



St Mary's
Harrow on the Hill

£1

MayDay! MayDay! Edition

The Spire

(May 2021)

Christian Aid and the Chance to See Red!!



Moving into May

After a truly glorious Easter Sunday at our Open Air Morning Service in the churchyard, we are gradually taking tiny steps towards something approximating Normal Business!

All sorts of things are happening in May—we aim to keep you up to date with all of them—so see further details inside.

And be mindful of Father James's shoe-leather, as he launches his campaign to walk 10,000 steps a day over May!

We are also relaunching our quest for photos of you dressed in red to support Christian Aid Week and Pentecost..Can you beat the submissions from last year?

Diary Date—MAY 16th

Please put May 16th Sunday morning Service in your diaries—as we will combine a Creation Sunday with Christian Aid Sunday, and then follow it up with the St Mary's Annual General meeting.

It's so vital now that we work together to help poorer countries impacted by Climate Change and the Pandemic.

And, it will be great to catch up on the activities of St Mary's.

In this issue:

The highlights from Easter

Father James shares with us his thoughts on the Resurrection

We talk to some locals with lovely memories of HRH Prince Philip

“Hot off the press”—Judith's Jottings from the latest PCC

We hear who's been badgering Michael and Pauline!

And lots more news besides!

christian
aid

Father James' Letter for May

Dear Friends,
Alleluia, Christ is risen!
He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the context in which we find ourselves, I might have written
Alleluia, St Mary's is open!
St Mary's is open, indeed. Alleluia!

With some appropriate caution and the constant encouragement to receive the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you, there are signs of hope that we can return to some mode of living with which we are more used and comfortable. Above all, we can now look forward to a time when we can worship together once more. I am enormously grateful for your patience and understanding over this past year. We were, at least, able to gather in the churchyard on both Easter Day and Low Sunday, blessed with some magnificent sunshine and able to sing! By returning "inside" the joy of singing remains one for which we will have to wait a little longer but I am grateful to Zena Wigram for "holding the fort" enabling a choir to sing hymns as Tim continues to recover from his own encounter with Covid.

In last month's edition of The Spire, I wrote in this letter of the reality of both death and resurrection. In this edition, you will find a reworked version of a sermon I preached on the Third Sunday of Easter reflecting on the mystery of our Lord's *physical* resurrection which must be seen as a prefiguring of a renewed and glorified creation. I quoted from the 21st chapter of Revelation last month. It is the belief that creation is both divinely given and open to divine transformation that inspires the work of the Creation Group about which you will have read in recent editions. I commend to you the "fruits" of their recent Lenten Challenge for a "plastic-less Lent" which you will find in a display in the Anselm Chapel. It is intended to be "inter-active" inviting

