

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

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Church Parade

Focus on the Brownies
and Guides *Page 4*

Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

CLERGY

Vicar

The Revd Peter Vannozi (pictured, right) Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather. He was ordained in 1987. Peter chairs the Board of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School and is a Trustee of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group. Telephone: 020 8979 2069 Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Curate

The Revd David Bell David was born in Skipton in 1952. He is a self-supporting deacon, ordained in June 2012, and working during the week in events sponsorship management. Telephone: 079 8624 5313 Email: davidbell@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Parish Office



Administrator

Nickie Jones For all general enquiries and hall bookings. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Telephone: 020 8941 6003 Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk Address: St James's Church, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ

Officials



Churchwarden

Carole Greville-Giddings Carole has a background in social work, helps run The Ark, and is a chorister. Telephone: 020 8979 6592 Email: carole.g-g@hotmail.co.uk



Churchwarden

Nick Bagge Nick is a former television journalist, now working at a local theatre. Telephone: 020 8783 0871 Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com



Treasurer

Don Barrett Don works for the Church Commissioners for England, who manage £5bn of assets for the Church of England. Telephone: 020 8979 3331 Email: donbarrett8@blueyonder.co.uk

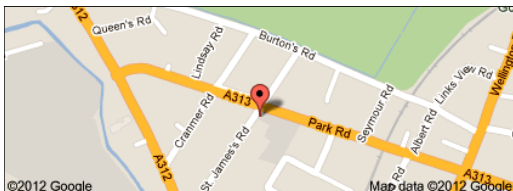


Organist / Choirmaster

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

Finding us

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. There is ample parking in the road.



From the Editor



This year, due to the dates for Easter, we are having a joint March/April edition instead of April/May so that we can cover all the Lent and Easter services in one issue. Because of this we have also included our Appeal Letter.

We are particularly keen to have a good response this year as the Spire Committee is producing special editions throughout our 150th Anniversary year and a souvenir issue for July, which will raise costs for 2013.

In this edition we pay tribute to our Brownies and Guides and we shall be doing a similar article for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts later in the year. The Revd Dr Brian Leathard is the first of our past clergy to reflect on his years at St James's in Your Voice.

Many plans are taking shape to make this a special year and a date for your diaries is the weekend of 13-14 July when there will be a *Floral Celebration* in church, we shall be celebrating *St James's Day* on the Sunday and there will be local festivities in Hampton Hill on the Saturday. This will be reported in more detail nearer the time.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

We are a Fairtrade Church!
facebook.com/SaintJamesHamptonHill



the **spire** is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James.

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

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

STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas or would like to write for the magazine, contact Janet Nunn. Telephone: 020 8979 6325 Email: janunhh@btinternet.com

AROUND THE SPIRE

If you have any news, please contact Susan Horner. Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Griselda Barrett is listings editor. If you have an event to be considered for inclusion, contact her. Email: griseldabarrett@blueyonder.co.uk

WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

Prill Hinckley is webmaster. If you would like to receive the magazine by Email, please contact her. Prill also compiles the Young Spire page. Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

the **spire** is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Contact **Susan Horner**: Telephone: 020 8979 9380 Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk Write to: 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1HH

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The May issue is published on 26 April. All copy must be with us by **Tue 26 March**.

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Please recycle this magazine after use



Come and worship with us!



You will receive a warm welcome at any of our services. Children of all ages are welcome and we provide a safe area in which they may play. We also run a Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, from 9.25am every Sunday (except the first in the month), during school terms. Newcomers welcome.

Sundays

8am Holy Communion (not on 31 March)

9.30am Parish Communion

March 3, 10, 17, 24:

8pm Compline (night prayer)

The theme for the service on Sunday 3 March is *Good Friday*; on 17 March the theme will be *Easter*.

3 March — 3rd Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55.1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13;

Luke 13.1-9

10 March — Mothering Sunday

9.30am All-age service

8am and 11.15am Joshua 5.9-12;

2 Corinthians 5.16-end; Luke 15.1-3, 11b-end

17 March — 5th Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

24 March — Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 23.1-49

31 March — Easter Day BST begins (+ 1 hour)
Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; John 20.1-18

7 April — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

14 April — 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 19.1-6; Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19

21 April — 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.36-end; Revelation 7.9-end; John 10.22-30

28 April — 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11.1-18; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

7 March / 4 April 2pm Holy Communion

FULL DETAILS OF EASTER SERVICES AND EVENTS ARE ON PAGE SEVEN

Hoping for a better world



It feels a little odd writing this leader with snow still on the ground! I am writing for a magazine that will cover two months, and it must last until three months after I have produced this piece. This magazine is for three weeks of Lent, Holy Week and almost five weeks of Easter.

