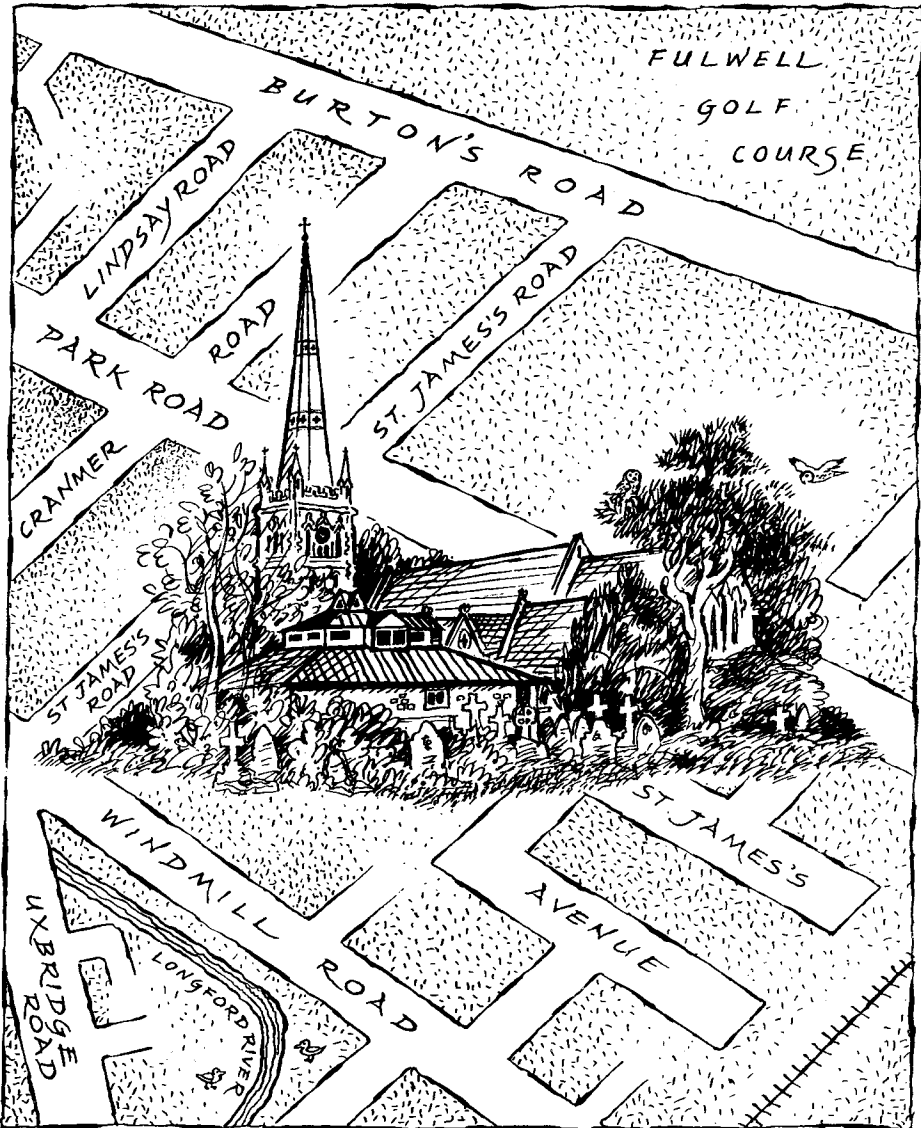


# THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 1997

# CHURCH OFFICERS

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Mr. R.E. Bridges, (Deputy Recorder), 19 St. James's Road 979 6865

## ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

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## HALL BOOKING OFFICERS

Mr. & Mrs. D. Robottom, 19 Park Road 979 7564

## CHURCH FLOWERS ORGANISER

Mrs. H. Taylor, 68 Park Road 979 7042

## THE MAGAZINE

Mrs. H. Taylor, 68 Park Road 979 7042

Advertising Organiser: Miss K. O'Sullivan, 2 Parkside 977 8294

## ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs. J. Lloyd, 73 Burton's Road 979 2964

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs. M. Hobbs, 76 Broad Lane, Hampton 979 2320

