

DECEMBER 2016-JANUARY 2017

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy

Happy Christmas
to all our readers



INSIDE
Your crib scenes

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Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy

Vicar

The Revd Derek Winterburn

Derek, pictured right, was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He has served in several London parishes, most recently at nearby St Mary's, Hampton. He is keen to grow the church by reaching out to the community, and particularly young families. Derek is a keen photographer, which he combines with a daily walk in the parish.

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Weekly Pew Sheet Parish Office 020 8941 6003

From the Editor...

We had a spectacular autumn this year, with the trees turning such brilliant colours — now Christmas beckons.

Our new vicar, Derek Winterburn, and his wife Sandra, moved into the vicarage at the beginning of November. His institution service on 8 November was inspirational and since then Derek has been busy preparing for all the Christmas services and getting to know the congregation.

It is a hectic time in the calendar as many of the local schools and nurseries use our church for their services too. Christmas will be very special for us this year with our new vicar and his family. The preparations for Christmas start so early nowadays that it is hard to keep focussed when you have heard *Jingle Bells* so many times when out shopping! It makes it difficult to remember that Christmas marks the birth of Jesus. Hopefully amongst all the glitter, reindeer and snowmen we can find a crib scene. Our centre pages feature some cribs brought out every year by members of the congregation.

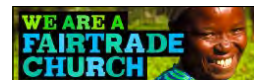
On behalf of *The Spire* committee, may I wish all our readers a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

Cover image: Crib scene, see pages 4 and 5



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Twitter @StJamesHampHill

Instagram @stjames_hamptonhill



Curate

The Revd Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales. She is a self-supporting minister, ordained in July 2015.

During term time she runs one of two Hampton Hill nursery schools owned by the family.

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Administrator

Nick Bagge

For all general enquiries, including baptisms and weddings, as well as hall bookings, contact the office.

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Organist / Choirmaster

Mark Blackwell

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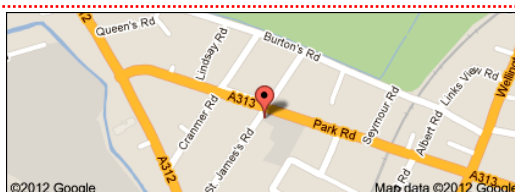
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SUPPORT US!

- The more **volunteers**, the more we can do
- Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do
- Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy

Finding us

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. There is ample parking in the road.



STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas, or would like to write for the magazine, please contact the Editor, Janet Nunn.

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AROUND THE SPIRE

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WHAT'S ON

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Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion (except 4 Dec)

Sunday 4 December

Advent 2 / Christingle

11am Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15: 4-13;

Matthew 3: 1-12.

Sunday 11 December Advent 3

Isaiah 35: 1-10; James 5: 7-10;

Matthew 11: 2-11.

Sunday 18 December Advent 4

Isaiah 7: 10-16; Romans 1: 1-7;

Matthew 1: 18-25.

6.30pm Carol Service

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve

3pm and 4.30pm Crib Services

11pm Midnight Mass

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14.

Sunday 25 December Christmas Day

Isaiah 62: 6-12; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 8-20.

Sunday 1 January New Year's Day

Isaiah 63: 7-9; Hebrews 2: 10-18;

Luke 2: 15-21.

Sunday 8 January Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42: 1-9; Acts 10: 34-43;

Matthew 3: 13-17.

Sunday 15 January Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9;

John 1: 29-42.

Sunday 22 January Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9: 1-4; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18;

Matthew 4: 12-23.

Sunday 29 January Epiphany 4

Micah 6: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31;

Matthew 5: 1-12.

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer (not 26, 27 Dec; 2, 3 Jan)

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion (except 27 Dec)

But what's he like?



We have had a new Prime Minister this year, and even after several months we are not sure what the future holds. And as a person, beyond knowing that Theresa May is a vicar's daughter, she wears smart clothes and that she likes holidaying in Switzerland with her husband Philip, she is still rather enigmatic. Most of us probably know at least as much about the candidates in the American presidential race.

It is unsettling to get a new vicar. I know that numerous members of St James's naturally quizzed their friends at St Mary's about what they were getting in me. Sacred things (literally!) seem to be threatened.

