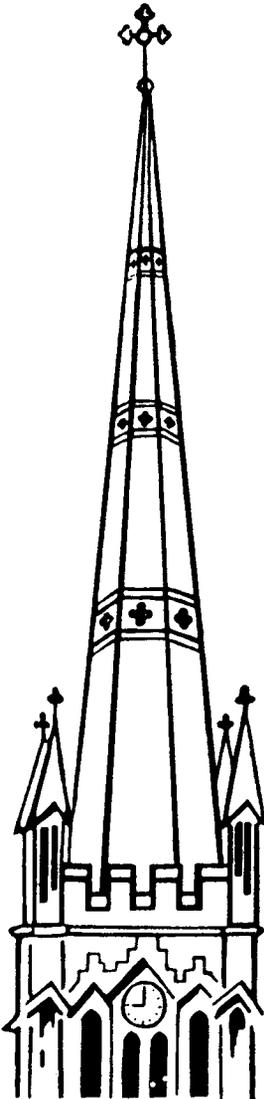


1993

ARCHIVES

# THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH  
HAMPTON HILL



JAN '93

## CHURCH OFFICERS

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### CHURCH FLOWERS ORGANISER

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### THE MAGAZINE

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### ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs. J. Lloyd, 73 Burton's Road 979 2964

### BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs. F.C. Moses, 21 Longford Close 979 6819

## Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion or, first Sunday in month, Informal Service
	18.30	First Sunday in Month - Choral Evensong
		Second Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise
		Third Sunday in Month - Service of Prayer for Healing
Fourth Sunday in Month - Open Forum - a short act of worship and time to think or speak together		
Fifth Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise		
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion

### The Jays (children, aged 4+)

Sunday 09.15 - 10.05 and then in church (except first Sunday in month and holiday periods) Contact Debbie Nunn 979 3078.

### Baptisms and Marriages

Please contact the Vicar.

Refugee - What image does the word conjure up in your mind? People fleeing their homes in Bosnia or Burma, Somalia or Sudan? People loosing everything they have worked for and saved for? People as helpless or hapless victims of warfare or famine? There are millions of refugees in our world today, in every continent people are forced to flee. A refugee is someone who seeks refuge, seeks safety and security from that which has driven them away from home.

Part of the Christmas story which is rarely read and even more rarely given prominence is the part which comes after the birth, the shepherds and the wise men. So January is, for us, a good time to consider it. The Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph - were forced to flee, they became refugees. Matthew's Gospel reminds us that Joseph received a warning that Herod the King was about to embark on a campaign of genocide, murdering new-born boys, lest a competitor for his throne should arise. So the family fled to Egypt - through the desert wilderness, to find safety and refuge from persecution. After Herod's death (in 4 A.D.) this refugee family returned and took up residence in Nazareth, in Galilee, for the threat of persecution still loomed large under Archelaus, Herod's son, who now ruled in Judea.

In 1993 when we have instant television coverage of refugees anywhere in the world we seem threatened in our country not by the forces of evil which compel people to become refugees but by refugees themselves. As we in Britain and Europe tighten laws allowing access to to our country and community for refugees what are we saying in so doing? The number of people seeking asylum in Britain has increased yes, but it is a minute proportion of refugees who attempt to gain refugee status here, and of those who do, the majority are not successful, are not allowed to enter or remain.

And yet we seem so concerned with the tiny proportion of refugees who seek to come here that we lose sight of the millions of refugees who flee from country to country in the Third World or within countries in the Third World. Some of the world's very poorest countries bear the cost of vast immigrations of refugees - such as those fleeing persecution in Burma, who flee to Bangladesh, or from drought or war in Mozambique who seek refuge in Malawi and Tanzania.

Our concern must surely be for those who flee and for the situation which causes such flight. In the case of Jesus of Nazareth, it was Herod's fear that he might lose his position of authority and power which forced him to order such violent retribution. I wonder whether it is in fact our national and European desire to hold on to our wealth, our position in the First World which persuades our governments to act to make it ever more difficult to find safety, refuge here.

But refugees won't just go away unless the underlying reason is tackled.

