

DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014

Details of  
the final  
**150th**  
Events  
are on  
Pages 6 & 7

# the spire

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

FREE — please take a copy

**INSIDE**

## Leader

Peace  
in the  
Middle  
East...  
one  
brick  
at a  
time

## Happy Crimbo!

One family's  
celebrations  
Down  
Under

## Services

All the Christmas  
services are on  
Page 7



We wish  
all our  
readers  
a Happy  
Christmas

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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 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  
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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

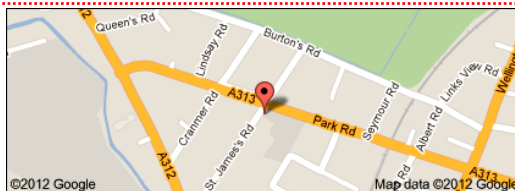
**Samuel Draper**  
Sam joined St James's in October 2010, after graduating from the Royal College of Music.  
Telephone: 020 8892 4957

## 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

It doesn't seem possible that our 150th Anniversary year is nearly at an end. It has been an exceptional year and finishes on Sunday 8 December with the Bishop of London and local dignitaries coming to the 11am service.



This edition includes a special centrespread from one of our church families, preparing for their third Christmas in Australia. It was good to hear from Guy and Louise and we look forward to their 2014 return.

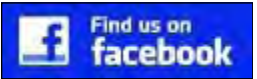
After a very busy year for *The Spire* team, we are now looking forward to 2014 and some new features, including *Ten Favourite things* to replace *Your Voice*. We have had some new volunteers to write articles but are still looking for more. Have you visited ten different cities abroad, ten different cathedrals or art galleries — the choice is yours. We will provide you with a template, so if you are interested do have a talk with me.

As this is the Christmas edition of *The Spire*, on behalf of the committee may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. Details of all our Christmas services are on Page 7.

### 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.  
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### AROUND THE SPIRE

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

### WHAT'S ON

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### WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

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### CIRCULATION

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### NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The February issue will be published on 2 February. All copy must be with us by **Thursday 2 January**.

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# Come and worship with us!



## Sundays

**8am Holy Communion**  
**9.30am Parish Communion**

**Sunday 1 December**  
**1st Sunday in Advent**  
**8am and 11am** Holy Communion  
Isaiah 2.1-5; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

**Sunday 8 December**  
**2nd Sunday in Advent**  
**Anniversary of Consecration**  
**8am** 1 Kings 8.22-30; Hebrews 12.18-24; Matthew 21.12-16  
**11am** 1 Kings 8.22-30; 1 Peter 2.1-10

**Sunday 15 December**  
**3rd Sunday in Advent**  
Isaiah 35.1-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

**Sunday 22 December**  
**4th Sunday in Advent**  
Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

**Sunday 29 December**  
**1st Sunday of Christmas**  
Isaiah 63.7-9; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23

**Sunday 5 January**  
**Epiphany of the Lord**  
Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

**Sunday 12 January**  
**Baptism of Christ**  
Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end

**Sunday 19 January**  
**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**  
Isaiah 49.1-7; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

**Sunday 26 January**  
**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**  
Isaiah 9.1-4; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23

**Mondays-Fridays** (not Tues)  
**9.15am Morning Prayer**

**Tuesdays**  
**9.30am Holy Communion**

**1st Thursday in month**  
**6 December / 3 January**  
**2pm Holy Communion**

DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES ARE ON PAGE SEVEN

# One stone at a time...



*'O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie...'*

**H**owever 'little' Bethlehem was in Jesus Christ's day, it is not so little now! With a population of around 25,000, Bethlehem is located in the area under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority of the Occupied Territory of the West Bank.

Bethlehem is only a short distance from Jerusalem. Though a predominantly Moslem town, it has a substantial Christian minority. Its main industry is tourism, and pilgrims and other interested visitors still flock there.

Seeing the town back in February, and now approaching Christmas, it will make my singing of the above carol a little trickier. Please do not get me wrong — I like the carol *O little town of Bethlehem*, but it does suggest a very peaceful and tranquil place. Palestine in the first century was not like that — and it is not now either.

