

JULY 2010

The Spire

St James's Day

Meet Bishop Paul on Sunday 11 July—11am Service followed by shared lunch

◆ Ten years online
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The Spire

St James's Church
Registered Charity No 1129286

This Spire is produced nine times a year on behalf of the PCC of St James's Church.

We make no charge for this magazine but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs, enabling 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.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

STORIES, FEATURES

Janet Nunn is our editor. If you have any ideas or news, or would like to write an article for the magazine, please contact her:

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AROUND THE SPIRE

Susan Horner writes Around the Spire. If you have any news to be considered, please email: ✉ smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

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WEBSITE/YOUNG SPIRE

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CIRCULATION

The Spire is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish or posted further afield. To find out about receiving a regular copy this way contact Susan Horner:

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

WELCOME

July 2010



It doesn't seem possible that it is ten years since our website was first launched by Bishop Michael. We are very proud of it and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Prill Hinckley, who works tirelessly to make sure it is kept up-to-date, and has a real flair for this work. With the calendar of Church Hall events also available online, it is proving an extra contact for hiring.

Also, thanks to Prill, we now have every issue of *The Spire* on the website at the press of a button. We have been looking back and find we had the same problems with our church building 50 years ago as we have now!

Another instance of the usefulness of websites is the collection of 30 sewing machines that were donated to my charity, TWAM (see News Bulletin). The lady typed 'recycling sewing machines' into Google and eventually got my phone number.

I am by no means expert at looking on the web, but do look at the church website and see how useful it can be.

Best wishes

Janet

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Theatre Club Maria Beaumont 020 8943 4336

Weekly Notices/Pew Sheet

Kirstie Hird 020 8941 6003

UPDATES

Please tell us about any changes

OUR CLERGY



VICAR

Revd Peter Vannoizzi

Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather who came from Florence to the UK in the late 19th century.

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Debbie was born in Hull in 1963, ordained in 2006 and is a self-supporting minister.

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BAPTISM AND WEDDING ENQUIRIES

These should be made in person in church on a Saturday morning from 10-10.30am.

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PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Kirstie Hird

For all enquiries and hall bookings.

The office is open on Monday,

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SERVICES FOR JULY

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

4 July - 5th Sunday after Trinity

(9.30am is an ordinary Parish Communion)
Isaiah 66.10-14; Galatians 6.7-16
Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

11 July - 6th Sunday after Trinity

St James's Day

All-age Communion will be at 11am

1 Corinthians 12.4-14
Matthew 5.1-12

18 July - 7th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 18.1-10a
Colossians 1.15-28
Luke 10.38-end

25 July - 8th Sunday after Trinity

St James the Apostle

Jeremiah 45.1-5
Acts 11.27-12.2
Matthew 20.20-28

2nd Sunday in month

11 July
9.30am All-age Communion

Mondays-Fridays (but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in month

(but not in July)
7am Commuter Communion

1st Thursday in month

1 July
2pm Holy Communion

THE LEADER COLUMN

SOCIETY OFTEN IGNORES THOSE MOST IN NEED, BUT CAN WE TURN OUR BACKS?

Own goal or fouled? Why it's okay for our Church to have imperfections



If there is one thing I know, it is that the World Cup Final will be played on 11 July, at 8.30pm. I am actually a little relieved at the time as that means no clash at St. James's with our St. James's Day celebrations also happening on 11 July. The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt. Revd. Paul Williams, will be joining us at 11am that day. (He has contributed this edition's *Your Voice*.)

When the bishop comes to a church, it always feels to me that somehow the community of the church is complete. The bishop's multi-faceted role includes being a representative of the wider Church – not just now, but the Church through all time. The bishop is, in some sense, a guardian of what has been received along with being an interpreter of the Christian faith for today.

Bishops cannot win. If they are too definite, then they are being narrow-minded. If they are too flexible, then they are unprincipled liberals. The Church itself often cannot win.

Some of the time the Church models the art of the 'own goal', but other times it can seem like it's been 'fouled'. (I apologise for football images!) My own particular part of the Church, the Anglican Communion, and more specifically, the Church of England, is a very easy target for mockery.

I cannot but think about the Church when, in July, St. James's will be celebrating itself! On 11 July, *St. James's Day* will be a celebration of the church of St. James and the wider Church of which it is a part. On 25 July, we will commemorate St. James the Apostle, our patron saint. In the Church calendar 25 July is his day, and it happens, this year, to fall on a Sunday. Church and saint. Institution and people.