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE ORGANISER

Miss K. O'Sullivan, 2 Parkside 977 8294

## WOMEN'S FORUM CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs. W. Baker, 143 Burton's Road 979 3654

## Services

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

## On Sundays for the Young

(All Enquiries to the Vicar please)

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

**Sunday School** (aged 4+)

**The Young Church** (aged 11 to 14+)

7.00 to 9.00 pm:

**Youth Group** (aged 13 to about 18)

**Baptisms, Marriages and other enquiries** Please contact the Vicar.

A Happy New Year to you, dear Reader. Dare I ask you to recall those New Year resolutions. Are they, I wonder, still intact?

Gone are the days when one's cheques were returned at the end of the year, bank balances settled and accounts squared late into the night after business ceased on 31st December. What still remains though is a feeling of a clean slate on New Year's Day. What also remains, most probably, are the credit card bills and the settling of Christmas accounts. Do you remember Mr. Macawber in Charles Dickens' 'David Copperfield'?

*Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds, nineteen and six, result happiness.*

*Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery.*

So I want to start the year talking about money ('what's new', I hear you groan). But I'm not asking you to dig deeper into your pockets, not asking you to contribute any more (at this juncture) to church funds, nor to any of the worthwhile charities we support at St. James's. Indeed, I thank you for all your previous and current support here. The money I refer to is the big stuff, International Debt.

You ask, 'What has that got to do with me?' Actually, more than you might at first think. Many of the world's poorest countries are now in a situation in which they will simply never be able to pay back what they owe in loans and interest payments to other governments, international bodies and banks, including many in London. Such very poor countries have often been lent money, for example from the U.K. government, but even the interest payments are now having a drastic effect on the very basic health and education provision in those poor countries. For example, for every £6.40 Zambia receives in aid, £4.50 comes straight back to the rich countries of the North to service the interest charges. Some countries owe three or four times their national income per head in debt repayments. These sums can never be paid off. It has prompted Julius Nyerere, the former president of Tanzania, to say 'Do we have to starve our children to pay our debts?'

Clearly the problem is not going to be sorted out overnight. Britain has made a start in re-scheduling and indeed writing-off parts of the debt it is owed by some countries. But much more needs to be done.

What can I do? Each little drop is required in filling the bucket. Issues can be changed by ordinary people, like you and me; just think back to the dismantling of Apartheid in South Africa or the Suffragettes winning the vote for women, or the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire. Change can happen . . . and does.

From now until the year 2000 many churches and agencies (like Christian Aid, Tear Fund and CAFOD) are asking us all to look again at our bibles and look at the world. Jubilee 2000 is the name of the project to overcome the colossal debt burden on the poorest countries. Remember in the Bible how every 50th

year is a year of Jubilee, when humankind's hold on the land had to be renewed. It was a reminder that the world belongs to God and we are its stewards, not owners. Thus debts were written off, slaves redeemed, grudges settled. The plan is to try to make the 2000th anniversary of Christ a time for Jubilee, when rich nations and poor nations will have wiped the slate clean, for debt doesn't help us or them. And in the end, the earth is the Lord's, not ours.

Next time you push a trolley round the supermarket or read the back of a muesli packet, think how many of the products, which we take for granted, come from the world's poorest countries. Coffee, tea, sugar, rice, chocolate, vegetables and fruit, fish and prawns. We all depend on each other. Try buying goods that are fairly traded - they bear the logo. Ask the manager, because supermarkets are very sensitive to this issue at the moment. After all, the UK's top 10 supermarkets make more money in a year than the world's poorest 35 countries put together.