### The city of three faiths

Bethlehem is located on a faultline. The faultline is not physical, but political and theological. It is a town which has been a place for pilgrimage for Christians for almost 2,000 years. It has been revered longer than this for Jews as the site of the tomb of Rachel, wife of Jacob, both mentioned in the Old Testament. This site is in a Moslem cemetery. However, it is controlled by the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs. This symbolises the complexity of this part of the world, that three faiths call 'holy.'

In February, a group of us visited the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem and the Shepherds' Fields — the usual holy sites. We also visited a maternity hospital and a cultural project, both under Christian auspices.

A speaker at the latter — whose name, translated into English was *Angel* — was asked what hope there could be for her town and the wider Palestinian area.

She replied that all that could be done was to try to build it one stone at a time. This came back to me as Christmas 2013 and a new year loom on the horizon.

### Charity Box The Children's Society

The Children's Society is a Christian charity that helps vulnerable and disadvantaged young people of all faiths and none.

Its close partnership with the Church of England is of central importance, but it works with all people who share its values, whether they are Christians of other denominations, people of other faiths or none.

About half of its annual income comes from donations and legacies and the



### Bethlehem's wall of stone

Something built 'one stone at a time' is the *West Bank barrier* which, in some areas, is a wall, akin to the Berlin Wall in size and appearance. Built by Israel, the barrier runs the length of the border between Israel and the West Bank. There is a photo of it above.

Setting aside the justification for it or not, when I saw it, it appalled me. Yet I had listened that same day to what Angel, a young Palestinian Christian woman who would not lose hope, had said: 'One stone at a time.'

### Building bridges this Christmas

So what about Christmas 2013? When I sing 'O little town of Bethlehem' I will, inevitably, be visualising Bethlehem today. I believe that Christ is in the here and now. I cannot locate him just in the past. The Bethlehem of then was full of flesh and blood people, as it is now, hoping and yearning as they looked to the future. Palestinian Christians often call themselves the 'living stones' which is a New Testament expression for the Church.

This Christmas, please remember the 'living stones.' The Christian community in the Holy Land is now very tiny. Also, though, please remember all the people of this land, with its immense complexities and also richness.

Perhaps something of what Angel said in Bethlehem is relevant to the circumstances of each of us. Is there opportunity, whatever our setting, to build 'one stone at a time'? I may feel so inconsequential and powerless, but at home, work, school, college, church, voluntary work, what might it mean to me to build 'one stone at a time'?

**R**eturning to the carol, there is one line that seems particularly real to me this year. Referring to Bethlehem it says:

*...the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Yes, indeed they are.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all — and to Angel, the *living stone*, and the peoples of the Holy Land.

Christingle service in Advent is a very important part of this. Last year over 5000 celebrations across the country raised a total of £1.2 million.

The collection taken at our Christingle service will again go to support the work of this important charity.

PLEASE come prepared on **Sunday 1 December** to help other children to look as happy as these youngsters.

For more information about Christingle, go to the charity's website: [childrenssociety.org.uk](http://childrenssociety.org.uk)



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

### The gift of hearing

Christian Aid shares this good news story for Christmas about Waleed, a young Palestinian boy living in the West Bank. A year ago he received a hearing aid from Christian Aid partner Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI).



Waleed's mum, Rufaida, says getting a hearing aid has made a huge difference to her son.

'Suddenly his whole personality changed. His personality is standing out much more and he is much less shy. He has become much more confident. He understands everything that is being said around him and knows how to respond.'

This confidence has led to big changes: now Waleed sees a path for himself in a previously remote world. He is now much more independent.

He walks to school alone; the market is alive with the noises of daily life; and he exchanges greetings and chat with others in his community.

Waleed is full of new ideas and now expresses wishes for his future. He has improved at school and his teachers have noticed how much better he is at communicating with everyone.

Waleed has also begun to help his dad at the family-run falafel shop, rushing there after school.



*Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.*





Local and National stories

### Milo Hospital's search for a doctor



**THE PAST YEAR** has been a difficult one for St Luke's Hospital, Milo, Tanzania, since their only doctor suffered a stroke in March.

Although 74 years of age, Dr Simeon Mbuligwe, the hospital's only doctor, was highly regarded for his surgical skills. He is still undergoing treatment and will not be able to work again. Two newly qualified doctors have each spent about a month in Milo, before going to do their compulsory internships at much bigger referral hospitals. The search is on for a permanent doctor, but the remote location of Milo and the limited nature of the medical conditions it can treat, has never made this easy.

