

NOVEMBER 2013

Details of
forthcoming
150th
Events
are on
Page 6

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE — please take a copy

INSIDE Leader

War poets find words
amid the
carnage

'Soul' Music

Our rich history of
music in church

We Will Remember Them

Friday 8 November

7.30pm Festival of Remembrance

Sunday 10 November

9.45am Remembrance Service

LEADER P3 ■ NEWS P4 ■ AROUND THE SPIRE P5 ■ WHAT'S ON P7

Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy

Vicar

The Revd Peter Vannozzi (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

GET INVOLVED

- The more **volunteers**, the more we can do
- Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do
- Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy

Finding us

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



From the Editor

Having had such a lovely summer we are hoping for a spectacular display of colour from the trees. I walked through the churchyard today and admired the new tree, blessed by the Bishop of Kensington on Harvest Sunday. It is good to see the churchyard well cared for by the local council. Next year, we look forward to seeing the narcissi planted around the cedar tree.



All Souls' Service this year will be at the new time of 3.30pm, followed by tea in the church hall. As part of our 150th Anniversary there will be a Festival of Remembrance on Friday 8 November in church and the 9.45am service on Sunday, followed by a short service round the War Memorial. See Page 7.

We continue our musical theme this month with a centrespread by Prill Hinckley on music in the church and Your Voice from one of our choir members, Jane Newman.

December is the climax of our 150th celebrations with the special service on 8 December at 11am when we shall be welcoming the Bishop of London and local dignitaries.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



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 Dec / Jan issue is published on 1 December. All copy must be with us by **Monday 4 November**

Credits

PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge

Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

PUBLISHING

Printer Justin Hollingsworth 020 8686 4481

thespire magazine is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests, as laid down by the Forest Stewardship Council.



© St James's Church 2013. Unauthorised reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission from the editor.

Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are accepted on the basis that thespire does not accept liability for loss or damage to them. We cannot print anything subject to copyright. Views expressed in thespire are not necessarily those of the PCC of St James.

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 17 November

2nd Before Advent

Malachi 4.1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Luke 21.5-19

Sunday 24 November

Christ the King

Jeremiah 23.1-6; Colossians 1.11-20

Luke 23.33-43

Sunday 3 November

All Saints' Sunday

Daniel 7.1-3,15-18

Ephesians 1.11-23

Luke 6.20-31

Sunday 10 November

9.45am Remembrance Sunday

3rd Sunday Before Advent

Job 19.23-27a

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-17

Luke 20.27-38

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month

7 November 2pm Holy Communion

Poetry amidst the horror



*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.*

V: The Soldier Rupert Brooke (1887-1915)

*The wheels lurched over sprawled dead
But pained them not, though their bones crunched,
Their shut mouths made no moan,
They lie there huddled, friend and foeman,
Man born of man, and born of woman,
And shells go crying over them
From night till night and now.*

Dead Man's Dump Isaac Rosenberg (1890-1918)

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. Planning has already begun for events and activities to mark this anniversary. No doubt the poetry of that war will feature as part of the commemoration. The conflict produced some astonishing poets. In many cases, they were combatants. Most expressed something of how they felt about the horrors of war, but not all.

The stanzas above are from poems written by two very different poets, Rupert Brooke and Isaac Rosenberg. Brooke conveyed uncritical, patriotic feeling. Rosenberg could not have been more different, describing in graphic terms the terrible nature of what he saw and heard. Their backgrounds could not have been more different, either. Brooke was educated at Rugby and Kings College, Cambridge, where he became a Fellow. Rosenberg was the son of Jewish refugees from Latvia who fled from anti-semitic persecution. Brooke's enlisting was inspired by patriotism whereas Rosenberg's was for economic reasons. Both died at the age of 28, Brooke of blood poisoning as he made his way to Dardanelles, and Rosenberg on the Somme.

I cannot pretend to be comfortable with Brooke's take on war. In the same poem from which I quoted above he writes of an

'English heaven.' Allowing even for the use of language poetically, this does not sit easily with me. I cannot seriously conceive of a heaven reserved exclusively for the English — or any other nationality or ethnic group. Yet Brooke's response to conflict was that held by many, if not most, of his contemporaries. Rosenberg's would have been viewed with great suspicion, even considered treacherous. I recall, as a child, my grandmother telling me how she saw men of fighting age being handed white feathers as a sign that they must be cowards — before conscription, men were signing up voluntarily. Brooke's poem could be re-written by others to reflect their own privileged position. Yet where does this lead people?

