

OCTOBER 2013

Details of
forthcoming
**150th
Events**
are on
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thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE — please take a copy

INSIDE Play on

Susannah Nettleton
and Martin Hinckley's
devotion to music

Opinion

The Pope,
gay parents and
daylight robbery



Harvest Festival

Buying Fairtrade
products supports
farmers like these
in Bangladesh

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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 minister, 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

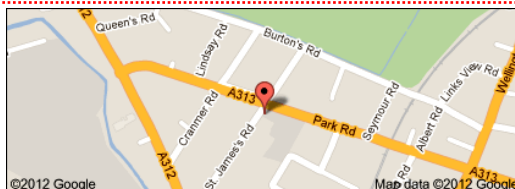
Samuel Draper
Sam joined St James's in October 2010, after graduating from the Royal College of Music.
Telephone: 020 8892 4957

GET INVOLVED

The more **volunteers**, the more we can do! Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do! Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy.

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

At last we have had a lovely summer and been able to enjoy outside activities, our gardens and holidays in this country.

After the two special events last year — the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations — this year looked less exciting. How wrong I was! Andy Murray won Wimbledon, Mo Farah won the 5,000m and 10,000m at the World Championships in Russia and we had a 100-mile cycling event locally.

It is also 60 years since the Queen's Coronation and Buckingham Palace put on a special exhibition this summer displaying the Queen's robe as well as dresses worn by members of the Royal Family and the Ladies-in-Waiting. I remember watching the Coronation with my parents and grandmother on a black and white TV. How technology has changed!

It has been a special year for us with our 150th celebrations and in the next two issues of *The Spire* we are highlighting different aspects of music in the church. We are also looking forward to the visit of the Bishop of Kensington for Harvest Festival on Sunday 6 October.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



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: janunhnh@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 November issue is published on 27 October. All copy must be with us by **Monday 7 October**

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Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

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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 20 October

21st Sunday of Trinity
Genesis 32.22-32; 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8

Sunday 27 October

Last Sunday of Trinity
Jeremiah 14.7-10, 19-end;
2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18;
Luke 18.9-14



Sunday 6 October

Harvest Festival
8am: Deuteronomy 26.1-11;
Philippians 4.4-9;
John 6.25-35

11am: Psalm 8
Matthew 6.25-33

Sunday 13 October

20th Sunday of Trinity
2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c;
2 Timothy 2.8-15;
Luke 17.11-19

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

3 October 2pm Holy Communion

FULL DETAILS OF EVENTS ARE ON PAGE SEVEN

Kindness costs nothing



Recently, a colleague in the office wanted to talk about the bible text that he had been given to read at a forthcoming wedding. It was another of those unexpected chats that seem to crop up at work more often these days, since, as they say, I've 'become a vicar'.

He wanted to do it well and have a better understanding of the content. This was partly so that he didn't look daft on the day in front of everyone, but also, out of respect for the couple being married, that he wanted it to be authentic and mean something to those listening. We talked it through and I suggested where he might emphasise a word or pause for a moment.

That notion of respect is particularly relevant at this time of harvest when the fruit of earth is gathered and thanks are given. Respect for our creator and for each other is part of who we are as Christians. Respect for God's creation is increasing as we become more aware of how fragile the environment is.

And as well as the earthly harvest of fruit and crops, there is another equally important harvest to be recognised for the intrinsic benefit it provides. It is the harvest of the spirit. This is a harvest which St Paul describes in his letter to the very first churches that he established as a missionary, the Galatians.

It is clear from the tone and content of his letter that something has happened to these churches and he needs to bring them back to the gospel. He writes in strong, passionate terms about his role as a faith leader and that the gospel is a message of love and grace, not rules and regulations.

In chapter 5 v.22 he sets out what he means by harvesting the fruit of the spirit. It is to see the characteristics of love, joy, peace, great-heartedness, kindness, generosity and faithfulness in the people of Christ.

The quality of kindness can sometimes seem to be lacking and needs to be encouraged. Unfortunately there is so little encouragement to be found on television and radio when you see or hear the interview techniques used by presenters who are out to win, even when there does not appear to be any reason to be in contention.

It does not cost much to be kind and acts of kindness are very much appreciated by the recipient. Not just giving, but also giving up things to help others.

If you think you might be seen as weak in some way if you are kind or generous, then consider the overriding theme of Luke's gospel, which has been read out each Sunday in church this summer. The theme is that Jesus overturns the expected course of events. He takes the unexpected, uncharted course and tells unsettling stories that challenge our lives and attitudes.

