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thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

please take a copy



*Here's some
made earlier*
A history of samplers

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.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

► **STORIES, FEATURES**

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► **AROUND THE SPIRE**

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► **WHAT'S ON**

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► **WEBSITE / YOUNG SPIRE**

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► **CIRCULATION**

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► **NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE**

The March issue is published on 3 March. All copy must be with us by **Mon 5 February**.

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St James's Church is proud to be a Fairtrade church. We use Fairtrade communion wine and Fairtrade tea and coffee after services. We also promote and sell Fairtrade products.



When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it.

Welcome

February 2012



This year will be an exciting year for all sorts of reasons — the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June, the Olympics in July and August, and here at St James's we will be making plans to celebrate our 150th Anniversary in 2013.

We have only made one change to our layout for 2012. Instead of a yearly report on the charities supported by the church we have introduced **Charity Box**, where we shall be featuring a different charity in more detail in each issue. To make space, the Registers move to Page Seven.

The centrespread features the samplers that David and Margaret Taylor have collected over the years and the history behind them makes fascinating reading. We are always on the look-out for articles, so if you know of anyone who has an interesting hobby or collection do let the editorial team know.

Ros Daly has written about her passion for music and her part in a special edition of the BBC's *Songs of Praise* to be shown this month. **thespire** is always very grateful to everyone who writes articles as well as to all the regular contributors.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn,
Editor

For the latest news: stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

► **CHURCH AND OTHER CONTACTS**

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OUR CLERGY



► **VICAR**

Revd Peter Vannozi
Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather who came to the UK in the late 19th century. Peter was ordained in 1987 and prior to joining St James's he was Vice Dean and Canon Pastor at Wakefield Cathedral. Peter is Chair of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School and a Trustee of Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group.
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► **BAPTISM AND WEDDING ENQUIRIES**

These should be made in person in church on a Saturday morning from 10-10.30am.

PARISH OFFICE



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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sundays

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion

5 February — 3rd Sunday before Lent
Isaiah 40.21-end;
1 Corinthians 9.16-23;
Mark 1.29-39

12 February — 2nd Sunday before Lent
Proverbs 8.1, 22-31;
Colossians 1.15-20;
John 1.1-14

19 February — Sunday next before Lent
2 Kings 2.1-12;
2 Corinthians 4.3-6;
Mark 9.2-9

22 February 22 — Ash Wednesday
9.30am & 7.30pm
Holy Communion with Ashing
Joel 2.1-2, 12-17;
2 Corinthians 5.2-b-6.10;
John 8.1-11

During Lent each Sunday sermon will take a particular theme as part of *Journeying with Jesus through Lent*. For more information go to: www.sermoncentral.com

26 February — 1st Sunday of Lent
Genesis 9.8-17;
1 Peter 3.18-end;
Into the Wilderness Mark 1.9-15

Mondays-Fridays (but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in month

1 February 7am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

2 February 2pm Holy Communion



Leader Column

Are you ready for the race of your lives?



Finally, after seven years of waiting, this is Olympic year! For the first time since 1948 — the first Olympic Games since those of 1936 in Berlin — the Games are coming to the United Kingdom. The opening ceremony will be held on Friday 27 July and I hope — as I am sure do all people of goodwill — for a happy, safe and successful Games. I say this even though I am not personally a sports fan.

For literally years, people have been preparing for this event — pushing themselves to their absolute limits to try to achieve the greatest prize of their chosen sport: an Olympic gold medal. There will be 26 sports in 38 disciplines (20 sports and 21 disciplines for Paralympics).

This month sees the beginning of a time of training in the Christian Year — spiritual training, but also physical training. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February. Also this month, on 6 February, the Queen reaches 60 years as sovereign. This is an astonishing achievement and one which must have involved training and athleticism in itself.

St. Paul writes of a race that is to be run — it's worth quoting it in full: *Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.* 1 Corinthians 9.24-27

Lent is a time in the Christian Year to prepare for the Church's great celebration of Jesus's death and resurrection, in Holy Week and Easter. It gives space for people to reflect and consider where they are in their life, particularly in relation to God. Paul uses the image of the athlete making huge efforts in order to win the prize, and that prize will not last for ever. He urges his readers to make equivalent efforts, but their prize is one that lasts for ever. So in practical terms, what might an athletic Lent look like? We can look at it in three ways, body, mind and spirit.