Clergy also play a part in a family's life – more than even 'births, marriages and deaths' so that their comings and goings disturb a sense of continuity.

Of course the way to answering 'what is he really like?' is to find out first hand. The antidote to the uncertainty is to patiently spend time with each other. When people have asked me what St James's is like I say such and such, but then comment 'I don't really know.'

Perhaps it is just like knowing our next-door neighbour, but from over the fence. 'Until I am there,' I say, 'I won't really know what it is like.' This first period of my ministry in Hampton Hill is about us getting to know each other and not jumping to conclusions – a mutual journey of discovery.

Christmas tells us everything we need to know

'What is God really like?' is a more vital question. Christmas goes a long way towards answering it. (No, not Christmas as described by the John Lewis TV ads, or the pantomime at the theatre!) Christians believe that we can deduce many things about God from the world around us (e.g. his power and creativity) and that he spoke to people before the birth of Jesus and continues to do so. But Christmas celebrates the wonderful news that Jesus – born in Bethlehem – is God himself. And so

we can know what God is really like.

From observation, we might concede that a great power made the universe, but wonder about the morality of a Creator who allows so much suffering. From intuition, we might have a sense of the spiritual, but be prone to wonder if it is really true. Yet we would struggle to say what God is really like.

God's own solution was not to send more and more messages, or messengers. His answer was to come himself. The people who met Jesus (beginning with his parents and then the shepherds) experienced God first-hand.

Over his lifetime Jesus was 'God with a human face'. And I think it worked the other way round too – the Creator experienced what it was like to be human 'from the inside'.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son... He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being. (Hebrews 1:1,2)

Everything about God is good

'So what is God really like then?' If I only could use one word to summarise what Jesus shows about God, I would say 'God is good'. There are many other words we could add, but hearing people's concern, I would say that Jesus (as God) shows us goodness, and shows us someone trusting God's goodness, even as he is executed.

There was no point in God self-declaring he was good – it had to be seen to be believed, in Jesus.

God then, like a newly arrived vicar, or like a newly appointed PM can be misunderstood. The remedy is take time and get to know one another. Christmas, the festival of Christ's birth, is just the beginning of a journey of discovery. God is for life, not just for Christmas. Come and explore with us.

continues a long history of St James's supporting their work. There is more to be done. The charity recently released their first report on the link between poverty and mental health among youngsters. It revealed that children who live in poverty are

at serious risk, yet only 1 in 10 mental health trusts see them as a priority group for access to mental health services.

Christingle's candle collection boxes are another way of helping the charity. Perhaps you might make it a more permanent arrangement through the regular collection boxes too. Speak to Nicky or David Hettling to find out more.

Charity Box The Children's Society

We recently sent a cheque to The Children's Society for nearly £700, the combined total from our generous collection box holders. This was a terrific total, representing an increase on last year's total of well over 20%. Thank you so much to those who collect their loose change for this important charity – you can see how quickly it mounts up!

Last year, we passed on a request from The Children's Society, in response to declining collection box income, to see if new box holders would come forward – their request was positively received and



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Christingle



Like churches throughout the UK, St James's will be holding its annual Christingle service on Sunday 4 December, this year at 11am, to raise money and awareness of The Children's Society.

*God who calls us all to share
YOUR MISSION, WE LOOK
TO YOU FOR GUIDANCE
WE LOOK TO YOU FOR STRENGTH*

*MAY WE BE ANOINTED
BY YOUR SPIRIT AS WE
STAND IN SUPPORT OF
THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED*

*Help us, as the Spirit-filled
people of God, to be ambitious
for all of your children and
to be trusted by those whose
HEARTS HAVE BEEN BROKEN*

*Help us, as the Spirit-filled
people of God, to offer
liberty to those children
who are not free, as we
bravely take up the mission
of your Spirit, to see
the world changed in the
NAME OF CHRIST JESUS*



Derek becomes our tenth vicar

DEREK WINTERBURN

officially became our vicar on 8 November in a special service led by the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin. A packed church, including many from his previous parish of St Mary's, Hampton, watched the ceremony unfold.



