

Details of
forthcoming
**150th
Events**
are on
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AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2013

thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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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: 077 1057 2498
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



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

Samuel 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 Girlguiding.org.uk or 0800 1 69 59 01

Charities and Links Committee
Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Children's Champion
Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854

Church Cleaning 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 Girlguiding.org.uk or 0800 1 69 59 01

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

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

Pew Sheet Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

Planned Giving Committee
Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

Properties Committee
Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Safeguarding Officer Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

Scout Group Paul Fitchett 020 8941 7186

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Sidespersons Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

Social Committee Vacant (contact Parish Office)

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 Wilmot 020 8977 9434

From the Editor

This edition features the second centrespread about the uniformed organisations, this time featuring the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and the third of our special articles from past clergy — Your Voice by Julie Gittoes. We are indebted to Brian Leathard, Freda Evans and Julie Gittoes for writing for us in this anniversary year.

We have been putting the finishing touches to our Anniversary Edition, which comes out in July, in time for St James's Day. We all enjoyed doing it and hope you will find it interesting.

We have tried to make sure that there is a good mix of past and present people and events and it is amazing to see how photography has developed over the past 50 years. Our thanks are due to many people who have helped us with the copy and provided the relevant photos.

For that special edition, there will be a separate insert — rather like a Pew Sheet, but A4 — giving all the information for services and events in July and onwards.

Best wishes

Janet

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: 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.
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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:
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Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk
Write to: 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1HH

DON'T MISS OUR DOUBLE-SIZED NEXT ISSUE!

The July issue is a 16-page souvenir to mark our 150th anniversary. It is published on 28 June.

Credits

PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge
Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

PUBLISHING

Printer Justin Hollingsworth 020 8686 4481

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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

Sunday 2 June — Trinity Sunday

1 Kings 8.22, 23, 41-43;
Galatians 1.1-12;
Luke 7.1-10

Sunday 9 June — 2nd Sunday of Trinity

1 Kings 17.17-end;
Galatians 1.11-end;
Luke 7.11-17

Sunday 16 June — 3rd Sunday of Trinity

2 Samuel 11.26-12.10, 13-15;
Galatians 2.15-end;
Luke 7.36-8.3

Sunday 23 June — 4th Sunday of Trinity

Isaiah 65.1-9;
Galatians 3.23-29;
Luke 8.26-39

Sunday 30 June — 5th Sunday of Trinity

1 Kings 19.15-16, 19-21;
Galatians 5.1,
13-25; Luke 9.51-end

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

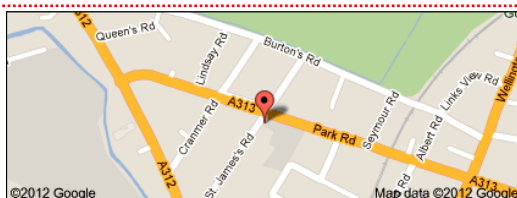
9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

6 June 2pm Holy Communion

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.



Life stories that shape us



With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love.

I was very fortunate, as a child, to live in the same road as my maternal grandmother, Rose Taylor. She lived at 6 St. Margaret's Road, Hanwell, and my parents and I lived at the other end of the street, at 102. I spent a lot of time with her, and as I got older, I wanted to hear tales of the past.

My grandmother was born in 1899 into a working class family, and her mother was subsequently widowed at a young age. Like many of her generation and background, my grandmother went into service. Then the First World War saw her in a munitions factory. This, and so much more, were the stories that I heard repeatedly — at my own request — and became part of my own history. If my poor grandmother was impatient with my getting out her box of old photos, she never showed it.

Story does not mean *fiction*. Story is not the opposite of *fact* or *truth*. We human beings convey so much through the telling of stories. In the West, stories might not so much be told verbally, but they are still related through the media, including the newer social media. Listening to stories, and being touched by them, is not a thing of the past. A story told now still has power to move and to change people and circumstances.

When I have met people who have seen their lives change significantly there is always a story to tell, and to be heard. I remember, for example, the story of a woman seeing the pressure a parent was under due to the strain of caring for a disabled child, and how this led her to found a national charity to provide holidays for children and their carers. When a story is told, it can make a difference. It has the power to re-shape and transform.

