

HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

MAGAZINE FOR

FEBRUARY 2024

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

The Vicar writes –
Mother Carol looks
forward to Lent

Bishop Jonathan's
sermon at the Induction
of Mother Carol

Do you have a vocation?
Handley Stevens looks at
the role of Licensed Lay
Ministry in the Church
and asks why more
people don't do it.

Music in February
The month's music
The Hampstead
Collective
Organ Recitals

Charity News
Christmas Hamper
Appeal – feedback
from the recipients



HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

[Registered Charity No. 1129264]

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Instagram: @HampsteadPC / X: @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)

Weekdays:

Mon – Thu Morning Prayer at 9am, 5.00pm Evening Prayer at 5pm

Wednesdays at 10.15am Holy Communion

Thursdays at 8.30am Rosary prayer on Zoom

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

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communions and Home

Visits

please contact The Vicar

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0207 794 5808

vicar@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

* to be added to the emailing list please contact the parish office

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February
2024

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Diary for February

Sat 3rd 10.00am Gardening group meets



Sunday 4th 2nd before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion
5.00pm Choral Evensong followed by Friends of the Music AGM in the Crypt Room

Mon 5th 7.00pm Hampstead Collective concert – see page 26

Wed 7th 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 8th 7.30pm Community Choir

Sat 10th 10.00am Church cleaning. All most welcome!
We will be tackling the gallery.



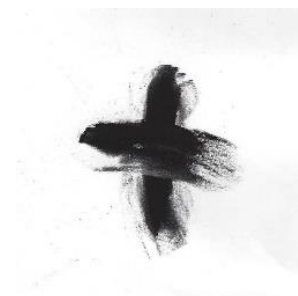
Sunday 11th Next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Half term – no Junior Church)
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Tue 13th Shrove Tuesday

Wed 14th Ash Wednesday

10.15am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
7.30pm Choral Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes



Thu 15th 7.30pm Community Choir
 Sat 17th 3.15pm 'Town and Country' Hampstead Players'
 poetry afternoon – all welcome

Sunday 18th Lent 1

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Half term – no Junior Church)
 5.00pm Choral Evensong

Mon 19th 8.00pm PCC meeting

Wed 21st 10.15am Holy Communion
 3.00pm Creative Community Craft Group meets in the Crypt Room

Thu 22nd 7.30pm Community Choir

Sat 24th 4.00pm Organ recital with James Gough



Sunday 25th Lent 2

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

Wed 28th 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 29th 7.30pm Community Choir

Sunday 3rd Lent 3

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



The Vicar writes.....

Thank you to everyone for such a warm welcome and joyful start at my induction on 21 January. I am enjoying getting to know you all and look forward to this first year together.

On 14 February we mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. It is traditional to attend church and to receive on one's forehead a cross of ashes accompanied by the words: 'Remember you are dust and to dust you will return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'.

These solemn words remind us of our frailty and mortality, and start our Lenten journey. They remind us of the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us. In the past, it was traditional to 'give something up for Lent' and I am sure that many of us have memories of foregoing sweets or chocolate as an act of penance and denial when we were children. I always find it interesting that some adults still aim to give up a pleasurable foodstuff or activity during Lent. Some have been following this tradition for over fifty years and derive great spiritual nourishment from this annual 'retreat from the self'.

However, people also tell me privately that they find giving something up really difficult, that it somehow sets them up for failure. None of us are as rigorous spiritually as we might be - and perhaps failure is part of the point. Even if we prefer to take something up for Lent, such as a regular discipline like reading the Bible, saying daily prayer, attending a Lent course, reading a particular devotional text or volunteering to help others, we sometimes fail to reach the standard we have set for ourselves.

The concept of denying oneself—through taking something up—features when Jesus speaks about the cross, that great sign that we accept on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. 'If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow

me' (Luke 9. 23). The cross is the symbol of sacrifice, pain and death. But it is also the great symbol of love.

This brings me to the interesting and unusual liturgical clash that we encounter in 2024. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. It seems that the last time this clash occurred was in 2018, and before that in 1945, so it is a relatively rare occurrence. Now the most well-known symbol of Valentine's Day is a heart, which you will see emblazoned on posters, banners, cards, chocolates (and restaurant menus) as each retailer bids for their own particular corner of the romantic market. So how shall we reconcile these two symbols on 14 February 2024?

If we meditate upon it perhaps we can find that a loving heart is not so far away from the symbol of sacrifice that is the cross of Christ. After all, in his Letter to the Corinthians the Apostle Paul reminds us that love: 'bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things'. This is not the soppy, fluffy love of Valentine's Day cards. This is the love that is strong and courageous, the love that seeks justice, mercy, peace and concord. This is the love that gives us the strength to endure the difficulties and sacrifices that are inevitable in life. This is the love that enfolds us in our darkest times and lifts us up in our times of joy. However you mark Lent, both the cross and the heart of Jesus will be with you on your journey. I look forward to sharing Lent with you.

With best wishes and prayers

Mother Carol

Mother Carol has taken over the email
vicar@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk. Change your address book!

