



HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH



MAGAZINE FOR DECEMBER 2023

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

A message from
Bishop Jonathan,
Interim Bishop of
Edmonton

Charity News

Bethlehem Arab
Society for
Rehabilitation
Mercy Ships want
your used stamps
The Children's
Society Christingle

Jan Rushton writes
about Jephtha

Music in December
Advent Carol Service
Christmas Carol Service
Songs of the
Elizabethans
Christmas Lights
Organ Recitals
Jazzy Concert
and
Gill Perrin reviews the
Brahms Requiem



HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

[Registered Charity No. 1129264]

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Facebook: Hampstead Parish Church

Instagram: @HampsteadPC / Twitter @Hampstead_PC

Youtube: 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)

(Morning services can be found on Facebook live and Zoom)

Weekdays:

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

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, Funerals, Home Communions and Home

Visits please contact

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December 2023

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Diary for December

Fri 1st/Sat 2nd *My Fair Lady* continues



Sunday 3rd – Advent 1

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Communion with Christingle
5.00pm Advent Carol Service

Mon 4th 7.00pm Hampstead Collective Concert – see page 26
Tue 5th St Christopher’s School Carol Service
Wed 6th 2.30pm Advent Course Session 2 in the Crypt Room
Thu 7th Heathside School Carol Service
Fri 8th 7.30pm Christmas Lights Concert – see page 28
Sat 9th 12 noon – 4pm HPS Christmas Fair – see page 32



Sunday 10th – Advent 2

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Mon 11th SHHS Carol Service
Tue 12th St Mary’s School Carol Service
Wed 13th 10.15am Holy Communion
2.30pm Advent Course Session 3 in the Crypt Room
7.00pm Maggie’s Royal Free Charity Concert – page 29
Thu 14th St Anthony’s School Carol Service
6.00pm Carol Singing for Christian Aid at Swiss Cottage
Fri 15th 7.00pm Organ Recital – see page 27
Sat 16th 10.00am Cleaning and decorating the church



Sunday 17th - Advent 3

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion

5.00pm Carol Service
 Wed 20th 10.15am Holy Communion
 1.00pm Advent Course final session in the Crypt Room
 HPS Christmas Service
 Sat 23rd 8.00pm Jazzy Christmas – see page 30



Sunday 24th - Advent 4 / Christmas Eve

10.30am Choral Holy Communion
 4.30pm Children’s service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th - Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion



Tue 26th St Stephen
Wed 27th St John the Evangelist
Thu 28th Holy Innocents
Fri 29th Thomas Becket

Sunday 31st – Christmas 1

10.30am Holy Communion

From The Rt Rev’d Jonathan Baker, Interim Bishop of Edmonton

I am delighted to announce that The Rev’d Carol Barrett Ford, currently Area Dean of Camden and Vicar of St Martin’s Church, Gospel Oak, is to be the new Vicar of the Parish Church of St John-at-Hampstead.



Following a twenty-year career in teaching, Mother Carol served her curacy in an urban priority area parish church in inner city Newcastle

upon Tyne. She was Chaplain to St John's College, Cambridge from 2016 to 2019 and during 2018 she also served as Acting Dean of Chapel. Since 2020 she has also been Assistant Director of Initial Ministerial Education for the Edmonton Area, working with curates in their first three years of ministry.

Carol said "I am delighted to be joining the community of Hampstead Parish Church to serve the whole parish and wider Deanery at an exciting time of growth and renewal. I look forward to praying with you and discerning the future together."

Mother Carol will be Instituted and Inducted as Vicar on Sunday 21st January at 5.00 pm. Please keep Carol and her husband Alun in your prayers as they prepare to move. Please pray also for the congregation at St Martin's Church as they begin preparing for their vacancy.

I am grateful to the Diocesan Patronage Board, and all involved in the appointment process.

With my prayers for you all

+ *Jonathan*

December

Judy East

.....but actually I'm starting with a look back to November and to two fundraisers in particular: the handmade poppies lovingly crafted by the Creative Community Group raised £740 for the Royal British Legion and the Craft Fair made £2532.45 for the various charities the parish supports. Congratulations and thanks to all concerned!

Gill Perrin also looks back to November with her review of the *Brahms Requiem*. Do read that and Geoffrey's write up of the music we can expect in December – it promises to be splendid.

Charities particularly noted in this month's issue are the *Bethlehem Arab Society* (see Bill Risebero's article) *Mercy Ships* (Jane Bailey asks for the used postage stamps from your Christmas cards) and the *Children's Society*. The collections at our Christmas services will be divided amongst some of the charities we regularly support but which haven't so far received a donation from us this year: *Age UK Camden, Caris Haringey, Christian Aid, Hestia, Island Hospice Zimbabwe, The Children's Society and XLP*.

Then there's the Advent Course based on Paula Gooder's book "The Meaning is in the waiting" – see page 7 for details.

And concerts there are aplenty – the *Hampstead Collective* start us off on 4th with their Elizabethan evening, there are several school services/concerts, the Community Choir will be shining their *Christmas Lights* on 8th (proceeds to the Royal Free), *Maggie's at the Royal Free* on 13th, and a *Jazzy Christmas* on 23rd (for which we still need a concert manager if any of you particularly likes jazz.....). And all this in the year when Advent is at its shortest.

What about the services? **Christmas Eve** falling on a Sunday there will only be one morning service (10.30am), then the **Children's Service** at 4.30pm and **Midnight Mass** at 11.30pm. **Christmas Day** will have the 8am and the 10.30am but no evening service. And after that everyone will need a rest so there'll be no weekday services although as far as possible we will have the church open every day, if not stewarded. If you're passing why not drop in, light a candle, greet a few visitors? I came across UA Fanthorpe's "unangelic muddle" this week and thought that summed Christmas up pretty accurately – the plans, the preparations, the chaos, but somehow, hopefully, out of that muddle we can salvage at least a little spark of joy!

