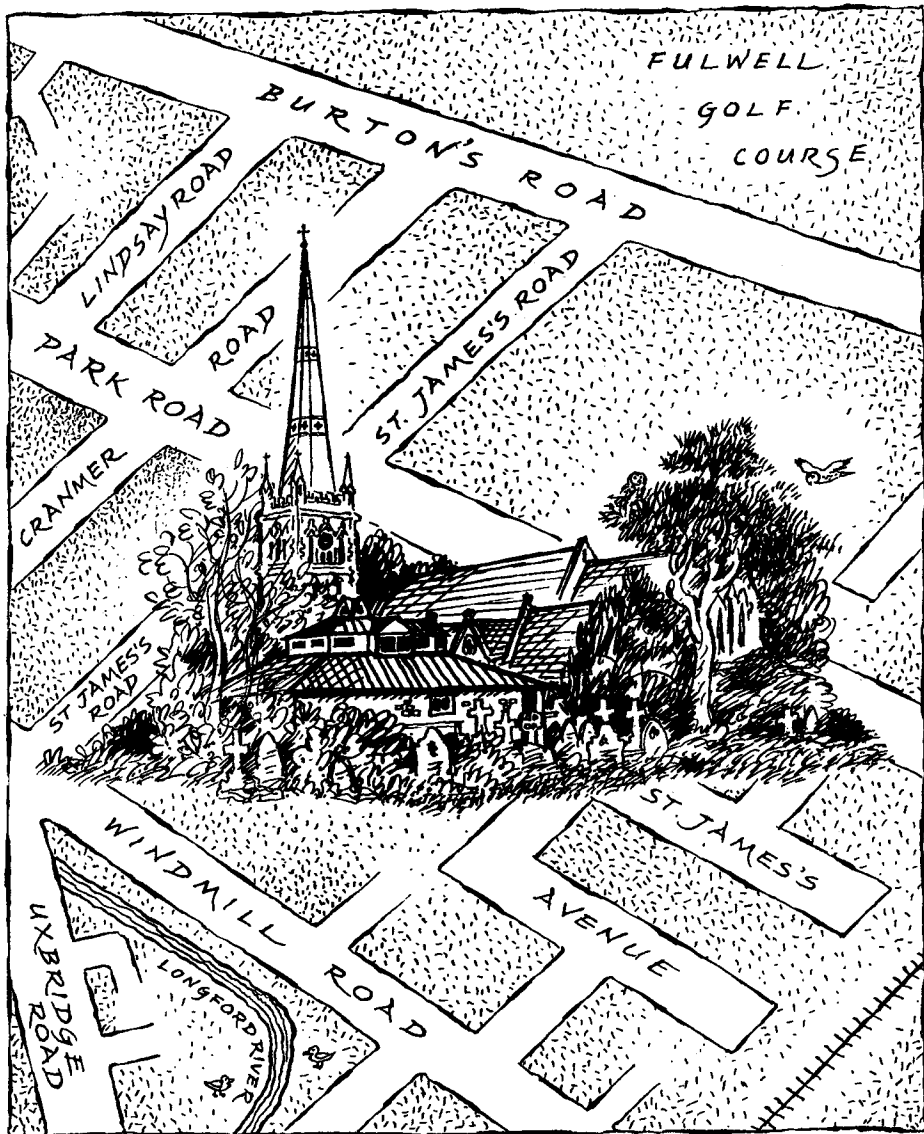


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 2001

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

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The Rev Betty Stewart	8979 6047
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Mr Dick Wilde, 60 St. James's Avenue	8979 8887
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Mr Paul Peterken, 273 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham	8891 5862
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Mr Pip Rowett, 27 Orford Gardens, Twickenham	8892 4736
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Mr Geoffrey Bowyer, MMus, FRCO, 25 Mill Road, Twickenham	8894 3773
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Mr David Taylor, 57 Nightingale Road, Hampton	8979 3961
CHURCH FLOWERS	
Mrs Coryn Robinson, 23 Courtlands Avenue, Hampton	8979 6786
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Mrs Susan Horner, 5 St. James's Avenue	8979 9380
Mrs Margaret Taylor, 57 Nightingale Road, Hampton	8979 3961
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ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	
Mrs Prill Hinckley, 115 Burton's Road	8979 0528
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER	
Mrs Margaret Hobbs, 76 Broad Lane, Hampton	8979 2320
SOCIAL COMMITTEE ORGANISER	
Miss Kate O'Sullivan	8977 8294
WOMEN'S FORUM CO-ORDINATOR	
Mrs Mona Gow, 31 Chelsea Close	8287 9550

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
1 st Thursday of month	14.00	Holy Communion

On Sundays for the Young

9.30 - 10.15 am (except first Sunday in month and holiday periods):

Sunday School (aged 4+)

The Young Church (aged 11 to 14+)

For all routine administration a member of the clergy is available in Church every Monday evening, 7 - 8 pm.