He says look at how you are living, because it doesn't necessarily have to be that way. He is the same yesterday and today and forever — offering to come into our lives and our hearts. Then we may benefit from the harvest of the spirit.

And in being kind we have to ensure that it is for the right reason, in other words that it is authentic — like my young colleague and his concern about his wedding reading. Then you will realise that you also benefit from your spirit of generosity and you have more of a purpose and meaning in your way of life.

Being kind doesn't always mean being nice either. It can be helping someone to realise they are going wrong and need to 'redirect themselves'. This speaking of a truth to a friend can be difficult and may produce an angry reaction initially, so it has to be approached with caution. But it can restore wholeness in a person's life if done well and for the right reason.

This 150th anniversary year so far has seen lots of examples of teams of people working in harmony to a common purpose. Being patient, hospitable and anticipating other people's needs. In his other book, the Acts of the Apostles, Luke describes how the gift of the Holy Spirit is not a once-and-for-all experience, but that it moves to replenish, inspire and motivate us again and again. This other harvest, the Harvest of the Spirit, occurs not just once each year, but frequently.

We pray that it will continue, so that we may see and enjoy the fruits of love, joy, peace, great-heartedness, kindness, generosity and faithfulness in us all.

Charity Box Tools With A Mission (TWAM)

In just three years, Janet Nunn has sent 11 collections to TWAM. It is amazing where all the items come from and how keen people are to donate them to a worthy cause, rather than sending them to the dump. It is also a great ecumenical project.

A solicitor in Whitton, as executor of two estates, donated the contents of the garages to TWAM. Amongst the tools was a box of brand new wood chisels — so useful for someone learning carpentry.

Janet is very grateful to Jill and John Goddard who help with the collecting from all over the district. The charity plans to send two containers a month to countries in Africa — each costs more than £5,000.



On 2 August a container was sent to Rwanda with tools and equipment for 13 partner organisations: 109 sewing machines, 35 manual typewriters, 53 car kits, 62 builders' kits and 42 motor vehicle mechanics kits.

This photo is of Emmanuel, the mechanic for the Diocese of North Kigezi in Uganda who maintains all their vehicles. He was presented with a set of sockets by TWAM. Who knows, they may even have come from one of Janet's collections.

Janet would like to start collecting unwanted school textbooks. If you know of any teacher or school turning out textbooks or exercise books let her know. The list of things she collects is now very long, including bicycles. Telephone **020 8979 6325**



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Selected Readings



Little Children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action: And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what he pleases.

1 John 3:18-22

We cannot judge a biography by its length, by the number of pages in it; we must judge by the richness of the contents...

Victor Frankel, *Man's Search for Meaning*

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you.

A Celtic blessing

The truth which makes a person free is for the most part the truth which people prefer not to hear.

Henry Agar

When upon life's billows you are tempest-toss'd,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Johnson Oatman Jr

This is the true joy in life: being used for a purpose, recognised by yourself as a mighty one, and being a force of nature, instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

George Bernard Shaw



All children are

Bishop Michael retires



BISHOP MICHAEL COLCLOUGH, Canon Pastor of St Paul's Cathedral, pictured, left, with the Dalai Lama and the Bishop of London last year, retired on 30 September.

Bishop Michael, 68, spent most of his working life in the Diocese of London where he held a number of senior posts. Before being made a Residency Canon at St Paul's in 2008, he was Bishop of Kensington and a frequent visitor to St. James's Church.

As a member of the Chapter of the Cathedral he shared in overall responsibility for the life of St Paul's. He helped the cathedral celebrate its 300th anniversary and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, as well as being a stabilising leader during the Occupy encampment outside St Paul's.

Bishop Michael said: 'In the 42 years since my ordination I have been very fortunate to be entrusted with a wide variety of ministries. My time at St Paul's, with its worship, community, school, and visitors has been a daily delight. It has taken me back to the vocation to which I was first called: the care and nurturing of people into a deeper knowledge and sense of God's love.'

The Very Revd David Ison, Dean of St Paul's, praised his experience, support and wisdom. 'He is not only the longest-serving residency canon on Chapter at the moment, but has a deep knowledge of how St Paul's works, and a love for God and for people which is apparent to all who know him. He will be missed enormously.'

The Rt Revd Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, said: 'Michael has made an extraordinary contribution to the Diocese of London over the years. I am delighted that Michael and his wife Cynthia will be remaining in London and I am glad that he has accepted my invitation to join our remarkable company of Assistant Bishops in the Diocese.'

Pedal power for bride and groom

A LARGE

congregation witnessed the marriage of Pippa Butterfield, daughter of Val and Mike, to David Lemon on 10 August.



