

DECEMBER 2012 JANUARY 2013

Details of
all our
**Christmas
Services**
are on
Page 7

thespire



Stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Celebrating 150 years of
St James's Church 1863-2013

In the beginning...

The story of our first vicar

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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 chairs the Board of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School and is 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 deacon, ordained in June 2012, and working during the week in events management. Telephone: 079 8624 5313 Email: davidbell@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Parish Office



Administrator

Nickie Jones For all general enquiries and hall bookings. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Telephone: 020 8941 6003 Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk Address: St James's Church, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ

Officials



Church Warden

Carole Greville-Giddings Carole helps run The Ark, our Monday playgroup for carers and under-fives. Telephone: 020 8979 6592 Email: carole.g-g@hotmail.co.uk



Church Warden

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 Don works for the Church Commissioners for England, who manage £5bn of assets for the Church of England. Telephone: 020 8979 3331 Email: donbarrett8@blueyonder.co.uk

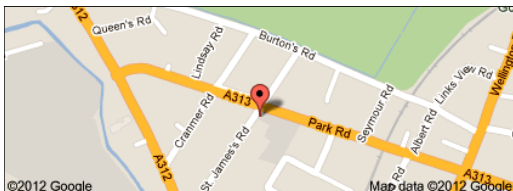


Organist / Choirmaster

Sam Draper Sam joined St James's in October 2010, after graduating from the Royal College of Music. Telephone: 020 8892 4957

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



This issue sees the start of our 150th anniversary year, culminating next December in special celebrations with the Bishop of London. The Spire Committee is busy planning a double-sized souvenir edition of The Spire for next July to coincide with St James's Day. Also, each edition of the Spire in 2013 will contain articles reflecting St James's and its people over the years.

We have refreshed the look of The Spire with some new headings, as well as moving Charity Box to Page 3 and including an Anniversary section on Page 6 that will report on events that have happened and advertise events to come. The 150 Anniversary Committee has tried to plan at least one event each month in 2013.

As this is also the Christmas edition of The Spire may I wish you all, on behalf of The Spire Committee, a happy and peaceful Christmas. Details of all our Christmas services are on Page 7 and you will be very welcome at any of them.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

We are a Fairtrade Church!
facebook.com/SaintJamesHamptonHill



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.

STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas or would like to write for the magazine, contact Janet Nunn. Telephone: 020 8979 6325 Email: janunhh@btinternet.com

AROUND THE SPIRE

If you have any news, please contact Susan Horner. Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

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WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

Prill Hinckley is webmaster. If you would like to receive the magazine by Email, please contact her. Prill also compiles the Young Spire page. Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

the **spire** is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Contact Susan Horner. Telephone: 020 8979 9380 Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk Write to: 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 1HH

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Please recycle this magazine after use



Come and worship with us!



You will receive a warm welcome at any of our services. Children of all ages are welcome and we provide a safe area in which they may play. We also run a Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, from 9.25am every Sunday (except the first in the month), during school weeks. Newcomers welcome.

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

2 December — Advent Sunday
8am and 11.15am: Jeremiah 33.14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36
9.30am Christingle: Luke 1.46-55

9 December — 2nd Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

16 December — 3rd Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3.14-20; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

23 December — 4th Sunday of Advent
Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45

30 December — 1st Sunday of Christmas
1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

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

13 January — The Baptism of Christ
Isaiah 43.1-7; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22

20 January — 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Isaiah 62.1-5; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11

27 January — 4th Sunday of Epiphany
Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5, 6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21

Mondays-Fridays

(but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

6 December / 3 January 2pm Holy Communion

Christmas presence



Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store.

The Grinch is the main protagonist in the 1957 children's book *How the Grinch stole Christmas!* written by Theodore Seuss Geisel, an American writer, poet and cartoonist. The Grinch is a bitter, cave-dwelling creature living alone on a mountain except for his faithful dog, Max. He lives on Mount Crumpit above the merry town of Whoville. He hears the jollity of the Christmas festivities below and, because his heart is *two sizes too small*, he resolves to ruin the Whos' Christmas. He steals their Christmas presents and other decorations and special food, but this does not stop the celebrations. The Grinch then comes to realise that Christmas is not all about material things, his heart grows three sizes, and he joins the Whos for their festivities. If we think that concern about the commercialisation of Christmas is a new thing, it is not!

Yet I sometimes wonder about the attacks on the commercialisation of Christmas. Is it the *commercial* element that is really the problem — a concern about 'commerce' as such, economic activity associated with it? Underneath the glitz and glam of, say, Father Christmas, can be glimpsed the Christian origins of Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, the fourth century Bishop of Myra, in what is now Turkey.

Nicholas is remembered as a man of great generosity to the poor, children and the needy. The giving of gifts in his name, and following his example, has led to our 'Santa Claus' today and Christmas presents. What is wrong with that? The alternative is what? Perhaps giving no gifts at all, depriving children of a rather uncomplicated pleasure? There is a simple delight in both giving and receiving. Though it has to be said that the simplicity is made more complicated by demands for particular gifts that people of all ages feel they just must have or life will be incomplete!