Yet, on a cold and dull day, I find thinking of Easter very heartening. I know that Spring is on its way. At least in the northern hemisphere, the coming of Spring and the journey through Lent and to Easter go together.

It is easy to see themes of resurrection and new life reflected in the natural cycle. In the southern hemisphere, as people move at this time from Summer into Winter, the Christian Year and the natural cycle do not fit together at all. The south of the planet is delivered from our tendency to sentimentalise Easter making it all eggs and frolicking bunnies, daffodils and tree buds!

Yet wherever we are in the world, there is a persistence of yearning for something better; hoping for somewhat more.

Two days before I write this, President Obama has been inaugurated for a second term of office. As so often, Obama wanted to turn people's eyes to the future, and to encourage hope. (Politicians often do.)

The proof of any words, though, is their fruit. Who knows what the next four years will bring? Yet throughout the world, sometimes in spite of bombs raining down on their heads, people dare to hope for a different world to be born.

Daring to hope

Back in 2006 the then Senator Obama wrote a book called *Audacity to Hope*. It is audacious – and that is true of the Christian faith, just as much as it is to write *Thoughts on reclaiming the American Dream*, the secondary title of Obama's book.

Why is *audacity* a good word to use with regard to hope? Alternatives to it are *daring, boldness, courage, bravery, nerve*. The *boldness* applies because hope could be seen as plain

Charity Box Lent Appeal 2013

Our appeal for a priest's house is about the nut and bolts that enable the life changing ministry of the church to flourish. The request came from Bishop Mark Van Koevering, who is working extremely hard to enable self sufficiency in the Diocese of Niassa. Let's play our part by giving sacrificially (leaflets and Gift Aid envelopes in church).



foolish. If a person is suffering under the weight of tyranny, or coping with the limitations of illness, facing financial meltdown or the collapse of a relationship, where is hope?

It seems plain daft. Yet in all walks of life, in different settings, people have dared to hope. It might be that a village football club is formed. It could be that a bus is bought to take people shopping. It may be that a ceasefire takes place in an arena of conflict. It can be that two sides negotiate reductions of the world's deadliest weapons.

At every level of societies, people – knowingly or not – dare to hope. A person does not have to be religious to appreciate this.

Jesus gives us hope

Yet is hope always good? I suspect that some of those who commit acts of terror, ostensibly for religious or for secular political reasons, have hope.

For Christians, hope is inextricably bound up with the person and work of Jesus. A focus on him makes it plain that hope is tied to a man whose life was about emptying himself of all, that he might be the man for all.

Hope is not seen in him in the shape of political power, commercial advantage, economic might or quantity of arms. Rather, hope is seen in the offering of a life in love, and the raising of love to the heights. Jesus was audacious.

He dared to love, to reach out, to risk, to give. Easter brings us face to face with his daring.

What will we do? Countless men and women have found cause to hope. They have looked the world in the face and challenged it. Jesus did this, and triumphed.

Very happy Easter to you. Whatever form hope takes for you, be bold, be daring, be audacious. Take risks. Without hope, we human beings are diminished. With it, we can soar! May the risen Christ cause us to do this.

Name change

USPG (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) has changed its name!

While shorthand for United Society, they want to be known simply as **Us**.

Thanks to this Anglican mission agency, founded in 1701, St James's has been able to support St Luke's hospital at Milo in Tanzania for almost 30 years. Our support continues.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God



Here are two Easter poems, one by the priest and poet George Herbert (1593-1633) and the second by Phillips Brooks (1835-1893).

Easter Wings

The poem was written in the shape of wings, and the appearance of the poem reflects the subject matter.

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poor:
With thee
Oh let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne:
And still with sicknesses and shame
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine
And feel this day thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

Easter Carol

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and Hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter-Day.
While the patient earth lies waking,
Till the morning shall be breaking,
Shuddering 'neath the burden dread
Of her Master, cold and dead,
Hark! she hears the angels say,
Christ will rise on Easter-Day.
And when sunrise smites the mountains,
Pouring light from heavenly fountains,
Then the earth blooms out to greet
Once again the blessed feet;
And her countless voices say,
Christ has risen on Easter-Day.
Up and down our lives obedient
Walk, dear Christ, with footsteps radiant,
Till those garden lives shall be
Fair with duties done for Thee;
And our thankful spirits say,
Christ arose on Easter-Day.



Local and National stories

Your PCC needs you!

