

Leader Column..... 3
Commissioners.... 4
Around the Spire...5
Registers.....7
What's On.....7
Your Voice..... 8

thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

please take a copy



INSIDE

Faith in good investments

The Church Commissioners, financial managers of the Church of England, have a difficult job of maximising income ethically

INSIDE: SUMMER EVENTS IN AND AROUND HAMPTON HILL

thespire 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.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

STORIES, FEATURES

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When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it.

Welcome

August / September 2012



Three members of our congregation have taken big steps in their lives recently. We welcomed the **Revd David Bell** to St James's in July as our new curate following his ordination at St Paul's Cathedral. David is already a familiar figure and we look forward to his further involvement in the life of our church.

Jacky Cammidge will be taking up her training for the ministry in September and has written about it in *Your Voice* this month. She will continue to work at a local nursery school while studying for the ministry part-time. We wish her well in the exciting years ahead.

The centrespread is written by our Treasurer, **Don Barrett**, who works for the Church Commissioners, managing the finances of bishoprics and cathedrals. He clearly enjoys the challenges and being able to put his talents to good use for such an important and interesting job.

On behalf of the Spire Committee I wish you all a happy and restful summer break — but I won't mention the weather! Instead I hope you will get behind Team GB at the London Olympics, now in full swing.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn,
Editor

Cover image: Carlisle Cathedral

You can find us on facebook:
facebook.com/SaintJamesHamptonHill



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OUR CLERGY



VICAR

The **Revd Peter Vannozi**
Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather.

Peter was ordained in 1987.

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The **Revd David Bell**

David was born in Skipton in 1952. He is a self-supporting deacon, ordained in June 2012.

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BAPTISM AND WEDDING ENQUIRIES

These should be made in person in church on a Saturday morning from 10-10.30am.

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SERVICES FOR AUG / SEP

Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

(first Sunday in August will be an All-age Service)

5 August — 9th Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15; Ephesians 4.1-16

John 6.24-35

12 August — 10th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 19.4-8; Ephesians 4.25-5.2

John 6.35, 41-51

19 August — 11th Sunday after Trinity

Proverbs 9.1-6; Ephesians 5.15-20

John 6.51-58

26 August — 12th Sunday after Trinity

Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18; Ephesians 6.10-20

John 6.56-69

2 September — 13th Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9; James 1.17-end

Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9 September — 14th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 35.4-7a; James 2.1-17; Mark 7.24-end

16 September — 15th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 50.4-9a; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-end

23 September — 16th Sunday after Trinity

Wisdom 1.16-2.1, 12-22; James 3.13-4.3, 7-8

Mark 9.30-37

30 September — 17th Sunday after Trinity

Numbers 11.4-6, 10-16, 24-29;

James 5.13-end; Mark 9.38-end

Mondays-Fridays

(but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

2 Aug / 6 Sep 2pm Holy Communion



Leader Column

Everything ends, but there are always new beginnings



If you google 'beginnings and endings' there are 4,060,000 results! Not having several years to waste, I did not spend long looking at the results, but the sheer number of them indicates that they are of significance to human beings.

The area covered by 'beginnings and endings' is vast. Some google results were concerned with how to begin and end a piece of creative writing. Others, with celebrations to mark a beginning or ending, such as starting or finishing at a school.

Then there are websites with handy quotes. I quite like this one from the 19th century thinker Friedrich Nietzsche:

'The end of a melody is not its goal: but nonetheless, had the melody not reached its end it would not have reached its goal either. A parable.'

Also, of course, reflection and speculation about the meaning of life, its beginning and ending.

Beginnings and endings came to my mind, because of the time of year. Writing this at the very end of June, I am conscious that this is for a magazine that will be published in late July, and have to last until the end of September. By then, the Olympic Games will have happened – it is quite likely that you will be reading this just after the opening ceremony.

Yet something of significance to this country (and the world) will have certainly begun, and perhaps ended. More generally than this, the summer and early autumn in the UK is a time of beginning and ending. Thousands of children will have left school – some to go to a new school, others will have finished schooling.

Many thousands of young adults will be going on to college, others will have finished with education. The ending may be exciting, but it might also be frightening. A new school, college, university, may seem all too much. Uncertain job prospects affect so many people at present, but young people are disproportionately affected.

