



It is Saturday at 6.15 am. It is dark and cold outside. But I'm in Terminal 4 at Heathrow waiting for my parents-in-law to appear from that magical hole, whence every size, shape and hue of humankind seems to appear. It may be dark and cold

outside, but here, even at this unbelievable time on a Saturday (is there really such a time on a Saturday!) the business of being the world's busiest international airport goes on a pace.

Whenever I go to meet someone at the airport I'm always intrigued by the small notices people hold. I find it a pleasing way to spend time to watch the 'meeting and greeting' happening. Try identifying Knut Svensen being picked up by IBM or Mrs. Andrea Popodapolous being met by Revlon cosmetics amongst the individuals in the stream of arriving passengers. It's wonderful to see an excited family meeting Great Aunt Florence from Australia, touching to see a couple separated by thousands of miles, now in their first re-united embrace.

By the time you read this the Church too will have entered a period of waiting, a period considerably longer than that which I hope to spend at the airport. This four week period we call Advent. Literally it means "the coming to us". It refers, of course, to the coming of Christ into the human sphere which we celebrate at Christmas. Traditionally, Advent has been a time of preparation for that celebration of arrival. Yes it has, of course, meant preparation in a material sense - of food and presents, the very stuff of human celebration. However, it has also, and perhaps even more significantly, carried with it preparation in the wider sense. Like you I started to receive Christmas catalogues in the summer, but do I really take any time to prepare myself for this revolution which Christmas is? God takes our form, our nature with all its frailty, vulnerability and risk. This is indeed a revolutionary way for God to act and it takes some believing!

One of my favourite contemporary poets is R. S. Thomas, a Welshman. In his poem 'Kneeling' he uses the haunting line "The meaning is in the waiting". For people on the christian journey that is of course very true - ours is not so much to arrive, but rather to travel expectantly. It is what we do with the here and now that matters, how we use the waiting time. Do we live our lives expecting to be met by God in human form - in Christ as in our neighbour, or have we turned off? In Advent we have four weeks to make our preparations externally and internally to prepare to meet the Christ child in Bethlehem or in Hampton Hill, and the meaning is in the waiting.

So please do feel very welcome to attend any of the preparations being hosted here at St. James - the services are detailed opposite - beginning with an

opportunity to reflect on Advent Sunday, 29th November at 6.30p.m. in a meditation led by our Archdeacon, Malcolm Colmer.

I wish you an Advent of true preparation and a Christmas of great celebration.

Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Brian Leathard

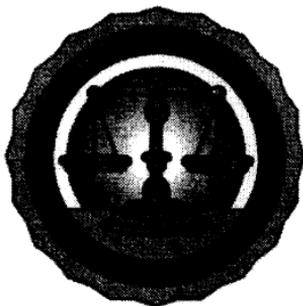


CHRISTMAS AT ST JAMES'S 1998

	Sunday 6th December	9.30a.m.	Christingle Service
	Sunday 20th December	6.30p.m.	Parish Carol Service
Christmas Eve	Thursday 24th December	9.15a.m. 4.30p.m. 11.45p.m.	Morning Prayer Crib Service Midnight Eucharist
Christmas Day	Friday 25th December	8.00a.m. 9.30a.m.	Holy Communion Parish Communion
St. Stephen's Day	Saturday 26th December	10.00a.m.	Holy Communion
	Sunday 27th December	9.30a.m.	Parish Communion

Grand Weighing Ceremony Sunday 6th December

At the
Christingle Service
we will weigh
the Parish Income
and Expenditure
on Giant Scales



Come along
and see if we have
Closed the Gap
and Balanced
the Budget
for the Year

I am writing on behalf of both staff and clients, to thank your congregation very much for the thoughtfulness in sending your harvest produce to this agency. This is a genuinely useful resource to us, as all our clients are on a low income and the gift of additional food helps alleviate financial pressure. We are also able to help people in financial crisis by providing them with food in an emergency. Some of our asylum seeking clients who have recently arrived in this country from countries such as Kosova, do not receive benefits, and therefore are extremely pleased to receive this form of help.