David Bell's ordination

On 23 June, David Bell will be ordained as a priest at St. Mary's Church, Osterley. David was ordained as a deacon in June 2012 at St. Paul's Cathedral. He became an ordained minister at that point — a 'reverend' — and became curate at St. James's. David is a 'self-supporting minister,' continuing to work full-time, but combining this with an ordained ministry. As is the Church's custom, David was a deacon for a year, but now will

fulfil his discerned vocation, and become a priest. He will have the joy and privilege of presiding at the eucharist for the first time on Monday 24 June, in St. James's, at 7.30pm.

At the ordination service we will hear this said of those to be ordained as priests: *'With all God's people, they [priests] are to tell the story of God's love.'*

This is part of the ministry which David will embrace which is the ministry of all who follow Jesus, but focused in a particular way by those who are ordained as priests.

Often Christians can be very bad at telling the story of God's love. Other stories, certainly, are easier to tell. So a story about responding to an event which caused one to do something specific — such as setting up a charity — is relatively easy to tell. Yet what about a motivation that is specifically religious? I knew that the lady I mentioned saw her action in helping families not only as a response to clear need, but also as a reaction to what she saw as God's love in the world, and in her own life. Yet that story was harder to tell for fear of being labelled fanatical, silly, naïve or just plain deluded. Yet there is a great story to tell.

For priests, the story is told every time they preside at the eucharist. Without fail, through different wording, the story of God's love is re-presented when people gather at the Lord's table and hear of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The eucharist makes explicit the story. Other actions of a priest do this, also: preaching, baptising, marrying, anointing, funerals, pastoral care, teaching, challenging assumptions, and being a presence in a place in an undefined way, untidily bearing the projections of others. All this tells a story as the priest would not be doing any of this if they had not been touched by a story, that of God's love.

Please hold David Bell in your thoughts and prayers. He has responded to the story of God's love in a specific way. What is the story of this love for you? What other stories have formed you, for good or ill? What story do you want to tell now? Never be afraid to tell your story. It might just lay some foundations for someone's life (as my grandmother's did for me) and even change a life for the better.

Charity Box Traidcraft Exchange

Many of you are great supporters of Traidcraft food and craft items that are sold at St James's.

You may be less aware of the trading company's development charity, Traidcraft Exchange, which was started in 1986 to build the capacity of poor producers in Africa and Asia. A small amount of targeted help enables farmers and craft workers to engage effectively in trade and so work their way out of poverty with dignity.

The annual profit from our stall is always given to Traidcraft Exchange and last month the charity received a cheque for £600. This is a wonderful amount given that we sell many food products



below catalogue price and that all craft items are sold with a 15% discount. Making a return means the hard work is much more rewarding. It also allows for expenses, such as unsold stock, and for donations, such as the prize in our recent raffle for Christian Aid.

Please continue to support the parish Traidcraft stall so this virtuous circle can continue. Try a new product or consider buying items such as muesli and pasta in bulk. Ann (020 8891 5862) and Catherine (020 8783 0563) want to make it as easy as possible for you to play your part.

For more information about the exchange please go to www.traidcraft.co.uk



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

A prayer for David Bell from the ordination service

God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: hear our prayer for your faithful people

that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servant David now to be ordained the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



The ministry of a priest is part of the ministry of the whole people of God. This passages touches on that wider ministry, 1 Peter 2.9-10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

St. Teresa of Avila (1515-82) saw clearly the vocation of all followers of Jesus

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*





Local and National stories

History booklet hits High Street



A FREE BOOKLET showing how St James's Church transformed the community has been published to coincide with our 150th anniversary. In 1965 St James's published *The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill*, by Marjory Orton, and sections of her book have been updated in this new publication by local resident Richard Sharp. It has been paid for by the sale of advertising and a grant from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' Civic Pride Fund.

Some 10,000 copies have been produced and have been distributed to homes in Hampton Hill thanks to the Christian Aid Week teams and to local schools. Copies are also in local shops, pubs and restaurants. The booklet shows how St James's, and its first vicar, The Revd Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram, changed the area from a wilderness with highwaymen to a community. He also built a school and campaigned to improve housing.

A competition has been included on the back cover of the booklet, with prizes. Entry costs £1 and proceeds will go to the Greenwood Centre.

