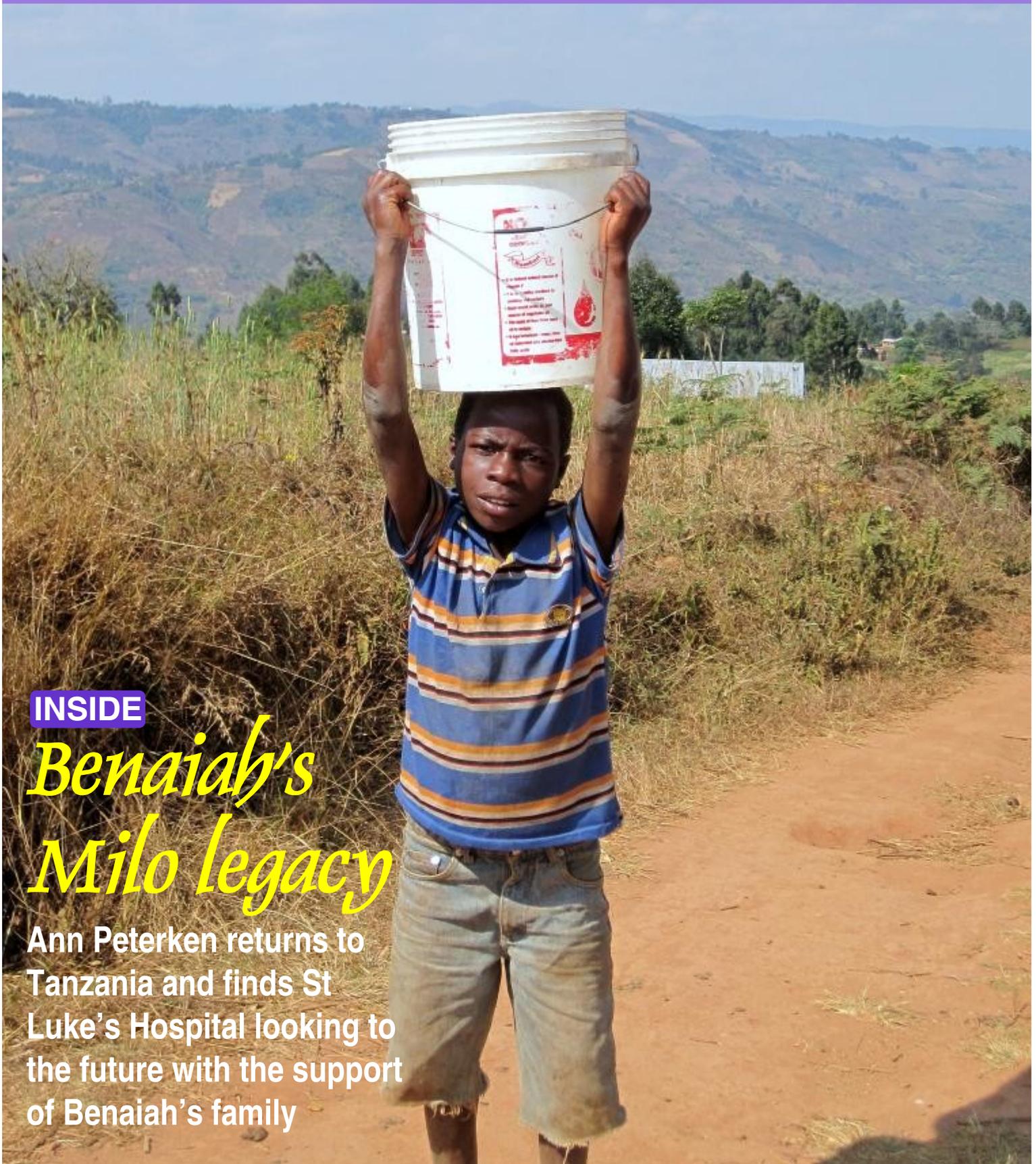


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thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

please take a copy



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Benaiah's Milo legacy

Ann Peterken returns to Tanzania and finds St Luke's Hospital looking to the future with the support of Benaiah's family

ALL THE LOCAL EVENTS AND LENT SERVICES PAGE 7

thespire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James.

We make **no charge** for this magazine, but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs to enable us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to *The PCC of St James* and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

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► **NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE**

The April / May issue is published on 1 April. All copy must be with us by **Mon 27 February**.

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When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it.

Welcome

March 2012



As I write this letter, Spring is already on the way and so far we have escaped any really bad weather. It is a joy to see snowdrops and daffodils appearing so early in the year.

