

150th Anniversary of St James's Church - 2013



It's hard to imagine now that Hampton Hill was once described as a wilderness. 'Green and pleasant land' might seem apt today, but in 1863 a young man arrived to help shape a new community being formed by the coming of the railway. Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram was to be its first vicar, but this would be no easy job. A colleague painted a grim picture. Hampton Hill was bleak, with housing "of the most wretched kind, inhabited by a still more wretched class of people".

Fitz Wygram was determined to make a difference – and 2013 will mark the 150th anniversary of St James's Church and parish (see the anniversary copy of the Spire magazine right). What hasn't changed is the church's place at the heart



of the community. Whether you come to worship, attend concerts, make a school visit, are a Brownie or Guide, or support numerous evening classes, St James's Church will be a familiar place – and in the spirit of our founder, we aimed to involve the entire community in our celebrations. Fitz Wygram was committed to meeting people's needs, bodily as well as spiritually. For that reason we raised money throughout the year for the Greenwood Centre, which does such a valuable job supporting people in need. The centre is based in what was once St James's church hall, in School Road, itself named after the school that Fitz Wygram built when he discovered that just 13 local children received an education. It is just over the road from Fitz Wygram Close.

During 2013 our celebrations were an opportunity to celebrate the beginnings of St James's, but also to do something now, with a legacy for the future. *Revd Peter Vannozzi, Vicar of St James, Hampton Hill.*

Events during the Anniversary Year



Christingle Service

December 2012

The anniversary year was launched



New Year's Service

January 2013

Looking ahead and reflecting on 2012



Candlemas Service

January 2013

The presentation of Christ in the Temple



Pilgrimage to Holy Land

February 2013

A group from St James's visited the Holy Land



St James's Lent/Easter

March 2013

Lent and Easter were busy times at St James's



Stainer's Crucifixion

March 2013

Concordia Voices performed this moving meditation



Greenwood Centre trip

April 2013

The church sponsored a trip to Winchester



We are St James!

May 2013

Celebrating being part of St James's



Deanery Singers Festival

June 2013

A lively afternoon of fellowship and Evensong



David Bell's Ordination /first Mass

June 2013

Revd David Bell was ordained as a priest



Peter Vannozzi's 25th Anniversary

July 2013

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination



St James Weekend

July 2013

Floral Celebration Community Day St James's Day



Harvest Festival

October 2013

Celebratory service, tree planting and lunch



Noye's Flood

November 2013

A medieval mystery play by Sir Benjamin Britten



Remembrance Festival

November 2013

Theme of remembrance, in aid of Combat Stress



Anniversary Service

December 2013

The Bishop of London celebrated with us

Celebration of Our Patron Saint on St James's Day



We celebrated our patron saint, the apostle St James, in prayer and music, celebrating the past and looking towards the future, involving the young and not so young, and with numerous events and activities, enhanced by the beauty of flowers and strengthened by Saturday afternoon tea and Sunday lunch.

This has been a significant year owing much to the impact of our first vicar, Revd Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram. A deeply spiritual man whose approach and own life displayed a practical spirituality, he not only preached the good news but also put it into practice. This has been a feature of the life of this church ever since.

The church was bathed in glorious sunshine for the three day celebration with the weekend being the sunniest and warmest this year. To celebrate our 150th Anniversary of St James's Church this year's celebration has been bigger than ever.

Throughout the three days there has been a significant number of friendly faces, both old and new visitors to the church. There was the opportunity to ring the church bells and to climb the church tower to enjoy the magnificent view of Hampton Hill and beyond. The Floral Celebration was enhanced by the celebration of 150 years of weddings and baptisms with the displays of dresses, gowns, shawls and robes. The children had the opportunity to create their own flower arrangements and to add their thoughts to the 'Wishing Tree'. There was also an exhibition, created by the children, of the churchyard through the seasons.