During the signing of the register Pippa and David's daughter Beth played the piano and sang, their son Laurie played the saxophone and all the family sang a song. At the end of the ceremony Beth and Laurie rang the church bells. After drinks and cake in the church hall, Pippa, David, Beth and Laurie left on decorated tandems to continue the celebrations at Hampton Pool.

Charity Christmas cards on sale

CHRISTMAS CARDS in aid of various charities will be on sale after the 9.30am service on **Sunday 27 October** (in church) and **Sunday 3 November** (in the hall). Do come along to see what is available.

Would you like to be confirmed?

YOUNG PEOPLE aged 11 upwards, or adults, can be presented for confirmation at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 16 November at 5pm. Please speak to the Vicar if you would like more information.



Susannah Nettleton believes that all children should experience music in its many forms in their everyday lives. Research has shown that music can help children to improve communication, maths, listening, concentration and social skills. It also brings a community together.

Over the past 10 years, children's musical participation in the life of St James's Church has expanded in many directions, enabling hundreds of youngsters to experience the exhilaration and demands of live performance in a very special building.

Music in worship has long been a part of the Anglican tradition; churches have been places to participate and listen to live music for centuries. The musical value of this is even higher today, as our children are used to singing with backing tracks in schools and listening to recorded rather than live musicians.

As the church and its community have done for many years, St James's has given children the opportunity to explore all sorts of music from liturgical repertoire in services and at Christmas concerts, to secular music, using the church and its acoustics as a unique performance space.

Making music together at St James's takes children out of ordinary life, out of their school halls, and gives their contributions an extra value. It has been exciting to see the church bringing children together from different age ranges and schools to make music together.

How it all began

This began in 2003 when there was a very lively musical scene at St James's — regular concerts, with choirs and playing opportunities for adults from the congregation and those in the community.

However, children and young people did not have an obvious musical outlet to come together in the local area, so we created a St James's Children's Choir to sing at special services.

With a core of at least 20 keen children from the Sunday School and the encouragement of Sarah Peterson and Lou Coker, we began singing on Mothering Sunday, and at Easter, Harvest Sunday and the Carol Service. The support of the organist meant the children could sing alongside the Church Choir. This was exciting as it led to singers joining the Church Choir, following the Voices for Life training scheme. Several passed the tests to earn special chorister medals.

Word began to spread through local schools and there were soon up to 40 children taking part in the Children's Choir. Enthusiasm was certainly the spirit of the choir



Hampton Hill Junior School's annual Christmas concert at St James's Church draws big crowds.

and the Revd Brian Leathard, our previous vicar, was instrumental in welcoming children and their families from all faiths, quickly making them feel that St James's is a happy place.

Recitals — and a small Superman!

Enthusiasm was such that our singers wanted to perform more frequently and to enjoy all sorts of music together. With the support of Martin and Prill Hinckley, St James's hosted a series of Young Musicians' Recitals.

Many of the singers were also keen instrumentalists and joined the church orchestra, which also played at the concerts. There was a memorable performance of *Superman* complete with a small comic book hero, arm outstretched at the front!

Jackie Allen formed a very popular Recorder Consort, enabling children who had stopped formal lessons to continue playing together and enjoy some four-part recorder repertoire. We created a String Ensemble and also a Flute Choir, under the

born musical!



Victoria reigns... celebrating the church's anniversary

leadership of Frances Beaumont, who was then a sixth-form pupil. Later Ewan Ansell also led this group. The concerts were always followed by a huge afternoon tea provided by Ruth Gostling and Debbie Nunn — the children came for more than the music!

Joint Summer concerts

Debbie Nunn and I were involved with music at our local schools and began to make links with the church as the children obviously enjoyed performing there. We started the annual Summer joint concerts, for Carlisle Infant School and Hampton Hill Juniors.

This has led to all sorts of unusual activities that were not perhaps envisaged in Victorian times and we have been grateful that the Revd Peter Vannozi has been so tolerant and encouraging!

At our first venture in 2005 we discovered how interesting the building is to perform in, and have always tried to use all parts of it, such as the baptistry with its beautiful echoing acoustics. The following year we performed the musical *Nightingale*, involving parents in both the band and drama; next was an environmentally-themed Green concert, which involved scientific experiments taking place in the chancel; the theme of *Song and Dance* led to some spectacular maypole dancing (with the maypole installed, ribbons shortened for safety!), ballet and even rollerblading singers all around the aisles.

In 2012 the children excelled themselves again with *Faster Higher Stronger*, our Olympics tribute, where St James's was transformed into a stadium with a stunning procession of flags and children dressed in their own national dress, with a gymnastic display and bubble machine for the diving song.