What does 'commercialisation' really mean? Christmas presents have to come from somewhere. We might say we need more commerce, not less. If people bought more, perhaps the economy would recover more quickly; more people would have jobs, and the future would look brighter. Low sales will not benefit anyone. As I write this I can see on a shelf in my study a simple pottery depiction of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. I bought this last year when it appeared on our church's *Traidcraft* stall. This was an act of commerce which I believe will, in a very small way,

Charity Box Maternity Hospital, Bethlehem

Just 500 yards from the traditional site where Jesus was born, this maternity hospital is committed to seeing that no expectant mother is ever told there is 'no room'.

Since its opening in 1990 it has delivered 50,000 babies, now averaging 3,000 a year. Its outpatient clinics see over 22,000 people. It has trained 90 midwives — the entire number working in all hospitals in the Palestinian West Bank.

Antenatal and post-natal clinics attended by specialists and resident doctors are held daily. The clinics are modern and well equipped with ultra sound scanning and full laboratory back up. Few mothers receive regular health care during pregnancy and over ten percent are seen for the first time when they walk into

have benefited the potter in South America. So I would want to suggest that comments about *commercialisation* can be lazily stated and that it is not the real problem. I am only too aware of when the commercial can lead to appalling exploitation.

If there is a problem with Christmas, it is its *secularisation*. In other words, the removal of any religious content from Christmas. Despite the use of the title 'Christmas', 'Mass of Christ', it becomes a winter festival (at least in the northern hemisphere) and sheds a little light into long, dark nights. When the focus of Christmas becomes *only* its commercial aspect, the proper reason for celebrating it has been lost. Without any sense of the coming of Christ as the reason for celebrating Christmas, it could become all 'take' and no 'give.'

I wonder what the first Christmas in Hampton Hill was like for Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram, in 1863? I've written about him on page four of this magazine. He was the first Vicar of St. James's, Hampton Hill. This month sees the beginning of a year of celebrations to mark our 150th anniversary, climaxing with the visit of the Bishop of London to us on 8 December 2013, just three days before the actual 150th anniversary of the consecration of St. James's Church. A man given to generosity, and concerned for people's well-being, spiritually and materially, Fitz Wygram was born at a time when questions were beginning to be asked very strongly about the place of religion in society. Serious, secular attempts to describe the world were becoming more prominent and were gaining credibility. However much or little this affected Fitz Wygram and his fellow residents in what was then 'New Hampton', there seems to have been nothing of the Grinch about him!

Christmas is indeed not bought in a shop, but there is nothing wrong with honest economic activity associated with it. Where it becomes nothing more than this, though, then Christmas is undermined. As St. James's begins its 150th year, there is the opportunity to consider what motivated people to plant a church here. Belief in a God who gives in Christ, out of love for the world, is central. This is celebrated at Christmas. If we can get this into our own celebrations, then the commercial can be Christian, and not secular.

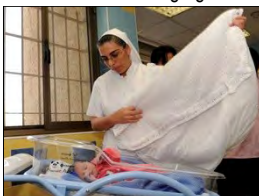
This is an inspiring challenge to action rather than simply complaining about commercialisation.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy 2013.

the hospital in labour. To address this problem an outpatient educational program has been introduced. These courses embrace childbirth, hygiene, nutrition and childcare.

When our parish pilgrimage visits the Holy Land next February, the group will be taking gifts to the hospital, both from members of the party and from The Ark. If any readers or members of the congregation would like to contribute to this outstanding Christian hospital, do speak to Peter or Julian.

■ **The Ark** has raised £120 through cake sales. There will be another sale on Monday 3 December, 10.30-12noon.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Here are some prayers that can be used to punctuate Christmas celebrations:

Before going to a Christmas celebration: church, school, work, family, friends

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger.



We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are.

Amen.

Before a Christmas meal

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today.

In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat.

We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live.

We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world.

We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever.

Amen.

For Christmas Day evening

Most Loving Father, thank you for this night and for all it represents. Thank you for the hope you bestow, the peace you bring, the love you pour out, and the joy you give. We praise you most of all for Jesus, your Word made flesh. May he light our way as the holy star lit the way for the wise men.



Amen.



Local and National stories

Welby is new Archbishop

JUSTIN WELBY, the current Bishop of Durham, will become Archbishop of Canterbury in March.

It marks a meteoric rise for the former oil executive, who has been a bishop for only a year, but insiders described him as 'the outstanding candidate'. He replaces Dr Rowan Williams, who steps down in December after 10 years in the post.

