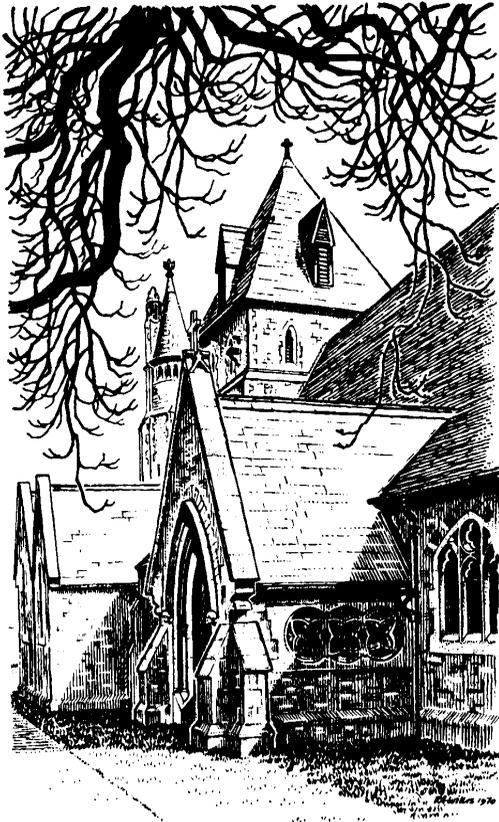


Christ Church Information

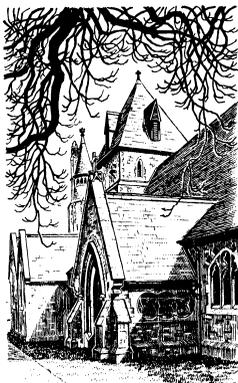


Golden
Jubilee
2002

Welcome to a special
edition of our
'Newsletter' on the
occasion of the Golden
Jubilee of
Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II.

Here we present to you
some of the memories
and reminiscences
from members of
Christ Church's
congregation -
looking back over the
last fifty years.

Prayer Groups



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLETON

Here is a photograph of Mr and Mrs Pirouet in their garden in Lambton Road (in the exhibition). They had returned from South Africa and our Mr P as we liked to call him, had retired from the South African Mission which had its headquarters in Lingfield Road. It was here in Lambton Road that a regular Prayer Group met with Rosamund Hill and Mr and Mrs Taylor whose daughter Jean was away teaching at the time , but is now a regular at the 8am service and still lives in their house in Lambton Road.

The Pirouet's daughter was with CMS in Uganda and later taught in Makere University College. Her brother Edmund joined us when he could.

The Rev. Dr. Rowland Grant had been a rector at Sandringham and lived with his daughter Winifred in Pepys Road. Dorothy Roberts lived upstairs until she moved to Wilberforce House with Gladys Marten and Doris Warren.

When Mr P. died his widow moved to Rydons as did Madge Cornford, Gwen Goulding and Elsie Caley.

Dorothy Roberts continued the Prayer Group in the Truman Room on the 1st Monday afternoon of the month. Barbara Tanner, whose husband Stan when he was Church Warden had been instrumental in the building of the Truman Room, was a member.

There was a strong CMS fellowship and the annual tea party was much enjoyed as shown in the photo taken in Woodhayes Road in the garden of Mrs Stageman's house where she lived with her daughter Dawn (still a member of Christ Church congregation) and her son Fred who was a wonderful Church Warden with Stan Tanner.