Whatever one's experience, this time of year certainly feels like a transitional time in Hampton Hill. The roads are



Peter Vannozzi

quieter, life is just a little bit slower, decisions are put off, meetings do not happen.

Yet alongside this, for many life will be much the same – perhaps a struggle, which other people will do nothing to alleviate.

Perhaps the sleepier than usual month of August, and the frenetic month of September, have value in reminding all of us of the value of time. Christianity certainly values time.

It was in time that Christians believe God became present in a human person: Jesus. This was time that was datable, in a specific place, cultural and religious background, and physical setting. Yet always things move on.

The other side of Christianity, speaking of a person who revealed God in a particular time and place, is that he did not remain there.

Christianity can seem staid and stolid. Or rather, the Church can. Yet at the heart of its life is a Person who moved on and encouraged others to follow him. As such, beginnings and endings are part of the texture of the Christian faith, as they are of life, whether we like it or not.

Whatever your situation when you read this, I hope that there are, for you, good beginnings and not just bad endings. If endings seem to be all there is, they are not always bad. Christianity focuses on Jesus whose death should have been the worst of endings, but was not – rather the best of beginnings.

There is much on the web that is to be avoided, but a great deal more that can be enriching. So if you find you are uncertain about beginnings and endings, and have access to the web, have a google.

As the prayers on this page shows, there is a rich resource out there to help us, whether it is time to celebrate or grieve. From my perspective, Jesus beckons me to take seriously what is ending, but to look for what can begin.

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, said this (and yes, it is from the internet): *'When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us.'*

In Thought and Prayer

End of the School Year Prayer

source unknown



O God of all beginnings and endings,
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.

The days have passed quickly, O Lord.
The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays
and holy days,
The exams, vacations, breaks, and assemblies,
All have come forth from your hand.

While we trust that your purposes have always been
at work each day,
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand
and appreciate
Just what you have been up to in our school.

Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,
And bless us, according to your will.

With the fulfilment of our summer hopes and dreams,
Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,
And guide each day as you have done this past year.
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new
energy.

May we continue to grow
In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace
All the days of our lives.
Amen.

source: www.baptist.org.uk

God of Endings

God of the seasons, of beginnings and endings,
We pray for all in our world who must face difficult
endings.

For those leaving schools and colleges that brought
comfort and happiness, we pray for hope in all
that lies ahead.

For those facing the loss of work and of financial
security, we pray for hope in all that lies ahead.
For those facing the end of a relationship that gave
meaning and purpose and love, we pray for
healthy grieving and genuine hope.

For those facing the loss of life, of their own or those
dear to them, may you be specially present to
them, and may we not fail them.

God of the seasons, help us to accept the endings we
face, without letting go of the hope beyond,
and in our journey from end to beginning, be with us –
we pray – our companion.

Council's desperate appeal: 'Could you foster a child?'

AT ANY ONE time Richmond Council has around 90 children who for a variety of reasons are unable to live at home with their families. The council desperately need people who live within or close to the borough to provide loving and stable homes to these children.

Anyone who has the time, patience, commitment and space in their home and life can be a foster carer. The council need a diverse range of placements to meet the wide range of needs of our borough children. So whatever your ethnic background and whether you are married, single, gay, straight, employed, or not, with or without your own children you could potentially offer a home to a child who really needs it.

Foster carers provide homes to children aged from birth up to 18 and sometimes beyond. Most carers specify an age range that they feel comfortable and confident looking after and that fits in with



their life and other commitments.

Obviously foster carers provide a home to children, but they also provide role models, encourage them with schooling, help them build and maintain positive relationships with their families, and receive the support they need in all areas of life. Foster care changes children's lives but it also changes foster carers.

For more information go to www.richmond.gov.uk, telephone 8891 7423 or 0800 085 7072, or email for an information pack fostering.info@richmond.gov.uk.

Keeping faith is a for our guardians

After a lifetime working for oil giant BP, Don Barrett looked for a new challenge — and found it at the Church Commissioners for England. They manage more than £5bn of assets, some dating from 1704, for the Church of England. Most of the income goes on clergy pensions, but some is spent on the many cathedrals and also on bishops' working costs.



In 2009 I took early retirement after 28 years working for BP Exploration. I decided to look for something completely different and saw a job advertised by the Church Commissioners for England, who were looking for someone to manage their Bishopsrics and Cathedrals team through a period of change. My application was successful.