Angels' song *U A Fanthorpe*

Intimates of heaven
This is strange to us,

The unangelic muddle,
The birth; the human fuss.

We sing a harder carol now;
Holy the donkey in the hay;

Holy the manger made of wood,
Holy the nails, the blood, the clay.

The day of the Lord is at hand (Zephaniah 1.7)

Handley Stevens' sermon for 19th November (2nd before Advent)

1st Lesson : Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18 / 2nd Lesson : 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Gospel : Matthew 25.14-30

We don't very often talk about the day of the Lord as a day of wrath and judgment. For my part I am much more comfortable with Bible readings and sermons which tell the story of God's love. However, there is a darker side to the narrative of salvation which we seek to explore week by week as we come together to study the Scriptures, to remind ourselves of the Big Picture of God's purposes for mankind, and help us to find our own place in that picture. And to-day our readings allow no escape. We are definitely on the dark side of the moon, and the challenge we face is to find our bearings in the darkness.

Zephaniah is not alone in prophesying doom. Time and again the prophets who had a lively sense of God's holiness as well as his loving concern for his chosen people, needed to remind them how their behaviour and especially the behaviour of their ruling classes exhibited a wilful failure to live up to the standards laid down for them in the books of the law of Moses. The prophets perceived that such behaviour would have dire consequences, sooner or later, and they were not afraid to say so. In their zeal to be heard, and in accordance with the dramatic tradition within which they functioned, they often exaggerated the likely consequences, as perhaps Zephaniah does:

On the day of the Lord's wrath, in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth
(Zeph 1.18).

A just and holy God cannot allow evil to flourish indefinitely without consequence, but I am not alone in finding it difficult to accept that a God who loves everything that he has made, every creature and every person, would angrily destroy the objects of his love. In the short term, Zephaniah's warnings may have played some part in encouraging a short-lived period of reform under King Josiah. In the longer term we believe that God in his mercy found a way, through the life and death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ, and the gift of his Holy Spirit, to radically transform the relationship between God and humanity. There are many passages in the Old Testament which glimpse the prospect of such a transformation, even if it was not evident in this morning's reading from Zephaniah. Jeremiah for example foresees a new covenant which will be written not on tablets of stone but on the hearts of the people. They will not need to be taught about God because they will all know the Lord, from the least of them to the greatest (Jeremiah 31.33-34). Knowing God as we do in the person of Jesus, we can indeed be confident that justice will be tempered with mercy, and that all will be governed by Love.

Even so, our gospel reading, in which St Matthew records a story told by Jesus, still envisages a day of judgment in which those like the worthless slave who have wilfully refused to serve their master will be 'thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth'. The master knows that some of his servants are more gifted than others, but all have some contribution to make, however modest, and woe betide those who refuse to play their part, however small. It is noticeable that the servant who uses two talents to bring in two more receives exactly the same commendation as the servant who uses five talents to make five more; and even the worthless slave who has buried his one talent in the ground could have escaped judgment by putting it into the bank to earn a spot of interest. In the light of the gospel, we still face judgment but the judge is a whole lot more generous than anything Zephaniah could foresee.

Moreover, we should remember that whilst the parables of Jesus were told to make a particular point, in isolation they don't tell the whole story. It is the life and death and resurrection of Jesus that tells the whole story. God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever places their trust in him should not die, but have eternal life. Yes, there will be a painful reckoning. We cannot know what heaven will be like, but if it is God's home, we can expect that it will be a place where Truth and Love reign supreme. There will be no place to hide from the Truth, but also no place beyond the reach of God's love. Seeing and facing the naked, unvarnished truth about ourselves may well be painful, deeply painful, but we shall face the truth in the presence of one who loves us so much – each and every one of us - that he laid down his life for us.

With St Paul I am utterly persuaded that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Lord who loves us will not let us go, even when there is no way to hide our thoughtlessness, no way to hide even the unkind things we may have done deliberately. It will be too late to undo the things which we shall know were wrong, but perhaps not too late to forgive and to be forgiven, so that we can be at peace with one another and with ourselves.

Notwithstanding the judgment on the worthless slave in this morning's gospel, I cling to the hope with David Bentley Hart whose book we studied a year or two back, that when it comes to the point, All Shall be Saved. Indeed all have been saved through the life and death of Jesus. The process of drawing us fully into that salvation may still entail a painful confrontation with the truth about ourselves, but in the end Dame Julian of Norwich has to be right when she asserts that All Shall be Well, and all manner of things shall be well.

Advent Course 2023

Led by Andrew Lloyd Evans

We shall be exploring ***The Meaning is in the Waiting*** by Paula Gooder. There are four sections, each dealing with people who had to wait hopefully for future events and relevant for us at this time in the year:

- Abraham and Sarah: 29 November 2.30 – 3.30pm
- The Prophets: 6 December 2.30 – 3.30pm
- John the Baptist: 13 December 2.30 – 3.30pm
- The Virgin Mary: 20 December 1- 2pm

The book is available from Amazon, the Church House Bookshop (price £9.99) or on Kindle (but beware no page numbers).

We shall meet in the crypt rooms. Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Andrew via the church office or sign the list on the noticeboard.

