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LEADER APRIL 2006

"The moving finger writes; and, having writ moves on", so wrote Edward Fitzgerald at about the time that our church was constructed in 1863. Since its creation the parish of James has been communicating in words the love of God for all his children shown to us most particularly in Jesus Christ whom we call The Word of God. So welcome to this new style parish magazine, The Spire, which we hope you will enjoy even more than its predecessors, through its contemporary feel, its ability to incorporate graphics and photographs and most of all its continuing purpose in being a vehicle to communicate God's presence in and through our community.

The Spire magazine has gone through a variety of changes over the last 140 years. The writings of the first incumbents reflected that high Victorian style of prose and, what seems to us today, patronising exhortation. The Spire magazine has witness to and written of the events which engulfed our society and community in the 20th Century, not least, two World Wars and their affects on Hampton Hill. In the 1960s its format was changed to that which we were used to until recently, namely an A5 booklet containing advertisements for local suppliers as well as news from the parish and beyond.

In the 1990s we redeveloped the magazine to have less of a reporting back feel and tried to open it to the needs of the wider community so that it might be an agency for words and ideas about all that binds our community together. As time has progressed so has technology and now we are able to incorporate significant developments through IT and in-house production. But at every stage of its journey through three centuries The Spire magazine has been greatly dependent upon people writing words for it, editing and setting those words and distributing the same to approximately 850 homes and businesses. The Spire magazine is currently sent as far as South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. So I would like to express a huge debt of gratitude to all those who, over the years, have been involved with the production of The Spire in any way at all. Our printer, Sheila Carter, has been careful and helpful well beyond the terms of her contract and we are most grateful to her. More recently Griselda Barrett has spent many hours preparing for this new production and we thank her for that. In addition, the unsung heroes of The Spire's life are its editors, especially Margaret Taylor and Sue Horner, its committee members and its distributors, not least, dear reader, forgetting you.

For we do not produce this magazine from St James' Church simply as information. It is no coincidence that this first edition of the new format is appearing at Eastertide. In the man Jesus of Nazareth we see the word made flesh, God in human form, engaging with human life and being the icon of our fullest humanity in his integrity which includes his



betrayal, his arrest and trial, his crucifixion and his resurrection to new life. The purpose of this Spire magazine continues to be a vehicle of communication of that new life which the body of Christ at St James' represents in the midst of our community. Words and styles may change but that which we know in Jesus Christ, who is prepared to be spent and broken for the sake of you and me, his brothers and sisters, is the key to the fullness of life for which we stand and which we seek to communicate not only in words in this magazine but through every action of our lives. This is at the heart of our Easter celebrations and the heart of our everyday existence. So please do join us during Holy Week and Easter to celebrate the new life of the word made flesh, the risen life of Christ who speaks his words through you and me in the world today. Yes, the moving hand may write and move on, so we need constantly to find new ways of speaking the truth which never changes - that at the heart of all things is the God who loves his creation even to the point of spending himself for it entirely - in order that we might become the new creation of his church, his body in today's world.

Brian Leathard



A Saint for April - Pandita Ramabai 1858-1922

Ramabai was born in Southern India, the daughter of a high caste Hindu. Making pilgrimages and giving alms in pursuit of spiritual merit, her father reduced the family to poverty. But he had taken the unusual step of educating his wife and daughters so after her parents and sister died during a famine, Ramabai and her brother were able to earn a living reading the scriptures at pilgrimage shrines. In 1878 they finally settled in Calcutta. Scholars there were so impressed by her knowledge of Sanskrit that they gave Ramabai the title of pandita (lady scholar). She went on to more than earn the title: fluent in several of India's languages, in the last fifteen years of her life she also mastered Greek and Hebrew so as to translate

the Bible into colloquial Marathi, her mother tongue. Liberal Hindus in Calcutta encouraged her to study a wider range of Hindu scriptures but, finding they agreed on nothing except the inferiority of women, she became disenchanted with Hinduism, married out of her caste and dedicated herself to reforming the treatment of women. She was attracted by the teaching of Christianity that women as well as men could receive salvation, but it was only after the death of her husband and after a missionary convinced her that she could be a Christian without adopting a Western lifestyle that she was finally baptised.