As only he could, Bishop Desmond Tutu reminds us

*God waits on us to be his partners in tackling massive problems.  
If a problem seems too great it is good to remember that there is  
only one way to eat an elephant - one piece at a time!*

Now that's what I call a New Year's resolution.

*Brian Leathard*

*P.S.* General Synod has just agreed that the C of E should support Jubilee 2000 with a rare unanimity, 282 votes for, 0 votes against. A great start to the New Year. We'll be hosting a meeting about this in late January or in February this year.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Year is a time to turn your back on the old, and look forward to the new. In the Gregorian calendar, which is used in most Christian countries, New Year's Day falls on 1st January. Many other countries celebrate their New Year at other times.

Long ago, the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar made 1st January the first day of the year. Many people celebrate the New Year with a party on New Year's Eve when they stay up until midnight to "see the New Year in".

Another custom is to make a New Year's resolution, which is part of turning your back on the old and looking forward to the new. Some of the things people try to "resolve" to do are things like; giving up sweets, or stop fighting with my brother or sister, do my homework without Mum having to nag, keep my room tidy etc. etc., the list is never ending. This is a good time to try and improve our behaviour while we still have the memory of the Joy of Jesus's birth fresh in our minds and with Epiphany on the 6th January. Epiphany is the day Jesus was first shown to the three wise men who came to see him.

*Sally Highley*



## SNOWDROPS

A little girl, I loved to read  
"Flower Fairies of the Spring":  
The Snowdrop Fairy touched me most.  
She taught the strangest thing.

Thinly clad against the wind,  
Bare feet upon the snow,  
She taught the courage to survive  
Inclement weather as we go.

She taught me God had care of her,  
She had her part to play  
To show a small and wondering girl  
Trust and hope to pass each day.

God made us as we are,  
And set us where he chose  
And loveth us and cares for us  
Until our short lives close.

The snowdrop's small bulb rests awhile  
Until God calls it into flower  
To stand there brave amidst the snow  
A witness to His power.

He sends me snowdrops every year  
Upon my birthing day  
To remind me He is with me  
In love and strength each day.

*Margery Orton written 31.1.95*



***Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak . . .***  
***James 1:19***

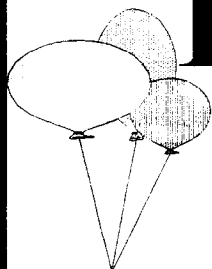
Do you listen to people, or do you *listen* to people? There is a difference, and we have surely all found ourselves listening to someone's sorry tale and wishing we could get away, and then felt guilty afterwards. We have also, probably, met someone who really *listened* to us, who gave us their undivided attention when we needed it. How did they do that?

Some people are natural listeners, the rest of us need to learn how to listen, and in Lent there is a course planned for you to do just that. The course in listening skills will take place in five, two hour sessions during Lent, and will be run by Kit Peck and Margie Bray. Kit is a trained and very experienced counsellor, and both he and Margie are Samaritans. As Samaritans they have both worked in Wandsworth Prison, training prisoners to counsel each other. They have run courses in listening skills for the Parishes of Mortlake with East Sheen, and Richmond, and they are coming to talk to us at the Informal Service on **12th January**.

The course will cost £40 per person, which is very good value but perhaps a barrier to some people for whom the PCC is keen to help participate.

**Start the Year  
with a Bang-er**

**Parish  
Party**



**Saturday 11 January**

**7.30 p.m.**

**Please buy your tickets in advance**

**£4 from Jean Wilson 941 2949**

**or Sally Highley 979 2695**

## *A New Year Message from the Bishop of Kensington*

### *The Rt. Revd. Michael Colclough*

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**The Colclough family has just moved house - for the fifth time in ten years. One good thing about frequent moves is that you keep the attic junk down: there's a regular pruning of drawers and cupboards.**

I am not saying that we have reached perfection, but we are learning to travel light, not to be over distracted and attached to the many little household gods that can take over our lives.