The first perspective, that of body, is one commonly associated with Lent when traditionally people give



Peter Vannozzi

something up. Often now people are urged to take something on, but giving something up has value. It can demonstrate that a person is not prepared to be governed by something physical. There can be huge issues for people with a form of addiction — in those circumstances life may well be a permanent Lent: avoiding the harmful substance or action. For those not suffering from an addiction, Lent nonetheless reminds a person that they must not be slaves to any physical desire, but be free. The training of Lent can include abstaining from something (chocolate, alcohol, etc.) and then putting the money saved to a good use, such as a church's Lenten charity. St. Paul would urge us not to be ruled by physical need.

The second perspective is that of mind. Churches very commonly have study groups in Lent — even if they do not for the rest of the year. This provides opportunity to think with others about matters of faith, to study the Bible, to apply the teaching of the Church, to share experience. The mind will flit about, but Lent encourages us to discipline it as we might the body. So during this Lent, will we set aside time to think, to read, to discuss, to pray? Again, Lent reminds us that we are not be slaves of our own variable thoughts and imaginings, but to focus our powers of mind for a time in a disciplined way. How? By setting time aside each day to read the Bible, for example. Perhaps by reading a book published for Lent or taking part in a study group.

The third perspective is that of spirit. *Spiritual athleticism* may sound off-putting. Yet again, though, it is about being disciplined. If we do not have a regular time of prayer, make one. This does not imply adopting formal practices that simply do not work in our lives, but appreciating that staying in touch with God through prayer is central to any Christian's life. Prayer reminds us that ultimately all human striving and effort is limited — in Jesus we see a God who reaches out to us in pure love, sheer grace.

Lent in this Olympic year can remind us of the positive side of discipline in a Christian life. Discipline may sound negative, but it can free us from slavery in body, mind or spirit. It is a vital part of the training regime of sportspeople. It also can find a place in the life of a follower of Jesus.

In Thought and Prayer

Church of England prayer in preparation for the 2012 Games:

Eternal God,
Giver of joy and source of all strength,
we pray for those
who prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympics games.

For the competitors training for the Games and their loved ones,

For the many thousands who will support them,
For the Churches and others who are organising special events and who will welcome many people from many nations.

In a world where many are rejected and abused,
we pray for a spirit of tolerance and acceptance, of humility and respect
and for the health and safety of all.

May we at the last be led towards the love of Christ who is more than gold, today and forever. Amen



A prayer from morethangold.org.uk committed to preparing the churches for the Olympic Games:

Father, creator of light, you shine over us in blessing and power,
Jesus, Light of the World, you shine as the Word of Life to guide us,
Spirit, fiery presence of God, you shine on us to bring hope and boldness.

As this new year dawns, with all its potential and possibilities,
We invite you to shine in our lives, in our communities and in this nation,
That all will see the light of your glory and discover your unfailing love.
Amen.

A prayer for The Queen in her Diamond Jubilee year from the Roman Catholic Bishops in the United Kingdom:

Almighty God, we pray that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen, who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm, may continue to grow in every virtue, that, imbued with your heavenly grace, she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil and, being blessed with your favour may, with her consort and the Royal Family, come at last into your presence, through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Julie bound for Guildford Cathedral

CONGRATULATIONS

to **Rev. Julie Gittos**, Vicar of All Saints' Hampton, and Curate of St. James's from 2003-6, on her appointment as a Residiary Canon of Guildford Cathedral.



Julie will be responsible for the cathedral's educational and pastoral work.

Her last Sunday at All Saints' will be 8 April and she will be installed at Guildford Cathedral on 6 May.

Julie told **thespire**: 'I will miss my many friends in Hampton after almost nine years.'

Our best wishes and prayers to Julie and those with whom she will work, and also for All Saints' as they work for the appointment of a new vicar.

■ **David Bell** will be remaining with us at St. James's once he is ordained this summer and will be

servicing as curate. Like Debbie Oades, David will be a self-supporting minister, freely giving of his time to the Church, while continuing his paid work in publishing.

Please pray for David as he enters his last two terms of theological training and prepares to be ordained deacon in St. Paul's Cathedral in June.



Help cut the waste by planning your meals in advance!



A THIRD of all food is wasted in farms, factories, supermarkets and homes. Join the fight against food waste! Plan your meals in advance and buy only what you really need (avoid those buy one, get one free offers when unwanted.) Ideas for leftovers can be found at www.lovefoodwaste.com.

A NEW REGULAR FOCUS ON OUR GIVING

Charity Box



Giving through our Fairtrade purchases

At St James's our charitable giving is not just about collecting money and writing the cheque, important though that is. It's also about helping people to a better life by supporting what they are doing themselves.