Taking her baby daughter with her, Ramabai travelled to England and the USA to study education. In England she was impressed by the charitable work of the Anglican sisterhood at Wantage. In the USA her lectures led to the creation of a supporting organisation. Guaranteed funding for ten years, she returned to India to open a small school for girls. Other projects followed, most significantly the women's refuge called Mukti (salvation) where girl orphans, outcast and widowed women could learn skills to support themselves. Inspired by the work of George Muller in Bristol, Ramabai encouraged workers at Mukti to rely on providence rather than fund-raising: "Depending altogether on our Father God, we have nothing to fear from anyone, nothing to lose, and nothing to regret. The Lord is our inexhaustible treasure." Today the Mukti Mission still provides orphanages, rescue homes for destitute women and unmarried mothers, schools, vocational training and a large hospital. Ramabai continued to lead and expand the work until her death in 1922.

Ramabai reminds us that Christian conversion is not just a change of ideas or lifestyle but a radical reorientation - from self-reliant to God-dependent. It was years after her own baptism that Ramabai realised "I had found the Christian religion but I had not found Christ who is the life of the religion." She was still trying to earn salvation. Only when she accepted that Christ had already paid the price in full for her, did she feel she had entered into the promised 'life abundant'. Then, drawing encouragement from the great revivals in Cornwall and Wales, she initiated prayer for revival among Indian Christians. In 1905 Mukti experienced a powerful outpouring of the Spirit; prayer and worship continued for hours every day and lives were transformed as girls and women encountered God's holiness and judgement, his love and forgiveness. Lives were truly turned around - profoundly and lastingly. From her experience of this revival and of God's faithfulness in meeting the needs of Mukti, Ramabai was able to say: *I have responded to the Lord's challenge 'Prove me now' (Mal.3:10). I have found him faithful and true. I know he is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. I entreat you to prove the Lord as I have proved him.*

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

Replies to last month's question: How do we respond to the many charity requests which come through the door every day?

Just as we can't be friends with all the delightful people we come across, so we can't give to all the deserving appeals that come through our doors. As with friends, I choose those charities with which I feel a particular affinity to give to regularly and do not get involved with the others. Disaster appeals are obviously an exception.

Name supplied

Like your correspondent, I too have been sent numerous begging letters from charities. But I resent those from organisations such as "World Villages for Children" which send me some coins through the post and then write "send us a cheque back". This is a kind of moral blackmail.

Furthermore the question arises, why does this organisation exist, when there are already reputable, well-run relief organisations such as Oxfam and Christian Aid? Some of these smaller charities are duplicating the fund-raising efforts of others and therefore they are wasting some of the donors' money. I ask the question: Is there a fund-raising company behind the scene which is doing a rip-off?

There are some charities which are not duplicated by Oxfam, e.g. the Cambodia Trust, which provides artificial limbs for people injured by land mines in Cambodia. I willingly give to this organisation and others with a speciality. The Cambodia Trust pulls at my conscience because the amputees are the victims of our wicked weapons production.

Finally, I put the coins from the begging letters in the next Oxfam box which I pass.

Bernard R Bligh

Deciding how much to give is not easy. I find it helpful to compare my giving with what I spend on pleasurable outgoings such as holidays and dining out.

Who to give to? I give regularly to charities that I've selected, but always leave room for emergency appeals and any unsolicited request that particularly moves me. You simply have to ignore the rest, without feeling guilty. Charities have excellent websites, where you can find out about their work, and they are only too happy to take queries by phone or email. With a little bit of effort, it's possible to have a pretty good idea of how your money is spent. An element of trust is essential and you can always look at the annual accounts.