Although currently unable to perform surgical operations, such as caesareans, the hospital is still running the clinics and the treatment centre for anti-retroviral drugs.

St Luke's is an Anglican mission hospital run by the Diocese of South West Tanganyika. It serves a population of about 150,000 and people sometimes walk for two days to reach the hospital.

St James's Church helps fund the hospital's modest operating budget through an annual grant from the mission agency Us (United Society).

On a more positive note, the hospital and primary school in Milo have gained much from the attention of two British doctors. Adrian and Hilary Murray, seen here with the mayor of Milo, made two trips in 2013 and are a wonderful source of information.



They kindly came back from their September visit with photos of the Kilwale family. In the group picture, at the top of the story, Benaiah Kilwale's widow (in the turquoise top) is outside her home with some of her daughters and grandchildren.

### Chapel Royal Choir to sing at VCG concert



**THE CHAPEL ROYAL CHOIR**, which has been enriching the cultural and spiritual life of England for nearly 500 years, will be performing at this year's Christmas Community Concert at St James's Church on Wednesday 11 December. The choir of 10 men, who are professional singers, and 14 boys, aged from seven to 13, usually sing at services at Hampton Court Palace. At this concert there will be a retiring collection for the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group (VCG).

# Sun, sea, sand



**Two years ago Guy and Louise Rawstorne and their family swapped Hampton Hill for Sydney, Australia. Guy began a new job and everyone had to adjust to celebrating Christmas on the beach in the middle of summer. This was one of many challenges they faced Down Under.**

**C**hristmas comes but once a year, doesn't it? Well, out here in Australia *Christmas in July* is a hugely popular event with snow domes popping up around the country, as well as ubiquitous Santas and Rudolfs, but not a whisper of Jesus or Mary!

True, you are much more likely to enjoy indulging in turkey and Christmas pudding when the temperatures are cooler, and I think this is why some marketing man's dream has become an Aussie tradition.

This December we will enjoy our third proper Christmas in Sydney. The first was beautifully hot. New to Mosman, a suburb on the lower north shore, we wandered into our local air-conditioned church, St Luke's, for a carol service.

As Emilia and William hadn't started school by this point they spent the service desperately trying to connect with local children and paused only when the organist suddenly reappeared as Santa laden with sweets.

#### When we miss family most

Christmas is the time of year when we miss family most, so it is important to keep busy. We do spend a lot of time on Skype feeling slightly left out, but friends soon become substitute family.

As a result we've found ourselves accompanying various friends to the churches that mean something to them — where they were married or had their children baptised — rather than forming an allegiance to one, as we did with St James's. We have also moved house three times in less than two years.

#### The dawn chorus

William, now six years old, ensures that we wake up at about 5am during the Christmas countdown, and on Christmas Day itself. Now that we live in Balgowlah, north of the city and on the edge of bushland, the dawn chorus doesn't allow a lie in anyway.

The whip birds initiate it (and sound something like a guinea-pig being mauled by a fox; so much so that we bring our guinea-pig in at night so that we can try to ignore the noise.)

Then the rainbow lorikeets start chattering, and finally the kookaburras start giggling and persist until their screeching laughter is impossible to ignore.

If the weather is good, as it was the first year we were



Emilia and William

here, we open gifts on the balcony and eat breakfast outside before church.

#### Christmas Day dash to the beach

The services are not dissimilar to those we enjoyed at St James's, but they tend to be incredibly brief on Christmas Day because everyone is in a hurry to get to the beach before it gets too hot.

In year one we had some close British friends living out here and we congregated on Bronte Beach, near Bondi. I'd like to say that we went for a surf, but the truth is Guy and I just watched the natives at play and stayed within the shark nets! Emilia starts surf school this week, however, so that may change in the future.

By 11am Emilia was looking worryingly pink, but still refusing to wear her hat for more than a couple of seconds, so we returned to our friends' home for prawns, poached salmon and salad.

#### When it rains, it pours

Last year we met up with another formerly English family on Balmoral Beach for smoked salmon and champagne, despite the rather gloomy looking skies.