Every trade exchange hopefully benefits the actual producer, but when buying products with the Fair Trade mark we know the producers get a better share and that their communities benefit from an additional premium.

Traidcraft was one of the first companies to bring Fair Trade products to the UK consumer. Each year it witnesses many examples of its producer partners beginning to transform their lives and those of their families and communities.



Kenyan tea farmer Margaret Wanjiku, pictured above right, is typical of them. On only three quarters of an acre, thanks to training from Traidcraft, she has learned how to grow enough to feed her family and have a small

surplus to sell in the market. 'I never knew this plot was enough for my family,' she says. 'I used to buy food and now I am comfortable. I am able to feed my family and sell.'

Many more producer stories will be available at St James's during **Fairtrade Fortnight** from 27 February to 11 March. The parish Traidcraft stall does indeed help to change lives, not least our own as we think more carefully about what we buy.

And the more we sell, the more we are able to plough back in to Traidcraft's development charity to help more producers achieve the benefit of Fair Trade – a virtuous circle if ever there was one.

A stitch in time...

David Taylor describes how a chance buy in a junk shop started a collection of samplers that chronicle the times

Mention the word sampler and most people

think of embroidered alphabets, numbers and text, with borders and quaint motifs of flowers, animals and the like, together with the name of the embroiderer (usually a young girl).

Margaret and I bought our first sampler about 25 years ago when we saw one in a junk shop in Christchurch. We paid the princely sum of £2 (really good pieces can cost hundreds of pounds). It is a very sad little embroidery, probably made in a workhouse where the orphan Mary Ann Morton was living a friendless life. She does not record her age, but I think she must have been very young because in the last line a mistake has been corrected. She put *And Daisies grows over their head* and had to remove the 's'. This sign of a little girl who made a mistake I found very appealing.



Margaret and David Taylor with one of the eight samplers that make up their collection. Below is their first purchase in 1985, costing £2, from a junk shop in Christchurch.

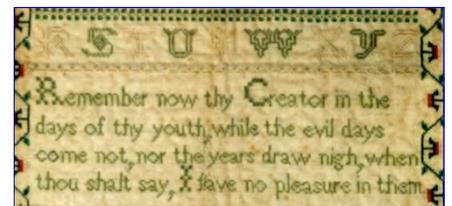
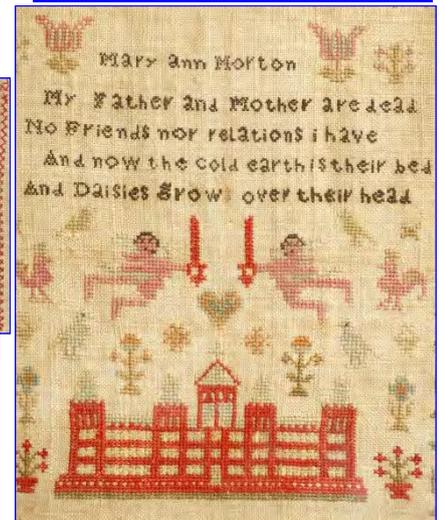


A 1931 Christmas gift

At the other end of the spectrum is an unusual sampler, **above**, that Margaret found, sewn by *Great Aunt Anastasia* age 89 in 1931 as a Christmas gift, commending life with Jesus.

Our collection of samplers is not large and they are all of the 19th century, but the oldest surviving samplers date from the 16th century.

One of our mid-century ones was worked by Ann Enener, then 11, in 1853, **right**. The verse is typical of many samplers of this period: rather lugubrious for a young child! *Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.* Under that message are the concluding words: *Seek ye the Lord while he may be found and call upon him while he is near.*



Ann Enener's mournful labour

Once our interest was aroused, we noticed samplers in antique shops, junk shops, and, in the case of Great Aunt Anastasia, in a car boot sale! We were soon absorbed in the history of samplers.

The word sampler comes from the Latin *exemplum*, an example, and they were produced as a demonstration or test of skill in needlework. Whenever a needlewoman saw a new and interesting example of a stitching pattern she would quickly sew a sample of it on to a piece of cloth — her sampler. Sewn randomly, they were kept as a reference for future use; many would collect stitches and patterns throughout their lifetime.

The earliest examples, known as band samplers because of their shape, are rare as the fabric then was so very expensive. The stitching covered the cloth and the samplers were so highly valued that they were often mentioned in wills and were passed through the generations. Many were elaborate and incorporated different colours, silk and metallic threads and used stitches such as Hungarian, Florentine, Algerian eye, and two-sided Italian cross.