The Floral Celebration

The church has a wonderful team of enthusiastic flower arrangers and following discussions and meetings the idea of using flowers and wedding dresses to complement each other grew into a theme for an exhibition for the anniversary. As a natural progression, christening gowns and other wedding artefacts were included. Soon offers of gowns, photos, shawls, prayer books, headdresses and other ideas were forthcoming and specific areas in the church were allocated for individuals to plan displays. It was hoped visitors would enjoy wandering round the church and reflect on the wonderful family celebrations that have taken place here during its history. The displays of photos, dresses and accessories reflect brides who have been married at St James's over the last 60 years. The brides were all members of families with a strong connection to the church and many still worship here. There were also some of the vicar's colourful clerical robes on display.

A display of old scriptural text books reflected the more limited access children once had to Biblical knowledge. The beautiful, colourful and informative books are only part of the wonderful range of resources that are now used and available to younger members of our church. There were small baskets and containers for children to enjoy filling with flowers. The nature display by 'The Shell Seekers' contained flowers, leaves, photographs and bark-rubbings which were gathered by the children in their visits to the churchyard over the course of a year. They rejoiced in the beauty of the natural world and their ability to appreciate it through their five senses.

The Community Day

This was enjoyed as part of the Hampton Hill Summer Festival. There was the opportunity to board a vintage bus in the High Street to travel to the church. Once at the church, visitors could have a look around and admire the floral celebration. They could also climb the tower, see the views and ring the bells. Refreshments were provided all day long in the hall.

The excellent new booklet 'New Hampton and Hampton Hill in Victorian and Edwardian Times' provided details of the life of past life the community. A history quiz gave the opportunity to win prizes. In the village there were fairground rides, live music, stalls, games, a dog show and rides on a mechanical horse. Hampton Hill village raised money for several charities: the Greenwood Centre, Shooting Star Chase, SOS! Special Educational Needs, the League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital and African Revival.



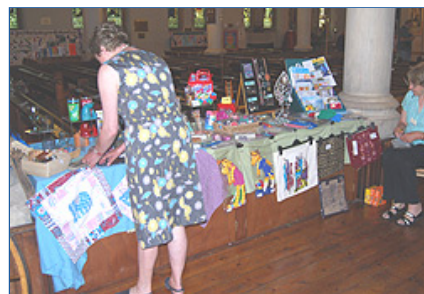
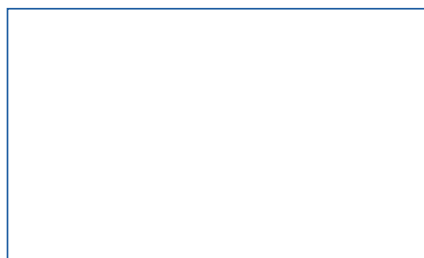
Ringing the bells



The welcome



Wonderful refreshments!



15 Hours of Prayer

The celebrations of the church were balanced by prayer and reflection, reflecting the life of the church within the community and the spiritual life of the church. A prayer chain led up to the Sunday church service. The fifteen hour vigil of prayer in the church started at 8.00pm on Saturday evening and led towards the church service on Sunday morning. We devoted one hour for every ten years of the church's history. All were welcome to enjoy the peace of the church and opportunity for contemplation during the night.

St James's Day Service

Parish Communion was celebrated with the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Dr David Ison. All were welcomed to join us, young and old, parishioners and newcomers. Revd Peter Vannozzi had turned back time to recreate 1863 and a number of children and adults attended the service in Victorian attire.

In memory of our Founder, Revd Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram, the Fitz Wygram grave was beautifully cleaned and restored prior to our celebratory weekend. Flowers were placed upon the grave. The parish communion ended with the congregation being led out from the church and processing towards our Founder's grave. Revd Peter Vannozzi led prayers in memory of Revd Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram. The church choir led the congregation in the final hymn which was sung in the churchyard, around our Founder's grave.



St James's Day Lunch and Open Day

The church service was followed by a Victorian themed Celebration Lunch and Pimms in the vicarage garden. The church hall tables were generously filled with food for the buffet lunch. The vicarage garden was packed with people sitting on the grass, enjoying the sunshine, or sheltering in the gazebos from the heat. The Wellman Clarinet Quartet provided an uplifting musical accompaniment for an afternoon of food and chat. The Victorian era was contrasted with a bouncy castle for children to play on.

