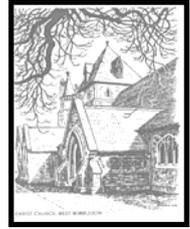


# Christ Church "News"

WEST WIMBLEDON ● ADVENT/WINTER 1997 ● VOL 1.1



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Dear Friends

Welcome to our first issue of Christ Church News. As you will read over the page, this is an initiative that was discussed earlier as an additional means of communication within the congregation and friends, but given its impetus by the Archdeacon's visit in June. I'm very grateful to Paul Brazier, Sharon Mawhinney and Mike Hammond for getting it off the ground, and to all those who have contributed to this first number.

We aim to produce four issues per year, falling roughly in between the 3 mailings that are delivered to every house in the parish. However this newsletter will only flourish **if you all contribute**, firstly by giving us feedback not just on this issue but on subsequent ones (when the novelty factor has worn off), and secondly by sending in material for inclusion - whether it be reports of special events, articles, jokes, copyright-free cartoons, brainteasers, or just suggestions for any of the above. Material may have to be edited if we're inundated, as I hope we shall be.

In the meantime, read on  
All best wishes

Celia Thomson

PEACE  
TO  
YOU.



Southwark Diocese has a special relationship with the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe, and our Kingston Episcopal Area is linked with the Diocese of Matabeleland, whose Bishop, Theo, and his wife Martha lived for about 3 years in Wimbledon Village and worshipped at St Mary's, and also occasionally at Christ Church.

## MATABELELAND DIARY

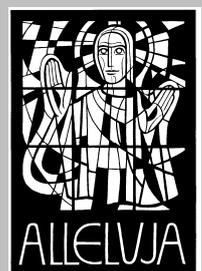
In July, KENNETH STOWE, while in South Africa, visited Bishop Theo and his diocese, in part as a gesture from the Kingston area, but also to ask him how we might help him and his people. The following are extracts from his diary.

- **SUNDAY** Evensong in the Cathedral in Bulawayo. The Emeritus Dean preached the sermon, of stunning simplicity and authority. Afterwards, during tea, with parishioners I received kind words of thanks for the money sent by Christ Church to buy Bibles translated into Ndebele.
- **MONDAY** Bishop Theo told us of his concerns: poor - no capital endowment, living hand-to-mouth; concern for the well-being of people and clergy; Aids - one third of deaths in Bulawayo are from Aids, most under 35 - who will care for the orphans? The priests have negligible resources: stipends R. 1200 per month (£60). The population is growing but mainly unemployed. Coffee in MacDonalds! Lunch at the Cross-roads restaurant. One sign points to Cairo, the other to the Cape - Cecil Rhodes' vision, of course. So to the Matopos Hill and Rhodes' grave. Then dinner with Bishop Theo and Martha who, as President of Mothers' Union, told us about The Centre, the Mothers' Union Headquarters.

cont'd over on page 2

### INSIDE -

- ◆ The Archdeacon's report on his visit to Christ Church p.2
- ◆ Thought for the Season p.2
- ◆ Sister Lawler's Prayer Course p.2
- ◆ The Richmond Park Walk p.3
- ◆ Did You Know - Christingle p.4
- ◆ Bible Corner Quiz p.2
- ◆ Cartoons p.3
- ◆ Mess of Pottage p.3
- ◆ Church Diary p.4
- ◆ Junior Church News on a separate sheet
- ◆ ... and more!





**TUESDAY** Bishop Theo's mid-week Eucharist - his Chaplain, Father Paul, led an elderly, white congregation. To St Margarets an outer suburban parish - which Father Mark holds together with virtually no resources, and the Mother's Union Centre: thanks to help from the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and from donors of old sewing machines, they have a little industry going in a suburban bungalow - clerical shirts, linen for the altar, wafers for Communion. The front parlour is now a Chapel. Didn't feel up to buying Celia a clerical shirt but altar linen, yes. Archdeacon's wife and Father Paul's wife ran the Centre - some ladies!