EARLIEST DATED SURVIVING SAMPLER

The first printed pattern book was produced in 1523, but copies were hard to come by and their cost put them out of the reach of most people. A sampler was still the most common form of reference available.

The earliest dated surviving sampler is on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum and was made by Jane Bostocke in 1598 to commemorate the birth of her cousin two years earlier. It reads:

Alice Lee was borne the 23 of November being tuesday in the afternoon 1596

The earliest reference to a sampler is 1502. The household accounts of Elizabeth of York record that:

The tenth day of July to Thomas Fisshe in reward for bringing of conserve of cherys from London to Windsor... and for an elne of lynnyn cloth for a sampler for the Queene.

These older ones provided a record of different stitches and patterns, not for display, but for examples to use on clothing and soft furnishings.

By the 17th century pattern-books became more widespread and producing samplers with different stitches and designs became an aid to teaching and a record of the skill of the young girls producing them. Borders and alphabets together with religious or moral verses were added from the mid-18th century, so that samplers became a complete contrast to the earlier type.

A SIGN OF VIRTUE AND INDUSTRY

The stitching was meant to be a sign of virtue, achievement and industry, and girls were taught the skill from an early age. These more decorative and less utilitarian samplers were generally made using cross stitching.

The range of subjects covered in the samplers is varied. For instance, commending industry:

*How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour.*

Benefits of industry to women:

*Reading good books and needlework
Should be their whole felicity.*

Virtue and sin are compared:

*The paths of virtue lead to peace,
The ways of sin to death.*

The value of religion:

*Except the Lord conduct the plan
The best concerted schemes are vain
And never can succeed.*

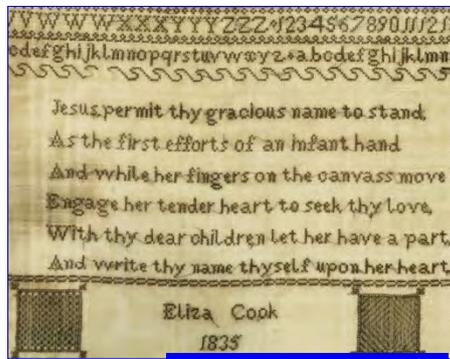
*But if our works in thee are wrought
They shall be blessed indeed.*

Elizabeth Overton September 1827

And:

*Tis religion that can give sweetest pleasure
while we live.*

*Tis religion must supply solid comforts when
we die.*

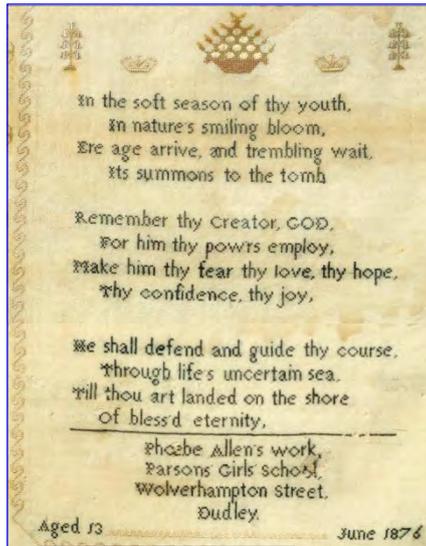


Invocation of the name of Jesus

Death is a popular subject:

*When I am dead and in my grave
And all my bones are rotten,
The greedy worms my body eat.
Here you may see my name complete.*

Another example of this is:



Phoebe Allen's 1876 sampler

Was Phoebe Allen thinking about *The shore of blessed eternity*?

The verses show how different life was then. The decline of Christian belief makes a lot of the sentiments expressed seem irrelevant and old-fashioned. The horizons of girls have expanded enormously since books and needlework were their whole felicity.

Sudden death is not round the corner for most of us now as a result of our much higher standard of living and the great advances in medical treatment. This can be illustrated from the history of the Brontë family. The five sisters and one brother were born in the period 1812-1821. The two eldest died aged around ten of tuberculosis. The others all died between 28 and 39 from the same condition, except Bramwell who died from alcohol and opium addiction. The girls all produced two samplers each from the age of six onwards — together with a few famous novels!

The closeness of the stitches and the neatness of the results make us appreciate the good work done by these girls of a bygone age and the artefacts they produced give us a fascinating insight into their period.

The early part of the 20th century saw a real decline in the number of girls who made samplers. Social ideas were changing, no longer was it considered as important to "teach" a girl to be become a wife. New technologies were advancing, creating greater opportunities for all.

