

MARCH 2011

THE SPIRE



Jennifer Wettaka,
a Fairtrade coffee
farmer in Uganda

Fairtrade Fortnight ● Ash Wednesday ● Supporting the UN

The Spire

St James's Church
Registered Charity No 1129286

This Spire is produced nine times a year on behalf of the PCC of St James's Church.

We make no charge for this magazine but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs, enabling 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.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

STORIES, FEATURES

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The Spire is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish or posted further afield. To find out about receiving a regular copy this way contact Susan Horner:

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NEXT ISSUE/COPY DEADLINE

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The Spire magazine is working hard to ensure that all its paper is sourced from well-managed forests (as laid down by the Forest Stewardship Council). This magazine may be recycled for use in newspapers or packaging.



St James's Church is proud to be a Fairtrade church. We use only Fairtrade communion wine, and Fairtrade tea and coffee after services. We also promote Fairtrade

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

Welcome

March 2001



The Spire Committee has received some good news from our printer, Justin Hollingsworth. A new copier means he can produce all nine yearly issues of *The Spire* in full colour at no extra cost. It has long been our ambition to produce all copies in full colour, but previously it was not affordable. We are very grateful to Justin, who gives us such good service and value for money.

This month the Leader has been written by David Bell, an Ordinand in his second year of training, who worships with us. David has taken part in several services and will be preaching on Sunday 20 March. We look forward to hearing him.

Our centrespread this month is about Fairtrade and we shall continue the theme throughout the year, giving suggestions of products we can all afford, and which in return give fair prices to farmers in countries such as Mali and Uganda. With Easter approaching, don't forget to buy Fairtrade chocolate eggs too.

Best wishes

Janet

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➔ AMENDMENTS to the Editor, please.

OUR CLERGY



VICAR

Revd Peter Vannozi

Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather who came from

Florence to the UK in the late 19th century.

Peter's calling came while at college in Osterley,

not far from Hampton Hill, and he was ordained in

1987. Prior to St James's, Peter was Vice Dean

and Canon Pastor at Wakefield Cathedral. He is

the Chair of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior

School, of which he has member since 2007.

Peter is a familiar sight out and about in Hampton

Hill, often with his fox terrier, Paddy.

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These should be made in person in church on a

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SERVICES FOR MARCH

There are further details about Lent services in Events on page seven

Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

6 March — Sunday next before Lent

09.30 All-Age Communion

Exodus 24.12-end

2 Peter 1.16-end; Matthew 17.1-9

13 March — 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7

Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11

20 March — 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12.1-4a; Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

John 3.1-17

27 March — 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17.1-7; Romans 5.1-11

John 4.5-42

Mondays-Fridays

(but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in month

2 March

7am Commuter Communion

1st Thursday in month

3 March

2pm Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday

9 March

9.30am and 7.30pm

Holy Communion with Ashing at both services

Joel 1.1-2, 12-17

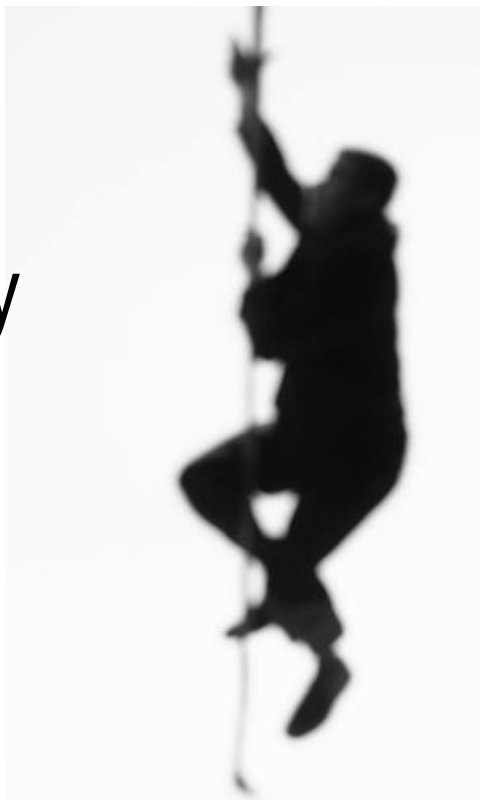
2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

John 8.1-11

The Leader Column

THE SPIRE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE EVERY MONTH, AND THERE IS AN EXTENSIVE ARCHIVE

Neither priest
nor student.
Welcome to my
world of the
in-betweener,
striving to fulfil
my potential



If you can remember one of those 'in-between' times in your life, such as being engaged – so neither single nor married – or having just left school or university, but not yet in employment, then you will have some idea of what it feels like to be an Ordinand.

