

Details of
forthcoming
**150th
Events**
are on
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FEBRUARY 2013

thespire

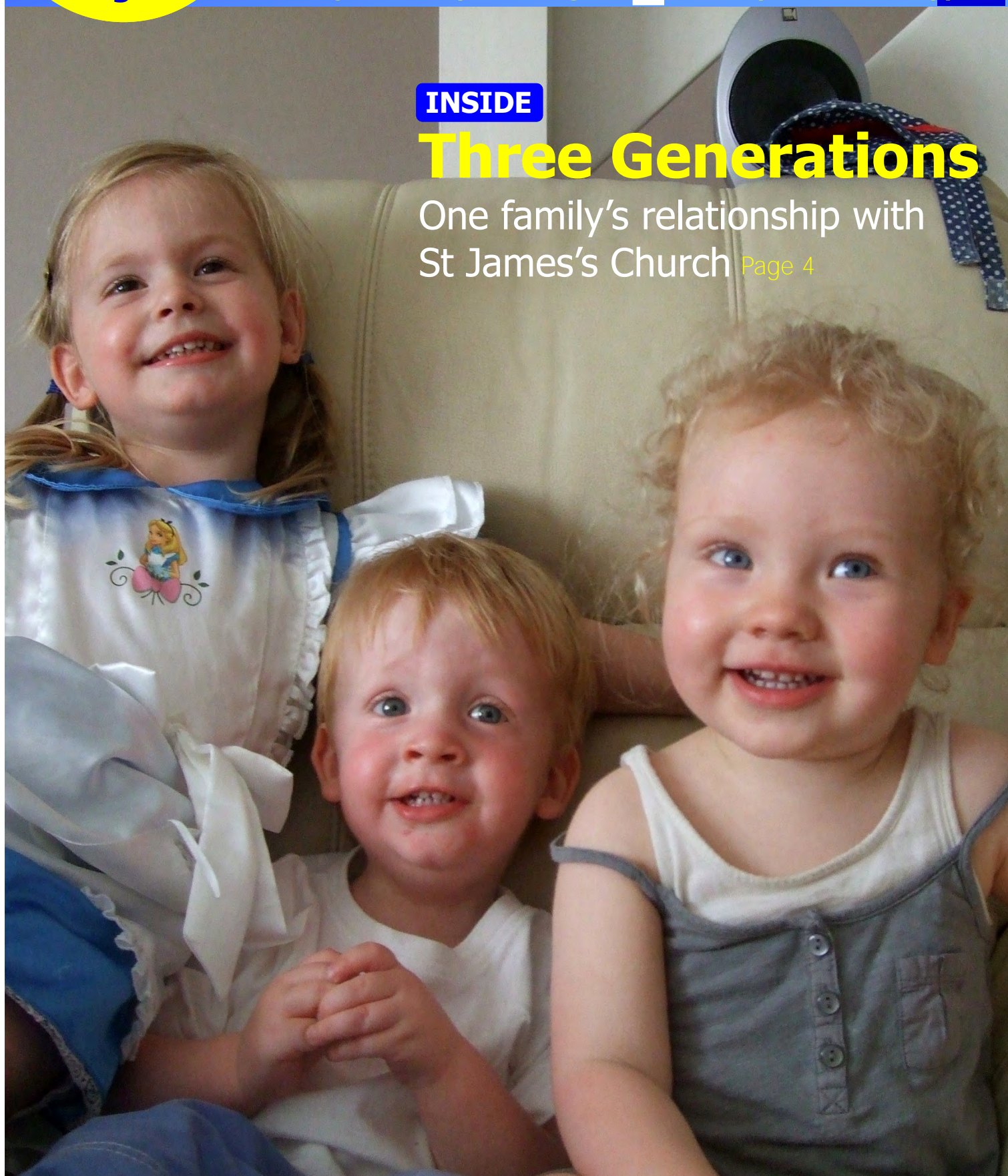
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Three Generations

One family's relationship with
St James's Church **Page 4**



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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 sponsorship 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
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Address: St James's Church, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ

Officials



Churchwarden

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



Churchwarden

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



Treasurer

Don Barrett
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



Bell Ringing Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder
Margaret Hobbs 020 8979 2320

Brownies Sarah Beer 075 0135 4225

Charities and Links Committee
Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Children's Advocate Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

Church Cleaning Rota
Margaret Taylor 020 8979 3961

Church Flowers Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Churches Together Around Hampton
Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Deanery Synod Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Electoral Roll Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

Eco-Group Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563

Guides Sarah Reed 020 8241 0499

Hall Bookings Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

Hall Coffee Rotas Clare Ryan 079 7234 7956

Mission Partner Link Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Mozambique/Angola Link
Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

Music and Worship Committee
Peter Vannozi 020 8979 2069

Organist Emeritus Geoffrey Bowyer 020 8894 3773

PCC Secretary Jane Gibson, by email:
janealigibson@hotmail.co.uk

Planned Giving Committee
Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

Properties Committee
Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Scout Group Paul Fitchett 020 8941 7186

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Sidespersons Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

Social Committee Vacancy

St James's Ark Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

St James's Players Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

Sunday School Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563

Tools with a Mission Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Theatre Club Peter Hale 020 979 9287

Visitors' Group Liz Butler 020 8977 4227

Pew Sheet Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

From the Editor

Our 150th Celebrations are well under way now and you will find details on our special anniversary section on Page 6. This issue of *thespire* is dedicated to two families with long associations with St James's. Debbie Nunn has given us a detailed account of her family's connections with our church from first joining to the baptism of her grandchildren. Richard Melville recalls his younger days at St James's and his family connections with the church.

