

I wonder what the four weeks before the first Christmas were like? No carol services, not a bauble or a piece of tinsel to be had in the Bethlehem Bazaar, shepherds moaning about the monotony of their job night after night, always the same. No plum puddings to be stirred or turkeys to be fattened. Of course, there was a bit of a rush on, because of the census. People were having to traipse around the countryside to their ancestral village, just to please the rotten Romans. What was it like I wonder? I wonder what the four weeks before Christmas this year will be like? We can't predict - or can we? What will we be sure to occupy ourselves with in Advent, this time of waiting expectantly for the coming of Jesus? I rather suppose we shall, to varying degrees, be caught in a whirl of preparation - food, drink, cards, presents, parties. But is that really what we are prepared to wait expectantly for? Or is there something else? Something, which, like at the first Christmas was almost totally unnoticed because it was so ordinary.

At the first Christmas it was the very ordinary birth of a very ordinary child to a very ordinary girl. There was nothing world shattering about it. But that is, of course, exactly the point. Christians believe that God chooses the very ordinary to display the extraordinary - then and now.

I wonder, is there a chance that this year in the four weeks before Christmas we can learn to expect the unexpected? For me that's what Christmas is - Christ, the human face of God, being discovered in the very ordinary world of human hope, joy, pain or fear. Such a discovery can indeed turn the world upside down. So why not try reading this poem as a prayer during the next four weeks.

*Come humbly, Holy Child,  
stir in the womb  
of our complacency;  
shepherd our vision  
of the little we need  
for abundant living.*

*Come humbly, Holy Light,  
pierce our lack  
of generosity and love,  
scattering our dark fear  
of living freely in your way,  
poured out in wanton service.*

*Come humbly, Holy Spirit  
to whisper through the leaves  
in the garden of our ignorance,  
exposing our blindness  
to children dying,  
hungry and in pain.*

*Come humbly, Holy Wisdom  
cry through the empty streets  
of our pretence to care,  
that the face of the poor  
will be lifted up,  
for holy is your name.*

*Come humbly, Holy God  
be born into our rejoicing,  
Come quickly, humble God,  
and reign.*

GK.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and assure you of a very warm welcome here at St. James's.

*Brian Leathard*

**Christmas 2000**  
at  
**St. James' Church, Hampton Hill**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
6.30p.m. Parish Carol Service

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Christmas Eve**  
9.30a.m. Parish Communion  
4.30p.m. Children's Crib Service  
**11.45p.m. Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day**  
8.00a.m. Holy Communion  
9.30a.m. Christmas Communion

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**  
9.30a.m. Parish Communion  
11.30p.m. Watchnight Service

**You are very welcome at these services**

## **WEBSITE EXPANSION**

**Have you seen** the new-look Magazine, Diary and Young Church sections of the St. James's website? If not, you don't know what you're missing! If you haven't got access to the Internet at home, you can get on-line at your local Library where there will be someone to help you.

Just go on-line in the web browser on the computer (probably Internet Explorer), type [www.hampton-online.co.uk](http://www.hampton-online.co.uk) in the address line and press 'Enter'. Click on **Churches** in the 'Local Services' section and then on the word website next to St. James.

The Magazine, Diary and Young Church sections have been vastly expanded and are continually being changed and added to. You will find lots of new and up-to-date information, pictures and links to other websites. These sections are designed to be re-visited frequently.

If you have any ideas for content or material for the website, please give Prill a ring on 8979 0528 or E mail her on [p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk) If you have a computer but no E mail link you can provide copy on a floppy disk. There are no deadlines.