Put it like this: surely it would have to be a major threat to your safety which would cause you to leave home, family, job, country, and flee to a foreign land for refuge. What would make you a refugee?

Yes, we need to care for the refugee in re-establishing an independent, just and safe life; but we also need to challenge today's Herods head-on.

*Brian Leathard*

## The World's Refugees

According to the UN there are 18 million refugees throughout the world.

85% of these find refuge in neighbouring countries. This does not include those internally displaced within their own countries.

Only a relatively small number arrive in Europe.

### Burma - An Example

Christian Aid reported in 1992 that hundreds of thousands of people were fleeing Burma into neighbouring countries, mainly Thailand and Bangladesh. These refugees are fleeing from religious persecution, conscription into the military, often as 'porters' to carry army supplies, with gang-rape and beatings occurring, and re-location of their villages into camps in military zones. Christian Aid gave £56,180 in February 1992 to the Church of Christ in Thailand for its work with these refugees. Jack Dunford of that Church has stated:

'I liken the experience of talking to new refugees to peeping through a keyhole at a horror movie. It is impossible to get the full picture, but the glimpses we get are ominously consistent and frightening in their possible implications for the future.'

### Stop Press

Up to 80,000 Tajik refugees, some with gunshot wounds, are stranded without sufficient food, shelter or medical supplies on Afghanistan's border with the former Soviet republic. Local authorities will not allow the refugees to cross into Afghanistan. (An A.P. report on 8 December).

### Refugees coming to the UK.

Of the refugees coming to Europe, few seek asylum in the UK in relation to our population. In 1991, the 44,840 applications for asylum in the UK represented 783 per million of our population. The comparative figures for Switzerland, Germany and Sweden were 6,307, 3,296 and 3,176.



The 1991 applicants came mainly from Africa (27,490) and Asia (10,495).

### **The Current Situation for the UK**

In the first nine months of 1992, the applications in this country were lower than in 1991 at 20,528, despite a large number from the former Yugoslavia, a country of origin not previously significant.

In that nine-month period, 599 applicants were granted asylum - i.e., formally recognised as refugees - and 8,064 were granted 'Exceptional Leave to Remain' (ELR) - for 'humanitarian or administrative reasons'. Persons granted asylum may apply for settlement after four years' residence, while those given ELR must apply for renewals periodically, and if successful, may apply for settlement after seven years.

In the same period, 9,474 were refused permission to stay under rules that weed out those who have twice failed to attend for interview or persistently failed to complete a questionnaire. Only 414 were refused because they had passed through a safe country en route to the UK.

At the end of September, there was a backlog of 64,330 applications awaiting decision.

### **The New Bill**

The view of organisations working with refugees in the UK is that the vast majority of applicants are genuine, and there is concern that the new Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill now before Parliament will lead to the refusal and removal to danger of more genuine refugees.

For example, draft rules associated with the Bill require 'a prompt and full disclosure of material factors'. But many asylum seekers, confused and exhausted on arrival and perhaps speaking little English, may not understand what 'material factors' are, or may be torture victims unable to speak of their experiences immediately, particularly to 'authorities'. There is also concern that periods allowed for appeal are much too short, bearing in mind the language problem and lack of legal representation.

Many organisations concerned with refugees believe therefore that parts of the Bill are incompatible with the UK's responsibilities under the 1951 Convention on Refugees.

## **Refugees in Richmond**

Refugees in Richmond-upon-Thames? Surely that can not be true. We would not be surprised to hear of large groups of refugees in Hounslow, Ealing or Brent, but an article about refugees in Richmond may be to some as strange a tale as that of the baby born in a manger some 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem. Of course, the baby was Jesus and you know the rest of that story. My story is about about some families who have relocated to Britain from war-torn parts of the earth and who have ended up in Richmond and the surrounding boroughs as part of their journey in seeking a safer and better life for themselves.

As Richmond has a relatively small population of people from ethnic minority groups it does not take the bulk of refugees arriving in the country. They are placed in boroughs where they have family or friends after their initial application for refugee

status has been processed.

Richmond though does receive a proportion of those refugees who arrive at Heathrow and have no friends or relatives in this country (somewhere in the region of three families a month).

