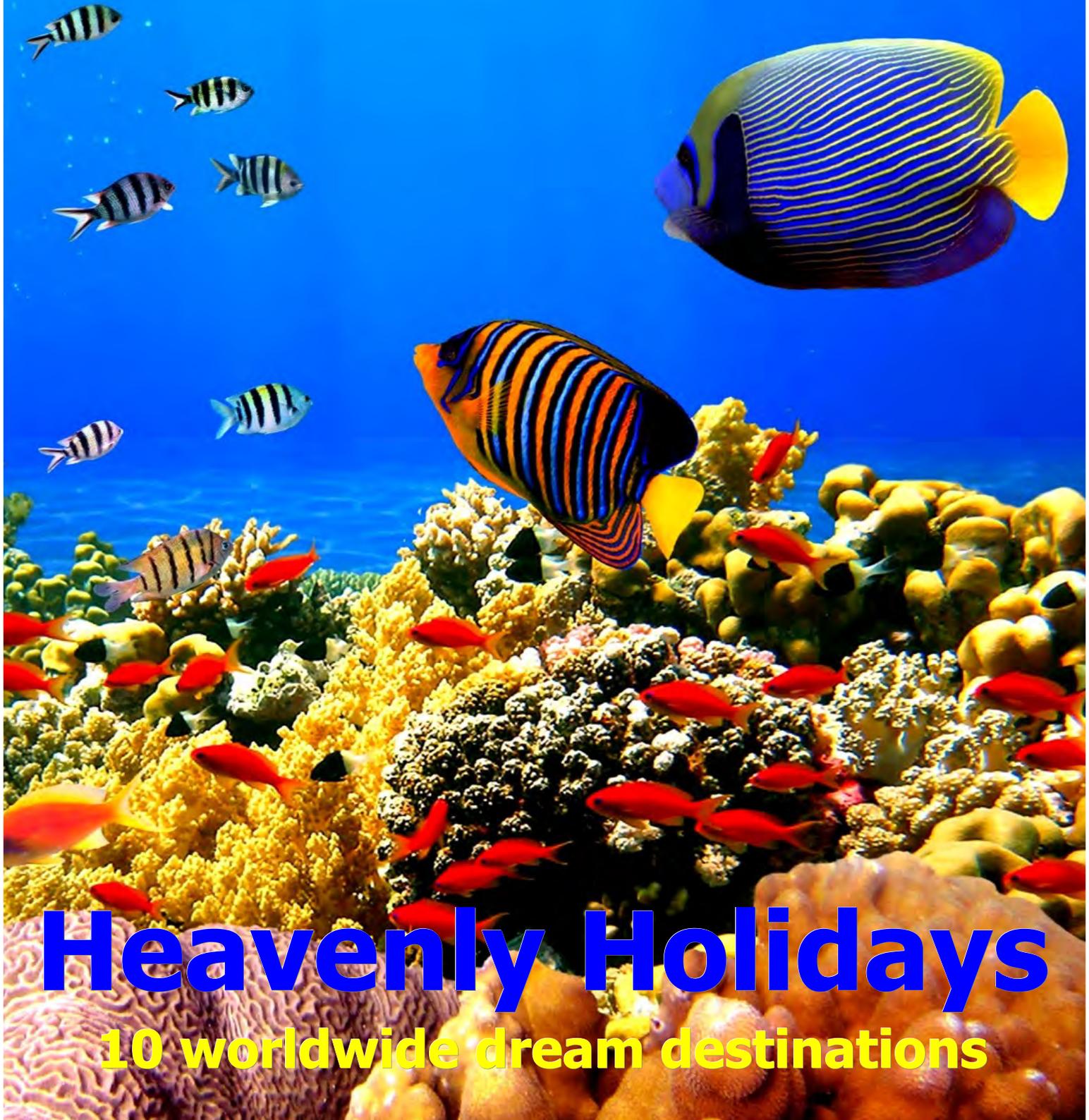


AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2014

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy



Heavenly Holidays

10 worldwide dream destinations

AROUND THE SPIRE P4 ■ RECIPE FOR LIFE P6 ■ 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 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
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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
Before retiring, Don worked at the Church Commissioners for England, who manage the Church of England's assets.
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 mixed weather for Wimbledon this year we hope that the summer holidays prove to be good for you wherever you might go. You will have noticed the holiday theme on our front cover and Linda Cargill has written about her ten favourite holiday destinations.

Jackie Cammidge has written in the centrespread about her two years as a trainee priest. She is finding the course very inspirational. Juggling family life, her job at a nursery school, and her family while studying and writing essays is quite something.

We welcomed Canon Julie Gittoes to St James's Day and it was good to catch up and hear about her work at Guildford Cathedral as a Residentiary Canon and all it involves.

By the time you are reading this we shall be worshipping in the hall while the new heating system is installed in the church. We look forward to returning when the work is over.

Happy holidays to everyone from the Spire Committee.

Best wishes

Janet



the**spire** 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

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AROUND THE SPIRE

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Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

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Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

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

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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The October issue is published on 28 September. All copy to be with us by **Tuesday 2 September**.