Then to Esigodini and Father Barry Matthews. Rural Zimbabwe at its most impoverished. The stone-built church and Rectory sit in alongside the squalor of brick and mud-hut villages where dozens live in one room and earnings (if any) are minimal. Visited three villages of Father Barry's parishioners - at some risk to our hired car, driving over tracks (or less) in the bush. Late afternoon, sat in a mud-hut with a sick woman (lying in a blanket on the floor), said a little prayer with her. Then to a workers village - mud-huts in dereliction. Father Barry was expelled 18 months ago for speaking out against the poverty of the people: he is forbidden to visit this farm village, but we did. The village produces carnations for a UK supermarket. In the drought the farmer sold two buckets of water for 10 hours work. Naught for your comfort here.

**WEDNESDAY** With Father Barry to Nketi, the "high density" suburb of Bulawayo from which he had been expelled. (Father Barry hiding low in the car as we drove past the police station.) Saw the next parish and the proposed church house they need help to build. High density means what it says. Lots of people about - young, able-bodied, unemployed. And so back to Pretoria and then home.

*Afterword:* Sundays in Christ Church seem so far removed. It costs ZR 18,000 (£1,000 to us) a year to train an ordinand in Zimbabwe. I am glad that we are now helping provide for one of them. Could we do less?

KS



To hear more about Sir Kenneth's visit to Zimbabwe, come for an evening at the Vicarage on Friday 5th December, 7:30 p.m. Please sign the list in the south-west corner for catering.

**BIBLE CORNER**

- 1 Which Gospels do **not** describe the birth of Jesus?
- 2 Which book, in an early version, was chopped up with a knife and burnt by a King?
- 3 Which two books of the Old Testament do not use the word "God?"



(Answers at foot of page four!)

CT

**THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON - ADVENT**

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah." Jeremiah 33:14

Traditionally the season of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is a time when Christians prepare to celebrate Christmas by thinking about the coming of God into the world in human flesh - the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. In the midst of all the preparations for the "commercial" Christmas it becomes ever more important to focus on its true meaning in our prayers. The purpose of being open to God in prayer at this time is to deepen the knowledge of God's presence with us in Christ. God promises always to be with his people in their joys and their sorrows, in their strengths and in their weakness. The birth of Jesus is the greatest sign the world has ever received to show that God is faithful and can be trusted to keep his promise.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CT

**BUSY LIFE? YOU CAN STILL FIND TIME TO PRAY!**



The key is being aware of the presence of God. This was the theme of Sister Magdalen Lawler's message on Tuesday evenings. Different ways of praying were explored that suited busy lifestyles. Music, slides, bible passages and meditation enabled Sister Magdalen to share her ideas for finding quiet moments that could become treasures of prayer-time. In the garden or walking, washing up, on the train going to work, God is with us at all these times, and longs to share our joys and frustrations, and help us with our decisions.

VH

**The Parish Visit by the Archdeacon of Lambeth**

On 22-23 June, Archdeacon Richard Bird visited Christ Church for the first time since Celia Thomson joined us in 1995. The Archdeacon was interested to see how the congregation had adapted to the arrival of a new vicar after so many years' service by Vic Read. He concluded that "the atmosphere was very positive and hopeful and forward-looking with a concern for the deepening of spirituality and for reaching out to people in the community."

His busy programme over the two days brought him into contact with many members of the congregation as well as other residents of the parish. He visited some of the residential homes for the elderly in our area and attended a discussion session with boys from the top form at Kings College Junior School. Despite the heavy rain, he enjoyed the Open Gardens event on Sunday and noted that it was a good way to establish links between the congregation and the wider community.

The Archdeacon attended a meeting with the PCC This offered Celia and the PCC an opportunity to discuss and evaluate Christ Church's goals and objectives. He recognised the successful work that had gone into organising Away Days and running courses

such as the study sessions on Human Sexuality and the Lent Course on the role of Christianity in the working lives of church members. It was noted that other courses are planned for the future. These are intended not only to strengthen and nurture the faith of existing members of the congregation but also to attract new members who are seeking a spiritual dimension in their lives.