The Committee is working hard on getting our special Anniversary edition ready for July, and sifting through lots of photos and anecdotes that people have very kindly given to us. The response to our original request was slow to start, but now the floodgates have opened, which is really good as we have plenty of material to choose from.

Hopefully by the time you read this article our church's pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be taking place and we shall look forward to hearing all about it when they return.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

We are a Fairtrade Church!
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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.

STORIES, FEATURES

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

Telephone: 020 8979 6325

Email: janunh@btinternet.com

AROUND THE SPIRE

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

WHAT'S ON

Griselda Barrett is listings editor. If you have an event to be considered for inclusion, contact her.
Email: griseldabarrett@blueyonder.co.uk

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

thespire is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Contact **Susan Horner**:
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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The March issue is published on 27 February. All copy must be with us by **Tue 5 February**.

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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 terms. Newcomers welcome.

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
From 17 February, (during Lent):
8pm Compline (night prayer)

3 February — Candlemas
Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Malachi 3.1-5; Revelation 4; Luke 2.22-40

On Sundays in Lent we will be looking at the importance of Lent and Holy Week in the Christian year at both services, with the following themes:

10 February — Sunday Next Before Lent
Lent: Exodus 34.29-end; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2
Luke 9.28-36

17 February — 1st Sunday of Lent
Palm Sunday: Deuteronomy 26.1-11
Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

24 February — 2nd Sunday of Lent
Mundy Thursday: Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-end

Ash Wednesday

13 February — Holy Communion with Ashing
9.30am and 7.30pm Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; John 8.1-11

Mondays-Fridays

(but not Tuesdays)
9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

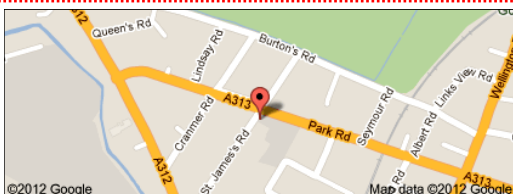
9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

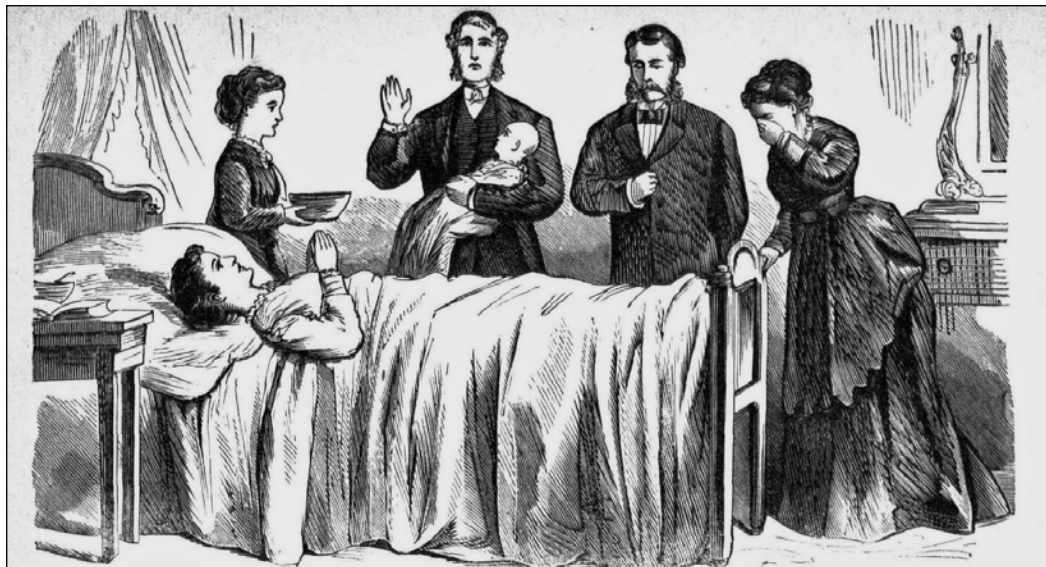
NO service this month

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.



Looking death in the face



On the highest throne in the world, we still sit only on our own bottom.

Michel de Montaigne, *The Complete Essays*

No sooner is Christmas out the way, than Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is early this year – 13 February. There is usually at least time to have well and truly put the tinsel away before looking towards Easter. Not in 2013.

