

MARCH 2014

NEW THIS
MONTH

My
Favourites
SEE
PAGE 8

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE — please take a copy

INSIDE

Opinion

The Pope and
breastfeeding,
plus tips for a
good marriage

Recipe

Lancashire Fig Pie



His Master's Voice

Rodney Taylor and the
Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

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Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy

Vicar

The Revd Peter Vannozi (pictured, right)
Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather. He was ordained in 1987. Peter is a Governor of Hampton Hill Junior School and a Trustee of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group.
Telephone: 020 8979 2069
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Curate

The Revd David Bell
David was born in Skipton in 1952. He is a self-supporting minister, ordained in June 2012, and working during the week in events sponsorship management.
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Officials



Churchwarden
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Carole has a background in social work, helps run The Ark, and is a chorister.
Telephone: 020 8979 6592
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Churchwarden
Nick Bagge
Nick is a former television journalist, now working at a local theatre.
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Treasurer
Don Barrett
Don works for the Church Commissioners for England, who manage £5bn of assets for the Church of England.
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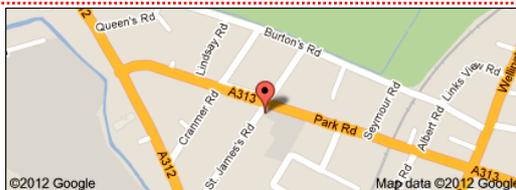
Organist / Choirmaster
Samuel Draper
Sam joined St James's in October 2010, after graduating from the Royal College of Music.
Telephone: 020 8892 4957

GET INVOLVED

- The more **volunteers**, the more we can do
- Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do
- Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy

Finding us

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. There is ample parking in the road.



From the Editor

This year Easter is not until late in April, so this edition is focussed on Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on 5 March. Don't forget to order your Fairtrade Easter Eggs as they always sell out - details on Page 4!



As you will have seen from the cover, Rodney Taylor has just completed a very prestigious year as Master Apothecary. Read about it on Page 4.

We are starting a new series on Page 8, called *My Favourite...* In preparing these articles several people have mentioned that not only are they their favourite things, but they have a deeper meaning in helping us to cope during the good and bad times in our lives. We have had lots of offers to write articles, but will always have room for more, so if you like the new series and have an idea do get in touch.

You will also see with this issue the annual appeal letter for contributions to the printing costs of *The Spire*. The Parochial Church Council has agreed to continue to help with the printing costs, but we hope you will give generously as you have done in past years.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



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

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

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

STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas or would like to write for the magazine, contact Janet Nunn.
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AROUND THE SPIRE

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WHAT'S ON

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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

The April / May issue will be published on 30 March. All copy must be with us by **Thursday 27 February**.

Credits

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Come and worship with us!



Sundays

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

Sunday 2 March
Sunday next before Lent
Exodus 24.12-end; 2 Peter 1.16-end; Matthew 17.1-9

Wednesday 5 March
Ash Wednesday
9.30am and 7.30pm: Isaiah 58.1-12; John 8.1-11

Sunday 9 March
1st Sunday of Lent
Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11.

Sunday 16 March
2nd Sunday of Lent
Genesis 12.1-4a; Romans 4.1-5, 13-17; John 3.1-17

Sunday 23 March
3rd Sunday of Lent
Exodus 17.1-7; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

Sunday 30 March 30 Mothering Sunday
4th Sunday of Lent
8am and 11am: 1 Samuel 16.1-3; Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-end
9.30am: Matthew 25.31-40



Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)
9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays
9.30am Holy Communion

1st Thursday in month
6 March 2pm Holy Communion

Next Month
13 April Palm Sunday 18 April Good Friday
20 April Easter Day

SUNDAYS DURING LENT THE GRACE OF GIVING SEE CHURCH NEWS ON PAGE FOUR

The greatest catch of all



Peter Paul Rubens painted *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes* in his early forties with all the flourish of an accomplished artist and diplomat. The picture is on display in the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, London. It is Rubens' graphic interpretation of the story of the miracle that occurred just after Jesus had been teaching the crowds by a lake, as told by Luke in his gospel at the beginning of Chapter 5.

In Rubens' picture, the disciples had followed Christ's instruction to lower their nets and so it is the mass of writhing, freshly caught fish that first meets the viewer's eye. The idea of plentiful fish could have come from the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel's vision of the river of life flowing from the restored temple, where the catch of abundant fish is a sign of the meeting of all God's people.

There are examples of early Christian art depicting Peter and John holding a net either side of a stream flowing from the temple, which show that the Ezekiel reference behind this event was not lost on the early Church.