## BERLIN LINK

There have never been as many prayers for Kirchenkreis Charlottenburg as on the second weekend of October in London: during the daily prayer times at St. James's Church, Hampton Hill, in the two Sunday services and even in famous St. Paul's Cathedral. There is a partnership not only between the Cities of Berlin and London but between the churches as well, on various levels; thus for example between Kirchenkreis Charlottenburg, in the south west of Berlin, and Hampton Deanery. This partnership is only just beginning. This time there were nine members of five Charlottenburg parishes visiting St. James and St. Mary's, developing personal contacts and thinking about future possibilities of exchange between the parishes in both cities. Do we have similar problems, and how are they dealt with? Which are the differences in parish life or in understanding what church is or should be in the 21st century, what can we learn from each other? These were the questions discussed, right from the beginning in St. James's vicarage where we had a lively discussion (in which we were not forced to activate our knowledge in English because Revd. Brian Leathard spoke German, fluently). We had tea and cake and Brian told us that in Great Britain all priests have the same income, payed partly from the church's fortune, but mostly from offerings of the parishioners. Compared to German standards it is not very much money british priests have to live on. Almost all work in the parish is voluntarily done, there are no paid workers for youth groups, no secretaries in the offices or in the financial management as we know them in Germany. The organist in St. James is one of the few paid workers in the parish, he also leads the choir, and the money he gets per year is what a German organist and choirmaster would get per month. It is an advantage of such a lot of vountary work that parish life and leading of the parish are much more understood as a common task of all parish members and the laity is much more engaged and sharing their abilities and competences. They do not rely upon the priest and paid workers to get everything done. But continuity is a problem, Brian admitted, because volunteers set their own conditions and decide themselves which amount of time and energy they are able to give to tasks in the parish. So if there is a change in e.g. personal life or circumstances, they can much easier retire from their tasks than a paid worker could. We had two opportunities to see how much the laity of the parish feel responsible for parish tasks and issues, in a very selfconfident and natural way. We took part in a meeting of the PCC where the new prayerbook was being discussed. A small group of members of the PCC which had dealt with this subject since several months gave an introduction, presented first results and led the discussion. The presentation was very clear, informative and humurous, the discussion that followed was very fair and concentrated on the subject. On Sunday, it was not Brian, the priest who did the sermon but Janet, a surgeon. It was St. Luke's day, and since Luke had been a physician it had seemed quite appropriate to Brian to ask a member of his parish who knows about contemporary health work and is able to connect her professional experiences with her christian faith. The calmness and professionalism in which Janet

mastered this task was very impressive.

Our hosts - we stayed with different families or single persons - were very friendly, they hosted us without making any fuss of it; we really felt welcomed as brothers and sisters.

The differences in service orders and church structure caused a lot of internal discussions between the members of our visitor group. Some were really enthusiastic about anglican services and liked it very much that they are so much more colourful than average protestant services; they also said that they found the atmosphere more solemn (without being stiff or embarrassing). Others said that in their opinion everything is much more (and too) formal, especially in morning prayer or even song. Certainly the Even song we took part in at St. Pauls's was very ceremonial, but even those who did not like the medieval touch of the ceremony and felt reminded of some performance in a museum rather than of a service in the 21.Century were deeply touched by the music and the wonderful voices of the choir.

Some members of our group had sung themselves in a choir the evening before: there was a performance of "Messiah" at St. James, in favour of the worldwide Hospice movement, and amateur singers were invited to join the choir. There were performances of Messiah all over the world that evening, and it was quite a special and moving feeling to be part of a whole in this aspect, too. But besides attending services there was also time left for talking to our hosts and traveling around, to Hampton Court, Richmond or Central London. We are looking forward to a visit from our new british friends to Berlin next year and we'll certainly have a lot of discussions about our experiences in our own parishes in the meantime. We'd like to say thank you to all our hosts once again, your hospitality was simply wonderful! See you next year in Berlin!

For the visitor group: Jutta Schreur

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**Royal National**  
**Lifeboat**  
**Institution**



Twickenham and District branch of the R.N.L.I. are holding "An Evening of Christmas Music" with the Salvation Army musicians and audience participation on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Venue will be Teddington Baptist Church, Church Road Teddington commencing at 7.30p.m. Refreshments will be served afterwards and Christmas cards, souvenirs and Christmas gifts will be on sale. All welcome.

*Jill Goddard 020 8287 7438*



## What happens now?

website [www.jubilee2000uk.org](http://www.jubilee2000uk.org)

The year 2000 has witnessed a lack of vision from the G7 leaders in Okinawa and the international financial institutions. But some very good news came in late October when Congress finally approved America's contribution to the fund that will finance the debt relief pledges made at Cologne in 1999. See what one of the main opponents, Republican Senator Phil Gramm, had to say:

*"I do not think since Constantine the Great called his ecumenical council in Nicaea there has been a larger gathering of holy people in one place than the people who came to see me about supporting debt forgiveness."*

We must remember the Cologne pledges will only cancel about \$100bn of debt and it will take until at least 2005 for this to be delivered, as eligible countries proceed through the process. Jubilee 2000 says at least \$350bn must be cancelled to make a real difference and that at least another thirty countries, excluded from the current process, need urgent debt relief. There is clearly more work to be done.

