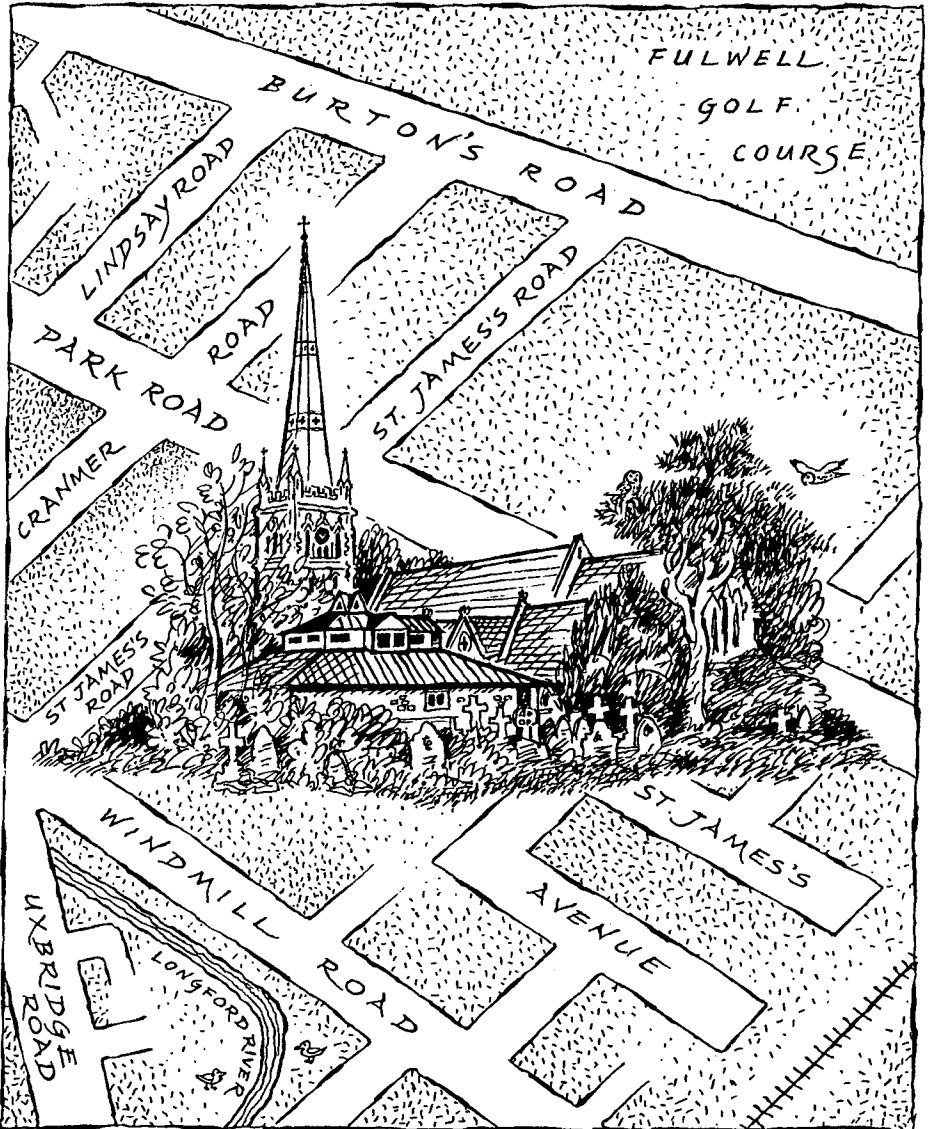


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 1999

CHURCH OFFICERS

VICAR

The Rev Brian Leathard, MA, PhD, The Vicarage, 46 St. James's Road 979 2069
 e-mail: B.Leathard@btinternet.com Fax 255 8095

DEPUTY PRIEST

The Rev Betty Stewart 979 6047

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Ann Peterken, 273 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham 891 5862
 Mr Dick Wilde, 60 St James's Avenue 979 8887

TREASURER

Mr Paul Peterken, 273 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham 891 5862

SECRETARY OF P.C.C.