In the painting, it is in the boat that the real action is depicted, where Peter has stooped to kneel before Jesus. Faced with a bounteous and generous God, in the form of Jesus, who is clearly at one with the created, natural world, Peter sees what he has not seen before, that this man standing in front of him is the Lord, the Messiah.

Sometimes we do not see what is plainly displayed in front of us because of all the noise and distractions going on. At first, Peter had thought Jesus completely unreasonable when he was told to go with the others into the deeper water and put down the nets for a catch. Unreasonable because the fishermen had just finished an unproductive night shift, and so thought they knew what was possible and not possible. As far as they were concerned, the fish weren't where they thought they were and even their knowledge and experience of the lake could not change that.

What they hadn't allowed for was the work of God. So we can take this story, illustrated beautifully by the painting, to teach us

that we are only human, but in partnership with God new and remarkable achievements are possible. It was after this incident that the disciples left their boats and followed Jesus.

One modern translation of verse 11 reads: 'They brought the boats in to land. Then they abandoned everything and followed him'.

As we come into the season of the 40 days of Lent, the proximity of God in our lives comes into focus. What does it mean for us to know that the word made flesh, Jesus Christ, has generously provided all creation for us to enjoy? Moreover, that he sacrificed himself on the cross so that we may come closer to God and have, if we so desire, a perpetual relationship with him that is new and unhindered by our own desires for ourselves?

In the character of Peter, we can relate to an ordinary man grappling with the same feelings. As in the painting, Peter is the focus of this story. He is the head and representative disciple and that is why it is so important when he begins to understand who Christ is because Peter is like us.

He realises that this Jesus has authority over heaven and earth, and his reaction to this revelation can be helpful to us. Peter has already seen something of Jesus; in fact Jesus has visited Peter's house, and healed his mother-in-law. He has already heard some of Jesus's teaching, but after the catch of fish, the penny drops. Something changes in his perception, and he sees something of who and what Jesus really is.

It is a very special feeling to realise that you are loved just as you are. And it is difficult to work out how to respond to that vast, unconditional love. The natural reaction is to say thank you; to learn more of Christ's teachings and to change the way we live in response to our learning.

I hope Lent is a very fruitful season for you on your journey of understanding and spiritual life. Take solace in the fact that for all his mastery of the brush, Rubens too was learning about God as he painted and Peter continued to learn more about Christ during his life but, like us, soon realised that it is Jesus himself who will reveal as much or as little as he wishes to us, as we walk alongside.

Communion — and over 200 hymns. David and a small group of Wichí leaders completed a revision of the book last year. The first 1000 copies have been printed at a cost of about £3000, but 10,000 are needed. Let's do our best to help with the next 1000.

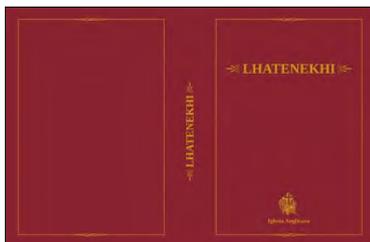
David and Shelley will be talking about their work at 6pm in the Fitz Wygram Hall on Saturday 22 March. Please come and meet them.

Cheques should be made payable to **PCC of St James Church** and all donations put in a blue Gift Aid envelope (where applicable) or a plain envelope, with Lent Appeal clearly written on either envelope.

Charity Box Lent Appeal 2014

We are raising money for a project in support of our mission partners, David and Shelley Stokes. They visited St James's in September 2010, before going to northern Argentina to work with the Wichí, an Amerindian group of around 50,000 living largely in the area known as the Chaco.

Anglican missionaries brought the gospel to the Wichí in 1911, together with worship and hymns which were translated and adapted to their culture. The Wichí hymnbook is called **Lhatenekhi**. It contains the two principal Sunday services — Morning Prayer and Holy



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

O Lord you have given us your Word,
For a light to shine upon our path;
inspire us to meditate upon that word,
and to follow its teaching,
that we may find in it the light that shines more and more,
until the perfect day,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

St Jerome (347 – 420)

Sovereign Lord, creator of heaven and earth and sea,
And everything in them, we are your people, we give you thanks.
We praise your holy name.

You shake us and fill us with your Spirit,
You stretch out your hand to heal,
To do signs and wonders through the name of Jesus.
We are your people, we give you thanks.
We praise your holy name.

Your strength is made perfect in our weakness.
Your grace is enough for us.
We are your people, we give you thanks.
We praise your holy name.

Common Worship; New Patterns for Worship

May the babe of Bethlehem be mine to tend,
May the boy of Nazareth be mine for friend.
May the man of Galilee my soul defend.
Then, God, your holy angels send
That I may see you at the end.

