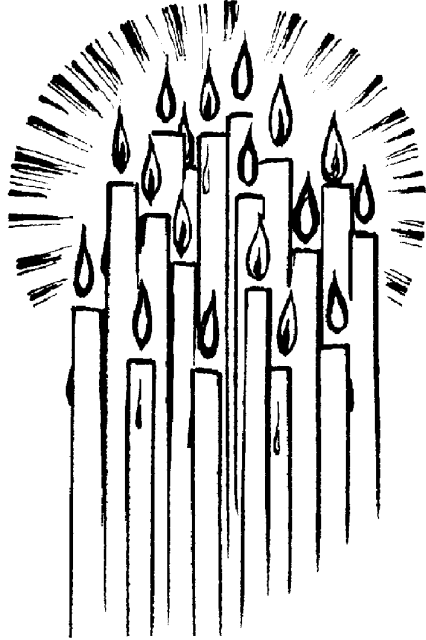


THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

PINNER PARISH REVIEW



January/February 2009

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Pinner Parish Review.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue which includes:

- Ministerial Letter
- Obituaries
- Duty at Midnight Mass
- Electoral Roll Notice
- An Encounter with Alison Hetreed
- Parable of the Talents Challenge
- Youth Page
- Friends' Auction Bid
- Women's World Day of Prayer

Copy date for the March issue is Thursday 19 February. Please email contributions to: chittleborough@btinternet.com or the church office.

Joy

DEATHS

5 December 08	Thomas Bernard Siddell
14 December 08	Ann Lesley Wenzel
18 December 08	Patricia Fenton
18 December 08	Betty Saunders
19 December 08	Marianne Raynah Stephens
17 January 09	Angela Jaqueline Heaven Casstles

BURIAL OF ASHES

27 December 08	Gladys Mary Potts
27 December 08	Phyllis Joan Edwards
9 January 09	Vera Daisy Brown

MINISTERIAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

Unlike last year when we had no sooner said goodbye to Christmas than we were heading for Easter, there is more space this year. We have room for those Sundays with labels that sound like exotic girls' names: Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima. (I always feel that it is a bit of a let down that they just mean seventh, sixth and fifth and refer to the number of Sundays before Lent.) Be that as it may, we have them this year and whether or not you share my liking for their names, they offer an opportunity to breathe and reflect unhurriedly on all that Christmas has left us with before we are hustled on to the next thing.

This is important — the journey only begins at Christmas and we do not always reach Jesus as quickly as the wise men in early January. God invites us to celebrate his coming to earth in order to encounter him and in order to travel with him into the future. Encountering God is not necessarily the equivalent of speed dating; travelling with God is not necessarily the high speed affair that much modern travel is designed to be (although by the time you have built in waiting at airports, delayed trains and traffic jams of course, modern travel is not always as fast as it might be).

In these weeks before Lent, take the opportunity to look at the journey you are on. Look out at the horizons that are unfolding while the year is still young and full of potential. Observe the landscape in which you find yourself and your fellow travellers, some familiar, some new, and be open to the gift of companionship that they represent. Not one is travelling with you by accident.

In view of the current economic climate, many of us this year face uncertainty about the future and it can be tempting to panic and rush fences, in a headlong rush to "do something about it". God knows that this will not solve anything. His way is wiser — he tells us, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46) He asks us the same question that poet W H Davies asks in his poem "*Leisure*":

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.



Many of us do have lives full of care — concerns about jobs, finances, health, personal relationships. And God knows they are real issues, but he wants us nonetheless to live life and to know, alongside our worries and concerns, peace and joy in our hearts. He knows too that if we slow down enough to notice him and be open to what he can do in our lives, many of our concerns become resolved and transformed.

So in the coming days, take time to stand and stare and let the God who came to earth to be with us and among us enrich your life with unexpected delight.

