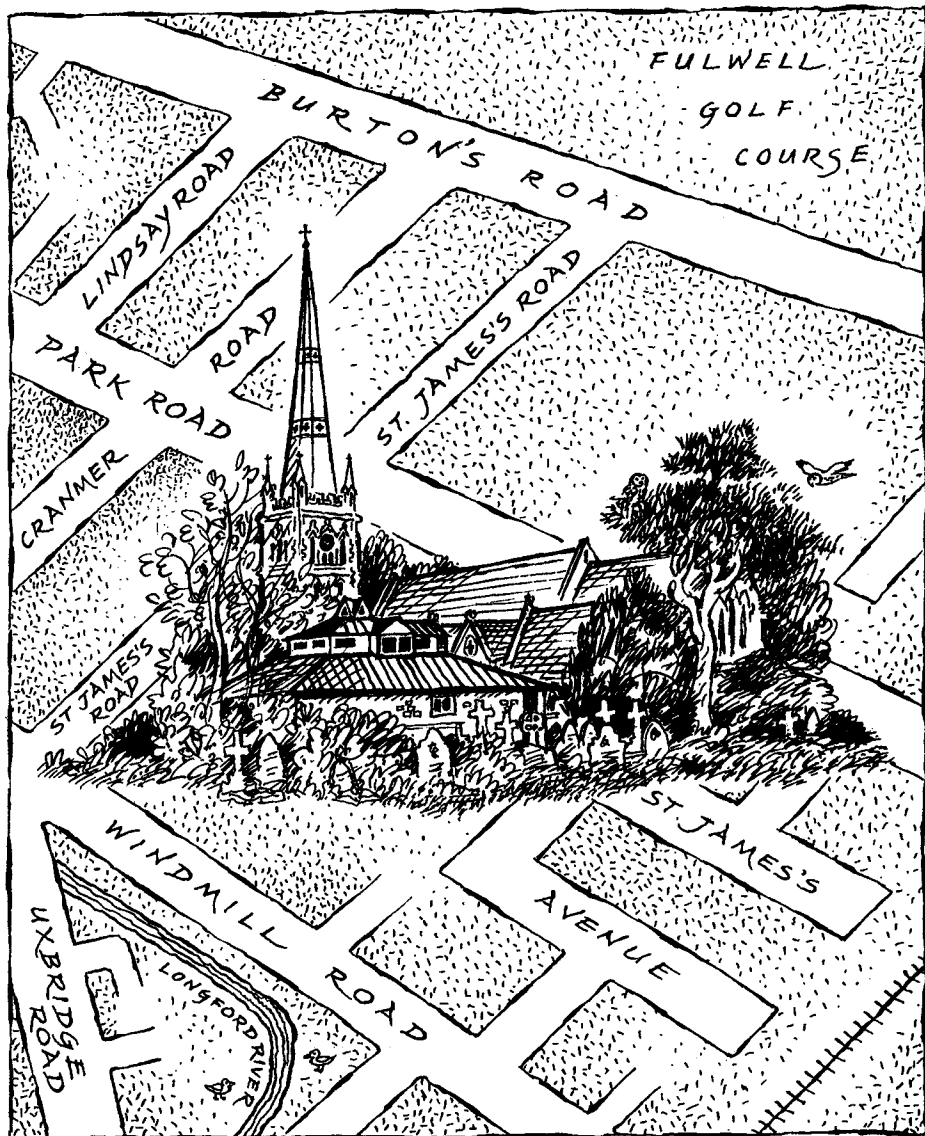


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 2004

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

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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 | Sue Blay | 8979 8239 |
| Church Cleaning Rota | Margaret Taylor | 8979 3961 |
| Church Flowers | Coryn Robinson | 8979 6786 |
| Weekly Notice Sheet | Griselda Barrett | 8979 3331 |
| Website | Prill Hinckley | 8979 0528 |
| The Travellers' Band | Martin Hinckley | 8979 0528 |
| Brownies | Lesley Brough | 8979 6400 |
| Guides | Sue Blay | 8979 8239 |
| Scout Group | Paul Fitchett | 8941 7186 |
| (including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures) | | |
| Dance Fellowship Group | Eila Severn | 8979 1954 |
| Properties Committee | Rodney Taylor | 8979 0046 |
| Social Committee | Kate O'Sullivan | 8977 8294 |
| Finance Committee | Paul Peterken | 8891 5862 |
| Stewardship Committee | Don Barrett | 8979 3331 |
| Hall Committee | Betty Rainbow | 8894 3907 |
| Charities and Links Committee | Ann Peterken | 8891 5862 |
| Deanery Synod | Lesley Mortimer | 8941 2345 |
| Churches Together around Hampton | Ann Peterken | 8891 5862 |
| Mission Partner Link | Gwynneth Lloyd | 8943 0709 |
| Mozambique/Angola Link | Elizabeth Wilmot | 8977 9434 |
| Ladies' Choir | Eila Severn | 8979 1954 |

