ultimately join the Wimbledon Team, our Vicar would not hold the freehold but would be on a 7 year licence with the possibility of extension at the end of that period. In a Team ministry, there is a PCC for the Team as a whole, with representatives from all the member churches, and a committee for each parish to deal with individual parish business. The Vicar's role within the parish would be the same as it has been in the past.

The PCC has drafted a parish profile and a person specification and has decided to request the Bishop to advertise the vacancy in *The Church Times*. It is hoped that an advertisement will appear in May so that a shortlist can be drawn up in June with interviews in July. The PCC has appointed two parish representatives, Colin Holloway and Jenny Tomlinson, who will take part in those interviews.

The parish will be consulted about the future and we are entitled to have our views on any parish reorganisation considered. Obviously there are many questions which will need to be asked, but we would welcome people's views, so please let one of us or Colin or another member of the PCC know your thoughts on this.

Sue Rocksborough Smith

Jenny Tomlinson

(Church Wardens)

Thought for the Season...

Here are some thoughts for Easter by the sub-Dean of Southwark Cathedral Canon Andrew Nunn that appeared in *The Bridge*.

To get to Easter I must pass through Good Friday, to get to life I must pass through death.

Life is constantly being caught by the sight of the deserted hill and remembering the pain as I hurry on to the place of encounter.

I wish it were not so, that I could have Easter without the cross, that I could have eternity without the finite ending, that I could have life without death, the joy without the pain, the laughter without the tears.

But it is not so.

Sunday morning has to be a new beginning, the place from which life starts, the remembrance of creation, the celebration of resurrection, the renewal of the Spirit, the life of the faithful.

But I cannot get to Sunday without embracing all that surrounds it – the expected and the unexpected, the prepared for and the unprepared – the rock and the garden, life and death.

Yet as Sunday brings me once more to the table with my brothers and sisters, with hands outstretched to receive the Lord in bread and wine, I hear his words to me, calling me by name and I know that it is true.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again - and he who knows me in the first light of the first day will know me when all things are brought to fulfilment in him.



BEHOLD THE
LAMB OF GOD
THAT TAKES
AWAY THE SIN
OF THE WORLD



QUIET DAY AT HAM CONVENT

On Saturday 8th February a group of us from Christ Church took part in a Quiet Day at St. Michael's Convent, led by Val Hancock.

The theme of the day was "Gardens" and Val gave us four short addresses and meditations on this theme for us to think about during our free time – based on gardens of the Bible. These were: the Garden of Eden, the Gardens of Babylon, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Garden Tomb.

The idea of a Quiet Day is for us to take time out just to 'be' in a welcoming, friendly and above all, peaceful environment. The time can be used in any way appropriate for you- some of us stayed in the room, others went to the chapel and some went out into the garden – simply to think, pray or just look at our surroundings in a way which is not usually possible in our normal everyday lives.



There were opportunities to share thoughts and ideas if we wished – but if we just wanted to be quiet that was fine as well. We had short tea and coffee breaks and a lunch half-hour, which provided opportunities for quiet talking if we wished. The day finished at 4 p.m. with a short act of worship.

One has to experience a Quiet Day to realise just how good they are – maybe next time you might like to give it a try.

Brenda Clark

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH QUIET DAY

JUNE 14th 2003

10.30 am – 4.30 pm

ST MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CONVENT

HAM COMMON

FURTHER DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW

NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED

MOTHERS DAY EVENTS 2003

**Report by
Rhiannon Pickard (age 8)**

At Brownies on Thursday 27th March we made biscuits to sell at the Brownie cake sale on Mothering Sunday. We also made prayer cards using blank post cards and photo frames covered in foil for our Mums.

On Sunday the Service was great. We had Brownie and Guide readings. Monica told us that Mothering Sunday happens because in the olden days girls went home to their Mothers with cakes. Monica used to give her Mum violets on Mothering Sunday. Rosalind and her Mum read poems - I liked the one Rosalind read the most. We all got daffodils to give to our Mums and I helped to give out daffodils to other people who didn't have children to give them some. Some of the other Brownies held up and read out their prayer cards.