Miss Pippa Butterfield, 23 Shacklegate Lane, Teddington 943 9460

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Mr Pip Rowett, 27 Orford Gardens, Twickenham 892 4736
 Mr Ron Bridges, (Deputy Recorder), 19 St. James's Road 979 6865

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Mr Geoffrey Bowyer, MMus, FRCO, 25 Mill Road, Twickenham 894 3773

HALL BOOKING

Mr David Taylor, 5 Oxford Road, Teddington 977 1342

CHURCH FLOWERS

Mrs Coryn Robinson, 23 Courtlands Avenue, Hampton 979 6786

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

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs Prill Hinckley, 115 Burton's Road 979 0528

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)

9.30 - 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

These details are updated in the June issue each year.

If you are now left wondering just where the last year has flown then perhaps, like me, you would benefit from reading the following verse - long cherished by Dick Wilde, one of our churchwardens, and displayed in Chester Cathedral (where Dick saw it rather a long time ago!).

Times Paces

*When as a child I laughed and wept,
Time crept.*

*When as a youth I waxed more bold,
Time strolled.*

*When I became a full-grown man,
Time RAN.*

*When older still I daily grew,
Time FLEW.*

*Soon I shall find in passing on,
Time gone.*

O Christ! Wilt thou have saved me then?

(Henry Twells 1823 - 1900)

The answer, of course, is yes! However, the common human experience of time passing ever more quickly is pertinent indeed in this final year of the current century and millennium. Certainly this last century has witnessed both exponential growth in knowledge and applied human skill. It has also witnessed the alarmingly widening gap between the rich and powerful in God's world and the poor and powerless.

At St. James's, this year will see many changes; some are predictable, others not. But we do need visions and dreams, we do need plans and strategies to bring the former to effect. Clearly, the biggest and most exciting change which we know of this year will be the arrival in June for three years of a stipendiary curate in our parish. Her name is Freda Evans and we propose to accommodate her on the Poets' Estate section of the parish. While here, she will complete her priestly training in situ and mutually we shall be greatly strengthened by her presence. I am sure you join with me in looking forward to her arrival.

But where are the areas of new work, new challenges, new opportunities that you think we ought to be facing and planning for? On February 6th the Parochial Church Council Awayday is hoping to look at our areas of mission, care and worship with a questioning, open mind. If you have questions, comments or thoughts about the future of our parish - in 1999 and far beyond - then please let me or the churchwardens know as soon as possible, before **Time's Paces** have outpaced us.

Brian Leathard

CONFIRMATION

With much rejoicing and a church packed to the gunwales, the Bishop of Kensington confirmed candidates from All Saints, Hampton and St. James's Hampton Hill here on Sunday 15th November 1998. From St. James's were confirmed:

*Annalea Severn, Karina Brough, Darren Cox, Emma Cox,
Nicola Crosse and Isobelle Crosse.*

We look forward to the continuing presence of these young people, assuring them of our prayers and support, while also looking to them as they live out the promises they have made in their confirmation.

OUR PARISH PARTY



**COPS
AND**



ROBBERS

Time

7:00

Cost

£3.00

Saturday

16th

January

1999

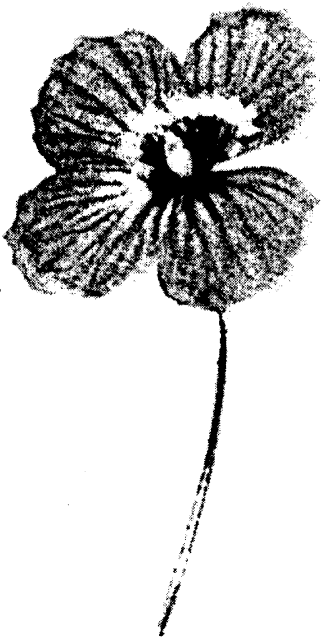
Where? Our Church hall.

Fancy dress? Optional.