In his sermon, Bishop Graham talked about God's humility as one of his greatest strengths, and one we should all possess to become more like him. The Area Dean, the Revd Joe Moffatt, carried out the second part of the ceremony, installing Derek and blessing his keys to the church.



The congregation included many of Derek and Sandra's family and friends, as well as community representatives. Among those were the borough's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kate Howard, Alan Went and Lindsey Hughes from Hampton Hill Junior School and the Lady Eleanor Hollis School respectively, Fiona Brennan, the chief executive of The Greenwood Centre, Brian and Linda Brignall from the Hampton Hill Association, and Rich Moody and Sarah Beer from the Scouts and Brownies. The Shell Seekers were represented by Emma, who welcomed Derek, and Jonathan, who read a prayer. The celebration continued with refreshments in the hall and the cutting of a cake baked by Kirstie Craig.



PCC approves 'challenging' budget

THE PCC has approved a challenging budget for 2017, requiring us to increase our income by 10% if we are to avoid a deficit. Although hall income is up following extended office opening hours, there has been a marked fall in Planned Giving. Please help us to bridge the gap if you can.

'Unsafe' tree to be felled by council



A PROMINENT tree in the churchyard has become unsafe after being attacked by a giant fungus. The copper beech is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road and because it is within the churchyard it is the responsibility of Richmond borough council.

The tree has *Meripilus giganteus*, or giant polypore, a type of white rot. The decay is so vast that it could fall in windy weather. As it is close to a busy road and pavement the council was fixing a date for it to be felled as we went to print. It will be replaced by a tree that is more resistant to disease.

A faithful scene

*Away in a manger
no crib for a bed.
The little Lord
Jesus lay down his
sweet head.
The stars in the
bright sky look
down where
he lay.
The little Lord
Jesus asleep in
the hay.*



Nativity crib scenes have graced cathedrals, palaces, stately homes and more humble abodes for hundreds of years. But as **Janet Nunn** discovered, the familiar story can look very different. Yet each one holds special memories and helps keep the birth of Christ at the centre of our celebrations.



Handmade with love

I first became fascinated by cribs when I used to visit Peggy and Sylvia Boarder in their home in Bushy Park Gardens. Peggy had made the wonderful set of figures, pictured below, for the children at Stanley Road School, where she taught. Once she retired it used to be put out in their hall at home every year.

Peggy made all the figures and animals from clay and painted them and they were always so much admired by all their family and friends. Each one is about 150 mm high. For the past 10 years I have been privileged to have this lovely crib and it graces my hall table every year.



Indonesian missionaries

Don and Griselda Barrett have a crib and angels made from bamboo which they bought while on an overseas posting to Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, during the late 1980s. There was a missionary group of American women who initiated a self-help project for deaf people. The project was called SHARE - Self Help and Rehabilitation Enterprise - and they sold the cribs and angels at a Christmas fair each year. The angels could be bought in



Every cathedral, church and chapel all over the world will have some form of crib scene to celebrate the birth of Christ — and our church is no exception as you see above.

One of the definitions of the word *crib* in Chambers dictionary is 'a presentation, especially a model of the scene around the manger that served as a bed for the new-born Christ'.

The tradition of having a nativity scene or crib scene goes back nearly 1000 years to 1224 and to the small hilltop town of Greccio, 60 miles north of Rome, home to Saint Francis.

Remembering his visit to the Holy Land, especially Bethlehem, St Francis wanted to celebrate Christmas in a way that would remind people of the poor surroundings in which Jesus was born and make the whole occasion more real.

A local landowner set up the scene in a cave with an ox and an ass and straw and people came at night to attend mass by the crib with candles and torches and were reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in poverty and thus began the tradition of the manger scene. They still celebrate the site of the first nativity each year.

All nativities great and small

Nativity scenes have also become a major part of our lives in our homes as we celebrate Christmas and they come in so many different forms, all with their special story to tell, whether it is where they were bought or how they were made.

Here is a selection of some that mean so much to the people who own them. Not only are they attractive to look at but they also bring Christmas into perspective in our homes.

for Christmas



natural bamboo or in the painted version in the photo. Don and Griselda have been using the crib and angels every year since the 1980s. Everyone who visits the house always remarks on their simplicity.

From Flanders...



Rodney and Janet Taylor have this miniature Flemish crib which they display each year in a suitable place where it can be seen by the smallest child. The tallest figures are just 30mm high. Because of their size they are a source of great fascination for young children.

They come from Flanders, the Dutch or Flemish-speaking part of Belgium, and have been collected over many years. In addition to the usual crib figures the others reflect the character, lifestyle and work of the local Flemish population.

From all around the world



What really prompted me to prepare this article was the wonderful collection of cribs that Catherine Gash has accumulated over the past 30 years which are displayed along her mantelshelf at home. They make a simple but stunning display and Catherine looks forward each year to unpacking them as each one has a story to tell. When her children were small they would look at each one and think about the Christmas story.

The cribs come in all shapes and sizes and are made from a wealth of different materials. They have varied styles and interpretations from different parts of the world and remind us that the Christmas story

will be told all around the world. Catherine has about 25 cribs and unfortunately no room left on the mantelpiece!

This crib, right, was given to Catherine about 20 years ago as a Christmas present from a friend who also collects cribs. It holds a tea-light so looks beautiful in the dark.



The terracotta crib, bottom left, was bought by Catherine in 1999 in San Gimignano in Tuscany and it holds memories of a wonderful holiday with friends.



The crib on the right comes from Palestine and was Catherine's first crib. Made of olive wood, it was given to the family by Christopher's aunt after a trip to the Holy Land.

The crib above came with wire figures and was bought from the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park. It reminded Catherine of the years she spent living in Zambia in the 1970s. The crib in the photo at the top of this page is Catherine's favourite and was made by a Twickenham lady 20 years ago. The figures all seem to be gazing up to heaven! The work is amazing and Catherine's children achieved nothing like this with their Fimo figures.

I am sure there are many more stories about cribs that people have collected and faithfully put out at home. It is a very simple way of bringing the heart of the Christmas story into our homes as a talking point amongst all the other glitter and commercialism that surrounds Christmas.

Around the SPIRE with Susan Homer

A very happy family wedding day

SUZY RIGG MARRIED Clive Rowland at St James's on 12 August, a beautiful sunny day. Suzy's daughter Imani was her bridesmaid and Clive's daughter Laura and Suzy's son Jake did the readings. The service was attended by family and friends from Canada, the US, the Midlands and Kent, together with more local friends and some of the St James's family. Suzy and Clive would like to thank Julian, Janet and Mark for all their help in making this such a special day.



Beavers' leader urgently needed

THE LEADER of the 3rd Hampton Hill Beavers, Jane Riggs, is stepping down at Christmas, with no one to take her place. Do you have what it takes to replace her? Could you be the next leader of the Beavers Colony that takes place from 6.15-7.15pm every Friday in term time? This is a voluntary yet rewarding role with full training provided by the Scout Association.

For more information please contact jane@riggsfamily.org.uk. Thank you.

Scouts and Guides 'boost lives'

JOINING THE Scouts or Guides in childhood appears to help lower the risk of mental illness in later life, a study suggests. Children who take part in the organisations – which aim to develop qualities such as self-reliance, resolve and a desire for self-learning – are likely to go on to have better mental health in middle age. This is also true of people from poorer backgrounds, who usually have a higher risk. The findings were drawn from the National Child Development Study.



'Crafty' Shell Seekers at Christingle

THE SHELL SEEKERS will be holding their usual sale of craft items, cakes and other goodies in aid of Release International, a charity that seeks to give a voice to persecuted Christians, after the Christingle service on 4 December. Do come and buy something from their wonderful selection.

Taking the mince out of the pies

WE SHARE mince pies after our Carol Service. Did you know they have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat was an alternative to salting and smoking to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

Personalised baptism in Germany

SUSAN HORNER'S granddaughter, Emma Megan, was baptised in Erlangen, Germany in October. The tradition there is for the child to be given a beautifully decorated candle, inscribed with the child's name and date of baptism, which is re-lit every year on the baptismal anniversary.

A bible text is also chosen for the child. Emma's

godmothers chose Romans 15: 13, which begins 'God of hope' and they had this printed on her suit!