My time of being neither congregation nor priest runs for three years and I am now in my second year at theological college at Southwark.

Does this make me different? Well, I'd say no, because we all have to live with uncertainty in our lives and the knowledge that our questions are not always being answered, but most of us prefer stability and a reassurance that things will work out. If I don't knuckle down to the work though, I will not fulfil my potential and, of course, that is no different to all of us either.

Apart from re-discovering and, more often, discovering for the first time, the treasures of scripture and self-awareness, the aspects of the training that have been significant for me are the mission work and my experience as one of a pastoral team.

The mission work last year involved me being part of a team of fellow trainee priests working with a South London church on their mission to local people. It was such a privilege to journey with that Christian community and share their challenge. We went out and about asking residents for their views and then conducted wider research to discover what type of people lived in the area.

Having debated, read and prayed for discernment about a way forward, we presented suggestions back to the church that could help them connect with residents who were under 30 years old, offering them friendship and a place to meet up informally.

My pastoral placement has been at University College Hospital as a trainee chaplain. It was humbling to be with such vulnerable people and then realising how, unknowingly, I was bringing my vulnerability to these bedside encounters.



David
Bell

I have nothing but admiration for the employed hospital chaplains there ... of all faiths. They work in a busy and very large hospital in wards over 14 floors looking over central London. Those of you who have had a spell of NHS hospitality will know that it is not the most peaceful place to be, especially if you are perhaps feeling sorry for yourself. My task was primarily to listen and, if possible, convey a sense of peace for them to dwell in momentarily.

I found listening hard to people's experiences quite demanding, but had my assumptions shattered as I repeatedly sensed pure and loving light, shining out of darkness.

My academic learning is confusing and inspirational at the same time, and I think all

my peers are doing better than me. Do you recognise that feeling? At the moment we are interpreting the Old Testament in class and I will begin preaching with a sermon during Lent, with fellow students attending to give their assessment.

So there is never a dull moment and I find all the experiences challenging, fascinating and very good, which is useful because the Church of England — that means you — is paying for this Christ Church Canterbury University Foundation Degree course on Theology in Ministry.

Have you a goal in life at the moment? If so, it is good to remember that you are not on your own in striving, as God, in wanting you to fulfil your true potential, freely provides the power of his Spirit. For me, that goal is to be ordained next summer at St Paul's Cathedral (and still be married!) and then sent out to serve the Good Shepherd, through the Holy Spirit and by the grace of our Father.

Thank you all for your prayers and support and I pray that you may never doubt our Redeemer's saving power, which is unconditionally offered to you and yours, now and for ever.

IN THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 9 March. It is a solemn season of preparation for the great festival of Easter. Music and scripture readings reflect the emphasis of the season – there is much about being penitent before God, and seeking his forgiveness. There is a variety of different texts for Lent that will be used in worship at St. James's. One example is the 'preface' to the Eucharistic Prayer. The Prayer is a key one at the celebration of the Eucharist, and the first part (*preface*) will often vary, depending on the time of the Christian year or occasion, such as a saint's day. Here are the two prefaces for Lent – the first is used up until the end of the fourth week of Lent and the second is from the Fifth Sunday of Lent when the focus moves towards the cross of Jesus.

For the first four weeks of Lent:

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

From the fifth week of Lent:

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near

the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

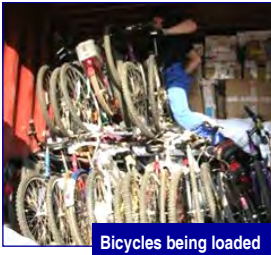
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord...

Tools charity that offers better future

'Thank you so much for donating a sewing machine to the grandmother of Ndagire, a little girl who lives in Kasangati, Uganda. The machine was received with great joy by the family. It will be used by the grandmother to provide an income as she is now the sole carer for 11 of her grandchildren.'



Bicycles being loaded

IN JANUARY this container of 24 bicycles, 145 sewing machines and an assortment of tool kits was sent to Faith's Orphanage in Kitwe, Zambia by the charity Tools With A Mission (TWAM).

It is just over a year since Janet Nunn took over the local collections for TWAM and it has been a revelation. She is constantly amazed by where all the tools come from and is so grateful to everyone for contributing to its success. Not only do we look after the environment by not sending things to landfill but, as the above quote shows, we help other people to learn a skill to earn their own living.

Janet had three collections in 2010, the most popular items being bicycles and sewing machines. Her predecessor collected 100 sewing machines, a figure Janet hopes to reach this year too. 'My total so far is 63, but I hope to complete my 100 in 2011,' she said.

