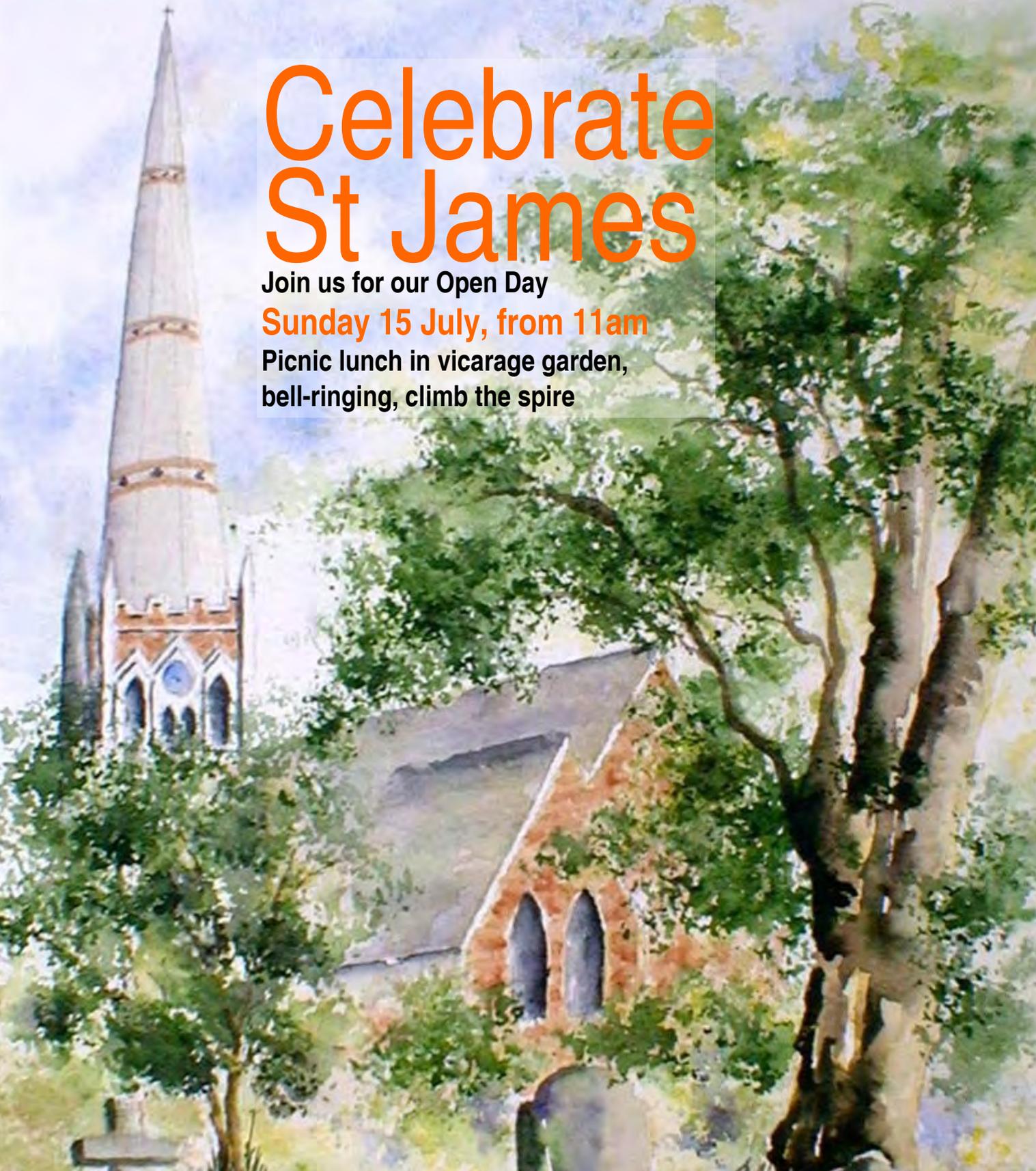


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thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk please take a copy



Celebrate St James

Join us for our Open Day

Sunday 15 July, from 11am

Picnic lunch in vicarage garden,
bell-ringing, climb the spire

INSIDE: OLYMPICS TORCH / CYCLING LOCAL ROAD CLOSURES

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.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

STORIES, FEATURES

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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

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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The August / September issue is published on 29 July. All copy must be with us by **Mon 2 July**.

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PUBLISHING

Printer Justin Hollingsworth 020 8686 4481

thespire magazine is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests, as laid down by the Forest Stewardship Council. This magazine may be recycled for use in newspapers or packaging.



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St James's Church is proud to be a Fairtrade church. We use Fairtrade communion wine and Fairtrade tea and coffee after services. We also promote and sell Fairtrade products.



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

Welcome July 2012



Hopefully by the time you read this summer will really have come and not been restricted to just a few days in May! Even the weather could not dampen spirits for all the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, but we will keep our fingers crossed that the sun comes out in time for the Olympics. On that subject, this issue includes an insert, on bright yellow paper, giving details of local road closures connected with Olympic events.

To celebrate **St James's Day** on 15 July we have used **Prill Hinckley's** lovely watercolour of St James's Church on our front cover. More details of this special day appear on page seven.

