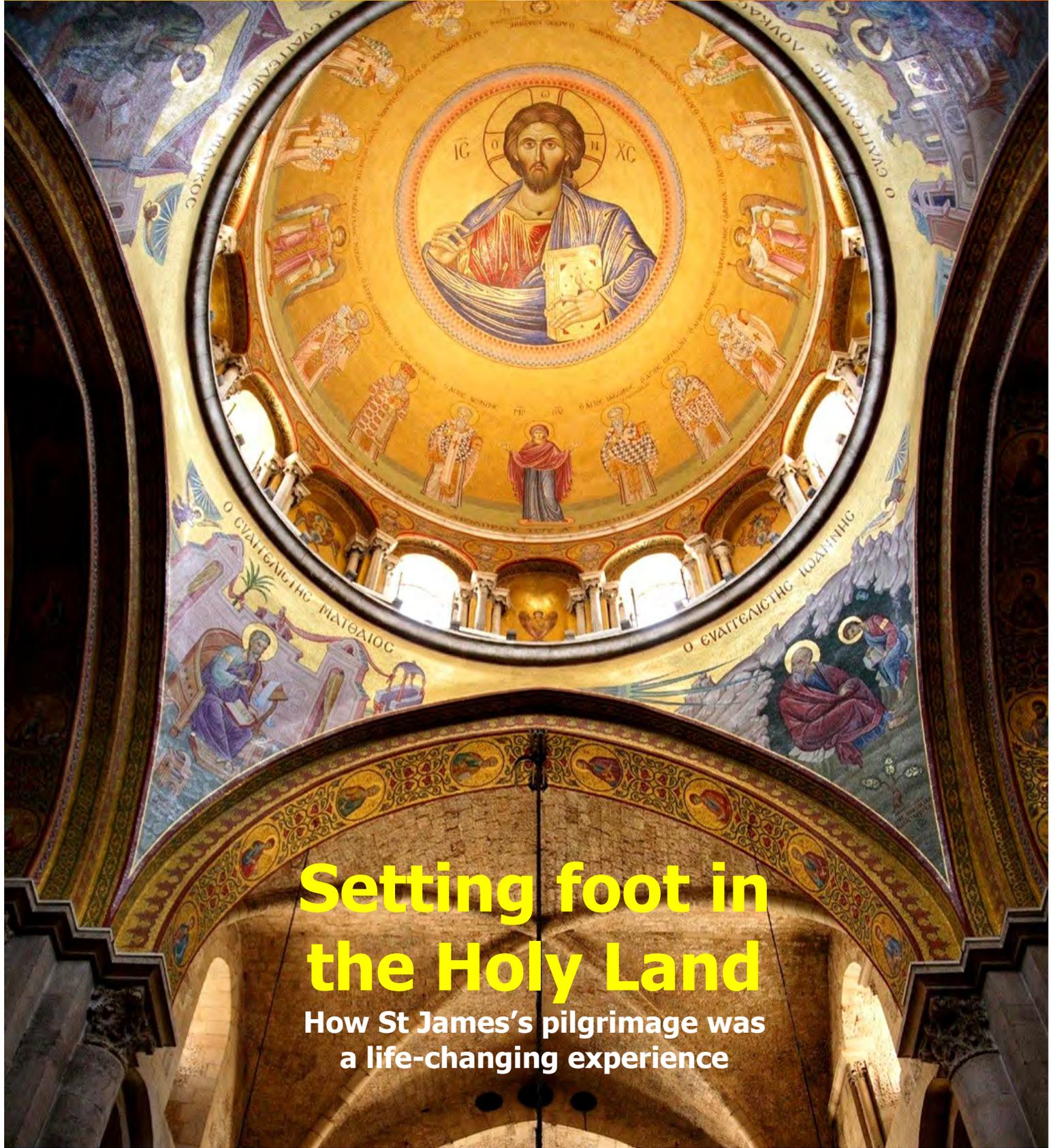


APRIL / MAY 2014

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE — please take a copy



Setting foot in the Holy Land

How St James's pilgrimage was
a life-changing experience

AROUND THE SPIRE P4 ■ RECIPE FOR LIFE P6 ■ WHAT'S ON P7

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 is a Governor of Hampton Hill Junior School and 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.
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Email: donbarrett8@blueyonder.co.uk

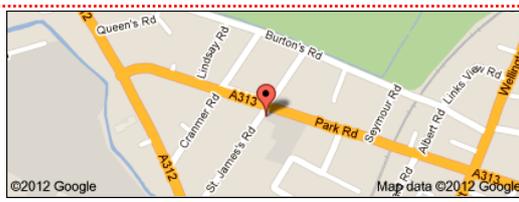
Organist / Choirmaster
Samuel Draper
Sam joined St James's in October 2010, after graduating from the Royal College of Music.
Telephone: 020 8892 4957

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



Easter is particularly late this year and is still three weeks away but with the mild wet winter Spring came earlier to cheer us up after all the devastating floods.

