

# Hampstead Parish Church Magazine for September 2025

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

## **Fr Ben**

considers  
Creators and co-  
creators

## **Music**

The new term's music  
and Hampstead  
Collective autumn  
series

## **Charity News**

The work of the London  
Air Ambulance Charity

## **Fairtrade Fortnight**

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – 5<sup>th</sup> Oct



An **Exhibition** and a  
**Book Launch** -  
details inside

## **HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH**

[Registered Charity No. 1129264]

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Website: hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Facebook: Hampstead Parish Church

Instagram: @HampsteadPC / X: @Hampstead\_PC

Youtube: youtube.com/c/hampsteadparishchurch

### **Sunday worship:**

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Common Worship)

5.00pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

### **Weekday worship:**

*Mon – Fri:* Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

*Wednesdays* Holy Communion at 10.15am

*Thursdays* Rosary prayer on Zoom at 8.30am

*Saturday* Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

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

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communions and  
Home Visits

please contact The Vicar

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0207 794 5808

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\* to be added to the email list please contact the parish office  
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# September



September  
2025

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# Diary for September

- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> 7.00pm Hampstead Collective concert autumn season begins with the anthems of Orlando Gibbons – see page 26
- Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion
- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Gardening group – all most welcome to help!

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Trinity 12

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am All Age Eucharist: *Backpack Sunday* – Bring your bags for a blessing on the year ahead.
- 5.00pm Choral Evensong followed by sherry with the choir



“In-Vestments” installation opens in church – see page 14

- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm *Science and Spiritual Practice* – a talk by Rupert Sheldrake. In the church
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion
- Thu 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Community Choir
- Fri 12<sup>th</sup> 3.30-5.30pm *Arts and Crafts Session* in church
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm *Director’s Scene Showcase* – an evening with the Hampstead Players. See their website or weekly email for details

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Trinity 13

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

- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> *Holy Cross Day*
- 7.30pm *Camden History Society: The Journals of Henry Sharpe* – see page 20
- Wed 17<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion
- Thu 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Community Choir

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Trinity 14

- 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Autumn Graveyard Watch for the under 5s)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong: start of Sermon series with Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally - Wisdom

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> *Matthias, the apostle*  
*/ Fairtrade Fortnight begins*



**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT  
2025**



7.30pm PCC meeting in the Crypt Room

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Community Choir

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Trinity 15

- 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Junior Church 'Meet the bees' and Confirmation preparation)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong:  
Preacher Revd Dr Andrew Bowyer - Gospels

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> *Michael and all Angels*



### **A prayer for Students by Thomas à Kempis**

Grant, O Lord, to all students, to know what is worth knowing, to love what is worth loving, to praise what delights you most, to value what is precious in your sight and to reject what is evil in your eyes. Grant them true discernment to distinguish between different things. Above all, may they search out and do what is most pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Father Ben writes

As I write, we are in the middle of the last Bank Holiday weekend of the year. A traditional time for some to complete DIY projects. Given that we are called to offer all of our lives to God, even a DIY project can have theological relevance.

The Bible tells us that God has continuously transformed the ordinary into the extraordinary and the mundane into the miraculous using the ‘least likely’ of people. Think of Moses and David the Shepherds, Gideon the man of little confidence, the disciples who were fishermen and tax collectors (among other things), and Mary the mother of our God; a young and humble girl from Nazareth.

Before I even lifted the circular saw to make the first cut or took hold of the power drill to drive in the first screw, I took a moment to notice the raw materials I was working with; primarily timber. Hard woods come from deciduous trees, identified by the annual loss of their leaves. Trees such as oak, maple, beech, birch, and hickory. The boards and joists I was using were oak. These trees support a rich web of biodiversity, and take 40 years to reach maturity from a careful balance of sun, soil and water. So what I thought of as a fairly ordinary ‘Click and Collect’ from my local B&Q (other DIY stores are available), and home improvement project, was really something quite extraordinary. It was a moment of unexpected appreciation for God’s good creation. As I went on to saw and screw this became a moment when Godly design met human ingenuity (I use the latter term generously). This is what Makoto Fujimura the Japanese artist and theologian calls effective stewardship. We answer the call from the Creator (with a capital c) to be creators (with a lower case c). For example, as Fujimura says: “We turn wheat into bread—and bread into community. We turn grapes into wine—and wine into occasions for joyful camaraderie, conviviality, conversation, and creativity.”

It may be difficult sometimes to think of ourselves as creators or co-creators (with a lowercase c) but that is the measure of the honour and responsibility that God has bestowed on us. It reminds me of Jesus when he says in John 14:12-14, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do

even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” The sum total of the constituent parts of creation, including you and me, are infinite and everlasting.

Jesus calls us to the work of healing and reconciliation in a world where much kindness and compassion is needed. Working alongside God as a ‘creator’ or ‘co-creator’ is part of our calling to witness to where the ordinary becomes the extraordinary through power of God’s love and abundance.

*Best Wishes,*

*Fr Ben*

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## **September**

*Judy East*

September all seems to me to mean new beginnings. It isn’t the start of the year, it isn’t even the start of the church year, unless you belong to the Eastern Orthodox church, and yet I can’t be the only one, I think, for whom it feels like the start of something, perhaps because the school system is so ingrained in our lives. And there’s a sense of “Welcome back”: everyone who went away for the summer starts reappearing, the choir are back, concerts start again (the Collective on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>) and we look forward to what the autumn has to offer.

