

I wish you a very happy New Year.

I guess by now most of you will have returned home from making Christmas visits to family and friends across the country and likewise most of your Christmas visitors will probably have returned to their own homes. Of course, it is greatly enjoyable to meet with people, particularly family and friends, at such a special time as Christmas, whether it be around the table for a shared meal or simply to be in each other's company for a few hours or indeed to go and stay with people. But visiting is certainly part of Christmas. We have visitors who come to the door to sing carols. We have visitors who come to church for Christmas and perhaps at no other time of the year. The shops report increased numbers of visitors as do our doctors after Christmas as a consequence of our own gluttony. But somehow visiting is deeply connected with Christmas.

If we look back at the biblical stories then they too were of course crowded with visitors. Mary and Joseph were visiting Bethlehem simply because they had to respond to a legal requirement to register their existence. So many visitors were there in Bethlehem that the bible stories remind us there was no room for them to stay in the inn. And at the birth of Jesus too there were so many visitors. Again the stories record visits from shepherds and then of course much later the visits from the magi. Whoever they were, however many they were, wherever they had come from the story of the visit of the wise men is a most moving one. Their gifts we interpret as being signs of a kingship of Christ, the offering of worship and the preparation for death in gold, frankincense and myrrh.

As we look at Christ's ministry in his boyhood and adult life, visiting also played a major part in his growth and appreciation of all God's children. We can recall his visit to the temple as a young child, as a baby as part of the fulfilment of the law or his later visits to the temple when he got lost on his return. We can think about the visits he made to families and outsiders, to the most unlikely women and men throughout his ministry, Roman centurions, tax extortioners, fishermen, people inside and outside the community.

As for Jesus' ministry so for ours. We are very aware that the pastoral care of members of our community is crucial in spiritual growth and practical well being. Each element is very inter-dependent. We have been aware for sometime that we need to increase the number of people who will exercise this ministry of visiting from our parish church throughout our community. In order to help this to happen we are delighted to be able to run a visitors training course in March and April this year and equally delighted that for this training John and Judy Barrett from All Saints Fulham

have agreed to help us increase our skills. Some members of the parish may feel they have skills to offer as a visitor, good listening, a little time, an interest in people, a desire to get along side others. We would be very happy to hear from you if you are interested in the training programme. Visiting isn't always to people in great "need". For many visitors, of course, the human engagement deepens their own faith and commitment to walking in the way of Christ as, we hope, communicating the good news of Christ's love for each and every one of us. As we know the church exists for mission to go out from our gathered community, gathered around the Eucharist week by week, into the work-a-day world we each occupy. Our visiting is part of that programme to communicate God's love through who we are, where we are and the people we meet. Whether you meet people in the office, at school, at work, at leisure, in the shops or however it may be think back on the visitors Jesus received and indeed on the visits he made and ask yourself the question: how can I be a messenger of God's love in God's world today not only during the hype of Christmas but also in the dullness of January?

Brian Leathard

PASTORAL VISITING TRAINING

The details of the pastoral visiting training are:

Saturday, 15th March, 10a.m. to 3p.m.,

Tuesday 18th, Tuesday 25th March, Tuesday 1st April at 8p.m.

and Saturday 5th April, 10a.m. to 3p.m.

- ◆ to train members of the parish for pastoral visiting
- ◆ to enable more people to be visited
- ◆ to provide for growth in Christian discipleship

If you have any questions please speak to Brian.



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1902 Extracts from the January Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

May I take this opportunity of wishing all the readers of our Magazine a most Happy New Year, and I would pray that God's blessing may rest upon you.

On Christmas Day the decorations gave the Church a most attractive appearance, and again we are greatly indebted to all who gave their time and trouble to bring this about. There were 227 Communicants, and the congregations were good throughout the day. The offertories were given to the Poor Fund.