February

Judy East

It was a dark and stormy night..... Seriously, Sunday 21st January saw us in the grip of storm Isha just as we were starting the Induction service for Mother Carol. Plans to have a party in the Moreland Hall were shelved in favour of staying in the church where it was warm, dry, fairly comfortable, and just about roomy enough for the 250 or so congregation and large numbers of clergy, who had flocked in to attend this very special event. We prayed and cheered as Mother Carol accepted the Cure of Souls of the parish, was given the keys, was taken up to the belfry to ring the bell, and met representatives of a variety of local groups. The wording was formal, the singing joyful and the party afterwards appreciated by all.

And so we look forward to a new era. But also this month to Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February – almost as early as it can be. The earliest possible date for Easter is 22nd March if the full moon falls on 21st.¹ That doesn't happen often – last time was 1818 and the next won't be till 2285. However in 2027 it will be early again as the full moon falls on 25th making Easter Day 28th. In these days of such precision, micromanagement and organisation isn't it nice to think that our major festival, the most important time of the Christian calendar, is dependent on the moon and not on a committee or a computer? AI will never understand the church!

Apart from Lent what is there this month? We have the Friends of the Music AGM with a talk by Joshua Ryan on the 4th, Hampstead Collective concert on the 5th, an organ recital on 24th, and there are

¹ Astronomical Easter is the first Sunday after the astronomical [full moon](#) after the astronomical [March equinox](#) as measured at the meridian of Jerusalem according to the World Council of Churches. But you knew that, didn't you.

gardening and cleaning opportunities if that's your thing. Something for everyone!

But first a goodbye. As Mother Carol arrives so Mother Natasha departs – we say goodbye to her on Sunday 4th. She has been such a support to us over the last few months and we wish her well in her new parish.

The sermon preached at the Institution and Induction of Mother Carol Barrett Ford

by the Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, Interim Bishop of Edmonton

Tonight's Epistle and Gospel readings both have much to say about life in Christ – who, to bring in our reading from the Old Testament as well, is the Word of God and the Wisdom of God. In John 15, we hear about the image of the vine. Christ and the disciples – Christ and we – are as the vine and the branches; it is impossible to say when the one ends and the other begins. There is no life in the branches, and no fruit from them, if they are cut off from the vine; separated, unconnected, the branches die, and dead things cannot bear fruit. That is a salutary image for this week of prayer for Christian Unity, when we think about the wholeness - the catholicity – of the one church of Jesus Christ as much as when we think about the life of the local church, be that diocese, parish or congregation. The image of the vine gives way to that of abiding or remaining – as Christ is in the Father so the disciples – so we ourselves – are in Christ, and are loved by Him, as He is loved by the Father; that mutual indwelling and mutual love also carrying with it the necessity of obedience, us in relation to Christ as Christ to the Father. And what is the commandment which we are to obey, as we seek to be in Christ and through Him in the Father? It is a commandment as simple but as deep as it is possible for a commandment to be: that we love one another.

I'd like to dwell a little longer, however, with the second reading, the epistle, taken from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. This is a rich letter, at once soaring and mystical in its exposition of who Christ is – the image or icon of the invisible God – and what He has come to do – to make peace through the blood of his Cross, and to reconcile all things to himself. But it is also a down to earth and a practical letter, as we shall see, teasing out what it means to live with one another as fellow disciples in Christ within the life of His Body the Church.

The passage we heard a few moments ago is from the third chapter of Colossians and it's as if Paul has been to sermon classes because the chapter really falls into three parts. To grasp the significance of the verses which we have just heard, we need to have a sense of the whole chapter, which begins, 'If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at God's right hand.'

'If you have been raised with Christ.' Paul sets his sights, and encourages his audience to set theirs, as high as high can be. Because of Christ's resurrection, we are not where we were, or indeed who we were. We have been raised. We have been changed, transformed. To borrow another Pauline image from another letter, the old Adam – or indeed the old Eve – has been put to death, a new man, a new woman – a new humanity – has been born. How? Paul tells us in the next bit of Colossians 3. 'For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.' How have we died? For assuredly we are not dead, not literally anyway, because here we are, just as the Christians in Colossae were there to receive and read Paul's letter. They, and we, have died through our baptism, through the sacrament of death and rebirth into the risen life of Jesus and the life of His Body the Church. And so, Paul continues, put to death everything which is part of the old Adam, and he tells us what those things look like – fornication, impurity, evil desires, greed, anger, telling lies. And put to death faction, because in Christ there is no Greek or Jew, no slave or free, no barbarian or Scythian – and the Scythians were apparently a notoriously cruel and merciless bunch, and the challenge to us of course is not to ask who are the Scythians of today who threaten us,

but when do I behave as a Scythian to others, and how do I stop doing so.