An old Etonian, Bishop Welby, 56, is skilled at conflict resolution; experience he is likely to need after a fractious and drawn-out appointment process. Bishop Welby is on the evangelical wing of the Church, closely adhering to traditional interpretations of the Bible. He is in favour of women bishops and on the issue of same-sex marriage he said he had to examine his own thinking 'carefully and prayerfully'. He's concerned about the moral obligations of the City — so will be just as outspoken as Dr Williams.



Church to modernise weddings

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND is to modernise the way it conducts weddings. Couples can now ditch Mendelssohn's Wedding March in favour of pop songs, and include unusual twists to the ceremony.

The reforms follow a four-year review. It concluded that more couples would marry in church and continue as regular churchgoers if they had more control over their big day. The review was ordered to halt a fall in the number of church marriages. Fewer than one in four weddings now takes place on Church of England premises.

Why it pays to buy Traidcraft

IT HAS BEEN a busy autumn for the Traidcraft stall, both for sales and a growing number of orders from the catalogue, with 15% discounts on craft and clothing items.

Catalogues can be borrowed from church. Please continue your support of Traidcraft, which has been *better than fair* in its dealings with farmers and producers. Our stall is one of the reasons that Richmond Borough was able to renew its Fairtrade status this year.

■ Erlangen in Germany has recently become a Fairtrade town, thanks to the hard work of Matthew Horner, Susan's son, and his friends. For more information go to www.fairlangen.org



'Build a house' appeal for Lent



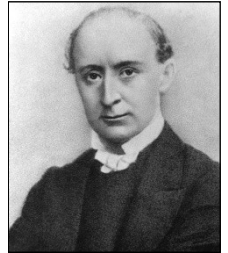
ST JAMES'S AND TWO CHURCHES in Teddington have been set a target to raise £5000 during Lent in 2013 to build a house for the soon to be appointed priest of Pemba — all part of Bishop Mark Van Koevering's amazing vision for the Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 13 February, with Holy Communion with ashing at 9.30am and 7.30pm. On Sundays in Lent we will be looking at the importance of Lent and Holy Week in the Christian Year.

The series is as follows: February 10: Lent; February 17: Palm Sunday; February 24: *Maundy Thursday*; March 3: *Good Friday*; and March 17: *Palm Sunday*. There will also be study sessions looking at the Gospels during Lent on Mondays at 2pm and 8pm — venues to be confirmed. February 18: Introduction; February 25: Mark; March 4: Matthew; March 11: Luke; March 18: John; and March 25 *in church at 8pm*: Celebrating the Gospels.

An inspired man

In the first of a year of anniversary features, we examine St James's first vicar. The Revd Fitzroy Fitz Wygram faced many challenges to establish the church in Hampton Hill. What sort of man was he and from where did he draw inspiration? Our current vicar, **The Revd Peter Vannozi**, investigates.



No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage
		In-habit-ed	Un-in-habit-ed (U), or building (B)			
152	Murree Place			Thomas Lawrence	Son	Married
153	Wygram Terrace	1		Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram	Head	Married
				Alice Fitz Wygram	Wife	Married
				Elizabeth Bampf	Servant	Single
				Rebecca Usher	Servant	Single
				Annia Eliza Brockett	Servant	Single
154	Wygram Stables	1		Henry Woodcock	Head	Married
				Ellen Woodcock	Wife	Married

Upstairs, Downstairs: Fitz Wygram's 1872 Census entry, showing himself, his wife, and a staff of four

Perhaps some of you at least might like the idea of being remembered when you're 'gone'. It may be someone's good opinion when they remember you is best of all. Just a few people will, if not exactly having their name in lights, at least have it before others in a physical way. There are two 'solid' reminders of one Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram. One is Fitz Wygram Close, off Windmill Road, in Hampton Hill. The other is the *Fitz Wygram Prize* awarded by Hampton School as its premier award to one of its boys.

Yet as we shall see, there are other reminders of Mr Fitz Wygram, too. Fitz Wygram was the first Vicar of St. James's, Hampton Hill, in post from 1863-81.

Who was he and what did he do?

Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram was born in 1827, the fourth child and fourth son of seven children born to his parents, Sir Robert Fitz Wygram, second Baronet, and Selina Hayes. The family was wealthy with an estate at Leigh Park, Hampshire. They were well-connected both at Court and more widely, with contact with both George IV and William IV, and also the Duke of Wellington. There appears to have been a tradition within the family of benevolence, and involvement in public affairs. (For example, an older brother of Fitzroy was a soldier and later an MP.)

Fitzroy was educated at Eton College and Trinity College, Cambridge. Eton had not, at that stage, been affected by the move for reform of English public schools, and it is to be wondered what Fitzroy would have experienced there.

The Cambridge influence

His time at Trinity, though, was one of upheaval in Cambridge. There were huge arguments about reform that was not being delivered — everyone had to do a maths examination and there were still Test Acts in place so non-conformists could not get degrees.

News of Tractarian ('Anglo-Catholic' or 'High Church') activity in Oxford was just breaking. Intellectually, there were big arguments about the place of Christian belief in serious study. Evangelicalism was a strong force in Cambridge at the time. It is impossible to know how much of this turmoil affected Fitz Wygram.

