

DECEMBER 2014 - JANUARY 2015

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy



Happy
Christmas to all our readers

AROUND THE SPIRE P4 ■ RECIPE FOR LIFE P6 ■ WHAT'S ON P7

Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy

Vicar

The Revd Peter Vannozi (pictured, right)
Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather. He was ordained in 1987. Peter is a Governor of Hampton Hill Junior School and a Trustee of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group.
Telephone: 020 8979 2069
Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Curate

The Revd David Bell
David was born in Skipton in 1952. He is a self-supporting minister, ordained in June 2012, and working during the week in events sponsorship management.
Telephone: 077 1057 2498
Email: davidbell@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Parish Office

Administrator

Jane Gibson
For all general enquiries and hall bookings. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.
Telephone: 020 8941 6003
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Address: St James's Church, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ

Officials

Churchwarden

Carole Greville-Giddings
Carole has a background in social work, helps run The Ark, and is a chorister.
Telephone: 020 8979 6592
Email: carole.g-g@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwarden

Nick Bagge
Nick is a former television journalist, now working at a local theatre.
Telephone: 020 8783 0871
Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

Treasurer

Don Barrett
Before retiring, Don worked at the Church Commissioners for England, who manage the Church of England's assets.
Telephone: 020 8979 3331
Email: donbarrett8@blueyonder.co.uk

Organist / Choirmaster

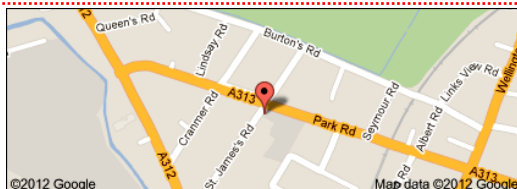
Vacant
All enquiries about music and the choir should be directed via the Parish Office
Telephone: 020 8941 6003

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.



From the Editor...

Christmas preparations seem to come earlier in the shops each year. It is difficult to cope with Christmas jingles and decorations when it is still only autumn with falling leaves and dramatic colours.

Music forms an integral part of all our Christmas festivities and in this edition we have two articles celebrating music. Veronica Barnes, Head of Music at LEH Junior, gives us an insight into her preparations for Christmas and what it means to her and the girls she teaches, and Jack Gostling has chosen his 10 favourite Christmas pieces of music.

One of the most popular Christmas celebrations in our church is the Christingle Service on Sunday 7 December. The church is packed with people of all ages and at the end of the service everyone stands in a big circle round the church with an orange. All the candles in the oranges are lit and the church lights turned off as we sing the special hymn.

On behalf of The Spire Committee may I wish you a happy Christmas and peaceful new year. Details of the Christmas services are on Page 7. You will be welcome at any of them.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



the **spire** is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James.

We make no charge for this magazine, but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs to enable us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to *The PCC of St James* and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office.

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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

Sunday 7 December 2nd Sunday of Advent

8am and 11am Isaiah 40.1-11;
2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8
9.30am Christingle Luke 1.46-55

Sunday 14 December

3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24;
John 1.6-8,19-28

Sunday 21 December

4th Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7.1-11,16; Romans 16.25-27
Luke 1.26-38

Sunday 28 December

Holy Innocents
Jeremiah 31.15-17; 1 Corinthians 1.26-29;
Matthew 2.13-18

Sunday 4 January

Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12;
Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 11 January Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1.1-5; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11

Sunday 18 January

2nd Sunday of Epiphany
1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20]; Revelation 5.1-10;
John 1.43-51

Sunday 25 January

Conversion of St Paul
Jeremiah 1.4-10; Acts 9.1-22;
Matthew 19.27-30

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

Adding us to the story



Steven Moffat, writer and executive producer of the hit TV shows *Doctor Who* and *Sherlock*, amongst many others, wrote: 'We're all stories, in the end.' What was he talking about? How am I, or you, a story? What is a 'story'? One definition is, 'An account or recital of an event or a series of events, either true or fictitious.'

As a human being, am I an account of events? In a sense, yes. All human beings carry with them their range of experiences which go to make up their 'story.'

I might weave my experiences into a coherent whole, and produce the narrative of my life. I may be happy with it or entirely the opposite, but there it is, my 'story.'