As part of St James's Day Weekend, vintage buses will run between the High Street and the church on Saturday 13 July. Full details about the weekend will appear in next month's 16-page Anniversary edition of *The Spire*.

Peter is pictured above at the launch of the booklet, with Zach Ash, of Robson's Butcher and Deli, and Jennifer Dedman, of Your Local Plumbing Company. Copies are also available in church.

Some new faces on the PCC

THERE ARE FOUR

new faces on the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Kirstie Craig and Lorraine Glover, pictured, are joined by Linda Orkney. Moya Meredith Smith



is our newest member of the Deanery Synod, and an ex-officio member of the PCC. Both churchwardens were elected to serve another year.

The accounts for 2012 revealed that St James's made a deficit of £4196, in line with treasurer Don Barrett's forecast. This was before the addition of our share of the profit from the sale of the Curate's house in Pigeon Lane. The house was sold for £240,000. Our share was £117,979, resulting in a profit of £62,783. The annual income from renting the property — £12,000 in 2011 — will, however, be missed.

The bulk of our income is from the donations of the congregation; a large proportion of this is via Gift Aid, allowing for the recovery of income tax paid. There had been a drive last year to increase planned giving and the total for the year was £86,136. The church hall generated a net income of £11,000 (similar to the year before).

The total expenses increased to £141,487 last year (£138,710 in 2011). The greatest expense was the Common Fund contribution paid to the Diocese of London. The free reserves totalled £253,784. However, it is anticipated that up to £100,000 of this may be required to replace the heating systems in the church and hall in 2014.

The net value of the PCC at the end of the year was £600,103, up from £530,812 in 2011. The PCC thanked Don Barrett and Carol Bailey for their time and work in managing the accounts throughout the year.

No obstacle too



The 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group has faced many challenges in its 65 years, but, triumph or disaster, it has brought out the best in the youngsters and their leaders. In the second part of our anniversary focus on uniformed groups, we chart the highs and lows of this now thriving organisation.

Scouting offers challenge and adventure to over 500,000 young people, aged 6 to 25, in the UK. They learn to work in teams, think for themselves and take responsibility. Through the adventure of Scouting, they enjoy adventurous activities in a safe environment and have the opportunity to experience something different and challenge themselves.

The 3rd Hampton Hill (St. James's) Scout Group was registered in 1948 by Stan Childs and George Casey (hence the name of the current Scout headquarters, the George Stanley Hall). For most of its life, the group met in the Parish Church Hall in School Road, moving to Hampton Hill Junior School when the parish rooms were sold and redeveloped as the Greenwood Centre. Outdoor activities took place on 'the triangle', then owned by British Rail and let to 3rd Hampton Hill from about 1970.



Building begins in 1997 for a Scout Hut to replace the one burnt down five years earlier.



Cooking on gas: Camping has always been a mainstay of Scouting. Here, 3HH prepare supper during a weekend at Walton Firs.

In 1976 the group erected a prefabricated concrete hall which was used for some meetings and activities.

British Rail auctioned the land in 1990 and after many setbacks the group finally purchased the land with a grant from the Hampton Fuel Allotment Trust.

Then in March 1992 an arsonist struck and the building and contents were all but destroyed. Battered and bruised, the group carried on and, thanks to an unstoppable team, headed by John Nielsen, a new headquarters was built, and opened in January 1998.

There was a very difficult time in 2002 with very few leaders and no functioning executive committee when closure was a real possibility, but the group again weathered this storm and has seen a massive expansion since then.

There are now two Beaver Scout colonies, two Cub Scout packs and two Scout troops, with links to Hampton Explorers for the oldest age group. All sections are open to both boys and girls.

The group has retained strong links with the church. In addition to church parades and parading the Union Flag at the Remembrance Sunday service, members help with the annual leaf sweep and gutter clean, do car washes in aid of Fairtrade and help with the bucket collection and refreshments at the VCG Christmas concert.

There are church visits to help with badge work and to gain a greater understanding of what is involved in the running of the church.

Camping remains high on the agenda and has taken

big for this lot!



Small but strong: Beavers prove this test to be no obstacle in the Fun Day race at Walton Firs in 1995

place in many locations and conditions ranging from snow to glorious sunshine.