The trouble with Epiphany (which falls on January 6th) is that it feels rather like a Christmas-card-that's-arrived-a-bit-late sort of feast in the church. As it arrives so we take the decorations down. For hundreds of years, of course, Epiphany was the celebration of the birth of Jesus and Christmas Day but a minor feast in comparison. But Epiphany sits as a red-letter day, a day when we remember the journey of the Magi to visit the newborn Jesus, God incarnate. But we, of course, have bolted on the arrival of the Magi with the rest of the Christmas message. It is almost as if the stable at Bethlehem must have been heaving with visitors. No sooner had the shepherds got there than the Wise Men also arrived.

How happily we sing of these wise men, yet we know nothing at all about them. Their journey and arrival in Bethlehem is described only in Matthew's Gospel and even here there is no mention at all of how many wise men there were. Just that they are Magi and the Gospel describes three gifts that they brought. Certainly it was many hundreds of years later before the tradition grew up, completely unfounded by any evidence, that their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The historicity of the journey of the Magi is as dubious as any event in the Gospel record. Epiphany stories are, of course, very common in ancient writings about holy men. This is not to detract from their importance but to make the point that their presence in Matthew's Gospel is deliberate and underlining a particular purpose, namely, that the gentiles accepted the offer of salvation which the people of Israel were less willing to take on. In other words that the babe in Bethlehem is an icon of what God is like for every human being in the world and not just for the people of Israel. And as we sing of "Three kings from Persian lands afar" or "We three kings of Orient are" we do well to remember that the Magi travelled from the East. And what is East of Palestine but today's Syria and Jordan, Iran and Iraq. It does strike me as particularly odd that we venerate the wise men, the Magi, from these lands as long as they are safely tucked away in history or wrapped in the mists of myth, but we continue to demonise; or at least, denigrate, people of those lands by our power politics today.

This is the trouble when Christmas, and Epiphany, become a "trick". When we attach all the kitsch beloved of Christmas card sellers, carol writers and Christmas commerce, then we miss the point of Christmas and Epiphany altogether. We are happy to go off on our romantic camels, even look like kings in paper hats but does the journey bring us closer to the Epiphany, the showing of who God is and how God helps us make sense of our real world? Christmas and Epiphany are about incarnation, which is no academic theory but is the revelation, the showing of God's solidarity with us. God is in such solidarity with us through this baby Jesus that he becomes bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. In so doing he calls us to be in solidarity with our fellow human beings, every human being in good times and in bad, in joy and in need. At Christmas we believe as John's Gospel puts it "the word was made flesh". Again, God doesn't act in theory but acts in human relationships. God becomes one of us that we might understand God by seeing him, knowing him, relating to him.

For in the end incarnation, Christmas and Epiphany are not about candlelight and cribs, kings and presents. They are about God in his world in every situation which human beings find themselves in and we have to be immersed in those situations because that's where we will find God. It is almost as if we like the childlike delight of Christmas because we are scared of the adult implications of Christmas; God's solidarity with us in the realities of his world and God's laying upon us the demands that we should be in solidarity with our fellow human beings. So when you take down your decorations on twelfth night remember the Epiphany, God making himself known in the baby Jesus, because that can't be put away, packed into the box and hidden until next year. It's an invitation to grow as the babe of Bethlehem grew, into the fullness of God day by day.

Brian Leathard

75th ANNIVERSARY OF HAMPTON HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Congratulations to Hampton Hill Junior School on its 75th anniversary. Prior to moving to its current site in 1928, it was St. James's School in School Road, in the buildings which are now the Greenwood Centre and Sterling Office Supplies. We have received the following from a former pupil:

On 14th November, Hampton Hill Junior School invited me to their 75th birthday celebrations. I was kindly taken there by Perry Lutz, our local osteopath, who introduced me to the headmaster, Bill Jerman.