The Church Commissioners are one of the three National Church Institutions, the others being the Archbishops' Council and the Church Pensioners' Board. The Church Commissioners are a statutory body and a registered charity which manages an investment fund of some £5.2 billion, held mainly in property and shares. The fund and the obligations attached to it derive from the Commissioners' parent charities of the 18th and 19th centuries respectively, Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, set up to improve the incomes and housing of clergy and extend their ministry into the growing urban areas.

Where the money is spent

- Income from the investment portfolio is used to:
 - Support poorer dioceses with ministry costs;
 - Provide funds to support mission activities;
 - Pay for bishops' ministry and some cathedral costs
 - Administer the legal framework for pastoral re-organisation and setting the future of closed church buildings;
 - Pay clergy pensions for service prior to 1998; and
 - Run the national payroll for serving and retired clergy.
- In 2011 this expenditure amounted to £198 million

and represented about 17% of the annual costs of the Church of England; the remainder of the costs are funded by dioceses and parishes. The Church plans on a three-year basis, so at the beginning of a triennium the Commissioners receive a report of how much is needed to fund the pension obligations and agrees how the remaining investment income is to be divided.

In 2011 out of a total income of £198 million, pensions support cost £115 million, parish ministry and ministry support, allocated through the Archbishops' Council, cost £38 million, archbishops' and bishops £31 million, cathedrals £8 million and other costs £6 million. The Archbishops' and bishops' costs included £6 million for housing and office premises and the running costs of the Lambeth Palace Library which, incidentally, is well worth a visit as they have some beautiful historic books on display.

The Bishopsrics & Cathedrals department is split into the See Houses team and a small team of six people to deal with the bishops and cathedrals. The cost of upkeep and repair of historic buildings, such as Lambeth Palace and the older See houses, is an on-going issue. The Commissioners continually review the suitability of the See houses, which play an important part in bishops' ministry, acting as the office for the bishops' staff, a place where clergy and people from across the diocese can meet the bishop, and also provide a home for the bishop and his family.

The historic bishops' palaces are not always a practical or easy place to live for a family and in the

Use your buying-power to improve lives of producers

Fair Food We can use our buying-power to improve the lives of struggling small-scale producers by choosing Fairtrade for foods produced overseas (e.g. tea, coffee, bananas, cocoa). UK producers, too, are often treated badly by supermarket chains. Buying from a farmers' market or a local outlet may be a better choice.



A NEW REGULAR FOCUS ON OUR GIVING

Charity Box



A shoebox that brings a smile at Christmas

Apologies for mentioning the word Christmas in the midst of summer, but October's edition of **thespire** would be rather late to bring this to your attention.

You may already be aware of the idea of sending a shoebox of little gifts to young people in some of the toughest parts of the world. You may even have helped your children do this through school.

This autumn St James's Ark will be making up some shoeboxes, to be given to a local collection point before mid-November. You may like to help in one of two ways: by giving Carole Greville-Giddings small gifts for her boxes (please talk to her first) or



filling your own shoebox. These can be given to her on Sundays or to Nickie in the

general office (see P2 for times). For more information see the leaflets in church, or go to: www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/how-to-pack-your-shoebox.

With each shoebox a donation of at least £2.50 is required to cover distribution costs. Cash only to Carole or Nickie.

Operation Christmas Child is an initiative of Samaritan's Purse — a Christian organisation that works through churches to help children and families in need across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Their website has a short film of children receiving shoeboxes: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



Church House, home to Church Commissioners for England

good investment

Salisbury Cathedral



last few years there has been a move to provide bishops with homes and offices which will equip them to undertake their ministry more effectively in the 21st century at a lower cost.

When I started as Manager of the Bishops & Cathedrals team in 2009 my first task was to change the way in which funding was provided to the bishops. This was the culmination of a process which started in 2001 with the Mellows Report on episcopal funding.

Challenge of managing change

Change in the Church of England is a slow process and management of change is a challenge, but with the backing of the House of Bishops we developed systems to enable the diocesan bishops to develop their own budgets and to direct funding to their area, suffragan and assistant bishops.

The new system of block grants and expenditure reporting has enabled them to increase their control over spending within the framework of tax office requirements and the Commissioners' trustee responsibilities. At the same time the House of Bishops agreed the aim that bishops' funding should, in future, increase only in line with the Commissioners' distributions for parish mission and ministry.