Afterwards there was a cake sale and I ate lots of the biscuits we made. Here is part of the poem Rosalind read out:

***When You Thought I Wasn't Looking
(by a Child)***

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting
on the refrigerator,
and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you feed a stray cat,
and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make my favourite cake for me,
and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I heard you say a prayer,
and I believed there is a God
I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I felt you kiss me good night,
and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes,
and I learned that sometimes things hurt,
but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw that you cared
and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked ... and wanted to say....
thanks for all the things I saw
when you thought I wasn't looking.

Author Unknown

The Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team came into existence in 1996, following the Parish Weekend at Wychcroft soon after Celia joined us.

Its eleven members were already carrying out various pastoral duties but not as a formal team for Christ Church.

The Team exists to foster community in the Church and to offer help to those who need it, in terms of lifts to the Doctor, Optician, Chiropodist, hospital appointments, etc; to take people shopping, to visit the distressed, bereaved or elderly, and to be there generally if needed. It has organised trips out for tea, and 'cream teas' in the Church.



**The Pastoral Helpline came into being around 1998.
The telephone number is: 020 8946 9516**



How it works:

If you need a lift or someone to visit, call this number, giving at least 24 hours notice. You will hear a recorded message and be invited to leave your message. It is very useful to say who you are, and your telephone number, as well as when and where you need assistance.

A person from the Pastoral Team picks up the messages twice a day, usually at 9 am and 5 pm and deals with your request, personally, or by asking someone to assist you. Obviously, the system is not suitable for emergencies or requests that require a speedy response. There is

and The Pastoral Team Line

a separate system for lifts to Church services, so, to avoid confusion, it is advisable not to use the Pastoral Team Line for these.

The Pastoral Team is very anxious to keep everything running smoothly during the interregnum as it has done in the past, so, please make a note of the number and how it all works, for future reference. The number is on the notice sheet every week in case you mislay it.

Please don't be afraid to use this line.

We are there for you, so Ring us!!



Out of the depths
I cry to you,
LORD
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be atten-
tive to the prayer of
your servant

WIBBLy wOBbLY eXtRAcTs

Here are some extracts from the latest newsletter from Nick and Kate Wooding (and their two children!) - you can find the complete newsletter on the notice board in Church

Nick and Kate Wooding, and their two children Ben and Anna, are our CMS (Church Mission Society) partners in Uganda. Nick is Medical Superintendent of Kiwoko Hospital in Luweero, Uganda.

...If you ask Nick what is next he will mention that he would like to do a part time Masters in Public Health, and perhaps one day return overseas. If you ask Kate, then she will explain that she would like a 'year off' to recharge the batteries and become normal again. The pressures of living on site and having numerous demands on all of our time means she feels like a pressure cooker sometimes! Nick, for the past few months, has been working every other weekend as well as the normal mid-week schedule and on-call rota.

...Fortunately we do not need to make any quick decisions as we are still with CMS for six months after we return to the UK in August. We will have the opportunity to visit our link churches and show you presentations about our work in Kiwoko. After that, Nick will probably do some GP locum work while we pray through the future. In March we will get a break when we go to the Kenyan coast to relax and have a two-week holiday.

...Life is not slowing down. Two weeks ago we entertained a camera crew from BBC Ireland who were filming the work of the Irish in Uganda. This

week we are having Ulster TV, a Board meeting for the hospital, and a visit from the World Bank. On Friday we are signing an agreement with the Japanese Embassy to provide solar lighting on our wards, which will be useful to improve quality of care during power cuts. When visitors come they are shown around the hospital site (takes about 1½ hours) by Nick or Kate and then given a drink of passion fruit juice and, depending on the time of day, a meal or home-made biscuits.

...The majority of the visitors are expatriate medical students here for 6-8 weeks. In the Ugandan holiday times we have Ugandan medics. Before the guest house was set up by Kate, individual members of staff would provide meals, or the student was left to their own devices, which is a challenge when adjusting to a different culture, and different foods – e.g. sorting rice from the white stones! The guest house provides a Ugandan meal at lunch time which enables the visitors to do an effective day's work.