Lent is an austere time and can be a shock after the extravagance of Christmas. A certain spiritual austerity after partying is perhaps a good thing! Yet Lent is not as easy a time of the Christian Year to get into as Christmas.

People talk about 'Christmas spirit' – I don't recall the same being said of a 'Lent spirit'. After all, how can we really speak of 'getting into the spirit of things' during a time of the year that emphasises restraint, self-denial, starkness and simplicity? It seems downright miserable!

The Church's worship in Lent does not do much to inspire confidence and positive thinking. Throughout the world on Ash Wednesday, people will be marked on their forehead with a cross in ash and be told, in these or similar words:

Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.

One reaction to this might be to say: 'No, thanks.' Life is brief enough, fleeting, over in the blink of an eye, and morbid reminders of mortality are the last thing that is needed.

Or are they?

One aspect of western culture that has been often commented on is the denial of death. In the past, death was not avoided. It was impossible to do so given the closeness of death due to illness, poverty and disease. In much of the world, this is still the case. Yet in the West, huge advances medically, scientifically, and socially have seen death become a cause for surprise and offence.

Christianity does not affirm this. Its central figure is a man who died. Its primary symbol is a means of execution. In hymns,

Charity Box Lent Appeal 2013

St James's is joining with two Teddington parishes - St Mary with St Alban, and St Peter and St Paul – to raise £5000 for an important project in the parish of Pemba, northern Mozambique.

The church in Pemba has been through a difficult time since the death of its priest in December 2010. Pemba is a coastal town in the Diocese of Niassa and Bishop Mark Van Koeveering has been deciding how best to help the parish move forward.

Church growth in Pemba is not that easy as 95% of its inhabitants are Muslims, while satellite congregations in the surrounding rural areas are growing. Bishop Mark has therefore decided to move the centre of the parish from Pemba to Chiure, before installing a new priest.

death is sung about. In prayers, death is something for which thanks is given. If you do not want to be reminded of your own mortality then do not go into a church!

Lent as a season of the Church's year will not let a person off the hook of their own limitations and humanity. The quote at the beginning puts each and every one of us firmly in our place!

Yet this is not the end of the story. Realising one's mortality can lead a person to know how much they need more than just their own self, however wonderful. Lent as a season traditionally encourages people to look outwards, recognising the needs of others, and responding as far as it lies in one's power to do so.

Churches very commonly have a Lenten project to support. This Lent, St. James's will work with two other Anglican parishes in Teddington – St Mary with St Alban, and St Peter and St Paul. We are aiming to raise enough money to build a house for a priest in a parish in Mozambique.

The Anglican Church in our links dioceses in Angola and Mozambique works tirelessly for people and the betterment of their lives and deserves our support. If this Lent produces a good result for a parish in Mozambique, the recognition of our need of each is not a cause for misery, but joy. After all, Easter follows Lent.

Lent, then, is not life-denying, but it is realistic. Recognition of limitations, and the freedom that comes in embracing them, but finding something more beyond them, is part of the flavour of the season. So in Lent look mortality in the face, but do not stay there gazing at it, forever transfixed by a vision of sorrow. See it, and move on.

Walk in company with others who know their limitations, too – we all sit on our own bottom, after all! But do so also with Jesus. This is the same Jesus whose birth we celebrated not long ago, and who invites us now to walk with him to the cross and resurrection. His austere way opened up the possibility of abundant life.

I hope that this Lent may be a rich time for each of us.

The new priest will need a house to live in and Bishop Mark's plans can be fulfilled if between us we can raise £5000.

From Ash Wednesday (13 February) leaflets and Gift Aid envelopes will be in church for each of us to use. Please consider carefully how you can support this appeal as part of your Lenten journey. A fund raising supper, *A Taste of Africa*, on 16 March in St Mary's church hall in Teddington, will be a lovely way for our congregations to come together.

■ *Many of you know about ALMA, the Diocese of London's partnership link with the Anglican Church in Mozambique and Angola. For the past five years there have been diocesan appeals for ALMA; but not this year, which gives St James the freedom to focus on this specific request from Bishop Mark.*



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

A Litany of Humility



From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being extolled,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being honoured,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being praised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being preferred to others,
Deliver me, Jesus.

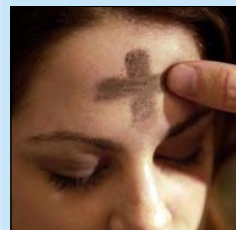
From the desire of being approved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being humiliated,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being despised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of suffering rebukes,
Deliver me, Jesus.

Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val (1865-1930)



Collect for
Ash
Wednesday,
Book of
Common
Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Local and National stories

Church Electoral Roll revised

THE ELECTORAL ROLL is the closest a Church of England parish gets to a membership list. It is presented to the Diocese following the Annual General Meeting. This is different to the local authority Electoral Register. If you are on the Electoral Roll, you are entitled to nominate, be nominated for, and vote for membership of the PCC and Deanery Synod. This year will see each Church of England parish producing a new Electoral Roll. You may have been on the Roll of St. James's for years or you may wish to come on for the first time. Whatever the case, forms will be available in church from 24 February-24 March. You can also download one from our website.

