



MAGAZINE FOR DECEMBER 2021



BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF
CHRISTIAN LOVE, FAITH, WITNESS AND ACTION

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Christmas Past and
Christmas Present

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Breathing out**
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and
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behind these initials?

Fauré Requiem

Review

By Gill Perrin



Plus all our regular features

HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

[Registered Charity No. 1129264]

Church Row, NW3 6UU

Parish Office: 020 7794 5808 /

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Youtube: [youtube.com/c/hampsteadparishchurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/hampsteadparishchurch)

Sundays:

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Common
Worship)

5.00pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

(All these services can be found on Facebook live and
Zoom)

Weekdays:

*please check the weekly email—sometimes we have to make
changes to this pattern**

Wednesdays at 10.15am Holy Communion in church

Mon – Fri 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

Thursdays at 8.30am Rosary prayer on Zoom

Saturday 9.00am Morning Prayer in church

**For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact the
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vicar@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

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December



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Diary for December



Wed 1st No morning Communion service
7.00pm St Mary's School Carol Service

Thu 2nd 8.30am Rosary Prayer on Zoom
7.45pm Community Choir

Sat 4th 10am–12 noon Gardening group

Sunday 5th Advent 2

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Christingle Eucharist, followed by Traidcraft & Craft Stalls
5.00pm Choral Evensong followed by sherry with the choir

Mon 6th 7.00pm SHHS Carol service

Tue 7th 12.15pm Inside Out Prayer Group on Zoom
6.00pm St Christopher's School Carol Concert

Wed 8th 10.15am Holy Communion
5.00pm UCS Carol Service

Thu 9th 8.30am Rosary Prayer on Zoom
7.45pm Community Choir

Fri 10th 7.00pm Christmas Lights Concert – see insert

Sunday 12th – Advent 3

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion followed by Traidcraft & Craft Stalls
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Tue 14th 12.15pm Inside Out Prayer Group on Zoom
6.00pm St Anthony's School Carol Service

Wed 15th No morning Communion service

11.00am Devonshire House Carol Service

Thu 16th 8.30am Rosary Prayer on Zoom

6.00pm Hampstead Parochial School Christmas Service
 Sat 18th 10.00am Church cleaning and decorating

Sunday 19th – Advent 4

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion followed by Traidcraft & Craft Stalls
 5.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wed 22nd 10.15am Holy Communion
 Thu 23rd 8.30am Rosary Prayer on Zoom
 8.00pm A Jazzy Christmas Concert – see page 23

Fri 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30 pm Crib Service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass



Sat 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion

Sunday 26th – Christmas 1

10.30am Holy Communion
 (No service at 8.00am or 5.00pm)



Mon 27th *St John the Evangelist*
 Tue 28th *Holy Innocents*
 Wed 29th *St Stephen (transferred from 26th)*
 Sat 1st *The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*

Sunday 2nd Christmas 2

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion
 No 5.00pm service



The Vicar writes...

The Church Times has just released a compilation of articles about the Christmas season, called *News of Great Joy*. I had largely forgotten the piece I'd written in 2001 about the clash between the church year and the 'commercial' one, but the Church Times hadn't and they asked if they could use it. The book was delivered yesterday, and I bear no ill will to those authors they featured on the front cover, featuring as I do among the "and others" at the end of the great ones. The proceeds are to St Martin in the Fields. There is lots of good material there – a great gift, if you ignore p 254 – 256, and head straight for Evelyn Underhill, Paula Gooder et al.

I'd been asked to think about the celebration of Christmas by most people up to, but not after, Christmas Day, and the church celebrating Advent up to Christmas Eve, and Christmas and Epiphany right up to Candlemas, February 2nd. I end by saying that we can't ignore the Christmas music and decorations from late October, but we can celebrate the child born to die and be raised, and, once the tinsel is packed away, can unwrap the mystery of the Word made flesh.

I pray that we will be able to do that this year. Last year we had some in person services (during one of which our Christmas gift to the Bishop of Edmonton was his own dose of Covid, shared with the other clergy and people in the sanctuary...), but much of what we did was online only. This year we intend to be in person, but will have to restrict numbers to a safe level. Please keep a careful eye out for arrangements, and how and when to book in.

We are looking forward to the All Age Christingle Eucharist on December 5, the Junior Church Christmas Party on December 12, Nine Lessons and Carols on December 19, and then the 'usual' Christmas services. Of course, it will be Advent too, and we will welcome seven schools and other organisations as they make their Christmas preparations. How good to be in company, even as we mask and sanitise (please).

A fruit of lockdown has been “Church Chat” on the website. Rather than take the place of this magazine it has added to our communication and our connection. My thanks to Judy East for renewing this print publication, and to Sheena Ginnings for enabling many people to realise they have a “Church Chat” in them!

