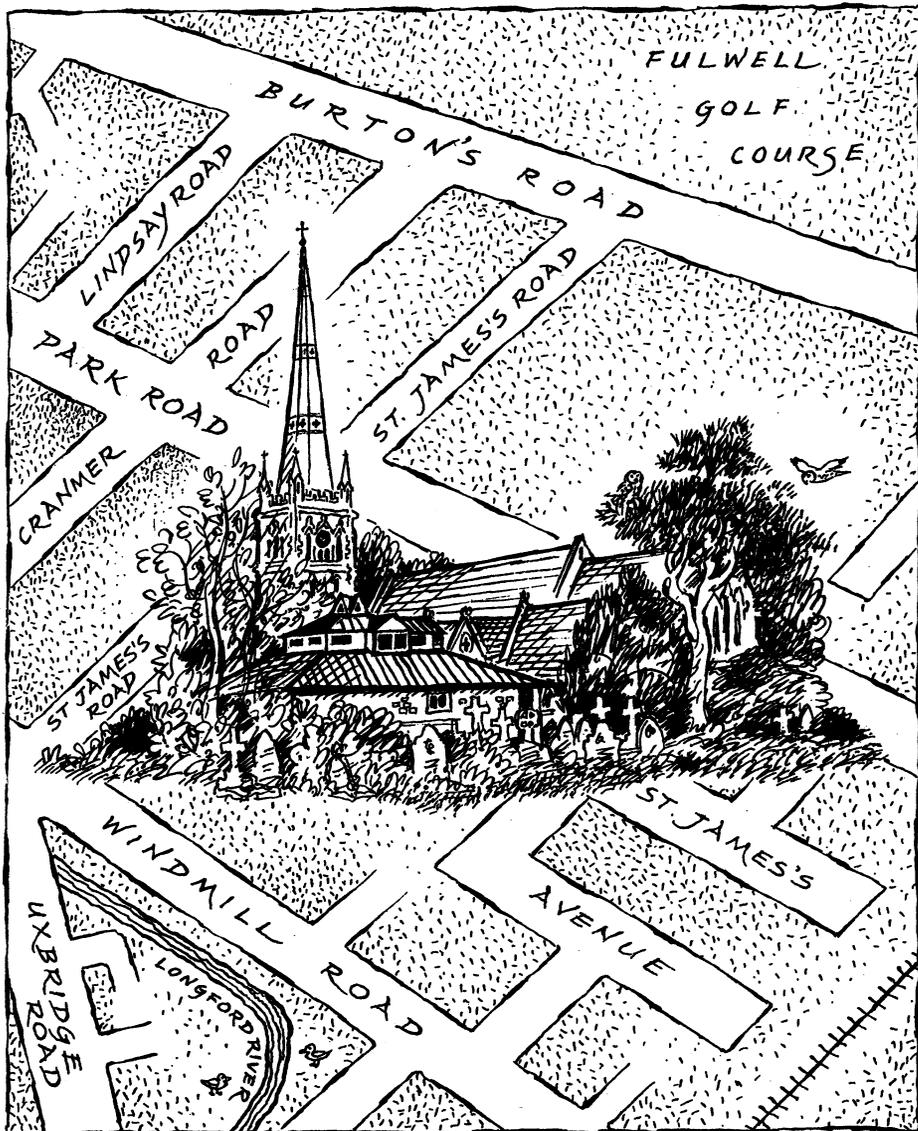


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



JANUARY 2006

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

The Rev Brian Leathard, MA, PhD, The Vicarage, 46 St James's Road, TW12 1DQ
 e-mail: bleathard@blueyonder.co.uk Tel/fax: 8979 2069
 The Rev Julie Gittoes, 82 Pigeon Lane TW12 1AF 8941 4424
 e-mail: jag46@cam.ac.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Liz Butler, 5 Blandford Road Teddington TW11 0LF 8977 4227
 Dr Rodney Taylor, 29 Park Road TW12 1HG 8979 0046

TREASURER

Mr Paul Peterken, 273 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham TW1 4SU 8891 5862

SECRETARY OF P.C.C.