### **Where do they come from?**

Richmond Welcare first came across refugee families after a health visitor had referred three single-parent Ugandan families to our agency for additional help and support. They had been offered temporary accommodation in two large bed-and-breakfast establishments in Castlenau, Barnes. Since that time this agency has worked with, or had knowledge of, refugee families from Somalia, Turkey, Iraq (a Kurdish family) and more recently the former Yugoslavia. The Welcare project in Hounslow works with about 80 refugee families and they include families from Eritrea, people forced to leave Kuwait, Sri Lankans and Sudanese. All these families have experienced extreme situations in their lands of origin, or have very good reasons to fear returning to their homelands. A few do not know whether husbands, wives or children are still alive.

### **What happens after they arrive at Heathrow?**

The Heathrow Refugee Arrival Project sees each family. They are given £10, taken to a hotel, told basic procedures (including how to apply for Welfare Benefits) and remain there until placed in short-term accommodation. In some cases Income Support has taken up to four weeks to arrive and families have had to survive on the breakfast provided by the hotel. They have no money for nappies, sanitary towels, baby food etc. their situation at this stage is desperate. They are then placed in different boroughs in temporary accommodation while their applications for asylum are being processed. This may take a number of years to be completed. It is during this time of movement and uncertainty that the Welcare offices have been called upon to provide some support for these families.

### **Settling in**

Many refugees do not speak English and have a major difficulty in finding their way around our society. Most of them do not understand our health, education and welfare systems and need assistance in obtaining the basic services that our community provides. Richmond Welcare has had the privilege of being able to offer some support to these vulnerable people as part of the local churches' response to needs in the community. We have also been instrumental in setting up a meeting to coordinate services for refugees in Richmond. The refugee families with whom the Hounslow Welcare office has contact are mostly lone parents, and it runs a regular once a week refugees' help group which is well attended. The needs for practical help, furniture, clothing and English teachers are great and any offers of help are most welcome.

If you happen to live near a refugee family, or come across someone who is seeking asylum, remember that family who after the birth of their baby in Bethlehem had to flee for his life into Egypt.

*David Roos, Team Leader, Hounslow and Richmond Welcare*



Father of all we give you  
thanks and praise that when  
we were still far off you met us in  
your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, He declared your  
love, gave us grace, and opened  
the gate of glory. May we who  
share Christ's body live His  
risen life; we who drink His  
cup bring life to others; we whom  
the Spirit lights give light to the  
world. Keep us firm in the hope  
you have set before us, so we and  
and all your children shall be  
free; and the whole earth live to  
praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Letter to the Editor

I was pleased to see somebody else remembered Johnson's the hardware store, which was always a constant source of supply when I lived opposite at No. 95 High Street. I still have a builders ladder with the name Johnson & Morris on the side. This was left in the house by the Bailey family which had a builder's yard at the back of the High Street. The garage at No. 95 was just big enough for a cart to pass through to the yard. I met a member of the Bailey family a few years ago and I believe there was a family connection with the Johnsons. But who was Morris? Perhaps somebody can tell me. A few yards further along the High Street the blacksmith plied his trade - it is now Burts cycle store and Roger Hickman's father, the late Bill Hickman, can remember finding horse shoes and tongs when he took over the shop. He also found some very old bicycles which Roger has kept to the present day.

The good news is that Roger and Margaret King have just moved in at No. 64 to set up a hardware store, thereby maintaining the tradition. I think their store must once have been the Brewery tap put where thirsty cricketers used to repair of a summer evening.

*George Low*

## Men's Breakfast

On Saturday 16th January, there is to be the first (of what will hopefully be many) events especially for the men of St. James's Church! And what better way to begin than a MEN'S BREAKFAST?

Since weekday routines differ so much, it was thought it would be best to meet on a Saturday morning around 8.30 am for a continental breakfast of warm croissants and fresh coffee. The venue will be the coffee lounge of the Greenwood Centre in School Road, Hampton Hill.



Whilst enjoying the relatively peaceful and civilised atmosphere (particularly for the 'family man'!) there will be the chance to listen to a 'thought for the day' from Roy Khakhria, who is currently working for St. Helen's Church, Bishopsgate - a church where up to 700 men meet for mid-week lunchtime services and other events. Roy has been working for some years alongside business men in central London, helping them to discover Christianity, so is fully equipped to speak on the subject 'Christians at Work'.

