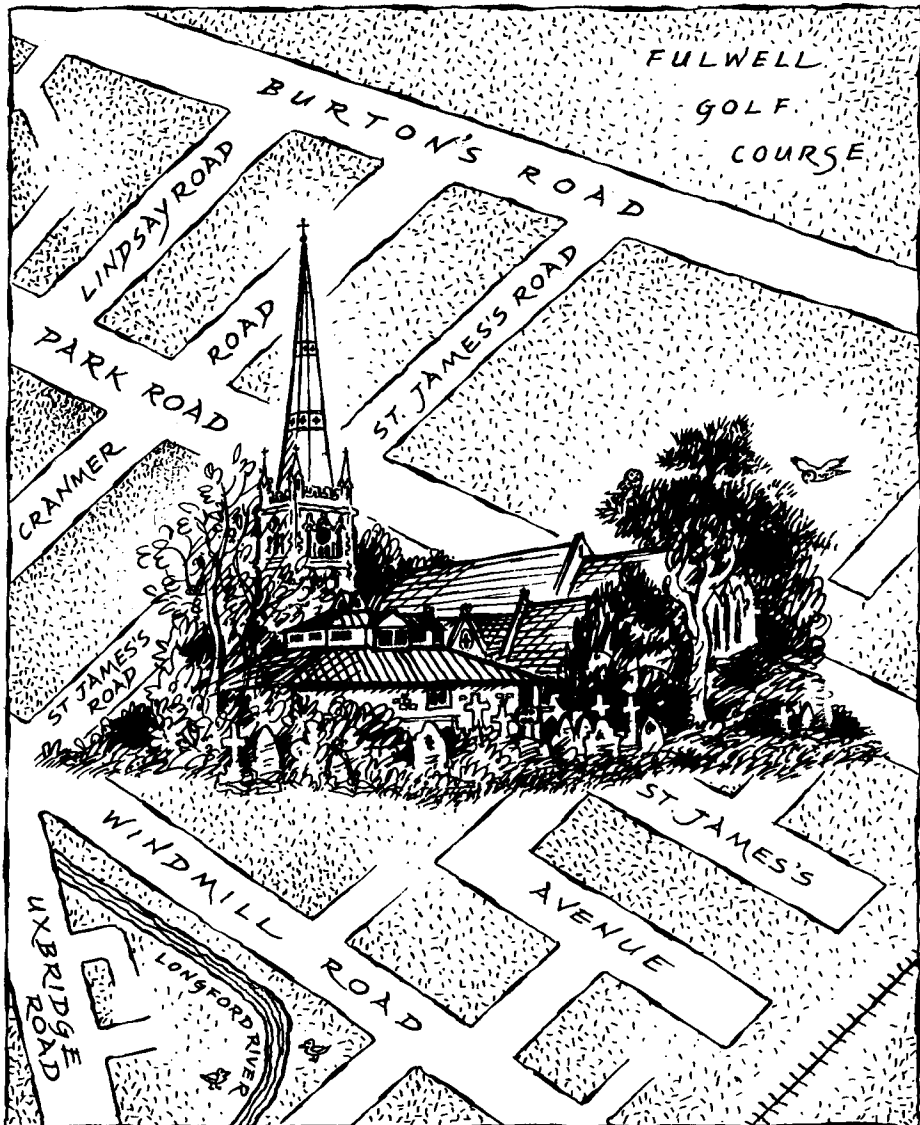


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 1998

CHURCH OFFICERS

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Mr Pip Rowett, 27 Orford Gardens, Twickenham 892 4736

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THE MAGAZINE

Mrs Susan Horner, 5 St James's Avenue 979 9380

Mrs Margaret Taylor, 5 Oxford Road, Teddington 977 1342

Advertising Organiser: Miss Kate O'Sullivan 977 8294

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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs Margaret Hobbs, 76 Broad Lane, Hampton 979 2320

SOCIAL COMMITTEE ORGANISER

Miss Kate O'Sullivan 977 8294

WOMEN'S FORUM CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Wendy 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+)

Baptisms, Marriages and other enquiries

Please contact the Vicar

If January is the month in which we have to repay the excesses of Christmas celebrations, either by losing the extra pounds put on or paying off the extra pounds on the plastic, then perhaps January is also a very good month to give some thought to paying off another debt. You will, no doubt, have read in earlier editions of *The Spire* that we are supporting the **Jubilee 2000** campaign in our parish. This is concerned with big debt, unpayable debt, which is destroying the quality of life for millions of the world's poorest people.