Now, an average 11-year-old would rather be playing with a Nintendo Wii. Samplers tend now to be stitched by older people as a recreational hobby. The history of the 21st century will be mapped out in very different ways.

If you have some news to share,
please contact Susan Horner:
smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk



A fond farewell for Roma Bridges

THE FUNERAL SERVICE for Roma Bridges took place at St. James's on 29 November.

Roma was born in Twickenham and became a geography teacher. When she and her husband Ron moved to St. James's Road in 1963 they became very active members of the church, with Roma being particularly involved with the social committee and the church flowers. She spent the last few years of her life in Burford House in Chorleywood, but maintained an



interest in St. James's, receiving **thespire** by post. We send our sympathy to her sons, Roland and Vernon, and their families.

■ It was with great sorrow that we heard of the death of **Betty Tomlin** at the age of 89. Betty lived in Burtons Road with her husband Bob for many years until March 2011 when they moved to be closer to their daughter, Wendy, in Crowborough, East Sussex.

Betty lived in south-west London all her life, and attended Duke Street Church in Richmond until travelling proved too difficult. For the last few years Betty worshipped at St. James's.

A quiet, supportive and thoughtful lady, Betty's funeral was held at All Saints', Crowborough, on 13 December, and some members of St. James's were able to attend. We send our condolences to Bob and Wendy.

■ We were also sorry to learn of the death of **Richard Warder** on 1 December in Crawley. He and his wife Dorothy were married at St. James's 49 years ago and used to live in Hampton, where they had a newspaper shop. They also went on one of Brian Leathard's pilgrimages to Israel.

Cathedral marks school's 300th birthday

LADY ELEANOR

Holles School celebrated the 300th anniversary of its foundation with a service at St. Paul's

Cathedral on 18 November. A congregation of 2000 guests gathered for the service, including pupils, staff, parents, alumnae and friends of LEH.

The Lord Mayor of the City of London was guest of honour. Other guests included the Mayor of Richmond, and Twickenham MP and Business Secretary Vince Cable.

In his sermon, the Bishop of London praised the school for its musical achievements, as heard during the service. Peter Vannoizzi read a lesson.





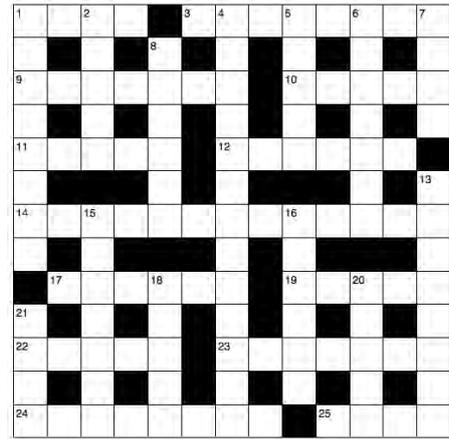
Join our Sunday School and explore the world!

Young Spire

Go online for even more

T H E P U Z Z L E R

Crossword



Shell Seekers support Operation Noah



The Shell Seekers, St. James's Sunday School, got the run up to Christmas off to a great start with a morning of cake and craft making at the beginning of December followed by a sale of those items on Sunday 11th. The sale raised a grand total of £135.71 – not only was this much more than we hoped for, but it was great fun too, and well worth all the effort that children (and adults!) put in beforehand.

This total has been donated to Operation Noah, a Christian charity with a focus on reducing climate change; they are working towards the complete decarbonisation of the British economy by 2030.

Operation Noah:

Provides leadership, focus and inspiration in response to the growing threat of catastrophic climate change endangering God's creation; **Is informed** by the science of climate change, motivated to care for creation by faith and hope in God and driven by the desire to transform and enrich our society through radical change in lifestyles and patterns of consumption;

Is rational regarding scientific insights, responsible in addressing the long term consequences of today's actions, and radical about future lifestyles.