Day to day my job entails the agreement of annual budgets with the bishops, receiving expenditure information from their offices and turning it into reports which enable the bishops to monitor expenditure against their budgets, the payment of salaries, stipends and pension contributions for the bishops and their staff and periodically visiting the bishops' offices to audit their accounts and provide advice on financial controls and processes.

Each year we publish on the Commissioners' website a detailed report of expenditure for each bishop.

The other part of my job concerns the support the Commissioners provide to the English cathedrals. Under the Cathedrals Measure Act the Commissioners are required to pay the stipends of the Dean and two canons at each cathedral.

Being the Church of England there are always exceptions to the rule! We only pay for the Dean and one canon for Christ Church Oxford and we do not pay for the Deans of the 'royal peculiars' of Westminster Abbey and Windsor.

We also give grants towards the salaries of other staff employed by the cathedrals. These grants are weighted towards the cathedrals which have the lowest incomes. It is quite a task to keep track of all the changes. No one likes to hear from a Dean or canon who has not been paid!

So having spent two years at the Commissioners I can offer the following reflections and I stress that they are my own personal thoughts. It is a pleasure to work in an organisation where there is an underlying common value and where people have time and consideration for each other.

I enjoy working in a smaller team in a not-for-profit organisation which is a lot less stressful than my previous career. I particularly appreciate never having to get on an aeroplane for work! It has been very rewarding to be able to apply a commercial management of change process to the delivery of the new funding system and improving the day-to-day support for the financial side of the bishops' ministry.

Meeting bishops and visiting cathedrals

One of the best parts of my job is that I meet all the newly appointed bishops to brief them on finance and administration, which has enabled me to meet some very committed and remarkable people. When I visit bishops and cathedrals I have the opportunity to see beautiful and historic buildings.

There are some not so good, frankly puzzling aspects as well. The Church is a very complex organisation. There are overlapping areas between the Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council that make it difficult to see who has overall responsibility in some matters. There is a lot of law which governs what the Commissioners can and cannot do.

Changes often require both the agreement of National Synod and an Act of Parliament. Change is not quick and when decisions are deferred it can mean until the next triennium!

I am in an organisation where you not only see the diversity across the Church of England, but you also become aware of the tensions between each part.

Having said all that, I am thankful that I have had the opportunity, hopefully, to do something useful in an organisation where I look forward to going to work every day.

If you have some news to share, please contact Susan Horner: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

Around the Spire

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND

Warm welcome for our new curate

DAVID BELL

was among 28 people ordained on 30 June in St Paul's Cathedral. A large congregation heard the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, invoke



Some of the new deacons, including David Bell (middle row, second right of the Bishop)

the Olympic ethos in urging the new deacons to be 'spiritual athletes'. He added: 'This is the high point of the year for me. The energy of the Church in London is thrilling, but with it goes a deep sense of responsibility. Whatever we do for Jesus Christ in this the greatest cosmopolitan city in the world will reverberate in every corner of the globe.' The next morning David took the deacon's role at St James's for the first time and was welcomed with applause, cake and Cava.

■ Congratulations to Dennis and Elizabeth Wilmot on the birth of their granddaughter Gabriella Elizabeth, in Florida, on 29 June. She is the first child of Elizabeth's son William and his wife Karima. Gabriella is pictured with Elizabeth and Dennis.



■ Well done to the 3rd Hampton Hill Brownies, who raised £95 for Holy Cross Secondary School, Magila, Tanzania, from sponsored challenges, including standing in a bucket of cold baked beans! St James's supports the school through our mission partner. The school will use the money to buy sports equipment.

A baptism that spans five generations

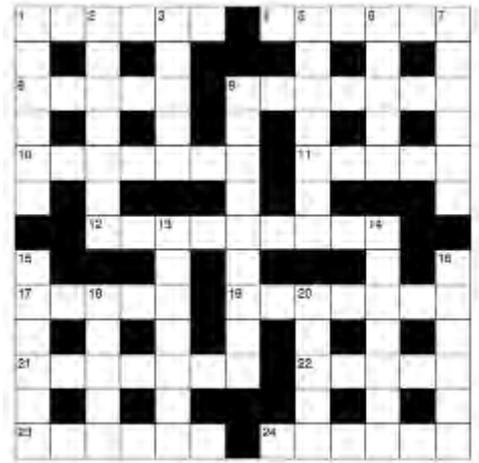
It was lovely to see Duncan and Helen Robinson, visiting from Singapore, at the baptism of their daughter Isla Jane on 24 June. She is pictured with her parents, grandparents



Coryn and Ian Robinson, and great-grandparents Hal and Eila Severn, by the font given in memory of her great-great-grandmother Vivienne Prentice. Isla's brother Oliver was baptised here in 2010.



