

observation. He was discharged on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1981. At this time no one mentioned whether Thomas would need an operation in the future and I believe that we were just given out-patient clinic appointments with a cardiologist to keep an eye on his progress.

5. Thomas had further episodes of SVT and we could actually hear his heart beating about twice the normal speed of a baby. He was admitted once again to the Bristol Children's Hospital on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1981. This time he was under the care of Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist Dr S C Jordan. Thomas was readmitted on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1981 with a very fast heartbeat and doctors tried various techniques to try to bring it back to normal rhythm. He was given Digoxin and Propranolol and I think they tried unsuccessfully to use electric shock treatment (a "defibrillator") to stop his heart momentarily. Thomas was, however, quite resistant to this treatment and seemed to just recover on his own accord. I cannot remember the specific details of each visit to the hospital because Thomas was admitted with SVT on lots of occasions over the next couple of years. The episodes would usually last between 12 and 24 hours and he would get very tired. The longest SVT was about 72 hours in June 1982, I think. We got used to waiting for 2 or 3 hours at home when he went into SVT to make sure it was worth going into casualty.

These SVTs carried on beyond Thomas' first operation. Apart from not having a particularly healthy appetite and being slightly underweight Thomas appeared, however, to be developing normally.

6. Thomas spent most of his time between the ages of 12 to 21 weeks in the Mother and Baby Unit of Barrow Hospital where Hilary was being treated for Post-Natal Depression.