Every family who has attended our Drop-In service on Thursdays has been given a parcel of food, enabling many of our mothers to purchase extra items for their children with the money saved from their housekeeping budget. We do keep some of the tinned produce in reserve, to enable us to help families throughout the year.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued valuable support of our work with vulnerable families within the borough and would be pleased if you could pass our thanks and good wishes on to all your congregation who gave so generously.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Remon
Team Leader

OUR TRIP TO SYRIA AND LEBANON ~ AUTUMN 1998

'How would you feel about joining the pilgrimage to Syria and the Lebanon?' I asked one afternoon, not really expecting an answer. 'I'd like that very much' was the reply and that was how Michael and I joined a group of twenty seven others for what was for us a memorable experience. This is a personal memoir of that time, not least because we can only tell of what it was like for us and even for the two of us each day held a variety of meanings. It seemed extraordinary to be in Beirut, a city which had meant civil war, hostages, pain and destruction and very uplifting to see how its people were tackling the task of reconstruction; there were many buildings blasted by shell fire and pock marked by bullet holes which helped us to see what it had been like.

Starting from Beirut we began this journey of Roman cities, Crusader castles, Christian churches and Muslim Mosques mixed with Middle-Eastern food, very good guiding by both Barbara in Lebanon and Hisnam in Syria, and gentle

good humour and care from Brian who ensured that we were where we should be when we were supposed to be there! The days were full and I certainly had to keep a diary to keep track of the things I had seen and also some of the feelings they had roused in me.

So here briefly are some of the memories we keep with us: The friendliness and good humour of all the group members, even we women when we had to don black robes before entering a Mosque; the friendliness of the local people we met; looking at structures dated fourth millennium B.C. and thinking that unless our Millennium celebrations have a Christian core what are we making so much fuss about?; climbing down amongst the tombs in the Roman city of the dead in Tyre, peering through a hole in a sarcophagus and finding it full of bones!; feelings of awe at the scale of the Hippodrome built for chariot racing and wishing that that architect was in charge of our Millennium Dome; Crusader castles at Sidon, Tripoli and the great Citadel of Aleppo built by those who were so sure of their faith they were willing to journey far from home and conduct savage war in its name; Michael being draped (in the souk in Aleppo) in Arab dress (which we of course then bought), a wonderful photo opportunity.

The magic colour of the light on stones at the church St. Simeon, Palmyra and Baalback. At Palmyra we got up early to walk among ruins and experienced a feeling of hope and continuity as a shepherd drove his flock of sheep and goats between the pillars; a very biblical scene. Spirit life seemed very near. There were many special moments, but we found it was particularly a journey of a confirming of faith, whether in the very early and beautiful church in Maaloula where we heard the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic, in the house of Annaias in 'the street called straight' where St. Paul sought refuge, or in the communion held by Brian in a church on the spot where St. Paul escaped by being let down in a basket. We found it an experiencing of continuity of faith through the history surrounding us. I was also aware of this in the Great Mosque in Damascus; it may not be our faith but for us that building had a good feel about it.

All that is left for us to say is 'when do we go again?'

Tina Bunce



LOST AND FOUND IN BROAD STREET

(In reply to "Lost and Found" in November issue)

Many years ago I worked at Harlesden Labour Exchange, and travelled each day from Broad Street to Willesden on the North London line, London's forgotten railway. One morning, late and hurrying, my watch strap broke and dropped on to the platform. Not realising my loss until I was on the train, I saw my watch lying on the ground as the train set off for the industrial wastelands of Finchley Road and Frognal, Kensal Rise and points west to Willesden Junction. I was both surprised and delighted to discover that the item had been handed in to the Broad Street Station lost property office. On collecting it, I discovered the name of my good samaritan and wrote a thank you letter.

Some days later my wallet was stolen and discovered, abandoned, on a piece of waste ground near the Exchange. It contained a slip of paper with the name and address of the finder of my watch, as well as various bits of identification of my own. This second samaritan (whose name I never discovered) posted the wallet to the man who had found my watch. In returning it, he wrote that he understood my gratitude, but there really was no need for me to send my wallet; a thank you letter was quite enough.

David Revell

P.S. Although it is now nearly 8 years since Jane and I left Hampton Hill for North Yorkshire, we enjoy keeping in touch through 'The Spire'. Our little boy, Thomas, will be 5 in March. Are there many St. James's expats out there? The Revell's address: 3 Holly Park, Huley, Leeds LS17 0BT



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS 1998

During Advent the following special collections will be taken. There will be a plate for donations at the back of the church.

1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays in Advent

Amnesty International

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations on 10th December 1948.

2nd Sunday in Advent (Christingle Service)

The Children's Society

Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharist

SPEAR

(Single Persons' Emergency Accommodation in Richmond)

JUBILEE 2000 - PLANNING AHEAD

The agreed day of action for the G8 summit in Cologne is Saturday 19th June 1999. Erlassjahr 2000, the German campaign, very much encourages the support of campaigners from overseas. Jubilee 2000 Coalition have arranged a great package deal with Harry Weeks Travel & Travelscope. For £79 per person (insurance extra at £8, or use your own policy) they are offering: return travel by coach from pick-up points around the UK (Kingston would be our nearest), departing early Friday 18th June, returning Sunday 20th, 2 nights B&B in a hotel in the Rhine Valley and travel into Cologne for the day of action. Harry Weeks Travel are kindly donating £5 in support of the campaign for every package booked. Take a look at the travel package brochure in church. Further information and booking forms are available from Harry Weeks Travel, telephone 01689 887000 or at Templegate House, 115-123 High Street, Orpington, BR6 0LG. The price is only guaranteed until the end of January 1999 (£30 deposit per person books a place).

To ensure that real progress on debt relief can be made in Cologne, please take and send the postcards that are available on the Jubilee 2000 table in church. They urge our government to start a process of international negotiation so that when world leaders travel to Cologne in 1999 they will be prepared for action, not just words.

Ann Peterken (0181 891 5862)



CHRISTMAS DAY HELP REQUEST

The Churches Together in Teddington are helping to provide lunch on Christmas Day for lonely and elderly people at Elleray Hall. Help is needed for:-

- 1 Transport for the guests to arrive between 10.30 and 11.30 and leave at 3.30.
- 2 Kitchen help from 9.00a.m. onwards. An hour or two would be useful.
- 3 Greeting and chatting to guests, and waiting at tables.
- 4 Providing Christmas cakes, small presents and cards for distribution at the end.
- 5 Serving teas, washing up and preparing bags of food and presents.

Please give your name to Jean Wilson (941 2949) or telephone Stella or Trevor King on 977 3891, before 12th December if possible.

As you may know, the Brownies have been doing their Faith Awareness Badge (Stage II), during the Autumn Term. As part of the work for the badge, Brian gave the Brownies an interesting tour around the Church, pointing out things of interest. The Brownies have written short pieces about things you may or may not know about St. James's.

The first Vicar in St James's Church was called Fitzwygram. When Fitzwygram died a road was called after him. Do you know where it is? His wife made sure that any houses built had flush toilets and running water.

Natalie Alexander

Did you know that the tops of the Church are pointed because when the Church was built people thought that whenever they prayed to God they could touch or reach up to him?

Kim Fitchett

Did you know that the reason many churches have stained glass windows is because when most churches were built people could not read so the Vicars used pictures to explain the Bible?

Victoria Harbour

I learnt that people used to stand in church and about 100 years ago when pews were introduced they used to have to arrive at church half an hour early to get a seat!

Claire Williams

There is a mosaic in the Church which shows what they thought St. James looked like. It shows a scalloped and begging bowl which are the signs of St. James. Did you know that there is a shell above the Vicarage door and above the door to the cricket pavilion in Bushy Park near Hampton Hill High Street?

Tessa Axelrod

The Lectern is the shape of an eagle because he is a strong bird that can fly high in the sky - maybe reaching God - he sits on the world.

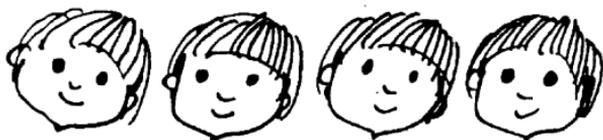
Megan Thompson

Did you know there are six bells in the Church spire? They can be rung by one person because instead of bells moving the clanger inside moves.

Hannah Doyle

Did you know that the spire was added to the Church to celebrate the 50 years of Queen Victoria's reign?

Brown Owl



ST JAMES'S GUIDES

The new Guide Group has begun meeting in the Church Hall on Tuesday evenings from 7.00p.m. to 8.30p.m. They have six founder members and the group is run by Sue Blay (977 0263) and Leslie Brough (943 0683).

NEWS FROM THE MILO HOSPITAL, TANZANIA

On 4th November we had the great pleasure of a visit from the Archdeacon of Gloucester, Chris Wagstaff, who talked most graphically and with evident enjoyment about his involvement with Tanzania

This began in 1980 when his parish church, St. John, Coleford, celebrated its Centenary, and the parishioners decided to collect the £2,000 necessary to build a church in Tanzania, through the good offices of the USPG. In 1982, during his sabbatical, Chris visited Tanzania to inspect "his" church, also called St. John's. He spent about six weeks with the Bishop, Charles Mogogo, whose huge diocese has 20 priests, each earning about £20 a year and each with about 25 parishes to care for. Communication and transport are both virtually non-existent, there are only two telephones and the priests walk from one parish to another, taking perhaps two days for the journey. Each parish has about 4-5 visits each year from its priest and so much pastoral work is done by local trained catechists, who attend a school in Milo for one year after receiving their primary level education.