There is a dedicated group of volunteers who do the deliveries and work in the warehouse at Ipswich, Suffolk. 'Every time I receive the TWAM quarterly newsletter there are stories of how all the goods are dealt with.' You can view the newsletter online at www.twam.co.uk. The website has lots of information about the charity too.

Apart from all the usual items (bicycles, sewing machines, DIY tools, garden tools) which Janet has been collecting, the list now includes knitting wool, patterns, needles, buttons, ribbons, lace, tape measures, thimbles and scissors; tapestry and embroidery materials and kits; and curtains in good condition. Janet has patterns for knitting small jumpers and vests for children, and squares for cot blankets, as well as a cupboard full of the necessary wool. All she needs is some volunteers!

With spring cleaning on many people's minds, please think about TWAM when you are turning out sheds, garages or cupboards. The only two things TWAM doesn't take are computers and lawn mowers. Not only does TWAM need practical things, they do also need help to pay for shipping containers to the other side of the world, running a warehouse and workshop, two vans and paying staff.

■ For more information, or if you can help in any way, contact Janet Nunn, telephone 020 8979 6325 or email janunnh@btinternet.com.



GOING BANANAS FOR THE WINDWARD ISLANDS

IT IS NO exaggeration to say that Fairtrade has saved the Windward Islands. The banana trade has been crucial to the islands for more than 50 years, now accounting for half of all exports. It is only by selling produce as Fairtrade that their farmers have survived. Please buy Fairtrade bananas and keep them in business.

REGISTERS FOR JANUARY



Wedding

22 Gavin Andrew Hughes and Linda Hounson, Hampton

Funerals

10 Edward Albert Aplin (Ted), Hampton Hill, 86

13 Cyril James Cooper, Hampton Hill, 89

31 Alexis Jane Sims, Hampton Hill, 45

Baptisms

22 Poppy Mae Cook-Chalmers, Hampton Hill

22 Lennon James Kerr-Chalmers, Hampton Hill

Service of Thanksgiving

15 Frankie Mascarenhas, Hampton Hill

COVER STORY FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

The Minister's message

Alan Duncan MP, International Development Minister, speaking at King's College, London, on 9 October 2010, said: 'Those who sneer at Fairtrade and think it's some sort of sappy, trendy lefty notion are completely wrong. It is a robust economic model which delivers direct benefits to



some of the world's poorest people. It injects fairness and sensible economics into business communities in poor countries, rewarding hard work with a fair price for their produce.'

He added: 'Let's not forget that Fairtrade's success is really down to the hundreds of campaigners who have worked tirelessly to get Fairtrade products in their local shops, cafes, restaurants, workplaces, churches and schools.'



Irene Kijara runs two successful tea farms in Uganda, employing 15 people

LOCATION REPORT Mabale Growers Tea Factory is located on the lower slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains near Fort Portal in the west of Uganda, the country's main tea growing area. It incorporates a tea processing factory and two tea estates that were previously owned and operated by the state, but were abandoned during the chaos of the Idi Amin regime and its aftermath in the late 1970s.

They have since been renovated, rehabilitated and privatised under the government's smallholder tea programme, giving subsistence farmers the opportunity to grow and sell tea as a cash crop. The ownership of Mabale was passed to an association of 1,000 shareholders, 80% of whom are small-scale farmers with less than two hectares. They depend on tea for 50-60% of their cash income.

Irene Kijara, 31, has three children, and is a teacher and successful local businesswoman. She is a larger-scale farmer than the average Mabale shareholder, running the family's two tea farms which are six and seven hectares in size. They provide employment for 15 workers.

She said: 'Fairtrade is a very good benefit to us. It has helped us by building roads, schools, leaf collection sheds, and a clinic at the factory. And field officers funded by Fairtrade have helped us improve the quality of our tea.'

Fighting poverty

Support Fairtrade by buying ethically and together we really can change the world...

Many thanks to all who support our Traidcraft Stall our stall, on the first Sunday of every month. We are pleased that many of you come to buy, but we're also happy if you just want to look.

This Fairtrade Fortnight the focus product is cotton, so please make time to look at the display in church. One of the joys of running the stall is reading about the people who produce the products we sell, which heightens our awareness of our dependence on others. You may pay a little more, but the quality is good and with enough people buying something we really can make a difference.

■ Buy some items from us regularly — and buy Fairtrade wherever you shop
■ Give us an order any time
■ Buy a box (usually six packets) of the longer shelf-life products, such as coffee or pasta.



How you can help further

■ Borrow the new Spring catalogue (pictured) from the back of church
■ Remember to look in the catalogue for gifts throughout the year
■ Make sure your Easter Eggs and chocolate gifts are Fairtrade (see Young Spire on page 6).



