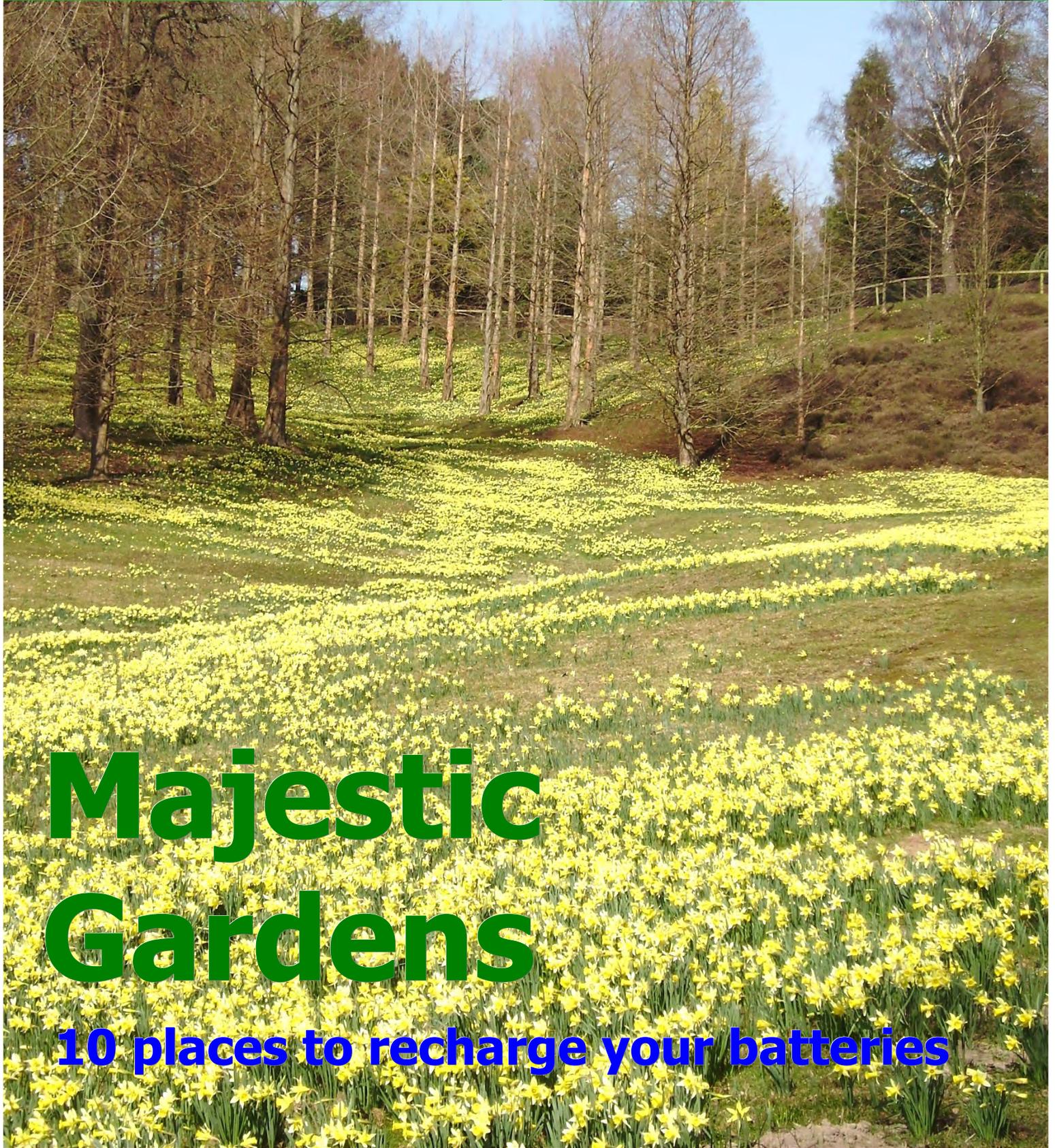


MARCH 2015

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Majestic Gardens

10 places to recharge your batteries

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.
Telephone: 077 1057 2498
Email: davidbell@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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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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.
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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
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Organist

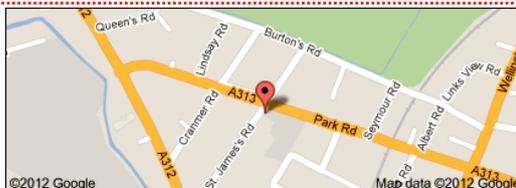
Mark Blackwell
Mark is an accomplished parish organist with 40 years of experience.
Telephone: 077 6814 6879
Email: Mark@mhrconsultancy.co.uk

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...

Quite by coincidence this edition has a Welsh flavour! We had chosen the recipe for Bara Brith to celebrate St David's Day on 1 March and then realised we had a picture of wild daffodils — one of the emblems of Wales — in Windsor Great Park for our cover!

Bara Brith is a Welsh delicacy and is traditionally always eaten on St David's Day. As Griselda mentions on page six, there are all sorts of variations. I remember a holiday many years ago in Wales when every day for a week we sampled Bara Brith for tea and on each occasion it was quite different - and all quite delicious!

The centrespread features a holiday which several members enjoyed last autumn in the Shetland Isles, somewhere they have always wanted to visit.

We also welcome our new organist, Mark Blackwell, who has played for us on many occasions, but will now become our permanent player.

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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WHAT'S ON

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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

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Please recycle this magazine after use



Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
8pm Compline (during Lent)

Sunday 22 March

5th Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33.

Sunday 1 March

2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38.

Sunday 29 March BST begins

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Mark 15.1-39.



Sunday 8 March

3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22.

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Sunday 15 March

Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion at 8am and 11am

Numbers 21.4-9; Ephesians 2.1-10; John 3.14-21.

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

9.30am All-age Worship and Parade
Reading to be confirmed

NEXT MONTH

Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday

Friday 3 April Good Friday

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

Who'd be a Christian?



At times, do you wonder why anyone bothers with religion at all? Although I am a Christian priest, I certainly do! At the time of writing, it is only two weeks since the attacks in Paris on the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine, and a kosher supermarket, ostensibly religiously motivated. In the same week, large scale massacres took place in the north of Nigeria, carried out by the Boko Haram group, again claiming religious motivation.

Even if we are inclined to single out Islam for having a darker side that leads to violence, history is not kind to Christians. It is not so many years since Christians tore apart Europe, fighting about what appear to be minor points of theological nicety that do not seem to be worth the shedding of even one drop of human blood.

You will be reading this during the season of Lent, the Church's solemn period of preparation for Easter. In the light of the global rise of religious violence, or perhaps better to say, the return of religious violence (if it ever truly ceased), encouragement in Lent to give something up, and the response to this by having six weeks off eating chocolate, seems somewhat trivial. Perhaps best to give up religion instead!

Alternatives to religion

Yet when I come to look at various alternatives to religion, I am not convinced. The last century saw prominent atheist regimes wreaking death and destruction on an industrial scale that makes the Inquisition look like amateurs. For example, Pol Pot in Cambodia, Mao in China, Stalin in the USSR, and Hitler in Germany.

It is easy to forget the terrorism of the past few decades for explicitly political reasons either unrelated to religion, or only in a way that was tenuous. For example, ETA in Spain, the Red Brigade in Italy, and even the IRA, where it is hard to argue that their dispute with the British state had any connection with arguments over theology between Roman Catholics and Protestants.

There are those who would argue that regimes based on the personality cult of the 'leader' (such as still persists in North Korea) are 'religious', but I think that this is pushing the definition of the word 'religion' into being meaningless.

Charity Box Lent Appeal

This year St James's is proud to support Traidcraft's **Fair Necessities** appeal to help smallholder farmers in developing countries. Together they grow 70% of the world's food, but make up half of the world's hungriest people.

We know what a difference Traidcraft makes to the farmers it already works with. Money raised by this appeal will help them extend that help to others.

The UK government has also recognised Traidcraft's important work in helping

Quick! £10 = £20
Your donation doubled!

Matching your donations with
 UKaid



I am not persuaded that atheists are by nature less violent than those who could be labelled 'religious.' So I will not be giving up my Christian faith, because some Christians go bad, any more than a Moslem will renounce theirs because some Moslems go bad. The same applies to Hindus, Sikhs and others.

The reasons I am a Christian

In Lent, I try to think hard about the reasons I am a Christian, and the content and impact of what I believe. Passive acceptance of what any one branch of the Church teaches is alien to me, and I hope to you, too. I will not be unquestioningly obedient to a very human institution and its fallible leaders, of which I am one.

So if suddenly the Archbishop of Canterbury of the time was to call me to arms against my neighbours because of their beliefs, I would disobey and disavow said prelate. An act of violence is, in a sense, at the heart of Christianity for Jesus died on a cross.

Yet this does not somehow make his followers into people of violence because a shameful death led to glorious life. I also do not believe that Islam is an intrinsically violent faith, and I hope that such falsehoods will not have a significant place in people's thinking at the general election on 7 May.

Yet for all the limitations of religious people, Christians included, I hold onto the way in which I am drawn to One beyond myself, who makes demands upon me, and expects me to live in a way that ensures that the world, which is God's creation, is seen to be such.

Make love, not war

This means that love must dominate, and not hate; peace, and not aggression; awareness of the other, not the tyrannical triumph of the individual. Why do I bother about Christianity? At its best, it can lead people to the fullest form of flourishing, and give them life which is now, and also to come.

I wish you well for this Lenten month of March. Actually, no form of observing Lent is trivial – and that includes giving up chocolate! But I do urge you to think, too, deeply, and passionately. (Our Lent course will provide one opportunity to do this.) Give up the worst expressions of religion this Lent, certainly, but embrace Christ, who shows us what a life lived in unity with God can look like.

farmers to escape the poverty cycle. It is doubling all donations made to the appeal up to Easter.

Let's all respond and aim to raise £1500 during Lent. Flyers are available in church, but all you need to do is put your donation in a **blue St James's Gift Aid envelope**, write Lent Appeal on the outside, and bring it to church by 29 March, which is Palm Sunday.

If you aren't a tax payer just hand in your donation in an envelope marked Lent Appeal.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Prayer for Peace

O God of many names
Lover of all nations
We pray for peace
in our hearts
in our homes
in our nations
in our world
The peace of your will
The peace of our need.

George Appleton



Prayer for Reconciliation and Understanding between Faiths

Heavenly Father, we know how sorry you must be to see the great divides between people of different faiths.

We hold up to your love the troubled places all over the world – Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, areas in Russia and Eastern Europe – as well as places closer to home where there is tension between faiths.

We pray for religious leaders of all faiths that they may be given the wisdom to face their differences with honesty and integrity, and the strength to help people gain greater knowledge and love of each other.

Where there is ignorance and prejudice, give us all understanding.

Where there is hatred, bring compassion.

Where there is fear of difference, may respect for difference grow.

And where anger and war are to be found, may we be given the energy to work for peace and harmony.

Teach us to love our brothers and sisters of different faiths, for we are all your children and precious in your sight.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, who died to redeem all humankind.

Amen.

From the website of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Christchurch, Dorset



Local and National stories

New organist is a familiar face

WE WELCOME our new organist, Mark Blackwell, who has often deputised at St. James's and has now joined us as our regular organist.

Mark is an accountant with his own business in Whitton. He is married, with three adult daughters, and has lived in Whitton all his life.



Mark has been a church organist from the age of 15, having been introduced to the instrument by our former organist Geoffrey Bowyer.

Mark said: 'Whilst being a practising Anglican, I have also held organist and choirmaster posts with other denominations, which has enhanced my musical repertoire and experience.'

'My background is traditionalist, but I do play and encourage good contemporary music which supports the liturgy and worship. I have run a number of choirs, including one made up of choristers from various churches including some from St. James's.'

'I am very much looking forward to being your organist and working with your clergy and choir in this important role and welcome any comments or suggestions you may have regarding the music.'

First female bishop consecrated

LIBBY LANE has been consecrated as the first female bishop in the Church of England in a packed service at York Minster attended by more than 100 bishops from across the Anglican Communion.

Bishop Libby said: 'I cannot properly express how encouraged I have been in the weeks since the announcement of my nomination, by the thousands of messages I have received with words of congratulation.'

The Church formally adopted legislation last November to allow women bishops, following decades of argument over women's ordination.

The Archbishop of York John Sentamu, who led the service, said he had been 'praying and working for this day'.

Make your Easter egg count

BUY YOUR EASTER EGG

from our Traidcraft stall and you will be helping to raise money to support farmers and producers in the developing world. Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, The Real Easter Egg, now in its fourth year of production, is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter.



In addition, a sizeable donation from profits and Fairtrade Premium fees goes to farmers allowing them to invest in their community, buying everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

This year's blue egg (£3.99) has a unique 3ft storybook/banner, the Premium Peace Edition (£9.99) contains an olive wood key ring made in Bethlehem, there is an all-new dairy free dark chocolate egg (£5.50) and a super sharing box (£60) with 60 eggs and story booklets.

Although the eggs can be found in Tesco, Waitrose and Morrison's, the company makes very little from supermarket sales so please order yours direct from us. There will be a Traidcraft Stall on Sunday 1 March and Sunday 15 March (Mothering Sunday) after the 9.30am service.

A316 closes for Rugby World Cup

THE A316 will be partially closed during the Rugby World Cup this autumn. Richmond Council and Transport for London have agreed in principle to a request from the tournament organisers to temporarily close a section of the A316 close to Twickenham Stadium on match days, despite the expected disruption to traffic and public transport.

A series of briefings for residents have been organised: Thursday 5 March, 6.30-8.30pm, Chase Bridge School, Whitton; Monday 9 March, 6.30-8.30pm, Turks Head, St Margarets; Tuesday 17 March, 6.30-8.30pm, Clarendon Hall, Twickenham; Monday 23 March, 6.30-8.30pm, Richmond Adult Community College, Parkshot, Richmond.

The islands that



Last September, when the Scottish independence referendum was in full swing, six friends from St James's ventured 600 miles north for an 11-day trip to the Orkneys and Shetlands. It was a holiday they shared with charming guides, thousands of gannets, some seals and one elusive otter. **Clive Beaumont** takes up their story.

Our first guide was Clive, a former headmaster from England for whom there was no question he couldn't answer! He told us that the Orkneys and Shetlands had been annexed from Norway to the Scottish Crown in 1472 following the failed payment of a dowry for James III's bride, Margaret of Denmark.

We also learnt that the Orkneys were 59° north, which meant there was just six hours of daylight in the winter, but almost 24 in mid-summer.

Scapa Flow and the Italian Chapel

Clive was hugely knowledgeable about the history and archaeology of the islands and an early stop was at the evocative Scapa Flow. He told us that it was 120 square miles and the third largest natural harbour in Europe and we heard of the sinking of the *Royal Oak* by a German submarine, with the loss of 834 men and boys.

Winston Churchill's response, as First Lord of the Admiralty, was to build barriers to prevent further attacks, but there was a shortage of labour and so Italian prisoners of war were called in to assist. Not only did they build the barriers, they also converted two Nissan huts into a most beautiful chapel.

Later we were to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site which includes the breathtaking Standing Stones of Stenness, some up to six metres high; the magical

Neolithic Ring of Brodgar; the 5,000 year old subterranean village at Skara Brae; and the Neolithic tombs at Maeshowe and Unstan Cairn.

Westray – a 12 minute flight away

After two days on the Shetland Mainland we flew to Westray, a satellite island just 12 minutes away. With a population of 640, the island felt like one big family. Graham, our guide, told us that the locals say 'Yes' first and then ask, 'Now what is the question?'

Our stay on Westray was less learned. It took in Billy the farmer's huge bull, who was not at all keen on letting us pass for what turned out to be a wonderful walk along Grobost beach in the company of a group of playful seals. We were told about Archie Angel, reportedly the sole survivor of a Russian ship wrecked on Westray in the 1730s.

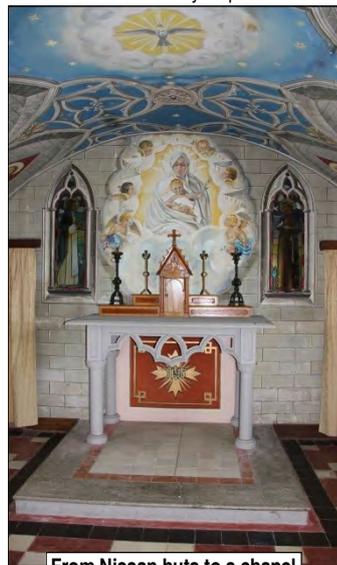
Part of the ship's stempost was found with the name *Archangel* on it and the child was brought up by a local family, with the name *Angel* passing down the generations! We also visited the large Neolithic dig at Grobost.

Overnight to the Shetlands

On the Sunday it was raining and we went to the service at the local church where we were greeted with great warmth and friendliness.

The day remained blustery and we made our way back to the Orkney Mainland via our eight-seater plane, skillfully piloted by a young woman.

We caught an overnight ferry to Lerwick, the capital of the Shetlands, where it was



From Nissan huts to a chapel



Grobost: walk on the wild side

won our votes



Heritage site at Skara Brae

still raining and so, on the advice of our new guide, Brian, we visited the delightfully curated museum at Lerwick.

The next day, Brian took us on a tour round the Shetland Mainland, with the highlight being the beautiful Esha Ness. It felt as though you were on top of the world — at the same height as the soaring fulmars and, on occasions, above them.

Every holiday needs a boat trip and ours took us around Bressay and the Isle of Noss where we got within touching distance of hundreds, if not thousands, of gannets clinging to the cliffs.



Unst - the most northerly populated island

The final leg of our holiday took us north to the island of Unst where Robbie, our new guide, showed us yet more gannets and a wild cat! A quick tour included the famous Unst bus shelter — complete with carpets, comfy seats and a TV!



Clockwise, from left: Clive and Maria Beaumont, Liz Butler, Griselda and Don Barrett, and Gwynneth Lloyd

And so to our final day which started at 6am, under the guidance of Gary, in search of the elusive otter. It was a stunning morning, with the mist rolling in across the water and a full moon inviting our attention.

Unfortunately, despite two hours of largely silent walking along the water's edge so as not to disturb them, just a single otter was sighted — and that but fleetingly!

Back to a hearty breakfast and then off on a tour of the island, visiting the site of what was, in the 1880s, the largest herring port in Europe. At its peak there was a fleet of 700 boats and 2,000 gutters and packers!

With the aid of some powerful binoculars, we also saw three or four minke whales off Scolla Wick.

We visited the 1598 Muness Castle, looked over a reproduction Viking ship before skirting the edge of Skaw Tang in search of otters and seals. You've guessed it, we saw plenty of seals while the otters remained as elusive as ever!

A happy ending!

As was mentioned, the Scottish Independence referendum campaign was ever-present during our trip and, whilst some islanders hankered after closer relations with Norway, most favoured staying in the Union, which was just one of the many reasons why our trip was quite so much fun and quite so enjoyable!



Church full for Bunce funerals

THE CHURCH was packed with family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues on 13 January for a thanksgiving service for Tina and Michael Bunce, who both passed away in December.

Tina trained as a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital where she nursed Michael. They married and had four children, Charles, Miranda, Rupert and Arabella and subsequently five grandchildren.



Tina worked for many years as a District Nurse and later in life took up studying again and changed course to be a counsellor. Tina was very fond of books and belonged to a local book club and was well known for participating in hearty discussions.

After doing National Service in the RAF, Michael joined the BBC as a radio technical operator progressing to Studio Manager in the World Service. In 1964 the BBC were looking for bright, young men to make the leap into television and Michael moved to edit *The Money Programme* and in 1970 became Editor of *Nationwide*. Many of today's broadcasters owe their beginnings to Michael, including Esther Rantzen, Michael Barrett and Richard Stilgoe.

Michael left the BBC in 1991 to become the first full-time Executive Director of the Royal Television Society where he continued until he retired in 2000. In 2001 Michael was awarded the OBE for his services to television. A great many of his work colleagues were at his funeral.

Michael and Tina lived most of their married life just a few houses from the church in Park Road. Tina was part of the team that masterminded the Millennium Kneeler Project. These kneelers sit at the beginning of each pew in the church and are always admired by people who visit the church.

Michael was on the PCC for many years and together they were on the church cleaning rota once a month. Two of their children, Charlie and Miranda, were married at St James's and, of their children and grandchildren, six were baptised there.

Michael and Tina were devoted to their family and their home was always the scene of many parties for family, friends and work colleagues. Birthdays, anniversaries and special days like Guy Fawkes and New Year were celebrated in fine style with Tina doing all the cooking.

Michael and Tina were a great example to us all. They were devoted to each other, to their family, had fulfilling working lives and were excellent friends and neighbours helping others and showing an interest in people and events. They also had more than their fair share of sad events.

We shall remember them both with great affection and think of their children and grandchildren in the coming days coping with the loss of Tina and Michael in such close proximity.

Christingle support for children

THE COLLECTION taken at the Christingle service was just over £360 and with an additional donation from the church charity fund a cheque for £410 was sent to the Children's Society.

Thank you to those who have now returned their filled Christingle collecting boxes. The total for these was £119.14 so we have now sent a total of £603.14 to the Society for their work in fighting child poverty and neglect. We thank Nicky and David Hetling for co-ordinating the collections.

Helpers needed at local school

HAMPTON HILL Junior School urgently needs volunteers to listen to the children read. This is not an onerous job and takes a weekly commitment of an hour or so of your time. If you are interested, please contact the school. Telephone 020 8979 3019 or email info@hamptonhill.richmond.sch.uk





Growing up on the Isle of Wight



Every October for the past 30 years some 90 children from Hampton Hill Junior School make their way to the Isle of Wight for a week-long stay. The School Journey, as it is known, is a very important part of Year 6. It marks the start of a year of preparation for them moving to secondary school, giving them the confidence to become more independent and take on new responsibilities.

Among the latest group to make the journey were two of our Shell Seekers, Jonathan Webb and Emma Bagge.

Executive Headteacher Bill Jerman said: 'We have taken our Y6 children to the Isle of Wight throughout my time, settling on Little Canada 15

years ago. It was a converted holiday camp and we were one of the first schools to use it.

'We were impressed with their real focus on participation, engagement and safety. It offers a huge range of activities and we have always been made welcome. The instructors really look forward to having our pupils in their groups.'

For many, the trip is also their first significant time away from their parents or carers. It certainly provides children with different physical activities.

The walk across Tennyson Down, led by Mr Jerman, has become the stuff of legend. No matter how challenging the weather has been during the week, the sun always seems to come out for the walk. Mr Jerman can only recall one year in which it was cancelled...due to snow!

Jonathan's story



We had lots of activities. One of them was the assault course where there were loads of challenges, including climbing over tyres and then running over wooden cylinders to get over the ditch. Then we had to use a rope to pull ourselves up the wooden hill, and walk across a plank. The next challenge was the hardest because a group of us had to get over a wall. Two of us put our hands out and the others used them to climb up.

Another one of our activities, and by far the best, was a giant swing! We had to get into a harness and put on helmets. Me and my friend Sean clipped ourselves onto a metal bar. We could then decide how high we wanted to go. Sean wanted to go half way, but I made him go to the top! It was so much fun!

Emma's story



One of our activities was to go on a walk across Tennyson Down. It was hard work! When we got to the top, we had a drink and a few biscuits each! Then we had a photo taken of the whole year group, and our activity groups. We walked along a scary path next to the edge of a cliff.

On the way back we took the easy way and went shopping! At one of the shops we could buy shapes filled with coloured sand.

We also went to a sweet factory and got to see how sweets are made. We even got to try a rhubarb and custard sweet that they had just made! Everyone grabbed handfuls of sweets, but we had to put quite a few back! I ate one and took three home for my mum and dad to try, but sadly they all melted in my pocket.

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.

RECIPE for LIFE with Griselda Barrett

Bara Brith



Bara brith, sometimes known as 'speckled bread' (the literal meaning of the original Welsh-language name), can be either a yeast bread enriched with dried fruit (similar to the Irish barmbrack) or something more like a fruitcake made with self-raising flour (no yeast). It is traditionally made with raisins, currants and candied peel.

There are many different recipes for this bread, which is baked and sold commercially in many parts of Wales. The yeast version of bara brith has a limited shelf life and is best eaten as soon as possible. The version made with self-raising flour can be kept for a long time. Welsh recipes favour soaking the dried fruit in tea overnight before the baking.

Whatever the recipe, bara brith will be a definite culinary fixture on St David's Day on 1 March. 'Wales wouldn't be Wales without it,' according to many bakers.

In times gone by, bara brith would have been the final treat cobbled together at the end of the weekly bake at the village oven. As the embers began to fade, any leftover bread dough was gathered up and married with dried fruit, producing a delicious sweet bread.

Sometimes women would have knocked up a bara brith to compensate for arriving late at the village oven when it was no longer at its hottest. If a woman was at the end of the queue, her bread would probably be doughy and less interesting, so she'd pop in a few currants and her husband would say what a good cook she was!

Today, the recipe is still passed down from mother to daughter, and every family has its own version. Some still make it with yeast, while others, including most commercial makers, use self-raising flour.

Ingredients

Serves 12

- 300g mixed fruit
- 200g light muscovado sugar
- zest 1 orange
- 250ml hot black tea
- 350g self-raising flour
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 50g soft butter, plus extra for greasing and to serve (optional)



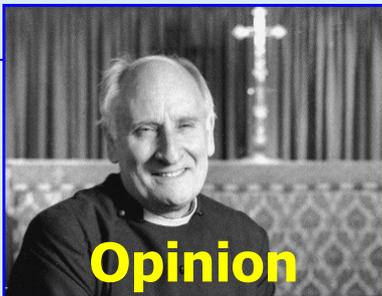
Method

- 1) Tip the fruit into a bowl with the sugar and orange zest. Pour over the tea, stir everything together and leave to soak overnight.
- 2) Heat oven to 160°C / 140°C fan / gas mark 3. Grease and line the base and short sides of a 900g loaf tin with a strip of baking parchment.
- 3) Tip the flour and spice into a bowl, and beat in the fruit and soaking liquid. Add the egg, followed by the butter. Beat until you have a well-combined, stiff batter, then tip into the prepared loaf tin.
- 4) Bake for 1 ¼ hrs, covering with foil or parchment if the top starts to get too dark. Check with a skewer – if it doesn't come out clean, give it another 5-10 minutes in the oven.
- 5) Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then remove and leave to cool completely. Serve sliced and buttered, if you like.

Next Issue:

Hot Cross Buns





Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

WHERE IS ISRAEL?

The International Publishers HarperCollins have had to apologize for producing maps which omit Israel. Collins Middle East Atlases, which are sold to Muslim majority English speaking Gulf schools, depict Jordan and Syria extending all the way to the Mediterranean Sea. The publishers initially said that including Israel would have been 'unacceptable' to their customers. After protests they have now withdrawn these altered maps. Maps surely must reflect facts not prejudices.

WHO DEFENDS US?

The world was shocked by the murder of the cartoonists in Paris and the other deaths carried out by Islamic extremists. People of many faiths have rightly marched in defence both of the Muslim and Jewish communities.

Meanwhile Prime Minister of Israel Netanyahu angered French leaders by openly appealing for Jews to come to Israel. 'France without French Jews would not be France' shot back the French Prime minister.

But who in the Middle East defends and marches for Christians? Christians and Muslims have for years not felt safe in Israel, particularly in Jerusalem, and are emigrating if they can. The situation is far worse in Palestine.

We defend the right of Muslims to build mosques in this country, but where can Christians safely build churches in the Middle East?

UPSIDE DOWN POPE

Pope Francis gives every indication of believing that the Holy Spirit speaks through some of the poorest areas of the world rather than through the Curia and the established parts of the Roman Catholic Church.

The naming of 20 new cardinals from 18 nations, many of them from areas which have never had a cardinal before, and which represent some of the poorest areas of our world is a clear sign of his priorities

ON ROCK OR SAND?

The Archbishops of York and Canterbury have contributed to a book published in January in which 10 distinguished Christians in public life discuss *Firm Foundations for Britain's Future*. Published by SPCK for £7, its 260 pages are packed with facts, reflections and Biblical insights. We sometimes ask where is prophecy in the church today?

Here is a clear example: Archbishop Justin Welby, with his experience in Coventry, Liverpool and Durham, writes about entire towns and regions of our country that are trapped in an apparently inescapable economic downward spiral. (p.28) The UK has the largest variation in living standards between regions in the European Union.

The director of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation writes: 'All the main political parties currently approach the provision of welfare based on the assumption that unless help is made as unpleasant as possible, poor people will always opt not to work...the evidence is that poor people are desperate to change to change their circumstances... this view is based on the assumption that what motivates poor people is entirely different from what drives the rest of us. (p98) Over half the people on benefits are in work.

POPLAR TO HERE

I used to say living in the borough of Richmond added 10 years to your life. In fact, the difference between living in Tower Hamlets and this borough is 18 healthy years.

What's On

with Nick Bagge



NEW

Easter at St James's

Sunday 22 March

8pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Communion

8pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Monday 30 March-Wednesday 1 April Holy Week

8pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday

8pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, followed by Watch of Prayer

Friday 3 April Good Friday

10.30am All-age Worship, followed by hot cross buns

2pm Liturgy of Good Friday

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

6am Easer Liturgy, followed by breakfast

9.30am Parish Communion

NEW

Traidcraft Stall for Easter

Sunday 1 March, 10.30am, St James's Church



Buy or reserve your Easter eggs today!

We have a range of Real Easter Eggs, starting at £3.99, available and we expect

demand to be strong. There will also be a wide range of food and craft items to buy, or order from their catalogue, some with discounts too.

There will be another stall on Mothering Sunday, 15 March.

NEW

United Nations Association Talk

Saturday 7 March, 12.15-2pm, The Adelaide public house, 57 Park Road, Teddington TW11 0AU

Is the UN still relevant today? Neville Grant, Secretary of the United Nations Association, London and South East Region, addresses the question at the association's Twickenham and Richmond branch pub lunch and talk. All are welcome.

Lent Course 2015: Issues for Today

Continues on Mondays until 23 March, 7.15pm,

Fitz Wygram Church Hall, St James's Church

This Lent we are 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 2 March: *Our Faith and Sexuality — Some Questions We Face* led by 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 David Bell.

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

Mon 23 March: *Election Questions* led by Peter Vannozi.

Registers for January



Funerals

13 Michael John Bunce, 79, Hampton Hill

13 Tina Bunce, 76, Hampton Hill

19 Derek John Robert Herincx, 76, Teddington

28 Margaret Emily Nason, 84, Hampton Hill

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 6 March, 2pm and 6pm, 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. **Please note the new time for the evening service.** Our Traidcraft Stall will be at both services selling food, craft items and Easter eggs.

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...* And features light-hearted madrigals, contemporary songs, and a performance of Bob Chilcott's *Songs and Cries of London Town*. Tickets £10 from 0333 1212 300 or choir members.

Faith at Work

Saturday 7 March, 9.15-10.15am, St James's Church

The final discussion in the Spring programme of discussions about how our faith impacts on our working lives is with Lou Coaker and called *Faith and Taxation*.



Concordia Voices Concert

Saturday 14 March, 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*; Sumsion's *They that go down to the Sea in Ships*; 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.

NEW

Twickenham Choral Society

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm, *Immortal Bach*, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

Norwegian composer Knut Nystedt's arrangement of *Komm, susser Tad* alongside Bach chorales, including *Furchter dich nicht* and Nystedt's *Miserere* and *Stabat Mater* for voices and cello. Cellist Adrian Bradbury will also perform works by Bach and Britten. Conductor: Christopher Herrick. Tickets £15 (Under 18s and students £8). Telephone 020 8977 7558 or book online at landmarkartscentre.org

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm, *Mozart Requiem*, St Andrew's Church, Maple Road, Surbiton KT6 4DS

The choir perform Mozart's *Requiem* and Ave Verum Corpus; Pärt's *Adam's Lament*; and *Cantus in Memoriam* by Benjamin Britten. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on door. For more information telephone 020 8892 1759.

Vicar's View



'The new vicar is really cool, Dad. Did you know that God emailed the Ten Commandments to Moses on his tablet?'



A riot of colour and havens of tranquillity

One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth

Dorothy Frances Gurney

It is no surprise that I have a love of gardens as my father was a very keen gardener. Over the years not only have I loved working in my garden, but I have found an inner strength in visiting gardens.

When I need to recharge my batteries, think through a problem, or escape for a while from everyday life, I find visiting a garden a place of quiet, peace and tranquillity and I come back refreshed even after a couple of hours. The sheer beauty of plants and trees in a garden setting can have a very calming effect. When I write my diary each New Year I also record which flowers are likely to be in bloom in particular gardens to make sure I don't miss them.

1 ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS Kew



Very few weeks pass when I don't go to Kew. There is always something to see in bloom, snowdrops in the rock garden just before Christmas, the witch hazels in January near the Temperate House, the Orchid Festival in February (pictured), bluebells in May and the laburnum arch in Kew Palace Gardens, the formal bedding in summer, the vegetable plots tended by Kew students as part of their course, as well as all the wonderful trees especially the cherry blossom in spring and the autumn colours. I certainly make the most of my membership!

2 HAMPTON COURT PALACE West Molesey



One of my first memories of visiting Hampton Court was seeing the daffodils in the Wilderness Garden and they are still superb to this day. The formal gardens look spectacular in spring with the beds of tulips and other flowers and again in the summer with the bedding plants. My particular favourite is the Pond Garden (pictured) when the wisteria is in bloom. I also remember the Privy Garden before its transformation.

3 ISABELLA PLANTATION Richmond Park



Whether you walk from the car park or from Pembroke Lodge, entering the Isabella Plantation in azalea time is always amazing. Getting the timing right may mean several visits, but the spectacle never disappoints. The rich colours of the azaleas and rhododendrons are breath-taking and the planting along the streams and ponds (pictured) is very effective. Bluebells also abound in several areas. Autumn is also a good time to visit with all the leaf colours.

4 SAVILL GARDENS Windsor Great Park



The gardens were originally designed by Eric Savill in 1932. In recent years three developments have improved the gardens as well as the new Visitor Centre. The first was the building of the glasshouse with the lovely pool (pictured) and tropical plants, a summer garden was created to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and most recently the rose beds have been completely redesigned with a boat-shaped viewing platform. There is also an attractive winter garden and several witch hazels in bloom in January. In the spring the wild flower meadow is a delight with daffodils, wood anemones and fritillaries. Lakes and streams also add to the enjoyment.

5 THE VALLEY GARDENS Windsor Great Park



This is a very well known garden for its display of azaleas and rhododendrons in May — the Punchbowl being the most dramatic. Two gardens within the Valley

Gardens not so well known are the Heather Garden, near the Guards Polo Ground, and the wild daffodils (pictured) on the slope at the side of the main gardens. I only discovered this in recent years and now it is a must to lift the spirits in March/April.

6 RHS GARDEN, WISLEY Woking, Surrey



There is always something to see at Wisley, whether it be the rose garden, the Penelope Hobhouse Garden (pictured), the camellias on Battleston Hill or the Sweet Peas in the Trial Grounds. The main rose beds were replaced a few years ago and now there is a very attractive area with a mixture of roses, perennials and grasses. My two favourite areas are the Pinetum, by the side of the River Wey with many champion trees, and the Alpine House, with pots of exquisite rock plants. The glasshouse is also worth a visit.

7 POLESDEN LACEY Great Bookham, near Dorking



This National Trust property has an attractive walled garden with roses as one of the highlights. Through the middle of the garden the climbing roses make a splendid arch over the path where ladies used to promenade in days gone by. Some of the rose beds are edged with lavender (pictured) and there are also magnificent displays of delphiniums, irises and peonies. The long herbaceous border and the recently developed wild flower border all add to the pleasure of visiting the garden.

8 MOTTISFONT Stockbridge, near Romsey

Set in the Hampshire countryside with the River Test running through the grounds, this National Trust property houses the National



Collection of old-fashioned roses in the Walled Garden. In June this is a wonderful sight. The walls are covered with climbing roses and the beds are full of delphiniums, peonies and all sorts of perennials as well as the roses (pictured). It is difficult to know which way to look as everywhere is so beautiful and a photographer's paradise.

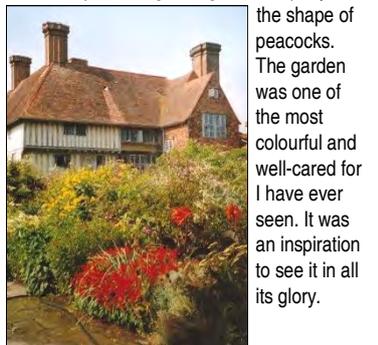
9 BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN Colchester, Essex



I was lucky enough to meet Beth Chatto in her lovely garden. Beth is renowned, not only for making a beautiful garden, but for turning the hard-standing car park into a spectacular dry garden, which is never watered except when new plants are put in. The main garden (pictured) is just a lovely tranquil spot with a pond and borders and looked splendid in the summer sunshine. Beth's nursery is a plant-lover's paradise.

10 GREAT DIXTER Northiam, near Rye

My last garden is the garden of the late Christopher Lloyd. He was a great friend of Beth Chatto. Christopher lived and gardened at Great Dixter all his life and had a distinctive style. I visited on a lovely summer's day when the garden was in full bloom. He was renowned for his flamboyant use of plants and colours. The gardens were divided up with huge hedges and topiary in



the shape of peacocks. The garden was one of the most colourful and well-cared for I have ever seen. It was an inspiration to see it in all its glory.