What does all this add up to, in this first part of Colossians 3? Well I can't do better than quote one Orthodox commentator on the passage who puts it like this – Remember your baptism! Live according to His resurrection! Seek your true life in Christ. All of this leads on to the part of the epistle which we've heard this evening – part 2 of Colossians 3, the other side of the coin if you like. Paul has told us about all the sins, all of that baggage of the old Adam, which we are to put to death, and instead – we are to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, all the other virtues which Paul enumerates. Notice the imagery of baptism again – we are to 'put on new clothes,' the baptismal robe, the white garment which belongs to the whole people of God but which is worn, on behalf of all, by the priest and other ministers at the altar of God. Above all, the clothes which we are to wear – looking across to the Gospel reading again – are the clothes of love, love which unites us one with another, the love of Christ which literally should be the 'referee' or 'umpire' in our hearts, setting down the rule by which we are to live, as the umpire's word, in the Olympic and other Games in the ancient world, was law. All this Paul then expresses liturgically, for we experience this new life in worship, in hearing the Word, in singing hymns and songs of praise, and in giving thanks to God – that is to say, sharing in the Eucharist which means of course our thanksgiving.

And in the third and final part of this chapter, reading on beyond the verses we have heard this evening, Paul spells out the consequences of the new life in Christ in terms of various sets of relationships - wives with husbands, children with parents, slaves with masters. In each of these sets of relationship, it is not that the differences between people are simply swept away, but that all of these relationships are re-set, in the context of life in the Body which is always about mutuality and serving the other, and never about the exercise of power at the expense of the other and the cost of their share in that recreated

humanity born in the waters of baptism to a share in Christ's resurrection life.

So, people of St John's, in the readings at this mass you have quite the programme for your life together as the people of God and the Body of Christ in this place. I believe that in Mother Carol the Lord has sent you a wise, experienced, obedient, gentle – but firm – pastor to lead you into the next season of your existence, here on this ancient site of Christian worship now set in this distinctive village community in London with all of its wealth and all of its need, spiritual as much as material. Here where God has given you so much may you share your riches abundantly with others in service of the whole Body. May the Lord bring healing, peace, joy, fruitfulness and an increase in love and devotion. Together I am sure that tonight we may respond with a hearty Amen to the apostle's injunction – brothers and sisters in Christ, Be Thankful! Amen.

VOCATIONS TO READER MINISTRY

Handley Stevens

In my sermon on 14 January², I said that a congregation like ours ought to be producing more vocations to Reader Ministry than seems to be the case. Since I joined HPC in 1997/98, Sir Alan Goodison has died, and Andrew Penny is the only new Reader to be appointed. There should be more, and LLM ministry is fully open to men and women. After the service a number of people expressed interest, and there may well be others who did not speak to me, so here is a note of what is actually entailed.

The first point to make is that in recent years Reader Ministry, which used to be narrowly focussed on leading worship and preaching, has been broadened out to encompass a wider range of leadership and teaching roles. We are now called Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) and

² Available on the parish website

the training is called LLM Training. The London Diocesan web-site indicates that LLM training courses are provided by one of two centres - St Edmund and St Mellitus. Candidates need to begin by consulting their vicar (incumbent) and there is then a discernment process followed by training which takes place in evenings and week-ends, spread over about three years. So training is in itself a significant commitment, but it is compatible with full or part-time employment, and I believe that those of us who have undertaken the training in the past (including both Peter and Sheena Ginnings as well as Andrew and myself) would all agree that the training is worthwhile in itself.

Once licensed, for five years at a time, your license can be renewed by your bishop with the support of your incumbent and PCC. LLMs over the age of 70 (like myself) are accorded Emeritus status, and can continue to be licensed by the bishop if they have the support of their vicar and PCC. However, if you want the training to lead to formal licensing as a LLM, it is important not to leave it too long. Nowadays you cannot be appointed for the first time if you are over 60, so you need to embark on it well before retirement looms!

HPC Parish Retreat 2024

Andrew Lloyd Evans



The parish retreat took place on Saturday 20th January at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine in Limehouse. It was very ably led by Philip Buckler, previously vicar at our church. Twenty-eight people attended. We had two periods of thought-provoking reflection led by Philip, followed by periods of silent reflection. It was possible to reflect either sitting in the group or on the move around Limehouse Basin or along the Thames. Communion was held during the middle of the day in the interesting chapel reconstructed after wartime bombing. The rose window above the altar is made up of glass fragments salvaged after the bombing, which I thought relevant to our discussions, signifying a new start.

In the concluding session we talked honestly and openly about how much we as a church had been through in the last year, including Jeremy's departure, Jan leaving as associate priest and illness affecting both Geoffrey and Graham. Many felt it had been a difficult year. However, with God's help we have been resilient. It was generally felt that we should consign past events to the archives and move on to a new era of hope with our new Vicar Carol. This is an opportunity to leave the past behind and make a new start. We are in this together, and together it will work.

Philip gave us two interesting illustrations:

- A centipede walking (and maybe kneeling in prayer!) which occurred to him while watching monks walking in step to prayer. Moving on together.
- A tree frog ingesting with difficulty a locust horizontally and then turning it to digest it properly. Assimilate the past and move into the present and future.

Many people said afterwards how much they had appreciated going on retreat and how it had been a healing and supportive experience.