There have been some changes – Joshua Ryan has taken up his new post as Director of Music at St Alfege, Greenwich; Louis, our organ scholar, has moved on to the next stage of his education - and there’s been a change in the way the church organises its finances, about which Handley spoke in his sermon on 13<sup>th</sup> July (reprinted below. Until recently the parish has committed a percentage of its income to charitable giving, and the charities were nominated by members of the congregation. Now that people are more inclined to give directly to the charity of their choice this system is being dropped although from time to time we will still have special collections. Which leaves us with an opportunity to explore more charities in this magazine. Now we



invite YOU to send in a piece about your favourite charity – perhaps you have a particular link you could share with us – or maybe it just appeals to you and you’d like to share it with the parish. There are so many “good causes” these days, all worthy of support and I’m sure not known to half of us. Local, national or international, do please contact me – 500 or so words introducing the charity would be lovely, but just a name would do, they all have information on their websites that can be downloaded. I’ve kicked off this month with one of my favourites, the *London Air Ambulance Charity*.

One of the areas the church has to fund is the development of the building to suit our needs as parish life grows and changes. We’ve made many changes over the years, from the dramatic (extending and realigning the church in 1878) to the changing of use of the vestries. I was interested therefore to read about Temple Moore, our architect from about 1909 who was responsible for reordering the vestries – creating the choir vestry on arches (now the Crypt Room), turning the old choir vestry into a clergy vestry (now the parish office) and creating a Morning Chapel out of the former clergy vestry (where we’ve now reconstructed a clergy vestry). Chapter 5 of Michael Port’s *Story of a Building* (the green history book for sale at the back of church) details all the work at HPC for which Temple Moore was responsible.

I suppose I knew all that if I’d thought about it but what I definitely didn’t know was that he was immortalised in verse by John Betjeman!

### **Perp. Revival I’ the North**

*John Betjeman*

O, I wad gang tae Harrogate  
Tae a kirk by Temple Moore,  
Wi a tall choir and a lang nave  
And rush mats on the floor;  
And Percy Dearmer chasubles  
And nae pews but chairs,  
And there we’ll sing the Sarum rite  
Tae English Hymnal airs.

It's a far cry frae Harrogate  
And mony a heathery mile  
Tae a stane kirk wi' a wee spire  
And a verra wee south aisle.  
The rhododendrons bloom wi'oot  
On ilka Simmer's day  
And it's there the Airl o' Feversham  
Wad hae his tenants pray;  
For there's something in the painted roof  
And the mouldings round the door,  
The braw bench and the plain font  
That tells o' Temple Moore.

You live and learn!

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## **What must I do to inherit eternal life?**

*Sermon: Handley Stevens*

Readings : Deuteronomy 30.9-14 / Luke 10.25-37

It's a good question, and one which becomes increasingly pressing as the years go by. In Jesus' day the notion of eternal life was by no means universally accepted. We know from what Luke writes elsewhere that the Pharisees believed in angels and spirits and resurrection, whereas the Sadducees denied all three (Acts 23.8). The Old Testament was largely silent on the matter, as we saw in our reading from Deuteronomy, which focussed on the obligation to observe the law in this life, and the rewards which were also to be expected in this life. Turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, observing all his commandments and decrees, and the Lord your God will take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors (Deut 30.9/10).

What must I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus does not give the lawyer a direct answer. He asks him what is written in the law. What do you read there? The lawyer answers well enough that the law requires us to love God absolutely and unconditionally 'with all your heart, and

with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind' – 'and your neighbour as yourself'. And Jesus commends him – Quite right, he says. Do this and you shall live. In St Mark's account of the same incident, Jesus goes so far as to say to the lawyer: You are not far from the kingdom of God (Mark 12.34).

We are so used to this brief summary of the law – Love God and love your neighbour - that we easily overlook the significance of this reference to 'loving your neighbour as yourself'. Loving your neighbour does not figure among the ten commandments in the book of Exodus, which loom over us to this day from the splendid commandment boards above our east gallery. Neighbours are only mentioned in the last of those commandments, which forbids us to covet any of our neighbour's possessions.

So where does the injunction to love your neighbour come from? It rests on a verse buried deep in chapter 19 of the priestly book of Leviticus, among the moral and ethical laws of what is known as the Holiness Collection, where it serves as a summing up of several more specific commandments governing neighbourly relations: you shall not defraud your neighbour; with justice you shall judge your neighbour; you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour; you shall reprove your neighbour or you will incur guilt yourself; and finally: 'you shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself.' (Lev 19.18). The importance of this final injunction is emphasised by the solemn refrain that follows: I am the Lord.

St Paul says that all the other commandments – you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not commit adultery and so on, are all summed up in the command to love your neighbour as yourself, so that love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13.9/10; Galatians 5.14). James calls it 'the royal law according to the scripture' (James 2.8). But what does it mean to love your neighbour as yourself? In what sense is this the gateway to eternal life? No wonder the lawyer presses on with his follow-up question: Who is my neighbour? Once again Jesus turns the question back on him, telling the story of the Good Samaritan and asking him to say which of the three travellers on the road was neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?

And of course the answer is the one who showed him mercy. So my neighbour turns out to be not a limited category of the people we know, but the unknown person who comes to our aid when we are in trouble.

This is what makes the gospel message so radical. It is not about deals and transactions. I will scratch your back, if you will scratch mine. The good news of the gospel is about the unlimited nature of God's love which is freely given. He asks for no commitment from us before pouring the healing oil and wine into our wounds.