The group trip to Kandersteg, a standing Scout Jamboree Camp in Switzerland, in 2011 was an outstanding success, giving many of the members their first true taste of being abroad.

It was a wonderful experience and brought home to all the fact that we are all one family in this world whatever our creed, colour or race. The group have already booked their next trip!

In recent years, the group have had outstanding success in local, county and national shooting competitions, and several members have progressed to national shooting squads.

Abseiling, night hikes, helping older people and Tai Chi are just a few of the many other activities enjoyed by the Scouts.

The younger age groups, Beavers and Cubs, enjoy many of the same activities, including the triennial Twickeree camp in Marble Hill Park.

They take part in District sports and swimming galas, and have enjoyed a pirate sleepover, a mad scientist night, fire safety and fire lighting, first aid, craft, map-reading, archery, abseiling, singing, treasure hunts and linking with the Thames River Boat Project.

This is only a brief idea of what goes on week after week, year after year. We are very grateful to all the leaders, past and present, for giving our young people such exciting opportunities.

■ For more information about the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group please go to 3hhscouts.org.uk. Due to the popularity of the group, the usual way into the group is to join as a Beaver. To join the waiting list follow the instructions on the website.



Hanging about: Sam S, Ruth H and Will W doing Young Leader work at Cub Camp at Downe



Above: Paul Fitchett leads the 3HH gang's predilection for silly hats at Twickeree 2009 at Marble Hill.

Far Left: Messy time for James R, Freddie M and Robin J at a Family Camp at Walton Firs.
Left: Know the ropes: Ruth H at Walton Firs.



around the SPIRE with Susan Homer

LENT APPEAL — RAISING THE ROOF FOR MINISTRY

THE COMBINED Lent Appeal with two Teddington churches has raised the wonderful total of £5700 and may go a little higher.

St James's has contributed £2525 and everyone's donations are greatly appreciated.

Bishop Mark Van Koeveering, right, visited Chiure in April and took this picture of the little house that has been bought for the soon to be appointed priest.

Refurbishment and upgrade will include an outside kitchen, electricity, a bathroom, water supply and fencing. They decided not to build a new home because of the urgency to move the parish centre from Pemba to Chiure, where there is a lot of church growth.

We will keep you updated on developments. Meanwhile, what a great result from working together!



DOUBLE CELEBRATION

MANY READERS will remember Jean Wilson as a regular member of our congregation before she moved in February 2009 into a residential home in Hindhead for retired clergy and their spouses. Jean celebrated her 90th birthday with her family on 6 May. It was, in fact, a double celebration as Jean's granddaughter Esme had just announced her engagement to her boyfriend Alasdair.

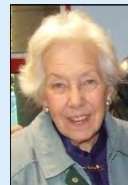


BOTH ON THE MEND

WE ARE VERY pleased to hear that **Elsie Whittle**, pictured top, is now home after her recent time in hospital.

Also home is **Betty Rainbow**, who fractured a leg. We know that many of you miss seeing them in church.

We send our best wishes for speedy recoveries and look forward to seeing them again soon.



THE MONEY ADDS UP



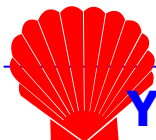
THANK YOU to all those who delivered and collected envelopes during Christian Aid week and counted money afterwards. We particularly thank Elizabeth Wilmot and Linda Webb for overseeing the whole operation — a mammoth task!

The final total will be published in the next edition of *The Spire*.

WEDDING

BEATRICE TAYLOR, daughter of Janet and Rodney, married Nicholas Jennings at All Saints Church, Weston Green, Esher, on Saturday 6 April. It was a wonderful occasion for family and friends. All the Taylor children and grandchildren were there to support the couple.





All about the Trinity

When is Trinity Sunday?

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost and lasts only one day.

What does 'Trinity' mean?

Trinity means a group of three, the one God being made up of three parts.

Why do we celebrate Trinity Sunday?

Trinity Sunday celebrates this Christian belief that the Trinity is the three parts of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God the Father is the creator of all things.



This picture shows a symbol of God, a hand pointing to heaven

Jesus Christ, his only son, is the saviour of all people as he died on a cross for us, rose again and is always with us.