One thing that is clear about Fitz Wygram is that he did not go for the soft option when it came to taking on his own parish. After moving to Hampton Hill, Fitz Wygram fell in love with and married a local girl, Alice, the daughter of Lady Ward, who lived in the Grace and Favour Apartments at Hampton Court Palace, and Henry Ward, Governor of Madras at the time of his death.

It is clear that Alice was born into a family which, like her husband's, had a tradition of public service.

Admittedly, they lived in some comfort. They both had independent means, the then vicarage would have been one of the largest houses in the parish and, according to the 1872 census, they had a domestic staff of four, including a coachman!

The Vicar of New Hampton was, certainly, a gentleman. Fitz Wygram was typical of the Victorian period — a man with a strong Christian motivation, concerned for both spiritual and physical welfare, with the character and money to make a difference to people's lives.

I do not know the nature of his preaching, but Fitz Wygram's actions speak loudly. He purchased slum dwellings, demolished them, and built new cottages. He established schools — *School Road* is named after the ones that stood on the site of what is now the Greenwood Centre and recently built social housing. (I'm sure he would have approved of the later uses of both sites!)

A social campaigner

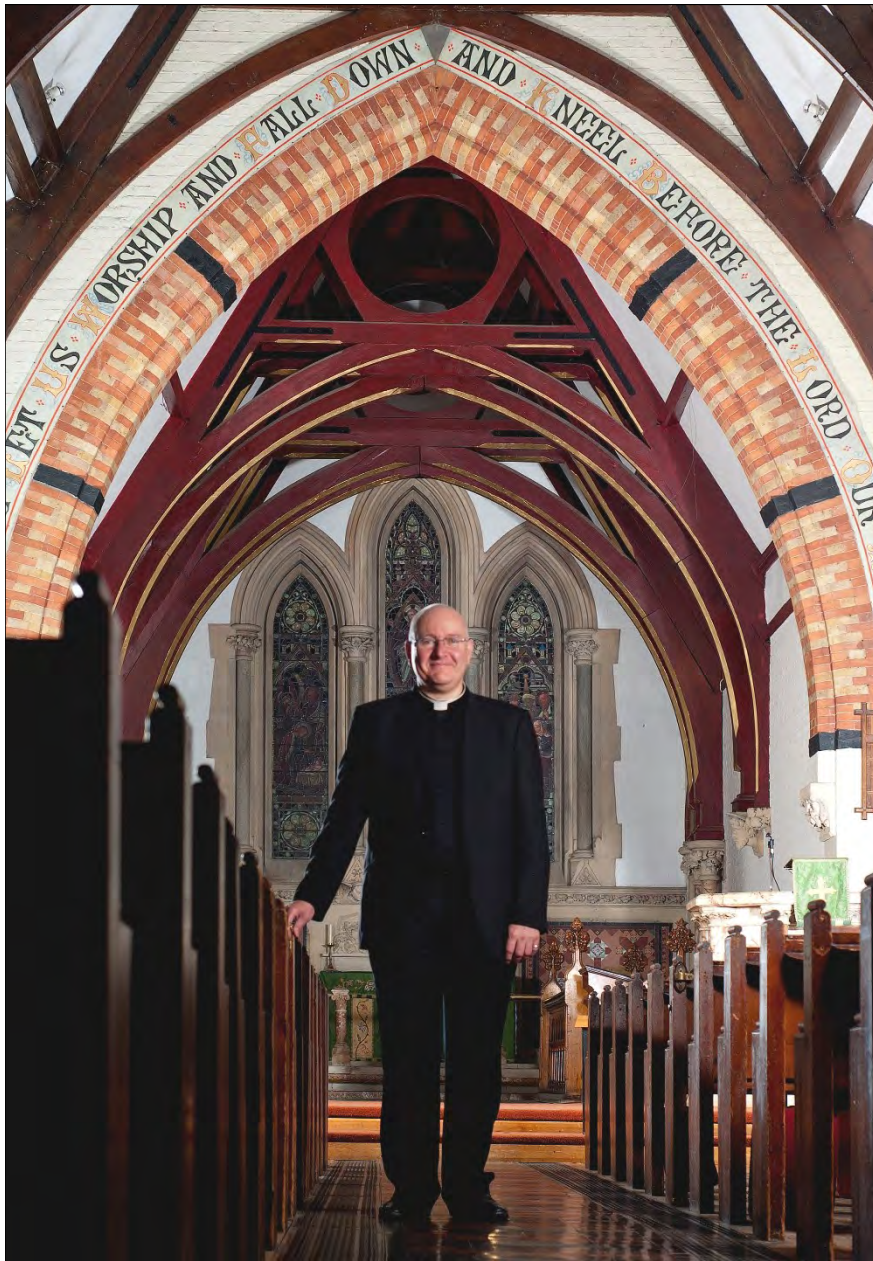
Fitz Wygram inveighed against the evils of alcohol and a coffee house



Sir Robert Fitz Wygram (1773-1843) was a director of the Bank of England and a Tory politician. Below: Lady Selina (1791-1866)



who still inspires



and social club was set up in his name. He pushed for better drainage, and for street lights. Fitz Wygram also did those things perhaps seen as more typical of a vicar, beautifying and extending his church building, drawing people to the Christian faith, and contributing to the wider Church as Rural Dean of Hampton.