Who is my neighbour? How many appeals for help have I binned this week? How often do I pass by on the other side of the road? As you probably know, in 2023 our Parochial Church Council took the decision to reduce charitable giving from parish funds on the grounds that most of us would prefer to make our own choices. It had been the PCC's policy to give away up to 10 per cent of parish income in donations to charities. In practice it wasn't always as much as that, but in 2023, the last year to which this policy applied, the Parish budget included about £14,000 for 'other charities', charities other than ourselves. That is a very approximate measure of the annual scale of charitable giving which we are now expected to donate to charities of our own choice – over and above what many of us were already giving. I wonder how many of us have risen to the challenge.

I don't want to bang on about money, least of all do I want to pile a sense of guilt onto those who have barely enough for themselves, as dear Suzanne Pinkerton was always keen to point out, but those of us who will soon be totting up our charitable donations for the past financial year in order to claim tax relief on them, should remember that the change in the church's policy for giving away, came with a corresponding challenge to increase our personal charity donations to compensate for that change.

Who is my neighbour? The story of the Good Samaritan is a reminder of the challenges which any of us may face at any time, unless of course we choose to pass by on the other side of the road. It is the challenge which our Lord himself chose to embrace in coming to earth as child and man, walking the same roads as we walk, facing the same

challenges as we face, without ever choosing to pass by on the other side. And we know what it cost him, ultimately, to do so. When we share in the bread and the wine which symbolise his participation in our daily lives, we are strengthened by his grace to face the challenges which we have encountered on the road, or may encounter just around the corner.

Who was neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? The one who showed mercy. Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise” – do as he did.

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## **PCC REPORT**

Helen Taylor, PCC Secretary

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UPDATE – FINANCIAL REPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIOCESAN COMMON FUND – RENEWAL OF INVESTMENT POLICY – PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR BUILDINGS COMMITTEE**

There was a meeting of the PCC on 30 June 2025, held via Zoom due to extreme hot weather conditions.

We received an encouraging update on the sustained high numbers of children attending Junior Church every week, and the benefit of having a new Junior Church assistant, Isabella, help with the logistics on Sunday mornings. Recent outings included a successful pilgrimage to St Albans’ Cathedral and the Pentefest gathering in Hyde Park. We also received a report on the end-of-year activities at Hampstead Parochial School, and noted the opportunities available to the children through the church’s strong musical offering.

Our Treasurer Inigo Woolf reported on our financial position at the end of the first half of the year, indicating that we look likely to break even at the mid-year point. This progress towards turning around the deficit is due to a range of factors, including the enhanced use of the parish rooms, reduced printing costs, and a 10% increase in gift aid since this time last year. We agreed to contribute £106,764 to the London Diocese’s Common Fund for 2026, which pays for clergy

stipends and housing costs and other central support services for all parishes in the Diocese.

After reviewing an investment policy statement circulated in advance to PCC members, we approved the renewal of the PCC's investment policy. This policy aims to preserve the real value of investments in property and pooled investment funds to provide an asset base on which borrowings can be secured to support major improvements such as the complete redecoration of the Church.

Martin Evans provided an update on project priorities as set out in a report from Buildings Committee, including repairing the downpipe in the roof void, repairing the drains, optimising energy use and reducing telecoms / internet costs. He also noted other works in progress, including efforts to update CCTV and AV systems in a cost-effective way, upgrading our fire safety systems, and exploring alternative electronic giving systems to the SumUp machines.

The PCC's next scheduled meeting will be on Monday 22 September 2025.

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### **In-Vestments – an installation by Gracjana Rejmer-Canovas**

8 – 15 September 10am-4pm in church

A contemporary artist's view of shape, colour, ritual, symbolism and ceremony.

Gracjana Rejmer-Canovas brings colour, form and spiritual resonance into conversation with the architecture of Hampstead Parish Church. This site-specific installation features large-scale textile forms placed both inside and outside the church, responding to its structure with harmony and presence while allowing each piece to retain its individual voice.



Drawing from her Catholic upbringing in Poland, Rejmer-Canovas reflects on the liturgical garments she observed as a child. The chasuble, a T-shaped ceremonial robe, becomes a recurring motif, reimagined through sacred geometry and minimalist abstraction. Semi-circles, rectangles and squares are used to explore themes of perfection and imperfection, the visible and the unseen.

Colour plays a central role in her work, conveying emotion and symbolic meaning. It

speaks to opposites – life and death, joy and sorrow – and becomes a language of feeling and intention.

The making process is meditative. Fabrics are carefully prepared, then hand-pleated to create rhythm and movement. Each pleated form resonates with the next, building a collective presence. Assembled together, they offer an installation that invites contemplation through its interplay of colour, form and kinetic energy.

Rejmer Canovas was born in Warsaw in 1984. She has graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art in London and now lives and works in London.

## London Air Ambulance Charity

“In 2022/23 we raised almost £16 million from our supporters and partners of which 96% of came from public support and donations.”



In May 2025, our team of expert medics – who are here for London 24/7, 365 days a year – treated 169 patients.

Thanks to our fleet of helicopters and rapid response cars, we can get to the patient's side within minutes of injury, when every second counts. These individuals are so seriously injured they don't have time to get to hospital – instead we perform complex medical procedures on scene, to save lives where others can't.