Bishop Leslie Lloyd-Rees



Lord Jesus Christ, in the garden you struggled with accepting the sacrificial path.
Sustain us in our struggles where the way is hard and beyond what we can bear.
Send your Spirit
To strengthen our resolve to do your will
To drink the cup that you drink
And find in our cross the way of life and peace:
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Ian Black

Every act formed by charity is revelation of God.
Every word of truth and love, every hand extended in kindness,
echoes the inner life of the Trinity.

Gabriel Morgan, Roman Catholic Theologian



Local and National stories

'Every little helps' at St James's

PLANNED GIVING will be the focus of the five Sundays in Lent as the church faces up to a projected deficit in 2014-15. It costs £2550 per week to run St James's. The bulk of our income comes from your donations.

Many of you do this through Planned Giving. This means giving us a regular sum every month by standing order, or putting money into blue envelopes before placing it on the collection plate. Both these methods allow us to reclaim tax at no extra cost to you. Some of you use white, numbered envelopes and, if you are a taxpayer, we can reclaim tax also.

As Christians we respond to the grace of God which is in Jesus, who loves us unconditionally. This Lent we will focus on our response financially, both in what we do personally, but also as a church.

We will all be asked to think about our financial support for our church. If every one of us made even a modest increase to our giving, it would help us overcome the deficit. Setting up a standing order will help us plan with more certainty. Not everyone can do this, though, and every contribution matters. A big thank you to everyone who gives financially to support St. James's, however that may be done!

The Lent programme is: March 9 *Giving and the Grace of God*; March 16 *Sharing Grace in London* with the Revd Mary Spreadbury, Area Finance Adviser; March 23 *Grace and Hampton Hill*; March 30 *Grace around the World*; April 6 *Responding to Grace*.

Shell Seekers at 'messy' St Paul's

THE SHELL SEEKERS, our Sunday School, were at St Paul's in January when it became a *Messy Cathedral* for the day as part of a new approach to the annual celebration of the Conversion of St Paul. The Cathedral partnered with Messy Church – a body that uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories. It was followed by a service, presided over by the Bishop of London, which included a procession of banners, including the one we helped to make. Twenty new Messy Churches will open in London this year, including one at St James's, with the aim to double the number of children and young people involved in the Church.



Our cash for Greenwood Centre

ALMOST £4500 was handed over to the Greenwood Centre, the nominated charity to benefit from fundraising during our anniversary year. St James's has a long association with the charity — one of the driving forces behind its formation was Hannah Stanton, a prominent member of our congregation. Peter said, 'I know the money will be put to excellent use, providing transport, companionship, excursions and support to those in our community who live alone or are housebound.'

Early birds get the Easter eggs!

ORDER YOUR Easter eggs now from the Fairtrade stall — and help support developing countries. The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter. They also give a sizeable donation to farmers allowing them to invest in their community. Inside each box is an Easter story book, a milk chocolate egg and pack of Swiss Chocolate organic Chunky Buttons. The egg costs £3.99. See page seven for more details.

The new Traidcraft catalogue is now available, full of gift ideas for birthdays or other special occasions. Pick up a copy from church.



A life in the year



For Professor Rodney Taylor, 2012 was the start of an intensely busy year as Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, one of the City of London's Livery Companies. It has a proud history and tradition, and still flourishes by doing what it has always done: fostering the profession, promoting skills and serving the community.



Monday 13 August 2012 was a warm day in London. The Court meeting had started at quarter-to-five and business was rolling on. At 17:58 exactly, I was asked to leave the Parlour. At 18:00 I was called back in to make my Declaration as Master Apothecary. That was it. I was in charge and, for a whole year, the wellbeing of this City Livery Company was in my hands.

In all fairness, I had seen this coming; there was a little preparation and grooming, through being a member of the Court and then the Private Court as Junior Warden and subsequently Senior Warden. However, the Junior Warden is largely decorative and ornamental; and the Senior Warden is a shadow. The Master is the visible manifestation of the society; even though the Clerk runs the day to day business.

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries is one of currently 109 livery companies in the City of London. Its origins go back to around 1180 when the Spicers joined with the Pepperers Guild. In 1375 this Guild was incorporated into the newly formed Grocers' Company.

There was increasing tension as Grocers dealt with

food *en grosse*, whereas Apothecaries were dealing with substances in medicinal quantities. Separation became inevitable by 1607 and in 1617 James I (and VI) granted the Society a Royal Charter. The grocers are second in order of precedence in the City; the Apothecaries are 58th!

In 1632 we acquired our own hall from Lord Cobham in what had been the Guest House of the Priory of the Dominicans, or Black Friars. Thirty-four years later, it was burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666. Following the fire there was massive rebuilding in the City. The hall was rebuilt and reopened in 1672. It has been in continuous use ever since and is the oldest City Livery Hall.