# and Christmas



Sydney's skyline

Within an hour it started to rain and the only people on the beach were Brits. When it rains here it pours and water quickly forms a river that runs into storm drains big enough to lose a small child or a dog in.

I asked Emilia and William what the highlight of the day was and they said it was the dead rat that the swell brought up on the beach.

We spent the latter part of the day tucked up indoors watching lightning strike and feeling miffed that we were unable to use the pool that we had during our brief time renting in Seaforth.

#### The fire season started early

In recent days the sky has been pretty dark with smoke from the huge fires in the Blue Mountains to the west of us and our balcony has been regularly covered with black ash brought in on the wind.

The fire season has started early this year and, hopefully, by Christmas everything will have settled.

Living upside down can be quite disorientating at times and has made us realise how much the Christian festivals that we celebrated in the Northern Hemisphere are closely associated with particular seasons.

In the short term we are happy to swap snow for sand again this Christmas, but I hope it won't be too long before we are part of the congregation at St James's again.

We send our very best wishes to our friends and neighbours at St James's and will remember you all fondly on Christmas day.

**'The services are like those at St James's, but are incredibly brief on Christmas Day as everyone is in a hurry to get to the beach'**



Emilia and friend

The Rawstornes celebrate Christmas Day with friends



## Greenwood Centre volunteer dies



**PAUL WHITE**, a key volunteer at the Greenwood Centre for over 20 years, has died suddenly while on holiday in Cuba, aged 60. He was involved in the Voluntary Care Group's move to the Greenwood Centre and in recent years was in charge of the centre's bookings.

At his funeral at St. James's on 24 October, Paul was remembered as a 'meticulous worker, absolutely exceptional in every respect and a devoted husband and father'. We send our condolences to his widow, Paula, and sons, Chris and Jon.

## Help needed to distribute *Spire*

**THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who distribute the Spire door-to-door throughout the year. We are likely to need a new distributor for the School Road / Wolsey Road area in the New Year. This task takes about 45 minutes, nine times a year. If you think you could take it on, please contact Susan Horner or any member of the Spire committee.

## Thank you for your help

**THE END OF NOVEMBER** is always a busy time with leaf-sweeping, gutter clearing and the preparation of Christingles. We are grateful to all who help with these as we move into Advent.

## The Advent of Christmas

**SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER** is your last chance to buy a very special Advent calendar from our Fairtrade stall. We are proud to be selling the UK's only Fairtrade calendar with a free copy of the Christmas story. Pre-sales mean the calendars are already set to raise £25,000 for the Children's Society.

## The Bible — on Channel 5!

**DECEMBER** sees the launch of *The Bible*, a mini-series to be broadcast on Channel 5. From Genesis to Revelation, the series features some of the most famous stories, such as Noah's Ark, the Exodus and Daniel in the Lion's Den, to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

## Sending real Christmas cards

**TRAIDCRAFT** has launched a campaign calling for people to send real Christmas cards this year, as an extra way to show they care and bring the love and joy of the season to friends and family.

The campaign challenges the e-card culture which has seen increasing numbers of people sending Christmas greetings through social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

## A name for great-grandchild

**JACK AND RUTH GOSTLING'S** fourth great-grandchild, whose birth was reported on last month, has been named Emilia Billie Harper Crompton.

## Charity Christmas card sales

**SALES OF CHARITY** Christmas cards at St James's have raised a total of **£758** for the various charities. This includes sales of advent calendars. Thank you to everyone who supported us. Buying direct from the charities means more money raised from the sale goes directly to the causes.

## Baptised and soon to visit Africa

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Andrew and Anna Mhando on the baptism of their son Andre-Tido Fovo Mhando on 13 October. Baptised just a day after his first birthday, Andre-Tido will be meeting family in Tanzania for the first time over Christmas and New Year. We send our best wishes to the family.







Fill the gaps above using the following words: darkness, birth, symbol, angels, beginning, King, morning, white, purple, light, son.



Advent is the ..... of the Christian Year. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means arrival or coming, as we look forward to the ..... or arrival of Christ the ..... at Christmas.