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING will be held on **Sunday 21 April** following Parish Communion. Elections (should it be necessary) will take place for the appointment of:

- Churchwardens
- Sidespersons
- Four members of the Parochial Church Council (for three years); and
- One member of the Deanery Synod (for one year)

If you would like more information about any of these roles please talk to Peter or any PCC member. If you would like to stand, please complete the necessary nomination papers. The meeting will also receive reports on the church's 2012 accounts and the various aspects of church life.

Pilgrims visit maternity hospital

MEMBERS OF ST JAMES'S were among a group who visited Holy Family Hospital, Bethlehem, during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in February. This state-of-the-art maternity hospital serves 180,000 people. It is financed by gifts from governments, NGOs, the Sovereign Order of Malta and private donors.



Over 3,000 women have babies at the hospital each year, some from the very poorest of Palestinian society. A total of £1000 was donated from the Ark, the pilgrims and others from St James's.

We've got Easter cracked!

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS are such an easy way to support developing countries. A selection of Easter eggs can be bought at St James's in March. The Real Easter Egg explains the Christian message on the box and with each sale a donation is made to Traidcraft Exchange to support some of the poorest farmers in the world.



You can **pre-order eggs** by contacting Ann Peterken in advance, telephone 020 8891 5862

Enough food for everyone...

IF LOOK OUT FOR this big multi-agency campaign. This year the government has promised to provide 0.7% of national income for aid and to host a Hunger Summit.

We must make sure they keep these promises and be a known force when the UK hosts the G8 Summit in June.

Christian Aid Week: 12-18 May

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK is fast approaching. If you can help to deliver and collect envelopes please speak to Elizabeth Wilmot or Linda Webb. They'd also love to hear about any fund-raising ideas you might have.



Around 870 million people are desperate for food. One in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight. This is a scandal, but if we *bite back* at hunger this Christian Aid Week we can help communities find ways to not only survive but to thrive, with food to eat tomorrow, not just today.

Christian persecution growing

THE PERSECUTION of Christians worldwide increased dramatically in 2012, especially across Africa, according to the Open Doors World Watch List. North Korea comes top of the list of 50 countries where persecution is at its worst.

Eight of the top ten countries suffer from Islamic extremism: Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Maldives, Mali, Iran and Yemen. Syria is in 11th place. Christians in Nigeria, Iraq and Syria experienced the most violence, closely followed by those in Sudan and Colombia. In Eritrea, Burma, Kenya and Egypt the levels of anti-Christian violence were also extremely high.

For the first time, Mali appears in the top ten. Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Niger and Ethiopia have also made the list.

Fun, friendships,



As part of our 150th anniversary, we look at our close association with the uniformed groups, starting with the Brownies and Guides.

Although our records only go back to the 1950s, we are fairly sure that there have been groups associated with St. James's for much longer than this.

BROWNIES

Brenda Oliver moved to Hampton Hill with her family in 1960 and two years later became Tawny Owl with the 1st Hampton Hill Brownies as their Brown Owl, Mrs. Casey, was in need of help. By 1966 there was a long waiting list and it was felt that another pack should be opened to give more girls a chance to be Brownies, so 3rd Hampton Hill Brownies were started, under the leadership of Mrs. Oliver, meeting at Hampton Hill Junior School and later in the parish rooms (now the VCG offices).

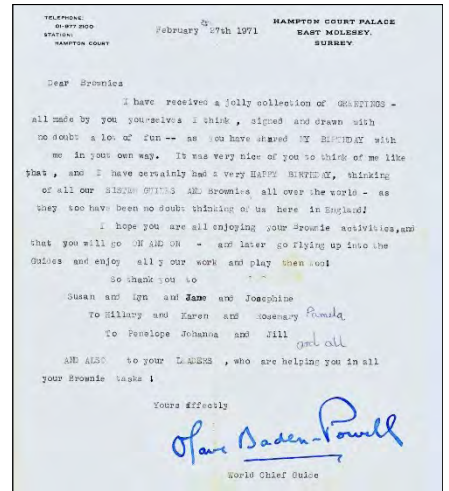
The Pack took part in all the district and division events, worked on badges and rode on floats in the carnivals. On Thinking Day 1971 there was a visit to Hampton Court Palace to take birthday cards which the Brownies had made for the first Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell. She welcomed them and sent a letter of thanks.

They joined with Marie Martin and the St. Francis de Sales Pack for a long weekend Pack Holiday and then the division organised a week at Pontins Holiday Camp, which was full of many activities.

To commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, a tree was planted in the churchyard with the help of Bill Robinson and the Revd Rupert Brunt, and bulbs were also planted around the tower.