Treating these patients included administering 22 rapid sequence intubations, 18 blood transfusions and 17 arterial lines, alongside many other potentially life-saving interventions. We were also able to offer ECMO on the roadside – a UK first for patients in cardiac arrest. You can read more about this pioneering launch on their website [londonsairambulance.org.uk](https://londonsairambulance.org.uk)

We attend every borough in London and can reach anywhere within the M25 in 11 minutes. In this month, it was the borough of Hackney that we visited the most, followed by Brent, Southwark and Tower Hamlets.

Once the patient has been stabilised on scene, it's most common for our crew to accompany them in a road ambulance to the nearest major trauma centre. This month, 55 patients were taken to The Royal London Hospital (43.7 per cent), 26 patients were taken to King's College Hospital (20.6 per cent), 22 to St George's Hospital (17.5 per cent) and 18 to St Mary's (14.3 per cent). One patient was flown to The Royal London, which is a very rare occurrence – in the **entire year of 2024**, we only flew 16 patients.

During May, assault was the mechanism of injury that resulted in the largest number of patients – 36 (21 per cent). Medical-related injuries resulted in 25 patients (15 per cent), transport-related injuries 24 (14 per cent) and accidents and falls both 18 (11 per cent each). There



were also 48 patients who had other or unknown injuries (28 per cent), which include industrial accidents and burns.

In the UK, traumatic injury is the biggest killer of people under 40. But on the worst day of someone's life, our medics are here to bring hope to the patient and their loved ones. As a charity, 95 per cent of our funding is reliant on people like you. Can you **support us today**, to help us be there tomorrow? Donate at

[Londonsairambulance.org.uk/donate](http://Londonsairambulance.org.uk/donate)

If you have a favourite charity please send us some details – website or an article – to [judy.east@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:judy.east@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk)

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## Peace with Creation

The Season of Creation, running from 1 September to 4 October, is an annual, ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for creation that Christians on six continents have commemorated for many years. It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. The theme for this year is **Peace with Creation**.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, now the patron saint of ecology. Since then Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Roman Catholic

Church in 2015, and in 2019 started celebrating the Season of Creation as well. HPC joined A Rocha some years ago, committing ourselves to doing our bit to reduce emissions and waste, to use Fairtrade goods where possible, and join in their prayers for our world.

Information taken from [arocha.org.uk](http://arocha.org.uk)

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## The Journals of Henry Sharpe

Book Launch

*City Merchant and Hampstead Worthy, 1830, 1840-1847*

edited for publication by Helen Lawrence

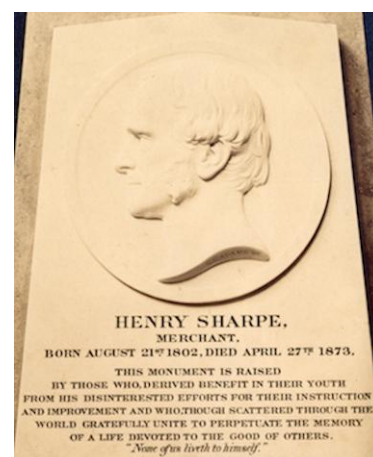
Monday 15 September, 2025 7:30pm (Doors open 7 pm)

Hampstead Parish Church

Helen Lawrence will give an illustrated talk introducing this remarkable Journal and describing how she discovered it in Camden's Archives while researching her prize-winning history of Hampstead Heath (published by the Camden History Society 2019)

Henry Sharpe was a successful City merchant who moved from the City to Hampstead in 1841, where he became a leading and active member of the local community. His great passion was for education at a time when there was no state education, and he worked closely with Rev. Thomas Ainger, the then Vicar of Hampstead Parish Church, on the development of education in the parish. His Journal offers a rare insight into how the existing patchwork of voluntary educational effort worked.

Amongst his other projects he set up the Hampstead Reading Rooms to provide books and evening classes for young local working men, at minimal cost; and worked with his brother-in-law Edwin Field, an eminent reforming lawyer who lived at Squires Mount, to establish the Hampstead Conversazione Society. Henry's detailed accounts of these



extraordinary social events for the local community with talks and art exhibitions, held at the Assembly Rooms, then in Romney's old house, are quite fascinating.

A unique element of the journal, is his friendship with Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson the Lord of the Manor of Hampstead, with whom he was at school, so that here, for the first time, we are given revealing insights by someone who actually knew him, into the character of this controversial and difficult man, whose notorious actions were so fateful for Hampstead and for Commons preservation nationally. Henry used his standing with Wilson on several occasions for the benefit of the local Hampstead community.

The Journal is an early Victorian treasure trove opening a fascinating window on 1840s London in general. The text is rich with observations about the key political and social concerns of the time, national and international events, as well as life in London and the campaign to save Hampstead Heath. His accounts of the ups and downs of family life and raising children are both touching and amusing, putting Victorian fatherhood into a new light. It is beautifully written, almost with the art of a novelist, skilfully weaving together the many and varied interests and facets of his life, adding layers of fresh information about missing detail and forgotten bits of Hampstead history. He and several members of his extended family are buried in the Church Graveyard.

The journals of Henry Sharpe: City merchant and Hampstead worthy, 1830-1847, published by Boydell and Brewer on behalf of the London Record Society with the support of the CHS and the Heath & Hampstead Society

The book will be sold at a special price of £25 (only at this meeting).

(The photo shows Henry Sharpe's memorial plaque in the east gallery of the church, made by G.G. Adams a distinguished Victorian sculptor. When it was put up it would have been high above the altar on the East wall. With the realignment of the church and the building of pews in the gallery, it's now barely visible.)

