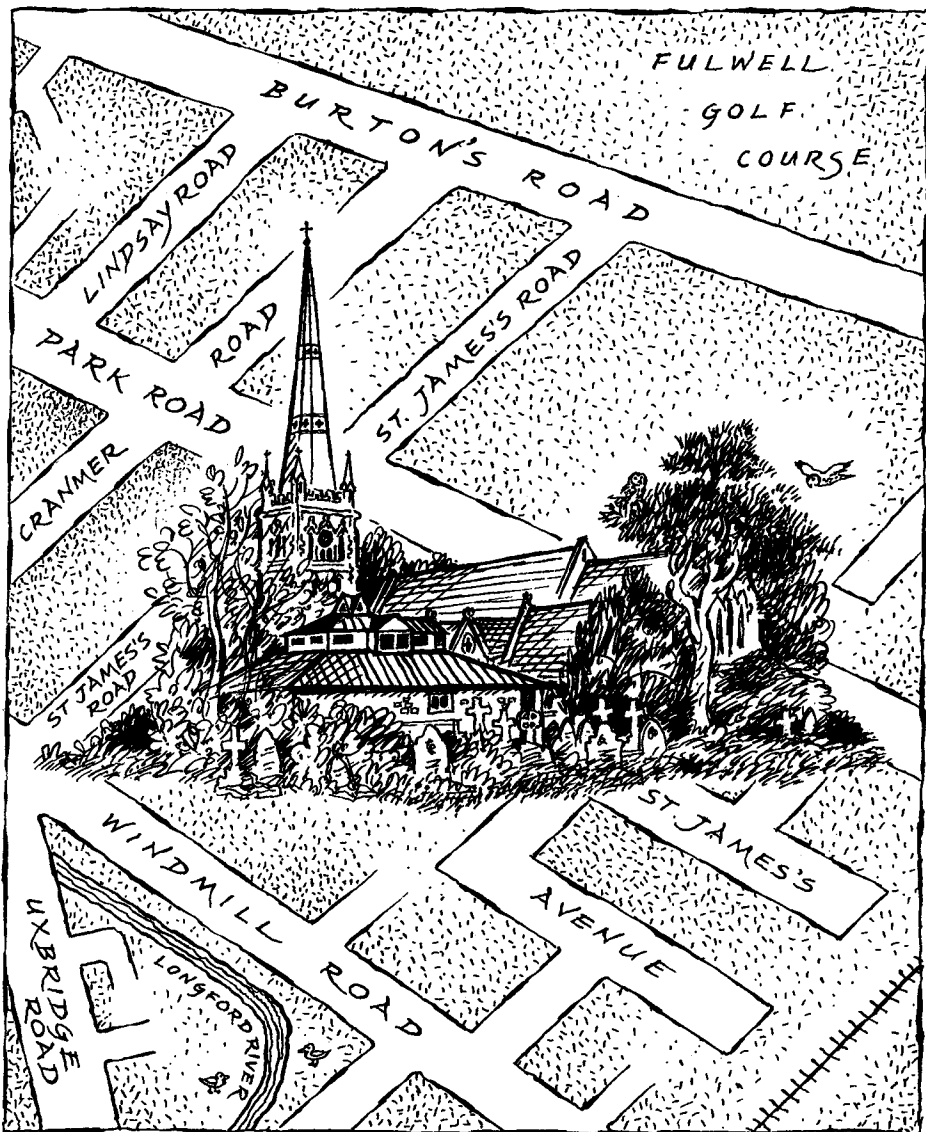


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 2002

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

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TREASURER

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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs Margaret Hobbs, 76 Broad Lane, Hampton 8979 2320

Website: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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
1 st Thursday of month	14.00	Holy Communion

On Sundays for the Young

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

Sunday School (aged 4+)

The Young Church (aged 11 to 14+)

A member of the clergy is available in Church every Monday evening, 7 - 8 pm.

Bookings for Baptisms and Weddings can be made at this time.

For any other enquiries, please telephone one of the clergy.