Barbara Alden was inspired to write this poem:

within silence

an echo holds the air in suspense;

look and see

see and look

then listen

can you hear the centipede's footsteps;

can you feel the flow of harmony

can you see the invisible

and hear its prayer

can you sense the scent of wonder

knowing
and not knowing
the still small voice
the leap of faith
in the leap of the frog
where the indigestible becomes digested
or dismissed
to
let go
and let God

Christmas Hampers 2023

Some feedback from Age UK Camden Good Neighbour Scheme members:



“A young lady from Age UK Camden has not long left and I want to say thank you, thank you. Thank you so much for the lovely little hamper. It's taking me a while, I feel like Santa Claus now opening up all the presents in the hamper. And the most important thing and useful thing that I found there was the pens and writing pad, cards and postage stamps. And also a little hair comb. And yes, thanks again for your visit and hope to see you soon”

Message left on Good Neighbour Scheme voicemail.

Several people said that the calendar was the most useful thing to receive. Also the little notelets and envelopes, as well as stamps. Postage is very expensive now but important to many older people who prefer to write and send a message.

Member of Henderson Court Sheltered Housing & Day Centre said:

“Thank you for the hamper. I’ll make use of everything!

Everything was useful! Flannel, soap, cream – I’ll use them all. Can never have enough flannels! I always like the hamper bag too.

Had to give some food away due to my diet (allergies) like the Christmas cake, but I don’t mind giving food away as others need it. I was able to eat the rice pudding – loved that!!



Getting the Radio Times is fantastic!! Saved me money and lasted over the holidays.”

When I asked what were her favourite items, she said everything was useful and the hamper saved her money, which she appreciated.

Ideas for next year? “Lens cleaner please! Magnifying glass. Hat? Scarf? Gloves?”

Email received after delivering a hamper:

“Gabriel, everything in it was so carefully thought out. A big thank you to everyone and Happy Christmas of course. Let's hope the New Year brings more peace and love!” Ruth

Our oldest member is 103 and blind. She is always extremely grateful for the hamper and time volunteers give bringing it to her, opening and explaining all the contents. She particularly loves the lavender bag and was touched to hear that they are specially made. Her befriender reads aloud for her: he would be able to read her the Radio Times and tell her what’s on radio over the holidays.

We know that many of our members are unable to go out and shop for gifts (due to mobility problems and lack of money). They are glad to have some items in the hamper that they perhaps cannot use due to diet and like to be able to give away e.g. to carers or neighbours.

I delivered a hamper to a member who is now living in a nursing home and is bed bound. She has diabetes and was impressed that the hamper included sugar-free sweets.

I visited several people who still had last year's Christmas hamper card on display.

We received a card of thanks addressed to Age UK Camden Good Neighbours' Scheme and Hampstead Parish Church:

“With my sincere thanks for your support throughout the year and for such generous and thoughtful gifts”

Volunteer befriender Sheila kindly helped deliver hampers to 4 of our members who live in the same local sheltered housing scheme. *She emailed:*

I was so happy to be able to help out and to get to meet a few more of the lovely clients you work with. I have also been meaning to reach out to let you know just how much Enid loved hers! She absolutely raved about it, loving the soups and sweets and jams (once she was able to have someone over to help her unwrap them!), and was particularly excited about the calendar. She told me countless times how grateful she was for a new one, and one big enough she could actually write in! You all are so great to organize and put these together every year, it really brought her so much joy in what is an otherwise challenging time of year.



Two heads are better than one. *Homer, as translated by H D Rouse.*
I'm sure someone in the congregation can tell me if it's an accurate translation!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



The Hampstead Players will be Celebrating
WOMEN WRITERS THROUGH THE AGES

on

FRIDAY MARCH 8th 2024

in the Crypt Room at 7.30pm

We invite any interested members of the congregation,
both men and women(!) to join us, either as a reader of your chosen
item or as a discerning audience

Short selections can be made from Poetry, Prose, Philosophy,
Letters, Articles, Fiction, Autobiography, Diary extracts, Comedy,
Dialogue ... you name it; anything interesting, from ancient to
modern times – as long as *it's been written by a woman!*
so, don't be reticent ...

Barbara Alden is organising this event so, if you would like to
take part, please send her your choice of reading
2-3 minutes max length, but shorter snippets very welcome!
(see below for email)

For choice there's a wealth of materials

from Sappho (born 570 BC) to Hilary Mantel (born 1952);

from the Bronte sisters to the Drabble sisters

(Margaret and Antonia - aka AS Byatt);

from medieval mystic Marjorie Kemp

to present day feminist Germaine Greer;

and diarists Anne Lister (born 1791) to Anne Frank (born 1929);

then there's Aphra Ben, Fanny Burney, Mary Wollstonecraft & daughter Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, George Eliot (aka Mary Ann Evans), Virginia Woolf, Toni Morrison, JK Rowling, Bernadine Evaristo,

to name but a few ...

plus poets Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti, Sylvia Plath, Maya Angelou, Carol Ann Duffy and many more!

email Barbara by March 1st aldenb@freeuk.com
please include the writer's name, title (or extract) of work, timing, and if possible a short sentence about the author.

if there are duplicate offers of the same item, selection will be on a first come basis, so ... don't delay!!

We'd really welcome your contributions to

CELEBRATE WOMEN WRITERS THROUGH THE AGES!

Suzanne

Tribute given at her memorial service by Nick Mogg

For any of you who don't come here often, as they say, my name is Nick Mogg and for six years from 2012-18 I was a member of the Choir at Hampstead Parish Church and that is where I first met Suzanne. If you'll permit me, I'd like to talk about how we met and became friends.



It takes a while when you're sitting in the stalls to recognise the regular churchgoers but Suzanne

made it as easy as possible by helpfully sporting any one of a striking collection of hats. Every great Artist needs a signature and this was most definitely Suzanne's. Much to the chagrin of then music director James Sherlock, who would ideally have liked to make the Vestry as sacred a space as next door, Suzanne would often come through after the bigger services or the concerts with a rather faint cry of "I hope everyone's decent" - with at least one foot already in the room. I'm sure we spoke at Coffee in the Crypt after a service but it was only in the final paragraph of one fateful letter that things really got interesting:

Date unknown (but photographed and sent to me on 13 October 2013): Suzanne Pinkerton to James Sherlock: *"It will be interesting to see how the singers fare later on (not too much later on, as I'm 77 now!), my money's on Nick. We'll see. I've always been a Baritone Lady"*

Well Suzanne, I didn't know you had such excellent taste!! Whether or not she admitted her bias for Baritones (and later those with beards) almost immediately is neither here nor there but I thought: I *must* get to know this Baritone Lady as soon as possible, ideally loudly and in front of Aidan. Little did I know however that this would turn out to be one of the most enduring and quietly important friendships I have ever had.

Suzanne started volunteering at the Museum at the Royal Academy of Music in September 2014. We'll call it a coincidence shall we that I started my postgraduate studies there at exactly the same time. In fact there were people I met in those early days at Academy who told me they'd already met a friend of mine in the Museum earlier that week. One such esteemed person of particular interest, was the Principal of the Academy himself - Jonathan Freeman Attwood. Suzanne had a way of making sure she was speaking to the right people. Every set of opera scenes, every song concert, or Bach Cantata that came and went, Suzanne was there. This work was a fusion of two of the great parts of Suzanne's life: music and volunteering. She was tremendously proud of her operatic surname: Pinkerton - that of the American

Lieutenant who marries Madame Butterfly in Puccini's opera. Her time at the Academy meant she got to know and follow the careers of a whole new generation of singers and players, which gave her great pleasure. She volunteered at the Academy Museum, at Fenton House, and at Burgh House (the last of these for 35 years). This is because she loved meeting people and chatting to them, and all the better if it could be in French, German, or Italian. She particularly loved the surprise on the faces of visitors who told her where they were from and quick as flash she would start to tell them about the exhibits in their own languages.

Suzanne was deeply thoughtful and hugely generous - buying birthday presents for my parents and for me whenever she saw something that she thought was just right and subsequently keeping it safe for the remaining eleven months. Suzanne once sat down at performance in London and turned to the lady next to her and said: 'I've known the baritone since before he had a beard!'. The only reason I know this story is because that lady was my Mum who may have trumped her on that count, but they struck up a friendship of their own which I know was special to both of them.

I can't quite remember how or when it started but after a few years Suzanne and I started to exchange letters. I think it was a more efficient way for her to tell me everything she thought about the concerts she had seen without the risk of her assessment causing any offence. I must say it took a while for me to get to grips with her handwriting but when I left London and moved to Hamburg we really hit our letter-writing stride. Never more so really than in the first Covid Lockdown in 2020 when I was in Manchester and we didn't have to deal with international post delays. Quickly a format point arose called: Matters Arising. I would inform 'the Lady of Childs Hill' about the news and current affairs from Mogg Towers. The ultimate irony was that we *had* no news and the matters arising ranged from her bin collection to what I'd had for my lunch. It was, as a result, the time when we got to know each other better than ever.

Suzanne told me about her childhood in Melbourne and her complicated relationship with her parents; her affinity with Christmastime because of her middle name Noel; the boat journey that took her to London in 1962; the singing career she had as a 'true' mezzo-soprano both in Australia and then in London performing song recitals with Sir Trevor Pinnock no less; her love of France - in particular Paris where she said she would often go for the day on the train, arrive for coffee and a cake, take a trip to the Louvre, have a late lunch, and then catch the train home. When I said that she was at every set of opera scenes or concert in the Church, there was an exception to that if it clashed with Discover Dogs at the London Excel. Her love of dogs was constant and she was thrilled when Derek and Annabel, who did so much to help Suzanne from across the road, brought Pebble into their lives and hers.

We talked about more personal things too from her life and mine, and it was in so doing that I realised how important her presence in my life was. She talked openly about her worries that there wouldn't be anyone to speak about her at her funeral and she also explicitly said that she wanted it to be known the lifelong grief she bore at being unable to marry. She would be thrilled that so many people were there at her cremation and at this service today. Suzanne was there for me through the ups and downs of my 20s, through moving to another country, learning and working in a new language, the weird and wacky German opera productions I've done in the last few years including the many dresses I've had to wear in them - from ballgowns to wedding dresses. I tried to be there for her too in the last few years as her health started to become more troublesome. A hip replacement in 2020 with recovery exercises done in time to a CD of Telemann, the return of breast cancer in 2022 and subsequent trips to hospital accompanied by Annie, Diana, or Julia. In her last letter she talked about how her mobility was proving more and more difficult and I can't help but feel that she would have hated it if she wasn't able to get to Burgh House, the Wigmore Hall, Marks and Spencer or perhaps most importantly, here.