Given this, it is no wonder that human beings are constantly involved in producing stories. They are part of what we are, and what we do, as human beings.

We're all stories, in the end.

What is truth and what is fiction?

What makes a good story, whether it be 'true' or 'fictitious'? As it happens, I think that 'truth' and 'fiction' are false opposites. I have read many works of fiction that nonetheless are 'true' in that they accurately depict human nature.

At this time I always like to re-read *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. I find 'truth' in this work of fiction. A good story for me is one that engages me rapidly. Some do not, and I tire of them quickly, though some novels get better as they go on, so it can be worth persevering.

I need something to hook me – an interesting character, a surprising opening chapter, a plot that promises intrigue, a link with my own life. Or if the story is a biography or autobiography, some point of connection which means my life has parallels with the person whose life story I am reading.

We're all stories in the end.

The Christmas Story

At Christmas, story is central. It begins the story of Jesus. This story holds my attention. There is human interest. A man and heavily pregnant woman travelling. There is potential for things to go horribly wrong.

Charity Box Welcare

Welcare has recently enjoyed its 120th anniversary celebration service in Southwark Cathedral, having been founded in 1894 by the wife of the then Bishop of Rochester as a Christian response to the many needs of poor families.

It offers its services from six centres across South London and East Surrey and has an excellent reputation in those communities.

Welcare supports children up to the age of 13 and families who are experiencing challenges in their lives. It provides family support work, advocacy, volunteer mentors, skills training, parenting groups,



Will they manage the journey of 69 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem? In those days, this was a considerable distance.

Will Mary cope with the traumas of childbirth at a time when it proved fatal for many, both mothers and children?

What is the point of telling us all this anyway?

It becomes clearer when shepherds are introduced. They were not well regarded in Jesus's day. Shepherds had a reputation for criminal behaviour, and religious negligence. Yet there they are, these smelly, dodgy outcasts.

It is to them that the heavens are opened – they hear the angels sing, and cannot but rush to find something stupendous.

They find a child. It is not a king they find, in a conventional sense, or someone powerful, in the usual sense of the word.

They find a new-born baby in a manger.

The plot twists, and it becomes clear that the story of Jesus is to be quite a bumpy ride!

In the beginning...

Bearing in mind that *We're all stories in the end*, how do you react to the beginning of Jesus's story this Christmas? Is there one thing that strikes you? If so, why do you think that is?

Christmas invites us to enter into the story of Jesus, and to see that it is about us. The shepherds on the perimeter of 'proper' society: are you there?

The uncertainty as a new life comes into the world: is that yours, too?

The joy at a new human life: do you feel it?

The angels' song of God's peace: do you yearn for it?

How does your story tie up with the Christmas story? Take time this Christmas to read Luke 2.1-20.

Jesus will draw you in

I wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a happy 2015. I hope that both will add to your story positively, though this can be a difficult time for many.

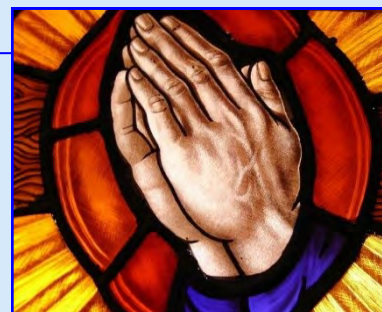
I hope, also, that Jesus's story will draw you in, and that he will be your friend and companion, your stories overlapping each other, and his adding richly to yours.

We're all stories in the end.

counselling and domestic abuse recovery for children.

Richmond Welcare has moved from Twickenham Green to Parkside House in East Sheen. It will not offer its services there, but take them out to schools and communities throughout the borough. It hopes that churches will continue to support its work.

As part of its tercentenary outreach, St Anne's Kew is funding a MySpace course for a group of Key Stage 2 children (aged 8-10) who have suffered domestic violence. It will be run at a school in Barnes by Richmond Welcare's family support worker, Lia Tiganov (on the left in the photo), and a colleague from another Welcare centre.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Bethlehem today

Each generation retells the Christmas story in its own way, especially through carols.

Here is a new version of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, bearing in mind the continuing conflict in the Holy Land, but also the Christmas truce in the trenches in December 1914.