Despite being over a year since our church went on the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we were so impressed by the story told by Paul and Carol Fitchett, we felt that it was appropriate to use it for our Easter Spire for everyone to read. Our Vicar has also said many times how much his visit to the Holy Land has challenged him over the past year.

For our second article in our new series on the back page Paul Peterken has chosen ten places of worship, both large and small, which have fascinated him. These new articles are proving very popular both with the writers and with readers.

The services for Holy Week and Easter are listed below and you will receive a warm welcome at any of them.

A happy Easter to all our readers.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover image: the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem



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: Nickbagge1@aol.com

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

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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The June issue will be published on 1 June. All copy must be with us by **Thursday 1 May**.

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Please recycle this magazine after use



Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
8pm Compline (during Lent)

Sunday 4 May

3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2.14a,36-41; 1 Peter 1.17-23;
Luke 24.13-3

Sunday 6 April

5th Sunday of Lent
Ezekiel 37.1-14; Romans 8.6-11;
John 11.1-45

Sunday 11 May

4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 2.42-47; 1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10

Sunday 13 April

Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11;
Matthew 26.14 - 27.66

Sunday 18 May

5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 7.55-60; 1 Peter 2.2-10;
John 14.1-14

Sunday 20 April

Easter Day
Acts 10.34-43; Colossians 3.1-4; John 20.1-18

Sunday 25 May

6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 17.22-31; 1 Peter 3.13-22; John 14.15-21

Sunday 27 April

2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2.14a,22-32; 1 Peter 1.3-9;
John 20.19-31

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

The Easter flame burns

A candle 36 feet high is what would have apparently greeted worshippers in Salisbury Cathedral on Easter morning. It is claimed that, in medieval times, this was the size of the special candle that burns in many churches throughout the whole season of Easter, running from Easter Day to the day of Pentecost (or until a few decades ago, Ascension Day.) I would not have wished to be the person lighting the candle in Salisbury!

This special candle is known as the Paschal Candle or Easter Candle. Paschal comes from *pascha*, a Latinised version of the Hebrew word *pesach*, meaning passover. The candle is no mere bit of fancy dressing. It is perhaps better to call it the paschal rather than Easter candle for once Eastertide is over, the candle is placed by the font and lit at baptisms; and also placed near the coffin at funerals.

The candle has deeper meaning than just a bit of ornamentation for Easter. What is the meaning? A Paschal Candle has symbols on it: the cross, the Greek letters alpha and omega, five nails, and the year.

The candle is prepared each year at a special service called the Easter Liturgy or Easter Vigil. At St. James's, we will have it at 6am on Easter Day. The service begins outside the church with a fire being set, and from this the candle is lit. Before that, the presiding priest says certain words, performs certain physical actions, and prepares the candle.

First, the priest traces the sign of the cross on the candle, saying, 'Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end.' The cross is the principal symbol of Christianity. It is placed in churches on walls, on altars, carried in procession, and so on. It is worn by people around their necks, on a bracelet, and in a few cases, tattooed on their body.

A symbol of hope in the midst of the world

The cross is a reminder of the offering of Christ, and the revealing of the greatness of God's love. That love was 'yesterday' but, most crucially, 'today.' Christ is seen as 'beginning', but also 'end', encapsulating for the Christian all that is. The cross is a symbol of hope in the midst of the world.

Second, the priest then traces the alpha and omega on the candle. In the Book of Revelation, Christ is called the 'alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end.' If you like, the A to Z. There is a sense in which we can speak of the 'cosmic Christ'. The cross reminds us of the essential earthiness of Christ, but he is now more than that. Alpha and omega take us out beyond our own here and now into the greatness of the universe. The risen Christ is all in all.

Third, the year is traced, for we need to come down to earth, and be rooted in the here and now. The priest says 'All time belongs to him [Christ] and all ages, to him be glory, through every age and for ever.' This is the 'year of our Lord' – this time is his, the living Lord's.

Charity Box Christian Aid Week 11-17 May

Some 42 million people have been driven from their homes by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This number is rising. For these people the horror of war is a part of daily life.

This Christian Aid week we can send people living in fear a message: you are not alone. We are with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace.

Money raised can provide blankets for refugee children to protect them from bitter night-time temperatures, provide



Finally, five nails are placed in the candle as a reminder of Christ's wounds, for John's Gospel tells us that the body of the risen Christ still bore the marks of the nails and spear. The priest says, 'By his holy, and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guide us, and keep us.'