...The Special Care Baby Unit is amazing. It is now averaging 10-14 babies. When we set up the unit three years ago we were expecting 3-4 babies! We have Frank, a premature baby, whose mother died, two days after giving birth, of AIDS. His father is too poor to look after him and so we are hoping that Frank will be taken in by a children's home just up the road. Also at the moment we have a one-week-old premature baby who weighs 710 grams. After a week, she is still doing well.

Friends of Kiwoko Hospital
website – www.fokh.org.uk.

➔ THE KIWOKO HOSPITAL CD ←

There is now a Kiwoko Hospital music CD available, featuring some of the hospital choirs and singers singing some African worship songs.

It has been produced by Tobias Sturmer, a professional musician, in association with St Mary's Church in Marylebone, London.

The cover of the CD and one of the soundtracks is on the website: www.fokh.org.uk. It would be a superb present to give to your friends.

All the proceeds, except for postage and packing, go to the hospital.

Copies are available from:

Aileen Mkandawire
St Mary's Church,
245 Old Marylebone Road,
London, NW1 5QT

by sending a cheque for £12.00 made payable to St Mary's.

IMPORTANT !
BUY IT!

Atonement – God's amnesty

Easter, that is, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has nothing to do with the pagan festival it is associated with in the West (named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre; often characterised by the idea of eggs as a symbol of rebirth, or the modern paganism of daffodils or M&S's slogan this year – "Easter is simply chocolate"!).



For hundreds of years before missionaries evangelised the British Isles Christ's atonement (God's only Son sent to save humanity from itself!) was celebrated in the Eastern Church (Greek Orthodox, Syrian, Palestinian, Ethiopic etc.)— this happened at the time of pesah (the Hebrew festival of passover), hence in the Greek of the early Church – pascha (πάσχα), the festival of Passover, or the Passover lamb. Paschal flowers are so named because they appear at Eastertime.

Atonement is not about people behaving properly, rightly, because through original sin we cannot. Humanity can do nothing to save itself from destruction. Only God can save us – hence the forgiveness of sins that comes with Christ's atoning sacrifice for all humanity, not for members of a church (Roman Catholicism), not for those who hold an article of faith (Protestantism), but for all people. Is this universalism? Does this mean we can do what we like, sin till we drop and then claim God's forgiveness? No. The atonement carries with it a condition: God will see what you make of this amnesty.

Amnesty is a good word for the atonement. This Spring there is to be a Metropolitan Police gun amnesty. Anyone who holds an illegal firearm or gun can voluntarily surrender it (or whole arsenals!) at a police station – no questions asked. How will people respond to this amnesty. Well, in three ways (comparable I would suggest to the three ways people might respond to the forgiveness of God in Christ):

to save humanity



1. Some people will ignore the amnesty and simply carry on as they have been doing - "If I give in my gun I am defenceless!" They will hide their weapons behind human justification, human need.

2. Then there are those who think, "Ah, it is not illegal to hold weapons during the amnesty, therefore I can re-arm, import lots of secret weapons from gangs in Russia and America – I will then be strong and powerful when the amnesty is over!"