Hampstead Parish Church was a huge part of Suzanne's life. Not only was it where she expressed her faith and was part of a thriving music scene that dates back to the days of Martindale Sidwell, but because of so many of the people here today. It was her community and her friends whom she saw here every Sunday morning. Those people here and on Pattison Road, who are too many to mention, helped her immeasurably particularly as things became harder to do herself and speaking as someone who was further away, I am incredibly grateful to you all for the help you gave Suzanne.

I'd like to finish with one particularly *special* memory of Suzanne's work at HPC that I know was the source of much amusement among the choir. As well as church-sitting in the daytime, she was often called upon to write reviews of the concerts that took place; I know very well what a good writer she was. My favourite however comes from April 2016 following a performance of Bach's St John Passion. Suzanne gave a beautiful summary of the singing and playing from everyone involved in that but a special mention went to - you guessed it - Nicholas Mogg, who: "...was on tour in Europe as a soloist in the *St Matthew* so didn't sing"

So Suzanne, what more can I say? There are times in any job where confidence can be low but I always knew I had a fan in North London. There aren't many people in the world who get to have someone in their lives who shows them as much unwavering support as you did to me. There aren't many either who get to have a friend like I had in you. Thank you.

BAFTA and me

Stephen Clarke

BAFTA is the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and I got into it largely by accident. In the 1960s they were desperate for members and anyone who was on the staff of one of the big television companies got in. I worked for Granada Television so BAFTA let me in.

In 1974 one of my programmes was up for an award so I booked seats for my wife and myself for the ceremony at the Albert Hall. At the last minute my wife could not come so I took someone else. But it was too late to change the programme so the entry read “Mr and Mrs Stephen Clarke.” Which made me think about the accuracy (or otherwise) of historical records.

For example...

In January 2001 I was responsible for preparing the list of guests at a memorial service for my father, Sir Cyril Clarke, who had been President of the Royal College of Physicians. A couple, whom I shall call Mr and Mrs Smith, said they wanted to attend so I asked The Times to put them on the list of guests - then they could not come. I asked The Times to take them out of the guest list but they said No, it was too late; so The Times kept their names in. Any researcher who wanted to know where Mr and Mrs Smith were on that date in 2001 would be absolutely certain that they were at the service, but they would be wrong.

Note for Biblical researchers: if that sort of error can creep into a “reliable” London-based newspaper only a few years ago, can we be sure of anything written in Greek over 2,000 years ago? Makes you think...

But back to BAFTA

In 1992 Granada fired me, but gave me a hefty redundancy payment which I used to buy life membership of BAFTA. This was handy because after a while the big feature film distributors got fed up with providing previews and free drinks for the entire voting membership of BAFTA. Anyone who did not know one end of a feature film from another – like me, for example – was purged. Except, of course, life members, who were exempt. So I continued to get the freebies.

I remember a preview of *The Revenant*, a 2015 film set in Canada. Leonardo diCaprio was there in person, being very courteous. Barry Humphries was in the audience. My grandson asked me “How do you know it is Barry Humphries?” I said “someone called him ‘Barry’ and he has an entourage.”

One film I saw was *Saltburn* which described the experiences of a provincial boy at Oxford. I spent four years at Oxford and the film bore not the slightest relationship to my experiences there. The film was also unbelievably explicit – full frontal male nudes are never to my taste but things got a lot worse than that. I was delighted to see it got a good kicking from one of the reviewers!

Then you get the embarrassing moments. I went to a preview theatre in Soho to see a Ukrainian film called *Pamphir*. It was a good film but I was the only person in the audience. The preview theatre must have cost several hundred pound to hire; presumably the Ukrainian government stumped up.

So how does the feature film industry work?

At one preview I met a film critic who told me “Ten feature films are released every week, of which only three make money.” The secret, he said, is the studio system. Some films, eg anything about James Bond, are bound to make money so they support all the other ones that don’t; that is why they are called “tentpole productions.”

British film producers find it very difficult to raise enough money to compete with the big American studios. When they put forward a proposal they get asked “Have you mortgaged your house?” “Of course.” “Have you borrowed every last penny from your mother and father?” “Of course.” “Have you tried borrowing money from your dentist?” “Why from my dentist?” “Well, it is a boring job and most dentists are filthy rich so they can usually be persuaded to part with a few thousand quid.”

