

The Spire

FEBRUARY 2011

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her journey
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The Spire

St James's Church
Registered Charity No 1129286

This Spire is produced nine times a year on behalf of the PCC of St James's Church.

We make no charge for this magazine but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs, enabling us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to 'The PCC of St James' and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

STORIES, FEATURES

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

Welcome

February 2011



Spring will be well on its way when you read this letter and the bad weather and coughs and colds around Christmas a distant memory, we hope.

This year we are making two slight alterations to *The Spire*. Firstly, we welcome Canon Julian Reindorp, who will be writing a new column called *Opinion*, to take over from Dick Wilde. We are very grateful to Dick who has produced his *Revelations* column so ably for several years and has now expressed a wish to have a well-deserved rest.

Our thanks also go to Prill Hinckley who has produced the *Young Spire* page over many years. This will continue, but in a modified form so that we can re-introduce the crossword and a sudoku puzzle, both of which we hope you will enjoy.

We are always looking for articles, digital photos of church families or events and news items. You will find our contact details below or speak to anyone on the Spire Committee.

Best wishes

Janet

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✉ AMENDMENTS to the Editor, please.

OUR CLERGY



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Revd Peter Vannozi

Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather who came from

Florence to the UK in the late 19th century. Peter's calling came while at college in Osterley, not far from Hampton Hill, and he was ordained in 1987. Prior to St James's, Peter was Vice Dean and Canon Pastor at Wakefield Cathedral. He is the Chair of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School, having been a member since 2007. Peter is a familiar sight out and about in Hampton Hill, often with his fox terrier, Paddy.

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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

6 February — 5th Sunday before Lent

09.30 All-Age Communion

Isaiah 58.1-9a

1 Corinthians 2.1-12

Matthew 5.13-20

13 February — 4th Sunday before Lent

Deuteronomy 30.15-20

1 Corinthians 3.1-9

Matthew 5.21-37

20 February — 3rd Sunday before Lent

Leviticus 19.1-2,9-18

1 Corinthians 3.10-11,16-23

Matthew 5.38-end

27 February — 2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1.1 - 2.3

Romans 8.18-25

Matthew 6.25-end

Mondays-Fridays

(but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in month

2 February

7am Commuter Communion

1st Thursday in month

3 February

2pm Holy

Communion



The Spire February 2011

The Bible is full of stories of journeys. Now it is my turn to let go and move on



Christmas now seems only a distant memory, and the year of 2011 is well on the move. January saw the celebration of Epiphany, the visit of the kings, or more correctly the wise men. Led by the star to the place of Christ's birth, they knelt in homage to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They too have long since moved on, and so has the Holy Family. Shortly after the wise men's visit, Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream to 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' (Matt 2:13).

Mary and Joseph not only had to travel during the final weeks of pregnancy, but no sooner was the child born than they were on the move again.

Things in life do not always happen as we think they should or as we would choose, and a first reaction is to think life would be so much simpler if they did — and to some extent that would be true. However, what about all the times something unexpected has happened that has enriched our lives: the surprises, the chance reunions, a meeting with a stranger who becomes a friend?

The announcement of Gabriel to Mary that she was going to bear a child, 'The Son of the Most High' (Luke 1:32) was hardly in this young woman's plans. Despite the mixture of joys and sorrows this gift from God was to bring to her life, if time could be rewound I am confident her reply would remain 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord.' (Luke 1:38)

One of the things we have to learn early on as Christians is that things do not happen in our time, but in God's. This, I must admit, is one of the hardest lessons I have had to learn. I like to plan things, I like to be prepared, and I worry what if...? Thank goodness for life-long learning, because for me 'to let go and let God' is a daily lesson, one which I am still being taught, and I am sure on my report card it will say 'Tries hard, but could do better!'

The Bible is full of stories of the journeys of individuals and nations. Some of these journeys are indeed physical



Debbie Oades

journeys and some are deeply personal spiritual journeys, but all involve relationship with each other as humanity or with God. We can learn a lot from them and they are there for us to reflect upon, to learn from, to be cautioned and to be encouraged by in our daily travels with God.

As part of my journey, I was asked just over two years ago to become part of the community of St. James's; to serve them and join them in sharing the journey towards God, towards each other and the wider community. During this time I and the family can only describe it as being richly blessed.