After his brief talk, he will be available to answer questions, so do feel free to stay and chat. The breakfast will finish around 9.30/10.00 am. Tickets (£3 each) and further information are available from Andrew or Beryl Bye after most Sunday 9.30 am services over the next few weeks, or 'phone 943 4629.

***N.B. Places are limited to 15 - 20 so book early!***

# The Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

On 11th November 1992 the General Synod of the Church of England decided to proceed with legislation to allow the ordination of women as priests in the Church of England. On such a fundamental issue as this, Synod is required to vote in houses: Bishops, Clergy, Laity. A two-thirds majority is required in each House for the legislation to be approved.

The results of the voting were:

House of Bishops	-	For 39, Against 13	....	75% in favour
House of Clergy	-	For 176, Against 74	....	70.4% in favour
House of Laity	-	For 169, Against 82	....	67.3% in favour

Therefore the legislation was passed.

Now that the results of the vote are known something of a pause will ensue; we shall not see women as priests in the Church of England for some time for there are several more stages to be gone through.

The next step is for the Legislative Committee of General Synod to make a report to the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament (composed of 15 peers and 15 members of the Commons). That Parliamentary Committee will decide whether the measure passed by Synod is 'expedient' - and this is by no means a rubber stamping. However, assuming the report to both Houses of Parliament is favourable, the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure will be debated in both the Lords and the Commons, probably in June or July 1993. If it is passed in both Houses, the Royal Assent could come before the summer recess.

After the measure has received the Royal Assent - become the law of the land - a church law (Canon) will be laid before General Synod, or in the jargon, promulgated. It could happen in the November 1993 sessions, but more likely it will be in the June 1994 General Synod.

The first ordination of a woman as priest is therefore most likely in June or July 1994.

*Brian Leathard*

## Fund-raising

### Dream Auction

There is to be a Dream Auction at the Greenwood Centre at 8pm on Saturday 30 January. For this a good many offers are needed of services, professional or otherwise, goods, transport, cooking, etc. The various offers will be auctioned (by the Vicar as auctioneer!) and the money paid will go to boost the Church Fund Raising for 1992/3. What bright ideas have you got? You name it and it will probably sell! Offers please to Hannah Stanton (943 1336), Margaret Taylor (977 1342) or Hal or Eila Severn (979 1954), any of whom will be pleased to enlighten you on the subject of Dream Auctions.

And don't forget to come along on 30 January - and make your bids! Hopefully there will be much of interest to choose from.

## Recipe Book

We hope to publish 'The Spire Recipe Book' just before Easter. Copies of this will then be sold as part of our Fund Raising.

So, as soon as possible, we need contributions - recipes for starters, main courses, desserts, cakes and miscellaneous items such as chutneys, pickles, jams and sweets.

Please give your contributions as soon as possible to Jill Denton (979 7033) or Janet Nunn (979 6325).

## Evangelistic Supper - Saturday 13th February

It is often difficult to ask friends/colleagues/neighbours to church, so here is a chance to invite them to something which will feel more comfortable, particularly if they are not used to the formality of a church service.

People enjoy a relaxed and informal atmosphere, and good food is always an attraction too! So we are offering a special candle-lit supper with waitress service and musical entertainment. The evening will begin with drinks from 7.30 to 8.00 pm, followed by a lovely supper. Whilst coffee and chocolates are served, there will be a short musical 'interlude' and a brief 'thought for the day' from a visiting speaker. The Rev. Stephen Wookey is a curate at All Souls Church, in central London, and very good at explaining the Christian faith in a very simple and helpful way.



Since this is the first of this kind of event, do not feel that you HAVE to bring a guest - you would be most welcome to come anyway!

The venue will be the Greenwood Centre and tickets (£5 each) will be available from Andrew or Beryl Bye after most Sunday 9.30 am services over the next few weeks, or can be reserved by 'phoning 943 4629.

**N.B. Help for the above event would be very welcome, e.g. -**

- preparing food in advance
- cooking during the afternoon
- putting out tables and chairs
- laying tables early evening
- serving drinks
- general help in the kitchen
- waiters/waitresses
- washing up afterwards

If you are able to help in any way please call 943 4629.