Credits

PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge
Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

PUBLISHING

Printer Justin Hollingsworth 020 8686 4481

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



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Come and worship with us!



IMPORTANT CHANGES

Sundays

9am and 11am Holy Communion

Services are in the Fitz Wygram Church Hall during work to replace the central heating system. Tea and coffee will be served from 10.15-10.45am to enable people to meet up, whichever service they attend.

Sunday 3 August 7th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

Sunday 10 August 8th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

Sunday 17 August 9th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15.21-28

Sunday 24 August
St Bartholomew the Apostle
Acts 5.12-16; Luke 22.24-30

Sunday 31 August 11th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 12.9-end; Matthew 23.23-26

Sunday 7 September

12th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 13.8-end; Matthew 18.15-20

Sunday 14 September Holy Cross Day
Philippians 2.6-11; John 3.13-17

Sunday 21 September
St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
2 Corinthians 4.1-6; Matthew 9.9-13

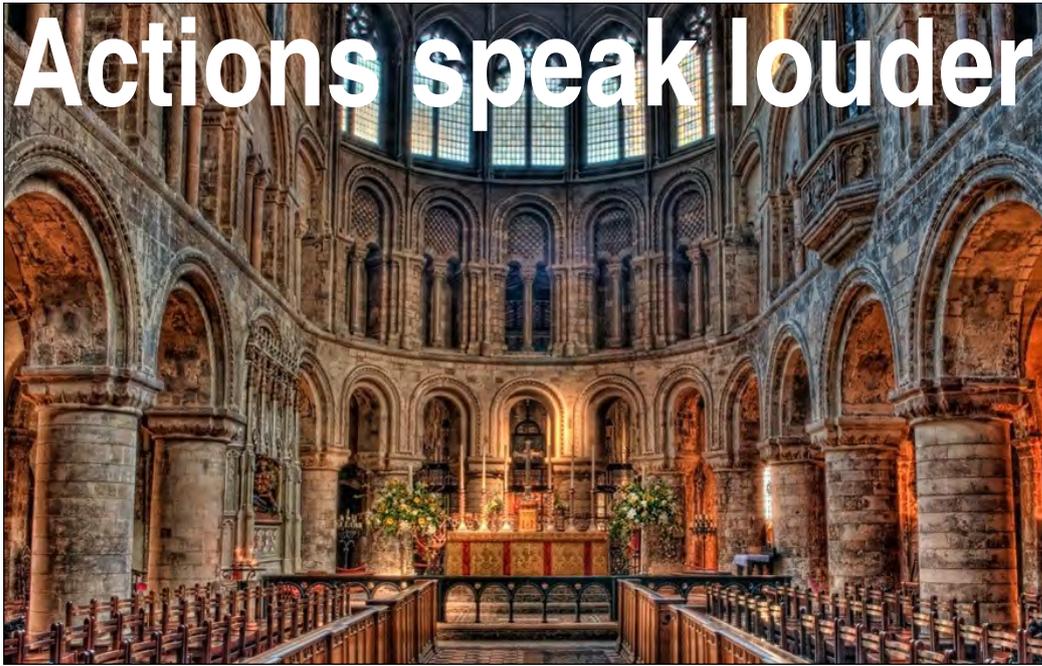
Sunday 28 September
15th Sunday after Trinity
Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)
9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays
9.30am Holy Communion

Weekday services will be in the Fitz Wygram Church Hall's Upper Room. Please use the side door opposite the vestry to enter the hall and then climb the stairs to the Upper Room.

Actions speak louder



Awelcome survival of tumultuous times is located in Smithfield, in the City of London. The Priory Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, seen above, has seen off the Reformation (though the nave of the church was demolished), the Great Fire of London, wartime bombing, and planning crazes. It is a fine medieval building, an active place of worship in the heart of the city to this day.

Founded in 1123 by its first prior, Rahere, the church and famous hospital next door were the result of a profound spiritual experience. Rahere had been a courtier of King Henry I, and a royal favourite, but he renounced this way of life, making instead a pilgrimage to Rome.

Taken ill there, Rahere vowed that, if he survived, he would set up a hospital for the poor in London. He survived, and the hospital and attendant priory, were formed. Rahere spoke of a vision of St. Bartholomew the Apostle who picked the site of the new development! St. Bartholomew the Great is a real gem, and I urge you to visit it, if you have not been already.

St Bartholomew's Day

Bartholomew's feast day is 24 August, and it happens to fall on a Sunday this year. The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all list Bartholomew as being among the 12 apostles. In the Acts of the Apostles, he is a witness to Jesus's ascension, and then waits with the other apostles for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

John's gospel presents us with Nathanael who is brought to Jesus by Philip, and then is among those who see the risen Christ after his resurrection. Tradition tends to assume Bartholomew and Nathanael are one and the same though the gospels offer no reason to make this identification.

Does the name 'Bartholomew' tell us anything? It might mean 'son of Tolemy' or it could mean 'son of the furrows,' perhaps indicating a ploughman. Legend has it that Bartholomew brought the Christian faith to Armenia, and was there flayed alive and crucified upside down. If the legend is true, Bartholomew was definitely a 'doer', risking all for the faith he had come to hold.