I know the news of my leaving came unexpectedly, but I joined you at a time when I was questioning if ministry was really for me. I am leaving you not to withdraw from

ministry, but to take on a full-time stipendiary post — so to each and every one of you, thank you! Special thanks must be said to Peter for his unending wisdom, patience, support, humility and humour....Ta chuck!

The path I have now been asked to walk is to journey to the Parish of Maybush with St Jude, Southampton, in the Diocese of Winchester. There are three churches in the benefice, serving a population of 27,000: All Saints, St. Peter's, where I shall be based, and St. Jude's. I will be licensed as Assistant Vicar at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 February (St. Polycarp) at St Peter's Church.

To commence a journey we have to accept a need to depart from where we are; to have to 'let go and let God' if we are to travel towards the destination God has for us. Mary Magdalene too found this difficult as the need to hold on to the loved and the familiar was as strong in her as in all of us. 'Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God".' (John 20:16)

Thank you and God bless you all.

IN THOUGHT AND PRAYER

St Polycarp – 23 February



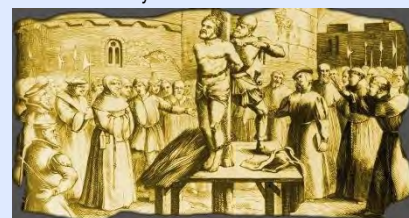
Image courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery Icons

Polycarp (69 – 155 AD) was 40 years old when he became Bishop of Smyrna (now part of Turkey), and there he remained until he was 86. For much of this time Christians faced persecution. Polycarp was a determined opponent of heresy and an important link between the first generation apostles and the late 2nd century theologians and writers.

Saint Irenaeus (2nd century AD – c. 202) was Bishop of Lugdunum in Gaul, then a part of the Roman Empire (now Lyons, France). He reports that Polycarp knew John and spoke with the rest of those who had seen the Lord. It is unclear, however, whether the John spoken of is John the Apostle or John the Elder.

Polycarp is honoured as one of the first Christian martyrs. After his arrest he was given the chance to save his life by renouncing his faith; his response was 'I have been Christ's servant for eighty-six years and he has done me no harm. Can I now blaspheme my King and my Saviour?'

He was burned at the stake and afterwards his remains were buried outside the city. It became a tradition to celebrate communion over the burial site on the anniversary of his death.



The Collect for this day is:

Almighty God,
who gave to your servant Polycarp
boldness to confess the name of our Saviour
Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world
and courage to die for his faith:
grant that we also may be ready
to give an answer for the faith that is in us
and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A man who worked for peace in Africa



WE HAVE received the sad news that Father Julio Fenias, priest at our ALMA link church in Pemba Mozambique, died on 16 December as he was being transferred from Pemba to Maputo after developing complications following an appendectomy.

Fr Fenias was President of the Christian Council, part of many peace and justice initiatives of Pemba churches and also very involved with HIV, malaria and poverty work. In 2007, Chris Owens and Clare Rider from SS Peter and Paul, Teddington, visited the church in Pemba that we helped raise money to build. They later gave a talk at St. James's.

May Fr Fenias rest in peace and rise in glory.

■ **WOMEN FROM** Chile have written the service for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer, which takes place on Friday 4 March. There are two services, organised by Churches Together Around Hampton, at St James's, at 2pm and 7.30pm, and everyone, including men, is welcome. The service is titled *How Many Loaves Have You?* It is an appropriate theme as bread is eaten at every meal and is very much part of every day life. The Women of Chile offer what it means to them. The day of prayer will be marked in over 170 countries. More than 5,000 services will be held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Christina sends thanks from St Luke's

ST JAMES'S has a long and vibrant friendship with Benaiah Kilwale, a medical officer at St Luke's hospital in Milo, Tanzania. In 2009 parishioners helped with staff training fees for several young people, including Benaiah's daughter Christina. Christina has written to thank St James's for funding her first course towards becoming a pharmacist. She completed it very successfully in August 2010 and is now working in the hospital. She hopes to return to school in two years time to get a degree. Christina also gives thanks for the help given towards her father's treatment for prostate cancer in Dar es Salaam.



■ **CONNIE BRUNT**, widow of the Revd Rupert Brunt — Vicar at St James's from 1951 to 1980 — passed away on Sunday 9 January, aged 96, after a short stay in a Seaford nursing home close to her flat. Letters of condolence to Rosalind, Clare, Bernard and Francis may be sent to 2 Richmond Court, Richmond Road, Seaford BN25 1DR. The funeral will be on 4 February. There will be a memorial service at St. James's later in the year. Details of this and a full tribute to Connie will appear in a future edition of *The Spire*.

REGISTERS FOR NOV AND DEC

NOVEMBER

Baptisms

7 Rebecca Emily Collison, Hampton Hill

14 Louisa June Rose, Jerwood, Hampton Hill

21 Rocco Guy Freedman, Twickenham

28 Jack Edward Gray, Hampton

28 Joseph George Sykes, Hampton

28 Joshua Geoffrey Marshall Sykes, Hampton

Funeral

11 Joan Edwards (Jean), Hampton Hill, 82

DECEMBER

Funerals

13 Gertrude Mary Simpson (Nina), Hampton Hill, 88

23 Dorothy Joyce (Dot), Hampton Hill, 69

There are always new ways for us to grow in faith



In 1862 the Revd James Burrows, Vicar of St Mary's, Hampton, described Hampton Hill as '*...a wilderness with a number of habitations of the most wretched kind, inhabited by a still more wretched class of people*'. **Peter Vannozzi** shows how the church changed that — and must continue to find ways to proclaim faith.

The complaint was swiftly acted upon and St James's Church was built and consecrated in 1863. The first Vicar, Revd Fitzroy John Fitzwygram, said that '...if people are taught to say thanks to God, they must have something to give thanks for'.

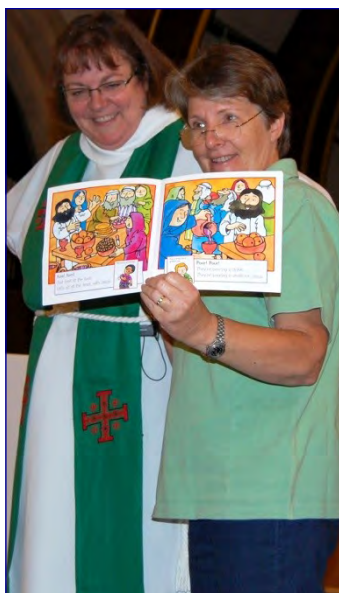
For him that meant combining word and deed in proclaiming faith in Jesus Christ. Into a pretty desperate and deprived community, he brought the surprise of faith and belief into a new world of industry and commerce that seemed to have little time for it.

Over the summer and autumn of 2010, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) worked to produce a new Mission Action Plan for the next three years. Mission Action Plans, or MAPs, have been part of the life of this diocese of London, which includes this church, since 1993. They are, quite simply, a local church's way of not simply carrying on as it always

has, but rather setting out some priorities and actions that result from them. At the core of a MAP is mission. *Mission* comes from a word that means 'to send'. Jesus was sent into our world, and then sent out his disciples.

Today we are part of the company of disciples sent out into the world with the surprising news of the love of God in Jesus. A MAP expresses something of how a local church views this mission. Today there is available to you on paper and on our website, our MAP for the next three years, taking us through to our 150th anniversary year, in 2013. I believe that it is in the spirit of our forebears who took the brave step of a founding a church in Hampton Hill.

The full details of our MAP are available on our website www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk and paper copies are available in the church or can be sent to you. Our MAP has three broad categories, each of which has a word in common — *Growing*.



GROWING TOWARDS GOD: St James's Church has stood for 147 years. **GROWING TOWARDS EACH OTHER:** (top and middle left) The Ark and our Fairtrade stall. **GROWING TOWARDS THE WORLD:** (below) supporting St Luke's, Milo.



Growing towards God

Rightly, this comes first. Why? Because God comes first. If a local church, let alone the wider Church in which it is set, fails to pay first and primary attention to God, then it is not a church at all. Christians are to take their inspiration from the story we have to tell - of God who made us; of God who rescued us; of God who sustains us. We have set out some ways in which we may seek to grow towards God as a community of faith. One example is a series of sermons in Lent 2011 focussing on faith and work, and how they connect.

Growing towards each other

Within any church community, people will understand belonging in different ways. There will be people who jump at the chance of a social event with their fellow church members; there will be others who prefer to meet in smaller gatherings, even one-to-one. Yet however we may view a church community, growing towards each other is not an optional extra.