Mrs Janet Nunn, 151 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill 8979 6325

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Mr Pip Rowett, 27 Orford Gardens, Twickenham TW1 4PL 8892 4736

ORGANIST EMERITUS

Mr Geoffrey Bowyer, Mmus, FRCO 8894 3773

HALL BOOKING

Mr David Taylor, 57 Nightingale Road, Hampton TW12 3HZ 8979 3961

THE MAGAZINE

Mrs Susan Horner, 5 St James's Avenue TW12 1HH 8979 9380

Mrs Margaret Taylor, 57 Nightingale Road, Hampton TW12 3HZ 8979 3961

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs Prill Hinckley, 115 Burton's Road TW12 1DL 8979 0528

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs Margaret Hobbs, 76 Broad Lane, Hampton 8979 2320

Website: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Services

Sunday	0800	Holy Communion
	0930	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+)

A member of the clergy is available in Church every Monday evening, 7 - 8 pm.

Bookings for Baptisms and Weddings can be made at this time.

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

These details are updated in the June issue each year.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Sunday School	Lou Coaker-Basdell	8979 2040
Young Church	Sue Blay	8979 8239
Church Cleaning Rota	Margaret Taylor	8979 3961
Church Flowers	Coryn Robinson	8979 6786
Weekly Notice Sheet	Griselda Barrett	8979 3331
Website	Prill Hinckley	8979 0528
The Travellers' Band	Martin Hinckley	8979 0528
Brownies	Lesley Brough	8979 6400
Guides	Sue Blay	8979 8239
Scout Group	Paul Fitchett	8941 7186
(including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures)		
Dance Fellowship Group	Eila Severn	8979 1954
Properties Committee	Rodney Taylor	8979 0046
Social Committee	Kate O'Sullivan	8977 8294
Finance Committee	Paul Peterken	8891 5862
Stewardship Committee	Don Barrett	8979 3331
Hall Committee	Betty Rainbow	8894 3907
Charities and Links Committee	Ann Peterken	8891 5862
Deanery Synod	Lesley Mortimer	8941 2345
Churches Together around Hampton	Ann Peterken	8891 5862
Mission Partner Link	Gwynneth Lloyd	8943 0709
Mozambique/Angola Link	Elizabeth Wilmot	8977 9434
Ladies' Choir	Eila Severn	8979 1954

A very happy new year to you! It hardly seems possible that a whole year has passed since the devastation wrought by the Tsunami in south Asia. Indeed, it beggars belief that it is 12 months since you so generously raised a large sum of money sent both to Christian Aid and the national Christian Council of Sri Lanka for relief in the Tsunami disaster. Twenty-one of us from St James' had the great privilege of visiting the village of Kosgoda on Sri Lanka's south west coast at the end of October this year and seeing the tremendous progress which had been made in re-housing, re-invigorating and bringing reconciliation to the lives of that village community. Sixty-seven houses had been promised and completed to a standard far beyond that which their occupants and owners had previously dreamed possible.

We were asked, as a group, to plant new mangrove trees to act as a windbreak and protector against erosion and high seas. We were delighted to do this and equally delighted to be invited into the homes of some of those whose houses had been rebuilt. It was a touching and powerful moment, not only because some of the money had come from our community in Hampton Hill, but even more importantly because of the obvious pain and trauma which had been endured and the development which had happened in bringing acceptance, growth and reconciliation through that time of trauma.

Of course, as we journeyed down the coast we saw other villages where very little had happened and the evidence of temporary tents and huts made from an amalgam of wooden planks, plastic sheeting and corrugated iron were prevalent. The big infrastructure engineering works still have to be undertaken and this can only be done through inter-governmental co-operation. But, perhaps like most good things, hope for the village of Kosgoda has come slowly with careful planning and execution over a period of time.

Since then so much has happened in terms of natural disasters and human inflicted tyranny that it barely seems credible. Hurricane Katrina, the earthquake in Pakistan and in Kashmir as well as the continued violence in Iraq and misery of both HIV/Aids and malaria in sub-Saharan Africa remind us of the scale of human suffering.