Prior Rahere was also a risk-taker in his day, setting aside one way of life to take up a quite different one, and combining a life

of prayer and worship with positive action for the poor and needy.

A good model for life

Rahere, and Bartholomew before him, offer a good model for today. Reflection, thoughtfulness, contemplation, whether spiritual or not, are important in an activist culture that prizes 'doing' above 'being.'

Christian worship offers a specific setting within which people may find space to ponder, but are also taken out of themselves to focus on God. Some forms of spiritual reflection focus purely on 'me', but in a Christian setting, it is not just about 'me', for 'me' only finds its reality in God.

What do we find when we gaze upon God? A God who so loves that he cannot but reach out to the world, particularly in the Person and Work of Jesus. It was because of this that Rahere founded a church, but also because of this that he founded a hospital.

Prayer and action

Again and again, Christian prayer and worship interact with Christian witness and practical action. An African Roman Catholic nun once said to me, 'There is no point me telling people about Jesus if their bellies are empty.' In his day, Rahere demonstrated a life that valued prayer, but also physical acts that made for people's better living.

Today, at its best, the Church does the same, in company with all of goodwill in our communities. This can be risky. Still, today, people step out into difficult situations, not knowing what will happen to them, sometimes giving up their comfort and security, because this seems to be demanded of them. Bartholomew and Rahere offer examples of risk takers in their own times, and also demonstrate this way of life for our time.

So if you have never been, do go and see the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital next door. Times change – the hospital is now part of the NHS. The two buildings, though, are a good reminder of the combination of prayer and action, worship and work, which typifies the Christian Church at its best.

Charity Box Embrace the Middle East

Founded in 1854 as the Turkish Missions Aid Society, *Embrace the Middle East* is one of the charities supported by St. James's this year.

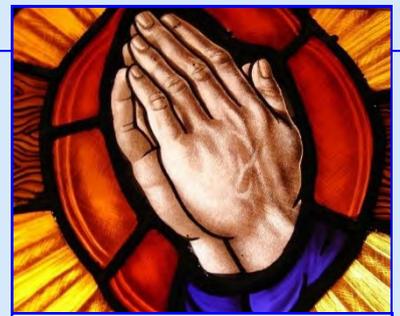
Known until 2002 as the *Bible Lands Society*, or just *Bible Lands*, and producing for over 50 years the Bethlehem Carol Sheet, the organisation aims to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Middle East. It does this by partnering with local Christians who provide health, education and community development programmes to those in need — regardless of their faith or nationality.



Embrace the Middle East is a non-governmental, inter-denominational charity. There are many stories of hope on the Embrace website www.embrace.org, but here are a few of their projects, and why we are supporting them this year:

- Bekaa Valley in Lebanon: Syrian refugees
- Beirut: education, and helping those with disabilities
- Palestine: reconciliation work, education, food security, primary healthcare

On 28 September we will hear more about the charity's work when we welcome Richard Jones, Regional Manager for Southern Ireland for Embrace the Middle East, to St. James's Church.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Saint Bartholomew

Remembering Bartholomew on 24 August, a martyr in his day, a prayer for Christians facing persecution

O Lord God, your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his resurrection he restores life and peace in all creation. Comfort, we pray, all victims of intolerance and those oppressed by their fellow humans. Remember in your kingdom those who have died. Lead the oppressors towards compassion and give hope to the suffering. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



A prayer for God's presence in our daily activity, whatever and wherever it may be

You have promised, Lord Jesus, to be near us at every turn and twist of life. To seek you is to find you: help us in the business of these days to be inwardly aware of your presence. When the tensions and crises of life crush in upon us, enable us to know you are sharing our burdens with us. As we contemplate decisions, make us aware of the Holy Spirit alerting our minds, bringing clarity of thought, inspiring confidence. Give us the joy of your companionship in our duties, and your presence in every aspect of our lives. We ask this in your name, for the Father's glory. Amen.



Local and National stories

Women Bishops finally approved

THE FIRST WOMEN bishops could be appointed early next year after the Church of England's General Synod finally approved proposals at their meeting on 14 July.

Although the Church decided that women could be priests more than 20 years ago, allowing them to become

bishops has been a thorny issue since, with groups of traditionalists firmly opposed to the idea. A previous attempt in 2010 was blocked by lay members, but this time the majority was more than three to one.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, welcomed the outcome, but acknowledged that some in the Church would be 'struggling' with it. Traditionalist parishes can ask a woman bishop for a male alternative



Shell Seekers and schools' appeal



THE SHELL SEEKERS, our Sunday School, used the money from their recent cake sale to buy 20 Scholars Packs, providing basic stationery to schoolchildren in Africa. Many schools there have little or no reading or writing material. The packs are the idea of the charity Tools with a Mission (TWAM). Janet Nunn ordered 100 packs in the hope that others in the congregation would follow the Shell Seekers' lead. We'll let you now if we reached the target in October.