■ The 2011 Census for England and Wales shows a dramatic ten-year drop in those calling themselves Christians, from 71.7% to 59.3%. The Muslim population in the UK has increased from 3% to 4.8%.

Sam's Strauss opera fortnight

OUR ORGANIST, **Samuel Draper**, has recently spent two weeks at the Theater Freiburg in Germany, where he attended rehearsals of Richard Strauss's opera *Ariadne auf Naxos* and studied scores with the conductor Gerhard Markson.

Scouts prove to be hotshots

OUR SCOUT GROUP have surpassed all their previous best results by winning both the junior and senior events in the National Scout Air Rifle Championships, the biggest annual event on the Scouting calendar with about 800 competitors.



They won the overall junior trophy for the third year running (and the fourth time in five years), and also the senior trophy for the first time. This is the Senior Connaught Trophy, an immense shield that is over 100 years old, which has travelled the world during its existence and is a work of art in its own right. Several Scouts also won individual awards. Congratulations to them all and their leaders.

Shell Seekers aid Mo charity

THE SHELL SEEKERS raised £200 from their pre-Christmas sale of cards, gift tags, calendars, biscuits and other goods. This will go to the Mo Farah Foundation, which provides life-saving aid to people facing starvation and disease in East Africa. Well done!

All Saints gets its new vicar

THE REVD GARETH WARDELL is to be the new Vicar of All Saints, Hampton. Gareth was previously Associate Vicar at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, for four years. He replaces the Revd Canon Dr Julie Gittoes, a former curate at St James's, and now at Guilford Cathedral.



New plan for women bishops

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS has set up a working group to agree new legislation 'without delay' to approve women bishops, to be debated by the General Synod in July. A previous attempt last November failed.

Farewell to Church stalwart

HAVING SPENT all her life in Hampton, Hampton Hill or Teddington, **Liz Butler** moved to Gloucestershire in December to be near to her daughter Kirsty. We shall all miss her as she has played such a large part in the life of our church, as a former churchwarden, a member of the choir and having organised the visitors to the elderly and housebound for many years.

However, we will still see her occasionally as she will be visiting friends and relations in the area. Liz's new address is: Englewood, Cotswold Mead, Painswick, Gloucestershire GL6 6XB

■ **John and Betty Rainbow** and **Mary Gray** have also moved, but are still living locally. We wish them all happiness in their new homes.



Generation game

The Nunn family have been attending St James's Church for 33 years, during which there have been two family weddings, two confirmations and five baptisms. **Debbie Nunn** describes how it all began with a copy of the *spire*



Geoffrey's 1978 christening



Suzanne's 1982 christening

The Nunn family's journey with St James's Church started in June 1978, when the Revd Rupert Brunt christened our firstborn, Geoffrey James. However, it wasn't until 1980, when Geoffrey was about two years old, that we as a family started to attend regularly.

John and I met in our early teens at St. Mary's Church, Mortlake, where we married in 1973. We moved to Hampton in 1975, but had slipped out of regular church-going – that was until I read an article in the *spire*, written by Eila Severn.

She encouraged parents to bring young children to church for part of the service, which I duly did. The welcome we received had us hooked!

I then started to go to the St. James's Young Families Group on Thursday mornings. Meetings were held in Wayside, the house almost opposite the church which was sold when the hall was built. We had lively times with speakers, pram services and parties.

Suzanne Deborah was born in 1982 and she was christened by the Revd Nicholas Chubb.

In due course, I taught in the Sunday School, where Geoffrey and Suzanne were both members.

In 1991 Geoffrey was presented for confirmation by the Revd Brian Leathard, pictured, who introduced him to a long career in serving.

Geoffrey continued going to Sunday School and also to the Grey Branch youth club, which helped get a small



Geoffrey's 1991 confirmation



Suzanne's 1993 confirmation

group through their challenging teenage years!

Suzanne was confirmed in 1993 and she also continued with Sunday School. Both she and Geoffrey attended Bishop Wand Secondary School in Sunbury.

Two weddings, three births

The year 2008 was a very significant one for the Nunn family. The Revd Peter Vannozzi presided over Suzanne's wedding to Daniel O'Connor in April and also Geoffrey's marriage to Tiffany Henry in July.

We have wonderful, precious memories of two very special days.

In May 2009, Geoff and Tiff were blessed with the birth of Philippa Alice, with Henry Lewis arriving the following year – a month before Suzie and Dan had Sophie Rose, in Oct 2010.

We always say that weddings and babies in our family are like buses – you wait ages, then two come along at once!