For any other enquiries, please telephone one of the clergy.

These details are updated in the June issue each year.

Two of the stained glass windows behind the altar at St. James's describe, in pictures, well known scenes associated with Jesus' birth. On the north (left) side is the stable at Bethlehem, on the south (right) side is a depiction of the arrival of the Wise Men, the Adoration of the Magi. I say 'well known' scenes, but, of course, these scenes have only become well known to us because they are what we associate with the bible stories of Jesus' birth in Matthew's gospel. They bear no relation to historical truth or to scientific fact, but they do attempt to tell the truth in the art and imagination of the craftsmen who made them.

The arrival of the Wise Men is celebrated every year on 6th January and we shall keep the day in our worship on 7th January. This Adoration of the Wise Men is about making known to the whole world what God's love in human form can look like. At first the Magi were thought of as astrologers - hence their openness to the message of a star and were said to have arrived not in a threesome, but in droves. For Matthew they represented the Gentile world coming to worship Jesus. Over the centuries their number stabilised (stable-ised?) at three, simply because three gifts are mentioned. Certainly it wasn't until the 2nd Century that anyone thought of them as kings, coming to 'the brightness of the rising' of another king such as themselves. Not until the 9th century did names appear for them - Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar. As for their gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh, it was some 400 years or more after Christ's birth that any mystical meaning was given to them. Gold was for a king, incense for a life arising like a prayer to God and myrrh to foreshadow Jesus' death.

For a real treat you could go to Autun cathedral in France and see a wonderful mediaeval carving of all three Magi tucked up in bed under one big blanket - like an ecclesiastical version of the Seven Dwarfs. An angel is waking them from sleep. One has his eyes wide open in wonder, the second is bleary-eyed and half asleep, the third is still deep in the land of nod. Each is dressed with a crown for a nightcap!

So we might want to dismiss the whole story as fantasy, imagination or worse. But, just hold on. Surely imagination is how we perceive every biblical image and our imagination is part of our God-given creation. We are part of 2000 years of christian imagination and we can't step outside it, even if we wanted to.

I think that using our imagination is extremely important in trying to understand God. When we talk about God we are trying to visualise that which cannot be pictured, trying to say in words that which is indescribable, trying to get a human handle onto that which, in the end, is too other, too different for us to comprehend in any other way than by a glimpse, a phrase, a picture, or a melody.

So with Christmas over and Epiphany upon us at the start of a new calendar year, why not let your imagination wander and ask yourself how God is being revealed in 2001 and what gifts will you bring to God this year? I look forward to stirred imaginations at St. James's - hearts, minds and wills, for a new vision of God's reality.

Happy New Year.



Brian Leathard

CHRISSIE

My old friend has gone, the coffin carried into the Church to the strains of the Bacarolle from the "Tales of Hoffmann", which she loved, to be greeted by flowers, family and friends - all things that were dear to Chrissie.

Christina Elizabeth Hockley was born in Warwick Road, Twickenham in 1904. The family was not large by the standards of the day but money was in short supply and life was not easy. Chrissie was a pupil at the old Archdeacon Cambridge School, and a few years ago when they celebrated their one hundred and fiftieth birthday, Chrissie was an honoured guest at the party, which, of course, she thoroughly enjoyed. She left school at thirteen and worked at the jam factory which then stood near where the Hope and Anchor Pub is today.

In the 1930's she went to Australia, 'just to see what it was like' and on returning to Britain she started working in one of the many Nurseries which abounded around Hampton. One of them was Page's Nursery in the Hanworth Road, and she often talked about the miles of carnation cuttings she had planted out. Her love of plants and flowers no doubt came from that time, her little room was always full of African violets, amaryllis, geraniums and vases of flowers. Outside she had her 'garden', pots and baskets of more flowers and she loved a trip to Squires for lunch and to buy some plants and bulbs.