As we begin a new year, it is probably good for all of us to think of the months ahead and remember those words of Jesus, "where your treasure is there will your heart be also" (Matthew 10.21).

#### **Courageous prayer**

The Feast of the Epiphany early in January points us to those wise men who came to present their gifts to Jesus and as a new year reminds us that we are all on the move from the old into the new, so for Christians the centrality of Jesus is vital. It is to Him that we are called to offer and present the gifts of our lives. The short but courageous prayer of Dag Hammarskjöld always seems most appropriate for the midnight strike of December 31st:

*For all that has been - Thanks!  
For all that shall be - Yes!*

And I call that a courageous prayer because it involves us in saying "yes" not only to the joys that lie ahead of us in 1997 but also to the individual and communal frustrations, hurts, and pains that the new year may bring.

What can we mean when we say "yes" to all that lies ahead? It means, doesn't it, that you

and I are setting out realistically as we look to another year, journeying as disciples of Jesus committed to the life of the Kingdom and strengthened by the ongoing support of being members of God's family, the Church.

#### **No glib greeting**

This means, I believe, that we have a gift to give to our world as we begin a new year: and our gift is nothing less than passing on and sharing that gift of peace that Jesus gave to his people after the resurrection: "Peace be with you."

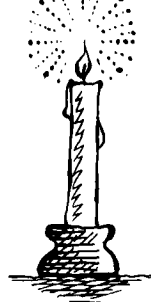
Not a glib greeting from Jesus because his body showed the cost of that peace, the wounds of crucifixion. Not a glib message from us: because if we say those words of peace then we have to work at them in all situations

Are you a messenger of peace, a channel of peace? I try to be: and this prayer has helped me more than anything to still myself and enter into God's peace. It's an ancient Celtic prayer that I say slowly before I begin to pray: I offer it to you and ask you to use it daily this year so that God's peace can be something to you and I bring it into our homes and neighbourhoods, our churches and our places of work:

*I weave a silence onto my lips, my heart.  
Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm;  
Still me, O Lord, and keep me from harm.  
Let all the tumult within cease,  
Enfold me, Lord, in your peace.*

*With every good wish for a peaceful and happy New Year,*

*Michael Kenyon*



## CANDLEMAS

### The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

**A SPECIAL SERVICE ON  
SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 1997 AT 7.30 PM**

February 2nd is the feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. In accordance with Jewish custom, Mary and Joseph took their first born son to be presented. The elderly priest, Simeon, was there and his outburst of praise is sung at evening services as the "Nunc dimittis".

This feast has special resonances. It marks the point in the Church's year when we move from celebrating the birth of Jesus towards considering his time in the wilderness, Lent, and the ultimate sacrificial offering of Easter. It is a bitter-sweet time. A time to contemplate, take stock and pray. As the readings for the day (ASB p.757) relate, we give thanks for the arrival of the messenger, the Lord whom we seek, who will come to his temple; we realise that we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, and a people claimed by God for his own, to proclaim the triumphs of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light"; and, like Simeon, we realise that we can go in peace, as promised, for our eyes have seen the prepared salvation.

The imagery of the occasion includes that of moving from darkness to light; of moving into the promise of God; of going into the house of God. Accordingly, there has been a tradition at the services on this day of the congregation going into a darkened church with candles, perhaps walking together in procession. This is the basis of the popular name for the day - Candlemas.

This year, we too plan something special - taking advantage of the opportunity that 1st February is a Saturday! We will aim in our Eucharist to draw on some of the above ideas. It will involve darkness, candlelight, contemplation and celebration.

In order to help us, there will be some special music. A small group of trained singers will sing William Byrd's "Four Part Mass" and, instead of congregational hymns, Byrd's sequence of motets written specially for this feast. This is great music and the motets are very rarely performed. The celebrations will end with a party in the Hall!