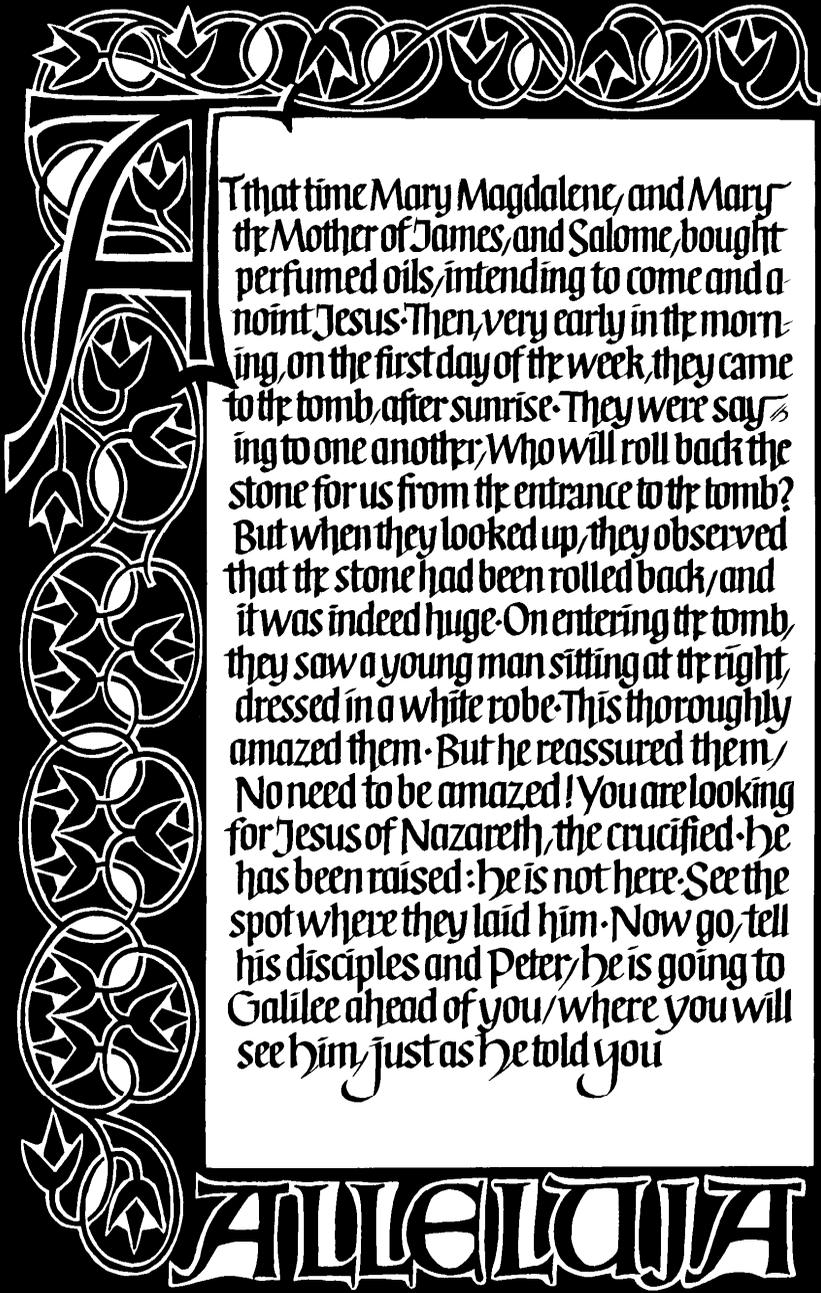
3. Then there are those who will use the amnesty to defuse the spiral of getting and using ever bigger guns: they will abandon their arsenals, handing them in to the police.

But at the end of the amnesty comes judgement. For humanity that means facing Christ in The Last Judgement. To say that the Metropolitan Police's gun amnesty is analogous to God's forgiveness of sins is to say that the best interpretations of the atonement are *forensic* (sorry, theological jargon!), *legalistic*. But then the best attempts to expound what God has done for us in Christ are just so – the early Church held to a *forensic* interpretation of atonement, so did the Reformers, so did (in the modern period) such great novelists as Dostoevsky, so also Karl Barth the great twentieth-century theologian, so also, to a degree, did CS Lewis. What Biblical warrant is there for this? Well, lots of examples – but the most unnerving is the forgiveness of the so-called good thief crucified with Jesus which illustrates God's *aseity* (*freedom*) and *sovereignty*:

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

Paul Brazier



At that time Mary Magdalene, and Mary the Mother of James, and Salome, bought perfumed oils, intending to come and anoint Jesus. Then, very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb, after sunrise. They were saying to one another, Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb? But when they looked up, they observed that the stone had been rolled back, and it was indeed huge. On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. This thoroughly amazed them. But he reassured them, No need to be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised: he is not here. See the spot where they laid him. Now go, tell his disciples and Peter, he is going to Galilee ahead of you, where you will see him, just as he told you.

ALLELUIA



Notice Board



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 27th April
at 11.30 am

It is important that you come,
particularly in an interregnum
...this is your church

11 am Saturday 17th May

***WALK led by John
Barrett in London's
East End from
Whitechapel to
Mile End visiting
St Dunstan's Church,
Stepney, a Saxon
foundation***

N.B. Christian Aid Week, 12th May

N.B. Soup Lunch, 16th May



CAN YOU HELP?