Betty Cutchey

Jane Fish & the Sewing Group

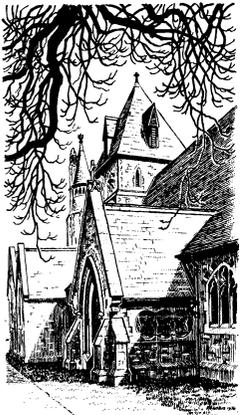


In 1980 Jane became the first woman Church Warden at Christ Church, a position she held for fourteen years! Under Jane's indefatigable leadership a sewing group was formed and here is a list of some of the articles we produced:

- *A new red altar frontal planned, designed and dedicated on June 11 for St. Barnabas.*
- *A nativity scene for the side altar. Each contributor made a separate piece and these were finally pieced together and framed.(see photograph)*
- *New curtains for the hall (they are still there!) plus the huge pair of stage curtains. An industrial machine had to be borrowed to do this as the "home treadle " could not cope.*
- *About 28 blue crimplene surplices for the choir - all made to measure.*
- *A black cassock for the verger who at that time lived in a house provided for him in St. Margarets Villas opposite Atkinson Morley Hospital. He was responsible for Church cleaning and heating and general care of the Church and Hall.*
- *Around this time Win Miller made the long kneeler for the High Altar rail.*

Betty Cutchey

Christ Church in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

My family moved to the house on the corner of Ernle Road and Copse Hill in 1936 when I was 16 and I started attending Christ Church. The Revd. J Cawley was then the Priest in Charge. My Mother asked if I could attend the Friday night Youth Club and was told only on condition that I also attended the Sunday afternoon Bible Class.

The Bible Class and the Youth Club were held in the brand new hall. There were dances, social functions, badminton and rambles on Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park and into Surrey.

The Revd. W Hopkins was Priest in Charge during the war. In 1940 Welsh Guards were billeted in Westside House and the 137th Field Ambulance Corps were billeted in houses in Melbury Gardens, Oakwood and Laurel Roads, and part of Cambridge Road. Christ Church was approached by the Church Army to see if a canteen could be set up in the hall to provide hot snacks and drinks for the troops. This was run by Mary Abel, the daughter of a former Church Warden. She later married Paul Beney who in turn became a Church Warden and there is a commemorative plaque to her and her husband in the West porch. Various ladies in the congregation, including Gladys Martin and her mother, helped in the canteen. I helped several times a week and on one occasion when the canteen was in operation an oil bomb fell just in front of the hall blowing out several

windows but fortunately no-one was injured. Cooking was done in a tiny kitchen situated at the back of the hall! Once it was dark all the windows in the hall had to be kept closed with blackout curtains over them and the smell from the cooking permeated all our clothes and I remember having to change all my clothes whenever I helped out in the canteen. The troops in Cambridge Road formed a jazz band and played at dances.

By 1940, those who had been running the Bible class had been called up and the boys from King's College school who had helped them were also called up and I then started to run the class and continued to do so until 1942 when it was my turn to be called up into the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). The War Memorial plaque near the Christie Porch bears the names of those who never returned from the war, mostly Youth Club members.

It was during a Bible class outing to Richmond Park that the first daylight raid on the East End docks took place. We heard the siren and took shelter in the air raid shelter in the park. After about 2 hours we heard the All Clear and emerged to see palls of smoke and flames clearly visible in the east.

By 1946 I was back home in Wimbledon and I became a member of the PCC. I joined West Side Lawn Tennis Club and it was there that I met Stanley Nagele and on 16th July 1949 we were married at Christ Church by the Revd. D. Holt. It was one of the first weddings to take place in the church after it was licensed for the Solemnisation of Marriage.

At this time there was a thriving Children's Fellowship run by Eileen Shepherd. There was a large choir, men and boys only! Most of the young people attended Evensong and the main family service was 11am Matins. It was usual to take Communion only once a month. From 1956 to 1959 my brother, Tony, ran the local branch of the Anglican Young Peoples Association. In 1952 our first son, John, was baptised at Christ Church by the Revd. D Holt followed by our second son Robert in 1957. In that same year I took over the running of the Young Wives Group and I continued until 1961. Can you spot anyone you know in the photograph of the Young wives outing to the Express Dairy in Morden?