## Bell-Ringing

St. James's Church has six bells but they are not rung in the normal way. Most bells are rung by the bell moving on an axle. At St. James's the bell is in a fixed position and is struck by a clapper. The ropes from these bells go to a frame on the floor below, so the bells can all be rung by one person at any one time. It is however easier if there is more than one person so that no one is ringing for a very long time. At the moment I ring before almost every 9.30am service and for most weddings. There are several other people who ring occasionally but as I am hoping to go to University in late September/October I am wanting to teach some more people how to ring the bells so that they continue on a regular basis. It is open to almost anybody, although some younger children might find it difficult. There is no real limit on numbers, as I hope to start a rota system if enough people are interested. Therefore once you have been taught how to ring you don't need to be available every week - probably only one or two Sundays a month (9.15 - 9.30am). As you gain confidence you will be able to ring for weddings - Saturday afternoons.

I want to organise some lessons/practice time - either evenings, Saturdays or after the 9.30am Sunday services. If you are interested, please ring me on 979 9380 or sign the notice on the tower door, so that I can see when is the best time. I hope to start mid to end of January.

*Peter Horner*

## Around the Spire

Some of you may have read recently about the necessity of finding alternative accommodation for the Benefits Agency (formerly Department of Social Security) offices in Twickenham while the present ones are being re-furbished. Various suggestions were put forward and the public asked to comment on them. One was for a mobile office, another for keeping a small section of the present office open and a third (the best?) for finding another office to rent for the duration. Please do write to the Benefits Agency if you have any views on these proposals. Many of us use these offices from time to time and for those who have to go more frequently they are depressing - any improvement must be welcomed.

Many of the people for whom we have had a special concern lately seem to be improving in health. Walter Shell has made a rapid recovery and is already back helping the children at Hampton Hill Junior School. Olive Wright is now back in Deer Lodge. Connie Brunt whose cataract operation went somewhat badly is now getting better and Margaret Shackleton is home again now. Hetty Burgess, at present in Kingston Hospital, and Jagdesh Veki, who runs Scotts in the High Street, have both had strokes and are improving.

On 25th November Imogen Lindsay made her debut into the world. The proud parents are Lindsay and David Jerome. This is Margaret and Bill Robinson's ninth grandchild. Jack Ethell recently made an unexpectedly early arrival, being born six weeks prematurely. He is growing fast and hopes to be home in time to hang up his stocking on Christmas Eve.

# From the Registers - November

## Baptisms

1	Philip Ian Saville Clapp	43 Anlaby Road, Teddington
	Robert James Bruce Coats	70 St. James's Avenue
15	Helen Rebecca Williams	69 Burtons Road

## Marriages

2	Roy Dennis Fraser Mackintosh and Laura Washington
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## Marriage Blessing

14	Martin Joseph Kirt Land and Laura Young
21	James Gibson Burn and Charlotte Patricia Collins

## Funerals

18	Sidney Hook	45 Memorial Close, Heston
18	Enid Rose White	205 Uxbridge Road



## Dates to Note

Jan.	1	<b>The Naming of Jesus</b>
	4	14.00 Editorial Board
	6	<b>The Epiphany of our Lord</b>
		14.00 Women's Forum, Why are you a Christian?, Wayside
	11	20.00 P.C.C. Vestry
	16	08.30 Men's Breakfast, Greenwood Centre
	18 -25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
	19	10.30 Clergy Fraternal, St. Richards, Hanworth
		20.00 H.C.C., United Reformed Church
	20	20.00 Women's Forum, What Price Unity?, Wayside
	24	18.30 United 'Songs of Praise', St. James's Church
	25	<b>The Conversion of St. Paul</b>
	30	20.00 Dream Auction, Greenwood Centre

## Advance Notices

Feb.	2	<b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>
	3	14.00 Women's Forum, Wayside
	8	14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	13	19.30 for 20.00 Evangelistic Supper, Greenwood Centre
	16	20.00 P.C.C. Vestry
	17	20.00 Women's Forum, Wayside

**COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE: 10 JANUARY**