Eventually Chrissie joined the Army and became a Cook Sergeant and it was as a result of an accident during this time that she was invalided out and received a Pension from the Army which, as she never failed to remind us was 'only 60%!'

After the war she returned to Pages's Nursery but worked in the house, looking after Mrs Page when she was dying of cancer. She lived in a small cottage in the Hanworth Road and later in the Uxbridge Road until eventually she became an inhabitant of Willowbrook in St. James's Road, living there for over thirty years. By this time she had her wheelchair and she walked miles pushing it and having the odd sit in it when getting tired! Everyone in Hampton Hill knew Chrissie, she was always out with the wheelchair, and once a week would push it all the way to Twickenham to visit her mother, make her some lunch, and push it all the way back. Her mother lived to be ninety-six, and Chrissie always hoped to equal that; well, she nearly did!

One of Chrissie's other ambitions was to visit Alan and me in our new home, here in Suffolk, and with the help of Ruth and Judith she was able to do this and we had a lovely day even managing to have lunch in the garden. She had never wanted to live other than as an independent person and she also achieved this with the help of her friends, her family, especially Rosemary, her niece and latterly, the carers. Another great love Chrissie had, was the sea. She loved her holidays by the sea, often taken by Mona or by the Red Cross when she would do a little shopping and spend the rest of the time looking out over the water. Her Red Cross friends, who had known Chrissie for over forty years, have been tireless in visiting her in and out of hospital, and, like the rest of us will miss her.

How than shall I remember my old friend. Firstly with great affection, then for her

generosity, determination, sense of humour, as keen observer of human nature, of malapropisms and many, many other things. Her funeral service was everything she would have wanted and more, and as the coffin went out to 'The Holy City' it seemed a fitting end to a long life of one whose courage we all admired.

Helen Taylor

**OUR
PAGE**



**TELLING
THE
TIME**

DID YOU HAVE a new watch for Christmas? If you did I bet it tells the time down to the very second. We take it for granted that we can find out what time it is.

First attempts to measure time were with shadow clocks or sundials. You could also measure sand or water trickling through small holes (we still use the sand idea for egg-timers).

Although we always think of a clock as having hands and a dial, most of the early mechanical clocks had neither — the word 'clock' really means a bell. An iron clock in Salisbury Cathedral is one of the oldest in Britain. It was made in 1386 and has no dial or hands but just strikes the hours from 1 to 12 on a bell.

Most people didn't have clocks at home or wrist watches until quite recently — they relied on the



clock on the church tower, and the church bells would tell them when it was time for the services. Many churches still have the minute bell just before the service starts; it tells you to hurry up or you'll be late.

TIME AFTER TIME

What do you call an astronaut's watch?

a luna-tick

What goes woof-woof, tick-tick?

a watchdog.

**CALENDAR WORD
SEARCH**

Can you find all these words?

They are connected with calendars and time. The words go every way — up, down, forwards, backwards and diagonally.

M C L O C K B I R D A Y S H
I C A T O Y E Y R A I D E S
L H L L N S R E N Y U T C H
L R I R E E A U W D E R O R
E E S T I N S O T E C U N C
N S A M D S D N S N R A D A
I R M S Y I T A M I E S E D
U D I A T N U M R N E C A Y
M I N U T E T L A A H R E A
C K T I U Y R I S S O A S D
E N M O U R E O C O R E T I
D E C A D E N I K L C M U L
K C T N H S M I L L E N I O
O Y A D H T R I B M O N T H

seasons, second, time, week, year
millennium, minute, month,
diary, Easter, holiday, hour,
Christmas, clock, day, decade,
birthday, calendar, century,

Betty Stewart's Retirement

Although Betty was not ordained a deacon until 3rd October 1993, she was a Sunday School teacher from the time of her confirmation until July 1984, 45 years later. For the majority of those years Betty was in charge of the Sunday School and she voluntarily went on a training course after a few years, treating those responsibilities as she did her professional ones in hospital management. As a result she brought to her teaching a wealth of interest and understanding previously little known in voluntary teaching. It became an expression of God's calling which she had long felt was to ordination, not then considered open to women. The dedication which Betty put into her Sunday School teaching carried her through until other openings occurred, first helping the Hospital Chaplain at Springfield and then, after taking a lay readers' course, being licensed to the Chaplain in October 1990.