During this celebratory month, I want to put my thoughts about the Church into some order; specifically, the Anglican part of it, which I see as my natural home. So what follows is a letter to my beloved, but infuriating, Anglican Communion.

Dear Anglican Communion,

You drive me to distraction! You squabble. You bicker. You moan. You're at it again - sexuality is to the fore as in America a woman, who happens to be a lesbian, has been consecrated as a bishop. In England, you are arguing about whether or not women should be bishops - a few years later than in some countries.

Yet in other places you bear what seems to me to be a heroic witness to Christ against the odds - Pakistan and the Sudan come to mind.

You seem both too laid back, and yet also too highly strung. You seem willing to split over what I see as secondary matters, but I also want you to be firm about things which I believe are primary matters. I guess I want what matters to me to be what matters to you. Yet that is just plain selfish.

I want tradition from you, but I don't want you to be a museum. I want you to innovate, but not too much. I want you to be all things to me - and to everyone else! I project my wishes on to you along with my prejudices and visions, dreams and nightmares. Somehow you are 'home' - somewhere I can be a Christian.

Through your life, I can glimpse God. I think! I want to walk with people who will have all sorts of opinions and attitudes - even when I don't share their views, and perhaps even don't always like them very much.

St. James inspires me as he was part of the band of first disciples who were uncertain at time, but he held on until the end. He died as a martyr. If he could be what he was for Christ, then so can I. For me, that means being with you not just despite all the muddle that seems to be your very nature, but because of it. You are real to me - you are fragile, imperfect, not ideal. Good. So am I.

Your loving, yet critical member,
Peter



IN THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Both the *Leader* and *Your Voice* reflect this month on the Church. Here are some thoughts and prayers about the Church from the Bible, and from different parts of the Church.

First Letter of Peter

chapter two
verses nine and ten

...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

chapter twelve
verses fourteen to nineteen

...the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

A prayer for the Church's mission from the Diocese of Zululand, South Africa

*Pour your light,
Holy Spirit of God,
into our hearts and minds.
Help us to know more clearly
and grasp more fully
the 'Good News' of Jesus.
And help us then
to know how to share it.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
who with you and the Father
are one God.*

A prayer for love in action from the late Brother Roger of Taizé

Christ Jesus, when multitudes of children and young people, marked for life by being abandoned, are like strangers on this earth, some people ask: 'Does my life still have meaning?' And you assure us of this: 'Each time you alleviate the suffering of an innocent person, you do it for me, Christ.'

What would your letter be like? Perhaps this month you might like to compose one yourself to capture a sense of what you would like the Church to be. Happy St. James's celebrations.

WAYS TO SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES THIS SUMMER

Hampton Hill's Summer Festival 17 July

FESTIVAL Hampton Hill is holding its first Summer Festival on 17 July from 12-7pm. There will be something for all the family: live music, street theatre, a *Hounds on the Hill* dog show, belly dancing, pavement art, wine and beer tasting, a five-a-side football competition for youngsters, nine children's entertainers and competitions and activities for children. Most of the High Street shops will be taking part and offering Festival Special promotions and menus.

The event, organised by the Hampton Hill Traders' Association and the Hampton Hill Association, will raise money for three local charities: the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group (the Greenwood Centre), the Shooting Star Children's Hospice and African Revival.

There will be live music, street theatre, jazz and buskers and impromptu events throughout the day along the High Street. The dog and pet show will take place on Holly Road Recreation Ground and football in Bushy Park (Hampton Hill Gate), followed by a tug-of-war.

The United Reformed Church will have a mini-market with arts and crafts stalls and there will be stalls on the Pantile Bridge Green and a charity car-wash in the car park beside Thames House.

This Festival is in response to many requests for a community summer event following the huge success of the annual Christmas parade. For the very latest news go to www.hhfestival.org.uk

PRINTERS Printers connected to computers use electricity even when not printing so it is

ECO TIP

wise to keep them turned off until you are ready to print a document. You can also use scrap paper in a printer for drafting or for file copies as long as it is flat and has no staples.



TWAM delivery is transforming people's lives

TWAM Since Janet Nunn took over last October as the local representative for the charity Tools With A Mission (TWAM), she has filled a garage with bicycles, wheelchairs, numerous DIY or gardening tools, typewriters and 12 sewing machines!