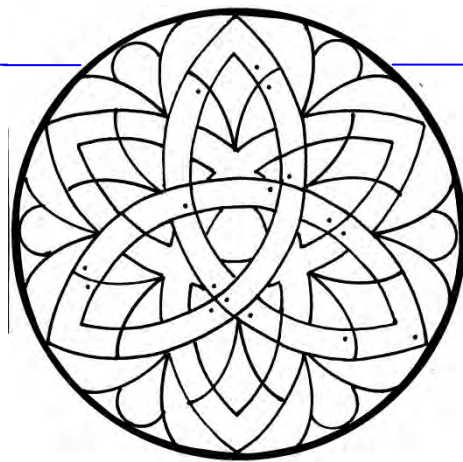


This picture shows one of the symbols for Jesus

The Holy Spirit is in our lives, invisible like the wind. It guides us and teaches us the right way to think, helps us make decisions and to love and care for others.



This picture shows one of the symbols for the Holy Spirit



Christians have symbols to picture the Trinity. Find out what this one is by colouring all the parts with a dot (.) in black. Then colour all the other shapes with bright colours like a stained glass window.

The symbols of the Trinity have three Persons with the idea being that the single God appears in different forms for different purposes. Think of it as a clover leaf which has three parts to it. All three work together.



Anniversary Latest News

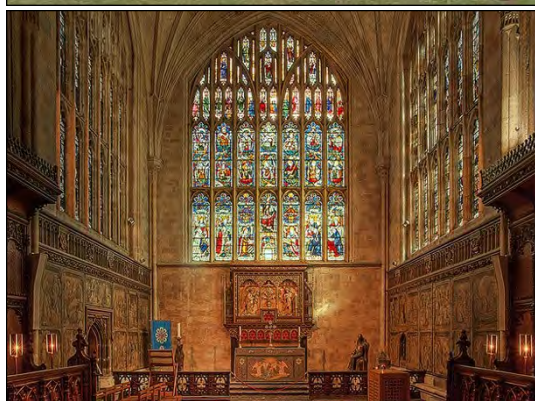


Greenwood Centre trip to Winchester

Wednesday 24 April

On a sunny morning on Wednesday April 24th, two buses set out for a 150 mile round trip to Winchester - 150 miles for the 150th anniversary year. The trip was sponsored by St. James's Church, one of many trips organised through the Greenwood Centre which seeks in a variety of ways to meet different needs in the community. The trip involved a visit to Winchester's fine cathedral.

Sponsoring the trip was one of a variety of ways in which St. James's is looking to support the Greenwood Centre in 2013.



THE WONDERS OF WINCHESTER — James Woodford

On the fine morning of 24 April a party of over 20 people connected with The Greenwood Centre headed down the M3 for Winchester in two mini-buses on an outing generously sponsored by St. James's Church as part of their packed programme of 150th anniversary celebrations.

On arrival, some went to marvel at the majestic cathedral, an edifice of truly epic proportions, while others indulged in a spot of retail therapy, or explored Winchester's picturesque and historic environs.

Lunch was enjoyed in a number of welcoming eateries and we returned by a slightly more scenic route.

Thanks to St. James's for their generosity, to Frances for co-ordinating the trip, and our expert drivers Fi and Glenn for their contribution to a memorable day out.



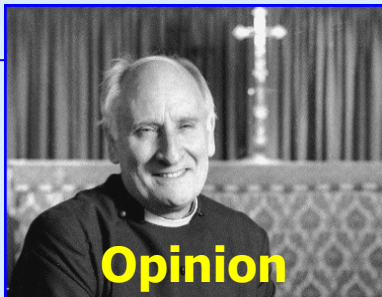
150th EVENT FOR JUNE

Deanery Singers' Festival Saturday 8 June

On Saturday June 8th singers from around Hampton deanery, and other churches in the area, whatever their denomination, will be coming to St. James's.

There will be a *Singers' Festival* that day to which singers from local churches will be invited to come together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. James's. There will be a rehearsal from 3-5pm. followed by tea and then Choral Evensong at 6pm, to which all are invited. The theme of the Evensong will be *Dedication*.

