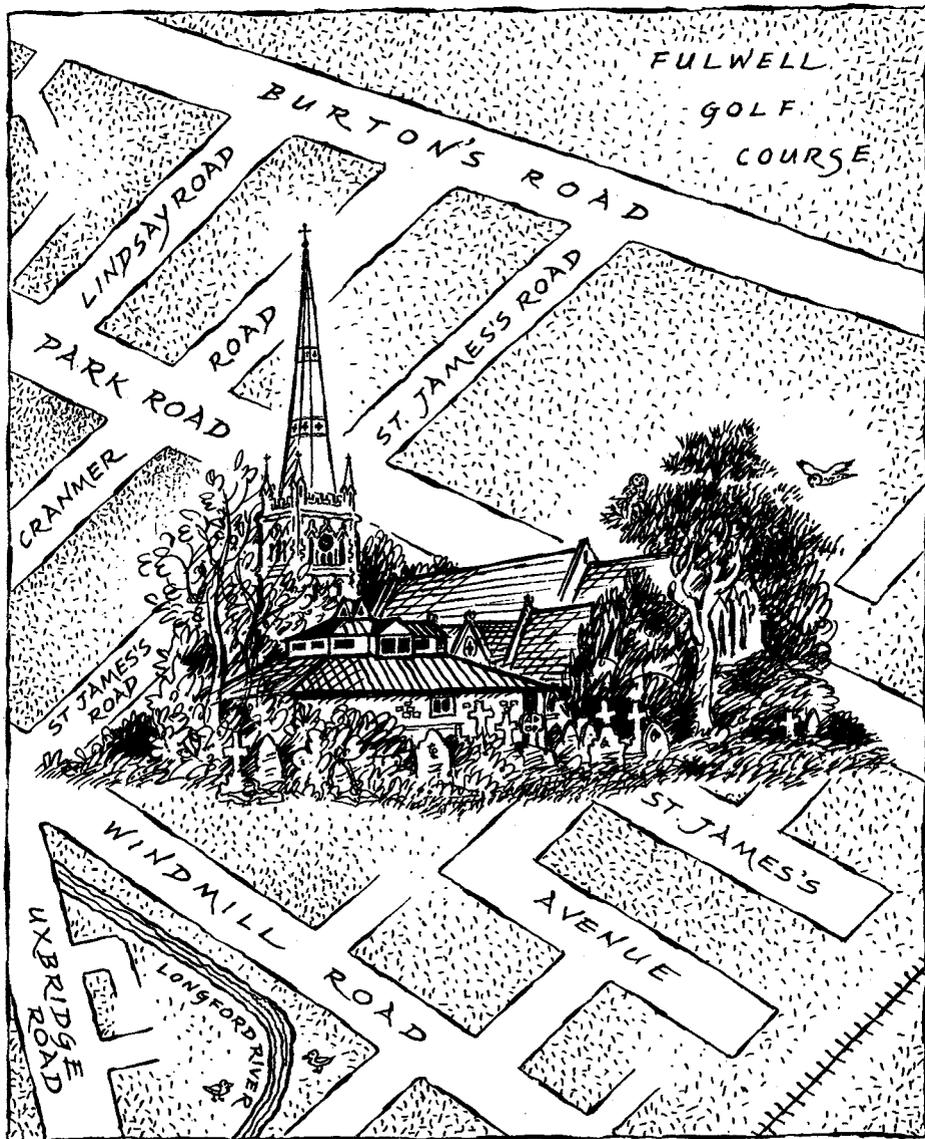


# THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH · HAMPTON HILL



## 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](http://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 <sup>st</sup> 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.

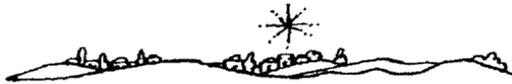
## CHURCH CONTACTS

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

In the autumn, Radio 4's *Women's Hour* launched the Watershed Fiction award. Listeners were asked to nominate, or vote for, novels which had had a profound impact upon them. Perhaps their choice had challenged their assumptions about the role of women, or increased their own self-awareness. The eventual winner was Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

We probably have our own list of significant novels: books that have captured our imagination, helped us through a crisis or provided a mirror for our own lives. Our lives are journeys marked by rites of passage and shaped by people, places, experiences and decisions. Some encounters stay with us because they affect us deeply, they leave us changed. Some moments of transition will have opened up new opportunities and challenges; others are painful experiences which shape our being. At Epiphany the Church celebrates the showing forth of the Christ-child to the Magi. The wise men had observed an astonishing astronomical sign and were prompted to embark on a journey. T.S. Eliot emphasises the physical demands and difficulty of their travels in *Journey of Magi*. The end of the journey brings with it a transforming encounter. The Magi would never be the same again: *we returned to our places, these Kingdoms, but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation.*

