

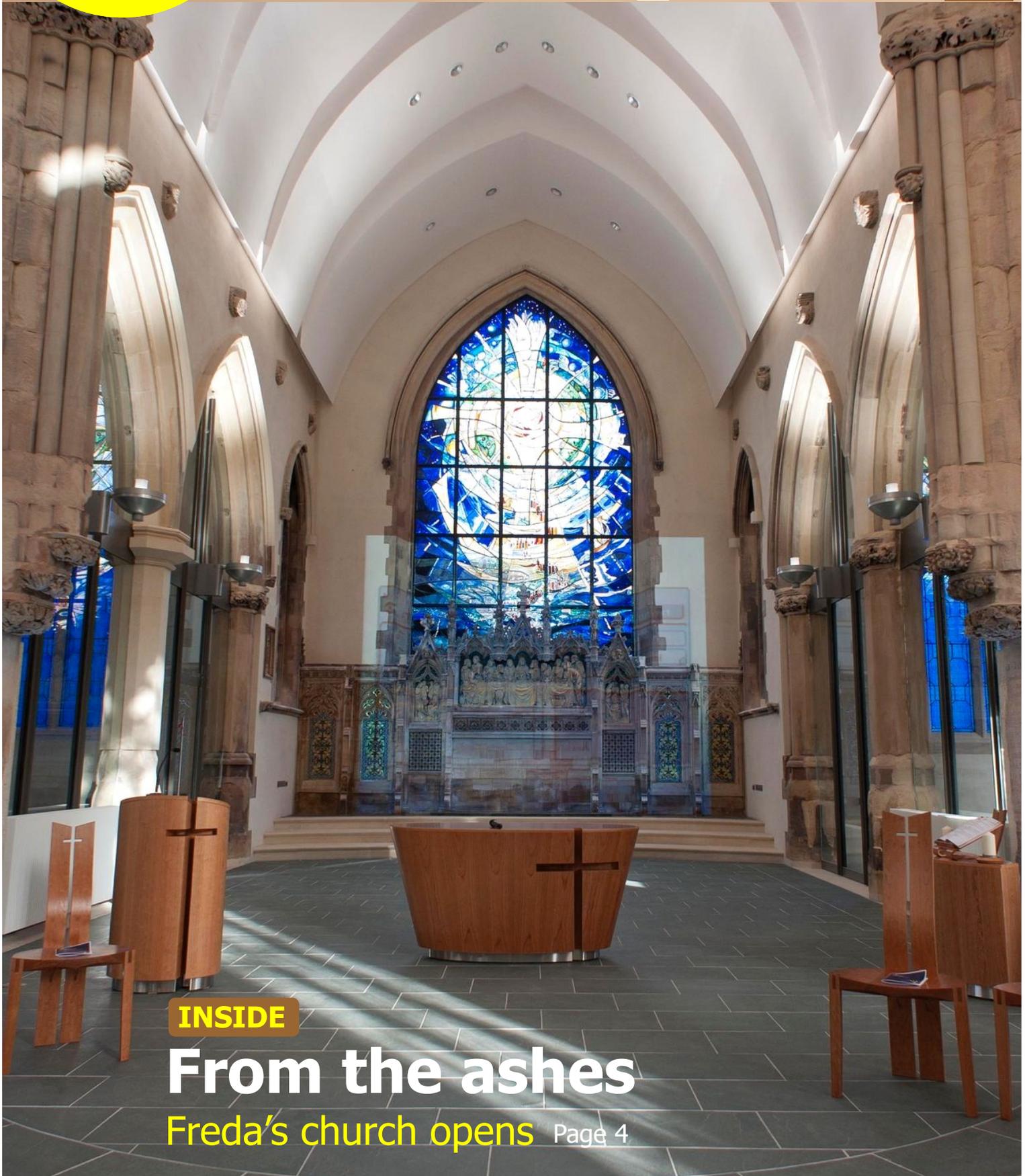
MAY 2013

Details of
forthcoming
**150th
Events**
are on
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thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE — please take a copy



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Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

CLERGY

Vicar

The Revd Peter Vannozi (pictured, right) Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather. He was ordained in 1987. Peter chairs the Board of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School and is a Trustee of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group. Telephone: 020 8979 2069 Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Curate

The Revd David Bell David was born in Skipton in 1952. He is a self-supporting deacon, ordained in June 2012, and working during the week in events sponsorship management. Telephone: 079 8624 5313 Email: davidbell@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Parish Office



Administrator

Nickie Jones For all general enquiries and hall bookings. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Telephone: 020 8941 6003 Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk Address: St James's Church, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ

Officials



Churchwarden

Carole Greville-Giddings Carole has a background in social work, helps run The Ark, and is a chorister. Telephone: 020 8979 6592 Email: carole.g-g@hotmail.co.uk



Churchwarden

Nick Bagge Nick is a former television journalist, now working at a local theatre. Telephone: 020 8783 0871 Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com



Treasurer

Don Barrett Don works for the Church Commissioners for England, who manage £5bn of assets for the Church of England. Telephone: 020 8979 3331 Email: donbarrett8@blueyonder.co.uk

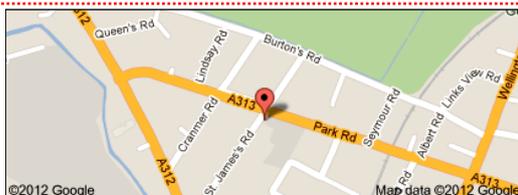


Organist / Choirmaster

Samuel Draper Sam joined St James's in October 2010, after graduating from the Royal College of Music. Telephone: 020 8892 4957

Finding us

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. There is ample parking in the road.