Yours in Christ
Elizabeth

OBITUARIES:

RIP Vera Brown 1916 to 2008

Born in Watford, Vera lived most of her long life in Pinner, although her last years were spent at Erskine Hall Care Centre, Northwood. Vera took the bold and timely decision to move there herself, due to her reducing mobility. For the most part, she was happy and content, and it was only when she was finding it particularly difficult to accept the restrictions of arthritis and immobility did she complain. Throughout the gradual decline in her physical state she remained strong spiritually, looking forward to visits to administer Holy Communion, as well as the very frequent ones of her family and friends.

During the war Vera met her future husband Reg, who was serving in the RAF and billeted with her older sister Dorothy and Les, her brother-in-law. Reg had already had the misfortune of having lost his first wife during the war, although he had a son, John, from that marriage. Vera and Reg married in 1946 — Reg in his 'number ones' RAF uniform, yet to be demobbed — and they settled in Pinner. Geoffrey was born in 1948, at a time when the house in East Towers still had German shrapnel damage to the roof. Their faith was deep rooted and central to both their lives and the long association with our Parish Church continued without break until Vera's death.

Vera sang in the choir for many years, made kneelers for the pews, repaired choir music sheets, helped in the hall kitchen and always assisted the clergy in any way she could. Vera also continued with her interests such as swimming, playing tennis (captaining her club for a while) and of course looking after and supporting her family in whatever way she could.

She died at peace with herself, with others and with God, in the hope and expectation of resurrection to eternal life.

Extract from Address at the Memorial Service in January

RIP Marianne Stephens 1921 to 2008



Churchwardens have an important parish role and they are elected or chosen from within the local community, but they also answer directly to the bishop and the job description is demanding. Marianne Stephens was Pinner's first woman churchwarden and she filled the office with flair, skill and courage from 1985 to 1990.

But that time represented less than one tenth of her 60 years as a member of St John's, and perhaps about the same proportion of the total of her remarkable contribution during five incumbencies — those of Barnes, Richie, Wybrew, Tuck and Pothen. With Ken her husband and David Platt, then curate, she began the parish breakfast, which is still flourishing, and was chair and benign dictator of the Socials Committee for many years afterwards. In old age, she single-handedly initiated and organized the successful and regular Sunday parish lunches for church members on their own. She was a gifted and very effective organizer and was, effectively, Pinner's first (and unpaid) parish administrator in the late 1970s and early 1980s. She had a special vocation to befriend and support the clergy of the parish and their families — a delicate and difficult task, but she brought to it skills of tact and diplomacy from her professional life and was trusted and trustworthy.

She had so many friends. All will remember her kindness, her sense of fun, her laughter, her conversation. Her Christian faith was deep, but down-to-earth and practical. A verse from the Psalmist describes her well *Their prayer is in their work*. She has greatly enriched all those whose lives she touched.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Alternative words to 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'



O sad and troubled Bethlehem,
we hear your longing cry
for peace and justice to be born
and cruel oppression die.

How deep your need for that great gift
of love in human form.

Let Christ in you be seen again
and hearts by hope made warm.

While morning stars and evening stars
shine out in your dark sky,
despair now stalks your troubled streets
where innocents still die.

And Jesus, born of Mary,
whose love will never cease,
feels even now your pain and fear,
longs with you for your peace.

Amazingly and lovingly
Jesus the child, has come
and, brought to birth through human pain,
makes broken hearts his home.
He comes to comfort all who weep,
to challenge every wrong
and, living with the weak and poor,
becomes their hope, their song.

*Words by Wendy Ross-Baker
(By permission)*

CHANGE OF DUTY

at Midnight Mass



For some years I was invited to read one of the lessons at Midnight Mass. Stumbling over some of the very difficult names like Mary and Joseph, the churchwarden in charge decided that perhaps 'meeting and greeting' and ushering into communion from the Lady Chapel was probably more appropriate to my skills. After some years of mastering the route from the Lady Chapel to communion, sometimes with a change in the communion stations to cope with, suddenly this year I was assigned to counting the Midnight Mass congregation.

Was this part of my Honorary Treasurer's duties that was not covered in my job description? I wasn't sure. Anyway, in church at around 11.00 pm on the 24 December, Shane came over to me with two press button counters. How do I do it Shane I asked? Do I do it as they come in, or when seated? I will leave that to you said Shane. How do I cover two doors; impossible I thought — although perhaps that is why Shane gave me two counters! Well, I thought, I would wait until the congregation was all seated.