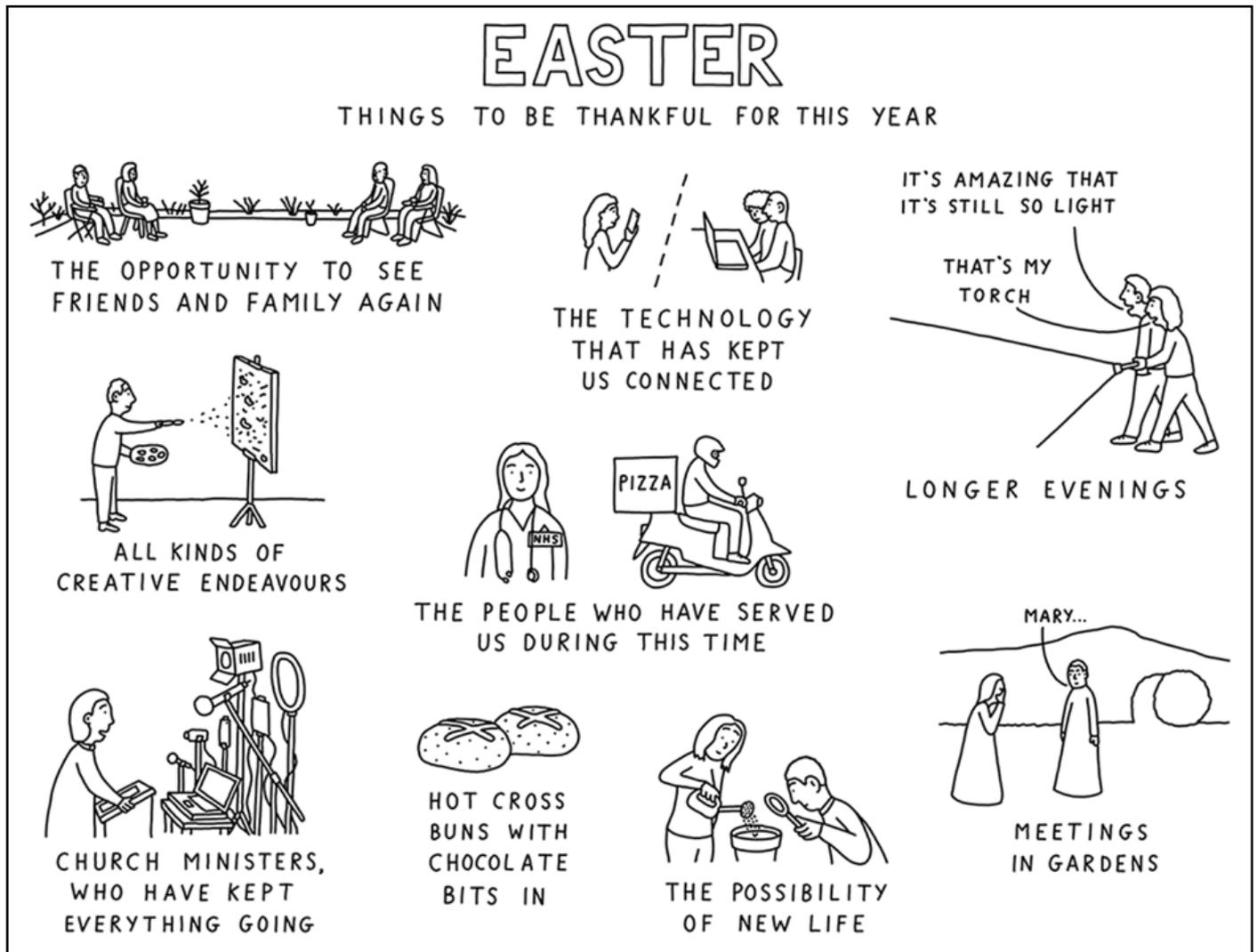
you to both contribute to it and respond personally in whatever way you see fit.

This coming month sees us celebrate the remaining "movements" of the "symphony" which is the Easter mystery. Ascension Day is Thursday 13th May; there will be a said Eucharist at 8.00 p.m. It falls in Christian Aid Week and we will keep the Sunday after the Ascension as Christian Aid Sunday which also coincides with the APCM and "Middlesex Day"! Pentecost is Sunday 23rd and Trinity the following week to "round off" the month.

Douglas Dodd has contributed a piece for this edition on Christian Aid Week. Envelope delivery will take place as usual but recipients will be encouraged to return their contributions to pre-arranged addresses or to church. We will once again invite people to "wear red for Christian Aid" from 10-16 May and a just Giving page for contributions can be found [here](#) The full link appears at the bottom of this letter. I have set myself the "300,000 step challenge" over the month of May!! Details [here](#) and full link again below.

I was delighted to announce on Easter Day that I will be joined "officially" by two extra ordained ministers. Bishop Pete has agreed to Alison Christian becoming an Associate Priest at St Mary's. He has also agreed to the appointment of a curate: Graham Dale will be ordained on Saturday 3 July and he will join us as an SSM Curate at that point (SSM – self-supporting minister – meaning that Graham will continue his career in the City but he will join us on Sundays offering a certain amount of other time as family and work commitments permit.) We look forward to welcoming him, his wife, Gilly and their family to St Mary's. In the meantime, please keep Alison and Richard, Graham and Gilly in your prayers. We hope it will be possible for Alison to be formally licensed by Bp Pete before he retires at the end of September. Much for which to be thankful!

I conclude with one of Dave Walker's recent "cartoon contributions" to the Church Times in which he encourages us to be thankful as we look ahead.....