And yet, and yet. It is this 'and yet' that is so powerful a spur in our reaction to human need and human suffering. Of course, people ask the question why does this all happen? Some may even phrase it as boldly as: Why does God let this happen? I can answer that only with another question: Why shouldn't it happen? Our Christian faith has never pre-supposed that we live in an idyllic world or even in a world of balance and reasonableness. Our Christian faith has never contended that God is the puppet-master pulling the strings, inflicting pain or suffering as some sort of punishment or retribution. It is, of course, easy to see why the ancients took such

a view of a God who is mechanistically involved in the ordering of the universe. Surely, however, we have moved on in our thinking about God from a position such linked causality that accepts such a view of the divine. Obviously there is some causality between our level of consumption particularly of energy, and the fact of global warming. So I am left wondering why we are surprised that our dynamic evolving and moving globe occasionally produces tsunamis or earthquakes, hurricanes or tectonic shifts. Surely our understanding of the world we inhabit, and which we believe God made to be good, should take into account that these are part of that givenness, it is how things are. We should not see them as somehow inflicted from outside, but part of the very structure of the world we live in. If we accept this, then, of course, the question shifts from being why did this happen to what are we going to do about it?

Your gifts to Sri Lanka after the tsunami were evidence indeed that humankind has huge depths of generous, self-sacrificing love available for the good of all. In my time here at Hampton Hill I have seen that put into practice on innumerable occasions. So at the beginning of this new year I want to challenge us to think about how we inhabit our world and how we use our resources of intellect, time, energy and money in answering the question 'what are we going to do about it?' rather than 'why should it happen?'.

We read the psalms every day here at St James' and they are a great treasury of faith, evocative images and wisdom. They describe with graphic detail the raging of the sea, the fuming of the mountains, the shaking of the earth and yet behind it is always a quiet confidence that God's will is for good and that we are God's partners in asserting and creating that goodness. As we begin this new year I urge you to think on these things so that with a confidence we may realise that we are partners in God's infinite desire for goodness to prevail. The psalmist says: 'Be strong, and let your heart take courage'. A very happy new year to you.

Brian Leathard

1956 - 2006
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN HAMPTON
SERVICE AT ST MARY'S, HAMPTON
SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY at 6.30pm
Preacher: Rev. Rob Frost
(a very well-known Methodist speaker)
St James's Players will be providing some of the music
DO JOIN US FOR THIS CELEBRATION

Getting to know the family

Through 2006 we shall be looking at some of the people commemorated in the Lectionary, at what they did and what we can learn from them.

Almost every day the Church of England commemorates the life of someone whose witness for God has made a lasting impact on the church and the world. Some we have all heard of. Some we know little or nothing about. Even the most famous can seem remote, strange and irrelevant. So why are we asked to remember them?

First of all, they are family. Getting to know them is, like tracing your family tree, a way of getting to know yourself. It can be reassuring to find a saint overcoming weaknesses like your own, humbling to find your original take on God was fully discussed and dismissed several hundred years ago, inspiring to find God adept at turning sows' ears into silk purses!

Secondly they show us what 'saints' are supposed to be like. In its original sense of being 'dedicated to God' every Christian becomes a saint at baptism, but most of us fail to be saints in the popular sense of being 'exceptionally good' precisely because our dedication is partial. The saints show what happens when dedication becomes total, when God's love and holiness can work in the individual personality and, through them, in the wider world. They challenge and encourage us to 'go and do likewise' - with no one disqualified and no one exempt, because saints are made out of every possible variety of human being. The only requirement is an ever more complete gift of self to God.

Finally, nothing puts present day social problems and church controversies into perspective as well as seeing them in the context of a church which embraces all traditions and all denominations, which spans the world and the centuries, which even extends beyond death. By extending its choice of saints beyond those formally canonised, the Lectionary invites us to take a God's-eye view of a church that is truly 'one, holy and catholic'.

Val Traylen

Not all saints are 'canonised' or even famous.

Some of them aren't even dead!

Who has been witness of God's saving love to you? Who has inspired you?

Who has helped you towards a wide vision or a deeper commitment?

Who would you like to sit next to at the heavenly banquet?

Tell us about them!

