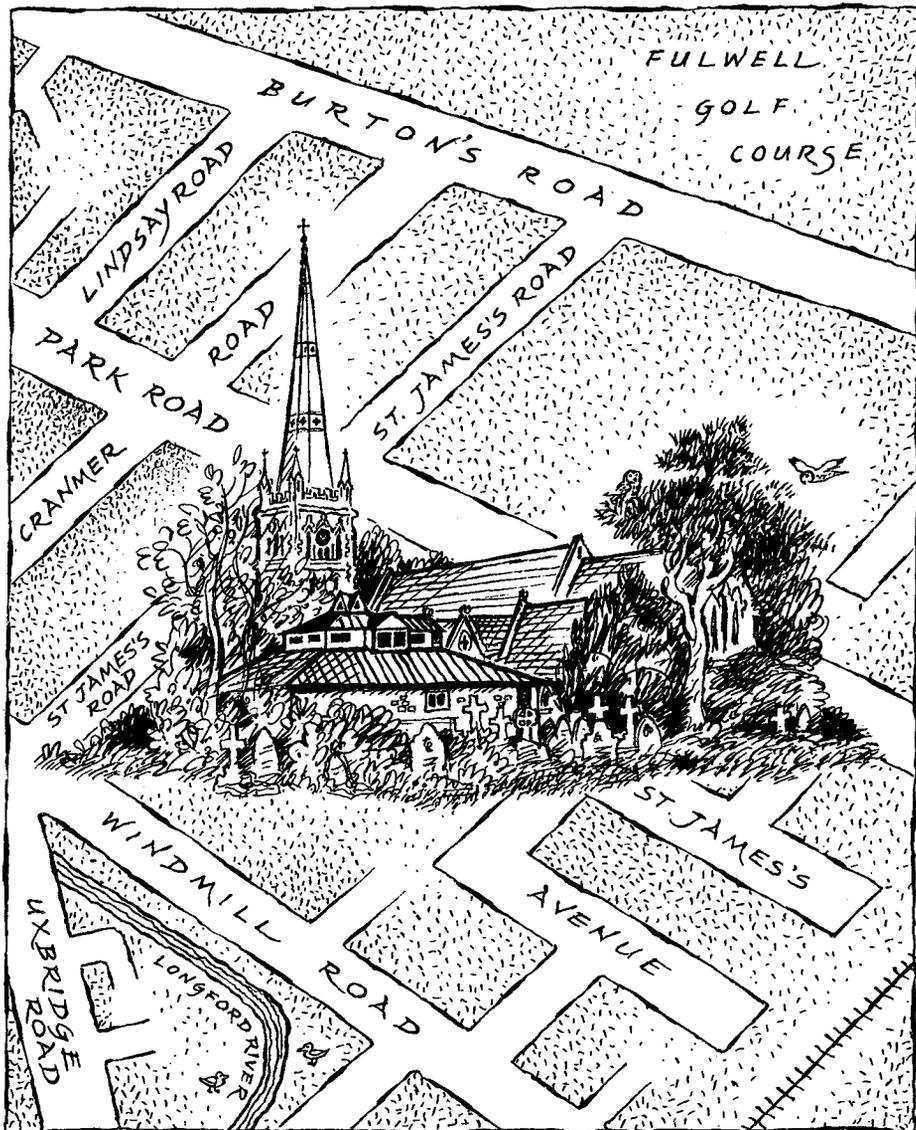


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 2000

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

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Mr Pip Rowett, 27 Orford Gardens, Twickenham	892 4736
Mr Ron Bridges, (Deputy Recorder), 19 St. James's Road	979 6865
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER	
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Mr David Taylor, 5 Oxford Road, Teddington	977 1342
CHURCH FLOWERS	
Mrs Coryn Robinson, 23 Courtlands Avenue, Hampton	979 6786
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Advertising Organiser: Miss Kate O'Sullivan	977 8294
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	
Mrs Prill Hinckley, 115 Burton's Road	979 0528
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER	
Mrs Margaret Hobbs, 76 Broad Lane, Hampton	979 2320
SOCIAL COMMITTEE ORGANISER	
Miss Kate O'Sullivan	977 8294
WOMEN'S FORUM CO-ORDINATOR	
Mrs Wendy Baker, 143 Burton's Road	979 3654

Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion or, First Sunday in Month, Informal Service
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion

On Sundays for the Young

(All Enquiries to the Vicar please)

9.30 - 10.15 am (except first Sunday in month and holiday periods):

Sunday School (aged 4+)

The Young Church (aged 11 to 14+)

Baptisms, Marriages and other enquiries

Please contact the Vicar

These details are updated in the June issue each year.

How long will it be until writing the date "00" seems normal? I usually manage to remember to change the year on letters or cheques during January, but in February or March it seems to slip back to the previous year. Perhaps this year it will be different, simply because the year "00" is so distinctive.

During December I had occasion to be in three places where division, of one sort or another, was very noticeable. First I was in Israel and Palestine for a few days. Terrible divisions between Israelis and Palestinians abound in every area of life. Then I accompanied the Bishop of London on a weekend visit to Berlin to strengthen the growing partnership between our diocese and the church there. For forty out of the last fifty years Berlin has been a completely divided city, and even now that the wall is down many, many profound divisions remain. After Christmas we were in Sri Lanka for a family holiday and, of course, that small land continues to suffer division along ethnic lines.



Yet here we are with a new start. We write "00" as the date - a new beginning. When couples marry in church the priest blesses the rings marking a new beginning and says:

"Let these rings be symbols of unending love and faithfulness."

Two rings are, of course, very good symbols of something that doesn't have an end. Put two rings together and you have "00", this year's symbol. We live, worship and witness in two spheres or circles, two overlapping spheres in which our world overlaps with God's kingdom. In each of the places of division I've recently visited, I could introduce you to people who have been prepared to take risks in God's name - risky acts of love to move the one overlapping circle further onto the other. These are people who live out in their lives the truth of God's "unending love and faithfulness", and have much to teach us all.



So when you write the date this year, "00", let those two circles remind you of God's faithfulness, God's desire for division to cease, for wholeness to be restored and God's challenge to each one of us to be agents of reconciliation - bridging gaps, completing the circle, making broken things whole. When we dare to do that, then we are indeed living in the presence of the living God, who is always faithful whatever the date, time or place.

The whole church community at St. James's wishes you a blessed New Year.

Brian Leathard

"MAKING IT WORK"

The joys and sorrows of women priests

On 10th November the London branch of Women and the Church (WATCH) held a fascinating open meeting at which two women priests, in very different situations, talked about the difficulties they had experienced in 'making it work'. We at St. James's accept as routine the presence and ministry of women priests. But for women priests in other parts of the diocese, London can still be an unfriendly and even hostile place to work.

The first speaker was Angela Hopkins, a PSE or Priest in Secular Employment. She is currently headteacher of a CE primary school in North London and a non-stipendiary curate in the Willesden area. She explained how, ten years ago, she felt called to ordination and embarked on the selection procedure. When her papers were forwarded to the (then) incumbent of the parish in which her school was situated he made it clear in no uncertain terms that he could not support an ordained woman as head. Her papers were subsequently 'lost'. Only the intervention of a neighbouring bishop enabled her to proceed to selection and training at Salisbury Theological College.

Angela has always found combining her two roles as priest in a parish and priest in a school to be a difficult balancing act. Her working hours largely preclude her from joining in morning and evening prayer in the parish and from attending chapter meetings. Finding time to visit parishioners is also problematic. She has had to learn not to feel guilty, 'to be where you are and not worry about where you are not'.

Although her school staff is predominantly Christian, Angela initially encountered a certain amount of opposition to her ordination. Staff were wary of what they said in front of her as if she had suddenly changed. They hid their Hello magazines out of sight in case she disapproved! She also had to overcome the attitude of the school's multi-faith, multi-ethnic parents. She feels that only now, after 5 years, do they acknowledge her role as a priest and come to her with their problems as a priest.

You have to be tenacious to 'make it work' as a priest in secular employment. In general, there is inadequate support for non-stipendiary priests within the Church. Even in a supportive diocesan area it is still not always easy as a woman. But Angela recognises that she has been immensely fortunate to be able to fulfil two vocations - as a teacher and a priest - although it has taken time to come to a comfortable realisation of her dual role. One of the plus points will be in the near future when she 'marries' a member of her staff.

The story of Lucy Winkett's struggle to gain acceptance as a minor canon at St. Paul's Cathedral has been played out on the public stage in a recent television documentary. Although she described it amusingly as a tale of 'hemlines and earrings', her experiences have been shocking in the extreme. She has been the

recipient of hate mail, criticised for wearing earrings (not sufficiently dignified), hissed at twice in procession and made to feel awkward and uncomfortable by having to wear copes made for men. She feels deeply wounded by a situation in which some of her close work colleagues refuse to receive communion from her hands. In an attempt to 'make it work' she has developed a devastating line in humour and a stubborn determination to stand her ground. She readily admits that another coping mechanism is to cry, as much from anger and frustration as sorrow. And who would not cry when there was talk of dyeing the wafers she consecrated so that, if reserved, they would not inadvertently be distributed to opponents of women priests.

Overt hostility towards Lucy has now abated somewhat. The battle has become more subtle, is more to do with being an interloper in a ferociously male world. Because she is 'different', anything 'different' comes her way. Because she is in a minority - 1 woman, 7 men - she is expected to speak for all minorities. She constantly has to weigh her words, to step back and analyse - rather than confront - hostile reactions in order to 'make it work'.

Although the last 18 months have clearly been a strain Lucy has much to rejoice about: the events at the Cathedral linked to the Jubilee 2000 campaign; the red floodlighting of the Cathedral on World Aids Day. She also acknowledges the support she receives from the increasing number of women priests now serving on cathedral staff. But she knows that change will be slow, that until she is joined by other women she will always to some extent feel isolated.

It was an uplifting evening. We should be grateful that there are women like Angela and Lucy who are prepared to take up the struggle to establish the priestly ministry of women in the Church and who are committed to 'making it work'.

Lesley Mortimer

SEEING SALVATION - IMAGES OF CHRIST

BRIAN HAS BOOKED TO TAKE A GROUP OF 25
ON A PREVIEW OF THIS EXHIBITION
AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY
AT 2.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2000

THE TOUR WILL BE A WALKING MEDITATION
AND WILL BE THE BASIS OF OUR LENT COURSE.

PLACES ARE GOING FAST SO IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO GO PLEASE SEE BRIAN SOON.



How do things look at the start of the last year of the Jubilee 2000 campaign?

The good news

- At the 1999 G8 Summit in Cologne, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) was enhanced to allow for debt cancellation of \$100 billion.
- Bill Clinton announced last September that the USA would act unilaterally to cancel 100% of the debts owed to the USA (up from the 90% agreed via enhanced HIPC in Cologne). This was a clear statement that the Cologne deal was not enough and that other nations should do likewise.
- Our own UK government has been reluctant to make any unilateral cancellation of debt, preferring to work through the multilateral framework of the G8. There are growing signs they may match Clinton's action on debts owed directly to the UK. Perhaps even by the time you read this update?
- Jubilee 2000 has often criticised the conditions imposed on debtor countries by the IMF - ESAFs for those of you in the know! But things are changing at the IMF, not least their Managing Director. Last September they announced a new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility to replace ESAF. This is potentially a major breakthrough which, if actions live up to words, could integrate debt relief to the achievement of the 2015 poverty reduction targets. But the jury is still out...
- During a talk last November, Stephen Pound MP (Ealing North) said how extraordinarily refreshing it was to receive so many letters from constituents over an issue with no self interest. As individuals we can make a difference - our voice can be heard. Please help to make a difference.

The not so good news

- Enhanced HIPC (agreed in June 1999) covers under half of the debt that the Jubilee 2000 campaign says needs to be cancelled to really make a difference. Further enhancement is essential.
- The HIPC process is too slow. Since its inception in 1996, HIPC debt

relief has gone to only four countries - Uganda, Mozambique, Bolivia and Guyana. Last September the Pope said: *"We have to ask why progress in resolving the debt problem is still so slow. Why the difficulty in providing the funds needed even for the already agreed initiatives? It is the poor who pay the cost of indecision and delay."*

- In November 1999 Congress approved funding for the 100% cancellation of debt owed directly to the USA, but has backed down on the \$600 million Clinton pledged for the HIPC Trust Fund as part of the deal agreed in Cologne. The implication is that the USA is making political capital out of the headline figures of 100% write-off putting this ahead of, and at the expense of, the Cologne deal.

The road ahead

23rd July 2000 is the last day of the Millennium G8 Summit in Okinawa, Japan, the day on which our world leaders can show the world they are truly committed to debt relief that makes a difference.

The last year of the campaign will be a busy one as it pushes for agreement on a fully comprehensive, fully funded debt relief initiative. It's not over yet!

Ann Peterken

REPORT BACK FROM THE PCC

Three main issues were discussed at the meeting held on 23rd November. The first was as result of a report on the bidding meeting held to set contributions towards the Diocese's Common Fund. Brian, our Churchwardens Dick and Ann, and our Treasurer Paul Peterken, had attended and had bid to raise our contribution to £43,500 for the coming year. This was within the amount agreed previously by the PCC. However, they all expressed dissatisfaction with the method of bidding which results in some parishes bidding far more than they are able to pay. Because of this, the Common Fund was £50,000 short last year and the Diocese will be overdrawn in December by £1m, paying over £1000 a week in overdraft interest. The PCC agreed that Brian will invite the Archdeacon to a future meeting to hear our concerns.

In September, Derek Winterburn, Rector of St. Mary's Hampton, came to talk to the PCC about Churches Together Around Hampton and to seek our responses and suggestions. As a result of this and consultations with every member church, a new draft constitution was presented for discussion. Several concerns were expressed about its content and drafting, and Brian and the Churchwardens were empowered to look again at the draft and to prepare a response to CTAH on behalf of the PCC.

Paul Peterken presented the Budget for 2000. The Finance Committee has recommended making provision for unexpected major spends on the Hall and

Church in future years. As a result the budget has been recast into different funds so that the amounts being put aside can be clearly identified. There was much discussion on this layout, and the content of the forecasted budget. The PCC accepted the budget and expressed their huge debt of thanks to Paul for the time he spends, week after week, on our Parish finances.

Among other matters which arose was the proposal for a meeting next year at which the Chief Executive of the Local Council will be invited to speak on their policy on refugees and asylum seekers. You may notice that the west porch has been cleared recently to allow another exit in case of fire, and the Properties Committee plan a fire drill some Sunday soon.

If you wish to know more about any of the above items, please speak to Brian, the Church Wardens, or any member of the PCC.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

To spend time with local school children
on **The Bishop's Millennium Bus**

The bus will be visiting the Hampton Deanery from
20th March to 7th April 2000

Can you spare a day during school hours?
Training will be given.
Speak to Brian or Freda

ST. JAMES' IS ONLINE



On 1st January 2000, Hampton's very own web site, Hampton Online, was launched. This huge and exciting web site has been set up by John Ingles of Ripley Road, in conjunction with the Voluntary Care Group and other local organisations, and is a mine of information.

You can order books from Richmond Library, check which chemists are on rota, read the Ofsted reports on local schools, read the local and national papers, order a take away, book a mini cab, find out what is happening in Parliament, find a house, book a holiday and look at Hampton Hill from 500 miles up!! And that is only a smidgin of what is on the site.

St. James has its own page with contact numbers and times of services, but it is hoped set up our own linked web site very soon. So, if you miss Brian's sermon on Sunday you could read it during the week, and we may get The Spire

on-line too! The possibilities are endless.

There is also a very useful Village Noticeboard, onto which local organisations can paste notices about forthcoming events etc. If you belong to an organisation in Hampton and would like a page or link with the site, contact John Ingles on 255 0441.

More importantly, visit the web site on www.hampton-online.co.uk

TREASURER'S NOTES

The parish receives a number of donations, and, whether large or small, we are grateful for all of them. Indeed, we make a point of giving our thanks personally to the donor. I have received a substantial donation recently - £2000 - which was given completely anonymously. So the only way I can communicate our thanks is via the Spire. We will put the money to good use in the work of the parish.

In early December, our parish appeal "£2000 in 2000" had reached the amazing total of over £9500. I will soon be handing over a second cheque for our chosen project in Tanzania.

I recently presented budget proposals for 2000 to the PCC. As usual, our biggest expenditure will be our contribution to central church funds (which helps pay for our clergy), and our main income will be from the planned giving from our Stewardship scheme. We have also planned to give 10% of our income to various charities. Our biggest worry is that we are not saving enough to provide for any future major work on the Church or the Hall, so we have set ourselves an annual target for this.

Paul Peterken

EIGHT WEEKS IN NOTTING HILL BY ALISON HAMPTON

As part of my ordination training, I recently spent an eight week placement working with the clergy and staff at the Parish of St. James, Norlands and St. Clement, Nottingdale. The main objective was to gain experience in a completely different environment to that of Hampton Hill. The recent film had, perhaps coloured my view of the area, and although Hugh Grant describes the area as a place busy with excitement and vitality, nothing had prepared me for the vibrant atmosphere which met me as I attended my first service.

There was an air of excitement and expectancy as I walked into a church full of brightly coloured butterflies, ladybirds and stag-beetles. Bunting hung from every available pillar and the scent of flowers, carefully arranged to represent "Creeping Things" (the title of the float), filled the air. This was no ordinary service. The fore-mentioned insects were children, dressed in full carnival

regalia, and the Bishop of Kensington had come to bless the costumes and send the children off to join the Notting Hill Carnival. The service will be memorable, not only for the enthusiasm and colour which surrounded me, but also for the dancing and drumming which took place during communion and for the singing of hymns accompanied by a steel band. This was a wonderful opportunity to experience multi-cultural worship which did not stop inside church. Donning a carnival t-shirt which linked me to the church's carnival "band" (float), I stood outside on the street and helped serve out ratatouille to anyone who happened to be around!! We then boarded an open-topped bus and set out to join the Carnival route. Dancing behind a steel band for several hours is quite exhausting and I must say I was glad to get home. Nevertheless, I felt well and truly initiated into Notting Hill culture as I embarked on the rest of my placement.

Of course, nothing quite lived up to the Carnival experience in terms of colour and community spirit, and it was back down to earth as I met the clergy for Morning Prayer on my first "normal" day. From then on, my aim was to learn as much about parish life as I could. My days were full and varied. One of the most interesting aspects of the whole placement was getting to know the members of the congregation and I think I will remember them for a long time. There was one woman, a West Indian who spent her days busily working around the parish. She shared with me much of her life back in Grenada, and it was enlightening to discover how she combined the culture in which she grew up in, with her life in Britain. Another woman I visited frequently was recently bereaved and in need of lots of pastoral support. I must say, I have always been led to believe I talked a lot, but she would have won gold! She was a lovely person and I spent many happy hours in her living room hearing about her famous neighbour, Elton John. I also enjoyed spending time with a young man with learning difficulties, who regularly attended worship at St. Clement's. He always had something interesting and exciting to tell about his week.

A great deal of my time was spent helping out at the parish centre. It is from there that English classes are held for people, but mainly women, who speak little, or no English. There is also a study support club which offers help to children with problems in learning at school. A relatively new venture is a thrift shop which sells clothes, household goods and non-perishable food to anyone in the area who is in genuine need. I found all this a great challenge, and it was a profitable experience to see how ministry has to be tailored to suit the environment. I hope that I will be able to combine all that I learned during the eight weeks with the rest of my studies, and use it as a resource to draw on in my future ministry.



May we begin by wishing all our readers a happy and peaceful year at the start of the New Millennium.

Congratulations to Gordon Stowell (who often illustrates our magazine with wonderful cartoons). He and his wife Janet welcome a first grandchild Finlay Joe, into their family; the proud parents are Charlotte and Graham.

Tony and Margaret Lawrance have also been blessed with a new arrival. Their new granddaughter, Catherine Helen, was born to

their daughter Helen and her husband Thilo Rensmann in Bonn.

On a much less happy note, we were sorry to hear that Margaret Hobbs has had an unfortunate fall and has fractured her wrist. We have also heard that Louise Wilder is home from hospital and send our love and best wishes for her recovery.

Many thanks for all the hard work recently accomplished in the Parish. A huge effort went into the gutter clearing and leaf sweeping on Saturday 4th December. While that was in full swing, others were making Christingles for the very well attended and happy service on Sunday 5th. At last we were able to see a display of the new kneelers in the Baptistry the same day, and were most impressed by the diligence and skill that has gone into making these "works of art" for our Church.

Thanks also to Coryn Robinson and her band of flower arrangers, who made the church look so beautiful for our Christmas celebrations.

There is now a rota for Sunday afternoon services at Teddington Hospital, Marling Court and Laurel Dene. If you can help speak to Margaret or David Taylor.

Brian has recently rededicated the Chapel of Best at G S Keates, the funeral directors in the High Street.

Also in our High Street, the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary at the new Hampton Hill Playhouse.

Representatives from all the local charities they have made grants to over the last ten years were invited to attend a reception and presentation in the theatre. Local schools held their carol services at St. James's in December, and year 3 of Hampton Junior School made a special visit to help with their RE work. One little girl's response to Brian's question as to what goes in the font was "Is it Perrier?".

Our recently formed Guide pack were out in force at the November informal service as they displayed their new flag, and the Brownies held their fireworks party in the Vicarage garden.

FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

Baptisms

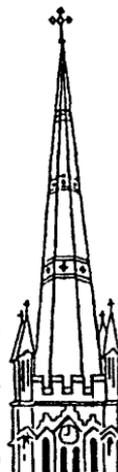
- 7 Eloisa Mills, 233 High Street, Hampton Hill
Calum Taylor, 29 Wordsworth Road
21 Sophie Clark, 3 Roy House
Morgan Skinner, 3 Roy Grove

Weddings

- 20 Andrew Kimberley and Lorna Lloyd-Jones

Funerals

- 9 Douglas Rogers, 14 Fitzwygram Close 68
12 Frank Huntingford, 16 The Wilderness, Park Road 73
15 Ernst Cyster, Lynton Hall Nursing Home, New Malden 87
26 Joseph Wright, 77 Uxbridge Road 93
29 Desmond Bruce Bearman, 52 Chelsea Close 79



DATES TO NOTE IN JANUARY

- 1 **The Naming of Jesus**
12.00 The Church bells will be rung, along with bells across the country. Step outside and listen!
- 2 **The Epiphany** (transferred)
- 6 14.00 Holy Communion followed by tea
- 9 **The Baptism of Christ**
09.30 Sunday School and Young Church start again
- 10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1645
- 13 George Fox, Founder of Society of Friends (Quakers) 1691
- 18 - 25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
- 20 20.00 Parochial Church Council
- 23 19.00 **Churches Together Around Hampton - United Service at St. Richard, Hanworth**
- 24 St. Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher 1662
(Remember our neighbouring Parish of St. Francis de Sales)
- 25 The Conversion of Paul
- 28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest 1274
- 30 **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple** - Candlemas
(transferred)

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE: 10TH JANUARY