We approach the end of the year in good financial heart also, thanks to people’s extra generosity in giving a one-off amount in the face of our forecast deficit, and to people increasing their giving too (as well as to renewed booking of our facilities). We remain Covid vigilant, and look forward to welcoming many to worship in the coming weeks. May you know the blessings of Advent, and Christmas, when it comes!

Jeremy Fletcher

December

Judy East

As I sit among the detritus of a leaking radiator and blocked drains I reflect that thankfully it’s not happened at Christmas - why does that matter so much? Why do we want to set Christmas apart, invest so much in making it special, in a completely secular way? The news has been winding everyone up for weeks over the possible shortage of toys and turkeys and all the apparently inescapable essentials for a “happy Christmas” and this at a time when so many people are struggling to survive week by week, let alone spend extra on Christmas. We all know about the number of covid patients in hospital, but did you know 10,000 people in England were admitted last year suffering from malnutrition – and *scurvy* of all things. Now, more than ever we are grateful for donations to the Foodbank and to CARIS Haringey.

Hm..... link that to a jolly paragraph about Christmas at HPC.

Christmas observances, as shown in the diary, will follow the pattern of previous years but, as the vicar noted in his letter, with pre-booking not just suggested but actually required for the main services. Look out for details in the weekly eletters and printed notice sheets.

So what else is on this month?

The Community Choir are reviving their Christmas Lights concert with the Junior Choir and Hampstead Players on 10th – we haven't had one since we said goodbye to David Moore in 2019. Now Aidan Coburn will lead us through a sparkling evening of delights. If your taste runs more to Jazz then look out for the Jazzy Christmas Concert on 23rd – details further on in this issue. And the schools are back – seven of them! The range of styles is always entertaining – I wonder what this year's top carol will be? There's always one that they all seem to sing.

Advent reading: do you look for an Advent book? There are lots of new ones about, but this year I've gone for "Haphazard by Starlight" from 2013 – more, if I'm honest, because it's such a lovely title than because I knew anything about it. Turns out to be a poem and a reflection for each day up to Epiphany. Leafing through, my eye fell on *In the days of Caesar* which I've printed below.

And finally a word on Compost

not a very Christmassy subject but we have compost, lots of it, and certainly more than we can use, in the Additional Burial Ground. On 4th December the gardening group are planning to compost the flower beds and then invite anyone to come and help themselves. We don't have bags so you'll have to bring your own containers – and dig it out, labour not included! But it's good stuff and no point in it sitting where it is. Contact me if you don't know where the compost bins are and I'll show you. Look on it as a Christmas present for your plants.



In the days of Caesar

Waldo Williams, translated from the Welsh by Rowan Williams

In the days of Caesar when his subjects went to be reckoned,
there was a poem made, too dark for him (naïve with power) to
read.

It was a bunch of shepherds who discovered
in Bethlehem of Judah, the great music beyond reason and reckoning;
Shepherds, the sort of folk who leave the ninety-nine behind
so as to bring the stray back home, they heard it clear,
the subtle assonances of the day, dawning toward the cock-crow,
the birthday of the Lamb of God, shepherd of mortals.

Well, little people, and my little nation, can you see
the secret buried in you, that no Caesar ever captures in his lists?
Will not the shepherd come to fetch us in our desert,
gathering us in to give us birth again, weaving us into one
in a song heard in the sky over Bethlehem?
He seeks us out as wordhoard for his workmanship, the laureate of
heaven.

From Haphazard by Starlight by Janet Morley (SPCK 2013)

Sermon

Being with God - like breathing in and breathing out

Graham Dunn

Readings: Deuteronomy 26.1-11, John 6.25-35

The lectionary gives us plenty of opportunities to reflect on the notion of Jesus as the bread of life and tonight's second lesson from John's gospel is another. The last time I preached on the subject was back in August and I talked about a number of things, including the national obsession with sourdough starters as well as the centrality of bread to human existence.

One of the wonderful things about Hampstead Parish Church is that people want to talk about your sermons with you. After that last bread of life sermon, a few of us ended up having an interesting discussion outside the front of church about my claim that bread was universally seen as a basic foodstuff. Quite rightly, the question was posed – what about parts of the world where bread is not the staple that it is in our own culture – for example what about places where rice plays far more of an underpinning role than bread.

We got to thinking about how the word used for bread – artos in the original koine Greek – is or should be translated.

So I did a little bit of digging. Interestingly in places where rice is the main staple, many translations still use the local word for bread in order to be faithful to the original text. In some places there is a concern that to use the word for ‘rice’ might not be appropriate – in others, they have opted to translate it simply as ‘food’. For the food of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. I am the food of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry.