At the time of writing, there has been news of the attack on a shopping mall in Nairobi, a suicide bombing of a church in Peshawar, an attack on a college in Nigeria, and violence in a Shia district of Baghdad. I suspect that what goes unreported is just as terrible. Unmanned drones, for example, in Afghanistan. In the light of this, I find myself closer to Rosenberg than Brooke. Remembrance Sunday falls this month, on the 10th, and once more people throughout the country will fall silent, and rightly so. At St. James's we will do this, and as part of our 150th events hold a Festival of Remembrance on Friday 8 November at 7.30pm, welcoming two choirs, and hearing of the work of Combat Stress, which works with veterans of conflicts, who are still dealing with the consequences of their service.

Remembering is crucial. In a Christian context there will always be ambivalence about violence. The days are gone when clergy could, without reserve, bless guns and bullets. Conflicts are rarely straightforward, and people of any faith are rash to claim that God is on their side. Christian remembering has to be connected with remembering Jesus. This is not to recall consoling stories, but rather so that people may know Jesus for themselves and for this to make a difference to their lives. So Remembrance commemorations in churches up and down the land will all have an eye to the future, and express a hope for humanity finally to wake up to the horrors of what it does in the name of God or country or tribe or politics or money.

Remembrance Sunday reminds us that we must never forget, but also that we must never cease to hope.

Charity Box Disability and Development Partners

DDP has reached its 21st year. It started as the Jaipur Limb Campaign in 1992 to provide rehabilitation services to amputees in poor countries and to campaign for the ban on landmines. The name change came in 2005 to reflect the charity's expanded scope.

It is a small charity with just three part-time staff in its north London office. It does not have offices or staff in any of the countries it reaches, working instead with local partners to help them deliver programmes and provide initiatives that benefit disabled people.

In the photo, disabled Indian boys are



Disability and Development Partners

going to school. They live in a hostel run by Kiran Society (a DDP partner) in Varanasi City, Uttar Pradesh. They would not be able to follow secondary or higher education without a place to stay close to their schools and colleges. You can read more about Kiran's work on DDP's website.

St James's has supported DDP throughout its 21 years and is a much-valued donor. Do have a look at the colourful booklet **DDP is 21** near the glass display cabinet at the back of church.

For more information about the charity's invaluable work go to their website: www.ddpuk.org



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

A litany for peace



From words and deeds that provoke discord, prejudice and hatred,
O God, deliver us.

From suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,
O God, deliver us.

From believing and speaking lies about other peoples or nations,
O God, deliver us.

From cruel indifference to the cries of the hungry and homeless,
O God, deliver us.

From all that prevents us from fulfilling your promise of peace,
O God, deliver us.

Deliver us from our brokenness, we pray, O God,
and by your grace and healing presence deliver us to You.

To still waters and green pastures,
O Creating God, deliver us.

To the freedom and forgiveness we find in you,
O Risen Christ, deliver us.

To the tough task of loving our enemies,
O Jesus, deliver us.

To joyful service in your name,
O Servant of All, deliver us.

To the promise of a new heaven and a new earth,
To the wholeness of justice,
To the power of your peace,
O Holy Spirit, deliver us now and in the days to come.





Music that stirs

Bishop Paul and Harvest creation

THE BISHOP OF KENSINGTON, the Rt Revd Paul Williams, formally planted a tree in the churchyard at our Harvest Festival celebrations.

The tree, a crab apple, was donated to the church by Squire's Garden Centre. Bishop Paul said he hoped that when the church celebrated its 200th anniversary some in the congregation would recall this day.

Following the service many stayed for a meal in the church hall. For more about the day go to page seven.



Guildford Cathedral swaps land for cash

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL is to sell some of its land for housing to secure its financial future. The cathedral costs £1.17m a year to run and is currently operating with an annual £100,000 deficit. Under the plans, land on Stag Hill will be used for a mix of social and private housing, and accommodation for cathedral staff.

The new dean, the Very Revd Dianna Gwilliams, said the plans would deliver much-needed affordable housing. There will also be better links with the town and a major programme of urgent repairs to the cathedral.