They were taken by van to the charity's warehouse in Ipswich where they were sorted, repaired and made ready to go to developing countries. The tools are divided into kits and used to teach people, enabling them to earn a living while passing on their skills to others.

Janet has since had two significant deliveries – one was a garden shed full of tools from a DIY enthusiast in Hampton who had died. It took six carloads to take them to the garage! The other was 30 sewing machines collected from car boot sales.

There are many ways you can help TWAM:

- Donate tools, including sewing machines and bicycles.
- Tell your friends about TWAM, especially those having a clearout
- Donate knitting wool, buttons, material, zips. If you are interested in knitting or sewing there are also patterns to make things.

Janet hopes to continue collecting through various churches and organisations. If you can help telephone Janet on 020 8979 6325.

REGISTERS FOR MAY

Baptisms

9 Edward Vernon Mills, Kingston upon Thames

16 Oliver William Shilson, Hampton

Weddings

8 Rachel Mary Reeves and Peter George Griffiths

15 Lisa Kerry Barton and Michael Keith Day

22 (Renewal of Vows) Claire and Philip Reed, Feltham

Funerals

6 Lillian Cecilia Gray, 86, Hampton Hill

19 Richard Gerald Hughes, 62, Hampton Hill

27 John Frederick William Nappin, 89, Hampton Hill

At the touch of a button

Prill Hinckley looks back on ten years of our website



It was shortly after Parish Communion on 25 July, 2000, that Bishop Michael of Kensington officially

launched our website. Before he pressed the button, he and members of the congregation were given a big screen tour of the website. The site was designed by a member of the congregation with help from hampton-online.co.uk. Later the website was given its own domain and has gradually evolved into what you see today.

I suppose the obvious question to ask was why have a website at all? It exists to further our mission to 'Build the kingdom of God on earth, and particularly here in Hampton Hill' by providing information about our church and its activities and by stimulating reflection on our Christian values.

The website is a most effective way of promoting or 'advertising' ourselves; to let people know St. James's exists, offering an insight into the life and work of the church, its location, activities, special events and regular services. Increasingly, people are finding our website using a

search engine and so in this way the website has become an integral part of our church's outreach to the local community and beyond by being informative, instructive and educational, now averaging over 10,000 visits a month. We welcomed

visitors from over 25 countries in March 2010 with 11,167 visits to the website.

Who the website is for

Our website tries to cater for many groups of people:

- The website aims to serve the needs of our congregation by providing up-to-date details of

services and other events. They can find information at any time of the day or night from any computer, enabling them to keep in touch throughout the week, wherever they are.

- The website might be the first point of contact for people in the local community who do not yet go to church. It provides an ideal way to find out about the church and the Christian faith, anonymously. The visitors' page describes what goes on in our church, what to expect when visiting, and encourages people to feel secure enough to take the next step.

- People new to the area can use the website to find out all about the church before setting foot in it.
- Many people are viewing the website to find out about using St James's for baptism, confirmation, marriage and funerals / interment of ashes.

- Increasingly people are using the website's online form for booking the church and hall for private functions and concerts. The calendar / diary records dates and times of services and other events so people can check availability.

- The online searchable database of the churchyard records is used by relatives and friends of those buried in the churchyard who wish to find details of a burial. They are also for those interested in the history of the churchyard and the Hampton Hill area, and possibly for other research.





● Many different people look through the website searching for information about a particular aspect of Christianity or the Church. Sunday school teachers, school teachers, etc. use the site to help with their lessons. There have been new churchwardens or PCC members from different churches using it to find out about their new roles.



each particular section's home page doubles as a section index. Within most sections, there is also a navigation bar along the top of the page containing the main pages in that section. This will enable you to go from page to page within that section without having to return to the section's home page.

A section for young people

There is a complete section called *Young St. James's* which almost mirrors the main site, but is designed for youngsters — an important part of our mission. There are also pages explaining the different parts of the Christian Year, things about our church and an increasing number of quizzes and other things to do. Information sheets and quiz sheets can be printed off and used by parents or teachers. Our Jays Sunday School has several pages and our St. James's Ark for carers and toddlers also has a presence.

The latest developments

The many developments include:

- A page for visitors to help them know what to expect when they come to the church and to show them that they will have a warm welcome.
- All the church magazines dating back to the first issue in 1884 have now been scanned and uploaded on to the website for anybody to read at any time.