Their encounter was an epiphany. Christ's coming had been made public, God had been manifested, shown forth. The Magi had arrived expecting to find a king in a palace. Instead they find a child in the most humble of surroundings. Epiphany: God's glory revealed in a child; Epiphany: the revelation of God's love and glory for all peoples. Yet the Magi were puzzled, as Eliot puts it: *were we led all that way for birth or death?*



The wise men brought gifts with them to honour the new born king; gold, frankincense and myrrh. Such gifts are re-interpreted in the presence of Christ. Gold was an appropriate gift for a king, a symbol of wealth. In the hands of Jesus, wealth is challenged by divine wisdom. Incense stood for worship, a symbol of honour and worth. In Christ's life it becomes a sign of sacrifice. Myrrh was for healing, or embalming. In the birth of Christ, a death is foretold.

God's glory is manifested to us in various and unexpected places. Sometimes it is the brightness of a star calling us onwards; sometimes we glimpse glory in vulnerability and humility. There is wonder in both. Glimpsing glory is only the beginning of a journey; a journey of faith during which God will manifest himself to us, change us, challenge us. In *The Spire* over the coming months, we hope to include some personal reflections on moments that have been significant for us, or something that has made a difference to us. You are invited to contribute a response to an event, encounter, or experience. This month, some of those who were confirmed recently will share some of their thoughts and feelings.

*Arise, shine out, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you,  
The nations will come to your light,  
and kings to your dawning brightness.  
But the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
your God will be your splendour.*

May we walk with the Magi this epiphanytide; may we encounter Christ; may we have the grace to follow him and discern his glory in the future.

*Julie Gittoes*

## **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**

**2005 offers a unique opportunity**

**[www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)**

By the time you read this article, many of you will have seen the New Year episodes of the Vicar of Dibley, with their clear focus on **MakePovertyHistory** - a unique UK alliance of charities, trade unions, campaigning groups and faith communities, including the Church of England, who are mobilising around key opportunities in 2005 to drive forward the struggle against poverty and injustice in our world.

The effort is not limited to the UK (see [www.theonecampaign.org](http://www.theonecampaign.org) for news of what's happening in the States), but the UK Government's chairing of the G8 Summit in July and its Presidency of the EU in the second half of the year place it in a position of considerable influence. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor have already made clear that both of these will have a clear international development focus. The aim of the **MakePovertyHistory** coalition is to make sure they deliver on their promise.

More will be written in the Spire as the year unfolds, but for now I wish to draw your attention to three events:

1. On 14 January, female clergy will participate in an ecumenical all female march on No. 10 led by Dawn French, in support of **MakePovertyHistory**.
2. Ecumenical church launch of **MakePovertyHistory** in Bloomsbury Baptist Church (235 Shaftesbury Avenue, New Oxford Street end) on **Sat 29 January**. Please make an effort to come along and get inspired for action. Each of us can make a difference, with many individual actions resulting in an unstoppable force. (Pick up a flyer in church of visit [www.makepovertyhistory-churches.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory-churches.org)).
3. Many of you will remember the Jubilee 2000 human chain around Birmingham in May 1998, when the UK last hosted the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, in early July. **MakePovertyHistory** is calling for 100,000 people to be in Edinburgh on **Sat 2 July** to witness to the seriousness of the call. Can you help to swell the numbers? Do talk to me about it.

Please pick up a **MakePovertyHistory** booklet in church so that you can be informed as opportunities to take part in this unique movement unfold.

*Ann Peterken*

## FROM THE PARISH PUMP

**'The Ringing Men'** - their motto being *Arava Molimur Sed Null Ardua Virtus* - (We attempt the difficult, but there is no virtue in what is easy). Church bells are still the most arresting sound in a village; they tumble through their paces with hypnotic precision. Some bells are incredibly old and vast with the names of saints, princes, squires, parsons, as well as rhymes and prayers engraved on their sides.

In earlier times men would travel from church tower to church tower in search of a particular sound; however, they were famous for not attending the church services! John Bunyan was a bell ringer. What a ringer needs most is not strength, but the ability to keep time - no-one must be uneven: it requires a great deal of concentration and mental energy, particularly now when modern bell composers create such wonderful changes.