Celebrating with the Bishop of London

ON SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres will come to St. James's at 11am to share in a service of thanksgiving for 150 years of the church and parish. (The actual anniversary of the church's consecration is 11 December.)

He will be joined by the Mayor of Richmond, local councillors, Vince Cable MP, and other friends and fellow workers from the local community. After the service the bishop will rename the church hall the *Fitz Wygram Hall* after the first vicar, founder of the parish.



Church buys into new High Street bank

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND is among investors buying 314 bank branches from Royal Bank of Scotland for £600million. The Church Commissioners for England, alongside financial firms Corsair Capital and Centerbridge Capital, will revive the Williams & Glyn's name, claiming it would be 'operating to the highest ethical standards and giving consumers more choice'. RBS, which is 80 per cent state-owned, has been forced to sell the branches under European rules.

Where in the world are Christians?

ONLY 0.6% OF the world's 2.2 billion Christians now live in the Middle East. Christians are 4% of the population, down from 20% a century ago.

Lonely students this Christmas

COULD YOU MAKE this world a friendlier place by offering an invitation to an international student at a UK university to visit you for just a day, a weekend or three days at Christmas? Young adults from many countries would love to have a break in a British home. HOST is a well-established charity which takes care in linking students with volunteer hosts. For more information, see www.hostuk.org or telephone 020 7739 6292.

London is home to some of the poorest

RESEARCH BY THE Church Urban Fund shows the London Diocese ranks 36th out of 42 for poverty. Key factors are numbers of children and elderly people in poverty, as well as the lack of social housing. In all, Guildford is the most affluent and Manchester the most disadvantaged.

At last, a Real Advent Calendar

A RECENT SURVEY found that 51% of people now say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas and 36% of children do not even know whose birthday is being celebrated.

The *Real Advent Calendar* could be the answer. Behind each of the 25 windows is a Fairtrade chocolate. The final window has a 24-page Christmas story. The calendar costs **£3.99** from our Fairtrade stall. A donation will be made to The Children's Society from every sale.



The writer C S Lewis described church choir members as 'the most enviable of men; privileged while mortals to honour God like angels'. Music is better able to praise God than the building of a church and all its decoration. **Prill Hinckley** looks back on a rich musical history

Music is and always has been an important and integral part of worship at St James's, not just an ornament or entertainment. During services, music illuminates the text and can help members of the congregation express praise, worship, prayer and thanksgiving by communicating and expressing faith in ways beyond words alone.

At St James's we believe music to be a gift from God and so all music which takes place in our church is offered to God in this way. It provides the foundation for our understanding of the role of music in worship. Music should never be an end in itself, but a means to an end; that is, to support us in our worship and here it can be an incredibly powerful tool.

Music from the beginning

Music has featured in St James's history since records began. There have been magazine reports about the organ, the choir, hymn singing, concerts and so on throughout the years, right up to, and including, the present day. There has been a choir for much of the church's existence and an organ since 1884. The orchestra, St. James's Players (formerly the Travellers), is a relatively new group, having started up in 1987, and the children's choir has been singing at two or three services a year since 2003.

Nowadays some music is old, while some is more modern; some is familiar, while some is unfamiliar; and different styles and genres are used.

Making music together

In the church there is a fine three-manual Bishop organ, extensively reworked and enlarged, a boudoir grand piano and a clavivna. People of all ages are involved in the music at St James's, with the music itself covering a wide range of styles — a mix of ancient and modern!

The music of the liturgy actually involves everyone present: the congregation, the choir, any instrumentalists and the priests. Each of these is a part of the whole and each has its own role to play as the service progresses.

Details of all the different aspects of music at St James's can be found on the church website:

www.stjames-hamptonhill.org



New members are *always* welcome to join the choirs and orchestra.

Tip of the iceberg

Music in church tends to be very visible — certainly audible! What you see and hear during a service though is the tip of quite a large iceberg, with nine-tenths of the work having already taken place in advance, usually weeks or months beforehand.

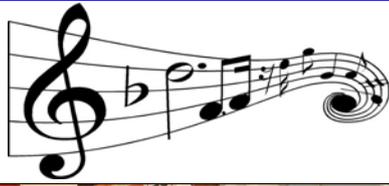
Hymns and anthems are carefully chosen for their relevance to the meaning of the time in the Christian year, and for their ability to illustrate the readings.

The organist, Samuel Draper, comes to church to practise and choir members show regular commitment rehearsing for the services.