With every blessing

Fr James

300,000 step Challenge

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/challenge-yourself>

Christian Aid Week fundraising link

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmaryharrowchristianaid2021>

The Resurrection Body

An exploration based on a sermon preached on Sunday 18 April, Easter 3, on Acts 3:12-19 & Luke 24:36-48

Dr Alice Roberts is Professor of Public Engagement in Science at University of Birmingham; she is a biological anthropologist, author, broadcaster and President of Humanists UK. On Good Friday, she tweeted: “Just a little reminder today. Dead people - don’t come back to life.” That simple assertion generated over 6,500 responses!! Who said nobody was interested in religion or more accurately theology anymore?! More seriously, she was right - dead people, don’t come back to life. There are some cases, of course, recorded in the New Testament, when Jesus, God Incarnate, released people temporarily from the grip of death, most especially perhaps, Lazarus. What Dr Roberts had in mind, of course, was the resurrection – and that is of a rather different order to a dead person coming back to life: Resurrection is NOT resuscitation. To quote the late Bishop of Durham, David Jenkins, the resurrection is no mere “conjuring trick with bones.” Her tweet, nonetheless, witnesses to a question which has existed since the first day of resurrection itself, reflected, of course, in the doubts expressed by St Thomas, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” *John 20:25*

Today’s Gospel addresses the same issue – what is the nature of resurrected existence? Never mind the empty tomb, who or what or how is the resurrected Christ? We encounter the disciples in the upper room in conversation with the two travellers who have just encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus and to whom he had revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. They have returned to describe their experience and now he is present to them again.

Luke, who is author of both our readings today, is forensic in his account. He addresses a range of questions about the resurrection body, all of which we can read in light of the account of St Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:

“What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.” *1 Corinthians 15:42-44*

The body of the risen Christ is the first fruits (*1 Cor 15:20*) of the transformed and glorified created order – we might say that our physical and spiritual realities find their proper harmony and unity in resurrection. Resurrection brings the physical and spiritual into an integrated and glorified whole. So back today’s passage:

What are the questions Luke addresses?

Is this a ghost? How is Jesus present amongst them?

In spite of celebrating the news from Emmaus, the risen presence is clearly still disturbing and beyond comprehension – after all dead people do not come back to life! Yet, he is here and the implication is that he transcends the normal boundaries of the physical world, so is he merely a “spiritual presence”? The answer seems unequivocal: absolutely not! The new presence of our risen Lord extends to the physical act of eating: “They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.” Indeed, it was at the meal table in Emmaus that they had come to recognise him.

What does his body “look like”? Is it physical?

To reiterate that physicality, he declares that ghosts do NOT have flesh and bones as you see I have! He shows them his hands and feet, the implications being that he is showing them the wounds of crucifixion which were to have such a profound effect upon Thomas. Resurrection does not wipe away the wounds: our own wounds, our own failures, the hurts and disappointments of our own lives often become the instruments of our own growth, our own deeper and fuller self-understanding – resurrection transforms and glorifies our wounds to affirm who we are.

Psychologists agree that our ultimate identity is a product not only of our genetics but of our lived experience. The glorified wounds of the risen Christ are a crucial physical proclamation of the transfigured, risen, glorified creation – the new creation, the new heaven and the new earth.

To quote Swiss Roman Catholic theologian Hans Kung, who has died recently

“He is a God who does not make empty promises for the hereafter nor trivialise the present darkness, futility and meaninglessness, but who himself in the midst of darkness, futility and meaninglessness invites us to the venture of hope.” *The Irish Times, Saturday 17 April 2021*

Another who has died recently is Dr John Polkinghorne, President of Queen’s College, Cambridge, theoretical physicist, priest and prolific writer on the relationship between science and religion. In speaking of resurrection he makes the fascinating point that every cell in our body is replaced every two years or so, yet, even in spite of the aging process, we remain recognisably the same human being. Our “blue-print”, the memory of who we are, is embedded in our DNA which “dictates” the form of the cells which then make up and reveal who we are. Analogously, the memory of who we are is imprinted in the heart of God. “It’s a question of the memory of God. If the pattern has a continuance, if it has a significance, it will be held in God’s memory..... What I am saying is that a “pattern” is retained in some way, and I think the best image to use for that — at least, the one most comfortable to me — is of the divine memory.” It is in God’s gift as to the nature of the resurrected reality but Polkinghorne, speaking of the continuance of relationship, offers the view that there must be some physicality to it, “one of the greatest goods of life in this world is our relationship to those who are near and dear to us, and that is a good that will not be lost, I think. It will be renewed and continued.....if we have to be embodied as human beings, as I believe we have, then it will involve that. Human relationships in this world are more than merely fleshly — they have a different dimension to them.” <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/9-april/features/features/interview-with-john-polkinghorne-christ-s-resurrection-and-ours>