From the Editor



Our 150th Anniversary events are going well and before Easter we enjoyed some excellent concerts in church, helping to raise funds for our charity of the year — the Voluntary Care Group.

We hope you are enjoying our special features in *The Spire*, celebrating the work of the church over so many years. In this edition, Freda Evans, who was our curate from 1990-2002 and is now in Birmingham, has written about rebuilding her church after it was destroyed by fire. It makes an inspiring story. If we thought we had obstacles to overcome when we built our church hall and west porch, Freda's story puts it in perspective.

In *Your Voice*, Lesley Mortimer tells us about representing St James's on the Hampton Deanery Synod for 40 years, opening all sorts of other avenues to her.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed so generously to the annual *Spire Appeal*. The total, so far, is over £1000, halfway to our £2000 target. We are also making excellent progress with our Anniversary edition, which is due for publication in July.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

We are a Fairtrade Church!
facebook.com/SaintJamesHamptonHill



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

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

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

STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas or would like to write for the magazine, contact Janet Nunn. Telephone: 020 8979 6325 Email: janunh@btinternet.com

AROUND THE SPIRE

If you have any news, please contact Susan Horner. Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Griselda Barrett is listings editor. If you have an event to be considered for inclusion, contact her. Email: griseldabarrett@blueyonder.co.uk

WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

Prill Hinckley is webmaster. If you would like to receive the magazine by Email, please contact her. Prill also compiles the Young Spire page. Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

thespire is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Contact Susan Horner: Telephone: 020 8979 9380 Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk Write to: 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1HH

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The June issue is published on 31 May. All copy must be with us by **Thu 25 April**.

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Please recycle this magazine after use



Come and worship with us!



You will receive a warm welcome at any of our services. Children of all ages are welcome and we provide a safe area in which they may play. We also run a Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, from 9.25am every Sunday (except the first in the month), during school terms. Newcomers welcome.

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 5 May — 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16.9-15;
Revelation 21.10,22 - 22.5;
John 14.23-29

Thursday 9 May — Ascension Day

9.30am Holy Communion
Daniel 7.9-14;
Ephesians 1.15-23;
Luke 24.44-53

Sunday 12 May — 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16.16-34;
Revelation 22.12-14, 16,17,20,21;
John 17.20-26

Sunday 19 May — Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21;
Romans 8.14-17;
John 14.8-17, 25-27

Sunday 26 May — Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31
Romans 5.1-5
John 16.12-15

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

2 May 2pm Holy Communion

Talking in the right spirit



Talking about your faith doesn't come naturally to most people. Maybe that is because it is a personal matter, or the topic is so vast that it is difficult to know where to start...or simply that the right words are not easily recalled. If you agree, then I can tell you that you are not alone. St Peter is described in Acts 4 as an untrained, ordinary man and yet after the experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit, together with the other disciples, he had the confidence, and the words, to convey the good news. So much so, that his audience are reported to be so astonished and perplexed by his skill that they think he must have been drinking.

At my office I get the most unexpected questions at all times of day from young colleagues and I usually pause to think before attempting to answer. St Paul describes those who are led by the Spirit as *God's children* and it is as if, somehow, our own spirit and God's own spirit work in tandem together and we — with God's spirit supporting us and helping us in our weakness — can speak of the love that we experience and the inner confidence about our faith that ebbs and flows over time.

So, although we may find it challenging to be visible as a Christian in our daily life and speak up, it is actually happening all the time. Those who travelled as pilgrims to the Holy Land earlier this year came together after the event to provide some insights into their visit. This was organised as part of St James's 150th anniversary year programme. They spoke about some of their experiences and emotions in Israel and the Occupied Territories and I'm sure that they have also talked to friends and colleagues about this important journey to a sacred place.

At church, they told us that their pilgrimage guide, a Palestinian Christian called Peter, had displayed great spiritual and intellectual depths and that they had sung wherever they went: for example *How Great Thou Art* while on the shore of the Sea of Galilee; *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* at the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and *Guide Me O thy Great Redeemer* on the bank of the River Jordan.

Charity Box Christian Aid Week 12-18 May

There is enough food for everyone in the world, but one in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight. St James's is one of thousands of churches that will stand together during Christian Aid week to help poor communities *Bite Back at Hunger*.

If a community has land to live on and farm, it can provide enough food for its people. In the Beni region of Bolivia, one community faces a much more secure future thanks to Christian Aid helping them to acquire land rights, previously under dispute for decades. After struggling for years,



Moving stories were told about being aware of Christ's presence... in the deserted city streets of Jerusalem very early in the morning; in the act of renewing baptismal vows; and in the uncomfortable viewing of the rickety and appalling dwellings of the poor by the roadside on the way to Nablus. Intense experiences were shared and powerful feelings described. They didn't use special religious terms in their stories and they weren't fazed by speaking of limitless truths and immeasurable love. Yet we were entranced by their tales and wanted to know what happened next as they expressed hope in the pioneering work of the Christian Centre in Bethlehem. They explained how previous images of our Lord's work on this earth had been shattered over there, enabling new perspectives of his love and teaching to be embraced. Sometimes revelations cropped up that even surprised the person speaking to us!