On the first Sunday of the month, you may arrive early enough to hear the orchestra, the St. James's Players, practising for the service.

All the hymns and other music for the orchestra have been arranged by their conductor, Martin Hinckley, with the parts created on computer and

the soul



The Thameside Clarinet Choir performing *March Melodies*

uploaded to the church website for members of the orchestra to print off.

Beyond services

In addition to music supporting the liturgy, the parish has a long history of providing concerts. In the church's early years, these were performed in the nearby school and the Victoria Hall, which opened in 1897. The church did not have its own church hall until 1932.

From the earliest days there was a Winter Entertainments Committee, members of which organised the social life of the village for many years. Extracts from the Hampton Hill Parish Magazines in 1885 and 1886 state:

The first Concert of the season was in point of merit a complete success. All the talent was foreign, so that no demand was made upon our local resources.... The front seats were fairly filled, and we hope the funds of our parochial institutions will receive a substantial benefit.

The schoolchildren put on concerts... with the boys and girls giving musical drill performances and singing many capital songs, the girls excelling themselves in their pretty Japanese Fan Song, and the boys in the closing naval and military performance. The teachers also gave some excellent glees and solos.

The Social revolution

The organising of concert performances, along with everything else, gradually changed over the years until at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council in

1933 a Social Committee was formed to provide parochial social entertainment, such as dances, concerts, whist-drives, bridge-drives, community singing and lectures.

It grandly declared on formation: *With such a committee the stigma of dullness should be removed from Hampton Hill.*

It was hoped that the entertainments that they organised would bring in some of the much-needed money for the church. The vicar kept stressing that the support of the congregation was vital in realising this. The social committee still exists today, but no longer arranges concerts.

Concerts and recitals today

Concerts, recitals and other musical events are still performed in the church as the ministry of music is an extremely important part of our parish's life and witness.

In this, as in many regards, the church is a major focus in the local community. The layout of the church, its fine acoustics and the facilities of the adjacent church hall all make St James's an excellent venue for musical events.

Local schools, community organisations and other music-makers, seek to use the church for musical occasions. The church has also become a rehearsal venue and is the regular home for the chamber choir Concordia Voices and from time-to-time for various other groups.

St. James's is continually keen to widen the range of its musical life and enhance the inclusive value of musical participation.

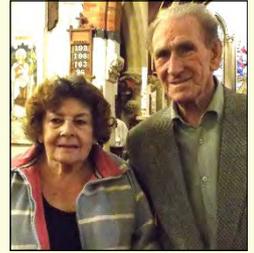


The Greenwood Centre's Christmas concert is always popular



Ted and Shirley on the move

TED AND SHIRLEY PAXTON moved to Frome, Somerset, on 25 October to be nearer to their sons, who live in Frome and Wincanton. Ted and Shirley have been members of St. James's for 17 years, quietly serving the church by undertaking such tasks as counting the collection money and regularly sweeping the churchyard. We thank them for their commitment and wish them every happiness in their new home.



Confirmation candidates head to St Paul's

FOUR CANDIDATES from St. James's, Anna Clark, Kirstie Craig, Emily Glover and Rosie Orkney, will be confirmed at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 16 November. Please remember them in your prayers.



Grant and Anne marry

GRANT CLIFFORD, formerly a Hampton Hill resident and a member of St. James's, married Anne Cheverton at the church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, Leatherhead on 28 September. The service was conducted by the Revd Richard Jones, Vicar of St. John the Baptist in Burscough, Lancashire, a friend of the bride and groom.

Congratulations to Grant and Anne and our best wishes for the future.

What are your 10 favourite things?

IN NEXT YEAR'S issues of *The Spire*, we are hoping to run a series of articles on *My 10 Favourite...* This could be, for example, favourite books, walks, plays, churches, paintings or anything else you would like to write about. Please let Janet Nunn know if you are interested.

Celebrations for three families

JACK AND RUTH GOSTLING

are celebrating the birth of their fourth great-grandchild, a daughter for actor Ben and choreographer Liv Crompton, and a sister for their son, Albie.

The baby was born a few days after Jack and Ruth celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in September.



LEFT: DEBBIE AND JOHN NUNN celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary with a family party. They were married at St. Mary's, Mortlake, on 29 September 1973. Their children have been baptised and married at St. James's and their four grandchildren baptised here.