Our charitable impulses will also lead us to ask how ethical are our investments? Perhaps there are ways we can invest a portion of our money for a greater good than its financial return. Look out for an article on **Shared Interest** in next month's Spire.

Ann Peterken

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER? Consider this Question:

Is it wholly wrong if you are not churchgoers to start attending in order to secure a place for your child at the only decent primary school in the area. My instant response in discussing this problem with the father of the little boy was to agree with him that it would be hypocritical to do so. However, on thinking it over I wonder if I should encourage him to attend. His faith is in abeyance (he was a regular churchgoer for years) and resuming this practice might reawaken it. Were it not to do but he succeeded in obtaining a place for his son, then at least the child would have a chance of some Christian teaching which would otherwise be denied him. I understand it is a common practice in their area for parents to secure a place by this means. Should they do so? Do you agree with me that such a selection criteria is misguided?

Replies to the office email (listed on page 7) or send to Margaret Tylor or Susan Horner or to the Church Office marked 'For the Spire'.

LATE FOR LENT

Not made your promise for Lent yet? Or have you already failed to keep your resolution? Why not make a longer term commitment that will make a lasting difference? Our Christian community in the parish of St James' benefits from the generosity and forethought of the generations of Christians before us. Each of us shares the responsibility of maintaining the mission, ensuring that we pass on a healthy and vibrant church to future generations. By leaving a legacy to the parish you will help to strengthen the church in its mission.

If you would like to arrange for a legacy please talk to a member of the clergy.



After having completed her masters degree in October 2005, Anusha Leathard set off with her boyfriend, Peter Hesketh, on a world tour in January 2006. It is scheduled to take seven months.

View from Table Mountain, Cape Town

They began their tour with a winter 'refresher' in tropical Zanzibar, a mixture of Africa and the Middle East, now part of Tanzania. They arrived in Lake Manyara and followed this by four days in the Serengeti. Serengeti literally means endless plain as the park is very flat and is about the size of Switzerland. There were thousands of migrating wildebeest in addition to leopards, zebra, rhino cheetah, lions, elephants, hippos and gazelles. Finally, they went to the Ngorogoro crater. On the last day in Arusha Pete and Anusha went to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and sat in on a couple of trials. They continued their trip to Dar es Salaam where they taught English to 14/15 year olds and maths to 13/14 years olds. They really enjoyed their time at the school and everyone was friendly and the children were quite well behaved. After their teaching stint they went to the Udzungwa Mountains for some walking in an area renowned for its waterfalls. A 43-hour train journey took them to Zambia and eventually the capital, Lusaka. From there they travelled to Livingstone and the Victoria Falls. They also went to Livingstone Island which is at the top of the Falls where the views were stunning. From Zambia they flew to Cape Town and have visited Kirstenbosch botanical gardens, the Stellenbosch wine region and Robben Island to see the penguins. They then travelled by bus for three weeks from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth in Johannesburg with various stops on the way. The journey continues.

**Update on the
Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2005
For Health Projects in Southern Africa**

£75,000 was raised by London parishes during a Lent that came very soon after the generous response to the tsunami. Parishioners and friends associated with St James contributed £3,863. Thank you all very much. Health projects in Malawi, Zambia, Angola and Tanzania have benefited from the Appeal.

The UK agencies supporting the various projects - USPG, CMS, Christian Aid, Mothers' Union and Crosslinks – have contributed to an informative report that is pinned to the portable display board by the baptistery. Feel free to take it down for reading, and pin it back afterwards..

**Making Poverty History in 2006 and
Beyond**

Yes progress was made in 2005, but we all know much more remains to be done. At the very least, civil society must ensure G8 promises are delivered.

The simple action of sending a postcard may not seem a big deal, but it really does make a difference. We simply need to keep on doing it.

Please take time to look at the campaign materials in church, use the postcard actions and increase your understanding with the excellent campaign guide booklets.

