

FEBRUARY 2015

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Re-cycled!



Another load for Tools with a Mission

AROUND THE SPIRE P4 ■ RECIPE FOR LIFE P6 ■ WHAT'S ON P7

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 is a Governor of Hampton Hill Junior School and 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 minister, ordained in June 2012, and working during the week in events sponsorship management.
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Parish Office

Administrator

Jane Gibson
For all general enquiries and hall bookings. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.
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Officials

Churchwarden

Carole Greville-Giddings
Carole has a background in social work, helps run The Ark, and is a chorister.
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Churchwarden

Nick Bagge
Nick is a former television journalist, now working at a local theatre.
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Treasurer

Don Barrett
Before retiring, Don worked at the Church Commissioners for England, who manage the Church of England's assets.
Telephone: 020 8979 3331
Email: donbarrett8@blueyonder.co.uk

Organist / Choirmaster

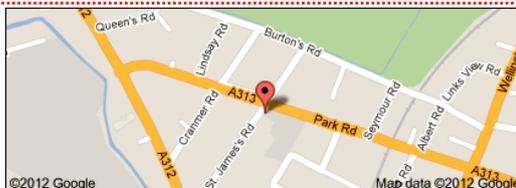
Vacant
All enquiries about music and the choir should be directed via the Parish Office
Telephone: 020 8941 6003

SUPPORT US

- The more **volunteers**, the more we can do
- Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do
- Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy

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...

In December the Spire Committee puts together its ideas for 2015 and we decided that two of our new features had been so successful we would continue them during 2015. *Recipe for Life* and *My Favourite* have both proved popular. We have been very pleased by the number of people willing to write these articles and the wide diversity of subjects which we have been able to cover. We are still open to offers if anyone would like to write an article for us.

The centrespread in this edition is devoted to our charitable giving and Ann Peterken, who chairs the Charities and Links Committee, gives an insight into how they approach our charitable giving as well as supporting other causes. We shall continue our Charity Box each issue and this month it features TWAM, which I have been connected with for several years now.

This month's recipe is for Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday on 17 February. Not so widely eaten as in years past, but still a tradition in many households and villages around the country.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



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.

STORIES, FEATURES

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AROUND THE SPIRE

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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The March issue is published on Fri 28 February. All copy should be with us by **Mon 2 February**.

Credits

PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge
Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

PUBLISHING

Printer Justin Hollingsworth 020 8686 4481

thespire magazine is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests, as laid down by the Forest Stewardship Council.



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Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

Wednesday 18 February

Ash Wednesday
9.30am and 7.30pm
Joel 2.1-2,12-17; 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10;
John 8.1-11.

Sunday 1 February

Candlemas — Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Malachi 3.1-5;
Hebrews 2.14-18;
Luke 2.22-40.

Sunday 22 February

1st Sunday of Lent
Genesis 9.8-17; 1 Peter 3.18-22;
Mark 1.9-15.

Sunday 8 February

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

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 February

Sunday Next before Lent
2 Kings 2.1-12
2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Mark 9.2-9

NEXT MONTH

Sunday 15 March Mothering Sunday
Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday

Grasp a fast change



I googled the word *fast*, and I got some interesting results. The first and third results brought up the NHS campaign to make people more aware of the symptoms of a stroke, and to act accordingly: a very valuable initiative.

The second result was the website of the Federation Against Software Theft. Again, a well-intentioned piece of work, promoting the legal use of software.

The fourth was an online dictionary giving very different definitions of the word *fast*. Not unsurprisingly, those relating to speed of movement came first, but a little way down in the definitions came this:

1. *To abstain from food.*
2. *To eat very little or abstain from certain foods, especially as a religious discipline*

The practice of abstaining from eating some or all food for a defined period is common to different faiths, the most prominent today probably being that of Islam during Ramadan, where from sunrise to sunset Moslems abstain from eating and drinking.

The Christian fast of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this month, 18 February. Unlike Islam, there is no strictly observed, commonly accepted way to fast, but since the very first days of the Church's existence, fasting has had a place as a spiritual discipline.

Yet for both faiths, and others, abstaining from eating food is not an end in itself. Rather, it is a means of focussing the mind on things that are greater than the material and physical. So, for example, Lent is not an excuse for a diet!

Complaining to God

On this page, you will see that the *In Thought and Prayer* column is an extract from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. The passage begins with people speaking to God, and complaining that he does not see their spiritual efforts, and so they wonder why they are bothering.

The prophet presents God's cutting retort. God makes it plain

Charity Box Tools with a Mission

This month's cover features a collection taking place from Janet Nunn's house. David Sayers, from Farnham, in the white apron, is a volunteer who collects tools all over the south of England in his van and takes them each week to the warehouse at Ipswich, where they are sorted and renovated ready to be sent abroad.