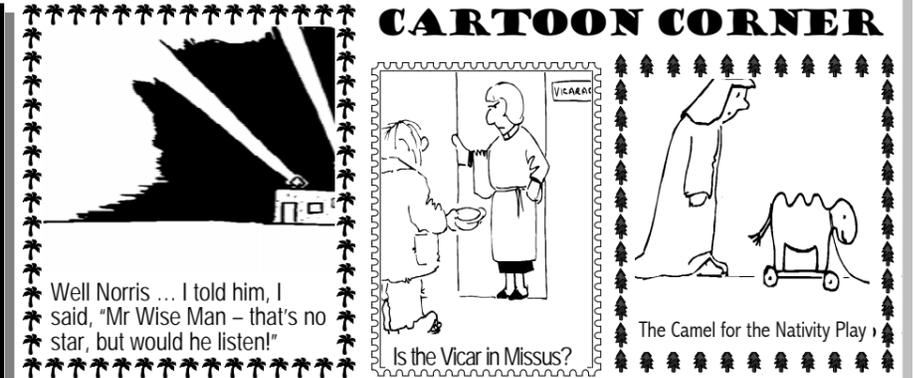
The Archdeacon urged that the objectives for the next few years should be achievable and few. The following were agreed:

- 1 The introduction of a Quarterly Newsletter (we hope you enjoy it).
- 2 The making of a realistic number of Millennium kneelers for the Church.
- 3 Hospitality at Christ Church, especially the development of after-church coffee.

Anyone interested in assisting with these projects is most welcome. They should contact Celia or the church wardens for more information.

SM

**CARTOON CORNER**



Well Norris ... I told him, I said, "Mr Wise Man - that's no star, but would he listen!"

Is the Vicar in Missus?

The Camel for the Nativity Play

**MESS OF POTTAGE**

"Esau selleth his birthright for a mess of pottage"

Heading to Genesis 25 in the Geneva Bible 1560

Have you a favourite "mess of pottage" that can be prepared from start to finish in 15 minutes? If so, can we publish it please?



Here's one for starters (or puds - Ed.)

**VICAR'S SPECIAL BANANA PUD**

Ingredients: 3 bananas, 500 gram pot plain yoghurt, 300ml. whipping (or double) cream, dark brown sugar (some), juice of half a lemon

Empty yoghurt into a bowl. Spread sliced banana over yoghurt. Spread dark brown sugar lavishly over bananas, then pour the lemon juice over the sugar, and cover with whipped cream. Additional sophistication - grate chocolate over whole.

TIME: 7 minutes. Serves 4

CT

**"On a clear day you can see forever"**



Or at least from Windsor Castle to St Paul's Cathedral, when we stood on Henry VIII's mound for the first of John Barrett's guided walks of Richmond Park. We had started from Pembroke Lodge where John had told us a little of its history and famous people associated with it. We then walked to Holly Lodge, an 18th century house now the headquarters of the Royal Park. So across to Pen Ponds to hear why they were drained in the Second World War, and back to our start passing Sidmouth Woods planted in the 1830s.

On the second walk, in September, John again started from Pembroke Lodge but this time in the opposite direction to show us an ancient burial mound and a notice erected in the early 1900s to warn cyclists of the steep hill near Ham Gate. Then uphill to admire Thatched House Lodge, and onto what remains of an army camp used by athletes in the 1948 Olympics. We returned passing High Wood, the least changed part of the park since it was enclosed in 1637, and skirting the bottom end of the Isabella Plantation.

John also gave us interesting snippets on the history of the park, people associated with it and the 750 deer it maintains.

(...the next Richmond Park walk will be on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1998 at 10:30am, meeting at Roehampton Gate.)



