

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.



30 Barrack Lane
The Park
Nottingham

April 1981

Our dear Friends,

'Spread the good news o'er all the earth, Jesus has died and has risen' Hallelujah!'

As we move into the month of April, we have a two-fold joy and responsibility. One, to stay with Him in Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday and at the foot of the cross on Good Friday. Second, to rejoice with Him on Easter Day, the day of Resurrection. The pressures of modern life are such that we are in danger of allowing them to steam roller the precious moments of Easter week-end out of existence. If we allow this to happen to us our bodies will remain untouched, but our souls will be bruised and impoverished. There are riches to be found in 'staying with' Christ over the Easter week-end and happy are those who find them!

Last month many of us discovered just how hard George Hammond has worked to serve us in producing the magazine month by month. When George was taken ill, it took not one but a team of people to replace him. Unless Hilary had stepped in as she did to type the magazine herself, there would have been nothing to duplicate. Without Nigel there would have been nothing to fold and

MISSION TO MILLOM



In Millom, people are getting ready for the Mission which a team from St. Nic's will conduct. Small house groups are sprouting up all over the town. Church members, fringe people and non-Church members are beginning to attend. Members of all the Churches are preparing for Mission in Millom by praying. Each week they hold a united prayer meeting to pray for us and the movement of God's Spirit in that isolated place.

We hope to spend a few days in Millom after Easter, not working, but relaxing with the people, getting the feel of the place, praying in the town and exploring the beauties of the Lake District which lies just beyond the town. Please pray for us - and Millom.

George Hammond

Since George became ill many weeks ago, concern for him has increased. It is city wide. George is now a patient at Hayward's house, the hospice in the grounds of Sherwood Hospital. It has been confirmed that he has cancer. At George's request, the Elders have prayed over him and anointed him with oil. When that happens, something good from God is given. Please join with us in praying that whatever form of healing God wishes to give to George may take place. We do not presume to understand the nature of this healing. We do know that George is prepared to live and prepared to die. In either event he is 'in Christ'. Pray that the peace which Christ alone can give will be felt by George during these days when he is frequently in pain.

Pray too for Nigel and the secretaries at the office who are keeping the business going. The Christian Duplicating Service is not so much a business as a ministry. But with the king-pin missing, the going is tough. All those in the office need our prayers, our understanding and our support.

EASGER

Various requests have been made concerning the Easter weekend. These have been considered carefully, of course. But the following are the arrangements we felt it right to make for this year.

Maundy Thursday

At 7.30 pm there will be the usual quiet service of Holy Communion to mark the occasion when our Lord agonised in Gethsemane.

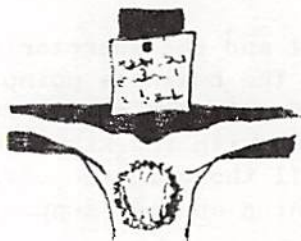
Good Friday

On Good Friday we shall observe the three hours at mid-day in quietness, with the help of music and a led meditation by the Bishop of Southwell. But this will not be in St. Nicholas'. It will be in St. Peter's Church (next to Marks & Spencers).

It seemed right to join with the congregation at St. Peter's for this occasion. It is a rare treat for us to hear our Bishop. It is not necessary to stay for the full three hours. You may slip into the service at any time from 12.00 - 3.00 pm.



In the evening we return to our normal pattern. St. Nic's has been asked to be responsible for the final hour of vigil in the Market Square. From 8.00 - 9.00 pm we shall therefore sing and pray and witness in the Square. Do join us if you can.



Easter Saturday

At 9.00 am we decorate the Church in preparation for the wedding of Elisabeth Seddon and Colin Brewitt-Taylor and, of course, in preparation for our Easter celebrations. When plenty of people come it is a fellowship of work. If only a few turn up it takes a long time and is extremely tiring. Any contribution you feel you could make would be most welcome. Filling buckets? Carrying jamjars? Creating floral displays?



Easter Sunday

We herald Easter Day with a service of Holy Communion at 8.00 am. There will be communion, too, after the Morning Service and the 6.30 pm service will be an Easter Communion.

And so we move rapidly towards the Easter weekend. As we do so may we meditate on the sacrifice our Lord made for our sakes. Sacrifice, to borrow Roy Williamson's phrase, is giving that which is of value to one in order to enrich the life of another. It is an awesome fact that our Lord sacrificed His own life so that our lives might be enriched. Awesome and wonderful as this is, we must not let it detract from the amazing fact of the Resurrection. It is not a dead Lord that we worship. He is Risen! He dwells among us. He commissions us. May we meet, hear and obey the Risen Lord this Easter.

With our love

David and Joyce.

Family Pages



RESCUE ROSIE!

Rosie would like to return to CYFA. But Alistair is not quite old enough to join! Could you help by baby-sitting either regularly or as part of a rota. Rosie would like to go to Church first and then on to CYFA. But if you couldn't manage both but could manage just CYFA time (finishes 9.30 p.m.) please contact Mike or Rosie direct.



THANK YOU.

We are grateful to Mr Derek Foster for a gift of money he sent on the anniversary of his mother's death. The gift is ear-marked, at his request, to provide needs or luxuries for elderly members of the congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS



To Chris Barrow and SONYA SKRZYPECKA who announced their engagement recently. We rejoice in their happiness and are glad, too that soon we shall be able to pronounce Sonya's surname!

NICK GIRDLER and SALLY ANN ADAMS are also rejoicing in their recent engagement.

Pray for these and thirteen additional couples who have signed up for the Engaged Couples Weekend in May.

The TEAR FUND Lunch held on 8th March raised the sum of £88-85. Thank you to everyone who supported this event!

* * * * *

We rejoice with Mary and Dennis Booth and grandparents Frank and Peggy Wright on the arrival of Natasha, born on 3rd April in Guildford.

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JOY

JOY - "I have seen the Lord"

JOY - "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road?"

JOY - "He is not here, for He has risen"

JOY rises in my heart until I burst out in songs of praise to Him.

JOY
is like
the sun
shining through
the clouds of rain



THE JOY OF EASTER

The Mason household suffers a humorous division this Easter. The Manchester City Vs Ipswich F.A. cup semi-final will split the family in two. The rift will last whatever the result. My father with his bumpkin simplicity supports Ipswich. He was born in the rustic country of Norfolk. Yet I, as all sixteen years old sons do, know better. Manchester City's attacking style will tear apart Ipswich and whoever they might meet at Wembley. My father suffers long lectures on the futility of his football dreams, for I have no close exams to divert my energy. The disasters of Christmas are forgotten, and the summer ones are too far away to be of any concern. I look forward to an idyllic Easter holiday enjoying the longer evenings, and enough spare time to watch 'Tiswas'.

This illusion of joy is smashed, as my soul, heart, and mind are touched by the presence of the living God - the God who was willing to send His own son into the world to reconcile His prodigal children to Him. This process of reconciliation involved the ignominious death of His Son, and the Son's triumphant resurrection, bringing life to a people bonded to the darkness of death.

The very first Easter Joy was that of Jesus' followers meeting the risen Lord, and this is my real joy this Easter. When Mary met Jesus she only wished to hug Him; the two travellers on the Emmaus road rushed back to Jerusalem that night with news of the risen Lord. The effect, for me, of the joy of Christ's conquering power is to sweep away the trivial pleasures of His world and replace them with a peace which is lasting and fulfills. "Did not our hearts burn within us when He spoke?" This 'burning' is an experience provided uniquely by a risen Christ, and no human success dare imitate it.



The Joy of Christ's triumphant resurrection is accompanied by the humility with which I must receive a gift freely given, and given in so much anguish. Jesus said plainly to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem to die, and yet they failed to see the need for His death. The first men to understand the need for His sacrifice were the two on the Emmaus road. They were the first to understand the absolute sacrificial love of Jesus. Their Joy is my Joy. "No greater love has any man than this, that he lays down his life for his friends." These previously kryptic words reveal the very source of their Joy in the light of Christ's death. Jesus came to the world with one purpose to die, because He loved and does love beyond human understanding. A flower opens to give the beauty of new life to men of no charge. Christ accepted nails smashing through His hands and feet. He wore a piercing crown of thorns, and quietly accepted the jeers and taunts of the Roman soldiers and Jewish leaders. He continued with His agony despite the desertion of the disciples, and He like the flower asks for no repayment for His love. My Joy has been given to me completely free, and it is a joy which sets me free, for ever.

by Julian Mason.

JESUS LIVES!

easter surprise

When my wife Debbie, became a Christian, I was delighted for her. But I remember thinking, 'But it's not for me! After all, I knew about being a Christian. And I had had a bit too much of it at school. There had been chapel every morning and at least twice on Sundays. Boarding School Christianity had put me off.

But eventually I began to keep Debbie company on the occasional Sunday evening at St. Nic's. My indifference was met by a loving atmosphere and warm friendship. And I felt challenged.

Then I went on a parish week-end at Swanwick. Again my indifference was met only by love. I began to realize that these Christians were not quite what I imagined Christians to be.

Easter approached. A particular personal problem placed me under considerable emotional pressure. It reached its climax on Good Friday. That was three years ago. And this was what happened.

As I was driving home through one of the villages, I seemed to hear God speak to me. He told me that the path I was choosing was wrong, that I must hand over my life to Him. The He would show me the way. The impact on me was profound. Although it was already late, I went into the Church next door to our home and did as He had said I gave myself to God.

It was still Good Friday. As Easter dawned, I was able to take in more fully just what Jesus had done for me. Easter that year, was very special.



Richard Watmough.

VISITING THE SICK

(continued)

TUNING IN TO THE PATIENT'S VIEWPOINT

by Jane Grayshon



8. Privacy

Everyone has a physical area around himself wherein he is comfortable. If other people come too close, one feels uncomfortable. (Try talking to someone three inches away and you'll see him back off.) It's OK for certain moments, e.g. a kiss, but not for a long time.

Likewise, I think everyone has a spiritual area wherein he is comfortable. I think of mine as my 'Temple' where it's just me and God - except for special services where people come in. Thus it can be an intrusion when people just barge in, regardless of where I am with God. They quote verses, tell one why one hasn't been healed by God, sermonise, etc. They presume that they are welcome because the patient doesn't usually tell them otherwise.

Try to be sensitive to the boundaries of the patient's 'Temple', and don't invade it unless you are invited to do so. You can find out where his boundaries are by asking him where he is with the Lord - you'll soon discover how much he does or doesn't want to open up.

THE PATIENT IN PAIN

There are many different types of pain but I want to mention two types one finds in hospital - acute and chronic.

Acute pain is usually associated with a specific cause, and is short lived, e.g. childbirth, or an operation. It's jolly sore at the time but one quickly forgets it, especially when the operation is successful or there's a bouncing baby to show for it. Hospitals are usually very good at giving pain-killers for this pain, and there is often a fellow patient with whom one consoles oneself.

Chronic pain is a situation, rather than an event. It just goes on and on e.g. arthritis, some cancers, back-ache. It begins to dominate one's whole existence - every move, every conversation - causing one to be irritable (which in turn makes one more irritable since one knows one is being short-tempered without justification). Hospitals tend to be bad at giving pain-killers for this kind of pain because they reckon these patients will soon be junkies.

Sometimes chronic conditions have acute phases, so the chronic pain one has learned to live with suddenly becomes much worse because he is already profoundly weary from the chronic pain, and because he's been through it all before so there's no novelty value in it! Imagine banging your hand in the car door. You jump up and down, then you hold your painful hand and want to show it to someone - but you can't bear for them to hug you/it for too long because the pain makes you restless. You just want them to understand whilst it's sore. Then imagine banging it again in the same place. As soon as it happens, you recognise the pain, you know how long it will last and you can almost apprehend the whole course of events. Then imagine seeing the car door about to hit your hand again - there's nothing you can do to stop it. You know the whole story before it's actually happened - how are you going to face it?

Perhaps this begins to help you to understand what it feels like to have a chronic condition with acute

phases. Perhaps, too, you can understand the restlessness of a patient in pain, his inability to concentrate fully on the conversation, and his apprehension and weariness at the prospect of another bout of pain when he's only just over the last lot.



THE SEMI-CONSCIOUS PATIENT (and the heavily drugged one)

A semi-conscious patient may not be aware of much but he retains many memories of semi-consciousness. Visits by doctors and friends become the episodes he remembers amongst a blur of time.

1. Touch distinguishes a caring visitor from the doctors who talk over/about a semi-conscious patient. Holding a patient's hand may help him to be more aware of his surroundings. He may not respond outwardly but the touch may be incorporated into his 'dreams' so the caring will probably be transmitted to him.
2. Be yourself: this helps the patient to know and recognise you. One friend cried when she saw me, but this jerked me to realise how I was and I even "came round" at that point enough to say I wasn't going to die, it was a great comfort to me that she cried because it showed that she genuinely cared and loved me. One needs to feel loved, especially when death is a possibility, because the love one is shown acts as a pull towards life. Otherwise heaven seems like too nice a place compared with this world.
3. Hearing is the last sense to go - I wonder if it ever goes completely - so always presume that the patient can hear. Speak soothingly and calmly, but chattily. Never, never speak over the patient's head,

e.g. "She's not with it, let's leave her" because that just makes the patient frustrated at not being able to say aloud, "But I can hear you and I enjoy your being here."

Whispering becomes especially loud to a semi-conscious patient, so if you want to say something without the patient hearing, don't whisper it. Act as if the patient were fully conscious.



4. Before a patient goes into a coma, conscious levels can swing quite rapidly between full awareness and oblivion, i.e. it may fluctuate several times over a half-hour period. When he is on his own, he may not realise this - it's just like dozing. But when there is a visitor he'll possibly know that he's coming and going, and there is an element of feeling left out because he is completely unable to pull himself round to full consciousness. Therefore this feeling of being left out is compounded if the visitors start to talk over his head or to whisper to each other.

* * * * *

In the end it's whether or not you care that comes out. If you do, the patient can tell and won't notice the things you do wrong. If you don't care, that shows too and I'm sure the patient would prefer you you didn't use them to do your Christian duty of hospital visiting.



review



The Joy of

'Living more Simply'

(edited by Ronald J. Sider)

If you have read 'Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger' then you will know that Ronald Sider's no-nonsense writing has you squirming in your comfy chair as you look around the room for signs of your own affluence. But if you buy 'Living more Simply', thinking of it as 'Sider's new book', you will probably feel cheated. It isn't.

This book is billed as the 'practical sequel' to 'Rich Christians' but it gains by having many different authors. In 1979 a 'Consultation on Simple Lifestyle' met in the USA; 'Living more Simply' draws together the practical experiences of the many individuals and groups who attended. It combines this with a very searching biblical analysis of how Christians should live.

The Bible exposition may be too deep for some of us. But practical examples show us that we don't have to be trapped in the lifestyle chosen for us by the advertising agencies. You will discover issues which are especially appropriate to you, to your link group and to the whole church. Here are some thoughts which struck me.

Packaging/waste: Why do we throw so much away? Why don't the local councils recycle glass and paper?

Transport: Are we contributing to the decline of public transport by using a car to get that tiny bit of extra convenience?

Fashion: Do we discard clothing when it's worn out,
or just when it's 'out' ?

We cannot expect to change instantly. Rather, we need to look at issues as they arise, cultivate a healthy cynicism for the claims of 'civilization' and seek the leading of the Holy Spirit even in the most practical areas of life.

And read 'Living More Simply'.

P.R.D.

joy



JESUS . . . who, for the JOY that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



The JOY of the Lord
is your strength.

In Thy presence there
is fulness of JOY.

ANNUAL MEETING

About 70 people attended the Church Annual Meeting held on Thursday 2nd April, when the following Church Officers were elected:

Church Wardens: Malcolm Offord
John Holden

Deputy Wardens: Paul Evans
Iain Pullinger

continuing as
Deanery Synod Frank Wright
Representatives Keith Jackson

Elections to the Parochial Church Council

Di Bratt Bob Marlowe
Pete Ellis Steve Matthews
Hilary Holden Kathleen Robinson

(continuing for a further term:)

Ian Grimbaldston Bill Swift
Ann Hart Gordon Walker
Mike Shouler Richard Watmough





ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

This is a progress report of the exciting project of work in All Saints' Church in Radford. The area is one of old terraced houses and brand new developments built on the rubble of some of these houses bulldozed to the ground. The church congregation is just as diverse: people who now live out of town but who need to worship in the church when, years ago, it was the centre of the smart suburb of Radford, and people who now live in the area. This includes a number of West Indians who enliven the church with their laughter. So pray for these two groups of people, that they may truly be "one body" working for the Lord.

So far our group from St. Nicholas, which comprises Dorinda, Robin, Sonya, J. John, Jeremy and Steve, has helped with two house groups. Though short-lived, they have brought people together midweek and have shown that reading about and praying to God can be done apart from Sunday services.

And these services are changing too. With the help of some students from St. John's and Gary the organist, a singing group has been started, using our newly-compiled song book. So far, we have limited ourselves to singing during communion, but with more talent than even the St. Nick's Music Group the heavens are our limit!

We are very aware of our need to be guided by the Lord in everything we do and in every project that we start. This must be our main prayer concern and we hope that you can support us in this. Since we are guests of the Church, we must be respected and accepted before

attempting to assert ourselves and influence the way the church worships. We are called as servants to work honestly and lovingly among God's people in the church; please pray that the Lord would precisely guide in this work.

Further thoughts for your prayer are:-

1. The Vicar Paul Watts and his wife Ruth in their work getting the church known and accepted in the local community.
2. The impact of the church on the influx of hundreds of new people to the area. Please pray for them and our plans to visit them.
3. The West Indian community in the church and especially for Mr. and Mrs Taylor and their informed witnessing among their West Indian friends.
4. Many local people who have contact with the church and its people, but who do not yet know the Lord.

Steve Holton.

LOOKING TO THE LORD

Look! What do you see?
Confusing to you, but not to me;
Just look at the white and not at the
black, keep on looking, you're on
the right track!



EXPLORING YOUR BIBLE

the letter to the

ROMANS

Chapter 7-8.4 - The consequences of justification:

(iii) Freedom from law.

Paul seems to have in mind 3 sorts of person in this chapter:

(1) vv1-6 - the man who is bondage to the law.

In v.1 Paul states the principle that a man is only subject to the law in his lifetime; in vv2-3 he illustrates it and in vv4-6 he applies it. Following on from the last chapter Paul shows that by our faith-union with Christ whereby we have died with Him we have been removed out of the sphere in which the law operates (v.6) (Notice in v.4 that our union with Christ is compared to marriage, the most intimate of all human relationships). We serve (v.6) now not because obedience to the law is the means of our justification; it is, rather, proof of it.

(2) vv7-13 - the man who repudiates the law.

Is the law responsible for sin(v.5) and, therefore, evil? Not at all. What does the law do then? It reveals (7), provokes (8), and condemns (9) sin. Notice at this point how Paul is writing from bitter, past (the tenses of the verbs are all past), experience. Is it the law's fault that we are condemned by it (v.13). Certainly not! It's not the law's fault if I disobey the speed limit! The trouble, once again, is indwelling sin, our fallen nature, 'the body of sin' of chapter 6.

(3) v.14-8.4 - the believer who loves the law and obeys it.