The planning for our 150th Anniversary next year is ongoing, but we now need your help. Besides writing articles we are looking for old photos. We already have a lot of ideas thanks to the wealth of information on our website, but we want to make this a special year for the church so please cast your mind back and look in your photo albums to see if you can find anything which could be included.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn,
Editor

You can find us on facebook:
facebook.com/SaintjamesHamptonHill



OUR CLERGY



VICAR

The Revd Peter Vannozi
Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather.

Peter was ordained in 1987. He is Chair of the Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School and a Trustee of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group.

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CURATE

The Revd David Bell
David was born in Skipton in 1952. He is a self-supporting deacon, working during the week in events management. A former chair of the Hampton Wick Association, David is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

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BAPTISM AND WEDDING ENQUIRIES

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

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PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Nickie Jones
For enquiries and hall bookings. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday am.

☎ 020 8941 6003

✉ office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Nick Bagge

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SERVICES FOR JULY

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
(first in month will be an All-age Service)

1 July — 4th Sunday after Trinity

Wisdom 1.13-15; 2.23-24;
2 Corinthians 8.7-15; Mark 5.21-24

8 July — 5th Sunday after Trinity

Ezekiel 2.1-5; 2 Cor. 12.2-10; Mark 6.1-13

15 July — St James's Day

11am Parish Communion
Acts 11.27-12.2; 2 Cor. 4.7-15;
Matthew 20.20-28

22 July — St Mary Magdalen

Song of Solomon 3.1-4; 2 Cor. 5.14-17;
John 20.1-2, 11-18

29 July — 8th Sunday after Trinity

2 Kings 4.42-44; Ephesians 3.14-21;
John 6.1-21

Mondays-Fridays

(but **not** Tuesdays)
9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

5 July 2pm NO Holy Communion this month



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Margaret Taylor 020 8979 3961

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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

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Organist / Choirmaster

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Weekly Notices / Pew Sheet

Nickie Jones 020 8941 6003

Leader Column

Spare a thought for life's also-rans

James 'the Less' is often overshadowed by our patron, James 'the Great', pictured here.



Not once, but twice, I have served in churches named after 'James'. Since 20 March 2007 I have been here at St. James, Hampton Hill; earlier, from 1990-1993, I was Curate-in-charge of St Philip and St. James, Fleet.

The two Jameses are not, though, the same person. The James of Hampton Hill is the brother of John, and they were second only to Peter and Andrew in being called by Jesus to be apostles.

The New Testament records in the Acts of the Apostles that James died a martyr's death, and his mortal remains are alleged to be in the great Spanish shrine and centre of pilgrimage, Santiago de Compostella.

Hampton Hill's (and Compostella's) James is often dubbed 'the Great'.

By contrast, the other James is known as 'the Less'. The reason for this is that he is rather eclipsed by the 'great' James. All we know of 'the Less' is his name. Perhaps, for this reason, he is commemorated not on a day of his own, but one shared with the apostle Philip, about whom we also know next to nothing. Their day is 1 May.

So why worry about the James about whom nothing more is known for sure than a name, who is not Hampton Hill's James anyway, and who is not considered significant enough even to have his own day?

Friday 27 July sees the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games here in London. Love it or loathe it, the Olympics are here and all of us who live in London (and beyond) will be affected by it. Athletes will be converging on the UK from all around the world. Some — a few in reality — will be widely known. Many, perhaps most, will not be famous. They will leave the Games similarly lacking in fame, as only a few can win medals.

Yet setting apart the fact that the reason for taking part in the Olympic Games is a desire to win, is this all that is going on? I am sure that the competitor who comes last in, say, the javelin will never forget taking part, and not necessarily hold on to a sense of disappointment about getting the fewest



Peter Vannozzi

points. The same will apply across the whole range of sports. For many it will be enough to say 'I was there' even though they will not be remembered by more than a very few people. The taking part can be enough.

Amongst the many millions who have run the race of which St. Paul writes — the race of the Christian life — most will not be remembered.

There is no fame attached simply to being a follower of Jesus. A few, a very few, will become well-known, for good or ill. Being well-known tends to go with being Pope or Archbishop of Canterbury!

Fame is of no significance in the Christian life. Infamy can totally undermine it. The two Jameses are a contrast. One 'Great', and one 'Lesser', though the latter's name

is known and he is remembered, but not in the same way as the former.

Most of us will spend our lives being closer to 'the Less', but that does not matter. What is asked of any follower of Jesus is simply to run the race, to persevere, to be faithful, to live, to grow, in company with others. Heroic achievements are not the order of the day for more than a few.

Being the best possible spouse, parent, sibling, friend, colleague, carer (put in your own words!) is what is required of a follower of Jesus as part of the life they have chosen to embrace. The lesser James reminds me of that, even as the greater shines through his perseverance even to death.

So for many athletes perhaps the taking part will be enough. To say 'I was there,' and to achieve within the limits each one has, and perhaps to transcend them, may be sufficient. For the Christian 'athlete', persevering within the human life and limitations each has is enough, and can enable them to 'win the race'.

On Sunday 15 July we will keep St. James's Day, anticipating his day which is on 25 July, in company with Bishop John Salt, until March last year Bishop of St. Helena with the Church of the Province of Southern Africa. I hope it will be a joyful celebration. I also hope for the same for the Olympics — for the 'great' and for the 'less'.

