

Spire

YOUR **FREE** COPY OF
HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE



Where am I?
Making sense of maps

WHO'S WHO



Vicar Derek Winterburn
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Derek was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He served in several London parishes before arriving here in 2016. He is married to Sandra, a teacher, and has two children and three grandchildren. A keen photographer, he posts a picture daily. He can be contacted at any time other than *Tuesdays*, his day off.



Associate Priest Jacky Cammidge
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Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister, married to Alan, and has three children. During term times, Jacky runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.



Assistant Priest Tim Marwood
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Tim taught in London primary schools for 36 years. He was ordained priest in 1996 and spent 13 years at Petersham, retiring in 2021. He was also a part-time hospital chaplain for many years. Married to Jane, a former headteacher, Tim supports Harlequins RFC and England cricket.

Choir Director and Organist

Thom Stanbury
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Thom has been at St James's since 2019. He started his musical life in the church where he grew up in Staffordshire. He read music at Royal Holloway with organ as principle instrument. During the week he works in theatre production/management.



Church Office Nick Bagge
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Nick deals with general enquiries and church and hall bookings. The office is open 0930-1230 Mon, Wed and Fri, and 1230-1530 Tue and Thu.



Parish Safeguarding Officer

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Annalea is the first person to speak to if you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or adult. During the week she works as a teacher.



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Charity Registration Number 1129286.

From the Editor

It has been a tough year for anyone working on farms, orchards and vineyards, so spare a thought for those involved in the harvest. The very hot summer, lack of rain and numerous fires also means the changing season won't be as spectacular as usual as trees have already shed a lot of leaves. If this is a taste of future summers, we will all have to adjust to a changing world.

This issue also covers Remembrance Sunday and there are several references to it in the magazine.

We are very pleased to welcome Gayle Farrell to St James's. She is training to be a priest and will be with us until May next year. Gayle will be writing for us in the next issue.

In the centre pages Paul Peterken writes about the history of maps, which have a connection to Hampton Hill. Just off the Uxbridge Road in Roy Grove there is a memorial for Major General William Roy, who pioneered the mapping of the country. I grew up using maps for walking and travelling and still today like to know where I am going and take a paper map in my car in case of diversions or faulty sat nav!

The back page marks a first for our church, with an ambitious staging of a musical. It illustrates the usefulness of having movable benches and the show should have broad community appeal.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Maps should mean never being lost - if we know how to use them! ISTOCK

The magazine is published six times a year. We don't charge for it, but if you enjoy reading it we hope you will help towards printing costs. It costs us £12 a year for six copies. If you are able to make a larger donation, we can distribute more copies across the parish. **Bank transfers** can be made to our CAF Bank account: 00032595, 40-52-40, or you can scan the QR code. Please use the reference *Spire* so that it gets to the right place.



Spire

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Design Nick Bagge

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Circulation The magazine is available in church and local shops, and is delivered by volunteers. Email Susan Horner: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

Address St James's Church, St James's Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ

Print Peter James Printing.

Email: PJP123cards@aol.com

Next Issue December/January issue, published on Friday 27 November.

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Charity St James's Church is a registered charity. Charity No 1129286.

Paper Printed on paper sourced from well-managed forests. Recycle after use.

Clerical Capers

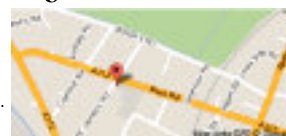


'Do you think the vicar will have a problem with accepting a genetically-modified carrot for Harvest Festival?'

Finding the church

We are on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is

next door. Parking is unrestricted. Buses stopping nearby include R70, R68 and 285.



Church and Hall Hire

The church and hall are available to hire for concerts, public meetings, regular classes, and parties or wakes. The church's AV system includes projector, large screen, a range of microphones, stage lighting and five cameras.

Support Us

The church does not receive grants towards running costs. To donate, go to:

<https://bit.ly/Give2StJas>



DEREK WINTERBURN

It's good to remember, but don't forget to give thanks

A great deal of thought has gone into 'memory'. Children are lauded for easily remembering facts and figures, although all the tests and exams that we put them through suggests that retaining what they are taught is important to track.

Then after our 20s, as we age, physical changes in the brain reduce the speed at which we think and recall information. So, we are encouraged to exercise or stimulate our brain. Then, sadly, some folks are afflicted with the more severe loss of functioning (thinking, remembering, learning and reasoning) that is dementia.

This is to say - remembering well requires attention. It doesn't just happen. Some psychologists say that there are twelve principles of memory; the handy mnemonic is SAVE CRIB FOTO. My point is that there are twelve! (Google the mnemonic to find out what they are).

Rescued from slavery

The Bible repeatedly urges us to remember. In the Book of Exodus the people are often told, 'Remember you were a slave in Egypt'. The events of the past need to be remembered for the continuity of the community. The annual Passover festival was, and is, a re-enactment of the Lord's rescue of the people from slavery.

In the same vein, Christians remember Christ's Last Supper, and his death and his resurrection, in the Eucharist, or Communion, when we follow Jesus's command, 'Do this in remembrance of me.'

Our part in history

Yet we have comparatively short memories and soon put the past behind us. As the Vicar of St James's, I have read a little about the history of the church, but we do not make it a frequent part of our church life to tell the amazing stories of the founding of the church in 1863. (I know there was a big celebration in 2013 - will the next be as far away as 2038?)

Great things were achieved in the late 19th, the 20th and the 21st centuries here that we should remember! (You could start with our website).



Honouring The march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day Crown Copyright 2025

'The events of the past need to be remembered for the continuity of the community.'

Remembrance Sunday

But there are other occasions when we do remember effectively. The pre-eminent of these is, of course, Remembrance Sunday. Although there has been a multiplying of remembrance events, and a resurgence of keeping the Armistice Day itself, the Sunday closest to the 11th is the most observed - 8 November this year.

Some 10,000 people will be



part of the Cenotaph parade in Westminster, and there will be Acts of Remembrance at war memorials in villages, towns and cities throughout the country. As the Royal British Legion says, the observance is 'to remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have

lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism to defend our freedoms and protect our way of life.'

As with the 12 principles of memory - we choose to do this. It is an 'act' of remembrance.

Our service

At St James's, we will do this in the church at 9.30am, and around the War Memorial, amongst the War Graves, at 10.50am. This year, in church we will tell the stories of those who are buried in the churchyard - whose graves we can easily see, but whose stories are not familiar.

Then give thanks

But as well as remembering? Perhaps thanksgiving. 'Harvest Thanksgiving' is another annual celebration.



To give thanks meaningfully we must step back and remember.

We take stock of the great variety of foodstuffs we happily consume. Then we might consider how many people have been involved in the chain of production and preparation to bring 'breakfast, lunch and dinner' to our tables.

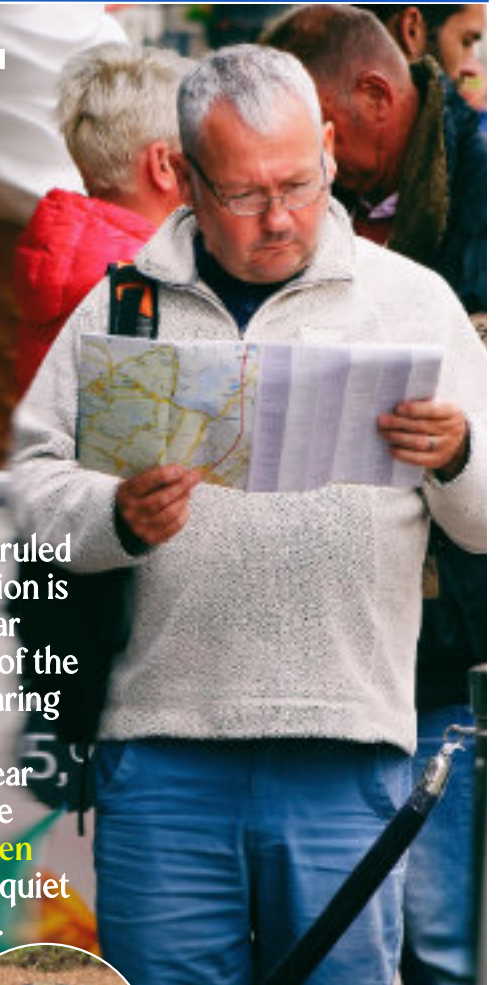
No doubt we could show some appreciation to some of those people. But, of course, in the Christian context we always want to thank God, 'who gives the growth'. That's what we do at the Harvest Thanksgiving at 11am Sunday 4 October. And then we have the opportunity to share a lunch with some of the food that God has provided.

