

**Weekend  
in pictures  
St James's  
Day  
is on  
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# thespire

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

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**INSIDE**

## Ordination

David made a priest Page 4

# 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 minister, ordained in June 2012, and working during the week in events sponsorship management.  
Telephone: 077 1057 2498  
Email: davidbell@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

## Parish Office



### Administrator

**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

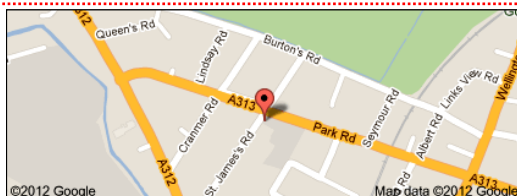


### Organist / Choirmaster

**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



We are so pleased everyone has enjoyed our special Anniversary edition and thank you to everyone for your kind comments. It was especially good to hear from Rosalind Brunt and Susan Chubb who will be putting their copies with the family archives to illustrate their time at St James's Church.

St James's weekend this year was very special and we have devoted a whole page to pictures of the weekend. The weather was exceptional and everyone worked so hard to make it a success. The church looked superb, decorated with all the lovely flower arrangements and the baptism and wedding dresses and photos. The children from Hampton Hill Junior School sang and played beautifully. The Sunday service was well attended and everyone took advantage of the good weather to lunch in the vicarage garden. It certainly was a memorable weekend.

This issue is devoted to the Voluntary Care Group and our involvement from its inception 40 years ago to the present day. We are raising money for the VCG at anniversary events.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

We are a Fairtrade Church!  
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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.  
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### AROUND THE SPIRE

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### WHAT'S ON

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Email: griseldabarrett@blueyonder.co.uk

### WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

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Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

### CIRCULATION

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### NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

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### Credits

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# 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 4 August — 10th Sunday of Trinity  
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Colossians 3.1-11;  
Luke 12.13-21

Sunday 11 August — 11th Sunday of Trinity  
Genesis 15.1-6; Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16;  
Luke 12.32-40

Sunday 18 August — 12th Sunday of Trinity  
Jeremiah 23.23-29; Hebrews 11.29-12.2;  
Luke 12.49-56

Sunday 25 August — 13th Sunday of Trinity  
Isaiah 58.9b-end; Hebrews 12.18-end;  
Luke 13.10-17

Sunday 1 September — 14th Sunday of Trinity  
Proverbs 25.6-7; Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16;  
Luke 14.1, 7-14

Sunday 8 September — 15th Sunday of Trinity  
Deuteronomy 30.15-end; Philemon 1-21;  
Luke 14.25-33

Sunday 15 September — 16th Sunday of Trinity  
Exodus 32.7-14; 1 Timothy 1.12-17; Luke 15.1-10

Sunday 22 September — 17th Sunday of Trinity  
Amos 8.4-7; 1 Timothy 2.1-7; Luke 16.1-13

Sunday 29 September — Michael and All Angels  
Genesis 28.10-17; Revelation 12.7-12; John 1.47-end

## Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

## Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

## 1st Thursday in month

1 August / 5 September 2pm Holy Communion

# Where Christianity leads



A contributor to an edition of *Songs of Praise* said something that puzzled me. For the past few years he had made his land available for a Christian music festival. Referring to this he said: 'A prayerful footprint is probably the best fertiliser for land.'

I pondered his words and realised that I really did not know what he meant. Was he suggesting that prayer helps crops grow? If so, I could not square that with heartfelt prayers down through the centuries, and today, from people desperate for crops to flourish so that they did not die of starvation.

Perhaps if they sang a bit more, they would have more food! Alternatively, was the contributor using this as a metaphor for the world, it being seen as a field ripe for Christian mission? Possibly, but this was by no means clear.

In the Church context it is very easy to use language that seems obscure, complicated and fanciful. It is not only the Church where this is the case. The *Plain English Campaign* has long called for government publications to be free of jargon or complicated language.

Every walk of life has its own 'in' language, and that is inevitable. A group of, for example, building professionals will use this language when talking to each other. Yet what happens when they talk to non-professionals in their field? They might be left mystified. It is entirely possible, of course, that using language that is understood by only a few people is deliberate. It ensures control of information, and is a wonderful way of hiding things that one does not want to reveal.

So what of Christianity? There is nothing that should not be revealed and shared with other people. Christians believe they have good news to share. Clear communication is therefore crucial.