A Saint for January - Francis de Sales

Born in 1567 into a noble family of then-independent Savoy, Francis studied in Paris and Padua and was ordained in 1593. His first major task was to reclaim for the Catholic Church the Protestant region of Chablais between Savoy and Calvinist Geneva. Refusing official protection and with inadequate funds, he struggled through a harsh winter of visiting and preaching to little effect. Success came largely through a campaign of explanatory pamphlets (very different from the usual inflammatory propaganda of the time) but also owed a lot to his personal charm.

In 1602 he was appointed to Geneva as Bishop-in-exile. As a nobleman and bishop he moved in the highest circles of French society during a period of moral and political corruption, yet maintained his personal integrity. Seeking new ways of encouraging devotion and serving the poor, he founded the Confraternity of Penitents of the Holy Cross and the women's Order of the Visitation, both of which still exist. He also wrote two books which were not only enormously popular when first published but remain in print: *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *The Love of God*. Rather like C S Lewis in the 20th Century, he used his learning to simplify the complex. His books aimed to guide people who were not religious professionals towards understanding the teaching of the church and living a holy life. He worked with selfless devotion as a busy pastor and spiritual director until his death in 1622.

What is Francis's relevance for us? In a period of murderous religious conflict, Francis demonstrated that it is possible to be convinced of the rightness of your own position without demonising those who disagree, and to be critical of the peripherals of your own tradition without abandoning the essentials. He was a true fundamentalist in his teaching, constantly bringing people back to the 'one thing needful' - a trusting commitment to the God of love. His instructions on how to cultivate holiness in the real world of political and social life, families and work places are still valid. Try *Introduction to the Devout Life*: the style may take some getting used to, but the message is as relevant as ever and the warmth of the man shines through.

Val Traylen

The perfect practice of zeal lies in suffering or enduring many things in order to prevent or remove evil. Most people never give a thought to the fact that their motive is not really zeal but personal glory or the satisfaction of their pride, anger, resentment or other passions. True zeal is charity's offspring. (*Love of God*, 1616).

OPEN P.C.C. MEETING
Wednesday 18th January at 8pm in the Church Hall

Mary Johnston, lay representative of our diocese on the General Synod, will be talking about the Rochester report on women in the episcopacy and also about common tenure; proposed new terms of service for clergy.

Please come and make your views felt.

‘EVERY TIME I SEE THE SEA’
LIFE AFTER THE TSUNAMI

Christian Aid launched a multi-media exhibition remembering the Asian tsunami one year on, on 9 December 2005

They invited photographer Tim Hetherington and sculptress Emma Summers to visit parts of Sri Lanka and India badly devastated by the tsunami and to witness the challenge of rebuilding. Their work captures the remarkable stories of hope that have emerged from the disaster, as well as the magnitude of the challenge. Also featured are sculpture, film and personal artefacts from Christian Aid's partner organisations - many of them at the heart of the emergency response - in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India.

The exhibition weaves amazing and moving tales of survival. Visitors will be able to discover what has happened since the tsunami, how money raised from the British public – which donated a massive £400 million – has been spent. It is vital that we learn from the lessons of the tsunami, when natural disasters worldwide seem to be hitting harder than ever before.

The exhibition draws on the memories of the local groups of Christian Aid supporters in Sri Lanka and India – people who saw friends, relatives and colleagues swept away, and who, hours after the waves struck, were delivering aid to villages ravaged by destruction and grief. Today they are rebuilding what was destroyed and at the same time making sure their communities are better protected from future disasters.

The exhibition is free to the public and will run until 3 January, including Boxing Day to mark the anniversary of the day when the tsunami struck, killing 250,000 people and destroying entire communities.

LOCATION: The Dray Walk Gallery (off Brick Lane), in the old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, London E1 6QL. Open Weekdays 12 to 8, Saturdays and Sundays 12 to 6, Boxing Day 11 to 3, closed on Christmas Day.

OPENING OUR DOORS

I set out from Bicester at 8am on Sunday 30th October to join the congregation at St James's in this special service for Opening Our Doors. It was a wonderful morning and the journey down the M40 and M4 was lovely. There was very little traffic, the sun was shining on the trees in all their autumn glory and morning worship from St Martin in the Fields was on the radio.