The towers in which the bells are hung have a great effect on the sound - old bricks soak up sound and sweeten it; concrete produces a much harsher sound. The average weight of a bell is about 11 cwt. The tenor bell at St Paul's Cathedral is sixty-two cwt. The maximum number of changes which can be rung on eight bells is forty thousand, three hundred and twenty!



At St James's, there are six bells, four cast in 1893 and two in 1902. No records of the weights of the bells exists, and the firm which cast them is defunct.

The bells are fixed and so cannot be rung by swinging them on their axles. They are therefore chimed using clappers. The four bells on one beam have two sets of clappers. The outer set, operated by wires from the clock, chime the hours and the quarters. The inner set are operated, together with the two bells on the other beam, by ropes from the chiming board below. The two separate systems save disengaging the clock for chime peals and the obvious difficulties in re-setting.

The six ropes hang vertically side by side and are operated by one ringer pulling the ropes out from the wall. They are rung every Sunday for the Parish Eucharist, at festivals, for weddings and at New Year.

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### Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2005

#### **'I was sick and you took care of me'**

Lent begins very early this year on Wednesday 9 February. During their annual Ash Wednesday witness at St Paul's Cathedral, the London Bishops will launch an appeal for healthcare projects across southern Africa, which we at St James are supporting. The February Spire will have lots more information. For now, please be aware that it is coming and think about its significance in this important year for action on global poverty. As well as asking our government and other world leaders to deliver real progress, it's very important to do something ourselves. This Appeal shows our Diocese responding to one of the critical issues of our time.

*Ann Peterken*

## PARISH QUIET DAY

The parish quiet day will take place on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> January at Christ Church, Shamley Green. John Skinner of 'Hear the Silence' will lead us in a day of quiet reflection, prayer and fellowship. If you wish to come, please sign up on the list available in church.

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### Jennifer Lloyd

One of Jen's most treasured memories was taking Communion by the Sea of Galilee on a Parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land some years ago. She cried and cried, but when questioned as to why, she just said 'It was so lovely'.

Jennifer has had much reason to cry in her life recently, and indeed was often moved to tears for a variety of reasons. Her involvement in the St James's Liturgical Dancers was a great source of pleasure and enjoyment for Jen, but could also move her to tears. She cared for people and about people and spent many hours in the past caring for her own mother down in Devon until she died, and then David's mother who eventually came to live in Hampton where it was easier to keep an eye on her. I suppose I must have known Jennifer for over thirty years, but she was quiet and retiring, completely devoted to her family, and not easy to know intimately. Any task she undertook would always be done, quietly and with minimum fuss. She and David did the tea for Prayer and Praise for many years, it was she who sent 'The Spire' to those who had moved away from Hampton Hill but who still wanted to stay in touch, and she and David who looked after the Electoral Roll. More recently she had taken on the job of Parish Archivist, so lots of quiet involvement over many years.

Another of her interests was Devon pottery, of which she had an amazing collection. Being a Devonian herself is what had started her off and it was an activity which she enjoyed.

Jennifer's death will be a very sad loss, not only for her family still trying to come to terms with the death of Kevan in April, but also for the wider family of St James. Our thoughts and prayers will, of course, be with them, especially at this season of the year but for Jennifer herself we can only say that her suffering is over and she now knows 'The peace of God, which passes all understanding'. God bless you Jen, and all your family and friends.

*Helen Taylor*

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**A thought for the New Year . . . . .** 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better to you than light and safer than a known way".'

*(Copied from a book by Gerard Hughes) G.R.*

## THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE 2004

At Evensong in Westminster Abbey on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1974 Archbishop Michael Ramsey inaugurated the first Week of Prayer for World Peace (W.P.W.P.). To many Anglicans it was a very significant event. On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2004 supporters of W.P.W.P. were again at Evensong in the Abbey to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the changes and development of the event. This year there were representatives of at least eight other faiths, including Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists and Zoroastrians. The Dean welcomed all the visitors and one and all expressed the significance of the need for prayer by all faiths in the present critical state of our beautiful world. Many in the present Organising Committee are younger and conscious to keep the original initiative strong.

*Jean Wilson*

The W.P.W.P. drew to its conclusion at the Gurdwara Sri Guru Sabha in Southall where an interfaith gathering of prayers and celebrations for world peace were held. The programme began with Shabad Kirtan (hymn singing) and then representatives of all the faith communities present used readings and prayers from their own traditions to speak of peace. The Bishop of Willesden reminded us of the importance of such gatherings, especially in the current international climate. Afterwards we were able to meet with one another informally whilst sharing in the hospitality of our Sikh hosts. The afternoon was a powerful witness to the desire of men and women of faith to work for, and pray for, peace.