Now we are only two full years away from the millennium, twenty four months, about one hundred weeks, seven hundred campaigning days to go! Do you remember how in the Old Testament the people of Israel were obliged to keep every fiftieth year as a year of Jubilee? In that year they were to relinquish debtors from their debts, to start again with servants and bonded labour. And why? To remind the whole community of its true dependence upon God as the creator of all that is and to remind the people of the transience, the passing nature, of their life on earth.

With the coming millennium we have a golden opportunity to rekindle that Old Testament spirit of Jubilee by standing wholeheartedly with the Jubilee 2000 campaign in seeking to urge the governments and financial institutions of the West to cancel the unpayable debts of the world's very poorest countries. It is not a campaign to write off every debt, to connive with corruption or to encourage default, far from it. It is a campaign to reinforce the belief that we are all in this together.

I don't want to throw statistics around. But let me just use one datum. Between 1990 and 1993 the countries of sub-Saharan Africa paid \$13.4 Billion to the western financial lenders each year (*World Bank: World Debt Tables 1994-5*), which is more than the total spending of these countries on Health Education, Social Services and Transport put together. Added to this in 1993 the unpaid debt of those same countries was \$38 Billion. This is, in effect, not only unpaid, but unpayable. The world's poorest countries are paying back to us far more than they receive from us in aid. And at the same time the world's poorest countries are increasingly unable to address the Aids pandemic, malnutrition, housing, education and health care.

I firmly believe that not only is it right to cancel the, effectively, unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries, but that it is also in the self interest of the richest countries, including our own, to have a more stable world. There can be no such thing as a stable Europe with an unstable Africa.

Therefore I would urge you to join our voices at St. James's, in any way you can, to press home the message of Jubilee 2000. During January we will have material available in church, including what is hoped will become the world's largest petition to sign, in order to urge the financial institutions to cancel, by the year 2000, those debts which cannot be paid back. As the prophets of the old Testament might have concluded 'I am the Lord', we but brothers and sisters in God's creation.

Do sign the **JUBILEE 2000** Petition.

Brian Leathard

CONFIRMATION

At a moving and joyful Parish Communion on 7th December, the Bishop of Kensington, the Right Reverend Michael Colclough confirmed:

Laurence Allen

(who was also baptised)

Amy Cummidge

James Harris

Helen Hodges

Sarah Leakey

Rachel Miskin

Lucy Newman

We hold our newly-confirmed members in our prayers.



**WELCOME
TO THE YEAR
OF THE TIGER**

Authentic Chinese meal (chopsticks provided)

Fancy dress on Chinese theme optional

Bar £5 Games and fun

SATURDAY 24th JANUARY 1998

Watch the notice board and keep the date free

CALLING ALL CLOSET CAMPANOLOGISTS

Your country needs you! The campaign of The Central Council of Church Bell-Ringers, *Ring in 2000*, aims to recruit as many as 5,000 new volunteers from all over Britain to help celebrate the arrival of the Millennium. The aim is to ring the bells in every church tower at noon on 1st January 2000. That's a lot of bells, perhaps as many as 30,000, but it's also a lot of bell ringers!

At St. James's our bells can be rung by only one ringer but there are other churches who need more and would be delighted to hear from you. No previous experience is necessary. Those wishing to take part should contact Tina Stoecklin at The Ringing World, The Central Council of Church Bell-Ringers, Penmark House, Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford GU1 1BL. Telephone: 01483 569535.

WOMEN'S FORUM

Women's forum invites you to a **DINNER PARTY** with an **AFTER DINNER SPEAKER** on Wednesday 18th February.

There will be **GOOD FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN.**

All are welcome, men and women. Tickets will be on sale in January. Please purchase them by Sunday 8th February as we need to know numbers for catering purposes.

AN INFANT TEACHER'S DAY

This is the outline of a fairly typical day with a class of 30 six-year-olds, although there is so much going on that it was very difficult to condense into one short article.

Before school starts for the children, the staff will have prepared for the day's activities. At 9.00 a.m. each class teacher collects her own children and they go to their classes for registration. The children remain seated on the carpet in front of the teacher and there is a joint sharing of news and information. There is usually a short whole class lesson which could be to extend or consolidate a previously learned skill or to introduce something new. The children then work in groups of about six, with the teacher either sitting with one group or moving between them to help, guide or directly teach.

At playtime, the children are encouraged to extend their social skills and play co-operatively and sensibly. The staff on duty encourage groups and individuals to practise these skills whilst also offering care, comfort and discipline to the other children.

Back in the classroom, the children have a drink of milk whilst listening to poetry, stories or music. Further learning tasks may then be introduced and the children work through to lunchtime. Immediately prior to lunch there is a short session when they quietly read their own choice of books and select one to take home in their "book bags".