MUSIC SECTION

Music List for February 2024

Sunday 4th February – Second Sunday before Lent

10.30 am. Choral Eucharist

Organ Prelude *No. 2 (11 Vesper Voluntaries Op. 14)* Edward Elgar

Opening Hymn 466

Mass setting (K/GI/S&B/AD) *Missa Octavi Toni* Orlando di Lasso

Gradual Psalm 104.26-37 Tone iii/2

Offertory Hymn 263

Communion Motet *Ave verum corpus* William Byrd

Post-communion Hymn 265

Organ Postlude *Fantasia in D minor* William Byrd

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Voluntary No.2, in D minor I. Slow* John Stanley

Introit *O praise the Lord, all ye heathen* Adrian Batten

Preces & Responses William Byrd

Psalm 65 James Turle

Canticles *Short Service* Orlando Gibbons

The Lord's Prayer Thomas Morley

Anthem *Alleluia! I heard a voice* Thomas Weekles

Hymn 242

Final Amen Johann Naumann

Organ Postlude *Voluntary No.2, in D minor II. Allegro* John Stanley

Sunday 11th February – Sunday next before Lent

10.30 am. Choral Eucharist

Organ Prelude *Andante (Sonata No. 1)* Basil Harwood

Opening Hymn 234

Mass setting (K/GI/S/AD) *Missa O quam gloriosum* T. L. de Victoria

Gradual Psalm 50.1-6 Richard Langdon

Offertory Hymn 271

Communion Motet *O salutaris hostia* William Byrd

Post-communion Hymn 494

Organ Postlude *Allegro Appassionato (Sonata No. 1)* Basil Harwood

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Voluntary No.8, in D minor II. Adagio* John Stanley

Introit *Cantate Domino* G. O. Pitoni

Preces & Responses William Byrd

Psalm 2 Robert Ashfield

Canticles *Evening Service in D* Herbert Brewer

The Lord's Prayer Thomas Morley

Anthem *Glorious and Powerful God* C. V. Stanford

Hymn 248(ii)

Final Amen Johann Nauman

Organ Postlude *Praeludium in E minor, BWV 548* J. S. Bach

Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm. Choral Eucharist

Organ Prelude *Ach Herr, mich armen Sünder* BuxWV 178

Dieterich Buxtehude

Opening Hymn 67

Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Mass for five voices* William Byrd

Gradual Hymn 62

Imposition of Ashes *Miserere mei Deus* after Gregorio Allegri

Offertory Motet *Emendemus in melius* William Byrd

Communion Motet *Lent Prose*

Post-communion Hymn 84

Organ Postlude *Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt* BWV 636

J. S. Bach

Sunday 18th February – First Sunday of Lent

10.30 am. Choral Eucharist

Organ Prelude *O Lamm Gottes, un schuldig* BWV 618 J. S. Bach

Opening Hymn 83

Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Messa à 4* (1651) Claudio Monteverdi

Gradual Psalm 25.1-9 James Turle

Offertory Hymn 67

Communion Motet *Christus factus est* Felice Anerio

Post-communion Hymn 305

Organ Postlude *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen Op. 122 No. 11*
Johannes Brahms

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Christe, du Lamm Gottes BWV 619* J.S. Bach
Introit *Quicquid Adam* Gregor Lange
Preces & Responses William Byrd
Psalm 119.17-32 Williams/Turle
Canticles *The Second Service* William Byrd
The Lord's Prayer Thomas Morley
Anthem *Pater peccavi* Andrea Gabrieli
Hymn 60(ii)
Final Amen Johann Naumann
Organ Postlude *Ach Herr, mich armen Sünder* J. L. Krebs

Sunday 25th February – Second Sunday of Lent

10.30 am. Choral Eucharist

Organ Prelude *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin Bux* WV 76
Dieterich Buxtehude
Opening Hymn 449
Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Missa brevis in D minor* (K 65 W. A. Mozart
Gradual Psalm 22.23-31 Tone ii/1
Offertory Hymn 76
Communion Motet *Ave verum corpus* W. A. Mozart
Post-communion Hymn 63
Organ Postlude *Christe, du Lamm Gottes BWV 619* J. S. Bach

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Voluntary No.5, in D major I. Slow* John Stanley
Introit *O Lord increase my faith* Loosemore
Preces & Responses William Byrd
Psalm 135 Francis Pott
Canticles *Evening Service in F* Daniel Roseingrave
The Lord's Prayer Thomas Morley
Anthem *Jehova quam multi sunt hostes mei* Henry Purcell

Hymn 64

Final Amen Johann Naumann

Organ Postlude *Vivace from Sonata No. 6 BWV 530* J. S. Bach

Matilda Johnston *Organ Scholar*

Aidan Coburn *Director of the Junior & Community Choirs*

Joshua Ryan *Organist & Assistant Director of Music*

Geoffrey Webber *Director of Music*

The Hampstead Collective

Monday 5th February : 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Sacred and profane songs for voices and piano by Benjamin Britten

Choral song cycle ‘Sacred and Profane’ interspersed with solo songs

Singers:

Christine Buras, Jessica Gillingwater, Jess Dandy,
Ruairi Bowen, Malachy Frame

Piano: Dylan Perez



Monday 4th March : 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Dieterick Buxtehude “The glory of Lübeck’: vocal concertos (including Jesu meine Freude) and Instrumental Sonatas

Sopranos: Rebecca Hardwick and Christina Buras

Bass: Hugo Herman-Wilson

Violin: Sinome Pirri and Henry Tong

Viola da gamba: Jacob Garside

Organ/Director: Geoffrey Webber

Tickets £15 from thehampsteadcollective.com or at the door

Organ Recitals at Hampstead Parish Church

24th February at 4pm
James Gough
(Southwark Cathedral)