Food? Sausage supper.

AS WE REMEMBER . . .

On Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, Rodney Taylor, a naval doctor, preached a moving and memorable sermon about his journey from Plymouth to Kuwait on the Argus. This container ship had been converted into use as a 100 bedded hospital ship with two operating theatres and twelve intensive care beds as well as accommodation for 2000 refugees. As they travelled towards the Gulf tension mounted; - the preparation for action stations first bore fruit on 17th January as Desert Storm burst upon the world when Saddam Hussein initiated the "Mother of all Wars".



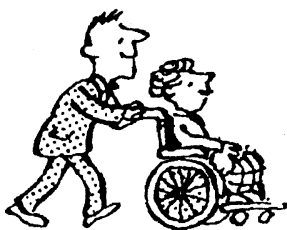
The journey of the Argus, the tenth naval craft to bear that name since 1792, through the Suez Canal was marked by Remembrance Sunday, which actually fell on November 11th in 1990. The service was poignant, the silence totally overwhelming, affording time for "intense reflection", remembering the dead of previous wars and looking forward with uncertainty to the immediate future. Arrival in the Gulf heralded a period of waiting, further training, waiting, speculation, more waiting, increased tension, mounting friction and threatening propaganda from Iraq. Christmas came and went, church attendance increased, and the chaplain, the psychiatrist and Rodney had more and more callers. After the onset of Desert Storm there were casualties; mines and missiles hit their targets but brought mercifully fewer wounded and dead than anticipated. There were, however, more casualties and deaths in the land battle that followed.

How could an experience such as this not bring a new, different and broader perspective to the idea of Remembrance, and to our thoughts on our troubled world? In the past, war had precipitated famine and disease; it had effectively bankrupted countries, but in this so-called civilised twentieth century war had become everybody's. Through the intense media coverage, as well as through personal loss, it had indeed become the people's war.

"Today", Rodney ended, "We remember all those who died so that we might have peace - the heroes, the committed, the conscripts and the innocent victims, those left behind, the bereaved . . . the injured, the wounded, the maimed . . . and those who suffered mentally who are often the hidden, ignored and misunderstood casualties, suffering from shell-shock, neurasthenia and post-traumatic stress disorder. On this special day, we remember not only those who died, but all victims of conflict who have suffered in the service of mankind".

Margaret Taylor

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



The new Chaplain at the West Middlesex University Hospital, the Rev. Richard Lowndes, will be holding Sunday services at 11 a.m. and needs volunteers to push wheelchairs. This would involve a monthly or bi-monthly commitment of no more than one and a half hours. Those involved in this work would have appropriate training and become registered Hospital Volunteers. Anyone interested should ring 0181 565 5447.

The Shooting Star Trust is committed to building a Children's Hospice in this area. In November, they opened a shop at 173a High Street, Hampton Hill, and are recruiting volunteers to help there. They would prefer to operate a shift system of 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 12.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. but are very flexible. Please telephone the office on 0181 893 4240.



Go Easy

Go easy about thy every day:
Never cease to watch and pray.
Take all that Father God can give -
In Him do trust, and watch and live.

In the dawn give Him thy praise,
For it is He who guides thy days.
At night, when thou dost go to rest,
Give thanks that thou art truly blessed

Margery Orton

YOUNG CHURCH - CHARITY PRESENTATION

Every year the Young Church raises money for a particular local, national or international charity. In 1997/8 they set their sights on collecting £110 to pay for a notice board in the new Chapel for All Faiths being built at Teddington Memorial Hospital.

Progress was initially slow. Cake sales and individual donations succeeded in raising part of the target sum but a grander enterprise was needed to ensure that the Young Church honoured their pledge. This took the form of a hugely enjoyable Parish Talent Show - organised by the young people themselves - which netted a well-deserved £120. Since the sum raised now exceeded the cost of the notice board it was agreed that the remainder should be used to purchase a glass lavabo bowl.