An additional piece of beautiful work has been presented for the Holy Table, and was used for the first time on Christmas Day. It consists of the word "Alleluia" repeated three times, exquisitely worked on white satin. The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

A very successful Winter Entertainment took place on the 9th ult., when the performance of "The Jacobite" and "A Joint Household" brought together a very fair audience.

Last month I was able to publish an excellent report of the examination in Religious Knowledge in the Day Schools. The Government Report is also excellent, indeed I do not know that a better report could be obtained. The highest grant is gained in each department. It is a matter of great satisfaction that this result has been reached, just when great changes are about to be effected by the passing of the Education Act.



I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

EXPLORING HAMPTON HILL HIGH STREET

During the coming 12 months we shall be interviewing various traders and shopkeepers in the High Street. This is partly to give background information to the shops and businesses which we are happy to support and many of whom advertise in our magazine. It is also to root our community's life more firmly in getting to know and trusting one another.

TAPS

Everyone knows TAPS; Tushar (Danny) and Chandrika Patel have run this shop for the last 16 years. Right in the middle of the High Street by the zebra crossing and where Windmill Road joins the High Street, this busy shop is open all hours and is a great resource. Tushar and Chandrika have two children, Jamine and Janvi (10 and 8) and they together serve over 350 houses with newspaper deliveries through eight newsboys and girls and of course they will take orders for newspapers and magazines as well as selling cards, confectionery and tobacco, not to mention FIREWORKS. For, now everyone seems to know this as the firework shop. It is called TAPS because when Tushar and Ashok Patel bought the shop they wanted a snappy name. They certainly found one. In the last couple of years their dedication and hard work has earned them two awards, firstly in our local paper as newsagent of the month and then secondly from London Transport for their sale of bus and tube passes. For the latter award they were subject to a random plain-clothes inspection by a London Transport inspector who commended them on their accuracy, service and high standards of care for their customers. That is certainly the feeling you get when you go into the shop, always welcome, always a smile and always looking to serve customers' needs as best as possible. They are open seven days a week but for Tushar, Chandrika and the children that means long hours and rare holidays.

The Patels bought the business taking over Mr Bredan's newspaper shop which itself was over 100 years old. During TAPS' life in Hampton Hill they have introduced a good home delivery service, a wider selection of cards and of course fireworks. Tushar says, "if I had realised it was going to be such hard work I don't know that I'd have done it" and Chandrika made the point that the biggest change in recent years has been "competition from the really big stores and the supermarkets but we believe we can offer a much friendlier and local service". Hampton Hill feels "much less villagey" and now much more urban with increasing traffic not helping the trade because of the parking restrictions on the High Street. They are also very aware that they see more older people in the High Street and fewer younger people who clearly do their "corner shop" shopping in the supermarkets. Tushar and Chandrika hugely value the local community. In his spare time Tushar supports Chelsea and at least reads the back sports pages of the newspapers even if he does not get much time to read the front. However, they cannot see their children taking it on and wouldn't want them to do so when they realise what long hours they may be forced to work. They like Hampton Hill because they feel rooted and safe here and their ambitions are to expand the business through changes to the physical format of the shop and to its

stock.

Their ambitions for our community are for it to stay a safe place and for the High Street to develop and survive as a prosperous trading locale. And on a wider front Tushar says "The one thing we don't want is a war because of course it is not so much we in Hampton Hill in our affluence who will suffer but the poor, the old and the very young who have no defence and no one to speak up for them".

No doubt many of us are grateful to the Patels not just as November 5th approaches but every morning when we open our papers or when we pop in for a bus pass. We hugely value their commitment to our community and encourage you to support their excellent newsagent business.

Saturday 25th January 2003
Parish Quiet Day
at Brook Place, Chobham
10a.m. to 3p.m.

Led by the Revd Christopher Swift, Rector of Shepperton and Kensington,
Episcopal Area Adviser for Spirituality.

This will be a quiet day for all who wish to participate.

Please put names on the list in church by Monday,
21st January 2003.

£8.00 per person for the day.

Bring a packed lunch.

Tea and coffee will be provided.