In 1921, I joined the School Road school and from there we moved to the Windmill Road School when it opened in 1928. I was shown my name, Alice Maltby, in the school register. On seeing round the school I noticed the many improvements that have been made and in all had an enjoyable time there.

Alice Wallis

THANK YOU

We will be holding an event on 13th February to thank existing members of Stewardship for their support in 2003 and to welcome new members

24hr Bible Project

I have recently returned from living for 11 months in Erlangen (near Nürnberg, Bavaria) in Germany as the Year in Europe part of my physics degree at the University of York. Moving to a town in a different country where I didn't know a single person was difficult at first, but fortunately I was in halls which meant I had instant contact with the people I was living with. Furthermore, within a couple of weeks I had found two Christian Unions (CUs) in the town. Since there is no Students Union or any concept of information for freshers it was through a lot of fortune that I managed to find out that there were CUs in the town, and then where and when they were.

The CUs were a fantastic blessing, the friendships and fellowship that they provided were the highlight of my time abroad, and without them the experience would have been considerably less enjoyable. I found them incredibly warm and welcoming, and within a few weeks I was incorporated as if I had been there for ages, and took part in many activities and weekends away with them.

One such activity was the idea of reading the Bible 24 hours a day for a week, as last year was the "Year of the Bible". This was an idea dreamt up as a collaboration between the two CUs with which I was involved (Protestant & Ecumenical) and the other CU in the town (Catholic). It was designed to be a collective but also a personal experience for everyone who took part, as well as being an evangelical action. This varied aim caused a lot of contemplation about what venue would be more suitable, with some preferring a small intimate venue where the readers would really be able to feel at home and close to the other participants. On the other side there were people who felt it should occur in a large church in the middle of town so that as many people as possible would hear it. In the end a compromise of a small but open chapel in town was reached, and it proved to be an excellent choice.

In the weeks leading up to it, lists were passed round for people to sign up for the half an hour slots throughout the five days, and they were all full before the reading started. I read four times, from the books of Maccabees, Jeremiah, Luke and Hebrews respectively, sometimes during the day, and sometimes at night. We were asked to turn up 15 minutes before we were due to start reading so that the previous reader could show the place they were up to, as well as staying for 15 minutes after you had read, again to show the next person where to start from. This also had the advantage that there were at least two people in the church at all times, although, especially during the day, there were a lot of other people there, who were just walking past and were interested so came in.

Since the event wasn't just purely evangelical, but also meant to be something for the people taking part, it was decided that the passages could be read in any language. During the week I heard the Bible being read in Swedish, Italian and one of the African languages, as well as German, in which I also chose to read for the first three times. When I was in Erlangen, I had always said to people that I only wanted to speak German with them since that was the one of the main reasons that I was there.

A result of this was that many had never heard me speak a word of English, so I agreed that I would do the fourth reading in English and several came along to that to enjoy a "proper" British accent (well, nearly proper anyway).

At the same time as the reading, there was a café throughout the whole day in the church hall, which gave people a place to go and chat about what they heard, and in the evenings there were discussion groups there, along similar lines to the Alpha Course, where more in-depth discussions could be held. The whole event was very popular, with a large number of passers by listening in, and it was even covered in some of the local papers. Everyone who took part found it very enjoyable, and I know that at the end of my half an hour slots I always wished that I could keep reading for longer. In addition it proved an interesting talking point amongst the students I met, and was a good opportunity to explain why I was doing it, and the part the Bible plays in daily life.

Matthew Horner

OPENING OUR DOORS UPDATE

Hurrah! We are hoping to start work on site soon! First of all, the project was delayed by the whole tree-root "problem". Then, when the tenders for work came in, they were somewhat higher than anticipated due partly to the delay and also a general, but significant, rise in building costs. We needed to give the matter considerable thought and then five of us went to meet the architects to discuss possible ways of bringing the cost down. It was a very successful meeting where the architect suggested an alternative roof window mechanism that isn't so expensive. It was also decided that we will not have a lavatory included as we have very good disabled-access facilities in our church hall. This change of plan means a considerable saving. Lastly, it was decided that we could do our own internal decoration.