Future developments

Some of the many planned developments include:

- The History of St. James's Church — a complete history from 1863 till the present day.
- A page with photographs to identify some church members with specific roles.
- A page to give the church a sense of identification with the local community, in terms of secular news, notices, photos and links.
- Social networking will be investigated.
- A page to support recovery from life problems.

We would value your support for the website and please pray for its effective outreach. Do tell people about it and encourage them to use it too.

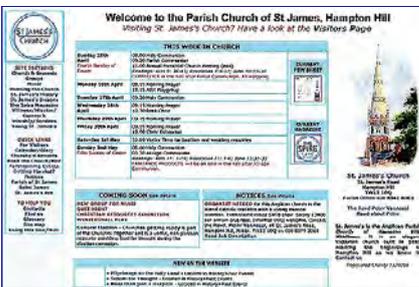
Updated daily, our website is the first place to look for information. Add it to your favourites and visit us daily



www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

What is in the website

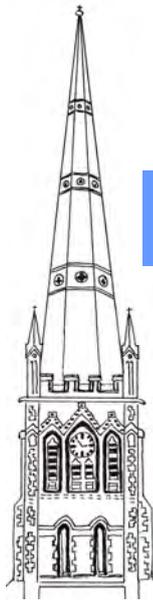
- The home page is kept up-to-date with what is happening in and around the church. There is access to the current *Spire* magazine and pew sheet, the on-line calendar/diary, a form for booking the church and hall, forthcoming events, notices, churchyard records, and information about getting married, the St. James's Ark group for carers and toddlers, the parish of St James and our patron saint, Saint James.
- There are ten illustrated sections in the website — Church & Grounds, Groups, Music, Running the Church, History, St James's Images, Spire Magazine, Witness/Mission/Outreach, Worship and Services and Young St James's.
- There is a section containing helpful information — for those new to the site; where we are and directions; contacts, a glossary; and site map (where you can see the whole of the site broken down into sections) and how to use this site and the web generally.



The page logos, identifying individual pages, are based on St. James's double stained glass window frames with the image inside the frame representing the focus of that particular page. The windows are symbolic of people looking in to see what is going on in St. James's and also St. James's going out to spread the word of God further afield. The example shown (above) is for the website page.

How to get around the site

On every page in the website, including the home page, there is a navigation bar down the left-hand side to take you to every section in the website and



AROUND THE SPIRE

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND

Our heartfelt thanks for 120 years of invaluable service to our church



Three long-standing members of our congregation, who between them have served St James's for an astonishing 120 years, have announced their retirement from important roles.

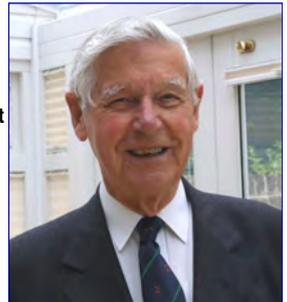
Margaret Taylor, above, has been organising the annual Christian Aid collection at St. James's for 22 years. This involves many hours of work every year recruiting collectors, distributing envelopes and materials, and counting the takings. In addition, Margaret was the overall organiser for Churches Together Around Hampton for much of this time. A total of £3278 (including Gift Aid) was collected this year. Imagine the total over 22 years!

Jack Gostling, above, has formally resigned from the Properties Committee, saying that in his mid-eighties he no longer felt able to continue as a fully active member.

It is not possible to do justice to the practical projects Jack has led, guided, or implemented himself for our church. This work began with his active support of the launch of St James's first stewardship scheme about 50 years ago. Under the Revd Rupert Brunt's guidance, a dedicated team of visitors, including Jack, began a scheme which put our church finances on a firm footing.

Jack's subsequent leadership of the Properties Committee, his professional knowledge of building and joinery, his personal skill and unstinting hard work has been a mainstay of the maintenance and enhancement of the church building. Both the hall and the west porch extension owe much to Jack's guidance. We are very grateful for his undertaking to continue as an adviser.

Hal Severn, right, started doing all the accounts for the church in 1966. He handed over much of this to others in the 1980s, but continued to manage the account for *The Spire* magazine until February, when it was merged into the general church accounts.



We are extremely grateful to Margaret, Jack and Hal for their dedicated service over the years, often unseen and unknown by many of us. They have made an invaluable contribution to our church and the wider community.



All-age Communion

There are four parts to the All-age Communion:

We gather, We listen to God's Word, We share in Holy Communion, We go out to serve God.

