

# Hampstead Parish Church

## Magazine for February 2026

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

### What is Home?

Mthr Carol looks at this concept and what it might mean to different people

### Charity News

*Mercy Ships*

And responses from recipients of the *Christmas Hampers*

### Harmony

100<sup>th</sup> Sheldrake-Vernon Dialogue

All you need to know about the **Sidwell Memorial concert**

coming up this month

Fr Yin-An's farewell sermon

# HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

[Registered Charity No. 1129264

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Facebook: Hampstead Parish Church

Instagram: @HampsteadPC / X: @Hampstead\_PC

Youtube: [youtube.com/c/hampsteadparishchurch](https://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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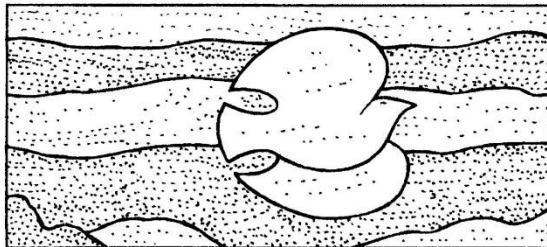
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February  
2026

## Contents

Dairy for February	5
The Vicar writes	7
February – Judy East	8
Lent Groups 2026	9
Sermon – Fr Yin-An Chen	10
Harmony - The 100 <sup>th</sup> Sheldrake-Vernon Dialogue	14
Charity News: Mercy Ships	15
Christmas Hampers – responses	16
MUSIC SECTION	
Music for February – Geoffrey Webber	20
Music List	22
Sidwell Memorial Recital	
<i>Maurits Dolmans</i>	25
Poster	26
<i>Gillian Perrin</i>	27
Monteverdi Vespers Review – Katherine Nicholson	28
Hampstead Collective concerts	29
Organ Recitals	30
OperaBites	30
Social and Racial Justice and the CofE – <i>from Parish Pump</i>	31
Readings for February	32
Poem – May Crowther	32
Children’s Page	33
Looking ahead	35

# Diary for February

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas**

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



Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>    7.00pm    Hampstead Collective – see page 29  
Wed 4<sup>th</sup>    10.15am    Quiet Holy Communion  
Thu 5<sup>th</sup>    7.30pm    Community Choir  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup>    10.00am    Gardening group meets  
                  4.00pm    Opera Bites : The King of the high Cs – see  
                  Page 30

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - Second before Lent**

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

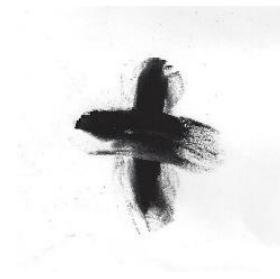
Wed 11<sup>th</sup>    10.15am    Quiet Holy Communion  
Thu 12<sup>th</sup>    7.30pm    Community Choir

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - Next before Lent**

8.00am    Holy Communion  
10.30am    Choral Holy Communion  
(half term, no children's groups)  
5.00pm    Choral Evensong followed by Harmony, a  
discussion between Rupert Sheldrake and  
Mark Vernon. See page 14 for details

## **Wed 18<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday**

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



Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Martindale Sidwell Memorial concert  
– see page 25-8

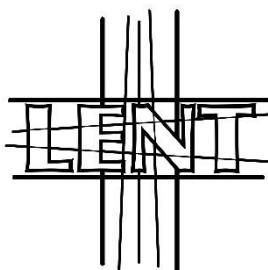
### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lent 1**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Choral Holy Communion  
(half term, no children's groups)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong

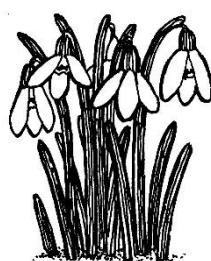
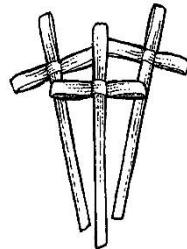
Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm PCC meeting  
Wed 25<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Quiet Holy Communion  
Thu 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Community Choir  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Organ Recital – see page 30

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Lent 2**

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



**A note about Ash Wednesday:**  
please bring us your palm crosses by  
14<sup>th</sup> to be made into the ash. I have  
seen churches where they burn a  
few crosses in the church at the  
start of the service but not at HPC!