Weekly and annually, at church we deliberately remember. This is a good thing. Memories build a sense of self, and a shared identity. 'Remembrance' and 'Harvest' are two key moments when we remember those who have provided us with freedom and food. Please join us.

The power we hold in our hands



It's easy to take maps for granted in a world ruled by information technology. Satellite navigation is now readily available on mobile phones or car sat-nav devices, but the first accurate maps of the UK were produced for the military when, fearing a French invasion, the government created Ordnance Survey. This year marks 225 years since the first OS map. **Paul Peterken** reveals what links it to a quiet cul-de-sac in Hampton.



Near the western edge of the parish, in a small close, there is a monument commemorating the birth of Major-General William Roy in 1726 – 300 years ago. Who was Roy, why is he remembered in Hampton Hill, and what has this got to do with maps?

The Man and the Map

William Roy was born in Scotland and spent most of his life engaged in surveying Great Britain. Inevitably, this brought him into the orbit of the Army, which he had learnt the benefit of accurate maps when they got lost in Scotland during the Jacobite risings of 1745.

Two years later the Board of Ordnance was charged with mapping the Scottish Highlands in case of a further rebellion by the Scots. Roy, 21, was told to map the whole area. It took him eight years to complete the map, which recorded roads, hills, rivers, types of land, and settlements.

Roy was employed by the army Board of Ordnance and eventually became a Major-General. Ordnance Survey was created in 1791 (the year after Roy's death) and this year

marks the 225th anniversary of its first map of the south coast.

Triangulation

In his surveying, Roy used the technique of triangulation. This enabled the accurate measurement of the distance between landmarks. You work with groups of three landmarks and imagine that they form the corners of a triangle. Then you make accurate measurements

of the angles between the sightlines joining the landmarks, and a little elementary trigonometry gives you the answer. But you need one thing more – an accurate measurement of the distance between two of the landmarks. This is the baseline.

Once you have one set of three landmarks accurately positioned, you add a new landmark and use one of the sides of the first triangle as the baseline of the next. And so on until you have accurately placed all the points you are interested in.

London to Paris

In 1784, Roy was leading a project to determine an accurate distance between London and Paris. He needed a baseline to start off the triangulation, and he chose a

five-mile line across Hounslow Heath, as it was open and nearly flat. He chose as his endpoints King's Arbour near the Bath Road and a point near Hampton Poorhouse. Nowadays, these points are found near the Police Station on the Northern Perimeter Road at Heathrow, and in Roy Grove in Hampton Hill.

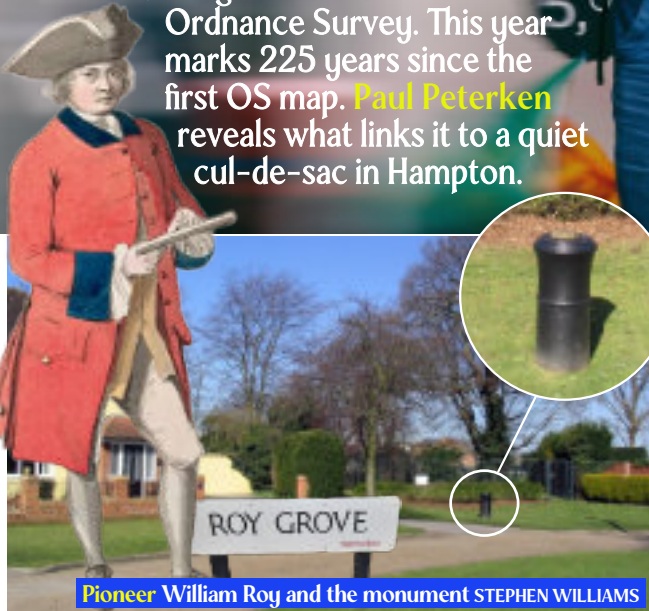
These endpoints are marked today by buried cannons. They are also marked on the latest editions of the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map.

Soldiers measure up

To make the measurement, Roy used a dozen soldiers, who first cleared the line of vegetation to make a path three or four yards wide. The first measurement was made with a steel chain, but this expanded as the temperature changed.