These details are updated in the June issue each year.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Sunday School	Lou Coaker-Basdell	8979 2040
Young Church	Wendy Baker	8979 3654
Church Cleaning Rota	Margaret Taylor	8979 3961
Church Flowers	Coryn Robinson	8979 6786
Weekly Notice Sheet	Carol Bailey	8783 0633
Website	Prill Hinckley	8979 0528
The Travellers' Band	Martin Hinckley	8979 0528
Brownies	Lesley Brough	8979 6400
Guides	Sue Blay	8979 8239
Scout Group	John Nielsen	8941 0352
(including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures)		
Liturgical Dance Group	Eila Severn	8979 1954
Women's Forum Coordinator	Mona Gow	8287 9550
Property Committee	Dick Wilde	8979 8887
Social Committee	Kate O'Sullivan	8977 8294
Finance Committee	Paul Peterken	8891 5862
Stewardship Committee	Carol Bailey	8783 0633
Hall Committee	Betty Rainbow	8894 3907
Charities Committee	Ann Peterken	8891 5862
Deanery Synod	Lesley Mortimer	8941 2345
Churches Together around Hampton	Ann Peterken	8891 5862
Mission Partner Link	Kirstie Hird	8977 1716
Mozambique/Angola Link	Elizabeth Wilmot	8977 9434

It is amazing how each new year we seem to find ourselves in that place of past failures and future intentions; things rarely work out as we might hope in that year which has just slipped by. How wonderful that we can wipe those resolutions off the slate and start from the beginning once again.

Lying behind all that is the gift of hope. The hope of Advent and the incarnational message of Christmas with which we journey into a new year. It is a desire to make the world into a better place for us all to live. For Christians, that will often mean facing difficult decisions squarely in the eye and going against prevailing, secular thoughts and policies. When we switch on the television and see the situation in the Middle East or Afghanistan, do we recognize our own collusion of what is going on and if so, do we so much as register our opposition to it ?

Christ never said that following him would be easy; it might even mean standing up and reminding our friends and colleagues what forgiveness and true love really mean. To travel onwards with hope means letting go of the ills that have hurt us individually and collectively and using dialogue to overcome our difficulties. Aiming to be peacemakers and trying again when we haven't succeeded. That is what we have to hope for. Can we imagine what it might be like to live without hope ?

The poet Elizabeth Jennings, who died a couple of months ago, suffered from and overcame a serious depressive illness. What kept her going through it all was the hope of the Christian message. Of the New Year she wrote:

*This is the little space between
the marvellous birth and next New Year.
We've prayed and rid ourselves of sin
But still we feel the edge of fear.
So soon now we again begin*

*A year, a month, a way of life.
Three eager Kings are on their way
A little child's been born in strife
But it is peace he brings to us
And gives our world another day,*

*Another year to mend our ways
And build our broken world again.
At Christmas we learn how to praise,
A little child fills all new days,
Forgiving sin, relieving pain.*

In my study is a little bear kneeling in prayer. 'She's called Hope. She's a constant reminder of where my priorities should be. If the going gets tough at some stage it may be that quiet listening with God has been put to one side. That is when we have to re-discover his presence in our lives. As one Brazilian philosopher put it "Hope is hearing the melody of the future. Faith is to dance it".

May this new year find you full of hope.



Still Waiting for the Jubilee

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

That's the theme of Jubilee Debt Campaign's (JDC's) major New Year poster campaign. Despite all the promises, so far only 15% of the unpayable debt of the world's poorest nations has been cancelled. The unavoidable question that the leaders of the rich world must therefore answer is, for how much longer must the desperately poor wait for Jubilee?

It's a good time to pose the question. Tony Blair himself, in justifying the War on Terrorism, called for a new world community to be simultaneously built to tackle poverty and liberate each individual's economic and social potential. JDC's great challenge, and that of all who believe in justice and peace, is to hold him to his words and to untiringly press for those words to be translated into action.

But of course politicians rarely take such concrete, visionary action unless driven by public opinion. Experience indicates that many people are under the misapprehension that debt has been dealt with, and that the agenda has moved on to trade and aid. Fairer trade rules and increased development aid are vital ingredients in a lasting solution to poverty reduction, but a debt relief mechanism is at least in place (after much campaign effort) and must be followed through to a meaningful conclusion.

