

ST. PETER'S, HAMBLEDON

APRIL 1977

THE RECTOR WRITES ...

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

This is an important question to think through. It could scarcely be just to show His love, for that had been proved beyond doubt already on Christmas Day by his coming to our poor world at all. Why did He have to go on to the final degradation of that bitter and painful death?

We can be very sure that if there had been any other way, God would have taken it. THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.

If we think about that, perhaps we may come to see that man may not be the good-fellow-at-heart after all; and perhaps after all sin may be the grim and dangerous reality the Bible says it is; and perhaps after all it was right, and necessary, that God should not overlook our sin, but bear it.

Perhaps too we shall come to see that the bearing of our sins is something that has been already finished. That makes it GOOD Friday indeed; and Easter Sunday takes the covers off so that all can see it, and lay hold of it for themselves. Come and celebrate with us.

Confirmation preparation for young people begins on 15 April, and will take place at the Rectory on Fridays at 8 pm. A separate course for adults (not just for those thinking of being confirmed, but for any one who would like to come) is envisaged, and is likely to begin in May. Please let my wife or me know if you would like more details.

A HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL

3 SUN. Palm Sunday

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon

10 am Children's Church

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Passion Readings and Prayers

7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

7 MAUNDY THURSDAY

8 pm Holy Communion and Sermon

8 GOOD FRIDAY

11 am Morning Service

10 EASTER SUNDAY

Holy Communion at 8 am, 12 noon, 7.30 pm

10 am Children's Church

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at the Rectory

14 Thur. 8 pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Hall).

17 SUN. Easter I

Holy Communion at 8 am

10 am Children's Church

11 am Morning Prayer: Installation of
Officers

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

20 Wed. 8.15 pm Bible Study and Prayer (Rectory)

24 SUN. Easter II

Holy Communion at 8 am and 10 am

10 am Series II Communion Service

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at Little Woodlands

AND IN MAY1 SUN. S. Philip and James. Easter III

Holy Communion at 8 am and 12 noon

10 am Children's Church

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at Heath Cottage

4 Wed. 8.15 pm Bible Study and Prayer (Rectory)

8 SUN. Easter IV

Holy Communion at 8 am

11 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

7.45 pm Young People at the Rectory

15 SUN. Visit of Rev. Dr David Milton-Thompson

CHURCH FLOWERS

April 3 Miss M. Parker

10 Easter Flowers

17 Mrs P. Gardner

24 Miss E.F. Denny

May 1 Mrs M. Caroe

8 Mrs E.A. Wieler

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Total for February 1977, £50 - 65 p.

E.F. Denny

CHURCH REGISTERSCremation 11 March: Janet Elizabeth Maxwell (53) of
Goodbrook HouseCOFFEE MORNING: WITH BRING AND BUY STALL

In aid of Village Jubilee Fund

at: Dennys, Cricket Green

10.45 am THURSDAY 21 April

COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

THE CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING

Last year we had a good number of our members, from both 8 am, 10 am, 11 am, and 6.30 pm congregations, and we hope that there will be even more this year.

We come to hear. There are reports from our Church Council on their action during the year, from our Treasurer upon our financial position, and from our Churchwardens about the state of the buildings and property. Questions, comment, and suggestions from our members will be welcome.

We come to choose. Churchwardens must be elected, and sidesmen, and also P.C.C. members to replace those who now retire after three years service.

Then after a brief interval for refreshments, the Rector's review will be illustrated by colour transparencies to remind us of some of the year's highlights, and of some areas of our varied church life not seen by us all. This is the chief opportunity in the year for the whole church family to see together both what has been done, and what needs to be done in another year of service.

The day is Thursday 14 April, at 8 pm in the Village Hall. Book the date and be sure to come.

The Installation Service for newly elected church officers will be on Sunday 17 April at 11 am.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Mr Edric Hardy gave us a most enjoyable evening on 10 March with his colour transparencies of many of Hambledon's familiar buildings both before and after structural alterations. Others of his excellent photographs showed old groups, of Women's Institute, of our choir, of the children of the Church School in former years, and the like, and as these were shown Mrs Hutchins was able to provide the names too. The attendance was very good in spite of a wet night, and we all enjoyed the evening greatly.

The winter Parish Fellowship season concludes on 14 April with the Annual Meeting (see above).

HAMBLEDON CHURCHYARD YEWS

5.

We are all justly proud of the two splendid yew trees in our Churchyard. Mr Eric Parker's notes (which can be read on the wall of our vestry) suggest that the older and larger of the two may be some 800 years old, and is perhaps the second largest in the South of England.

We were dismayed therefore when Mr Martin Caroe pointed out to us the bracket Saphrophytic Fungus which had appeared, and told us that it can be lethal to many trees. Of course we took immediate advice from two tree experts, and have been comforted to learn that though most trees would be destroyed in some six years, Yews have a remarkable capacity of shrugging off these things. So our trees are not thought to be in danger.