**O little town of Bethlehem,
the crib beneath our tree
makes you seem real, and there we kneel,
in flights of fantasy.
All caught up in the shepherds,
the angels and the star,
we fail to see reality,
the dreadful cost of war.**

**O little town, like every town,
your streets are filled with life.
While children play their mothers pray
for end to hate and strife.
Where is the Christmas angel
with promises of peace?
What task is ours, to heal the scars,
and make the bloodshed cease?**

**O little town, I wish that I
could view you like a child:
could only see romantically
the Babe and 'Virgin mild.'
For then I'd find my pleasure
in jingling bells and sleigh.
No need to ask, to face the task:
have we a role to play?**

Sr. Ann Pat Ware 2012
www.ncronline.org





Local and National stories

Justin broke down over abuse toll



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND is examining the personnel files of thousands of clergymen and women dating back to the 1950s as part of a wide-ranging investigation into historical allegations of child abuse.

The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said the move is part of a plan to ensure no allegations of abuse have been ignored, overlooked or covered up.

The Church has been rocked by recent disclosures of widespread child abuse and Archbishop Justin conceded that the investigations would show that 'there is more that has not been revealed'.

He has also revealed that he regularly listened to victims. 'It is beyond description – terrible. I had a meeting with some survivors a few weeks ago and was giving a talk later that afternoon, somewhere else and on a completely different subject, but someone asked... about issues of safeguarding, and to my intense surprise – and I don't normally do this sort of thing – I broke down completely.'

He said, 'It was the shredding effect of hearing what we did – what we did – to those people and the sense of total failure and betrayal.'

As part of the plan, the Church is to examine the confidentiality of the confessional – a move which could overturn 1,800 years of tradition.

Canadian war veteran remembers

THE GUEST OF HONOUR at our Remembrance Sunday service was Lt Col Jean Trudel, of the Canadian High Commission, pictured with his wife Claire. He laid a wreath at the War Memorial and planted a cross on each Canadian war grave. The choir and large congregation sang *O Canada*, the Canadian National Anthem.

The 13 graves are those of Canadian soldiers who died in a makeshift military hospital in Bushy Park during the First World War. In this centenary year, it seemed appropriate to pay tribute to them and to remember the thousands of soldiers from other countries who also gave their lives.

Our Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, presented Lt Col Trudel with a card containing a poem they had written about one of the soldiers, Richard Coppard.



Sam leaves for a new church post

SAMUEL DRAPER, our organist and choirmaster for the past four years, has moved to Bermondsey and accepted a post as organist at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Rotherhithe. This church has a historic organ, built in 1764, whose tonal qualities have been preserved so that it sounds much as it would have done in Handel's time. It is particularly suited to Baroque music, a favourite of Sam's. He will also continue to conduct the Oberon Symphony Orchestra in London.

Sam's last service with us was on 9 November, Remembrance Sunday, when Peter expressed our appreciation of his work with us and presented him with a gift. We wish Sam every success in his new post.



Young voices tell



Christmas is one of the church's busiest times. The extra services we put on are just part of a packed calendar of events. As part of that, every year we welcome hundreds of children to perform school services. Veronica Barnes, Head of Music of the Junior Department of The Lady Eleanor Holles School, starts preparing hers early...



The day has dawned fine, sunny and warm. The sun is climbing to its zenith and the temperature is rising to the high twenties. It's midsummer and holiday time. We are told it's not good to spend too much time sitting in the garden in the intensity of the morning sun's rays, so I reluctantly leave my back garden, make a cup of tea and ponder the next LEH Junior Department Carol Service!

It's not long before I am raiding my shelves packed with music books, many tidy but many not so tidy.

I aim for the Christmas quarter: carols for four-part choirs, carols for solo voices, carols for treble voices in two and three parts — what would be good this year?

I have tried, over my years of teaching in a school, never to repeat a choir carol in a service or in a public performance. This may seem daunting, but there are several good, new carols which appear (like the angels) and surprise you each year.

We were even lucky enough to have a composer/organist accompanying us for several years when his granddaughter was in the Junior Department.

His carol *Good Cheer* became a great favourite of the choir and certainly brought out the joyfulness of the occasion.

The story never changes

The good thing about planning any carol service is that the 'plot' doesn't alter.