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# MUSIC SECTION

## Music Notes ~ September 2025

Geoffrey Webber

We begin the new academic year without an Organist or Organ Scholar, but happily Joshua Ryan will still be playing the organ for many of our Evensong services for the time being (since his new church in Greenwich only holds this service once a month). Various visiting organists will cover other services as required, but for many morning services I will be at the organ, and the choir's repertoire will contain more unaccompanied music than usual. In September, we welcome in particular Martyn Noble who has just left the music staff at the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace to pursue more freelance work. Martyn also teaches at the Royal College of Music Junior Organ Department and at Highgate School, and has been helpful in identifying potential organ scholars for us in the past at Hampstead. Martyn will also be directing the choir when I am absent due a short concert tour on the last Sunday of the month.

Anyone with Oxford connections may well have heard about the recent controversy about the attempt by the Liberal Democrats to introduce a congestion charge. A leading Councillor in this proposal is another former musician of the Chapel Royal, Andrew Gant. I first knew Andrew when he was a Choral Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, and his career since then has seen him busy as a choral director, composer and author, notably of a general history of English church music entitled *O sing unto the Lord*. Andrew has been active politically in both Cambridge and Oxford, and in the late sixteenth century both places also benefited from the musical and political activities of one man, William Gibbons. William was head of the town musicians, the waits, in both places, and served as a City Councillor during his time in Oxford. William's children included Orlando, one of the finest of English composers of church music who became Organist of Westminster Abbey in 1623, not long before his untimely death in 1625. Some of you may have heard the special edition of BBC Radio R4's Sunday Worship a few weeks ago in his memory (Gibbons died

on 5th June), with the choir of The Queen's College, Oxford. The programme proudly claimed Oxford as his place of birth, with no mention of Cambridge. For centuries the birthplace of Orlando was declared to have been Cambridge, though the evidence has grown in recent years to show without doubt that it was in fact Oxford. William Gibbons served as a wait in Cambridge from 1567-1580 and then again from 1588 till his death in 1595. Although Orlando was born in 1583 during his father's time in Oxford, he became a chorister at King's College, Cambridge, in 1596, where his eldest brother, Edward, had become Master of the Choristers. Orlando thus grew up in the heart of the musical life of Cambridge, not Oxford. The Oxford choir sang beautifully in their tribute to Gibbons, and at least the Director of Music there, Professor Owen Rees, was educated at the University of...Cambridge.

This leads me to the chief musical event this month: the second of our two Evensongs this year with the accompaniment of viols, marking the 400th anniversary of the death of Orlando Gibbons. This time we sing two more verse anthems, *Lord, grant grace we humbly beseech thee*, and *Glorious and powerful God*, each with 5-part viol accompaniment. The first of these breaks into antiphonal writing in triple time for its central section devoted to the praise of the Trinity, the triple time echoing three persons in one, and the antiphonal nature reflecting the choirs of angels singing their praises. The second has a wonderful contemporary text that was picked up by both Charles Stanford and Charles Wood following the first published edition of the anthems of Gibbons by F. A. G. Ouseley in 1873. The text concerns the theme of the dedication of a temple, though we don't know for what particular occasion Gibbons composed it, calling for God to send down "full showers of mercy" and for us to praise God as the "founder and foundation of endless habitation." Ouseley hailed Gibbons as "the English Palestrina", a description that fits well at least in the sense that both composed a style that was extremely controlled and consistent in manner, achieving a kind of perfection within its genre. Ouseley's comment also resonates well today in 2025 as we celebrate the anniversaries of both Gibbons and Palestrina. More of Palestrina to come...

## Music List ~ September 2025

### **Sunday 7th September – 12th Sunday after Trinity**

#### **10.30 am. All-Age Holy Communion**

Organ Prelude *Fugue in B flat* G. F. Handel

Opening Hymn 237

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Missa secunda* Hans Leo Hassler

Gradual Psalm 1 Tone i/I

Offertory Hymn 'Give me joy in my heart'

Communion Motet *Rejoice in the Lord always* 16th-C. English

Post-Communion Hymn 372

Organ Postlude *Fantasia in C* G. F. Handel

#### **5 pm. Evensong**

Prelude *Praeludium to ye Fancie* William Byrd

Introit *Purge me, O Lord* Thomas Tallis

Preces & Responses William Smith

Psalm 121 Walford Davies

Canticles *Evening Service in D* George Dyson

Anthem *Salvator mundi* Thomas Tallis

Hymn 353

Final Amen Johann Naumann

Organ Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in G major* (BWV 541) J. S. Bach

### **Sunday 14th September – 13th Sunday after Trinity**

#### **10.30 am. Holy Communion with Baptism**

Organ Prelude *Preludio sine nomine* Herbert Howells

Opening Hymn 397

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in G* Francis Jackson

Gradual Psalm 51.1-11 Tone iv/4

Offertory Hymn 433

Communion Motet *Tantum ergo* Louis Vierne

Post-Communion Hymn 359 (t. 322)

Organ Postlude *Final* (Symphony No. 1) Louis Vierne

#### **5 pm. Evensong with viol consort**

Organ Prelude *Clarifica me Pater* William Byrd

Introit *Lord, grant grace* Orlando Gibbons  
Preces & Responses William Smith  
Psalms 124, 125 Thomas Tallis  
Canticles *The Second Service* William Byrd  
Anthem *Glorious and powerful God* Orlando Gibbons  
Hymn 235  
Final Amen Orlando Gibbons  
Instrumental Postlude *In nomine a 5* (No. 1) Orlando Gibbons