## The Vicar writes

While we were on holiday in Northumberland in January, we decided to watch the BBC documentary 'Secrets of the Conclave', detailing the conclave in 2025 in which Pope Leo XIV was elected. (It was interesting to compare this with the dramatisation of a papal conclave from Robert Harris's book, seen in the film *Conclave*). There were some very interesting interviews with cardinals who took part in the conclave including Timothy Radcliffe and Vincent Nichols from this country.

The most arresting moment for me (and something which I had never considered before) was in a comment from Vincent Nichols following the election of the new pope and his reception on the balcony in St Peter's Square: 'he will never go home again'. This had never occurred to me before, but makes perfect sense. The newly elected pope does not go home, he begins his duties immediately. In fact it may be years before he sets foot again on his native soil, or visits his family.

This got me thinking about the concept of home. I am a UKME person and a 'transnational'. This is defined as 'someone who lives their life across the borders of two or more nation-states and maintains significant, simultaneous connections to these societies'. I live between two worlds and—in effect—two homes. When I went to see my mother in Ireland at the start of December all my friends said 'welcome home', and during the month of December Cork Airport has a large illuminated sign saying 'welcome home' for those who have immigrated and are able to return to spend time with family and friends. When the Garda (police) on the 'border control' see your Irish passport they will welcome you home using your first name, sometimes 'as Gaeilge' (in Irish).

London is full of people like me who have emigrated for work and have ended up making their lives here. I love to hear the stories of other transnationals and especially those who make up our church community. We are all enriched by the customs and traditions that people from other countries share in this city and throughout this country—something to remember in these times in which it can seem

that there is increasing polarisation. Living together and honouring each other is one of the ways in which we create ‘home’.

*Best wishes*

*Mthr Carol*

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## February

Judy East

Since the beginning of the liturgical year at Advent and up to Easter the altars will have been arrayed in a variety of different colours and designs – in fact I think we work through the whole range of liturgical colours. Advent Purple gave way to White for Christmas, we had Red for Holy Innocents on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December, will have Green briefly between the end of Epiphany and the start of Lent and then the Lenten array (some churches use Purple but we have the unbleached fabric with the nails) until Holy Week when we revert to Red. If you don’t sit where you can see into the Lady Chapel do go and have a look now and then because it has some very beautiful frontals of its own.

Some of our frontals were made by a member of the congregation – Barbara Thomson made the Green, the Purple, the Lenten, the White with the crowns (absolutely not cupcakes as someone called them) and two of our copes. Some are rather old and fragile now – the Red in particular which is probably the oldest, and a similar White brocade – both early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Margeurite Morton sent me a link to a programme on BBC Sounds called *Good in Vestments*, in which the Revd Richard Coles discusses the use and significance of vestments - [bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b011p7sr](http://bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b011p7sr). It’s quite old – 2011 – and may not be there for long, but still an entertaining listen.

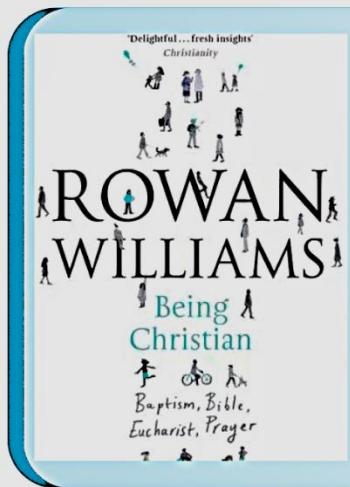
Although Lent is still a couple of weeks off our minds are turning to our preparations: the Stations of the Cross will go up in time for Ash Wednesday, the Lent Book has been chosen and details are available below. However before we plunge into the solemnity of Lent we have

to pause for a celebration – that of the life of Martindale Sidwell, one time organist and choirmaster here. I suppose not many people in the congregation now will remember the Sidwells but it will undoubtedly be a good concert! Much has been written about it elsewhere in this magazine so I need do nothing more than remind you to keep Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> free. And the month begins and ends with music – the Hampstead Collective on 2<sup>nd</sup> and an Organ Recital on 28<sup>th</sup>. Also look out for OperaBites – a new addition to our musical life.