Next, wooden rods were tried which had to be kept dry to avoid swelling.

Finally, some glass tubes were made, and these were placed in wooden cradles. The alignment of the tubes could be checked by looking through the bore. Using the tubes, the baseline was measured as 27494.8 feet – about five-and-a-quarter miles.



Pioneer William Roy and the monument STEPHEN WILLIAMS



First 1801 map of Kent © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2026

Mapping Britain

Roy was very conscious of the need for a proper triangulation of all of Britain, and realised that the Hounslow Heath baseline and the London-Paris survey provided an excellent start.

However, Roy died in 1790, and the British triangulation was completed by others, continuing into the nineteenth century.

The purpose of the surveys was to provide accurate maps for the military. However, it was realised that there was a general demand for accurate maps, and the Ordnance Survey soon began to publish maps at the scale of one inch to the mile (1:63360).

They started in the south of England, and by 1840 most of England and all of Wales were covered.



Hiker A cover from 1932
WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Details, details...

The Ordnance Survey map portfolio developed to have maps of different scales. By the end of the nineteenth century there were detailed maps at scales of 6 inches to the mile and 25 inches to the mile for most of Britain.

And specialist maps were produced, for example to show the geology of Britain.

Of course, there were many other publishers who produced topographical maps of Britain – perhaps the best known was John Bartholomew of Edinburgh. But these were not based on their own surveys, but on the surveys of the Ordnance Survey, which in turn were based on Roy's work and the Hounslow Heath baseline.

The main OS published maps have gone through many developments, notably colour printing and the



Triangulation The UK mapped out
PETER MERCATOR © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2026



Marker The white concrete triangulation pillar on Warren Hill, with Christchurch in the distance. JIM CHAMPION

change to metric scales (1:50000). But while the details are greatly still derived from the same survey.

Old ways, new ways

All maps were based on triangulation surveys until radio-based techniques started to become possible after the Second World War.

The most important of these is satellite-based location finding, which has been introduced since the 1970s. So, at last, Roy's work was superseded.

Modern technology has now replaced paper maps in many contexts. As well as being able to represent the ground like a conventional map, the ability to show where you are, the ability to calculate a route to your destination and the ability to show you pictures of places (*Streetview*) have completely transformed how we use mapping.

Staying local

But it is good to remember that for many years, Hampton Hill was directly involved in the way accurate maps of Britain were made. I remember that as a boy I found the baseline marked on a map. My mother and I came to see if there were any traces to be seen, but we looked in the middle and not at the ends and so found nothing.



This plaque, above, was erected in 1979 by Greater London Council at 10 Argyl Street, Soho, where Roy was living when he began his survey of England in 1783. It took over 50 years to complete (long after his death), but Roy's legacy can be seen in every map we view.



Love endures

Love is like a butterfly is the first line and title of a song by the late Dolly Parton, pictured above. Singer, songwriter, composer and philanthropist were some of her public roles, and there were many more besides, but all were informed by her Christian faith.

Dolly had that rare ability to make clear connections between her beliefs and her actions in ways that were accessible to those who enjoyed her music.

Soon, we will gather at war memorials up and down the land, many of which bear the Bible verse, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15: 13), words spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper in his farewell discourse to his disciples.



Tim Marwood

Love conquers all

It is interesting that the word 'love' appears in so many hymns. *Love divine, all loves excelling* was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and remains one of the most popular, especially at weddings. John Betjeman in his talk *The Wesleys*, broadcast in 1975 on BBC Radio 4, said that 'Charles Wesley was probably at his best when putting theology to music.

No one has surpassed him as populariser of Christian doctrine.' Fifty years on, I have to agree that Betjeman's comment remains a true assessment.

Although the language is from another age, this hymn is often chosen for weddings by couples who see their marriage as part of a life's journey in which they grow in faith together.

The version below is in three verses, its most popular form today, in which it is sung to the Welsh tune *Blaenwern* by William Penfro Williams (1860-1937). There have been several amendments to the hymn (some by his brother John) since it was written in 1747.

My advice to couples when choosing hymns for weddings is 'choose the version that you know best'. In these days when hymns are not often sung in

schools, we can always have a short rehearsal beforehand.

Love divine, all loves excelling

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.*

*Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy host above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

A prayer for those who have died

*Almighty and eternal God, from whose
love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings for
all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your
eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

From Church of England website



Yeomanry play at Menin Gate

THE Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band, who regularly perform at St James's Church, are pictured, left, playing at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, earlier this year.

It was from there that Allied soldiers went to the battle of Passchendaele in 1917, and it bears the names of British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient and whose graves are unknown.

The ceremony, which happens nightly, included the idyll *Banks of Green Willow* by George Butterworth, who was killed in the battle of the Somme in 1916.

REGISTERS

JULY

Interments of Ashes

- 7 David Sorby Straw, 90, Hampton Hill
- 7 Roger Phillip Bates, 86, Christchurch

AUGUST

Wedding

- 28 Michael John Inman and Vienna Nichola Langdon, Surbiton

Interment of Ashes

- 3 William St Lawrence Quiller (Pip) Rowett, 87, Twickenham



Good news Adrian and Hilary Murray at St James's in June this year

Milo's hospital looks to future

It is always a great pleasure to welcome Drs Adrian and Hilary Murray to St James's to hear about their most recent visit to St Luke's Hospital, Milo, Tanzania.

Our parish has supported this historic mission hospital and its surrounding community for almost 50 years. Our 2026 Lent Appeal raised £3,500 to buy two patient monitors for use during and after surgery.

Adrian reported that the hospital has been decorated, inside and out, and is in the hands of competent and versatile staff. It was good to see photos of Patricia, the matron, who turns her hand to whatever is required, and Naima,



Lesley Mortimer

the dental practitioner, who now runs her own clinic with equipment and supplies provided with the help of St James's. A new ambulance, donated by the Government, is used for outreach and ultrasound clinics.

Hilary brought us up-to-date with the academic progress and career plans of the students sponsored by parishioners. Most are hoping to move to high school to complete

A Levels, or to go to college to pursue technical training, such as radiography. Hilary said that the students will need support to pay for food and lodging.

Meanwhile, Adrian is still aiming to raise funds for a much-needed X-ray machine. He was chosen to receive Maundy money from King Charles in St Asaph's Cathedral in recognition of his longstanding work in Tanzania.

He asked that we pray for a worthy successor to Bishop Matthew to lead the diocese of South West Tanganyika.

To everyone's delight, the Rt Rev Essau Kahwili, who was installed in August, once served as a priest in Milo.

NEWS

Rededicating Garden of Rest

ST JAMES'S Garden of Rest has been rededicated and a new memorial stone unveiled.

The churchyard was closed to new burials in 1991, but ashes may be interred in the Garden of Rest. The Garden was created during the incumbency of Rev Rupert Brunt, vicar from 1951-1980, and has been beautifully restored by the Gardening Team.

The memorial, made of Welsh Pennant stone, retains the original wording, and alongside it is a bench commemorating Rupert's wife Connie, both paid for by the Brunts' children.

The enlarged Garden is maintained by volunteers.



A new face joins the St James's team



GAYLE Farrell, left, is spending the next year with us as part of her ministerial training at St Mellitus College, London.

She used to be an English teacher in Trinidad before

becoming a criminal defence solicitor in the UK.

Until this year, Gayle was a churchwarden at a church in Isleworth. Now as an ordinand, she is learning about ministry in a different church, St James's. It is lovely to welcome her, to receive from her and help her preparation for ordination.

WHAT'S ON

Services Sundays

Holy Communion (Said) 8am

Parish Communion 9.30am

11, 18, 25 Oct; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Nov

Streamed on our Facebook page

Together 3.30pm

18 Oct; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Nov

Our shorter, all age service, particularly for young families

Messy Church 3.30pm

11 Oct; 15 Nov

Songs, stories, crafts and food!

Mon, Thu, Fri

Morning Prayer 9am

Wednesdays

Midweek Communion 9.30am

Harvest Festival

All Age Service 11am

Sunday 4 Oct

Our shorter, all age service, will be collecting food, clothes and cash for The Upper Room

In Loving Memory 3pm

Saturday 31 Oct

Annual service to remember friends and family who have died.

Remembrance Sunday

Services at 9.30 & 10.55am

Sunday 8 Nov

Our service starts in church before we make our way to the War Memorial, where we observe two minutes' silence at 11am.