Training of apprentices

As a trade guild or fraternity, the Apothecaries had a responsibility for the maintenance of professional standards, for the proper training of apprentices and for the support of its members and their families. To practice as an apothecary, one had to serve an apprenticeship, to qualify as a Yeoman, and

of the Master



Guiding at Apothecaries' Hall for Open House London

eventually be admitted to the Livery by the Court. As a Liveryman one was then free to practice independently. Education remains at the core of the Society's responsibilities.

The Apothecaries' Act of 1815 made the society the licensing body for doctors throughout England and Wales, which gave the society its own Licence for doctors, which it has awarded ever since.

In 1858 the Medical Act created the General Medical Council which took over regulatory responsibility, but the society has continued to examine. It now runs eight postgraduate diplomas, and three courses in preparation for these; though award of its Licence, which is still a legal medical qualification, is currently in abeyance.

Annual charitable support

The City of London is not about elitism. It is the business heart of the world — a quarter of the IT capacity of the UK is based in the Square Mile. The financial base is astronomical.

The City Livery Companies donate more than £42 million each year for charitable purposes, mainly to education and welfare. The Livery is involved in corporate governance in electing the Sheriffs and endorsing the Aldermen's selection of the Lord Mayor. The Livery is vigorously active in education. And they meet and dine together, providing links widely through social contact.

An amazingly full year

What did all this mean for me as Master? It was an amazingly full year. I had more than 300 engagements and events during my year. I have spent more than one night in every three or four at the hall in the Master's cabin — a very apt description of the space to a Naval man, though it is a very welcome place at the end of an evening!

I have been entertained in almost all of the other 38 Livery halls in the City, by more than half of the Livery Companies, and many, many other organisations too. What a marvellous spectrum of interests and people!

The City of London has so many hidden facets. I visited the Mansion House, the Guildhall, the sewers at Becketon, the Old Bailey, the House of Lords, *HMS Somerset* in dry-dock and alongside, and our affiliated military units, schools and academies.

We had a high profile on television twice — with Clarissa Dickson Wright in *Breakfast, Lunch and*

The livery companies are a wonderful philanthropic fellowship. They support education, research and welfare by nurturing the skills of those involved.



Dinner and in Stephen Fry's Key to the City. Our walking float in the Lord Mayor's Show was a great success. I promoted the Lady Mayoress, pictured above, to our Livery. The Mistress Apothecary, known to you as Janet, was a great support in my year. I had the pleasure of admitting her to the Yeomanry.

And the best bit?

Many people have asked me what has been the most exciting / memorable / interesting / enjoyable / best event in my year as Master. My response to that is always the same. It is totally impossible to answer.

I have done all sorts of things, met fascinating people, been to wonderful places; got up early, stayed up late; breakfasted, lunched and dined; but I cannot tell you what was best. I cannot even say what was worst, or least good. It was a very full year; and a truly memorable and wonderful one.



Many tributes to John Rainbow



PEOPLE TRAVELLED from far and wide on 13 January, filling St James's Church for a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Rainbow, one of our long-serving members, who died on 26 December, aged 92.

John was born in Wetherby, Yorkshire in 1921, the son of a hairdresser and tobacconist. He attended Knaresborough Grammar School and studied to become a chartered accountant in Leeds. During the war he served as a staff sergeant in the army. He was Mentioned in Despatches in Italy in 1945.

Soon after the war he volunteered for the Oxford Group, a Christian charity that campaigned under the name of Moral Re-Armament (MRA, now Initiatives of Change). The aim of the charity, formed in 1938 as the Second World War loomed and nations armed themselves, was to build 'a hate-free, fear-free, greed-free world'. John managed the charity's finances, with others, for 50 years. It was there that he met Betty. They married in 1965.

In 1974 they found themselves in South Africa at a major international conference in Pretoria, the start of the long road to free elections and an end to apartheid. Sixteen years later the Rainbows were in Cape Town at the first public gathering of the unbanned African National Congress, ahead of Nelson Mandela's release from prison. In all they visited South Africa five times and stayed in touch with their many friends there.

John was fascinated by people for all of his life. In the 1950s and 60s he travelled widely to meet civic, industrial and political leaders across Yorkshire, including Hugh Gaitskell, then Labour Party leader. He said that it was through going out on such visits that he got the confidence, as a man with a working class background, to talk as an equal to anyone else. John believed that everyone could have a part in changing the world but change had to begin with oneself. One could find a new direction for living from that.

Sport figured large in his life as well. He was a life-long supporter of Leeds United Football Club. His other passion was cricket, and he was a friend of Conrad Hunte, vice-chairman of the West Indies team. John persuaded Betty to hold their wedding during a Test Match at Lord's and invited Hunte, confident that somehow he would attend. He did — rain stopped play! When Hunte retired, John and Betty joined him in his campaign for racial reconciliation in Britain. It was a fitting response to the riots of the time.