Jan goes to the Opera House

Revd Jan Rushton

That extraordinary institution with its staggering architecture old and new, is staging as its main performance through November into December, Handel's last and extraordinary oratorio 'Jephtha'! Unless you are an opera lover you may wonder just what an opera with such title, is all about! *Who* is Jephtha? The story of Jephtha which rings bells with all that is happening on the world stage right now Conscious of comparisons to be made, yet long in the planning, the management of the Opera House decided to pursue the production as planned, staging and all

You know those remarkable coincidences, friend of one of the principal singers, discounted tickets, last minute, first night, what a joy to get carried along too! Our party scattered across the auditorium, I found myself sitting beside a young woman in a hijab. She helped me take my coat off. Like me she was seated on her own.

Handel's music as ever lyrical, beautiful, light even, tells the biblical account of one of Israel's most calamitous stories. Way back before Israel's monarchy began, before 800 BCE we have the story of Jephtha. A terrible tragic story which today in church we swiftly skip over What can it possibly say to us? It is told about the time when Israel is ruled by 'judges'. Though the description 'judge' in contemporary thinking, is probably a misnomer. For Israel's judges, hopefully wise men - and at least one wise woman, Deborah, Israel's judges were the leading warriors of their day, chosen to defend their people in military combat with their neighbours - and sadly, there was much skirmishing to be had. Jephtha of Gilead, illegitimate son of his father, driven out by his half-brothers, became of necessity an able fighter with a reputation for success.

Joshua has delivered God's people to the Promised Land and they have settled. History in the biblical text is not history as we would suppose it to be, it is not about literal or accurate facts of any particular situation. It is a record of the *meaning* of those events, God's perspective on what has happened. God's people are living side by side with the Canaanite peoples already in the land - and they stray from true worship of Yahweh, God of Israel who has brought them up out of slavery in Egypt. Indeed, it is from this period in Israel's history that we get the phrase 'every man did what was right in his own eyes'. And there follow cycles of falling away, punishment in the shape of fierce attrition from neighbours, repentance, the raising up of a new leader who will liberate the people, and restoration to fulness of life.

The Book of Judges tells the stories of six such major leaders, including the female judge Deborah, and lastly, that famous - or infamous, strongman, Samson, who will defeat the Philistines. Immediately preceding the story of Samson, comes the story of Jephtha and his defeat of the Ammonites. Gilead and Ammon are territories east of the river Jordan, their peoples were distantly related through Abraham's nephew Lot. Nevertheless, the prophet

Amos looking back, tells us that the Ammonites ripped open the bellies of Gilead's pregnant women.... Rather too close to home in the events of the last nine weeks in God's Holy Land.

Despite the recognition of Jephtha's peers, who have chosen him to lead them in Gilead's battle with Ammon, made him promises that when he succeeds he shall lead the nation - despite this recognition, he is uncertain, unsure of himself, unsure of God's promises, God's blessing. Jephtha makes a pact, a bargain with God if God will only give him the victory! That bargain: whatever is the first thing he sees when he approaches his home on return from battle, that animal, *that person*, he will sacrifice to God. You get the gist!

Now Jephtha has but one daughter only, a daughter to whom he is very close, and adores. A daughter who rejoices as she hears of her father's victory, prepares celebration for his triumphant return, who races from her home to leap upon him with joy! You've guessed it, what happens.... Will he, or won't he, keep his public vow to honour God for his victory?

Of course the man who needed a superstitious vow to arm his strength and courage, is deeply distraught. But does not waver. And his obedient daughter willingly accepts her fate, asking only for a short time to be alone with her friends to mourn that she will be ever virgin, die before she has opportunity to deliver children to the world.

We are rightly repulsed by the outcome of this supposedly heroic story, and the glory that has been attached to it! Within the biblical text itself, despite Jephtha being listed among the heroes of faith in the Letter to the Hebrews (chapter 11), as ever in the Hebrew Bible, later books critique earlier ones, Hosea (chapter 6) offering veiled critique of this violence.

And while a story we move swiftly past today, at the time of the Reformation and beyond it was indeed, popular, its theme of utter obedience from this young woman, a model tale for new converts to Protestantism. And there were indeed, other various musical renditions before Handel put his hand to the task!

By the end of the eighteenth century, sensibilities had softened. While the story was celebrated, a new ending was sought for. Scholars studied the text for 'let-outs' - and found one, as ever, in the turning of prepositions!! Thus this latest presentation of Handel's masterpiece, brings another new twist to the end! One I thoroughly applaud! In case you go to see it, I won't offer a spoiler!

What can we learn from this story? Well certainly, I think, not to make hard-line promises concerning matters about whose future we cannot be certain! We need to remain open-minded when new factors evolve in any situation, with more information ready to change our minds. To recognise that right understanding of any situation is always evolving - including our understanding of the biblical text! And most importantly, that we seek to grow in ever deeper trust in God's will to bless our lives - in which superstitious bargaining has no part to play. When we do make mistakes - for surely we shall, that we not only recognise the mistake, but seriously seek to learn from it. For God is with us, God is on our side, God is ever-waiting to lead us forward, onwards into ever deeper fulness of life! Let us sit quietly, and wait on that 'still small voice'. A 'still *small* voice' for God, full of love, is ever willing us on, never coercing, always holding the space for us, to make our own decisions.

We pray ardently for the 'Peace of Jerusalem' - and Gaza, and the West Bank. For justice for all in the Holy Land.

"Today I am taking sides.
I am taking the side of Peace.
Peace, which I will not abandon

even when its voice is drowned out by hurt and hatred,
bitterness of loss, cries of right and wrong.
I am taking the side of Peace whose name
has barely been spoken in this winnerless war.
I will hold Peace in my arms, and share my body's breath,
lest Peace be added to the body count.
I will call for de-escalation
even when I want nothing more than to get even.
I will do it in the service of Peace.
I will make a clearing in the overgrown thicket of cause and effect
so Peace can breathe for a minute and reach for the sky.
I will do what I must
to save the life of Peace.
I will breathe through tears.
I will swallow pride.
I will bite my tongue.
I will offer love
without testing for deservingness.
So don't ask me to wave a flag today unless it is the flag of Peace.
Don't ask me to sing an anthem unless it is a song of Peace.
Don't ask me to take sides
unless it is the side of Peace."