In addition, don't miss a talk at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 26th January in the Hall, when Brian will explore the religious significance of the occasion and Chris Hodges, who will direct the singers at the service, will outline the extraordinary story behind Byrd's music - it was basically written illegally at a time when to do so risked losing one's head! See you there!

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Organ Fund.





## GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

**IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED IT, TRY IT THIS TIME.  
WE CAN DEAL WITH ALMOST ANYONE!**

It seems only a very short while since we did last year's, but February seems to be the best month to do it. As a reminder as to what it is all about to those that remember, and as an introduction to those who don't, this is what it's all about: For a little fun, a chance of getting to know others in the congregation and to raise some more money for the ever hungry church funds, we will have a round of dinner (or lunch) parties around the parish over the next few weeks.

It will work as follows:

*Those who volunteer as HOSTS/HOSTESSES say when they would like to hold their dinner party and how many people they would be prepared to entertain.*

*Those who volunteer as GUESTS say when they would like to attend such a dinner party. I will match guests with hosts, give the guests an address and a time. When the evening ends they will leave a donation to the church.*

*Neither hosts nor guests will be told who their dinner companions will be.*

*You can, of course, volunteer to be both - at different times!*

Anyone who would like more information or to join in, please fill in a form.

These will be available in church or ask me for one.

*Ruth Mills 977 5165*

## THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

What a happy and successful occasion this event turned out to be.

Earlier in the year a number of people offered to organise and run stalls. Requests for items for the stalls were put in the magazine from time to time and goods were collected in boxes in church. Just two meetings were held to check that all was proceeding satisfactorily.

On the evening before the bazaar, as preparations began, it became obvious that all the stall holders had been working very hard to make and gather a wonderful selection of goods to sell. A friendly and co-operative atmosphere prevailed during the preparation, selling and clearing up.

Despite there being many other bazaars and fairs on at the same time, a goodly number of people came to St. James. It was pleasing to watch the stalls gradually become depleted and to hear visitors comment favourably about the bazaar.

Time passed quickly and it was soon time to clear up and put away. Many people helped with this and the hall and church were soon restored to normal. It was then time to count the money and see how much each stall had made. All were successful and a profit of £1608 was realised.

Many thanks to all who participated in any way on the day and also to the many people who generously gave goods and time. The bazaar was a great community effort.

*Wendy Baker*

## SCOUT GROUP NEWS

A quiet time for Beavers and Scouts recently, but boy, have the Cubs been busy. As part of their 80th birthday celebrations, 'Around the World in 80 Days' they have fished in ice-holes in Canada and made Indian divas (lanterns) for Diwali. On Saturday 30th November they took part in the District Cub Challenge. This is an event where 6 Cubs from each pack have to complete various challenges from tying knots to colouring in a bus, each challenge worth points. The Challenge was started at the request of a family whose terminally ill son got much enjoyment from Cubs and, although physically restricted, was very artistic, hence the colouring challenge. Our Six came equal fourth out of eleven, a really good result.

Another event the Cubs took part in was called 'Love in a Shoebox'. They filled 8 boxes with toys and gifts to be sent out to children in Bosnia and Rumania. This was a district-wide event and I'm told that the collection point was overflowing with boxes.

The Venture Scout Section continue with their 'Dungeons and Dragons' role-playing games and go climbing regularly. The brave souls are planning to go under canvas from 2nd - 5th January.

Recent events have been our Christmas Bazaar which raised £490 as well as a few eyebrows as it was on a panto fancy dress theme. A further £52 was raised on our tombola stall at the Hampton Hill Christmas parade and Tikki's Challenge (sponsored walk) raised £354. Carol singing outside the small Sainsbury's also raised £42.

All these monies go towards our new headquarters. Various building firms have responded with estimates and our application goes before the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity Board soon. Fingers crossed, everyone.

