

JULY 2011

# THE SPIRE

[www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)



## A New Home

Some of Sri Lanka's war orphans, now being cared for by Hope Outreach UK. The charity needs to raise £30 a month per child to support them. Pages 4-5

> Around the Spire 5 ● St James's Day 7 ● Martin Poll 8 <

# THE SPIRE

St James's Church  
Registered Charity No 1129286

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.

Thank you.

## GET IN TOUCH

### STORIES, FEATURES

**Janet Nunn** is our editor. If you have any ideas or news, or would like to write an article for the magazine, please contact her:

☎ 020 8979 6325

✉ janunnhh@btinternet.com

✉ spire@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

✉ 151 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1BQ.

### AROUND THE SPIRE

**Susan Horner** writes Around the Spire. If you have any news to be considered, please email: ✉ smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

### WHAT'S ON

**Griselda Barrett** is listings editor. If you have an event to be considered for inclusion, please email: ✉ griseldabarrett@blueyonder.co.uk

### WEBSITE / YOUNG SPIRE

**Prill Hinckley** is the church webmaster. She also compiles the monthly Young Spire page. Please email: ✉ p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

### CIRCULATION

The Spire is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish or posted further afield. To receive a regular copy these last two ways, contact Susan Horner:

☎ 020 8979 9380

✉ smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

✉ 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1HH.

### NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The August/September issue is published on 31 July. All copy must be with us by **Mon 4 July**.

## CREDITS

### PRODUCTION

Design/Chief Sub-editor Nick Bagge

Sub-editor Prill Hinckley

Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

### PUBLISHING

Printer Justin Hollingsworth 020 8686 4481

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When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it.

# Welcome July 2011



In July 2012 we shall be celebrating St James's Day and also the start of the Olympic Games. Some of the events will be held relatively near home - the timed cycling trials at Hampton Court, the rowing and canoeing at Dorney Lake, near Windsor, the cycling going up Box Hill to name but a few.

The Olympic Stadium is already completed and the whole area is developing well. A few weeks ago I went to the public viewing area called the View Tube near Pudding Mill Lane Station (Docklands Light Railway) from where you can see the finished stadium, the aquatic centre, basketball arena and the velodrome, which are all very impressive. I went on a Blue Badge Walk from Bromley-le-Bow Station. It runs every day at 11am and was a real eye-opener to the background of the whole area. You might like to try it during the summer holidays.

A very warm welcome to you all for St James's Day on 3 July and it is hoped that many of you, as a result of the article last month, will take the opportunity to go up the spire.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn, Editor  
✉ janunnhh@btinternet.com

For the latest news: [www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

### CHURCH AND OTHER CONTACTS

**Bell Ringing** Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

**Book of Remembrance Recorder**

Margaret Hobbs 020 8979 2320

**Brownies** Sarah Beer 075 0135 4225

**Charities and Links Committee**

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

**Children's Advocate**

Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

**Church Cleaning Rota**

Margaret Taylor 020 8979 3961

**Church Flowers**

Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

**Churches Together Around Hampton**

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

**Deanery Synod**

Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

**Electoral Roll** Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

**Eco-Group** Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563

**Finance Committee** Don Barrett 020 8979 3331

**Guides** Sarah Reed 020 8241 0499

**Hall Bookings** Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

**Mission Partner Link**

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

**Mozambique/Angola Link**

Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

**Music and Worship Committee**

Peter Vannozzi 020 8979 2069

**Organist / Choirmaster**

Sam Draper 020 8892 4957

**Organist Emeritus**

Geoffrey Bowyer 020 8894 3773

**PCC Secretary** Jane Gibson, by email:

janealgibson@hotmail.co.uk

**Planned Giving Committee**

Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

**Properties Committee**

Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

**Scout Group** Paul Fitchett 020 8941 7186

**Servers**

Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

**Sides persons** Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

**Social Committee**

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

**St James's Ark**

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

**St James's Players**

Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

**Sunday School** Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563

**Tools with a Mission (TWAM)**

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

**Treasurer** Don Barrett 020 8979 3331

**Theatre Club** Ria Beaumont 020 8943 4336

**Weekly Notices/Pew Sheet**

Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

➔ **AMENDMENTS** to the Editor, please.

## OUR CLERGY



### VICAR

**Revd Peter Vannozzi**

Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather who came from

Florence to the UK in the late 19th century. Peter's calling came while at college in Osterley, not far from Hampton Hill, and he was ordained in 1987. Prior to St James's, Peter was Vice Dean and Canon Pastor at Wakefield Cathedral. He is Chair of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School and a Trustee of Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group. Peter is a familiar sight around town, often with his fox terrier, Paddy.

☎ 020 8979 2069

✉ vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

✉ The Vicarage, 46 St James's Road,

Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1DQ.