Luke, in both passages we have heard this morning affirms that the mystery of resurrection is the fulfilment of the whole story of God’s people, as Jesus has already done in his conversation with the travellers on the Emmaus road. *Luke 24:13-35*

He records Peter as declaring in the passage from Acts, “In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.” *Acts 3:19*

He records Jesus himself, declaring: “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” *Luke 24:36-48*

We are witnesses of these things – not of a reality-denying blind faith but a confidence in the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors who has glorified his servant Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One, the very Author of Life.....and similarly, we are incorporated into that mystery whereby we find our salvation, our wholeness and healing in him. Repentance is to be open to the grace of God so that our lives, our wounds, may be transfigured, transformed and glorified, a process which finds its fulfilment in nothing less than resurrection.

Highlights from the latest PCC 28th April.

Please note these are more “Judith’s Jottings” than the official minutes—I have taken the opportunity of highlighting things which I thought The Spire readers would be interested in!

1. The flagpole is back! It has been missing for four years and we are now revisiting the instructions to get the flags raised yet again!
2. The Stewardship committee met recently and are going to launch a fundraising initiative for the Spire Appeal. It's intended that it will be an evening launch on Thursday 8th July, very similar to the launch for the Raise the Roof appeal some years ago. It'll be an invitation to individuals and businesses for about 6:30pm for a rendezvous and presentation at the church.
3. It's being discussed that we may be able to run a Christmas fair on Saturday December 4th (yippee!).
4. The Annual Report will be issued in time for the APCM on 16th May. This is always a good summary of the work undertaken right across the board by everyone. Father James highlighted that it has been a huge amount of work to get the new credit card system working in church. The Vicar described it as a Herculean task to get all the software and systems going to get this working satisfactorily. The only issue with the card reader is the potential loss of Gift Aid if those using it don't also submit a paper form recording the amount given- please watch out for all the details in the Pew bulletin.
5. Our Treasurer summarised last year's accounts where £3.3k was made as a surplus on unrestricted funds largely thanks to a legacy and some good income from filming at the Vicarage and at the church. As Father James is only part-time, Saint Mary's is able to offer a slightly lower amount to the diocesan common fund. But the fact remains that Saint Mary's has the challenge of raising our giving to the point where a full-time post once again becomes viable.
6. Moving onto the AGM which will be held after the service on the 16th May.- That morning the Creation Group will also hold a litter pick from about 9:00 am. Emma Marfe will start issuing details about this in due course.
7. The Kingdom Come initiative will come into place between Ascension Day (May 13) and Pentecost (May 23) where the Vicar is hoping to restore evening prayer over the 10 day period. So from Ascension day to Pentecost which almost coincides with Christian Aid week we will be running evening prayers. Douglas Dodd has done a lot of work to get Christian Aid week running, he has gathered together his collectors and has given instructions as to what roads they would cover.

The Vicar has also developed ways for raising funds for Christian Aid via a JustGiving page for his sponsorship for walking 300,000 steps in the month of May.

8. We considered the consultation with regard to the new posting of the Bishop of Willesden and considered that it is a role which covers a large number of churches, hospitals and schools.
9. We talked about the opening hours for Saint Mary's. It is planned to have the church open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the moment. Pauline Chandler fed back that there had been many positive comments from people using the church.
10. There's going to be a new initiative with Living in Love and Faith and Father James proposes to set up a study group with a book which will take you through a study course. He will send out general invitations for this soon. There will be 5 sessions on this course and he will give out details on Sunday, 2nd May.
11. We discussed the racism documentary that Panorama had the previous week. The PCC is going to consider this and probably having a separate group looking at how we could possibly improve inclusivity. We do have the Peace Chapel which we are using for inter-faith connectivity.
12. The Vicar asked us to consider the Harrow School celebration of 450 years which is coming up in 2022 when it is proposed to do a street festival on Saturday 30th April. They are proposing that the church should also participate and we would look forward to ideas for that. The celebrations will also include a performance of Noye's Fludde, Benjamin Britten's Opera for children- with schools within the borough who will perform in choirs.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

1094

Anselm had asked Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, to adjudicate in the dispute with Maurice, Bishop of London, as to which of the two should dedicate the new church at Harrow. Wulfstan upheld the right of an Archbishop to consecrate a church within his manor but situate in the diocese of another. So Eadmer was able touchingly to record that Anselm duly performed the ceremony at St Mary's, the church built by his predecessor Lanfranc who could not do so himself as he was *'obitu praeventus'*, prevented by death. It must have been a dramatic scene as Anselm stood at the West Door with his processional cross, declaiming *'ecce Crucis signum! fugiant phantasmata cuncta!'* (Behold the sign of the Cross! Let all the spectres of the night depart in flight!)