### **Sunday 21st September – 14th Sunday after Trinity**

#### **10.30 am. Holy Communion**

Organ Prelude *Chorale Prelude 'Melcombe'* C. Hubert Parry  
Opening Hymn 452  
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Missa Sancti Patricii* Charles Wood  
Gradual Psalm 113 Tone v/2  
Offertory Hymn 398 (t. 395)  
Communion Motet *Prayer to Jesus* George Oldroyd  
Post-Communion Hymn 385  
Organ Postlude *Postlude in D* Desmond Ratcliffe

#### **5 pm. Evensong**

Prelude *Elegy* (A Downland Suite) John Ireland  
Introit *Laudate Dominum* (Op. 133) Joseph Rheinberger  
Preces & Responses William Smith  
Psalms 128, 129 Archer / Stonex  
Canticles *Evening Service in F* Thomas Attwood  
Anthem *O, where shall wisdom be found?* William Boyce  
Hymn 339  
Final Amen Johann Naumann  
Organ Postlude *Tuba Tune* C. S. Lang

### **Sunday 28th September – 15th Sunday after Trinity**

#### **10.30 am. Holy Communion**

Organ Prelude *Fantasia in A minor* (FVB 52) William Byrd  
Opening Hymn 388  
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Mass for Four Voices* William Byrd  
Gradual Psalm 146 Tone viii/2

Offertory Hymn 484 (t. 167)  
Communion Motet *Ave verum corpus* William Byrd  
Post-Communion Hymn 306  
Organ Postlude *Toccata Prima* (Secondo Libro)  
Girolamo Frescobaldi

**5 pm. Evensong**

Prelude *Prelude and Fugue in D minor* (Op. 37) Felix Mendelssohn  
Introit *Ave Maria* Anton Bruckner  
Preces & Responses William Smith  
Psalms 134, 135.1-14 Pike / Pott  
Canticles *The Third Service* William Byrd  
Anthem *Faire is the heaven* William Harris  
Hymn 486  
Final Amen Johann Naumann  
Organ Postlude *Overture to the 'Occasional Oratorio'*  
George Frideric Handel

Aidan Coburn *Director of the Junior & Community Choirs*  
Geoffrey Webber *Director of Music*

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## **The Hampstead Collective Autumn Series**

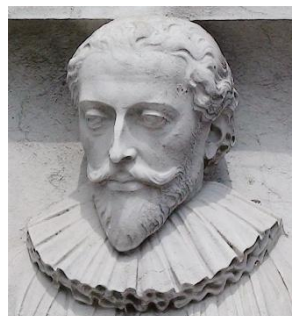
### **A Stranger with Thee: The Anthems of Orlando Gibbons**

Monday 1 September 2025

7.00pm – 8.00pm

Music for voices and viols 400 years after the composer's death.

Zoë Brookshaw (soprano)  
Jessica Gillingwater (mezzo-soprano)  
Christopher Fitzgerald-Lombard (tenor)  
James Robinson (tenor)  
Malachy Frame (baritone)  
James Holliday (bass)  
The Players of the Hampstead Collective





## **Hampstead in Song: the music of Nikolai Medtner**

Monday 6 October 2025

7.00pm – 8.30pm

Christine Buras (soprano)

Jessica Gillingwater (mezzo-soprano)

Thomas Ang (piano)



## **Songs for Ariel: Purcell reimagined**

Monday 3 November 2025

7.00pm – 8.30pm

Music for tenor and countertenor by Purcell, Britten and Tippett

Ruairi Bowen (tenor)

Matthew Farrell (countertenor)

Geoffrey Webber and Gavin Roberts (keyboards)



## **The Big Hampstead Messiah**

Saturday 6 December 2025

7.00pm – 10.00pm

A community performance of Handel's *Messiah*

Aidan Coburn (conductor)

The Hampstead Collective

The Players of the Hampstead Collective

Belsize Baroque

Colla Voce Singers

Hampstead Community Choir

Community Chorus

Tickets for all concerts £15 from  
[thehampsteadcollective.com](http://thehampsteadcollective.com) or at the  
door



# Blue Stockings – Review

*Judy East*

*The University is a Paradise, Rivers of Knowledge are there. Arts and Sciences flow from thence. John Donne*

But did John Donne ever envisage that paradise being open to women? Doubtful. Move forward some 300 years. To Oxford and to Girton College, founded in 1869 by Emily Davies and Barbara Bodichon, and you have the setting for the Hampstead Players' most recent production – *Blue Stockings* by Jessica Swale, ably directed by Bonnie McBird. Her first production for the Hampstead Players I think, but hopefully not her last.

The play opens with a staggering condemnation of women's education ably delivered by Simon Young as the apparently sincerely concerned psychiatrist Dr Maudsley. How do you carry off "It may be a pity for women that they are born women"? Simon managed it. Against this male diatribe we had the first lines from Catherine Martin as Mrs Welsh, the mistress of Girton and a force to be reckoned with. As the play developed so did Mrs Welsh's role and - I want to avoid saying her performance was "masterful" - but it was. Commanding, powerful, all those. She supports, encourages and finally explodes. And we know she'll carry on.