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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN-AT-HAMPSTEAD

## LENT READING GROUP



**BEING  
CHRISTIAN**

BAPTISM, BIBLE, EUCHARIST, PRAYER  
by Rowan Williams

Copies of the book can be purchased in the office or from an online retailer.

*A work of enormous substance, boiled down to eighty pages of gold dust...  
Buy it and read it. And then read it again. And again.  
Church Times*

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### SESSION TIMES & LOCATIONS TO FOLLOW

# Fr Yin-An's Farewell Sermon

Isaiah 49.1-7 and John 1.29-42

It might already feel as if Christmas and Epiphany have gone far away. The decorations are down, school and work are back, and life has returned to full speed. Some of us (including myself) can barely remember where we were for Christmas—let alone what day it is in the Church calendar.

And yet: we are only on the second Sunday of Epiphany.

In recent weeks, we followed the wise men as they chased a star. We stood at the river where Jesus was baptised. And today we are given another Epiphany moment—another manifestation—where God shows us who Jesus is.

Epiphany is not a season which fills the gap between New Year and Candlemas. It is a season which helps us see clearly about our direction toward God. Epiphany is about God revealing Christ to us—and by that revelation, giving us meaning and showing that direction.

So Epiphany is not only about looking at Jesus.

It is about **seeking meaning, finding direction, and being led to follow.**

And that is why these readings land so powerfully today, as I say farewell to Hampstead today.

Fourteen months ago, I suddenly found myself here—serving my final year of curacy in London after two years of ministry elsewhere. Some people may still wonder how I ended up in Hampstead at all.

And I can tell you honestly: when I arrived, I was not happy.

My previous ministry was difficult—particularly because of conflict around LGBT inclusion. For two years, some clergy colleagues in the Deanery refused to share Holy Communion with me. Some were angry about my involvement in the first Pride in the local town, and the first Pride held outside the civic parish I served, but deeply connected to the lives of the people around us, especially many young

LGBT people who felt isolated and had no community or support in a rural context.

In that atmosphere—politically, ecclesially, culturally—my voice for inclusion, and my presence as a sexual and racial minority, became, for some, an uncomfortable sign.

And this week, the House of Bishops decided to end the “Living in Love and Faith” project. It is hard not to feel the weight of disappointment. Hard not to feel we are still stuck. Hard not to feel that LGBT people remain in a church that still struggles to support, recognise—let alone embrace—its own members fully.

In that curacy I preached fearlessly about inclusion in many forms: gender equality, sexuality, racial justice, decolonisation, environmental justice, disability, neurodiversity, and immigration. I moved between schools supporting students’ wellbeing, and I tried to model what it meant to be publicly “out” as a gay priest.

I proclaimed God’s radical welcome.

But I was also fought back—heavily.

So when I arrived here, I was on low battery. I wasn’t even sure I had made the right decision to remain in ministry. I had been offered another path—to step away and become a tutor.

But I remember on the first week, Mother Carol saying to me: “I hope you come here to be loved and find restoration.”

And that is what happened.

This year has been, for me, a year of restoration. Through conversations, worship, pastoral moments, and ministry shared, I have been loved and held. Hampstead has been a healing place for me—a place where, somehow, the spring of water still flows from the hill.

And now it is time for me to go and find my own feet as a vicar in Whyteleafe in the Surrey valley. Following the star, I came to Hampstead. Following the star again, I am moving on.

And Epiphany reminds us: God still leads. God still calls. God still gives signs. The question is whether we will discern them—and follow.

But the spine of today is not my story. The spine is Christ.

According to the Gospel we heard today, John the Baptist appears differently from the other Gospels. There is no camel hair. No locusts. No dramatic baptism scene. Instead, John is simply—**a witness**.

His whole ministry is not about building himself up. It is about **pointing away from himself**. He sees Jesus and says: “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Not just the sins of a few individuals. Not the sins of one nation. But the sin of the world—the whole cosmos.

Then two disciples hear John’s testimony and start following Jesus. And Jesus turns and asks them a question that is simple—but dangerous:

**“What are you looking for?” “What are you looking for?”**

That question can unsettle a whole life.

What are you looking for?

*Approval? Safety? Certainty? Belonging? Comfort? A church that never disappoints you? A God who never challenges you?*

And the disciples answered with another question:

“Where are you staying?”

Not just “Where do you live?”