Wherever we land on the specific translation, what come across through all of this is that what Jesus is trying to convey is the absolutely essential nature of our relationship with God. Our relationship with God should be as fundamental to our very being as eating and drinking, as going to sleep and waking up, as breathing in and breathing out. Taking time to be with God, to dwell with him, to read his word, to seek his counsel, should be the very food of our lives. God makes himself available to us in good times and in bad, when we are weeping and when we are laughing.

I don't know about you but I suspect I'm probably better at turning to God when things are tough than I am at stopping to thank him when things go well. I'm sure I've had many times when I've been praying fervently for something that I'm anxious about and when that thing has gone well I've gleefully skipped off without stopping to return thanks to God for having been with me.

Much of the early part of the Old Testament involves the journey of the people of Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. The journey is not straightforward. The relationship between God and his people is definitely not straightforward. There is an ongoing sense that God's people forget what he has done for them and return to their old ways. They constantly need bringing back to him.

The book of Deuteronomy is threaded through with this dynamic. Deuteronomy in Greek means Second Law and much of the text is essentially centred on the image of Moses reminding the people of what God has done for them and the way in which God wants them to live. Indeed the book includes the second appearance of the ten commandments, the first being in Exodus.

In the passage we heard tonight, the people of God are being told two things. Firstly they are being assured that they will reach the place they want to get to. It is not 'if you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you' but 'when you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you'. God will lead them into a better place after all they have been through. But they are also being told what they need to do when they get there.

They are to take the first of all the fruit of the ground which they harvest from the land...put it in a basket and go to the place that God will choose as a dwelling for his name. In other words they are not to simply enter the promised land and say 'pew, we made it – I guess we probably don't need God anymore'.

Quite the opposite, when they enter the promised land they are to stop and pause. They are to offer back to God the first fruit of their new land. Returning thanks to God is not to be an afterthought, once they have settled in and got things in order. It is to be the first thing they do. God brings them into the land, they offer some of it back to God. This signals the fundamental rhythm which should underpin their relationship with God. Like breathing in and breathing out.

At this point in the year when we, like churches across the country are celebrating the harvest, I wonder what it is that we are being called

to offer back to God as our first fruits, as a thanksgiving for all that he continues to do as he walks alongside us.

Of course we can think about this at a global, community and individual level.

This morning we focussed on the need to protect our planet and the people who live on it, with a particular focus on another essential ingredient of life – water.

At a community level, returning thanks to God might mean getting involved in volunteering locally. At an individual level, perhaps it might be as simple as devoting some time each day just to be with God. Just to sit and dwell with him. Taking him seriously when Jesus says that he is the bread of life. The food of life.

If we take Jesus seriously then the relationship God wants to have with us individually and collectively is a loving one in which we are so connected with him that we simply can't imagine our lives without him.

One in which we know we can turn to him in our darkest hours.

One in which we gladly offer back to him a portion of what he has given us in grateful thanks for his blessings.

Dwelling with God, day by day.

Like breathing in, and breathing out.

Amen

(A selection of sermons can be found on the website)

Drive carefully this Christmas. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. – Anon

PCC REPORT

Nicholas Walser, PCC Secretary

Deanery Synod – School Governor vacancy – Racial Justice and Inclusion – Spring Fair 2022 – Staffing for Youth Work and Music

The PCC's latest meeting took place (via Zoom) on 15 November.

We received a report on the Camden Deanery Synod's recent meeting, when there was a discussion about work with children and young people, led by Sam Donaghue, the Head of Children & Youth for the Diocese of London. It was noted that the newly elected General Synod of the Church of England would be meeting soon. Sadly, our own Owen Sparkes' bid for election was not successful, but the Revd Robert Thompson, the vicar of St Mary & St James, West Hampstead, was elected and will provide representation for the Camden area.

The PCC also received an update on Hampstead Parochial School, now approaching the end of their first term under the new Executive Head and Head of School. We learned that sadly Anna Sabapathy is stepping down as a Governor and the parish will need to nominate a replacement. Jeremy expressed his appreciation for the work that Anna has done in her time on the Governing Body.

There was a discussion about the work of the Racial Justice Group, including feedback on Black History Month and the broadening of the Group's focus to raise awareness of the many different ways that people can feel excluded, and help us to pursue our mission as a truly inclusive church community.

We talked about plans for fund-raising events for next year. The general view was that it would be good to have a Spring Fair again if we can, but this should not necessarily prevent us holding more focused events (such as a Craft Fair) as well. An organising group will discuss this and report back.

Our Treasurer Inigo reported that having started 2021 in deficit we could expect a small surplus at the year end, due to both increased

income (including generous donations from congregation members in response to the Autumn appeal) and reduced expenditure. Many parishes in the London Diocese are in a far less fortunate position, and as part of our wider responsibility to help our neighbours the PCC approved a 5% increase in our contribution to the Common Fund for 2022.