In Thought and Prayer

There are many resources for prayer and worship themed around the Olympic



and Paralympic Games. Here is one litany from the Church of England website:

For the peace that comes from God alone, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the nations of the world, and for all its leaders, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.



For every athlete, for each team and for all who train and support them, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the city of London, and for all venues that will host events, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have planned the games, visionaries and constructors, financiers and funders, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all who will support the Games, for those with public roles and all those who will work unseen, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all visitors, travellers and tourists, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

Let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to God.

Silence is kept.

For yours is the majesty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

Amen.



Our anniversary issues need your memories and photos

STARTING IN December, and running to the end of 2013, we shall be printing stories and pictures celebrating St James's 150th anniversary — but we need YOUR help!

If you have memories of church or local events, or of particular people, that you would like to share with the wider world, please let us know. There is a vast amount of history already on the website, but we would like to focus on the many individuals involved in church life over the years.

Perhaps you have a special memory of a Sunday School outing, of the Young Wives' group; it could be from a past pilgrimage, a service that has stayed in the mind; or a St James's Day picnic.

In addition to our usual issues, we are also producing a souvenir edition for July 2013. Please look in your photo albums and see if you have any taken at church or



St James's Church, as it looked in 1863

local events. We are planning a *From Your Album* section and want to include as many photos and captions as we can. Can you can think of some past event which you would like to be included? We have facilities for reproducing even old photographs, whatever their size.

If you would like to write an article we would be very pleased to hear from you. Although it is still some time off we need to plan ahead.

Please contact Janet Nunn, by phoning 020 8979 6325 or by email: janunhh@btinternet.com.

What's in a name? Look for the ethics logo!

Food Labelling can be confusing. Where food is sourced may indicate where it was processed, not where it originated; *farm fresh* or *farm assured* have nothing to do with animal welfare and may have come from a factory farm. Look instead for *Free Range*, *Outdoor Reared/Bred* or *Freedom Food*.



A NEW REGULAR FOCUS ON OUR GIVING

Charity Box



Traidcraft: making trade work for the poor

Many thanks to everyone who supports our Traidcraft stall month by month. Many of you have made the purchase of a few items part of your regular shop, some people make bulk orders of food items and others order craft products. It all adds up to a substantial volume of sales — just over £4500 in the last financial year.

The year-round work in running the stall, funded by a parishioner, is doubly rewarding as we are able to plough back operating profit to **Traidcraft Exchange**. We have made a donation for the past three years.

The Exchange is Traidcraft's development charity, making trade work for the poor. Established in 1986, it enables poor producers in Africa and Asia to grow their businesses, find markets, and trade effectively. It passionately believes that trade can provide people with opportunities to work their way out of poverty.



One of the joys of running the stall is reading about the producers and how their lives are being improved by fair trade. Some of their stories are in a folder in the glass display cabinet in church, including that of Sri Lankan rubber farmer Siripala, pictured above. You are most welcome to borrow the folder and then return it.

If you'd like to see fair trade in practice and meet the people whose lives are changed, consider a Traidcraft **Meet the People Tour** (see www.traidcraft.co.uk). You would get to see some amazing places, but not simply as a tourist. Your own life may well be changed!

Why business innovation is good news for all Africa

The Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund provides grants and interest-free loans to businesses for innovative projects that lead not just to jobs in rural economies, but shake up the market system for long-term growth. **Laurence Sewell**, who has been advising the Nairobi-based programme, took the chance while there to holiday with his wife, Penny, paying a visit to the Masai Mara game reserve.



Earlier last year I spent some time based out in Nairobi, Kenya, working as an adviser to a large multi-donor private sector challenge fund, the Africa Enterprise

factory was set up by Susan Wood to provide local women and single mothers with regular employment and it has grown over the years earning international

recognition and now having a large workforce making exquisite handmade jewellery. Penny, of course, was tempted with a number of purchases, so check her necklaces next time you see her!

We had a wonderful few days in the Rift Valley around Lake Naivasha and the Eburu forest, a fascinating area scenically and also known for its geo-thermal activity,



A cheetah in the Masai Mara

which is now being increasingly tapped as an alternative and sustainable energy source in the country.

The highlight of our stay was a trip to the Masai Mara staying at a tented camp along the Mara River. Here we had celebrated Penny's 40th birthday all those years ago, so it was something



Lions from Musiara pride in the Masai Mara

of a trip down memory lane! We were rewarded with some marvellous sights of all the main predators (lion, leopard and cheetah) and big game species, as well as the increasingly rare rhinoceros; although it was not the season for the wildebeest migration (which is during August/September in this part of the

Challenge Fund (AECF), of which more later. This also provided the opportunity for Penny to join me in January/February, thus avoiding the miserable winter weather in England and the chance to enjoy the wonderful climate and scenery of Kenya once again. We had lived in the arid north of the country during the mid 1980s and this was the first opportunity for Penny to return to Kenya since then.

Aside from the work, it gave us the possibility to see old friends still living in Nairobi, play some golf at the wonderful courses at Muthaiga and Limuru, and enjoy a number of long weekend trips together visiting the Rift Valley and Lake Naivasha, and going on safari to the Masai Mara game reserve.

We had both loved our time out in Kenya all those years ago and the welcome and friendliness of the Kenyan people, and we were certainly not disappointed on this occasion. Whilst Nairobi has grown into a large and congested city with all the problems of large African urban centres (perhaps the most well known blight is the Kibera slum, home to some one million of the poorest people and a quarter of the city's population), there are still green and tranquil parts to the city.

I had rented a flat for the duration of my assignment and this was close to our office to avoid the terrible traffic jams that clog the streets, and also convenient to one of the suburban shopping centres that are now a feature of living in Nairobi.

Penny had the chance to visit the Kazuri bead factory, situated on the outskirts of the city in what was part of the Karen Blixen Estate and where they filmed some of *Out of Africa* many years ago. The



The Kazuri bead factory in Karen



A view of smallholder farming in the Rift Valley towards Lake Naivasha

East African savannah).

Those of you watching wildlife programmes on the television presented by Jonathan Scott (*Big Cat Diary*) will be familiar with the area we visited and especially the Marsh pride of lions around the Musiara swamp.

My advisory work with the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) has involved setting up the monitoring and evaluation systems and developing the management processes for the performance assessment of the fund and the framework for judging the impact of the fund on poverty alleviation and changes to market systems, approaches known as 'making markets work for the poor'.

The term *Challenge Fund* is nowadays a commonly used term to describe public/private funding mechanisms as a way of initiating partnerships in a development process that contribute both to the achievement of development targets and benefit business.

The AECF featured in the Commission for Africa Report *Our Common Future* in 2005. It has developed to date as a US \$150m fund providing investment support to the private sector for their new and innovative business ideas in agribusiness, rural financial services and renewable energy/adaptation to climate change that will benefit Africa's small farmers and rural households. It is a partnership initiative of the Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA) based in Nairobi and is supported by the governments of Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and the UK as well as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

AGRA is an alliance created in 2006 by The Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed at improving agricultural productivity and smallholder farmer well-being throughout sub-Saharan Africa. AGRA is non-profit making, operating out of Nairobi. From Kenya, AGRA is managing programmes supporting agricultural development across sub-Saharan Africa.

The aim of the AECF is to support projects in order to generate *learning* from a range of different projects in different business areas that all aim to improve market systems to work better for the poor in rural areas. The intended results are increased employment and incomes, and reduced poverty.

At the heart of the AECF is the concept of *innovation* and testing new ideas and pushing new frontier boundaries as reflected in the AECF's strap line — *Funding innovation for business in Africa*. It is therefore important to have measurement systems that enable learning across a range of different project activities and thematic areas, and it is this aspect of

the fund with which I have been involved.

The AECF works through attracting proposals from businesses which apply for grant and loan funding for their business ideas in a competitive process. Since the launch of the AECF in June 2008, 14 competitions have been held and to date over 4,230 applications have been received and 89 projects have been awarded funding. Short-listed proposals are required to submit full business plans with the final selection based on the decisions of an investment committee comprising experienced independent experts. US\$65 million has been committed so far, leveraging a further US \$121 million from the businesses themselves. In a sense the AECF is providing risk capital to businesses in an environment where normal credit is difficult or impossibly expensive to obtain.

These 89 projects are in 17 different countries in West, East and Southern Africa with the largest



The densely-populated Kabera slum from the air

number found in Kenya and in Zimbabwe. Overall the response from the private sector has been excellent with competition for AECF funds intense.

A donor review of the AECF found that the fund has already achieved impressive results, attracting and selecting the best business ideas with both gains for the businesses and with over a million direct beneficiaries from poor rural communities. The portfolio could deliver significant development impact and increased food security for millions.

Since last year, my involvement has been more intermittent, providing remote support and mentoring to the team in Nairobi. I also support workshops introducing businesses to the fund's requirements.

In 2012, I am working with the AECF in Zimbabwe to support projects to adopt internationally recognised standards for measuring the impact of their work, and thereby validate the recognition of what is being achieved. This process will then be rolled out throughout the portfolio of projects.

If you have some news to share, please contact Susan Horner: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

Around the Spire

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND

Quartet's concert is music to the ears of Christian Aid and St James's



Many thanks to the Royal Holloway String Quartet for a splendid concert in May. They raised £770, to be equally divided between St. James's Church and Christian Aid.

The quartet, who include Jennifer Greville-Giddings, report that they loved the acoustics and the warmth of the audience. We hope that they will return next year.



The total for this year's **Christian Aid Week** door-to-door collection is £2943. Five people hosted coffee mornings, lunches and suppers raising a further £699. That means the grand total, including the money from the concert and Gift Aid, is £4551 (£1091 up on last year). Thank you to all who supported the fundraising, and to those involved in the organising, collecting and counting.

Ringling out for Queen and country

In common with many churches throughout the country, our bells will be ringing early on the morning of **Friday 27 July** to herald the start of the **Olympic Games**. You may have also have heard them celebrating the



Queen's Jubilee and ringing on **St. George's Day** (seen above, not pictured Clive Beaumont). Our ringers enjoy marking these special occasions as well as ringing on Sundays and for weddings.

■ **Do you know an inspiring Christian?** The Inspire awards — a celebration of the unsung heroes of Christian work in communities — is now open for nominations. Both individuals and projects are eligible. More information at www.inspiremagazine.org.uk. Email your entry to editor@inspiremagazine.org.uk by 31 July. The finals ceremony is held at the Palace of Westminster in November.

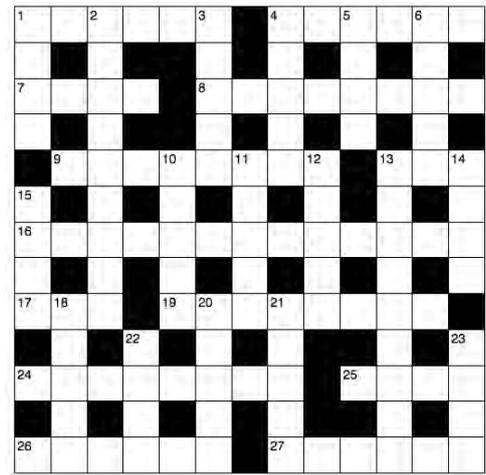


Join our Sunday School and explore the world!

Young Spire

T H E P U Z Z L E R

Crossword



Busy times for the Guides and Brownies

GUIDES Anyone passing the church hall on a Tuesday evening will be able to hear the sounds of a lot of girls having fun. If you have ever wondered what we get up to here is a bit of a taster.



We have also visited the fire station in Twickenham with the girls completing a range of tasks, including trying to retrieve a bucket of dangerous chemical (water!) from an exclusion zone using a long-handled brush, a traffic cone, a shovel and

Our activities last term focussed on Science and Space. We had two visits from staff at the National Physical Laboratory who are keen to engage young girls in science. Lindsay showed us how to build water rockets which we then fired down the hall.

Elizabeth gave us a demonstration of how the eye works. She also brought along different types of light bulbs. This girls then had to act out the many functions going on inside the eye. There was lots of competition to wear Elizabeth's 3ft-tall top hat.

We rounded off the science theme with a visit to the Planetarium in Greenwich.

a long rope. Some of the solutions were bizarre and resulted in wet feet, but the best answer was ingeniously simple.

For the summer term we have a water theme, with visits to Thames Young Mariners and Hampton Pool planned.

We are always looking for adults to get involved, so if you have an idea for an evening, or want to join us more often, do get in touch.



Fun at summer camp



Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit...' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — leaned in charge' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 & 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 'It is one of the Twelve,' he replied, 'one who — bread into the bowl with me' (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

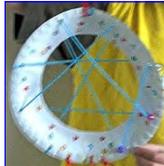
Brownie World Culture Badge

Recently our Brownie group gained the World Culture Badge. To do this we each took note, over a week, of the places which the food we eat comes from. Together we then found these places on a map and our Brownie Leaders told us lots of information about the countries and the people who live there. Some of the countries we looked at were Italy, China, Spain and Thailand. It was very

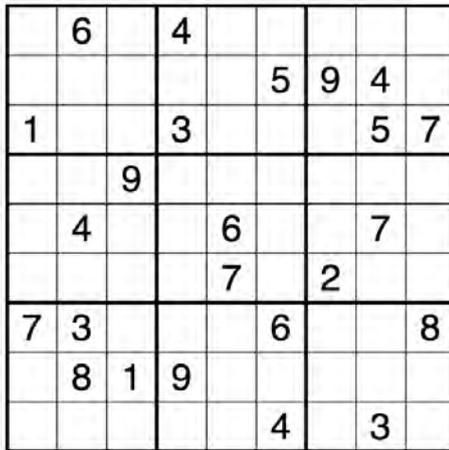


interesting as we now know lots more about how other people live and it helps us to understand and appreciate them more. **Fiona Brady**

Our World Culture was so fun. We made dream catchers to catch our bad dreams. We got Brownies to bring in things from another country. There were giraffe toys from Africa and kangaroos from Australia. We also brought food and pointed to their countries on a map. Most came from China. We have now got our World Culture badge. Yay! **Erin Gill**



Sudoku



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

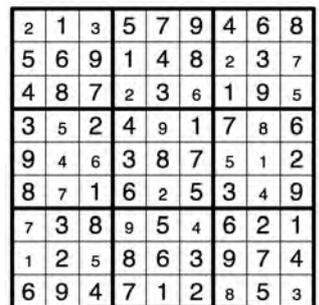
Solutions to both puzzles will appear in the next issue

Our visit to Richmond Park to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

We had to wait in the rain for a long while before the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived, but it was worth it when they finally appeared! As you can see from the photos we were allowed into the inner cordon and three of our Brownies got to present the Queen with flowers and Prince Phillip came over and spoke with us. The whole event was very exciting and I don't think any of us will forget it for a very long time!



Solutions to June's puzzles



Our Sunday School welcomes newcomers. Meet in the hall, term time (not first in month), 9.25am

What's On



opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

FOODBANKS

Recently it was forecast that by 2015 a million people in the UK will be relying on Foodbanks. These are set up as charities, often by churches, to provide food for those who are desperate.

The food is collected, put into 'survival packs' and given to people who would not otherwise eat. Some of the food is collected in schools, businesses and churches, but most is given at events held at supermarkets.