A quick liaison with the dinner-lady over any current problems and the children are handed over to her care. Most of the morning's activities are collected, assessed, recorded and filed, and new work is put out before catching up on administrative duties. With luck, all the teachers get together to exchange non-teaching news in the staff room for about fifteen minutes.

The afternoon session is often devoted to giving individual reading time to the children whilst keeping a close eye on the other 29, all working independently or in groups according to the work set. The conclusion to the children's day is "Storytime", valued and much loved by both children and their teachers.

Having handed over their pupils, the teachers return from the playground, clear up and start on the next round of activities. These include after-school courses, staff meetings, liaison with parents, assessing and recording progress, sorting and filing work, preparing for the next day, mounting and displaying new work and keeping up with ever-changing legislation and reading matter. This generally takes between two and three hours and, providing there are no evening meetings at school, I walk home and quite enjoy the opportunity to contemplate the day's activities before opening the front door and beginning my other existence as "wife and mother"! Both are fulfilling and enjoyable and both at times seem endlessly exhausting and challenging. I certainly never complain of being bored.

Coryn Robinson

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

OK, OK, we might have been a little premature last time, but by the time you read this we will definitely have taken possession of our new HQ!!! Delays were caused by various minor snags, but the final delay was caused by a complete lack of a security system. What with recent events and even taking into account the fact that the place is built like Fort Knox, we were unwilling to take responsibility for the new hall without it. Due to this later than anticipated takeover, we will not start meeting in there 'till the new year, which I personally find a little disappointing, as I was really looking forward to holding my last Beavers there. Still no firm news on a replacement leader for Beavers, but there are developments. Suffice to say, the negotiations are top secret and at a difficult stage at the moment, but the signs are good.

Six Cubs recently took part in the District Challenge Competition, where they had to undertake various tasks, ranging from throwing balls into a bucket, to naming flags and television signature tunes. They finished seventh out of ten packs entered.



The Scouts recently had a patrol challenge evening. Again various tasks were set, some by the leaders and some by the patrols themselves. Some of these tasks included lighting a candle using a bamboo cane and a match but without touching the match and creating a chic outfit using two white and two black bin liners and sellotape. Some of these creations were really quite amazing and if nothing else, gave us all a good laugh as one of the scouts had to model the outfit, whilst the designers described them.

Finally, as some of you no doubt saw, we took part in the annual Hampton Hill Christmas parade. Thankfully it wasn't too cold and although we became engulfed once by the following (overtaking?) crowd we all enjoyed taking part. Next year we'll parade three or four abreast !!

Paul Fitchett 0181 941 7186

LITURGICAL DANCE

We have a Liturgical Dance group in this Church; it is small and enthusiastic! We find our weekly meetings restful and spiritual, we share our problems (good and bad), pray, question, listen to music (all kinds), exercise and express many aspects of life through dance. Laughing seems to be a great part of our evenings activity!

This may not sound very dedicated, but we have been in existence now for many years, we enjoy the fellowship and have no intention of closing. That must say something! There is a great deal one could write about Liturgical Dancing, so if you are in the least interested, any one of the group would be very pleased to answer your questions, and explain what it is all about. If you wish to see for yourself what is involved, please come and join us any Monday evening in the hall: you would be most welcome. If in doubt phone: 979 1954.

A CZECH VISITOR'S IMPRESSION OF AN ENGLISH WEDDING

I had dreamed of visiting England for nearly 50 years and this dream was fulfilled as a result of an invitation to be a guest at the wedding of Angela and Charles at St. James 's. The wedding ceremony was something very special for me. Customs differ slightly from those in the Czech Republic and maybe this comparison will interest readers of The Spire.

The greatest difference between Czech and English weddings is where the ceremony takes place. For the disastrous 40 years of totalitarianism, the ceremony was performed in town halls or, in more fortunate cases, at a nearby castle. Even now, the habit is deep-rooted in the Czech people and only 10% of weddings take place in church. The wedding at St. James's made a deep impression on me. The whole ceremony is more solemn and surely the feelings of the couple must be more responsible. It must make a difference if you say "I will" before God or before the state official, and that is surely the reason why there is a higher proportion of divorces in the Czech Republic than in England.

But now to the ceremony itself. In England, the wedding-guests meet at the church. In the Czech Republic all the guests (usually not more than 30) meet at the bride's parents' house where they have light refreshments (sandwiches, wine, spirits, cake). Before leaving for the ceremony, the bride and groom thank the parents for all their care and ask them for a blessing for love and happiness. This is similar to the groom's speech at the reception in England when flowers were given to both mothers, and I can hardly say which is the more impressive. Then they all set off in many decorated cars and the guests wear a white ribbon with a small branch of myrtle. These were prepared by the bride and her friends on the evening before the wedding. In villages where people know each other road blocks are prepared along the route and the groom must buy out the way to his new life.