The Paschal Candle is then lit from the fire with the words 'May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.' Led by the candle, the congregation then make their way into church proclaiming, 'The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.'

God is the beginning and end of all things

Entering the dark church with the candle, and then with other candles being gradually lit and the lights switched on, it is as if we make our own 'passover' from darkness to light. Above all, we are making a journey that Christ made.

Whether the candle be thirty-six feet tall or, as in our case at St. James's, three feet, the same point is made. Christ has passed over from death to life; he gave all for us, and has been raised for us; he is ultimately our reference point for understanding God and the depths of God. God is the beginning and end of all things, and yet in the human face of Christ, we see as much of the face of God as we can cope with.

We human beings are called to 'pass over' from death to life, from the old to the new, recognising, embracing and celebrating such astonishing possibilities for us. The Paschal Candle recalls us to the fullness of the character of Christ, and of the very heart of God.

We cannot be naïve about how so many in the world will spend this Easter, with no sense of the possibility of anything new or better for them. Yet holding on to the possibility of 'passover' is crucial, and Easter and its great Candle will not let go of hope.

Do look at the Paschal Candle wherever you may be this Easter, ponder on its symbols, hold on to hope, and a very happy Easter to you all.

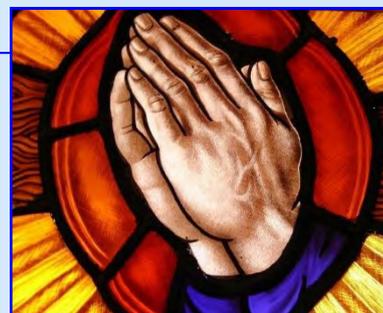
good quality and nutritious food and provide specialist emotional support to a deeply traumatised child.

Last year the churches in our area raised £9576, of which we collected £3937 with the help of our volunteer collectors.

If you feel you could spare a few hours to join our volunteers to deliver and collect envelopes it would be very much appreciated.

Please speak to Liz Wilmot or Linda Webb in church, or telephone 020 8977 9434. Alternatively email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net.

War tears lives apart – Love can help piece them back together.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

A Litany For Easter



Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child
one of us, flesh and blood to share in our humanity
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life
Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter
and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher
and opened eyes to truths that only the poor could understand
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life
Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer
and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest and king
and yet humbled himself
to take our place upon the cross
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant
and revealed to us the extent of his Father's love for human kind
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life
Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose from the ignominy of a sinner's death
to the triumph of a Saviour's resurrection
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life





Local and National stories

Fast-track bid for women bishops

GENERAL SYNOD, the Church of England's governing body, has backed legislation which could see the first woman bishop appointed by the end of the year.

It has agreed to cut the time it would take to consult its 44 dioceses on the legislation from six months to three.

The move could lead to final approval of the legislation in July and it could come into force by November. One supporter, Lois Haslam, of Chester diocese, said, 'We have wandered round women bishops legislation for many years; we are now approaching the promised land.'

The proposal to halve the consultation period was backed by 358 general synod members, with 39 voting against and nine abstaining.

The legislation will now go to the Church's dioceses for approval and, providing the majority approve it by the 22 May deadline, General Synod will be able to hold the final debate in July. If passed, the legislation would go to Parliament for approval and could be in force later this year.

However, the Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff, sounded a note of caution. 'I am not counting chickens,' he said. 'One house failing to get the two-thirds majority can lead to the whole thing failing.'

The plans remain divisive in some sections of the Church. David Banting, from Chelmsford Diocese, criticised the fast tracking as 'unprecedented, irresponsible, as well as being unhelpful'.

Former curate made a canon



FREDA EVANS, a curate at St James's from 2000-2002, and now vicar of St Barnabas Church, Erdington, has been made an honorary canon of Birmingham Cathedral. We send her our congratulations on the new appointment.

■ Meanwhile, on **Saturday 3 May** there will be a national celebration in London to mark the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. The day will begin at Westminster Abbey and end with a service, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, at St Paul's Cathedral.

For full details, see the What's On listing on the page seven.

Church's annual elections

ALONG WITH ALL Church of England parishes, St. James's will be having its Annual Church Meeting. Ours will be on Sunday 6 April, following the Parish Communion. The meeting will receive reports about many aspects of church life, including the 2013 accounts.

It also will elect the Churchwardens for the coming year, four members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for three years, one member for two years, and three members of the Deanery Synod who serve for three years and are also members of the PCC.

Do come, and please consider standing for election. It is a chance to help run our church and influence its future.

Spring cleaning the Fairtrade way

TRAIDCRAFT'S NEW Clean & Fair cleaning range contains fair trade palm oil and is the first household cleaning range ever to carry the Fairtrade Mark. When you choose *Clean & Fair*, you're investing in the future of fair trade palm and coconut oil – a future that will transform communities in Ghana and rural India.