*But “Where do you remain? Where do you abide? Where is your dwelling place?”*

And Jesus does not give them an argument. He does not hand them a system. He gives them an invitation: **“Come and see.”**

Not “come and achieve.” Not “come and prove yourself.” Not “come when you’ve fixed yourself. Just: come and see.”

And the disciples do. They stay. They then abide. And that abiding changes them. Andrew goes straight to his brother and says: “We have found the Messiah.”

According to St John, the pattern of spreading the Gospel is: Come and see... stay... and then go and tell.

And Isaiah speaks into that same pattern today.

In Isaiah 49, the servant of God speaks with startling honesty: “I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing.”

It is the prayer of anyone who has tried to be faithful, tried to do justice, tried to love people, tried to speak truth—and still feels exhausted, opposed, or unseen.

But the servant continues: As it says, “Yet surely my cause is with the Lord.”

God does not respond by saying, “Fine, stop now.” God responds by saying, “Your calling is bigger than you imagined.” “It is too light a thing just to restore the survivors of Israel.”

Furthermore, God declares his promise: “I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

This is the shape of God’s mission. God’s mission is **outward, wider than we expect, and stubbornly full of hope!!**

And that is why the Collect today dares to pray: “Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory.”

Not despite our poverty. But **through** it. Not by pretending we are strong. But **by being renewed by grace.**

So today, as I say farewell, I want to offer not just my thanks, but an invitation rooted in the Gospel.

If you are tired—come and see.

If you are searching—come and see.

If you are disappointed—come and see.

If you are wounded by the church and the failure of leaders—come and see.

If you are beginning again—come and see.

Abide with Christ. Remain with Christ.

Let Christ remain with you.

Like Andrew, you will find yourself doing what disciples always do: not pointing to yourself, but proclaiming joyfully and saying: “We have found the Messiah.”

So thank you, St John-at-Hampstead. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for restoring me. Thank you for being a place where healing is real and where God’s spring still flows.

And as I say farewell today, I hope we will keep this Epiphany’s message, the manifestation of Jesus Christ, in our minds:

***That Epiphany will not be something we pack away with the Christmas tree—but something we live by, with a hope that lasts and persists on our journey of following.***

Come and see. And follow that star to Christ. Amen

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## **HARMONY – The 100th Sheldrake-Vernon Dialogue** **Sun 15 Feb 2026 6.15pm – 7.45pm**

For the 100th episode of The Sheldrake-Vernon Dialogues, Rupert Sheldrake and Mark Vernon consider the role of harmony, wholeness and hope in the modern world. The event will be held in person as well as streamed online.

The evening takes as its inspiration the work of King Charles, who can be called a philosopher king. It follows the February 6 release on Amazon Prime of the documentary “Finding Harmony: A King’s Vision”. But what is this philosophy?

Rupert and Mark will explore new ways that are old of looking at the world, aided by science, poetry, and perennial wisdom traditions. How is diversity transformed by awareness of unity? How might the unfolding of life aid transformation? Spirit, imagination and intelligence much matter.

The conversation will follow Choral Evensong and both the service and the event will be streamed online. Choral Evensong is free, as

always, but you will need a ticket for the discussion which is £10, or £5 if you opt to watch the livestream. Tickets obtainable from [tickettailor.com/events/thesheldrakevernondialogues/2010539](https://tickettailor.com/events/thesheldrakevernondialogues/2010539)

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Thank you for your stamps!



Anyone on social media will have seen posts about Mercy ships but possibly most of us don't follow the links to find out more

## Who are Mercy Ships?

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

Conditions requiring surgical treatment kill more people in low-income countries than HIV/Aids, TB and malaria combined. Globally, five billion people have no access to safe, affordable surgery when they need it.

## Why Ships?

Worldwide, 5 billion people lack access to safe, affordable, timely surgery. Many of them live in developing countries where healthcare infrastructure is limited or nonexistent, or where there's a shortage of trained healthcare providers.

Fortunately, more than 44% of the world's population lives within 100 miles of a coast — which is why Mercy Ships uses modern hospital ships to bring world-class volunteer medical professionals directly to the places they're needed most.

**Since 1978, Mercy Ships has had one to three ships in service.**

Currently, Mercy Ships operates two hospital ships. The *Africa Mercy* and the *Global Mercy*.