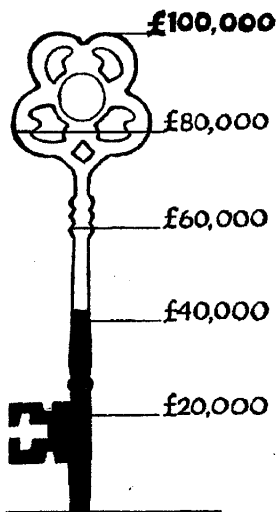
Church Bazaar

The Church Bazaar in November was a great success. Despite the heavy rain, other fairs in the locality and having the Dream Auction only a month before, our fears that the Bazaar would not do so well this year were unfounded. The team of helpers, once again, were marvellous. Many put in hours of effort during the weeks leading to the bazaar and the stalls reflected this on the day. There was a very happy atmosphere and everybody worked so cheerfully together. Many thanks to all who supported the bazaar in so many ways: by providing all the varied article and prizes for the stalls, by helping on the day and by attending the event and spending your money! The very pleasing amount raised was £ 1700. A very worthwhile effort. Thank so much.

THE KEY

to

Opening Our Doors



Our Key shows that we have already raised over £40,000 of the £100,000 needed to fund the redevelopment of the West Porch. A very encouraging position to be in at the start of 2003.

Are you wearing your own Key lapel badge to help spread the message about the project and its aims to our wider community.

Our next fundraising event is a QUIZ NIGHT on 1st February. Do get the date in your diaries and start brushing up on your general knowledge.

If you would like any further information on the "Opening Our Doors" Project, please contact Kim or Jon Smith on 020 8979 2617 or look on the website: www.stjames-hamptonbill.orguk which has all the latest information.

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 1st February

7.30pm in the church hall

Tickets £20 for a table of 4

or £6 per ticket

Contact: Kim or Jon on 020 8979 2617



A New Musical Setting of the Liturgy (part 1)

When Vaughan Williams was once asked for his views on composing music he replied, 'It's a rum go'. I've done a fair bit of composing over the years - for my degrees at Cambridge and Durham, during my teaching career for school pupils, and even, as an LEA Music Adviser, for massed performances at the Royal Festival and Albert Halls. But when I was encouraged to undertake this challenge I realised that, whatever the response of the St. James's congregation might be, I would have to face a higher judgement - the text, sung week in, week out, is after all the central part of our worship - nothing less than my best effort would do. There's hardly a more 'rum go' than composing a new musical setting of the liturgy for a congregation to sing on a regular basis.

Every composition - indeed, every creative effort - sets its own expressive and technical challenges. I will try to unpick these in the next articles but there are extra ones on top. These are that the setting should enhance worship for the majority of the congregation and also that they (you) should be able to learn and sing it. Time will tell - all that any 'creative', as industry calls us, asks is an open mind and a willingness to give it a go (however rum!)

The sung liturgical text has a huge expressive range - from triumphant affirmation of God's glory, through pleading for His mercy, to reflection on the mystery of faith. Yet people do not expect services to go on too long these days, certainly not the length common in earlier centuries. Then, composers were expected to, and did, allow people the time and expanse of musical phrasing and form to immerse themselves in personal reflection on these huge spiritual themes. It is certainly a challenge to condense the breadth required by these traditional words and still try to provide music that has an impact - either that or go for something trite and comfortable that requires no response at all.

There can also be a tension between what a congregation may be used to and what a composer might write in other circumstances - there are technical compromises to be made, yet the result should still aim for an integrity of style and it must work musically. In future articles I shall explain how I have tried to meet these issues in the different 'movements' that make up the sung liturgy.



Martin Hinckley

Understanding the Old Testament

This is a nine session course on Monday evenings at the Kensington Area Office, 865 Great West Road, Isleworth. Dates are January 13, 20, 27 and February 3, 24 and March 3, 10, 24, 31.