Volunteers hand out leaflets to customers on their way in, inviting them to put an extra item in their trolley and give it to the Foodbank as they leave. An average day's collection is 2,500 tins. Foodbanks are opening at the rate of one every four days. By the end of this year there are likely to be more than 200.

GROWING POVERTY

In a society where 'I shop, therefore I am', it is hard to admit that you can't afford to buy even the basics. A survey by the insurer Scottish Widows reveals that 20% of Britons are borrowing money to buy their groceries.

Children's charity Barnado's reports that among parents of the 3.8 million children who are living in poverty, nine out of ten 'often go without to ensure their children have enough'.

The parenting website Netmums.com found that seven out of ten families polled were 'on the edge' of financial survival. It takes only a crisis, like redundancy, a bereavement, or a delay to a benefit payment to push people over the brink.

ARE WE SHIELDED HERE?

Journalist Simon Jenkins, describing a journey going north out of Manchester, wrote recently: 'The scene is one of utter devastation. Not just individual shops, but entire parades have gone out of business and are boarded up. Mile upon mile of factories, garages, supermarkets and warehouses lie empty and for sale. Recession has delivered the coup de grâce to a quarter of a century of manufacturing decline. Manchester is by no means the worst hit of English cities, but its northern suburbs are Detroit UK.' After the US, Britain is the most unequal of the world's richest countries.

WASHING FEET

Christians meet together to share bread and wine as Jesus shared with his friends the night before he died. St John's Gospel has no account of the sharing of the bread and wine, only Jesus on his knees washing the disciples' feet. Suppose Christians, whenever they met, as well as sharing bread and wine, washed each others' feet? What difference would this have made to the church over the centuries? If we all washed each other's feet would clergy be different from others?

LISTENING TO CHILDREN

A recent school survey found that nearly all children think their school would be a better place if only teachers listened to them more. Would we all say the same? If only more people really listened to us and 'heard' what we were really trying to say. My most sensitive three-year-old grandson had a night in hospital following a suspected asthma attack. I worried. What psychological damage might he have suffered? I rang to ask him how hospital had been. He gave me a blow-by-blow account of all the toys he had played with, and the other children he had met. I felt better!

Car-free Sunday!

Sunday 1 July, St James's Church
Can you walk or ride a bicycle to church, or perhaps car-share? We hope to cut our carbon footprint and open your eyes to ways of reducing car journeys everyday, helping our environment and planet.



Thameside Clarinet Choir

Popular Classics, Thursday 5 July, 8pm,
Greenwood Centre, 1a School Road,
Hampton Hill TW12 1QL
Back by popular demand and under the baton of Martin Hinckley, this concert will be a mix of popular classics. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Greenwood Centre. Tickets £8, available from The Greenwood Centre, or Martin, telephone 020 8979 0528.



Cantanti Camerati

On Wings of Song, Saturday 7 July, 7.30pm,
Normansfield Theatre, 2a Langdown Park, Teddington
TW11 9PS
Charity performance for the Langdon Down Museum of Learning Disability. Wild birds have inspired composers throughout the ages. This acclaimed Richmond chamber choir, conducted by Geoffrey Bowyer, presents an evening of songs dedicated to nature and to 'nimble musicians of the air'. Tickets £10 (concessions £8). Tel 020 8614 5100 or email lesley.alabaf@downs-syndrome.org.uk.

NEW LISTING

Hampton Hill Summer Festival

Saturday 14 July, 12-7pm, Hampton Hill High Street
The third annual summer festival promises to be bigger and better than ever! The High Street will come alive with special offers, barbecues, games and lots of fun characters. There will also be a special children's entertainment area and The Greenwood Centre will again be holding the Hounds of the Hill dog show in Bushy Park. Contact them for your entry form.
Summer Festival Organiser Susan Green said: 'We are really looking forward to this fantastic event, and we hope all the local residents who have enjoyed the last two festivals will come along, bring their friends, have fun and help us raise money for local charities.'
Groove Academy will be making a welcome return and playing outside The Geranium Charity Shop. There will also be an old-fashioned tuck shop, an art exhibition and Indian Head Massage.
Further details on what is happening and where it is happening will be announced soon on posters and banners in and around Hampton Hill.

Registers for May



Baptisms

- 6 Summer Louise Allen, Hampton
- 6 Henry Joseph Kingsnorth, Hampton Hill

Memorial Service

- 29 Kate O'Sullivan, 69, Hampton Hill

Funerals

- 2 Glen Dewart, 91, Hanworth
- 3 Joan Clarice Pyne, 91, Hampton Hill
- 9 Patricia Gay, 85, Feltham



St James's Day

Sunday 15 July, St James's Church and Vicarage Garden
Our annual celebration of St James begins with an All-age Parish Communion at 11am.



The speaker is the Rt Revd John Salt, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Norwich, based at the Shrine of Our Lady, in Walsingham, Norfolk.



John was ordained priest in 1967 in Carlisle. In 1970 he left for southern Africa, living in Lesotho and Zululand. In 1999 John was ordained as Bishop of St Helena, in the South Atlantic, where he remained until his retirement in March 2011. John is also a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd (OGS), an international community of Anglicans, bound by a rule of celibate chastity, responsible spending and direction of life.