David and his volunteers have already made 14 collections from Hampton Hill, including taking the 100 school packs last summer.

Several people assist Janet to collect tools and one of her regular volunteers, who has helped clear several garages and collected numerous carloads



that the kind of abstaining the complainers are doing is not enough to be a good thing in his sight. They may well be abstaining from food, and making it plain to others from how they dress, but they still persist in being unjust to others, and ignoring the needs of the oppressed and the poor.

It becomes plain from this ancient text that there is far more to a spiritual discipline of fasting than abstaining from foods of certain kinds or even totally. So for people keeping Lent, there is no point feeling virtuous about giving up chocolate, and yet still carrying on being vile to a friend, family member or colleague! Any 'giving up' needs to be understood more broadly, and for some, it may be unhelpful for this to be focussed on food.

'Fast' from finger-pointing

So from what might we 'fast' this Lent, in preparation for Easter? There is a 'carbon fast' promoted by *Tearfund*, and other organisations, involving such actions as switching off unnecessary lights, turning down the heating, recycling unwanted possessions rather than throwing them out, and so on, in order to help preserve God's creation.

Or how about a 'fast' from actions that may impact badly on others at home, at work, at college? It can become a habit to belittle someone, for example, and one action can lead to another, and we are not at our best. Abstaining from what the Book of Isaiah calls 'the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil' is a positive act of 'fasting' that can enrich the life of another person.

Interpret fasting in a broader sense

However you do it, consider a fast this Lent. This does not have to be simply about food, and indeed for you it might not be. Interpret fasting in a broader sense as an abstention from actions and patterns of behaviour that are not that best for which God has made us.

I wish you a good Lent!

of tools, celebrated a special birthday recently and rather than have presents he asked his friends and relations to donate tools for Tools with a Mission.

This picture shows John Goddard with his collection of tools. This is an excellent way of helping a charity and publicising the work of TWAM.

In 2014, TWAM sent 21 large containers to Africa, with sewing machines, typewriters, carpentry sets, gardening tools and many other things which will make a tremendous difference to the lives of so many people, helping them to earn a living and support themselves.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

A Day to Humble Oneself



'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58.3-11



Local and National stories

Shell Seekers plant olive trees

CONGRATULATIONS to the Shell Seekers, our Sunday School, for raising £282 from their Christmas Crafts Sale. The money was enough to sponsor 18 olive trees for Embrace the Middle East's re-planting project.

The olive tree is a universal symbol of peace, and is also a powerful symbol of Palestinian rootedness in their land. But in the political turmoil of the Middle East today, trees that have survived hundreds of years have become casualties in the struggle for control of the land.

In the past 46 years, Palestinian farmers have lost 800,000 olive trees as a result of occupation, and settlers seeking to claim the land as their own. The initiative, called *Keep Hope Alive*, aims to plant or replant olive trees in Palestinian-owned areas at risk.



Women's World Day of Prayer

THIS YEAR'S Women's World Day of Prayer service on Friday 6 March has been prepared by the churches of the Bahamas, using the title, *Do You Know What I Have Done to You?* Our local services are at St Francis de Sales Church, Hampton Hill (full details in What's On, page seven).

Radical love is the theme that weaves together all the components of the worship. Following Jesus' example of washing his disciples' feet, we are asked to continue the gesture of love in our own communities. We are also reminded about the responsible stewardship of God's creation, whether it is those who step in the pink sand or swim in turquoise water of the archipelago, or those who enjoy whatever natural beauty has been gifted by God to our corner of the world.

Support Fairtrade Fortnight

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT is 23 February - 8 March. We have come so far since the first Fairtrade Fortnight in 1995, educating the public on why to choose Fairtrade and increasing sales on better terms for producers.

We have made the Fairtrade mark the UK's biggest and best known ethical label, but there is a long way to go to make all trade fair. Just 1% of cocoa and less than 10% of tea globally is traded on Fairtrade terms.

So this year, we are asking you to help the brand grow by buying more of your everyday products from Fairtrade producers. Many supermarkets sell Fairtrade products, but you can make a bigger difference by buying from our Traidcraft stall where more of the profits support producers. The next stall is on Sunday 1 March after the 9.30pm service. It will also be at the Women's World Day of Prayer services on Friday 6 March.

Million of reasons to give thanks

THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS have been named as the UK's second most charitable giver City AM's list of the world's top 20 donors.