*Paul Fitchett 941 7180*

## PARISH WEEKEND 1997 - WYCHCROFT

Now that you have your brand-new 1997 diary, enter the date of the next Parish Weekend, to be held at Wychcroft, Bletchley, near Godstone :

**FRIDAY EVENING 31st OCTOBER**

to

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON 2nd NOVEMBER 1997**

*Details from Ruth Mills*

**R.N.L.I.**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 25 JANUARY**

at B.M.Y.C., Ferry Rd., Teddington. Tickets £1.50

*Further details from Jill Denton*

## AROUND THE SPIRE

A very Happy New Year to all our readers! We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to contribute to this page, Around the Spire, items of news that we might otherwise not hear about. On the subject of contributions, our thanks to Gordon Stowell for the illustrations in this issue.

On 1st December there was an extremely well-attended and lively service. It was Advent Sunday and also the Christingle service and was predictably going to be rather special. There were also two babies to be baptised and the new font, which was donated to St. James's by the family of Vivienne Prentice, was to be used for the first time. Molly Claasen and Samantha Jackson were the first babies to be baptised at this font and both youngsters were decidedly vocal! The service ended with all the congregation round the Church with lighted Christingle candles and an enthusiastic singing of Glory, Glory, Hallelujah concluded an extremely memorable occasion.

Janet Jefferies would like to thank all those who attended her coffee morning. The amount raised was £96.35 and was to aid the Council for Arthritis and Rheumatism in further research.

Ron Metcalfe is in St. Thomas' Hospital and Roy Brookes is at home. We remember them in our prayers and ask God to bless, comfort and strengthen them and their families.

We would like to wish Eila a very happy birthday this month as we think it is an especially significant one.

John Gossage's mother will be moving into her new flat this month and becomes a resident of the parish.

Finally, the Meredith-Smiths have two weddings in their family this year. John and Moya's sons Gareth and Lewis are to marry: Lewis in Toulouse on 9th August and Gareth in Wales on 18th October.

*Rosalie Meyerowitz*

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### A REMINDER

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that

**ALAN and HELEN TAYLOR**

have moved to

Cranmers, Little Green, Norton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. IP31 3NN

Tel: 01359 241365

**THEY CAN NO LONGER BE CONTACTED AT 68 PARK ROAD**

In kindness to the new residents at that address, please do not call or leave things on the doorstep for the Taylors! Thank you.

# FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

## Baptisms

- 3 Samuel James Dixon-Laking, 11 Seymour Road  
24 L.channe Amy Hayler, 61 Dean Road, Hampton  
Blue Charles, 61 Dean Road, Hampton

## Confirmation

- 17 Kelly Fitchett  
Kristian Fitchett  
Joanna Highley  
Ben Newman  
Jodie Warrington

## Funerals

- 22 Ronald William Seaman, 5 Willowbrook, St. James's Road 71  
28 Leonard Percival William Murphy, 11 Links View Road 83  
28 Hettie Margaret Burgess, Chelsea Close 92

## DATES TO NOTE IN JANUARY 1997

- 1 The Naming of Christ. Bank Holiday  
6 The Epiphany of our Lord  
11 7.30 p.m. Parish Party in Hall. Please purchase tickets beforehand  
18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
19 6.30 p.m. United Service 'Songs of Praise' at St. James's  
22 The Bishop of Kensington spends the day in the parish with us  
8 p.m. Parochial Church Council  
24 Feast Day of St. Francis de Sales - Remember in your prayers our  
brothers & sisters at our neighbouring Roman Catholic church.  
25 The Conversion of St. Paul  
1 Feb 7.30 p.m. A sung Communion Service to celebrate the Feast of  
Candlemas.

Please note that at St. James's we now have Fax and Internet Connections.  
The **Fax number** at the Vicarage is **0181 255 8095**  
The **e-mail** address is **B.Leathard@btinternet.com**

A Web site on the Internet will be available from next month. Watch this space.

**COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE: 12TH JANUARY**