### BAPTISM AND WEDDING ENQUIRIES

These should be made in person in church on a Saturday morning from 10-10.30am.

## PARISH OFFICE



### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

**Nickie Jones**

For all enquiries and hall bookings.

The office is open on Monday,

Wednesday and Friday mornings.

☎ 020 8941 6003

✉ office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

✉ St James's Church, 46 St James's Road,

Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1DQ.

## CHURCHWARDENS



**Carole Greville-Giddings**

☎ 020 8979 6592

✉ carole.g-g@hotmail.co.uk



**Nick Bagge**

☎ 020 8783 0871

✉ Nickbagge1@aol.com

## SERVICES FOR JULY

### Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion (except 3 July)

### 3 July — St James's Day

Jeremiah 45.1-5

Acts 11.27-12.2

Matthew 20.20-28

★ **All-age Communion is at 11am**

### 10 July — 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55.10-13

Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

### 17 June — 4th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 44.6-8

Romans 8.12-25

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

### 24 June — 5th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 3.5-12

Romans 8.26-39

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

### 31st June — 6th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55.1-5

Romans 9.1-5

Matthew 14.13-21

### Mondays-Fridays

(but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

### Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

### 1st Wednesday in month

6 July

7am Holy Communion

### 1st Thursday in month

7 July

2pm Holy Communion

# Leader Column

THE SPIRE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE, PLUS AN EXTENSIVE ARCHIVE

## Pray for politicians! Yes, that's right, support the greater good



**P**arliamentary privilege. It seems a rather odd thing. In May it allowed an MP and a member of the House of Lords to get around separate 'super-injunctions' and name two men in the public eye who had allegedly had affairs, for some this was a display of Parliament's independence, for others, an unacceptable and showy way of getting round the law. In theory, a member of either House of Parliament can reveal state secrets and undermine national security by exercising their right to speak, free from the threat of legal action for slander, contempt of court or breaking the Official Secrets Acts. In practice, it can be a means of undercutting ways in which free speech is restricted by those with enough money and power to do so. There are arguments on both sides. Nonetheless this particular matter — together with the conviction and imprisonment of former MPs and a peer over their expenses claims — brings Parliament into very public view. Add to this the recent referendum on the method of electing the Commons, and tentative proposals to reform the Lords, along with the usual cut and thrust of politics, and it is hard to dismiss what our politicians do as irrelevant.

Yet there is criticism of politicians which can be overwhelming. The sorts of comments made about them are: 'They're all the same', 'Snouts in the trough' and 'Only after power'. The list could go on. One year into the life of the current House of Commons and coalition government, not a lot seems to have changed in terms of the criticism of politicians. New politics? Where? Though with the constant censure of politicians I do wonder why anyone stands for public office! It is not naïve to suggest that at least some may have a sense of service and of the greater good.

Under *Your Voice* this month, the Venerable Martin Poll writes of the role of chaplains within the Royal Navy — a spiritual presence within a secular organisation. What place might there be for Christian reflection upon the role of our legislators?

There is certainly a place for criticism. Jesus was not afraid to take to task the movers and shakers of his day. At its best the Church has never been content simply to take things as they are, and to affirm them uncritically. There is no easy



Peter Vannozzi

separation between 'spiritual' and 'physical'. So if we were to take the vexed question of NHS reform, a Christian could legitimately ask whether a particular proposal would lead to the fullest possible life for a person or not. This is regardless of party political affiliation. A concern for justice — such as that shown by the Old Testament prophets — must be brought to bear at all times. Yet the Bible does not just complain, but suggests alternatives.

Those in the Old Testament whom we might call leaders in government frequently, if not usually, go astray. The usual attractions of money, sex and power draw them away from their original calling. The kind of things they should practise are concern for the needy; acting justly; seeking what makes for peace;

being aware of a good other than their own. None of this is terribly new nor awfully surprising. It's also not as exciting as being able to use power to get what one wants for oneself. Yet this is not the way for any MP or peer to go. In Christian terms, I believe we can legitimately expect from our legislators a concern for something greater than a person's own personal needs. A disagreement about a response to a problem does not have to lead to cynicism about an opponent's motives. Both points of view may be expressions of a genuine concern about that problem.

**R**ather than complain about those who enter politics, Christians can be more constructive. Pray for them. Support them where they seem to get it right. Criticise constructively where there is something wrong. When necessary, call to account in the strongest possible terms as the Old Testament has a lot to say about the bad behaviour of tyrants. In the New Testament, one consequence of oppression was the killing of James the apostle and our patron saint is remembered this month on 25 July, but anticipated by us on 3 July.

There is no place for naïvety, but cynicism is not good enough either. Parliamentary privilege, at its best, can allow the truth to come out for a greater good, but there is a 'spiritual privilege' that allows the truth to be spoken to build up but also, where necessary, to tear down when a fresh start is needed.