The colour during Advent is ....., a sign of royalty. The Advent Wreath, circular with four candles and a fifth candle in the centre is a ..... of Advent. The unlit candles represent ..... and as the outer candles are lit week by week during Advent this darkness gradually gives way to the ..... of God coming into the world through the birth of his ....., Jesus.

The candle in the centre, called the Christ candle, is lit on Christmas ....., to mark the birth of Christ, the light of the world.

It is ....., the colour associated with ..... and the birth of Jesus.

How many words from the Christmas story can you find below?

- BABY
- TREE
- JESUS
- NATIVITY
- SHEPHERDS
- ANGELS
- DONKEY
- SHEEP
- INN
- MANGER
- MARY
- VIRGIN
- STAR



The season of **Christmas**, with the story of the Nativity, follows Advent. The church colour for Christmas is white. The word Christmas (or Christ's Mass) comes from the Old English word *Cristes Mæsse* which means the mass, or service, of Christ. Christmas begins on Christmas Eve, when Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, found that all the inns were full so had to stay in a poor stable. Then on Christmas morning the baby, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born.

Over the high altar in St. James's Church's sanctuary



is a stained glass window, part of which shows the Nativity.

**Epiphany** is the time when we remember the coming of the wise men, Magi, (traditionally named Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) bringing gifts for the Christ child. The name Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia* meaning to show or appear. The church colour during Epiphany is white.



## Anniversary

### Latest News

## Festival of Remembrance

### We Will Remember Them



The Rock Choir

**ON NOVEMBER 8**, the Friday before Remembrance Sunday, two choirs, a TV presenter, a senior official of a military charity, a trumpeter, an organist, and four standard bearers gathered at St. James's Church for a Festival of Remembrance.

Given the presence in the churchyard of Canadian war graves, British war graves, and a war memorial, the event seemed the natural choice for a November 150th anniversary event.

The Cambrian Singers and the Teddington and Hampton Hill Rock Choir, who use the church, performed in contrasting, but equally entertaining styles.

Amanda Lamb (presenter of numerous TV programmes) told us



Amanda Lamb



The Cambrian Singers

of one of the Canadian war dead, and of three of those whose names are on the war memorial, from the First World War.

Lt Col Peter Poole, a former member of St James's Church, spoke of the work of the charity Combat Stress, which since 1919 has worked to restore the mental health of ex-service personnel.

The standards of different naval associations were paraded together with that of the Royal British Legion at Hanworth.

Finally, the festival ended with an act of remembrance, including a two-minute silence.

On leaving, people gave generously towards the work of Combat Stress.

This evening was appreciated by ex-service personnel present, but also by others who still wish to say: *We will remember them.*



The standard bearers





## Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

### EAT or HEAT

Sir John Major made one of his rare interventions in politics since ceasing to be Prime Minister. He warned that this winter many people will face the choice between 'eating and heating'. He spoke for the 'silent have-nots' he grew up with. He warmly commended Archbishop Welby's remarks that 'when your household budget is blown apart by an extra fuel bill your anxiety levels become very high'.

Welfare agencies in the voluntary sector report that conditions have never in living memory been as bad.

Poverty far from being abolished is now an everyday experience for millions, and millions more know they are only a gas bill away from sharing it. Before we blame it all on the energy companies it is worth noting that last year the profits of the big six companies were less than half of Barclay Bank's profits.

### TWO NATIONS?

Sir Simon Jenkins, the journalist, wrote recently: 'Sorry, Archbishop, but London is where the action is'. He was responding to the Archbishop Welby's remark that London is 'a different country' from the rest of Britain.

Arriving in London from the North in February to take up his new job, he and his wife felt 'we almost needed a passport'. He added that too much of the economic recovery has been focussed on London and not enough attention paid to 'those on the edge'.

I hope Alex Salmond did not read Jenkins' article!

### DOOMED IN 20 YEARS?

Some leading scientists predict that life in parts of the planet will start to be wiped out by climate change within 20 years, far sooner than previously predicted.

Recent research shows that tropical regions, the poorest on earth and home to most of the global population, will be the first to be affected — the countries least responsible for climate change in the first place.

Eco-systems will be destroyed and economies crippled, dealing a blow to global food supplies.

### ISRAELI CONTROL

Israel's control of a huge swathe of the West Bank is costing the Palestinian economy £2.1bn a year, some 35% of its Gross Domestic Product (the value of all the goods and services it produces), according to a World Bank report.

Agriculture would be massively boosted if restrictions on access and water supply were eased. This would go a long way to solving Palestinian economic problems, said Mariam Sherman, the outgoing chair of the World Bank in the West Bank and Gaza. She said 'the alternative is bleak'.

### REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

Surveys show that knowledge of the Christmas story is fading. Among five-seven-year-olds, 36% don't know whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas, and 72% don't know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Among adults less than 12% know the full nativity story and 51% say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas.

The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to share the Christmas story. There's a line of the Christmas story and a chocolate star behind each window. (Fairtrade of course!)

Behind the final window is a Christmas story book. It costs £3.99, and can be bought at St James's on 1 December. Tesco is the only supermarket that will also be stocking the calendar. A donation is made to the Children's Society from each calendar sold.

# What's On

with **Griselda Barrett**



### Christingle Service

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 in which to deposit coins over the coming months for the charity.

### Christmas shopping and Charity cards

Sunday 1 December, 10.30-11.30am, St James's Church Hall

Christmas cards in aid of various charities and Traidcraft gifts will be on sale, including *The Real Advent Calendar*, priced £3.99. A donation will be made to The Children's Society from every sale. Do come and buy your gifts for Christmas. We can order goods, with 15% discounts on most non-food items. Borrow a catalogue from the back of the church for ideas.



### 150th Anniversary Service

Sunday 8 December, 11am, St James's Church



The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres joins us at St. James's 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.)

Bishop Richard will be joined by the Mayor of Richmond, local councillors, Vince Cable MP, and other friends and fellow workers from the local community.

This service marks the culmination of a year-long programme of special events to mark our anniversary, raising money for the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group, and their much-valued Greenwood Centre.

After the service the bishop will rename the church hall the *Fitz Wygram Hall* after the first vicar and founder of the parish. This will be followed by refreshments in the hall.

### Christmas Community Service

Wednesday 11 December, 6.30pm, St James's Church

To mark the 150th anniversary of St. James's Church the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group have attracted a wide range of talented local musicians and singers, including the choir from the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, to perform a festive programme. Do support this special occasion. Admission is free, with a retiring collection for the Greenwood Centre. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Fitz Wygram Church Hall.

### Registers for October



#### Baptisms

13 Andre-Tido Fovo  
Mhando, Feltham

27 Amber Willow Walls,  
Hampton

27 William Brian Carter,  
Ashford



#### Funerals

21 Philip Stafford  
Matthews, 60,  
Hampton

24 Paul Charles White,  
60, Hampton

### Christmas and New Year at St James's Church

#### Sunday 22 December

Service of Lessons and Carols 6.30pm

Familiar carols, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

#### Tuesday 24 December

Crib Service 4.30pm

Young and old are invited as we tell the story of the nativity.

Midnight Mass 11pm

Readings from Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-10.

#### Wednesday 25 December

Holy Communion 8am

Book of Common Prayer

Parish Communion 9.30am

Readings from Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14.

#### Monday 31 December

New Year's Eve Service 4.30pm

A service that reflects on the past year and the year to come.

NEW

### Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 14 December, 7.30pm, St James's Church

And Peace on Earth features jazz singer Becki Biggins and children from St James's Roman Catholic Primary School Chamber Choir, Plus, carols. Conducted by Patrick Martin, with pianist Geoffrey Bowyer. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on door, or from Albert's Music Shop, Twickenham.

NEW

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thursday 19 January, 6.30pm, St Theodore's Roman Catholic Church, 110 Station Road, Hampton TW12 2AS

Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have got used to, like a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing? St Paul's words, chosen by the Churches of French Canada, challenge us to reflect upon this.

NEW

### Traidcraft Roadshow

Saturday 1 February, 10am-4pm, Salvation Army Regent Hall, Oxford Street, London W1C 2DJ

Come and see all the craft products in the new catalogue and get a 20% discount. Contact Ann Peterken for more details.

NEW

### Making Connections

Saturday 8 February, 10.30am-4pm, St Stephen's Church, Richmond Road (Marble Hill side), Twickenham TW1 2PD

A Hampton Deany Training Day. See posters in church for more information. Cost £5. To book telephone 020 8941 7221 or email: [parish.manager@hampton-church.org.uk](mailto:parish.manager@hampton-church.org.uk).