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Ann Peterken and Catherine Gash



The Church's message

The concept of fair trade is not specifically Christian. Religious and secular groups joined together to form the Fairtrade Foundation in 1992 – Traidcraft, Oxfam, CAFOD, Christian Aid and the World Development Movement. These founding organisations were later joined by the Women's Institute.

There is, though, a particular Christian rationale for all whose roots are in the faith and practice of the Christian Church. Its starting point is that God is the world's Creator. As creation, the world must be cared



for. Human beings, as part of creation, are made in the image of God. This gives to each individual a basic dignity and intrinsic potential. This potential should flourish, both for individuals and communities. Unjust structures and practices in society undermine people's God-given lives.

Through a life poured out in service, Jesus demonstrated the value of human beings in God's sight. Jesus did not just talk - he acted. Christians involved in fair trade work through acts of practical service rather than explicit evangelism, but nonetheless this is 'mission', following in the footsteps of Jesus. *Revd Peter Vannozi*



through trade

LOCATION REPORT Cotton production in the Kita region of Mali, pictured above, began in 1995. The country is now the largest cotton producer in Africa, employing several hundred thousand people on 200,000 farms. The producers' co-operative gained Fairtrade status in 2004 and has used the premium to build a school and health centre; drill wells; for education and training; and to diversify into other crops such as maize.

What's the difference between Fairtrade and fair trade?



Taking it further

All abuzz: bee-keeping in Mexico

SHARED INTEREST

INVESTING IN A FAIRER WORLD

You may already be involved in the fair trade movement; but have you ever wondered how farmers in the developing world finance their route to fair and just trade? Shared Interest pools money, invested by their members, to lend to fair trade businesses in the developing world. Last year it lent over £33 million in 36 countries. Based in Newcastle upon Tyne, it has offices in Costa Rica, Kenya and Peru, and continues to be the world's only 100% fair trade lender.

To find out how you can invest as little as £100 to help realise such huge global impact, go to www.shared-interest.com or telephone Sally Reith 077 9582 5442 email sally.reith@shared-interest.com.

Fairtrade is an accreditation labelling system which certifies that products bearing the Fairtrade mark meet criteria. International standards have been developed on a product-by-product basis, and cover a wide range of food items and cotton. Others will follow.

Fair trade expresses a rather wider vision of development, seeking to transform the lives of poor producers and covering a much wider range of products than can be certified, such as craft items. It also embraces campaigning.

What does the Fairtrade Mark guarantee?

- An agreed stable and sustainable price for farmers
- An extra payment (a 'premium') to invest in their community.

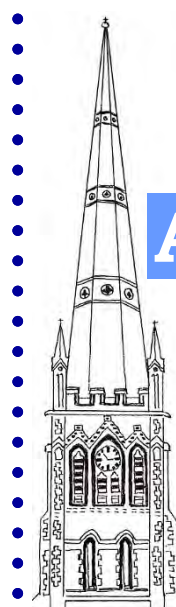
Traidcraft v the supermarket

Fairtrade products are readily available in supermarkets. Any product with the Fairtrade mark delivers a better deal to the farmer, but pioneering fair trade companies, such as

Traidcraft, go further by reinvesting trading profit in their producers' businesses. Traidcraft also brings new products to market, which later gain the Fairtrade mark – as it did with wine and is now doing with rubber gloves.

Other pioneering fair trade companies include:

- **Cafédirect** which in five years has invested over half its profits into farmers' businesses.
- **Divine Chocolate** is 45% owned by the Kuapa Kokoo co-operative in Ghana. The cocoa farmers have a direct say over how the company is run and share in the profits.
- **Liberation (Nuts)** is 42% owned by a co-operative of 11 farmers' groups from eight countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Farmers have seats on the company board and share any profits it makes.



smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

Around the Spire

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND

All our good wishes as Debbie moves south

DEBBIE OADES came to St. James's in October 2008 previously having served at the Good Shepherd, Hounslow. Debbie entered fully into the life of St. James's serving as a 'self-supporting minister'. She gave generously and voluntarily of her time. It has been a delight to see Debbie grow in confidence, and step out in Christian ministry as she gained more experience in her life as a priest. A notable achievement has been the establishment of **The Ark**. Debbie's good humour, commitment, and enthusiasm will be sorely missed at St. James's. Debbie has now taken a new step in ministry taking on a paid post, and more responsibility, within the parish of Maybush in Southampton. All good wishes also to her husband Rob for their new home, and their sons Robert and Tom in their future study and careers. Debbie is pictured cutting the cake on 30 January, when the congregation said goodbye and gave Debbie and her family leaving gifts in appreciation of all they have done.



Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2011: Training God's People

London's partner dioceses in Angola and Mozambique achieve so much with so little: their harvest is indeed plentiful but trained church workers are few. This appeal could help to change this by raising £64,000 for their training and resourcing. Please use a **Lent Appeal envelope** for your cash or cheque donation and put it in the plate collection when next in church. Fill in the Gift Aid declaration if you can. Cheques should be made payable to **PCC of St James Church**. For online giving please go to www.justgiving.com/alma-lent11. For more info go to www.almalink.org.



We were very sorry to hear of the death of **Tricia Hayter**, mother of **Lesley Brough**, in January. We send our sympathy to Lesley and Ian, their daughter Karina, and also to Tricia's mother, **Vera Bannister**, who is known to many of us and now resident in a nursing home in Sunbury.

St James's remembers Connie with gratitude

The memorial service for **Connie Brunt**, widow of our former vicar Rupert Brunt, will take place at St James's Church on Monday 23 May at 2.30 pm. All are welcome.





Go **online** for even more

Join our Sunday School and explore the world!

Young Spire



A good egg

There's every chance you'll be eating one or more Easter eggs in April, but have you ever looked at the label before tucking in?

Millions of farmers in developing nations across the world depend on selling their crops to survive, but it's a risky business. When prices drop it can spell disaster. If farmers earn less money than it costs to run their farm, they face real hardship, struggling to buy food or keep their children in school. They may even lose their land altogether.

Fairtrade is a system that makes sure that farmers and producer organisations get a fair and stable price for their products to help them support their families and invest in a better future.

Fairtrade Fortnight, which continues until 13 March, highlights all the everyday foods and clothes that carry the Fairtrade mark. By buying these products instead of alternatives we can send a big signal to all the supermarkets and shops to stock more Fairtrade products. Although the numbers of Fairtrade items have grown, they still make up a tiny fraction of total purchases.

So this Easter why not buy Fairtrade Easter eggs and chocolate? Buy from our Fairtrade stall at St James's and also from many high street shops, including the Co-op, M&S, Oxfam, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose.

Let's not use the economy as an excuse to buy the cheapest. Hard times, yes, but great expectations.

Harriet Lamb, executive director of the Fairtrade Foundation, said: 'It has never been easier to show your support for a fairer way to do business. You can make the global economy fairer, greener and more sustainable simply by choosing eggs and other chocolates that carry the Fairtrade mark this Easter - and then carry on the habit into summer.'

Kuapa Kokoo is a co-operative of Ghanaian cocoa farmers nearly 50,000 strong. If you have ever munched on Fairtrade chocolate in the UK, it probably came from here. The cocoa farmers live



Bringing home the harvest in Ghana

in small, remote villages, often without running water, electricity or healthcare, and most villages don't have a school.

Kuapa Kokoo joined Fairtrade 16 years ago and the benefits have been immense. The exploitation of women has ended, farming is kind to the environment, working conditions are now safe and child labour is banned.

The premium the farmers receive is invested into projects to benefit them all. So far they have built wells for drinking water, created public toilets, and set up a mobile health clinic.

So, this Easter go the egg-stra mile for them!



Baked beans: cocoa in the making

The Real Easter Egg bearing Christ's name

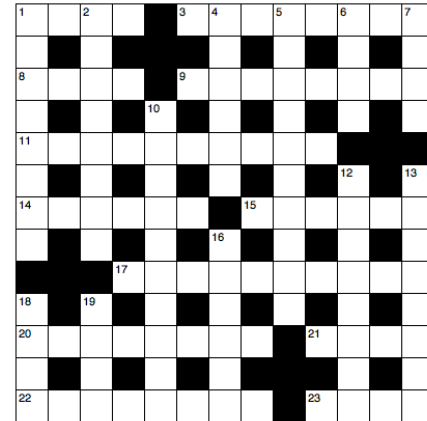
Traidcraft will benefit from the UK's first Fairtrade Easter egg to mention Jesus on the box.

Make a big chunk of difference
Charity donation from every egg!

Money from the sale of each **Real Easter Egg** will go to the Traidcraft Exchange and Baby Lifeline charity. We plan to have some on our Traidcraft stall as well as **Divine Kuapa Kokoo** eggs.