Pippa and Sophie have both been christened by Peter, while Henry's christening took place in St. Dunstan's in Mayfield, where the family now lives.

at St James's



**Suzanne and 2008
Daniel marry**



**Geoffrey and 2008
Tiffany marry**



**Pippa's 2010
christening**



**Sophie's 2011
christening**

So, as you can see, St. James's has been very important to our family for over 30 years. The support and help we have received from within the church has been invaluable and many long-lasting

friendships have been formed. I thank God every day for my wonderful family and I cannot imagine life without St. James's – our faith and family life have been greatly enriched by this great community.



**Henry's 2012
christening**

around the SPIRE with Susan Homer

WEDDING BELLS

AMY CAMMIDGE, daughter of Jacky and Alan, married **Elliot Blazewicz** at St James's Church on 21 December. After a week of



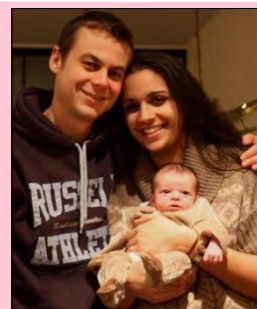
dreary weather, to everyone's relief the sun shone on the bridal party.

NEWBORN...

CONGRATULATIONS to **Anusha and Peter Hesketh** on the birth of their daughter, **Leila Rosemary**, on 14 December, a first grandchild for our former vicar, **Brian Leathard** and his wife **Ramani**.

Brian is now Rector of St Luke's and Christchurch, Chelsea.

We wish all of them well for the future.



VIENNESE BIRTHDAY



CONGRATULATIONS to Churchwarden **Nick Bagge**, who celebrated his 50th birthday with a family holiday in Vienna. He is pictured at a New Year's Eve concert with his wife, **Genevieve**, and eight-year-old daughter, **Emma**.

TV ROLE



JACK AND RUTH GOSTLING'S grandson, **Ben Crompton**, is currently starring in the BBC Three comedy series, *Pramface*, on Tuesdays at 10pm.

CHRISTMAS...

THANK YOU to all who helped to clean and decorate our church and to welcome visitors over the Christmas period.

FROM FLORIDA WITH LOVE



GABRIELLA ELIZABETH, daughter of **William and Karima Patey**, was baptised at St. James's on 30 December. Gabriella was born in Florida in June. She is pictured with our vicar, **Peter**, her parents, right, grandparents **Elizabeth and Dennis Wilmot**, left, and her uncle, **Henry Wilmot**, extreme left.



Pilgrimages

For many Christians a pilgrimage is special part of their spiritual life. It is a journey to a shrine or other sacred place which is important to a particular faith or belief. Over the years some places become special for various different reasons, and Christians, who see life itself as a journey, decide to visit them to become closer to God. A person who makes such a journey is called a pilgrim.

Pilgrimages were first made to places connected with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Then they began to be made to Rome and other places associated with the apostles, saints and Christian martyrs. In the Middle Ages the Church believed that if you prayed



at a sacred place your sins might be forgiven and so it encouraged people to make these pilgrimages. Another reason people used to go on pilgrimages was that they hoped they might be cured of a certain illness. As a shrine was a holy or sacred place dedicated to a particular holy figure, it often contained objects associated with that holy figure. Sometimes when people arrived at the shrine they would pay money to be allowed to look at these holy relics.

One of the best known places Christians visit on pilgrimage is the Holy Land (Israel and Palestine) where Jesus lived. Santiago de Compostela in Spain is another popular place because Saint James, the Patron Saint of our church and one of the twelve disciples, is believed to be buried here. Over the years St. James's parishioners have made pilgrimages to many different places, some locally and some to foreign lands. Some parishioners go on pilgrimages with their families and some go as a group. There have been pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Jordan, Mount Sinai, Jerusalem, Galilee, Syria and the Lebanon. Nearer to home the pilgrimages have included Winchester, Chichester, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral. One of those on the pilgrimage said: 'This spiritual journey and strengthening or renewal of faith experienced by the group was hugely significant.'

The photographs show two pilgrimages members of St. James's Church have taken, the top one showing the pilgrimage to St. Paul's Cathedral in 2011, led by the Revd Peter Vannozi, and the other to the Holy Land in 2010, led by the Revd Debbie Oades.



Anniversary Latest News

Christingle Service lights the way...



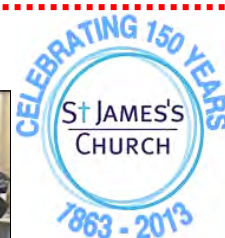
The Christingle service was extremely well attended raising money for The Children's Society while reminding us all of the Christmas message.

During the service the Revd Peter Vannozi gave a talk which began: 'A wilderness with a number of habitations of the most wretched kind, inhabited by a still more wretched class of people'. That's how New Hampton was described back in 1863, and it's a far cry from the Hampton Hill of today. But because of the needs of the new community being born, a

young man called Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram came here as the first vicar. Fitz Wygram Close is named after him, over the road from School Road where schools he built were located.

In his time, besides schools, he provided housing, sanitation, and reached out to those in need. And today, as his successor, I count myself fortunate to live in an area where there is a still a sense of community. Part of that community for a century-and-a-half has been St. James's Church, one of the earliest buildings of Hampton Hill, beaten though by the

Launch of the 150th Anniversary: Sunday 2 December 2012



Star which is 150 years old this year.