This issue focuses on visits to Tanzania last year by Ann Peterken and Angela Mullens. Our church has, for many years, had a connection with Milo Hospital in Tanzania and Ann was lucky enough to have the opportunity through USPG to visit the hospital and Benaiah's family again last summer. Angela used to work in Tanzania and asked St James's if we could raise money for badly-needed bunk beds and desks for Holy Cross School and there is a report on her visit last year.

Our congratulations go to Hampton Hill Junior School on their recent splendid Ofsted report and Headteacher Bill Jerman tells us what it means to the school and to him to be associated with St James's over so many years.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn,
Editor

For the latest news: stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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OUR CLERGY



► **VICAR**

Revd Peter Vannozi

Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather who came to the UK in the late 19th century. Peter was ordained in 1987 and prior to joining St James's he was Vice Dean and Canon Pastor at Wakefield Cathedral. Peter is Chair of Governors of Hampton Hill Junior School and a Trustee of Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group.

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

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SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

8pm Compline (night prayer) for Lent

During Lent the Sunday sermons will take a particular theme as part of *Journeying with Jesus through Lent*. For more information go to: www.sermoncentral.com

4 March — 2nd Sunday of Lent

By the Way of The Cross

Genesis 17.1-7; Romans 4.13-18

Mark 8.31-18

11 March — 3rd Sunday of Lent

Into the Realm of Righteous Anger

Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

John 2.13-22

18 March — 4th Sunday of Lent

Into God's Way of Love

Mothers' Sunday All-age Service 9.30am

Luke 1.46-56

8am and 11am Holy Communion

Numbers 21.4-9; Ephesians 2.1-10

John 3.14-21

DON'T FORGET: CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 HOUR

25 March — 5th Sunday of Lent

Along the Way of Love and Life

Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10

John 12.20-33

Mondays-Fridays (but not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in month

7 March 7am Holy Communion

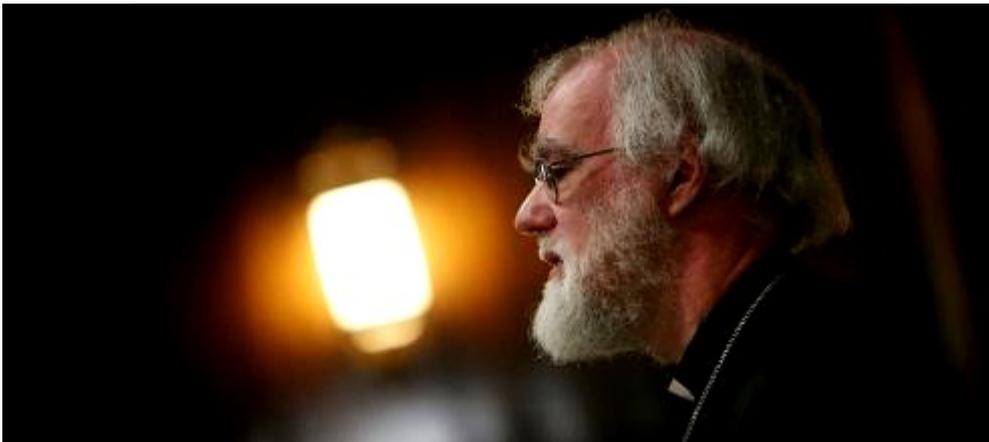
1st Thursday in month

1 March 2pm Holy Communion



Leader Column

Treading the lonely path. What's new?



If there is one post within the Church of England that a person would be unwise to hope for, it is surely that of the Archbishop of Canterbury! Sunday by Sunday we pray at St. James's for Rowan Williams, and rightly so. He has a thankless task, and for the past nine years has carried out his role with care and diligence, and not a little controversy. Thus was it ever! Previous archbishops have had their troubles. Thomas Becket lost his life in 1170 following disagreements with King Henry II. Roger Walden was in favour with one king and so became archbishop in 1397, but out of favour with the next king, and so was removed from office after just two years. A few archbishops were elected, but had their election quashed by the Pope. One died of plague before he made it into post. The vagaries of living — including politics — affect even archbishops!



Peter Vannozzi

On 21 March the Church of England remembers Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1533-53. He is remembered on this day as it was when he burnt at the stake in 1556. Cranmer was, like all of us, of his time, and not somehow apart from it. He was a reformer, a diplomat, a politician. He was a man of principle, but also recanted his Protestant allegiance six times, before finally putting his conscience first. It has to be said he was to be executed, anyway, so in the cold light of day, nothing was to be lost by doing so. It is difficult to see him as a martyr — though some do — as in more ecumenical times it would be hard to see him as dying for Christ. Fair-minded, cautious, fearful, brave, scholarly — all can be applied to him. I quite like this flawed, human cleric.