150th Anniversary concert

Hampton Hill Junior School has always valued the strong links with St James's and we were delighted

to share in the 150th Anniversary weekend in July with a musical contribution. Over 100 children in period dress recreated a Victorian Concert featuring as many Victorian composers as we could and concluding with audience and performers all singing the Victorian evensong hymn, *Abide with me*.

Community singing

Every child at Hampton Hill Juniors also has a special association with St James's at Christmas. Each year the church is full as the school performs its concerts there. Being in church also helps the pupils focus on what Christmas is about, giving a spiritual dimension and sense of community to all the performances.

Enthusiasm for singing amongst local families led also to the formation of Hampton Hill Singers, based in church and open to anyone in the community, enabling all generations to sing together.

With the collaboration of The Lady Eleanor Holles School we have put together all sorts of events, including our inaugural *Family Opera Night* at St James's, with excerpts from *Carmen* and little urchin boys marching up the aisle with fearsome props.

The annual St James's tea parties at Easter and Christmas have also been a lovely way for the children to engage with the older generation and sing to a very appreciative audience.

Benjamin Britten concert

Our next concert is *Noye's Fludde* on Saturday 12 October at 7pm (note change of date), to celebrate the centenary of Benjamin Britten and St James's 150th Anniversary. It promises to be another wonderful community collaboration, following a successful performance at Hampton Court Palace in June (pictured below). Please come and support the children as they have the wonderful chance to enjoy live music at St James's Church — see page seven.



Around the SPIRE

with Susan Homer

Marion Nevill's full life

THE FUNERAL SERVICE of Marion Nevill (nee Newton), 81, was held at St James's Church on 13 August.

Born in Deal, Kent, in 1932, Marion moved to London to join the Metropolitan Police and she was on duty on the day of the Coronation in 1953.

Marion joked that she had joined the police to find a husband and indeed she did, marrying Jim Nevill who was to have a distinguished career in the Metropolitan Police. They had two children, Anthony and Judith. Jim died in 2007.

Marion worked as a welfare assistant at Stanley Road School and also did voluntary work for the League of Friends at Teddington Memorial Hospital and as a steward at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court.

She was a regular worshipper at St. James's Church for many years. Marion was direct and to the point, with a sharp sense of humour and no time for pomposity or pretence. A traditionally minded person, Marion lived a full life and was a grandmother to six.



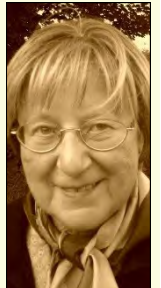
Former Spire printer dies

WE ARE SORRY to learn of the death of Sheila Carter, who printed *The Spire* magazine for us for over 20 years until her retirement.

Many readers will remember her at the Print Shop in Broad Street, Teddington. Sheila was very efficient and helpful to *The Spire* editorial team, coping with our layout requests and last-minute changes with great good humour.

She became ill at the end of last year and passed away on 28 June after a month in Sam Beare Hospice, Weybridge. The funeral took place at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court, where she had been an active member of the congregation for many years.

We extend our sympathy to her son, Simon, daughter-in-law Pauline, who herself suffered a serious stroke in February, and their three children, to whom she was a devoted grandmother.



A birth and a baptism



CONGRATULATIONS to Caitlyn and Rory Carrau on the birth of their son Max Halford Fletcher, pictured above left with his sister Amelia. Max was born on 3 August, weighing a very healthy 9lb 10oz and is a grandson for Coryn and Ian Robinson and a great-grandson for Hal and Eila Severn.

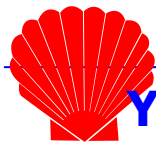
Effie Mae, daughter of Suzanne and Daniel O'Connor and a fourth grandchild for Debbie and John Nunn, was baptised at St. James's on 18 August. She is pictured, above right, with her parents and sister Sophie.

20 years of supporting children

THANK YOU to everyone who has a collecting box at home for the Children's Society. The total for this year is £298.74.

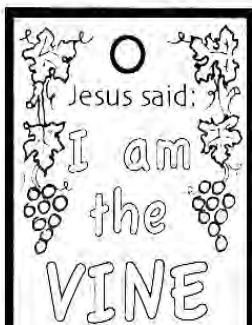
We are very grateful to Pip and Anne Rowett, who have co-ordinated this for the past 20 years. They would now like to pass this task to someone else, so please speak to them or Peter if you feel you could take over and would like to know more about the role.