John and Betty began to attend St James's 20 years ago. John had boundless energy, a sharp mind and wit — all of which belied his age. His storytelling entranced young and old alike.

Among the many letters of condolence was one from the Bishop of London who had been their parish priest. He said: 'Your work together has been a blessing to so many people and I shall always remember John as a great encourager, as well as a man of deep faith.'

A chance to ring the changes



THE BELLRINGERS from St James's were invited to visit the tower of All Saints Church, Kingston, in January. A total of 13 ringers visited and were made most welcome. They saw how the 12 bells are lowered and raised at the beginning and end of a ringing session. Our ringers, including Laurie Butterfield (pictured), were also able to watch the Kingston ringers and then try their hand at ringing the bells; very different to how we do it at St James's! Everyone enjoyed their visit and at least one has been inspired to go back and learn how to ring swinging bells.



Lent

When is Lent?

The season of Lent begins during late February or early March and is the period of forty days before Easter, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. (Sundays are not counted in the forty days. Lent is a serious time, but Sundays are always a day of celebration in the Christian church.)

What does Lent mean?

Lent is from an old English word, *lencten*, meaning 'lengthen' and happens in Spring when the days begin to get longer.

Why do we celebrate Lent?

Lent is a serious and thoughtful time, a season for reflection and thinking about the things we have done wrong and what we should do better in the future.

The Story

In the early years of Christianity, it was the time when new Christians who were going to be baptised on Easter Eve were taught about the Christian faith and life. Those who had already been baptised renewed the promises they had already made. Lent is a time when Christians remember how Jesus spent forty days and nights alone in the wilderness being tempted by the Devil. Jesus used this time to prepare for his work by fasting and praying. During Lent many Christians fast (they avoid eating certain foods, particularly things they enjoy, like chocolate) and spend extra time praying.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent. It was originally a day when children who had gone to work as domestic servants were given time off to visit their mother. They often took a simnel cake as a present. Simnel cake is especially associated with Mothering Sunday.

It is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste. On top there are eleven balls of marzipan, one for each faithful disciple, Judas not being included as he betrayed Jesus.

Nowadays, on this day, children often give their mothers gifts and cards as a way of saying thank you for their hard work. In church, prayers are said for mothers at a special service.

The Mothering Sunday service at St. James's this year is at 9.30am on 30 March.



Wordsearch

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

The following words describe mothers. Can you find them in the puzzle above?

- Precious
- Kind
- Loving
- Generous
- Thoughtful
- Gentle
- Forgiving



Lancashire Fig Pie



In the north west of England a Fig (or Fag) pie is served on *Mothering Sunday*. This fig pie has strong associations with another 'cake' served at this time of the year, the Simnel Cake. Although the recipe was written down in the 1900s this recipe stems from pies made in the 1800s and the local traditions it was inspired by, particularly around Blackburn.

Ingredients

Serves 4 to 6

Preheat oven to 200°C / Gas Mark 6

For The Pie

- 300g dried or fresh ripe figs, stalks removed and cut in half
- 200ml water
- 2 tsp of lemon juice
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 80g of soft brown muscovado sugar
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice
- 50g raisins
- 1 egg, beaten, to glaze

For The Pastry

- 250g plain flour
- 50g golden caster sugar
- 100g butter, softened and diced
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tbsp milk