The course looks at the Hebrew part of the Bible, which we call the Old Testament. We shall be finding out about the story of the people for whom it was written, and the things its writers were trying to say to them. Through this, we shall seek to understand something of the meanings of its various writers to the men and women of faith today.

The course offers you an opportunity to:

- Discover the variety of material within the Old Testament.
- Receive a course file of notes that you can refer back to and add to.
- Experience ways in which the Old Testament can speak to Christians today.
- Visit a synagogue (Saturday 15th March).
- Learn from the experiences of others.
- Reflect on what it means to be God's covenant people today.

The course leader is the Revd Elizabeth Greenwood M.A, who is an experienced practitioner in Adult Education.

The cost of the course is £15.00. Cheques should be made payable to "LDF Kensington Area".

To book your place on the course, please speak to Brian.

R.N.L.I. Quiz Evening



Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution

R.N.L.I. Quiz Evening will be held on Saturday 1st February 2003 at the British Motor Yacht Club, Ferry Road, Teddington commencing 8p.m. Come as a team of 4 - 6 players, or come by yourself and make a team up on the night. Quiz sheets are £2 per person and you can just turn up. However a phone call to me during the week would help us with numbers.

Jill Goddard 020 8287 7438



Many thanks indeed to everyone who spent time and energy on 30th November cleaning gutters and sweeping leaves. A necessary but unglamorous job well done!

On the same day the Guides prepared 250 Christingle oranges for the special service on Advent Sunday, 1st December. This Christingle service was appreciated by all who came. We specially thank the Guides for their prayers and the Cubs for their presentation, and all the young people for giving their time so generously.

We were pleased to offer hospitality again to Lady Eleanor Holles, Hampton Junior Schools and Hampton Community College for their Christmas Carol Services.

Our own Christmas Advent and Parish Carol Services were deeply felt and much enjoyed. What great inclusivity with band, Young Church, Choir, and Children's Choir all joining in together!

Our best wishes to Margaret Leatherdale, at home once more, and to Billy Williams, now in a nursing home in Kingston. Our prayers are offered to Les and Louise Wilder in his illness. We are glad to hear that Eila's brother David Prentice is making a good recovery from his heart attack.

The St. James' website has become very popular. 1000+ hits are recorded every week!! The address is www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Finally Many Happy Returns to Eve who celebrates her birthday on 30th December.



WESTMINSTER ABBEY DAY OF PRAYER

led by

Canon David Scott, Winchester

Saturday 11th January 2003

10a.m. - 2.45p.m.

3p.m. Evensong

No tickets required. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee and light refreshments available also.

Further details 020 7654 4805, or speak to Brian to go with a group.

FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

Baptism

10 Sophie Anna Claire Galbraith, 24 Connaught Road, Teddington

Funerals

30 Oct Harry Overfield, 55 Burtons Road

1 Muriel Owens, 32 Rectory Grove

98

5 Joan Brown, 61a Park Road

75

13 William Alfred Holmes, 19 Sanders Close

80

Wedding

23 Robert James Florey and Karlina Ann Pantlin

DATES TO NOTE IN JANUARY 2003

1 **The naming of Jesus.** Bank Holiday. Happy New Year

2 14.00 Holy Communion

5 **The Epiphany of Our Lord** (transferred)

09.30 Parish Communion

10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

11 Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa, 1915

12 **The Baptism of Christ**

08.00 Holy Communion

09.30 Parish Communion

11.30 Baptism

15 20.00 Parochial Church Council

18 Week of prayer for Christian unity begins

19 **Epiphany 2**

08.00 Holy Communion

09.30 Parish Communion

18.30 Service of Churches Together Around Hampton

Christian Unity Service at St. James'

24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, teacher, 1662

We remember our brothers and sisters at our
neighbouring Roman Catholic Church.

25 The conversion of Paul

26 **Epiphany 3**

08.00 Holy Communion

09.30 Parish Communion

27 Thomas Aquinas, priest and philosopher, 1274

20.00 Taisé service at St. James'

30 20.00 Deanery Synod at St. James'