St. James's is beginning a year of celebration of our 150th birthday. If there are two words that strike me as expressing the best of community it is these – *Better together*. Some great things happen here and they're always *Better together*. And we're beginning our year of celebration at our Christingle Service, and on the First Sunday of Advent, which for the Church is New Year's Day. Advent means *coming or arrival* and we're looking forward to the coming of Jesus."



New Year's Eve Service: Saturday 31 December 2012 at 4.30pm



Despite the wet weather, a large number of parishioners turned out for a New Year's Eve Service. It was a reflective service that looked back on the year 2012 and also looked forward to the year 2013, our anniversary year. It was followed by refreshments in the hall, including a toast to 2013. The wet weather meant we were unable to launch the lanterns or watch a fireworks display, but weather permitting, these were due to be used following the Candlemas Service on 27 January.

150TH EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

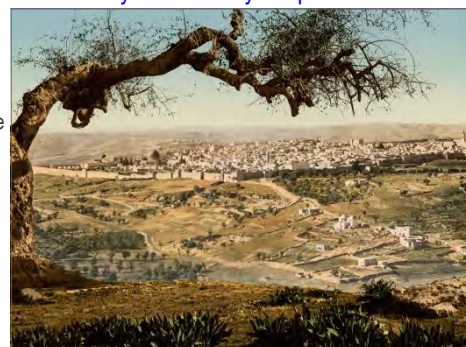
Pilgrimage: 2-10 February

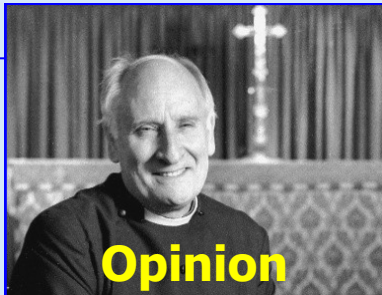
A group of pilgrims, including some from St James's Church, will visit the Holy Land. During the pilgrimage, led by the Revd Julian Reindorp and the Revd Peter Vannozi, they will be presenting money to the Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem.

Pilgrims' Return: Saturday 23 February at 7pm in Church

This will be an opportunity to hear about the pilgrims' personal experiences of the Holy Land and ask questions.

You might even be inspired to follow in their footsteps in the future.





Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

SCIENCE and FAITH

Baroness Susan Greenfield, a leading neuroscientist at Oxford, running state-of-the-art research into Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, rejects the idea that science and religion are in contradiction. She cites scientists such as the American Francis Collins, who mapped the genome. 'He speaks openly about his faith, being a Christian, and his experience of God.' It is obvious to Greenfield that there is a spiritual dimension. 'Science can answer some questions, but not others, such as the meaning of life, or what is love.'

As part of her own spiritual journey she recently visited Lourdes, the centre for healing in France. 'What struck me was that everyone was a volunteer and people came from all over the world. The amount of love and altruism and removal from normal things... it was the world turned upside down, it impressed me hugely'.

ATHEIST'S PRAYER

Journalist and atheist Sir Simon Jenkins wrote recently 'When government is bleeding civic purpose from every community in the land, the church and its clergy are one of the last human threads binding communities together... the nearest thing I have found to saints are priests in tough areas...clergy mobilise 1.6 million parish volunteers for what amounts to social work, from caring for the elderly to hospital visiting. This output must be worth billions to the state... I may not believe in the church, but I gladly salute its presence and its role in society. Philip Larkin was right: *It pleases me to stand in silence here; A serious house on serious earth it is, In whose blent air all our compulsions meet, Are recognized, and robed as destinies.*'

CHURCH LEADERS RETIRE

After serving their communities for more than ten years, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, and Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sachs are retiring. Many think they have been more appreciated outside their faith traditions than by their own flocks!

They have written and spoken powerfully about the role of faith in public life. Rowan Williams' most recent book, *Faith in the Public Square* is a *tour de force*. Jonathan Sachs' many books have been widely discussed — among them *The Dignity of Difference*, *To Heal a Fractured World*, and *The Home We Build Together*. We thank them and hope they continue to contribute to our national life.

TWO NATIONS?

The 50 councils worst affected by the government cuts will face a reduction of £160 per head average, despite about a third of their children living in poverty. The 50 councils least affected by the cuts (including our own) face an average reduction of £16 a head despite child poverty rates below 10%. The Prime Minister's local authority, West Oxfordshire, is losing £34 per head, while Hackney the most deprived borough is facing cuts of £266 per head.

WHO BENEFITS?

More than 95% of those who claim benefits are in work, their pay so low they need to claim benefits. With 75,000 children already in emergency accommodation and the housing benefit cuts coming into full force only this year, the leaked Government letters of early 2011 suggesting that many benefit cuts will cost rather than save money are proving daily more accurate. Two think tanks have suggested that if the minimum hourly wage was raised from £6.19 an hour to the living wage minimum — £8.45 in London, £7.45 elsewhere — the Treasury could save £2bn a year through higher taxes and lower benefits.