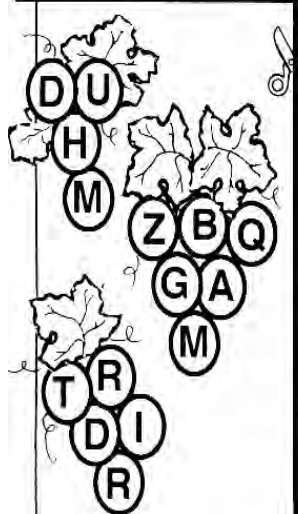
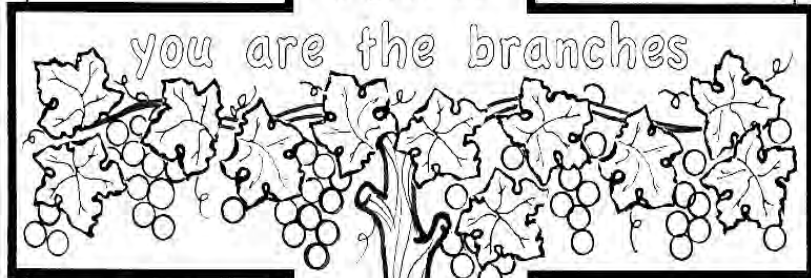


Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

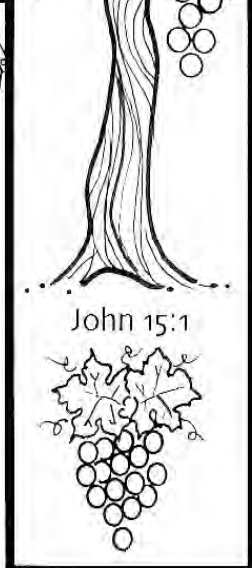
Colour the pictures



Jesus said "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be



Change each letter on the grapes to the one after it in the alphabet then rearrange to find the words



clean and bear more fruit... A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me."

John 15 verses 1,2,4-5



Mystery of model spire is finally solved by our editor following a chance meeting

ONE OF THE exhibitions in the Floral Celebration over the St James's Day weekend in the South Porch highlighted the scale model of the church spire, together with two line drawings of plans and the figures 1863 in a basket of flowers.

The actual scale model has had many homes in the church over the years, most recently in the Baptistry. It also features below, on a barrow with the Revd Rupert Brunt fund-raising in Hampton Hill High Street for repairs to the spire, but we knew very little about the model's history.

Whilst on duty over the weekend, Janet Nunn welcomed Pamela Bryant (many people will know her as the Chair of the Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital) and a friend who had come not only to see the flowers, but to see if the model of the spire still existed!

Janet chatted to Pamela and learnt that her husband Edward (Ted), a builder and surveyor, had been a member of St James's and had been asked to be an advisor to the Parochial Church Council by the Revd Frederick Harvey in 1937. The PCC were keen to have his knowledge on the structure and fabric and repairs to the church. Edward came up with the idea of a model of the spire to help fund-raising to pay for necessary repairs.

Edward drew the plans, signed and dated October 1937, which you can still see in the porch, together with the model. His youngest son Ernie helped his father by cutting out the windows of the spire with a fretsaw. The model is to scale and is of the spire, south and west porches and part of the nave.



Thrilled

In the early 1990s the model was returned to Edward, who refurbished it before he sadly passed away.

Pamela was thrilled to see it as part of our celebration and Janet assured her that the information will now go in our archives and on the website.

Anniversary Latest News

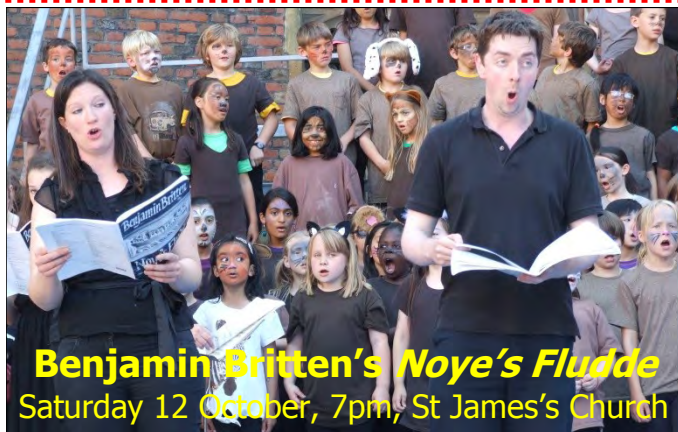
EVENTS COMING UP

Harvest Festival Sunday 6 October at 11am

The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams, pictured, joins us for harvest and will formally mark the planting of a tree in our churchyard. In readiness, we planted 150 bulbs in the churchyard last year — and they bloomed in the late spring, as the picture shows. Our thanks to Ros Daly for this.