Lesley Brough took over as Brown Owl in 1981 and continued the good work for the next 20 years. More recently, the Brownies have been run by Sarah Reed and Sarah Beer. The variety of activities continued, including nature walks and games in the park, a visit from a lady who brought hedgehogs and gave a talk, fundraising for a child leukaemia charity and for Holy Cross school in Tanzania (which involved challenges such as putting their feet in a bucket of cold baked beans and eating a doughnut without licking their lips!).

A food-tasting evening to try new foods and to encourage the Brownies to be more open-minded about new things was a great success; many of the girls even tried chocolate-covered ants! The Brownies went on a weekend where they could try rock-climbing, kayaking and ice-skating. There is usually a *Brownies have Talent* event each year where the girls surprise their leaders with their talents and skills; all in all, they have great fun!



Top: The pack enjoy a holiday at Margate. Above: the thank you letter sent to the pack from Lady Baden-Powell, the World Chief Guide.



Above: In 1977 the Brownies plant a tree in the churchyard for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. In the background are Brenda Oliver and Lesley Brough. Below: New recruits making the Brownie promise.



guiding hands...



GUIDES

1st Hampton Hill Guide Company was not formally affiliated to St. James's, but had close connections, and the flags were always kept in the church. A former member, Sonia Dunn (nee Baldwin) recalls carrying the Standard of Lady Baden Powell on a very windy day at a big Remembrance Day Parade. They had tea at her residence in Hampton Court Palace, when Sonia collected the standard.

In those days they often used to go on early morning hikes starting at 5 am. Many of the Guides were pupils at The Lady Eleanor Holles School, and some were boarders who attended St. James's Church every Sunday morning. A number of the Guides were involved in the Hampton Court Pageant around the time of the coronation in 1953 and two of them had the opportunity to ride the Queen's horse, *Churchill*.

From about 1961 to 1970 the group was run by Ruth Mills and there were many outdoor activities, particularly *wide games* and nature study in Bushy Park. Camping was high on the agenda. They always travelled in a removal van (no health and safety then!), with Guides and leaders standing for much of the journey (singing and being rather noisy), plus equipment and provisions.

The first camp was at Blacklands Farm, East Grinstead; others were in Kent and Somerset. Gadgets were made from wood to ensure that nothing touched the ground. Campfires and singing were also very popular with this group.

For several years prior to 1999 there was a thriving Brownie Pack, but no Guide Unit for them to progress to. Then Sue Blay started 3rd Hampton Hill (St. James's) Guides, offering the girls a varied programme of challenges, crafts and sports.

Rafting, canoeing, swimming and adventure courses helped the girls develop team-building and leadership skills and achieve their own goals, having great fun throughout. The Guides also camped once or twice a year.

When Sue retired as Guide leader, the group was taken over by Sarah Reed. The Guides have continued with crafts, map-reading and cooking, plus ice-skating, kayaking, raft-building or air rifle shooting. They go to the borough camp at Walton Firs to take part in caving, rock-climbing, crate-stacking and archery.

We thank all the leaders, past and present, for the time and effort they put into giving our young people such fun and opportunities for adventure.

Our Guides and Brownies meet once a week in term-time in the Church Hall and take part in local and district events. They attend All-Age Worship on the first Sunday in the month when they parade with their flags.



Top: Sue Blay gives vocal encouragement at a Guide camp contest. Above: Guides at camp in the 1950s Below: Guides at a pageant at Hampton Court to mark the Queen's coronation in 1953.



Get out of that: Guides learn team-building exercises while at camp

Around the SPIRE with Susan Homer

TOM STANTON R.I.P.

TOM STANTON passed away on 16 January at The Community of the Resurrection, at Mirfield, in West Yorkshire, aged 95. His funeral was held at the Community on 1 February.

Tom was the younger brother of Hannah Stanton, and their family home was in Park Road, Hampton Hill. Known as Brother Timothy, he celebrated 60 years at the Anglican community last year.

From 1954 to 2006 he worked in South Africa (a country he loved) doing teaching and pastoral work. Tom was Vice Principal at the college in South Africa where Desmond Tutu studied and Tom knew him well and remained a life-long friend and spiritual advisor.

Tom came back to Hampton Hill in 1993 to be with Hannah until she died that November, and he worshipped regularly at St James's. He remained in South Africa at the West Turfontein Priory until it closed in 2005 and returned to Mirfield in 2006 with the other brethren.

Tom had many friends in Hampton Hill whom he visited and they remained in regular contact by phone or letter. He was a shy person, uncomplicated, completely focussed and had a loving nature. His personal writings reveal his thanks for all that had happened to him and all the people he had known. The last entry in his personal diary is: *'The goal of the spiritual life is to be lost in God, to live in a manner that God is all in all. O Lord, thank you for my life, I just offer it all to you.'*



VERA BANNISTER R.I.P.