Mary and Joseph have to travel to a crowded Bethlehem before the special baby is born in a stable; the shepherds are amazed by the glorious and probably quite frightening sight of the Angel Host singing their own private song to them; and it all ends with the homage of the Oriental Wise Men who had travelled so far, following the strange star phenomenon.



Christmas story



Different religions but the same excitement

So, all I have to do is to find the appropriate carols which not only portray the story, but also bring it to life again in a fun way for the children at LEH Junior Department to sing and play.

Choosing these carols and teaching them is fun for me too. At LEH Junior, like most schools, we have pupils from different religious backgrounds and from none. However, they all look forward to the excitement of Christmas. As part of my 'hymn practice' sessions at school I will introduce them to the different church seasons, Advent being the first major one at the start of an academic year.

Jesus was a VIP

The central part of Christmas is baby Jesus, whom we as Christians know as The Son of God. I know that Jesus is acknowledged in other religions, but as a prophet, a leader, not The Messiah.

However, in my teaching of the carols in school, I help the children to see that Jesus was obviously a very important baby to Jewish people (he was a Jew himself after all).

The shepherds, who would have been Jewish, left their sheep and went rushing to see him in Bethlehem. They couldn't contain their joy afterwards and sang their way along the streets in the night hours — with no thought for the other residents of the town!

The Wise Men who travelled from the East were most certainly not of the Jewish faith. They brought special presents for him which showed his kingship, his priestly calling and foretold his early, painful death at the hand of the occupying Romans.

The unfamiliar carols...

There is something in the Christmas story for everyone. I have found over my many years as a teacher and Head of Music, that the words and music of the familiar congregational carols, such as *While Shepherds Watched*, *We Three Kings* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem* are becoming less familiar to the young.

However, we are all able to experience the happy, joyous feeling of the re-telling of the Christmas Story through both traditional carols and more modern ones with their infectious rhythms.



Jack's special day at St Paul's

JACK, SON OF David and Nicky Hetling, was confirmed at St. Paul's Cathedral on 1 November. They are pictured on the steps. In total there were 70 candidates, of whom nine were also baptised as well as confirmed. Jack was baptised at St James's in June last year. We welcome him as the newest confirmed member of our church.



Lent — advance notice of dates

TWO DATES for your 2015 diary: Ash Wednesday is 18 February. There will be services of Holy Communion with ashing at 9.30am and 7.30pm.

The Lent course, entitled *Challenges of Today*, will begin on Monday 23 February at 7.30pm in church. This will be a series of talks and discussions about major challenges to society and church. Further details will follow in the next issue, and in church and on the website.

Children's Society boxes net £250

THE CONTENTS OF the Children's Society boxes, which many of you have at home, have now been counted and the total was just under £250. Eight new households have taken boxes; anyone else wanting one should contact David Hetling or the church office. We hope for a similar splendid result from the Christingle candle boxes.



When time stood still

THE CHURCH CLOCK has been out of action recently. The clock was originally installed in 1893 and the mechanism is almost unchanged. In 1943 the two weights driving chimes and the hours were replaced by electric motors. The clock retained its weight, which is re-wound by a third motor working through a special gearing system. Unlike the old clock mechanism, which

shrugs off its age, this re-wound gearing system failed recently and needed a major repair. Because of its age, it is difficult to replace worn parts and sometimes they have to be specially made. We are grateful to Dick Wilde for seeing to routine maintenance and adjustment over many years and calling in the specialists from Derby when required. As we went to print we were hopeful the clock would be running and the bells chiming again soon.

Charity Christmas Cards sale

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the charity Christmas cards sales recently and helped raise money for various causes. Don't forget that Ann Peterken still has Traidcraft gifts available for those last-minute presents!

Help for keeping warm this winter

KEEPING WARM keeps you well. That is the message to older people this winter from Richmond Council — part of a campaign that provides free home visits for advice and information on heating, insulation, benefits, and health.

The cold causes 26,000 excess winter deaths annually in the UK — about 90 people locally. As part of its Winter Warmth campaign, the council is working with local providers to help older people across the borough before the winter weather kicks in.

During the visits, specialists will advise on heating, insulation and boiler repairs; offer free water-saving devices, smoke alarms, radiator reflector panels, and draught-proofing; how to lower bills; and eligible benefits. To arrange for a free home visit telephone 0800 118 2327.