JB



## CHURCH DIARY NOVEMBER 1997 - MARCH 1998

16th Nov.	<i>Second Sunday Before Advent.</i>
21st Nov.	Soup, bread and cheese lunch for <b>Action Aid:</b> 12:30-2:30p.m.
23rd Nov.	<i>The Sunday Before Advent - Christ The King.</i> 7:45p.m. Academy of St. Mary's Concert.
30th Nov.	<i>Advent Sunday - St. Andrew.</i> The new Christian year begins - celebrate at the Vicarage after the 10:00a.m. service.
2nd Dec.	11:00a.m. Holy Communion
3rd Dec.	8:00p.m. Deanery Synod.
5th Dec.	7:30p.m. Zimbabwe Evening at the Vicarage.
7th Dec.	<i>Second Sunday of Advent:</i> 3:30p.m. Christingle & Toy Service followed by tea.
14th Dec.	<i>Third Sunday of Advent.</i> Members of the West Wimbledon Group of Churches will join us at out 10:00a.m. service.
20th Dec.	1:00p.m. Wedding of Suzanne Sills & Mark Snell.
21st Dec.	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent.</i> 10:00a.m. Junior Church Presentation. 6:30p.m. Carol Service.
24th Dec.	<i>Christmas Eve.</i> 4:00p.m. Crib Service. 11:30p.m. Midnight Mass.
25th Dec.	<i>Christmas Day.</i> 8:00a.m. Holy Communion. 10:00a.m. Parish Eucharist.
28th Dec.	<i>First Sunday of Christmas (Holy Innocents).</i> 1998
3rd Jan.	Commissioning of The Rt Revd Peter Price, Bishop of Kingston, 2:00p.m., St John's Waterloo.
4th Jan.	<i>The Epiphany</i> (transferred).
6th Jan.	11:00a.m. Holy Communion.
10th Jan.	10:30a.m. Walk in Richmond Park: meet Roehampton Gate.
11th Jan.	<i>First Sunday of Epiphany.</i>
18th Jan.	<i>Second Sunday of Epiphany.</i> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
24th Jan.	Farewell to the Bishop of Southwark.
25th Jan.	<i>The Conversion of St Paul.</i>
1st Feb.	<i>The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas).</i> 10:00a.m. Guest Preacher: The Revd David Lankey, followed by a Parish Lunch and Entertainment.
8th Feb.	<i>Third Sunday Before Lent.</i>
15th Feb.	<i>Second Sunday Before Lent.</i>
22nd Feb.	<i>Sunday Before Lent.</i>
25th Feb.	<i>Ash Wednesday.</i> 8:00p.m. Eucharist
27th Feb. to 1st Mar.	Parish Weekend at Wychcroft, the Diocesan Retreat House, led by Canon Gordon Jeff.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE CORNER QUIZ  
1. Mark & John 2. Jeremiah 3. Fisher & Song of Songs

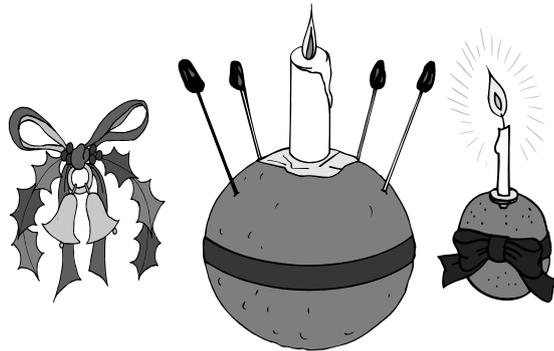
## "Did you Know..." 1 Christingle

- That 20th December 1997 is the 250th anniversary of the first Christingle service, held in Marienborn, Germany? On that December Sunday in 1747 the Moravian Pastor, John de Watteville, gave children attending one of his services a symbolic candle with a red ribbon tied around it and asked them to relight it at home and place it in their windows to show the Light of Christ to passers-by.
- Today we have added a few more things to the Christingle, which represents God's love for the world and us.

Christingle means "Christ Light."

The Orange represents the world.

The four cocktail sticks portray the four seasons.



The fruits and the sweets illustrate God's love in providing the fruits of the earth.