I was pleased I had decided to come and join my friends at St James's for this very special service after such a long time. I have settled very well in Bicester and many new doors have been opened for me here. I am very happy and feel that this is where I am meant to be. God is working his purpose out for me here in Bicester as he did in Hampton Hill throughout the 29 years I lived there. I still miss my friends at St James's and my very good neighbours and you are all most welcome to pop in and see me if you are travelling the M40. I am only 5-10 minutes from Junction 9. A lot of my week is spent with my grandchildren but I gain far more than I give. Stephanie is now 13 years old, she has fully recovered from her very serious illness of last Christmas and it truly is a miracle that she is still with us. The power of prayer is very effective. She brings me so much joy and lots of hugs and to me she is most certainly one of Heaven's very special children.

It was lovely just to see so many friends after 3 years away and be able to have a chat with a few. It was a truly wonderful day.

Mona Gow

RECITAL
on
FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY
at
8pm in the Church

Amy Moore (mezzo soprano) and Christopher Cromar (piano)
Music by Handel, Rossini, Poulenc, Peter Wishart and others

Entry by donation: proceeds to Opening Our Doors

Recital followed by refreshments

Ron Dafforne

To me, 'Mr Dafforne' as the incoming choirmaster in the nineteen sixties, seemed to be committed full-time to the organ and choir; I didn't realise until later that he had a 'day job'!

As a treble whose voice was crumbling through tenor and eventually to bass, he was very supportive, indeed he supported all members of the younger choir, with encouragement, gentle yet firm persuasion, and limitless patience until the right sound was produced.

Oh! Those choir practice evenings - enjoyable even though perhaps there were lots of other things as youngsters we might have been doing. (And older members enjoyed themselves enormously also, both at practices and service. Ron gently pushed even the weaker members to make good music. Very satisfying. Ed.)

Jack Gostling tells us that it was Ron who invited (or was it cajoled?) him into joining the choir when Ron was seeking a better complement of male voices. You felt as though it really was your choice when in reality it was Ron's!

We learned at his funeral in the picturesque village of Eastergate, Sussex where Ron had been organist and choirmaster at the tiny St George's church, that the same dedication was carried through to those who were involved there. His daughters, Shirley, Sally and Julie continue with his legacy of dedication to good music.

Richard Melville

CONCERT

on SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY at 7.30pm in the Church
Free admission. All contributions will be donated to
THE SHOOTING STAR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

The young vocal star ZICO SHAKER and JOSHUA BAXTER
present an evening of well-loved songs and spirituals

'Bravo, Zico! It's lovely singing and your musicianship is really outstanding'.
David Syrus, Head of Music, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Come and hear these astonishing young singers in solos and duets,
and support a really important local charity.

Concert presented by Stuart Ward

SRI LANKA - OCTOBER 2005

A party of parishioners and friends went on a pilgrimage/holiday to Sri Lanka in the October half-term, in the capable hands of Brian and Ramani. It was such a wonderful opportunity to explore the country with party leaders who know and understand its people, its customs and of course the languages. The boredom of the ten-hour flight was relieved by two of us being ill! Upon arrival, we were festooned with pretty orchid garlands and treated to a display of traditional dancing – in the airport car-park! We stayed in a very pleasant hotel in Colombo for two nights and had free time to explore the city. Many took trishaw rides and saw the sights but my favourite part was visiting the fabric shop that held more colours of pure silk than I have ever dreamed of. I went a little mad in this shop but it will keep me busy over the Christmas holiday.

Then the whistle-stop coach tour of the teardrop island began. We went to Sigiriya and many of us made the hair-raising climb up the side of the 1200ft high rock to see the ancient palace remains on the top – truly amazing. We visited the elephant orphanage although we were unable to see the elephants bathing in the river as the monsoon had started; did it rain! We went on an elephant ride; Anne Rowett is a natural! Next, we travelled to Kandy and saw the Temple of the Tooth and then on to the beautiful green hill country to see tea plantations and a tea factory. We visited a jewellery shop where some of our party bought star sapphires and rubies. Our journey ended with a few days at a beach hotel on the Indian Ocean. This was stunning; beautiful white sand, palm trees and the ocean lapping on the shore. We all swam here but the weirdest thing was being in a pool with huge bats flying overhead, especially as it was almost Hallowe'en. It was here that we had a fabulous fish banquet - any fish you fancied from the basket of fish caught that day - forget the farmed salmon or frozen pre-packed supermarket stuff, this was REAL fish!