## In Thought and Prayer

*Common Worship*, the Church of England's collection of services and prayers for worship, provides prayers for those with authority and influence in different forms.

### A prayer for those who govern



Eternal God,  
fount and source of all authority and wisdom,  
hear our prayer for those who govern.  
Give to Elizabeth our Queen grace  
as the symbol of loyalty and unity  
for all our different peoples;  
give to the parliaments in these islands,  
and especially to our own Government,  
wisdom and skill, imagination and energy;  
give to the members of the European institutions  
vision, understanding and integrity,  
that all may live in peace and happiness, truth and  
prosperity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### For Those Engaged in Commerce and Industry



Almighty God and Father,  
you have so ordered our life  
that we are dependent on one another:  
prosper those engaged in commerce and industry  
and direct their minds and hands  
that they may rightly use your gifts in the service of  
others;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

### A prayer from another source, the Royal Naval Prayer Book, for those going to sea. The sentiments could apply in many walks of life



Almighty God, who has made us so that we may live in company with one another, grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit that together we may learn kindness, self-control, loyalty and courage. Help us to overcome our faults and grow in all that is good and true, so that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## St James's chooses Green energy

**GREEN ENERGY** The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has honoured its commitment to switch to a renewable energy supply. As reported in *The Spire* in February, one of the themes in our Mission Action Plan (MAP) for 2010-13 is *Growing towards the world*.



A specific commitment that the PCC made was to express this through practical acts of care for creation. One such action was to switch to a green electricity supplier in Spring 2011.

With advice from the Eco Group, and in particular from a paper prepared by David Taylor, the PCC considered this matter with great care. As a result, St. James's electricity is now provided by LoCo2, a family-run British renewable energy and low-carbon electricity supplier ([www.loco2energy.com](http://www.loco2energy.com)), who produce electricity through a number of renewable technologies including wind, hydro and solar.



**FAIRTRADE CHARCOAL** Give unfair trade a grilling with this fair trade instant barbecue (single use, 29 x 24 x 5cm). Charcoal producers in Namibia are one of Traidcraft's newest partners. Just £2 from our Traidcraft stall.



**PLANNED GIVING** We have now delivered all the letters about making regular donations to St James's to parishioners. Thank you for taking time to read them and to those who have responded. We would like to hear from you even if you feel you cannot increase your giving. Please could you send any remaining responses to Don Barrett at 39 Park Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1HG, or hand them in to the Parish Office. We appreciate any increased giving in these difficult financial times.

**ONLINE BIBLE** *The People's Bible*, a handwritten, digital Bible has been launched by Bible Society. Until November it will tour the country, visiting towns and cities across the UK. People can hand-write a couple of Bible verses, using a digital pen, to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Part of it will be bound and presented at a celebration service attended by the Queen at Westminster Abbey on 16 November.

**FAIRTRADE** The Fairtrade Foundation received 130,000 pieces of cotton bunting, enough to break the Guinness World Record ten times over.

Measuring 3.4km, it was displayed in Battersea Park on World Fair Trade Day in May. Thank you to 3rd Hampton Hill Guides and The Ark for their flags.



## Registers for May



### Baptisms

1 Calum William Hayler-Brown, Hampton

1 Stuart James Hayler, Hampton

1 Scarlett Rose Green, Hampton

8 Charlotte Lily St Leger, Sunbury

8 Angus James Welford, Teddington

22 Samuel Bradley Jones, Hampton Hill

29 Oscar James Jeffries, Hanworth

29 Eirynn Lily Sealy, Hampton Hill

### Wedding

7 Jamie Smith and Anna Hutchinson, Teddington

### Funerals

20 Brian Charles Gray, 75, Hampton Hill

24 Madeline Ann Sheldrake, 52, Hampton Hill

25 Rolf Christopher Ainsworth Christopherson, 67, Hampton Hill

### Memorial Service

23 Connie Brunt, 96, Seaford, followed by interment of ashes

# Keeping hope alive ravaged by war and

Sri Lanka is a beautiful island recovering from war and the devastating effects of a tsunami.



Hope Outreach UK is a charity that looks after some of its poorest people. Canon Julian Reindorp is its chairman and reports on his recent visit there.



**S**ri Lanka is an island off the SE coast of India; a number of you may have been there. It is about 240 miles north to south and about 140 miles across; population about 20m, about a third the size of England. The island is just over 80% Sinhala-speaking and the rest are largely Tamils, and it is this minority community who have felt excluded in the country's development.



to bring hope to some of the poorest communities on the island, regardless of their faith, and to enable them to recover from the effects of the 25-year civil war and the devastating 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. Since we began we have raised just over £1million for this task.