Chris described the hospital at Milo, to which we have contributed for many years and still continue to do so through USPG. Milo is in the Livingstone Mountains at a height of 7000 feet, has 50 beds and one doctor. The hospital has about five one-storey buildings built around a quadrangle. There are two wards, a dispensary, a doctor's surgery, a hostel for the nurses and presently the local people are enlarging their hospital by building another hostel for the relatives of patients. These friends and relatives bring their sick to Milo, often walking many miles. They stay in the hospital, sleeping under the beds in the wards and cooking food, which the hospital cannot afford to provide. The

buildings have been erected by the people around Milo, who make and bake the mud bricks first, and then use them for building.

The hospital is funded by gifts from churches abroad, in the UK, Germany and Holland especially, but there is always a great shortage of money. Through the help of Christian Aid water has been brought to the village and a mechanical milling machine to grind the corn has saved much labour and time for the local women. Now the milling machine generates an income for the hospital, all the women paying a small amount for its use. The money has also helped to provide a school for the children of Milo.

The Archdeacon has been able to persuade hospitals in Gloucester to donate spare bandages and dressings which would otherwise have been thrown away. He collected nurses' dresses which became obsolete when new uniforms were introduced and he even found 12 steel bed pans for his well-loved Milo hospital's use!

The enthusiasm, hard work and loving kindness which Chris has brought to this part of Tanzania and to Milo Hospital especially, made a deep impression on us all. Perhaps we can do something more here at St. James's to help this much needed and well-used hospital, where the generator only runs for two hours a day and where there is a constant shortage of bandages and medicines - diesel fuel and dressings are very expensive!

Have we here the millennium project for which we have been searching?

Margaret Taylor

REPORT BACK FROM THE PCC

The PCC met on 17th September and 13th October. The following is a precis of the main items of discussion:-

1. Wendy Baker came along to the PCC on 17th September to give a very welcome update on the Young Church. It was an excellent opportunity to express our thanks for the dedication of the five people who share the running of this group. As with many other ventures, there is a wish for some younger leaders, so please don't be shy in speaking up.
2. The church accounts were inspected by the Inland Revenue at the end of July. All was basically sound, but a few issues were highlighted. The stewardship committee has undertaken corrective measures and anticipates the financial implication for the parish to be minor.
3. A buckling wall at the edge of the churchyard requires expensive repair work (about £6000). The wall is listed and any work needs the

permission of English Heritage. The PCC agreed to apply for a faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

4. The Bishop of Kensington has formally offered St. James's a Deacon as of June 1999, who would be expected to stay for 3 years. The position has been offered to and accepted by Freda Evans. Freda has already met many in the parish, through her attendance at Harvest Festival and by joining the parish holiday to Lebanon and Syria.

This is a training appointment, with giving and receiving between Freda and the life of our parish. Our main hope is to establish and increase the parish profile over on the Poets Estate. The practical implications for the parish are that we need to buy a house in that area, with the financial help of the Church Commissioner's and the Diocese. A group of five people (Brian, the two churchwardens, the treasurer and a member of the finance committee) were given the authority of the PCC to act on their behalf.

5. On 12th July, in St. Paul's Cathedral, an agreement of partnership (ALMA) was signed between the Diocese of London and the Anglican Church in Mozambique and Angola. Archdeacon Malcolm Colmer joined the PCC meeting on 13th October to tell us about his visit to Mozambique. Malcolm gave a very interesting talk, accompanied by slides, and spoke of the tremendous growth of the Christian community in both of these countries. He gave some ideas on how this partnership could come to life in a parish community such as ours and we will think carefully about what part we might play.

If you would like to express your view on any of the above matters or anything else the PCC is discussing, or you would like to make sure something is put on the agenda for a future meeting, please speak to the vicar or a member of the PCC before our next meeting on 19th January 1999. Minutes of all PCC meetings are at the back of the church for you to read.



R.N.L.I. Twickenham and District branch will be holding its Carol Concert on Friday 4th December at Teddington Baptist Church, Church Road, Teddington with Choir led by Geoffrey Bowyer M.Mus.