After the baptism, her godmothers and a couple of other close friends prayed for Emma individually. Overall it was a very personal service. Emma is pictured with her parents, Matthew and Marina, and her brother Mark.





Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

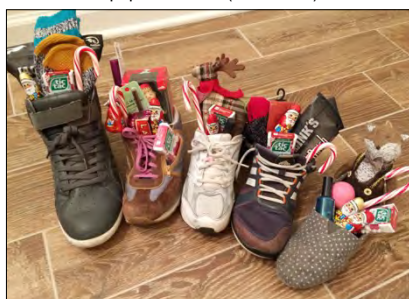
Around the world

Whilst all Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, countries have their own customs. How many of these do you know about?




CHINA

Here, Christians decorate their homes with evergreens, posters and bright paper chains. Families put up a Christmas tree, called a 'tree of light', and decorate it with beautiful lanterns, flowers, and red paper chains that symbolise happiness. They cut out red pagodas to paste on the windows, and they light their houses and streets with paper lanterns (see above).



FRANCE

In many French regions, Christmas celebrations start with St Nicholas Day on the 6 December when the children get sweets and little gifts. On Christmas eve, children put their polished shoes out in front of the chimney and hope that *Père Noël* (Father Christmas) fills the shoes with sweets. Similarly, in  **Iceland**, children put their shoes on the windowsill so the *Juletíde Lads* (Santa Claus) fills the shoes with goodies.

MEXICO

Mexicans decorate their homes with lilies and evergreens. Family members cut intricate designs in brown paper bags to make lanterns, or *farolitos*. They place a candle inside and then set the *farolitos* along pavements, on windowsills, on rooftops and on outdoor walls to illuminate the community with the spirit of Christmas.



SPAIN

Evergreens decorate the churches and outdoor markets. Tambourines, gourd rattles, castanets, and miniature guitars are offered for sale to accompany the singing and dancing in the streets. Children go from house to house reciting verses or singing carols for sweets, toys, or small instruments.



SWEDEN

In Sweden, the Christmas festivities begin on 13 December with St Lucia's Day, which celebrates the patron saint of light. The eldest daughter gets up before dawn and dresses as the *Queen of Light* in a long white dress. She wears a crown of leaves. Singing 'Santa Lucia', she goes to every bedroom to serve coffee and treats to family members.

PHILIPPINES

Here, there is a special tradition of having a Christmas lantern, called a *paról*, which resembles the star of Bethlehem, and is mainly made out of bamboo and paper.



Our Sunday School, The Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 9.25am during school terms, except for one Sunday in most months when there is an all-age service in church. We welcome new members. Come along for a trial visit and see just how much fun it can be.

A-Z OF Sacred Places

with Laurence Sewell



Iona, Scotland

The tiny but beautiful island of Iona in Scotland, off the southwest coast of Mull in the Inner Hebrides, has an important significance for Christianity in these isles way beyond its size (it is only 1.5 miles wide by 3 miles long) and remote location. It is known as the 'cradle of Christianity' in Scotland, because it was here that the Irish monk Saint Columba established a monastic settlement and an important centre of European Christianity in 563 AD, and from where large parts of Scotland and the north of England were evangelised.

The original abbey founded by St Columba was a simple structure made from turf, wattle and daub. The *Book of Kells*, the famous illuminated manuscript, is believed to have been produced by the monks in the years up to 800 AD.

Viking raids

There were repeated Viking raids through the centuries; during one in 806 AD, 68 monks were massacred in the subsequently named Martyrs' Bay, and this led to many of the monks relocating to the Columban Abbey of Kells in Ireland. Other monks fled to the Continent, and established monasteries in Belgium, France, and Switzerland. However, Iona survived this and succeeding raids until the end of the 12th century, when a Benedictine abbey was established on the site.

Iona had been seized by the King of Norway, who held it for 50 years before Somerled, known as *King of the Isles*, recaptured it, and invited renewed Irish involvement in 1164. The sons of Somerled invited the Benedictine order to establish a new monastery in 1203 when the abbey church was built, although Ireland's Columban clergy resented the loss of influence.

The first prioress

The Iona Nunnery, a foundation of the Augustinian Order, was established in about 1208, with Bethoc, daughter of Somerled, as the first prioress.