To serve

- 330ml whipping or thick double cream

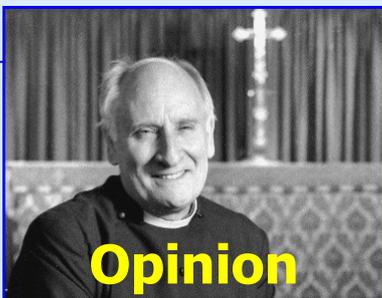
Method

- 1) If using dried figs, soak overnight in a bowl with the water and lemon juice added. There is no need to soak fresh figs.
- 2) To make the pastry, sift in the flour into a large mixing bowl, then add in the softened diced butter and rub it together with your finger tips until the it looks like very fine breadcrumbs.
- 3) Sprinkle in the sugar and add the egg yolk and milk and mix with a wooden spoon until the mixture starts to clump together. Then gently squeeze the pastry in your hands until it comes together into a soft, silky and pliable ball – add a little extra milk only if it feels dry. When made wrap the pastry in cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.
- 4) Pour the figs, and the pie liquid, into a small saucepan. The liquid should just cover the figs in the saucepan, if not add a little more water. Bring the figs up to a boil and then turn down the heat and simmer gently for 15 minutes. Then, using a slotted spoon, drain and remove the figs from the saucepan and place them in a bowl to cool. Retain as much liquid as possible in the saucepan and reserve for later.
- 5) Take the pastry out of the fridge and roll it out on a lightly floured surface. Use the pastry to line a greased, shallow 20cm pie or tart tin with a removable base. Trim off any excess pastry overhanging the edges. Then blind bake the pastry case, using ceramic baking beans, for 15 minutes. Remove the baking beans and brush the pastry all over with some beaten egg. Put the pastry case back in the oven for 2 minutes.
- 6) Remove from the oven and neatly place the figs all over the base. In a small cup, mix the cornflour with 1 tbsp of water to make a paste.
- 7) Put the saucepan with the reserved fig 'stewing' liquid back on to a medium heat. Add the sugar, stir to dissolve, then add the ground mixed spice and finally the raisins. Heat this through, stirring all the time to reduce and thicken the liquid.
- 8) Add the cornflour paste and stir it so that it blends into the liquid without making any lumps. Turn up the heat and stir continuously until it boils. Reduce the heat and simmer until it thickens considerably, stirring frequently.
- 9) Pour over the figs in the pie case — brush the exposed pastry edges with more beaten egg — and then bake in the oven for a further 20 minutes until the pastry is golden. Remove the pie from the oven and leave to cool for 30 minutes.
- 10) When the pie is cool, remove it from the tin or plate. Serve with the cream.

Next Month:
Simnel Cake

What's On

with Nick Bagge



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

THE POPE and BREASTFEEDING

A Roman Catholic mother who had breast fed her babies everywhere, including the House of Commons, decided not to when her latest baby was baptized in Westminster Cathedral. Instead, she stuck her finger into her baby's mouth — a decision she later regretted, saying 'a baby's needs take priority'. Now she knows the Pope is on her side. In a sermon in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis, baptizing 32 babies, said, 'Feed your babies. If they are hungry, feed them without thinking about it because they are the most important people here.'

7 TIPS FOR MARRIAGE

Nicky and Sila Slee, who have run marriage courses for hundreds of other couples, give these seven tips:

- Go on regular dates together;
- Defer all arguments after 10pm to a better time;
- Take it in turns to talk and listen — and when your partner is upset listen without interrupting or giving advice;
- Say five positive things for every negative comment;
- Decide together how to save or spend your money — finances are a huge part of marital difficulty;
- Plan for the future rather than argue about the past;
- See sex not as the icing on the cake, but a vital ingredient of the cake itself.

MANDELA and MUSIC

In the Southwark Diocese we had to record how many people came to worship from ethnic minority backgrounds. I used to say to one young Ugandan worshipper that my salary went up every time he came to church! He would remind me of Nelson Mandela's remark: 'You need black and white notes to make music.'

MILLION FAMILIES ON PAY DAY LOANS

In a personal letter to all clergy on International Credit Union day, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, wrote: 'One million families are taking out payday loans every month and so easily ending up in a crippling spiral of debt. I have seen this for myself in the communities where I have lived and worked. It is devastating, but people often have little choice, especially in deprived areas of the country.'

'Our faith in Christ calls us to love the poor and vulnerable with our actions. That is why churches must be actively involved in supporting the development of real lending alternatives, such as Credit Unions. That is not an optional extra, but a fundamental part of our witness and service to God's people.'

FAITH SCHOOLS

Often I find myself defending Faith Schools, sometimes with people who have children at private schools. My response is to make a deal with them. I would agree to abolish all Faith Schools on two conditions: that all private schools should be abolished, and that the entry to all state primary and secondary schools should be by lottery. My point is simple: I find wealth far more insidious than faith.

CATHEDRAL CARPET

A bishop friend told me that when he was walking round his cathedral a small boy asked why the main carpet round the high altar had disappeared. He replied: 'It's Lent.' The boy said immediately: 'Who to?'

Faith at Work

Saturday 1 March, 9.15-10.15am, St James's Church

The Spring programme of discussions about how our faith impacts on our working lives continues with **Carol Bailey** discussing *Faith in Many Roles*. Please join us for a lively debate. The series concludes on Saturday 15 March with Joshua Webb, who will be talking about his *Faith as a Student*.



Fairtrade Easter Eggs

Sundays 2 and 30 March, 6 April, 10.30-11.30am, Fitz Wygram Hall

Order or buy your Easter Eggs now! Besides the **Original Real Easter Egg** (see Around the Spire, page 4) the stall is taking orders for a **Special Edition Premium Real Easter Egg** (280g), pictured, which includes an olive wood holding cross from Bethlehem, an extra thick Belgian Chocolate egg (180g) and Meaningful milk Chocolate bar (100g). It costs **£9.99**.