The concert will begin at 4p.m. with tea and mince pies in the Church Hall from 3p.m. onwards. Souvenirs Christmas cards and gifts will also be on sale in the Hall before and after the concert. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jill Goddard

DECORATING THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS

After the period of Advent, when we have had no floral arrangements, the Church will be decorated in preparation for Christmas during the morning of Wednesday 23rd December. Any gifts of foliage will be particularly appreciated on that morning, or by arrangement earlier in the week. We shall be working in the Church from 9.30a.m. and, as always, would welcome anybody who would like to join us. It is not necessary to know anything about formal flower arranging, only to enjoy seeing the Church decorated and attractive. We have a good selection of vases, containers and "mechanics" to enable us to make arrangements as easily as possible in what is often a limited time, and love to have suggestions for new ideas we might try. As well as flowers and foliage, donations of money are always appreciated as this is our only source of income.



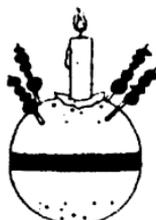
Coryn Robinson 979 6786



DON'T FORGET SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER is Gutter Clearing Day!!

**The Church Hall and the Church's gutters and drains are in need of their annual clearance.
Please come along from 9.30a.m.**

It's amazing what interesting conversations you can have with someone while you're up to your elbows in wet leaves. Rev Brian Leatherd



If you prefer something less messy there will be a Christingle manufacturing party inside the Hall for the Christingle Service the next day.



Music is very much a part of our life at St. James's and we are exceptionally lucky to have some very gifted musicians amongst us. On the evening of Sunday 1st November, All Souls Day, we celebrated a special Eucharist organised and conducted by Christ Hodges. It was a memorable and moving service with beautiful music and singing.

And on Sunday 15th November Geoffrey, our organist, treated the Friends of St. James's to another wonderful musical occasion with an organ recital, and demonstration of the organ's potential.

On the same day, we had the great pleasure of a joyful Confirmation service, conducted by Bishop Michael Colclough who confirmed candidates both from our church and from All Saints.

With Christmas fast approaching the Church will be ringing with carols on an almost daily basis, with all the local schools holding their carol services there. Don't forget our Parish Carol Service on Sunday 20th December.

We are glad to hear that Alan Taylor is now recovering well after his rather alarming accident while on the parish holiday in Syria and the Lebanon. Alan and Helen's son Huw married Morag in October. Many congratulations to all.

Ramani has now returned from her trip to Northern India on behalf of Christian Aid. She has been on a two week tour, visiting Christian Aid projects set up for the tribal people who live in the hills of Orissa.

The Christmas Bazaar was a great success and around £1300 was raised, thanks to some splendid organisation and tremendous hard work by Wendy and Brian Baker. Our thanks to them and to all who helped by running stalls, cooking, baking, making etc. and by turning up on the day to spend their money!

Finally, but most importantly, we wish a very happy birthday to Chrissie who, on 31st December, will be 98 years old. Many happy returns, Chrissie, from all your friends at St. James's!



Thursday 3rd December at 7.30p.m.

Concert in St. James's Church

Richmond Youth Band
Hampton Hill Junior School Choir

FROM THE OCTOBER REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 10 Curtis Spencer Miller Soleil, 33 Dean Road
18 Phoebe Izabel Murphy, 21 St James's Avenue

Funerals

- 19 Malcolm Nash, 127 Uxbridge Road

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DATES TO NOTE IN DECEMBER

2	14.30	Women's Forum: Advent. Nicholas Ferrar, 1637
3	19.00	Concert in Church: Richmond Youth Band and Choir of Hampton Hill Junior School. All welcome. Saints and Martyrs of Asia
5	09.30 onwards	Church and Hall Leaf Sweep and Gutter Clean. Christingle orange preparation.
6	09.30	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE All welcome. St. Nicholas, Bp
9	13.30	Hampton Hill Junior School Carol Concert.
10	19.00	Hampton Hill Junior School Carol Concert.
11	14.30	L.E.H. Junior Dept. Carol Service.
14	19.30	L.E.H. Senior School Carol Concert.
15	19.30	Rectory School Carol Service.
19	11.00	Churches Together Around Hampton: Carol Singing outside old Sainsburys.
20	18.30	Parish Carol Service.
24	Christmas Eve 16.30	Crib Service.
	23.45	Midnight Eucharist.
25	Christmas Day 08.00	Holy Communion.
	09.30	Parish Communion.
26	St. Stephen 10.00	Holy Communion.
27	09.30 (NO Service at 8.00a.m.)	Parish Communion.
28		The Holy Innocents
29		St. John the Evangelist
30		Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906
31		John Wyclif, Reformer & Translator, 1384