## Exploring Christianity

Beginning on 19 September, and continuing until 7 November, we will be running a course at St. James's called *Exploring Christianity*. The 'we' in question is Canon Julian Reindorp (a

regular contributor to this magazine), Curate David Bell, and Jacky Cammidge, who is in training for ordination.

The course will do what the title says – explore Christianity. Each of us believes that this is a worthwhile exercise, and wishes to see if anyone else wants to do that, too. The shape of each evening will be a meal together, a talk on a specific topic, followed by discussion. This may raise some questions, so let me try to answer some that might be asked.

At whom is the course aimed? Anyone who wishes to explore Christianity. It might be that you are generally interested in spiritual things, and that you want a setting in which to go a little further into Christianity. You might, though, have considered yourself to be a Christian all your life, but still have not had or not taken the opportunity to reflect on what this means. Wherever you may find yourself, this might be for you.

What are you after? Let me be clear. I would love it if people came to the course and found faith when previously they had none; or were strengthened in what they had. I believe, after all, that Christianity is good news. There will not, though, be an exam to take at the end of the course to assess people's 'progress', though each of us involved will hope that you have not found it a waste of time!

Do I have to attend all the sessions? It's best if you can, but the reality is that people have busy lives, and this may not be possible. I will be missing one myself! It is better to come to some than none.

What happens next? That is up to you. 'Nothing' if that is where you are. 'Lots' if you feel strengthened, or changed, or thoughtful, or inspired.

So please look at the programme for the course on page seven of this magazine. Do get in touch if interested, but unsure and would like to talk about it. In this 150th anniversary year of St. James's, David, Julian, Jacky and I are offering this course as a genuine attempt to share what has been good news for us. We will try to speak plainly, and from the heart. Please join us.

## Charity Box CARA

St James is a faithful supporter of this small charity, which has an annual income of about £210,000. From its base in Notting Hill, Cara is now in its 25th year of providing services for people living with HIV across London and beyond.

Founded by Fr. David Randall in 1988, the word Cara was derived from the Gaelic word for *friend*. Its focus on community and friendship still holds true today and continues to make Cara unique as an HIV charity. It recognises the importance of trying to provide a holistic service that caters to mind, body and soul.

In its effort to support and improve the lives



of people living with HIV, Cara targets its limited resources on those people who might need it the most, because of poverty, ill-health, isolation or old age. Its mission is to reduce the impact of HIV through providing support, information, advocacy and advice to people living with, or affected by, the virus, and by undertaking training and education to the wider spiritual and faith communities. Their Supporters' News on our parish website (click on *Our Charities* and scroll to *Cara*) tells of a new Food Bank project and of the wonderful team of Cara volunteers. The Bishop of London is one of the charity's Patrons.

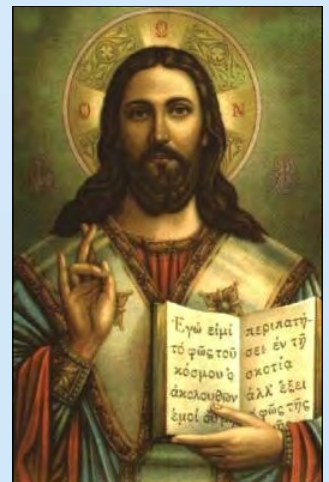
See their website: [caralife.com](http://caralife.com)



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

## A Litany to Jesus



A *litany* is a form of prayer with a petition (usually brief) followed by a repetitive response.

The litany below is part of that of the *Holy Name of Jesus*, and is some five centuries old.

The composers have taken a series of images – some used for many centuries and others from their own imagination.

The effect Jesus can have on people is so great that they cannot but throw words at him to try to describe who he is to them.

If a particular image strikes you, ponder it and perhaps see what word or words you would use in your own litany.

Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Splendour of the Father, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Brightness of eternal Light, have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of Glory, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Sun of Justice, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, most amiable, have mercy on us.

Jesus, most admirable, have mercy on us.

Jesus, the mighty God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Father of the world to come, have mercy on us.

Jesus, angel of great counsel, have mercy on us.

Jesus, most powerful, have mercy on us.

Jesus, most patient, have mercy on us.

Jesus, most obedient, have mercy on us.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our Lover, have mercy on us.

Jesus, God of Peace, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Author of Life, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Model of Virtues, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our Refuge, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Father of the Poor, have mercy on us.

Jesus, good Shepherd, have mercy on us.

Jesus, true Light, have mercy on us.

Jesus, eternal Wisdom, have mercy on us.

Jesus, infinite Goodness, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our Way and our Life, have mercy on us.



# Opening doors

## David presides at first eucharist

**OUR CURATE**, David Bell, presided at Holy Communion for the first time at a special service following his ordination as priest.

His years of preparation came to an end on Sunday 23 June when he was ordained along with two other deacons from the parishes of St. Mary, Osterley, and St. Nicholas, Shepperton.

St. Mary's hosted the service at which the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Rvd Paul Williams, presided. Each of those ordained had served for a year in their parishes after being ordained as deacons in 2012 at St. Paul's Cathedral.

At the service, they were joined by family, friends and members of their churches, and were reminded by the bishop of the calling they had accepted. The bishop was then joined by priests present in laying hands on the head of those being ordained.

The next day David returned to St. James's and presided at the celebration of Holy Communion for the first time. (Being able to do this is one of the main differences between being a deacon and a priest.)

Once again, people from different parts of David's life celebrated with him. The preacher was the Revd Keith Owen, from Penzance, a friend of David and his wife Janet, pictured above. At the end of the service David was presented with a card and a home communion set as a gift from the congregation. The service was followed by refreshments in the hall.

David wishes to thank everyone for their support, love and prayers during his ordination, first eucharist and party, as well as for the gift.



**Janet Nunn came to Hampton Hill in the early 1970s and has supported Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care in many ways since its inception in 1974. Here, she traces the charity's links with St James's Church and highlights some of the events and people involved.**

## Peter marks 25 years as a priest



Photos (excluding above) © Scott Balfour, Folk in Photos

**A LARGE CONGREGATION** joined Peter Vannozi on Wednesday 3 July to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. St. James's regulars were joined by other friends from the local community and Peter's friends from earlier years.

Ten priests joined Peter at the altar, and Bishop John Salt preached. He spoke of the role of a priest seen in the context of the ministry of all Christians. One priest present was Canon Martin Poll, who preached on St. James's Day in 2011. Martin and Peter trained for ordination together, were ordained deacon at St. Paul's Cathedral on 27 June 1987, and ordained priest on the same day the following year, but in different churches – Martin at All Hallows', Gospel Oak, and Peter at St. John's, Southall. After the service, good weather allowed refreshments in the vicarage garden. Peter wishes to express thanks to all who supported him, and for the lovely card, best wishes – and cheque!



Hannah Stanton Dennis Green David Woodroffe

It is nearly 40 years since three prominent local residents combined their concerns to sow the seed for the formation of the original Community Care Group (CCG) — its name changed to the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group, or VCG, in 1994. Those three people were Hannah Stanton, Lay Reader from St James's Church, the Revd Dennis Green, Curate of All Saints' Church, Hampton, and local GP Dr David Woodroffe, founder of the Priory Road Medical Centre in Hampton. They had boundless energy; and as the booklet published by VCG in 2008 entitled *Never too Busy* indicates, were always ready to take on another project.

Hannah had led a very full life, much devoted to public service. Together with Dennis, she was very concerned in the early 1970s about provision for the very young and old in Hampton and Hampton Hill, and also the impact that the proposed Nurserylands development would have on the local community.

There was no central community hall on the estate, nor any shops, and the transport links were poor. Most of the incoming people would be re-housed from inner London and would miss shops and transport on their doorsteps. The priests and the GPs were noticing more house-bound patients and more people suffering with depression.

### Birth of the CCG

On 15 May 1974 a meeting was held in the then St James's Church Hall in School Road. Fifty people were expected, but over 150 turned up. The CCG was born. The three founders acted as co-chairs and the outcome of the meeting was that Concern Groups should be set up. These included parents and young children, one-parent families, and senior citizens.

By 1976 the CCG had 400 clients, was receiving at



Brenda Smith and Linda Brignall, front right, in the VCG's High Street bookshop with the volunteers.

least 10 calls a day and had 250 volunteers. In 1975 it was decided to appoint a Co-ordinator and Maureen Sutton was the first to take on this post. The first CCG AGM was held in May 1976 and it became a registered charity in December 1976.

### The Bookshop opens

Fund-raising was a major concern and in November 1974 a Hampton resident, Gordon Lansborough, offered to provide stock for a bookshop if premises could be found. Jack Gostling, director of the family building firm, kindly agreed to give CCG the use of a shop in Hampton Hill High Street, rent free, until it was needed for further development. This shop was opposite The Star Public House. The Bookshop was originally started by Dennis Green, but quickly taken over by Brenda Smith from All Saints and Linda Brignall. Eventually the shop was needed by Gostlings and a shop a few doors along (now David Rose Electrical) was leased to CCG.

This remained The Bookshop for over 20 years and in 1984 there were 26 volunteers working in the shop — many from St James's, including Len and Margery Orton — and the fitting and maintenance was done by my husband, David, and Herbert Moses, from All Saints' Church.



# for 40 years



The Duchess of Gloucester meets John Denton and Sally Field at the Greenwood Centre's opening

## The coffee shop followed

Such was the success of The Bookshop that the small room at the back was opened up as a coffee shop — the brainchild of Margery Orton and David Nunn. This again was run by volunteers and proved to be a welcome place for people to go and meet as they also did in The Bookshop.

Another fund-raising activity at The Bookshop was recycling Christmas and birthday cards and making new ones. I worked with Synnove Jordan and many others and according to the records, in 1988 we made 7,500 Christmas cards and 4,500 Easter and birthday cards, all sold as funds for CCG.

Originally the CCG offices were in the URC Church in Hampton Hill High Street, before the URC redevelopment. It had always been CCG's aim to have their own premises and in 1990 the opportunity came up when St James's, under the leadership of the Revd Dr Brian Leathard, wanted to sell the Church Hall to make funds available to build a hall next to the church.

## The Greenwood Centre opens

This became possible and at the CCG AGM in 1990 it was announced that the Hampton Fuel Allotment charity would support the building of a new community centre.

The Greenwood Centre was officially opened by The Duchess of Gloucester, on 3 July 1992. The name Greenwood is derived from Dennis Green and David Woodroffe — two of the original founders — and the upstairs room is called the Stanton Room after Hannah.

It is appropriate in this our 150th year that we remember that what became the first Parish Hall was originally a boys' school; the girls' school was in Fitz Wygram Close. In 1867 the vicar of St James, the Revd Fitzroy Fitz Wygram became increasingly concerned that, of the thousand children in his parish, only a handful were receiving formal education. He gave some land off Windmill road (originally Mill Road) for school premises.

I am sure he would be proud to know that there is now a thriving school in Windmill Road and



Transport plays a vital role

the site of the original boys' school is now the Greenwood Centre.

## Dedication and responsibility

Over nearly 40 years there have been just five Co-ordinators: Maureen Sutton, Jan Murray, Anita Fox, Deirdre Curran and the current post-holder, Fiona Brennan. This shows the dedication and enormous responsibility these people undertake. They work together with the Trustees, many of whom have been members of St James's, in particular Margaret Taylor, and currently the Revd Peter Vannozi.

Not only do they have premises to look after, funds to raise, and grants to apply for, but also the tremendous amount of work they do in organising events for parents with young children, through youth groups, to helping elderly people with transport and the enormously popular shopping bus. Many members of the congregation at St James's have received help from VCG.

## Start spreading the news

From the outset a two-page newsletter called Community Care News was delivered to 8500 houses in Hampton and Hampton Hill. This has grown over the years and is now the 12-page *Greenwood Post* which is still delivered to as many houses as possible. I undertook one delivery round for over 25 years!

It is impossible in this space to do justice to the work the VCG does, but it is now an established part of Hampton and Hampton Hill and what more appropriate way for us to celebrate our 150th anniversary year than fund-raising for VCG.

From the very beginning it has been supported by the local churches, not least St James's, from one of the co-founders, Hannah Stanton, to today when many members of the congregation help with transport, deliver newsletters, work in the office and many more duties, all done quietly, but with dedication and commitment.

We at St James's are proud that the Greenwood Centre developed from our need to move our church hall and I am sure that Hannah and her two co-founders could not have envisaged how much the VCG would have developed from their initial enthusiasm nearly 40 years ago.



## FAREWELL TO A GOOD FRIEND — ELSIE WHITTLE

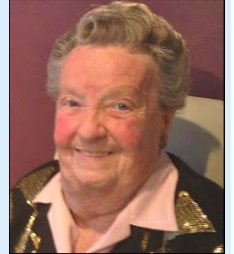
**THE FUNERAL** service for Elsie Whittle took place at St James's Church on 2 July.

Elsie, 89, was born in 1924 in Leigh in Lancashire. It was a traditional community of the time with its pit, mill and Rugby League.

A churchgoer from childhood, Elsie was a singer from early on in her life. She married Jim in 1949 and opened her first shop. They subsequently moved to London and Park Road was her home for the next 55 years.

Elsie ran a women's clothing shop, *Margot*, on the High Street for many years. She became an established part of the local community — choirs, church, Townswomen's Guild and bowling all figured in her life. Elsie was outgoing — she admitted herself that she loved to talk — and she remained interested in the world around her until the very end of her life.

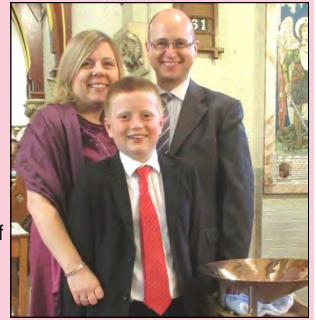
At her funeral service she was described as kind, welcoming, and supportive. We send our condolences to her daughter, Kay, and granddaughter, Laura.



## JACK'S BAPTISM

**JACK**, son of David and Nicky Hetling, was baptised at the Parish Communion on 30 June.

Many members of his family attended the ceremony at which Jack clearly declared his wish to be baptised. He is a regular member of our Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, and the other members were there to support him. After his baptism, Jack was warmly welcomed by the whole congregation.



## BRILLIANT BRITTEN AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Susannah Nettleton for her part in a colourful production of Benjamin Britten's opera *Noyes Fludde*, performed in the Base Court of Hampton Court Palace on Sunday 30 June. Children from Hampton Hill Junior School, Carlisle Infants School, Lady Eleanor Holles School and the Hampton Hill Singers combined for the event. Britten wrote the opera to be performed in church—and it will be, at St James's on Saturday 19 October, as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations.

## BLOOMING GOOD

**WELL DONE** to pupils at Hampton Hill Junior School who received the Gold Award and first prize in the Richmond in Bloom Schools Competition. The trophy was presented to the children, Year 4 teacher Trudi Morgan, and parent governor Namrita Singh-Gelling, by the Mayor, Cllr Meena Bond.



# Next stop, St James's Day



**THE SUN SHONE**, the people came. The most ambitious weekend of celebrations for many years attracted large and appreciative numbers of people over the three days, helping us to raise money for the Greenwood Centre.

The Parochial Church Council wanted the anniversary to connect with all parts of the community — and it did.

The church opened its doors on Friday 12 July to a steady stream of visitors keen to see the Floral Celebration, and the display of wedding and baptismal dresses. The flower arranging team worked all week to create an imaginative and fascinating history lesson using gowns, dresses, shawls and

wonderfully colourful flowers to tell the story.

In the Baptistry were wedding dresses of four generations of Coryn Robinson's family, showing fashions over 60 years.

Saturday was Community Day, coinciding with the Hampton Hill Summer Festival. Local resident Richard Sharp, who produced the history guide to Hampton Hill, arranged for two vintage buses to ferry people from the High Street to the church, raising money for local charities along the way.

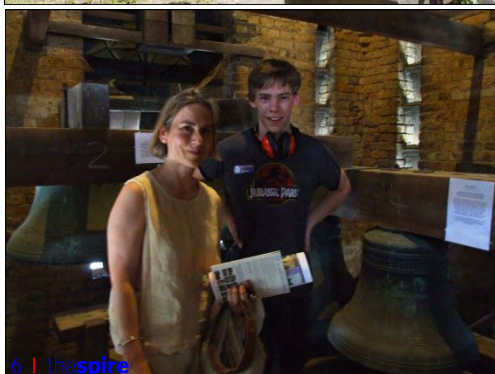
When the church opened at noon a queue of people quickly formed to climb the tower and ring the bells, and people continued to arrive all day long. Hampton Hill Junior School

put on a Victorian Concert of music and singing.

On Sunday, a large congregation heard the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Revd Dr David Ison, remind us to go where God takes us, like St James — whatever the cost.

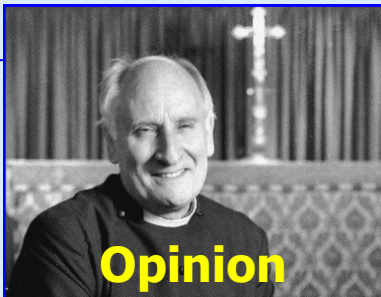
The congregation then moved to the newly-refurbished grave of our first vicar, the Revd Fitzroy Fitz Wygram, for a final prayer and hymn. The Shell Seekers dressed in Victorian costume. Lunch was held in the vicarage garden and the church was again open for viewing and tower tours.

Peter, our vicar, would like to thank the huge numbers of volunteers who made the weekend such a success.



For full coverage of the weekend and more photographs, go to our website: [stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)





## Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

### CHURCH GROWING IN LONDON

Church attendance has grown from 620,000 in 2005 to 720,000 in 2012. This growth is especially seen in the Black Majority Churches (Pentecostals) and the various immigrant Churches, but a recent survey among 18- to 24-year-olds suggests more than half have no faith and have never attended church. Some 41% thought religion was often a cause of evil in the world. At the same time a clear majority intended to get married and have children.

### STATE v PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There is now a growing bank of evidence — research from Bristol, Cardiff and Oxford Brookes universities — that those who go to state schools and enter with the same A-level grades as those from private schools, come out three years later with better degrees. One commentator said: 'All that money is being spent for no ultimate educational gain.'

### POOREST HARDEST HIT

The recent cuts in local authority spending — with more to come — hit the poorest hardest. Those local authorities most dependent on central funding are usually the poorest, and the poorest people live in the poorest areas and are the most dependent on local authority services. Many services provided by the state have ceased to exist: 400,000 local government employees have lost their jobs, with another 100,000 in the latest cuts. When the Government came to power in 2010 they announced they would tackle the deficit with 80% cuts and 20% tax rises. The tax income has been far less than expected, the Government has reduced the taxes on the very richest, and one result is that the poor have been hit even harder. Perhaps not surprisingly, rough sleepers in London are rising: 5,678 in 2011; 6,437 in 2012 — up 13%. When Boris Johnson came to power there were 3,472 and he pledged to end rough sleeping by 2012.

### SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

In a recent YouGov poll among 4,400 people, those identified with a religion voted 43% in favour and 43% against, 16% don't know. Those with no religion were 69% in favour and only 20% against.

### APOLOGY DUE?

Baroness Shirley Williams, former Labour minister and Lib Dem leader, and a Roman Catholic, suggests an apology by the churches is due. 'A heartfelt recognition of the discrimination, sometimes amounting to cruelty and abuse, of the homosexual community by the churches as well as civil society'. She wants Pope Francis to appoint a commission of lay Catholics to examine the position of the gay community both within society and within the church itself. She wants the huge part played by homosexual men and women in the world, particularly in the arts and religion, recognized, and the fact that many lay people and clergy have been, and are homosexual.

### FRANCIS and JUSTIN

Pope Francis and Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, both started their ministries within days of each other. At their recent meeting they seemed to get on very well. When the press asked the archbishop what they talked about, he replied: 'The colour of our cassocks!'

# What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



### Prudential Ride London

Sunday 4 August, in Central London, Richmond Park, Hampton Court, Kingston, and surrounding roads



Cycling returns to the roads and parks of London. The Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100 will see 20,000 amateur cyclists tackle a 100-mile route between the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Surrey. Riders are expected to cross Chiswick Bridge and then pass through Sheen and Richmond Park between 6.40am and 10am. They will reach Hampton Court Road between 7am and 10:20am. The event includes a business relay, with up to 300 teams of four riders cycling around 25 miles of the route each.

Later in the day, 150 of the world's best professional cyclists will compete in the Prudential Ride London-Surrey Classic, on a route similar to the London 2012 Olympic Cycle Road Race. The cyclists are expected to pass through Sheen and Richmond Park between 1.20pm and 1.35pm, and reach Hampton Court Road between 1.35pm and 1.50pm.

#### Road closure and re-opening times

The cyclists will enter the borough at Chiswick Bridge and use Clifford Avenue, Upper Richmond Road and Sheen Lane, before entering Richmond Park.

The route then re-enters the borough at Kingston Bridge along Hampton Court Road before exiting over Hampton Court Bridge. The route and some surrounding roads in the borough will be closed to traffic from 5am onwards on 4 August.