What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



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.

Traidcraft stall

Sundays 3 February and 3 March, 10.30-11.30am,
St James's Church Hall.

The March stall is during Fairtrade Fortnight (25 February to 10 March) and will include craft items.

Traidcraft London Roadshow

Saturday 9 February, 10am to 4pm, in the **Salvation Army Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street, London W1C 2DJ**

This is a wonderful opportunity to see all the products in the new Spring catalogue, and get a 20% discount on orders.

Shrove Tuesday Parish Meal

Tuesday 12 February, 7pm, **La Familia Restaurant**,
99 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NH

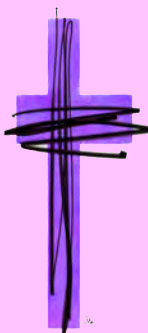
Who not join us for an inexpensive meal to mark the start of Lent? Three courses from set menu (meat, fish or vegetarian), costs £14.95 (£16.50 including a large glass of wine); £5.95 for children, including ice cream. Please add your name to the list in church or telephone the Parish Office on **020 8941 6003** to reserve places. This popular event is a fun night out.

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion with Ashing, Wednesday 13 February,
9.30am and 7.30pm, **St James's Church, Hampton Hill**

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities. Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence to clean the soul before the fast. At these services, worshippers can be marked with ashes as a symbol of death and sorrow for sin. The ashes come from burning palm crosses from the previous Palm Sunday.

NEW



Lent Course

Mondays, 18 February-11 March
2pm St James's Church Hall, Upper Room,
8pm 32 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill

Monday 25 March
2pm Upper Room 8pm St James's Church
The Good News according to...

These study sessions during Lent will be looking at the Gospels. Following an introduction in week one, we will look at *Mark, Matthew, Luke and John*. To find out more please speak to Peter Vannozi.

Registers for November / December



NOVEMBER Baptism

18 Beatrice Isla Anne
Calvert, Teddington

DECEMBER Baptisms

23 William Benjamin
Cole, Hampton Hill

30 Gabriella Elizabeth
Romanello-Patey,
Fort Lauderdale,
Florida



Wedding

21 Elliot Edward
Blazewicz and Amy
Felicity Cammidge,
Hampton Hill

NEW

Faith at Work

Saturday 23 February, 9.15-10.15am, **St James's Church**
Continuing the discussions that ask what difference faith makes to our working lives, Janet Nunn talks about **Faith in Caring**. Future events: Saturday 2 March, Lesley Mortimer discusses *Faith in Higher Education*; Saturday 16 March, Martin Hinkley discusses *Faith in Music*.

NEW

Women's World Day of Prayer 2013

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me, Friday 1 March, 2pm and 7.30pm, **St Mary's Church, Thames Street, Hampton**
Over three million men and women worldwide will be praying, this year using a service prepared by women in France.

NEW

Concordia Voices

Hear My Prayer, Saturday 9 March, 7.30pm, **St John the Divine, St John's Road, Richmond TW9 2PE**

Concordia Voices present a programme of choral music spanning three centuries. The programme includes music by Tallis, MacMillan, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Sheppard, Stainer, Hadley, Ouseley and Walker. Tickets £12 on door (concessions £10) or £10 in advance (£8 concessions) from choir members, or by emailing secretary@concordia.org

NEW

A Taste of Africa

Saturday 16 March, 7pm, **St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF**

An African-themed supper in aid of our joint Lent Appeal with Teddington churches. Tickets, £10 each, from Gwynneth Lloyd, or Nickie Jones in the Parish Office.

NEW

Lenten Studies Forum

Monday 18 March, 8pm, **St Theodore's Catholic Church, 110 Station Road, Hampton TW12 2AS**

Churches Together Around Hampton are providing this opportunity for churches to share their Lenten studies.

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 23 March, 7.30pm, **Waldegrave School for Girls, Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham TW2 5LH**

The concert includes: Vaughan Williams; O'Regan; and Vasks. Tickets available on door, or in advance from Albert's Music Shop, 138-140 Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4BN.

NEW

Concordia Voices

Stainer's Crucifixion, Palm Sunday 24 March, 6pm,
St James's Church, Hampton Hill

Concordia Voices sing John Stainer's most famous oratorio, *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer* as part of St James's 150th Anniversary programme. First performed in 1887, this much loved musical meditation vividly portrays the Passion of Christ. Tickets are just £5, to cover costs, from the Parish Office. There will be a retiring collection in aid of The Greenwood Centre.



This church has been there at the important times in life



This photograph was taken in July 1961 of choir members present at the wedding of Christopher Wellings, the then organist, and his bride. The Revd Rupert Brunt is next to her. Richard Melville, left, is on the front row, third from the left.