T H E P U Z Z L E R

Crossword



Across

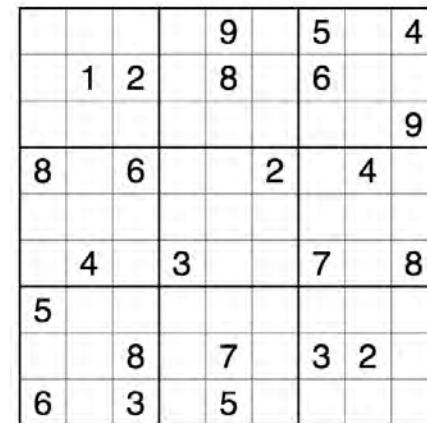
- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — —' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Sleep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that —, Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — —, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

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Sudoku



Complete the grid so that every row, each column, and each 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 once.

Solutions to February issue



What's On



opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

Interfaith Friendships

Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield received a CBE in the New Year's Honours list. He has been head of the movement for Reform Judaism for many years. He wrote recently: 'For more than a decade I have been a member of a Jewish, Christian and Muslim dialogue group. We have come to see that the greatest challenge to theology today is absolutism — the belief that your particular faith is final rather than provisional, that your truth is exclusive rather than fragmentary, that your way is the best or only way.'

How many friends do we have who come from another faith community? How many friends do we have who would say they are atheists?

Almost every year Lord Jonathan Sachs, chief Rabbi of the Orthodox synagogues in Britain writes a new book. Described as Britain's most authentically prophetic voice his books draw on the rich resources of the Jewish faith and the titles speak of the challenges we face together — *The Dignity of Difference, To Heal a Fractured World, The House we build together*. We have so much to learn from people of other spiritual traditions, as well as people who challenge our own spiritual experience.

Christianity and Science

Many of us were taught that science seeks to answer the question 'How we are here?' and that faith seeks to answer the question 'Why we are here?' To ask 'Why is there something instead of nothing?' is very different from asking 'How did things get started?'

As the Jesuit Guy Consolmagno, a scientist at the Vatican writes: 'God is the reason why existence itself exists. God is the reason why space and time and the laws of nature can be present for the forces to operate that Stephen Hawking talks about.'

'What's more, I believe in such a God not because of the absence of any other explanation for the origin of the universe, but because of the person of Jesus Christ — in history, in Scripture, and in my own personal prayer. And even more strongly, I have faith in this God not merely because the universe exists, but it is beautiful and fun to play in... that play we call science.'

Making Friends in Church

A recent study suggests that it is the social aspects of religion, rather than theology or spirituality, that result in satisfaction with life. A study from America examined the links between faith and happiness. They reported that among those they questioned, 33% of people who attend religious services every week and have three-to-five close friends in the congregation say they are extremely satisfied with their lives.

They conclude that 'one of the important functions of religion is to give people a sense of belonging to a moral community based on religious faith. This community can be abstract and remote unless one has a circle of friends... the friends in one's congregation make religious community real and tangible and strengthen one's sense of belonging'.

Their conclusions underline that old saying that people are looking not just for a friendly church, but a church where they can make friends — and that has been my experience of St James's.

Lent and Easter at St James's

- Ash Wednesday 9 March, 9.30am and 7.30pm,
- Holy Communion with Ashing
- Marking the beginning of Lent, at this service you can receive the sign of the cross in ash, a sign of penitence.
- Sunday Sermons
 - These will explore the relationship between faith and work, and seek a Christian understanding of daily work
 - March 13 - *Why Work?* Peter Vannozzi
 - March 20 - *Me and My Work* David Bell
 - March 27 - *Prayer and Work* Peter Vannozzi
 - April 3 - *Work and the Home* TBC
 - April 10 *God at Work?* Jesus and Occupational Hazards
 - Julian Reindorp
 - April 17 *The Work of the Cross* Peter Vannozzi
- Compline on Sundays
 - Compline (Night Prayer) will be at 8pm on:
 - March 13, 20 and 27 and April 3, 10 and 17.
- Lent Course
 - Jesus didn't write a will. He left no written instructions.

Faith at Work

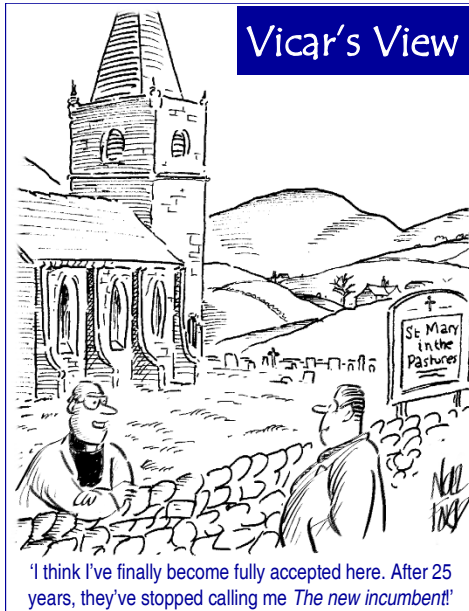
- Continuing Saturday 5 March and Saturday 19 March, 9.15-10.15am, St James's Church, Hampton Hill
- Do join this group to explore our experiences. What difference does our faith make to our daily lives, our daily work? What are the challenges we face, the tensions we feel? Our Spring programme continues with:
 - Saturday 5 March, Dr Janet Taylor — *NHS changes*;
 - Saturday 19 March, David Bell — *Faith and publishing*