RIGHT: EMILY CHARLOTTE, daughter of Sarah and Chris English, was baptised at parish Communion on 29 August. Sarah and Chris were married at St. James's and their elder daughter Abigail was also baptised here. Emily is pictured with her parents and sister.



Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

Remembrance Sunday is held on the second Sunday in November, the Sunday nearest to 11 November.

It is a special day set aside to remember all those men and women who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today, during the two World Wars and all the other wars and conflicts throughout the world.

At St. James's there is a special service each Remembrance Sunday. After the service we all process out of the church, led by the clergy, servers and choir, and gather round the war memorial in the churchyard.

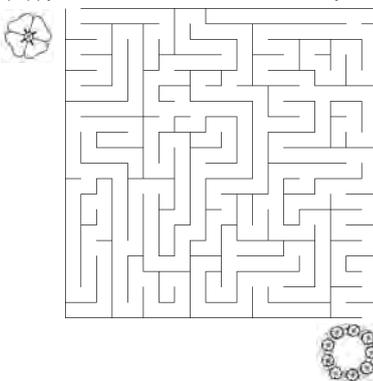
Wreaths are laid and some people also leave small wooden crosses. Prayers are said and the Last Post is played on a trumpet.



Unscramble the letters in the list below to find the Remembrance Day words

- hreeso
- agfl
- eadpr
- aberv
- baltte
- ndeefd
- eislv
- mmeyro
- alesut

Trace the path through the maze. Help get the poppy to the wreath for Remembrance Day.



Noye's Fludde

The church drew a large and appreciative audience on 12 October for a performance of Sir Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* as part of our anniversary.

Directed by Brendan Ashe, and involving children from Hampton Hill Junior School in the care of Susannah Nettleton, the 50-minute piece dates to 1957 and is based on the text of a medieval mystery play. Britten requested that the piece should be performed in a church or hall — not a theatre — and it came alive in St. James's.

The music took us through the story of the flood, and the children performed as the animals in Noah's ark, eventually changing into bright clothes at the end, all the colours of the rainbow. Fortunately for the audience, the heavens did not open until the next day!

Thank you to the Lady Eleanor Holles School for the event, to Hampton Hill Junior School, and other singers and musicians.



Anniversary

Latest News



Harvest Festival

A large congregation greeted the Bishop of Kensington, Paul Williams,



for Harvest Festival at St. James's on Sunday 6 October. The bishop presided over a joyful celebration of thanksgiving for God's gifts. Some of these gifts were shared, and a variety of tins, packet foods, soaps and socks will go The Upper Room in Hammersmith.

Contributions also came from Clarendon School, Hampton Hill Junior School and Hampton Hill Nursery.



Bishop Paul brought with him a box of Maltesers, and two willing

volunteers from the uniformed groups were happy to eat some! The bishop observed that one, two, or even three Maltesers were not enough.

He referred to Jesus as the food and drink we need to finally and for ever satisfy our

deepest needs.



After the service, Bishop Paul planted a new tree in the churchyard — received with grateful thanks from Squire's Garden Centres — a symbol of the

church's concern for God's creation. Harvest lunch followed. The day was a mixture of fun, worship and practical caring.



Diary Dates 150th EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

All Souls' Service Sunday 3 November at 3.30pm

A service to commemorate the faithful departed. This is a day of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed away.

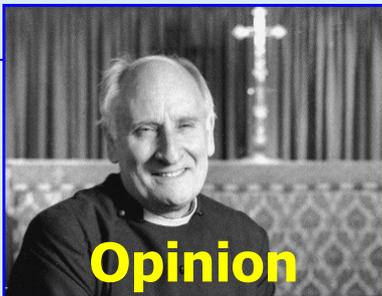
Festival of Remembrance Friday 8 November at 7.30pm

A concert before Remembrance Sunday with music from Teddington and Hampton Hill Rock Choir, The Cambrian Singers and with readings from TV presenter Amanda Lamb. Donations will go to the charity Combat Stress, which supports ex-service personnel.

Remembrance Sunday Sunday 10 November at 9.45am

After the service we all process out of the church, led by the clergy, servers and choir, and gather round the war memorial in the churchyard for the 11am Last Post and two minutes' silence. Wreaths are laid and some people also leave small wooden crosses.





Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

WE ARE THE HEALTHY

When living in Richmond I used to say that residing there added at least 10 years to your life. I was wrong! We now know from the Office for National Statistics that women in this borough can expect to have 72 years of years of healthy life, compared to just 54 for women in Tower Hamlets, where I was a curate for five years. Men can expect 70 healthy years, against just 55 in East London.

These figures, based on people's perception of their own wellbeing, illustrate the wide differences in wealth and health care between West and East London. This borough has 4% of working-age people unemployed, Tower Hamlets 13% — one of the highest in the country

MAGIC BREAKFAST

It is estimated that more than half a million children arrive at school hungry or malnourished in the UK — the seventh richest economy in the world. To help counter this the charity Magic Breakfast feeds 8,000 children in more than 250 primary schools across England. To reach the children most in need it delivers to schools where more than 40% of pupils have free school meals (the national average is 17%).

PRIVATE TUITION

Four out of 10 state schoolchildren in London have private tuition — almost twice as many as in the rest of the country. Children from better-off families are twice as likely to be given paid help compared with those from poorer backgrounds.

BEDROOM TAX TRAP

More than half the tenants affected by the 'Bedroom Tax' — where housing benefit is cut if they are deemed to have more bedrooms than they need — are already behind with their rents, just a few months after the changes were introduced. David Orr, the Chief Executive of the National Housing Federation, said the government must rethink this £500 million cost-cutting exercise to prevent hard-up families falling into financial disaster.

'Housing associations are working flat out to help their tenants cope with the changes, but they can't magic one-bedroom homes out of thin air,' he said. 'People are trapped; the bedroom tax is an unfair, ill-planned disaster that is hurting our poorest families.'

STUDENTS and CHURCH

A recent survey of 4,500 students showed that while Christianity attracted far more students than any other religion, more than half did not attend church during term time. Contrary to expectations, liberal Christians outnumbered Evangelicals tenfold. The Catholic Church was least successful in retaining student attendance. The survey leader, Dr Mathew Guest of Durham University, said, 'Christianity appears to be much more popular than we expected among students. Contrary to popular belief, most think that university has not eroded their faith.'

KILLED COMING OUT OF CHURCH

All Saints, Hampton, prayed for their fellow worshippers in All Saints, Peshawar, in Pakistan. As the 500-strong congregation left worship on 22 September, suicide bombers linked to the Taliban killed 81 and injured more than 120. The Peshawar church, with its remarkable interfaith architecture, was built 130 years ago.

What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



NEW

Christmas shopping and charity cards

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

Christmas cards in aid of various charities and Traidcraft gifts will be on sale. Do come and buy your gifts for Christmas. We can also order goods, with 15% discounts on most non-food items. Borrow a catalogue from the back of the church for ideas. The Traidcraft stall will also be in the Church Hall on Sunday 1 December.



All Souls' Service

Sunday 3 November, 3.30pm, St James's Church

All Souls' Day is a traditional time for the Church to remember all the faithful departed. St James's Church marks this day with a reflective service. This is not a morbid time, but a chance for people to remember their loved ones and the hope of the Christian Gospel, which is resurrection and new life.

NEW

Festival of Remembrance

Friday 8 November, 7.30pm, St James's Church

As part of our 150th commemorations, two choirs with contrasting styles come together to mark Remembrance Day. They will be joined by television presenter Amanda Lamb, who will read selected poetry. The evening will end with an act of remembrance. There will be a retiring collection for the charity Combat Stress, that works with veterans of conflicts. One of its directors, Lt Col Peter Poole, will talk about its work.

NEW

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10 November, 9.45am, St James's Church

The annual service to remember all those who fought in two world wars, as well as more recent conflicts.

Just before 11am you are invited to gather at the War Memorial where the last post will be followed by two minutes' silence, and then the laying of wreaths by the Royal British Legion, the church and local councillors.

NEW DATE

Faith at Work

Saturday 9 November, 9.15-10.15am, St James's Church

The autumn programme of discussions about how our faith impacts on our working lives continues with Mark Hodgson talking about *Faith in Google*. (Please note the new date.) The season continues on Saturday 16 November with Paul Fitchett, and ends on 30 November with Moya Meredith Smith.

NEW

Churches Together Around Hampton

Sunday 17 November, 6.30pm, St Mary's Church, Hampton

Come and worship with other Christians from local churches. The service will be preceded by the group's annual general meeting at 5.30pm, to which all are welcome.