Our local council and MP are very supportive of the debt campaign. We can and must continue to exercise our democratic freedom to write to our decision-makers, who then carry national opinion into the international arena.

How you can help?

- *Let me know if you would like a poster to display (A2 and A4 sizes) - anywhere where it will be seen by the general public.*
- *Let me know if you would like to write occasional letters. It helps me to know who to give information to. (Tel: 020 8891 5862)*

By once again mobilising mass public pressure we can and must ensure there will be a Jubilee for the poor.

Ann Peterken

QUIET DAY

SATURDAY, 26th January, 2002, 10a.m. - 4p.m.

with The Ven. Malcolm Colmer, Archdeacon of Middlesex

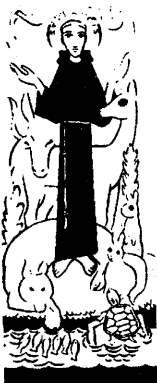
Following the success of this year's Quiet Day
we shall return to the beautiful tithed barn at Brook Place, Chobham.

A guided day of reflection to enable us to use Lent positively

The cost will be £5, payable at the time of booking with Freda

There will be a clipboard at church

St. Francis de Sales



**Saint FRANCIS
of Assisi**

The Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales came to Hampton Hill in 1926 and first lived in a huge Victorian house in Wellington Road. The present church was built on the site of the old house in 1966 and celebrated its first 25 years here this year.

Francis de Sales has been called "the saint of friendship" and "the gentleman saint", because of the warmth and gentleness of his manner. He had also outstanding courage and strength of character. His quiet and serene authority stopped many violent confrontations, and throughout he maintained a natural courtesy even to his most bitter opponents.

He was born in 1567 in Sales, Savoy, thirty miles south of Geneva, into a rich and powerful family. His character throughout his childhood and youth was absolutely consistent. He was generous, honest, and studious almost to a fault. He was determined to become a priest; but his outstanding ability as a scholar and his equally outstanding personal qualities fitted him for high secular authority. He had to persuade his father, who was never reconciled to his decision, that he must follow his vocation. He took holy orders, and soon became a notable preacher. Then began a period of missionary struggle in Chablais near Geneva, where the Catholic faith had almost been extinguished by Calvinists. At first it was bitter and apparently unrewarding work. He was now poor and had very little support. He is said to have left blood in the snow from his poorly-shod feet. It was many months before he was rewarded by conversions, remarkably of several high ranking officials who were convinced by his scholarship and sincerity. There followed a period when he confronted Calvinist scholars publically. Always they were defeated not only by his argument but by his obvious sincere, loving concern for their spiritual welfare. His tolerance is evidenced by his writing: "... let each proceed according to his light so long as it be for the greater glory of God."

With great reluctance he accepted the appointment as Bishop of Geneva in 1602. His concern for the spiritual welfare of Madame de Chantal led to his most well-known writing, "Introduction to the Devout Life", written in 1609. She later became director of the congregation of nuns of Order of the Visitation which Francis founded. Francis continued his powerful preaching and writing in his own country and in France. His ability was recognized in high political places and he was offered advancement which he always refused. He never wavered in his duty as pastor.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE SAINT?

Is there a saint whose life has inspired you or with whom you feel a special 'rapport'? If you feel you could write a short article about a particular saint for next year's 'Spire', please let the editors know.

The Rainbows write about the Rainbow Fund

The Rainbow Fund for South Africa which is based in Richmond, is one of the charities to which St. James contributed in 2001. It specially supports teachers who are working with township children particularly in Guguletu near Cape Town. A centre for homework has been created and more recently a community centre which opens its doors to 400 black children "on their way up".

Recently the charity's committee invited local donors to a "thank you" supper to which Ann Peterken, knowing of our interest in South Africa, suggested we went representing the community of St. James. It was a most enjoyable evening, where the minister whose ideas and initiatives have realised these projects, the Rev. Spiwo Xapile, was present and spoke about current developments. We had first met him on a visit to South Africa in January 1990, on an introduction from a mutual friend in Aberdeen, where Dr Xapile had obtained his Divinity degree. (Almost his first words were to "order" John to preach the sermon on the following Sunday, which he proceeded to do!).