Why not? St. Paul speaks of the Church as the Body of Christ in which each part of the body finds a place. No part of the body can say to another 'You're

not needed.' One example of how we might grow towards each other is told to a service next autumn celebrating baptism to which people of all ages baptised at St. James's in the past three years will be invited.

Growing towards the world

Part of this church's approach from its very foundation has been to look outwards. Why? God sent his Son because he 'so loved the world.' This is in the spirit of our first vicar who expressed love for the world in his social action as well as his preaching.

One example of growing towards the world is considering our responsibility for the environment in seeking a 'Green supplier' of electricity this spring.

Our vision at St. James's for the next three years as we move towards our 150th birthday in 2013 is of a church that is growing - towards God, one another and the world. In the footsteps of St. James, who answered the call of Jesus, the community of St. James's seeks to answer his call today.

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Around the Spire

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND

A grand 90th birthday party for Kath

CONGRATULATIONS to Kath Brooks who celebrated her 90th birthday at the end of December with a party at the Winning Post public house. All her children, their spouses and grandchildren, together with other relatives and friends, gathered to mark the occasion. Pictured (left to right) are daughter Janet, son Ian, Kath and son Rob. Kath has been a very active member of St. James's Church for more than 50 years. She has served on the PCC, been a baptismal visitor, founded a group for mothers and babies, was a long-standing member of the choir and been involved in many other activities. Kath is still a regular worshipper and much-loved member of our community.



JACK AND RUTH Gostling's grandson, Ben Crompton, featured in BBC Two's recent two-part drama, *The Sinking of the Laconia*, which told the story of a U-boat commander who, having torpedoed the merchant ship, went against Nazi orders and rescued survivors. Ben spent several weeks in South Africa making it, and had to learn to swim beforehand!

He was joined by his partner Liv Lorent and their son Albie, during a break in filming in Cape Town. Ben and Liv have since been involved in *Undereath the Floorboards*, a dance adventure for under 5s, which received excellent reviews at its preview performance.



OUR SCOUTS competed in the National Scout Air Rifle Competition at Bisley in October, as they do each year. They have always done well, but on this occasion achieved their best ever result. As well as a number of individual gold medals, they won the overall team rifle and team pistol trophies and the teams came first and second in the overall competition, becoming National Scout Champions in all disciplines. Four of them have now joined the National Scout Squad — a springboard to joining the GB national junior and senior squads. 3rd Hampton Hill now have six scouts in the national squad.





Young Spire

Go online for even more

T H E P U Z Z L E R

Chill out!

The service for this year's **Women's World Day of Prayer** is being written by women in **Chile**, but how much do you know about this South American country? Take part in our quiz and find out



Flora and Fauna Fact or Fiction?



Penguins



Llama



Tarantula

- 1 A llama has two toes
- 2 The name penguin comes from the Welsh language.
- 3 Condors have blunt claws, so they cannot hunt.
- 4 Tarantulas grow bald on the thorax when they grow old.

- 5 A running puma can jump 13 metres.
- 6 The Chilean national emblem is a flower called the Glory Bell.

Answers at bottom of page

Breads of Heaven

Draw a line from the bread type on the **left** to the correct bread in the **picture** and then to the country of origin on the **right**

Naan

Bagel

Croissant

Ciabatta

Tortilla

Bara

Brith



Italy

France

India

USA

Wales

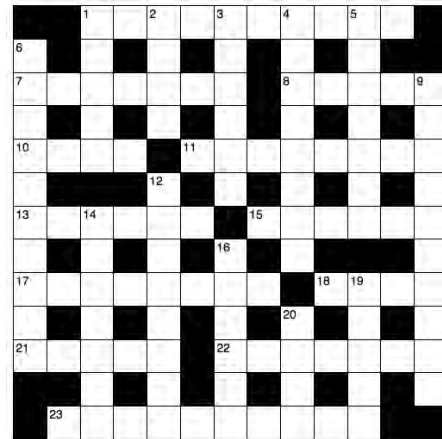
Chile



Wave the flag!