We will again be supporting The Upper Room, Hammersmith, by encouraging you to bring non-perishable food and toiletries. (Full details are on the page opposite.)

The service will be followed by lunch in the Church Hall. There is more information in church. Do come and support us!



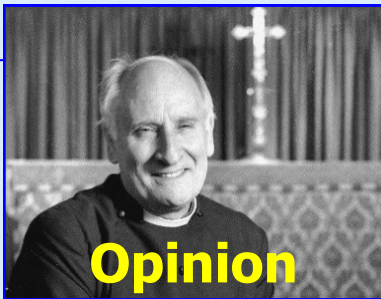
Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde Saturday 12 October, 7pm, St James's Church

Remembrance Concert

Friday 8 November 7.30pm St James's Church

In aid of Combat Stress





Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

THE POPE'S CAR

Recently, Pope Francis suggested to his clergy that it hurts him to see priests and nuns driving the latest model cars. His own example is interesting. Instead of using one of the 10 Mercedes or BMW sedans at his disposal, he's had his driver shuttle him around in a dark blue Ford Focus.

FAITH AND POLITICS

'Getting involved in politics is a Christian duty,' Pope Francis told a gathering of students in Rome. 'We Christians cannot be like Pilate and wash our hands clean of things.' An editorial in *The Independent* recently advised the Archbishop of Canterbury to stick to matters spiritual; that as someone not elected he has no business making pronouncements on things political.

Meanwhile a *Guardian* editorial commended the Archbishop of York for talking about very low wages, the Pope for talking about poverty, and the Archbishop of Canterbury for talking about Pay Day loans. It suggested that Labour leader Ed Miliband might focus on these themes too.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

A recent survey revealed that people thought that 24% of the population were Moslem. In fact it is less than 5%. The same survey revealed that people believed that for every £100 claimed in benefits, £24 was claimed fraudulently by 'scroungers'. The evidence suggests it is less than 70p in every £100 — less than 0.7%.

GAY PARENTS FARE WELL

Children adopted by gay or lesbian couples are just as likely to thrive as those adopted by heterosexual couples. Further findings from this first UK study of its kind suggest that adoptive families with gay fathers may be faring particularly well.

Susan Golombok, a professor at the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge, reports, 'Overall, we found more similarities than differences between family types, and it appears that children with same sex adoptive parents are no more likely to suffer from psychological disorders than children with heterosexual parents. Nor do they differ in gender role behaviour.'

The study looked at 130 adoptive families, including 41 headed by gay fathers and 40 by lesbian mothers, and used home visits, interviews, child-play sessions and information from teachers. The children were mostly aged four to eight and had been with their families for at least a year.

DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN HOUSING

London *Evening Standard* journalist Amol Rajan writes, 'There is no other area of policy — aside from education — that better captures the enduring injustice of British society; and more to the point, there is no other area, including education, in which our politicians are such hypocrites.'

Noting the headline *London House prices poised to soar 40%*, he comments, 'The basic injustice of all this bears repetition. Strong inflation in house prices increases the wealth of the old and the rich, at the expense of the poor and young... If we had the guts to reform planning properly and take on Britain's NIMBY's, a radical programme of house-building could reduce prices, reduce the appalling £20 billion we spend on housing benefit (rename it *landlord subsidy*), create jobs, and ease the North vs South divide.'

In fact, the number of housing completions has gone down for the past three years.

What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



Exploring Christianity

Thursday 3 October, 7.15pm, St James's Church Hall.

Continuing the opportunity to explore, reflect and talk about our faith over eight weeks. This course is for anyone who is seeking God. The evening begins with supper, followed by a talk, coffee and discussion. Each week there will be a theme: October 3 — Jesus Christ; October 10 — The Holy Spirit; October 17 — The Bible; October 24 — The Sacraments; October 31 — Prayer; and November 7 — Christianity today.

Harvest Festival

Sunday 6 October, 11am, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

Joining us for Parish Communion will be the Rt Revd Paul Williams, Bishop of Kensington, who will mark the planting of a tree in the churchyard as part of our anniversary. The service will be followed by a harvest lunch in the hall.

We are collecting for the Upper Room, Hammersmith, which serves over 25,000 hot meals to socially disadvantaged people every year. You can help by giving non-perishable food (making sure it is well within the use by date), toiletries, or new men's socks or underwear. Bring gifts to church by 20 October.

Noye's Fludde

Saturday 12 October,

7pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

Benjamin Britten was born 100 years ago on

22 November—the feast day of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music. He became a global musical figure, writing some of the most appealing classical music of the 20th century and performed worldwide with his partner, the singer Peter Pears.

