

**The Parish Magazine of  
Whitchurch-on-Thames  
and Whitchurch Hill**



**January 2002**

# Capstick

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A letter from the Reverend Father Peter Jefford

Dear People of the Parish,

As I sit down on this December morning, we know all of us that ahead is the darkest time of the year.

It has to happen!

But Christ came as a child into this dark world to bring light to our hearts, our minds and our lives.

*I am the light of the world; He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

So that at this time I must wish you all a very happy New Year for the Year 2002.

If I think back to those years of My Six Parishes down in Devon, then even now I can remember a family there who had a little girl born on January 6th. And because they were a church family they realised that she had been born on a Festival Day, the day of the Holy Epiphany. So remembering what happened on that day they gave her a very simple name: they called her STELLA—the Latin name for a star. That little girl is now in her middle twenties.

There on that very dark winter's day this child Stella had been born. St. Matthews tells us of the story full of mystery which we call the Epiphany—which is a Greek word meaning “The Appearing Upon”.

*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem saying: “Where is He who has been born the King of the Jews. We have seen His star in the East and we have come to worship Him”.*

So it all began with a star, a new star in the night sky, and it began a long way away in Persia. For the Magi

as they are called, were in fact Zoroastrian astrologers, and they had come from Southern Iran, the lands of the Medes and the Persians. They had seen this star, The Stella, and the message of the star was that in the West a new King was to be born. So they travelled westwards by camel to find this new-born King who would be a small child. Having asked "*Where is he who has been born the King of the Jews*" they explain their quest, "*We have seen His star in the East*". They did what the birds are still doing today, they navigated by means of the stars but their quest came from the knowledge of the star.

**FOR WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR.**

Not any old star but His Star.

And this knowledge that came from sight set them on their quest and that should still happen today—for knowledge should still set us out on our quest: to know, to learn, but above all, to understand.

And the object of the quest was not just to see, but to see, to know and to worship.

**AND WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM.**

It is the word worth that gives us the two words worth ship and in the end worth ship become worship.

We have many needs in our lives: one is the need to belong; and another is the real need to worship.

So we end thinking of them setting off for the short journey to Bethlehem in the Quest:

*And lo the star which they had seen in the east went before them till it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*

The little child called Stella brought great joy. The star brought an EXCEEDING GREAT JOY. They



## **Mothers' Union**

By way of a complete change our Branch has been invited to join Rotherfield Branch at their meeting on Tuesday, January 15th, at 2.30 p.m. at Peppard Parish Room when Mrs. Calvocoressi will be the speaker. She is a Trustee of the Langley House Trust which helps with the rehabilitation of prisoners. The subject of her talk is "At the heart of resettlement, a Christian Venture in After-Care" She herself is responsible for running several of the Trusts houses. It should be an extremely interesting afternoon. Our Prayer Group will meet on Thursday, January 17th, at 2.30 p.m. at Roxana.

*Mary Kent.*

### ***Actual Misprints found in Church Newsletters:***

Eight new Choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

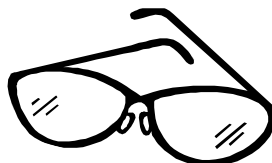
The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

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## My Faith

In common with many people my faith has many components, so I am writing about one or two.

A very important one is FORGIVENESS.

I believe that if I am truly sorry Jesus or God will forgive me for the wicked things I do, or have done. As I am very old there are a great many of them. So I do not name them every time I pray, but I think of some on some days and others on others.

There are things I do now and even more things I think. There are things other people do to me, which I believe they shouldn't, and so I say "God forgive them". Then I must add "if HE judges them to be sins".

Often there are things on the news which shock one and then one has to pray for a change of heart which can lead to forgiveness. I have the feeling that forgiveness never wears out. There is an endless supply. It only has to be thought of and asked for.

Another one is LOVE.

It is surely the most important. Nothing can work properly without it. It grows and swells and gathers, it likes to be nourished.

It gives unstintingly in all directions. It has no boundaries. It belongs to God and Jesus and we are allowed to draw from it.

*Phoebe Rose*

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## ***January***

New Year's Day is also when we celebrate the ***Circumcision of Christ***. Jesus was, of course, a Jew; and for the Jews, circumcision is of great ritual and religious significance. It is, in fact, one of the defining conditions of their Jewishness: for an orthodox Jew to call one of his fellows 'uncircumcised' is an insult.

In Jewish tradition, following commandments in Genesis and Leviticus, males are circumcised at eight days old. Circumcision is traced back to the covenant between God and Abraham, and is consequently also practised by many Muslims.

For Christians, it's an optional extra (or perhaps that should read

## NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

### Baptism

On 2nd December at St Mary's, Adam James Yorke, born 16th February 01, son of Graeme and Jane of Hazel Drive, Woodley.