As I wrote this, the United Nations published its highly critical report on the bloody end of Sri Lanka's 25-year civil war. It said that at least 20,000 civilians died in the final five months of the government's military campaign to crush the Tamil Tigers. The Tamil Tigers had been fighting for an independent area in the north and east of the island where the Tamil community would feel particularly welcome.

**Hope Outreach UK** is a Christian organization formed almost 25 years ago in Milton Keynes to support the church in Sri Lanka. (We also support one project in Mysore State, south India.) My own involvement began because the two friends who first discussed the founding of this organization met beside the main church I served when working in a large ecumenical team in Milton Keynes. Our aim is

### Volunteer teams of doctors, dentists, optometrists, and children's workers.

We have supported work in these ways:

- By sending out teams of volunteers for brief two-week periods to work in areas that others cannot easily reach. Most frequent have been our teams of doctors — one team became involved in fitting new limbs to war victims.

- By sending teams of dentists.

- By running 'vision clinics', providing glasses and treatment, often for people who have never had any attention paid to their eyes.

- By sending specialists in the care and welfare of children to support local ongoing work with children, many of them orphans.

These volunteer teams have involved both UK and Sri Lankan professionals. Some 90 people have joined these teams over the years and they pay for their own travel.



Orphans and care staff finally have something to smile about

# for islanders natural disaster

## The second area of work is the direct result of the civil war and tsunami.

We have helped to build orphanages and extend existing ones to increase their capacity (in Kilinochi and Batticaloa); and to build new houses, in one case a Hope Village of over 50 houses. Visiting communities this year, it was amazing to see how the children are recovering from being caught in trenches with shells flying over their heads at the end of the civil war.

## Then there is the ongoing support of the children and young people, many affected by the war

Money from the charity pays for their education: both the teaching and the bicycles to get to college. One state school was able to buy IT equipment with our help. Some 400 children in orphanages are learning to speak English through another project. Volunteers also speak with the young people via SKYPE to improve their English

We are involved with simple agricultural projects where women in particular can get micro-loans to till their little piece of land, or buy a goat or two. At present 200 war widows are being assisted — the repayment rate is almost 100%. This project is now in its third successful year.

## Our fourth area of work has been more directly with the churches.

We support students at a rural pastors' theological college, founded in 1989. They come for a few days every month of the year for six years to be trained, to receive support and encouragement and pray for one another.

Some 600 rural pastors have been involved over the years and 350 have graduated in various ways. (I preached at their graduation ceremony this year.) We have helped to build pastors' retirement bungalows, and supported some remarkable people in educational and evangelistic work.

We have set ourselves to serve people in the greatest need regardless of their creed. We have supported projects in both the Sinhala and Tamil



The Hope Outreach UK team in Dickoya

areas, we have been partners in projects but always sought to be led by the local people, and never directing any work. We receive regular, detailed accounts of the projects and the professionalism of all that goes on is inspiring. We try to visit our projects to encourage people on the ground and to be educated ourselves. No one is paid and we have managed to keep administrative costs to less than 4%.

Hope Outreach UK was founded by two friends, both Sri Lankan, one a GP living in Milton Keynes, and the other who runs an evangelistic programme in Sri Lanka — *Every Home Crusade*. Using their contacts and with our regular visits this has meant that we know personally all the key people in the projects: all in their different ways outstanding individuals.

Last year we were chosen by the Mayor of Milton Keynes as his charity for his mayoral year and it is widely known and respected in the city. Our latest projects are to sponsor a war destitute child at £30 a month, a psycho-social counsellor at £60 a month (hugely needed in war torn areas), rural pastors at £10 a month, and university students with no parents at £20 a month.

■ **Could you help us?** For more information please visit our website at [www.hopeoutreach.org.uk](http://www.hopeoutreach.org.uk) or write to Hope Outreach UK, Freepost Licence no MK1840, Great Lindford, Milton Keynes MK14 5BR.



A group of villagers wait to receive free spectacles at one of the charity's vision clinics

If you have some news to share:  
✉ [smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk)

## Around the Spire

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL  
AND BEYOND

### Joyful and moving service for Connie

Friends, family and past and present worshippers gathered at St. James's on 23 May for a memorial service for **Connie Brunt**, widow of the late Revd Rupert Brunt, vicar of the parish from 1951-80. Tribute was paid to Connie in many different forms, including music from family members, and words from the Revd. Prebendary Dr. Brian Leathard. Brian had known both Rupert and Connie when he served as a curate in Seaford, the Brunts retirement home.



It was a joyful and moving celebration of both remembrance and hope. Connie's ashes were interred in the Garden of Rest after the service and a celebration held in the Hall where people exchanged happy memories of Rupert and Connie with the family and looked at old photos of parishioners during their years at Hampton Hill.

■ Thank you to all who gave money to the **Lent Appeal**. St. James's raised £840 which will be used to train and provide re-sources for church leaders in our partner dioceses in Angola and Mozambique. There is a huge need for more priests, but training often involves travel over great distances. The total raised by the London diocese's Lent appeals 2008-10 is £240,000.



■ **The total raised in this year's Christian Aid collection was £3460, including Gift Aid, £182 up on last year. Many thanks to all who help to organise the collection, knocked on doors, donated or counted the money.**

### Bakers' Golden Wedding



**Congratulations to Brian and Wendy Baker, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 20 May. They held a lunch party the following day for family and close friends, a number of whom were at the wedding.**

**They then went on holiday to Jersey, where they spent their honeymoon 50 years ago.**



### Saying farewell in song...

Hymns are falling out of favour at funerals. Fewer than one in five people choose hymns when it comes to songs they want played at their funeral. Instead, songs such as *What a Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong, pictured above, *Here Comes the Sun* by The Beatles and *Je Ne Regrette Rien* by Edith Piaf have become popular.

The research, by the website My Last Song, found that the poor showing of hymns reflects a growing trend for funerals that mix religious and secular elements.





Go online for even more

T H E P U Z Z L E R

Join our Sunday School and explore the world!

Young Spire



Medieval pilgrims walked for months to arrive at Santiago Cathedral

If you visit Galicia in northern Spain you will probably see countless people walking towards Santiago, often with backpacks and hikers' attire. Many of these travellers also carry a long staff with a shell attached to the handle and look somewhat dishevelled. These people are holy pilgrims making the centuries-old pilgrimage known as El Camino de Santiago or The Way of St. James.

The route that they follow is known as El Camino and there are several ways. The oldest one starts in France some 900km (650 miles) from its ultimate destination. The serious pilgrims, who walk the entire route, can expect to take a month, with the added bonus of very sore feet.

Many do, however, claim to have a revelation on achieving their goal. If you are interested in undertaking the pilgrimage, you can do so at a minimum of expense, as free lodgings are provided along the entire route.

There is also a book you can sign as proof of your journey's completion at Santiago de Compostela's pilgrim's office near the cathedral — the objective of the pilgrimage.

Once there pilgrims visit the shrine where St James is buried. There are two rituals: touching the statue of St. James behind the main altar, and pilgrims also taps their head three times on a large column just inside the Pórtico de la Gloria, the arched entrance to the cathedral.

The Way of St James, marked by colourful signs featuring a shell, has existed for over a thousand years. It was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during medieval times, together with Rome and Jerusalem. According to legend, St. James's remains were carried by



In search of Saint James

A growing number of modern-day pilgrims are following a well-worn path to a Spanish cathedral where our patron saint is buried



boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where he was buried on the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

During the Middle Ages the route was highly travelled, but the Black Death and political



The Pórtico de la Gloria

unrest led to its decline. By the 1980s only a few pilgrims arrived in Santiago annually.

Recently, however, the route has attracted a growing number of modern-day pilgrims: 125,000 completed the final 100km in 2008. The route was declared the first European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe in October 1987 and it was also named one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

Whenever St James's day (25 July) falls on a Sunday, the cathedral declares a Holy or Jubilee Year. The next is 2021.

James, son of Zebedee, died 44 AD, and was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. He was a son of Zebedee and Salome, and brother of John the Apostle.

He is also called James the Greater.

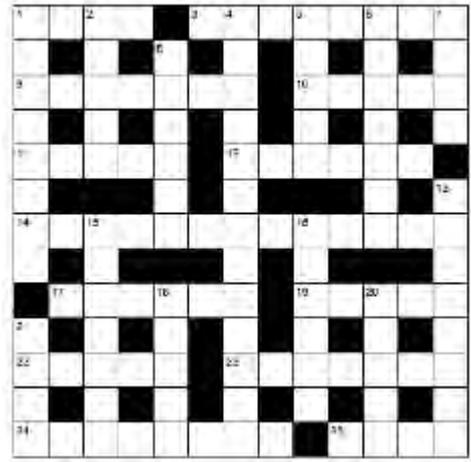
James was one of only three apostles whom Jesus selected to witness his Transfiguration. The Acts of the Apostles records that Agrippa I had James executed by sword. He is the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament.

The cathedral is one of the finest Romanesque churches in Spain. Construction began in 1060 in the reign of Alfonso VI and was completed in 1211.



The tomb of St James

Crossword



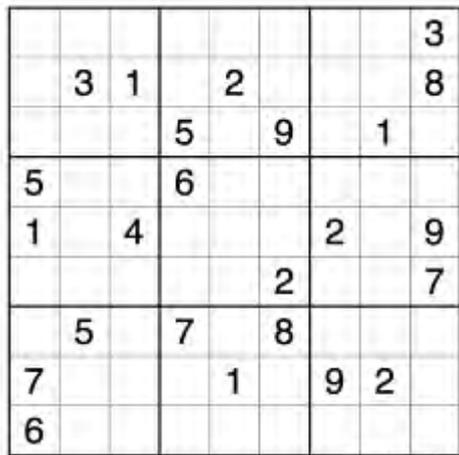
Across

- 1 Sent out three times on reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8-12) (4)
3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

Down

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
2 Church of England incumbent (5)
4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in —' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
7 It destroys treasures (Matthew 6:19) (4)
8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
16 Real do (anag.) (6)
18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day —' (Romans 14:5) (5)
21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)
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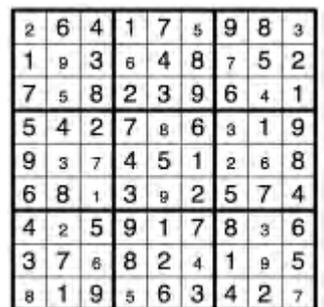
Sudoku



Complete the grid so that every row, column, and each 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 once.

Solutions to both puzzles will appear in the next issue

Solutions to June puzzles





# What's On



## THE ROYAL WEDDING

I watched the royal wedding in the home of a Jewish family with republican sympathies. They warned to the Bishop of London's address.

Two statements stood out. He quoted St Catherine of Siena whose festival day it was: 'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire'.

He continued: 'Marriage is intended to be a way in which man and woman help each other to become what God meant each one to be, their deepest truest selves.'

They were struck by the prayer William and Catherine had written: 'God our Father, we thank you for our families; for the love that we share and for the joy of marriage. In the business of each day keep our eyes fixed on what is real and important in life and help us to be generous with our time, love and energy. Strengthened by our union help us to serve and comfort those who suffer. We ask this in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.'

## A GREEN QUEEN?

What the Queen wears is always commented on, but never surely with such significance as on her recent visit to Ireland. Her green outfits sent such a powerful signal to a country wary of royal authority. The Queen has pretty much seen it all during her reign: social change, political upheaval. But there aren't many dramatic changes that she has effected by her mere presence. What she wore, where she visited, and well what she said, was key to helping to heal some of the wounds of the last century in British and Irish relations.

The Irish press commented that the Queen seemed entirely at ease in Ireland. Yet this was the country where her uncle Lord Mountbatten was killed when his boat was blown up by the IRA in 1979. Papers released four years ago also revealed that he was in favour of Irish unity. It was noted too that Prince William wore the uniform of the Irish guards for his wedding three weeks before. As has often been said, a symbol is worth a thousand words.

## POLITICS DOING GOD?

The Prime Minister recently spoke robustly about the place of Christianity in public life. 'Britain is a Christian country,' said David Cameron. 'Christianity has given a huge amount to our country and continues to do so. As one of my colleagues, Baroness Warsi (a Moslem), put it... as a Government we shouldn't be frightened of, "Doing God".' I've never really understood the argument about whether the Church should get involved in politics. The Church is involved in politics because so many political questions are moral questions.

So I don't think we should be frightened of having these debates and discussions, and frankly sometimes arguments, about politics in our country and what it means to be a Christian and what faith brings to politics.

Mr Cameron also took the opportunity to thank the churches for their contribution to national life, for those who provide personal support for his family, including his parish priests in Oxfordshire and London, and Sister Frances Dominica and the staff of Helen House, the children's hospice that had looked after the Camerons' son Ivan.

## St James's Day

Sunday 3 July, from 11am, St James's Church, Hampton Hill and from 12noon in the Vicarage Gardens

Our annual celebrations begin with an all-age service.

Please note that Parish Communion begins at 11am.

The preacher at this service is

the Venerable Martin Poll QHC, Principal Anglican

Chaplain and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy and Honorary Chaplain to the Queen. Martin joined the Royal Navy in 1990 and saw active service in the Gulf and also in operations in the former Yugoslavia. He has worked on board aircraft carriers, including HMS *Invincible* and HMS *Illustrious*. 'It's just like being a vicar in any parish,' he says, 'but your church is the ship.'

The service will be followed by a bring and share lunch in the Vicarage garden. There is no charge for lunch, but



please add your name to the list on the board in the south aisle so we know numbers for the day. There are also lists for food donations and volunteers to help on the day. For further information please telephone Liz Wilmot on 020 8977 9434, or email [elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net](mailto:elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net).



There will be tours of the tower from 1-3pm, with the chance to ring the bells and admire the views.



Last year

## Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 2 July, Summer Soirée — Music on Holiday, 2pm and 7pm, St Mary's Parish Church Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF

Cakes and refreshments available for 2pm concert. For 7pm performance do bring a picnic. Tickets at door, or by telephoning 020 8977 5986.

## Hampton Hill Singers

Sunday 3 July, 4.30pm, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU

The choir will be performing with other local schools.

## Concordia Voices Summer Concert

Sunday 3 July, Bach to the Future, 7.30pm, St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2PE

Including music from Bach, Brahms, Wood and Parry.

Tickets £12 (concessions £10) at the door.

## Thameside Clarinet Choir

Thursday 7 July, 8pm, The Greenwood Centre, 1a School Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1QL

Under the baton of its Musical Director, Martin Hincley, the concert, in aid of The Greenwood Centre, includes *Summertime*, *Lady of Spain* and *Bach goes to Town*. Tickets, £8, available from Fiona Brennan at the Greenwood Centre or Martin, tel 020 8979 0528.



## Alma Sunday

Sunday 10 July, 6pm, St Paul's Cathedral

Come and enjoy this evening Eucharist with Bishop Dinis Sengulane as London celebrates its partnership with Angola and Mozambique.



'Yes, all right — they ARE a bit like ten super-injunctions rolled into one!'

## Cantanti Camerati NSPCC Concert

Sunday 10 July, 7.30pm, St Dunstan's Church, Church Road, Cheam, Surrey SM3 8QH

Tickets and information by telephoning 020 8898 8020.

## Hampton Hill Summer Festival

Saturday 16 July, 12-7pm, High Street and elsewhere

Organised by the Hampton Hill Traders' Association, in aid of local charities. The day includes a dog show, music in the mews, wellness therapies in Bushy Park and a barbeque. Look out for musicians, singers, dancers, artists and clowns. For more information go to: [www.hamptonhillguide.co.uk](http://www.hamptonhillguide.co.uk).



## Summer Youth Camp

Sunday 14-Sunday 21 August, The Friary, Hilfield, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7BE

Run by volunteers, the camp offers young people from 13-18 years old a low cost, fun holiday, while exploring a Christian theme. Activities include rock climbing, canoeing, swimming, games, karaoke, art, music and trips to local beaches and towns. The group cook their own food, chill out and make new friends while sharing in the life of the stunningly beautiful Franciscan Friary and countryside.

The cost is £120 per person. For full details of activities, what to take to the camp, and to book places, go online to <http://www.sandalmagna.com/hyc/Welcome.html> or email [andy.allyhyc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andy.allyhyc@hotmail.co.uk).

## St James's Theatre Group

Friday 2 December, 7.45pm, Calendar Girls, Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond TW9 1JQ

Calendar Girls has been the fastest selling tour ever and has triumphed in the West End. Now, it's coming to Richmond as part of its final ever tour, starring Lynda

Bellingham, Debbie Chazen, Camilla Dallerup, Jennifer Ellison, Jan Harvey, Rula Lenska, June Watson and Ruth Madoc with Bruno Langley as Lawrence the photographer and Joe McGann as John.

We have secured some of the best seats for £24 (a saving of £5.50 on the full price). To join us add your name to the list on the church events notice board or telephone Ria Beaumont 020 8943 4336. Transport can be arranged.

Look out for further events in the weekly pew sheets.





# Your Voice

Martin Poll explains why the Navy needs chaplains

## The Gospel in times of war



The fall of Nelson, Denis Dighton, 1825, National Maritime Museum

*'He would find the pay inadequate; he might well be sent aboard a ship whose officers, from whose company he could not escape, would make his voyage with them miserable; naval chaplains are generally far from being the most respectable of their calling.... The more I see of chaplains of men-of-war the more I dread seeing my brother in such a disagreeable situation of life.'*

**N**ot the most encouraging words to begin a brief introduction to the work of the naval chaplain, especially as they are the sentiments of our great hero, Admiral Viscount Nelson. At least they show we have been around for many years, and if those words still ring true then I, as Archdeacon for the Royal Navy, have to earn my pay trying to keep them in order!

The call to exercise priesthood in the Royal Navy is the call to preach the gospel to people who commit themselves to a life on the line, and often on the move, in difficult and challenging situations. As a priest like your vicar, Peter, what I am called to be and do is the same, but the circumstances are quite particular. It is a far cry from the settled community he or she has left behind on joining. The priests in the Royal Navy need to draw on all their training, experience and spirituality to underpin with strength and depth their priesthood, now exercised in unique circumstances. Permanency and stability are rare commodities in the Navy, and the priest will be part of that flux like anybody else. The truth of the church as a pilgrim people often has a concrete reality as we move from ship to ship, unit to unit.

The substance of our ministry is the same as that of any other priest, but without a doubt a new and fresh opportunity for mission is available to us. By sharing the life of those serving, officers and ratings alike, the chaplain finds himself closer to those people with whom he works than many a parish priest can ever be. The style of ministry requires that whilst being firm in faith, we must be adaptable in how we play things. You have to pitch in, quite literally, with the life and interests of those with whom you live, be it on the mess deck or in the wardroom. Often it is the first time people have been anywhere near the church, a clergyman, or heard the gospel. Or perhaps seen the gospel. For ours is above all a ministry of example, of action, of presence. Not, I hasten to add, an excuse to be idle, but an opportunity for us to reveal God's love for his world, which includes sailors!