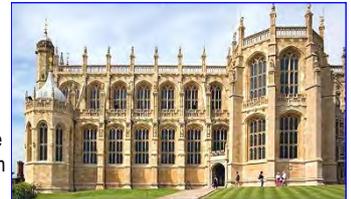
The service will be followed by a bring and share lunch in the vicarage gardens. There is no charge for this lunch, but please add your name to the list on the notice board so that we know numbers for the day. There are also lists for food donations and volunteers to help on the day. Drinks will be available by donation. For more information look out for Jennifer Clay (020 8941 0797) and Sarah Richardson (077 9090 0505) on Sundays.

The spire will be open from 1-3pm giving you the chance to ring the bells and see the wonderful view.

NEW LISTING

Parish Pilgrimage

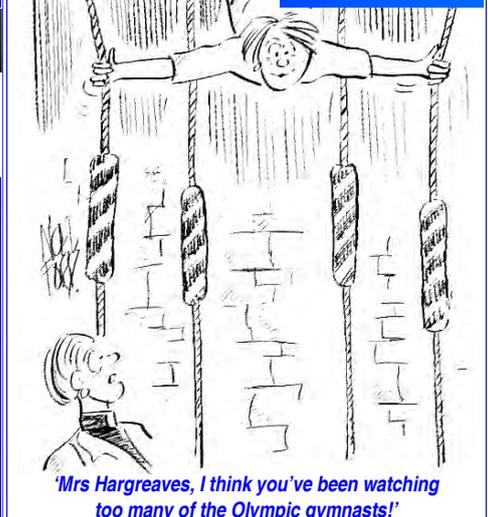
Saturday, 15 September, to St George's Chapel, Windsor
We will meet at 2pm for a guided tour of the Chapel, followed by a cup of tea in the Vicar's Hall from 4-5pm, and ending the day with Evensong at 5.15pm. Price £10.



We hope to have enough drivers to ferry those needing a lift. It is also possible to go by train from Twickenham. If you would like to join us, please sign the list on the notice board in church or contact Liz Wilmot on 020 8977 9434 or Email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net.

The Chapel will need a final list of names by Saturday 8 September and those attending will need to bring photo ID (such driving licence, passport or bus pass) with them.

Vicar's View





Your Voice

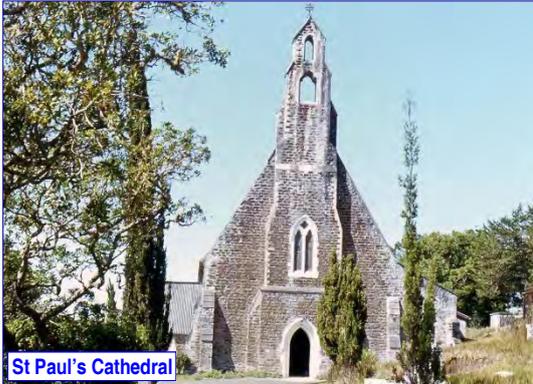
Bishop John Salt recalls a busy life serving the inhabitants of St Helena



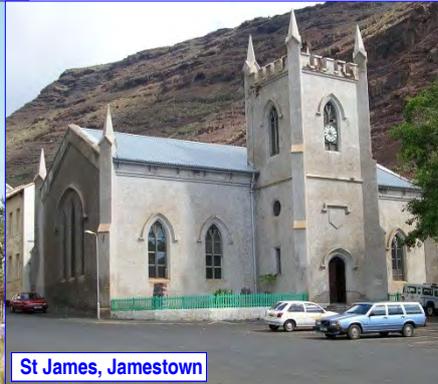
Songs of praise

The story behind the hymn

Island's saints welcomed me



St Paul's Cathedral



St James, Jamestown

In February 1999 to my amazement I was elected by the Synod of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to be the new Bishop of St Helena. I had served after ordination as a curate in Barrow in the Diocese of Carlisle and then moved to southern Africa, serving in Lesotho from 1970-77 and South Africa from 1977-99, my last post in South Africa being Dean of Eshowe and Archdeacon of South Zululand.

It was a time of considerable change and upheaval! I had only a vague idea of where St Helena was. It took me some time to find a map that showed it! Eventually I discovered that it was some 1200 miles off the coast of Angola in the South Atlantic Ocean. Named after Saint Helena of Constantinople, the island is of volcanic origin, and part of the British overseas territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

The island was uninhabited when discovered by the Portuguese in 1502. It is one of the most isolated islands in the world. For centuries, it was an important stopover for ships sailing to Europe from Asia and South Africa. The British also used the island as a place of exile, most notably for Napoleon, and more than 5,000 Boer prisoners. St Helena is Britain's second oldest remaining colony (now termed overseas territory), after Bermuda.

In due course I was consecrated bishop and while waiting in Cape Town to board the *Royal Mail Ship St Helena* (the only means of getting to the island as there was no airport) I was interviewed by the media. During the interview I was asked what St Helena was like and I had to confess that I had no idea, since I had never been there. The headline in the next day's paper read: *Bishop goes on a blind date!*

I set sail from Cape Town on 11 September 1999 on the only Royal Mail Ship still sailing. It was a five-day journey to the island. Once aboard the ship I began to get a flavour of St Helena. Most of the crew were St Helenians (known as *Saints*). It was a fascinating journey with wonderful food and entertainment; a real flavour of the old Union Castle era. (Union Castle was a prominent British shipping line that operated a fleet of passenger liners and cargo ships between Europe and Africa from 1900 to 1977.)