Some of you will have been in church on the day that we had guest preacher Chris Brice introducing Operation Noah to us. He was very inspiring and it was decided that Operation Noah would be a worthy and relevant beneficiary of the children's hard work. That hard work resulted in a great range of different items for the sale including calendars, gift boxes, Christmas cards, tree decorations,

wreaths, preserves, cakes, cookies and even dog biscuits! Well done to the

children and parents who gave their time and energy to make the sale such a success – and thank you to all of you who bought items on the day and enabled us to reach such a terrific



Watch out for another fund-raising event on Mothering Sunday – the date for your diaries is Sunday 18 March



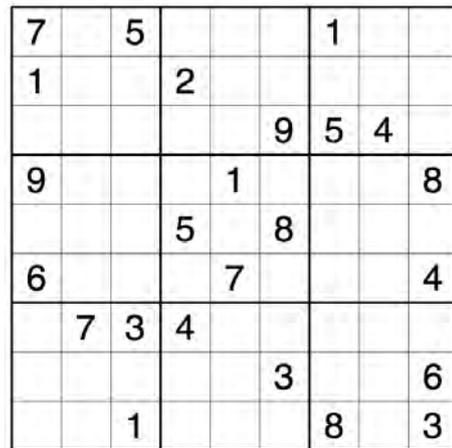
Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
- 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten —?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
- 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
- 10 'So you also must be —, because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
- 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He —, and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
- 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
- 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
- 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
- 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty —, being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
- 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
- 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
- 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
- 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
- 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
- 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
- 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

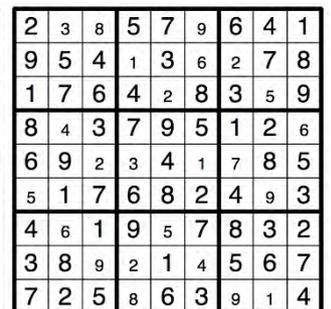
Sudoku



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

Solutions to both puzzles will appear in the next issue

Solutions to December / January's puzzles



What's On



opinion Canon Julian Reindorp

BUILD HOMES NOW

Rents are going up much faster than average wages, and only 56 affordable homes were built in the whole of Greater London in the six months up to September. That's 56 affordable homes in a city of seven million. It's an astonishing 99% drop compared with the same period last year. It happened because the Mayor of London and the Government took over a year to draw up a new programme.

The Government's new strategy involves cutting the budget for building affordable homes by two-thirds. With families by the thousand being forced out of London because they cannot pay the rents, and rising unemployment, this is surely a time for a national crusade around house building?

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL and OCCUPY LONDON

After the disaster of briefly closing St Paul's Cathedral, the church authorities are now hosting meetings involving the Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority, the Chair of the investment bank Lazard, and representatives of Occupy London (the people in the tents). These people are part of a global movement against corporate greed and for social, political and economic justice — surely key Christian concerns.

Christianity is at its best when it tackles five themes. First, when it stimulates enterprise. The Church should support entrepreneurship that requires qualities of vision, passion, risk-taking, persistence and decisiveness. Second, when it reduces poverty. Christians should be promoting a view of business with social as well as financial purposes, releasing people from poverty. Third, when it promotes integrity, encouraging people to do business without deception and corruption, living lives that display honesty, constancy and transparency. Fourth, where it ensures sustainability. Christians are called to be responsible stewards, using and developing products that are environmentally sustainable. Fifth, where it fosters discipleship. Business is a strategic place for Christian witness, the aim being not just making converts, but teaching people to glorify God through being faithful followers of Jesus in the market place.

A VISION FOR THE EUROZONE

The Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sachs, said recently: 'Stabilising the euro is one thing, healing the culture that surrounds it is another. A world in which material values are everything and spiritual values nothing is neither a stable state nor a good society. The time has come for us to recover the Judeo-Christian ethic of human dignity in the image of God. When Europe recovers its soul it will recover its wealth creating energies. First it must remember that humanity was not created to serve markets, markets were created to serve humankind.'

SURVIVAL OF THE PLANET

Being born in Durban, South Africa, I had an added reason to follow the result of the two week International Climate Conference in December. The first steps were made to get the chief polluters — the US, India and China, to agree to a legally binding treaty to keep global temperatures rises to no more than 2°C. This is the level above which climate change will threaten catastrophe for the world's poorest. This is a real achievement, but putting this into practice is the crucial challenge of our time.

Shrove Tuesday Parish Meal

Tuesday 21 February, 7pm, Piazza Firenze Restaurant, 133 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NJ

Please join us for an inexpensive meal to mark the start of Lent. Two courses (non-meat or fish), plus a glass of wine/beer, costs £16 for adults and £4.95 for under tens. Please add your name to the list in the south aisle in church.

Ash

Wednesday

Holy Communion with Ashing
Wednesday 22 February, 9.30am and 7.30pm

At this service you can receive the sign of the cross in ash, a sign of penitence.