From the two reports, these extracts from Mr Alan Mitchell of the Forestry Commission may be of interest:- "The smaller Yew is of interest as a remarkably clean solid bole now 19'11" round (at 5 feet). It has grown only 4" in 17 years. Few trees other than yew could do this and stay alive. Obviously it has slowed with age, and may well have started at the standard 1" a year of most trees and many yews; but even if it made the first ten feet in 100 years then decelerated gradually, it would have to be by now 400 years old.

"The real veteran, 30'6" round at about two feet up is typical of many of that sort of size ... It is, as they all are, very hollow. However, it is the enormous strength of yew wood that enables these trees to hold together like this for centuries. Each year there is a new skin of strong wood. If growth is a little slower than on the younger tree, it will still be about a solid inch all round every 25 years, an inch with tremendous tensile strength ... The casualty rate amongst these big hollow old yews is extremely small. I've not known one collapse in my 25 years of tree-watching ..."

6.

GIFTS TO TEAR FUND

We were able in February to send £38.82p. to Tear Fund (£11 from the Ash Wednesday collection in church, and over £27 from the Hunger Lunch), and we have received a letter of thanks.

Their most recent report shows that well over a million pounds was distributed in a year to urgent needs in 42 different countries the world over. Asia and Africa figured largely as we would expect, and Central and South American countries to a smaller extent, while Europe was not forgotten. It is good to know that when sudden disasters occur such as earthquakes, volcanoes, or floods, Tear Fund will send relief without delay in the form most needed. Their report shows details of very small as well as large gifts, as is shown by these examples, taken at random from among many hundreds:-

Costa Rica:	Volcano relief	£10,082
Guatemala:	Earthquake relief	£7,998
Thailand:	Flood prevention scheme	£18,770
India:	Water drilling	£ 92
	Doctor, costs	£ 60
Ethiopia:	Community well-drilling	£20,831
	Nurse, costs	£ 60

In a large number of these cases a missionary society was a local adviser to ensure that the money was properly channelled and used. When from time to time we make opportunities to give to this splendid Fund, our members can be sure that their gifts are well used.

PERSONALIA

The sudden death of Mrs Janet Maxwell of Goodbrook House has brought us much sadness. She had suffered a great deal of pain over many years. Her courage, and her kindness, will be specially remembered; and both to her daughters and also to her close friends in Hambledon and Chiddingfold we send our sympathy now.

The excellent garden seat now placed beyond the yew trees in our churchyard, is the kind gift of MR and MRS MCLACHLAN. An inscription records that it is given in memory of Arthur Trevor and Doris Eleanor (Nicky) Nichols. Many will be most grateful for this gift, and we give our best thanks.

MRS MAJOR is safely home again convalescing from her operation. MR FROGLEY had to be taken to Milford Hospital for a few days complete rest and observation, but is back at home and getting about again.

MR TOM HAMMOND is in St. Luke's Hospital undergoing tests, and we hope so much that his trouble of a long time past can now be identified and put right.

We send our very best wishes to JILL HOPKINS of Wormley Lane, and to Tony Warner, on their marriage in Guildford on 12 March.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BUSY

At the Diocesan Youth Festival on Easter Monday, where many hundreds gather, our Young People's Group is to sing in the Cathedral before the service from 12.45 to 1.10 pm. They have also been rendering very useful service in Hambledon and we are most grateful. The roofspace in the Almshouses has now been given proper insulation (A daunting task on account of very difficult access and confined operating space). Then the garden there (which had been cared for anonymously in recent years at the expense of a kind member of the congregation) is now to be tended by them. In addition to all this they have volunteered to do the weekly cleaning of the church until we can find a permanent paid cleaner. This is practical Christianity indeed, and we thank them warmly.

However,

A REGULAR CHURCH CLEANER IS NEEDED SOON. Single-handed, the task would take less than two hours, to be done at any time convenient late in the week, and the payment will be £2.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Hambledon Women's Institute met on Wednesday 9 March in the Village Hall. Two new members, MRS ALLEN and MRS GARDNER were welcomed. During the business MRS HARDY the President asked for members' ideas about the Float the W.I. is decorating and manning for the Silver Jubilee Procession in Hambledon on 7 June. She suggested what she hoped they could do, by joining in the village celebrations. MRS CRAW gave a lively talk illustrated by her own slides describing the thrills and pleasures of going down the Grand Canyon by raft. She emphasised the heat, spectacular scenery, and real dangers of the experience. MRS JEFFERY and MRS STEELE served tea, and MRS BOOTH's trading stall did a brisk business.

R.C. STEELE

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We looked forward with anticipation to our February meeting when Mrs Buntly Hemsworth, from Guildford came to speak to us from her personal experience of spiritual and physical healing. It was an amazing story. She had suffered from a disease that had crippled her for many years, necessitating the use of a wheel chair, and in addition she had a serious disease of her blood. During this time she was seeking to find peace with God and when she came to realise her sinfulness and accepted His forgiveness she came into a personal relationship with the Lord. Shortly after this she was miraculously healed, her symptoms disappeared, and she began to live a normal life. She actually passed her driving test a few weeks ago!! Throughout her talk she gave the honour and glory to God. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 28th April when Mrs Gordon Humphreys will be the speaker.

M.S.S.