I am very fortunate to have been brought up and lived most of my life in Hampton Hill and nearby locations and whilst one's energies get diverted to other matters, the one fairly constant factor has been my association with St. James's. In fact, apart from a brief spell attending Holy Trinity, Twickenham, when we lived in Strawberry Hill, I really don't know any other church's peculiarities!

The family, including my sister Rosalind—who many readers will know—moved to Teddington in the early 1950s, then settled in Hampton Hill. Both our parents were regular worshippers at St James's. Our Dad, Leonard (Len), became a churchwarden in the mid 1950s and stayed in that role for at least ten years; his co-warden for a greater part of that period being another Len — Leonard Rockcliffe.

We recall a regular postcard from the vicar (the Revd Rupert Brunt) arriving through the letterbox, properly stamped, advising Dad of the date of the next PCC meeting or other church event. Of course, not everyone had *the telephone*. Our Mother, Dilys, was an active member of Young Wives and various choral groups. She was also an interim choirmaster and organist when the need arose.

My earliest memory of St. James's was attending Sunday School with Betty Stewart as teacher. Later, Betty was ordained (see *The Spire* Jan 2001, which recounts her life to retirement and mentions that she taught at Sunday school for 45 years). At 3pm we huddled around some pews and then did our drawings or 'schoolwork' kneeling on a hassock and using the pew bench seat as a table. In those days there were no open areas in the North and South aisles.

Joined the choir

Later I joined the choir where there were as many as 14 lads singing treble and alto, a couple of lady sopranos or altos and about six to eight tenors and basses. Quite a different mix compared to what we see today.

The social life of the choir was enjoyable and we got up to all sorts of mischief after choir practice! But I did look forward to weddings when we were paid the princely sum of a shilling for singing.

The social life for young people was further cemented when you attained the age of 13 as then you could join the Young People's Fellowship (YPF).

This was a Friday and Sunday nights church-oriented youth club, with emphasis on having fun activities on the Friday and a more serious discussion group on Sundays after the 6pm Evensong service.

Both weekly events took place in 'Wayside', a grand but somewhat 'institutional' house in St. James's Road which the church sold in the late 1990s.

Several of my peers, who are current members of our congregation, were YPF members too and friendships — marriages even — were kindled by the good nature of the generally happy and contented times we had.

Names that readers may recognise include Lesley Mortimer (née Young), Ruth Mills, Peter Nunn, Alan Taylor (a one time YPF leader), Raymond Draper (now a vicar in East London), Anni Douglas (née Stuart, also ordained) and Seymour Harris (also a leader and we believe he's now a priest in the Orthodox tradition).

The YPF's small boat

Many of us at one time or another chose to go on the YPF annual holiday trip — usually around Easter. Typically, this would take the pattern of hiring a minibus and the leader driving that group to a remote hostel to stay for a week.

Ones that stick in my mind are visits that I attended or heard about (lots of 'goings-on' you see!) to the Norfolk Broads, Snowdon, Yorkshire Dales and the Scottish Lowlands.

The YPF even owned a small boat that members could use on the Thames. Later in this anniversary year there will be more about the YPF and other organised groups for young persons, but suffice to say that the YPF remains a keystone in my own development and relationships.

When I left home to pursue studies and an apprenticeship, attendance at St James's was less frequent and lapsed a little until I got married here, like my sister Rosalind before me.

Churchwarden's role

In fact at many important phases in my life — growing up in the choir, confirmation, marriage, my son's christening and the funerals of our parents — St James's has played a part.

I suppose my close ties with this church led to my being asked to take on a churchwarden's role. I resisted for a couple of years, but finally succumbed!

I have to say it was most interesting and you felt that you could directly contribute to parish life and make a difference. Regrettably business demands precluded my continuing being a churchwarden for more than two years.

'Like father, like son,' one might say, but with the high velocity of communications nowadays, I don't think my Dad had quite the same challenge as today's churchwardens need to manage.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

The Servant King



From heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve,
And give your life that we might live.
This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.
This is our God ...

Come, see his hands and his feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.
This is our God...

So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving.
This is our God...

The words and music were written in 1983 by Graham Kendrick. Born in 1950, Kendrick has been called a father of modern worship music. His songs have impacted thousands of churches across the globe.

Over the past 30 years, he has written hundreds of worship songs, including *Shine Jesus Shine*.

The Servant King, will be sung at St. James's on 3 February, which is Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

This festival brings to an end the cycle of celebrations around the birth of Jesus. The song's focus on the Person of Jesus Christ makes it especially appropriate for this occasion. In this song, Kendrick begins with Jesus's birth, and moves through his suffering and death making clear that the God that Christians follow came as a servant. He juxtaposes striking images 'heaven' and 'helpless babe'; hands that 'flung stars into space' now surrendering to 'cruel nails'. The Creator gave up all for the sake of the world.

Kendrick presents the model of the servant Christ as that for people to follow, serving as he served. Orthodox in its theology, with distinct images and an easy tune, this song has established itself in mainstream hymn books of different parts of the Church.



Kendrick