Traidcraft have asked BIO D to produce the finished products, a company renowned in the whole eco cleaning sector and whose products St James's already uses in the hall. The *Clean & Fair* range really does combine the best of Fair Trade with the best of eco cleaning, so please come and buy at our Traidcraft stall every first Sunday of the month.



Important news coming soon

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE we will have some important news about the work to replace our church central heating system and changes to church life during the summer months.

A life-changing



As part of our 150th anniversary celebrations in 2013, Peter Vannozi and Julian Reindorp led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. For our Easter issue, Paul and Carol Fitchett describe their emotional journey through the troubled Middle East and the powerful message of love and hope they brought back from some of the most oppressed people who live there

The prospect of a pilgrimage to see all the places we'd heard about in the Bible fascinated us along with opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Whilst there we visited many places including Nazareth, Capernaum, Cana, Jacob's Well, Temple Mount, the Wailing Wall, the Shepherds Fields, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane. What follows are our highlights.

We stayed at a gorgeous setting on the Sea of Galilee where we began to settle in to the routine of early morning starts, long days and evening meetings, firstly visiting Mount Tabor – Mount of the Transfiguration where Peter Vannozi celebrated his first open air Eucharist.

Our Galilean highlight was the trip on a replica boat from Jesus' time, crossing the sea on a beautiful sunny day with cool breezes playing across the water's surface. Some sparrows

were on the bows where we sat, and they flittered back and forth along the boat before finally departing when we got too far from land. The reading of Jesus waking to rebuke the waves was followed by singing *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*; its references to Galilee brought home that we were on this same sea and was profoundly moving.



Paul and Carol Fitchett

Leaving Galilee, we headed towards Jerusalem via the run-down Palestinian town of Nablus in the West Bank, a striking difference from the Jewish parts of Israel. We met Father Ibrahim, one of the few Christians in the town who clarified the struggle Christians have as just 1% of the population. His family was displaced from Haifa but he doesn't see himself as a refugee as this was his land; his ancestors saw Jesus crucified is the way he put it. He was inspirational and a true 'living stone' in a predominantly Moslem land.

experience



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Sharing the peace at Calvary with nuns

Gwyneth Lloyd, one of our fellow travellers, advised us to experience Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre very early in the morning in a 'quiet' period and so at 5.15am we took communion at a small chapel immediately adjacent to the site of Calvary, the rocks visible though encased in glass, sharing the Peace with nuns!

The sheer size and unremitting effect of hall after hall of the Jewish holocaust memorial Yad Vashem was oppressive. However the children's memorial, a darkened space using candles and mirrors to create a galaxy of lights, was most affecting, as the name, age and location of death of the 1.5 million Jewish children killed are read out in an endless cycle.

We walked the Via Dolorosa at 6am before the streets got too crowded, following the way past each of the *Stations of the Cross* until we reached the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which houses the last five stations. Inside we queued at Christ's tomb, a tiny 'room' where only three people can be at a time and then for just five seconds. We lunched at Wa'Joud, an Arab organisation, helping those who have fallen on hard times, empowering them and building bridges between Palestinians and Jews.

Within these walls

Bethlehem lies inside the West Bank and is surrounded by a guarded security wall which the Palestinians have covered with graffiti, sometimes radical but more often seeking peaceful conciliation. We entered the Church of the Nativity through a small rectangular hole, descending into the cave to kneel before the golden star on the floor depicting Jesus birthplace, again a site where we were struck by the significance of where we were standing.

A trio of priests sang *Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis*, our group joined in and swelled the hymn into a glorious sound. We toured the Holy Family Maternity Hospital which offers its services regardless of creed or ability to pay, before our final visit to the Lutheran Centre, an arts/community facility set up to provide an alternative vision for the Palestinian people. Our guide was AJ, a West Bank Palestinian who suffered discrimination when she was at university in the States until she started using her proper name, Angel from Bethlehem.

Baptismal vows at River Jordan

At the recently opened baptismal site on the River Jordan, Peter invited us to renew our baptismal vows and as we started to sing *Guide me O thou Great*

Redeemer the sun broke through the early morning cloud cover bathing our group in light. Peter invited us forward to have the sign of the cross placed upon our foreheads and as the hymn continued, both Carol and I were overcome with emotion.

This was a powerful visit for us having reached a point in our pilgrimage where, as our guide put it we effectively felt 'closed for renovations' with many preconceptions challenged and as Julian had warned, any number of images held over from our childhood shattered. Being able to let our guard down completely and allow ourselves to be fully exposed to the glare of God's love and message was a unique experience. On a number of occasions on this trip we felt that we had come close to walking in Jesus' footsteps, but on this day we truly had.

Our final day started at St Anne's, a very plain church where we sang 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'; the remarkable acoustics of the place swelled our voices and produced a marvellous, prolonged echo within the high ceilinged church and really made it feel like our praises were being raised to Heaven.

At the hill-top convent at Abu Ghosh we listened to Brian's harmonica playing while Julian prepared to lead the Eucharist. We assembled around the altar and as each received the bread and wine, we turned to our neighbour and served the bread and wine to them, a very special and poignant finale.

Inspirational Living Stones

In countries with a more comfortable standard of living it's easy to bemoan our lot over relatively minor issues and put Christ-like attitudes on the back burner. As we listened to local Christians, the overwhelming feeling from them was not "down and desperate" and not even a dogged, gritted determination, but one of power; a positive, assured, deeply committed and loving energy. We may have handed them gifts of money, but in return we received more – a true reflection of Christ-like living.



River Jordan

Around the SPIRE

with Susan Homer

Former Jays' teacher dies

VIOLET CLARK, a regular worshipper at St James's in the 1980s and 90s, died recently, aged 85. A lively member of the congregation, she taught in The Jays (Sunday School) and often contributed to *The Spire*.

She lived for many years at Marling Court, a care home owned by the Richmond upon Thames Churches Housing Trust, in Hampton, and died peacefully in February after three months in Hampton Care Nursing Home.



Advent Calendar raises £18,000

WE WERE DELIGHTED to hear that the Real Advent Calendar, which we sold on our Traidcraft stall, raised almost £18,000 from UK sales for The Children's Society. Ten pence was donated for every one sold and all money raised will go towards its work with the most disadvantaged children in England. Let us hope that sales of Real Easter Eggs raise a similar sum!

Bishop Paul's new ALMA role

THE BISHOP OF KENSINGTON, Paul Williams, has been appointed the London 'Bishop for ALMA', the partnership between the Anglican Church in Angola, London and Mozambique.

It is part of a reshuffle following Bishop Michael Colclough's retirement. Announcing the news, the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, paid tribute to the 'enormous debt of gratitude owed to Bishop Michael, who was tireless in promoting ALMA and keeping it firmly on the agenda from the time he took over as chair in 2000 until his retirement last summer.'

Bishop Paul's new role will have particular responsibility for training across the partnership. This will include exploring some new partnerships and opportunities especially with relation to training.



Why Bible reading should matter

WHILE MANY PARENTS still think it is important for children to engage with the Bible, what happens is quite different. A recent nationwide study by YouGov found that 29% of children could not identify the Nativity story.

A quarter of children did not know Noah's Ark, rising to 38% for Adam and Eve and 43% for the Crucifixion. More than half had never heard of Joseph and his coat of many colours or David and Goliath.

Sir Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate from 1999-2009, called the findings disturbing. He said it was essential to keep these stories alive, regardless of religious beliefs (or lack of them), as they are indispensable to our understanding of the past, and to the enrichment of our present.

The Shell Seekers, our Sunday School, includes Bible stories in its weekly sessions. If you have children who would like to enrol, please telephone Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563.

The church at its best for Easter

WE ARE GRATEFUL to everyone who is



involved in getting the church ready for Easter. This includes members of the Properties



Committee, who as usual are undertaking the annual spring clean; the flower arrangers who will inject a burst of colour after Lent, and the many other people, seen and unseen, who help the church over this busy period.

Song of Praise meets the Proms

GRANHAM KENDRICK, the Christian singer-songwriter, is appearing at *Prom Praise* at the Royal Albert Hall at 7.30pm on 26 April. He will be a special guest of the All Souls Orchestra and Massed Prom Praise Choir. *Prom Praise* combines the spirit of the BBC's *Songs of Praise* with the style of the *Last Night of the Proms*. To book tickets contact the Royal Albert Hall Box Office, telephone 020 7589 8212 or go to www.royalalberthall.com



Lent / Easter

Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, is the first day of Holy Week which is the last week of Advent.

It celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry, on the back of a donkey, into Jerusalem. Jesus went there to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover.

The people welcomed him like a King, shouted *Hosanna* and laid their cloaks and branches from the nearby palm trees in his path.



Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, was when Jesus met with his disciples for the Last Supper.

He gave them a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. During the meal Jesus broke the bread, and poured the wine, to share with them. As he did this he told them to continue to do this to honour him.

He said the bread was his body broken for them and the wine was his blood, shed for them.

We continue to share bread and wine as part of our worship in church today in the celebration known as Holy Communion.

Before this meal Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show that he serves others. It was a way to show his followers how he wanted them to behave towards others.

He told the disciples that he would be betrayed, by one of the men sitting at the table with them.

After supper Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. He was later betrayed by Judas and arrested by soldiers and guards.