Influence continued after his death

At Fitz Wygram's funeral in 1881, the curate, Studholme Wilson, is quoted in *The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill* — edited and compiled by the late Margery Orton for St. James's centenary in 1963 — as saying that his incumbent demonstrated 'his energy, his liberality and excessive care to foster any scheme that might add to the spiritual welfare of this parish or make this temple a more worthy dwelling-place for the most High'. A strong-minded, direct and inspiring individual, Fitz Wygram was much mourned when he died, and his influence is seen still.

How does Fitz Wygram still have an influence? One way is demonstrated through St. James's Church continuing to have a concern for the physical as well

as the spiritual. Charitable giving, concern for God's creation, Fair Trade, involvement with schools, seeking to be a part of the community — all are contemporary expressions of the concern that motivated our founder.

Inspired and inspiring

Christianity was not for Fitz Wygram an ungrounded, spiritual vagueness that had no practical outworking. Yet the very design of St. James's Church points to what motivated Fitz Wygram.

Written above the chancel arch are words which generations of people entering the building have seen: *O come let us worship and bow down, and kneel before the Lord, our Maker.*

Psalm 95 was said as part of *Matins* or *Morning Prayer* from the Book of Common Prayer. Fitz Wygram's congregation would have used these words Sunday by Sunday and, in his case, daily. It put his 'social work' in a wider context. Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram was an inspired man of his time, and inspires still.



Alice Fitz Wygram

Around the SPIRE

with Susan Homer

ON THE MOVE...

JEAN WESTERN has moved from her home in Broad Lane, Hampton, to Sunbury Nursing Home.

She tells us that she would welcome visitors, to catch up on news and pass the time.

We hope she will be very happy in her new surroundings and send her our best wishes.



CONFIRMED...

WILLIAM NETTLETON, pictured inside St. Paul's Cathedral, was one of 43 candidates from across the diocese confirmed there by The Rt Revd Edward Holland, Honorary Assistant Bishop for London, on Saturday 3 November.

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation was confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by Bishop Edward. The Church also asked God to give William power through the Holy Spirit to enable him to live in the way of Jesus.



HARVEST GIFTS...

A VAST ARRAY of

food and toiletries boosted by large donations from Hampton Hill Junior school and Hampton Hill Nursery School was collected from the church, thanks to the Upper Room's UR4Driving initiative that helps ex-offenders to acquire a driving licence as a step towards employment.

Money donations at the Harvest Festival service raised **£550**, a welcome amount in these difficult times. Thank you letters are displayed in church.



CRAFT SALE...

THE SHELL SEEKERS will be holding a craft sale after Parish Communion on **Sunday 16 December**. There was a great variety of attractive cards and gifts last year so do come along to see what our young people have produced this time.

CHARITY CARDS...

MANY THANKS to all who supported our charity Christmas card sales. The total raised for five charities was £632, £32 up on last year. The Ark sold £105 in cards.

JACK FOR PRESIDENT...

CONGRATULATIONS TO JACK GOSTLING,

who has been elected President of the Hampton Choral Society. Jack joined the society in 1983 and has sung at many concerts. These included concert tours in France, to Foix, Caen; Sancerre; Alençon; Cognac; Avignon; Toulouse, Royan, and Paris; and one to Prague. For his wife Ruth, as well as Jack, they were immensely enjoyable, shared with a great bunch of friends. In the past six years the society has raised £50,000 for charity. Jack, 88, has stopped attending regular practices, but still supports the society. He replaces the former MP Toby Jessel, who is retiring.





Did you know that our church was built 150 years ago? That was in 1863 when Queen Victoria was on the throne. It was built because more and more people came to live in this area. The picture shows what the church looked like then. As you can see there is no tower, no spire and no aisles or porches. The church was just a nave (the middle part with the pews) and a smaller chancel and vestry. Can you see the old bell tower on the top?



The first vicar was the Revd. Fitzroy Fitz Wygram. Look at his clothes. In the picture he was wearing a cravat (a neck band) rather than a dog collar which clergy wear nowadays. He was also wearing a black suit and a black clergy shirt. Have you noticed the little ink pot and quill on the left of the picture? He would have used that for writing his sermons and so on. There were no ballpoint pens or computers in those days!

The Victorians were great church goers. Everyone was expected to attend some form of religious worship on Sunday. People flocked to the little church and so a few years after it was built Revd. Fitz Wygram began a series of alterations and additions to turn it into the beautiful church we know today.

