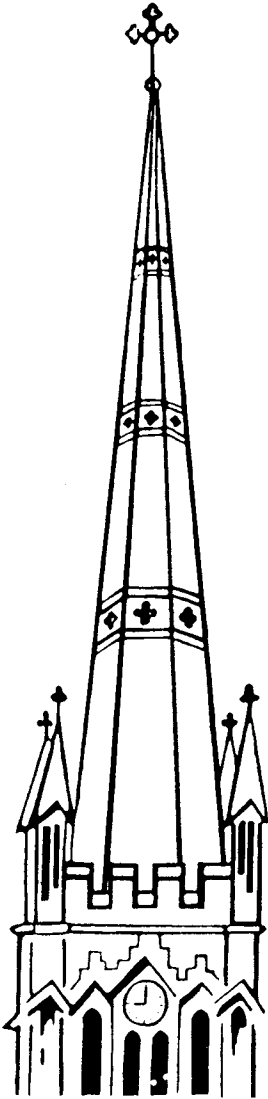


ARCHIVE.

THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
HAMPTON HILL



JAN. 95

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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs. F.C. Moses, 21 Longford Close 979 6819

Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion or, first Sunday in month, Informal Service
	18.30	First Sunday in Month - Choral Evensong
		Second Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise
		Third Sunday in Month - Service of Prayer for Healing
Fourth Sunday in Month - Open Forum - a short act of worship and time to think or speak together		
Fifth Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise		
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion

On Sundays for the Young

(All Enquiries to the Vicar please)

9.15 - 10.15 am (except first Sunday in month and holiday periods):

Sunday School	(aged 4+)
The Young Church	(aged 11 to 14+)

8.00 to 10.00 pm:

For Young Adults	(aged 13 to about 18)
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Baptisms and Marriages

Please contact the Vicar.

One of our parishioners, Jennifer McEvoy, is currently playing a lead role in 'The Queen and I' at the Vaudeville Theatre in the Strand. It is very, very funny. The play is a dramatisation of Sue Townsend's novel of the same name - remember, Sue Townsend of 'Adrian Mole' fame. The book is a witty and perceptive exploration of the idea that the Royal Family, following the declaration of a new republic, is deposited in a run-down Leicester council housing estate. As the story unfolds some relationships bridge the social divide, while, for others, the gap widens.

I originally heard extracts from the book some time ago on Radio 4 - I think it was at 8.45am, but I can't be sure. However, I do remember that after one reading from the book there was a panel chat-show and a rather self-important sounding psychologist quoted the 'programme you may have just heard' as an example of what he termed 'gap-induced-relatedness'. Gulp!

I think what he was talking about was the way in which we relate to other people - almost automatically. Suppose you were waiting for a tube on a deserted platform at night and someone approached you in a threatening manner. You would automatically try to distance yourself or put a gap between you and the other person. Or, less dramatically, at a party or in the pub we might behave frostily to someone who is either boring or intrusive. It seems automatic to create a gap between us and them. On the other hand when in hospital or with someone we love, we allow that gap to be closed so that we don't flee if someone touches us or embraces us.

In the weeks after Christmas we name this part of the year Epiphany - the showing. Two things strike me! First, kings or wise men from afar arrive in Bethlehem to greet the new born Jesus. Second, as a result of their visit, King Herod, jealous, angry, hurt, suspicious, orders the massacre of all new born male children. One set of kings closes the gap by travelling a distance to visit this new born child, and saw the star as a sign of promise. The other king saw the same star and tried to set the child at the furthest possible distance, by destroying him.

'Gap-induced-relatedness' - it's a mouthful, but if God closes the gap so totally by becoming fully human it puts the onus on us. 'The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight'. Which kings are we going to follow in 1995 - the gap-closers or the gap-makers?

Brian Leathard

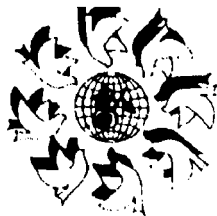
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The Advent Bazaar

A great day was had by all who visited or helped at the Grand Bazaar on 26th November. Many thanks to all who participated. A total of about £1,400 was raised for church funds.