The Commissioners were the eighth highest donor in the world — and second in the UK — giving £207.84m to the Church of England. Their annual report also announced that the performance of the investment fund far exceeded its target, returning 15.9% during the year. Our PCC treasurer, Don Barrett, worked for the Commissioners until recently.

Candles of hope for children

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Christingle service in December. A cheque for £410 has been sent to the Children's Society, made up of £360 from the plate collection and £50 added from the church's charity fund. More will follow when all the Christingle Candle collection boxes are returned to church.

If you haven't brought yours back yet, please do so as quickly as possible. The money will help the society fund important projects to protect vulnerable children and provide support to families in poverty.

Our giving keeps

The Upper Room



Throughout its history, St James's Church has been committed to supporting charities, both local and international, as they seek to show Christ's love in practical ways. **Ann Peterken** looks back at 2014 with a special focus on the amount given. The work never stops, and there is always more that can be done, but those we support are grateful for the differences we make every day.



Faith in action through donations

Through the Charity Box feature each month you get to hear about the charities our parish supports, but you may not be so aware of the sums involved.

February is a good month to reflect on the donations St James's made last year. At just over £12,000, our parish giving averaged £1000 a month.

Regular giving by our parishioners, which is essential to keep St James's functioning as the parish church in Hampton Hill, also enables this significant outreach to charities.

And it doesn't just happen by chance. About two-thirds of the parish's giving is planned, thanks to an annual budget for charitable grants.

This means charities are not forgotten when times are harder. It also allows St James's to build a good relationship with the organisations it supports.

The remaining third of annual giving comes from a range of activities and special collections.

■ The children in Shell Seekers sell lovely craft and food items on Mothering Sunday and in Advent to support their chosen charities. In 2014 they raised almost £400.

■ The Lent Appeal always raises a good sum, and twice a year the plate collection goes to charity – the Upper Room (main picture) at Harvest Festival and the Children's Society at Christingle during Advent.

■ Sometimes a guest speaker will trigger donations from the congregation. This happened last autumn when £341 was donated to the work of Embrace the Middle East, following a visit by Richard Jones.

■ Sometimes a member of the congregation will have a good idea, as Janet Nunn did with her school packs for Tools with a Mission (TWAM).



The Shell Seekers supporting TWAM

And sometimes the parish collects for global emergency appeals.

Some parish activities raise money that does not go through the parish accounts. If it did, it would typically add at least £5000 to our annual total.

■ During Christian Aid Week each May, parishioners walk the local streets delivering and collecting envelopes from homes. Last year nearly £3700 was raised.

■ Individual collecting boxes for The Children's Society raise nearly £300.

■ Sales of charity Christmas cards deliver £600.

■ The Traidcraft stall makes a small profit. This is always given to Traidcraft Exchange for its important work of helping overseas producers to build their business skills and bring new products to the fair trade market.

■ The Ark playgroup makes an annual donation to Welcare in Richmond for its family support work.



Traidcraft Stall

Faith in action through giving in kind

Giving in kind is very important for many organisations. Indeed Tools with a Mission depends on donations. The picture on the front cover shows collection from Janet Nunn's house and her Charity Box article conveys a fine example for each of us when we have significant birthdays. Janet happily receives donations of tools all year round.



Liz Wilmot armed for Christian Aid Week

going every year



Greetings from us to the Wichi people

The parish also collects and delivers food items to Food Storehouse in Feltham, a service that sadly is needed throughout the year.

At Harvest Festival, the parish collection of non-perishable food and basic toiletries is wonderfully boosted by donations from Hampton Hill Junior School and Hampton Hill Nursery. Last October the



Growing demand for foodbanks

collection was divided between the Upper Room in Hammersmith, seen in the main picture on the opposite page, and Food Storehouse in Feltham.

Many other non-monetary collections have been taken over the years, as needs become known.

Range of charities

Donations are split evenly between charities that offer assistance in England and those that help overseas. We support many Christian-based organisations, whose services reach out to people of all faiths or none.

A list of supported charities is displayed in church and you can click on the **Our Charities** icon on the home page of the parish website to learn more.

A word about CMS and Us.

A large part of our overseas giving supports the work of the Church Mission Society (CMS) and United Society (Us.) The



Shelley and David Stokes

idea of mission in the 21st century is very different to when these Anglican agencies were founded. It is no longer about the global north sending people to the global south, but about people sharing skills from



Milo hospital

anywhere to anywhere. St James's supports the work of David and Shelley Stokes as CMS mission partners in northern Argentina, and last year's Lent appeal raised money to print a hymnbook for the Wichi people.

But CMS also has mission partners working here in the UK. It is committed to

indigenous missions, staffed and run by local people, with CMS Africa and AsiaCMS already up and running. It also has a partner scheme for talented indigenous leaders in Africa and Asia whose churches cannot afford the entire support for their pioneering work.