Crossword



Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
- 11 '— thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
- 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
- 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
- 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
- 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
- 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)

- 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
- 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
- 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
- 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
- 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is —' (5)
- 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
- 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
- 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them —, that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
- 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
- 15 See 12 Across
- 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
- 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
- 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

Clergy at St. James's Church

Clergy are men and women chosen for a particular role within the life of the Church. Their work is very varied — presiding at worship, preaching, teaching, caring for people, sharing with a congregation in care of buildings, praying, and seeking to point people to Jesus. They are 'ordained' - set apart with prayer in a particular way for this role. They serve in parishes, but also in hospitals, universities, the armed forces and many other places.



The Revd Peter Vannozi with the newly ordained Revd David Bell after the ordination service

Here at St. James's we have a vicar, the Revd Peter Vannozi, and from time to time we also have a curate who is an assistant to the vicar. The word curate comes from the Latin *curatus* meaning to care for, and is a person who is invested with the care of souls in a parish. The duties or office of a curate are sometimes called a curacy. On 1 July David Bell became curate at St. James's, having been ordained deacon by the Bishop of London at St. Paul's Cathedral the day before.



At this service David was set apart through prayer and the laying on of hands. For three years before being ordained curate David was an ordinand at St. James's. (An ordinand is someone who is preparing for, or undergoing the process of, ordination.) David will be ordained priest in a year's time. He is pictured here with the Bishop of Kensington.

So David has become a deacon and will carry out the tasks of a curate, the assistant ordained minister within a church and parish. He is not able to preside at the eucharist until he is ordained priest, but David is now 'The Reverend', robes in a particular way, and exercises a specific role within the eucharist. David is 'self-supporting', which means that he is not paid by the Church, but gives freely of his time to this ministry while continuing to work in publishing, combining sacred and secular, as he has done throughout his training. The word Deacon comes from the Greek *diakonos* meaning servant.

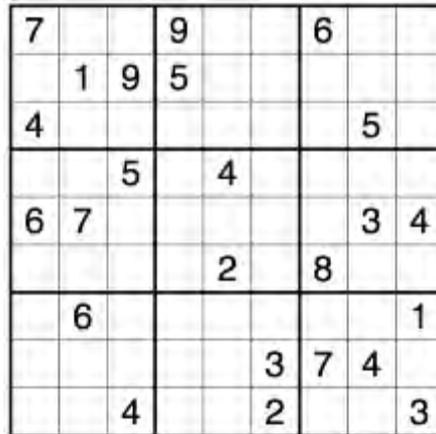
Now David is a deacon, he can wear the appropriate robes. As seen in the photograph below, he wears the black cassock and white dog collar under a white surplice. Notice that he is wearing the stole over the left shoulder, tied at the waist on the right side, so that the stole hangs diagonally across the chest.



David wore a dalmatic over his alb at the service on Sunday. A dalmatic is a wide-sleeved vestment worn by a minister exercising the role of deacon at a celebration of the Holy Communion. See the photograph on the right.



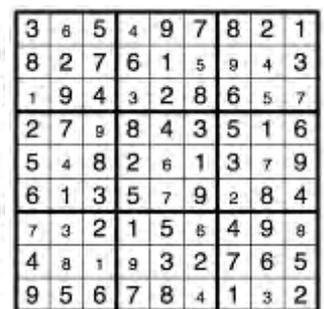
Sudoku



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

Solutions to both puzzles will appear in the next issue

Solutions to July's puzzles



What's On



opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

MEDITATION WORKS

Researchers studying people who regularly meditated found that not only did they feel happier, but that MRI scans of their brain patterns showed this was reflected in the way their brains worked. The insula, part of the brain's surface, becomes more active during meditation, and over a period of time alters the brain's structure, according to research at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Mark Williams, Professor of Clinical Psychology at Oxford University, says the insula controls many of the features central to our humanity, including empathy. Its can free individuals from the narrowing, tunnel-like sensation that being depressed can bring. Science now supports meditative practices dating back at least 2,500 years.