Good Friday remembers the day on which Jesus was crucified on a wooden cross. Good Friday is a sad day and churches never have flowers or decorations on this day.

In the early morning of Good Friday, Jesus was arrested and was tried in a mock trial before Caiaphas, the Jewish High Priest. He was afterwards condemned to death by the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, even though Pilate could not find that Jesus has done anything wrong.

He was handed over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and flogged with whips. A crown of long, sharp thorns was thrust upon his head.

Jesus was forced to carry his own cross outside the city to Skull Hill. Jesus was nailed to the cross.

Two criminals were crucified with him, their crosses were on either side of him. A sign above Jesus read *The King of the Jews*.

After death, his body was removed from the cross and placed in a tomb by Joseph of Aramathea.

Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian festival celebrating the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Easter Season begins on **Easter Day** and ends at Pentecost.

The dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Easter festival and of the Christian year. It is a day of celebration because Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever.

Jesus had told his disciples before he was arrested that he would be crucified and on the third day he would rise from the dead. Easter Sunday is the third day after Good Friday.



Every year, St James's make this **Easter Garden**, recreating in miniature the place where Jesus was buried. A stone is placed across the mouth of the tomb before Easter, then rolled away on Easter morning.

RECIPE for LIFE with Griselda Barrett

Simnel Cake



Simnel cakes have been known since at least the medieval times. They would have been eaten on the middle Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday (also known as Refreshment Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves, and Simnel Sunday), when the 40-day fast would be relaxed. More recently, they became a Mothering Sunday tradition, when young girls in service would make one to be taken home to their mothers on their day off. The word *simnel* probably derived from the Latin word *simila*, meaning fine, wheaten flour.

Conventionally 11 balls are used to decorate the cake, with a story that the balls represent the apostles minus Judas. This tradition developed late in the Victorian era, altering the mid-Victorian tradition of decorating the cake with preserved fruit and flowers.

Ingredients

Serves 6-8

Preheat oven to 150°C / Gas Mark 2

- 175g butter or margarine
- 175g soft brown sugar
- 3 free-range eggs, beaten
- 175g plain flour
- Pinch salt
- ½ tsp ground mixed spice (optional)
- 350g mixed raisins, currants and sultanas
- 55g chopped mixed peel
- ½ lemon, grated zest only
- 1-2 tablespoons apricot jam
- 1 free-range egg, beaten for glazing
- 450g almond paste

Method

- 1) Line and grease an 18 cm round cake tin.
- 2) Cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs.
- 3) Sift in the flour, salt and spices and fold into the mixture with a large metal spoon. Add all the fruit and the lemon zest, folding in to give a smooth dropping consistency. If a little too firm, add 1-2 tablespoons of milk.

4) Divide the almond paste in half. Lightly dust a surface with icing sugar and roll out one half to a 16 cm circle.

5) Spoon half of the cake mixture into the prepared tin. Place the round of almond paste on top and cover with the remaining cake mixture. Level the surface.

6) Tie a double thickness of brown paper around the outside of the tin. Bake for about 2½ hours until rich brown in colour and firm to the touch.

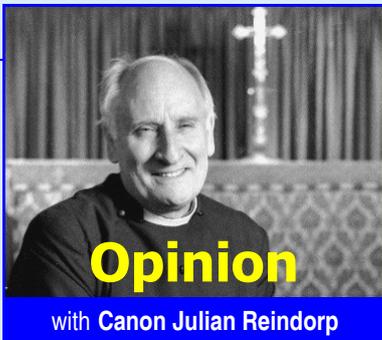
7) Cool in the tin for 1 hour, then turn out and leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

8) Divide the remaining almond paste in two. Roll out one half to an 18 cm circle and the rest into 11 small balls. Brush the top of the cake with egg white. Place the circle of almond paste on top, crimp the edges and, with a little of the egg white, fix the balls around the top edge of the cake.

9) Brush the almond paste with the remaining egg white and place under a hot grill for 1-2 minutes until the paste is well browned. Tie a ribbon around the cake and decorate with flowers if desired.



Next Month:
St Peter's Fish Pie



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

SOUTHERN FLOODS

It was the first question on BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions* in mid-February: Why was it only when the flooding reached the playing fields of Eton that the Prime Minister declared a national emergency?

The floods have been a grim experience for many thousands of people, and perhaps will be for many months to come.

But I still remember when young spending two spells on Teesside and realizing how much people in the North felt that the UK and England were run by people who lived in and around London. The North South divide is real in people's experience at so many levels.

NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE

It was expressed powerfully in a letter to the national press by a parish priest and local councillor. The fact that it is far easier for parishes to find clergy in the South 'mirrors the government's ideological agenda of transferring wealth, power and influence from the poor to the rich, from North to South.