We do not have a 'best man' as in England but both the bride and groom must have witnesses who attest the marriage after the signatures of the official and the newly-married couple. Brothers, sisters or best friends are usually chosen as witnesses.

Previously, the bride's parents held the reception at home but now it is held in restaurants. The reception starts with a speech by the bride's father and a toast. Then there is the food where the bride and groom must have the soup from one common dish. The idea of this custom is that they must go through their future lives together and share a common fight against troubles. In the same way in England there is the joint slicing of the wedding-cake. Then the jollity continues with more food and drink and dancing. In villages this can continue for two or three days.

If I may express my opinion: the wedding ceremony in England is serious and in the Czech Republic it is rather informal. I personally prefer the serious style.

On my return from England I have recounted my experience of an English wedding to my friends who all found it very interesting. And I always state my personal conviction: if in the Czech Republic there were more churches of your belief, which I found to be quiet and close to the people, then many people would find their way to God, not only at wedding ceremonies.

*Jasna Smolkova
Jablonec nad Nisou, Czech Republic*

OPEN P.C.C.

WEDNESDAY 7th JANUARY 8 p.m.

The P.C.C. will be discussing the issue of children in church and this meeting will be open to the whole congregation.

A creche will be provided.

If you cannot attend, please speak to a member of the P.C.C. so that your view can be represented.



WINTER WARMTH

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) provides grants to help older people pay for draught-proofing their homes. It covers draught-proofing doors and windows, insulating the loft, water tanks and pipes and gives advice on how to use energy more efficiently. HEES is a government scheme and it uses registered contractors to carry out the work. Anyone over the age

of 60 receiving income support, housing benefit, council tax benefit, attendance allowance or disability living allowance will qualify for a full grant, and others over 60 can get a partial grant. For more information on HEES and the name of the contractor who covers your area, ring freephone 0800 181 667. Richmond upon Thames Age Concern also publishes advice on insulation using heating safety and efficiency and what to do if a pipe bursts. The Help Line is 0181 840 8118 and is available Monday-Friday 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

AGE
Concern

Several members of our community have died recently.
We have received the following tributes.

HELEN BUTLIN

Helen Butlin M.B.E. has died aged 90. Her friend Margaret Bramall has supplied these details of her long life of service to the community:

Helen Butlin was a lifelong member of the Labour Party and represented Hampton Hill ward on the Twickenham (later Richmond) Council. Together with Nettie-Kate Taylor and Margaret Bligh, she cycled to council meetings throughout the blitz.

She had a strong social conscience and was very concerned with social justice. Long before there were such organisations as Shelter, she and others took up the cause of tenants. She was well-known in the area for seeing that landlords faced up to their duties.

On the council, housing remained her primary interest. She became a member and later chairman of the rent tribunal for the area. She was also a magistrate and an alderman. Her personal interests included art and music.

Her husband was a scientist at the Chemical Research Laboratory. They lived in Hampton Road, Teddington for many years with their son, Martin. Some years after her husband died, she moved to Eastbank Road, Hampton Hill and lived there until she became too frail and unwell to live alone. Her final years were spent in a nursing home in Surbiton.

Helen Butlin was a wonderful friend, loyal and full of integrity. Her funeral service was conducted by Brian and a moving personal address was given by her old friend Elizabeth Blackaby. The reception afterwards at York House was a celebration of her life.

ROY BROOKS

Roy was part of the "new wave" of man- and woman-power recruited in the 1961 Stewardship Campaign, which revitalised St. James's both spiritually and financially: and over the ensuing years, he built an impressive record of service to our Church and our community.

Early on, he became a member of the PCC, serving on the Stewardship Committee. He was also, for over 20 years, Secretary and an active member of the Social and Properties Committees, and from 1972 was Bookings Officer and Secretary of the Management Committee of the old Parish Hall until it was sold and became the Greenwood Centre.

Also from the early Sixties, another important role, (which he shared with Denis Leatherdale,) was that of "Churchyard Guardian";- pre-1990, the Parish maintained the Churchyard, and the reality behind the title entailed endless hours of sometimes solitary work on daylight evenings and most Saturday mornings in keeping the vegetation under control - and in those pre-strimmer days, maintaining the machines.

Roy was good at "acquiring" things for us: among his many material contributions were all sorts of stationery supplies, and the making of the barbecue which we still use.