2. We listen to God's Word

- Draw lines from each picture to the correct title and explanation.
- Can you now put the numbers 1 to 5 against them to show the order in which they come in the service?



The Reading

We stand to say the important things we believe in. The first part acknowledges God as our Father and creator, the second part stresses that the Jesus whom we worship became human, was crucified, rose again and ascended into heaven. We believe he is the Son of God. Finally, in the third part we speak of God the Holy Spirit.



Gospel Reading

The reading is an important part of our worship. At the end of the reading, the reader says *This is the word of the Lord* because God has been speaking to us through this reading.



Talk or Activity

This is the time when we pray for others. We pray for the Church all over the world, the Queen, people in authority and our community. We pray for peace among nations. We pray for our family, friends and neighbours, people who are ill, in pain, sad, lonely or in need. We also remember those who have died. Prayer is when we talk to God. We don't even have to talk, we can just think or feel a connection with him. We can pray for other people or for ourselves, we can say sorry for what we have done wrong and we can thank God for all he has given us.



Affirmation of Faith

The preacher talks to us. This talk is usually about what is happening at this particular time in the Christian Year.



We pray

A hymn or song is sung to greet the Gospel, which is a story about Jesus, or a story Jesus told. The Gospel Book is carried down the Nave and we turn to face the place from where the Gospel is read, if we can, and stand while it is being read. We do this because these are the words of Christ and so are treated with the importance they deserve.





Revelations

A view of the wider world

Dead Ends

Karl von Clausewitz, nineteenth century Prussian general, was a very successful soldier who fought at Waterloo. He wrote a book on the theory of war, still studied seriously by modern tacticians. The most famous translated quotation from his book is the rather sinister and cynical: 'war is the continuation of politics by other means'. Less well known is his first principle of war: 'selection and maintenance of the aim'. A further, rather surprising principle, is the object of defence: 'destruction of the enemy'. Possibly Clausewitz is considered outdated by politicians directing the NATO forces in Afghanistan. The aims, which seven years ago were unambiguously the uprooting of Al-Qaida and the capture of Osama Bin Laden, seem to be forgotten. New aims seem to be to bring democracy to Afghanistan and to defeat the Taliban, who were once our allies against the Russian invasion of that country. Meanwhile the Taliban seem to be horribly successful by following Clausewitz in their defence tactics.

David Laws

The resignation of David Laws was a personal tragedy. Even more it is a very great loss to the government and to the country as a whole. His single performance at the dispatch box was a personal triumph, and it was acknowledged by most people, including political opponents, demonstrating his outstanding ability and potential as Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The sadness of the loss is made more poignant by its cause: ostensibly a possibly dubious expenses claim. However, it really seems to have been due to his discomfort in acknowledging his same-sex partnership. We have come a long way in the past few years in our respect for such partnerships, but apparently still not far enough.

Even Newer Lights

Many people are still unenthusiastic about the compact fluorescent lamps, CFLs, which we are urged to use in place of filament bulbs. The CFLs give about four times the light output for a given electricity input, and last perhaps five times as long. However, they are much more complicated and expensive than a simple hot filament, take a rather tiresome few seconds to warm up, and contain chemicals which in principle may make their disposal hazardous. Switching on a filament bulb one has an immediate cheery welcome, but a CFL often gives an impression of initial sulky reluctance, and a dubious colour during its warm-up. Their performance is getting much better, but their complexity and use of mercury will not lessen. However, relief may be at hand fairly soon. The use of semi-conductor solar cells to change sunlight into electricity is a well-known and well-used technology. The reverse process, using semi-conductors to turn electricity into light, is used extensively in low-power electrical and electronic devices. These semi-conductors are light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. They are even more efficient than CFLs, and much simpler, but at present have some limitations which make them unsuitable as direct replacements for wide-area space illumination. Manufacturers are working hard to overcome the limitations; battery-powered hand torches using LEDs are already in popular use, and perhaps within a year or two we will be able to replace our house lights with cheerfully welcoming LEDs. No warm-up time, no mercury, no fuss.