The WCRP Lecture in Memory of Hannah Stanton and Gordon Wilson

The World Conference of Religions for Peace is an organisation in which both Hannah and Gordon were very involved, so it was with some feeling of expectation that I attended the first annual memorial lecture in their honour at Birmingham Cathedral. Among the congregation of over fifty, were friends of Hannah who had known her at Makerere University, and representatives of at least five world religions and of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. The Wolverhampton Inter-faith Group leaders had arranged the whole event.



The gathering was warmly welcomed by the Provost of the Cathedral, Canon Peter Berry. He in turn introduced the lecturer, Rabbi Dr. Norman Solomon. The lecture he delivered was fascinating from start to finish. He centred his thoughts around three words common to the Jews, Muslims and Christians - Amen, Alleluia and Shalom (or Salaam or Peace). He then went back to the beginning of the Hebrew scriptures (his terminology for the Old Testament), enlarging on the development of the meanings of these words, in particular Shalom.

Canon Berry responded to the lecture and revealed further words for peace from religions and faiths, such as Pax, Om Shanti and others from eastern areas.

Next year WCRP London will be organising the second Lecture in memory of Hannah and Gordon. I do hope some of you will be able to attend. I have information about WCRP if anyone is interested to hear more about this world wide organisation.

Jean Wilson

'The Rainbow People of God'

This book by Archbishop Desmond Tutu has just been published. It tells the story of South Africa's victory over apartheid. His voice of reason, compassion and faith speaks in its pages. A dramatic telling of the social and political upheaval in South Africa. A must reading. Foreword by President Nelson Mandela. Edited by his press secretary John Allen. Doubleday £15.99. Published by Transworld Publishers Ltd., 61 Uxbridge Road, London W5 5SA.

PARISH NIGHT

Fun and Fellowship for all ages - Bring your friends

Every Friday - 7 to 10 pm - Church Hall

Come and enjoy each other's company - for part or all of the evening

Betty Stewart's First Celebration of the Eucharist

It was with great pleasure that I went to St. Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common, on 20th November, to the Parish Communion when Betty was, for the first time, the celebrant. There was an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness similar to that at St. James's, so Betty could feel relaxed among caring people. As you would expect, she took her part in the service as to the manner born, and coped with Series 2 in spite of her still rather defective sight.

During the sermon, the Vicar spoke of his long acquaintance with Betty, from the 1960's when she was Secretary of Battersea Hospital, and his memory of that time was of a welcoming happy atmosphere. He also spoke of the difficulty of finding people willing to offer themselves to a vocation, and of how encouraging it was to have women beginning, in the Church, to follow their calling.

As over a hundred members of the congregation went to the Communion rail, Betty took her part with assurance. It was good to realise that she is now able to enter, fully, into the vocation to which she has been called. We look forward to Betty's first celebration at St. James's.

After the service there was a more secular celebration in the hall, with champagne, the gift of Betty's brother, and a magnificent cake made by a member of the congregation.

Jean Western

Advent Meditation

On the evening of Advent Sunday our Archdeacon, Timothy Raphael, led us in a quiet meditation which was much appreciated. One of the poems he read was 'Disclosure' by Ann Lewin:

Prayer is like watching for the
Kingfisher. All you can do is
Be where he is likely to appear, and
Wait.
Often, nothing much happens:
There is space, silence and
Expectancy.
No visible sign, only the
Knowledge that he's been there
And may come again.
Seeing or not seeing cease to matter.
You have been prepared.
But when you've almost stopped
Expecting it, a flash of brightness
Gives encouragement.

We are at present unable to trace the owners of the copyright of this poem, but are nevertheless grateful to them and to the author.

Back to School for a Day!

I blame my wife for this, totally! We are parents to three young children., so naturally we have begun to take an interest in local schools. Then my wife noticed an offer in the local 'Guardian' to become a secondary school pupil for a day. All I had to do was to explain why I would like to do this. Obviously it would give me an unrivalled warts-and-all picture, but the reason I gave didn't take much thinking about: I hated my school days!

Lo and behold, come September, I received a letter from Teddington School offering me a place for a day. My immediate reaction was one of apprehension, my wife's one of hilarity, 'We'll have to dig out your short trousers and satchel, won't we?'