Us. (formerly USPG) works in direct partnership with Anglican provinces around the world. Its programmes are run by local churches that are embedded in the communities they serve.

Two major strands of its work are church leader formation and healthcare. St James's long standing support for Milo hospital in Tanzania has mostly been through Us.

All things come from you and of your own do we give you

Every Sunday these words are spoken as our offerings are brought to the altar. They sustain the ministry of St James's, which has always included a desire to help where there is need, both near and far.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury said in his New Year's message, 'We are at our best when living out the generosity of Jesus Christ.'



In 2014 the charities we supported included:



Tina and Michael Bunce

WE ARE SORRY to report that Tina Bunce died on 16 December and her husband Michael on 31 December. Tina and Michael lived on Park Road and were long-standing members of our congregation. A joint funeral service was held at St. James's on 13 January. We send our sympathies to their children Charles, Miranda and Arabella and a tribute will appear in the next edition of *The Spire*.

Achievement awards for Scouts



CONGRATULATIONS TO two members of our Scout Group, Will Hird (son of Kirstie and Neil) and Ruth Holloway (daughter of Jon and Linda), who have won Jack Petchey Achievement Awards for their work and development as Young Leaders with our Scout Group.

Part of the commendation from the group said, 'Will provides invaluable support as an active Young Leader. He has a great relationship with the Cubs and acts as a positive role model for them. He can reliably be left to plan and prepare an entire evening and deliver it. He is willing to take on any task and constantly improving his skills and knowledge.'

Ruth's award was in part due to her Young Leader work with the Cubs, but also recognised her progression through the ranks of Scout rifle shooting, where she was first tutored and coached by Paul Fitchett, to the Junior Great Britain rifle squad, and now competing at an international level.

Will and Ruth were presented with their medals at a special evening in Chessington and received their certificates and cheques for £200 at a smaller ceremony at 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Headquarters.

Following discussion with the Scout leaders, Will chose to put the money towards improving the entrance to the Scout Hut and its trophy cabinet, Ruth requested that her award be spent on equipment to assist younger members of the group to be able to take up shooting.

Christian love is in the air

IT WOULDN'T be February without some mention of romance. Christian dating appears to be flourishing. Christian Connection, thought to be the largest Christian dating site in the UK, has been voted Best Religious Dating Site in the newly-created UK Dating Awards.

Church's Credit Union launched

YOU MAY RECALL the Church of England wading into the debate about payday lenders last year when it attacked Wonga. The Church has now backed those words with money. This month sees the opening of its own Mutual Credit Union, aiming to rebuild the mutual sector as a viable, ethical alternative to mainstream banking. For more information go to: cmcu.org.uk

On the move, ahead of wedding

BEST WISHES to Anna Clark and Andrew Hyde, who moved to the village of Maids Moreton, near Buckingham, on 12 January, but will be returning to St. James's for their wedding on 18 April.

Anna, who has been a member of our congregation for the past 15 years, was confirmed at St. Paul's Cathedral in 2012. We wish them both every happiness in their new home and life together.





My career has taken off!



By Josh Webb

On 3 October last year I started my apprenticeship with British Airways. It is something I have wanted to do ever since I can remember.

I have a passion for aircraft and this is the perfect opportunity to combine this with a career in engineering.

I have always enjoyed making things. Even when I was quite small, I would create Lego and Mechno models and I have fond memories of rushing outside when I heard Concorde flying over our house.

Lengthy selection process

The selection process for the apprenticeship was quite lengthy, starting with a detailed written application. At this point there were 700 applicants for 100 apprenticeships.



The next stage was an interview at Waterside, BA's headquarters at at Heathrow Airport, for which there were three parts: a basic interview, a teamwork exercise and a maths exam.

After successfully getting through it all I was invited for the third and final assessment.

This was a whole-day outdoor challenge assessing teamwork skills which included managing an assault course as a group.

Working in all departments

The first year of the apprenticeship programme involves me working in all the different departments in BA engineering. So far I have worked in the hangars refurbishing cabins on the Airbus A321, overhauling brake and wheel components and at Terminal 5 checking aircraft before departures.

I have really enjoyed the experience so far, meeting new colleagues who are helping me by passing on their knowledge and experience.

However, the early mornings will take some getting used to — I have to get up at 5.15!



Pancakes



Shrove Tuesday is part of the Christian calendar which commemorates the eve of Lent (40 days and nights of fasting and prayer before Easter).

It is also known as Mardi Gras, which literally means *fat Tuesday* in French, Carnival from the Latin for *farewell to the flesh*, and Fastnacht which is the Germanic *night of the fast*.