Following Maureen's decision to step down as our Children and Youth Worker, we agreed on the importance of having paid help in this area, and a recruitment process will begin as soon as possible. We also discussed music staffing arrangements (including employed and freelance musicians) following Geoffrey Webber's formal appointment as Director of Music and the return to our regular pattern of Sunday worship.

Reports on two charities supported by the parish:



Life in the Christmas town

Bill Risebero

Our Parish has a long association with BASR, the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation. Over the years we have made various visits to this modern little hospital in Beit Jala, on the outskirts of Bethlehem in the West Bank. During the last ten years or so, we have seen BASR steadily increasing its role, ever since the 'Apartheid Wall' cut off Palestinians' access to hospitals in nearby Jerusalem.

It is difficult to live in the West Bank. The occupying forces impose a heavy burden on Palestinian everyday life. BASR has developed widely admired specialisms in treating the disability and the physical and mental trauma which arise directly from the violence of Occupation.

BASR's success lies partly in a holistic approach, which draws in the community. Families are actively involved in their loved ones' recovery. BASR now has ten day-care centres in the Bethlehem and Hebron areas, and other outreach programmes offering physical rehabilitation, mental health support and work training to people with disabilities, many of them children.

Covid-19 has been yet one more burden, as I wrote earlier this year. For Palestine the pandemic began badly, with vaccines at first withheld, then eventually provided through the Covax scheme. The BASR staff have worked tirelessly despite a shortage of equipment, drugs and PPE. Much work is being done in the community to inform people how to keep safe. So far the overall success rate in Palestine has been significantly better than that of the UK.



A medical service has to be paid for, but inability to pay is not a reason for BASR to turn people away - there are no distinctions of income, class, age, gender, race or religion. When you go to BASR, in the Christmas town, you are aware that, despite everything, people live lives of tolerance, co-operation and hope.

You can look at BASR's work on their website, basr.org, and email them at info@basr.org. BASR depends very much on grants and charitable giving, and any support that we can give makes a huge difference to the lives of people already living under great stress. The website gives details of how to contribute.

Happy Christmas to us all and *eid milaad sa'eed* to Bethlehem.



XLP

“Dear Inigo and Jeremy and all those at Hampstead Parish Church,

I wanted to say thank you so much for your kind donation of £1000 to XLP recently. Your generosity makes a huge difference.

With your donation, we’re working hard to run 35 community projects across 9 London boroughs.

Your money buys a football for a sports kick about, puts petrol into the generator of a mobile recording studio, helps a young person to get CV and interview training, and supports a young person being mentored and supported by XLP for a whole year.

Thank you so much,

Flo Allen

External Relations Manager

XLP, All Hallows-on-the-Wall, 83 London Wall, London, EC2M 5ND

From their website:

“XLP is about creating positive futures for young people growing up on inner-city estates in London, struggling daily with issues such as family breakdown, unemployment and educational failure, and living in areas that experience high levels of anti-social behaviour and gang violence. Every year XLP helps thousands of young people recognise their full potential. We believe positive, long-term relationships can restore a young person’s trust in people, nurture the belief that things can change and encourage them to set positive goals and work hard to achieve them.” Xlp.org.uk

Did you know? By replacing potato chips with grapefruit as a snack, you can lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.

Music for December

Geoffrey Webber

Now that the season of Advent is with us, our service music naturally changes in emphasis and mood. Organ music ceases to be overtly celebratory, and much of the choral music becomes more sombre yet expectant. At the Communion services we sing the Kyrie instead of the Gloria, and at Evensong we will sing the psalms to plainchant, and adopt a version of the Preces and Responses also based on chant: I have adapted a set of Preces in Latin by Lassus to fit with BCP texts, and we will sing a setting of the Lord's Prayer dating from around the same time by Hieronymus Praetorius (in Latin), which alternates between the traditional plainsong melody and sonorous music for 8-part choir.

Plainsong also permeates other parts of our Advent music, including a setting of the Evening Canticles by Philip Moore (December 5th) composed in the 'faux bourdon' style with harmonized chant set for organ and choir, a setting of the Magnificat and a separate setting of the Nunc dimittis *in alternatim* (i.e. alternating between chant and polyphony) by two 16th-century composers, de Monte and Ortiz (December 12th), and one of Palestrina's most celebrated 'paraphrase' masses based on plainsong, his *Missa Aeterna Christi munera* (also December 12th). On the 19th December our morning music is all from the baroque period, with a mass by Domenico Scarlatti and two versions of the famous Advent chorale *Nun komm der Heiland Heiland* (itself developed by Luther from the medieval plainsong hymn *Veni, Redemptor gentium* - 'Come, thou Redeemer of the earth'), one for the organ by Buxtehude, and the other a four-part setting by the Weimar Kantor Melchior Vulpius published in 1609.