Colour in the flag, first used in 1817 just before independence from Spain. You'll need red, blue and white

Crossword



Solutions to the crossword and sudoku will be in our next issue

Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anagram) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

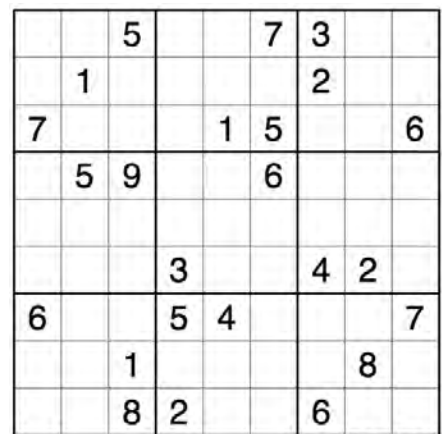
Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anagram) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)

- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Crossword reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in *Three Down, Nine Across*, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)

Sudoku



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

Wordsearch

- February is the month of St Valentine's Day and Candlemas, when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to present him to God. Look for these words in the grid and circle them.

- Valentine
- Rose
- Romance
- Love
- Present
- Restaurant
- Hearts
- Kiss
- Hug
- Girlfriend

- Boyfriend
- Fiancé
- Worship
- Repentance
- Angels
- Baby
- Temple
- Mary
- Candlemas
- Presentation



Chileans say that when God created the universe, there was a little of everything left over. So he threw it all down in a narrow strip of land running between the mountains and the sea and called it Chile.

The climate can be divided into three zones: the **north** is one of the driest places in the world with hot deserts, the **central** region is warm and sunny, but the **south**, which is in Antarctica, has ice and snow. Chile is in the southern hemisphere, so it is their summertime when we have our winter.

Some 89% of the population are Roman Catholics, while 10% are Protestants.

ANSWERS

Bara Brith — Wales
Ciabatta — Italy; Tortilla — Chile;
Bagel — USA; Croissant — France;
Breads of Heaven Naan — India;
Fact or Fiction all answers are facts.



opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

The Pope and condom use

The Pope recently said 'when a prostitute uses a condom...this can be a first step in the direction of... responsibility...but it is not really the way to deal with the evil of HIV infection. That can really lie only in a humanisation of sexuality.' As one commentator put it, 'everyone seems to have got what they wanted from this Papal statement. Liberals have pronounced that the entire polar ice cap of Roman Catholic sexual morality has started to melt. Conservatives have insisted that nothing has changed in the Vatican's opposition to artificial contraception'. But is this just wishful thinking all round? Time will tell.

Churches and contraception

Church of England bishops began to offer a positive response to methods of birth control in 1930, and by the 1950s all the non-Roman Catholic churches had made similar positive statements. But long before that couples with little relevant guidance from their churches attempted to adjust the size of their families to falling death rates and the challenges of being responsible parents. The church has often, like society, responded too late to the challenge of responsible parenthood and the positive expression of our sexuality. As a member of the World Contraception Day's Youth Task force wrote recently, 'The way to improve sex education in schools is by basing it on the Dutch model, where it starts earlier, is more comprehensive, has a greater focus on the importance of a loving relationship and has resulted in some of the lowest teen pregnancy rates in Europe'. Can we be more honest and open about these issues for all our sakes?

Benefit cheats or victims?

The prime minister has talked about 'benefit cheats', the Chancellor of the Exchequer suggests that 'living on benefits is a life style choice'. Have they ever lived on benefits or on one of the vast housing estates that so easily result in people being unemployed and living on benefits? As Professor Bob Holman, who has chosen to live his adult life on the vast Easterhouse estate in Glasgow, responded, 'My long experience in deprived areas tells me that the number who make a rational decision to live on benefits is tiny. I know others who cannot face working: those with mental health problems, or severe behavioural problems.'

Forced to move home

All the main political parties agree the whole benefit system needs to be reviewed. But the proposed blanket reduction of housing benefits will affect Londoners more than anyone else — those in employment receive London Weighting after all. People from different sides of the political divide have used very unfortunate language about the effects of these cuts in London. Boris Johnson, our mayor, used the phrase 'Kosovo-style social cleansing...not on my watch' and Polly Toynbee referred to the 'Final Solution', the term used to describe the Holocaust, as a summary of what the policy will do to those in London who may be transferred to outer London Boroughs or made homeless.