Betty then took the next step towards ordination after the decision that the ministry could accept women. This was not without a struggle, as she was nearer to retiring age than was usual for candidates. Her ordination as deacon in October 1993 and as priest in October 1994, followed in the Diocese of Southwark, where she was licensed to the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common.

Happily for us in Hampton Hill it wasn't too long before Betty's licence was transferred to St James's Church, where she had first felt called to her Christian ministry. She has undertaken her work with tact and sympathy and has been instrumental in bringing about a change of heart in several people who had originally been opposed to the ordination of women. The unexpected deterioration of her eyesight and the onset of arthritis have hastened her retirement, but Betty remains a priest and can still preach and take services. We are all grateful for the loving care and effort which she has put into everything she has done, for which we say a heartfelt "Thank you Betty".

Jean Western

QUIET DAY

SATURDAY 17th 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.

Please sign the list on the clipboard in Church or speak to 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

WANTED!

Have you ever, while your mind occasionally wanders in church, wondered who keeps it so spotlessly clean? More likely it has never occurred to you. However, it does take time and effort to keep it in a state in which it is fit for us to worship God and, like most jobs in the church, it is done by volunteers. So if you should feel the urge to polish the brasses, Hoover the chancel or wield a holy duster, please contact Margaret Taylor who will be more than delighted to hear from you and add your name to the rota - 8979 3961.

Women's Forum Meetings January to March 2001

17 th January	7.30p.m.	Following on her fascinating talk last year about South Africa, Betty Rainbow is bringing a film about a medical train that travels through the country - <i>The Phelophepa</i> .
21 st February	7.30p.m.	Elizabeth Wilmot will take us on <i>A Journey through South America</i> .
7 th March	2.30p.m.	A talk about the work of <i>The Downs' Syndrome Association</i>
21 st March	7.30p.m.	Kirsty Hird of <i>The Pampered Chef</i> will give us a cookery demonstration using their kitchen equipment which will also be for sale.

The Women's Forum meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30p.m., and on the first Wednesday of March, June, September and December at 2.30p.m., in the Church Hall. Membership is £5 and all are welcome, both men and women. Contact Mona Gow on 8287 9550.



Book Stall

The Book Stall is now permanently situated in the south aisle in its new display case. Books are on sale after Parish Communion each Sunday, but please ask Liz Butler or Marian Dewey if you wish to see or order one at any other time. Copies of our new Common Worship booklet are now available at £2 a copy, for those who would like to have their own.

The Books of the Bible

This month we begin a series of articles which will appear each month throughout 2001, written by members of our congregation. Each will write about the book of the Bible which speaks most to them and is important in their lives.

Genesis

There are such wonderful old stories in Genesis the Creation of the World, ' . . . God said, "Let there be Light", and there was light. God saw that the Light was good.' Adam and Eve, ' . . . God said, "Let us make man in our own image,". The Fall - 'Yahweh God called to the man, "Where are you?" and man replied, "I heard the sound of you in the Garden. I was afraid, because I was naked."

Cain and Abel, ' . . . Cain tilled the soil, Abel became a shepherd and kept flocks. They brought offerings to Yahweh, who looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but did not look with favour on Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry and downcast '

Genesis is the story of the beginnings of salvation.

Yahweh saw that human wickedness was great on earth. Yahweh regretted having made human beings 'And God said to Noah, "I have decided that the end has come for all living things - make yourself an ark - this is how to make it " So Noah did this, exactly as God commanded him, he did.' And the waters swelled, lifting the ark until it floated off the ground And God said, "I will set my bow in the sky, and it will be the sign of the covenant between myself and you and every living creature "

"Come," said Noah's descendants, "Let us build ourselves a tower, with its top reaching Heaven" and Yahweh scattered them, and destroyed the Tower of Babel.

Old Abram and Sarah lived by different rules from their descendants - Abram begets his wandering son Ishmael from his slave girl Hagar. Though Sarah agrees, she is bitterly jealous 'Abram's guest says, "I shall come back next year and then your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah, listening behind the tent, laughed, thinking, "Now I am past the age of childbearing, is pleasure to come my way again?" But Yahweh asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh?" Sarah said, "I did not laugh", lying because she was afraid.'

Abraham supposes he is to sacrifice his son Isaac to God, a story that is much misunderstood.