In addition to achieving some debt cancellation, Jubilee 2000 has revealed some very important lessons. Firstly, that if advocacy on development issues is to be effective, it must be co-ordinated globally, between civil society in the north and south. Secondly, that working together in a coalition has achieved much more than lots of individual efforts. Just see what President Clinton said in September:

*"It's given us a coalition that I would give anything to see formed around other issues, and issues here at home - anything. It could change the nature of the whole political debate in America because of something they did together that they all believe so deeply in."*

A third important lesson is that ordinary people can grasp and lobby elites on complex financial issues. Jubilee 2000's approach and work, based on the respect and expectation that ordinary people can understand these issues, has been groundbreaking and must be built on.

Jubilee 2000 was designed as a short-life campaign, with a clear objective and deadline - the cancellation of the unpayable debts of the poorest countries by the year 2000. This clarity of purpose has given the campaign a particular dynamic, urgency and energy. The deadline is now nearly with us and the Jubilee 2000 Coalition is ending, with a final public rally in Westminster on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

But debt campaigning will continue - the baton is being passed on. Here is how.

**Jubilee Plus.** Under the umbrella of the New Economics Foundation, Ann Pettifor, Director of Jubilee 2000, and two colleagues will research the international financial system, re-design strategies and plan a fresh challenge. They will be listening to people from the South and maintaining the international coordination work of Jubilee

2000. Remember that campaigns in other countries, especially in Latin America and Africa, have been growing in strength and taking courage from the strong lead by northern campaigners. These southern campaigns continue.

**Drop the Debt.** Adrian Lovett, deputy director of Jubilee 2000, is planning a short-term campaign to maximise pressure on the G7 before and during the Genoa summit in Italy next July. There have been strong indications that the Italian government want to bring forward a new initiative on debt.

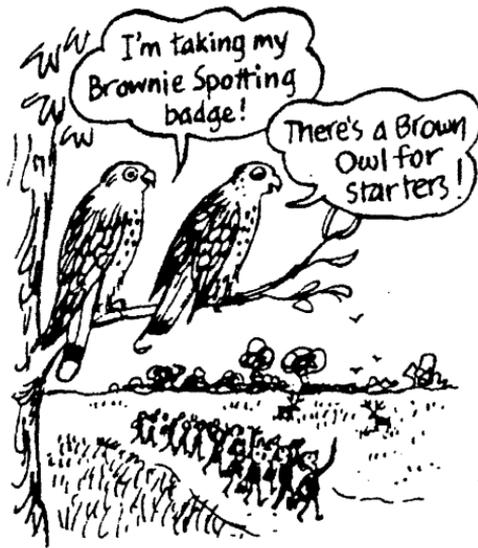
**Debt Network.** Christian Aid are proposing a network employing one person full-time to ensure coordination of the ongoing UK work on debt. Many other agencies that were part of the Jubilee 2000 Coalition will continue to campaign on debt cancellation, at least until the next G7 Summit.

*Ann Peterken*

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## BIRD WATCH IN BUSHY PARK

This term the Brownies have been carrying on the theme of animals and working towards their Bird Lover Badge. Mr. and Mrs. Dale, active members of the RSPB reserve at Pulborough in Sussex, came along and gave the Brownies a detailed talk on what it means to "Bird Watch" and how they can help support the work of the RSPB. The following week we tried to put our newly acquired skills into action and with the help once again of Mr. and Mrs. Dale we walked into Bushy Park - 27 Brownies and accompanying adults armed with notebooks, pens, binoculars and of



course that ever important packed picnic! It was amazing to find out how many birds you can see in the space of an hour - those who were lagging behind with Brown Owl were even lucky enough to see a Kestrel. We are finishing our badge with a trip to the Wetlands Centre at Barnes.

The rest of the term has been spent doing the usual activities - a Halloween evening, a tramps social evening and at the end of the term our "End of the Year 2000" party. It has been an exciting year for the Brownies and we would all like to wish you a Peaceful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

## THE COMMON WORSHIP COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December is Advent Sunday, and at 8a.m. we will use, for the first time, the Common Worship form of communion service. As the 9.30a.m. service on Advent Sunday will be the special Christingle service, we will not start using the Common Worship form at 9.30a.m. until Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. All our communion services afterwards, except those including a baptism, will use one of three forms of Common Worship which we have discussed together. We will have a standard form, a form for use in Advent and Lent, and thirdly a form for all-age worship, this last particularly designed for family groups.