Shrove Tuesday Parish Meal

Tuesday 4 March, 7pm for 7.30pm, Garden Room, The Rising Sun, 29 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NB

Why not join us for our annual meal to mark the start of Lent? Choose two courses from a set menu (see *Future Events* notice board for details) for £14.95. Please add your name to the list in church or phone the Parish Office 020 8941 6003 to reserve places. This popular event is a fun night out.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 5 March, 9am and 7.30pm, Holy Communion with ashing, St James's Church, Hampton Hill

Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence to clean the soul at the start of Lent. At these services, worshippers can be marked with ashes as a symbol of death and sorrow for sin.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Streams in the Desert, Friday 7 March, 2pm and 7.30pm, All Saints' Church, 10 The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RS

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church event. Over three million men and women will be praying across the world. This year, the service has been prepared by women in Egypt. Since the 2011 uprising there has been conflict between religious groups. We will be praying for peace.

Registers for January



Baptism

26 Charlotte May McGuinness, Hampton Hill



Funerals

6 Winifred Ethel Northam, 103, Teddington

13 John William Rainbow, 92, Twickenham

16 Jean Fletcher, 82, Hampton Hill

23 Irene Kathleen Verdun Billins, 97, Hampton

23 Peter Frederick Butcher, 79, Hampton Hill

Lent Course

Prophets for Today? Mondays, from 10 March-7 April, 7.15-9.30pm, Fitz Wygram Hall, St James's Church

Each week we will look at a prophet from the Old Testament: 10 March: Amos — *The rich shall be sent empty away*; 17 March: Hosea — *A broken heart*; 24 March: Isaiah — *Light shining in darkness*; 31 March: Jeremiah — *Faith in the city*; 7 April: Ezekiel — *Restoration man*.

Each week we will follow the pattern of the autumn course meeting in the church hall: 7.15pm Lenten supper of soup, bread, cheese and fruit; 7.55pm Talk; 8.30pm Discussion; 9.15pm Plenary; 9.30pm Finish.

Notices will be given in church about how to sign up, or you may call the Parish Office 020 8941 6003.

NEW

www.WorkingWithWichi

Saturday 22 March, 6-9pm, Fitz Wygram Hall, St James's Church

A fun evening with David and Shelley Stokes to hear about their work with the Wichi people in northern Argentina, whom we will be supporting with our Lent Appeal (see Charity Box, page 3). The evening will consist of a talk with pictures, followed by supper and social time.



Concordia Voices

Spring Concert, Saturday 22 March, 7.30pm, St John the Divine, St John's Road, Richmond TW9 2PE

Concordia Voices presents its spring concert. Tickets £12 on door (concessions £10) or £10 (concessions £8) in advance from choir members, or by emailing secretary@concordia.org.

NEW

Annual Spring Clean

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

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

Teddington Choral Society

Spring Concert, Saturday 29 March, 7.30pm, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

Teddington Choral Society presents Pergolesi's Stabat Mater; Vivaldi's Gloria; and McDowall's Magnificat. Conducted by Patrick Martin; the pianist is Geoffrey Bowyer. Tickets are £14 on door or £12 in advance. Telephone 020 8977 7558.

Vicar's View



'No, not the spire, the roof or the heating—it's for the Vicar's post-Christmas, pre-Easter recuperation holiday.'



Television comedy is no laughing matter!

Television situation comedy might seem a strange thing to choose for my favourites, but I have found a sense of humour a godsend in life.

When I started out as a newspaper reporter my first editor told me not to take life too seriously, and equally to find humour in the most trying of situations. It is an essential coping mechanism used by the emergency services and has also helped me through life's ups and downs.

Many years later I received the same advice from Bill Cotton, then BBC Head of Light Entertainment, and ultimately the man responsible for many of these sitcoms.

I can chart most of them to periods in my life, starting in my childhood. The beauty of DVDs is that I can revisit them whenever I want.

1 DAD'S ARMY 1968-1977



Written by David Croft and Jimmy Perry, the comedy about the Warmington on Sea Home Guard ran for nine series and 80 episodes in total. At its peak the series was watched by 18 million viewers. It brought together a disparate bunch of actors, including Arthur Lowe, Clive Dunn and John Le Mesurier. Dour Scotsman John Laurie, who played undertaker James Frazer, had previously performed with the RSC, but lamented he was instead going to be remembered for 'this old rubbish!' I can remember being allowed to stay up to watch the series in the early seventies, coming at about the same time as we switched to a colour TV.