Like any priest, we have to work to draw people from lives that are essentially faithless to lives that are centred on faith and with purpose. So the church in the Navy tries to invite rather than exclude, encourage rather than judge, listen rather than preach, lead rather than force, gathering together rather than creating structures. And it makes a choice in favour of compassion over dominance.

Spiritual values lie at the heart of anyone's search for God, underpinning motivation and faith. The ultimate sacrifice that every marine or sailor may have to make

requires that each one comes to terms with their own mortality as well as the risks facing those with whom they serve. Gospel values inspire people to reach out beyond what they are, and the men and women of the service need to identify those values by which and for which they will fight. They want to be recognised as instinctively decent people acting on instinctively decent orders given by instinctively decent superiors. They need to know that when they appeal to their conscience, God is close. The chaplain, if he's done his job, has laid the foundation for that all-important encounter.

The chaplain has to be increasingly a sign and witness of Gospel values in an environment that is not necessarily opposed to them, but which is often too busy to hear and see them. The chaplain has to 'loiter with intent', especially at sea; to be available, accessible, approachable and patently not 'too busy'; 'a friend and adviser of all on board'. As Queens Regulations Royal Navy defines our role, he must be the one who above all has time for people. After 20 years plus of service I truly believe that those who serve in any of our armed services have a special dignity, because frankly they have an unlimited liability that may unexpectedly demand the sacrifice of life or limb. There is urgency therefore placed on the church in the services, and especially as it is embodied in her chaplains, to ensure that respect and justice are the ethical foundations which all, particularly those in command, understand and accept.

**There must be room for a prophetic ministry in the naval chaplain's armoury, for the church, if we are to be true to Christ, has to underpin standards and constantly recall the navy individually and corporately to the moral and ethical principles of the Gospel so that its action always remains justifiable.**

**S**ervice men and women can often be sceptical when it comes to faith, and more so when it comes to religion, but even so they look to us in their search for the meaning of life, and we can often help them to discover the seeds of faith within themselves when they thought they had none, and to nurture their growth into wholeness. Most often we do that through being out there with them in the fleet, living the Gospel life and helping them to catch it too.

Recently, one commanding officer whose unit had been in Afghanistan said to me that he had found his chaplain to be of inestimable value because, among other things, 'he had reminded us of our humanity in the midst of what could have been thoroughly dehumanising circumstances'. I find that very heartening and humbling.

Some 65 chaplains, from all the major Christian denominations, are currently serving with the Royal Navy at sea, with the Royal Marines in Afghanistan, and ashore in training establishments and naval bases. Please remember us and those we serve in your prayers.



## Songs of Praise

The story behind the hymn

### Hands that have been handling



The Institution of the Eucharist, Joos van Wassenhove, 1474, Doed Palace, Uffizi

Hands that have been handling,  
holy things and high,  
still, Lord, in thy service  
bless and fortify.

Ears which heard the message  
of the words of life,  
keep thou closed and guarded  
from the noise of strife.

Eyes whose contemplation  
looked upon thy love  
let them gaze expectant  
on the world above.

'Holy, holy, holy,'  
thee our lips confessed:  
on those lips for ever  
let no falsehood rest.

Feet which trod the pavement  
round about God's board,  
let them walk in glory  
where God's light is poured.

Bodies that have tasted  
of the living Bread,  
be they re-created  
in their living Head.

Be we all one Body,  
all our members one,  
measured by the stature  
of God's full-grown Son.

In all hymn books there are hymns that are re-workings of much older texts from Christian worship. This applies to the hymn for this month which will be sung at St. James's on 10 July. The words are an adaptation of part of the liturgy of Christians in Kerala in south India. There are various churches there looking back to St. Thomas ('Doubting Thomas') as their founder. They still use the language of Syriac in their worship. The words of the hymn are carefully balanced. The first half of all but the last verse refers to a physical action which has taken place as part of the celebration of the Eucharist or Holy Communion. The second half of the verse looks for a practical consequence of the action in action. So the physical action in church 'Holy, holy, holy, thee our lips confessed' and the practical outworking 'on those lips for ever let no falsehood rest'. The hymn's words were put into their present form by Adam Fox (1883-1977.) Fox was a priest, ending his ministry at Westminster Abbey. He was also a poet — at one point Professor of Poetry at Oxford — and is buried in Poets' Corner. At Oxford, Fox was part of a literary group that included C. S. Lewis (of *Narnia* fame) and J.R.R. Tolkien (*Lord of the Rings*). He advocated the writing of clear and intelligible poetry. This is evident in the words of this month's hymn.