Common Worship offers a wide range of choices. As you will know from previous articles in the *Spire*, there have been open meetings to enable us to reach agreement on the forms we should use. Following the last open meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, a working group met to consolidate the three agreed forms, carefully considering the opinions expressed by all those who have attended any of the meetings. This consolidation has been done. There have been some differences of opinion; the working group has had to make decisions of its own. However, we can make changes in due course if, as a congregation, we agree to do so.

We are producing an inexpensive booklet which will include each of the three agreed forms. Each form will be complete in itself, following sequentially page by page. They will be very easy for newcomers and visitors to follow. We hope the booklets will be ready by the time you read this.

Initially we plan to get 350 copies of the booklet printed and made up with a plastic comb binding. We expect them to last at least one year, possibly two years or even longer. By "last" we mean both that the service will not change and the booklets will not get damaged. Anyone will be able to buy a personal copy at cost, which we expect to be about £3 each. Buying a personal copy will be helpful to the church in two ways: it will directly offset some of the cost of the purchase of the booklets, and carefully-kept personal copies will save the wear and tear of communal use.

As with every change we hope that our services become more easily accessible and more meaningful for everyone.

*Dick Wilde*

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### ALMA NEWS

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the harvest of Spectacles. We collected an amazing 160 (exactly!) pairs of specs. Together with all the others collected through ALMA they will be taken to those in need in Angola by a member of the Mothers Union in London later this month. Your support for our link churches in Angola and Mozambique is very much appreciated.

There are leaflets at the back of the church should anyone wish to support ALMA's Children and we still have some Christmas cards to sell which are excellent value at £2.50 for 10. Please call 020 8977 9434.

*Elizabeth Wilmot*

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TEDDINGTON

For many years now, the churches in Teddington have laid on a Christmas Day lunch for the elderly and lonely, working together to show a practical concern for our neighbours. The day normally runs as follows:

<i>9a.m. to lunchtime</i>	<i>Lunch is prepared</i>
<i>10.30a.m. onwards</i>	<i>Guests arrive and are welcomed with a cup of tea and biscuits</i>
<i>11a.m.</i>	<i>The Salvation Army band leads us in carols</i>
<i>12.30p.m.</i>	<i>Full Christmas lunch</i>
<i>1.30 to 2.30p.m.</i>	<i>We play a few silly games. There is often an entertainer and sometimes the guests give a "party piece"</i>
<i>2.30p.m.</i>	<i>Another cup of tea with Christmas cake and mince pies</i>
<i>3p.m.</i>	<i>We watch the Queen's Christmas broadcast</i>
<i>3.20 to 3.30p.m.</i>	<i>Guests are collected and depart with a "doggy bag" of cold eats and other goodies</i>

If you know anyone who would like to be a guest or a helper, particularly if people would like to drive guests back and forth, please let Stella King know on 020 8977 8000 (day) or 020 8977 3891 (evening). Guests can also book through Elleray Hall on 020 8977 0549 (Ruth Brown or Richard Bender).

In addition to drivers, help is also needed to help prepare the lunch (even an hour or two would be useful), to chat to the guests and wait at tables, and to provide small gifts and cards for the guests to take home.



## **CHRISTMAS BOOKS FOR TODDLERS**

*If you have a toddler you will certainly be spoilt for choice for a Christmas book, but sorting out the good from the indifferent can be a time consuming task. The following short reviews may help. If you have trouble finding any of the books, Freda says to ask her!*

***No Tree for Christmas* by Marilyn Lashbrook - Me Too Books price £1.25**

This simply illustrated book is the shepherds' story, based on Luke Chapter 2, emphasising that Jesus is God and is what Christmas is about. Very young children will enjoy answering the questions throughout the book and looking at the funny illustrations - particularly liked the Angel Gabriel who has clearly been on a body building course!

***The Story of Christmas* by Jane Ray - Orchard Books price £4.99**

With words adapted from the Gospels, this beautiful book tells the story of the Nativity from the Annunciation to the Flight into Egypt. The primitive style illustrations are gorgeously painted and embellished with gold. This is a gem.

***The Christmas Mouse* by Toby Forward and Ruth Brown - Red Fox price £5.99**

A rather weak version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* about a rich mouse who doesn't care about Christmas. A strange mouse arrives offering to show him the value of friendship. The narrative, though not allegorical enough, is moral and the atmospheric illustrations cleverly show the Dickens' story happening alongside ours - spot the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future showing Scrooge the error of his ways while our mouse learns the true meaning of Christmas.