(Sources: Druett/Eadmer/Done Bushell)

1143

An anonymous chronicler who told how Thomas Becket came to Harrow to join the household of Theobald paid tribute to the Archbishop, writing *'at that time Theobald, a prelate of the highest reputation who had come from the monastery at Bec, was presiding over the church at Canterbury with decorum and true worthiness: he was praiseworthy and magnificent in all he did, and had the greatest experience as much in matters secular as ecclesiastical.'*

(Source: Latin text in Octocentenary Tract VI)

1170

In early December 1170 soon after his return to Canterbury from exile Archbishop Becket wrote to Pope Alexander III expressing his frustration and annoyance that certain men who had gained possession of some of his churches unlawfully had not obeyed the Papal instruction to return them. Two clerics in particular irked him intensely. One was his Archdeacon (whom he also dubbed Archdevil) Geoffrey Ridel who had Otford, the other was none other than Nigel de Sackville at Harrow. He wrote that they were *'in omni peste et vexatione ecclesiae praecipui'*, outstanding in all their

defilement and harassment of the church.

(Source: Latin text in Octocentenary Tract VI)

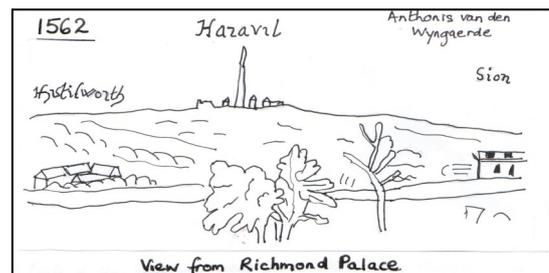
1170

When Abbot Simon of St. Alban's set out for Woodstock about 14 December to attempt a reconciliation between Thomas Becket and Young Henry, he was accompanied by the Archbishop's Chaplain, the monk Richard of Dover. Richard had been the friend of Thomas since their meeting as clerks to Archbishop Theobald. The mission was an abject failure, for the reception at Woodstock was hostile. They were greeted with foul abusive language, clenched fists and knife blades. Worse still they were threatened with grievous bodily harm. The text uses strongly graphic vocabulary - *e*viscerare (to disembowel) and *e*mentulare (to castrate) - with the initial 'e' emphasising forcible removal.

Richard of Dover was to succeed Becket at Canterbury and become one of the Lords of the Manor.

(Source: Latin text from St. Alban's records in Octocentenary Tract VII)

1562



Published in 1562 this is the earliest known depiction of St. Mary's in art. Harrow is placed centrally between Isleworth and Syon in this view from Richmond Palace which had been commissioned in 1554 from Anthonis van den Wyngaerde by Philip II of Spain who was keen to learn from illustrations about Queen Mary's residences and their environs.

St Mary's looks rather like a tall lighted candle with the Vicarage on the south side and the former Rectory on the other.

(Illustration by MPS from that in a book by Ball of depictions of Harrow 1562-1899.)

BIBLICAL TWENTY QUESTIONS

No 1: J is for

M.P. S.

These questions range across the Old and New Testaments and one visits the Apocrypha. All the answers, not necessarily names, begin with 'J'. Translations differ, so the wording in certain questions may not co-incide with your version, but the answer should be evident. Just join in joyfully.