Once the Lady Chapel was full, I pressed the counter by the number of times to match the people seated. Then Phil puts more chairs into the Chapel, so more to add. Shane told me to add on 25 for choir, servers etc which I dutifully did. The service now starts. The lights are lowered, another complication. I creep around the church pushing the counter. Everyone looks at me wondering what I am doing. At last I get to the end, walk up to the back of the church and look at the number on the counter — 1,296 — ouch — what do I do now — I know the church is full but it can't hold that many people! So throughout the service I try to estimate the numbers by number of rows. More people are coming in all the time. So, about 300+, but how did the 1 get into the thousand column? I started to wonder how good some of the statistics we see are in reality! I eventually settled for 320 which Maureen instructed me to write in the Sacristan record book.

Perhaps next year I will be asked to put the chairs away!

Name Withheld

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

'Give a Child a Chance'

The Christmas retiring collections (including at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols) for a school in Benguela amounted to £2,420.40, of which £1,219.20 was Gift Aided. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.

*Rose Thompson
ALMA representative*

BETWEEN FRIENDS

'High Times at Heathrow'



There will be a lunch in the church hall at 12.15 pm, Thursday 19 February to help raise funds towards the new church roof. The speaker will give a light-hearted look at what's gone on at Heathrow Airport since 1961. Tickets (price £6.00) are now on sale now from all committee members or contact:

Isabel Beddison 8866 3475

*Please make a note in your diary that the next Friends' events will be:
Murder Mystery Evening – 7.30 pm, Saturday 28 March
Bridge and Tea – 1.45 pm, Wednesday 15 April*

TRADCRAFT STALL

St John's is a Fairtrade Church

Goods will be on sale after the 9.00 am service on the following Sundays:

1 February
1 March
5 April
10 May
14 June
12 July
13 September
11 October
15 November
13 December

*"The fields of the poor may produce abundant food,
But injustice sweeps it away! Proverbs 13:23*

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll takes place between Sunday 22 February and Sunday 8 March. If you are new to the parish we warmly invite you to have your name included on the Roll. Application forms will be available in church. You should be baptized and over 16 years of age. If you live outside the parish boundary, you should have attended public worship at St John the Baptist Church for six months prior to enrolment.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held at 11.00 am on Sunday 29 March and everyone on the Electoral Roll will be eligible to vote, and to stand for election to the Parish Church Council.

Janet Huszczo, Electoral Roll Officer

AN ENCOUNTER WITH ...

This month we encounter Alison Hetreed



How many years have you worshipped at St John's?
21 years

What changes have you noticed in the Parish over the years?
A more business-like administrative structure, bringing its advantages and disadvantages. More emphasis on the youth

What are your earliest memories of the Parish?
The high altar and incense at the 11.00 am service on our first attendance at St John's and then the guidance of Stuart Natrass (our neighbour) to the family-friendly 9.00 am service

Do you go out to work or volunteer in any way? If so, what do you do?
I retired as a diabetes specialist nurse in March 07, but continue to work one or two days a week in the same job at Ealing Hospital. I am a sidesperson, bell ringer and PCC member (hall committee). I am also on the marriage preparation team with my husband Michael and part of the Keep In Touch scheme

Tell us about your family
I have been married to Michael, a consultant anaesthetist for 29 years and we have a son Andrew who is a junior doctor, and a daughter Joanna who is secretary to David Chittleborough

What are your favourite radio or TV programmes?
New Tricks; Have I got news for you
QI; This Week

Where was your best holiday and why was it the best?
Exploring the American Rockies while visiting friends in Denver. This was a family holiday with all four of us for three weeks

What gets you 'hot under the collar'?
Arrogance; impatience; targets and guidelines; bureaucratic and PC 'speak'

If you were stranded on a desert island, what
❖ **three pieces of music would you take with you?**
(we have provided a clockwork CD player!)
The Hit List by Cliff Richard
Canon in D
The Planet Suite

❖ **three luxury items would you take?**
pillow
white wines
set of bowls

Have you any hobbies and interests?
Bell ringing, ballroom dancing, bowls

If you were an animal, what animal would best describe you and why?
My daughter says a lioness; quietly ruling the pride; letting the lion think he is in charge until he plays up and she is forced to bat him round the head with her paw; at which point he lies down quietly, yawns, having learnt his lesson. 'Til next time!