***The Little Donkey* by Gerda Marie Scheidl - North-South Paperbacks price £4.99**

A donkey hears the news of a new king's birth in a stable and sets out to visit him. A pretty book, but rather wishy washily illustrated and contrived, with no mention at all that the king is the Son of God.

***A Christmas Story* by Brian Wildsmith - Oxford University Press price £4.99**

Another little donkey story, this time the baby of the one who took Mary to Bethlehem. He misses his mum and a girl next door takes him to find her and Mary and Joseph. The pleasing illustrations show the Nativity taking place, despite the text, as the Donkey and the girl journey to Bethlehem but why snow in Palestine?

***The Last Straw* by Fredrick H Thury - Zero to Ten Limited**

**Hardback at £14.25 comes with a soft camel - Paperback approx £4.99**

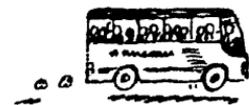
Adapted from Frederick Thury's original libretto for a children's opera, this is the story of Hoshmakaka the proud old camel who is chosen to carry the wise men's gifts to Jesus. On his way he meets others who ask him to carry their gifts, and then a small child pleads with him to carry the proverbial last straw. The lovely illustrations and well written text will please both children and parents.

***Cat in the Manger* by Michael Foreman - Anderson Press price £9.99 (hardback)**

Characteristically written and illustrated by Michael Foreman this rather expensive but magical book tells the Christmas story from the perspective of a cat who happens to live in the barn where Jesus is born. He is very indignant to find a crying baby disturbing his sleep and to be tipped out of his manger so that Jesus can be laid in it, but in the end he even leaves the mice alone as they crowd forward to see the new baby.

# From Spire to Spire

Our visit to Salisbury Cathedral



*'Salisbury Cathedral is the single most beautiful structure in England, and the Close around it the most beautiful space.'*  
Bill Bryson 1995

Whether you agree with this statement or not, you cannot fail to find this historic church, that has stood there for nearly 800 years, awe-inspiring. Our visit, arranged by Freda, took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> September leaving St. James' just after 9a.m. and returning, following evensong in the Cathedral, at around 8.30p.m. It was a long but most enjoyable day and amazingly the weather was dry and mild! Two groups were guided around the cathedral and chapter house, ours by an elderly and very erudite lady who pointed out many interesting things which might otherwise have been missed. The highlight in the cathedral must be the Trinity Chapel and the beautiful, predominantly blue, east window by Gabriel Loire dedicated to prisoners of conscience throughout the world, together with the embroidered altar cloth depicting 'Faith in the city' with its contrasts of wealth and poverty, comfort and suffering. This is the oldest part of the cathedral, completed and dedicated in 1225. The tour ended in the Chapter House which houses one of only four original copies of the Magna Carta.

Following lunch at a local inn, we were free to explore the city on our own before meeting for a tour of St. Thomas's Church. The original church was highly decorated but most of this was destroyed during the reformation; however a few fragments remain including three medieval paintings in the Lady Chapel. The most striking feature of the church is the Doom painting above the chancel arch depicting the final judgement, painted in about 1470. At the time of the reformation the painting was obliterated by several coats of whitewash and was eventually forgotten until in 1819 the whitewash was removed, the painting recorded, and then carefully painted over again! It was finally revealed in 1881 and has since been cleaned and retouched.

We sat in the choir stalls to attend Evensong at the cathedral accompanied by the beautiful singing of the all girl choir. An uplifting experience to end a most enjoyable day!

## CHRISTIAN AID

The charity is anxious to make provision for emergencies such as Hurricane Mitch, which struck Central America recently, or another Kosovo. Christian Aid would like to find a few people who would be willing to organise emergency cash collections in High Streets or shopping centres, and others who might appeal for, and co-ordinate collections of, goods in kind. You may remember that last year Susan Horner made a very successful collection of clothing and goods to fill Aquaboxes for Rotary to send to Turkey after the earthquake. We had boxes at the back of the Church and many were very generous.

If you feel that you could be prepared to help Christian Aid in either of these ways, please speak to me.