*Rabbi Irwin Keller,
Congregation Ner Shalom in Sonoma County,
California Oct. 17, 2023*



Detail from Degas' Daughter of Jephtha in the Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA US



جمعية بيت لحم العربية للتأهيل
"المستشفى التخصصي للتأهيل والجراحة"
Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation
"Specialized Rehabilitation and Surgery Hospital"

Will there be a Christmas in Bethlehem?

Bill Risebero

I am writing this in early November. The tourist websites are still advertising visits to the Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem. At the same time, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is advising, in the interests of safety, against all visits to the Occupied Palestinian Territories - where Bethlehem is situated.

But Christians are faced with profounder questions than those of safety. In December we celebrate Bethlehem as a place of birth, renewal and healing, yet all around it we see an appalling regime of death, destruction and the opening-up of wounds, which negates everything we hope for.

We need to hold fast to the idea of the innate decency of ordinary people in Israel and Palestine. These ordinary people's voices remain unheard as unprincipled politicians, militarists and fanatics drown them out with bombs and guns. We need to speak up for them, as loudly as we can, to end the slaughter and to begin the process of healing.

At the same time we need to cherish those manifestations of decency we can still see among the carnage. Many people both in Israel and the Occupied Territories are refusing to join the clamour for destruction: peaceable Jews and Palestinians, the joint Jewish-Arab peace organisations, the local churches, the brave doctors and health workers continuing against the odds to help people to live, the emergency teams digging people from the rubble, the residents

who have opened their homes to families whose own homes have gone, all those young people, including Israelis, marching for peace.

Last month's magazine carried an item about the Gaza appeal organised by Embrace the Middle East, a charity supported by our parish. This month, remembering Bethlehem, we should also remember the worsening situation in the West Bank, where, at the time I write this, some 270 Palestinians have been summarily killed this year by Army or settler violence, and many hundreds injured.

I have recently received two appeals for help from friends in the West Bank. One is from **BASR** (the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation) a centre of excellence in the region which runs a hospital at Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, specialising in trauma surgery and rehabilitation. There has been a huge increase in demand for their services. They are well-known to HPC and we give them a modest grant each year. To contact them please go to <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/support-urgent-medical-needs-of-palestinians/>.

The other is from **Alrowwad**, the cultural centre of Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem. Some 5000 workers from Gaza were stranded on the Israel side on 7th October and couldn't return. 400 of them - men, women and children - are being supported by the three refugee camps in Bethlehem, that is, by people who have very little themselves.

If you would like to help them, please contact the London-based **Friends of Alrowwad UK** at <http://www.friendsofalrowwad.co.uk/donate.html>.

By the time you read this, the political and military situation may have changed, but the desperate need will still be there.

PCC REPORT

Nick Walser (PCC Secretary)

Arrangements for induction of our new Vicar – Junior Church activities - £18,000 deficit expected at year end - choir vestry roof repairs – thank you to Deborah and Jan

The PCC held its latest meeting on 13 November.

The Churchwardens confirmed that the service of induction and installation of our new Vicar, Mother Carol Barrett-Ford, will take place on Sunday **21 January 2024 at 5.00pm**, and plans are under way for a celebration party afterwards. The PCC members thanked the Churchwardens, Martin and Sheena, for their hard work and dedication in overseeing the recruitment process, and congratulated them with a round of applause for bringing it to a successful conclusion.

Jess Mathur gave us an update on the Junior Church activities, as we continue working towards the goal of creating a greater focus on children and young people in our regular worship. She also reported on recent discussions with Hampstead Parochial School about ways of sharing publicity for events and activities. We were delighted to hear of a generous legacy left by Peter Loyd for the purpose of supporting our work with children.

In his report on finance, Inigo Woolf highlighted an expected deficit of around £18,000 in the general fund (i.e. excluding funds designated for specific purposes) at the end of 2023. This followed a disappointing response to the recent letter from the churchwardens asking people to consider increasing their regular giving to the church. Unless more members of the congregation sign up to the planned giving scheme we are likely to face an even larger deficit in 2024.

Inigo confirmed that our proposal to install a platform stair lift to improve access to the chancel and vestries was now being considered by the various bodies which have to be consulted before

work of this kind can take place. Inigo also confirmed that the contract has been signed for the major repairs to the choir vestry roof, which are expected to begin in February 2024.

PCC members expressed their thanks to Deborah Zandstra, who has stepped down from the PCC and from her position as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, for all of her work in that role over the past 8 years.

And finally we agreed on plans for the congregation to say thank-you to Jan Rushton for her hugely valuable contribution to our parish life during her 12 years of ministry with us.

The PCC's next scheduled meeting is on Monday 19 February 2024.

The Children's Society

We are delighted to be supporting the Children's Society again with our Christingle service.



The charity takes on issues affecting young people which are often overlooked in the press and society generally. As well as working directly with the young people through specialist support and therapy, the charity also campaigns and lobbies government to end child poverty, something which affects 3 in 10 children in this country.

“Young people come to us when they have low self-esteem. When they're living in families who can't afford the next meal, the next size up in school uniform. Or when there's no one else to lean on.