Anniversary Latest News



Christmas Parade heralds a busy year

Hampton Hill's 45th annual Christmas Lighting-up Parade marks the start of an exciting 13 months of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of our church.

On 30 November choir members, parishioners and children from Hampton Hill Junior School will lead carol singing before the lights are switched on.

The Hampton Hill Traders' Association chose to make our anniversary a focus for the night. Members of the 150 Committee, who have been busy planning the events, will also be out in force, handing out balloons and leaflets to promote the anniversary programme as well as our regular Christmas services.

They will be encouraging the hundreds of people who attend the event to give



generously to our anniversary charity, Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care, based at the Greenwood Centre. The traders' association, too, has chosen to support the charity as it

faces growing demand on its services at the same time as a funding crisis.

The charity acts as a 'good neighbour' to residents isolated by physical disability or



poverty — a cause which we feel sure our founding vicar, the Revd Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram, would have wholeheartedly supported.

Let there be light



CHRISTINGLE is the first of three services that focus on candles in December and January.

The service, on 2 December, raises money for The Children's Society while reminding us all of the Christmas message — so easily lost in the rush to buy presents.

We hope you can celebrate it with your friends, family and us!



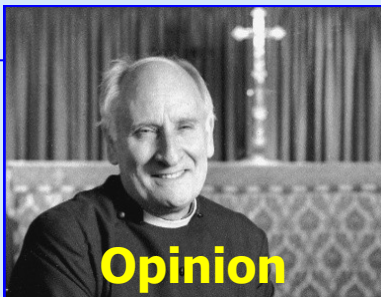
FIREWORKS On the eve of our anniversary year, on Saturday 31 December, there will be a **New Year's Eve Service** at 4.30pm. As well as looking ahead to 2013, there will be time to reflect on 2012.

The service will be followed by a glass of bubbly, lanterns will be lit and released in the churchyard, and there will be fireworks.



CANDELES The following month, St James's will be holding a **Candlemas Service** at 4pm on Sunday 27 January. To mark our anniversary, 150 candles will be lit, blessed and borne in a procession in celebration of Jesus being the light of the world.

We hope you can join us for these special events.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

MIDDLE EAST LAND ISSUE

Over Christmas we sing *O Little Town of Bethlehem, How Still We See Thee Lie* and the message of peace born there. Today this Palestinian city is entirely surrounded by the 26-ft-high 'security wall'. Its people face huge difficulties to go to work or visit Jerusalem seven miles away.

The United Nations has proposed a two-state solution, dividing the Holy Land between Israel and Palestine. The West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza would be part of the Palestinian state, with Jerusalem an international city.

Israel regards Jerusalem as part of its territory. It has allowed more than 120 illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank involving nearly 400,000 people, and these are growing daily. Despite continuing tensions affecting the Middle East there are no peace negotiations. Many of our Christmas carols can sound hollow in such a situation.

APARTHEID AGAIN?

I was born in South Africa, brought up in this country; I watched the world gradually come to outlaw apartheid. Over more than 45 years and seven visits I have watched a similar apartheid situation developing in the Holy Land.

Many commentators are now saying the Palestinians do not have enough land and security for a state of their own. The world seems unable and unwilling to prevent Israel gradually taking over Palestine. Why?

Rabbi David Goldberg, for 30 years the Rabbi of London's leading liberal synagogue, tackles this question in his book, *This is not the Way-Jews, Judaism and Israel*. He describes the power of the Jewish Lobby internationally and how one can be a critic of Israeli policies without being anti-Semitic.

AID WORKS

At the last election all the main party leaders pledged to maintain the previous Government's commitment that Britain should earmark 0.7% of its national income for overseas aid. Despite criticism, the present government has stuck to its pledge.

Recent figures show that the number of children under five who died from preventable diseases has gone down by 700,000, the biggest fall ever recorded. Over the past ten years global aid has wiped out smallpox, stemmed the fatal advance of HIV in six million people, and put an extra 50 million children into primary school. All the major studies show that aid works, despite the exceptions that critics can always find.

CHURCH ISOLATED

Mary McAleese, former Roman Catholic president of Ireland, says in her book, *Quo Vadis*, that her Church needs to focus on dialogue rather than obedience. She thinks her Church has lost the argument over artificial contraception with the majority of people going to Mass ignoring its teaching. Her church has also lost the argument about homosexuality. 'As this issue becomes more and more debated in the light of forensic and scientific research, I think our Church is going to become increasingly isolated.'

MODEL PM

Professor of History Peter Hennessey recently suggested the model prime minister would have the dedication to duty of a Peel, the physical energy of a Gladstone, the flair of a Disraeli, the detachment of a Salisbury, the brains of an Asquith, the balls of a Lloyd George, the word power of a Churchill, the administrative gifts of an Attlee, the style of a Macmillan, the managerial strengths of a Heath, and the sleep requirements of a Thatcher.