I am pleased to introduce you to Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind; we provide support to visually impaired people in the Borough of Merton.

Permanent visual loss is traumatic for anyone; but problems are compounded if you are elderly, living alone and perhaps housebound. Visual loss is most often age related; conditions such as diabetes, glaucoma and macular degeneration can deprive people of most or all of their sight.

Unfortunately modern society has sadly led to the decline of the extended family and many elderly people in the community live alone, but visual loss makes many things we take for granted extremely difficult, if not impossible. Imagine making a cup of tea wearing a blindfold...

We provide a Home Visiting service, which over the last 6 years has proved to be invaluable to housebound visually impaired people. We are now recruiting and training volunteers to be part of our team. If you would like to volunteer and can spare an hour a week, please contact Samantha Jarvis at the Guardian Centre 8540 5446 your call could make all the difference.

FAIRTRADE



The Fairtrade Foundation exists to improve the position of poor and marginalized producers in the developing world. In conventional world markets, the price of commodities such as cocoa and coffee fluctuates dramatically, (currently the world price of coffee is at a record low) and frequently drops below the cost of production. This has a catastrophic impact on the lives of many thousands of small farmers.

Products that carry the *FAIRTRADE* Mark, the only independent consumer guarantee, ensure that such producers get a better deal. The *FAIRTRADE* Mark now appears on more than 100 foods, including coffee, tea, bananas, chocolate and biscuits.

For many years Ken and Joan Henderson have been selling *FAIRTRADE* products on Sundays after the 10 am service and now *FAIRTRADE* is being relaunched at Christ Church and the Junior church will be heavily involved in selling so please support them and let us know what products you would like stocked.

Bruno Bear Club

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 -
Clare Pickard (020 8947 2196)



Art & Craft: we have tried a variety of things - potato print painting, decorating biscuits, making cards and so on.

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!!!

**Holiday: Easter Holiday - closed 17th April & 24th April
(Also closed for half term on 29th May)**

Volunteers

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 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.

Christ Church 'Information'

C H U R C H D I A R Y

A p r i l t o J u n e 2003



1 Apr	11.00 am Holy Communion	28 Apr	8.00 pm Outreach Working Party
3 Apr	8.00 pm Lent Course	4 May	<i>Easter 3</i>
4 Apr	10.00 am Study Group	6 May	11.00 am Holy Communion
6 Apr	<i>The Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	11 May	<i>Easter 4</i>
8 Apr	7.45 pm Accompanied Prayer Group	12 May	Start of Christian Aid Week
10 Apr	8.00 pm Lent Course	13 May	7.45 pm Prayer Group
11 Apr	10.00 am Study Group 12.30 pm Lent Lunch	16 May	Soup Lunch
13 Apr	PALM SUNDAY Coffee and Hot-Cross Buns served after the 10.00 am service – followed by: Procession between posters of Stations of the Cross	17 May	11.00 am Walk – Whitechapel to Mile End
14 Apr	8.00 pm Address and Night Prayer	18 May	<i>Easter 5</i>
15 Apr	8.00 pm Address and Night Prayer	19 May	8.00 pm Book Club meets
16 Apr	8.00 pm Address and Night Prayer	25 May	<i>Easter 6</i>
17 Apr	MAUNDY THURSDAY 8.00 pm Sung Eucharist	1 June	<i>Easter 7</i>
18 Apr	GOOD FRIDAY 12 noon Two Hour Reflection Canon Ian Ainsworth-Smith 2.00 pm The Liturgy of the Passion of our Lord	3 June	11.00 am Holy Communion
20 Apr	EASTER DAY	8 June	PENTECOST 10.00 am All Age Worship
27 Apr	<i>Easter 2</i> 11.30 am Annual Parochial Church Meeting	10 June	7.45 Prayer Group
		14 June	10.30 am to 4.00 pm Quiet Day at St. Michael's Anglican Convent
		15 June	TRINITY SUNDAY
		22 June	<i>Trinity 1</i>
		29 June	<i>Trinity 2</i>

But hallow the
LORD
CHRIST
in your hearts.