### Vicar's View



'Do you think it's God's way of saying, "Though shalt not illegally copy the carol service music"?'

# A successful year if one new person found God



The Bishop of London will lead our Anniversary Service, the final event in the year's celebrations

The year 2013 has been one to remember at St. James's. Throughout the year — indeed since the 2012 Christingle Service on 2 December — we have had a series of events. As the year comes to a close, I am looking back at our motivation, what we did, and what we may hope for when we consider the future.

Why have we done it? A colleague from another parish told me about his church's celebrations. 'What were they for?' I asked. 'Just to celebrate,' he said. No other reason — it is sufficient in itself. I took this as my guide. If other things happen along the way, that is fine, but celebration of the church and parish is enough in itself if we see both as gifts of God.

## Looking outwards

Having said that, there were other motives, too. In the spirit of the founder of the church and parish, the first vicar, Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram. Our 150 Planning Group did not just want the year's celebrations to be an inward looking series of exclusively 'churchy' events where we only patted each other on the back, celebrating how wonderful we were. No, we wanted to look outwards. So the wider community was important from day one.

The Lady Eleanor Holles School and Hampton Hill Junior School put on events for us. Singers were present en-masse at the 2012 Hampton Hill Christmas Parade. Leaflets and other publicity about our events went far and wide.

Also, and this is absolutely in the spirit of Fitz Wygram, we had a designated charity for the year, Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care, based at the Greenwood Centre.

Collections were taken at some of the events during the year, and a substantial sum came from the winding up of the Fitz Wygram Trust, established with money from the first vicar's will.

## St James's Day was a highlight

The highlight of the year must be the weekend of July 13-15. A lovely summer weekend so St. James's link up with Hampton Hill's summer festival celebrations. A floral celebration in the

church drew in hundreds of people over the weekend. Besides viewing the flowers, and items illustrating joyous family celebrations in the church, people could go up the spire, enjoy hospitality, and even ride on a vintage bus.

A remarkable job had been done locally by Richard Sharp, who produced a booklet on Victorian and Edwardian Hampton Hill, and through this and other ways promoted St. James's and its work.

A terrific anniversary copy of *The Spire* was available from July, and provoked much interest. Many people took them away with them. Children from Hampton Hill Junior School came and performed a Victorian Concert in church.

It was a delight to welcome so many people of goodwill from the local community over that weekend. On the Sunday we welcomed the Dean of St. Paul's to a celebration eucharist, followed by a visit to the newly-restored grave of the first vicar.

## 'The church is everywhere!'

Did the year achieve what had been hoped for? I would say 'yes.' The prime motive was always celebration — that has been fulfilled. Yet so also was an outward-looking emphasis. That permeated the year's events. A couple of plans did not come to fruition — that is inevitable, and perhaps we were over-ambitious. Yet it was right to aim high.

As to the wider community, a couple of times this year I have had people come up to me in the street or shops and say, 'The church is everywhere.' We wanted to make our presence in the community clear, and I think we have done so.

I hope that there may also have been points where people were not just touched by experience of the church building, but also by God. If even one person found something of the Christian story touched them, and made a difference, all the effort was worthwhile.

## Proud to walk in founder's footsteps

As vicar today, following in Fitz Wygram's footsteps, I am proud of what people have achieved this year, for which my heartfelt thanks, not least to the 150 Planning Group.



Songs of Praise

The Story Behind the Hymn

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.*

*Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.*

This Christmas favourite will be sung at St. James's Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 22 December, and on Christmas morning — and no doubt at several concerts and other events in the lead-up to Christmas!

The words are by Charles Wesley (1707-88), who was a prolific hymn writer. An inspirer, with his brother John, of what was to become Methodism, he published the words above together with many others in 1739.

The carol is as much known for its tune as for its words. Indeed, the words above are different from Wesley's original. The first line originally read *Hark! How all the welkin rings*, the word *welkin* meaning *the heavens*.

The tune is by the composer Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) and is part of a cantata from 1840, only being used as the tune to this carol in 1857.

The words begin with the praise of heaven, bring Christ down to earth, and then end with direct praise to him from people on earth.