His summary: 'An impossible job.'

What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



Annual Leaf Sweep and Gutter Clean

Saturday 1 December, 9.30am, St James's Church

This important maintenance work needs YOUR help! All gutters of both church and hall need to be cleared of leaves and the courtyard and car park swept.

Christingle

Sunday 2 December, 9.30am, St James's Church

This popular family service, during which everyone will circle the church with a lit candle, launches our 150th anniversary celebrations. Money raised at the event will support the Children's Society.

Traidcraft Stall for Christmas

Sunday 2 December / Sunday 6 January 2013, 10.30am-11.30am, St James's Church

Our monthly stall has food and gifts that make perfect Christmas presents. Do look at the catalogues for the full range. It's not too late to order for Christmas!

Looking for Christ to Come

Sunday 2 December, 4pm, St James's Church

This service marks the beginning of Advent, a new year in the Christian calendar, and the real importance of Christmas; a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus.

Visitees' Tea Party

Tuesday 4 December, 2-5.30pm, St James's Church Hall

The Visiting Team invites you to catch up with some of our longer-standing friends who are no longer able to attend regular services. Join them for tea, sandwiches and cake!

Christmas Community Service

Wednesday 5 December, 6.30pm, St James's Church

This annual concert, organised by Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care, features a sparkling programme of festive music and song, with carols and readings. Free admission, with a retiring collection for The Greenwood Centre. It will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall.

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 8 December, 7.30pm, St James's Church

Christmas Concert, featuring Carl Rütt's *Three Carols*; Cecilia McDowall's *Christus Natus Est*; and John Tavener's *The Lamb*. Accompanied by Riverside Brass Quintet. Tickets: Adults £10 (concessions £9), Children £2. Available from Albert's Music Shop, Twickenham or on the door.

Registers for October



Baptisms

14 Edward Irvin Perkins, Hampton Hill

14 Dexter Guy Perkins, Hampton Hill

Wedding

20 Stuart David McCrystal and Carly Helen Davidge, Sunbury and Hampton

Funerals

11 Elizabeth French (Betty), 90, Hampton Hill

30 Alan Chalkley, 70, Teddington



Christmas at St James's Church

NEW Carol Service

Sunday 23 December, 6.30pm, St James's Church

Carols and readings followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

NEW Crib Service

Monday 24 December, 4.30pm, St James's Church

Young and old are invited to the story of the nativity.

Midnight Mass

Monday 24 December, 11pm, St James's Church

NEW Holy Communion

Tuesday 25 December, 8am, St James's Church

Parish Communion

Tuesday 25 December, 9.30am, St James's Church

Put Jesus at the centre of your Christmas celebrations!

NEW New Year's Eve Service

Monday 31 December, 4.30pm, St James's Church

A service of recollection, followed by fireworks and bubbly.

NEW Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 20 January, 6.30pm, Hampton Baptist Church, Bethany Chapel, Beards Hill, Hampton TW12 2AQ

This service is organised by Churches Together Around Hampton. The theme of injustice comes from the Student Christian Movement of India. They focus on the Dalits, a group of people known as the 'untouchables', who are socially marginalized, economically exploited and culturally subjugated. The service will include a short presentation of *One Faith, One Baptism* from three of the Christian traditions.

NEW Candlemas Service

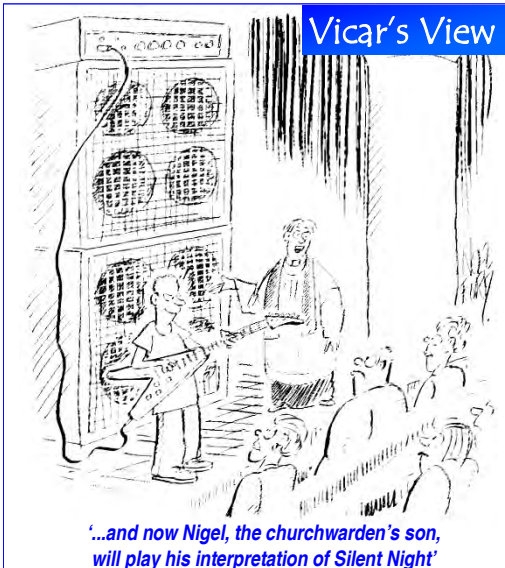
Sunday 27 January, 4pm, St James's Church

During this service 150 candles will be lit to represent Jesus being the light of the world.

NEW St James's Theatre Club

Friday 1 February, 7.30pm, 'Allo 'Allo, Hampton Hill Playhouse

The classic BBC sitcom comes to a stage near you! Tickets £12. Please add your name to the list in church or telephone Peter Hale 020 8979 9287. Transport can be arranged.