22nd March at **7pm**
Jeremiah Stephenson
(All Saints Margaret Street and St Paul's Cathedral)

20th April at 4pm
Matilda Johnson
(Hampstead Parish Church)

25th May at 4pm
Jamie Andrews
(Royal Hospital Chelsea)

22nd June at 4pm
Joe Hyam
(Highgate School)

20th July at 4pm
Michael Butterfield
(Marlborough College)

Free - Retiring Collection



Readings for February

10.30am

5.00pm

Sunday 4th – 2 before Lent

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

John 1.1-14

Genesis 2.4b-end

Luke 8.22-38

Sunday 11th – next before Lent

2 Kings 2.1-12

Mark 9.2-9

1 Kings 19.1-6

2 Peter 1.16-end

Ash Wednesday

10.15am

7.30pm

Isaiah 58.1-12

2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10

Matthew 6.1-5, 16-12

Isaiah 58.1-12

2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

10.30am

5.00pm

Sunday 18th – Lent 1

Genesis 9.8-17

Mark 1.9-15

Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7

Romans 5.12-19

Sunday 25th – Lent 2

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

Mark 8.31-end

Genesis 12.1-9

Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16



Some book suggestions for Lent

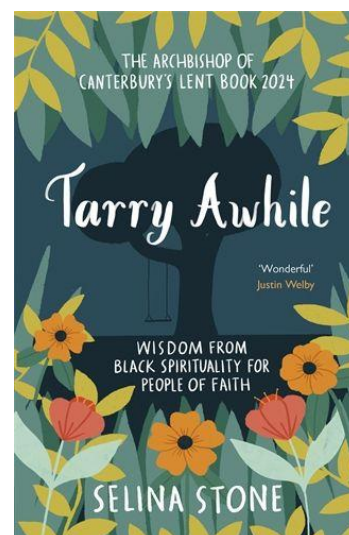
Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2024

By Selina Stone

'Tarry here and watch with me ...' (Matthew 26:38)

Tarrying is a Black Christian spiritual practice in which believers actively wait to experience the manifestation of God's presence. It answers yes to the question Jesus once asked His disciples: will you tarry here and watch with Me? Whether in the vibrancy of music and singing, or in the hushed silence of the congregation, people of all ages anticipate an encounter with God that will transform what they know, feel and experience day to day.

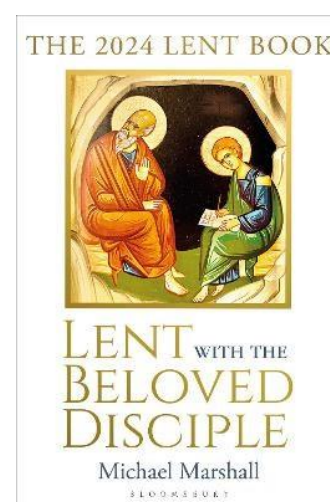


This book makes the wisdom of Black spiritualities and faith available for all people. It focuses on seven themes: darkness as a place of encounter with the divine; the unity of all things; movement, belonging and migration; the Spirit as one who moves in unexpected ways; quiet contemplation as essential to spiritual growth; healing in community; and weeping that turns to joy. *Tarry Awhile* offers wisdom for all who hope to encounter God in the midst of wearying times.

Lent with the Beloved Disciple

By the Rt Revd Bishop Michael Marshall,
Bloomsbury, £10.99

The 2024 Bloomsbury Lent Book invites you on a six-week journey in the company of the 'beloved disciple' as found in the narrative of the Gospel



of St John. As the only disciple to have stayed close to Jesus at every stage from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion at Calvary, John records certain subtle details and signs which indicate a deeper and far more lasting significance.

Michael Marshall explores what these signs are and how, with prayerful reflection, they draw us ever more deeply into the personal, eternal and cosmic significance and awareness of all that Christ accomplished by His death and resurrection.



Out of the mouths of babes.....

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

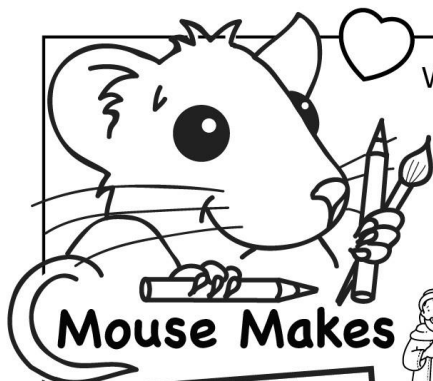
You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. – Derrick, age 8

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. – Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. – Lynnette, age 8



Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____
Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

ABRAHAM
ADAM • AQUILA
BOAZ • ELKANAH
ELIZABETH
EVE • HANNAH
ISAAC • JACOB
JOSEPH • MARY
PRISCILLA
RACHEL
REBEKAH • RUTH
SARAH
ZECHARIAH

Some dates for your diaries

Mothering Sunday 10th March

Passion Sunday – 17th March

Palm Sunday – 24th March

Easter Day – 31st March

Pentecost – 19th May

Hampstead Players Summer production 4th – 6th July

Holiday in Hampstead – 5th – 9th August



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ST JOHN-AT-HAMPSTEAD

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