The word Shrove comes from the Old English word, Shrive — to confess one's sins.

Shrove Tuesday is celebrated in many different ways around the world; the Brazilians samba in Rio and the people of New Orleans throw their most famous party of the year — Mardi Gras.

In the UK, Shrove Tuesday is often referred to as Pancake Day. Eggs and butter were among foods that used to be forbidden during Lent, so they were often used up in pancakes.

Pancake races are also held where people must successfully toss and flip their pancakes into the air before crossing the finish line. Points are awarded for time, for number and height of flips, and the number of times the pancake turns over.

It is believed that the tradition of pancake races began out of women rushing to church to confess their sins before the noon cut-off time, clutching their half-finished pancakes.



The Dutch artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525–1569), portrayed Shrove Tuesday as a final fling before the month of abstinence in his painting *The Fight Between Carnival and Lent* (1559), pictured, in part, above.

Today, people tend to give up less restrictive foods, such as chocolate.

Ingredients

Makes 12-14

For the pancake mixture:
110g / 4oz plain flour, sifted
pinch of salt
2 eggs
200ml / 7fl oz milk, mixed with
75ml / 3fl oz water
50g / 2oz butter

To serve:
caster sugar
lemon juice
lemon wedges

Method

- 1) Sift the flour and salt into a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre of the flour and break the eggs into it. Then begin whisking the eggs incorporating any bits of flour from around the edge of the bowl.
- 2) Gradually add small quantities of the milk and water mixture, still whisking. When all the liquid has been added, whisk again until the batter is smooth and the consistency of thin cream.
- 3) Melt the butter in a pan. Spoon 2 tbsp of it into the batter and whisk in, then pour the rest into a bowl to use to lubricate the pan, using a piece of kitchen paper to smear it round before you make each pancake.
- 4) Get the pan really hot, then turn the heat down to medium and spoon about 2 tbsp of batter for an 18cm / 7in pan. It is easier if you spoon the batter into a ladle so it can be poured into the hot pan in one go. As soon as the batter hits the hot pan, tip it around from side to side to get the base evenly coated with batter. It should take only half a minute or so to cook; lift the edge with a palette knife to see if it's tinged gold. Flip the pancake over with a pan slice or palette knife and cook the other side for a few seconds, then slide it onto a plate.
- 5) Stack the pancakes between sheets of greaseproof paper on a plate sitting over simmering water, to keep them warm while you make the rest.
- 6) To serve, sprinkle each pancake with freshly squeezed lemon juice and caster sugar and serve with extra sugar and sections of lemon.

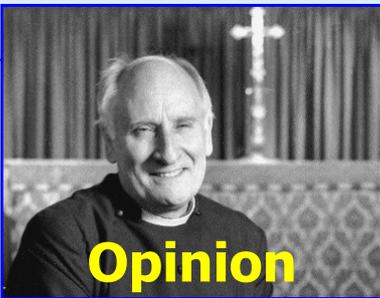
Next Issue:

Bara Brith

Our Sunday School, The Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 9.25am during school terms, except for the first Sunday in the month when there is an all-age service in church. We welcome new members. Come along for a trial visit and see just how much fun it can be.

What's On

with Nick Bagge



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

NINE POLICE FORCES?

When the cutbacks started in 2014, a police officer friend suggested we should cut back to 15 police forces in England from the present 43, based on the 1974 local government boundaries.

Today the smallest force has 600 officers; the largest, London's Met 32,000. With large government spending cuts still to come, whoever is in power, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, suggests nine regional forces. He writes, 'Do criminals respect county boundaries? They seek the high population densities to sell drugs and steal property. We need to be as flexible and aggressive as they are.'

Scotland now has a national police force. He suggests this change can be done without diminishing local accountability.

TWO-TIER WORKFORCE

The Trades Union Congress warns of a two-tier workforce where workers on lower pay have fewer rights and less pay than permanent employees. Workers' average weekly earnings on zero-hours contracts are £188, compared with permanent workers with £479. Some 39% of zero-hours workers earn less than £111 a week. Women on these contracts earn on average £32 less a week than men employed on the same basis. The Office for National Statistics says 1.4 million people are on these contracts.

FOOD BANKS

In this country, the sixth richest country in the world, four million people do not have enough food, including 500,000 children. A million people are now going to food banks, most of them started by churches. There has been a 38% increase in their use in the past year.

The recent Church of England-sponsored All Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger and Food Poverty identified two key reasons why people use food banks. Firstly, most are on very low wages (see story above); more than 60% of those on benefits are 'the working poor'. Secondly, benefits take 16 days to be processed, instead of the widely suggested five days. Many people do not even get their benefits within 16 days. In desperation they go to food banks, and often help to make up the five million people who use pay-day lenders.

BOX OF HOPE

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote recently of his shock at discovering many cases of poverty in Britain that reminded him of conditions in parts of Africa. He quoted a man who dreaded going to the food bank because of how he would be treated, but he was so moved by the warmth of his reception by the volunteers that he said, 'They thought they were giving me a box of food, I felt they were giving me a box of Hope.'

NUNS CONVERT PUB

A former pub was the setting for a Christmas lunch for 38 homeless people. Despite local opposition, the nuns, the Sisters of Mercy, have bought the derelict *Rising Sun* pub in Northfleet, Kent, and converted it into a hostel for the homeless. The first residents arrived in September.

QUAKER ADVERT

I like this advert in the *Big Issue* - Working for peace, finding God in everyone. Quakers: let your life speak

NEW

Faith at Work

Saturdays from 7 February, 9.15-10.15am, St James's Church

Continuing the Spring programme of discussions about how our faith impacts on our working lives with Professor Rodney Taylor and *Faith and Transplants*. Please join us for a lively discussion.

The series continues with: Saturday 21 February, Linda Cargill and *Faith in Life*; and Saturday 7 March Lou Coaker and *Faith and Taxation*.



NEW

Traidcraft Roadshow

Thursday 12 February, 10am-3.30pm, Amnesty International, Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

Come and see all the craft products in the new catalogue and get a 20% discount. Contact Ann Peterken for details.

NEW

Dementia Workshop

Friday 13 February, 10am-5pm, Syracuse University, 48 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AE

Led by Clare Morris, a practitioner of Personal Construct Psychology and a Dementia Pathfinders Associate, this is an interactive and informative workshop to provide and share ideas and support for those caring for friends or relatives with dementia and the professionals who support the care givers. Cost: £90 (£60 concessions for students, clergy and people referred by clergy). To book, or for more information, email Pcp.assn@gmail.com, or contact The Revd Dennis Bury, telephone 020 8348 9181.

NEW

Shrove Tuesday Parish Meal

Tuesday 17 February, 7.30pm, location and further details to be announced in church and on our website

Please join us for our annual meal to mark the start of Lent. Three courses from a set menu will cost about £16.95. Please add your name to the list in church or phone the Parish Office on 020 8941 6003 to reserve places. This popular event is a fun night out. More details to be announced in church.

NEW

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 18 February, Holy Communion with Ashing, 9.30am and 7.30pm, St James's Church

Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence to clean the soul at the start of Lent. At these services, worshippers can be marked with ashes as a symbol of death and sorrow for sin. Beginning today, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate the 40 days of sacrifice and withdrawal Jesus spent in the desert. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.



NEW

Lent Course 2015: Issues for Today

Mondays from 23 February, 7.15pm, Fitz Wygram Church Hall

This Lent we will be reflecting together on issues in our society today. The evenings will begin with a simple soup, bread and cheese supper for Lent from 7.15pm. There will then be a talk at 8pm, followed by discussion.

Mon 23 February: *War and Peace* led by The Venerable Canon Martin Poll, Canon of Windsor, Chaplain to Windsor Great Park, and for 20 years a chaplain with the Royal Navy.

Mon 2 March: *Our Faith and Sexuality — Some Questions We Face* led by Canon Julian Reindorp and Janet Taylor.

Mon 9 March: *Christ at Work (or How to be a Christian in the Slithery World of Commerce)* led by The Revd David Bell.

Mon 16 March: *Who Are We?* led by Prof Rodney Taylor.

Mon 23 March: *Election Questions* led by The Revd Peter Vannozzi.

NEW

Hampton Hill Playhouse

Sunday 1 to Saturday 7 March, Alfie, Coward Studio, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

Alfie is the working class Don Juan of the East End — the man about town with the world at his feet, and a new woman every Saturday night. But when his no-strings-attached life starts to come apart at the seams, it's time for him to wonder 'what's it all about?' Tickets £10 (non-members) and £8 (members) 0845 838 7529 or teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

NEW

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 6 March, 2pm and 7.30pm, St Francis de Sales Church, 16 Wellington Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1JR

This international, inter-church organisation enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world. Over three million men and women will be praying across the world. St James's Traidcraft Stall will be open after both services.

NEW

Cantanti Camerati Concert

Friday 6 March, 7.30pm, and Saturday 7 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Just a Song at Twilight, Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Park, Teddington TW11 9PS

The theme of this year's concerts is *It takes two...* featuring light-hearted madrigals and contemporary songs, and a performance of Bob Chilcott's *Songs and Cries of London Town*. Tickets £10 from 0333 1212 300 or choir members.

NEW

Concordia Voices Concert

Saturday 14 March 2015, 7.30pm, Vast Ocean of Light, St. John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond, TW9 2NA

Their spring concert includes Tallis's *O Nata Lux*; Bainton's *And I Saw a New Heaven*; Elgar's *Lux Aeterna*; and Dove's *Vast Ocean of Light*. Tickets £12 on door (concessions £10) or £10 in advance (concessions £8) from members or by emailing secretary@concordia.org.

Registers November & December



NOVEMBER

Baptisms

2 Thomas Henry Day, Hampton Hill

23 Tiffany Kirsty Witney Allan, Hampton

Funerals

16 Graham Robert Povey, 59, Hampton Hill

24 Christina Mary Robertson, 78, Hampton Hill



DECEMBER

Baptism

7 Evan Alexander Boocock, Twickenham

Funeral

5 Ethan Jerome Anthony Richards, 15, Hanworth

Vicar's View



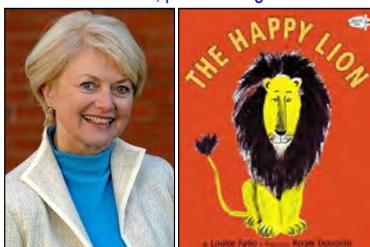
'Next Sunday, I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil.'



Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin...

The best children's books work on a number of levels. There is the sheer delight of story and image; there is the subtle education of young minds, opening up new situations and introducing new ways of exploring life and meaning; and there is often a nod to the adult reader, saying here is something for you too. All good books can be enjoyed again and again but children's books have a special place in that they can be enjoyed both as recipient and as giver, years apart. My selection contains some of these, but also some that I've enjoyed only more recently and some I have had the fortune to work on in my publishing career.

1 THE HAPPY LION Louise Fatio; pictures Roger Duvoisin



My Swiss grandmother read this to me in German (*Der Glückliche Löwe*). It was originally written in French by a husband and wife team and tells the story of a lion who lives in an enclosure in the middle of a town and is greeted by passers-by every day in polite fashion.

Until one day his gate is left open and he decides to return their visits. Their politeness vanishes and it is only young Franz (or Francois) who sees beyond the circumstances and welcomes the lion for the gentle creature that he is.

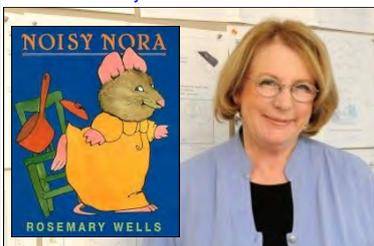
2 KIPPER'S BEACH BALL Mick Inkpen

Kipper (a puppy) and his friend Tiger (also a dog) are perplexed to find a piece of plastic in their packet of cornflakes, until they realise they can blow it up to make a ball! It is soon whisked away by the wind and ends up in the sea. Kipper rescues the ball but in doing so he punctures it. However many cornflakes they eat they never find another one....

Mick Inkpen paints the range of emotions they feel with incredible skill and simplicity. One image shows their disappointment as they look out to sea, drawn from behind the characters so we only see their backs. Pure genius!



3 NOISY NORA Rosemary Wells



Poor Nora, the neglected middle child (well mouse, really), caught between the older sister who can do grown up things like cook and play chess, and the demanding baby brother who needs feeding, washing, burping.... So Nora has to wait.

After a number of dramatic attempts to get her parents' attention Nora walks out: 'And I'm never coming back!' An unusual silence descends on the house. Everyone stops what they are doing and the search for Nora begins.

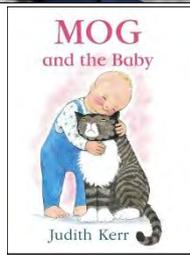
In a triumphant ending Nora bursts out of the broom cupboard 'with a monumental crash', the centre of attention at last!

4 MOG AND THE BABY Judith Kerr



The Mog books were a huge hit in our family, none more so than this one. Mog's family (the Thomas's) agree to look after a neighbour's baby and the only thing that pacifies it is Mog.

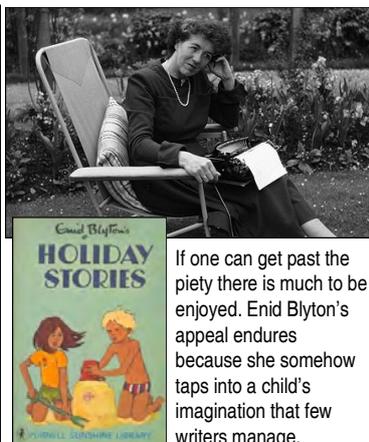
Despite the constant assertion from Mrs Thomas that 'Mog loves babies,' Mog is not happy with the baby's demands. After being woken from her sleep by the baby pulling her tail, Mog heads for the open window – only for the baby to follow. Mog turns from being passive victim to become a 'baby-saving cat'.... Judith Kerr has a fascinating life story to tell, by the way, told in her book *Creatures*.