The one thing that we all agreed should not be changed is the doors. The concept of seeing right through glass doors from street to beautiful interior is very important and we must not detract from this aesthetically.

All this must now, of course, be re-presented to the contractors who hopefully will agree and come back to us with tenders of about £ 20,000 less. If this happens, work should start soon and it would be really wonderful if we could Open Our Doors next summer.

Liz Butler

Council of Christians and Jews (Staines & District Branch)

WHERE CHRISTIANS SUFFER (AND WHY)

An informed survey of a disturbing modern problem and its roots by

MR CEDRIC DOWE

Wednesday 14th January 2004 commencing at 8 pm

Staines Synagogue, Westbrook Road, Staines

Admission £2.00 per person including refreshments

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN ANGOLA



Sua Reverendissima D. André Soares
Bispo do Diocese Anglicana de Angola

I took the opportunity to meet with Mario dos Santos, the Diocesan Development Projects Officer and ALMA representative in Angola during a business trip to Lusanda last September. It was an important time for the Anglican Church in Angola as the church was recognised as a diocese in its own right with the first Bishop, Andre Soares, appointed on 14th September. Unfortunately, the Bishop was still in Johannesburg when I visited but I met with Mario dos Santos and Rev Michael Clark, the Team Rector from Edgware in London who was also visiting Lusanda.

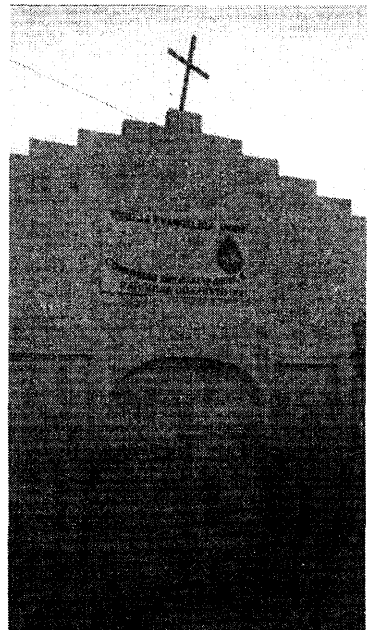
Angola was a former colony of Portugal so has a strong Catholic influence. Archibald Paterson, a missionary from Liverpool, founded the first Anglican Church in 1925. He started a school to

train evangelists to expand the church in the north of the country. At its height, the church had 70,000 members.

During the 1966 War of Independence the Portuguese regarded the protestant church as a political threat and the Anglican Church was treated with suspicion as a foreign influence. Protestant ministers were given 24 hours to leave and most church leaders escaped to Zaire. In 1975 Angola achieved independence and ministers returned. Civil war broke out between political factions, FPLA in the north, MPLA in the middle of the country and UNITA in the south. In 1989 international bodies brokered a peace treaty, which lead up to the first general election held in 1992. Disputes over the outcome of the elections caused a further period of civil war, which lasted until 2002 when UNITA was defeated.

Today Angola is a country of contradictions. There are 12 million people, but 4.5million live in Luanda, a city built for just 500,000. Poverty is extreme and yet it is a land rich in oil, diamonds and agricultural possibilities. Since the cease fire in April 2002 the country is working through a

'triple transition' of war to peace, single to multi - party politics and state controlled to market economy. Despite so many years of war Angolans continue to look forward



to each new day, adapting to difficult situations and retaining a real sense of hope and energy about the country. This has been reflected in the growth of the Anglican Church so that today there are 22,000 members in some 200 congregations. During the last two years ALMA has established parish links, which are supporting the building of churches, rural schools and a clinic in Angera. The formation of the diocese and appointment of Bishop Andre are milestones in the role of the Anglican Church in the future of Angola.

I would like to thank Hugh Watkins, the ALMA Link Officer, for arranging my meeting in Luanda.

Don Barrett

DEFT DEFINITIONS DESIRED!

Here are some words commonly used in "Church-speak" but virtually unknown outside the vestry walls.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Faculty | DAC |
| Terrier | Curtilage |
| Epiclesis | Ecumenical |
| Pyx | Aumbrey |
| Chasuble | Corporal |

Any ideas? Send definitions (try making up your own), drawings or amusing suggestions to the clergy or editors.

Answers next month. Remember: points means prizes!

