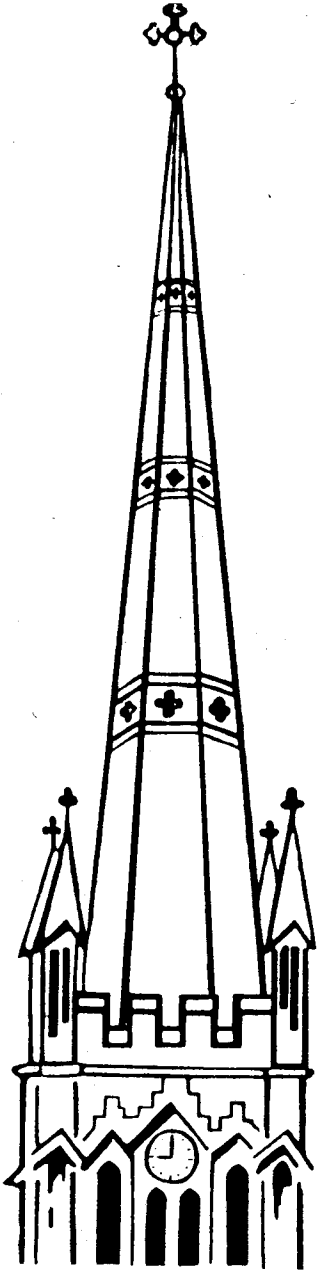


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
HAMPTON HILL



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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

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SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS

PARISH COMMUNION Sundays, other than first in month 09.30

INFORMAL SERVICE First Sunday in month 09.30

OTHER SERVICES and HEALING MINISTRY

Please see Monthly Dates

INFANT BAPTISM After due notice, at Parish Communion
or on Sundays 15.00

THE JAYS (FOUR +) Every Sunday (except first in month
and during holiday periods) in Wayside 9.15-10.05
Contact Debbie Nunn 979 3078

Epiphany is very odd; after twelve days of Christmas comes the celebration of the Wise Men, travelling from far off to pay tribute to the new born Jesus based on their reading of the skies. Yet we tend to give it somewhat cursory treatment, or shrug it off as if it were a Christmas-card-that's-arrived-a-bit-late type of occasion. Lustily we sing of the Three Kings, we name them Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior, we admire their treasures, gasp at their momentous journeying, camels, crowns, dew-drops and all. And yet for all this the only reference to the Magi in the gospel record is both vague and there for a particular purpose. Look it up in Matthew Chapter 2. It doesn't occur anywhere else in the gospels although it is a very common type of story in ancient literature. In Matthew's Gospel we find 'Wise Men from the East', but no indication of their names, their number or their mode of transport. Yes, vague and yet also there for a purpose. The purpose in Matthew's Gospel is to show foreigners, outsiders, Gentiles, accepting the Kingship of Christ. And what about today?

'Wise men from the East' would seem to be a singularly important group at a time when the western nations seem ever more determined to wage war with all their military might against a corrupt regime in the East. 'The Wise Men from the East' came to pay tribute to the Incarnation - to God who becomes man in his own world. Yet surely the 'in' in Incarnation is denied more often than we realise. Certainly it is denied in the illegal occupation of Kuwait, and in the duplicity of Britain and her partner's desire for oil and power. It is denied in the continuing mutual violence in Our Lord's own land, the destination of the Wise Men. It is denied in the endemic racism in our own country, in the exclusivity of the Church, denied in our own families and within ourselves.

The story is told of a Beach Mission run by the Community of the Resurrection at which a reluctant novice had, from acute embarrassment, slipped out of his cassock and, like everyone else on the beach, donned swimwear. One of his fellow students, not recognising him so scantily clad, asked him 'Have you been saved?' 'Saved?' he replied 'I haven't even been in yet'. The 'in' in Incarnation is crucial. We, like the Wise Men, cannot live as followers, seekers after God, unless we live in the world, in all its goodness and in all its evil.

I wrote last month of the need to delight like children in the events of the Christmas story and in our Christmas celebrations. The point, surely, is that we need to delight in seeing both God's foolishness and wisdom in this baby as King. The Wise Men did not turn their backs on the harsh realities of the world, but realised the trap Herod sought to spring through them and were shrewd enough to return to their country a different way. The Wise Men journeyed to seek wisdom from this baby who could know nothing and who was totally dependent upon others, yet returned fulfilled. When children squeal with delight it is because a new dimension, a new vision, new understanding, new truth is revealed to them. We might even dare to follow their lead, and the lead of the Wise Men, but it also means journeying on another way, facing the implications of Christmas, God's solidarity in the realities of the world.