1. Who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus?
2. Which ruler of the synagogue asked Jesus to come to his house as his daughter was dying? (Mark 5)
3. From where had the man helped by the Good Samaritan set out and whither was he going? (Luke 10)
4. Who decapitated Holofernes?
5. What was the name of the father-in-law of Moses? (Exodus 3)
6. Hebrews chapter 4 says that the word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword. What does it pierce?
7. Who wrote three short Epistles?
8. One of the candidates to replace Judas was called Barsabbas. What was his surname? (Acts 1)
9. With what did Samson slay 1,000 men? (Judges 15)
10. Who along with others provided for Jesus and the disciples from her own means? (Luke 8)
11. Where was Naboth's vineyard? (I Kings 21)
12. According to Judges chapter 11 the Spirit of the Lord came upon whom, as he passed through Gilead and Manasseh?
13. 'Joseph, being a _____ man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.'
(Answer in KJV, RSV only).
14. Whose words 'Blow up the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast' are read as the BCP Epistle on Ash Wednesday?
15. Who was the father of all who play the lyre and pipe? (Genesis 4)
16. What comes after death? (Hebrews 9)
17. Which godfearing man lived in the land of Uz?
18. Which books come between Deuteronomy and Ruth?
19. Which river rises in the foothills of Mount Hermon and flows into the Red Sea?
20. Who was the servant of Potiphar and an interpreter of dreams?
Whose son was he? (Genesis 39 and 37)

Answers will appear next month.

ANSWER: WHEEL OF WORDS IN REVERSE X (from the April Edition)

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Thorax | 4. Fornix | 7. Reflex | 10. Vertex |
| 2. Hatbox | 5. Outfox | 8. LummoX | 11. Earwax |
| 3. EriK IX | 6. Unisex | 9. Outbox | 12. Suffix |
- (THE FOUR LOVES)

HRH and Harrow!!

The Spire Editor, Judith Shepherd, thought it would be nice to ask a few people locally, of their memories of Prince Philip—We have an assortment here, some of which are quite revealing.

From a Duke of Edinburgh Award Recipient

Matthew Biggs (Churchwarden) writes--

The school I attended offered the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as an "extra". It was targeted at the very few pupils who were not already occupied on Friday afternoons as members of the Combined Cadet Force or the school orchestra; already a member of the school orchestra, I was not eligible for the Award Scheme. Nevertheless, as a contrary and looking-back-at-myself-actually-rather-angry fifteen year old, it appealed because I liked the idea of being able to get away and decide for myself what interested me, rather than have other people decide for me. So I went to my housemaster - someone else who was perhaps rather more shrewd than the fifteen year old me gave credit - and asked for an exception to be made. My Housemaster's Report to my parents that term said how delighted he was that I had enrolled, and he had underscored "delighted" so hard that he tore through the report form.

The Silver and Gold Awards quite simply changed my life. I had the luxury of taking each element as and when I wanted, and I designed my Awards around what interested me at the time. I spread the commitment over eight years, picking it up and putting it down as time and interests allowed: I volunteered at Headstone Manor, learned how to dance (long before Strictly!) and play cricket, I froze on Dartmoor and roasted in Corsica, I worked on the restoration project at Durham Cathedral and I cared for people who were sick.

The school needed adult helpers for the Silver Expedition so I suggested my father - to his, my fellow Expeditioners', and the school's complete consternation. Spending a fortnight trudging through rain and hail knowing that Dad waited at the campsite unlocked our relationship in a way I still don't quite understand. For the record, I should add that Dad was always fine: I was the one with the problem.

In choosing between two options for my Gold Service, it was my father who nudged me towards St John Ambulance, and it was because of St John Ambulance that I was then asked to go up onto the local Bench.

My career, qualifications, hobbies and interests all have their root in DoFE: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's vision of injecting confidence, breadth of vision, interest and sense of adventure into teenagers as relevant today as it was in 1956. His late Royal Highness created something that has spanned the globe and changed millions of lives, including mine. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

By Royal Appointment

We spoke to Owain Arwel Hughes—

Owain and Jean have actually met the Royal Family on quite a few occasions—as we know, Arwel Hughes organized the music for the Prince of Wales Investiture in Caernarvon Castle in July 1969, and Owain was called upon 50 years later to organize music for the commemoration.