VERA BANNISTER, a long-term Hampton Hill resident and member of St. James's Church, died peacefully at Sunbury Care Home on 29 January at the age of 96.

When she was no longer able to attend church, Vera received communion regularly at her home in St. James's Road and subsequently at Chichester Close and Sunbury Care Home. Her funeral was held on 26 February. We send our condolences to her grand-daughters Lesley Brough and Sarah Lewis and their families.



YOUR COMMUNITY

THE HAMPTON HILL ASSOCIATION keeps its members in touch with what's happening in the community.



The association produces three magazines a year, organises social events and looks after local interests.

Membership is just £5 per household a year.

To join, send your details and a cheque, payable to the *Hampton Hill Association*, to Jan Casson, 12 Park Place, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1QA.

COMMUNITY SINGING

WELL DONE to Susannah Nettleton and the choirs of Hampton Hill Junior School and The Hampton Hill Singers for their parts in *Love on the High Seas*, the inaugural concert at The Lady Eleanor Holles School Theatre, on Saturday 9 February.



ANOTHER NUNN BABY!



THE NUNN FAMILY, who featured in last month's centrespread, are celebrating the arrival of another baby. Effie Mae O'Connor was born on 4 February, a second daughter for Suzie and Dan, a sister for Sophie, and granddaughter to Debbie and John. Congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

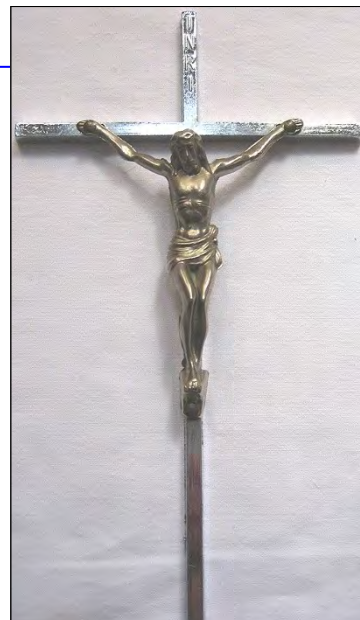


Jesus carrying his cross

Good Friday remembers the day on which Jesus was crucified on a wooden cross. It is a sad day and churches never have flowers or decorations on this day. In the early morning of Good Friday, Jesus was arrested and was tried in a mock trial before Caiaphas, the Jewish High Priest. He was afterwards condemned to death by the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, even though Pilate could not find that Jesus has done anything wrong. He was handed over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and flogged with whips. A crown of long, sharp thorns was thrust upon his head. Jesus was forced to carry his own cross outside the city to Skull Hill. Jesus was nailed to the cross. Two criminals were crucified with him, their crosses were on either side of him. A sign above Jesus read 'The King of the Jews'. After death his body was removed from the cross and placed in a tomb by Joseph of Aramathea.

Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian festival celebrating the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus had told his disciples before he was arrested that he would be crucified and on the third day he would rise from the dead. Easter Sunday is the third day after Good Friday. The dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Easter festival and of the Christian year. It is a day of celebration because Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever. The Easter Season begins on **Easter Day** and lasts fifty days, ending at Pentecost.

St James's Church makes an Easter Garden, recreating in miniature the place where Jesus was buried. A stone is placed across the mouth of the tomb before Easter, then rolled away on Easter morning.



Jesus crucified on the cross

Anniversary Latest News



Candlemas Service

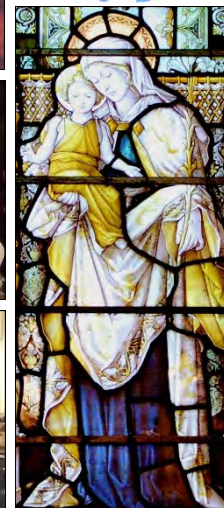
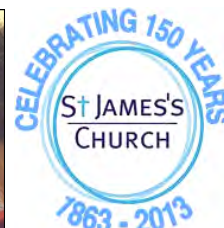
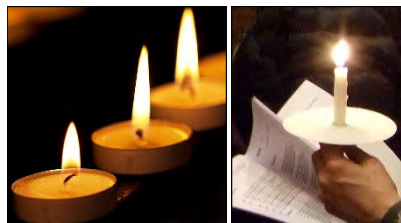
Sunday 27 January at 4pm

A special service for Candlemas, celebrating the presentation of Christ in the Temple was held at the end of January. To mark our anniversary, 150 candles were lit, blessed and borne in a procession in celebration of Jesus being the light of the world.