Also on 19th December we anticipate Christmas with our carol service: the Senior Choir expands to 12 singers, and we are joined by the Junior Choir. No spoilers here, though, as it adds to the excitement of the occasion when one wonders what repertoire might be included... However, I will say that the first and last items were specifically requested by two of the choir members, and there will be

some local touches alongside a standard mix of music both familiar and unfamiliar.

Organists Richard Gowers and Liam Crangle will continue to help out during the month, though the music at Christmas itself will be notably more *a cappella* than perhaps is usual, since they will of course be busy at their own regular churches. A sumptuous 8-part Mass by Lassus will be sung at the Midnight service (the *Missa Bell' amfitrit' altera*, made famous in the 1970s by a recording by Simon Preston when Organist of Christ Church, Oxford), as well as Sweelinck's Christmas classic *Hodie Christus natus est* with its joyful tripe-time refrain for the word 'Hodie' ('today'). On Christmas morning we sing a Mass by David Terry, known to many for his work as Director of Music at the Oratory School *. It wasn't written specifically for Christmas as far as I know, but the imitation of pealing bells in the Gloria certainly captures the festive spirit.

**And at one time our assistant organist*

Music list for December

Sunday 5th – Advent II

10.30 am. All-age Christingle

Organ prelude *Jesus meine Zuversicht* H. W. Tauscher

Opening Hymn 494 (ii)

Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Mass in D* (K 194) W. A. Mozart

Gradual *The orange of Christingle* (t. *The holly and the ivy*)

Offertory *My Lighthouse/This little light*

Communion *O Emmanuel* John Stainer

Post-communion Hymn 376

Organ postlude *'Abbé' Fugue* L'Abbé M. Stadler

5 pm. Evensong (Organist - Richard Gowers)

Organ prelude *Schmücke dich o liebe Seele* (BWV 654) J. S. Bach

Introit *Thou knowest, Lord* Henry Purcell

Preces & Responses Lassus (arr. Webber)

Psalm 75 Tone vi

Canticles *The Third Service* Philip Moore
The Lord's Prayer H. Praetorius
Anthem *Prepare ye the way of the Lord* Michael Wise
Hymn 7
Organ postlude *Overture to 'Paulus'* Felix Mendelssohn, arr. W. T. Best

Sunday 12th – Advent III

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ prelude *Prelude and Fugue in G minor* (BWV 558) J. S. Bach
Opening Hymn 12
Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Missa Aeterna Christi munera* G. P. da Palestrina
Gradual Psalm 146.4-end Tone viii/2
Offertory *Ad te levavi* G. P. da Palestrina
Post-communion Hymn 5
Organ postlude *Prelude and Fugue in D minor* (BWV 554) J. S. Bach

5 pm. Evensong

Organ prelude *Prelude and Fugue in E minor* (BWV 555) J. S. Bach
Introit *Lord, we beseech thee* Adrian Batten
Preces & Responses Lassus (arr. Webber)
Psalm 50.1-6 Tone iii/2
Canticles Magnificat (*alternatim*, tone v) Philippe de Monte
Nunc dimittis (*alternatim*, tone iii) Diego Ortiz
The Lord's Prayer H. Praetorius
Anthem *Rorate caeli desuper* William Byrd
Hymn 6
Organ postlude *Prelude in C minor* (BWV 546) J. S. Bach

Sunday 19th – Advent IV

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ prelude *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* (BuxWV 211) Buxtehude
Opening Hymn 19 (ii, omit *)
Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Missa brevis (quatuor vocum)* Scarlatti
Gradual Magnificat Tone i/I

Offertory *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* harm.Melchior Vulpius
Post-communion Hymn 186
Organ postlude *Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme* (BWV 645) J. S.
Bach

5 pm. Carol Service (Organist - Liam Crangle)

Friday 24th – Christmas Eve

11.30 pm. Midnight Holy Communion

Organ prelude *In dulci jubilo* (BuxWV 197) Dieterich Buxtehude
Opening Hymn 32
Mass setting (G/S&B/AD) *Missa Bell' amfitrit' altera* Orlando di Lasso
Gradual Hymn 29
Offertory *Hodie Christus natus est* Jan P. Sweelinck
Post-communion Hymn 26
Organ postlude *Fuga sopra: Vom Himmel hoch* (BWV 700) J. S.
Bach

Saturday 25th – Christmas Day

10.30 am Holy Communion

Organ prelude *Offertoire sur «Grand Dieu!» et «Allons pasteurs!»*
Alexandre Guilmant
Opening Hymn 26
Mass setting (G/S&B/AD) *Missa brevis* David Terry
Gradual Hymn 34
Offertory *Alleluya, a new work is come on hand* Peter Wishart