Owain explained to me that he had to think through quite a few different moments—but that his overall highlight was conducting a concert in front of the Queen and Prince Philip, in Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster, on the 60th Anniversary of Holocaust Day. Owain and Jean said, it was just such a moving event, and it was so enhanced by having the couple there together.

no.11, Spring 2005

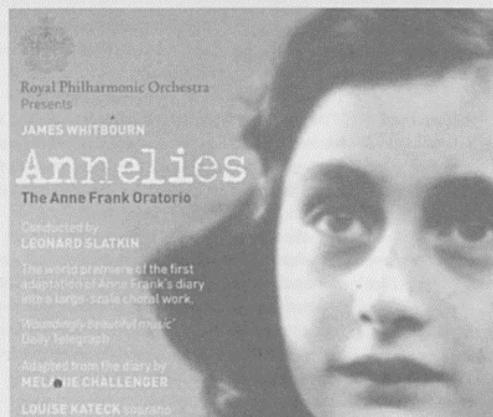
JEWISH MUSIC INSTITUTE SOAS education performance information

JMI Millennium Award Winners Star on TV

In the presence of The Queen and Prince Philip, three of JMI's Millennium Award winners, **Melanie Challenger**, **Michael Etherton** and **Malcolm Miller**, made significant contributions to this year's National Holocaust Memorial event on Thursday 27 January.

At the very heart of the moving and exceptional commemoration in the Palace of Westminster, attended by 600 survivors and 200 liberators and also broadcast on BBC TV, was a new choral and orchestral work: **Annelies**, from the *Diary of Anne Frank*, adapted by the young Oxford graduate, **Melanie Challenger**. With JMI's help, Melanie commissioned outstanding young composer **James Whitbourn** to write the music, evocative of what Anne would have heard, incarcerated in her hiding place in Amsterdam. Excerpts were performed by Louise Kateck, soprano (Anne), Clare College Cambridge Choir and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to accompany the lighting of the 60 candles. Moving addresses were given by the Prime Minister, Lord Winston, Stephen Fry and the Chief Rabbi.

The first full performance of this work by the Royal



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Presents

JAMES WHITBOURN

Annelies

The Anne Frank Oratorio

Conducted by
LEONARD SLATKIN

The world premiere of the first
adaptation of Anne Frank's diary
into a large-scale choral work.

"Wondrously beautiful music"
Daily Telegraph

Adapted from the diary by
MELANIE CHALLENGER

LOUISE KATECK soprano
ANNIE FRANK

The Spire-did a Google Trawl, to find out more about the event. It does look incredible.

Owain says that often when he sees the Queen she smiles and says, wasn't it cold that evening!

Creation Group Updates

The Creation Group have continued apace after Easter with a draft plan for how to deliver many of the steps in the Eco Church survey document that we have been completing. On April 20th we met with Brian Cuthbertson, Diocesan Expert on buildings and were able to get some significant advice from Brian.

Emerging from lockdown Emma Marfe had the brilliant idea of holding a litter pick on 31st March and was great in enabling us all to see each other again and giving us an idea of the amount of litter which is irresponsibly left in the churchyard grounds.



In the last couple of weeks we have set up a Plastic Less board at the back of the church where we can compare tips about saving on single use plastics. Judith Shepherd has organised a conversation group for the mid Thursdays of each month where we can join together and talk about eco tips which has been very useful. On April 11th we took the opportunity of interspersing some of the creation group work with the normal service and below we have the intercessions from that day which we found particularly powerful and inspiring. Jean Norman is running a Tuesday 8pm Group, studying Say Yes to Life—further info via Jean and Revd Alison Christian.

During May we are going to participate in the Christian Aid service on **May 16th** which will emphasise the themes of caring for the environment so please don't miss out on joining us for that one. We are also going to give you all the chance to join in a litter pick before this service!!

Zoom details for next Creation Group Social Half Hour

On Thursday **May 13th**, Judith Shepherd would like to invite you to a short, 30 Minute Zoom Meet-Up, to chat about Creation Care, share ideas and have a social chat around the themes of caring for the Environment. Judith Shepherd is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Judith Shepherd's Zoom Meeting
Time: May 13, 2021 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78352518957?pwd=ZFZFcUljWG1yTXVHMzlkMGZZVUE2UT09>

Meeting ID: 783 5251 8957
Passcode: Tv73Mh

April 11th 2021, Intercessions

Lord God, Easter is the time of new life and hope. We thank you that in the resurrection stories, like that of St Thomas, we see you meeting each one of us just where we are, just at our point of need. And so, in confidence, we bring the needs of our world, our community and ourselves to you this morning.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