Pilgrimage to St Columba's Shrine continued to thrive throughout the Middle

Ages. The Abbey church and convent buildings were substantially expanded in the 15th century, but following the Scottish Reformation, the church was dismantled and abandoned, and all but three of its famous 360 carved crosses destroyed.

In 1899 the Duke of Argyll transferred ownership of the ruined remains of the Abbey and Nunnery sites to the Iona Cathedral Trust, which undertook extensive restoration of the Abbey church. In 2000 the Iona Cathedral Trust handed over the care of the Abbey, Nunnery, and associated sites to Historic Scotland.

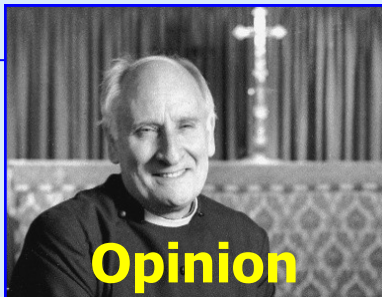


8th century St Martin's Cross

The Iona Community

The isle cannot be mentioned without reference to the Iona Community, a dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Founded in 1938 by the Revd George MacLeod, it has revived the abbey's long tradition of work, worship and teaching. He was inspired by the poverty and despair of the Depression. From a dockland parish in Govan, Glasgow, he took jobless craftsmen and young trainee clergy to Iona to rebuild both the monastic quarters of the mediaeval abbey and the common life of observance.

Today, the island remains a centre for pilgrimage and tourism. The Abbey church is maintained by the Iona Community, whose members hold daily services. The islanders, the Iona Community and Historic Scotland work to maintain Iona as a place of welcome.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

BREXIT and FOODBANKS

I voted to remain on 23 June because of climate change – the European Union is responsible for over 80% of our environmental laws, protecting our climate and country – and because I feared that Brexit would hit the poorest hardest.

As Matt Davies, the CEO of Tesco, said, commenting on the plunge in the value of the pound and its effects, 'Everybody should be very, very clear how damaging food inflation is to the economy, to retail businesses and manufacturing businesses and how lethal it could be for millions of people struggling to live from week to week.'

At the same time the Institute for Fiscal Studies said that the 2015 summer budget, freezing welfare benefits till 2020, meant 11 million families would be an additional £2 a week worse off because of higher than anticipated inflation.

Families already stand to lose £260 a year because George Osborne, the previous Chancellor of the Exchequer, reduced the welfare budget, and would now see their real incomes drop by £360 a year. As Theresa May said in her inaugural speech as Prime Minister, 'If you are from a working-class family, life is much harder than many people in Westminster realise.'

WELBY WAR on WONGA

In July 2013, Archbishop Justin Welby said he would put the pay-day lending firm Wonga out of business. He emphasised that helping to alleviate poverty should be central to the Church's mission. Since then the Church of England has been encouraging more credit unions, and is working with schools to help children to budget.

The Government has put in place tighter regulation and a price cap on short term credit, which has resulted in a decline in pay-day lending of 68% from its peak in 2013. Citizens' Advice has also reported a 53% drop in the number of pay-day loan problems they have dealt with. The Archbishop's intervention has helped to galvanise support for credit unions within the churches and contributed to a sea change in public and political opinion.

The facts are that around 8 million adults are over-indebted; of this one in six seek help. The average amount of unsecured debt in the UK, excluding mortgages is around £6,000 per household. Some 21 million adults don't have £5000 in savings to replace a fridge or mend a car. Over one in five adults do not know how to read the balance on a bank statement.

WHITE HELMETS of SYRIA

The White Helmets of Syria – teachers, tailors, builders, doctors – didn't flee the country, didn't take up arms. They are often the first on the ground to rescue people from the appalling carnage unravelling in Aleppo. They have been suggested for a Nobel Peace Prize.

LONELINESS

It was a nurse at a local surgery who said to me how many lonely people there are in Hampton Hill. Surveys reveal that loneliness is as potent a cause of early death as 15 cigarettes a day, and can be twice as deadly as obesity. The role of groups such as Age UK, Mind, Positive Ageing and the Campaign to End Loneliness as well as the many church groups can be lifesaving.