If anyone wishes to take part who has not already heard about the event please contact the church office: tel 020 8941 6003, or email office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

RISING RENTS and FEWER HOMES

Rents in London have risen eight times faster than wages in the last year. A quarter of Londoners now rent privately, up from 16% in 1981, while owner occupiers are back to their 1981 levels. In the past five years the Government has spent over £100 billion on housing benefits, but only £4.5 billion constructing new homes. In the past three years house building starts have gone down slightly.

Without building more affordable homes, housing benefit caps will simply force people increasingly to move out of London, to places where there are fewer jobs, where children have to find new schools, and some of our most vulnerable families will suffer most. The financial costs may well outweigh the savings, and the social cost will be huge.

METHODISM and MARX

The Bishop of London, speaking of Lady Thatcher's upbringing as a Methodist, reminded us what 19th century Britain owed to Methodism. 'The Tolpuddle Martyrs, for example, were led not by proto Marxists, but by Methodist lay preachers.' I am reminded of the comment that the founding of the trade union movement owed more to Methodism than to Marx.

ISRAEL'S REGRETS

In the Oscar-nominated documentary *The Gatekeepers*, six former heads of Shin Bet, the Israeli Secret Service, were asked their views on Israeli policy about Palestine. They cover between them more than 30 years of reflections and reveal their frustrations and regrets about the Arab Israeli conflict. Their view is 'an indictment of the policies of occupation of Palestine and the untenable colonisation of millions of Arabs'. They echo the views of Rabbi David Goldberg, the rabbi emeritus of the Liberal synagogue in London. His book, published last year, was entitled, *This is not the way, Jews, Judaism and Israel*.

SCIENCE and RELIGION

Steve Paulson, award winning journalist, has assembled a fascinating book, *Atoms and Eden-Conversations on Religion and Science*. He has interviewed 20 people, with very different opinions, including Richard Dawkins and Francis Collins, director of the Human Genome project, and Christian apologist. He summarises the eight key questions as: How did our universe come into existence? Is the universe 'designed for life'? Is there any underlying purpose to human existence? Does any part of the mind operate independently of the physical mechanics of the brain? Are there any dimensions of reality beyond the capacity of science to explain? What are the roots of religious belief? How should we understand the miraculous, supernatural events described in sacred texts? Do we need God to experience transcendence or the sacred?

He notes the rhetoric between strident atheists and religious fundamentalists, and how this obscures the vast middle ground — those who have no trouble believing in God and modern Science.

WASHING WOMEN'S FEET

I had to smile when a Roman Catholic official said the Pope washing women as well as men's feet on Maundy Thursday in an offenders institution did not set a precedent. Other officials also suggested that only men should have their feet washed. This has provoked a considerable correspondence from parishes where anyone is welcome to have their feet washed.

What's On

with Griselda Barrett



Faith at Work

Saturday 1 June. 9.15-10.15am, **Faith in Traidcraft**, St James's Church, Hampton Hill
What difference does our faith make to our daily lives, our daily work? What are the challenges we face? How can we support each other? **Ann Peterken** continues the new season of discussions.

Later dates include: Saturday 15 June, Faith in Nursery Education, with Jacky Cammidge; and Saturday 29 June, Faith in Retirement, with Hal and Eila Severn.



Coronation 60th Anniversary Concert

Sunday 2 June, 7.30pm, *St Matthew's Concert Choir, St Matthew's Church, North Common Road, Ealing W5 2QA*
This concert features music that was sung at the original service. From the glorious large pieces like Walton's *Te Deum*, Parry's *I Was Glad*, Handel's *Zadok the Priest* to the unaccompanied *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless*, by Byrd. Tickets £10, available from the box office 020 8961 1804.

Enough Food for Everyone IF...

Saturday 8 June, 2-5pm, Hyde Park, London
Ecumenical service at 11.30am in Westminster Central Hall, followed by Walk of Witness to Hyde Park. Stand together with one voice, nine days before our government hosts the G8 summit in Enniskillen. Enoughfoodif.org



Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival

Saturday 8 June, 12.30-4pm, Nursery Green, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RG
There **won't** be a carnival procession this year, but the popular fete will continue. There will also be exhibitions and hot food.