Faith at Work

Selected Saturdays from 4 February, 9.15am, St James's Church, Hampton Hill
Four more discussions showing what difference faith makes to our daily lives, opening with Don Barrett discussing his work at the Church Commissioners.
Also: 18 February, Clare Ryan, Faith and any job;
10 March Laurence Sewell, Faith in Development;
24 March Sarah Peterson, Faith in teaching children

Women's World Day of Prayer 2012

Let Justice Prevail, Friday 2 March, 2pm and 8pm, St Theodore's Church, Station Road, Hampton TW12 2AS
At 2pm the speaker will be someone from Westminster Justice and Peace Commission and at 8pm Paula Thomas, Headmistress of St Catherine's School, Twickenham. Over three million people worldwide will be praying together, this year using a service prepared by women in Malaysia. Women there have made important contributions to its development, but face discrimination and violence. Even today a girl is seen as less valuable than a boy. The women's hope is for justice for all.

Cantanti Camerati Spring Concert

Just a Song at Twilight, Friday 9 March, 7.30pm and Saturday 10 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 3AA
Tickets available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham, telephone 020 8977 5986, or on the door.

Concordia Voices' Spring Concert

Out of the Wilderness, Sunday 18 March, 7.30pm, St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2PE
The concert includes work by Purcell and Bach, with string quartet and oboe accompaniment. Save £2 by booking

Lent Course: Signs of Grace, Signs of Glory — the Sacraments

Starting Monday 27 February
There will be a session each week at 2pm in the Vicarage, and 8pm at 32 Uxbridge Road.

27 Feb Introduction: Peter Vannozi

5 Mar Belonging: Baptism and Confirmation Peter

12 Mar Sacrifice: Eucharist David Bell

19 Mar Faithfulness: Marriage and Ordination Peter and David

26 Mar Healing: Anointing and Confession Julian Reindorp



your tickets in advance. Tickets cost £10 (concessions £8) in advance from choir members, or £12 (£10) on door.

St James's Theatre Group

Oklahoma!, Friday 30 March, 7.30pm, Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond TW9 1QJ
Twickenham Operatic Society perform. Tickets £17.
Also: Friday 20 April, 7.30pm, Birds of a Feather, with the cast from the original BBC comedy series. Tickets £21.50.
Please add your name to the lists in church or telephone Peter Hale on 020 8979 9287. Transport can be arranged.

Vicar's View

'You'll be in deep trouble if the vicar finds out you're not meditating, just playing with your new iPad.'

Registers for November and December

NOVEMBER

Baptisms

6 Eric Peter Mills, Kingston Upon Thames

Funerals

9 Nigel James O'Leary, 67, Hampton Hill
29 Roma Amy Bridges, 88, Chorley Wood



DECEMBER

Baptisms

11 Oscar Edward Sparks, Hampton
18 Stella Elizabeth Sant, Hampton



Wedding

24 Timothy Philip Kain and Carmen Leigh Denton, Summer Hill, Australia

Funeral

19 Helena Marie Alice Light, 83, Hampton



Your Voice

Ros Daly explains how singing in a choir can be uplifting for the soul

Opening my heart to the beat



When I was young, I remember a school music teacher telling me that singing in a choir was 'good for the body and good for the soul'. 'Good for the body' was easy enough to understand: singing opens the airways, expands the chest cavity and increases one's intake of oxygen, but what, at ten years old, was I meant to make of singing being 'good for the soul'?

There's been a lot of media coverage on choirs over the past year, none more outstanding than the recent success story of the Military Wives and their Christmas hit *Wherever You Are*. I imagine many of us will have had some experience of singing in a choir, even if it was in our early days at school when we could feel the fun of being in a joint activity and know the exuberance of giving it all you've got, as well as experiencing the sheer thrill of being uplifted while taking part.

It was probably this feeling of being uplifted which prompted me to join my local church choir during a gap year when I was a young adult. I soon realised I was fortunate in that I could read music and I will always be grateful to my parents for having made sure I learnt it while I was a child.

I can remember one early piano teacher who was a retired church organist. Sadly, I forget her name, but she was very sweet and had me sitting at the piano in her front parlour practising my sight reading from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

Junior music students will know there is always an oral part of any music exam, that moment when the examiner plays a note and asks you to sing a perfect fifth, or a minor fourth, for example.

At the time I had some difficulty in hitting the right note, but this particular teacher taught me a neat way to deal with this. She encouraged me to memorise the opening bar of a whole series of hymns and carols, each one an example of a particular interval; for instance, *While Shepherds Watched* opens with a third, *Crimond*, (*The Lord's My Shepherd*), a sixth, and so on. Bingo! All I had to do was hum the appropriate opening bar in my head and I would have the correct note.