The giving to the charity from St. James was much appreciated. Further details about the Fund can be obtained in a leaflet entitled "Would you like to join a revolution?" available at the church.

Betty and John Rainbow

PLANS FOR GREATER USE OF OUR CHURCH

Our parish church is an important building for many people. For those who worship here it is a sacred place where God is known and where every member of the Body of Christ can feel at home. It is a much prayed-in building and one which makes the presence of God known in our community. For others who pass by, it is obviously a church but, from Park Road and from the important turning into St. James' Road, it can look dead. Those of us who feel very attached to the building also realise its limitations for expanding our mission in today's world. We desperately need more room for administrative work to be undertaken, we need space for one to one confidential conversations, and we very much want to create a building which reflects our openness to the world. We plan to achieve our goals by creating:

- *A view from the street through the whole length of the church. This will be an important witness of our openness and activity.*
- *A place for the administrative load of the parish to be securely and effectively undertaken. It will allow the church to be staffed and open much more of the time.*
- *A small room for work with individuals.*
- *An easily accessible toilet.*
- *Compliance with accessibility legislation.*

The plan envisages removing the current West Porch, which is in a poor state. When the Diocesan Advisory Committee have inspected our outline scheme we will print plans in "The Spire" so that everyone can see them.

Do we value the Women's Forum?



The Women's Forum has steadfastly contributed to the life at St. James over many years. You may not know or recall its aim: "The Women's Forum seeks to strengthen our faith through fellowship, enjoyment and stimulation of our minds" and this has largely been fulfilled. There has been good fellowship, much humour and interesting speakers from a wide variety of sources, all of which have enhanced our faith.

The Committee and Forum members are now reviewing its role and task as our numbers attending meetings have decreased steadily over the last two years. This is partly due to some members needing to move home away from Hampton Hill; others are involved in different commitments. Some are working as well as raising their families. Others find it not easy to attend meetings on dark winter evenings.

At a recent meeting of the membership it was clear that many greatly valued the opportunity for fellowship and that afternoon meetings are popular. It has been suggested that we reinstate the monthly afternoon meetings. Many enjoyed the "stimulation of the mind" and valued not only hearing speakers from different fields but also a chance to discuss current issues that concern us.

The Committee are considering how the Forum can be part of the mission plan for St. James and would appreciate anyone's ideas on this.

Another suggestion has been expressed: should we have evening meetings or occasions four times a year to which everyone in the community is welcome and can participate? The possibility of larger mixed audiences would enable us to have a greater range of speakers on subjects that genuinely interest us. There could be time for debate and discussion after the speaking. This idea would only hope to succeed if people would be interested enough to attend. Responsible help would be needed to find the speakers. We believe there is room for this type of occasion which could be interesting and informative as well as perhaps challenging.

For these ideas to take shape and work we need to find friends who will enjoy joining and working on the committee where there are vacancies. Mona Gow, our Chair, will be leaving in March. So there is a vacant Chair and there are two vacancies at least on the Committee including that of a Secretary! We do believe the Forum is meant to flourish in fresh and satisfying ways but new ideas and people are needed. Do please let us know if you would like to play a part. Contact us in church on Sunday morning!

*Betty Rainbow
on behalf of The Women's Forum Committee*

Music Review

Some 26 members of the PCC and congregation, including band and choir, met on 24th November 2001 to review our approach to and use of music. We had a most stimulating morning, led by Brian and Huw Williams, the Sub-Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Why music in church?

Huw reminded us that the function of music in liturgy, like movement and images, is to assist our emotional response to the "highs and lows" both within the church's year and within each service. He recommended a policy of "pick 'n' mix" towards musical styles - one should not say that, "only such and such a style" or approach is right, but be open to good ideas from anywhere (and any tradition or historical period) and use them within the resources available to us. Huw delighted us with a wide variety of examples, expressed with infectious enthusiasm! He advised that "tradition" is organic and growing, and that one should not be reluctant to embrace new ways of doing things, as circumstances change.