The recently announced delay of nine months suggests that the authorities are beginning to be aware of the effects of the housing benefit cuts, particularly in London. Who will walk in solidarity with those whose homes, community and roots are threatened in our great city?

✉ griseldabarrett@blueyonder.co.uk

What's On



St James's Theatre Group

Tuesday, 22 February, 7.45pm, *Blithe Spirit*, Richmond Theatre, The Green TW9 1QJ



Noël Coward's comic masterpiece stars **Alison Steadman** (*Enjoy, Abigail's Party, Gavin and Stacey*), **Hermione Norris** (*Cold Feet, Spooks*), **Robert Bathurst** (*Cold Feet, Present Laughter*) and

Ruthie Henshall (*Chicago, Cats and Miss Saigon*). Tickets are £20 (a big saving on the full price of £29.50).

There are also discounted tickets for:

Tuesday 22 March, *Life of Riley*, by Alan Ayckbourn, tickets £15 (£24.50)

Friday 22 April, *Corrie*, tickets £17 (£29.50);

Friday 6 May, *To kill a Mockingbird*, based on the novel by Harper Lee, tickets £16 (£28.50);

Tuesday 14 June, *Yes, Prime Minister*, by Anthony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, the writers of the hit BBC TV series, tickets is £16 (£24.50).

To join us please add your name to the lists on the church notice board or telephone Ria Beaumont on 020 8943 4336. Transport can be arranged.

Faith at Work

Starting Saturday 5 February, 9.15-10.15am, in vestry, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

Do join this group to explore our experiences. What difference does our faith make to our daily lives, our daily work?

What are the challenges we face, the tensions we feel? Our work may be paid, or unpaid, we may be facing redundancy, or having been 'let go', working from home or retired. Can we support each other through these experiences? In November Alan Cammidge spoke on 'the faith of a policeman', and professor Rodney Taylor spoke on 'my dilemmas in health care'.

Our Spring programme, again on Saturdays from 9.15am, will be:

■ Saturday 5 February, Lou Coaker — *The challenges a tax inspector faces*;

■ Saturday 19 February, Jane Newman — *The life of a teacher*;

■ Saturday 5 March, Dr Janet Taylor — *The changes in the health service*;

■ Saturday 19 March, David Bell — *faith, publishing, success and failure*



Vicar's View



To make our hymns more topical I have based them on the latest petrol price rises...

Fairtrade Fortnight

28 February—13 March

This year we want everyone to get loud and proud about Fairtrade. Let's show off a different way of doing trade and why we campaign for it. The Most Revd Dr John Sentamu,



Archbishop of York, pictured, says Fairtrade is a great example of the power of ordinary people to be 'good news to the poor'. Last year he visited a new health centre built by a local co-operative in Ivory Coast on the strength of the extra money they receive because of Fairtrade. They are rightly proud of their achievement, which is already saving lives. 'Getting fair prices and a fair trade premium makes all the difference for farmers and producers. As a Christian, I want trade to be an expression of the reality that all men and women are my brothers and sisters, to whom I owe justice, respect, and the best possible future. Fairtrade really took off more than 20 years ago because the churches took it up. There has been fantastic progress — even some multinationals

now have Fairtrade products. But there is much more to do. I hope this one example will inspire you to support Fairtrade and campaign for further changes.'



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4 March, 2pm and 7.30pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

For full details please see the News Bulletin on page four.

Shrove Tuesday Parish Meal

Tuesday 8 March, 7pm, Piazza Firenze Restaurant, 133 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NJ

Why not join us for a meal to mark the start of Lent? We usually have a group of 20 or more for a very enjoyable and inexpensive meal. (Last year two courses, plus a glass of wine, cost £15 for adults, or £5 for under tens.) Prices to be confirmed in the March issue of *The Spire*. Please add your name to the list in the south aisle if you would like to join the group. For more information please contact Liz Wilmot, telephone 020 8977 9394 or email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 9 March, 9.30am and 7.30pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Church's solemn time of preparation of Easter. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence, and in both services you may receive on your forehead the sign of the cross in ash.

Cantanti Camerati

Friday 18 March, 7.30pm, Saturday 19 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Just A Song at Twilight No 35, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 3AA

Tickets available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham, by phoning 020 8977 5986, or on the door.