5 HOLIDAY STORIES Enid Blyton

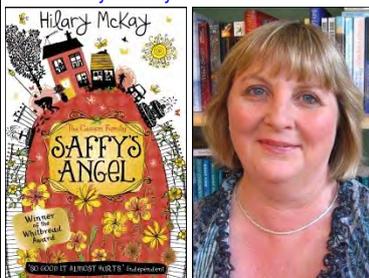
These collections were probably my favourite books as a child. Two hardback volumes that my uncle (a printer) even rebound for me when they fell apart.

Each story has a moral and my wife claims that I am still influenced by them in the way I behave – especially by one called *Make Haste and Be Careful* about two boys picking and storing apples!



If one can get past the piety there is much to be enjoyed. Enid Blyton's appeal endures because she somehow taps into a child's imagination that few writers manage.

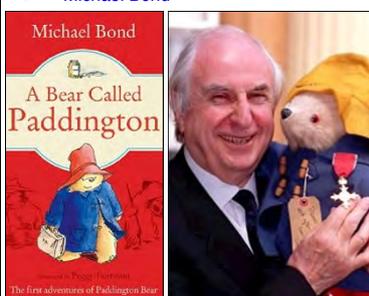
6 SAFFY'S ANGEL Hilary Mackay



One of the most exciting moments of my time at Hodder Children's Books was hearing that this book had won the Whitbread Children's Book Award. It was the first book about the eccentric Casson family, the children of which are all named after colours by their artist parents: Caddy, Saffy, Indigo and Rose.

It's a beautifully written, funny, insightful novel about family, friendship and being happy with who you are. And if you like this one there are now five other books about the Casson family to enjoy.

7 A BEAR CALLED PADDINGTON Michael Bond



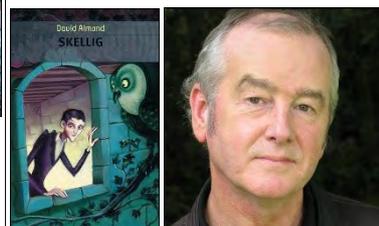
This book was first published in the year I was born and it was a firm favourite when I was old enough to read it. Paddington is the stranger who tries his hardest to fit in. Unfailingly polite, endlessly inquisitive and with a strong sense of justice, he invariably gets into a pickle, being both accident-prone and innocent of local customs. And it's a story about welcoming the stranger too, in that Paddington – the stowaway from Peru – becomes wholly accepted as part of the Brown family. Most of all, it's enormous fun.

8 BEAST QUEST Adam Blade



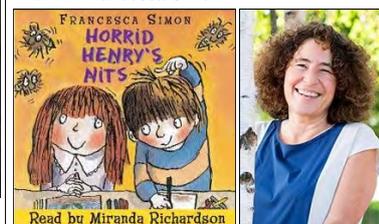
I'm cheating here because this is a series of books, but that is what is so good about it: once you start reading them you want more. Especially good for reluctant readers as in no time you will have read the equivalent of a 60,000 word book! It's fantasy adventure with Tom and Elenna as heroes rescuing kingdoms from the thrall of an evil wizard who has taken control of powerful beasts. Non-stop action, but beware: there are over 80 books to collect...

9 SKELLIG David Almond



Another multi-prize-winning novel that has so far been adapted into a stage play, a film and an opera! Appealing to adults as much as to younger readers this is a magical novel. Ten-year-old Michael discovers a strange, arthritic man apparently hibernating in the shed of the house his family have just moved into. After feeding him his favourite Chinese takeaway food and brown ale and introducing him to his friend Mina, Michael has his eyes opened when Skellig is transformed into a magnificent angel. It's a book that leaves you gasping at its brilliance.

10 HORRID HENRY'S NITS Francesca Simon



There are four stories on this CD which has to be one of the best audio books ever produced! Horrid Henry has parents who have 'rocks for brains' and a too-good-to-be-true younger brother, 'Perfect Peter', whom he is always trying to get into trouble. The story *Horrid Henry and the Dinner Guests* has become iconic in our family, often quoted, especially Henry's immortal line, when offering a bowl of nuts to the visiting Mrs Mossy: 'Want a nut, Mrs Bossy?'