- **Richmond Park** - Park roads will be closed all day. To access please use public transport or come on foot.
- **Chiswick Bridge, Clifford Avenue, Lower Richmond Road, Upper Richmond Road, Sheen Lane** - closed from 5am-3pm approx
- **Hampton Court Road** - Hampton Wick to Hampton from 3.30pm; Kingston to Hampton Court from 7pm
- **A4 (westbound to Hogarth roundabout)** - from 2.30pm
- **Hampton Court Bridge** - Northbound closed from 5am-3.30pm approx; Southbound from 5am-7pm approx
- **Kingston Bridge, Kingston Town Centre, and Putney Bridge** - closed from 5am-7pm approx
- **The A3** will be open, although the junctions at Tibbet's Corner Putney and Coombe Lane (Kingston) will be closed.
- **Kew Bridge, Twickenham Bridge and Richmond Bridge** will all remain open, but many Central London roads and bridges will be closed. Avoid the area if you can.
- For information on road closures and disruption to public transport go to: [prudentialridelondon.co.uk](http://prudentialridelondon.co.uk)

### Community Lunch

Saturday 17 August, 12 noon, Greenwood Centre, School Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1QL

As part of our 150th celebrations, this lunch is in aid of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group. We are proud of our community links, so show your support. Come with friends, make new friends. Tickets are £15 for two courses and a glass of wine. To book, contact the Parish Office.



### Teddington River Festival / RNLi Open Day

Sunday 8 September, 12noon-6pm, Teddington Lock

A free family fun day along the River Thames. Events include: arts and crafts, boat rides, stalls, face painting, bouncy castle, fairground rides, live music, river rescue demonstrations and wildlife displays. Visit [teddingtonriverfestival.com](http://teddingtonriverfestival.com)

### Fairtrade Autumn Roadshow

Saturday 14 September, Regent Hall, Oxford Street, W1C 2DJ

Come and see all the craft products in the Autumn catalogue and get a 20% discount. Contact Ann Peterken nearer the time for details. Telephone 020 8891 5862

### Exploring Christianity

Thursday 19 September, 7.15pm, St James's Church Hall.

An opportunity to explore, reflect and talk about our faith over eight weeks. This course is for anyone who is seeking God and feels drawn to do so through Christianity. This is not so much an intellectual exercise as an adventure in faith. The Christian life has to be lived as well as thought about. The evening begins with supper, followed by a talk, coffee and discussion.

Each week there will be a theme: September 19 — God; September 26 — Jesus of Nazareth; October 3 — Jesus Christ; October 10 — The Holy Spirit; October 17 — The Bible; October 24 — The Sacraments; October 31 — Prayer; and November 7 — Christianity today.

If you interested in joining the discussion group please email [office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk) or pick up a leaflet.

### Harvest Sunday

Sunday 6 October, 11am, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

Joining us for Parish Communion to celebrate Harvest Sunday will be the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams, who will formally mark the planting of a tree in the churchyard as part of our 150th anniversary. The service will be followed by a harvest lunch in the church hall. We are again collecting for the Upper Room, Hammersmith, which serves over 25,000 hot meals to the homeless every year. You can help by providing non-perishable food (making sure they are well within use by date), toiletries, or new socks or underwear.

### Registers for June



#### Baptisms

- 2 Beatrice Victoria Mawson, Teddington
- 23 Emily Georgia Grace Longstaff

- 23 Rosie Sophia Florence Longstaff, Hampton Hill

- 30 Jack Reece Bourne, Staines

- 30 Daisy Sophia De'Ath, Worcester Park

#### Wedding

- 1 Adam Jonathan Johnson and Emma Jane Logan, Teddington

#### Funerals

- 4 The Reverend Betty Stewart, 87, Guildford
- 24 Robert William Behm (known as Danny), 68, Hampton
- 25 Joby Light, 84, Hampton Hill

### Vicar's View



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's summer holiday again."

# One charity that really does begin at home



It was over 11 years ago that I took up my position as Director at the Greenwood Centre. Until then, I had worked for large national charities — well resourced organisations with complex corporate structures, large numbers of staff, sophisticated fund-raising teams, royal patrons and annual incomes running into millions. The Greenwood Centre has none of these — but the years I have spent here have, without doubt, been the most satisfying and fulfilling of my working life.