August this year sees the 350th anniversary of the publication of what has come to be seen as the greatest legacy of Thomas Cranmer — the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP.) Though Cranmer died more than a century before its publication, the BCP is largely based on his book of 1552. I will be writing more about the BCP later this year, and it will be used for all services at St. James's on 27 May, the Feast of Pentecost, to mark this commemoration. The language of the BCP gave us some English expressions that have passed into common use. Take these three: *'til death us do part; ashes to ashes; peace in our time.*

I am not sure that Cranmer would have been expecting his legacy to be a service book — he was, after all, a reformer and would probably not have expected his work to be the last word in services in English: as indeed it has not been. Cranmer would probably be surprised by what he found in Anglican churches today — their incredible range of worshipping styles, and general lack of uniformity. I wonder what he might also make of the way in which churches now keep Lent? He kept the title *Ash Wednesday*, but minus actual ash, and although titles were kept of seasons and Sundays the observance of them was far less rich than before his reforms. Yet March sees Lent continue, so what might a long-dead archbishop have to say to us during this time?

One thing that Cranmer's work emphasises is the importance of the Person of Christ — particularly of the significance of the cross. In Lent our eyes turn increasingly towards the cross with a notable shift towards it on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Cranmer's *Order for Holy Communion* speaks of the offering of Christ on the cross as 'full, perfect and sufficient'. It is a 'sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction'. It is such for the 'sins of the whole world'. The individual hearing these words is not simply to listen, but to internalise them and respond. Cranmer calls people to make a personal choice for Christ, repenting of sin, and beginning a new life. In Lent a Christian is once more confronted by the need for change, and the possibility of it. Cranmer experienced a great deal of change, not all of it pleasant. He was compromised by his links to the powerful, and wavered in the face of death. No person's path is ever likely to be straight, but the fallible Cranmer reminds me that Christ seeks human beings, with all their faults, not odd beings that are already perfect. The cross judges each person, but also reveals to each the way to move forward.

As Lent continues during this month, let us look to Christ as Cranmer did, and see what he did. As Cranmer put it, in the Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Easter, we have to deal with the 'sundry and manifold changes of the world'. Yet we must be focused so that 'our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joy are to be found'.

In Thought and Prayer

The Collect for Thomas Cranmer



Father of all mercies, who through the work of your servant Thomas Cranmer renewed the worship of your Church and through his death revealed your strength in human weakness: by your grace strengthen us to worship you in spirit and in truth and so to come to the joys of your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

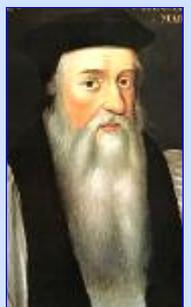
Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent expressing succinctly the frailty of human beings, and the need for dependence on God

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thomas Cranmer did not just write forms of service, but theological treatises. Here we can see his view of the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion as given by Christ, as Scripture records. He reflected on their significance, and how Christ was present through them, in surprisingly vivid language in

A Defence of the True and Catholic Doctrine of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ

He [Christ] hath also ordained one visible sacrament of spiritual regeneration in water, and another visible sacrament of spiritual nourishment in bread and wine, to the intent that, as much as is possible for man, we may see Christ with our eyes, smell him at our noses, taste him with our mouths, grope him with our hands and perceive him with all our senses. For as the word of God preached putteth Christ into our ears, so likewise these elements of water, bread and wine, joined to God's word, do after a sacramental manner put Christ into our eyes, mouths, hands, and all our senses.



School puts our money to good use

ON HER return visit to Holy Cross Secondary School, Magila, Tanzania, **Angela Mullens** found that student boarders are really enjoying their bunk beds. There are three to a room in the newly built hostel, where the young people can chat and spend time together.



St James's provided funding for these extra beds, as well as desks and chairs, helping the school to cope with an increasing number of students.

The bigger school roll and small income-generating schemes are helping the school to be more financially sound. Mission schools receive no government grant.

The sports field and basketball court are well used, with football and netball the most popular sports. School teams have competed in



district competitions.

The new Bishop of Tanga, Rt Revd Maimbo WF Mndolwa, and the local community are keen that the school continues to develop and provide a Christian education.

Grow your own produce and banish those air miles!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT **GROW YOUR OWN** Worried about pesticides or food miles? The answer is to grow your own produce. Even if you don't have a garden, many things can be grown in tubs (tomatoes, strawberries, lettuce, blueberries). Or team up with a friend and get an allotment. See www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Grow-Your-Own for tips.

A NEW REGULAR FOCUS ON OUR GIVING

Charity Box



Help ALMA to Give Ministry Wheels this Lent

St James's has supported the Diocese of London's partnership link with Angola and Mozambique since the first covenant was signed in 1998. Known as ALMA, the link greatly enriches our shared Christian journey as we learn from each other.