Our way forward

We noted that we have a number of musical resources, including a fine organ, a lively band, a choir with potential, and a number of talented musicians. Huw drew to our attention the model of combining different resources so that they work together, and afford variety and overlap. As emerged earlier in the year during our Mission Review, there was strong support for developing opportunities to attract children into musical activities - and offer them and their parents opportunities to become more closely involved in the church. We should examine the exciting possibilities which arise here.

The Feast of Candlemas

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Saturday 2nd February 2002

at 6p.m.

Holy Communion will be sung by candlelight

with

The Apocalypse Singers

All are very welcome to mark the end of the Christmas Season of the Church's Year

Report on the Meeting of the PCC on 4th December 2001

The Vicar chaired the meeting, which was attended by sixteen members of the PCC.

Preparations for the confirmation service to be held on the 9th December and also the Christmas services were discussed briefly. The Vicar thanked those who had helped with the preparation for the Christingle service, and also thanked the outdoor volunteers who had successfully completed the annual leaf-sweep and gutter-clean. The first of the two major items on the agenda was the Treasurer's report and his proposed budget for 2002.

Paul Peterken gave his usual comprehensive and clear presentation of our finances; his budget told us how he was planning for the year ahead. Thanks largely to the work of the Stewardship Committee our income is just keeping up with the increasing demands made on it. Our Stewardship giving will total about £57,000 by the end of the year, we have also had a tax refund of about £14,000. There is also some income from collections and fees, bringing the expected total to about £85,000.

The list of expenses is long and varied. The largest single item is our direct contribution to the Common Fund of the Diocese. This was £48,000 this year, with a further £1,000 contribution to a parish in special need. A small but very important new addition to next year's budget is proposed. This will enable the parish to employ a secretary for four hours each week to deal with the ever-increasing administrative business. This is at present handled by only one very dedicated volunteer who needs assistance.

We are also anticipating a heavy bill for repairs. Every five years our architect must carry out a special inspection of the church and report on work to be done. We have been putting money in a special reserve fund for this over the past three years and hope that it will cover the costs. Some concern was expressed that our architect has not yet sent us his report although the inspection was completed during the summer. We expect the report before the end of the year.

The meeting thanked Paul for his work and approved his budget.

The second main item on the agenda was a discussion of the progress of one of the four main areas of our Mission Action Plan. Clive Beaumont prepared material and led a discussion on Communications. We agreed that the first necessity was to identify the different groups, church members of different ages, non-church members, to whom we wished to make ourselves known. Quite a lot of discussion centred on "The Spire". How useful is it, and can it be better presented? Your letters to the Vicar would be very welcome, however critical.

There were brief reports from committees before the meeting closed with the Grace.

FAITH AT WORK:

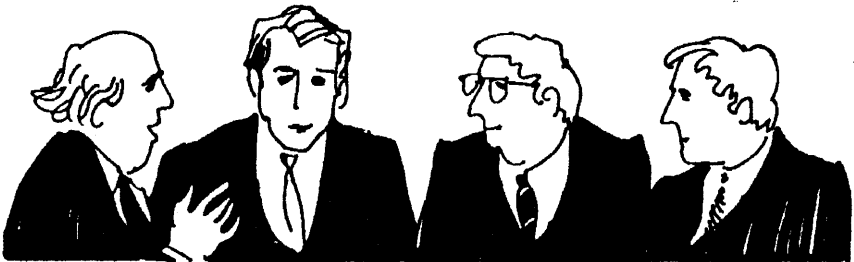
The Biennial Churches Together Lecture - 7th November 2001

Several people turned up at Hampton Methodist Church on a dark November evening to listen to a talk by Sieve Beck. Steve told us that he was a Californian by birth, had an English wife and three daughters and had lived in this country for the last 17 years. Up until 1999 he had worked for Gemini Consultancy, a firm with a \$200M turnover. Steve recalled that in 1999, when Gemini were involved in a take-over bid, he'd been working up to 70 hours a week. This meant economising in other areas of his life and a consequent lost intimacy with God, his wife, family and friends - no time for people. The culture of the proposed new organisation was not something he wished to be involved with and he left. One benefit after leaving was that he could take his daughters to the park, where remarks from assembled mothers were - "Who is this man?" "Should he be with these children?" and he had to reassure them that he was, in fact, their father. Although he was interested in his job, it had subtly taken him over and in the words of the Paul Simon song he'd been "Slip-Sliding Away". He mentioned that in this world of rapidly changing work patterns Top Managers were now only employed on 3-year contracts and in San Francisco, soup kitchens had been set up for paper millionaires of once profitable dot.com companies. (Steve now has a portfolio of jobs and is Chairman of the Board of Governors of The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity L.I.C.C. - Web Site: www.licc.org.uk)