PARISH QUIET DAY

SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY 10 - 3.30

at Brook Place, Chobham

to be led by Christopher Cunliffe

GOODBYE TO A "GUIDING LIGHT"

If you have had any connections with 3rd Hampton Hill Brownies over the past 16 years, you will know of Angela, our dedicated Tawny Owl. Angela has been involved with Guiding in Hampton Hill since joining the Brownies herself at the age of 7 and has been an assistant leader since her teens. To think of the Brownies and not think of Angela is almost impossible but we have had to accept that she is leaving to move to the Isle of Wight with her husband Chas. However, our loss is the Isle of Wight's gain, as Angela intends to get involved with Guiding once she has settled. I have tried to get her to go for promotion to Brown Owl - she is more than capable - and any future Brownies would be very lucky to have her. I don't really know how I am going to manage without her strength, commitment and quiet, easy-going manner; she also organised all the Brownies' subs, badges and books.

I know I speak for Sue the Guide leader when I say that she will be missed by the Guides also. Angela has been their faithful cook on many camps and I know she hopes to continue this link if possible - I foresee many camps to the south coast in future! Angela has also just completed her camp licence, another string to a very long bow. She has given so much to Guiding and especially to 3rd Hampton Hill. We are going to miss you, Angela, and I am sure everyone here at St. James's would like to thank you and Chas and wish you much happiness as you start a new phase in your life together.

Lesley Brough, Brown Owl

ISLAND IN THE SUN

*Oh island in the sun
Willed to me by my fathers hand,
All my days I will sing in praise
Of your forest waters, your shining sand.*

Our journey to Heron Island, one of the islands on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, took two and a half days by coach and train along Australia's East Coast to Gladstone, a small industrial port in Queensland. The final leg of the journey was a fifty minute sea trip, and as the catamaran neared the island passengers toasted their arrival with champagne. While the boat docked we looked down through green translucent water to the sandy floor of the bay. There is only one hotel on the island. One catamaran a day delivers new arrivals and returns departing guests to the mainland. We are escorted to the reception area and learn that there are no room keys and no security for valuables. No one can leave the island so there is no need for security. Here there are alternative values. Guests are told that taking seashells from the island is a serious offence. Accommodation is a Turtle cabin - one of a cluster of wooden huts containing a bed, sink, mirror, cupboards a light and a ceiling fan. Toilets and showers are in a large wooden hut at the centre of each group of cabins. The island's water supply comes from a desalination plant, making water an expensive commodity.

An evening trip to the bathroom is a stroll over warm sand in balmy tropical air under a velvet sky punctured with silver stars. Heron Island is two miles long and a mile wide with a wooded area in the centre and a broad sandy fringe. There is no traffic, no noise and no pollution, there is blue sky, sun, sea and sand. It's unbelievably peaceful and as everyone wears shorts and t-shirts the atmosphere is relaxed. After lunch we set out to walk round the island along the shore. When I paddle through the shallows tiny sand coloured fish swim round my feet.

The next morning we are on the beach before sunrise to join a reef walking party. Everyone wears trainers to protect feet and ankles from the sharp coral, and carries a yellow glass bottomed tube to enable them to look at the marine life without traumatising it and a pole to hold them steady in the water. It's low tide and we have a long walk over firm sand until we reach coral exposed by the receding tide. The guide points to marine life unique to the Barrier reef - midnight blue starfish, zigzag patterned clams that close when they sense our observation tubes, tiny eels, and Christmas tree worms. There are several types of sea cucumbers, some black and curved like chopped up pieces of bicycle tyre, others curry coloured, ridged and croissant shaped. The sun rises, the sky glows pink and turquoise and we notice that the tide has turned.

In the dining room we help ourselves to a buffet breakfast and sit outside on the veranda. Two white herons perch on a nearby roof and a black and white noddy tern sits in a nearby tree. Seagulls land on discarded plates and are shooed away by the hotel staff.

No one worries about the rails, brown birds the size of moorhens, that come in through the open doors of the dining room and scurry around picking up crumbs and any other items of food that land on the floor.

Later down at the quayside we board the semi-submersible, a boat with glass sides designed so that passengers can look at the under-water life of the reef. The undersea world is a deep turquoise blue, and out in the bay the sea floor is made up of varieties of coral in delicate pastel shades of pink and purple. Brain coral looks like a section of the human brain and stag coral resembles deer's antlers. The fish are all sizes and colours. Humbug fish have black and white stripes; there is a shoal of tiny bright blue fish and a pair of yellow butterfly fish. The big grouper that lives in the wreck stays out of sight but two large turtles glide slowly down to the sea floor in search of food. Later the sun sets over the sea as we listen to the music of a string quartet.

The next morning it's time to leave. Having packed our cases we take a last walk along the white sands of Shark Bay, board the catamaran and head for the mainland. After a magical forty-eight hours we have left our island in the sun.

Sheila Bligh

If you could write a review of anything you have enjoyed - a book, a film, an exhibition, a walk please contact one of the editors or clergy.



**FUN QUIZ at N. P. L. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
TEDDINGTON**

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY commencing at 4.30 p.m.

Tickets £7.50 to include a basket meal
(choice of fish or chicken) with sweet.

Teams of up to 6 people - or come along and make up a team on the day.

Tickets **must** be booked in advance (by Wednesday 28th January at the latest)
from Jill Goddard on 020 8287 7438. Do hope to see you there.

An early date for your diary: Race Night on Saturday 28th Feb at the same venue.

Real wooden horses not a video!! Further details in next month's Spire.

Thank you for your support in 2003

SUCCESSFUL SCOUTS NEED HELP

At the end of 2001, the group was in serious trouble with only two uniformed leaders and little background support. A determined effort was made to enlist more help with closure inevitable if this was not forthcoming. Incredibly, their efforts were rewarded with a new executive management committee with a new group chair, a fund-raising group, and new Beaver, Cub and Group Scout leaders. Consequently we once again have a strong and thriving group and are one of the few groups in SW London to increase their number in the past twelve months.

The Cubs have more than doubled in size since the arrival of Belinda as their leader. The Cubs won the district challenge competition and did very well in other competitions.

The Scouts have grown to a troop of 28 even though older ones have moved on to the Explorer units. They have been extremely successful this year, winning the district volleyball, night hike, air rifle and day hike competitions. They have also been flying, camped in Yorkshire and raised over £600 for charity.

The group now attracts children from all around the area and the waiting lists are bursting at the seams. A second Cub pack will open in 2004. The result of this success is that assistant uniformed leaders are urgently needed for all sections. This involves some background work as well as helping to run the evenings but you will get training, help from the leadership team and even a free uniform!

Scouting has allowed me to achieve and experience many things I would never have tried on my own but the biggest plus is the look of joy and satisfaction on the children's faces when they achieve a target they never would have believed was within their grasp whether it is winning a tournament, learning to climb or canoe or just learning how to tie that elusive knot! If you feel you could be part of the success that is the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group or know someone who would be perfect for the job, please speak to me.

Paul Fitchett 8941 7186



Thank you to all those who swept leaves, cleaned gutters and made Christingles in early December and to all the volunteers who enabled the church to be open for quiet reflection and prayer throughout Advent.

Congratulations to Abigail and Clive Mosey on the birth of their son Benedict, a brother for Alice. Congratulations also to our local film extras - among them Marion Dewey, Sheila Bligh, David Taylor, Joy Thompson, Peter Lockyer and Barry Buttershaw. They were all extras in the recent filming on Bridget Jones' Diary Part 2 and Annie Crawford

was in charge of the costumes.

Jo Crimmin is in Sutton Place Nursing Home recovering from an operation and Jean Western is now home from hospital.

FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 2 Ryan Michael Lewin, Hampton Hill
- 2 Sam Alistair Bullen, Hampton Hill
- 16 Amelia Grace Le Gros, Hampton
- 30 Mia Caroline Wallis, Teddington
- 30 Imogen Geneste Deakin, Teddington

FUNERALS

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----|
| 5 | Sydney Freeman, Hampton | 66 |
| 21 | Marjorie Dolman, Hampton Hill | 85 |
| 28 | Keith Freeman, Hampton | 41 |

INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 30 William Alfred Holmes, Hampton Hill

WEDDINGS

- 15 Michael Charue Fox and Emily Joanne Stoodley

DATES TO NOTE FOR JANUARY

- 1 The naming of Jesus - Bank Holiday
- 4 **The Epiphany (tr)**
- 11 **The Baptism of Christ**
- 18 **Epiphany 2** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- 25 **The conversion of St Paul**

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE: 12TH JANUARY