Post-communion Hymn 30
Organ postlude *Offertoire sur «Chantons je vous prie Noël» et «Le
Messie vient»* Alexandre Guilmant

Aidan Coburn
Director of the Junior Choir
Geoffrey Webber
Director of Music

REVIEW

Fauré Come and Sing *Requiem*: Saturday 13 November

Gill Perrin

It was a real joy to welcome singers back on the eve of Remembrance Sunday, as the annual Come and Sing *Requiem* returned to the Parish Church after the silence of the pandemic year. The inspired idea of organising these ‘scratch’ performances of four great *Requiem*s was conceived by Jane Garland in 1995, when the series began with Fauré’s *Requiem* conducted by Lee Ward. The task of organising these event is now in the capable hands of Handley Stevens and the Friends of the Music, and how good it was that 25 years later the same work was sung on Saturday under the baton of Lee’s former pupil, Aidan Coburn.

Aidan first sang in the choir at the Parish Church at the age of 16, and has faithfully sung here ever since. He also performs widely as a conductor, and recently took on the training of our Junior Choir as well as the direction of the Community Choir. So he was a natural choice to direct this year’s ‘scratch’ performance when the solo soprano part was taken by the Choristers of his Junior Choir. It made for a very happy event in every way: undoubtedly both singers and audience were glad to be here again, singers especially loving this opportunity to sing out in our beautiful church supported by our resourceful musicians.

Fauré’s *Requiem* is a gentle, consolatory work - “a lullaby of death”, his contemporaries called it - and the composer himself said of it that “[it] does not express the fear of death ... I see death as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above.” The chorus plays a large part in creating this overarching sense of consolation, and Saturday’s singers responded beautifully to Aidan’s sensitive shaping of flowing melodic lines, but also managed well occasional outbreaks of jubilation as at the *Hosanna*, and undercurrents of anxiety at *Dies illa, dies irae*.

The gentle chorus sound was an ideal background for Malachy Frame’s warm, rich baritone, pleading eloquently for the souls of the departed

in the *Offertorium* and later with a more passionate intensity in the *Libera me*. (How fortunate we are to have this intelligent musician in our regular professional choir!)

Right at the heart of Fauré's *Requiem* - literally, in the fourth movement - lies the setting for soprano of the *Piè Jesu* text. The Choristers rose well to this challenge and Aidan drew lovely phrasing from them here, as well as in the final ethereal antiphon *In Paradisum* which ends the work.

For all its beauty Fauré's *Requiem* is a short work, and needs something added to it to fill out a programme. On Saturday Geoffrey Webber chose to interpolate two organ pieces between its third and fifth movements. Two works by César Frank were inspired choices. Both were published in 1884, which happens to be the year when Henry Willis installed our present organ here (his second for Hampstead); so in both pieces Geoffrey could demonstrate how much Willis owed to the influence of time he had spent in Paris with contemporary French organists and organ-builders. In fact we may have heard our Willis organ in a new light as Geoffrey explored its wide variety of stops - open diapason and swell trompette in the *Cantabile*, full organ in the menacing *Pièce héroïque*, and best of all the lovely flute and reed pipes which he used to accompany the singers throughout the *Requiem*. A great opportunity indeed to endorse (although we already knew) what a very fine organist we have in our newly-appointed Director of Music.

(This article is also available on Church Chat)

Readings for December

Sunday 5th – Advent 2

10.30am Choral Communion

Malachi 3.1-4

Luke 3.1-6

5.00pm Choral Evensong

Isaiah 40. 1-11

Luke 1.1-25

Sunday 12th – Advent 3

10.30am Choral Communion
Zephaniah 3.14-end
Luke 3. 1-18

5.00pm Choral Evensong
Isaiah 35
Luke 1.57-66

Sunday 19th – Advent 4

10.30am Choral Communion
Micah 5.2-5a
Luke 1.39-45

6.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Choral Communion
Isaiah 62.6-end
Luke 1.1-20

Christmas Day

10.30am Choral Communion
Isaiah 52.7-10
John 1.1-14

Sunday 26th Christmas I

10.30am Choral Communion
Colossians 3.12-17
Luke 2.41-52

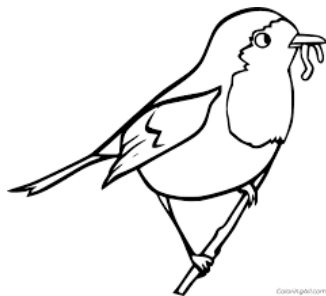
When you're recycling think big

Julia Fletcher recently put an item on Church Chat about saving postage stamps; Susan Woolf collects old postcards; we are encouraged to recycle all sorts of things, but did you know you can recycle your old car for WWT?