So, you think you know all about the man in red?



The man who so loved God that he spread joy to others

Who was Saint Nicholas?

Feast Day December 6

Saint Nicholas is popular with children all over the world. He is sometimes known as Kriss Kringle, which is a corruption of the German Christkindlein (little Christ child), Père Noël in France, Santa Claus in America and Father Christmas here in Britain.

Hundreds of years ago, Nicholas lived in a seaside town called Myra in the country we now call Turkey. He studied hard, prayed often, and followed Jesus by helping the poor.

The people of Myra loved and respected Nicholas and when their old bishop died, they elected Nicholas to replace him. He served them well for a long time.

Nicholas was loved because he loved God and God's people so much that he would do anything for them.

An old story about Nicholas

Here is a story about Nicholas that has been passed down through many generations:

In olden days, when a young woman got married she had to bring money or property with her into the marriage. This is called a dowry.

In the house in our story, there lived a poor man who had three daughters. He was so poor, he did not have enough money for a dowry, so his daughters couldn't get married.

One night, Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of gold down the chimney into their house. The bag fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry. It meant that the oldest daughter was able to be married. This was repeated later with the second daughter.

Finally, determined to discover the person who had given him the money, the father secretly hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping in a bag of gold.

Nicholas begged the man to not tell anyone what he had done, because he did not want to bring attention to himself. But soon the news got out and when anyone received a secret gift, it was thought that maybe it was from Nicholas.

In the story, the bag of gold settled as a ball in the toe of the stocking and today our stockings often have a satsuma or tangerine (the golden fruit) in the toe.

The gift of love

Christmas is fun because we celebrate with our families and friends and because we can show them how much we love them by giving them special gifts.

We give because we're grateful for friendship and love and we're grateful to God for giving us life.

St. Nicholas was grateful too — so grateful for the life God had given him that he just couldn't stop giving joy and hope to others, no matter how far he had to travel or how many roofs he had to climb!

What can you do for others this Christmas?

At Christmas we should try to be more like St Nicholas. He showed his gratitude for God's gifts by giving to others. What gifts can you and your family share with those in greater need?



RECIPE for LIFE with Griselda Barrett

Mince Pies



The ingredients of the mince pie are traceable to the 13th century, when returning European crusaders brought with them Middle Eastern recipes containing meats, fruits and spices.

The early mince pie was known by several names, including mutton pie, shrid pie and Christmas pie. Typically, its ingredients were a mixture of minced meat, suet, a range of fruits, and spices, such as cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg.

Served around Christmas, the savoury Christmas pie (as it became known) was associated with supposed Catholic 'idolatry' and during the English Civil War was frowned on by the Puritan authorities.

Nevertheless, the tradition of eating Christmas pie in December continued through to the Victorian era, although by then its recipe had become sweeter and its size reduced markedly from the large oblong shape once observed.

Although the modern recipe is no longer the same list of 13 ingredients once used (representative of Christ and his 12 Apostles according to author Margaret Baker), and lacks the religious significance of that, the mince pie remains a popular Christmas treat today.

Ingredients

Makes 12

- 350g / 12oz high quality mincemeat
- 200g / 7oz plain flour, sifted
- 40g / 1½oz golden caster sugar
- 75g / 2¾oz ground almonds
- 125g / 4½oz unsalted butter, diced
- 1 large free-range egg, beaten
- Milk, to glaze