What is your favourite Bible passage?
1 Corinthians 13

Have you a hero or heroine or is there some person whom you admire or respect? Tell us about the person
He is honest, reliable, trustworthy, can do most things and is willing and fun to be around. The best husband and dad — can I say more!

What is your motto for life?
If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS CHALLENGE

Matthew 25: 20-21

"The man who had received five talents brought another five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more." His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness."

Stewardship Sunday on Sunday 16 November has lasted well beyond just one day. When I gave out 26 envelopes, (containing cash in differing amounts but totalling £500), to volunteers in the congregation it would be wrong to say I didn't have high expectations. As I said in my sermon at the time, Jesus believes in you and so do I – but I completely underestimated the creativity and imagination and fun that has resulted from responding to the challenge I offered to turn the cash into more. Raising money for the Church can be a dreary business – this has been rather fun and has had the spin-off of connecting people in ways that might not otherwise have been the case. The deadline I gave people was Candlemas on 1 February and by then the results will be available in more detail – suffice it to say that so far I haven't lost any sleep about losing any of my original £500 donation to the church! As part of the sermons at 9.00 and 11.00 am on 1 February, people will be telling some of the stories of how they got on and what worked and what didn't.

The Candlemas deadline has had to be extended in one or two instances owing to the scale of the projects conceived, so if you felt you would have liked to have a go and didn't get an envelope at the time, you can still make a small capital outlay and see what you can turn it into! Full results will be published in the next issue of the Parish Review.

The challenge I set was meant to be a focus as people thought about their giving to the church in a wider context. The response to it highlights the fact that every little counts. And in the current economic climate when we have to make choices about prioritising where we spend our money, being creative with relatively small sums can enable us to give to God more generously than perhaps we thought possible. As we look towards continuing to work for the Kingdom of God in Pinner this is good news for all of us and for all that God has entrusted us with.

Elizabeth

PALM CROSSES

Ashes and Eggs



Ash Wednesday this year is on 25 February and there will be two Eucharists with the Imposition of Ashes, at 10.00 am and at 8.00 pm, Ash Wednesday being a Holy Day of Obligation.

Traditionally, across many Christian traditions, the ash used on Ash Wednesday to remind us of our mortality and to signal the beginning of Lent comes from the burning of the previous year's Palm Crosses. Not only is this rich in symbolism, but it also links us into the year before and reminds us, albeit in a small way, of the rhythm of times and seasons that underpin our liturgical journey through the year.

So, please could you, between now and Sunday, 22 February, return your Palm crosses by either leaving them in church, in the clergy pigeon hole, or posting them through the Vicarage door.

Many thanks

Paul Hullyer and Maureen Craddock

THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

Celebrating 150 years of the Parish Magazine

In celebration the Church of England has launched a new section to their website. The church estimates that the combined readership of its parish magazines exceeds that of several national newspapers, taken together. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, says: "A good parish magazine is a wonderful resource that places the local church at the heart of the community it serves."

YEAR OF THE CHILD 2009



2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations' International Year of the Child. This is an ideal opportunity for the Church to adopt 2009 as a celebration of children and childhood by:

- ✧ *Reviewing* our work with children and young people
- ✧ *Celebrating* their contribution in the life of the Church and in the wider community
- ✧ *Challenging* the Church to fresh vision and expression, inspired by the spirit of the child

We're planning lots of events at Pinner Parish Church to get families, children, teenagers, schools, the congregation and the community together and having fun. So look out for the official launch posters and flyers in the middle of February.

Meet and Greet Family Breakfast:

Calling all families and congregation members
Join us for breakfast on Saturday 28 February

at 10.00 to 11.30am in the church hall to

meet the families and congregation of Pinner Parish Church

This is a free event but please book your place by emailing Elise Allanson
youthminister@pinnerparishchurch.org.uk

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

And finally....

At the last SPACE service we spent time writing prayers for things we were grateful for and here is one written by one of our Kidz Klub:

Dear God, Thank you for this brilliant world. Keep going. Amen

Elise Allanson

Abbeyfield
Where older people find care in housing

Looking for companionship, but still want to keep your independence?
Abbeyfield's sheltered house for older people in Pinner has *Vacancies Now!*

- A fully-modernised 11-bedroomed house, many with ensuite facilities
- Home-cooked meals provided by the live-in house managers
- A garden, spacious dining room and lounge
- A balance of privacy, support and security

Further details from:

Allocations Manager on 8444 8629

SHROVE TUESDAY

24 February



A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons,
Kevin five, and Ryan three.

The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson:

'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,

'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,

'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

SUMMER IN PROVENCE



We just kept thinking that reality could not be this good.

When Jeannine bid at the Friends' auction (without my knowledge as a surprise 60th birthday present) for the Yates' offer of four days at their beautiful home in Provence, we knew that it would be a great holiday, but it surpassed all expectation.

Getting up to the warmth of the morning sun, to have breakfast on the terrace looking out to the distant hazy hills, then heading off for a day of discovery, meticulously planned by Doug and Gill. Purple lavender fields stretching in all directions, cafés perched above valleys with sweeping views of stone farmhouses, tall cypress trees and winding villages, tortuous mountain roads, wine tastings that left the afternoon in a happy blur, then back for a refreshing swim, a game of boules and then drinks watching the sunset before a fine al fresco meal.

Gill and Doug could not have been better hosts and we left to travel on through the area with so many great memories.

Even now, a picture of their house sits in my study, reminding us in this bleak winter of warmer days.

Phil and Jeannine Lawder

CHURCH RAMBLES 2009

Dates for the Diary



Sunday 8 March
14 to 16 April (ramblers away)
Saturday 16 May
Sunday 14 June
Sunday 19 July
Saturday 15 August
Sunday 13 September
Saturday 10 October
Saturday 7 November
20 November (Planning Meeting for 2010)

The rambles are a group of church members and their friends who walk on Sundays, following breakfast after the 9.00 am service, or on Saturdays. We welcome all who are capable of walking approximately four to six miles (sometimes in muddy and wet conditions!). Please look in the weekly bulletin for further information regarding each walk or telephone:

Eileen Ormandy 8248 3863

CHURCH HISTORY

The Remembrance Book

This is situated on the south wall of the Lady Chapel and records the names of the departed since 1976

It was dedicated in 1996

CONCERT OF SACRED CHORAL MUSIC

21 March in church

The Amici Chamber Choir will present a programme of European sacred music for Passiontide at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 21 March

Entitled 'Lamentoso', the programme will include works by Lotti, Palestrina, Lobo, Purcell, Rheinberger, Salieri, Victoria and Vaughan Williams

The choir will be conducted by Duncan Aspden

Tickets £10.00 (£8 concessions, under 19s free)

*available on the door or in advance from Herga Music,
Wealdstone High Street*

IMPERIAL CITIES

Prague/Vienna/Budapest and Oberammergau Passion Play



Kitts Travel Ltd, through Collette Worldwide Holidays, is arranging a holiday to coincide with the Oberammergau Passion Play to be performed in 2010 (category one tickets included). The departure date will be Friday, 27 August and includes door to door transfers to the airport. Leaflets are available in the church porch. If you are interested in making a reservation (first come, first served) please speak to:

*Andrew Rowdon 8429 2323
Kitts Travel Ltd*

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The following is an edited extract from an article by Bishop Michael Doe, the General Secretary of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission. The full text can be found on the Society's website www.uspg.org.uk

If we here are fearful of the consequences of the global economic crises – on our own standard of living and what it will do to USPG – just think what effect it is having on the poorer parts of the world.