The lighting in the church, electric and candles, played a significant part in this service. At the beginning the deacon brought in the light and said: 'Jesus Christ is the light of the world', to which we all replied, 'A light no darkness can quench.'

The altar candles were lit and the service continued. Towards the end of the service our own candles were lit. We then processed to the baptistry, singing the Song of Simeon, and the service concluded after some prayers.

Refreshments were served after the service and to round off the celebration there were fireworks in the vicarage garden.



Above: Baptistry window showing the presentation of Christ in the Temple

150th EVENTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

School Concert *Wednesday 20 March, at 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.

Email junior-dept@lehs.org.uk or telephone 020 8979 2173.



Concordia Voices in a previous concert at St. James's

Stainer's Crucifixion *Palm Sunday 24 March, 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*. The oratorio is scored for a choir and organ, and features solos for bass and tenor. The text was written by W. J. Sparrow Simpson, the librettist of Stainer's two earlier oratorios, *The Daughter of Jairus* and *Mary Magdalene*. The work is dedicated 'to my pupil and friend W. Hodge and the choir of Marylebone Church', who first performed it on February 24 1887, the day after Ash Wednesday. This much loved musical meditation vividly portrays the Passion of Christ. Tickets cost £5, available from the church office, telephone 020 8941 6003.

Pilgrims' Return *Wednesday in Holy Week, 27 March, 8pm*

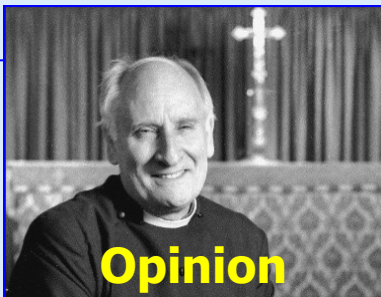
Pilgrims from a recent trip to the Holy Land share their experiences in words and pictures. You may be inspired to make the journey yourself. (Postponed from Saturday 23 February)

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. For more information please contact Fiona Brennan on 020 8941 3902.



Winchester Cathedral



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

MIND OUR LANGUAGE

In January, there were two debates in the House of Commons which showed it at its worst and best. Usually all we see on the news are the medieval jousting matches between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition; often revealing, but hardly debate. The BBC Parliament channel allows us to watch democracy at work.

First, there was the debate about reducing benefit payments by the same margin as those on wages. The Government totally ignored the fact that those on benefits are already far poorer than those not on benefits — that is why they are on benefits — and we are simply driving people further into poverty and the world of food banks and pay day loans. It was almost entirely a populist, crude response to the known prejudice towards those on benefits.

As a friend, a former Tory councillor now barely surviving on benefits, asked: 'Where are the moderate Tories?'

The one exception on the Coalition benches was the speech from Sarah Teather MP, Liberal Democrat for Brent Central, and a former Government Minister for Children and Families. She voted against her own government on this issue and made the most powerful speech of the debate.

She criticised the populist language used by some Conservative ministers, dividing people between the 'strivers' and the 'shirkers'. The language we use can either pander to or challenge public prejudices.

BUILDERS BACKED

Barely a week later the Commons was debating an opposition motion for an enquiry into why 50,000 builders had appeared on an illegal blacklist. The reasons for their blacklisting appeared to be that they were trade unionists, had raised issues about health and safety, or might be thought of as trouble-makers. Potential employers had consulted this blacklist before employing anyone.

Here, the floor of the House of Commons was united and at the end of the debate the Government minister agreed to the enquiry. For a real examination of Government policy the Conservative-dominated House of Lords is often an outstanding example.

ANTI-SEMITISM GOES ON

On 27 January, Holocaust Memorial Day, we remembered the six million Jews — including 1.5 million children — killed in the gas ovens. We also recalled similar and more recent ethnic cleansings in Bosnia and Rwanda.

What is so telling is that the anti-Semitism that Hitler exploited is illustrated so powerfully in Christian history in John's Gospel, where the Jews rather than the authorities are blamed for Jesus's crucifixion. Some early Church leaders, including St Augustine, wanted the killing of Jews. Martin Luther advocated the burning of synagogues and Jewish schools. Anti-Semitism has been described as 'the longest hatred in human history'.

UK MEN WORK LONGEST HOURS IN EUROPE

In a year when the pay and benefits of top business executives rose by 27% to an average of £4m, British men worked longer than anyone else in Europe — 44 hours a week, two hours longer than the average. When women, part-timers, and the self-employed are included, the average hours fell to 36.5 a week. The country with the longest overall working week was Greece with 42 hours. So much for the myth of the 'lazy Greek worker'.

What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



Women's World Day of Prayer 2013

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me, Friday 1 March, 2pm and 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Thames Street, Hampton
People worldwide will use a service by women in France.

Traidcraft Stall

Sundays 3 & 10 March, 10.30am, St James's Church Hall
Both dates are during Fairtrade Fortnight and will include craft items and Easter Eggs. Later dates are 7 April and 5 May.



Lent Course

Mondays, 4 and 11 March
2pm St James's Church Hall, Upper Room,
8pm 32 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill

Monday in Holy Week, 25 March
2pm Upper Room

8pm St James's Church
St John's Gospel

A service of prayer and reflection to finish off the Lent course.

NEW

Cantanti Camerati

Just a Song at Twilight, Friday 8 March, 7.30pm, and Saturday 9 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Normansfield Theatre, 2a Langdon Park, Teddington TW11 9PS

The Richmond chamber choir present a homage to Victorian music hall, as well as other eras. Tickets £10 from 0333 1212 300 or email lesley.alabaf@downs-syndrome.org.uk

Concordia Voices

Hear My Prayer, Saturday 9 March, 7.30pm,
St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA

A programme of choral music, including works by Tallis, Mendelssohn, Schubert and Stainer. Tickets £12 on door (concessions £10) or £10 in advance (£8) from choir members.

NEW

Mothering Sunday

Saturday 10 March, 9.30am, St James's Church

An all-age worship will be held at 9.30am. Families are welcome. Holy Communion will follow at 11.15am.

A Taste of Africa

Saturday 16 March, 7 for 7.30pm, St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF

An African-themed supper in aid of our Lent Appeal. Tickets, £10 each, from Gwynneth Lloyd, or Nickie Jones in the Parish Office, telephone 020 8941 6003.

NEW

Thameside Clarinet Choir

Thursday 21 March, 8pm, The Greenwood Centre, 1 School Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1QL

A programme of light classics, conducted by Martin Hinckley, in aid of Greenwood Centre. Tickets £10, 020 8979 9662.

Registers for January



Baptism

13 Tamsin Melody
Cousin, Hanworth



Funerals

15 Patrick Edward
Hearse, 89,
Hampton Hill

22 Ann Monica
Goddard, 84,
Twickenham

Lent and Easter at St James's Church

NEW

Lent Together

Monday 18 March, 8pm

Churches Together Around Hampton share their studies.

NEW

Palm Sunday

Sunday 24 March, 9.30am

A procession of palms will be followed by Parish Communion.

Concordia Voices

Stainer's Crucifixion, Palm Sunday 24 March, 6pm,

John Stainer's oratorio, *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*, is performed as part of St James's 150th Anniversary. Tickets £5, from Parish Office. There will be a retiring collection for The Greenwood Centre.

Compline

Tuesday in Holy Week, 26 March, 8pm

NEW

Pilgrims' Return

Wednesday in Holy Week, 27 March, 8pm

Pilgrims from a recent trip to the Holy Land share their experiences. (Postponed from Saturday 23 February)

NEW

Maudy Thursday

Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, 28 March, 8pm

To be followed by Watch of Prayer for an hour

NEW

Good Friday

All-age Worship, Friday 29 March, 10.30am

This service is followed by hot cross buns in the Church Hall.

2pm Liturgy of Good Friday.

NEW

Lighting the Easter Fire

Saturday 30 March, 4.30pm, Hampton Village Green, (opposite St Theodore's Roman Catholic Church)

Churches Together holds a short service of public witness.

NEW

Easter Day

Sunday 31 March

6am Easter Liturgy (moved from Saturday eve).

No 8am Communion 9.30am Parish Communion.



Teddington Choral Society

Dona Nobis Pacem, Saturday 23 March, 7.30pm, Waldegrave

School for Girls, Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham TW2 5LH

Tickets £12 (concessions £10) available on door.

NEW

Maudy Thursday

Christm Eucharist, Thursday 28 March, 10.30am, St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AD

The clergy renew their ordination vows, and Oils for Baptism, Confirmation and the Sick are blessed and distributed.



Vicar's View

'I think the DIY Palm Sunday Kit you ordered online has arrived dear...'

Your Voice with the Revd Brian Leathard

Putting down roots and sharing life's challenges



Anusha, Brian and Ramani Leathard

Where? 'Hampton Hill,' said my Spiritual Director, at that time a senior Bishop in the Church of England. 'It would be ideal – a good place for you and you'd be good for it!' This was my introduction to the existence of a vacancy at St James's, Hampton Hill.