Ann Peterken, 8891 5862

MARGERY ORTON—THE HISTORY LADY

In the early 1960s when Margery and Len had been living in St James's Road for over twenty years the people of St James's Church wanted to mark the forthcoming hundredth anniversary of their church in suitable fashion. Margery, as a member of that church, together with a group of others set about producing a book marking the progress from foundation to present day of the Parish of St James and its wonderful Victorian church, and so '*The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill*' was born.

Margery was the Editor of the book and subsequently became the unofficial 'historian' of St James and Hampton Hill. For many years she, with Ron Bridges, would give a slide show to newcomers to the parish at a welcoming party and this was a kind of guided tour starting in Burton's Road and going around the parish. At church events she would mount an exhibition of old photos and various bits of memorabilia which people always found fascinating.

Margery and Len had been married and lived at St James's at the beginning of the Second world War and lived in Hampton Hill for 50 years. One of Margery's outstanding characteristics was her great devotion, through good and bad times, to her faith. She daily read the Bible and for many years led a prayer group which she called 'The Julian Group', an acknowledgement of the influence of Julian of Norwich. She also wrote a great deal, words she felt were inspired by her studies and prayers. Later she developed a healing ministry and used this gift to good effect. Margery was a good friend to many and was often approached by those who were struggling either with their faith or other problems. For several years Margery worked at St Mary's Hospital in Hampton, a job which she much enjoyed.

After Len died Margery stayed in Hampton Hill for some time but then moved to Benson in Oxfordshire to be near her son, Peter and his wife. Margery died on her ninetieth birthday, a day which she always associated with the snowdrop, out at this time of the year. In our garden and in our churchyard here in Suffolk the snowdrops are in full bloom and looking so white and ethereal, a real reminder of our friend, Margery Orton.

Helen Taylor



Hampton Hill High Street, looking south, 1903

Around the Spire

Thank you to all those who helped with the Church and churchyard spring clean.

Jo Crimmin has now moved to a nursing home.

Bill Robinson has moved to Sunrise in Virginia Water to be near his daughter, Lindsay.



Sheila Hewson, who lived in Hampton Hill for many years, has died.

Mary Hughes lived in Hampton Hill for 50 years. She died at nearly 92 on 12th March.

Mrs Constance Voizey (known to all as 'Con' Voizey) died last week at the age of 97. She was an active supporter of local and national (RNLI) charities.

CHURCH STAFF

CLERGY

The Revd Dr Brian Leathard, MA, PhD, The Vicarage,
46 St James' Road, TW12 1DQ 8979 2069

The Revd Dr Julie Gittoes, 82 Pigeon Lane, TW12 1AF
8941 4424

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Liz Butler, 5 Blandford Road, Teddington TW11 0LF
8977 4227

Dr Rodney Taylor, 29 Park Road, TW12 1HG 8979 0046

TREASURER

Mr Paul Peterken, 273 Waldegrave Road, TW1 4SU
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs Griselda Barrett, 39 Park Road, Hampton Hill, TW12
1HG 8979 3331

SECRETARY OF PCC

Mrs Janet Nunn, 151 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill,
TW12 1BQ 8979 6325

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Mr Pip Rowett, 27 Orford Gardens, Twickenham
TW1 4PL 8892 4736

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Mr Ash Charles, 23b Orsett Terrace, London W2 6AJ

ORGANIST EMERITUS

Mr Geoffrey Bowyer, Mmus, FRCO 8894 3773

HALL BOOKING

Mr David Taylor, 57 Nightingale Road, Hampton
TW12 3HZ 8979 3961

THE MAGAZINE

Mrs Susan Horner, 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill
TW12 3HH 8979 9380

Mrs Margaret Taylor, 57 Nightingale Road, Hampton
TW12 3HZ 8979 3961

Mrs Griselda Barrett, 39 Park Road, Hampton Hill,
TW12 1HG 8979 3331

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs Griselda Barrett, 39 Park Road, Hampton Hill,
TW12 1HG 8979 3331