Registers for September



Baptisms

15 Eloise Bliss Baker, Hampton Hill

29 Emily Charlotte English, Hanworth

Weddings

20 Daniel Richard Piper and Alicia Grace Coleman, Hounslow

21 Alexander Henri Leslie Harborne and Rebecca Louise Coombes, London

29 John Kester Aparicio and Kathryn Jane Allen, Hampton

Funeral

9 Bessie Olwen Gabbitas, 96, Hampton

NEW

How to Change the World: Together

Tuesday 19 November, 6.30pm, St Paul's Cathedral, St. Paul's Churchyard London EC4M 8AD

Join Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and author Michael Battle, as they discuss this timely question. Many of us feel helpless and that it takes an exceptional person to make a difference. But Margaret Mead, the renowned anthropologist, said: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' The event is free. For more information go to stpauls.co.uk/howtochangetheworld

NEW

Christmas Lighting-up Parade

Friday 29 November, 5-8pm, Hampton Hill High Street

This annual event, organised by the Hampton Hill Traders Association, is celebrating its 25th year, and attracts big crowds. There will be live music and street performances, as well as stalls and events in shops. Meet Santa, ride a pony, enter the raffle, or just warm yourself with a cup mulled wine. Festivities start at 5pm with the road closure and the parade itself starting at the earlier time of 6pm. Enjoy some hot food and late-night shopping. The High Street will be shut to traffic from 6-8pm. Buses will terminate early or be on diversion.

NEW

Leaf Sweep and Gutter Clean

Saturday 30 November, 9.30am, St James's Church

This important maintenance is carried out annually by the Properties Committee — and they need your help! All gutters of both the church and the hall need to be cleared of leaves, after which the gutters and drain pipes are flushed through. The courtyard and car park will also be swept clear of leaves. If you can help, contact Bryan Basdell on 020 8979 2040, 078 6782 9196 or bryan.basdell@uk.fujitsu.com. Alternatively, please feel free to turn up on the day.

NEW

Concordia Voices

Saturday 30 November, A Spotless Rose, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, London SW3 6NH

With music by Bairstow, Biebl, Dove, Dyson, Guerrero, Howells, Joubert, Leighton, Parsons, Rachmaninov and Vieme. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) at the door, or £10 (£8 concessions) in advance from members, or by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org

NEW

Christingle

Sunday 1 December, 9.30am, St James's Church

This popular family service includes a magical moment when everyone circles the church and lights a candle in an orange, decorated with sweets. Money donated at this service goes to support the valuable work undertaken by The Children's Society. Children may also take home a collecting box to deposit coins over the coming months for the charity.

Vicar's View



'The Vicar seems pretty confident about his latest attempt to increase church attendance!'

A musical journey that gives voice to my faith



Stop talking – more singing please!

The command, issued by me at the about the age of four (or so I am told), rang out loudly and clearly in St Nicolas' Church, Old Shoreham, at a most solemn moment in the service. How embarrassing; but at least I had remembered to say 'please'. It was the earliest public declaration of a lifelong passion.

My first lucky break as a singer came when I started at the church primary school nearby. Mrs Barber taught the infants and trained the choir. She had a beautiful voice and played the piano sublimely; I adored her and waited impatiently for my seventh birthday when I would be able to join.

Although this was a small village school, Mrs Barber's choir was pretty special. I was in exalted company; the boy who joined the choir at the same time as me left after a year to join the choir school of King's College chapel, Cambridge. We had a *Magnificat* written especially for us and I remember going to Lancing College Chapel on one occasion for a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*.

Like most children, we looked forward to singing some beautiful and unusual music at Christmas, but we were actually involved in singing all-year-round, because once a month we would sing at a Communion service in the church. For these services I learnt the old plainsong chants, and the music of the church year became as familiar as the changing seasons.

New Year's resolution

After I left school and went to university, singing was put on hold for a while. Fast forward, then, to January 1980, when following our move to Hampton Hill the previous year I achieved one of my New Year resolutions by auditioning successfully for Twickenham Choral Society.

My sight-reading was pretty rusty by then and the choir had started rehearsing Bach's *Mass in B Minor* at the end of the previous term, so I was floundering a bit to start with. Nevertheless, when all 120 or so voices started to sing, the effect of that huge wave of sound was overwhelming and exhilarating.