First produced in 1958, *Noye's Fludde* is Britten's most elaborate work for children. This production is performed by professional singers and amateurs from The Lady Eleanor Holles School, Carlisle Infant School, Hampton Hill Junior School, and The Hampton Hill Singers. The Musical Director is Brendan Ashe. The Chorus Directors are Susannah Nettleton and Miranda Ashe. Tickets £5 (to cover costs), with a collection for the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group.



NEW

Faith at Work

Saturday 19 October, 9.15-10.15am, St James's Church

The autumn programme of discussions about how our faith impacts on our working lives opens with Jenny Wright discussing her *Faith in Many Roles*. Please join us for a lively debate.

The series continues with: Saturday 2 November with Mark Hodgson and *Faith in Google*; Saturday 16 November with Paul Fitchett and *Faith in BT*; and Saturday 30 November with Moya Meredith Smith and *Faith in Science*.

NEW

Ethical Investments and Pensions

Wednesday 16 October, 6.05-7pm, St Mary le Bow Church, Cheapside, London, EC2V 6AU

As part of National Ethical Investment Week, this free event will look at how we can ensure that our investments and pensions work to protect ourselves, the environment and society. JustShare is a coalition of churches and charities committed to global development and social justice.

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Voices for Hospices, Saturday 19 October, 7.30pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

This concert is in aid of the Princess Alice Hospice, Esher. This is your chance to participate in this scratch performance of Handel's Messiah, while raising funds. The conductor is Patrick Martin, the pianist is Geoffrey Bowyer. Tickets £12 (singers and audience) on the door, or from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4BN.

Princess Alice Hospice



One World Week: More than Enough?

Sunday 20 October, 6.30pm, Teddington Baptist Church, 17 Church Road, Teddington TW11 8PF

This service is organised by Churches Together in Teddington and the theme asks us if we have had more than enough of consumer culture getting in the way of relationships with others in our communities and across the globe? If we have had more than enough of being defined by what we possess? If we have had more than enough of seeing our planet irrevocably consumed? If we take more than enough ourselves? The speaker is Paul Jacobs, of the Kingston Street Pastors.



NEW

All Souls' Service

Sunday 3 November, 3.30pm, St James's Church

All Souls' Day is a traditional time for the Church to remember all the faithful departed. St James's Church marks this day with a reflective service. This is not a morbid time, but a chance for people to remember their loved ones and the hope of the Christian Gospel, which is resurrection and new life.

Registers for July and August



JULY

Baptisms

7 Frederick Boyd Tweedale Hodgson, Teddington

28 Rowan Jack Leonard, Feltham

28 Peter Lucas Mesher, Hampton Hill

Wedding

20 Lee Anthony Bradbury and Anita Emma Pinchen, Ashford

Funerals

2 Elsie Whittle, 89, Hampton Hill

9 Brian Henry Davies, 76, Hampton Hill

24 Linda Hughes, 53, Hampton

31 Irene Jane Adalide Keeler, 98, Hampton Hill

AUGUST

Baptisms

4 Charlie Jack Curtis Gardner, Teddington

4 Alexander James Curtis Gardner, Teddington

18 Effie Mae O'Connor, Weybridge

25 Joseph Richard Jack Clark, Walton

25 Reuben Fox Tower, Hampton Hill

Weddings

8 Gregory Hayden Ward and Reena Bouri, Hampton

10 Duncan Peter Skelton and Rebecca Charlotte Marlow, Teddington

10 David William Lemon and Pippa Irene Rysdale Butterfield, Teddington

Funerals

13 Marion Edith Nevill, 81, Hampton Hill

27 Teresa (Tessa) Ticehurst, 95, Teddington

Vicar's View



'A nice little cash crop gathered in, Vicar!'

Music that can open the 'window into the soul'



John Donne once wrote: *God hath divers ways into divers men. Into some he comes at noon, in the sunshine of prosperity; to some in the dark and heavy clouds of adversity. Some he affects with the music of the church; some, with some particular collect or prayer; some, with some passage of a sermon, which takes no hold of him that stands next to him. Watch the way of the Spirit of God into thee.*

For me, that way is most powerfully through the medium of music. Music can be a way of connecting the 'God out there' of the written word and public worship with that 'still, small voice of calm' within. Many, including myself, find that they are perhaps more likely to experience a deeper sense of God when engaged in listening to or performing music than almost anything else.

It is the main part of a musician's craft to use melody, rhythm, harmony and musical texture to go beyond cognitive understanding and to evoke different kinds of responses, the workings of which scientists are only just beginning to understand.

