

NATIVITY AT ST JUDE'S

I saw the 1989 St Jude's Nativity Play from a different angle quite literally: I was viewing the Junior Church production from the "lighting box" high in the west window. Although I had no problem seeing over the peoples' heads, I had to strain to hear the words. Despite the new experimental radio microphones the children had a problem making themselves heard over the raging wind outside.

Robert Ayers and Tomos Edwards installed and controlled the "follow spot" which adds such dramatic effect to the play.

The two harpists, Alys and Elinor Edwards, played a duet "The Christmas Story", composed by Marie Goossens, as the angel Gabriel (Elizabeth Moss) appeared. The annunciation was followed by a joyful little scene with Mary and her cousin Elizabeth (Alys Edwards) praising God for their respective pregnancies.

Ben Bromilow was a calm and reliable Joseph alongside his sister Anna, a feeling Mary who reacted convincingly with "baby Jesus". The junior church is short of boys, but Polly Edwards enjoyed being a Roman Soldier announcing the Emperor's decree.

The children are so good at learning verse that Linda Ayers has expanded the cast again. This year the donkey (Tanya Pakeman) spoke, and Mary and Joseph met a traveller on the road (Holly Blunden).

Alan Rafferty and Louise Edwards were callous inn-keepers and Frédéric Wakefield and Alice Rafferty, sprightly

shepherds Anne-Marie Cunnold, the star from the East, led the three kings, Lucy Handley (Melchior), Emmeline Wilson (Caspar), and Grace Davidson (Balthazar), all Junior Choir members who acted and sang with fitting dignity. Olivia Wakefield as the Angel of the Lord warned the Magi against the wicked wiles of King Herod (Hugh Cox) who had Rosalind Moss as his dutiful slave.

Little angel, David Gregson, aged two, decided that dainty ballet shoes were not his style and appeared sporting a pair of red wellington boots. He was so fascinated by the animals, especially his sister Emma, who played one of the doves, that he did not leave with the "heavenly host" but had to be carried off by Mary, to the amusement of the congregation.

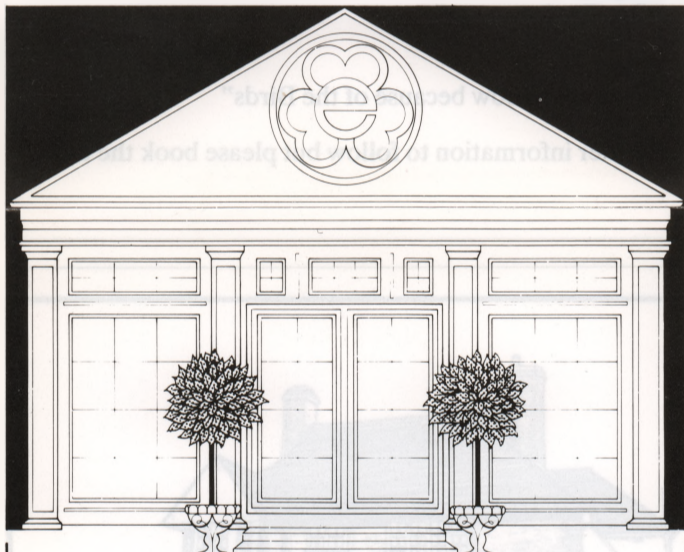
Jill Ambrose and Linda Ayers, who produce the play every year, were very pleased that £124 was raised for the children of Guyana who are in permanent need of even paper and pencils.

We all know that church attendance is falling here, even the nativity play does not attract the numbers it used to, and



perhaps we need to remember that in Albania you can be imprisoned for making the sign of the cross; that many children in Eastern Europe were able to attend church this Christmas for the first time, and realise how we undervalue the freedom of worship that has so long been enjoyed in this country.

CA



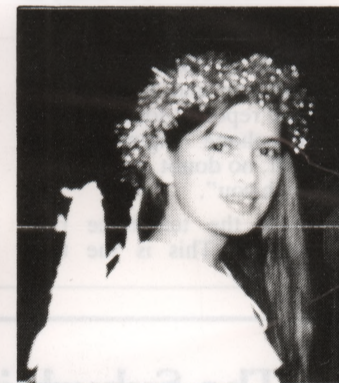
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WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