The red ribbon depicts the blood of Christ.

The lighted candle symbolises Jesus Christ, "the light of the World".

- For many years now the Children's Society has asked people holding Christingle services to collect donations for their work with some of the country's most vulnerable children and young people. In particular at this time of year we think of the children who are cold and hungry on the streets.
- Our Christingle service is on **Sunday 7th December at 3:30 p.m.** As well as collecting gifts of money for the Children's Society, we are also asking for gifts of toys which will be given to Merton Women's Refuge. So come and celebrate 250 years of Christingle with us.

CT

## Successful Grand Autumn Sale

Once again, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of many Christ Church members, we had a successful Grand Autumn Sale, raising over £827. The sale offered something for everyone with stalls for books, gifts, plants, tombola, baking and preserves. Punters could buy a raffle ticket for a spectacular flower arrangement, contributed by Elaine Chester who creates the beautiful floral displays in the church or guess the weight of Norman Coffey's six-inch high "super cake". Attendance was good from both church members and visitors from the wider community. The organisers would like to thank all those who helped make the sale such a success: sale volunteers, contributors and shoppers.

SM

**CONCERT - SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 7:45p.m.**

**Entr'acte and Ballet music from Rosamunde - Schubert**

**Alto Rhapsody - Brahms**

**Mass No 6 in E flat - Schubert**

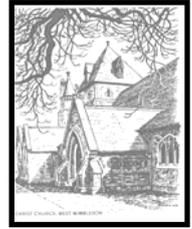
**Choir and Orchestra of The Academy of St Mary's Wimbledon**

**Conducted by Andrew Edwards**

*Founded by Andrew Edwards in 1980, the Academy of St Mary's Wimbledon has won a considerable reputation for its thrilling yet stylish interpretations of choral repertoire. The Academy's orchestra brings together some of London's most distinguished professional players. The choir consists of about 36 talented amateur and semi-professional singers. The conductor, Andrew Edward is a writer consultant and secretary to the Board of the Royal Opera House.*

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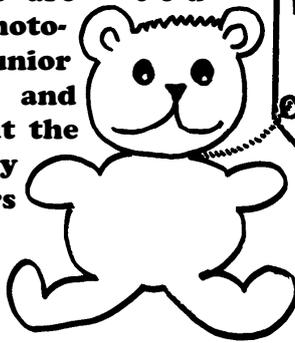
JUNIOR CHURCH QADVENT/WINTER 1997 QVOL 1.1



## TEDDY TRAVELS

### CHRIST CHURCH GEOBEARS!

Junior Church is about to send Christ Church around the world, not on the Internet but in the much more cuddly form of GeoBears. These are teddies equipped with a photograph of the children of Junior Church, their greetings and their "Geo Prayers" about the impact of human activity upon the earth. The bears will also carry a backpack holding postcards, pencil and travel log so that people receiving the bears can send back their prayers and messages. The aim is to carry the children's prayers to others around the world and to give the children a sense of the connections linking them to other people.



If any members of the congregation can help with postcards, leather or plastic straps to tie labels around the bears' necks or large plastic conference badges, please speak to Mary Ann Bown or Jenny Tomlinson. Also is there anyone who can take a bear on the first stage of its round the world travels? We hope to send the bears off by late November and when news of their journeys start to come in, we will track their progress on a map. One GeoBear returned to its sender after meeting Archbishop Tutu on its travels - perhaps a Christ Church bear will be equally fortunate!

## WE HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS



### "Did you Know..." 2 Advent

- ◆ Advent is a time when we look forward to the anniversary of Christ's coming.
- ◆ Advent calendars have been popular for over two hundred years - with tiny sweets or parcels hidden behind each door representing the gift of Christ's coming.
- ◆ Klöppelnächte (or knocking night) in S. Germany is where people run from house to house, singing, knocking on doors with sticks and crying "The Lord's coming" and wishing neighbours well!



Rev'd Tim meets a new member of the congregation



Sunday School Outing



# WINTER