The most poignant part of the trip was a visit to the beach resort to Kasgoda, a village wiped out by the tsunami but now mostly rebuilt. Some of the money raised by our church went to helping this very village and one lady very proudly showed us all around her newly-built little bungalow. It was all very moving and put life into perspective.

This is really a very brief description of a wonderful holiday that included temples, churches, elephants, monkeys, bats, monsoon, silks, sapphires, tea, spices and endless discussion of the comparative merits of various anti-malarial tablets! It was certainly a holiday to remember in a beautiful country with incredibly friendly and handsome people who need tourism to help their economy. Do go and discover its delights - but you might not be lucky enough to have Brian and Ramani to take you there!

Liz Butler



It was good to see so many parents, families and friends in church for the school carol services in December. It was also wonderful to welcome members of the wider community to the VCG Community Carol Service.

Rose Frier has moved to Nation Court in Stanborough Close. We wish her well in her new home.

Thank you to all those who have responded to our November appeal for planned giving.

We are pleased to hear that Jack Gostling is progressing after recent surgery and is now home again.

Welcome to David and Katharine Hetling and Simon Watson and Rachel Morgan who have all recently joined the congregation.

Congratulations to Sarah Hounston and Stuart Richardson, well-known locally for their involvement with the Scout movement, on their recent marriage at St James's. We wish them every happiness in their life together.

The north and east sides of the church are now splendidly visible from Park Road since our rather forbidding holly hedge has been trimmed down by the council. We have to thank our churchwardens for initiating this improvement and for the new shrub garden bordering the north-west side of the church.

This Made a Difference

Although I was educated at a C of E school and was confirmed when I was 14, I really only became aware of my spiritual journey after I retired in 1987 when my husband and I went to live in France. I started thinking about God and the wonder of creation. I began to read the Bible and other books about religion. Then I began to ponder the mystery of the incarnation. It eventually came to me that I did 'believe' but did not understand.

We came back to live in England and in 1995 I started worshipping at St. James's. It has all been a very gradual process and I still don't understand, but, echoing some of Barbara's words in the November issue, I know that it is through the ministry at St James's that Christ has become such a very real Presence to me. I meet Him especially in all my friends here, both ordained and lay, and in all our acts of worship together.

By the time you read this, I shall be moving away from the area, to continue my life's journey in Hampshire. It is rather a daunting prospect after 44 years here and having to leave my great source of spiritual nourishment. But I know that 'the Lord will be with me wherever I go'. I shall keep you all in my prayers and continue to give thanks for Brian and St James's. Please pray for me.

Greta Rosten

Sudoku

We apologise for the fact that the instructions for the Sudoku were inadvertently omitted from the December magazine. Each of the nine numbers given, 1,3,4,5,7,10,12,40 and 175, should appear once in each row and column and in each 3 x 3 box. The solution will now appear in the February *Spire*.

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

1	Joseph Cyril Rayner Maybee	75
7	Joyce Margaret Nias	86
21	Geoffrey Jones	42

DATES TO NOTE

1	2nd Sunday of Christmas 09.30 (ONLY) Parish Communion
2	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Bank Holiday
8	The Epiphany (transferred)
10	William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1645
11	Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa, 1915
12	Aelred of Hexham, Abbott of Rievaulx, 1167
13	George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, 1691
15	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
17	Antony of Egypt, hermit and abbot, 356
18	Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 20.00 PCC
19	Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095
21	Agnes, child martyr in Rome, 304
22	3rd Sunday of Epiphany 18.30 Churches Together around Hampton, 50 th Anniversary Celebration Service at St Mary's Hampton
24	Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva and teacher, 1622
25	The Conversion of St Paul
26	Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul
28	Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher and teacher, 1274
29	The presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas tr)