### Burial

On Tuesday, December 11th, the burial took place of Albert Absalom, aged 74 years, of 16 Olga Mow Forth House, Woodcote.

On Monday, December 17th, the burial took place of Alfred Reed, aged 76 years, died 5th December at Duchess of Kent House, late of 28 Manor Road.

### Cremation

On Thursday, December 6th, at Reading Crematorium following a service at St Mary's, Sidney Albert Holman, aged 67 years.

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord. May light perpetual shine upon them.*



## SIDNEY ALBERT HOLMAN

30 Nov 1934—27 Nov 2001

Sidney came to Whitchurch about 4 years ago following the death of his wife, Veronica, who did not enjoy good health but whom he had faithfully nursed. He quickly put his roots down and made new friends and became an integral part of the village.

Sidney started life as a gardener, which was his consuming passion as well as his work; in Whitchurch he had a small garden as well as an allotment. He was above all a practical caring man and gave generously of his time and skills for others in the village. The church in particular owes him a debt of gratitude. He loved the theatre, music and walking, and was a common sight walking his two dogs around the village. He had many friends and was a faithful member of the Church. He will be much missed by his relations and friends. May he rest in peace.

Many thanks to Laura Gray,  
Lauren Hancock and Megan  
Jenkins of the "Fun-day Club" for  
doing three lovely posters for the  
Christingle Service.



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**Whitchurch and District Theatre Club**

As of the 1st January 2002 the Whitchurch and  
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Mrs Diana Marriott

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Whitchurch on Thames RG8 7HL

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<p><b>Whitchurch Theatre Club</b>  ...takes you to plays and  concerts about once a month;  matinees &amp; evenings, London  &amp; provinces. If interested,  contact Mrs Diana Marriott,  23 Hillside, Hardwick Road  Whitchurch-on-Thames  RG8 7HL  Tel: 0118 984 4582</p>	<p><b><i>Chiltern Domestic  Appliances</i></b>  Guaranteed repairs and  servicing for Hoo-  ver, Hotpoint, Zanussi, Ben-  dix, Indesit and all major  brands. Washing machines,  tumble dryers and dish-  washers. Low call out fee.  Free estimates and prompt  attention.  Tel: 01491 681526</p>



## Downhill Christmas Fair Figures

<b>Stall</b>	<b>Total</b>
Door	£33.50
Mulled Wine	46.60
Teas	4.50
White Elephant/Gifts	105.75
Raffle	68.00
Toys	18.95
Bottle Tombola	78.70
Christmas Sweepstake	36.80
Children's Competition	10.28
Guess the Weight of the Cake	33.63
Honey (Mr and Mrs Jessop)	10.00
Pottery	5.00
Cakes	87.50
Potted Plants	40.80
<b>Grand Total of Takings</b>	<b>£580.01</b>



### PURLEY PLAYERS

would welcome new members to join them. We are seeking your "talent". Whether it be singing, dancing, acting or playing an instrument, we would love to hear from you. Please give Jean Chudleigh (0118 9842563) or Gerry Hiscock (0118 9418715) a ring as they would be delighted to hear from you.

Purley Players are putting on a production in April 2002 and invite anyone interested to come along to a get together on Wednesday, 16 January 2002 at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Purley on Thames, to meet us all.

We hope you will come and join in the fun.

## **Officers of the Parish**

*Officiating Priest:*

Reverend Father Peter Jefford  
27 Ashlong Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 0NH  
01865 760593

*Churchwardens:*

Alan Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close  
0118 984 4489

Jo Adams, Windings, Whitchurch Hill  
0118 984 3362

*Honorary Secretary:*

Wendy Ferguson, 21 Swanston Field.  
0118 984 1262

*Organist and Choirmaster:*

Anne Bolam, 6 Hillview Close, Long Lane  
0118 942 1020

*Honorary Treasurer:*

Robert Plumb, Uplands Cottage.  
0118 984 4838

*Assistant Treasurer:*

Tony Voysey, Mow Cop, High Street.  
0118 984 3946

*Captain of the Bellringers:*

Stephanie May, 0118 957 2596

*Editor, Parish Magazine*

Sue Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close  
0118 984 4489 or email [suematt@waitrose.com](mailto:suematt@waitrose.com)

# Services for .....

## January

### **6th January, 1st Sunday in Epiphany**

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

### **13th January, 2nd Sunday in Epiphany**

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Johns	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evensong

### **20th January, 3rd Sunday in Epiphany**

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

### **27th January, 4th Sunday in Epiphany**

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St John's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St John's	6 p.m.	Evensong

### **3rd February, 5th Sunday in Epiphany**

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion