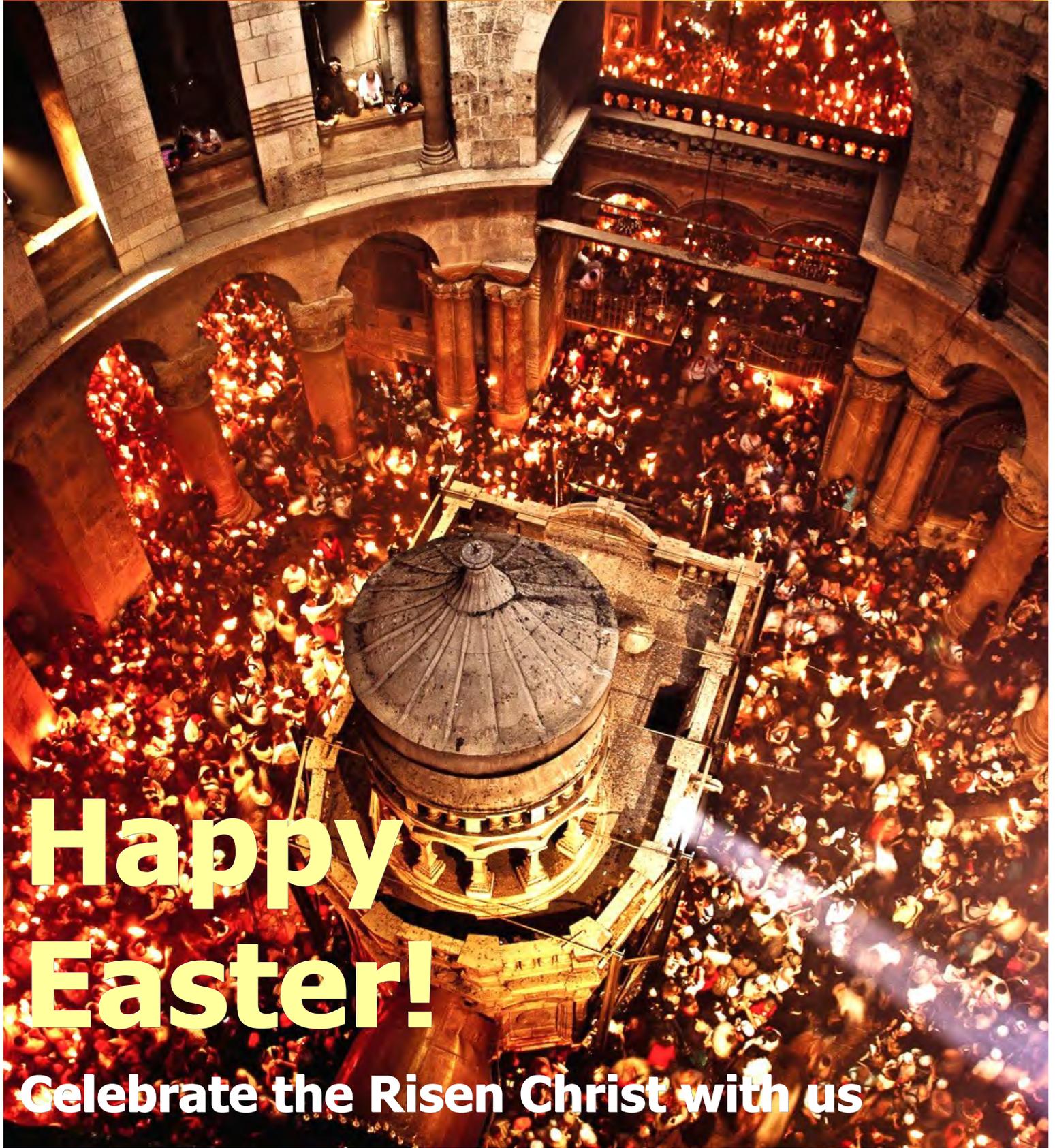


APRIL / MAY 2015

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy



Happy Easter!

Celebrate the Risen Christ with us

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
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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.
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Organist

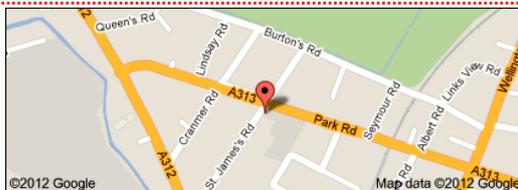
Mark Blackwell
Mark is an accomplished parish organist with 40 years of experience.
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Email: Mark@mhrconsultancy.co.uk

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...

Spring is well and truly with us now and it is so good to be able to enjoy the spring flowers and new growth on the trees.

This month's recipe on Page 6 is for Hot Cross Buns. These have actually been quite a feature of our local Easter activities for many years. The Churches Together around Hampton buy a very large number of Hot Cross Buns, bag them up individually with a leaflet about Easter and church service times, then distribute them to commuters at Hampton and Fulwell stations in Holy Week. This year 800 will be given out. They are always well received.

Easter is a time for celebration, but there are many countries in the world where people are unable to celebrate Lent, Holy Week or Easter. We should remember them and how lucky we are to be able to worship freely as and when we want to.

The cover photograph is of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, about which Julian writes in the centre pages. A happy Easter to all our readers from The Spire team.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



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

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

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

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WHAT'S ON

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Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

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Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion 6am Easter Day
9.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 5 April

Easter Day

Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; John 20.1-18

Sunday 12 April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.32-35; 1 John 1.1 - 2.2; John 20.19-31

Sunday 19 April

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3.12-19; 1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36b-48

Sunday 26 April

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.5-12; 1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18

Sunday 3 May

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8.26-40; 1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8

Sunday 10 May

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10.44-48; 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17

Thursday 14 May Ascension Day

Holy Communion 9.30am

Daniel 7.9-14; Acts 1.1-11; Luke 24.44-53

Sunday 17 May 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26; 1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19

Sunday 24 May Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21; Romans 8.22-27;

John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Sunday 31 May Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6.1-8; Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

Embrace life for Easter



If you are a vicar, you get used to people behaving out of character when you're around. Entering a room, I can silence it, not by anything I say or do, but simply because I have on a clerical collar. Also, it does not take much for people to begin apologising to me for swearing or not going to church services or for anything I might possibly be judging them for simply because I am a vicar!

I hope that it soon becomes clear that, in Pope Francis's words, 'Who am I to judge?' The use we make of words, though, does matter as much as our actual behaviour.

I know that when someone says 'sorry' because a word slips out they think I might take exception to, this is essentially a form of courtesy and respect.

I am grateful for the consideration, and it makes me wonder how many words we waste, and how often language is inappropriate. Let me give you a simple example. I like very much the view across the vale of the River Stiffkey from the North Norfolk village of Houghton St. Giles. It is one that I have seen for almost 30 years, and in my mind, I often tell myself that I 'love' it.

Do I really love it? Surely not in the sense I might love another person. I am really saying that I like it a great deal, but it is clearly not the same as love for a human being, so perhaps I ought to mind my language!

Words that come from the heart

It might seem odd to begin in this way in the Easter edition of this magazine. Yet this Easter I am struck by the importance of two sets of words that seem to me to come from the heart, and are a precise and apt use of language.

On this page you will see two things under *In thought and prayer*.

The first is a prayer for peace from one of the Catholic leaders in Iraq. Very simply, it speaks accurately of the 'deep' plight of Iraq and the 'severe and frightening' situation of Christians in that land.

It asks that they may have courage, trust and hope. The words have lying behind them a belief in the love of God which is present despite the carnage in that troubled land, and in Syria, and a sense of daring to hope despite the odds being stacked against the possibility of peace.

Charity Box Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve. She receives just £1 for her heavy load. She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

St James's is one of thousands of churches that



The Church and politics

The second set of words is a brief quote from a much longer document produced by the House of Bishops of the Church of England, a pastoral letter about the general election on 7 May entitled *Who is my neighbour?* (Canon Julian Reindorp has more to say about it in this magazine.)

The words of the letter are incredibly balanced, and it is a challenge to politicians of all political hues to work for better politics for the United Kingdom. The bishops address the cynicism about politicians in particular, and politics in general, and offer a standard by which to judge them.

They take Paul's words as a standard by which to make judgements: *Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Again, for me these are words from the heart, reflecting a yearning for something more for this nation.

Embracing life

So what has this to do with Easter? Easter proclaims life defeating death in the Person of Jesus. In all things Jesus is the pattern, and what is true for him, can be true for others. He invites people to defeat death and to embrace life. It does not matter if we are in a brutalised village in Iraq or a beautiful village in Norfolk, or whether our politics are focused on Westminster or Damascus, the same message is there: embrace life.

I choose my words very carefully – they come from the heart for I yearn for us human beings to embrace life, to put away death, and to live as gloriously and as fully as we can.

I yearn for leaders to do this, whether in London or in Mosul. Words matter that come from the depths of the human heart, and that are expressed in love in action.

So, I finally wish you a *happy Easter*. I hope you can embrace life this Easter. For me this is inextricably linked with the resurrection of Jesus. Mind your language, speak from the heart, wish others a happy Easter, and take hold of the life that God gives.