In this beautiful churchyard, we give you thanks Lord, for your glorious Creation. We thank you for all who have cared for this place in the past and those who care for it now. We pray for the universal Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for our Queen, particularly now as she grieves the loss of the Duke of Edinburgh, and all those who have the responsibility of government in this country and across the world. We thank you for the Duke of Edinburgh's prophetic voice in increasing awareness of climate change and the need for conservation. Raise up leaders who will speak out with wisdom, for restraint and compassion in caring for the things of the earth. Especially we pray for those involved in Climate Justice, particularly in this year of the Climate Change Summit in Glasgow.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray that following the pandemic hardship, we can work together with everyone in the community to build a happier, healthier future, where things are not taken for granted, and where we recognise the beauty that lies on our doorsteps. Make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. And teach us to partner you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable global neighbours.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for those who suffer. We hold the Earth. We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change. We hold all species who suffer. We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children. May Love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.

And we remember as we always do, those who have specifically asked for our prayers this day

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

The communion of saints

In this lovely place we remember those who knew this place before us: St Anselm, who consecrated this church, St Thomas Becket who visited two weeks before he died, and those quiet souls buried all around us. Remembering them we give you thanks for all those we love and see no more. We remember especially at this time

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers....**

Poetry Column

May

A mixture of three of mine this time. One is a rant on hearing that some American universities are deleting Shakespeare from their curriculums, a second, celebrating the lovely month of May – but look again and see that this poem is an acrostic, the initial letters of each line read downwards spelling another aspect of May before the end of which we should ‘ne’er cast a clout’. Bread, a lovely little story I heard, tells of a baker and much of the human spirit in that most important and meaning-laden food – bread.

Dorothy Pope

May

Lollipop tulips are tempting the bees.
Overhead, dappling the April-grown lawn,
Unleafed until next month, the great oaks reign
Supreme in the sunshine, their acorns mere rumour,
Young in their glory, with better to come
While over them all, three grey squirrels are gliding,
Effortlessly flaunting their nonchalance – high,
Airborne and confident, playful, blue-skying
Their arcing. All nature is coming alive.
Heaven’s in a garden, this fine day in May.
Every creature, all flowers and leaf buds contrive
Rosiest of springtimes in England today.

Shakespeare Cancelled!

To think that it should ever come to this,
our greatest poet, he who wrote in words
of genius, in language named God’s own,
such verse and plays not heard before or since,
our unsurpass-ed Bard, whose seed they are,
be cast aside by them, who bastardise
the pretty language they inherited,
with basest self-entitled impudence!
To strike him from their brash curriculums
in universities of ignorance!
We, the custodians of his treasures,
lions, alike laud him and on them spit.

Bread

The baker continued baking his bread.
The advancing enemy only five miles off,
the retreating allies asked him why.

He replied he had nowhere to retreat to,
knew nothing other than baking bread
and could see no reason to stop.

So amid the relentless destruction of the town,
his oven intact, the lone man stayed,
baking beautiful golden loaves of risen bread.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021
Monday 10th – Sunday 16th MAY
Every Last Drop

Don't Badger Pauline!

How your donation helps

Rose is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. When Rose was a child, there was plenty of rain that fell at the right times. It provided ample nutritious food to eat. Now Rose's community lives with drought and hunger for months at a time. Together, the climate crisis and coronavirus are a double threat to lives and livelihoods. People are struggling to cope.

This Christian Aid Week, your donation could help communities withstand climate chaos. With your support we can build better earth dams to harvest more water, sow drought-tolerant crops and demand climate justice at the highest level. Thank you for standing with us.

You can make a donation to The St Mary's Christian Aid justgiving page which passes on the money directly to Christian Aid.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmaryharrowchristianaid2021>

Christian Aid Week at St Mary's.

As in previous years our team of volunteer collectors will be distributing Christian Aid Week envelopes through doors in the parish, but because of covid restrictions, not collecting door to door. Instead this year we ask people either to donate if possible online via the Justgiving website set up by the Vicar, or to drop off their envelopes at a designated point, usually through the collectors letterbox. As services have restarted there will also be a Christian Aid Week collection at the 10.30am service on Sunday 16th May to mark the end of Christian Aid Week this year.

If you would like to help by just delivering envelopes in a local road please contact Douglas Dodd.

Ha ha!! Our ever helpful Pauline reports in that even when she's at home she can't get away from being badgered...

This time—it is the real thing as this visitor was snapped infiltrating the potting shed!!



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Easter Sunday 2021-In Pictures!