Old Isaac makes what seems a foolish judgment between cunning Jacob and simple, hairy Esau.

His jealous elder brothers sell Joseph into slavery; he becomes chancellor of Egypt, and saves them from starvation.

Wonderful tales, with a depth of human understanding!

'And Joseph died, and was laid in a coffin, in Egypt.'

Stuart Ward

Metropolitan Anthony (continued from December issue)

In answer to a question on how to persevere in prayer, Anthony said that prayer was being in the presence of God and that to sit just being aware of God's presence was prayer. He suggested that, when belief of God's presence is difficult, just telling God about your doubts and your inability to relate to him but in the knowledge that he is there, is adequate prayer. He told of his own early experience of reading at a table and being aware of a presence on the other side of the table. It was the presence of Jesus Christ. He could not see or hear anything, touch or taste anything, indeed there was no sensory test that he could apply to his awareness, but it was a certain knowledge that Jesus was there.

Early in his talk, Fr. Anthony made it clear that he had not come to Christianity through any established church and he was grateful for that. Indeed, the stories of his early encounters with organised religion were enough to deter anybody - he was rejected by clergy from both Jewish and Roman Catholic classes as a heretic. Thus was Fr. Anthony's faith saved from the ravages of youthful indoctrination. However, it was clear that he had parents - a mother at least - who were believers, or at least respecters of Christianity and who themselves had a Russian Orthodox background. He went to the gospels as a teenager in anger about what he had heard in a lecture of this namby-pamby Jesus and found there a different story. He started with Mark's gospel as it was the shortest! Then he opened Matthew at random and found a text that demonstrated a person to whom Anthony could relate.

He spoke of people from whom God's glory shines. He said one meets very few and he had met only one - a priest who was walking up the steps of a very poor cellar church. Fr. Anthony said that he had never before seen a man moving with such deep calm and collectedness. He asked him then and there to become his spiritual father. Anthony contrasted the church with gold chalices and wooden clergy to that with wooden chalices and clergy of gold. This church had barely wooden chalices. Anthony in his simple black cassock and plain wooden cross did not need to suggest that we examine our surroundings of a beautifully refurbished church and the multi-coloured clothes on both clergy and laity.

We were all deeply touched by the experience. We were impressed by Metropolitan Anthony's humility, his energy, his saintliness. His message was simple. His advice was practical. His love is deep and secure. His serenity is unshakeable. We each left the hall with a different message, but I doubt that anyone left with nothing. I am glad that there was a fair smattering of St. James's people there. Those who missed it missed a wonderful experience. Fr. Anthony had asked if we had ever met or seen anyone who shines with the light of divine knowledge, understanding or love. Those who have met Metropolitan Anthony can answer "yes". He does. His eyes were deep with the love, compassion, wisdom and enlightenment of his more than 85 years. His body is old but his energy is greater than all of ours put together. When he had finished answering questions, he said with a twinkle in his eyes, "I am afraid that I have exhausted you with my talking." I was exhausted, but it was mental exhaustion -

the effort of trying to listen with a pure ear, digest with a pure heart, the rich food that he was sharing with us. He left the room with a spring in his step. I left and walked from Turnham Green to Richmond with the joyous energy he had given me. I know from the reaction of those coming towards me that I had a wide grin on my face. He made me feel that many things were possible, if only one keeps one's face turned towards God in humility and love.

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

Sponsored Swim



On 24th January, Greta Rosten proposes to swim for one hour thirty minutes, hoping to complete 100 lengths of Feltham Swimming Pool to raise money for this fund. Please support her by offering a donation for each length swum or by signing the sponsorship form which will be at the back of the church on 7th, 14th and 21st January. The Shooting Star Trust's fund raising target is £6.5 million, to build and equip a children's hospice to serve a large catchment area west of London which will offer palliative care for children with life limiting and life threatening conditions. It will be a free service and will be an independent entity relying on voluntary funding. Over £1.5 million has been raised to date, land has been purchased in Hampton and planning permission has been granted.

If you would like more information about the Trust, please telephone 8893 4240. If you have any queries about Greta's swim or would like a form, please telephone her on 8979 6222.

New from St Luke's Mission Hospital in Milo, Tanzania

Remember the wonderful sum of money we raised for our Millennium Project? By Easter 2000 we had raised the grand total of £10,000. We gave £9000 to Christian Aid for two projects in the Milo area, one providing community health care facilities and the other a new gravity water supply system. The remaining £1000 was sent as a special gift to the hospital in Milo.