Twelve years go, during the summer of the Millennium, I was lucky enough to be invited to a bring-and-share picnic in the delightful Thames-side garden of the *Velma* boathouse. The then owner, a long-standing friend, had originally bought *Velma* from an elderly lady who used to entertain Noël Coward to Sunday afternoon tea.

The picnic was well attended and, after an enjoyable lunch, I discovered that the majority of guests were, in fact, a choir. The choir formed up and sang on the lawn beside

the river: madrigals, part songs and even some sacred music, much to the enjoyment of those on the passing boats. I asked if I could join in and, within a few weeks, found myself going along to the choir's fortnightly rehearsals, to which I have been going ever since.

The choir rehearses and sings solely for pleasure, but will also perform concerts for good causes and charitable events and will gather to sing in places where music can help make a difference in people's lives.

Called *The Cambrian Singers*, (the choir originally practised in Cambrian Road, Richmond), we have, for example, sung at St. Paul's Covent Garden in aid of *Whizz Kids*, the automated wheelchair charity for young people, stamped our feet in the freezing cold on Richmond Station for The Vineyard, provided the Christmas concert for The Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond, and sung in various care homes in the borough.

We have also provided choral reinforcement in the past to St. Matthias on Richmond Hill for various concerts and have given musical support to other churches in the area for special occasions such as weddings and church maintenance fund-raising ventures.

Being a part of that body which produces the musical sound is truly unique and it makes me realise how fortunate we are that singing has remained an integral part of Christian worship.

Through singing we can feel our hearts opening and being lifted up in the act of praise and worship. Just as Psalm 17 invokes us to *Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples' ... so, in singing, we can directly partake in the joy of praising God.*

THE CAMBRIAN SINGERS ON SONGS OF PRAISE



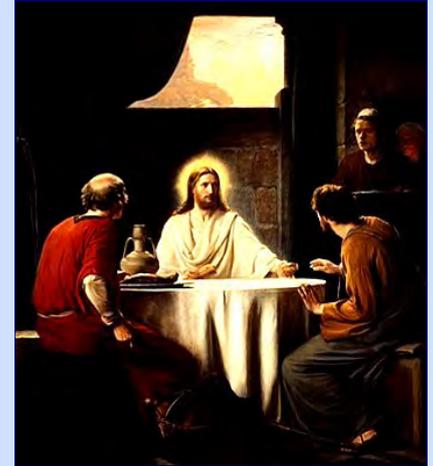
You can see *The Cambrian Singers* in action when they perform with other London Choirs in *Songs of Praise* with Rick Wakeman (above), recorded at Sir George Martin's Air Studios in Belsize Park. The programme is on **BBC One** and **BBC One HD** on **Sunday 12 February**. Please note this is a week later than mentioned in our November issue.



Songs of Praise

The story behind the hymn

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!



**Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, His the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood.**

**Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received Him when
the forty days were o'er
Shall our hearts forget His promise,
'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluia! bread of angels, Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to Thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer,
plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across
the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! King eternal, Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, Earth Thy footstool, Heav'n Thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh
our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both priest and victim in the Eucharistic feast.**

This hymn will be sung on Sunday 19 February, the Sunday next before Lent. It will be the final hymn of the service. The reason for using it that particular day is the repeated use of the word *alleluia*, *Praise God*.

Traditionally this is not used in Christian worship during Lent, which begins on 22 February, Ash Wednesday. Instead, the word is saved for Easter Day, and sung or said with great joy.

The hymn is *Eucharistic* — the focus is on the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist or Holy Communion. It was written at a time when the importance of the Eucharist was being spoken about and taught more in the Church of England than for many centuries previously. This is seen as a great reassurance of Jesus's living, risen presence in the world today.

The words are written by William Chatterton Dix (1837-98) and are found in one of several volumes by Dix offering poetry for use in worship — in this case, *Altar Songs, Verses on the Holy Eucharist* from 1867. The story goes that in his late 20s Dix was confined to bed with a near fatal illness, and many of his compositions date from this time. Another of his compositions, *As with gladness, men of old*, is still widely sung, telling of the coming of the Wise Men at Epiphany. The most commonly sung tune to the words is the Welsh tune *Hyfrydol* composed by Rowland Huw Pritchard (1811-87.) The tune is uplifting and inspiring, and combines perfectly with the words.

Together, they make a joyful offering of praise and proclamation of Christ's presence.