Local schools form federation

TWO LOCAL SCHOOLS are forming a federation from September. Hampton Hill Junior School and Carlisle Infant School will be led by Bill Jerman, pictured, newly appointed Executive Headteacher of both schools as part of a shared management structure. Mr Jerman has been Headteacher at Hampton Hill Junior for 26 years.

The decision was prompted by the retirement of Carlisle's head, Claire McCann, after 18 years.

According to research by the watchdog Ofsted, schools that federate have shown improvements in the three key areas of teaching and learning, behaviour and pupils' achievement.

Services continue in the hall

CHURCH SERVICES have moved to the Fitz Wygram Church Hall to make way for work to replace the central heating system. Parish Communion is now held at 9am and 11am, with tea and coffee served from 10.15-10.30am to enable everyone to still meet up. If you find the 9am service too busy, you might want to consider switching.

Messy church? Not on our watch!

MANY THANKS to Margaret and David Taylor, who have organised the church cleaning rota for more than 25 years. It is one of the many jobs that go unseen by most people, yet without their efforts we would soon have a messy church!

We are also grateful to Debbie and John Nunn, who are taking over this role. It would be good to have another two cleaners: it is not an onerous task, requiring an hour once a month. Debbie would be delighted to hear from volunteers.



A journey for the



Jacky Cammidge, right, with fellow ordinand Tracey Marlow, left, and the Revd Ann Coleman, Assistant Dean of St Mellitus College and Course Director

Training for ordination asks much and the answers are not always easy to find. As **Jacky Cammidge** enters her third and final year, she recounts how far she has come. Her faith is now stronger, and her love for Jesus greater.

Two years ago I wrote an article for *The Spire* about my journey through discernment which led to my selection to train for ordination as a self-supporting minister, the same role as the Revd David Bell, the present curate at St.

James's Church — and now here I am at the end of the second year of a three-year BA degree course at St Mellitus College.

So what has been happening over the past two years since I became an ordinand and where has my journey taken me? Much water, so to speak, has flowed under the bridge and I can honestly say that the past two years have been two of the busiest so far in my life.

Along with returning to studying and working, as a family we have celebrated the weddings of two of our daughters, both happily at St. James's Church.

ST MELLITUS COLLEGE

It was in September 2012 that I began my studies at St. Mellitus College — named after the first Bishop of London — which was established in 2007 by the Bishops of London and Chelmsford.

The college, based at St. Jude's Church, near Earl's Court, is described as a place that brings together students from across the spectrum of the church to learn about and prepare for mission in the contemporary world, in a way that tries to be open to the Spirit of God and learning from each other.

The college provides courses and training for ordination within the Church of England, Licensed Lay Ministry, youth ministry, pioneering ministry, independent students and other forms of Christian leadership, with students studying both full-time and part-time.

Studying at St. Mellitus allows students to remain fully immersed in their home parishes and church communities and in their everyday lives in the world of work and leisure, home and family and friends. Many of the students have full-time jobs, some work directly for the church in paid or funded posts. This is seen as a positive model of training for public ministry because it reflects the realities of the lives that Christians live.

The facilities at St. Jude's are purpose-built and the college provides a very pleasant environment in which to study. I attend on a Tuesday and the evening officially begins at 6.30pm with prayers and supper. Many students, including myself, arrive earlier in the day, enabling us to use the library, attend tutorials, and meet with fellow students. Worship is followed by a time of study which takes the form of a lecture and the evening ends by 9.30pm.

Over the two years we have covered a wide range of modules, including Church and Mission; Discovering the Christian Tradition; Theology and Spirituality; Biblical Theology; Systematic Theology; The Church in the World; and Leadership.

I have also acted in my second year as one of the two college sacristans, preparing for services, and my experience as a server at St. James's has been invaluable preparation.

RESIDENTIAL STUDY WEEKENDS

Students training for ordination are also required to attend a residential study week in the autumn term and seven residential study weekends each year which are spread over the three terms. The weekends away provide the opportunity to bring together the



Iona Abbey

love of Jesus



The day job: 'Working at a nursery school and serving as an ordained minister are complementary'

students from all of the different centres. The weekends are held at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

Meeting and spending time with fellow ordinands of all ages and backgrounds enhances the learning experience the college provides. Over the weekend there are usually five lectures to attend and a time to meet in formation groups which are made up of students from the different centres. Our worship also covers a vast range of styles, but what connects us all is our faith, and a calling to serve others.

RETREAT AT WALSHINGHAM

There is also a retreat weekend each year and students experience different styles of retreat over the three years.

This year my retreat weekend was in Walsingham, Norfolk. We joined the wider community there for



Jacky was drawn to the Lindisfarne Gospels

worship and meals. This was a unique experience and in particular the healing service was incredibly moving.

Before becoming an ordinand I had not discovered the benefits of spending time on retreat, but now whether the retreat is short or long, the benefits are significant, and help to clear the mind and focus one's attention on what is really important. The daily offices in the form of morning and evening prayer provide another small window of peace in an otherwise busy day.

Of course, as part of the course there is much reading to be undertaken and my book shelves are already filling up rapidly. Essay topics have been as varied as Early Church History, the Psalms of

Lament, and many other titles. With the odd exception, I have enjoyed them all.

Returning to study after many years was initially a challenge. Perhaps the biggest challenge was finding a balance between secular work, training, study and meeting essay deadlines.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

My secular role is as owner and joint manager of the Hampton Hill Nursery School, which is based at the Greenwood Centre. I consider working with children a vocation: it never can be and should not be considered as just a job to be done. Children are precious and working with them and their families is a privilege. I do consider my role at the nursery and my calling to serve others as an ordained minister as complementary.

The course has led me to my first preaching experience at church which I will never forget. Since that first tentative venture I have preached on other occasions at St. James's during the morning service, led a junior school assembly, participated in a senior school assembly, led a school visit to church and a teaching evening as part of the *Exploring Christianity* course that will run again this autumn at St. James's.

What is most important in my journey? People. The people I have met along the way in my faith journey, including my family, remind me what my journey is all about — love. The love of God for his people here on earth and to be able to walk a path which allows me to serve God, his Church and his people is a great privilege and calling; one for which I continue to give thanks to God daily.



Lindisfarne

Around the SPIRE with Susan Homer

A fifth grandchild, Sophie, is born

CONGRATULATIONS to Janet and Rodney Taylor on the birth of their fifth grandchild, Sophie Olivia Grace, on 18 May. Sophie is pictured at two weeks old with parents Beatrice and Nick Jennings.

Janet and Rodney are looking forward to having all the family together later this year when their son Romilly and daughter Alice will be visiting from America and Cheshire respectively with their families.



Sun shines on golden couple

MOYA AND JOHN

Meredith Smith celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 13 June.

They marked this special event with a holiday in Italy.

We send our congratulations to them.



On best behaviour for baptism



NINA VIVIENNE EDWARDS,

daughter of Julia and Simon, was baptised at Parish Communion on 29 June, supported by family and friends. Nina took a dousing with water from the font in her stride.

The family joined St. James's after moving to Hampton Hill at the end of last year, and we have been pleased to welcome them to our congregation. Nina is pictured with her parents.

Cutting cake on 100th birthday

THERE WERE

celebrations on 13 June for Prill Hinckley's mother, Joan Miller, who marked her 100th birthday with family and friends at her care home in Tunbridge Wells.

After opening lots of cards and presents she cut a cake and passed it round for everyone gathered to enjoy.



Harvest goods to be shared

HARVEST FESTIVAL

is on Sunday 6 October. We will be dividing our collection between Food Storehouse in Feltham and The Upper Room in Hammersmith.

Please bring non-perishable food items well within their best by date. A flyer will be available in church from September.





Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

Full steam ahead!



Today we think nothing of taking a train journey into London and beyond. Back in 1864 it was the arrival of the railway that shaped Hampton Hill and led to St James's Church being built.

Hampton Transport Gala, on Sunday 7 September, from 10am-5pm, will be celebrating the opening of the railway between Fulwell Junction and Shepperton in November 1864 and the 150th birthday of Hampton Station. Events take place at and around Hampton Station.

On display will be the 1885 London & South Western Railway steam loco, pictured above, and a coach, both now part of The Bluebell Railway.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of London's buses' major role in World War One, the 75th anniversary of the prototype *RT* bus and the 60th of the first Routemasters.

A collection of vintage London buses will be on display at this unique gathering. There are free bus tours on classic London buses to and from Kingston upon Thames, retracing the old 725 Green Line route, and to Twickenham over the former 667 Trolleybus route.

Hampton Junior School will be home to a Transport Collectors' Fair. Nearby, Linden Hall and the 3rd Hampton Scout Group HQ will be the focus of family events, including pony rides, a bouncy castle and face painting. There will also be a chance to ride a narrow-gauge railway.

Multi-award-winning brewer Twickenham Ales has made an Anniversary Ale for the occasion.

A 48-page souvenir programme costing £5 will raise money for local charities.

There is much more information about the day online at: hamptontransportgala.co.uk



The Stationmaster and his staff on the platform of Hampton Station in 1907 John Sheaf Collection



Clockwise from top left: face painting, books and dvds at the collectors' fair, one of the 17 vintage buses on display, and pony rides



Bible Cake



A Bible Cake, sometimes called Scripture Cake, is a puzzle. It requires that the cook knows the Bible in order to discover what ingredients are needed in the recipe – similar in many ways to a crossword puzzle. This recipe is one of the most traditional. It is taken from a cookbook printed by Lincoln Cathedral in 1980, but it stems from the 1800s.

Bible Cake, (made and eaten at Christmas, Easter and Weddings) was popular in the 19th century, and was often used as a way to teach young girls in Sunday School both baking and Bible verses.

Bible Cake recipes regularly appeared in Victorian publications such as *Household News* (1895), and *Good Housekeeping* (1897).

Ingredients

Serves 12-14

- 1) 200g Judges 5.25, last clause
- 2) 250g Jeremiah 6.20
- 3) 3 tbsps I Samuel 14.25
- 4) 4 of Jeremiah 17.11
- 5) 170g I Samuel 30.12, 2nd food
- 6) 170g Nahum 3.12
- 7) 100g Numbers 17.8
- 8) 500g I Kings 4.22
- 9) 1 tsp II Chronicles 9.9
- 10) 1 tsp Leviticus 2.13
- 11) 2 tsp Amos 4.5
- 12) 5 tbsps Judges 4.19, last clause

Method

- 1) Grease a cake tin with butter and line it with baking parchment.
- 2) Finely chop Nahum 3 (ingredient 6). Blanch and finely chop Numbers 17 (ingredient 7).
- 3) In one large mixing bowl cream together Judges 5, Jeremiah 6, and I Samuel 14 (ingredients 1, 2 & 3) – add Jeremiah 17 (ingredient 4) one at a time, still beating.
- 4) Add into this bowl, I Samuel 30, Nahum 3, and half of Numbers 17 (ingredients 5, 6 & 7) and beat until everything is fully mixed.
- 5) In another, larger mixing bowl, sift together I Kings 4, II Chronicles 9, Leviticus 2, and Amos 4 (ingredients 8, 9, 10 & 11). Make a well in the centre.

6) Add the first mixing bowl ingredients into the well, (wet ingredients into the dry ingredients). Stir until a cake batter starts to form.

7) Lastly add enough of Judges 4 (ingredient 12) in to the cake batter so that it is of a 'dropping' consistency. You might need some extra Judges 4 if a little dry. Pour into the cake tin.

8) Sprinkle over the top the remaining half of Numbers 17 (ingredient 7) and gently press them into the batter.

9) Bake the cake at 160°C for 1½ hours, or until a skewer pushed into the centre comes out clean.

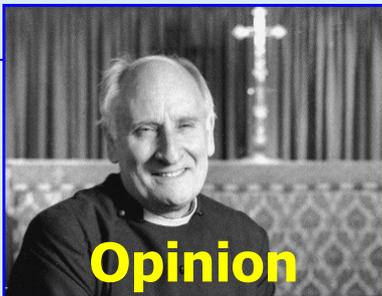
The cake can last for several days in an airtight tin and some people say it improves in flavour if baked on one day and eaten on the next.

Cheat's Guide!

- the cake batter is too dry)
- 1) Butter (softened)
 - 2) Caster sugar
 - 3) Honey
 - 4) Eggs
 - 5) Raisins
 - 6) Dried figs, chopped small
 - 7) Almonds (flaked)
 - 8) Plain flour
 - 9) Spices: cinnamon and nutmeg
 - 10) Sea salt
 - 11) Leavener — Baking Powder
 - 12) Milk (you may need a little extra if



Next Issue:
Harvest Loaf



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

THE POPE AND NAPPIES

Recently, Roman Catholics worldwide have been asked in a questionnaire about their views on family life and sexuality, including divorce, remarriage and receiving Communion (see Opinion, April Spire). In October there will be an international meeting of Bishops in Rome to discuss the results. The former president of Ireland, Dr Mary McAleese, has commented that it is 'completely bonkers' for celibate men to advise the Pope on family life. She goes on, 'There is something profoundly wrong and skewed about asking 150 male celibates to review the Church's pastoral work in this area.' She has asked the Pope, 'How many of the men who will advise you as Pope on the family have ever changed a baby's nappy?'

THE WORLD CUP

Of course many of us were disappointed when England did not qualify for the final 16 in the competition. It is our national game in a country of 70 million. Meanwhile Algeria, Costa Rica, and the USA all qualified for the final stages when none of them expected to do so. All these countries have far fewer people playing football, but the celebrations in the cities of these three countries showed how much sporting success against the odds can cheer a whole nation. We still have vivid memories of the London Olympics in 2012, not just for our sporting success, but the marvellous organisation, perhaps far better than we expected?

CULTURE – ONE OR MANY?

The heads of Barclays Bank, News International and the payday loans company Wonga, when confronted with flagrant wrong-doing, have all said it is the fault of a few individuals. None of them can face the fact that they have allowed a culture to grow up in which huge bonuses, the rigging of the inter-bank lending rate, phone hacking, and, most recently, letters sent out by Wonga pretending to be from solicitors demanding repayments and charging the recipients for the cost of the letter, that these activities have become almost an acceptable part of their working practices. It is the culture they need to change rather than just blaming a few individuals.

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

I suspect we are all alarmed at what is happening in the Middle East, not least the battle between Sunni and Shia Moslems. But I was equally shocked by a Northern Ireland Protestant pastor using his sermon to condemn Islam in all its forms, and to find Northern Ireland First Minister, Peter Robinson, who worships in his church, defending what the pastor said.

Then weekly I am reminded of the Jewish settlers illegally taking over the Palestinian West Bank and using their faith to justify their actions. We, 'the people of the Book' (the Old Testament / Hebrew scriptures), Jews, Christians and Moslems, have a huge task to tackle the extremism within our own communities.

DEVON BEACH

While holidaying in Devon in a familiar place we were amazed to see how much the beach and the seafront had been changed by the storms and the flooding that affected so much of our country.