A scientific paper I read recently talks 'of the unique capacity of music to induce powerful altered states of consciousness that allow access to spiritual dimensions'. Neuroscientists have identified brain circuits that are involved with metaphor, poetry, music, and religious experiences.

Mozart's spirituality

One scientist describes his reactions when listening to Mozart's music: 'In the deep logic of the music, I sense a presence. It has a palpable spirit, and I feel as though I can have a personal relationship to that spirit. My relationship to the music is, in the most fundamental sense, the same as a religious relationship to the real world.'

For me, the music, apart from Mozart's, that most acts like a window into the soul and takes me into another world beyond the mundane is from the 16th and early 17th century — the time of the European musical Renaissance and Tudor England.

This is usually very 'cool' music, most typically with severely restricted emotional and dramatic musical qualities. In other words, music I can 'chill out to'.

The fact that sometimes the words are in Latin and originally intended for Roman Catholic ears matters not a bit to me. Indeed, William Byrd, one of England's greatest composers, wrote for both Catholic and Anglican congregations, and got

away with it, at a time when established religion in this country was in great turmoil.

Of course, the music from 400-odd years ago is not the only music that helps me 'access spiritual dimensions'. Mozart I have already mentioned and certain works by Bach, Handel and Haydn also have a similar effect.

From Beethoven onwards into the 19th and 20th century I find that the music generally pushes other buttons, as they say. It is much more about expressing the composers' feelings or thoughts rather than God's.

I can be swept along, for example, by Verdi's vast *Requiem* and imagine the terrifying *Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath) performed on the stage of La Scala sung by a chorus of devils on a set based on a Bosch painting of hell! But I cannot hear the still, small voice in the tumult.

Sermons divide, music unites!

What bearing has any of this on the music we hear and make in our own church? A former Archbishop asserted that sermons divide, whereas music unites — I'm not sure that the latter is necessarily true! Styles of worship and styles of music seem to go hand in hand these days.

People respond differently to different kinds of music. This is likely to be partly cultural, partly social, and partly due to intrinsic elements of musical style which resonate around the brain circuits that deal with these things.

Likewise, people respond differently to different kinds of worship too. Therein lies the issue of how to cater for the tastes of the wide range of people who worship, and whom we would hope to encourage to worship, in our church.

Speaking personally, I find I can be stirred by some of the modern worship songs we use as well as some of the traditional hymns. It is not all to do with the words. For me the music that underpins them is just as important.

As Vaughan Williams said, it 'requires a certain effort to tune oneself to the moral atmosphere implied by a fine melody'.

As for listening, for example when the organ or orchestra plays or the choir sings, I prefer music that aids quiet contemplation to help open that 'window into the soul'.

Fortunately for me, this is pretty much how we do things at St. James's currently.

As Heinrich Heine said, 'When words leave off, music begins'. I'm pretty sure faith works like that too.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

Lift Up Your Hearts!



"Lift up your hearts!" We lift them, Lord, to Thee;
Here at Thy feet none other may we see;
"Lift up your hearts!" E'en so, with one accord,
We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.

Above the level of the former years,
The mire of sin, the weight of guilty fears,
The mist of doubt, the blight of love's decay,
O Lord of Light, lift all our hearts today!

Above the swamps of subterfuge and shame,
The deeds, the thoughts, that honour may not name,
The halting tongue that dares not tell the whole,
O Lord of Truth, lift every Christian soul!

Lift every gift that Thou Thyself hast given;
Low lies the best till lifted up to heaven;
Low lie the bounding heart, the teeming brain,
Till, sent from God, they mount to God again.

Then, as the trumpet call, in after years,
"Lift up your hearts!" rings pealing in our ears,
Still shall those hearts respond, with full accord
"We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!"

There are many hymns written for specific seasons of the Christian year; others, for particular occasions. This hymn, which will be sung on **27 October** at St. James's, has no defined place in the year, but fits well for the offertory. This is when the bread and wine are brought forward, and collection taken. The priest follows this with the Eucharistic Prayer. Part of its opening dialogue has this exchange between priest and people:

*Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.*

The words were written by Henry Montagu Butler (1833-1918), a priest, headmaster of Harrow School, Dean of Gloucester, and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. Written in 1881 this, his only hymn, was produced while at Harrow, where he was one of the 19th century's reforming public school headmasters. The hymn refers to being lifted above 'the level of former years' and moves the singer to see all gifts as from God. They then must be lifted up to heaven to find their true fruition. In the midst of change at his school, Butler was indeed looking for the 'bounding heart', and 'teeming brain' to be lifted up, and be fully realised.

The hymn is usually sung to 'Woodlands', a tune best known as that for the hymn 'Tell out my soul.'