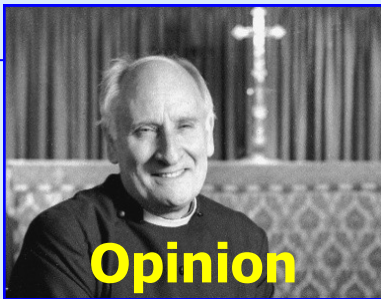
Method

- 1) Lightly butter a 12-hole pie or patty tin. Tip the mincemeat into a bowl and stir so that the liquid is evenly distributed.
- 2) Place the flour, sugar, almonds and butter in a food processor and process briefly until it resembles breadcrumbs, then slowly add the egg through the feeder tube. (Or rub the butter into the dry ingredients by hand and stir in the egg.)
- 3) Bring the mixture together with your hands, wrap in cling film and chill for an hour or so.
- 4) Thinly roll out the pastry on a floured surface. Cut out 12 circles with a fluted pastry cutter, large enough to fill the base of the prepared tin. Press gently into each hole, then fill with the mincemeat.
- 5) Cut out another 12 slightly smaller discs and use to cover the mincemeat. Press the edges together to seal. Make a small slit in the top of each, and then brush lightly with milk. Chill for about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 200°C / 400°F / Gas Mark 6.
- 6) Bake the pies for 20 minutes until golden brown. Remove to a wire rack and serve warm.
- 7) To make the snowflake pattern, place a festive doily as a template and sprinkle with icing sugar.



Next Issue:

Pancakes



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

POPE FRANCIS and 10 TIPS FOR HAPPINESS

Be giving of yourself to others; proceed calmly, beware pressure always to do better; have and enjoy time off; Sundays should be holidays; create dignified jobs for young people; respect and care for nature; don't be negative, encourage praise in family life, affirm others; respect other beliefs; work for peace; keep seeking forgiveness for yourself and others.

STRANGE POLLS?

Normally a Government with dramatic decreases in unemployment, the economy clearly growing, and an opposition only just getting its act together, could expect to be streets ahead in the polls. However, this does not seem to be the case. Two factors may account for this. Millions are on Zero Hours Contracts, often earning so little they pay little or no tax, and the large increase in self employment, again with people on low incomes. The other reason is wages. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) suggest that average weekly wages have fallen £50 in real terms since 2008. Hence Government tax receipts appear to be falling.

Interestingly, the Institute of Directors (IOD) backed the recent TUC campaign for a wage rise for British workers and also attacked 'astronomical' pay deals for top executives. IOD members earn about £100,000 a year, but, as they point out, the average annual pay for the top 100 executives is now over £3 million.

DISABILITY and CUTS

I declare an interest – with a stepson with learning difficulties I am aware how things have improved for disabled people in the past 20 years. But recently things have gone backwards. The Centre for Welfare Reform estimates that compared with the average, people with disabilities have been hit nine times harder by austerity, and the total hit for those with severe disabilities is 19 times greater.

Two policies stand out. Two-thirds of those affected by the bedroom tax have a disabled occupant – this tax is now widely criticised across the political spectrum – and the administration of the policy to radically reduce those on Disability Living Allowance has been described by the relevant parliamentary select committee as a 'fiasco'.

ARCHBISHOP'S DOUBTS

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, admitted in public that he sometimes thinks 'where is God in all this?' He continued, 'We can't explain all the questions in the world, we can't explain about suffering, we can't explain loads of things, but... we can talk about Jesus. I always do that because most of the other questions I can't answer.'

VICARS IN THEIR 50s

According to recent research C of E vicars are most likely to quit in their 50s. The statistics also show that churches flourish most when they are run by priests in their 40s or 60s. We need to keep hold of Peter for a few more years yet!

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

It is time for my favourite Christmas Blessing. 'You who are the God of a thousand faces yet whom nothing can reveal so completely as the face of the child in Bethlehem, continue in our lives the mystery of your incarnation, that we may be for all whom we meet a revelation of your love.'

What's On

with Nick Bagge



NEW

The Snow Queen

Saturday 6-Saturday 13 December, Hampton Hill Playhouse, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

A sparkling adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale traces Gerda's epic mission to save her friend Kay from the evil clutches of the Snow Queen. Tickets £9-15, family £35. teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk or telephone 0845 838 7529

Traidcraft Christmas gifts

Sunday 7 December, 10.30-11.30am,

Fitz Wygram Church Hall, St James's Church, Hampton Hill Our monthly stall has a good selection of gifts. The catalogue shows the full range and it's not too late to order for Christmas!

NEW

Christingle Service

Sunday 7 December, 9.30am, St James's Church

This is a great family occasion, when we remember the work of the Children's Society and encircle the church with our lighted Christingles. Children will be given candle-shaped collecting boxes to take home to fill and return by the end of January.

NEW

Visitees Tea Party

Tuesday 9 December, 3-4.30pm, St James's Church

Much-missed friends from St James's join us for some festive cheer. Do come and join the party. Catch up on news and meet long-time friends who can no longer get to church.