2 THE LIKELY LADS 1964-1974



I am sure many of you will recall the original 1960s run, but I came to it in the 1973-4 run. Written by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, it followed the friendship of two working-class men, played by Rodney Bewes and James Bolam. Set in the North East, its

humour was based on the tension between Terry's firmly working-class outlook and Bob's aspirations to join the middle class. The mellifluous dialogue, tensions and 1970s dreams, really appealed to me.

3 PORRIDGE 1974-1977



This was arguably Ronnie Barker's greatest role, as habitual criminal Norman Stanley Fletcher — and another huge success for writers Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais. Fletcher took first-timer Lenny Godber, played by Richard Beckinsadale, under his wing. Fulton McKay played the principal prison officer who took an instant dislike to Fletcher. The show excelled in delivering funny and self-contained scenes, often not even leaving the one cell. Far from restricting comedy, it often made the performances all the better; helping the characters to use their imagination to make their lives more bearable. Barker wasn't keen on Fletcher, but the nation thought otherwise. It was also essential viewing in real prisons.

4 FAWLTY TOWERS 1975-1979



This gem of a comedy ran for just two series of six episodes each, written by two of its stars, John Cleese and his then wife Connie Booth. Set in a chaotic Torquay hotel, the plots centre around tense, rude and put-upon owner Basil Fawlty (Cleese), his bossy wife Sybil (Prunella Scales), a comparatively normal chambermaid Polly (Booth) and hapless Spanish waiter Manuel (Andrew Sachs) and their attempts to run the hotel amidst farcical situations and an array of demanding and eccentric guests. Cleese got the idea after staying at a Torquay hotel and encountering its rude and eccentric owner. Despite its British-ness, the series sold well abroad owing to the high level of slapstick.

5 ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES 1981-1991

Who would have thought that a BBC scenery shifter could have written television's most popular comedy?

Del Boy made David Jason a star, along with Nicholas Lyndhurst, who played his brother, Rodney.

Their lives as Peckham market traders were watched at their peak by 25 million viewers (at the time a third of the population). Sullivan based his characters on people he met. What impressed me most was mix of high comedy and darker storylines. The range of emotions in a single episode meant this could arguably be called comedy drama.



6 2 POINT 4 CHILDREN 1991-1999



This series marked the beginning of more realistic family life portrayals. Here was an, at times, dysfunctional family. A mother struggling to run a business and a household; a lovable but inept father, a plumber; a troubled daughter and mischievous son. Critics hailed it as 'one of the greatest British sitcoms of all time', many comparing it to US sitcom *Roseanne*. It certainly stood out for me as a more believable family and it was willing to tackle some dark subjects, such as anorexia and social welfare.

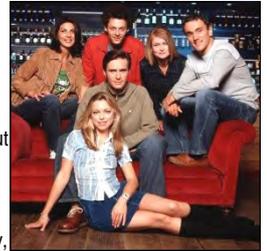
7 ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE 1990-2000



David Renwick, who helped pen *2 Point 4 Children*, created one of the most popular series of the 90s. Victor Meldrew (Richard Wilson) spent the series dealing with life's problems (mostly created by himself) and left to be resolved by his long-suffering wife Margaret (Annette Crosbie). Despite its traditional production, the series supplants its domestic sitcom setting with elements of black humour and surrealism. The series was occasionally the subject of controversy for some of its darker story elements, but Renwick's writing gave a powerful message about the treatment of people in old age.

8 COUPLING 2000-2004

This series centres on the lives of six friends in their thirties who hung out in a trendy bar. It excelled in high comedy, sometimes black comedy. The series was written by Steven Moffat, now in charge of *Doctor Who*, and inspired by his relationship with series producer Sue Vertue. *Coupling* was an ensemble show. Critics inevitably compared it to the American sitcoms *Friends* and *Seinfeld*.



9 OUTNUMBERED 2007-present day



This could so easily have been a series about a middle-class family in suburbia, but thanks to writers Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin, it is clever, honest and realistic. It portrays the Brockmans, whose two parents, played by Hugh Dennis and Claire Skinner, are 'outnumbered' by their three, somewhat unruly, children. The programme has deservedly received critical acclaim for its semi-improvisational scripting and realistic portrayal of family life.

10 REV 2010-present day

The Reverend Adam Smallbone, played by Tom Hollander, is an Anglican priest who has recently moved from a small rural parish to the "socially disunited" St Saviour in the Marshes in East London. Unable to turn anyone away from his pastoral care, Smallbone is faced with a collection of moral challenges as he balances the needs of genuine believers, people on the streets, and drug addicts, as well as the demands of social climbers using the church to get their children into the best schools. Parishioners include Colin, a heavy drinking, unemployable lost soul who is Adam's most devoted parishioner, and Adoha, well known for her romantic intentions towards the clergy. The series was devised by Hollander.