Dick Wilde



St James's Theatre Club

- Tuesday 27 July, 7.45pm, *The Man From Stratford* Richmond Theatre, The Green TW9 1QJ
- Starring Simon Callow. Our tickets £15 (saving £10)
- There are also discounted tickets available for:
 - Tuesday 10 August — *The Country Girl* starring Martin Shaw and Jenny Seagrove, £18 (saving £10)
 - Tuesday 14 September — *Morecambe*, a must for all fans of British comedy, £14 (saving £10)
 - Tuesday 12 October — *Crazy For You* the Gershwin musical comedy, £16.50 (saving £2.50)
 - Tuesday 2 November — *Spend Spend Spend!* Winner of 2009 TMA Awards for Best Musical, £16 (saving £10)
- To join us, please add your name to the lists on the church notice board or telephone Ria Beaumont **020 8943 4336**.
- Transport can be arranged.

Concordia Voices

- It was a Lover and his Lass*, Saturday 3 July, 7.30pm,
- St Boniface Church, Hirsley Road, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire SO53 2FT.
- Musical Director Neil Ferris leads a concert including works by Elgar, Rutter and Mendelssohn. Tickets £10.
- Wednesday 7 July, 7pm, St Mary's Church, Hampton.
- Another chance to catch concert. Tickets £15 inc supper.

Transforming Trade,

Transforming Lives

- Saturday 3– Sunday 11 July, *Traidcraft photographic display, St James's Church*
- Come and see the display at the following times:
 - Saturday 3 and 10 July: 10am to 4pm
 - Sunday 4 and 11 July: 2pm to 4pm
 - Thursday 8 July: 6.30pm to 8.30pm



Churches Together Around

Hampton Social Evening

- Friday 9 July, 6pm, Hampton Methodist Church, Percy Road TW12 2JT.
- First enjoy a bring and share supper (please take a sweet or savoury dish) and then at 8pm a performance of
- In the Beginning* by the Saltmine Theatre Company. It's a hilarious and fast-paced journey through the story of the start of all things - it's an emotional roller coaster - with one part guaranteed to have you in floods! You've never seen the book of Genesis like this - with a host of unlikely characters all finding themselves caught up in one of the greatest tales ever told. Tickets £7, on the door.



Cantanti Camerati Summer Concert

Saturday 10 July, 7.30pm, St George's Suite, RFU Stadium, Twickenham.
Musical Director Geoffrey Bowyer presents a concert of American music, including A Child of Our Time by Tippett and songs by Gershwin, Kern and Berlin, and from American shows. Tickets from Albert's Music Shop, Twickenham, or on the door.

St James's Day Celebrations

Sunday 11 July, St James's Church from 11am.
Do join us as we celebrate our saint's day. **Please note that Parish Communion is at 11am.**

The preacher at this service is the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Paul Williams.

The service will be followed by a **bring and share lunch** in the Vicarage garden.

There is no charge for lunch, but we are asking people to bring their favourite dish to share (main or pudding) along with the clearly written recipe. We plan to include as many of them as we can in a St James's Recipe Book to go on sale before Christmas. If there is a story to tell about the recipe please include that too.

Entry will be by **ticket only**, available from the Parish Office or from the back of the church after Parish Communion on Sundays. If you are able to help on the day telephone Liz Wilmot on 020 8977 9434 or email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net or see her after church.

There will be tours of the tower from 1-3pm and the chance to ring the bells.



Hampton Hill Summer Festival

Saturday 17 July, 12noon-7pm, various locations
Some of the events include a charity car wash outside 116 High Street, by Twickenham's White Watch fire crew; open house at The Little Gym from 4.30-6pm; live jazz outside Barclays Bank; street theatre outside the playhouse; storytelling at the library; cricket — Hampton Hill v. Westfield Saints (1.30pm Hampton Hill New Gate, Bushey Park); flamenco dancing at La Familia; obstacle course and bouncy castle at Greenacres Pre-School and crafts at the Kids' Café; tug of war at The Star pub; dog show 1.30-3.30pm Holly Road Recreation Ground; various live music, a balloon race and beer tent in The Mews 12.30-7pm. More info at www.hhfestival.org.uk.

Vicar's View



'...er, Vicar, when I said it would help in our church publicity if we used a larger font...'

The most beautiful coalition



Bishop Paul and his wife, Sarah, at his consecration at St Paul's Cathedral

On the 6 May the electorate of the UK delivered an inconclusive result that propelled our country into the first peacetime coalition government in nearly 80 years. As I write we are only a week or so into the lifetime of that government, and most of us are still trying to adjust to the sight of David Cameron and Nick Clegg shoulder-to-shoulder on the government benches. What everyone wants to know is how long can it really last? Perhaps by the time you read this we shall have an early indication of whether certain differences really can be set aside in the national interest.