Learning that wonderful, complex work note by note at home on the piano over the ensuing weeks only increased my admiration for its beauty and the depth of faith it expresses. Over 30 years on, with a wide-ranging repertoire under my belt, the experience of performing such tremendous works with so many other singers still never fails to move me.

Sing while you clean!

My entry into St James' Church choir some years later was a good deal less orthodox. While my children were young I worked part-time and, among other things, was on the church cleaning rota.

One Christmas Eve I was vacuuming the carpet, getting into the festive spirit by singing carols pretty loudly and harmonising with the drone of the vacuum cleaner. I naturally assumed I was alone, but my performance was interrupted by our then organist, Marcella den Boer, who explained that the choir was very short of altos for the Midnight service, and would I be able to come and sing?

I was made to feel very welcome by my fellow singers and it was wonderful to be back in the choir stalls after all those years. As soon as my other commitments permitted, I joined the church choir on a more permanent basis.

Music contributes so much to worship

I owe a great deal to the church choir, and not only because it provided the springboard for the formation of Concordia Voices (then the Apocalypse Singers) in 2000. Before any of that, the church choir reminded me what a special experience it is to sing with a small group of people, where every voice counts and it forced me to become a better and more confident sight-singer – because occasionally on a Friday evening, I could be the only alto!

As a child I had loved to go to Evensong and knew how much music contributed to my own experience of worship, so the occasional church choir visits to sing Evensong at Charterhouse were a particular treat.

Although I know that choral services are not to everyone's taste, I believe that the choir is able to add an extra dimension to the worship of many who, like me, find that music can help them interpret not only the words themselves, but also their emotion and inner meaning. It can also create a space for reflection within the service and a time to develop a personal response to it. It is a great privilege to try to create opportunities to let that happen.

These days, I'm glad to say I appreciate the talking as much as the singing, but as we line up in the vestry, ready to sing the first hymn, I know I feel the same about the singing as I did when I was four years old.

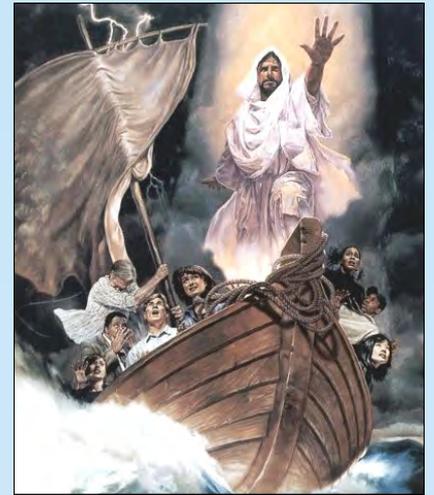
■ Jane will be singing with Concordia Voices on Saturday 30 November, at St Luke's Church, Chelsea — see page seven.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

Lord of all Power



Lord of all power, I give You my will,
In joyful obedience Your tasks to fulfil,
Your bondage is freedom, Your service is song,
And, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give You my mind,
Rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find,
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard,
Is taught by Your Spirit and shines from Your word.

Lord of all bounty, I give You my heart,
I praise and adore You for all You impart,
Your love to inspire me, Your counsel to guide,
Your presence to cheer me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give You my all,
For if I disown You I stumble and fall,
But, sworn in glad service Your word to obey,
I walk in Your freedom to the end of the way.

Usually sung to the Irish traditional melody, Slane (used also for the hymn *Be Thou My Vision*) this hymn will be sung on 17 November at St. James's.

It was penned by Jack Copley Winslow (1882-1974). Born in Hanworth, Winslow came to be influenced by the more 'Anglo-Catholic' brand of Anglicanism and became a missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, today the United Society (US).

He worked in India, both before and after ordination, and became interested in how to connect Christianity with Hindu culture. Inspired by this he founded an ashram, a place of spiritual retreat and reflection.

Winslow saw a need for Christianity in India to link with the existing culture there, and not be regarded as a tool of imperialism.

Ending his ministry back in England, Winslow published various hymns, including the one we shall be singing.

God is addressed as Lord of power, wisdom, bounty and being. Each then connects with people being encouraged to give an aspect of themselves in response – so *power* connects with *will*, *wisdom* with *mind*, and so on. There is no explicitly Christian language in this hymn so this may be one that he saw as straddling different religious traditions.