From 1963 I was the chairman of the Mothers' Union at Christ Church and in 1965 I started work as the Vicar's secretary in 6 Conway Road which was the home of the Revd. Henry Andrewes Uthwatt. He was the first vicar of Christ Church after it became a Parish in its own right in 1961. I continued as secretary through Henry's sabbatical in the U.S.A. when he did a 'Parish swap' with George Williams, the vicar of Downers Grove, Chicago, Illinois. The vicar moved into the brand new vicarage opposite the Church. In 1968 I was succeeded as secretary, by Janet Till who stayed until Vic Read retired in 1994.

My son Robert was married to Beth in Christ Church in 1982. My two grandsons were baptised there. Since 1980 I have been the Covenant Secretary and nowadays I attend the 8am Communion Service.

Joan Nagele

Christ Church in the 1960s and 1970s



In the 1960s I moved with my husband Vernon, son John and daughters Ruth and Mary to Pepys Road and we started to attend Christ Church. Henry Andrewes Uthwatt was the Vicar and he lived in Conway Road. In those days there was a Curate who lived in the house at 1 Copse Hill and the Verger lived in Catherine Villas.

Chris Hall was the organist and I remember Tony Lucas was one of the Curates followed by Peter Sills. There was a large choir, but it was men and boys. Major Beney was one of the Church Wardens and I remember when the new side altar was built in the north-east corner in memory of Mrs Beney's father Mr Abel.

There was a thriving Sunday School run by Peggy and Trudy West. They even held young peoples services in their home at 11 Hunter Road and so many turned up that they had to borrow extra chairs. For the older ones there was a drama group run by Fred Stageman who was also Church Warden at one time.

I belonged to the Young Wives Group which was run by Barbara Roderick and I acted as Secretary to the Carousel Club which was for over 25s. They had a badminton club and other activities.

My daughter Ruth was confirmed at Christ Church by Bishop John Robinson of "Honest to God" fame who was Bishop of Woolwich at that time and my other daughter Mary was confirmed by the Bishop of Pretoria.

Joan Parsons

The Dorcas Group



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

This was a dedicated group of older members of the Christ Church congregation who met on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The two charities we decided to work for were the Church Missionary Society (CMS) and Leprosy Mission. A hospital in South Africa which was dedicated to the care of those suffering from such a debilitating affliction was chosen. Their aim was to try to restore the patients to a more normal life.

Thankfully, advances in medical science mean that nowadays much more can be done to overcome the tragic loss of feeling that once would have led to amputation in most cases.

Once a year, usually in November, an Annual Sale was held in the hall when all the goods produced during the monthly meetings were sold. They were well attended and the hall was full of eager buyers. There were a number of stalls selling knitted garments, toys, stationary (cards, wrapping paper etc.), cakes, good-as-new, bric-a-brac, plants, bran tub and tombola.

For many years our target was to raise £1000 and we often exceeded that figure.

For many years we met in the hall but as the number of older members dwindled and the younger age group was too busy with family responsibilities and outside employment we started to meet in Peggy Moles' house in Lansdown Road. Peggy had succeeded to the leadership from Olive McDermot who lived opposite to her and was a keen member of Christ Church with her husband. Ann Fallon also took an active interest as Secretary with Aunt Nell and Gladys Marten and Doris Warren to name a few of the dedicated workers.

Peggy, at the great age of 94 has only recently had to relinquish her flat on the Ridgway but many of us remember the happy social occasions with tea and cakes.



CHRIST CHURCH, COPSE HILL

GOLDEN JUBILEE EVENT

A celebration of the life of the parish

SATURDAY 25 MAY 2002

10am - 4pm Entry Free

Live Music at 11am, 1pm & 3pm

Children's Quiz & other Activities

String Quartets and Trios

Morning Coffee & Afternoon Tea

Tours of the Church at 12 & 2pm

Plant and Produce Stall

Bell Ringing 11.30am & 1.30pm

Cake Stall

Exhibition of Parish History

Church Needlework Display

5pm Lecture by Richard Milward:

“Cottenham Park - A Hundred Years Ago”

Entry £5 to include a glass of wine

Sunday 26 May 6.30pm

SONGS OF PRAISE