Our partner churches are experiencing considerable growth but work in very different life circumstances to our own. Angola is just one diocese, five times the size of the UK. Mozambique has two dioceses – Lebombo in the south and Niassa in the North – and each diocese is 1.5 times the size of the UK.

This Lent the Bishop of London is asking us to respond to our partners' request for better transport to carry out their work. In local ministry the bicycle is the main method of transport. Archdeacons tend to have motorbikes, but there is a real need to enable and resource diocesan-wide ministry and community development work. This requires two reliable vehicles for each of these enormous dioceses.



www.almalink.org

The 2012 Lent Appeal, *Giving Ministry Wheels*, aims to assist our partners by raising funds to purchase a good quality second hand 4x4 vehicle for each diocese.

Please use the informative Appeal card to reflect on how we perhaps take transport provision for granted, then use a **Lent Appeal envelope** for your cash or cheque donation and put it in the plate collection when next in church. Fill in the Gift Aid declaration if you can. **Cheques should be made payable to PCC of St James Church.** We are processing appeal donations in-house and will let you know how much we raise. For online go to: www.justgiving.com/alment2012

Healing hands at St Luke's Hospital

The lasting legacy of clinical officer Benaiah Kilwale

Ann Peterken returned to Milo in Tanzania to see how family and colleagues are continuing his dedication to this remote community

Many of you already know I had the opportunity to return to Milo last September and may even have read my trip report. Here I will try to give a flavour of this faraway place so dear to our parish.

Location and history

Milo sits high on a ridge in the Southwest Highlands, about 550 miles from Dar-es-Salaam. Because of its approximate height of 1200m (Ben Nevis is 1344m) it never gets too hot and there is a definite cold season between June and August, when people have to use lots of blankets.

During German occupation Milo was the District capital, so Lutherans built their mission station there over 100 years ago, including a rather fine house, a church and a health centre. The Anglicans took it over after the First World War and *USPG: Anglicans in World Mission* has been helping to support St Luke's Hospital (the upgraded health centre) for many years, thanks to donations from parishes such as ours.

Benaiah Kilwale's family

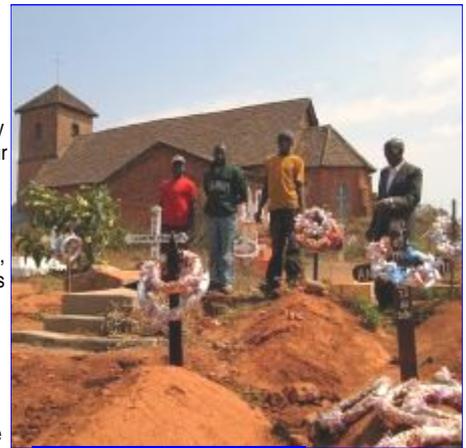


Ann with Benaiah's widow and his younger brother, Marko

Arriving in Milo I felt sad that Benaiah would not be in the welcoming party, due to his death from prostate cancer a couple of months earlier. I was, however, very pleased to be able to pay respects to his widow and family members in person.

Mrs Kilwale's kind invitation to supper in her home made me realise the size of the family. Not all of them live in Milo now, but they had come for this special evening and it is hard to put in to words how lovely it was. I met children, grandchildren and Benaiah's younger brother, Marko, who is the new head of the family even though living in Dar-es-Salaam.

The hospitality was warm and open and many members of the family asked me to bring greetings and thanks back to everyone at St James's.

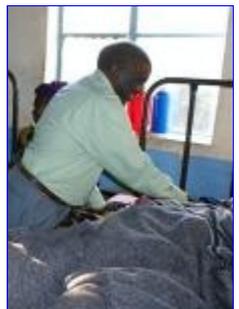


Benaiah's grave by Milo church

Benaiah was born in Milo and had worked at the hospital for the last 30 years, so he was a well known and much respected person. Hundreds of mourners attended his funeral service and burial last July. His grave, alongside Milo parish church, is still a mound of red earth, but later this year a stone memorial will be laid and large crowds will gather to celebrate his life.

St Luke's Hospital

The hospital has three wards (male, female and maternity), an operating theatre, outpatients' department, laboratory and a Care and Treatment Centre for HIV/AIDS. The contrast with our well-equipped hospitals is stark.



Dr Simeon Mbuligwe

One very significant development last year was the installation of solar panels to light the wards, thanks to funding from USAID. Panels were also installed on the three houses used by hospital staff. As it gets dark by 6pm, having good light all evening is a wonderful thing. Everywhere else in Milo has to depend on kerosene lamps.

The hospital does have a big diesel generator, but it is only used for sterilisation of the surgical equipment during operations. Diesel is expensive and has to be brought to Milo from the town of Njombe, 75 miles away.

We know Milo's remote location makes it very hard to attract and retain qualified staff. Dr Simeon Mbuligwe has been doctor-in-charge since March 2008, coming to St Luke's in his retirement. He has



The relatives' hostel at St Luke's

a good surgical reputation, especially for gynaecology, and is pictured right, with Joseph Mgina, the senior male nurse — two lovely men.



USPG's new health programme, *Hands on Health*, enabled my trip.

Teams of qualified facilitators are being sent to help mission hospitals prepare for the future and become more self-reliant. I was invited to join a team going first to Liuli and then on to Milo. In both places my travel companions ran a two-day workshop attended by hospital workers, church and community leaders, the idea being for these different groups to realise they have a shared responsibility for the hospital's future.



The workshop, seen above, is very interactive, including group discussion and visits to local families. It was lovely to observe rather reserved people become fully engaged and have some fun.

Student sponsorships

In 2009 parishioners at St James's helped with the training fees for three local students. Benaiah's daughter, Christina, obtained her diploma as a pharmaceutical technician and is now the hospital pharmacist. Sarafina Chaka had recently completed her nurse and midwife training and was due in Milo by the autumn. Our



Christina

third student is still training as she had to retake a science O-level.

It is encouraging to know that other UK supporters of Milo are covering doctor's training fees for three young men and there is a very good chance at least one of them will go to St Luke's.

Ongoing support

The grant from USPG is a major component of the hospital's income. St James's will continue to help make this possible through its annual donation to USPG. There will inevitably be further occasions

when we can assist with a special need, such as staff training fees or a building project like the relatives' hostel that we funded back in 2000.

I have always remembered the closing remarks of a speaker from Christian Aid who came to give us first-hand information of our millennium project. She referred to Doubting Thomas and I can now make her words mine:

I have had the opportunity to travel to Milo and to see the reality of life for the people there. I am blessed by the experience, but more blessed will be the people I speak to who have not seen and yet believe that they need to respond.



Around the Spire

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND



Former Vicar Nicholas Chubb dies

WE ARE VERY SORRY to learn that Revd. Nicholas Chubb, vicar of St. James's from 1981-88, died in York on 30 January, aged 78. Nicholas left Hampton Hill to become a hospital chaplain in Peterborough, and later he and his wife Susan retired to York.

The funeral service was held in York on 6 February, followed by a committal at York Crematorium.

We send our love and sympathy to Susan and their children Andrew, Sarah and Naomi.

There will be more about Nicholas in the April / May issue.

Julian Reindorp and Peter Vannozi are planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2013, our 150th anniversary year. It is likely to be in February. Julian has led many pilgrimages before. If you are interested please speak to Julian or Peter as soon as possible.



READY, TEDDY, GO... Can you spare a teddy bear? We are collecting bears again this year for our Adopt-a-Teddy stall at Hampton Fair on 9 June. We will make sure they go to good homes, while at the same time helping us to raise funds! Please bring them along to the 9.30am service on Mothering Sunday, 18 March.

Dick and Mary Wilde would like to thank all their kind friends at St. James's for their prayers and good wishes during Mary's recent illness. We are glad to hear that she is now making a good recovery at home.



The clock stops, but time still marches on



Several residents remarked that they missed the church clock chimes when it was out of action in January. The automatic winding mechanism had failed and a specialist had to be called in, but fortunately he was able to quickly solve the problem and the chimes are now restored.

Hitting the right notes for The Greenwood Centre

Back by popular demand, the Thameside Clarinet Choir, conducted by Martin Hinckley, will return to the Greenwood Centre on 5 July for another concert of popular classics. The



hall will again be set out like a French café. More details nearer the time.

Jacky takes a step closer to ordination

CONGRATULATIONS to Jacky Cammidge, who has been recommended for training for ordination. She will begin her three years of training this autumn, and plans to remain at St James's.

Jacky thanked our Vicar, Peter, for his help and support during the long process. She hopes to be a self-supporting minister like our former Curate, Debbie Oades.





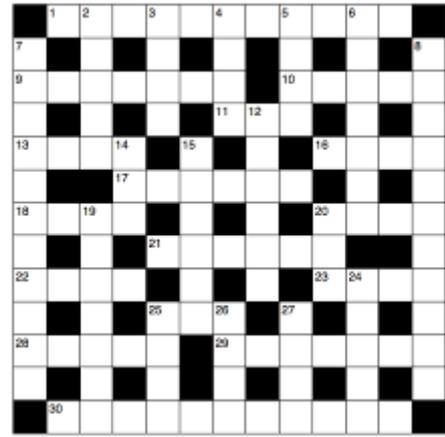
Join our Sunday School and explore the world!