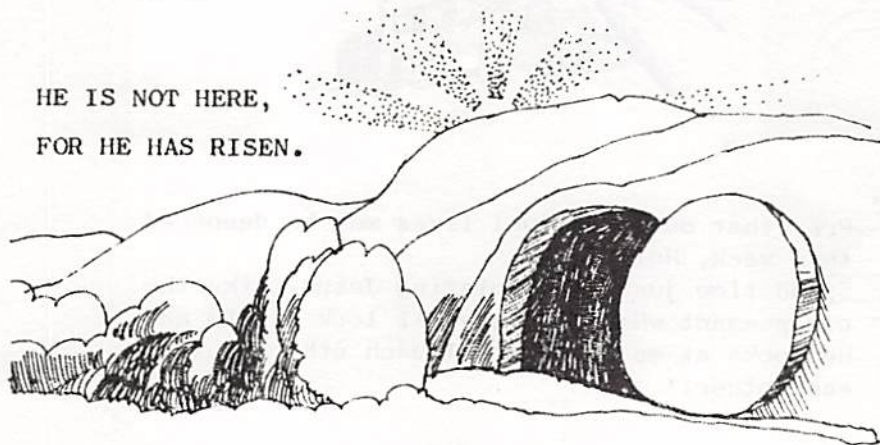
The tenses of the verbs now change into the present because these verses describe Paul's present conflict as a Christian. To corroborate this view, look at vv. 22 and 24; both surely mark the experience of a mature Christian. Why, then, you say, is there this emphasis on defeat (vv18,19,24)? This is exactly the point! Paul is here underlining (notice in the text the repetition of I.....I.....I.....I") the fact that whether as an un-believer in vv 7-13 or as a believer in vv 14-24, he cannot BY HIMSELF keep the law. The problem is still the old nature, indwelling sin, 'the body of sin', our inherent bias towards evil.

What, then, is the solution? Look at vv 1-4 of chapter 8. There you see mentioned Someone significantly absent from the discussion so far, Someone who can give the believer the victory over sin. Who is this? It is the Holy Spirit Himself dwelling within the heart of every true believer. It is He, appropriately, who forms the subject of the next and last chapter in our study.

Next month: Chapter 8 - the consequences of justification: (iv) life in the Spirit.

JOY

HE IS NOT HERE,
FOR HE HAS RISEN.



GOING TO...

PRAYER

Week 1.

Prayer group on retreat this week-end. Students returning home for the Easter Vacation, Meetings for students returning to Nottingham. Students from the boys and girls' High Schools enjoying a houseparty at Stathern Lodge this week-end.

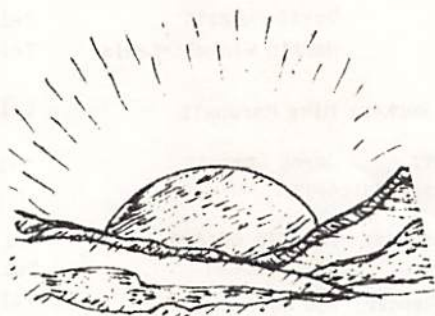


Week 2.

Pray that our spiritual lives may be deepened this week, Holy Week.

Spend time just contemplating Jesus, like the old peasant who could say, 'I look at Him and He looks at me and we tell each other we love each other.'

Spread the good news o'er all the earth, Jesus has died
and has risen. Hallelujah!



Week 3.

May we allow the Risen Lord to touch our life-style (see book review in this edition).

Ask God whether He would have you live more simply ?

Where will you start ?

Week 4.

David and Joyce relaxing and preparing the ground for the Mission to Millom.

Pray for the Mission:-

The team from St. Nic's.

House groups meeting all over the town.

The ministers and pastors as they prepare themselves.

Pray for the Music group who lead our worship at St. Nic's.



ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH NOTTINGHAM

STAFF

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rector: | David Huggett | Tel: 411383 |
| Clergy: | Martin Winbolt-Lewis | Tel: 46952 |
| Outreach Worker: | Mike Marshall | Tel: 44196 |
| Counsellor: (and Magazine Editor) | Joyce Huggett | Tel: 411383 |
| Church Wardens: | Malcolm Offord John Holden | Tel: 46924 Tel: 812043 |
| Diocesan Reader: | Tom Robinson | Tel: 45470 |
| Treasurer: | Richard Watmough | Tel: 92-60682 |

SUNDAY SERVICES AND WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship.
Creche. Climbers. Explorers. Pathfinders.

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship.
Coffee is served in Church after the Service

Each week

Parish Fellowship Group Studies and Prayer
Worship Workshop Thursdays 7.30 p.m. Lower Lounge
Mid-week Lunch Wednesdays 1.00 - 2.00 p.m. Lower Lounge

Fortnightly

Area Link Groups Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.00 p.m.

Women's Fellowship Mondays 2.30 p.m.

Coffee Club Wednesdays 10.15 a.m.