The weekend was a resounding success, involving the community in an act of worship to celebrate 150 years. The three days were extremely well attended and appreciated. The church has successfully used the 150th Anniversary to continue to reach areas of work and the community served by the founding work of Revd Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram, thereby laying the foundations for the further 150 years of the dedicated life of St James's Church in Hampton Hill and beyond.



The Wellman Clarinet Quartet



Climbing the tower

There was the opportunity for visitors to climb the church tower to learn about and ring the church bells and also to enjoy the magnificent view of Hampton Hill and beyond.





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Join our celebrations

Scott Balfour / folkphotos.co.uk



The Revd Peter Vannozzi, Vicar

St James's Church has been part of Hampton Hill since the parish was created in 1863. The first vicar was a young man called Fitzroy Fitzwygram. Appalled at the slum-like conditions, he committed himself to meeting the people's needs. He built a school after discovering that just 13 local children were receiving an education and campaigned for better social conditions. In recognition of his efforts we will be raising money throughout 2013 for the Greenwood Centre. We have a wonderful array of events, something for everyone. Whether a regular to St James's, or a newcomer, I hope that you will support us.

Acknowledgements

The Parochial Church Council of St James's Church would like to thank the following for their support:

**The family of the late
Revd Rupert and Connie Brunt**
The Lady Eleanor Holles School
Hampton Hill Association
Hampton Hill Junior School
Hampton Hill Traders' Association
Hampton School
Robson's Butcher and Deli
Squire's Garden Centres

Our open invitation

Why not join us one Sunday to worship? You will receive a warm welcome at 8am or 9.30am.

Sunday School

Children are welcome at our services and we have a safe area in which they can play. Alternatively, we run a Sunday School during term time in the hall, beginning ten minutes before the 9.30am service.

Playgroup

St James's Ark, for carers and under-fives, is held on Monday mornings during term time. Sessions cost £2 per family, to include a craft activity, singing and story-telling. Please phone Debbie 020 8979 3078.

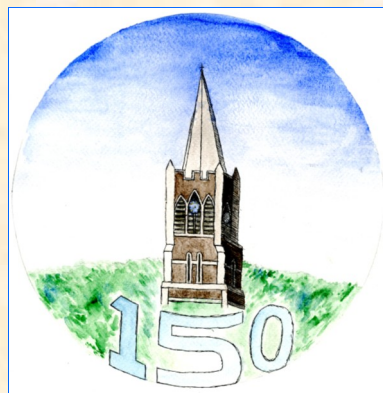


Image by Ben Murphie, Hampton School

**St James's Church, St James's Road,
Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1DQ**



Anniversary Programme of Events



2012-2013

Anniversary Programme of Events 2012-13

All events take place in the church unless otherwise stated

Hampton Hill Christmas Parade

Friday 30 November 2012, High Street, from 4.30-9pm
Christmas begins in Hampton Hill tonight, when the lights are switched on. The evening will focus on the church's 150th anniversary and the parade's 45th. St James's Church Choir will lead carol beside the main Christmas tree at 6.30pm. The lights will be switched on and the parade will then begin. It will run one way from The Rising Sun public house to Park Road, starting at 7pm, and should last for about an hour. The High Street will be closed from 5.30-8pm. Enjoy mulled wine, hot food, start Christmas shopping — and look out for surprise celebrities!

Christingle Service

Sunday 2 December 2012 at 9.30am

The anniversary year will be launched with this popular family service, during which everyone will circle the church with a lit candle. We hope you will join regulars and uniformed groups. Money raised at this event will support the Children's Society.

New Year's Eve Service

Saturday 31 December 2012 at 4.30pm

On the eve of our 150th year, this service looks back on the year, followed by a toast to 2013 and fireworks and Chinese lanterns.

Candlemas Service

Sunday 27 January 2013 at 4pm

This service celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem, 40 days after his birth. 150 candles will be blessed and lit in celebration of Jesus being the light of the world.

Pilgrims' Return

Saturday 23 February 2013 at 7pm

Earlier this month a group from St James's Church travelled to the Holy Land for a pilgrimage. Tonight you can hear about their experiences and ask questions. You might even be inspired to follow in their footsteps.