Deanery Singers' Festival

Saturday 8 June, from 2pm, *St James's Church, Hampton Hill*
The tradition of using music to enhance worship is older than Christianity itself. If you enjoy singing, help us raise the roof as choirs from across the diocese join together for communal singing. There will be a service at 6pm, with a retiring collection for our 150th Anniversary charity, Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group (The Greenwood Centre).

NEW

Teddington Summer Music

Sunday 9 June, 7.30 pm, **Cavalcade — A Celebration of British Light Music**, Landmarks Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

The Richmond Symphonic Concert Band is one of SW London's most exciting ensembles. Founded in March 2010 by conductor Tom Higgins and principal clarinettist Andy Cankett, the programme includes music by Eric Coates, Arthur Sullivan, Montague Phillips, Kenneth Alford and Noël Coward.

Tickets £12.50 (£10 concessions) available from the Landmark Arts Centre, online at landmarkartscentre.org, or by telephoning 020 8977 7558.

Registers for April



Baptisms

- 7 Samuel William Day, Hampton Hill
- 7 Ava Violet Sealy, Hampton Hill
- 14 Georgia Maria Lane, Hampton Hill
- 14 Isabella Scarlett Lane, Hampton Hill
- 20 Jack Patrick Timoney, Hampton

Funerals

- 4 Ivy Howe, 93, Hampton Hill
- 17 Rita Joyce Smallpiece, 81, Hampton
- 26 George Phipps, 88, Hampton Hill

David Bell's Ordination to the Priesthood

Sunday 23 June, 2.30pm, *St Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 4PW*
David's ordination marks the culmination of five years of training. The ceremony will be performed by the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams. Please listen for notices in church about the service and ticket availability.

Sung Eucharist

Monday 24 June, 7.30pm, *St James's Church, Hampton Hill*
David Bell will preside at the eucharist for the first time. This will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 29 June, 7.30pm, *Waldegrave School for Girls, Main Hall, Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham TW12 5LH*
The concert will feature British folk music, including The Sprig of Thyme by John Rutter. Tickets £12 (concessions £10); accompanied children under 16 free. Tickets available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham, or on door.

Peter Vannozzi's Silver Jubilee

Wednesday 3 July, 7.30pm, *St James's Church, Hampton Hill*
This sung eucharist celebrates Peter's 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. This service will be followed by food and drink. All are welcome.

Concordia Voices

Sunday 7 July, 7.30pm, **Summer Concert**, *St John the Divine, St John's Road, Richmond, TW9 2PE*
Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on door, or £10 (£8) in advance from Concordia Voices members, or by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org

NEW

Hampton Hill Summer Festival

Saturday 13 July, various locations, *High Street, Hampton Hill*
Now in its fourth year, the festival will feature live music, fairground rides, stalls and hot food. More details in July.

NEW

St James's Day Weekend

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 July, *St James's Church, Hampton Hill*
(Church will be open during these hours: Friday 10am-4pm; Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday 11am-3pm, including *St James's Day Service* from 11am, followed by lunch)

To celebrate our 150th Anniversary, this year's celebration is bigger than ever. **A Floral Celebration** celebrates 150 years of weddings and baptisms with dresses, gowns, shawls, robes and flowers. **Community Day** on the Saturday ties in with the Summer Festival. Board a vintage bus in the High Street to the church. Complete a history quiz for prizes. In church there will also be a children's choir, bell-ringing, tower tours and refreshments. **15 Hours of Prayer** devotes an hour of prayer to every decade, from 8pm on Saturday. Sunday's service will be followed by outdoor lunch, with a bouncy castle for children.



Vicar's View

Laying the foundations for a life of ministry



Julie, second from left, with some of her colleagues at Guildford Cathedral

The last time I wrote something for *The Spire* was in May 2006 as I prepared to leave St James's Church and become Vicar of All Saints', Hampton. On that occasion I reflected on Elizabeth Bishop's poem *One Art* about the inevitability of loss — door keys, wasted time, a mother's watch, and realms of dreams, a joking voice and a gesture of love:

*The art of losing isn't hard to master;
So many things seemed filled with intent
To be lost that their loss is no disaster.*

I reflected that endings and loss are woven into the tapestry of our lives. Since I wrote those words, we have all gone through numerous times of transition: illness and grief, parenthood or redundancy, and numerous changes in circumstances, bringing either exciting new beginnings or thwarted expectation. There is, with these different ways of letting go, the seed of potential.