SHOPPER'S PRAYER

Our cash which art on plastic, hallowed be thy name. Thy shops be always open; thy retail offer be online, as it is in store. Give us each day our special offers. And forgive us our over-spending, as we forgive those who charge us interest. Lead us not to the wrong brands, but deliver us from scams for thine are the Clubcard, the Nectar and the Visa points, for Chanel No 5 and Eternity. Amen.

What's On

with Nick Bagge



St James's Church... where Christmas comes alive



Sunday 4 December

Christingle Service 11.00am

A great family occasion when we support the work of The Children's Society and encircle the church with our Christingle candles to shine a light.

Sunday 18 December

Service of Lessons and Carols 6.30pm

Familiar carols and readings, mince pies and mulled wine. Christmas starts here...

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve

Crib Services 3pm and 4.30pm

So popular that we now have two services on offer re-telling the story of the nativity for young and old.

'Midnight Mass' 11pm

Sunday 25 December Christmas Day

Holy Communion 8.00am

Parish Communion 9.30am

Celebrate on Christmas morning with us.

Leaf Sweep and Gutter Clean

Saturday 3 December, 9.30am, St James's Church

This important work is carried out annually by the Properties Committee — but they need YOUR help too! The gutters of both church and hall need to be cleared of leaves. If you can help please turn up suitably dressed. There will be hot drinks and snacks for all the helpers. For more information contact bryan.basdel@btinternet.com.

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm, All Saints' Church, Market Place, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1JP

The Christmas concert, with guest choirs from St Pauls Junior School Kingston Hill, and Kingston University Chamber Choir, plus audience participation. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on the door or from infoteddingtonchoral.com.

Concordia Voices

Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm, St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA

Concordia's concert will get everyone in the Christmas spirit. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on the door or £10 (£8) in advance by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org.

NEW

Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band

Sunday 11 December, 2.30pm, YMCA White House, 45 The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN

The Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry (Duke of Cambridge's Hussars) presents seasonal music, including carols, with plenty of audience participation. Tickets £10, including mulled wine and a programme. Tickets from (020) 8941 1227 or email judy.morrison1@btinternet.com.

Cantanti Camerati

Saturday 17 December, 7.30pm, St Mary's Parish Church, Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NJ

A traditional Christmas concert. Tickets £12, available from Hillsound, 24-26 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1PD, by telephoning (020) 8898 8020, or on the door.

NEW

Surrey Brass

Saturday 17 December, Carols by Candlelight, 7.30pm, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

A traditional concert for Christmas with carols, seasonal music and words performed by Surrey Brass, local choirs and you. This event is very popular, so early booking is essential. Tickets £13 (£12 concessions) from landmarkartscentre.org.uk.

Registers for October



BAPTISMS

9 Grace Elizabeth Harboure, Ealing
9 Frederick Johannes Sol, Hampton
16 Charlotte May Wilkins, Hampton Hill
30 Barnaby Lucas, Tower, Hampton Hill



FUNERALS

13 Dorothy Thornton, 97, Weybridge
19 Patrick Nolan, 29, Hampton

Vicar's View



'...relax Miss Pugh, the new vicar's not introducing incense — he's just got a new phone with a faulty battery!'



From the land of my fathers

From being a chorister in Cardiff, to attending tiny north Walian churches, to boarding school in Carmarthenshire, hymns have been a constant in my life. It was a struggle to whittle my favourites down to only 10, and I'm sure I have forgotten some, but here are a few that for one reason or another mean a lot to me.

1 CALON LAN (A PURE HEART) Daniel James (1847-1920)



This is the first of a number of Welsh hymns in my selection. A favourite of mine, Calon Lan is often sung at Welsh weddings, and, no matter how small the church, a Welsh congregation can really raise the roof. It's also pretty spectacular hearing it sung by a rugby crowd a few pints down.

2 BREAD OF HEAVEN William Williams (1717-1791)



A Harris family favourite at all life's major events: baptisms, weddings and funerals. Everyone knows Bread of Heaven, even if they are not churchgoers; it's a great crowd pleaser. Written by William Williams Pantycelyn in 1762 it was translated to the version we recognise in 1771 by Peter Williams. The hymn describes the experience of God's people in their travel through the wilderness from the escape from slavery in Egypt, to their final arrival 40 years later in the land of Canaan. During this time their needs were supplied by God, including the daily supply of manna.

3 THINE BE THE GLORY Edmund Budry (1854-1932)

The great Easter hymn was written by Swiss national Budry after the death of his first wife and set to the tune of the chorus *See, the Conqu'ring Hero Comes* from Handel's



oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus*. The victory and triumph of the resurrection are wonderfully celebrated, and I love hearing it fill the church on Easter morning.

4 O COME, O COME EMMANUEL Johannes Herringsdorf (c.1710)

This Advent hymn always stirs memories for me, singing as a choirboy in Christ Church, Radyr, in 1981. The winter was very severe that year and I remember having to trudge through snow to get to choir practice with my best friend, the vicar's son.



Many years later I returned to be married in Christ Church, by the same vicar.

5 LORD OF THE DANCE Sydney Carter (1963)

This was my son Will's favourite as a very little boy. At St Marys with St Alban, Teddington, Harold, the organist, would come down to the piano and play, and it seemed to get faster and faster. Will used to lean out of the pew and watch Harold intently.



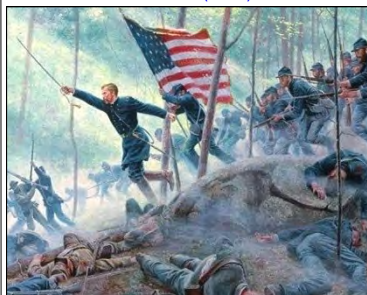
Coincidentally, it was written by an Old Blue of Christ's Hospital, where Will is now at school.

6 DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND Garrett Horder 1884



This reminds me of the summer of 1999, when Minnie and I attended 7 weddings, including our own. I am pretty sure this hymn was sung at all of them, including our own. It was a wonderful time for us.

7 BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC Julia Ward Howe (1861)



A great rousing hymn to stir the blood, and it is on my list for the final hymn at my funeral. I cannot think of a better way for the service to end. Written in 1861, it links the judgment of the wicked at the end of the age (Old Testament, Isaiah 63; New Testament, Rev. 19) with the American Civil War.



8 ARGLWYDD DYMA Lewis Hartsoough (1828-1919)

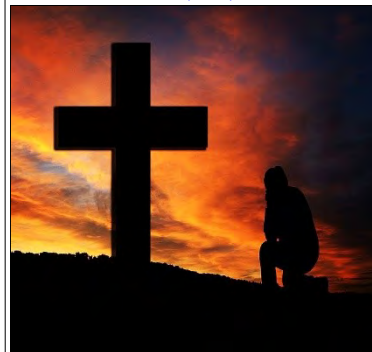
Otherwise known as *I am Coming, Lord*, this is a lovely Welsh hymn that reminds me of going to church as a boy with my Great Aunt Connie in North Wales. It was actually an



American gospel song and was translated by Ieuan Gwylt, a Calvinistic Methodist in 1872. It has become so well known in Wales that, despite its American origin, many people believe it to be an indigenously Welsh hymn. The singer Cerys Matthews, above, has recorded a particularly lovely version.



9 JUST AS I AM Charlotte Elliot (1865)



I did not know this hymn until relatively recently. It was sung at my father-in-law's funeral. Although I was not there, and never met him, I think it provides a lovely insight into him and the man he was. Its conviction of God's acceptance of us, regardless of our weaknesses, is very moving. Elliot wrote this song about how to find salvation through Christ. It has been used by many as the call to the altar at the close of services, as it brings a quiet simple message of sin, forgiveness, and salvation to all that turn from sin and trust in Jesus.

10 I BOB YN FFYDDLON Henry Lloyd (1870-1946)



This is another fantastic Welsh hymn (translated as *To All who are Faithful*) and reminds me of boarding school days at Llandovery, mid Wales.



Either side of the school chapel would compete with the chorus to belt it out and raise the roof. It's a rousing call to arms, and never failed to warm us up on those bitter mornings in the depths of Wales.