So 'Three Kings from Persian Lands afar' may not have all that much direct connection with the gospel account of the Epiphany - but has the gospel account of the Epiphany got any direct connection with us? What wisdom have we glimpsed in the face of impending conflict in the Persian Gulf today, or with any other part of God's creation in which his love is denied, and in which denial he dwells, waiting to be discovered. The Light of the World is the Light of our World 1991,

Brian Leathard

The Bazaar

Who was that man walking round dressed as Lawrence of Arabia? I thought this Bazaar was supposed to have a Victorian theme - Ah well, it takes all sorts! The Bazaar raised eleven hundred pounds and engendered a good community spirit amongst those helping and those buying.

The Fancy Dress Competition had very few entrants but there was no doubt that Sandy Dobson was a true urchin - especially with the top hat. And Janet Nunn looked quite a charmer in her winning outfit.

If, as looks likely, the Bazaar is to be an annual event, I feel it should be put on a more solid footing with perhaps a small committee to organise it and with a year-round collection of saleable items.

There is no doubt that one of the best fund-raisers is a raffle and this takes a lot of time and organisation if it is to raise an appreciable sum of money. The tickets need to be printed, distributed and sold well in advance of the date of the Bazaar.

Judging the markets and putting a realistic price on the goods are the two most difficult aspects of running a Bazaar. Matinee jackets and babies booties are out, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac and marmalade are all in demand.

During the coming months when you are making your marmalade - very soon now, make a few extra pots, especially small ones, and put them on one side. When you grow your wallflowers or winter pansies, keep some of the plants for the Bazaar. See what is popular amongst the small fry - several people suggested a Turtle Stall, but this needs advance planning - next year it could be something quite different, but we need to be aware of it beforehand.

This year's effort was a good one, but as the teacher's report always says, 'Could do better!' Ideas, enthusiasm and good publicity are all important, but if we are to raise more money next year, we need YOU!

Helen Taylor

The Holy Land - Another Perspective

The December magazine gave a good account of some of the sights which were visited by our group of pilgrims from St. James's on our recent journey. It was a privilege to visit such sights, to be still there, to think and to pray. While the experience of simply being in these holy places was moving and profound our pilgrimage would not have been complete without the contribution of the 'living stones' in the bible lands.

These living stones we met and talked with. We travelled to Nazareth, to the sights of the Annunciation, the synagogue-church, the caves lived in by the people at the time of our Lord's birth and then met Canon Riah Abu Al Assal, Vicar of Christ Church, Nazareth. He is an Anglican priest, an Archdeacon no less, but more importantly, he is a Palestinian Christian. In Ibillin, a dusty unremarkable village in Galilee, we met Father Elias Chacour, another Palestinian priest, of the Melkite Church. But neither of these priests care much for titles. 'We're Anglicans', we said. 'Really' replied Fr. Chacour, 'and you look for all the world like human beings, my brothers and sisters'.

You see the point of such a not-particularly-funny joke all too clearly in a land where what you are, how you are treated, what your rights and responsibilities are, are determined by your religious and ethnic title.

Both priests urged us to remember that we are children of the same heavenly Father, whatever our background. In the state of Israel and in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are Jews, Muslims and Christians, all children of Abraham. In Father Riah's parish school, 70% of his children are Muslim, 30% Christian. His Church is entirely Arabic in its liturgy and pattern of life - set in the largest Arab city in Israel. Fr. Chacour has built from a few old stones a vibrant college, pledged to reconciliation between Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druze. But they are in a minority.

The overwhelming trend is to polarisation, separating Jews and Muslims, with the tiny indigenous Christian community of Israel being torn apart - so much so that both priests predicted that in 10 years time there may be no indigenous Christian community left. Yes, there will be plenty of Christian tourists and religious to guard the holy sites. But the local Christian community, after 2000 years, will perhaps be extinct. What irony.

So we spent time with these living stones, our brothers and sisters, and came away with these words ringing in our ears:

'Do not seek for the City of God on earth, for it is not built of wood or stone, but seek it in the souls of men . . .'

We caught a glimpse of it with these two men and their vision. Remember them and their people.

Ramani Leathard

The Parish Hall and the Community

The site and buildings that we now know as St. James's Church Hall in School Road, Hampton Hill, have always been used for community purposes. First it was, indeed, a school; so was the building opposite and hence the naming of School Road. Then the school was converted into the Parish Hall, and the actual Hall, the large room, was itself built, so it is said, on the old playground. Now we hope to rebuild much of the structure and renovate the remainder so that the tradition of community use continues and we shall have a Care Centre and community facilities.

Of course all this is being done through finance provided by the Fuel Allotment Charity (and our thanks to them are profound). It is the Charity itself which is purchasing the buildings and site from St. James's Parish. It is planned that the whole will then be leased to the CCG - the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group. And the CCG in turn will carry out the rebuilding and renovation with finance provided by the Charity.

The plans for the new building (and incidentally they can be seen by anyone who lives in the area and bothers to call in at the CCG Office) show that the present front of the building will be demolished and replaced by a two-storey building. The stage will be taken away leaving a Hall rather smaller than the present room but still capable of seating a couple of hundred people. A large and well-equipped new kitchen and new toilets will be provided at the rear, and the old schoolroom (now the kitchen) will be the workroom for the CCG volunteers.

The two-storey front of the building will provide a comfortable foyer with a small coffee-bar - enough, we hope, to attract visitors and perhaps stage small exhibitions and similar functions. There will also be a large storage room, though any attempt to provide all the storage requested would have used up a large proportion of the building. Upstairs there will be two meeting rooms and a small office - these we hope will be for many uses - small clinics, committee meetings, counselling and so on as local organisations may demand.

Special facilities are being provided for the disabled - a properly equipped toilet, a lift to the upper floor and others.

There remains the problem of how this community facility should be run and organised. The CCG does not regard such a function as a central feature of its remit nor is there any reason why we should decide who uses the facilities except insofar as our own work requires. It would seem more reasonable that others should also have their say - perhaps on the basis that those who wish to use the facilities should take their share managing it.

However the building work is unlikely to start before February and is only expected to finish in time for next Christmas. We must hope for the best in 1992.

David Wilson, Vice Chairman, CCG.

'Coffee & Chat'

Do you ever feel you would like to get out of the house and have a chat with friends? There does seem to be a need, especially in the neighbourhood of our church, for somewhere to drop in and meet others, over a cup of tea or coffee. With this in mind some of us are considering what can be done to meet this need - at least for one period a week - and have arranged a general meeting for all who might wish to participate, just as visitors or as helpers. The meeting will take place on the evening of Monday 14 January at 8 pm at Wayside, 25 St. James's Road, Hampton Hill - do come along.

The Barn Dance

Many months ago the Barn Dance was set for 24 November in the Parish Hall. As usual I anticipated this with delight and enthusiasm: I was not to be disappointed. At 7.30 pm people started to arrive and it was apparent that there would be a good crowd.

It was a truly enjoyable and energetic evening of folk dancing with a full quota of dancers of all ages. Our 'caller' was, as on the previous occasion, Mr. Derek Mulquinn and he was very efficient and easy to follow. He got everyone off their chairs and into a circle to get us warmed up to the occasion. After this the dances which followed were in squares and groups of varying types and sizes. Everyone could take part and the hall became quite steamy after a short while.

There was a welcome break for some delicious food. Sausages, chilli con carni, jacket potatoes, baked beans and coleslaw were enjoyed by all. Plenty of varied drinks accompanied the food and we all had a rest and a chat with our friends.

After our meal, there were a few 'gentle' dances, then coffee and tea were served and the raffle tickets were drawn. The lucky winners received a variety of prizes.

Altogether the entire evening was a tremendous success and a good time was had by all.

The only sad thought on the occasion was that this would probably be the last event of our church to be held in the old Parish Hall in School Road.

Rosalie Meyerowitz

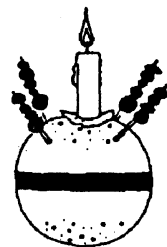
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Do not forget:

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

SUNDAY 6 JANUARY (EPIPHANY) - 9.30 AM

Contributions to The Children's Society



ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
CHURCH FABRIC LOAN INVESTMENT FUND

A new and relatively painless way to help your Parish Church
find some of the money it needs for maintenance
of the fabric of the Church

The scheme involves individuals and families making loans to the church. The loan once offered will be invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England. The loan remains intact but the interest goes to the Church Fabric Fund for St. James's Church. **The church will not have to pay tax on the interest it receives.** After two years, the loan can be returned or renewed for a further year, as requested.