Shrove Tuesday Parish Meal

- Tuesday 8 March, 7pm, Piazza Firenze Restaurant, 133 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NJ
- Please join us for an inexpensive meal to mark the start of Lent. Two courses, plus a glass of wine, costs £16 for adults, or £6 for under tens. Please add your name to the list in the south aisle if you would like to join the group.

Community Singing Day

- Saturday 12 March, 11am-4pm, St James's Church
- Open to everyone who loves singing, including children from Y2-Y11. The day finishes with a performance for friends and family. The cost is £15 for adults, £5 for accompanied children. To reserve tickets email nettleton@blueyonder.co.uk



Vicar's View

'I think I've finally become fully accepted here. After 25 years, they've stopped calling me *The new incumbent!*'

He didn't seem to have a plan. At the end, as he hung dying on the cross, almost all of his followers had abandoned him. By most worldly estimates his ministry was a failure. Nevertheless, his message of reconciliation with God lived on. It is the central message of the Bible. With this good news his disciples changed the world. How did they do it? What else did Jesus leave behind — what is his *legacy of love*? This course addresses these questions.

We will use the course *Rich Inheritance - Jesus' legacy of love* www.yorkcourses.co.uk. This *Year of the Bible*, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, we will look at Jesus' legacy, and his central message in the Bible. The course is by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, and involves audio contributions by other prominent Christians.

Groups will meet on Mondays at 2pm in the Vicarage and 8pm at 32 Uxbridge Road
March 14 - *An empty tomb*
March 21 - *A group of people*
March 28 - *A story*
April 4 - *A power*
April 11 - *A meal*



Initiatives of Change

Beyond Extremism, Sunday 13 March, 6.30-9pm, 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD
With Ahtsham Ali, President of the Islamic Society of Britain. To reserve places telephone 020 7798 6000.

Cantanti Camerati

Friday 18 March, 7.30pm, Saturday 19 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, *Just A Song at Twilight No 35*, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 3AA
Tickets available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham, telephone 020 8977 5986, or on door.

Concordia Voices

Saturday 19 March, 7pm, *Brahms Requiem*, St James's Church, Hampton Hill
Soprano: Rhiannon Llewellyn; Baritone: Andrew Ashwin
Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on the door.

St James's Theatre Group

Tuesday, 22 March, 7.45pm, *The Life of Riley*, Richmond Theatre, The Green TW9 1JQ
Tickets £15 (a big saving on the full price of £24.50). There are also discounted tickets for:
Friday 6 May, *To kill a Mockingbird*, tickets £16 (£28.50);
Tuesday 14 June, *Yes, Prime Minister*, £16 (£24.50).
To join us add your name to the lists on the notice board.

Women Bishops

Tuesday 29 March, 8pm, St Mary's Church, Hampton
Later in the year the Diocesan Synod is to vote on the legislation providing for Women Bishops in the Church of England. As part of a wider consultation, Hampton Deanery Synod meets for a discussion. The main contributor will be Mary Johnstone, an elected lay member of General Synod. She will brief the synod on the proposal. Please note the issue is not whether the Church of England agrees with women bishops or not, but whether this is the right time and the best arrangement to do so. *The meeting will be open to all.*

Mothering Sunday and Teddy appeal

Sunday 3 April, St James's Church, Hampton Hill
There will be the usual 8am Holy Communion, and an All-age Worship at 9.30am, followed by Holy Communion at 11am. Between services the Sunday School will cook breakfast and later serve tea/coffee. It is also *Bring-a-Teddy-to-Church* day. If you can spare one please bring it to church. We need as many bears as possible for our Adopt-a-Teddy stall at the Hampton Fair on 11 June.

A hunger for a better world



In 2000 I was asked to take over the job of representing St James's affiliation with the local branch of the United Nations Association (UNA), and having just returned from travelling around the world for a year found it hard to say no. The UN Association exists broadly to promote the UN and originally the membership was mainly concerned with promoting peace. Whilst peacekeeping is still the biggest UN task it also has many large and global challenges including poverty relief and climate change.