What's On

with Nick Bagge



NEW

WW1: In Their Footsteps

Saturday 2 August-Sunday 16 November, Orleans House Gallery, Riverside, Twickenham TW1 3DJ

This exhibition marks the launch of Richmond's four-year commemoration of World War One. Ten stories have been selected and interpreted using a variety of media, including sculpture, drawing, writing and photographs. Free entry.

TW12 Jazz Festival

Sunday 3 August, 12.30-10.30pm, Hampton Hill Playhouse, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

The TW12 Jazz Festival features award-winning musicians, joined by local performers, including the Gwilym Simcock Trio with Yuri Goloubev and Asaf Sirkis; Andrew McCormack and Jason Yarde; and guitar virtuoso John Etheridge. Tickets available from £20-£30. To book, go to tw12jazzfestival.co.uk

WW1: Service of Commemoration

Sunday 3 August, 6.30pm, St Mary with St Alban Church, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

The service will involve music, poetry and reflections from World War One. For more information call 020 8977 2767.

WW1: Solemn Commemoration

Monday 4 August, 8pm, Westminster Abbey, London

A candle-lit vigil of prayer to mark the centenary of the start of World War One. During the evening of silence, prayers, readings and music, the congregation will see the light of the candles disappear one by one until the final candle is extinguished at 11pm. The ticket-only event will be attended by the Duchess of Cornwall. Parts will be broadcast on BBC Two.

WW1: Vigil

Monday 4 August, 9am-9pm, War Memorial, Radnor Gardens, Twickenham TW1 4RB

The Twickenham Branch of the Royal British Legion will be marking the day with activities, including a Remembrance Service, poetry reading, songs, and the lighting of candles and lanterns. For timings email: Rbltwickenham@hotmail.com

Prudential RideLondon

Sunday 10 August, 5am-7.15pm, various locations locally

This annual event returns to Surrey when 24,000 amateur cyclists tackle a 100-mile ride on closed roads in London and Surrey. Later, 150 of the world's top professionals will race on an extended 125-mile route. **Road closures, bus diversions and parking restrictions will operate from 5am to 8pm.** The route starts in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, and includes Hammersmith Flyover, Cromwell Road, Chiswick Bridge, Sheen, Richmond Park, Kingston Upon Thames (bridge closed from 5am-7.15pm) and Hampton Court Bridge (closed from 5am-3.30pm northbound and 7pm southbound).

It will then head into Surrey going through Walton-on-Thames, Weybridge and on towards Esher before returning via Kingston to Wimbledon, Putney and on to The Mall. Full details at tfl.gov.uk/prudentialridelondon and gosurrey.info.

Hampton Hill Association

Thursday 21 August, Trip to Highclere Castle,

If you enjoy living in Hampton Hill and care about its future, why not join? It costs just £5. The membership secretary is Linda Brignall, 5 Howard Close, Hampton Hill TW12 1UB. Book for the trip by calling Anne Wood on 020 8979 1431.

Open House London

Saturday 21-Sunday 22 September, locations throughout London

Celebrate London's architectural wonders as Open House London throws open the doors to hundreds of buildings in and around the capital. Open House has long held a tradition of satisfying the appetites of thousands who wish to see beautiful architect designed residences first hand. This year's additions include Nick Baker's eco-home, 25C Montpelier Road, built using timber framing and passive solar design; Ott's Yard, a ramshackle group of sheds given a new life; and the House for a Painter, a conversion of a 20th century workhouse laundry building into a studio and residence for an artist and his family. Open House is a unique opportunity to see, explore and learn about amazing architecture and design in your area and across London. More than 800 buildings open their doors, alongside a programme of neighbourhood walks, engineering and landscape tours, cycle rides and experts' talks – all for free. For details of the buildings go to: openhouselondon.org.uk

Exploring Christianity

Mondays from 22 September-10 November, 7.15pm, Fitz Wygram Church Hall, St James's Church

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

Each week there will be a theme:

- September 22 **God**
- September 29 **Jesus of Nazareth**
- October 6 **Jesus Christ**
- October 13 **The Holy Spirit**
- October 20 **The Bible**
- October 27 **The Sacraments**
- November 3 **Prayer**
- November 10 **Christianity today**

To help us with numbers, please contact the office if you are interested in attending. Pick up a leaflet from church.

Registers for June



Baptisms

- 7 Ralph Joshua Leverett, Hampton Hill
- 8 Matilda Mabel Kay, Teddington
- 8 Oscar Allen, Hampton
- 22 Isabella Alexandra Griffin, Hampton Hill
- 29 Nina Vivienne Edwards, Hampton Hill
- 29 Henry Amadeus Munro Curthoys, Teddington



Weddings

- 1 Richard Johnson Rae Hunter and Patsy John-Baptiste, Hampton
- 28 Edward Holdstock and Lauren Macarty, Bracknell



Funeral

- 26 Karen Staugaard Butler, 93, Twickenham



Vicar's View

'We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again.'