DIETS CAN WORK!

Having lost and remained a stone lighter with the Dukan Diet — 'The French medical solution for permanent weight loss' — I am more aware of what millions of people face with their eating. In this country alone, an estimated 1.6 million adults suffer from eating disorders, including anorexia and bulimia nervosa. Meanwhile, average body mass in the US is 177.5 lbs, compared to the world average of 134lbs. We are moving ever closer to America.

WE EAT THE WORLD

Growing waistlines are bad for us and for our planet. The fatter we are the more of the world's resources we are eating. Professor Ian Roberts, from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, told the recent Rio+20 earth summit that over-consumption is the real problem for the world, not the people usually blamed: African women for having what the West decrees are too many babies. 'It's not how many mouths you have to feed,' he explained, 'it's how much flesh we have to feed.'

TAX JUSTICE BUS

Early this year, long before Jimmy Carr's tax affairs engaged the attention of the Prime Minister, Christian Aid had planned a 53-day Tax Justice Bus tour round the UK (see the What's On entry for where to visit it). The red London Bus has 'Tax dodging hurts the poor' emblazoned on its side. Tax dodging robs developing countries of about £102 billion, one-and-a-half times the international aid budget. Since 2008 Christian Aid and its partners have got tax on the agenda of the G20 world leaders' conference, ending the tax havens and tackling tax dodging. Recent events with the banks and the tax affairs of the rich make it clear that it is so much easier to cap what the poor receive, than to tax the rich.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

The recent remarkable visit of the Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi, only the second woman after the Queen to address the joint Houses of Parliament, and the first non-Governmental head to do so, shows the effect of just one very brave woman determined to work through democratic means. In only two countries in the world are men and women equally represented in parliament: Rwanda and Andorra. Elsewhere, the percentage of women MPs (or equivalent) is: Sweden 44%, Algeria 32%, France 27%, UK 22%, US 17% and Japan 11%. The world average is 20%. Women are more than half the world's population. Surely women and men working together will make wiser decisions about the future of our planet?

NEW LISTING

Tax Justice Bus

Thursday and Friday
13 and 14 September,
various locations
and times

Christian Aid and Church
Action on Poverty are
joining forces to take the
campaign for Tax Justice on the road, with a seven-week
Tax Justice Bus Tour. A bright red London bus will be
touring the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland, to
promote the simple message: *It's time for Tax Justice for
the poorest communities at home and globally.*



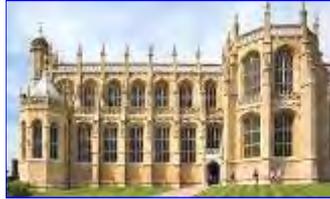
In an age of austerity and spending cuts, tax avoidance
is morally unacceptable: tax dodging costs lives. It
effectively amounts to robbing the poor — in the UK and in
other countries — of the money that should be spent on
education, health and welfare. The Bus Tour is a great
opportunity to build support for Tax Justice via the local
and regional media, with local and national politicians,
church leaders, campaigners and supporters in the
churches and trade unions.

The bus will be at these locations:
St Paul's Cathedral: Thursday 13 September, afternoon
and evening, and Friday 14 September, morning;
Twickenham: Friday 14 September, afternoon.
For full details of where the bus will be in Twickenham,
and how you can support the tour, please contact
Stephanie Hubbard, telephone 020 7523 2159, or email:
SHubbard@christian-aid.org

Parish Pilgrimage

Saturday, 15 September, to St George's Chapel, Windsor

We will meet at
2pm for a
guided tour of
the Chapel,
followed by a
cup of tea in the
Vicar's Hall from
4-5pm, and
ending the day with Evensong at 5.15pm. Price £10.



We hope to have enough drivers to ferry those needing a
lift. It is also possible to go by train from Twickenham. If
you would like to join us, please sign the list on the notice
board in church or contact Liz Wilmot on 020 8977 9434 or
Email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net.

The Chapel will need a final list of names by Saturday
8 September and those attending will need to bring a
photo ID with them, such as a driving licence, passport or
bus pass. You won't be allowed in without one!