Education

When I joined UNA our local Twickenham & Richmond branch had recently lobbied government successfully to include the UN in the new syllabus for Citizenship in schools. I therefore thought it appropriate to build on this local success and approached local schools offering an introduction to the UN.

Another member of UNA, Mary Holmes, and myself have run UN events for 11 Richmond secondary and preparatory schools over the years, ranging from assembly addresses to helping the school organise a model UN General Assembly. We typically help the school organise this event where pupils role-play becoming rich or poor nations and we often become chair and secretary on the day.

It is incredibly rewarding to see enthusiastic pupils putting their hands up to offer ideas trying to solve global issues related to poverty or climate change. It is good to think that hundreds of children growing up in the borough will now be more likely to engage with the global issues with which the UN is involved. The UN is not a world government and at its simplest level is nothing more than you and me. Its leader is not a president or a prime minister, he is a secretary.

UNICEF

One of my other very rewarding duties is organising collections at Twickenham Station on rugby days and with typically more than 80,000 fans arriving, mostly by train, we have a golden opportunity. Up to 12 collectors are involved and we have raised many thousands of pounds for UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) over just the past three years, with a small percentage going to UNA — most of which gets recycled to other charities, typically 'No more Landmines' (formally Adopt-A-Minefield).

I often refer to UNICEF as the 'best charity in the world' as it is the main organiser for support for suffering children all over the world, whether it is Haiti, West and Central Africa, and even working in the UK. I think the world owes this next generation so much and only UNICEF can really deliver at

the global level.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In early May 2010 I watched the official unveiling of a monument outside York House, Twickenham, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UNA were involved in the project from the start. Our chair at the time, Councillor Virginia Morris, was instrumental in getting the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames to adopt the initial idea as a public art project, resulting in a considerable input of funds.

UNA also contributed along with the local branch of Amnesty International. Pupils from two Richmond schools and residents from the Twickenham Day Centre were involved in the design of the installation and UNA members talked to the pupils about the Universal Declaration prior to the meetings with the artist Samantha Haynes.

The monument was unveiled by the Mayor of Richmond, Councillor Celia Hodges, accompanied by Virginia Morris, Samantha Haynes and John Reekie from Amnesty International.

Spreading the Word

Our local branch of UNA organises many events where members engage in global issues. We have had quite a few well-known visitors talk to us recently, including Chris Patten, now Lord Patten, the former Conservative Minister and the last Governor of Hong Kong; Martin Bell, a British UNICEF Ambassador, and a former BBC correspondent and independent MP; and Zac Goldsmith, MP for Richmond Park, environment campaigner and son of the late financier Sir James Goldsmith. On a smaller scale we have meetings in local pubs and members' houses with invited speakers on a range of topics.

The UN pervades almost every aspect of life and I often point out to school students the aspects of the UN which only it could control, such as civil aviation or maritime shipping. Another example is deciding how a postman in the US or Australia, for example, is paid to deliver a letter you write and send from the UK with stamps you buy here. All this is done with many fewer staff than the US fast food giant McDonald's employs worldwide.

So think about the UN. It is incredibly easy to criticise, often because people don't understand how it works, but it does need a lot of support. What is the alternative?

■ If you are interested in the UN Association, or in joining the Twickenham and Richmond branch, you can speak to me anytime. You will find more information online at www.truna.org.uk.



The story behind the hymn

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds



How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name, the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy Name
refresh my soul in death!

John Newton (1725-1807) wrote the words of this hymn as part of a larger collection of hymns, the *Olney Hymns* named after the village in Buckinghamshire where Newton was a curate for 16 years. Its most famous hymn is *Amazing Grace*. He had a chequered life. Born in London, Newton was an only child. His father was a sea captain, his mother a godly, praying woman. She died when he was seven and four years later Newton went to sea with his father. With dubious friends he quickly fell into a life of depravity. He later commanded a slave ship, which during a storm was holed. Fearing death he prayed to God. The ship survived and Newton underwent a profound conversion. In Liverpool he studied Hebrew and Greek, mingling with the Wesleys and others. Later in life Newton was to join William Wilberforce in opposing slavery. Newton was an evangelical, and his hymns emphasise a personal relationship with Jesus and the immensity of his grace.

This hymn will be sung at St. James's on 27 March. Initially Newton makes statements about Jesus, but then turns to address him directly, underscoring the one-to-one nature of encounter with him. Verse four is almost an emotional outpouring using titles of Jesus in an intimate way. This hymn is very appropriate for Lent, the time when Christians prepare for the celebration of Easter by taking time to reflect on their own spiritual journeys, and the quality of their relationship with God and people.