*Julie Gittoes*

*Council of Christians and Jews  
(Staines and District Branch)*

### ***Musical New Year for Trees Evening***

*A musical insight into the meaning of this unique  
Jewish Festival explained and performed by  
Cantor Stephen Robins*

*Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2005 at 8 pm  
Staines Synagogue, Westbrook Road*

*Tickets £5.00 each includes numerous fruits and  
refreshments buffet only obtainable in advance from  
Carole Greville Giddings: 020 8979 6592  
All profits to CCJ funds*

## *This Made A Difference : Confirmation*

Gus and I decided to get confirmed a bit later in life than some people. We are both in our mid twenties and getting married next May. As we planned the wedding service, we started thinking more about the commitment that we were making to each other before God. We had also moved to Hampton Hill relatively recently and started attending and enjoying the services at St James, so the two elements combined made us decide to use this time of lovely change in our lives to think more about our faith and prepare for confirmation.

It was great that there was another young couple who were also taking this step so that the four of us had some very interesting sessions to prepare for confirmation with Brian and Julie. The evening get-togethers covered many thought-provoking topics such as Using the Bible, the Eucharist and Prayer. We looked forward to the evenings each week - a good time to think and also nice occasions to chat and get to know the rest of the group.

The confirmation service itself was very special. There was a supportive feeling with several groups of people coming together to get confirmed, as well as many family and friends wishing us all well. I had not met Bishop Michael before and found him both awe-inspiring during the service and approachable in our discussions before and afterwards. Julie and Brian made the whole experience of preparing and getting confirmed at St James enjoyable and rewarding.

*Millie Kilpatrick*

Since I was two my Mum has been taking me to St James. I was baptised there and over the years I have played in the Travellers band, attended Sunday school and Young Church. I've not gone every week but when I could.

Now I am thirteen I am too old for my Mum to decide whether I go to Church or not. So after giving it some thought I decided to get confirmed and become an 'adult' member of the Church. In this way I shall make my own decisions about which services I go to and how I get involved in church activities. For me being confirmed means that as I grow older I will always be able to take part in Church events.

Before the service I met the Bishop, he asked me which school I went to, how old I was and about my family. It was good to meet him before the service, it made everything less daunting.

The service itself was easy because I have been to lots of different ones over the years. At one point in the service it was weird because the Bishop pressed hard down on my head when confirming me but then it was over and I could relax and celebrate. I am glad I decided to get confirmed I am really looking forward to taking part in the Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve.

*Ewan Henry*

## **MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION**

### **in support of the street children of Nepal**

One of the poorest places in the world today, Nepal's political tensions and the worsening economic situation have only serve to exacerbate existing levels of unemployment and led to a marked increase in the number of children abandoned on the streets. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 homeless children in Kathmandu alone. Commonly mistreated, sick and used as child labour, most street children see only a hopeless future.

Set up in 2002, the Pegasus Project aimed to provide food, shelter and clothing for abandoned children living on the streets of Nepal. The project also encouraged each street child to take up a musical instrument (drums, tambourines, recorders



) and use song and dance to work through anxieties and trauma caused by their situation. In 2003 a hostel was built and land purchased on which to erect a school. The project now aims to purchase some livestock and develop a smallholding to supply their own food requirements and some surplus to sell.

Sara Butterfield is taking part in a Mount Everest Expedition in December 2004 to support this vital project. They hope, in climbing the world's highest mountain, to raise sufficient funds to enable the project to build and equip the school and provide 3 urgently-needed medicine and clothes. Generous sponsorship has been provided by a hairdresser in Richmond during December (unfortunately too late for those of you reading this) but additional sponsorship and contributions are desperately needed to help these needy children.

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### **Richmond Civic Pride Fund 2004**

The London Borough of Richmond has a Civic Pride fund to support projects to enhance the amenities of the borough. We, at St James's, applied for some funding to improve the churchyard, and to reduce the opportunities for the sort of damage and vandalism that had been occurring. We have been awarded a grant of £1,000 and, as funding must be matched by the applicant, the PCC has agreed to put up the same amount. The work is being overseen by Lynda Benson, a local garden designer. The major part of the work is at the east end of the church where work has already gone ahead in preparing the soil, adding fresh topsoil and manure. There will also be work done to improve the shrub beds by the church hall, in the new 'lawn', and in front of the new West Porch once the building work is completed.

*Rodney Taylor*

## St James's Chronicles

### The Spire 1955 Extracts from the January Issue

*(Fifty years ago "The Spire" cost 3½d, old pence, less than 2p in today's money)*

From the Vicar's Notes:

In a parish of any size it is difficult for the Church to keep in contact with its many parishioners. This is particularly difficult in a widely-scattered parish such as ours. We hope to be able to do this better in the future with the help of our street wardens, who now cover the greater part of the parish. They will be able to give information about anything that concerns the Parish Church and its organisations, and also, by acting as the eyes and ears of the church in their area, help to lessen the number of people who get overlooked - for example, newcomers to the Parish who do not receive a welcome, or people in need of some kind whose trouble has passed unnoticed. The needs that come to light will be offered to God, especially at the monthly meetings of the newly-formed Parish Prayer-Group, which will now continue this part of the work of the News-Team. To these meetings, which will usually be held in Church at 8.00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month, others besides the street wardens are warmly invited.

We cannot let the News Team Fellowship pass into oblivion without an expression of thanks to the (latterly very) few people who formed it, and did work for the Parish of great value and out of all proportion to their numbers. I hope that we shall be able to continue other aspects of their work, such as the organising of home meetings, and that ways and means of doing this will soon become clear.

Most of our street wardens are also acting as representatives of the recently formed Old People's Welfare Committee and they will in due course be fully briefed about all the agencies through which old people in any difficulty can obtain help and advice. . . . .

We also start the New Year with a small number of keen people as a nucleus for our Parish Voluntary Service Scheme . . . . The main idea is to be able to supply neighbourly help to supplement the assistance to young and old in temporary or permanent need, which is today provided by statutory bodies. Up to now we have had requests for such help which is has not been easy to meet, and this may continue until the Service is strengthened . . . .

*(Our vicar at this time was the Revd Rupert H Brunt, whom older parishioners will remember with affection).*



Confirmation was a joyful and uplifting occasion. The church was full, the band took part and Ewan Henry played a flute prelude beautifully. Sixteen candidates from the three Hampton parishes were confirmed by Bishop Michael.

The bazaar raised about £1450 and we are extremely grateful to Wendy and Brian Baker who have organised this for the past ten years. So much unseen planning and preparation is needed to make these events a success.

Thank you also to all those who took part in the gutter-clean or made Christingles at the beginning of December. As always, there was a large congregation for Christingle and we were then able to enjoy a drink with Brian and Ramani as an early celebration of their silver wedding. They will be in Sri Lanka to celebrate on 29 December.

Joanna Sinnatamby is now out of hospital and much better. We continue to remember Sarah Walkden and Leon Walkden, both still in hospital.

The visitors' tea party was much enjoyed by both visitors and visitees. We were pleased to see Margaret Bramall, Betty Redman, Vera Bannister, Greta Harries and Megan Parry among many others.

Finally, we thank Julie and all the those who have helped with services, music or in any other way over the Christmas period to make the church open and welcoming to all.

## LENT COURSE

This Lent we have been invited to share with our brothers and sisters at St Francis de Sales in a season of ecumenical prayer and discussion groups on the theme of reconciliation. The programme will be made up of six weekly meetings, beginning in early February.

I hope that many of us will be able to take this opportunity to pray, reflect and talk together as part of our lenten preparations. More information will be available at the end of the month.

## FROM THE NOVEMBER REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS

21 Jenson Jay Darcy Hook, Hampton  
Molly Kiely-Crane

### FUNERALS

9 Mandy Frances Smith, Hampton 40  
11 Patricia Irene Mason, Richmond 61



On Advent Sunday the Bishop of Kensington administered the following sacraments:

Baptism: Augustus James Ulysses Jaspert

Confirmation: Augustus James Ulysses Jaspert  
Amelia Kilpatrick  
Kirsten Butler  
Rebecca O'Leary  
Emily Rowllins  
Helen Williams  
Ewan Henry

Received into the Communion of the Church of England: Darrell O'Leary

### DATES TO NOTE JANUARY

- 1 Naming and circumcision of Jesus
- 2 **Epiphany of Christ (tr)**
- 3 Bank Holiday
- 9 **Baptism of Christ**
- 16 **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**
- 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- 23 **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**
- 24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva and teacher of the faith, 1622
- 25 The Conversion of St Paul (end of week of prayer for Christian Unity)
- 26 Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul
- 28 Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher and teacher, 1274
- 29 Parish Quiet Day at Shamley Green
- 30 **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (tr)**