On the day, I found that the headteacher, Mr. Ewen, with whom I had coffee, is nothing like the headmaster I remembered, who, closeted in his office all day, had seemed a very fierce and stern figure. Funny how age alters your perspective. I was then presented with exercise book, pen, pencil, pencil sharpener, rubber and ruler, sent off to register with year 7, and then to the first lesson.

In the morning, I attended lessons in music, technology, science and maths. In music, there was the same headlong rush to secure the favourite instruments that I remembered from twenty odd years ago. There was great latitude for misbehaviour but I was impressed by the way the teacher handled the class. The technology class were midway through a project to design and market a soft drink, and here, as in music, I was most impressed by the enthusiasm displayed. It turned out that the science teacher had actually taught me chemistry at my old school! Today's lesson was about heating and cooling, so out came the bunsen burners, tripods, gauze and spatulas. The children thoroughly enjoyed melting and burning the different substances available, and I did too. I was reminded that I did enjoy some things at my school after all. Maths I had dreaded at school. I was worried by the almost evil glint in the eye of the teacher as he handed me a test paper to do. In fact, after leaving school, I had gone on to do A-level maths and thoroughly enjoyed it, and slowly but surely, it all came back. There was a quiet and workmanlike atmosphere and I was enjoying myself. Later, a nice little note, in the familiar red ink at the end of my work, informed me that I was at least level five on the National Curriculum and that I had done excellent work. Boy, did that feel good!

At 'school dinner', I couldn't help but be amused by what I saw on some of the plates around me though; a plate of chips, pizza and chips, baked beans with added tomato sauce . . . As for the food itself, it all looked most appetising and there seemed to be a good variety available.

Finally it was off to art where I surprised myself with my pencil drawings, and was fascinated by the project the children were working on, involving transferring a self drawn pattern repeatedly in different ways onto a large sheet. Art over, it was off to see the headteacher again and to have a tour of the school to see the bits I hadn't seen.

A big thank you to Mr. Ewen and staff. I hope I didn't make it too difficult for the teachers whilst sitting and watching. I found them all to be very friendly and helpful. I was most impressed with the children I saw. They were mostly well behaved and all

seemed happy and willing to work, although I wonder if my presence had any effect. One of the things which had worried me was how well children coped in a school of this size. Mr. Ewen outlined various procedures used to integrate new pupils into the school, including a short period away from home with new classmates to get to know each other. This is an excellent idea. I liked the fact that positive steps had been taken to minimise bullying, which was one of my major concerns at such a large school.

I was left with two major impressions from the day. One was, being used to 8am - 5pm working days, I found the school day very short! The second was the noise level. Mainly out of class but sometimes in as well, the sheer number of children meant that you wouldn't have heard a bin drop, let alone a pin!

Overall though, I can say that I would be happy to send my children to Teddington School, but as for me? Well I have to say that I slumped into my car seat with a sigh of relief. It had been a good day and I had enjoyed it much more than I expected I would. It's just that nothing and nobody is going to get me to do it again in a hurry!

Paul Fitchett

Please make a note of Education Sunday on 12 February when Rod Usher, Deputy Director of London Diocesan Board for Schools, will be preaching at our church at the Parish communion.

Keep Fit

If it moved once keep it moving! We enjoy moving to music and endeavour to keep our muscles and joints flexible. The method we use is based on our Eileen Fowler training, updated with KFA methods.

Both sexes and all ages are welcome to our classes as the movements we use are only as taxing as you want them to be! You work to your own ability, as we are not in any way competitive, and not aerobic. Our exercises are fluid and fun, and we aim to stimulate not only our bodies but also our brains.

We ran classes at the Parish Hall in School Road for over twenty years and are now thrilled to be in the new Church Hall.

Why not join us during school terms on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm. Or perhaps you would just like to drop in for a 'cuppa' at 3.15pm. You may pay each week if you wish, but it is cheaper to pay by the term.