I wonder if that happened to the disciples too? I bet it did. When the crowds heard the disciples, fresh from the strong wind and tongues (that were seemingly made of fire) coming to rest on them, the people asked what they should do. 'Turn back,' St Peter said, 'and be baptised, every one of you.' So is it possible that those who hear the stories of our pilgrims may just pick up a copy of St Mark's gospel, check a religious website or pay a visit to a church. Do my colleagues at work consider what is really important to them in their lives as a result of my answers? I don't know, but...it is possible.

The Holy Spirit of Pentecost is a powerful force that brings people into relationship with God and calls them to act. It has been calling and enabling God's children to speak out for centuries. During this unique 150th anniversary year there will be many chances to meet people engaging with our church community for the first time. In the autumn we are planning to hold a series of conversations about Christianity for new and old. So let us pray that the Holy Spirit will, as it did with the disciples, give us all the words and the confidence to engage and speak of our life-changing faith.

Elmy Ymamarlico's community of Alta Gracia now have a sense of ownership that is changing their lives. 'There is now a future for our young people, we are owners of our land... we work the land together, we share the land', she explains.

Last year St James raised £4784 for Christian Aid with the help of 26 volunteers, coffee mornings and the Royal Holloway Recital. With a few more volunteers we could collect even more!

If you can spare a few hours to deliver envelopes and collect them, or to count the money, please speak to Liz Wilmot or Linda Webb in church, or telephone 020 8977 9434 or e-mail elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net.

■ For more information go to www.caweek.org



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God



Interior Life

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
by the gift of your Spirit,
imagination in our thinking,
wisdom in our deciding, and thoroughness in carrying
out what we have decided,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

David Durston (b. 1936)

Spirit of God

Spirit of God, Lord and Giver of Life,
moving between us and around,
like wind or water or fire;
breath into us your freshness that we may awake;
cleanse our vision that we may see more clearly;
kindle our senses that we may feel more sharply;
give us the courage to live as you would have us live.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*From the 125th anniversary of
the Diocese of Truro prayer card*

Free Grace

Long imprisoned my spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

*A verse from the hymn by Charles Wesley
(1707 – 1788)*

Silence

There are times when good words
are to be left unsaid out of esteem for silence.

*Rule of St Benedict,
6 'Restraint of Speech'*

An Equal Music

Bring us O Lord God, at our last awakening into the
house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitations of thy glory and dominion
world without end. **Amen.**

John Donne (1572 – 1631)



Local and National stories

Churchyard repairs completed

SIX TREES HAVE been planted in the churchyard and the repairs following storm damage have finally been completed. In early 2012 we had been told by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, who look after the churchyard, that there were several diseased trees which would need felling for safety reasons. Before the work could be carried out a beech tree was blown down in a storm, damaging a wall, knocking over some gravestones and breaking the seat by the Garden of Rest.



Repairs have been protracted, but all the work has now been completed. A new seat has been placed by the Garden of Rest, the gravestones have been repaired and trees planted. The beech tree near the Garden of Rest has been replaced with a maple, the weeping ash near the east end of the church by a beech tree, and the beeches round the War Memorial with two silver birches and two upright yew trees. The trees have been well planted with supports and piping for easy watering.

This spring the churchyard looked particularly lovely with the snowdrops, primroses and the crocuses round the War Memorial.

Safeguarding at St James's

THE DIOCESE OF LONDON is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk, to worship and grow in Christ safely. As part of this, St James's Church is implementing a new safeguarding policy, together with the creation of two new posts. Jane Newman's job title changes from Children's Advocate to Safeguarding Officer, to reflect an expanded role to include adults as well as children.

Stuart Richardson, pictured, a local schoolteacher, takes on the post of Children's Champion. Youngsters can talk to him about any concerns. He will also speak up for them in planning and decision-making.



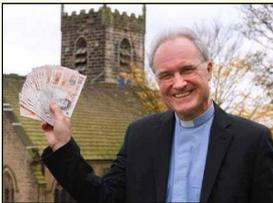
20-year high for young priests

FIGURES FOR 2012 show that the number of young people (under 30) accepted for training for the Church of England ministry was 113, 22% of the total. This is the highest number in 20 years. The Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council is continuing a campaign to recruit both young ordinands and those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Cash in hand from the vicar

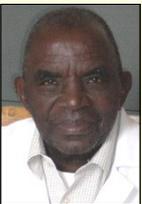
A VICAR WHO handed out £550 of his own money in £10 notes to his congregation, and asked them to invest it to help raise cash, has had his prayers answered — getting back a whopping £10,000.

The Revd Richard Steel distributed the cash in the hope of raising money for repairs to St John's Church in Kirkheaton, near Huddersfield. His inspiration came from the parable of the talents, in which Jesus tells the story of a man who entrusts money to his servants. Members of the congregation used the money to make products to sell at a profit.



Milo's only doctor suffers stroke

DR SIMEON MBULIGWE, the 74-year old doctor-in-charge at Milo hospital in Tanzania, suffered a stroke towards the end of March. He is recovering at home in Njombe, but it seems unlikely he will be able to return to work. This leaves the hospital without any doctor and no surgical operations (predominantly caesareans) can be performed. We hope and pray that a solution can be found.



A phoenix rises



In 2007 an arson attack destroyed a Birmingham church. Former St James's Curate **Freda Evans** took on the challenge of rebuilding it. Five years later, this is her story of its rebirth.



Our Editor writes: Freda Evans was ordained to the ministry after 10 years as Chair of Crisis. She was deacon and then curate at St James's from 1999-2002. Because of her work with Crisis, Freda felt her calling was with an inner city church and moved, firstly to Kingshurst in Birmingham, and then Erdington; both churches were dedicated to St Barnabas.

St Barnabas Church, Erdington, to the north of Birmingham, was a handsome Grade II listed building due to celebrate its 150th anniversary in April 2008. On 4 October 2007 the church was severely damaged by fire. The roof and all but one stained glass window were destroyed. Only the clock, bell tower and walls survived.

The Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, was determined to rebuild the church and invited Freda to move from Kingshurst to Erdington to undertake this enormous task. Freda was instituted and inducted on 19 June 2008 in a service outside the ruined church and then in the local primary school. She said: 'I hope this church can be a place of hope, because out of the ashes will come this wonderful phoenix.' The first service Freda took in her church was not until December 2012.

Years ago, when I used to go to the bookshop at Holy Trinity, Hounslow, it occurred to me that it was a wonderful bonus to have a café and a bookshop which would encourage non-churchgoers into the building. I had only just got over the shock that I was to be ordained, so I would never have imagined that one day a bishop would ask me to consider applying for a post to re-build a church.

It wasn't an invitation I jumped at, simply because three people had separately asked me to consider another non-parochial post. However, on the way home I received very clear insight — as I had done before coming to Hampton Hill and also before I went to Kingshurst — which indicated clearly what I had to do and this time I had to 'rebuild my church'.

At the press call, it was both naive and foolish of me to say that I would do so in two years because when the re-dedication service took place on the 16 December, it had taken a total of five.

As with any challenge, there have been highs and lows — the worst moment being the day that the site manager told me that the long-established restoration company had just closed down all their sites. We were 10 months into the building work and the roofing company had just taken possession of a large quantity of stainless steel. More crucially, my project advisor had just gone to Spain for a month!

My project managing company decided that the quickest way of getting the project on its feet again was to oversee the construction work directly and immediately arranged meetings with the dozen or so sub-contractors. It was a time spent supporting workers, some of whom had never worked for another company, and who were understandably both in shock and concerned about their future.

Starting all over again

Thankfully, we were able to retain our two site managers and our specialist stone masons and carpenters, and the bishop visited us eight days later to congratulate us on getting the project going again.

Coping with the slow and frustrating church planning process was probably more difficult, particularly as neither the main committee nor the sub-group set up specifically for our restoration ever visited the building



from the ashes

in their entirety and therefore made decisions without intimate knowledge of either the building or the area in which it is situated. It took courage to stand one's ground on matters of design, but what an amazing opportunity to have such freedom to rebuild a church.

Finding the right people

The most wonderful and stimulating aspect of the project was the search for and discovery of specialist craftspeople. First, there was the need to find the right stained glass artist for the great east window, particularly as the stonework had been shattered.

That process began in 2009 and entailed about 40 hours of detailed searching on the web, particularly after I had discovered that my preferred stained artist couldn't begin any work until 2012. After reducing the number of candidates to two, the small church sub group met with them and were astounded that one of them, Pippa Blackall, was unable to bring with her any examples of her work because her studio had burnt down two days after the church fire. That seemed too extraordinary for words!

She returned that evening to Norfolk and was inspired to paint straightaway, on the lines of the title we had given, *Journeying and Resurrection*. Her work is inspired and shows people journeying into the heart of God which is a burst of light in the centre of a holding cross. To quote Pippa: 'The way forward was to rejoice in the freedom of the open space, suggesting the boundless nature of the love of God whose light spills out into the darkest and most mysterious parts of all his creation from the galaxies of space to the Earth and its deepest oceans. I hope the spectator is drawn into this journey or dance of life; there are references to the crucifixion, but there is nothing solemn or static about this work; it is a celebration of the love of God for all his creation and an invitation to join in.'



Altar symbolism

I found Declan O'Donoghue, who is in Wiltshire, via his work in a restored church in West Dulwich (another fire!) and despite various other designs, we were drawn back to a variation of his original altar: the shape of which is symbolic of the boat in which Jesus fell asleep and a reminder of Christ's presence with us in the Eucharist to uplift and strengthen us to cope with the storms of life; the cross-shaped void used because Christ is risen and present in Sacrament and Word. (See front cover) We chose American cherry for all his work in the main church and the side chapel; all of it is simple and elegant.



A big, cascading font

Zoe Cull and Alex Evans in Dorset were chosen for the font. Our correspondence began in 2010 and it was eventually installed a few weeks ago when the Diocese held a conference here on *Re-imagining Ministry!* Made of nabresina stone from northern Italy, it was as hard as marble to cut, and, given the size of the building, the font needed to be large. Well it is. Around the base are the words, adapted from Isaiah: *I have called you by your name: you are mine*. The carving suggests water tumbling over the side in three places where co-incidentally, the bowl seems to be upheld by Trinitarian strength.

Then, there are Peter Eugene Ball's sculptures! Not one, but two, plus a processional cross which some might say is the most delicate and beautifully inspired of the three. A large Christus Rex above the entrance from our community and café space into the church proper which can be seen from the High Street and on the wall opposite, the human, welcoming Christ with arms outstretched.

All this is embraced in a building with a central arch of 45ft — that and its accompanying arches rebuilt of Bath stone and offering a cathedral-like atmosphere. One that is warm with under-floor heating and painted to be light and cheerful. In all, around 100 people were involved: planners, engineers and quantity surveyors, plasterers and painters, stonemasons, carpenters, amazing glass people and conservationists; lighting specialists and heating designers, the financiers and business planners — and, of course, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, who paid out £7m. When you are wondering about your insurance bill, just read this article once again and you may be persuaded it's worth it!

Our Editor adds: What Freda does not say is that

throughout this time she was holding services in the local primary school, using the Vicarage for meetings, and carrying out the regular duties of a team rector. We truly admire her for her vision to help create a beautiful space for worship and for the local community.



Around the SPIRE

with Susan Homer

SARAH LEAVES THE ARK

SARAH RICHARDSON, who has been with The Ark, our Monday morning playgroup for toddlers and carers, since its inception in 2009, has said farewell because of a change in her work hours.

Although not officially one of the team at the start, she proved such a natural at chatting to the other mums that she was very soon signed up as one of the volunteers.

She was particularly good at talking about returning to work and the difficult job of getting the work/family balance right. Sarah went out in all weathers to ensure order was kept in the queue. No job was ever too small and she tackled everything with a smile.

We thank her for her help and dedication to the children and their carers. She has been a committed and valued member of the team, involved in all the Ark's activities, and will be greatly missed. Sarah is pictured with flowers and a homemade card, presented to her in March on her last Monday morning at The Ark.



GRANDPARENTS

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul and Carol Fitchett, who are pictured with their third grandchild. Sophia Elizabeth, was born to their daughter Kelly and her partner Scott on the evening of Saturday 9 March, the day before Mothering Sunday. She is a sister for Joshua and Kayla.



COFFEE QUEEN

WE KNOW how many of you value the freshly-brewed tea

and coffee, delicious selection of cakes and biscuits, and fresh flowers that greet us in the Church Hall after the 9.30 service. Our thanks to Clare Ryan, especially, and her volunteer helpers who cater for us every week.

Over Easter we were also treated to buttered hot cross buns and Simnel cake.



WE ARE ST JAMES'S!

AS IMPORTANT as buildings are, it is the people that make St James's what it is — as the vast numbers of baptisms, weddings and confirmations during its 150 years prove!

On 19 May, a special service is being held to celebrate this and we would like to create a giant montage of pictures for the occasion. Please look in your albums for suitable images. We can scan these to print copies, ensuring you don't lose treasured mementos. Just drop them in to the Parish Office.

EASTER SHIVERS

THERE WERE some changes to our services over the Easter period this year. Owing to the exceptionally cold weather on Palm Sunday, the service did not start outside and move into the church during the first hymn. Instead, the clergy and servers processed round the church, followed by the children with their palms.

The usual Easter Vigil on the Saturday evening of Holy Week and the 8am Eucharist on Easter Sunday were replaced by the Easter Liturgy at 6am, followed by breakfast. This new dawn service was well attended.





Young Spire with Prill Hinckley



All about Pentecost

When is Pentecost?

Pentecost happens seven weeks after Easter, ten days after Ascension Day. It is celebrated on the Sunday which falls on the fiftieth day after the Easter festival.

What does 'Pentecost' mean?

The name Pentecost comes from a Greek word which means fiftieth.

Why do we celebrate Pentecost?

At Pentecost, Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit which is the third person of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What is the colour for Pentecost?

The church colour for Pentecost is red, the colour of fire, and therefore of the Holy Spirit. The frontal on the altar, the altar cloths, the pulpit fall and the Bible book mark are changed to match the colour of the priest's robes.

What are the symbols of God the Holy Spirit

A dove was seen at the baptism of Jesus. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. A dove with a halo, or a sevenfold flame, are symbols of the Holy Spirit's power (see Acts 2, v. 1-4). The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends looking like flames of fire. Flames are another symbol of the Holy Spirit.

What is the Story

Pentecost remembers the story of the Holy Spirit being given to Jesus' disciples so that they could spread the message of Christianity. The story is that, during the Jewish festival of Pentecost, a wind blew through the house where the disciples were and flames rested on their heads. When the disciples spoke, people of all nationalities could understand them.



The photographs in this section are of the dove representing the Holy Spirit. Do you know where they are in St. James's Church?

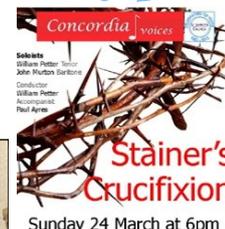
Anniversary Latest News

Stainer's The Crucifixion by Concordia Voices Palm Sunday 24 March 2013, at 6pm

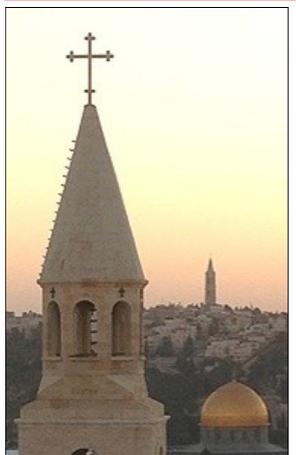
The Crucifixion, by John Stainer, is amongst the most popular of all English choral works, vividly portraying the events of the Passion of Christ. It is scored for tenor and baritone soloists, mixed choir and organ and shows a dramatic structure, with hymn tunes, well-known to any churchgoer, interspersed among the Easter narrative. The latter contains recitatives, solos, and masterful choruses ranging from the graphic mob shouts of 'Crucify Him' to the spiritually beautiful meditation at the work's centrepiece 'God so loved the world'. These famous words from John 3: 16, 17 have never been more effectively delivered in music.

Concordia Voices gave this stalwart of the sacred repertoire a most profoundly moving and dramatic performance. The choir's musical director, William Petter, conducted the choir with sincerity and empathy, paying careful attention to the pacing and content of the choral passages.

Although the congregation had the libretto in their programmes, the choir made sure that their words were clear with added vitality thus enhancing the listeners' enjoyment and involvement. The organ accompaniment was beautifully played by Paul Ayres with richness and an apt range of colour. William Petter, tenor, and John Murton, baritone, gave energy and depth of feeling to their solos.



Above: William Petter with Paul Ayres at the organ. Left and right: Concordia Voices singing Stainer's The Crucifixion



Pilgrimage to Holy Land February 2013

At 6am 23 of us met at Heathrow Terminal 5 in cold and miserable weather to fly to the Holy Land. Based in two centres, Tabgha by the Sea of Galilee, and Jerusalem, we had eight very full (and warm!) days. We walked where Jesus walked, but also experienced now some of the challenges faced by people who live in this astonishing land. As in the days of Jesus, spiritual and political, war and peace, hope and despair, could not be boxed off from one another. This was certainly not a holiday, but seeing for ourselves great historic sites coupled with visiting inspirational work in Nablus, Bethehem and Jerusalem made this a pilgrimage.

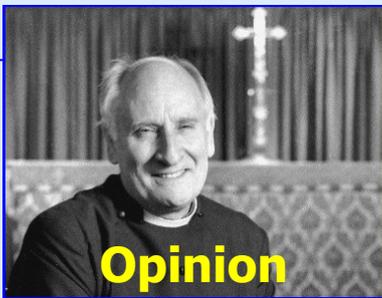
Photographs left and bottom right: Jerusalem. Top right: The pilgrims by the 'iconic' Dome of the Rock and Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee.



150th EVENT FOR MAY We are St James! Saturday 19 May

This will be an occasion to celebrate with thanksgiving belonging to St. James's with a service at 4pm on Sunday 19 May, followed by refreshments. People who have celebrated baptisms, confirmations or weddings at the church are welcome. There will be hymns, prayers and readings to remind us of the precious gift of belonging. If possible, please bring a photograph from your special occasion for our montage board (we can scan the photo and return your original on the day).





Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

POPE ON THE BUSES

He travelled by bus in his archdiocese of Buenos Aires, lived in a small flat, and cooked for himself: our new Pope Francis I is a bit different! When he was offered some extra vestments to wear before his first public appearance, he is said to have gently refused and said, 'The Carnival is over.'

To reform the curia in Rome, to restore the integrity of the Roman Catholic Church, to proclaim the Gospel, and to side with the poor is a huge task, but Pope Francis, the first non-European Pope for 1,000 years, from 'the ends of the earth', has surely struck a chord across the world.

CAN MARRIAGE GROW?

Both the UK and French Parliaments passed legislation in favour of gay marriage in the same month. Roman Catholic and Anglican MPs largely ignored the advice of their bishops and voted in favour. This assumes that marriage can grow to include same-sex relationships based on love and a life-long commitment, and so can continue to be an illustration of the love God has for us.

The speed of the change surely raises a host of issues. Have the politicians simply responded to a populist issue?

I am left with one thought. Have the churches, have Christians and the clergy, failed to answer this: what is Christian about marriage? We all have some thinking to do.

FAITH AT WORK

I worry about how church-centred our worship is. Prayers so often start with the church, the bishops and the local clergy, then go on to the local community, the sick and the dying. People's work, where many people spend two-thirds of their waking hours, is rarely mentioned.

I remember the words of Woodbine Willie, the First World War army chaplain who always shared his packet of cigarettes with those he met: 'If our finding God in churches leads to our losing him in factories, it were better to tear down the churches for God must hate the sight of them.'

CAP THE BONUSES AND NOT THE POOR

Recent studies suggest that younger people, traditionally the more idealistic generation, are now among the growing number of people who think benefits are too high; even more striking, this applies to those receiving benefits; although they think this applies to others people's benefits, not theirs! So when church leaders of all denominations criticise the Government's proposals for what amounts to benefit cuts across the board, they might well be going against the tide of public opinion.

This makes it all the more important that they, and we, continue to speak up for the most vulnerable, children especially, and emphasize that we all belong together. Inevitably, pushing people towards exorbitant pay day loans and food banks causes even more pain in people's lives and stores up trouble for the future.

OUR BEAMING VICAR!

It was good to see a picture of Peter beaming at us from our local paper, the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, in February. He was outlining some of the planned celebrations for our 150th year.

Our church leaders, and so many others, have worked hard to make this a memorable year. It is now up to us to get involved and to involve our friends and neighbours wherever possible.

What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



NEW

RSCM London Diocesan Festival

Saturday 11 May, 5pm, **Music for Ascensiontide**, St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4M 8AP

Choirs from all over the London area sing evensong, directed by Andrew Carrwood. Free admission.

NEW

Christian Aid Week Service

Sunday 12 May, 9.30am, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

The guest preacher from Christian Aid will inform and inspire us as we take to the streets of Hampton Hill to collect for the work of this impressive agency during Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May.



NEW

Faith at Work

Saturday 18 May. 9.15-10.15am, **Faith in Ark**, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

What difference does our faith make to our daily lives, our daily work? What are the challenges we face? How can we support each other? **Debbie Nunn** opens the new season of discussions with her experiences running The Ark play group.

Later dates include: Saturday 1 June, Faith in Traidcraft, with Ann Peterken; Saturday 15 June, Faith in Nursery education, with Jacky Cammidge; and Saturday 29 June, Faith in Retirement, with Hal and Eila Severn.



NEW

Pravda: A Fleet Street Comedy

Sunday 19-Saturday 25 May, times vary, Hampton Hill Playhouse, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

When young journalists Andrew and Rebecca meet, they share a vision for a better, more truthful future. Mapping the rise and rise of newspaper baron Lambert Le Roux, and various newsrooms not a million miles from *The News of the World*, this cutting satire is about the battle for liberal England's soul. Tickets £12 from Box Office 0845 838 7529

NEW

Coronation 60th Anniversary Concert

Sunday 2 June, 7.30pm, St Matthew's Concert Choir, St Matthew's Church, North Common Road, Ealing W5 2QA

This concert is to mark the 60th anniversary of the coronation of the Queen, and features music that was sung at the original service. From the glorious large pieces like Walton's *Te Deum*, Parry's *I Was Glad*, Handel's *Zadok the Priest* to the unaccompanied *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless*, by Byrd. Tickets £10, available from the box office 020 8961 1804.

NEW

Enough Food for Everyone IF...

Saturday 6 June, central London location to be announced

Please note the date for this campaign, a short while before our government hosts the G8 Summit in Northern Ireland. Our Christian Aid speaker on 12 May will urge us to come along, so keep the day free. enoughfoodif.org



NEW

Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival

Saturday 8 June, 12.30-4pm, Nursery Green, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RG

There won't be a carnival procession this year, but the popular fete will continue. Profits go to The White House Community Association and the stallholders' individual causes. There will be games, exhibitions, displays, and food and drink available.

NEW

Deanery Singers' Festival

Saturday 8 June, from 2pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

The tradition of using music to enhance worship is older than Christianity itself. If you enjoy singing, help us raise the roof as choirs from the diocese join together. There will be a service at 6pm, with a retiring collection for The Greenwood Centre.

NEW

David Bell's Ordination to the Priesthood

Sunday 23 June, 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 4PW

The ordination of a priest is an important day in the life of a church and marks the culmination of five years of training. The ceremony will be performed by the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams. Please listen for notices in church about the service and the availability of tickets.

NEW

Sung Eucharist

Monday 24 June, 7.30pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

David Bell will preside at the eucharist for the first time. This will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 29 June, 7.30pm, Waldegrave School for Girls, Main Hall, Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham TW12 5LH

The summer concert will feature British Folk Music, including The Sprig of Thyme by John Rutter. Tickets £12 (concessions £10); accompanied children under 16 free. Tel 020 8977 5986. Tickets also available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4BN, or on the door.

NEW

Peter Vannozi's Silver Jubilee

Wednesday 3 July, 7.30pm, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

This sung eucharist celebrates Peter's 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. This service will be followed by food and drink. All are welcome.

NEW

Concordia Voices

Sunday 7 July, 7.30pm, **Summer Concert**, St John the Divine, St John's Road, Richmond, TW9 2PE

Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on door, or £10 (£8) in advance from Concordia Voices members, or by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org

NEW

St James's Day Weekend

Friday 12-Sunday 14 July, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

There will be full details about this event in next month's issue.

Registers for February and March



FEBRUARY

Baptism

10 James Arthur Ayres, Hampton Hill

Funeral

26 Vera Louise Somme Bannister, 96, Sunbury-on-Thames

Baptism

31 Max William David Boulbee, Hampton Hill

Funerals

5 Georgina Grace Ward, 83, Feltham

7 Dorothy Taylor (known as Dorothy Joy), 90, Hampton Hill

11 Beatrice Rose Phyllis Cook, 98, Felixstowe

11 Winifred May Johnson, 93, Hampton Hill

20 Lionel William Bentley Barras, 80, West Molesey

26 Kathleen Ellen Viner, 73, Feltham



'Thank you Vicar, we've just moved here...'

Keeping faith with young people through education

Lesley, back centre, with Angela Mullens, back right, and pupils of Holy Cross School, Tanzania.



It all began with the Hampton Deanery Synod. Little did I realise that election to that august body by the PCC of St James some 40 years ago would bring me into contact with an amazing variety of organisations, boards and committees dedicated to promoting and living out the teachings and values of the Church of England.