RESPONSE PLEASE TO JOHN SMITH - 977 3641

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This Month We Commemorate

(among others)

Antony of Egypt (17 January)

Abbot

Although not the first Christian to seek spiritual perfection by separation from the world, St. Antony (c251 - 356) was the first to gather such seekers into communities for mutual support. By no means shut off from life, his advice was constantly sought by people from all walks of life, attracted by his holiness and simple, practical teaching.



Agnes (21 January)

Virgin, Martyr

Agnes (died ?304) was put to death towards the end of the persecution of Diocletian, in the early years of the fourth century. A young girl of only twelve or thirteen, her martyrdom made such an impression that she became one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs.

Deliverance for the righteous shall come from the Lord:
he is their strength in time of trouble.

Psalm 37.40

Thoughts of Love

Love came down at Christmas time as a light to lighten the world. We are made in the image of that Light to love and be loved. Made to love rather than hate, we discover that love breeds love as hate breeds hate. The act of loving means being able both to give and receive. Love often means being strong as well as being gentle. In the giving of understanding and forbearance love is nurtured and grows. Love means listening instead of talking for then we will really discover what makes another person tick. Love can be hard work, for some people are very difficult to love and almost impossible to please. Love means looking for the best in people, seeing what they can become. God as potter is moulding us all in his likeness and only he knows each person's potential and difficulties. We often concentrate on the weaknesses of others. This New Year, instead of criticising and being judgemental, let us try to help others to their full potential. The gospel of Divine forgiveness is about love. We learn that love is a positive and creative life force. Love goes a long way even if it is not returned. Christ loved to the end. We share his love and proclaim it in the Eucharist. We are called to proclaim his love to the world too. We can speak out in love and we can remain silent in love. We can lay down our life for another or in love we can stand back knowing that it would be detrimental to the person's needs.

The New Year should be a time of hope, joy and love for us all. Love came down at Christmas time but it did not finish there. The eternal love shining in the darkness was meant to be carried forward in our lives into eternity. In the words of a recent meditation from a daily newspaper: 'Love is the heartbeat of God. Those who seek to be true to their faith must show the world the loving heart. The loving heart is, however, not demanded only from others. It is asked of us all. Like the quiet mind, it is a gift of grace. May the God of love continually create a multitude of loving hearts.'

Janet Jeffries (based on a sermon by the Bishop of London for the MU)

Save the Children

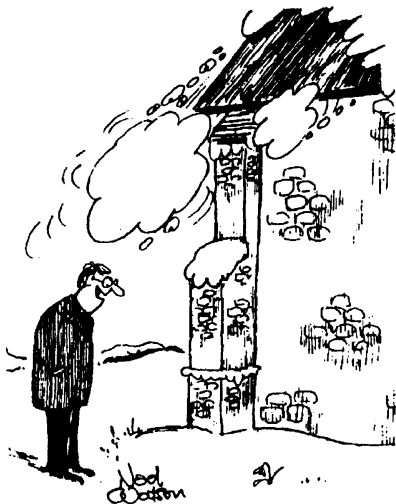
Thanks to all who supported the sale at Wayside on 30 November. The takings were about £400.

Kate O'Sullivan

Bishop Wand School

21st Anniversary

Former pupils are invited to contact Mr. M.D.Hall at the School about the programme of events and news and memories of the School. See also Dates to Note.



“What a lovely snowdrop.”



I would like to make you all aware of the following two books, which to me convey the message of Christianity in Action in a very informative and moving way. As I would like as many as possible of you to read these books, I am giving a copy of each to St. James's Church and would like them to be available for loan, like library books. A loan book has been placed on the book stand for you to sign when taking either book home to read. Please use it in order to help others.

'Child of my Life' by Sue Ryder,

published by Collins Harvill, price £7.50 (paperback).

The autobiography of a remarkable woman: Baroness Ryder of Warsaw CMG, OBE, better known to the many thousands of men, women and children whose lives she has touched simply as Sue Ryder. As well as covering the splendid work of the Sue Ryder Foundation, this book also includes a very personal account of certain events during World War II.

'The City of Joy' by Dominique Lapierre,

published by Arrow Books, price £3.95 (paperback).

In the seeming hell of one of the poorest and most crowded quarters of Calcutta, Dominique Lapierre found more heroism, more love and ultimately more happiness than in many a city of the West. Above all, he discovered that this slum has the magical ability to fashion saints. Saints such as Mother Teresa, but unknown saints too - such as Stephan Kovalski, a Polish Catholic priest who made his home there to care for the poorest of the poor.

Ann Davis

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*	ST. JAMES'S CHURCH PARISH PARTY	*
P		P
A	Saturday 9 February	A
R	8 pm	R
T	St. Francis de Sales Church Hall, Prince's Road	T
Y	Tickets, to include Supper, available in the New Year	Y
*		*
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Around the Spire

After the news of the death of Trevor's father, Henry, in Australia, we are now, as we go to press, expecting Pam and Trevor, Jeremy and Hannah, Atkinson to arrive home from Australia. We look forward to hearing about their work there. It will be lovely to have them with us again.

We send loving thoughts and greetings to Olive Wright now out of hospital, warm and well looked after as she enjoys a temporary recuperative stay at White Farm Lodge, Whitton. We send her our very best wishes for her future well being.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Churchill in hospital and with her husband who is finding life very difficult but being cared for by kind and caring neighbours.

Our sympathy is with Mrs. Harriet Threader who entered hospital for an eye operation but who has returned home without the expected surgery. We feel for her in her disappointment and pray that future treatment will be successful.

We remember Ruby Hanke undergoing investigations in hospital. May all be well with her.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ciga Colak-Antic in Kingston Hospital recovering from a serious illness, and with Sallie and Ilias during this very worrying time.

St. James's Women's Tuesday Club

Meetings at Wayside, 25 St. James's Road, 8 pm

January 8	Members' evening
January 22	Mrs. D. Hill - A Visit to Kenya - slides
February 5	Mrs. M. Cunningham - The work of a Magistrate
February 19	Bring & Buy Auction
March 5	Mr. Graham Pattison - Flora of Mexico
March 19	Mrs. J. Smith - Citizens Advice Bureau
April 2	Members' evening
April 16	Mrs. J. Cowderoy - Flower Arranging
April 30	Mr. R. Cress - After What the Butler Really Saw

From the Registers - November

Baptisms

4	Peter Michael Ashby	89 Gloucester Road, Hampton
	Sophie Laura Geoghegan	12 Windsor Road, Teddington
	Edward Henry Robinson	6 Seymour Road
18	Lawrence James Debdeck	5 Roy Grove

Marriage

3	Malcolm Henry Robbins and Julie Longhurst
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Funerals

8	William James Allen	15 Fitzwygram Close	Aged 72
13	Florence Elizabeth Emma Tickner	36 Myrtle Road	Aged 80

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion (except first Sunday in month)
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion (with Ministry of Healing on the first Thursday in the month)



Other Services and Dates to Note

Jan.	6	Epiphany
	09.30	Christingle Service and Children's Eucharist
	18.30	Choral Evensong
	7	14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	8	20.00 Tuesday Club Members' Evening, Wayside
	13	18.30 Prayer 'n' Praise
	14	20.00 'Coffee & Chat' General Meeting, Wayside
	16	20.00 H.C.C. Lecture, 'The Future of the Family', by Jack Dominian, Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton
	17	20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
	18	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
	20	09.30 Col. Nigel Mason, Salvation Army, to preach at Parish Communion
		16.00 United Service, St. Richards, Hanworth
	22	20.00 Tuesday Club: 'A Visit to Kenya', Mrs. Hill, Wayside
	25	Conversion of St. Paul
	27	18.30 Prayer 'n' Praise
Feb.	1	Bishop Wand School PTA Annual Supper
	2	Presentation of Christ in the Temple
	3	09.30 Informal Service
		18.30 Choral Evensong

Advance Notices

Feb.	5	19.45 Bishop Wand School 21st Anniversary Communion Service taken by the Bishop of London, Bishop Wand School
		20.00 Tuesday Club: 'The work of a Magistrate', Mrs. Cunningham, Wayside
	9	20.00 Parish Party, St. Francis de Sales Church Hall
	13	Ash Wednesday
		20.00 Parish Communion with Imposition of Ashes
	19	20.00 Tuesday Club, Bring & Buy Auction, Wayside
	26	20.00 P.C.C. Vestry

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE: 13 JANUARY