But what of the women? What of these very first students? Tess, Celia, Carolyn and Maeve. All excellent performances from Flora Robson, Zoe Plant, Daisy Blue Ella and Alice Papadopoulou of four young women facing an uncertain future but determined to see it through. How we feel for Maeve when she's required to go home to care for her bereaved family following her mother's death. The establishment lets Maeve down – is it all that different today? I wonder how many women could still identify with Maeve, having to put her own needs last.

And then the men. How to pick out one performance over another when all were so good. And, one hopes, all of them equally appalled at the sentiments they had to express. Will (Samuel Jenshoj) torn between knowing Tess and so caring about her, and yet not

sympathising with her longing for education; the budding romance between Ralph and Tess, finely delineated in a scene between Flora Robson and Christophe Monplaisir as they test each other's knowledge of the heavens, finally falters because Girton girls are too politically aware. Matthew Sargent's Mr Banks is torn between his career and his convictions – he *knows* he should side with the women but it will end his career if he does. His convictions win – in a sad scene with Miss Blake (Carolina Cabral) they commiserate on what their principles have cost them and are castigated by an unknown woman in a café – a delightful cameo from Beverley Davies.

In such a fast moving production and large cast it's hard to pick out the most salient performances – they all contributed equally to the success of the piece - there were no dropped catches, the gardener, the shopkeeper who would so love to side with the women but fears for her job, Minnie who helps the girls smuggle dogs into their rooms and smuggle themselves out at night – twenty people all pulling together to remind us of a cause hard won – and that it was only in 1948 that women were finally allowed to graduate!

A word about the non-acting but just as essential roles – I particularly liked the set and the screening at the sides which hid so much that we really didn't need to see. Then there was the music, the lighting, the costumes, all things which aren't necessarily noticed, and by their very unobtrusiveness make such a vital contribution to the production.

Finally, a shout-out to Moragh Gee, diction coach, not just for her cameo as Mrs Lindley, but for everyone in the cast who was battling with our particular acoustic. It makes such a difference if you're not straining to get the words!

Look out for the Hampstead Players' autumn production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the end of November!

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## Readings for September

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 12

10.30am

Deuteronomy 30.15-20

Luke 14.25-33

5.00pm

Isaiah 43.14 44.5

John 5.30-47

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 13

Exodus 32.7-14

Luke 15.1-10

Isaiah 60

John 6.51-69

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – Trinity 14

Amos 8.4-7

Luke 16.1-13

Sermon series starts

Readings to be advised

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 15

Amos 6.1a, 4-7

Luke 16.19-31

- ditto

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The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with very limited memory. Just 1 byte and everything crashed.

*From the Association of Church Editors*

When men stop believing in God they don't believe in nothing;  
they believe in anything.

*Widely attributed to G.K. Chesterton*

We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change  
and the last generation that can do something about it.

*Barack Obama*

# Fairtrade Fortnight

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

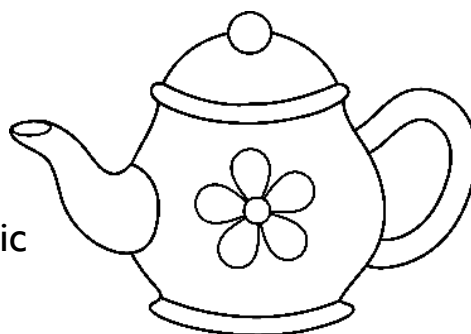
**Look out for our Big Brew Event on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**



## **Fairtrade Foundation calls for tea-drinkers to ‘brew it fair’**

Tea-drinkers in the UK are being asked to help change the “woefully inadequate” wages and working conditions of the estate workers on tea plantations around the world.

The Fairtrade Foundation’s new ‘Brew It Fair’ campaign is based on the findings of a report which sets out just how many workers on tea plantations live in “chronic poverty”.



Much of the world’s tea is auctioned, which means that a few very large buyers end up able to dictate the prices of how much they will pay for it. This has a brutal impact on the workers: a recent survey of 260 tea-growers and pickers in Kenya found that only one in five earn enough to feed and support their families and then also send their children to school.

The report says: “As tea drinkers, we are now used to paying very little for, and putting little value on, our cup of tea.” But for the growers and pickers of tea, the “high levels of unstable work, low incomes and wages, gender discrimination and unsafe working conditions” continue.

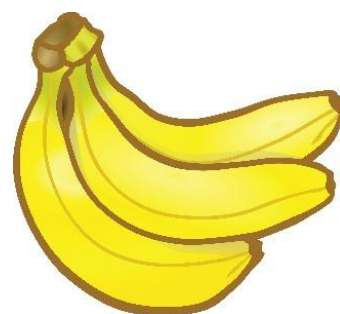
Fairtrade calls on the UK Government to introduce a new law on human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD). This should

be “centred on the needs of farmers and workers, with a focus on supporting living incomes and living wages...”

The report also urges UK tea-drinkers to buy Fairtrade tea, highlighting the Co-op, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury’s, and Waitrose as key supporters. The UK accounts for 61 per cent of all the Fairtrade tea sold in the world.

### **Bananas could be lost to climate change, Christian Aid warns**

Bananas are in danger. Almost half of the world’s banana-growing regions may be lost to climate change in the next 50 years, a new report has warned.