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

will stand together during Christian Aid Week to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

In 2014 St James's raised a total of £3694 for Christian Aid with the help of volunteers and your support of our cake sale. If you could spare a couple of hours to join our volunteers with either delivering or collecting envelopes your help would be very much appreciated. Please speak to Liz Wilmot or Linda Webb, telephone 020 8977 9434 or email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and it believes that this vision can become a reality.

www.caweek.org



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Prayer for peace by
His Beatitude Louis Rafael Sako,
Chaldean Catholic Patriarch of Iraq



Lord,
the plight of our country
is deep and the suffering of Christians
is severe and frightening.
Therefore, we ask you Lord
to spare our lives, and to grant us patience,
and courage to continue our witness of Christian values
with trust and hope.

Lord, peace is the foundation of life;
Grant us the peace and stability that will enable us
to live with each other without fear and anxiety,
and with dignity and joy.

Glory be to you forever.

From the House of Bishops'
Pastoral Letter
on the general election,
Who is my neighbour?



The advice of St Paul in his letter to the Philippians may help to defend us against the temptations of apathy, cynicism and blame, and instead seek – because we are disciples of Jesus Christ who long for a more humane society – better politics for a better nation. *Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*



Local and National stories

Bishop in move to Nottingham



THE BISHOP of Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams, has been named as the new Bishop for Southwell and Nottingham. The 47-year-old from Somerset will take up his post in the summer, moving to the area with his wife Sarah and three sons.

'I am thrilled at the prospect of joining an outstanding diocesan team committed to advancing the mission of the church for the benefit of all who live in the city and county of Nottingham,' he said.

Bishop Paul began his career in Muswell Hill, North London, before holding posts in Bristol and South Buckinghamshire. He has been Bishop of Kensington for six years.

The Rt Revd Tony Porter, Bishop of Sherwood, said: 'I am thrilled to bits at Bishop Paul's appointment. He is exactly what we prayed for.'

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, added: 'His evangelistic gifting, leading churches into growth, his care for the poor and vulnerable, and his imaginative ministry to children and young people will make Southwell and Nottingham rejoice.'

The Parochial Council needs you!

ON SUNDAY 19 April St. James's Church will hold its Annual Church Meeting. From the north to the south of England, churches will be holding their meetings, and like them all, St. James's will see elections of Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), receive a report from the PCC on its 2014 accounts, as well as from all the other different aspects of church life.

This year at St. James's, there will also be a report on the PCC's thinking and planning for the future, particularly, though not exclusively, as a result of the generous bequest from the late Revd Betty Stewart.

There will be a need to elect four members of the PCC, each to serve for three years. If you care about church life and could commit to attending regular meetings please complete a nomination form in church. For more information speak to a current member or Churchwarden.

A vision for Hampton Hill's future

PLANS THAT WILL shape the future of Hampton Hill have been announced.

The High Street is to undergo a revamp using money from Richmond Council's Uplift project. This will be a one-off, probably starting in the first 6 months of 2016 for the High Street only. A specific budget will be allocated to cover specific items such as pavement repairs, shop front improvements and street furniture.

Detailed plans will be drawn up by the Richmond Council in partnership with the local community, including residents and businesses. The aim will be to boost local activity and the economy, to create a functional and more enticing High Street.

The council's Village Plan for Hampton Hill will be something that will shape the Hampton Hill area over the next five-10 years. It will cover a range of improvements with a long term vision of the area in mind – for example the look and character of buildings, the use of green space and traffic issues. The Hampton Hill Traders' Association, the Hampton Hill Association and the council are holding a meeting to introduce everyone to the Village Plan on **Monday 8 June**, location and time to be announced.



The passion of



Easter is the most important festival in the Church calendar. Holy Week takes us through the last week of Jesus's life, beginning with Palm Sunday, and Christ's triumphal procession into Jerusalem, to his death on the cross on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Day. Julian Reindorp shares some special Easter memories.

It was Prime Minister Harold Wilson who said, 'Seven days in politics is a long time.' From his Presbyterian background did he have in mind another seven days which changed the world? Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, has traditionally been remembered as a seven-day memorial and celebration of Jesus' last days on earth.

As a teenager, I remember going to a three-hour service on Good Friday reflecting on Jesus' last three hours on the cross.

The preacher began with the story from Dostoyevsky of the Grand Inquisitor in 16th century Spain. Jesus reappears, the great official has him arrested, and he accuses Jesus of wrecking the work of the church. He tells Jesus that human beings cannot cope with the freedom Jesus longed for them to have, so the church has saved them by controlling every aspect of their lives.

It is a classic confrontation between the misuse of power by the church and the way of the cross lived out by our Lord. Every time I have preached on Good Friday I have told that story.

Holy Week and *Call the Midwife*

It was during my five years as a curate in the Poplar Team Ministry, the parish where the BBC One drama series *Call the Midwife* is set, that I really came to appreciate the way the Church has traditionally celebrated these last seven days of Jesus' life. When I was in Milton Keynes, the week started with a procession through the streets on Palm Sunday.



Although palms are usually carried on this day, we carried a 12 feet high wooden cross, to catch people's attention and remind them what time of year we were in. On Maundy Thursday there was the Washing of the Feet (above), celebrating the Last Supper, the stripping of all the ornaments in the church till it is bare, the Watch through the night; then on Good Friday the Walk of Witness and the Three Hours Service, including the Veneration of the Cross.

At 5.30am on Easter Day we had the lighting of the fire, the reading of the great lessons from the Old Testament, the renewal of our baptismal vows, celebrating the eucharist; finally sharing breakfast together. I introduced these services to the two ecumenical parishes where I served, Chatham and Milton Keynes, and people hugely appreciated them.



The Palm Sunday procession through the streets of Poplar, East London, marked the start of Holy Week

Holy Week



Easter at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Our feet washed

It was in the Richmond Team that I was confronted by a new colleague. I explained that we got four volunteers from each of our three churches to have their feet washed to represent the disciples' feet being washed by Christ.

He was appalled. How could we possibly ring people up to be volunteers for such a vital act? We three priests needed to take off our outer garments and sit waiting for people to come forward. If no one came forward he said, so be it. We were all shamed into agreeing!

And when the time came, lots of people came forward to have their feet washed – one of the most moving acts a priest can do for his people.

There is a Green Hill...

In 1966 I made the first of many visits to the Holy Land. It was before the Six Day War and Jerusalem was still divided between Israel and Jordan.

As I crossed from one side to the other, it was almost like stepping back 2,000 years. I was shocked by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the probable place of the crucifixion. Packed with people of different Christian traditions, battling for position,

The green hill where Jesus was crucified?



it was the complete opposite of what I had imagined. I had sung Mrs C F Alexander's hymn, *There is a Green Hill Far Away Without a City Wall*, so often that I had imagined Jesus crucified almost on a golf course. In my imagination I had lost touch with reality.

Now, taking parties of people to Jerusalem, we go very early, about 6am. Then there is time to walk round the large church and reflect on our Lord, the last week of his life, his crucifixion and then that extraordinary event we call the Resurrection. These are all part of the *Seven Days that Changed the World*.

Sharing with other faiths

When I spent the last year of my training to be a priest in Bangalore in India (pictured below), I learnt something new about the celebration of Holy Week.

Not just that you celebrate it in very hot weather, but many of my fellow students had been trainee pastors in the villages of Southern India. And the religious leaders of the different faiths, including Hindu, Moslem and Sikh, all share in each other's festivals.

As a Christian pastor you would be expected to know a great deal about other faiths, as well as getting to know their local leaders. They would be very aware of the significance of Holy Week for their Christian neighbours.



Christians in India

Experiences at St James's

My experience is that the more we are able to enter into these last seven days of Jesus' life this Holy Week, work and family commitments permitting, the more profoundly will we experience the mystery at the heart of our faith – including the death and risen life of our Lord.

Having my feet washed by Peter on Maundy Thursday, our dawn Eucharist on Easter Day, followed by breakfast in our hall, laid on by Clare Ryan, and then the whole church community gathering for our 9.30 Eucharist, are all special memories.



The Eucharist

Around the SPIRE

with Susan Homer

Margaret's long life celebrated

MARGARET Leatherdale passed away on 30 January, aged 96, having lived in Hampton Hill since 1949 and been a loyal and faithful member of St James's (with her husband, Denis) for over 50 years.

Margaret was born in Belfast, one of five children, and as her father was in the regular Army, spent her childhood in Germany and Aldershot.

Margaret's first job was as a secretary at Wilkinson Sword in Acton. She moved on to Acton Council where she met Denis and they were married in 1942. When their son Richard was born, Margaret gave up work and devoted her life to homemaking, the church and local charities.

She was a member of St James's Young Wives and the Mothers' Union and also helped with the Wayside Monday Centre which was a weekly listening service for local people.

Denis and Margaret were part of the Stewardship Campaign run by the Revd Rupert Brunt in the 1950s. Margaret was also PCC Secretary for many years and did secretarial work for the Revd Nicholas Chubb.

For the church's centenary in 1963, Margaret was part of the editorial team who produced the book entitled *The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill*. Margaret was also a very keen dressmaker.

Denis died in 1998 and soon afterwards Margaret's health began to deteriorate. She later moved to Laurel Dene and then Hampton Care Home. Margaret was a very gentle shy lady on the surface, but was always there to help others both in the church and in the community in all sorts of quiet ways and she had a very strong faith.

She made many life-long friends in the church and amongst her neighbours in St James's Road. We send our condolences to Richard and Sheila and all their family.



Party for Golden Wedding couple

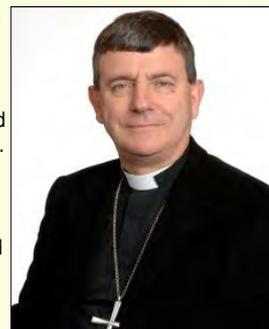
CONGRATULATIONS to Brian and Janet Jeffries who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 25 February with a small family party. They were married in Redditch in 1965.

St James's Day Confirmations

ST JAMES'S DAY this year will be held on Sunday 12 July. Our guest preacher will be Bishop Stephen Platten, pictured, a former Bishop of Wakefield, and now Rector of St Michael, Cornhill, in the City of London, and an Assistant Bishop in the London Diocese.

Bishop Stephen will be confirming some members of our congregation during the service. Confirmation is a way of expressing one's commitment to Christ and enables the candidate to receive full communion.

If you are interested in being confirmed and would like to be part of this special celebration, please speak to Peter.



Biblical words spoken by women

AN AMERICAN vicar, the Revd Lindsay Hardin Freeman, has spent three years analysing and logging every time that a woman speaks in the Bible. Her research found that 93 women speak in the Bible, but only 49 are named. About 14,000 words are spoken by women in total.

Secondary school place offers

MORE THAN 1700 children in the borough have received secondary school place offers for the new school year starting in September. Three of our Shell Seekers, who were among those anxiously waiting for the news, have been offered places at The Bishop Wand Church of England School in Sunbury. London state schools are among the most successful in the country, increasing competition for places. Almost a third of families in London as a whole did not get their first preference because of growing demand.



Are you smelling Fairtrade coffee?



The giant Fairtrade banana made a reappearance in church during Lent as we focused not just on Fairtrade Fortnight but also on the Lent Appeal for Traidcraft's Fair Necessities campaign.

Shell Seekers supported these important initiatives by focusing on some of the success stories that have emerged from the Fairtrade movement.

boost the quantity and the quality of their cocoa. The Premium is also invested in community programmes such as schools, medical centres and clean running water. It's so much more than simply giving a fair price to the individual farmers!

The Fairtrade song

At the end of the service on the Sunday just before Fairtrade Fortnight, some of the Shell Seekers read out comments written by people around the world who have benefited from Fairtrade. We also found time to learn the Fairtrade Song and our small choir of male voices serenaded the congregation too!

To find out more about Fairtrade, or to see Tayna's film, go to www.fairtrade.org.uk.

Cocoa co-operative

One in particular involved a short film called *My Fairtrade Adventure* made by Tayna, a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Enfield, pictured above, who visited the Dominican Republic to meet cocoa farmers.

We learned how smallholder farmers there have joined together to form a co-operative called Conacado.

This is an initiative that helps growers to benefit from shared facilities for drying and processing the cocoa beans collected from the cocoa pods harvested on their small farms and allotments.

A fair price

We found out that by making cocoa farming more sustainable, Fairtrade farmers can better provide for themselves and their families. Fairtrade provides a minimum price for cocoa of \$2,000 per ton, with a \$200 premium per ton on top of that for farmers to invest in their businesses or local community.

This Fairtrade Premium is invested in programmes to improve the efficiency of farms to



Our Sunday School, The Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 9.25am during school terms, except for one Sunday in most months 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.



Hot Cross Buns



In many Christian countries, plain buns made without dairy products (forbidden in Lent until Palm Sunday) are traditionally eaten hot or toasted during Lent, beginning with the evening of Shrove Tuesday to midday on Good Friday.

In the time of Elizabeth I of England (1592), the London Clerk of Markets issued a decree forbidding the sale of hot cross buns and other spiced breads, except at burials, on Good Friday, or at Christmas. The punishment for transgressing the decree was forfeiture of all the forbidden product to the poor. As a result of this decree, hot cross buns at the time were primarily made in home kitchens.

Further attempts to suppress the sale of these items took place during the reign of James I of England/James VI of Scotland (1603–1625).

The traditional method for making the cross on top of the bun is to use shortcrust pastry; however, more recently recipes have recommended a paste consisting of flour and water.

English folklore includes many superstitions surrounding hot cross buns. One of them says that buns baked and served on Good Friday will not spoil or go mouldy during the subsequent year. Another encourages keeping such a bun for medicinal purposes. A piece given to someone ill is said to help them recover.