*Margaret Taylor 020 8979 3961*

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### **METROPOLITAN ANTHONY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2000**

I know that I entered the "Annual Celebration of Churchlink West London" at Christ Church confident in the belief that it was not my own spiritual poverty that was to be the subject of Metropolitan Anthony's talk, but that of the world. How wrong I was! He started by pointing out that it is not surprising the world is so spiritually poor, the church is, we are. Spiritual poverty can take two forms. One is an absence of spiritual awareness and those who possess such poverty are to be utterly pitied, as they are poor indeed. The other form of spiritual poverty is that of which Jesus spoke in the beatitudes and those who possess it have everything. This consists of offering everything to God and acknowledging that all that one has has come from God. We are nothing and yet God thought enough of the human form that he had created he sent Jesus Christ to us in the form of a man.

He told the story of a lady who was concerned about her dreadful state of sin. Fr. Anthony explained that we are all sinners. She was not pacified. Her sin was that she would look in the mirror and think how beautiful she was. What could she do? Fr. Anthony's reply was the suggestion that she continue to look in the mirror and thank God for each beautiful feature that he had given her - then ask his forgiveness for the ugly expression that she put on it.

In reply to a question from a teacher with many Muslims in her class Fr. Anthony offered the advice to listen with respect and with love and discuss their beliefs with them, offering insights from Christianity. He explained that all religions, whatever they call the God to whom they pray, can only receive an answer from the One God, as there is only one God. His reply to a question about children was similar. They should be treated with love. Love can never be wasted. Children coming to a loving church will have the sense of being loved and will be changed positively by that love. He told the story of a German soldier he was treating when he was an army surgeon.

The was a man was dying and responded to Anthony's gentle ministry with a triumphant comment to the effect that he was dying for a worthy cause that was succeeding. Anthony said he could not but respect the man's willingness to die for his beliefs, even though he could not share them. He said we have to accept the good and the bad in everyone - in everything. If we can *truly* forgive the harm that another means to us, then we are worthy to take our place in the presence of God. Fr. Anthony made it abundantly clear that we **MUST** love and forgive those who hate us, even to the extreme point of sacrifice of life. We know that the power of love opens up a new dimension to a child, we know that love in adult relationships enhances lives, but the power of the "Divine" love of God is a whole "other" dimension that we can only try to imagine.

He gave a wonderful illustration of seeing God in the fruits of creation. Whilst in the French resistance, out of work and very hungry he went to visit a friend and looked longingly at a cucumber on the table. "When did you last eat?" Asked the friend. "Two days ago" was the reply. The friend insisted on praying before eating and Anthony said the prayers went on and on - he prayed the whole length of the cucumber (albeit a small one) and beyond, but when the friend finally finished, broke the cucumber in two and they shared it, it was like communion.

*(to be continued)*

*Ann Peterken, Freda Evans, Judith Winstanley, Mona Goss and Ruth Mills*

## THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

This year we intend to have one giant St. James's Christmas card in church. Everyone will be very welcome to sign it in order to wish a Happy and Peaceful Christmas to every other member of our Parish. The card will be available from Advent Sunday.

So please do not bring personal Christmas cards to church for others to pick up. So many remain long after Christmas that they lose their significance. Instead, join in signing the Parish Christmas Card for all parishioners.

## DON'T FORGET TO SIGN THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD





We are very pleased to be able to report on some varied and enthusiastic sporting achievements. Venetia Barrett has been selected to play netball for Middlesex, Reza Sazegar plays hockey for Exeter University and Matthew Horner plays Ultimate Frisbee for York University. Congratulations to all these young people.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November there was a request for used and unwanted spectacles in aid of ALMA. Thank you to all those who responded. We shall be giving out Children's Society boxes at Christingle and we hope to have them back to put round the crib at Christmas.

Just before going to press, we heard that our oldest regular worshipper, Chrissie, has died peacefully in Kingston Hospital. She was with us week by week whenever she was well enough and we will all miss seeing her in her familiar place by the front pillar.

We have also heard that Bob Balchin, who had moved to live in Ross-on-Wye has died suddenly. Our sympathy and prayers go to his family and friends.

Lastly, we would like to give thanks that our spire is still standing after the very high winds that accompanied the storms at the end of October. We only had one tree branch blown down in the churchyard and that did not do any damage.

## QUIET DAY

SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2001

10a.m. - 4p.m.

with **The Ven. Timothy Raphael**

in a wonderful tithed barn near Chobham.

**A guided journey to learn more about prayer and silence  
in a beautiful setting .**

Cost will be around £5 and bring a packed lunch.

More information from Freda.

*'As long as the soul is not still there can be no vision, but when stillness has brought us into the Presence of God, then another sort of silence, much more absolute, intervenes'*

Anthony Bloom