Registers for June



Baptisms

7 Riyana Amber Cordery,
Shepperton

10 Summer Angel Hope
Martin, Hampton Hill

24 Isla Jane Robinson,
Singapore

Funerals

1 Teresa Katherine
Vaughnley, 77,
Hanworth

21 Amy Elizabeth
Smith, 90,
Hampton Hill



NEW LISTING

Harvest Sunday

Sunday 7 October,
11am, St James's
Church, Hampton Hill

Our annual Harvest
Festival All-age Service
starts at the later time
of 11am, followed by a



bring-and-share lunch in the Church Hall. We are again
supporting The Upper Room, dedicated to the relief of
poverty and suffering among people who are socially
disadvantaged, vulnerable, homeless and marginalised in
west London. The centre provides a broad range of
services, all free of charge, which includes serving over
25,000 hot meals to homeless people, giving over 2000
advice sessions to people who are without jobs and
helping 30 ex-offenders gain a driving licence every year.
The Upper Room relies on grants and donations from
churches, schools and local communities. Giving at
Harvest Festival is especially important.

You can help by providing non-perishable food (making
sure they are well within their 'best by' date), toiletries and
new socks or underwear. There will be full details about
this in church nearer the time, and in our October issue.

NEW LISTING

One World Week 21-28 October

Sharing Destiny — Moving Towards One World
Sunday 28 October, 4pm, St John's Church, St John's
Road, Hampton Wick, Surrey KT1 4AL

One World Week includes United Nations Day (24
October). This year's focus is the Rio+20 Conference, held
in June, which reviewed the progress since the Earth
Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. One World Week 2012
offers us an opportunity to review the findings of the
conference. This is also the UN Year of Co-operatives and
the service's theme offers opportunities to celebrate
sharing and working together with others.

Churches Together Around Teddington are organising
this service. For more information contact Elizabeth Hicks
telephone 020 8977 8406.

NEW LISTING

Confirmation Service

Sunday 11 November, 6pm, St James's
Church, followed by wine and cake in hall

The service will be led by the Bishop of
Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams.

At Confirmation Services people of very different ages
make a public commitment to the Christian faith. Usually
candidates come from several different churches. If you
would like to explore being confirmed or even tentatively
wonder if Christianity is for you, please speak to the Vicar.



Vicar's View



'You should have a motto for your sermons,
dear — Better, Clearer, Shorter'



Your Voice

Jacky Cammidge recalls the chat that began her journey towards ordination

The life-changing cup of coffee!



The nine icons at Winchester Cathedral

Throughout my life my faith has been important to me and it has sustained and strengthened me during both difficult and happy times. It was over 15 years ago that I began to believe that God was calling me to serve him as an ordained minister, but at that time I was unaware of how to follow or act on my feelings.

Many years later I met two people who were to literally change the course of my life: the Revd Debbie Oades, then curate at St. James's, and Peter, our vicar. They enabled me to voice the feelings I still had that God was calling me to the priesthood.

The whole process began when I met Debbie for a coffee and a chat. I ended up explaining how I was feeling and she encouraged me to meet with Peter.

Before our meeting I read a booklet entitled *Ministry in The Church Of England*. This explains that if you feel called to ordained ministry you had to let your sense of vocation be tested by those appointed by the Bishops to exercise discernment on behalf of the Church.

It also stated that candidates would have to satisfactorily fulfil the nine aspects of the Criteria for Selection, which are: Vocation; Ministry within the Church of England; Spirituality; Personality and Character; Relationships; Leadership and Collaboration; Faith; Mission and Evangelism; and Quality of Mind. If you would like to read more about this go to:

www.cofe-ministry.org.uk

This gave Peter and me much to discuss over a period of six weeks. Throughout, he always listened with patience and understanding, asking questions which made me think deeper about my calling.

Interview process

These meetings definitely helped prepare me for the next stage, which was to meet with the Director of Ordinands, the person who decides who can become a candidate for ordination. After a lengthy interview I was informed that I could begin the discernment process.

The process itself was challenging, thought provoking, moving and deeply rewarding and I feel that I have definitely gained from the experience in many ways.

At the beginning of the process I spent an amazing weekend at St. Chad's, one of the oldest and most popular colleges in Durham, with a group of 30 people, all exploring their vocation.