Sharing a hot cross bun with another is supposed to ensure that friendship throughout the coming year, particularly if 'Half for you and half for me, Between us two shall goodwill be' is said at the time, so some say they should only be cooked one at a time.

Because there is a cross on the buns, some say they should be kissed before being eaten. If taken on a sea voyage, hot cross buns are said to protect against shipwreck. If hung in the kitchen, they are said to protect against fires and ensure that all breads turn out perfectly. The bun should be replaced each year.

Ingredients

Makes 12-15 buns

- 500g strong white bread flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 heaped tsp mixed spice
- 50g caster sugar
- 50g butter, chopped into cubes
- 200g mixed dried fruits
- 7g sachet easy-blend dried yeast
- 200ml milk
- 2 eggs

For crosses and glaze

- 3 tbs plain flour
- honey or golden syrup, for brushing



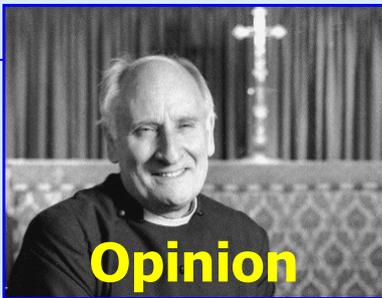
Method

- 1) Tip the flour into a bowl and stir in the salt, mixed spice and sugar.
- 2) Rub in the butter with your fingertips. Stir in the dried fruit, then sprinkle over the yeast and stir in. Gently warm the milk so it is hot, but still cool enough to put your finger in for a couple of seconds. Beat with the eggs, then pour into the dried ingredients.
- 3) Using a blunt knife, mix the ingredients to a moist dough, then leave to soak for 5 mins. Take out of the bowl and cut the dough into 8 equal pieces. Shape the dough into buns on a floured surface. Space apart on a baking sheet, cover loosely with cling film, then leave in a warm place until it has increased by half again in size. This will take 45-75 minutes, depending on how warm it is.
- 4) When the buns are risen, heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Mix the flour with 2 tbs water to make a paste. Pour into a plastic food bag and make a nick in one of the corners. Pipe crosses on top of each bun.
- 5) Bake for 12-15 minutes until risen and golden. Trim the excess cross mixture from the buns, then brush all over with honey or golden syrup. The buns will keep fresh for a day. After that they are best toasted and served with butter.



Next Issue:

Bakewell Pudding



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

BRAVE BISHOPS

To general surprise the Church of England's House of Bishops has issued an 11,000-word letter in preparation for the General Election on 7 May. It is entitled *Who is my neighbour?*

The Guardian, in its leader, commented: 'The bishops' letter is important for two reasons. First, because it shows the C of E sharpening up the quality of its public interventions under Archbishop Justin Welby. And, second, because British politics faces a credibility crisis and needs all the help it can get, including from the church.'

It concludes, 'Fair-minded people should note that the Church has risen to the occasion in ways that politicians, on the whole, have not.'

TWO NATIONS

The Bishops are calling for a fresh vision and better treatment of the poor and vulnerable. They quote the Victorian Conservative Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, that Britain is beginning to resemble 'two nations between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy, who are as ignorant of each other's thoughts and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones or inhabitants of different planets.'

They comment that the binary choice between state and market leaves out civil society. They affirm Cameron's vision of the *Big Society* and they are clearly influenced by Roman Catholic social teaching on *The Common Good*.

IMMIGRATION

Standing in the playgrounds of two of the primary schools of my grandchildren, one in North London and the other in South London, I stand with the rest of the world. In one of them 50 languages are spoken, the most common being Urdu.

My grandchildren come in different colours like the children around them. It is part of living in this great multi-racial city where almost half the people come from different ethnic backgrounds. (Also last year we had 34 million visitors to this country.)

But I reflect it cannot be easy for people in many parts of Britain to adapt to this increasingly multi-racial world. People with the most right-wing views may often live in the political constituencies with the fewest people from other cultures, and it is this fear we need to recognize and do all we can to tackle by policies and debate.

RUSSELL BRAND

Perhaps from an unlikely source comes this conclusion in the comedian and activist Russell Brand's book *Revolution*. Writing about the three religions of Judaism, Islam and Christianity 'stripped of communal stories that unite and define us what do we become? Where do we go? Without codes that emphasize our unity and the presence of a sacred consciousness, it seems we become dominated by materialism and individualism. ... Religions are meant to be literary maps, not literal doctrines, signposts to the unknowable, hymns to the inconceivable.'

FIRST WOMAN BISHOP

The Revd Libby Lane was appointed in January. This month she will be welcomed by the people of Stockport as the first Anglican woman bishop (she was a team vicar in the town for many years).

As a Manchester United supporter and saxophone player, what more could we want!

What's On

with Nick Bagge



Easter at St James's

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

The Passion Richmond

Good Friday 3 April, 1-3pm,

Richmond Riverside, free to watch

The dramatic biblical events leading to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are enacted close to Richmond's town centre. It follows the tradition of Easter Passion Plays performed since the Middle Ages.

A large cast, with music and choirs will perform, using the iconic setting of the Richmond Riverside, just off the town centre shopping street. This is a free performance, directed by Peter Cregeen, former BBC Drama Head of Series. Local churches and community groups are joining together to bring this central event of the Christian faith into the heart of Richmond. For further details see thepassionrichmond.org.uk

NEW

JS Bach's St Matthew Passion

Friday 3 April, 3pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

The Academy of Ancient Music Choir present an uplifting performance of the Bach's original 1727 version. Tickets £10-£45. Telephone 0845 120 7511 or book online at barbican.org.uk

NEW

MacMillan's St Luke's Passion

Sunday 5 April, 9pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

The London premiere of James MacMillan's new work. Featuring the Britten Sinfonia and Sinfonia Voices, Choristers of Magdalen College Choir, Oxford, and New College Choir, Oxford. Tickets £10-£35. Telephone 0845 120 7511 or book online at barbican.org.uk

NEW

Churches Together Open Forum

Monday 13 April, 7.30pm, Hampton Hill United Reformed Church, 35 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NB

Jane Bailey, Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust's Equality and Diversity Lead, will talk about the services available locally for lonely or housebound people.

Registers for February



Baptisms

8 Jake Alan Stanley
Eldridge, Teddington

15 Alexander James Ho,
Teddington

Wedding

28 Adrian Hugh Norwell
and Annabel Peverel
Davis, Hampton Hill



Funerals

2 Ronald Ernest Daughtry
(Ernie), 88, Hampton Hill

23 William Thomas
Edward Conolly, 53,
Hampton

25 Margaret Caroline
Leatherdale, 96,
Hampton Hill

26 Charles Ernest Putz,
86, Hampton Hill

NEW

Election Hustings

Tuesday 21 April, 7.30pm, Teddington Baptist Church, Church Road, Teddington TW11 8PF

A Question Time-style debate, organised by Churches Together in Teddington, with local parliamentary candidates facing their electorate. If you have questions for them, they must be sent in advance to ejhicks@btinternet.com

NEW

Climate Change and the Common Good

Thursday 23 April, 6.30pm, St Paul's Cathedral EC4M 8AD

The event will explore the behavioural and organisational changes needed to tackle climate change. Speakers include the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and Stephen Howard, Chief Executive of Business in the Community. The event is free, but by ticket only. Book via london.anglican.org

NEW

Traidcraft Stall

Sunday 3 May, 10.30-11.30am, St James's Church Hall

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

NEW

Cantanti Camerati Concert

Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm, St Anne's Church, Kew Green, Richmond TW9 3AA

This concert includes performances of Mozart's Vespers and Britten's Ode to St. Cecilia, with a chamber orchestra. Tickets £12 in advance telephone 020 8898 8020, or on the door.

NEW

Twickenham Charities Fair

Monday 25 May, 10am-3pm, Twickenham Green

Come and support your local charities and voluntary organisations at this annual Bank Holiday fair. There will be over 75 charity stalls selling crafts, plants, gifts, bric-a-brac, toys, kiddies clothes, home-made cakes and refreshments, a barbecue and amusements for children. The Mayor of Richmond will begin a tour of the stalls at 11am.

NEW

UNICEF Collection

Saturday 30 May, Twickenham Rail Station, from 12 noon

Every five seconds a child under five dies of a preventable cause. With your help the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) can change this. The Twickenham and Richmond branch of the United Nations Association will be collecting donations outside Twickenham Rail Station. Alternatively, you can give your donations to Dennis or Liz Wilmot at church.

NEW

The Hamptons Carnival Fair

Saturday 13 June, from 12.30pm, The White House, 45 Nursery Green Park, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN

The annual fair is a popular local event that raises money for local charities. There will be more information in our next issue.



'Police? This is St Mary's Knitting and Vigilante Group. We've detained two men trying to steal the church silver.'



Follow in my footsteps and enjoy the view!

I have enjoyed walking in the countryside (and also in towns) all my life. I am mostly attracted by what can be seen on a walk – sometimes the views from the top of a hill, or along the coast, and sometimes the

buildings and villages along the way.

I have walked by myself, with a companion and also in groups of a dozen or more. I like to have a plan for each walk, and a map is a must.

A good walk gives you space to think or talk with your companions.

My favourite walks are a mix of ones that I have walked many times and ones done only once or twice. But all are remembered with pleasure.

1 COAST TO COAST St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay



This is a magnificent walk, all the way across England from the Cumbrian Coast to the Yorkshire Coast, across the Lake District, the Dales and the North York Moors.

I have walked this twice, with groups of friends, taking a fortnight for the 180 or so miles. Great scenery and a great sense of achievement when complete. And plenty of material to talk about afterwards.

2 GOATHLAND TO GROSOMT North York Moors



I have always loved the North York Moors, and this walk is along a disused railway trackbed, abandoned in 1865.

It is not demanding as a walk – it is all downhill – but there is interest all along the route: the woods, the surrounding moors, the (slight) traces of the railway, and the streams.

And as a bonus, the return journey can be made by train behind a steam engine on the North York Moors railway.

3 TWICKENHAM TO RICHMOND Riverside walk



The leisurely walk along the riverside from Twickenham church to Richmond Bridge never fails to surprise visitors to the area, who imagine London suburbs to be a dreary sea of houses or worse.

There are interesting buildings, open land, the river and its traffic; and the views of Marble Hill and also of Richmond Hill are inspiring.

I have walked this way often, perhaps just to get to Richmond, or to just to enjoy it.

4 BURFORD TO NORTHLEACH The Cotswolds



The Cotswolds have wonderful towns and villages, and this walk is a gentle stroll along the Windrush valley.

Pleasant, quiet, and through a string of fine villages. I first walked this with my parents on a family holiday as a teenager, and I have revisited the area many times.

5 SEVEN SISTERS & SEAFORD HEAD East Sussex

A great favourite, starting with a gentle climb up to Seaford Head, where the magnificent view of the Seven Sisters bursts upon you. After a diversion to cross the Cuckmere River, there is the switchback over the sisters.

Curiously, I find that my counting goes wrong, and there seem to be eight sisters.



Lots of views over the chalk downs and over the sea.

The continuation over Beachy Head and to Eastbourne is rather a let-down after this.

6 SKYE AND CULLINS Sligachan to Elgol

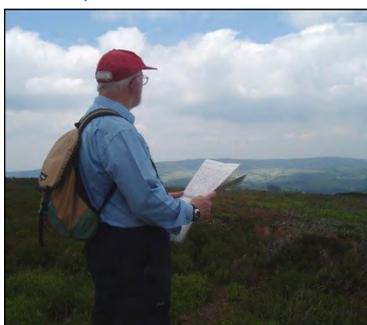


I once spent a week on Skye with some adventurous walkers, and one day we walked across the uplands from the Sligachan Hotel to Elgol through Coruisk and the Bad Step.

A wonderful walk through the Cullins and along the shore, with a bit of scrambling and rough ground. It must have been 13 or 14 miles in distance.

Looking back, I marvel that I managed it – it says a lot for my faith in my companions to get me out of trouble!

7 LONG MYND Shropshire



I have been visiting this part of Shropshire for over 30 years, and have always been intrigued by the long whaleback of the Long Mynd.

I have climbed up it from west, south and east. There are many walking routes, and perhaps the best is the one up the Cardingmill Valley from Church Stretton – a gentle start, a stiff climb, and then across the plateau of the top enjoying the terrific views.

On a good day you can see the Brecon Beacons, the Malverns, Clee Hills and the Wrekin. There is even a gliding club on top, to provide some unusual entertainment.

8 CADER IDRIS Gwynedd, North Wales

A stiff climb from any direction, but with good views from the top, if it is clear.

I have climbed this mountain several times, but I remember one especially: seeing a red squirrel at the start of the walk,



and a startling descent. We chose a different path on the way down, which looked possible, but steep on the map. It quickly turned into a scramble down a scree slope with no possibility of stopping.

9 BRECON BEACONS Pen y Fan, South Wales



I walked up this mountain while in the Cadets at school, but I particularly remember a walk up it one morning after camping out at Torpantau overnight with some university friends.

From here there is a horseshoe of peaks, giving a nice round walk and plenty of good views north and west.

10 TENNYSON DOWN Isle of Wight

Tennyson Down stretches from Freshwater Bay to the Needles in the west of the Isle of Wight.

I have been doing this walk since I was five-years-old, and still try to get there at least once a year.

The walk is along the chalk ridge, with the sea on one side, and views over West Wight and the New Forest on the other. On a clear day, you can see from Swanage to Portsmouth. This is probably my favourite walk of all.