Durham County Council will have lost 40% of its grant by 2015-16. The spending power of Durham will be reduced by 6%, whereas that of Surrey will actually increase by 3%, and Buckingham by 2.5%. Hopefully there are people in the south who have a conscience, especially in the church, who will fight for equality, justice and fairness for the whole country.

BENEFITS STREET

The Channel 4 programme about a street in Birmingham aroused national interest. There was the familiar criticism — why were more people in the street not at work? This was ignoring the fact unemployment is largely due to lack of job opportunity. Also, many of the people in work are so poorly paid they need benefits to survive.

What struck me most was the way people in the street just got on with each other, of course there were rows, but they all knew each other, when desperate they called on each other. How many streets in our country with ninety homes could match this kind of support, awareness of each other's needs?

People say, 'Help people to stand on their own two feet'. In fact, in any crisis in life we come to depend on a host of people. We are surely better together and we need each other.

VATICAN SURVEY

Pope Francis has instituted a worldwide survey among Catholics on their views on family life and sexuality, including divorce, remarriage and Communion.

In Europe the results have shown a huge gap between church teaching and the way Catholics actually live their lives. In Africa the people's views were almost the opposite of Europeans! In Latin America and the United States the results showed a 2-to-1 majority in favour of real change. Quite a challenge for the Pope to respond to.

MY CHILDREN?

A four-year-old grandson and his younger brother came to see me. We were playing together. After a while his little face began to look puzzled. 'Grandpa', he asked, 'where are your children?' Only with a series of photos was I able to convince him that his mother was my daughter!

What's On

with Nick Bagge



NEW

Easter at St James's Church



Sunday 6 April
8pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Sunday 13 April Palm Sunday
8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Communion;
8pm Compline

Monday 14, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 April in Holy Week
8pm Compline

Thursday 17 April Maundy Thursday
8pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper,
followed by Watch of Prayer for an hour

Friday 18 April Good Friday
10.30am All-age Worship, followed by hot cross buns in hall
2pm Liturgy of Good Friday

Sunday 20 April Easter Day
6am Easter Liturgy, followed by breakfast in the hall
9.30am Parish Communion

Fairtrade Easter Eggs

Sundays 6 April, 10.30-11.30am,
Fitz Wygram Hall (Church Hall)

This is your final chance to buy Easter Eggs—while stocks last! The **Original Real Easter Egg** (£3.99) includes a milk chocolate egg, a pack of chocolate buttons and an Easter story book. The stall may have other eggs in the range too.



The stall features a selection of other food gifts as well as craft items. The full Traidcraft range is available to order and is featured in the latest catalogue. Pick up a copy from church.

Annual Spring Clean

Saturday 29 March-Saturday 12 April, St James's Church

As part of the preparations for Easter, the Properties Committee organises the annual spring clean of the church. This includes cleaning floors and carpets, polishing floors and brassware and general dusting. The work will take place over a two-week period. If you are free during that time and are willing to help, please contact Bryan Basdell, telephone 020 8979 2040 or 078 6782 9196, or email bryanbasdell@uk.fujitsu.com.

Registers for February



Baptism

23 Stanley Reid
Reginald Rabbetts,
Hanworth



Funeral

12 Thomas Oliver
Moore, 35, Hampton

NEW

Celebration of 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood

Saturday 3 May, from 1pm, College Garden, Westminster Abbey, ending at St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4M 8AD

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood has a direct link to St James's. One of the first women to be ordained was Betty Stewart, pictured, who had a lifelong connection with our church.



The celebration will begin at around 1pm in College Garden, Westminster Abbey, where food will be on sale or people can bring picnics. At 2pm a procession will walk to St Paul's Cathedral, arriving at around 4.30pm.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will greet the crowds on the steps of the cathedral, followed by a service at 5pm.

Tickets for the service are being distributed to the 1994 cohort of women priests and a small number to each diocese, allocated by ballot particularly to those who campaigned for the ordination of women several decades ago. If there are surplus tickets these will be offered via this mailing.

There will be an audio relay of the service outside the Cathedral. Anyone who wishes to join the celebrations is very welcome to do so.

NEW

Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival

Saturday 7 June, 12.30-4pm, Nursery Green, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RG

Profits from the fete go to The White House Community Association and the stallholders' individual causes. There will be games, exhibitions, displays and food and drink available. More details coming soon.

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 28 June, 7.30pm, **Songs on an American Theme**, Waidegrave School for Girls, Main Hall, Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham TW2 5LH

The summer concert will feature stirring American music. Tickets £12 in advance (concessions £10), £14 on the door. Available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4BN, telephone 020 8977 5986.