Groups

Mondays

Ark Playgroup 10am-12noon

5, 12, 19 Oct; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Nov

Fridays

Connections Café 10.30am-12.30pm

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct; 13, 20, 27 Nov

Events

People's Emergency Briefing

Wednesday 14 October 7.30pm

A film to raise public awareness of the climate crisis. Book at:

<https://tinyurl.com/StJEmergency>

St James Entertains presents

Fidelio Hot Club Jazz

Friday 30 October 7.30pm

Following a sell-out show in 2025, the boys are back in town!

Their gypsy jazz is inspired by Stéphane Grappelli.

Tickets: £25

<https://tinyurl.com/StJHot>



Luck Penny Theatre presents

The Hired Man

Wed-Sat 4-7 November

Musical, based on a novel by Mervyn Bragg, with a score and lyrics by Howard Goodall, is a multi award-winning show with a 19-strong cast, a band and choir. Tickets £23: luckpennytheatre.org

Why staging this play in a church is the perfect setting



Workshop Goodall and Cole with cast and choir

The *Hired Man*, described as one of the finest British musicals of the last 50 years, is coming to St James's Church, Hampton Hill, in November. A love story set in Cumbria, it follows a young couple who want to make their own way in life. It begins in the rural fells, then moves on to the coastal coal mines and, lastly, to the aftermath of the First World War.

First find your cast

During the early rehearsals I spoke to two members of the chorus, Kevin and Paul. After seeing different productions of the show over 20 times, they decided to be part of it. Another member, Anne, auditioned for the ensemble, but her voice was low compared to the other females, so she offered to play a male.

Many of the cast are from Teddington Theatre Club or the Barnes and Richmond Operatic Society and have previously worked together.

So what is so special about *The Hired Man*? I asked director Nigel Cole, who set up the Luck Penny Theatre just for this production. 'I fell in love with *The Hired Man* on its first and only West End run in 1984. The rich choral/folk tones of Howard Goodall's score and the epic range of its storyline made a huge impression.

'While many British musicals draw inspiration from Broadway, *The Hired Man* is authentically rooted within these shores. Its characters are genuinely working-class British, embedded in a rural Cumbrian community, with its own proud heritage and culture.'

The Challenges

Goodall's score tests the mettle of singers and musicians, and the Cumbrian dialect has to be specially tutored. And staging it in a Victorian church makes extra demands, Nigel explained.

'By rearranging the traditional church layout of pews to create a "thrust" stage, with the audience



Cathy Cooper

Local journalist/photographer

on three sides, they are brought right into the heart of the action. This allows us to introduce an off-stage choir – adding the collective vocal power that Goodall originally intended.'

Choice of a church

I asked Nigel why he chose to stage it in a church? 'Community is at the heart of this show,' he said. 'It's a place where people find encouragement and comfort in shared passions and pain – where they come together to tell stories and find meaning. And I can think of no better stage for it than a beautiful English church, at the heart of its own community, with deep roots in our shared history.'

'One of my favourite songs in the show is *Day Follows Day*. Here, womenfolk, despite mourning the loss of so many husbands and sons in the Great War, vow to carry on living their lives as best they can. With our final performance on Saturday 7 November being the night before Remembrance Sunday, this should be an incredibly powerful moment.'

Composer's masterclass

In September, a workshop was held in the church, hosted by the award-winning composer Howard Goodall, who wrote the score, adapted from the original novel by Melvyn Bragg.

An audience listened to the cast perform while Goodall played piano and gave a critique for each song. He also revealed that he once filled in for the organist at St James's, who was ill, and played carols at a Christmas concert.

Moved us to tears

Clair and Jacob, the leads in *The Hired Man*, performed a very moving duet which had most of us in tears. Goodall told the cast that they are not just singing songs, but singing people's lives.

A moment that will stay with me is when the whole cast plus audience sang the stirring title. The nave was filled with music right up to the oak-beamed ceiling, while Angels of the Harvest looked on from the richly-coloured stained glass windows to the sides. It seemed such an appropriate location for the play. *Oh to be a hired man*, makes you instantly want to sing and dance. A tune that will stay in your head for a long time. I can't wait to see the show.

■ *The Hired Man*, 4-6 November, 7.30pm, and 12noon and 4pm on Saturday 7 November. Tickets are selling fast! luckpennytheatre.org



Creators Composer Howard Goodall, left, and Director Nigel Cole