There is a simple reason for this: at the larger charities I worked for, success tended to be measured in the financial value of the research that we were able to fund or the sheer numbers of people we were able to advise and support. At the Greenwood Centre, we work very much 'on the ground', right at the heart of the local community.

All the people who receive our services live within Hampton and Hampton Hill — and that is where I live, too. I do so enjoy being a part of this community and personally knowing most, if not all, of the people that we benefit. When I am out and about I never fail to be touched and feel a surge of pride when I hear how our efforts make a real difference to the everyday lives of the people I meet, or their parents, friends and neighbours. But that is not surprising — we are after all, 'the local charity for local people'.

## Our close link with St James's

It did not take me long to discover the close link between St James's Church and The Greenwood Centre. I am reminded of their massive contribution every day — The Greenwood Centre is named after two of the founders and our main hall is The Stanton Hall. This close link continues today. Every year we hold our well-attended Christmas Community Concert at St James's, pictured above, and, as part of the church's 150th anniversary, a party of Greenwood Centre clients were treated to a 150-mile trip to visit Winchester. On 17 August, a Community Lunch will be held at the Greenwood Centre.

Perhaps at this point I should tell you about our two main charitable activities. Firstly, we run a transport project for the many people, who because of frailty or disability, cannot easily use public transport. Our 45 volunteer drivers give them lifts to hospital and to GP appointments, hairdressers, social clubs or just to visit friends in the area. Last year, we provided over 5,380 lifts and every year the demand increases — meaning we need ever more volunteer drivers.

Five times a week we run a shopping bus that collects people from their homes and takes them to Sainsbury's.

The third aspect of the transport project is transport to social clubs and our twice-weekly programme of accessible minibuses outings to local — and not so local — places of interest. These usually involve lunch and there is always a great deal of banter and chat! Escorts accompany the shopping buses and outings to help carry bags and to assist generally. Last year we counted in and counted out over 10,000 people — and we haven't lost anyone yet!

## Befriending the isolated and lonely

The social aspect of our transport projects brings me to the second core activity: befriending. There are many people in the area who, for one reason or another, have become socially isolated with very few friends or family living nearby. We recruit volunteers, check that they are of good character, train them and then match and introduce them to someone who would appreciate a regular fortnightly visit.

This might not seem a lot, but we know from the comments we receive that these visits make a very big difference to the person being visited.

We also provide a telephone befriending service where volunteers come into the Greenwood Centre for a couple of hours a week to make their calls. These services are immensely important; not only is loneliness a terrible thing, it is also associated with depression, physical illness and poor diet. Again, we always need more befrienders to join our team.

Of course the Greenwood Centre is often the first port of call for any client who is in a jam or needs support. Maybe they've locked themselves out of their home, need a plumber to fix a leak or a bit of help filling in a form. Whatever the problem, we can usually help or put them in touch with someone who can.

Some people think we are part of Social Services or the NHS, but we are not. We are an independent charity and almost all the funds we need to maintain and develop our services are raised through fund-raising. We are so grateful for the support St James's has given us over the years and especially pleased that we have been chosen to be the beneficiaries of your anniversary fund-raising events.

■ If you need our help or would like to help us, telephone 020 8979 9662, or email [Fiona@greenwoodcentre.co.uk](mailto:Fiona@greenwoodcentre.co.uk). For more information see our website: [greenwoodcentre.co.uk](http://greenwoodcentre.co.uk).



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

Be Thou my Vision,  
O Lord of my Heart



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, thou Heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won!  
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Be thou my vision* is a popular hymn, today sung to the Irish folk tune *Slane*. The Irish tune fits with the words appropriately as the words are a translation in 1912 by Eleanor Hull of an ancient Old Irish text, possibly from as far back as the sixth century.

It was part of the Irish monastic tradition of prayer long before it achieved its current hymn form. The use of repetition in the hymn is typical of Celtic forms of prayer as is its use of images.

Celtic spirituality of the past tended to see the world as a zone of war between opposing spiritual forces so spiritual armour was needed, and the great power of God was invoked.

*High King* as an image could be an allusion to the 'high kings' of Ireland who had, or who were claimed to have, lordship over all Ireland.

The tune *Slane*, though undoubtedly an old tune, is argued by some to be from the 8th century and by others from the 18th century!