Retirement in 1977 after a lifetime with "Shell" enabled Roy also to help in many ways the work of the newly-formed Community (now Voluntary) Care Group, notably in the Bookshop, and as a volunteer driver.

Sadly, ill-health over recent years eventually brought about his withdrawal from the scene, but older parishioners will remember him with affection and gratitude as a truly good neighbour: will remember, too, his infectious joviality; always willing, cheerful, and uncomplaining; quietly, unobtrusively, but unfailingly helpful wherever there was a need..

Throughout all this time, and especially during his final years of illness, he was splendidly supported by Kath, to whom, with his family, we extend our deep sympathy.

Jack Gostling

HOLLY CHAMPION

Holly Champion was a friend and fellow trustee of the Voluntary Care Group at the Greenwood Centre. I first knew her as a business contact when she owned and ran Champion Travel in our High Street. She was our first woman mayor, a JP for many years, President of Hampton Old People's Welfare Committee, pioneered changes in local education and was made a Member of the British Empire in 1990. More information about her public life is sure to be given at her memorial. service in the New Year.

She was always a very gentle presence, without any obvious aggression; we at the Greenwood Centre benefited greatly from her extensive knowledge of local matters and vast committee experience. She listened carefully to different opinions, always keeping an open mind before making decisions. I never heard her criticise others and I never heard 'others' criticise her - not many of us possess this quality. Even when she was obviously ill, she made light of it, saying she was not too bad and going on to ask how YOU were. She was known as the 'Mother of the council' and certainly her femininity was pronounced; a welcome attribute these days, when we are all assumed to be the same.

I visited Holly in hospital during the last two weeks of her life; I held her hand and she said softly, repeatedly "It is so good of you to come". I reminded her of the many people she had visited in her time and she just smiled her soft smile. We shall miss her, but the memory of her always happy, warm presence will remain for a long time.

Barbara Withers



A very Happy New Year to all our readers! As we look back at the end of 1997, we are pleased to report that Pip and Anne Rowett have a new granddaughter Katherine, a sister for Rebecca. Congratulations to their son Christopher and his wife Gillian.

Congratulations also to Eleanor Parker for the award of Headteacher's Prize for the Class of 97 at the recent prizegiving at Rectory School.

We are delighted to say that the mini-bazaar made over £600. Many thanks also to the Young

Church for their efforts with a cake stall after the Christingle service. They raised £30 for the chapel at Teddington Hospital - well done! Sadly, we announce the death of Mrs. Mary James, aged 89 years. Some years ago Mrs. James made an altar-cloth for St. James' s. She lived in Ringwood Way but more recently had been in an old people's home in Croydon.

We hope that Jean Wilson has had a happy Christmas with her family in New Zealand. While she is away, her house is being lived in by Max Scott and his wife Lesley. He is a clergyman from New Zealand who is on a sabbatical in England.

Finally, several people have shown an interest in making kneelers and there will be a meeting to discuss the details soon.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 1998

I shall be unable to make as many preserves for this event as I have done in the past, so may I ask anyone making preserves this year to put a few jars aside for the Church.

The reason for this early reminder is that the Seville oranges will be in the shops any day now!

Thank you in anticipation.



Ruth Gostling

FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

Baptisms

16 Elizabeth Anne Curtis, 35 Laurel Road

Memorial Service

9 John Pinker, 10 Westbank Road



SYRIA AND LEBANON

with the Revd. Dr. Brian Leathard
22 - 31 October 1998

Our tour starts in Beirut, from where we will explore the country's most prominent sites; Tyre, Sidon, Byblos and Tripoli as well as the famous cedars, used in ancient times by the Egyptians. From there we continue into Syria to discover its many antiquities including Zenobia's fantastic city of Palmyra and the dramatic Crak des Chevaliers. In Damascus, St. Paul is never far from our thoughts as we visit the "street which is called Straight", the Chapel of Ananias and the Chapel of St. Paul. At Seydnaya and Maaloula we find villages where the population still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ which is still used for the liturgy of the Syrian Orthodox Church. The highlight of our tour is to the awe-inspiring ruins of the great temples of Baalbeck. This visit will be a richly rewarding experience as we discover a history which can be traced back through many unique sites.

Further details from Brian.

DATES TO NOTE IN JANUARY

- 1 The Naming of Jesus. Bank Holiday
- 6 The Epiphany of our Lord
- 7 PCC Open Meeting 8 p.m. All welcome
- 18 Churches Around Hampton: Songs of Praise at St. Theodore's R.C. Church 6.30 p.m.
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 24 Parish Party: The Year of the Tiger
- 25 The Conversion of St. Paul

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE: 11th JANUARY