On 29th November 1998 three representatives of the Young Church, accompanied by myself and Wendy Baker, visited the newly completed chapel and presented a cheque for £210 to Pam Bryant, Chair of the League of Friends. We were delighted to see the notice board already in use and to hear about the great spiritual benefit to patients, staff and visitors which the chapel is now providing.

The chapel is situated at the heart of the hospital and has been designed to be as light and airy as possible. Great care was taken to choose the right colour bricks for the walls and stone flags for the floor. At one end Christian images predominate. There is a stand for votive candles - clearly much used - and a large crucifix. However if you look up at the wall at the opposite end your eye fixes on a beautifully inscribed Koranic verse signalling the direction of Mecca. In the open space between are custom made chairs, an altar and other ecclesiastical furniture. The most stunning feature is the soaring, church-like roof.

We were very privileged to have Pam talk to us about the chapel and to show us the fruits of her past fund-raising efforts in other areas of the hospital. I hope that our visit brought home to the Young Church just how valuable their contribution to this local community project has been and that they will always feel, as Pam says, a special part of it.

Lesley Mortimer

HOSPITAL PRAYER

Dear God

We thank you for our Hospital and Hospital Chapel

May all who enter here for healing, care,
and spiritual comfort, find peace and quietness of mind.

May you be ever present to comfort
and console those who are troubled.

May those who are afraid be embraced with
your great love and granted strength and calm.

May those who are weakened in body or in spirit
feel your healing power in their time of need.

May those who grieve or are bereaved find
comfort and consolation.

Bless our nursing and medical staff and all who work here
that they may be filled with compassion and understanding.

Bless this place that it be filled with grace and mercy
and that we may all live in mutual love and peace for the
glory of your name.

Amen.

THE SIMPLE LIFE

On a cycling holiday in France this year we came to the village of Le Thoronet, and we decided to visit the famous Cistercian abbey near the village. I went without a great deal of enthusiasm, but expecting little, found the visit moving and rewarding.

I had no previous knowledge of the Cistercians, nor of their founder. The visit made me reflect on the monastic movement as a whole. Alignment of one's whole life to service of God goes beyond: "Who sweeps a room as for thy sake . . ." which is what most of us try to do at least some of the time. Real alignment to service concerns not just how we do things, but continual consideration of what is to be done.

There have been and are still many ways in which people have attempted to devote themselves to a life of service. In the third century the desert fathers, of whom there are many splendid, lighthearted tales, lived almost isolated from their community, spending their lives in prayer and work. Formal Christian monastic communities following a rule were founded in the fourth and fifth centuries, and in 529 St. Benedict founded the abbey of Mount Cassino.



Benedict's rule of prayer and work, in that order, has been the guide of nearly all following orders. The rule was of the utmost regularity, self sufficiency and simplicity. Over the years the skill and hard work of the Benedictines gave them a prosperity which gradually led to an accumulation of wealth, and the founding principle of simplicity was less well observed. In the tenth century the very rich Benedictine abbey of Cluny was regarded as the model of monastic life. In the eleventh century, Robert de Molesme, the prior of a monastery following the Cluny way,

renounced his appointment and founded a new monastery in Citeaux near Dijon. Robert added asceticism and renunciation of the world to the monastic way of life, attempting to return to the true principles of Benedict. 'Cistercian' was the name given to this reformed order. The Cistercian rule was codified by his second successor as abbot, Stephen Harding, who was born in Dorset. More monasteries following the order were founded.

Bernard, son of a nobleman, later St. Bernard of Clairvaux, entered Citeaux as a novice under Stephen Harding. Still aged less than thirty, he was appointed abbot of Clairvaux. His writings propagated the Cistercian order, and by the end of the twelfth century there were more than one hundred Cistercian monasteries.

The abbey of Le Thoronet has no pictures, stained glass or carvings. Nothing is ornamented. It is, however, a beautiful building in its simplicity, and gives the layman some feeling of the peace of those whose sole aim was a life of service.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

At the last P.C.C., Ros Borley described the work of the Community Health Council, which is the independent local voice of the public in the N.H.S. The C.H.C. consists of a group of voluntary members with a special interest in local health matters, supported by a small staff team. It monitors local health services, provides information and helps those who need to complain. The council seeks public opinion on health matters and communicates these to health service managers, suggests improvements to services and liaises with those who buy health care for local people.