Even if employers did not employ their staff to proselytise on behalf of Christ, it was still possible, especially at "bad" times in the business cycle to show integrity and set a "good" personal example and he regularly invited to his home fellow Christians, work colleagues and secular friends to meet together.

The talk took the form of a Powerpoint presentation and Steve's message was that God is the Boss and ultimate Shareholder and that work is an intrinsic part of why we were created, its purpose being stewardship, service and mission. There should be a rhythm of work and rest, neither being dominant, and our ambition should be to become Christlike. We should pray for courage. He stated that he would have loved to have an hour a day, alone, to devote to prayer and contemplation - something from which everyone would benefit hugely.

Mike Butterfield





We all enjoyed the Christingle service on Advent Sunday and were pleased to see so many families there. Thank you to all the children and adults who made the Christingle oranges, the candles of which shone so brightly in the church.

The various local schools whom we welcome at Christmas for their carol concerts were with us once again at St. James. It is always such a pleasure to have so many people in the church for

these celebrations.

The confirmation service on November 9th was another memorable event. We rejoice with all the candidates as they embark on a new stage of Christian life.

Sadly the deaths of Amy Taplin and David Squire took place in November. Our prayers are for them and for those who mourn them.

The week of prayer for Christian Unity takes place as usual from 18th - 25th January. Congratulations to Frances Beaumont who made her debut at the Purcell Room on the South Bank playing her flute in a concert with other flautists.

And here is a message to all -

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who helped with prayers, transport to and from the hospital for chemo/radio therapy, visits home and telephone calls with offers of assistance and loads of support right through those difficult weeks.

**With love in Christ
Gloria, Sunil, and Chetan**

Euro-zone Currency Appeal

Make sure left over foreign currency doesn't go to waste by giving it to Christian Aid.

- Any foreign currency (coins and notes) can be accepted.

The following are the twelve currencies that cease to be after February 2002:

Austrian Schillings

French francs

Italian lira

Belgian francs

German deutschmarks

Luxembourg francs

Dutch guilders

Greek drachmas

Portuguese escudos

Finnish marks

Irish punt

Spanish pesetas

- Donations can be given to Brian, Ann Peterken or Margaret Taylor.
- Donations will be accepted through to the end of May 2002.
- Some people may like to arrange a collection in their workplace.

Christian Aid estimate that every kilo of currency collected is equivalent to about £16.00.



FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 18 Bronnie Faye Challinor, 85 Shaftesbury Way, Strawberry Hill
Ross Stephen Pinchen, 26 Taylors Close
Ivo Benjamin Thomas, 33 Myrtle Road
Bradley Kenneth George Golden, 12F Grove Road, Surbiton
Donna Marie Wells, 12F Grove Road, Surbiton

Marriages

- 10 Simon Lawn and Melanie Tuppen

Funerals

- 16 Audrey Clark, 5 Rectory Grove 74
26 Susan Waterman, 32 Wordsworth Road 55

DATES TO NOTE JANUARY 2002

- 5 6p.m. - 8.30p.m. **Parish Epiphany Party.** All Welcome. Tickets available from Vicarage
- 6 **The Epiphany**
- 7 **The Baptism of Christ**
- 10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645
- 11 Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915
- 16 7.30p.m. Women's Forum. Janet Taylor talks about her work
- 17 8p.m. PCC (All PCC meetings are open to visitors.)
- 18 - 25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
- 20 6.30p.m. Churches together around Hampton United Service, All Saints, Hampton
- 24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva & Teacher, 1662
- 25 **The Conversion of St. Paul**
- 26 Parish Quiet Day led by the Archdeacon of Middlesex at Brook Place
- 28 Thomas Aquinas, Teacher, 1274
- 8p.m. Taize style meditation at St. James