NEW

Hampton Hill Playhouse

Sunday 29 June-Saturday 5 July, **My Boy Jack**, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

This is an amateur production of David Haig's spellbinding World War One play about patriotism versus sacrifice for Rudyard Kipling and his son. Tickets £14 (£12 members). Booking opens 29 May. Telephone 0845 838 7529 or go to teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk



Vicar's View

'I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear.'



Ancient and modern: England's treasures

England has a most wonderful collection of church buildings, some of great age and some aggressively modern. All of them speak of the history of the place.

I have always been interested in church buildings. My father was too, and he took the trouble to explain the various types of architecture – Saxon, Norman, Gothic and so on – to me when I was eight or nine. On our family holidays, we always took time to visit the church of anywhere we went to – and often it was the purpose of the visit. Many of the churches on my list I first visited with him.

1 ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL London



No need to describe it. I've been coming here all my life, to services, concerts, talks and just to experience the building. It always gives me a lift just to stand in the nave or under the dome. We once came to a service on a foggy day (they were real fogs then), and the fog inside the cathedral meant you couldn't see from one end to the other. My father said it has three domes, and it was a long time before I found out what he meant.

2 ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH Fingest, Buckinghamshire



Fingest is a tiny village in the Chilterns, with a Norman church with a very unusual double gable at the top of the tower.

When I was a teenager I saw a picture of the church in a book, and found it so attractive that I spent a day cycling there and back just to see the reality. It is surrounded by hills, and the setting is as beautiful today as it was in 1962.

3 ST MARY'S CHURCH Whitby, North Yorkshire

A squat church, on the cliffs above the town, and looking out over the North Sea.



A magnificent setting – but the really special feature is the interior, which is pure 18th century, with a confusion of box pews, galleries and a three-decker pulpit all thrown together. There is a sanctuary and altar, but they are hidden away. I've visited Whitby many times during the past 50 years, and always climb the 199 steps to marvel at the church again.

4 ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH Brookland, Kent



Romney Marsh is a surprisingly isolated area, and it has a number of fine churches. Brookland church is very odd, having a detached, wooden spire and an interior that is very plain and full of ancient pews and other furnishings.

I like most of the marsh churches, and this one has to stand for all of them.

5 ST ANNE'S CHURCH Limehouse, London



This is a large Hawksmoor church, built in 1730. It has a remarkable tower, all blocks and pinnacles, and a wide open interior with galleries. My grandfather and great-grandfather were churchwardens here. We used to come to evensong after visiting my grandparents; by then the war had dispersed the once-large congregation.

6 COVENTRY CATHEDRAL West Midlands



The new cathedral is now 50 years old, and stands next to the shell of the old cathedral, bombed in 1940. It was conceived in a spirit of reconciliation, especially with the German people, and that purpose continues today.

I find the windows very inspiring with their bold colours – not only the superb baptistry window, but also the nave windows which can only be seen from the altar end of the cathedral.

7 ST LAWRENCE CHURCH Eastcote, Middlesex



My own home church when I was growing up. My family were very involved in parish activities, and I knew every corner of the building. It is a brick suburban church of 1933, and is not included in any of the better-known lists of churches of architectural merit. But for me it is the standard church – all others are variants.

8 ST MARY'S CHURCH Fairford, Gloucestershire



There are many fine churches in the Cotswolds. Fairford church is special as it still has a full set of late-medieval stained

glass windows. The west window has a depiction of the day of judgement, with the blessed souls on one side, and the damned on the other. When I first came here as a teenager, I was captivated by the devils leading the damned to hell – including one who is using a wheelbarrow.

9 ST ENEDOC'S CHURCH Trebetherick, Cornwall



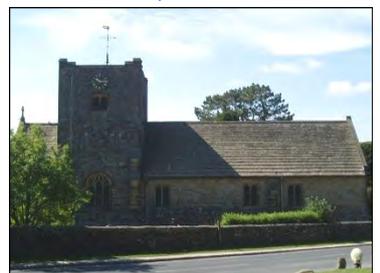
This tiny church lies in the sand dunes of a Cornish golf course, and was covered in sand during the early 19th century, before being dug out and restored.



It was much loved by John Betjeman, who is buried in the churchyard.

I value the association with Betjeman, as I have enjoyed his poetry and his writings, especially on churches and railways. And the setting for the church is worth a visit alone.

10 ST MARY'S CHURCH Goathland, North Yorkshire



A small grey church set in this beautiful village high in the North Yorkshire Moors. Surprisingly, it was built as late as 1896, and the interior has some nice Arts and Craft features.

Much of the woodwork was supplied by Robert 'Mouseman' Thompson, whose trademark was to include a small mouse in the carving; there are reckoned to be nine-and-a-half mice in the church, but I have only found a couple of them.