Ros also described the imminent changes in primary care. From 1st April 1999, all GP practices across the whole country will operate as part of a local primary care group. In our borough there will be two groups, one covering Teddington, Twickenham, Whitton and the Hamptons and the other for Richmond, Barnes, Sheen, Mortlake, Ham and Kew. The aims of these groups are to:

- 1. improve the health of, and address the health inequalities in, their community.*
- 2. develop primary care and community health services for their community.*
- 3. advise on or commission directly hospital services for their community.*

The Community Health Council can provide information on these changes and answer any other queries you may have about local health services. They are located at 55 Heath Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 4AW. Tel: 0181 744 1144.

AGE *Concern*

ADVOCACY PROJECT SAVED

Age Concern Richmond upon Thames report that the advocacy and information project, which provides the bulk of their services, has been saved from closure. The scheme had been threatened after the grant from the Opportunities for Volunteering programme ran out. However, funding from various alternative sources has now secured the project until the year 2000.

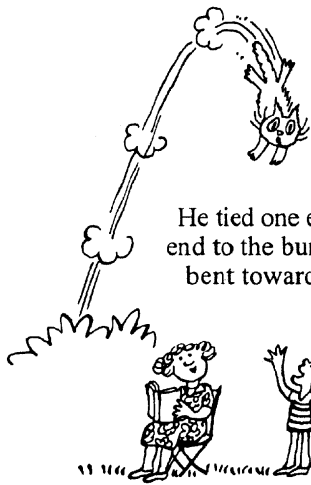
More good news is that the advocacy project has been selected as one of the Mayor's charities for this year.

Did you know . .



that pensioners can have five items collected and taken away by the Refuse Department totally free, up to three times a year? Any large items that you want to get rid of but are unable to take to the tip yourself, for example old fridges, furniture, or garden waste will be collected by arrangement. Forms can be collected from the library.

THE FLYING MOGGIE



This comes courtesy of The News Quiz on Radio 4 - apologies to listeners who've heard it, but it bears repeating.

A clergyman, whose moggie was stuck up a tree, decided that he needed to launch a rescue.

He tied one end of a rope to a branch of the tree and the other end to the bumper of his car and drove slowly away. The tree bent towards the ground and then the inevitable happened - the rope snapped and the cat was catapulted into the air and disappeared.

Two weeks later the clergyman was in the local supermarket where he met a parishioner, who lived near him, buying cat food.

"I didn't know you had a cat", he said.

"Oh Vicar", replied the lady, "I must tell

you, it's a miracle! I was sitting in my garden with my daughter a couple of weeks ago. "Mummy", she said, "I do wish I had a pussy cat." "Well", I said, "you will have to pray to Jesus." And just then a cat landed in our garden, and it's been with us ever since!"

REPORT BACK FROM THE PCC

On 30th November, the PCC welcomed Ros Borley from the Richmond, Twickenham and Roehampton Community Health Council. Ros came to tell us about the CHC, the new Primary Care Groups due to come into force next April and to hear our views. A report of the discussion can be found elsewhere. Paul Peterken, our new Treasurer, presented the proposed budget for the next financial year. The two major items of expenditure will be the house for the new Deacon, Freda Evans, who is coming to us at the end of June next year, and the cost of repairing the buckling wall in the churchyard. The result is a budgeted loss of just under £5,000, against a surplus this year of just under £12,000. After discussion, the PCC unanimously adopted the budget with the proviso that we strive to overcome this deficit. More fundraising is proposed, particularly to support our grants to charities.

An offer has been made and accepted on a suitable house for Freda on the Poets' Estate, subject to survey. It is hoped that contracts can be exchanged by the end of January, with completion later in the Spring/early summer.