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 3 April, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

There will be the usual 8am Holy Communion, and an All-age Worship at 9.30am, followed by Holy Communion at 11am. Between the 8am and 9.30am services, the Sunday School will continue the tradition of cooking everyone breakfast. They will also serve tea/coffee after the service. At 8pm there will be Compline.

A lifelong passion for horses



Laura on Benji

Little did I realise when I offered to help for an hour a week at our local branch



of the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) that ten years later I'd be there two days a week and a qualified Group Instructor.

All those beaming faces, however, made me realise just how much the children enjoy the experience of being on a horse or pony. A set of four legs instead of your own — especially if you happen to rely on a wheelchair — makes a massive difference, as does looking down at someone instead of always looking up.

The human/animal encounters are so special. Animals do not judge, they accept you as you are. I have been lucky to experience many magical moments during my years of helping the Special Needs Section (RDA group) of the Horse Rangers Association, based at Hampton Court.

I have loved and been around horses all my life, so the chance to become involved with these wonderful animals, while helping young people with special needs, was an opportunity I jumped at. It has been an interesting journey and I have made many good friends, not to mention the horses and ponies!

Classes are held on weekdays during term time. The children mainly come from local special needs schools and ride once a week in a beautiful indoor manège (training arena) at the Stockyard in Bushy Park. The manège was built by generous local sponsorship and officially opened by Princess Michael of Kent in 2002.

The benefits of riding are enormous. Firstly, there's the exercise, which strengthens the muscles of the back and legs. Then there is the animal contact, which many of the children will have never experienced before. Just touching, patting and stroking their horse or pony seems to calm the children. Riding also boosts their self-esteem, and in turn strengthens self-confidence. And being outside and taking part in an activity that is so different, is a benefit in itself. The riders in my group are severely autistic, yet they smile and join in the class activities. I'm sure the benefits of riding reflect in other areas of their lives, particularly communication. Even the keenest of the horses or ponies seem to realise that their rider is very special and want to look after their charges. The horses are, indeed, special themselves. There have been youngsters who were too frightened to approach a pony, let alone touch one. Eventually, over time, and with gentle encouragement, they lose the fear and are often the first to mount — and love every minute. What an achievement for that young rider.

A special gymkhana is held every Summer when the riders have the chance to enter competitions and win rosettes. The children are cheered on by their parents and carers, and it is a great opportunity for everyone to become involved and for the children to feel important. One instructor told Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* that the benefits of riding were so great that they should be available on the NHS!

In 2009 the RDA celebrated its 40th anniversary with the *World's Largest Riding Lesson*. Each group in the UK and abroad carried out exactly the same lesson — quite an achievement. The RDA has 18,000 volunteers across the UK in 500 centres who give over 3 million hours of their time every year. Princess Anne is the 'hands-on' President of the RDA and visits many of the centres each year. She is hugely enthusiastic about the work of the Association, as am I. I have had many heart-warming experiences and feel very lucky to have been given the chance to become involved.

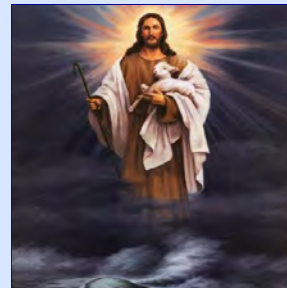
■ If you would like to learn more about volunteering for the RDA section of the Horse Rangers, please speak to me, or contact Anna McCrum, telephone 020 8783 3231 or email rda@houserangers.com. Experience is helpful, but not essential as training and support will be given.



Songs of Praise

The story behind the hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky



I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

There's been an explosion of writing of church music over the last few decades. Hymns have come from all traditions of the Christian Church. Though modern music is more closely associated with Evangelical Christians, the Roman Catholic Church has had its own composers, including Fr. Daniel Schutte, who wrote the words and music for our featured hymn this month. Born in 1947, Schutte is a member of the Society of Jesus (S.J.), the *Jesuits*. He was part of a US movement that produced music for texts in English following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. Though he has written many hymns and songs, this is his best known in the UK. It features in hymn books of different Christian traditions, including Anglicanism. The first line of each verse depicts God as Creator. This God who has made all things — will he not also care for the people he has made? The chorus is based on the call of the prophet Samuel in chapter three of the First Book of Samuel. Samuel hears the Lord calling him, and from then on serves him. This hymn reminds worshippers of the call of God to follow him, and to serve him.

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