Vicar's View

'...and now Nigel, the churchwarden's son, will play his interpretation of Silent Night'

A lot has changed in 73 years, but not my faith



My family came to live in St James's Avenue in March 1939. Within days the Revd Frederick Harvey had called and enrolled my brother, Ivan, and me into the choir. Later, Ivan moved on to sing at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace.

I remember a few of the choir members at the time: Phil Cowie, Jack Gray, David Thompson, Laurence Weedon (who is still a member of the congregation) and John Sumner. There were also three ladies, Mrs Keen, her daughter, and Miss Fanny Cooper. Mr Haydn Bull was choirmaster and organist.

Confirmation classes were conducted by the Revd Harvey in the Vicarage. After our confirmation we were all presented with a book entitled *Helps to Worship*, signed by the Revd Harvey, which I still use to this day.

My wife, Pat, was confirmed at St James's in 1952 and attended classes conducted by the Revd Rupert Brunt and she also has the book he gave her, entitled *Every Girl's Confirmation Book*, and signed by him.

I became a server at my first communion in December 1946, attending at least four services each Sunday, and continued serving until I joined the RAF. My parents moved to Hampton and we worshipped at St Mary's Church and Pat and I were married there.

We returned to St James's and the Revd Brian Leathard asked me if I would like to become a server again, which I accepted and continued serving until I retired in September 2010 through ill-health. Our worship still continues with Holy Communion on a Tuesday morning.

Harvest Festival services were quite different from today. Then the church would be filled with vegetables, flowers and fruit and on the altar a large loaf of bread decorated with sheaves of corn, donated by the local baker. This was all then distributed around the parish.

Mr Western was the churchwarden and was Jean Western's father. In those days they had a designated pew with the churchwarden's staff on the end and no one else was allowed to sit in it!

Mr Christie was the caretaker and also rang the church bells and wound the clock by hand. He taught me to how to do both. There was an old kitchen chair which I had to stand on to wind the clock with a large angled key. Now, it is electronic.

When I rang the bells before the services I had to run down the spiral stairs pulling the toll bell by a long rope which hung down through the stairs from the belfry. Then, I had to get to the vestry to carry the cross in the procession up the church.

Miss Edwards cleaned the church and brasses and also used

to toll the bell for the 8am Holy Communion service.

My mother, Stella Futter, was a member of the Mothers' Union and embroidered the Mothers' Union Banner and also two altar frontals. The green one is still in use today, as you can see at the bottom of this page.

In my day there were two stage productions of *Quality Street* performed in the old Parish Hall in School Road (now the Greenwood Centre). There was also a nativity play in the church produced by Norah Harvey, the vicar's daughter.

A staunch member of the congregation was Miss Amy Lush, who many would remember as she was a school teacher at Windmill Road School (now Hampton Hill Junior School).

The Credence Table by the high altar was dedicated to her and Mr J S Farrow's memory and is still in use today. This is where the wine chalice and wafers rest prior to communion.

One dramatic event took place on 14 November 1940. In heavy rain and sleet, the wing of a British Wellington bomber, caught the back left-hand pinnacle at the base of the spire. The crew had already bailed out due to the plane icing up. The plane veered to the left and fell on the house of Lady Stanton and her daughter Hannah, at 63 Park Road, and the house was completely destroyed.

Luckily the house was empty at the time so no injuries occurred. Sparks, flames and debris showered on nearby houses and exploding ammunition caused fireworks.

The Revd Harvey was on fire watch that night in St James's Road and kept a watch on nearby roofs in case the fire spread. Next morning the cross was found in the churchyard and was then kept in the church by the font for many years and was only replaced when the weather vane was removed from the spire.

The Revd Harvey wrote in my Confirmation Book: 'Stand fast in the faith.' This I have done and still do in my worship at St James's Church.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

Good Christian Men Rejoice



*Good Christian men, rejoice
with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:*

*News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow;
and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:*

*Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and man is blest forevermore.*

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

*Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:*

*Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
to gain His everlasting hall.*

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

This carol, in one form or another, is a mainstay of Carol Services. Both the words and the tune are medieval, *In dulci jubilo*, both first appearing in written form in the 14th century, the tune first.

The original words are a mixture of German and Latin.

The translation, or better interpretation, above is by John Mason Neale (1818-66), pictured, an eminent Anglican priest, and prolific translator and writer of texts for worship.

As a boy of fourteen, he began a translation (published in 1833-34) of the poetical writings of Coelius Sedulius, who flourished about 450 AD, and was counted among the founders of Christian hymnody.

Neale was influenced by the Oxford Movement that sought to remind the Church of England that it was 'catholic' as well as 'reformed.'

The use of pre-Reformation texts pointed to Neale reclaiming some of what was seen as a lost heritage of spiritual riches. His hymns that are still sung include *All glory, laud and honour* particularly associated with Palm Sunday, some verses of *O come, O come Emmanuel*, a great Advent hymn, and *Good King Wenceslas*.

Neale's version will be sung at St. James's Church on **30 December**, the Sunday in the Christmas season.