The *Global Mercy* is the largest charity-run hospital ship in the world. The 174-meter, 37,000-ton ship has six operating rooms and houses over 600 volunteers from around the globe representing many disciplines including surgeons, maritime crew, cooks, teachers, electricians, the host staff and more. The ship also features a 682-seat auditorium, student academy, café, shop and library – all of which have been designed to accommodate up to 950 crew onboard when docked in port.

The *Africa Mercy* contains five operating rooms, a four-bed recovery area, intensive care for up to five patients, and 80 ward beds. It houses about 400 volunteer crew members from up to 40 nations. Acquired in 1999 through a donation from the Balclraig Foundation, the former Danish rail ferry *Dronning Ingrid* was refurbished specifically for our mission and named the *Africa Mercy* in April 2000.

**“We can change it one life at a time.”**

For many people in low-income countries, surgery is simply not an option, either because it doesn't exist or it is inaccessible.

Onboard our floating hospital ships, the *Africa Mercy* and the *Global Mercy*, Mercy Ships provides safe surgery for free, transforming thousands of lives in every country it visits. On our website you can meet some of the incredible patients we have treated. [www.mercyships.org.uk](http://www.mercyships.org.uk). ( And, of course, make a donation to their work.)

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## Some thank-yous from the recipients of the Christmas Hampers

So many messages of thanks were received from recipients of the Christmas Hampers it isn't possible to reprint them all – but it's clear that the Radio Times is one of the most popular items! Closely followed by Cake, Biscuits and Ambrosia custard. Hand cream, soap, scarves, mittens and leg warmers were also among the favourites



– and several mentioned the cards drawn by the children. Calendars from last year were still on view, showing just how much they are appreciated, as were the notebooks and pens.

One recipient said that after being given the hamper, “she ate half the Xmas cake that evening! Her favourite things were the cake, rice pudding & custard, and the cards. M displays her cards, including the note cards that were a gift in the hamper bag. She has difficulty writing (and reading) but really liked the extra cards. She was using the hamper bag hung up on a doorknob to hold other things. Xmas wrapping still in a pile on her living room floor, and she laughed saying she liked it and reminded her of all the gifts. She loves sweet food (said she probably shouldn't eat it being diabetic) and mentioned the Xmas cake and biscuits. Also appreciated the face cloth and hand cream. She wanted to thank everyone involved and recognised that it was the church, and said God bless everyone. She said it was very kind to give these things, regardless of people's religion.” Another was impressed with a Christmas card written in French.

### **Feedback via Volunteers:**

- "M was very, very touched"; "I help her open them each year given the (beautiful but tight) wrapping, and can report that she absolutely loved the little plastic tree, the festive card presumably drawn/written by the daughter of one of the church members, and then every year she always gets so excited about the calendar, which she relies on!".
- "P and I [volunteer] had already chatted about the lovely hampers; she actually looks forward to receiving them each year. Amongst the list P particularly mentions the Radio Times, notebook and pen and store cupboard food. Very useful! She also remembers the hand cream and face cloth. The Christmas cards were well received and, especially from the children."

### **Quotes from Clients:**

- "Thank you very much for the lovely gifts you gave me this Christmas. It's very kind of you, Good Neighbours Scheme and Hampstead Parish Church. Have a happy New Year. Lots of love."

- "Thank you so much for arranging to send me that wonderful hamper full of good things to eat and to enjoy throughout the year. It is incredibly kind and thoughtful of you all at Age UK Camden to think of me. I very much enjoyed having a chat with the charming lady who brought the bag. I would like to thank you and all the team so much for the thoughtfulness kindness and generosity in sending me all those lovely things which I know I shall enjoy using and eating. Many, many thanks again. Enjoy your Christmas and good wishes.".
- "I want to phone the church and thank them, it is such a beautiful present, and it has so many useful things. It really makes a great difference."
- "The notebook and pen are so useful to write what you want".
- "I spent 3 days looking at the Radio Times, it was one of my favourites, as it made me think about the times I watched TV. Very entertaining and uplifting."
- "The oat biscuits from IKEA were very delicious, very nice flavour, I recommend them."
- "The card was very sweet".
- "Very nice chocolate, absolutely delicious."
- "Very useful to have a hand cream".
- "Thank you very much for the Xmas parcels and card, and all that you do for me."
- "It's all nice! but Xmas cake gives me acid reflux."
- "Love having the Radio Times!"
- "Thank you - everything was so well wrapped up. Nice mini-Xmas tree and love the lavender bag."
- "A very beautiful scarf, a pen, a cream, the bag that came with the things."
- "I like everything".
- "I really like the beautiful scarf to put around my neck, and the bag is also very beautiful."
- "I was very pleased with the hamper, a very handsome bag of goodies. I loved everything that was made by hand."
- "My carer was here when I unpacked it, so I shared some little bits for her to pass on to her circle of lonely people."