Finding peace in the beauty of the world

When I started to think about the favourite holiday places that I had visited over very many years, I hadn't realised that I naturally sought peace, space, beautiful scenery and wildlife, as well as the occasional sporting challenge — ski-ing! I have always found great peace in the Alps, albeit in winter or summer. I have been so fortunate.

1 VAL D'ISERE French Alps



Driving up the circuitous road to Val d'Isere, the excitement grows. It feels like coming home as I have been lucky enough to visit this wonderful mountain village so many times, both in winter and summer. The ski area is beyond compare, with many miles of incredible pistes and great off-piste opportunities. Lifts whisk you on to glaciers where you feel you are on top of the world, with views of peaks as far as the eye can see. And in summer, too, walking the high mountain paths gives time for reflection.

2 ZERMATT Switzerland



Nestling at the head of a valley, surrounded by several peaks of over 4,000 metres, including the iconic Matterhorn (Mount Toblerone according to my grandson!), Zermatt enjoys a special position near the Italian border. Walking in the summer along unfrequented mountain paths or crossing a glacier, you feel you are alone... and you probably are! The air is fresh, the views spectacular, and I'm at peace with the world.

3 SEA OF CORTES Mexico



As a blue whale breaks the surface, blows a fountain of water into the air, then dives, just metres from you — what a privilege that is.

Sailing in the unique, magical and unspoilt waters of the Sea of Cortes in Mexico, was a dream come true, especially when our catamaran was joined by a pod of about a thousand dolphins - breathtaking.

For most of the time our small yacht was the only vessel for miles around — no mobile phones, no radio, only ourselves, the still water, peace and tranquillity.

4 QUEENSTOWN South Island, New Zealand



Lakes, mountains and fjords feature in this beautiful area of New Zealand. It is as if you are in the middle of a geography lesson with braided rivers, alluvial plains and snow-capped mountains.

Although Queenstown is a busy, touristy place on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, within minutes of leaving the town you are deep in the wild — nature is at your fingertips. Sheep and deer graze the pastures and I feel I am in a picture postcard scene, created by the New Zealand Tourist Board!

5 CAIRNS Great Barrier Reef, Australia



Estuarine crocodiles (known as salties), miles of wild, white, pristine beaches and sailing on an ex-America's Cup yacht made this coastline so special for me. The highlight was snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef. To witness a colourful clown fish emerge from a huge clam, and to swim with a shoal of multi-coloured fish, was an experience to be treasured. I would return for that alone.

6 HORNBY ISLAND British Columbia, Canada



To reach Hornby Island, which is situated on the east side of Vancouver Island, you have to take two car ferries and cross another small island before arriving in a land that time has forgotten. There are so few people that you can have a whole beach to yourself!

Alternatively, walk through the Helliwell National Park of dense pine trees and bare-barked arbutus trees to reach a rocky headland of stunning beauty.

The peace and magnificence of the whole area give you a sense of serenity.

7 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK South Africa



As we rounded the corner on the dirt road, a massive bull elephant emerged from the trees and crossed in front of our car. Our hearts stopped a beat — he was a magnificent beast and one of many amazing animals that we were lucky enough to witness during our stay in the park.

To see elephants, giraffes, zebras, lions, impalas and those funny warthogs roaming in the wild was an incredible experience. The freedom and space, clear skies and staying in a simple rondavel — so amazing.

8 THE NEEDLES Isle of Wight

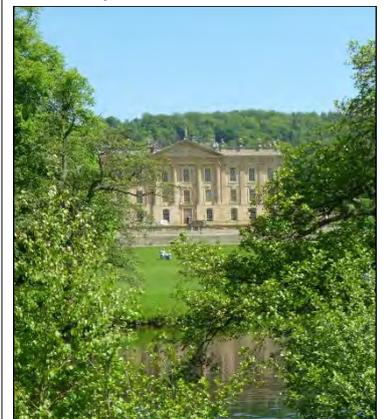
Crossing the Solent by ferry from Lymington to Yarmouth, you could be transported to another country! The lure of walking along coastal paths, particularly to the Needles, with seagulls and petrels swirling above you, and the smell of the sea, draws me to the Isle of Wight.

The fresh air and open spaces allow time



for reflection. On a windy day, I love watching the waves crash on the shore.

9 PEAK DISTRICT Derbyshire



The UK has many beautiful areas, a host of them overlooked by the rush to travel abroad. Derbyshire is one of them. Spring flowers, lambs, stone walls, green fields, hills, babbling streams, craggy rock formations, beautiful scenery and historic houses, such as the magnificent Chatsworth, seem to sum up this glorious part of England. While walking the trails you can be on your own, with your own thoughts, while drinking in the truly English scene.

10 LEIGH-ON-SEA Essex



Although I grew up in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex (with its well known neighbour Southend), I still return frequently to walk on the beach, see the old cockle sheds and spy myriads of sea birds on the marshes. Sailing was another passion of mine and, although I no longer sail, I enjoy watching the racing in the estuary. The ozone from the acres of mud which are exposed when the tide ebbs, is evocative of a stay in Leigh. It's supposed to be very healthy!