GIVE A CAR

Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that turns your old cars, light vans, motorbikes and even caravans into cash. They arrange free collection, and then depending on your car's condition sell it at auction or scrap it, with the proceeds raised (minus the service fees) going directly to WWF.

It's as easy as that! Find out more at wwf.org.uk/fundraise/recycle or call Giveacar on 0207 736 4242.



Be kind to the wildlife in your garden – what little of it remains.

The UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, and it may not even have enough biodiversity – variety of plant and animal life – to prevent an ecological meltdown.

That is the finding of new data by the Natural History Museum. It says that the UK has an average of only 53 per cent of its natural biodiversity left, well below the global average of 75 per cent.

Worldwide, scientists warn that the variety of plant and animal life of earth is dwindling fast. It will have a serious impact on human life: “those systems have lost enough to mean that we have to be careful about relying on them functioning in the way that we need them to.”



Remembrance Sundays

Judy East

As you may have seen on Church Chat we had a visit from a group of former pupils of the Royal Soldiers Daughters School who came to lay their wreath. They also directed us to this picture



Many of us will remember when the Service of Remembrance was a much bigger event with processions and standards being presented, Camden removing all the cars from the front of the church to make room for the crowds, and the Mayor of Camden always in attendance at Mattins. I wonder, though, if anyone's memory goes this far back?

A JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

Thursday 23rd December 2021

Hampstead Jazz Club in association with Hampstead Parish Church proudly present a very special Jazzy evening.

Tickets: £20

Doors: 7.00pm / Show Time: 8.00pm

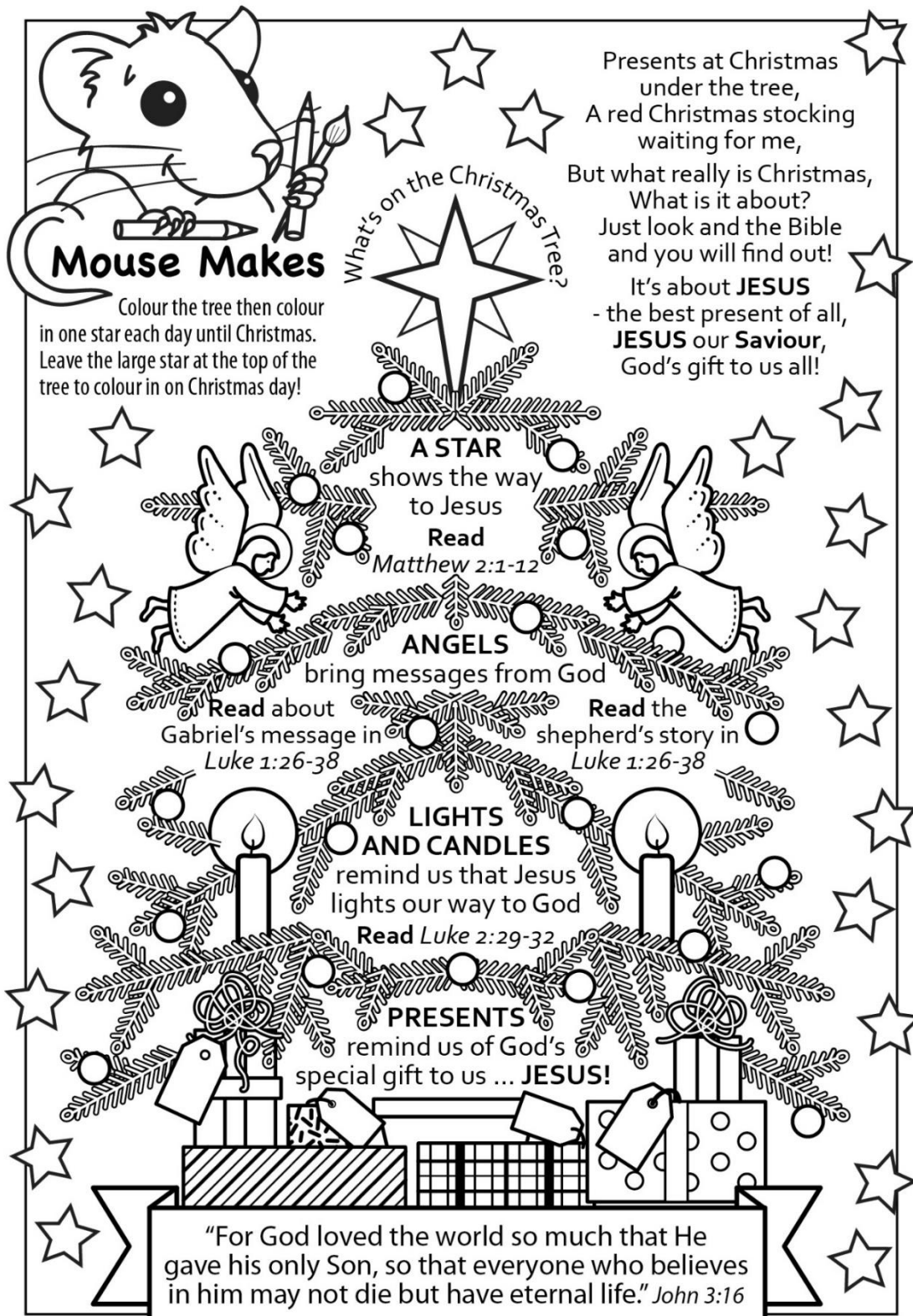
Featuring new arrangements of festive favourites penned by 'brilliant young pianist' Paul Edis and performed by some of the leading lights on the UK jazz scene including 'velvet-voiced' Jo Harrop.