Pat (979 5629)

Eila (979 1954)

Letter from Zimbabwe

October 30th 1994. As I walked by myself into the Anglican cathedral today for parish eucharist at 8.30am, I was greeted by Gratitude K-, one of my students. We sat together through the service, which never fails to move me. Today was a special and sad day. The Dean, the Very Venerable L. Gready, was saying goodbye to his congregation. He was appointed only 8 months ago, but soon after his appointment had cancer diagnosed, and has been advised to return to the UK for observation. The outlook for him, euphemistically, is uncertain. His sermon was strongly and confidently delivered, it was fittingly inspirational. 'What is God playing at?', he asked. 'He sent me out here, and almost at once I have to go home!' He shared with us his own resolution of the impossible conundrum of deciding whether God can be both all-powerful and all-merciful. It would be impertinent of me to try to summarise the sermon, but I was quite sure that he had his own answer and was at peace with it. Like many of the most important questions in life, answers may not be clear, we all have to find our own way of accepting our ignorance and sometimes pain. I would think that many people, like me, would think of the effect of his short period of office as sufficient answer to his question.

The rains have come! As I write there is a magnificent tropical thunderstorm outside; lightning all round the sky and deafening thunder. After months of dryness, the rain is anxiously awaited, it is a life or death matter for the animals, and almost as important as that for the poorer farmers. The game parks are now at their most popular for visitors; the animals crowd to the remaining muddy puddles, desperate for water, and are easily seen. At Hwange some of the less powerful animals, even including young elephants, have been denied water and are dying, trapped in drying mud. Water here is desperately important; politicians discuss the use of the Zambesi water, and the Okavango delta in Botswana. Tourist, ecology, or the immediate needs of the people? President Mugabe has no doubts that people should come first. Perhaps true, but is diverting rivers even in their best interest? Perhaps to the relief of many people he is unlikely to get the funding for the immense civil engineering works that would be necessary to divert the flow of major rivers. Experiments in Russia should serve as an awful warning, but somehow we do not seem to heed the warnings, however awful, until it is much too late.

I listen to the BBC World Service here. It is truly excellent, but obviously runs on a shoestring both in transmitting power and in programme content. Interesting how many English-language stations are targeted on Africa. Voice of America of course, also Netherlands, Germany and Russia. The BBC appears to be the model, and is still the best.

Dick Wilde

Dick and Mary are at present with their daughter in Perth, Western Australia. They will be returning to Zimbabwe at the end of the month.

Mary's Yes

In the midst of last minute preparations for Christmas my mind turned to Mary. I wonder if she had an inkling of the impact the birth of her baby would have on the world. The poverty of the Saviour's birth in a crude manger amongst ox and ass brought with it shepherds dazzled by the glory of the angel host. They had it right - coming to worship in joy and eagerness. This New Year will we remember the song of the angels and take time to think of God's wonderful gift to us of His only Son? Will Mary's yes be our yes? For our sake and the world's sake let us pray that it may be so.

A nun on the eve of her Profession wrote the following poem, quoted from the Bible Reading Fellowship 'Daylight' Notes:-

O Mary visited by courteous angel,
 who drew from you
 momentously - Amen
O Lily lady, dare I ask;
 In nine long months,
 In thirty-three short years,
In three eternally long hours,
 Did you never wish that yes,
 unsaid?

If Mary ever did wish her yes unsaid I think like us she knew her destiny was in God's hands. This New Year may we find and believe that God is ever present with us whatever life may bring and may we share His love and light with all.

Janet Jeffries

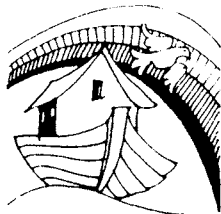
Noah's Ark

Toddler Group for Parents/Carers and Under-5s

Fridays, 10.30am to 12 noon
in term time

Church Hall

ALL WELCOME



A Visit to Egypt

The Nativity story only occurs in two of the gospels, Matthew and Luke, and the account of the flight into Egypt only in Matthew. Even there it only occupies a single sentence, so it comes as something of a surprise to find that all across Egypt there are some of the earliest Christian churches to be found anywhere, each marking a place where the Holy Family supposedly spent a night on their journey.

One such church is in Cairo in the old Coptic quarter of the city. Here there are several old Coptic churches crowded together, in a very poor state of repair and with their doorways hidden from view. To enter St. Sergius's you descend a short flight of steps and go through a door in an almost blank wall into a dim interior. Light filters through gaps in the roof and after a short time figures painted on the ancient columns reveal themselves, reminiscent of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

St. Sergius is buried in the crypt together with another early saint but the crypt is flooded almost up to the level of the ground floor and it has been like it for years. The Nile is now about two miles away but the water table has risen in past years so even when the crypt has been pumped out it has re-filled again. Flotsam floating in this water made the whole aspect somewhat unappetising and left us feeling very sad that such an ancient and historic holy place should be in this condition.