School Concert

Wednesday 20 March 2013 from 2-3.30pm

A concert by the Junior Department of The Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton. A rich variety of instruments and voices will feature, and the finale will be a fun performance of Creation Jazz by Gwyn Arch. The concert is free, but to assist with seating plans please contact Mrs Rees if you would like a ticket. Either Email junior-dept@lehs.org.uk or telephone 020 8979 2173.

Stainer's Crucifixion

Palm Sunday 24 March 2013, at 6pm

Dramatic and deeply affecting, Concordia Voices sing John Stainer's most famous oratorio, *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*. First performed in 1887, this much loved musical meditation vividly portrays the Passion of Christ. Tickets cost £5, available from the church office, 020 8941 6003.

Winchester Cathedral

Wednesday 24 April 2013

The church is sponsoring a trip to Winchester Cathedral by the Greenwood Centre — our chosen charity for the year.

We are St James's!

Sunday 19 May 2013 at 4pm

Help us celebrate what it means to be part of St James's. We especially welcome those who were baptised, confirmed, or married at the church, or have had a special event there.

Deanery Singers' Festival

Saturday 8 June 2013 at 2pm (service at 6pm)

The tradition of using music to enhance worship is older than Christianity itself. Join us for a lively afternoon of fellowship.

St James's Day Weekend

Friday 12-Sunday 14 July 2013

We celebrate our patron saint in colour, prayer, music and food. There will be an exhibition of the churchyard through the seasons.

A Floral Celebration

Friday 12-Sunday 14 July, from 10am-5pm

We will be celebrating 150 years of weddings and baptisms with dresses, gowns, shawls, robes and floral displays.

15 Hours of Prayer

Saturday 13 July at 8pm-Sunday 14 July at 11am

A prayer chain leads up to Sunday's service, as we devote one hour for every ten years in the church's history.

St James's Day Service, Lunch and Open Day

Sunday 14 July at 11am

The Vicar will be turning back the clock, recreating what it would have been like in 1863 and we encourage you to come in Victorian attire! The preacher will be The Very Revd Dr David Ison, Dean of St. Paul's. The service will be followed by a Victorian-themed lunch in the vicarage garden. Bouncy Castle for children. From 1pm there will also be a chance to ring the bells and climb the tower for unrivalled views of Hampton Hill.

Community Lunch

Saturday 17 August 2013 at 12noon

Greenwood Centre, School Road, Hampton Hill

Come with friends, make new friends, and savour a delicious three-course meal. The cost is £20, including a glass of wine. For details of the menu or to book please contact the church office, telephone 020 8941 6003.

Scouts' Sleepover

Saturday 5 October 2013

The 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group will brave the church for a sponsored sleepover. They will also undertake a torchlight quiz. Please help them to raise lots of money and join them in church for Harvest Festival the morning after to hear all about it.

Harvest Festival

Sunday 6 October 2013 at 11am

The Bishop of Kensington joins us for harvest and will plant a tree. In readiness, we planted 150 bulbs in the churchyard. We will again be supporting The Upper Room in Hammersmith by encouraging you to bring non-perishable food and toiletries.

Stand Up for Britten!

Saturday 19 October 2013 at 7pm

Children from Hampton Hill Junior School and students from other schools present Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*. First performed in 1958, it is Britten's most elaborate work for children. Most of the main vocal parts are written for children and the orchestral forces comprise strings, recorders, bugles, handbells, and a large assortment of percussion instruments.

Remembrance Concert

Friday 8 November 2013 at 7.30pm

A concert before Remembrance Sunday. Choirs and musicians perform music on the theme of remembrance, leading to two minutes' silence. Donations will go to the charity Combat Stress, which supports ex-service personnel.

Anniversary Service

Sunday 8 December 2013 at 11am

We are delighted to welcome The Bishop of London to St James's to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church. Afterwards, the bishop will unveil a plaque to rename the church hall The Fitz Wygram Hall after our first vicar, The Revd Fitzroy Fitz Wygram. The occasion will be followed by food and drink in the hall.

Events are free of charge, unless stated, with a retiring collection in aid of The Greenwood Centre (Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care) Charity No 1140070
For the latest information about events go to www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk. Many events will be followed by light refreshments in the church hall.