When we face loss and transition, we find ourselves drawing on the relationships that have sustained us, the examples we have been set, the patterns of life we have adopted. A sense of rootedness and assurance are not the same as inflexibility and self confidence, for the former flow from God's love rather than our human autonomy.

Looking back on my curacy, I realise that it was a formative time, during which relationships, examples and patterns of life were established. In short, my curacy cultivated a sense of rootedness and assurance in God, made tangible in the life of a particular community. Those gifts enable us to face loss without it seeming a disaster.

Laying foundations

Being a curate is extraordinarily important. Often we think of it as a time of 'apprenticeship'. Those three years lay the foundations for a life of ministry — potentially 40+ years!

It is over that period of time that a rich network of relationships is formed. I was blessed working with exceptional wardens, PCC members and pastoral visitors; I learnt a huge amount from those who used their gifts and professional skill in the service of the church; my life was shaped by those preparing for marriage, seeking baptism or mourning loved ones. I treasure many memories of hospitality, discussion and laughter.

Brian Leathard, as my training incumbent, was primarily responsible for encouraging me and offering constructive feedback — from the first sermon to the process of becoming an incumbent. Although that relationship is central to a curacy, he was not alone in setting examples and patterns of life and ministry. However well he briefed me before he went on

sabbatical, I had to rely on the whole community to make it through those months.

Stability and generosity

There are many things learnt at St James's that I have taken into each new phase of ministry; things that I appreciate. I valued working as a team and sharing gifts and responsibilities. I learnt about the nuts and bolts of applying for a Faculty; and the process of developing a Mission Action Plan. I was encouraged to continue to engage with theology; and to make connections between faith and culture. I continued to make links between the Eucharist and daily life; I established patterns of daily prayer. I was immersed in the diversity of parish ministry — school assemblies, carnivals, residential homes, marriage preparation, Christmas bazaars, pastoral visits, churches together and confirmation classes.

The importance of being rooted remains the same: a rootedness in a place and within a community; a rootedness in God. Until very recently, that was focused in the particularity of a parish. At the moment, it is focused in the pattern of worship of a Cathedral. In that new place of rootedness, I am discovering new aspects of stability. Cathedrals maintain all sorts of connections — between inherited traditions and emergent spiritualities, between worshippers, pilgrims and tourists.

In some sense, it is a stability that enables generosity. One of the things I am surprised and delighted by is the opportunity to engage in dialogue with colleagues across a range of traditions in the diocese. I am discovering what it might mean to ignite transformative conversations in the pursuit of wisdom as I develop an educational strategy. However, there would be no point in investing energy and enthusiasm in any of this if I wasn't first and foremost committed to, and excited by, parish ministry.

A sense of assurance also remains important. None of us knows what lies ahead of us — the challenges, opportunities, periods of transition and loss. I don't face those things with any degree of self-confidence; but I do have a deep sense of trust and assurance. Fundamentally, that flows from the love of God who creates, redeems and sustains us. It is also reflected in our humanity: in our capacity to encourage and challenge, forgive and learn, welcome and let go.

St James's embraced me as a curate; and I embraced a new parish. Embrace means letting go; but it also means being woven together into an extraordinary tapestry of the vibrant and poignant aspects of our lives. In all that, there is a little glimmer of the Kingdom of God.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire



Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost Thy sev'nfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of Thy grace;
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where Thou art Guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And Thee, of both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This, this may be our endless song.

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

At an ordination service in the Church of England — whether that be as bishop, priest or deacon — these words are sung. They are an ancient prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit — 'shorthand' for it is the opening of the hymn in Latin *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

Found in medieval ordination services, the hymn was probably written in the 8th century. The form of it today is a paraphrase by John Cosin (1594-1672), who was caught up in the religious and political disputes of his day.

It seems apt that his hymn is sung immediately before the act of ordination itself, as guidance is asked for those about to be ordained and, indeed, for all present.

The words recognise the need for God and his gifts. It will be sung at St. James's on **Sunday 23 June** at the end of the Prayers of Intercession at the 9.30am service as on that day David Bell will be ordained priest.