It was 1988 — long before Google — so I went into the library at Loughborough University, where I was Chaplain, and searched the Ordnance Survey maps to find Hampton Hill. Alas, when the details of the parish arrived, I was everything the PCC didn't want, but perseverance by the patron meant that after Episcopal delays — at both ends of the chain — I arrived as Vicar on Holy Cross Day (14 September) 1989.

Our first impression of the house was that it was very dark; this was largely because the garden (never my strong point) was seriously overgrown. The 'hedge' in the front garden — there was no fence — was as tall as the house, and occupied more than half the depth between pavement and house.

The beautiful holly tree was completely hidden, and a whole VW Beetle was found, in pieces, within the hedge. The driveway was between the vicarage and church and the remnants of the Brunt family chicken coop was still to be seen in the part of the garden that ran behind houses 44 to 38 St James's Road. But the blackberries were fantastic!

A variety of improvements to the vicarage were undertaken. The original 1930s bathroom was replaced, central heating was installed upstairs, and the kitchen was created from three smaller rooms — a scullery, kitchen and butler's pantry. Alas, the butler was long since gone.

Putting down roots

So the Leathards began 17 years in Hampton Hill. One of its joys for us was a well-established community. Hampton Hill was the type of place where people put down deep roots and so the church had plenty of people who had been local for a long time, as well as a steady stream of younger families who trod the well-worn path of removal to the suburbs when first-children grew or second-children arrived.

Lots of projects rose before me as requiring attention. Buildings loomed large. The Church Hall in School Road absorbed as much money as it did rainwater and it needed investment or sale. *Wayside* — the church's house in St James's Road — had become a heavy burden. The interior of the church was very dark and the heating erratic, at best.

So the PCC decided to indulge me in a programme of property rationalisation. We sold the hall to be rebuilt as the Greenwood Centre, sold *Wayside* and from the funds restored the interior of the church, put in new boilers and built the current hall on site. But far less tangible projects also arose: building up contact with the five schools in the parish, setting up and training a visitors' group, encouraging people to be confident to contribute to worship in reading, interceding, preaching — and our congregation responded so very positively (on the whole!).

Yes, of course, like all clergy and parishes, we had our differences. Hampton Hill's Parochial Church Council (PCC) was never slow to make its views plain, but that is a lot easier to live with than any whispering campaign! And then, St James's had to put up with me — not easy, I realise.

Ordination of women

I was always so very grateful to the PCC through years of strife over the ordination of women to the priesthood — and how we gained by receiving the ministry of female clergy.

There was great understanding by the parish of the years when I acted as Director of Ordinands — and the many hours this occupied, placing me out of parish use. There were days when I had had enough — so took myself off to do parish visiting in Bushy Park, a great restorative.

There were high points, such as having Archbishop Desmond Tutu in our home when he received the freedom of the Borough, our parish pilgrimages and retreats, which proved so important in getting to know each other when not wearing Sunday best, and ministry to several generations of local families in diverse situations. There are plenty of stories I could tell — but won't.

For perhaps above all it is the stories of other people which really count in parish ministry, not my stories. I was privileged to laugh, weep, sit alongside, celebrate with so many different people over the 17 years in Hampton Hill. It was a huge part of our lives. Ramani and I each lost a parent while in Hampton Hill and you were a great support. Anusha grew up and met Peter there (and baby Leila Rosemary was born on 14 Dec 2012). We all lived longer in St James's Vicarage than we've lived in any other house. So, above all, thank you for all that the people of St James's and Hampton Hill gave us between 1989 and 2006.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

Amazing Grace



*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.*

The words above were written by John Newton (1725-1807). Newton was press-ganged into service in the Royal Navy, and became involved in the slave trade. His conversion was gradual, but an experience of calling out to God for mercy in the midst of a storm at sea was pivotal.

Newton was eventually ordained as a priest in the Church of England, and later worked with William Wilberforce for the abolition of the slave trade, having experienced it first hand.

As Curate of Olney in Buckinghamshire, Newton wrote many poems for use in worship and *Amazing Grace* was used by him in a sermon on New Year's Day in 1773, and published as part of a collection *Olney Hymns* in 1779.

Known worldwide, *Amazing Grace* must be one of the best known hymns in English, and though associated with many tunes, *New Britain* is the one to which it is most commonly sung.

The hymn's lyrics emphasise the grace of God, and its effect. Grace is seen as 'amazing' and its effect liberating.

■ It will be sung at St. James's on **Good Friday** morning at the All-age service at 10.30am, which will be entitled *Amazing Grace*.