- 3 St. Judes/Free Church Saturday Club, Free Church Hall, Northway 7.00-9.00 pm.
- 5 HGS Townswomen's Guild, Bring and Buy Tea in aid of Charity of the year, St. Judes Church Rooms, 2.00 pm.
- 10 Family Holiday Association, Jumble Sale, St. Albans Church Hall, NW11. 2.00 pm.
- 10 HGS Free Church, Handel's "Messiah" Free Church Choir, Free Church, 7.00 pm.
- 13 HGS Horticultural Society, "A Day in Life" & "To the Woods" illustrated talks by Ron Shanks. Fellowship House, 8.15/8.30 pm.
- 16-24 HGS Dramatic Society, "The Rose & the Ring". Tickets/details from Mrs F. Stewart 455 6669.
- 17 HGS Chess Club. Chess open afternoon, non-members welcome, 2.30-5.00 pm. For details call 458 1123.
- 18 HGS Free Church, 80th Anniversary Services, 11.00 & 6.30 pm.
- 27 The National Council of Women of Great Britain, Report from the International Council of Women, 60 Rotherwick Road, 2.15 pm.
- 27 Golders Green Friends of the Earth. John Colemans, of the London Wildlife Trust, on the work of the Trust, King Alfred School, North End Road, 8 p.m.
- 27 St. Judes Church, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. 7.30 pm, St Judes Church Rooms.

MARCH

- 3 St. Judes/Free Church Saturday Club, Free Church Hall, Northway, 7.00-9.00 pm.
- 5 HGS Townswomen's Guild, Members talking, St. Judes Church Rooms, 2.00 pm.
- 13 HGS Horticultural Society, "The Well-Fed Garden" talk, Mr R. Wheeler, Fellowship House, 8.15/8.30 pm.
- 17 St. Judes/Free Church Saturday Club, Free Church Hall, 7.00-9.00 pm.
- 17 Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Concert by Crowndale Orchestra, Institute Hall, 8.00 pm. Tickets Ms C. Smith 455 1472.
- 24 HGS Institute, Spring Term ends (Adults & Junior Courses).
- 26 HGS Residents Association. Annual General Meeting. 8.00 pm Bigwood Hall.
- 27 HGS Institute, Easter programme begins - Art, Craft, Languages, General Interest. Details 455 9951.
- 27 The National Council of Women of Great Britain, Hampstead & HGS Branch. Ms H. Parsons head of

- special Tuition Service, L.B. Barnet, 60 Rotherwick Road, 2.15 pm.
- 27 Golders Green Friends of the Earth, "Talking Rubbish - What a waste!", Bernard King of London Borough of Barnet, King Alfred School, North End Road, 8.00 pm.
- 30 HGS Institute, Spring Term ends, (EFL Courses)
- 31 St. Judes/Free Church Saturday Club, Free Church Hall, 7.00-9.00 pm.

APRIL

- 2 HGS Townswomen's Guild, AGM followed by talk by Mrs Stuart, St Judes Church Room, 2.00 pm.
- 5 Henrietta Barnett School Old Girls Association, Annual Dinner, Bigwood Hall. Tickets from Ruth Green, 36 Southway, NW11. 458 6164.
- 7 St Judes/Free Church Saturday Club, Free Church Hall, Northway 7.00-9.00 pm.
- 10 HGS Horticultural Society, "Hints for Exhibiting" Mrs M. Reynolds, 8.15/8.30 pm, Fellowship House.
- 14 St Judes, Easter Vigil, 8.00 pm.
- 15 HGS Free Church, Easter Day Services, 8.30 am; 11.00 am & 6.30 pm.
- 15 St Judes Easter Sunday, Holy Eucharist 10.00 am.
- 21 Hampstead & District Scotts Association Dance, Brian Hamilton's Band, 7.30-11.00 pm. Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive.
- 23 HGS Institute, Summer Term Begins.
- 24 The National Council of Women of Great Britain, Discussion of resolutions for Annual Conference, 60 Rotherwick Road, 2.15 pm.
- 28 28th April - 5th May. Environment Week
- 30 HGS Townswomen's Guild, "Behind the Scenes at Royal Weddings", Mrs M. O'Connell, St. Judes Church Rooms 2.00 pm.

MAY

- 12 St Judes, Dedication Festival Supper, 7.30 pm, St Judes Church Rooms.
- 19 Family Holiday Association, Fete on the Square, 2.00 pm, Central Square.

JUNE

- 16 Security Fair 1990

DEADLINE for Spring issue 30th March for publication April. Items for What's On Column to Rosemary Goldstein, la Church Mount, N2. Contributions and letters to the editor R. J. Wakefield, 26 Hampstead Way, NW11.