Deanery Synods may be the lowest tier of the synodical government structure of the Church of England, but they play a significant role in the life of the local Church community. For example, they consider and make known their views on matters concerning the Church at large; elect members of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod; elect Church of England school governors and agree parishes' annual contribution to the Common Fund.

As a member I have served on its Standing Committee and was elected at various times over the years to the London Diocesan Synod — the next tier up — and its associated Board of Social Responsibility and as a governor of Bishop Wand Church of England secondary school in Sunbury.

It was through my role at Bishop Wand that I came into closer contact with the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS), a relationship consolidated when I subsequently became head of a Church school in the diocese. In 1997 I began working for the LDBS itself and swiftly recognised what an outstanding job it does in overseeing the 131 primary schools, 13 secondaries and five academies in 17 local authorities north of the Thames.

Although familiar with many of the secondary institutions, I was quite unaware of the thriving church primary sector serving some of the most challenging and deprived areas of the capital. The dedication of their staff members and the many parish priests who commit so much time and energy to ensuring the schools are truly a community resource is quite inspirational.

It was also through the Deanery Synod that I became one of the Church of England representatives on the Richmond-upon-Thames Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). In addition to representatives of the CoIE, it comprises representatives of Christian denominations and other religions which reflect the principal religious traditions of the borough, teachers and local authority councillors. Its purpose is broadly to provide advice on all aspects of RE / acts of worship and their provision in all local authority maintained schools (but NOT Voluntary Aided, Academies or Free Schools) and to draw up an Agreed Syllabus for RE.

The redoubtable Mrs Charanjit Singh, representing the Sikh faith, and myself are the only surviving members of the first Richmond SACRE set up more than 20 years ago. Sadly, due to the 'academisation' of the secondary sector, the SACRE will

have a diminishing influence on the 11+ school population, but there are still a large number of primary schools in the borough that look to the SACRE to provide an appropriate RE syllabus for their pupils and for help and support to deliver it.

Although sometimes dismissed as ineffective, SACREs up and down the country have been hugely important in fostering respect for the diversity of faiths and cultures which enrich a local area. I have learnt so much about the Buddhists and Baha'is that flourish in Richmond from their SACRE members! And as OFSTED inspections have frequently recognised, RE in schools contributes significantly to community cohesion.

St James's, as is well known, has long supported Anglican missionary societies working overseas. For a number of years I was the parish link for a Church Mission Society (CMS) partner in Nepal and latterly have taken considerable interest in the work of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG, but now known as US). Through the work of a former colleague, Angela Mullens, who became a USPG missionary teacher in southern Africa, I have been able to visit Anglican secondary schools in Malawi and Tanzania and to have seen just how important a role the Church plays in educating and upskilling whole communities in the developing world.

One of the most interesting, and humbling, tasks I have undertaken over the past 15 years is that of a lay assessor for the Kensington Area Director of Ministry. This involves interviewing people who are exploring their vocation to ordained ministry in line with a testing set of selection criteria and assessing their suitability for training. I report my thoughts and findings to the Director of Ministry who, in turn, advises the Bishop of Kensington of the suitability of the candidate. I never cease to be amazed at the many and various ways people feel 'called' to be priests and how fortunate the Church still is — for all its shortcomings — to be able to attract so many able and committed individuals to its service.

Involvement in the wider life of the Church of England has opened my eyes to the depth and strength of its outreach. It educates millions of young people worldwide, enabling them to reach their God-given potential and keeping alive the Christian faith in an increasingly secular age. It works in some of the most deprived areas in this country, as well as in the most challenging of areas abroad. I have always believed that we, as its members, have a duty to engage with its workings where we usefully can in order to help it further its mission in the world at large. So what about taking that first step and becoming a member of the Hampton Deanery Synod? You never know where it may lead.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost



*Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,
Taught by Thee we covet most
Of Thy gifts of Pentecost
Holy, heavenly Love.*

*Love is kind, and suffers long
Love is meek, and thinks no wrong,
Love than death itself more strong;
Therefore, give us Love.*

*Prophecy will fade away,
Melting in the light of day,
Love will ever with us stay;
Therefore, give us Love.*

*Faith will vanish into sight;
Hope be emptied in delight;
Love in heaven will shine more bright;
Therefore, give us Love.*

*Faith and Hope and Love we see
Joining hand in hand agree;
But the greatest of the three,
And the best, is Love.*

*From the overshadowing
Of Thy gold and silver wing
Shed on us, who to Thee sing,
Holy, heavenly Love.*

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85) was a nephew of the Romantic poet, William Wordsworth. Poetry seems to have run in the family as Christopher wrote the words of the hymn above which will be sung

at St. James's Church on Pentecost, 19 May. A scholar and athlete as a younger man, a parish priest, headmaster of Harrow School, archdeacon and then Bishop of Lincoln, Wordsworth was a writer of theological works and also hymns. The words above are based on St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13. There Paul speaks of faith, hope and love as the greatest gifts of the Holy Spirit, above all, love. Wordsworth expresses this in his lyrics. His view of hymns was that they had a clear didactic purpose: 'It is the first duty of a hymn to teach sound doctrine and thence to save souls,' he wrote.

Not all hymn writers would agree with this, but consistent with his principles, Wordsworth produced words that focus on love. Above all, that of God.