Young Spire

Go online for even more

T H E P U Z Z L E R

Crossword



Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s. The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been —, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Digital transmission system (1,1,1,1) (4)
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all!' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



Mouse Makes

THE 40 DAYS OF LENT

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach he went out into the desert alone. For 40 days he spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the desert, the Christian Church set aside 40 days before Easter as a time to think, pray and learn more about God. This time is called LENT.

ASH WEDNESDAY is the first day of LENT. It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.

Colour in one step each day

READ Matthew chapters 3-4

1 Ash Wednesday

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26 Mothering Sunday

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40 PALM SUNDAY

Mon

Tues

Thurs

GOOD FRIDAY

Sat

EASTER SUNDAY

The day Jesus was put to death

JESUS IS RISEN!

READ Matthew chapters 27-28

Sudoku

7	5			1				
1		2						
				9	5	4		
9			1					8
			5	8				
6			7					4
	7	3	4					
				3				6
		1			8			3

Complete the grid so that every row, column, and each 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 once.

Solutions to both puzzles will appear in the next issue

Solutions to February's puzzles

W	A	G	E	C	L	E	A	N	S	E	D
I	U	B	A	P	E	A					
P	L	A	T	E	A	U	R	E	A	D	Y
E	R	L	G	I	P	S					
D	I	D	S	O	H	O	L	L	O	W	
O	N	T	I	R	O						
U	N	R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E
T	E	F	E	R	S	I	S	L	A	M	
L	I	X	T	O	A	E					
I	S	N	O	T	O	V	E	R	R	A	N
M	E	R	C	D	G	T					
B	A	R	R	A	C	K	S	L	E	G	S

7	9	5	8	4	6	1	3	2
1	3	4	2	5	7	6	8	9
2	8	6	1	3	9	5	4	7
9	5	7	6	1	4	3	2	8
3	4	2	5	9	8	7	6	1
6	1	8	3	7	2	9	5	4
8	7	3	4	6	1	2	9	5
5	2	9	7	8	3	4	1	6
4	6	1	9	2	5	8	7	3

Our Sunday School welcomes newcomers. We meet in the Church Hall, term time, at 9.25am

What's On



opinion Canon Julian Reindorp

FAITH AND POLITICS

In the week before Christmas the Prime Minister repeated his view that faith has a role in our public life. 'Christianity, faith, religion, the Church, and the Bible are all inherently involved in politics because so many political questions are moral questions...I certainly don't object to the Archbishop of Canterbury expressing his views on politics. Religion has a moral basis, and if he doesn't agree with something, he's right to say so...all our religious leaders and their communities in Britain have a vital role (in protecting our values)...those who say being a Christian country is doing down other faiths don't understand that it is easier for people to believe and practice other faiths when Britain has confidence in its Christian identity.'

CLOSE THE GAP

Church action on poverty is running a campaign under the above heading. Not only is the UK more unequal than at any time in at least 30 years, but the gap between rich and poor is growing. As spending cuts bite, bankers bonuses last year reached £14 billion. There is a great deal of evidence that the most unequal countries are those likely to face the most social dislocation: the US, UK and South Africa are cited as examples. (See *The Spirit Level — Why Equality is Better for Everyone* Wilkinson & Pickett, 2010).

WHY ARE PEOPLE POOR?

Some 61% of Christians see inequality in England as either 'inevitable' or the result of 'laziness or lack of willpower'. Church Urban Fund research suggests that only one in five regular churchgoers attribute poverty to social injustice, compared with four out of five church leaders. Yet if you are born in poverty, you are a lot more likely to stay and live in poverty and to die younger. You are also more likely to experience disability, mental illness, unemployment, teenage pregnancy and family breakdown. In London, between the richest and poorest political wards, life expectancy varies by 17 years. Poverty in England exists and it's not a life style choice.

SCIENCE'S SEARCH FOR GOD

Lord Jonathan Sacks, the UK's Chief Rabbi, in his most recent book, *The Great Partnership, God, Science and the Search for Meaning*, reminds us that the search for God is 'the search for meaning...Science takes things apart to see how they work. Religions put things together to see what they mean. They speak different languages and use different powers of the brain...once we recognize their difference we can move on, no longer thinking of science and religion as friends who became enemies, but as our unique, bicameral [two chamber], twin perspectives on the difference between things and people, objects and subjects.'