After what has been an incredibly difficult two years for musicians in the jazz community, profits from ticket sales will go to the Hampstead Parish Church and Hampstead Jazz Club musicians' support fund.

Line-Up

Paul Edis – MD/Piano
Jo Harrop – Vocals
Ryan Quigley – Trumpet
Alan Barnes – Alto/Clarinet
Paul Booth – Tenor/Soprano
Rory Ingham – Trombone
Gareth Lockrane – Flute/Piccolo
Dominic Ingam – Violin
Matt Home – Drums
Matyas Hofecker – Double Bass



Mouse Makes

Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

Presents at Christmas under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me,
But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible and you will find out!
It's about **JESUS** - the best present of all,
JESUS our **Saviour**,
God's gift to us all!

What's on the Christmas Tree?

A STAR shows the way to Jesus
Read Matthew 2:1-12

ANGELS bring messages from God
Read about Gabriel's message in Luke 1:26-38
Read the shepherd's story in Luke 1:26-38

LIGHTS AND CANDLES remind us that Jesus lights our way to God
Read Luke 2:29-32

PRESENTS remind us of God's special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

INFORMATION

Some things have changed—some have stayed the same. There are still things you can help with and groups you can join: here we list the contact names for some that might be of interest to you.

WORKING GROUPS

Altar Servers: If you would like to join the Serving team please contact David Gardner 020 7435 2906 / davidpsgardner@btinternet.com

Sidesmen and Welcomers are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April - please contact the churchwardens

Church Stewards

Keeping the church open and welcoming visitors are important parts of our mission. Could you be an occasional steward?

Details from Sarah Cheriton-Jones sarah.cheriton@btinternet.com

Coffee on Sunday mornings

We servw coffee after the 10.30am service. Would you consider helping? Please contact Celia Walser if you could give the occasional Sunday morning celia.walser@btinternet.com

Helping with events

Catering, washing up, clearing up etc.

[Elizabeth.beesley](mailto:Elizabeth.beesley@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk)

@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk / 020 8458 3906

Flowers

If you would like to help with the flowers, or ask for flowers in memory of someone please contact Marilyn Brooks

brooksmarilyns@hotmail.com

Cleaning

The group gets together on specified Saturdays (about four times a year).

If you would like to help, please contact Anne Stevens 020 7794 0874

a.f.stevens@aston.ac.uk

Gardening

We meet on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to noon. We have some tools and gloves and will guide

you as to what needs doing. Details from Jenny Bunn jennybunn1@icloud.com or judy.east@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

INTEREST GROUPS

Bible Study:

currently meeting on zoom; takes one book of the bible each month. There are usually two dates and times to choose from. Look out for details in the weekly email.

Arts and Faith:

meets on zoom on Thursdays after Evening Prayer. Details from Andrew Lloyd-Evans alloydevans@waitrose.com

21 Group

This is a monthly 'home-grown' Current Affairs Discussion Group, currently meeting on zoom, where members themselves offer to lead discussions on a topic of interest to them—this is not obligatory! If you are interested in coming and for more information please contact Revd Jan Rushton jan.rushton5@gmail.com

Friends of the Music

Exists to support the music in the church. They organize a number of musical and social events throughout the year. See their website at Fom.org.uk

Community Choir

meets on Thursdays at 7.45pm (in term time) in church. There is a termly fee of £55 or £36 if you're already a Friend of the Music.

Details from Chris Money cc@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk or Choir Director Aidan Coburn aidan@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Hampstead Players

Membership is open to all who love creating good theatre. The Players put on two major productions a year in church as well as participating in the liturgical life of the church and running workshops and playreadings in the Crypt.

Hampsteadplayers.org.uk



A few dates for your new diary

The Hampstead Collective Spring dates

3rd January, 7th February, 7th March

Friends of the Music AGM – 5th February

Ash Wednesday – 2nd March

Easter Sunday – 17th April