Here is part of a letter from Ben Kilwale at Milo, conveying some good news and some not so good news, but it is important that we hear it all.

I acknowledge the receipt of the second payment of £500 which you sent through USPG. As mentioned earlier, this money will be used on our patients' relatives' kitchen. The work has started and the villagers have made 10,000 bricks on self help basis.

On the 3rd September I went to Dar-es-Salaam to attend the annual meeting of the Tanzanian Christian Medical Association, of which Dr Lwoga and I are members. On my way back on the 9th September, just a few kilometres from home, the hospital car overturned and I sustained a slight injury to my right shoulder. Very luckily I did not sustain a fracture as I did when I had an accident with my motorbike in 1999. The car

has been taken to the garage at Njombe for repair. We really feel very ashamed about this, but it has happened and still we do not know where to get money to cover the expenses.

Send our regards and thanks to all our friends at St. James.



A very happy New Year to all our readers.

The Millennium Bazaar on the 18th November was a most successful and happy day. Our thanks to Wendy and Brian Baker for organising it again so efficiently and to all who helped to raise over £1,500.

Advent Sunday saw the first use of Common Worship at the 8.00a.m. service. Well over 300 adults and children attended a joyful Christingle Service at 9.30a.m., which ended with everyone encircling the church holding the lighted Christingles - a wonderful sight. Freda had held a workshop the day before to make the Christingles, which was attended by about 12 children and their parents. At the same time Dick organised a gutter and drain clean and leaf sweep outside. Thanks to all who gave their Saturday morning for this unpleasant but necessary task, and thanks to the children who undoubtedly had a much nicer time!

On the evening of Advent Sunday the church was full again to hear the *Apocalypse Singers* and others in *Words and Music for Advent*. A very moving and beautiful start to our Christmas preparations.

Thank you to all who worked at St. James's to make the Christmas services so special - the flower arrangers and decorators, the cleaners, the sidesmen and readers, those who led the prayers and all who helped in so many ways.

We were delighted to welcome baby Adam Cook into the Family of Christ at his baptism on 26th November. Adam is the son of Isabel (who sings in the choir) and Andrew.

Helen and Alan Taylor celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in December with a barn dance at their home near Bury St. Edmonds - they obviously still have plenty of energy!

Rose Frier celebrated her 85th birthday on 2nd December, the day after she visited the Dome for the second time! And we congratulate Jennifer Lloyd on her retirement, having reached a special birthday. Those of you who receive *The Spire* by post may not know that it is Jennifer who sends it to you.

We remember in our prayers Sheila Clark, who is in the West Middlesex Hospital after a heart attack, and Stella Walker, who is in Teddington Hospital.

Doreen Thorpe and her daughters, Barbara and Pat, wish to thank all who supported them on the death of Doreen's husband Reg. They are especially grateful to Brian for his fitting tribute and to Coryn and Eila for their help at the reception and afterwards. Finally we have to apologise to our neighbouring Parish of All Saints who were quite unwittingly omitted from the article by Jutta Schreur on the Berlin Link in the December issue. All Saints were also hosts to our visitors from Germany in October.

FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

Baptisms

26 Adam Richard Cook, Carlisle Infants School, Broad Lane, Hampton
Dean Joseph Brack, 1 South Road, Hanworth
Annalise Brack

Funerals

13	James Ashlee, 21 Holly Road	81
22	Doris Leven, 15 Burton's Road	73
24	Elsie Pearce, 24 Fitzwygram Close	84



DATES TO NOTE IN JANUARY 2001

1 The Naming of Jesus
2 Gregory the Great, Bishop, 379
7 **The Epiphany** (transferred)
10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645
11 Mary Slessor, Missionary, 1915
12 Aeldred of Hexharn, Abbot of Rievaul, 1197
13 George Fox, Founder of Society of Friends (Quakers), 1691
16 2000 Parochial Church Council
17 Antony of Egypt, Abbot & Hermit, 356
18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095
24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, 1662
We pray for our neighbours in Christ at St. Francis de Sales today
25 **The Conversion of Paul**
26 Timothy & Titus, Companions of Paul
30 Charles, King & Martyr, 1643

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2001 MAGAZINE: 10TH JANUARY