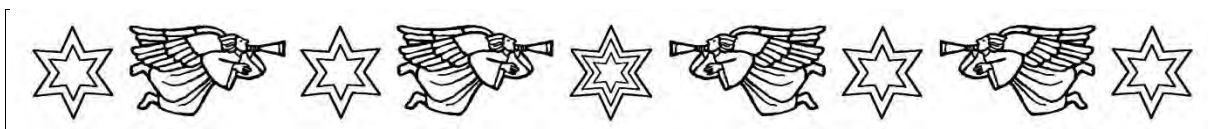
Refugee and migrant children land in this country alone and look to us for guidance to achieve the life they dreamed of. To have a settled home, a secure job and start a family. They're not asking for much.

We see teenagers in our services who want to quite using drugs or alcohol. Who are looking after mum, and / or their siblings more than they bargained for. Or who have been taken advantage of and

find themselves carrying drugs to faraway towns, or having sex with strangers.

We counsel, support and campaign for the young people whose hopes and happiness are the most threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. Our impact on a young person's life is all driven by you."

The Children's Society



The ever-popular **Crib Service** will be held on 24th December at 4.30pm. This is a short service during which the children act out the nativity story, interspersed with well-known carols. If your child would like to join in please come ready dressed as an

angel, a king (3 is only a tradition - there could have been any number of them), shepherds or sheep. The service is very popular so arrive early to ensure a good seat!

Used Postage Stamps requested for Mercy Ships

With increased letters expected over the Christmas period, please remember to donate your used postage stamps to benefit Mercy Ships: there is a box for them at the back of church on the right side as you go out. Ideally please trim them to leave ½ cm paper round each stamp.



Mercy Ships is a global Christian charity which has two state-of-the-art hospital ships staffed by international volunteers. The ships spend several months in each port and the staff give free surgery and

medical attention to thousands of patients and also teach local healthcare professionals. Their current focus is on west Africa but since its inception in 1978 Mercy Ships has worked in over 55 countries and helped over 2.8 million people. For more information please see: <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/>

The 1977 Jubilee Cope

Meg Weston Smith

This magnificent cope is on display at the Guildhall Art Gallery in “Treasures of Gold and Silver Wire”. The exhibition celebrates 400 years of the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, and will run until the end of December.

Depicted on the cope are the towers and spires of 73 Anglican churches and 3 Royal Peculiars in the diocese of London and St. Paul’s Cathedral. Prominent on the left shoulder is St. John’s, Church Row.



Beryl Dean¹ designed the cope, together with matching mitre and stole, and 36 people from the Stanhope Institute worked on it. Made of white flannel covered in organza it is decorated with gold, silver and copper thread.

¹ Barbara Thomson, a member of the parish and former churchwarden, who designed and made some of our altar frontals and kneelers, was also involved in the making of this cope, as she was in a number of projects at St Paul’s Cathedral.



The cope was first worn on 7 June 1977 by the then Bishop of London, Gerald Ellison, for the Queen's Silver Jubilee service at St. Paul's. In 2012 Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, wore it for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee service.

I warmly recommend visiting the exhibition to see over 200 items, secular and religious. (Entrance £10, Concessions £7)

*Images by my granddaughter
Ida Barlow*

MUSIC SECTION

Music in December

Geoffrey Webber

We begin Advent with an All-Age Christingle service which will feature a mix of child-friendly hymns and great polyphony from the 16th century in the form of the penitential *Missa Quarti Toni* by the Spanish composer Victoria, much of which will be sung by the Junior and Senior choirs together. In the evening we hold our Advent Carol service which will feature music by Thomas Tallis, Thomas Weelkes, Michael Wise, Gerald Near, Edward Elgar and an arrangement of The Linden Tree Carol. The congregation will be invited to sing the refrain of the Advent Prose, and the whole of 'The Angel Gabriel from heaven came' (at a suitable pitch). Both the words and music of the opening anthem *O mortal man* by Weelkes (d. 1623) are based on an anonymous Scottish piece dating from around 1580. Following this

contemplation of the fragility of life we sing the hugely uplifting verse anthem by Restoration composer Michael Wise, *Awake, awake, put on thy strength O Zion*, setting familiar Advent texts from Isaiah, which features a memorable rolling sequence of Hallelujahs sung by the full choir. The liturgical climax of the service will be the canticle *Benedictus* which speaks so powerfully in the season of Advent; this year we sing the magnificent setting in F by Edward Elgar composed (with a *Te Deum*) for the opening service of the Three Choirs Festival in 1897.

Due to the working out of the calendar this year we only sing Evensong once in December, on Sunday 10th. It will be a suitably austere service featuring plainchant and music by Thomas Tallis, notably his penitential motet *Suscipe quaeso Domine*, a request from a member of the choir. With a text by Isidore of Seville, the motet is in two sections and composed for the rich texture of 7 separate voice parts. It was published in the joint publication *Cantiones sacrae* issued by Tallis and William Byrd in 1575 which also contains a similarly substantial penitential motet on a medieval text, *Tribue Domine*, by Byrd. Whilst Tallis's motet was once thought to have been composed in 1554 to mark the return of the Roman Catholic faith to England under Queen Mary, the American scholar Kerry McCarthy has proposed that the selection of medieval texts by both composers may have been a deliberately non-denominational act, harking back to a time when the church was at least nominally undivided.

Whatever its origins, the work contains masterful polyphonic working as well as moments of homophonic clarity for crucial moments of the text such as 'peccavi' and 'quis sustineat?'. By contrast, for the Introit we sing one of Tallis's miniature masterpieces, *Hear the voice and prayer*. Here the music is syllabic throughout, following the requirements of the early Protestant church in England under Edward VI; Tallis reveals his genius by achieving the sublime notwithstanding these restrictions, with the gentlest of polyphonic frameworks and matchless harmony.

Plainsong takes centre stage for the two Eucharists on December 17th and 24th. Palestrina's *Missa Aeterna Christi munera* is notable for its stepwise motion originating in the chant, and on the 24th we sing a purely plainchant setting of the Mass, along with the Advent Sequence, *Salus aeterna*. The format of a sequence is that each line of melody is sung twice, corresponding to the couplets in the text. The music for our Christmas Carol Service on the 17th is still in the process of being planned, but I hope to include the Christmas dialogue by the 17th-century Milanese nun Chiara Margarita Cozzolani that featured in a concert by the Hampstead Collective earlier this year. More up-to-date music will include the carol *Baby in an ox's stall* by Thomas Hewitt Jones sung by both Junior and Senior choirs.

For the midnight service we will sing the sumptuous eight-part parody mass, the *Missa Bel' amfitrit altera*, by Orlando di Lasso, as well as Adam's popular 'O Holy Night' in a version using the original French text, *Minuit, chrétiens!*. On Christmas morning we will sing the exuberant *Mass in G* by Franz Schubert as well as Francis Poulenc's motet *Hodie Christus natus est*, one of his four superb *Quatre Motets pour le Temps de Noël* composed in 1952. (I'm hoping to slip another one into the Christmas Carol service too!)



Music List for December 2023

Sunday 3rd December – Advent Sunday

10.30 am. All-age Parish Eucharist

Organ Prelude *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (BWV 599) J. S. Bach

Opening Hymn NEH 10

Mass setting (Ky/S&B/AD) *Missa Quarti Toni* T. L. da Victoria

Gradual Psalm 80.1-8 Tone iv/4

Offertory *The Christingle Song* (t. Sing Hosanna!)

Communion Motet *Ne timeas Maria* T. L. da Victoria

Post-communion Christ be our light (Farrell)
Organ Postlude *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* (Op. 122/8)
Johannes Brahms

5 pm. Advent Carol Service

Sunday 10th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.30 am. Parish Eucharist

Organ Prelude *Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn* (BWV 601) J.S.Bach
Opening Hymn 'Jesus came - the heavens adoring' (t. NEH 401)
Mass setting (Ky/S&B/AD) *Mass of the Quiet Hour* George Oldroyd
Gradual Psalm 85.8-13 Tone vii/7
Offertory Hymn NEH 280
Communion Motet *Lord, thou hast told us* Arnold Bax
Post-communion Hymn NEH 5
Organ Postlude *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (BWV 659) J. S. Bach

5.00 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Tierce en taille* Pierre Du Mage
Introit *Hear the voice and prayer* Thomas Tallis
Preces & Responses Merbecke
Psalm 40 Tone ii
Canticles *The Short Service* Thomas Tallis
Anthem *Suscipe quaeso Domine* Thomas Tallis
Final Amen William Mundy
Hymn NEH 2
Organ Postlude *Fugue in G major* (BWV 541) J. S. Bach

Sunday 17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30 am. Parish Eucharist

Organ Prelude *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ* (BWV 604) J. S. Bach
Opening Hymn NEH 15
Mass setting (Ky/S&B/AD) *Missa Aeterna Christi munera*
G. P. da Palestrina
Gradual Canticle Magnificat Samuel Wesley

Offertory Hymn NEH 7
Communion Motet *Ad te levavi* G. P. da Palestrina
Post-communion Hymn NEH 493
Organ Postlude *Les enfants de Dieu* (La Nativité du Seigneur)
Olivier Messiaen

5.00 pm. Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

10.30 am. Parish Eucharist

Organ Prelude *À la venue de Noël* (Première Suite de Noël)
Claude Balbastre
Opening Hymn NEH 13
Mass setting (Ky/S&B/AD) *Missa in Dominicis Adventus* Modes v/vi
Gradual Psalm 89.1-8 Edward Hopkins
Offertory Hymn NEH 11
Communion Motet *The Advent Sequence* Mode vii
Post-communion Hymn NEH 499
Organ Postlude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (BWV 645)
J. S. Bach

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Organ Prelude *Desseins éternels* (La Nativité du Seigneur)
Olivier Messiaen
Opening Hymn NEH 29
Mass setting (Gl/S/AD) *Missa Bell' Amfitrit' altera* Orlande de Lassus
Gradual Hymn NEH 35
Offertory Hymn NEH 21
Communion Motet *Cantique de Noël* (Minuit, chrétiens!)
Adolphe Adam (arr. Webber)
Post-communion Hymn NEH 30 (omit vv 3-5)
Organ Postlude *Dieu parmi nous* (La Nativité du Seigneur)
Olivier Messiaen

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.30 am Parish Eucharist

Organ Prelude *Les bergers* (La Nativité du Seigneur) Olivier Messiaen

Opening Hymn NEH 26 (omit *)

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Mass in G* Franz Schubert

Gradual Hymn NEH 22

Offertory Hymn NEH 24

Communion Motet *Hodie Christus natus est* Francis Poulenc

Post-communion Hymn NEH 25

Organ Postlude *Symphonie Gothique* (Op.70), movts 3-4

C.-M. Widor

Matilda Johnston *Organ Scholar*

Aidan Coburn *Director of the Junior & Community Choirs*

Joshua Ryan *Organist & Assistant Director of Music*

Geoffrey Webber *Director of Music*



Brahms Requiem Review

Gill Perrin

There seemed to be a number of benevolent ghosts lurking in the church as the Come and Sing performance of Brahms's Requiem took place here on Sunday 11 November. Foremost amongst them was Suzanne Pinkerton's, who died so recently and who rarely missed any musical performance in Hampstead. It should have been Suzanne, in fact, who wrote this very review, and I have a distinct feeling that she is looking down over my shoulder as I write (I am not as witty and funny as she used to be). Another recent ghost was that of Patrick Garland, who died earlier this year. He never missed the Requiems, not least because it was his wife Jane who began the tradition of this immensely popular annual event, which has taken place every year without fail since it began. Brahms's Requiem has been called "a

human document rather than a theological argument”, and the overwhelming message of comfort in this great work seemed particularly appropriate as we remembered Suzanne and Patrick and the others whose names were listed *In Memoriam* in the programme.

Over sixty performers gathered to work on the Requiem this year, and they gave us a touching and admirably expressive performance.

This was in large part due to Joshua Ryan’s superb direction. It is a formidable task, to drill this number of amateur performers (many of whom may scarcely know the musical text) into a passable performance of this difficult work, but he gave his performers confidence by the clarity of his conducting, not only setting rock-steady tempi and beating very clearly, but at the same time also communicating beautifully expressive phrasing. This meant that Brahms’s vision for his Requiem shone through, the comforting mood of the first movement, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted” returning at the end of the work in spite of intervening moods of darkness and terror - “Behold all flesh is as the grass”. The chorus’s fears were alleviated in the fifth movement by the solo soprano voice, “Ye now have sorrow” soaring high above the choir and sung with great expression by Christine Buras. The climax of the work came in the sixth movement at the words “Behold I show you a mystery” - sung with more lovely expression by James Geidt - when after the terror of a wild Witches Sabbath the chorus broke into a radiant Handelian fugue, “Worthy art thou, Lord”, convincingly sung and beautifully managed by Josh. This led into the chorus’s final message of comfort and hope: “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.” The performance was accompanied by Brahms’s own piano duet score: any concern that this might turn out to be unduly thin were dispelled by excellent playing from William Vann and Hugh Rowlands: they gave us lovely phrasing in the high treble registers and a wonderfully sonorous bass line to underpin the voices in every movement.

A great deal of organisation behind the scenes is involved in the presentation of these Come & Sing Requiems. People who come and

sing and those who come to hear the music are always bowled over by the impact of this annual performance; moreover they very much appreciate the warm welcome they receive in Hampstead, and return year after year. We are very grateful to Handley Stevens and the Friends of the Music for all the hard work which goes into maintaining this great tradition.



The Hampstead Collective

Songs of the Elizabethans with Viol Consort

Monday, 4 December 2023

7.00pm – 8.30pm

Singers Christine Buras and Malachy Frame present a programme with 5 part viol consort from the reigns of Elizabeth I and II. England lost two of its most influential composers, William Byrd and Thomas

Weelkes, 400 years ago - this concert will present some of their works, at the conclusion of this anniversary year. Alongside George Benjamin's *Upon Silence* (1990).

Tickets: £15 from hampsteadcollective.com or at the door

Christmas Oratorio by J S Bach

Monday, 8 January 2024

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Christmas Oratorio (Parts 1, 3, 5 and 6) by J.S. Bach

with The Players of The Hampstead Collective

directed by Geoffrey Webber

Tickets: £20 from hampsteadcollective.com or at the door



Organ Recitals

Friday 15th December at 7pm

Shake off the seasonal rush for a musical hour with Dariia Lytvishko playing Bach, Hiken, Skoryk, Widor and Giaccone

Friday 19th January at 7pm

Ben Morris
York Minster

Friday 23rd February at 7pm

James Gough
Southwark Cathedral

Friday 22nd March at 7pm

Jeremiah Stephenson
All Saints, Margaret Street and St Paul's Cathedral

Friday 19th April at 7pm

Matilda Johnson
Hampstead Parish Church

Friday 24th May at 7pm

Jamie Andrews
Royal Hospital Chelsea



MAGGIE'S ROYAL FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Hampstead Parish Church, NW3 6UU
Wednesday 13th December, 7pm



Our Christmas Concert returns offering the perfect start festive evening. Help us raise money to support people with cancer, their families and friends.

There will be lots of entertainment, refreshments, and the chance to win some wonderful prizes in our raffle, with tickets available on the night.

Doors open: 6.30pm

Tickets: £15 (Under 16's free)

Concert starts: 7pm

Scan the QR code or visit:

Concert ends: 8.30pm

bit.ly/maggiesroyalfreeconcert23

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If you have any questions about the event please get in touch with kate.oliver@maggies.org

A JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

Saturday 23rd December 2023

Doors open: 7.00pm / Show Time: 8.00pm

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

This very special show will feature a feast of festive favourites and jazzy Christmas classics, performed by acclaimed artists JO HARROP, PAUL EDIS and an iconic 9 piece band with Alan Barnes, Paul Booth & Gareth Lockrane.

Venue – Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, London, NW3 6UU
Tickets: £20

The show will feature the velvet-toned vocals of Jo Harrop, accompanied by the virtuoso pianist Paul Edis, who recently won ‘**Album Of The Year**’ at the 2023 Parliamentary Jazz Awards for their critically acclaimed long-player, “**When Winter Turns To Spring**”.

Jo and Paul will be joined by a world-class nine-piece band, featuring some of the best jazz musicians in the UK, as they perform a set of fresh new arrangements especially written for the occasion by Edis.

Taking the audience on a magical musical journey from festive classics such as “**Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas**” and “**Winter Wonderland**,” to new renditions of traditional Christmas hymns and carols including the spine tingling “**O Holy Night**” and “**In The Bleak Midwinter**”.

This ***Jazzy Christmas Evening*** will undoubtedly be one of the musical highlights of the year and the perfect way to celebrate this most special time of year.

Jo Harrop (Vocals)

Jo Harrop has a chocolate and cream croon that can melt the hardest of hearts. Described by the legendary **Iggy Pop** as “**a very fine jazz singer**”.

Paul Edis (MD)

‘**A brilliant young pianist**’ – **The Guardian**, blurring the boundaries between Bill Evans, Brad Mehldau and Claude Debussy.

HPC and me..

By Stephen Clarke

I came to worship at Hampstead Parish Church by complete chance. I was a member of the congregation of All Hallows, Gospel Oak, which is near my home. But an elderly lady took a fancy to me. On one occasion she sat down beside me and said "They are playing our hymn." I decided to worship elsewhere.

I first went to St Johns, Downshire Hill, but the preacher was of the "hell fire" persuasion so I walked up the hill to Church Row. At Hampstead Parish Church I heard Sir Alan Goodison preach a memorable sermon. Jesus, he recalled, had said that before attacking an opponent any rational man would calculate his enemy's strength. Alan said: "Well, that is Jesus Christ for you, a country boy with no knowledge of politics. Look what we have done in Iraq." I decided that this was the church for me!

Later I heard the much-missed Sarah Eynstone preach from the same pulpit. Flashing her nails at the congregation she asked "Does God mind if I paint my fingernails?" And gave the answer "Of course She doesn't."

Later I took part in a play-reading in the Crypt Room. Afterwards David Gardner came up to me and said, "Stephen, we have a vacancy in the cast of *Julius Caesar* but it would mean going to France." Later I found myself in the Lauzerte area playing the role of Casca, the chief assassin in Julius Caesar.

One of my fellow-assassins came up to me and said "Stephen, we have lost the daggers!" I wondered how we could play Julius Caesar without the assassination scene but fortunately we found them in time.

I was then type-cast as a baddie, getting the role of First Murderer in TS Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* – the costume department even kept a black suit for me. I used it when I played the Russian policeman in *Fiddler on the Roof*. I made the opening announcement

about mobile telephones in a strong Russian accent. This was remembered long after the rest of my role was forgotten!

HAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL
Church of England Primary School

2023

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SAT. 9th DEC

12PM - 4PM

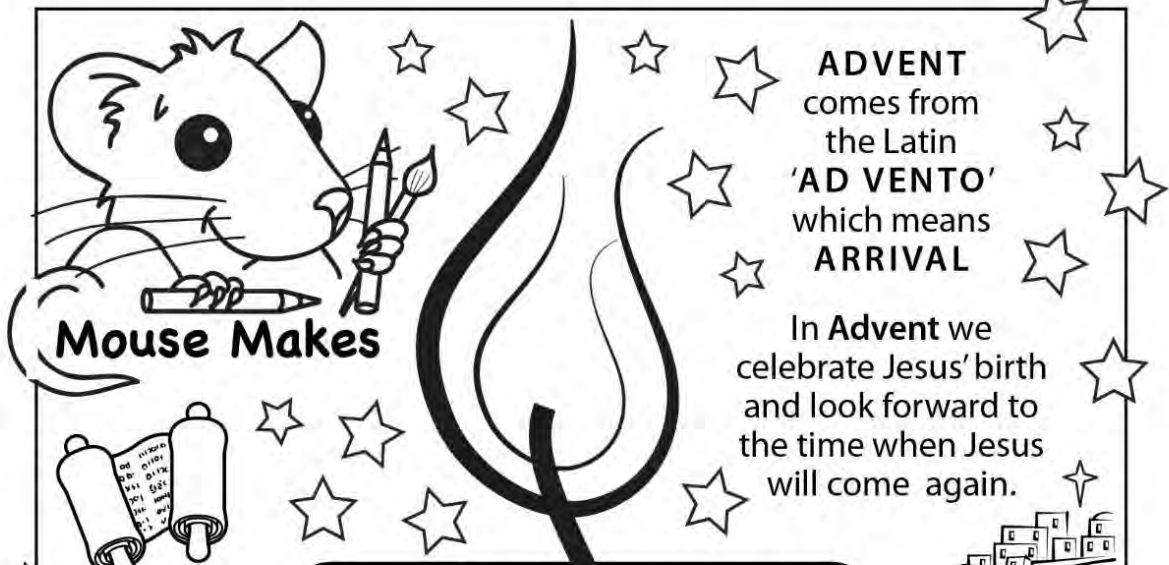
KIDS GO FREE

Our Annual CHRISTMAS FAIR is back!
COME AND JOIN US!

**SANTA'S GROTTTO, BBQ, TEDDY TOMBOLA,
LOLLIPOP TREE, LUCKY DIP, SNOWMAN TOSS, GAMES,
ARTS & CRAFTS, MULLED WINE AND MUCH MORE!**

£5 ADULTS | 10 TOKENS = £5

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Mouse Makes

ADVENT comes from the Latin 'AD VENTO' which means **ARRIVAL**

In Advent we celebrate Jesus' birth and look forward to the time when Jesus will come again.

GOD'S PROMISE
Isaiah 9:6-7
CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD

AN ANGEL MESSENGER
Luke 1:26-38
ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

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

A LONG JOURNEY
Luke 2:1-20
BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST

THE BEST GIFT OF ALL
John 3:16
GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

December at a glance

- 3rd Advent Sunday: All Age Christingle service in the morning,
Advent Carol service in the evening
- 4th Hampstead Collective concert
- 8th Community Choir Christmas Lights Concert
- 13th Maggie's Royal Free Concert
- 15th Organ Recital
- 17th Christmas Carol Service
- 23rd Jazzy Christmas Concert

24th Christmas Eve

- 10.30am Choral Holy Communion
- 4.30pm Children's Crib service
- 11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th Christmas Day

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Choral Holy Communion

January

- 7th Epiphany
- 8th Hampstead Collective Christmas Oratorio