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs Margaret Hobbs, 76 Broad Lane, Hampton
8979 2320

CHURCH CONTACTS

Brownies	Natasha Clifford	8979 0361
Charities and Links Committee	Ann Peterken	8891 5862
Church Cleaning Rota	Margaret Taylor	8979 3961
Church Flowers	Coryn Robinson	8979 6786
Churches Together around Hampton	Ann Peterken	8891 5862
Dance Fellowship Group	Eila Severn	8979 1954
Deanery Synod	Lesley Mortimer	8941 2345
Finance Committee	Paul Peterken	8891 5862
Guides	Guides	8979 8239
Hall Committee	Betty Rainbow	8894 3907
Ladies' Choir	Eila Severn	8979 1954
Missions Partner Link	Gwynneth Lloyd	8943 0709
Mozambique/Angola Link	Elizabeth Wilmot	8977 9434
Planned Giving Committee	Don Barrett	8979 3331
Properties Committee	Rodney Taylor	8979 0046
Scout Group (including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures)	Paul Fitchett	8941 7186
Social Committee	Kate O'Sullivan	8977 8294
St James's Players	Martin Hinckley	8979 0528
Sunday School	Lou Coaker-Basdell	8979 2040
Website	Prill Hinckley	8979 0528
Weekly Notice Sheet	Griselda Barrett	8979 3331
Young Church	Sue Blay	8979 8239

Website: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Office email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Music at St James' Church:

Concordia Concert, The Fire and The Rose, 14th April, at 7.30: A Good Friday Meditation including Allegri's Miserere, Tallis Lamentations of Jeremiah and a reading of T S Elliot's Little Gidding from Four Quartets. Entrance free.

Friday, 5th May at 8.00 p.m. A recital by local musicians with St James' Church. Admission by donation to St James' 'Opening Our Doors' project (suggested donation £5).



Forthcoming events at St James'

Saturday, 8th April at 12.00 Lent Lunch (donations £2)

Easter Sunday, after 9.30 Service Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, 13th May Barn Dance

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday	09.15 Morning Prayer
	20.00 Parish Communion with Washing of Feet
Good Friday	09.15 Morning Prayer
	10.30 Children's Service
	12.00 Three Hour Meditation at the Cross
	19.30 A Meditation in Words and Music for Good Friday
Easter Eve	09.15 Morning Prayer
	20.00 Easter Vigil and Lighting of New Fire
Easter Day	08.00 Holy Communion
	09.30 Parish Communion followed by Easter Egg Hunt in churchyard

DATES TO NOTE

- 2 Passion Sunday
11.00 Annual Parochial Church Meeting at which we elect churchwardens and the members of the Parochial Church Council. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting
- 9 Palm Sunday
09.30 Procession of Palms and Parish Communion
21.00 Compline (Night Prayer)
- 10 Monday of Holy Week, 21.00 Night Prayer
- 11 Tuesday of Holy Week, 21.00 Night Prayer
- 12 Wednesday of Holy Week, 21.00 Night Prayer
- 13 Maundy Thursday (see box above)
- 14 Good Friday (see box above)
- 15 Easter Eve (see box above)
- 16 Easter Day (see box above)
- 17 Bank Holiday – have a great day.
- 23 Second Sunday of Easter,
09.30 Parish Communion with Holy Baptism
- 24 George, martyr, patron of England, 304
- 25 Mark the Evangelist
- 27 Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894
- 28 Peter Chanel, missionary and martyr in the South Pacific
- 29 Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380
- 30 3rd Sunday of Easter

SERVICES

Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion

1st Sunday in Month

09.30 Informal Service

Monday-Friday (except Tues)

09.15 Morning Prayer

Tuesday

09.30 Holy Communion

1st Wed in month

07.00 Commuter
Communion

1st Thurs in month

14.00 Holy Communion

Sundays during Lent:

21.00 Compline