Bananas are the world’s fourth most important food crop globally — but rising temperatures, droughts, and fungal infections are threatening where most of the world’s crops grow, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

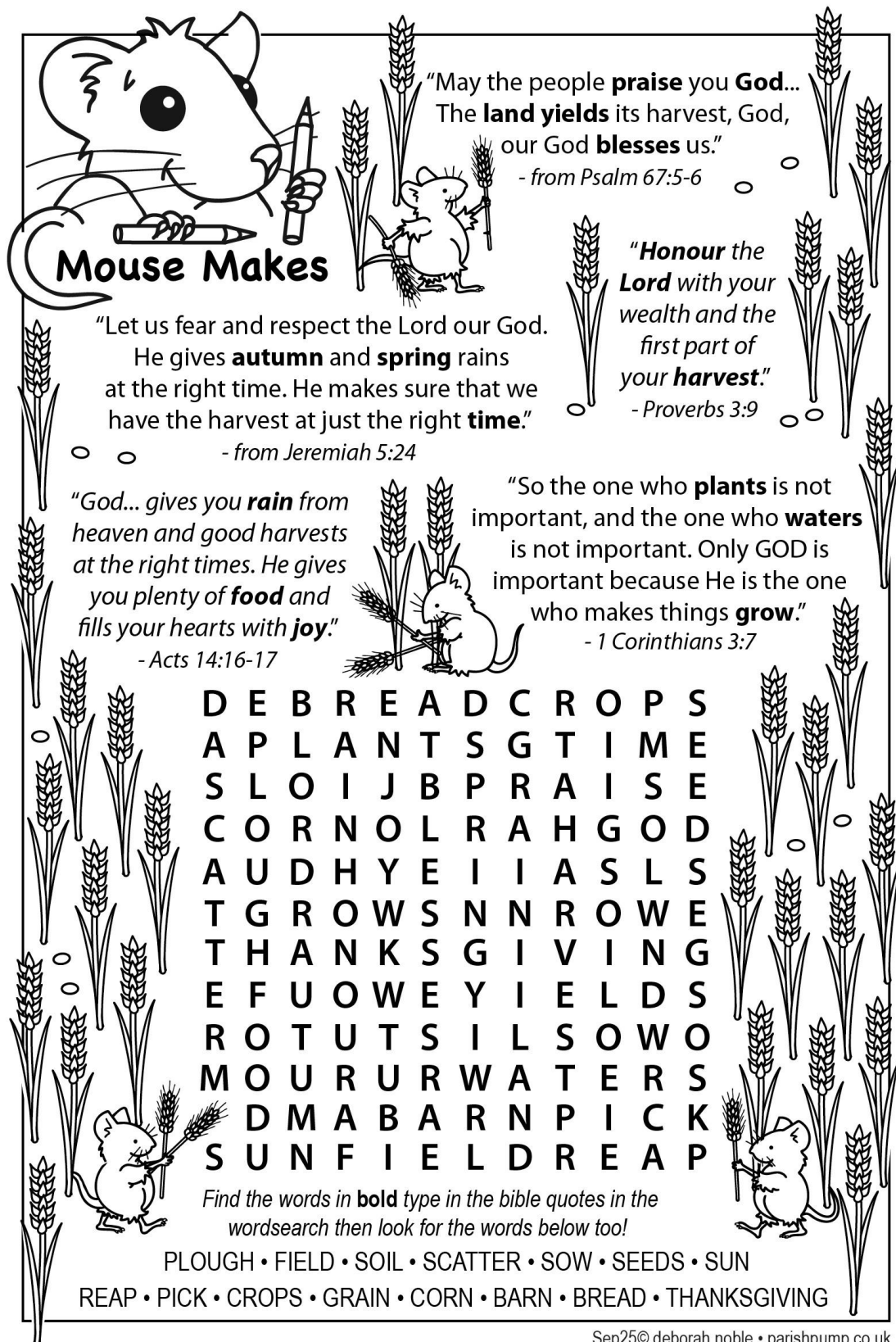
A recent study by Christian Aid found that 80 per cent of global banana exports come from this region, but that 60 per cent of the land currently used for the crop will be unsuitable, due to climate change, by 2080.

The director of policy and campaigns at Christian Aid, Osai Ojigho, said: “Bananas are not just the world’s favourite fruit, but they are also an essential food for millions of people. We need to wake up to the danger posed by climate change to this vital crop.”

UK consumers consume more bananas than any other European country, eating on average about 85 bananas a year each.

*Article taken from Parish Pump*





**Mouse Makes**

"May the people **praise** you **God**...  
The **land yields** its harvest, God,  
our God **blesses** us."  
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the  
**Lord** with your  
wealth and the  
first part of  
your **harvest**."  
- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.  
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains  
at the right time. He makes sure that we  
have the harvest at just the right **time**."  
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from  
heaven and good harvests  
at the right times. He gives  
you plenty of **food** and  
fills your hearts with **joy**."  
- Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not  
important, and the one who **waters**  
is not important. Only **GOD** is  
important because He is the one  
who makes things **grow**."  
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

D	E	B	R	E	A	D	C	R	O	P	S
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Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the  
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN  
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

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From Parish Pump

# Looking ahead

## October

- 5<sup>th</sup> Dedication Sunday and Big Brew
- 12<sup>th</sup> Harvest Thanksgiving and Blessing of Pets (at 10.30am)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Hampstead Players' Celebration of Jane Austen
- 25<sup>th</sup> Friends of the Music concert

## November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Confirmation at the 10.30am service
- 8<sup>th</sup> 'Come and Sing' Fauré Requiem
- 9<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday
- 15<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair
- 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> Hampstead Players' Autumn production
- 30<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday

## December

- 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lights - Community Choir concert
- 6<sup>th</sup> The Hampstead Collective's Big Hampstead Messiah
- 7<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday