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 13 December, 7.30pm, St James's Church

The programme will include *Christmas Truce*, Jonathan Rathbone's oratorio exploring the spontaneous ceasefire at the front line in France on Christmas Eve 1914. Taking the form of a narrative by a soldier who was there, it incorporates beautiful carols, poetry by Edward Thomas and a setting of the 23rd Psalm. Tickets £12 in advance (concessions £10) available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham

NEW

Twickenham Choral Society

Saturday 13 December, 7.30pm, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

A concert commemorating the First World War, including works by Scarlatti, Vaughan Williams and Farrington, and settings of poetry and prose by Sassoon and Whitman. Tickets £18. landmarkartscentre.org or 020 8977 7558

NEW

Rowan Williams: The Gift of Christmas

Friday 19 December, 7pm, The Meditatio Centre, St Marks, Myddelton Square, LONDON EC1R 1XX

In the midst of the frantic consumerism of Christmas, here is a chance to find peace and reflect on the deeper meaning of the gift. Tickets £10. Booking essential. Online wccmmeditatio.org or telephone 020 7278 2070.

Registers



We were unable to include the August and September funerals in last month's edition.

AUGUST

Funerals
20 Ronald William Stiles, 85, Twickenham

22 Isabella Dorothy Smith, 93, Twickenham

SEPTEMBER

Funeral
26 Hilda Irene Rogers, 83, Hampton Hill



OCTOBER

Baptisms
25 Harry Freddie David James Prescott, Hampton Hill

26 Benjamin Arthur Griffiths, Sunbury

Funerals
3 Margaret Helena Clark, 88, Hampton Hill

20 Kathleen Brooks, 93, Hampton Hill

22 Bessie Abbot, 84, Teddington

28 Alan Arthur Payne, 83, Hampton Hill

Christmas at St James's Church

Sunday 21 December

Service of Lessons and Carols 6.30pm
Familiar carols, mince pies and mulled wine

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

Crib Service 4.30pm

The story of the nativity for young and old
Midnight Mass 11pm

Readings from Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

Holy Communion 8am

The Book of Common Prayer

Parish Communion 9.30am

Readings from Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

Wednesday 31 December New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve Service 4.30pm

A service that reflects on the past year and the year to come

NEW

Cantanti Camerati

Saturday 20 December, 7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SN.

A festive evening of carols, choral arrangements and soloists. Tickets £12 in advance or on door. Available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4BN.

NEW

Chapel Royal Choir

Sunday 21 December, 4pm, The Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU

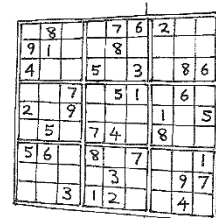
The choir has been enriching life for nearly 500 years. Today's choir comprises 10 men, who are professional singers, and 14 boys. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is an annual favourite. There are no tickets. Doors will open at 3.15pm and worshippers will be seated until the chapel is full.

NEW

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 25 January, 6pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

While there are many different Christian churches and denominations, all have the same basic calling — to worship God, to share the good news about Jesus and to work for the good of all people. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed from 18-25 January, the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul, and this year the united service for all the Hampton and Hampton Hill churches will be at St James's. Please support it!



Vicar's View



'As some of you enjoy doing Sudoku during my sermons, I challenge you to unravel today's hymn numbers...'



Each piece of music evokes vivid memories

Music has been a very important part of my life, and in the light of many decades as a singer, or performer, or as a member of the audience at performances, with choirs, choral societies and at concerts, the selection of ten pieces of music has not been easy. However, for the Christmas season, one magnificent piece must be outstanding. So my selection ends with Handel's *Messiah*.

1 IL EST NÉ LE DIVIN ENFANT French traditional carol



I was introduced to this during my spell as a Community Governor of Hampton Academy, then called Rectory School.

Its Deputy Head, Netta Forward, had the idea of a small adult group of parents and teachers to augment the school choir. This was an early choice.

Translated into English, the first verse reads:

*He is born, the divine child.
Oboes play, let the pipes resound!
He is born, the divine child.
Let all sing his coming!*

*For more than four thousand years
The prophets promised him to us.
For more than four thousand years
We were awaiting this happy time.*

2 A CHRISTMAS ORATORIO J S Bach BWV 248

When I first sang this in English with Hampton Choral Society, I remember the opening words as *Christians be joyful*. Translations from the German vary, but the music is indeed joyful, and has a delightful dancing rhythm.

The oratorio was written for performance on six feast days of Christmas during the winter of 1734 and 1735. The original score also contains details of when each part was performed.



It was incorporated within services of the two most important churches in Leipzig, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas, pictured. The work was only performed in its entirety at the St. Nicholas.

3 O TANNENBAUM German folk song



Translated, *The Christmas Tree*, was originally the tragic German tale of a broken-hearted man, betrayed by the woman he loved. Only the Christmas tree is constant.

My older brother, shot down on a bombing raid in 1943, and then for two years held as a prisoner of war, remembered this being sung by *kriegies* (Prisoners of War) at camp concerts.

4 THE CAROL SINGERS Thomas Sterndale Bennett



A group of optimistic carol-singers waits, singing to some of the 'local gentry', but sadly unrewarded.

Margery Orton's book *The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill* states that there were only five 19th century 'gentry houses' in St James's Road, on the side facing the Church.

Stretch the imagination: could these chaps have been serenading outside *Willowbrook* (since demolished to form a site on which, in 1956, I built *Boundaries* for our family home)? Or, possibly *Wayside*, now No 25, restored to its original condition by builder Steve Croft; who lives there with his wife Ann and their children?

5 WACHET AUF J S Bach BWV 140



Also known as *Sleepers Wake*, this is a church cantata. A truly rousing call! It is nowadays set for the 27th Sunday after Trinity. Only rarely – when Easter falls between the 22nd and 26th of March – does the calendar have a 27th Sunday after Trinity. Bach's rare opportunity to compose a work for Trinity 27 came in 1704 when he was 19. The text of the first movement calls for all Jerusalem to wake, prepare the feast and go to meet him. The inhabitants are called to take up their lamps as the bridegroom approaches.

6 KING JESUS HATH A GARDEN Traditional Dutch carol



'...a garden full of diverse flowers, where naught is heard but... harp, dulcimer, lute, trump and cymbal and the tender soothing flute.' Set to a Dutch tune; a lovely lilting melody, and a pleasant conceit.

A pity that, in our garden at least, the reality is so often spoiled by aircraft and by traffic noise on the A316.

7 RADEZKY MARCH Johann Strauss I



The New Year's Concert, live from Vienna, revolves around the waltzes and polkas of the Strauss family. Dedicated to Field-Marshal Joseph Radetzky, this has been a staple favourite, the audience restrained from applause until eventually invited by the conductor to join in, clapping in rhythm with the final reprise (plus, generally, at least one encore).

8 CHE GELIDA MANIÑA Giacomo Puccini



This aria, translated as *Your tiny hand is frozen*, comes from the opera *La Bohème*.

The Christmas celebration of Mimi, a maker of artificial flowers, the poet Rodolfo, the musician Schaunard, and philosopher Colline, is set in the painter Mardello's garret in Paris. The latter three go for a meal, leaving Mimi and Rodolfo alone in the icy garret. She is unwell: he seeks to warm her hands... First performed in February 1896.

9 DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH George Ratcliffe Woodward



In the early 1940s, our family building firm was asked to form the ringing chamber of the newly built tower of All Hallows Church, Twickenham, pictured above.

The tower and its bells had been moved from All Hallows, Lombard Street. I got involved at the age of 17, when the bells were swung without clappers to test the effect. (The ringing of all the bells would have been a signal that an invasion had begun) A clever instrument revealed that the tower swayed by about 16mm: barely noticeable, and structurally quite safe.

10 UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN George Frideric Handel



The opening of this magnificent oratorio marks a change of mood from quiet reverence to exaltation. *Every Valley Shall be Exalted* (exquisitely rendered over many years by our own David Taylor), the *Hallelujah Chorus: Worthy is the Lamb* and the final *Amen Chorus* — all are favourites. For three memorable years I was among 700 voices who sang *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall, under the baton of Charles Farncombe, to raise money for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children. On one of these occasions my son, John, joined me.