2008 has been a difficult year for many of them: members of the Church of North India suffering persecution in Orissa, the Anglican Church in Myanmar (Burma) dealing with the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, and those living in the diocese of Jerusalem.

Yet, however great the darkness, the light of Christ still shines. I have seen something of that light in my travels last year.

In Sri Lanka the two bishops are at the forefront of reconciliation work between Tamils and Singahlese.

In Peru the Anglican diocese is creating new mission churches in the shanty towns around Lima, where Eucharistic communities of the poor are seeking to share the Gospel and relieve the poverty of their neighbourhoods.

Last month in Fiji we celebrated one hundred years of Christian witness by the diocese of Polynesia.

I wonder what 2009 will bring. Will the economic troubles of these last months make people more inward-looking and less generous? Or will they make us more aware of those whose financial security has always been far less certain than ours?

Above all might we learn, as many of our partner churches could well teach us, that it is putting our faith in spiritual rather than material wealth which brings the great dividend?



INFORMATION

Christians in Pinner working together

Three Faith Dialogue

'Taking Responsibility' — Speaker: Judith Kramer
8.00 pm, Wednesday 4 February
at Pinner Synagogue

Open Meeting of Development Group

'Caring for the Homeless: YMCA and THATCH'
8.00 pm, Thursday 5 February
at Pinner Free Church, Paines Lane

Praying Together



7.15 to 7.45 pm, Tuesday 10 February
at Cannon Lane Methodist Church

Welcome Lunch

12.30 to 2.30 pm, Tuesday 17 February
at Love Lane Methodist Church

Fair-Trade Fortnight

Monday 23 February to Sunday 8 March

Honorary Secretary: Angela Achenbach 8863 1687

www.pinnerchurches.org.uk

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

6 March



Every year in March Christian women all around the world celebrate a day of prayer. The first services take place in the east with the rising of the sun and continue across the world until the sun sets in the west, with a constant stream of worship in hundreds of countries across the world.

This year the service has been put together by Christian women in Peru and we shall be celebrating here in Pinner at 2.00 pm on Friday, 6 March, at the Free Church in Paines Lane (with refreshments afterwards as usual). The service is the same across the world. In Pinner the final arrangements are made by a small committee of women from the Pinner Association of Churches.

As usual there is the opportunity to join the choir or volunteer to read. If you would like to do either, please contact Ann Grace on 8866 5100.

Everyone (men as well as women) is welcome to join the worship. It would be lovely to see a good number from St. John's in the congregation on 6 March. Do think about taking part.

Ann Grace

DIARY DATES

FEB	The Feast of Candlemas
1	Traidcraft Stall in the church hall
2	8.00 pm Christianity for Life in hall rooms
4	8.00 pm Three Faith Dialogue at Pinner Synagogue
5	8.00pm Open Meeting of PAC Development Group, Pinner Free Church
7	8.00 pm Jazz Concert in church
8	3 before Lent 9.00 am Baptism
9	8.00 pm Christianity for Life in hall rooms
10	7.15 pm PAC Praying Together at Cannon Lane Methodist Church 8.45 pm Bell Ringers' AGM in the vestry
14	4.30 pm Western District Bell Ringers' service in church
15	2 before Lent
17	12.30 to 2.30 pm PAC Welcome Lunch at Love Lane Methodist
19	Copy date for March Review 12.15 pm The Friends Luncheon with speaker in hall
21	1.00 to 4.00 pm Full Bell Peal in memory of Don Knight and Ken Sanders
22	Sunday next before Lent Revision of Electoral Roll begins
23	Fairtrade Fortnight begins 8.00 pm Christianity for Life in hall rooms
24	Matthias the Apostle
25	Ash Wednesday 10.00 am and 8.00 pm Eucharist with Ashing
28	7.30 pm Scola Cantorum Concert in church

Visitors Book : 1 November 2008

Graham Thompson of Kings Lynn, Norfolk wrote
Baptised in this church 1930 — descendent of Henry Pye

(Memorial plaque on south wall)