I got to know many *Saints* and began to get the feel of the people I was to serve. I soon discovered that the Bishop was held in high esteem and was the second person in the island's table of precedence, the Governor being the first.

First glimpse of the island

Very early on the morning of 16th September 1999 I was on the deck with many of my fellow passengers to get the first glimpse of St Helena. I have to confess it looked formidable with the high mountains towering above us. They seemed completely barren. I can well understand why Napoleon was so fearful of the place. Eventually we saw signs of life as we entered James Bay and dropped anchor.

Ferry boats took us from the ship to the wharf where I was met by a welcoming party and set foot on the place which was to be my home for the next eleven-and-a-half years.

Everyone was so welcoming and lunch was laid on for me at Ann's Place, a restaurant which was open to the elements with only a roof over it. There I met the clergy — all two of them! The Roman Catholic priest was also there, and he was to prove to be a great friend and advisor.

In the evening of my first day I was taken to Plantation House, the official home of the Governor of St Helena, for a welcome cocktail party in real colonial style. I soon discovered at such gatherings I had to be the first to leave and no one else could leave until the Bishop had left. I found this a bit of a bore, particularly as I love parties!

An emerald set in a bronze ring

My Enthronement took place in St Paul's Cathedral on 26 September. The cathedral was packed; guests included the Governor and his wife and other dignitaries, and many of the *Saints* of the island. It was a wonderful service and marked the beginning of my ministry to the diocese. I soon discovered that as I went up country, the scenery changed. No longer the formidable naked mountains, but instead there was luscious tropical vegetation. Someone aptly described St Helena as an emerald set in a bronze ring.

There are three parishes on St Helena, with eleven churches. The cathedral is up in the country and near to the Bishop's official residence. In Jamestown, the capital, stands the Church of St James the Great and this is the oldest Anglican Church south of the Equator.

Ascension Island, some 750 miles north of St Helena, is also part of the Diocese. It is the Parish of St Mary the Virgin and has its own vicar, who is also officiating chaplain to the RAF personnel based there. I was to make many happy visits there during my time as Bishop. The only way I could get there from St Helena was by sailing on the RMS, and it was some three nights away.

So I was bishop of a diocese with 12 churches and three priests! I also acted as Parish Priest of the Cathedral Parish, which I enjoyed as it gave me a pastoral ministry. As Bishop I also fulfilled many civic functions. I assisted the Chief Justice with the opening of the Supreme Court at least once a year; I was Chaplain to the Legislative Assembly (the local government of St Helena) and when in session opened each day with prayers; and I also conducted the annual Remembrance Day service, which was held at the War Memorial on the Wharf.

The Island had a population of 5,800 when I arrived, but this went down to 4000 after full British Citizenship was restored to the islanders in 2002 under the British Overseas Territories Act. Many moved to the UK for employment since this was limited on St Helena. It was a privilege and joy to be Bishop of St Helena and I shall always treasure that part of my ministry among such friendly people.

■ Bishop John retired to Little Walsingham in Norfolk. He is an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Norwich, and supports the work of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and local parishes.

Mary, Weep Not, Weep No Longer



*Mary, weep not, weep no longer,
now thy heart hath gained its goal;
here, in truth, the Gardener standeth,
but the Gardener of thy soul,
who within thy spirit's garden
by his love hath made thee whole.*

*Now from grief and lamentation
lift thy drooping heart with cheer;
while for love of him thou mournest,
lo, thy Lord regained is here;
fainting for him, thou hast found him;
all unknown, behold him near!*

*Nay, no wonder if she knows not
till the Sower's seed be sown,
till from him, the Word eternal,
light within her heart is thrown.
Lo, he calls her; lo, 'Rabboni',
she in turn her Lord doth own.*

*Faith that washed the feet of Jesus,
fed with dew the Fount of Grace,
win for us a like compassion,
that, with all the ransomed race,
at the glory of his rising
we may see him face to face!*

*Glory be to God and honour,
who, preferring sacrifice,
far above the rich man's bounty,
sweetness found in Mary's sighs,
who for all, his love foretasting,
spreads the banquet of the skies.*

St. Mary Magdalen's feast day is on **22 July**, which happens to be a Sunday this year. This hymn is one of two found in the *English Hymnal* recommended for this festival.

The lyrics concern Mary Magdalen's experience on the first Easter morning. She came to the tomb early while it was still dark, and there found the tomb empty. Mary then meets her Lord again, now risen, and life is transformed for her.

The lyrics are a translation of a Latin, medieval original by the prolific writer Laurence Housman (1865-1959). Housman wrote poetry, fairy tales for children, carols and hymns. He produced controversial dramatic works besides these, and was a committed pacifist and socialist.

He was also a founder member of the *Men's League for Women's Suffrage*. A political radical, Housman was also a writer who, in the words above, captures the emotion of Mary Magdalen on Easter morning.

Then the experience of Mary is applied to the believer today who is to follow her way of sacrifice and see Christ face to face, as she did.