On one level every human coalition is fragile – not just political ones. It can be the same challenge in business partnerships or in community groups, as well as between nations. It's also true when it comes to the most intimate of all human coalitions in family life. What starts out so strong and full of hope can suddenly come under strain and unexpected stress.

Our sinful human condition does not equip us well towards overcoming the challenges that threaten to divide us. Many of us know this only too well from painful personal experience. Suddenly we can find ourselves looking at the shattered pieces of a broken coalition or a once precious relationship, and we ask ourselves, 'how did it get to this?'

The Church does not have the most exemplary record when it comes to holding things together. And sadly, in my view, we have too easily accepted that this is simply part of the territory of church life – whether locally or globally.

On the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested, his prayers included one to the Church:

My prayer...is that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

This is Jesus' prayer for us! We are meant to be the only unbreakable coalition in human history – our unity is an essential ingredient in our mission to the world.

Now, of course, any strong coalition or relationship requires a substantial level of agreement on what is essential and what is non-essential. This is where things can become unstuck. However, in my view there is a far greater enemy to powerful coalition, and it lurks just below the surface in the attitude of every heart and mind. We see it in action in the school playground every bit as much as around the political table – it is the tendency deep inside the fallen human spirit to *exclude*.

CS Lewis wrote a brilliant essay on this subject called *The Inner Ring*. He argues that in every society, every church and workplace, there are little groups of people who are on the 'inside'. These groups are almost never formal; no one votes on who gets in. Once you do find yourself on the inside you find that there are yet further rings of belonging or exclusion. CS Lewis writes:

I believe that in all men's lives...one of the most dominant elements is the desire to be inside the local Ring and terror of being left outside.

By saving love, Jesus breaks the power of *The Inner Ring* by creating a new kind of community where the only 'essential' is discipleship. Jesus said:

Come, follow me. Live in my presence each day and become like me.

One of my favourite Christian authors, Dallas Willard, has written:

The eternal life of which Jesus speaks is not simply knowledge about God but an intimately interactive relationship with him.

It is as we grow in this relationship together that we learn to overcome the inward pull towards 'divide and rule'.

Dallas Willard goes on to say:

The biblical vision of human unity under God is one which few people today can even imagine, much less regard as realistically possible for themselves or others. Only the message and people of Jesus Christ can give it substance.

I give thanks to God for every way in which the church family of St James, Hampton Hill, gives substance to this great reality. I urge you to keep growing in it, especially as you seek to follow Christ and live each day in his loving presence.

Whatever may happen around the Cabinet Table of coalition government, I believe that life around the Lord's Table will always speak of a higher grace and a deeper love, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is my prayer that we will work tirelessly to eradicate from our own hearts and minds the pull of the Inner Ring. Working through the non-essentials will still be necessary, but as a calm and joyful expression of love, not a fretful and defensive activity of hurtful exclusion.

This is the kind of church that Jesus had in mind as he prayed for us in John 17 – *the most beautiful coalition!* Let us continue to build such a church as the clearest sign of his advancing kingdom.



The story behind the hymn

For All The Saints

*For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their
Might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*For the apostles' glorious company,
who bearing forth the cross o'er land and sea,
shook all the mighty world, we sing to Thee:
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

On 11 July we will celebrate the life of our church and that of the wider Church in the company of the Bishop of Kensington. This hymn will be sung at the beginning of the service. It was written by William Walsham How (1823-97) in 1864 and sung in 1888 at a service that created the Diocese of Wakefield. At the service How became the first Bishop of Wakefield, and the Parish Church of All Saints' Wakefield was converted into the Cathedral Church of All Saints' Wakefield.

The significance of this hymn in its particular setting thus becomes apparent. A new diocese was seen as creating a new opportunity for mission, and the word 'saint' did not simply mean those named as such by the Church. 'Saints' meant (as in the New Testament) *all* God's people. On a site used for worship since at least Norman times, a congregation came together to celebrate their membership of the Church and their call to be saints in an industrial northern city.

Today Christians can sing it still conscious of those who have gone before them, celebrating their achievements on the Christian journey, and looking forward to more to come. In case the hymn seems to praise humans too much, the first verse makes plain that Jesus is to be honoured and blessed above all.

The tune the hymn is sung now to *Sine Nomine*, meaning 'without name'. It recalls the countless, nameless number who have followed Christ. The tune was written by the great composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, and included in the *English Hymnal* in 1906.