Brian, Dick Wilde and Paul Peterken have attended the Diocesan Bidding Meeting and with the approval of the Finance Committee, bid to increase our quota paid to the Diocese by 5%.

The next meeting of the PCC is on Tuesday 19th January, and there is to be an "away day" on Saturday 6th February. If you have any matters you would like the PCC to consider, please contact Brian or one of the Church Wardens before these dates.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The day of the Bazaar dawned bright but cold. The stalls, in church and hall, soon took on a colourful appearance, as stall holders arranged and priced the myriad of articles which were for sale. The skills and talents of stall holders and the congregation were in evidence in gifts, preserves, cakes and raffle prizes.

Well before 10.30 a.m., the appointed opening time, it was pleasing to see plenty of people gathering to buy. For the next three hours there was a happy, bustling atmosphere as the stalls were gradually depleted. Refreshments were much sought after as the weather was so cold. At about 1 p.m. the winning tickets for the raffle were drawn. There were some lovely prizes, many of which had been donated by local businesses, for which we were very grateful. Then the clearing up began. The church was quickly cleared, as a wedding was about to take place. A special thank you to these stallholders for agreeing to have their stalls in church as there was not room for them all in the hall.

Over the next few days all the remaining proceeds were gathered in and the final profit was £1505. A very big thank you to all who helped, in any way, with the bazaar. It was a very happy and successful occasion.

Wendy Baker



A very happy New Year to all our readers, and special birthday wishes to Chrissie. She made 94 years on New Year's Eve, not 98, and we apologise for that mistake in last month's magazine. Also in December, Rose Frier was 83 and Wendy Baker celebrated her Diamond Birthday.

The Christingle Service on 6th December was very well attended and a very happy occasion it was. The Brownies have been working on their Faith Awareness (Stage II) all term and their badges were awarded during the service.

Thank you again to Brian and Wendy and all who worked so hard for our Bazaar. The final figure was £1500; well done indeed. Many thanks also to all the helpers who made the festive oranges for Christingle and those who helped on Gutter Clearing Day.

The Advent Meditation was led by our Archdeacon, Malcolm Colmer. It was a timely reminder to us all of the real meaning of Christmas. We did enjoy the wonderful music and thank Geoffrey and Chris Hodges for all that they did in that sphere.

On 25th January it will be the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. This is in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity and there will be a Deanery Synod meeting at 7.30 p.m. at St. James's.

The travel news is that the de Mels have returned to Sri Lanka, Barbara Grant is visiting a childhood friend in Florida and, at the time of writing this, Pippa Butterfield was in Bali.

FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 8 Saskia Mary Grace Bell, 7 Royal Road, Teddington
- 15 Vicki Attwood
Phoebe Ruth Jerman
Eleanor Megan Jerman } 8 Adecroft Way, West Molesey
- 22 James Edward Ralph, 2 Manoel Road, Twickenham
Joseph William Southey Shanks-Morris, 97 Hampton Road

Wedding

Roger John Cook and Joanne Brown

Funerals

- 16 Georgina Bishop, 12 Springfield Road, Ashford 50
- 27 Rozinda Arnott, 11 Links View Court 81

DATES TO NOTE IN JANUARY

- 1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus - Bank Holiday
- 3 **Feast of the Epiphany (tr)**
- 10 Hampton Deanery Service at All Saints, Hampton 5 p.m.
marking the commissioning of the London Bridges Initiative
- 16 St. James's Parish Party - Cops and Robbers. Tickets available now.
- 19 P.C.C. 8 p.m.
- 24 **Conversion of St. Paul. (tr)** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- 25 7.30 p.m. Eucharist
8 p.m. Deanery Synod at St. James's
Speaker: The Rev Donald Reece, Bishop's Ecumenical Officer
- 27 Churches Together Around Hampton - at All Saints
- 31 **Education Sunday** 9.30 a.m. Preacher: Mr. Geoff Edwards, London
Diocesan Board for Schools

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE: 10TH JANUARY