CHRISTMAS AND FAITHS

Other faiths want to respect the celebration of Christmas and resent the attempt to play down its significance. Tehmina Kazi, director of British Muslims for Secular Democracy, recently wrote, 'This brings me to another unique feature of the critical Muslim movement: we are taking control of our own destiny without allowing external forces to dictate the terms. For example the recent *Happy Christmas4ALL* Facebook campaign was a response to the frustration of seeing *Muslims ban Christmas* fabrications in the press. It turned into a celebration of the diverse ways in which people of all faiths and none mark the season.'

- **Lent Course: *Signs of Grace, Signs of Glory — the Sacraments***
- *Continuing on selected Mondays*
- There will be a session each week at 2pm in the Vicarage, and 8pm at 32 Uxbridge Road.

- **5 Mar Belonging: Baptism and Confirmation Peter**
- **12 Mar Sacrifice: Eucharist David Bell**
- **19 Mar Faithfulness: Marriage and Ordination Peter and David**
- **26 Mar Healing: Anointing and Confession Julian Reindorp**



Sunday Sermons during Lent
These will explore the journey Jesus took in the weeks leading up to his crucifixion

Compline on Sundays
Night prayer will be at 8pm on: **4, 11, 18 and 25 March and 1 April**

Holy Week begins...

Palm Sunday 1 April
8am Holy Communion
9.30am Procession of Palms and Parish Communion
8pm Compline

There will be full details of Easter services in the April / May edition of *thespire*, on our website and on the Pew Sheets in church

Women's World Day of Prayer 2012

- **Let Justice Prevail, Friday 2 March, 2pm and 8pm, St Theodore's Church, Station Road, Hampton TW12 2AS**
- This year's service is prepared by women in Malaysia.

Cantanti Camerati Spring Concert

- **Just a Song at Twilight, Friday 9 March, 7.30pm, and Saturday 10 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 3AA**
- Tickets available from Albert's Music Shop, Heath Road, Twickenham, telephone 020 8977 5986, or on the door.

Children's Choir for Mothering Sunday

- **Fridays 9 and 16 March, 6.15-7pm, St James's Church**
- Looking for a special way to show your Mum how much you love her? Sing her a song! The choir, rehearsing on two dates, is open to all children from Y1 and no experience is needed. On the Mothering Sunday, 18 March, the choir will sing and the children will also be able to give their mothers some flowers.

Faith at Work

- **Saturday 10 & 24 March, 9.15am, St James's Church**
- More discussions showing what difference faith makes to our lives: **10 March Laurence Sewell Faith in Development; 24 March Sarah Peterson Faith in teaching children**

London Fairtrade Diocese Service

- **Sunday 11 March, 6pm, St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4**
- Join the Bishop of London for a service of celebration as the Diocese of London is declared a Fairtrade Diocese.

Mothering Sunday

- **Sunday 18 March, St James's Church Hampton Hill**
- There will be an extra Holy Communion at 11am.

Concordia Voices' Spring Concert

- **Out of the Wilderness, Sunday 18 March, 7.30pm, St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2PE**
- Including work by Purcell. **Save £2 by booking your tickets in advance.** Tickets cost £10 (concessions £8) in advance from choir members, or £12 (£10) on door.

Teddington Choral Society

- **Saturday 24 March, 7.30pm, St James's Church**
- Haydn's Nelson Mass and Durufle's Requiem. The choir will be accompanied by an orchestra and professional soloists: Lucy Thomas (soprano), Jennifer Westwood (contralto), Paul Martyn-West (tenor) and Martin Johnson (bass). Conductor: Patrick Martin; Organist: Geoffrey Bowyer. Tickets £12 (cons £10), accompanied children under 14 free, from 020 8977 5986 or Albert's Music Shop.

St James's Theatre Group

Oklahoma!, Friday 30 March, 7.30pm, Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond TW9 1QJ
Twickenham Operatic Society perform. Tickets £17.
Also: **Friday 20 April, 7.30pm, Birds of a Feather, £21.50; Friday 25 May, 7.30pm, Doctor in the House, £22.50.**
Please add your name to the lists in church or telephone Peter Hale on 020 8979 9287. Transport can be arranged.

Community Singing Day

Saturday 19 May, 11am-4pm, St James's Church
Now in its second successful year, this event is open to anyone who loves singing, including children from Y2-Y11. The day finishes with a performance in church for friends and family. Singing will again be led by Neil Ferris and Jim Davey. The cost is £15 for adults, £5 for accompanied children. For more information, or to reserve tickets, please email Susannah Nettleton: nettleton@blueyonder.co.uk

Vicar's View

'Our basic wedding charges are very reasonable — optional extras include pew usage, hassock rental, hymn-sheet supplement, parking, lighting...'

Registers for January

Funeral
18 Bertie Henry Leonard Smith, 93, Hampton Hill



Your Voice

Bill Jerman explains why Hampton Hill Junior School supports the community



Songs of praise

The story behind the hymn

Outstanding in so many ways



'Hampton Hill Junior School is an outstanding school where pupils are provided with an impressive and exciting curriculum which is supported by exceptional teaching and outstanding care, guidance and support.'

This is a quote from the introduction to the Ofsted report for the school which followed a two-day inspection on 8-9 December last year. The report goes on to celebrate the many and varied aspects of life at the school and emphasises that Hampton Hill Junior School is a clearly outstanding school, which is wonderful for us and the community that we serve.

A significant element of the discussions during the inspection was around the many partnerships that the school has developed to support the learning and care of the pupils. As the only school in Hampton Hill, we also discussed the very special place that we have within our community.

As Headteacher, I have always passionately believed that no school can stand alone and it should be a pivotal part of the local community, sharing resources and facilities, and being mutually supportive of each other.

One of our strongest and most positive partnerships is with St James's Church. We are hugely appreciative of the opportunity to sing and perform at Christmas and at other times in the wonderful surroundings of the church and enabling us to have all the children and parents together in one place.

My association with the church goes back to my appointment in 1988, when the Chair of the Governing Body was Jack Gostling. The friendship and support shown to me by Jack and Ruth from that day has been very special. I vividly remember my early lessons on the intricacies of raising and lowering the stage in the church, as well as the brilliant negotiations we had with the local authority to get funding for the Music room and the office developments — my first building projects at the school in 1990.

During my 23 years at the school I have worked with only four Chairs of Governors, all of whom have been St James's people! Jack was followed by Brian Leathard, Rachel Craig and, currently, Peter Vannozi.

Working with Brian and Peter has really helped to further cement our relationship with the church and it is wonderful to see groups of children visiting the church and churchyard, helping with Christingle, Fairtrade tea parties, and, of course, our infamous shared Christmas tree! We are also

fortunate that many of our staff and parents, both past and present, are members of the church community. On a personal level, all three of my children were baptised at St James's and, as many of you will know, the funeral of my step-daughter, Vicki, also took place there.

Our other community links are rich and varied. We have a great partnership with the local traders, who regularly help us with surveys, requests for resources, and practical help with activities, while we enjoy our role in the Christmas parade and making the posters.

Our links with the Greenwood Centre go back to when it was opened. We enjoyed a lovely joint mosaic project with the *Will and Way* group and our School Council have loved meeting and singing for local residents over tea and cake. Bushy Park and Hampton Pool are also key partners for us. So, within our local community we enjoy a great relationship with many partners who really help us to enhance the curriculum and provide wider opportunities for our children.

As part of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Quindrat of schools (a local council initiative), we work closely with the other schools in the area sharing ideas, resources, finance and sometimes staff, so we can provide services as effectively and efficiently as possible.

We are also a key member of one of the first National Teaching Schools Alliances, sharing teaching and leadership strategies aimed at improving our schools.

We collaborate with lots of sports and music groups which, again, really enhance and enrich the opportunities for the children at our school. For example, rugby, judo, basketball, gymnastics and dance clubs are all provided by outside partners, and through Susannah Nettleton we have developed amazing links with choral and instrumental groups who support in school by teaching and performing.

Our well-known involvement in sustainability has resulted in us leading a network of over 80 schools within London and beyond in running training sessions, presenting to children and staff and helping them to develop in this key aspect of school life.

Our international partnerships bring a real global element to the school. Links with Japan, Kenya and Chile are real and exciting ways to enhance the curriculum.

Relationships will continue to grow and develop and we are very fortunate to have such a rich and diverse range of partners that certainly contribute to Hampton Hill Junior School being an *outstanding* school.

All My Hope on God is Founded



All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.

God unknown,
he alone

calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple fall to dust.

But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendor, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.

Evermore
from his store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.

Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.

Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Poet Laureate from 1913-30, Robert Bridges (1844-1930), was a hymn writer and translator, as well as a poet. His poetic skills are evident in this month's hymn which will be sung at St. James's on Sunday 11 March, the Third Sunday of Lent. Translated from German of the 17th century, the hymn makes a clear statement in the first line and proceeds to work out what this means. Our response is to offer all to the God who has given all. The tune for the hymn is *Michael*, written by Herbert Howells (1902-1983) and dedicated to his nine-year-old son, who in 1935 contracted polio and died. Shattered by this experience, he directed his grief into the writing of music. The tune is one of several pieces of music written in memory of his son. It is particularly moving that he chose to write a tune for such a positive and uplifting set of lyrics.