Egypt is a predominately Muslim country, although a quarter of the sixty million population are Christian. It is also a poor country and the upkeep of its Christian churches low on the list of priorities. Such repairs as there are, are often financed by those living overseas so maintenance is patchy and of poor quality.

We had seen, earlier in our week's holiday, the wonderful craftsmanship and expertise of the ancient Egyptians three thousand years before Christ, and many of these buildings are in better shape than the newer churches. What a pity. If you go to Egypt, your eyes, like ours, will be opened by what you see.

Helen Taylor

Advent Collections

As our church giving to charities during the year has been limited by our difficult financial situation, we have had a special collection for a particular charity each Sunday in Advent, in addition to the normal collection.

These collections, for the Mildmay Mission Hospital, the Children's Society, the Church Urban Fund, and the Princess Alice Hospice have raised £162, £194, £84 and £208 respectively. Many thanks to all who have contributed.

The plate collections at the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve and at the Christmas morning services have been given to Christian Aid.

Around the Spire

We are pleased to have been able to welcome Margaret Bramall back to church after the operation on her knee, which is making good progress. On the other hand, we are sorry to have to report that Margaret Place has damaged her knee in a fall at her home and is in hospital. We pray that she will soon be much better and able to go home again.

Our congratulations go to Daphne Robey and to her son David and his wife Debbie on the birth of a second pair of twins - Edward and William. We wish them all every happiness.

As we go to press, we have just heard the sad news of the death of that wonderful member of our community, known and loved by so many, Freda Moses. We will be writing more about Freda in our next issue.

THE NEW CHURCH HALL

**Might you, your Group or Organisation
wish to use the New Hall?**

Please contact Mona Gow (941 4723) for Information and Bookings

The Mariner

Please note that the morning opening hours of this wet and fried fish shop at 20 High Street, Hampton Hill have been changed since their advertisement was set up. They are now open from 11.30am to 2pm on Tuesdays to Thursdays, from 11.30am to 2.15pm on Fridays and from 11.30am to 2.30pm on Saturdays. Evening opening times are still from 5 to 10pm.

From the Registers - November

Baptisms

5	Rebecca Ellen and Alice Charlotte Grant	75 Burtons Road
6	Timothy Oliver Davies	155 Hounslow Road, Hanworth
20	Alex Margaret Hale	30 Glebe Cottages, Twickenham Road

Marriage

5	Andrew Francis Perrin and Christine Anne Hood
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Funeral

7	Grace Darling Bevan	189 Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury	Aged 83
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Interment of Ashes

23	Stan Childs	Witheridge, Devon	Aged 87
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Dates to Note

Jan.	2	The Naming of Jesus
	4	14.30 Women's Forum, Church Hall
	6	The Epiphany
	7	19.00 Parish New Year Party, Church Hall
	8	11.00 Interment of Ashes - R.I.P. Freda Moses
	9	14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	11	20.15 Stewardship Committee, 16 Cranmcrr Road
	12	20.00 Hampton Council of Churches - Taizé Service, St. James's
	16	20.00 Hampton Council of Churches - Meeting at St. James's
	18	20.00 Women's Forum, Church Hall
	22	16.30 Hampton Council of Churches - United Service, 'Songs of Praise', Hampton Methodist Church'
	25	The Conversion of St. Paul
	20.00	P.C.C., Church Hall

Advance Notices

Feb.	1	14.30 Women's Forum, Church Hall
	2	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
	5	11.00 Stewardship Review, Church Hall, followed by shared lunch
	6	14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	12	09.30 Education Sunday, Rod Usher, Deputy Director of London Diocesan Board for Schools, to preach
	15	20.00 Women's Forum, Church Hall
	26	15.00 Memorial Lecture by Rabbi Friedlander in memory of Hannah Stanton, Church
	27	20.00 P.C.C., Church Hall

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE: 15 JANUARY