I was appointed by a wonderful lady who was to be my Spiritual Director. Her role can best be described as a guide and companion on the spiritual journey. We continue to meet once a month and she has helped me develop my prayer life and encouraged me to explore new ways of spending time with God.

Variety of Church life

I was encouraged to experience a variety of different aspects of Church life. As a result I am licensed to administer the chalice, an experience along with leading intercessions that I still find deeply moving.

There is an extensive vocations reading list to explore and even though I haven't read the complete list, the books I have read have been both helpful and informative.

In time and following three further interviews with independent assessors it was decided that I was ready to meet with Bishop Paul. As a result I was recommended to attend a Bishops' Advisory Panel, known as a BAP. The BAP is a three-day residential assessment process and is a unique experience.

Bishop Paul's endorsement

Ten days after returning home I received a phone call from Bishop Paul informing me that he was endorsing the recommendation made by the BAP that I should be selected for training for ordained ministry. I have had some special moments in my life and I can honestly say this phone call was one of them.

Where am I now on my journey? In September I will commence my studies at St. Mellitus College, which provides training for full-time and part-time students. I will undertake the part-time training route at the North Thames Ministerial Training Course; this is suited to those who wish to remain in their work place during training and will enable me to continue to run the Hampton Hill Nursery School.

The course leads to a Foundation Degree in Contextual Theology through Middlesex University. It will be a challenging time, but I am excited by the prospect and grateful that I have been allowed to remain at St. James's as an ordinand for the next three years. I look forward to growing in my faith and serving God, his Church and his people.



Winchester Cathedral

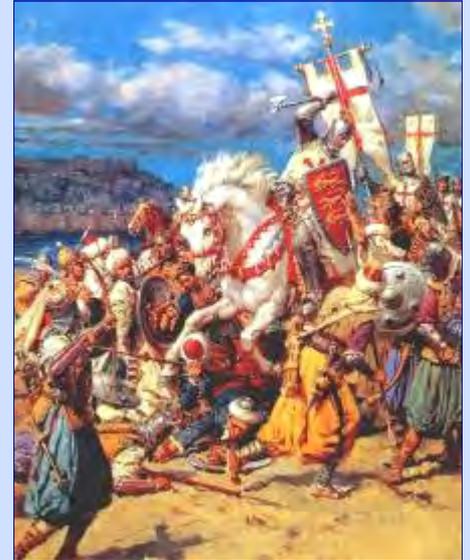
My interest in icons began after a visit to Winchester Cathedral. I find they are an aid to prayer and I am fascinated by their beauty which is inspirational. I am also moved by the age and solid beauty of the cathedral's font, pictured above, which dates from the 12th century. It shows the miracles of Saint Nicholas, patron saint of children.



Songs of praise

The story behind the hymn

Soldiers of Christ, Arise



*Soldiers of Christ, arise,
and put your armour on,
strong in the strength which God supplies
through his eternal Son;*

*Strong in the Lord of hosts,
and in his mighty power:
who in the strength of Jesus trusts
is more than conqueror.*

*Stand then in his great might,
with all his strength endued,
and take, to arm you for the fight,
the panoply of God.*

*From strength to strength go on,
wrestle and fight and pray:
tread all the powers of darkness down,
and win the well-fought day.*

*That, having all things done,
and all your conflicts past,
ye may o'ercome, through Christ alone,
and stand entire at last.*

Charles Wesley (1707-88) was a prolific hymn writer. His compositions were a key aspect of the evangelistic work he carried out with his brother, John.

The movement that came from their work – Methodism – gave a gift to the whole Church of congregational singing in worship, much in need of revival in England at the time they lived. Current hymn books still contain many Wesley hymns.

The hymn above will be sung at St. James's on Sunday 26 August to fit with the second reading of the day – Ephesians 6.10-20 – which speaks of spiritual struggle.

For at least some in the Church today, images of battle can be difficult – they would see the Church as being, by its essential nature, pacifist, and so military imagery in particular is difficult.

Wesley's words, though, reflect a biblical concern for what could be called 'spiritual warfare', recognizing the struggle of the Christian life as well as the joy.

Wesley recognizes in his words the ultimate source of strength – which is God. The hymn takes the person singing it on a journey through conflict to the final point of standing firm in Christ.