- "I loved it."
- "I could feel all the warmth of the little pieces. Many, many, many thanks."

"I loved the radio times, the calendar was brilliant, I will use it immediately."

- "I loved the custard, devoured it as soon as possible."
- "Thanks so much to you and all concerned for my wonderful bag of gifts. It gave me so much pleasure opening them. I do appreciate your kindness and the thoughtfulness that went into everything. My special thanks too to Elana for her beautiful card; what a clever young woman. Very happy Christmas to you all, and best wishes for the New Year."
- "Thank you all for the Christmas presents and the special card made by the children".
- "Favourite things? "The Radio Times - haven't bought one for ages - good to read. Wall planner, oat biscuits from IKEA were really nice".
- "Everything was lovely. Especially useful are the notepads, cards & stamps - that's so thoughtful. I don't like Xmas cake but passed it on! Everything else was great. I liked the Ambrosia custard, never had that before and now order it from Sainsbury's." We were surprised that N had never tried Ambrosia custard and said so, she replied "I always used to make my own custard".
- "I haven't had the cuppa soup yet but that's useful and I'm vegetarian."
- "I'm grateful for everything. Very kind of you all. Please pass on my thanks."
- "Thank you so much for the truly wonderful gifts you sent to me at Christmas and I am very sorry that I have not been in touch sooner due to not feeling well and lack of concentration. All the gifts were a joy to receive, and it was remarkable how useful and acceptable each item is and gives continued pleasure. It really is one of the best gifts I have ever appreciated because of the continued pleasure and usage they are giving me."

# MUSIC SECTION

## Music for February

Geoffrey Webber

This month we mark a significant anniversary in the musical life of the church with a concert remembering former Organist and Director of Music Martindale Sidwell. In addition to the concert on Saturday 21st, there is one further musical connection to Sidwell that may not be obvious from the Music List – the introit *I will love thee, O Lord my strength* by Peter Gritton to be sung at Evensong on Sunday 8th. Peter is a former choir member whose varied work is noted on his website as follows: ‘Peter Gritton is a composer, performer and educator. He writes music to private and public commission, as well as for an array of internationally known publishers. He sings professionally as a countertenor, most recently with Tenebrae and I Fagiolini and directs Celestia Music in the provision of music for weddings, funerals and thanksgivings. After leading the music departments of St Paul’s School and James Allen’s Girls’ School (JAGS), he is now in demand as an adjudicator and workshop leader, supporting music at grass-root level in schools.’ The introit remains published but survives in our library, and is headed ‘for Martindale Sidwell’, so this seemed a good time to resurrect it. Like me, Peter started his musical career as a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral, and when I asked him about the piece he said that he had been asked specifically to compose “an impactful introit”, but I don’t wish to spoil the unusual effect he demands by warning you in advance! Peter is away conducting on the 21st so sadly cannot attend the concert, but is delighted that we are performing his piece this month.

At the time of writing it is not clear yet how many former musicians will be returning for the celebratory concert on the 21st, but the event has sparked much interest. The committee of the Friends of the Music has put much effort into planning the occasion, and I am pleased to note that former Organist and Director of Music Lee Ward should be amongst the returning group, which will include former organists as well as singers, and I hope to share some of the conducting of the

concert with one or two others. The programme, with its mix of baroque splendour and favourite church anthems, is highly unusual, but designed to reflect both Martin and his wife Barbara, a renowned pianist and harpsichordist.

Picking out one relatively unfamiliar composer this month from the music list, I'd like to mention Johannes Eccard (1553-1611). To many a cathedral chorister he's a one-hit wonder, known for his anthem *When to the temple Mary went* which has been a staple anthem for the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (also known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or Candlemas) since the end of the 19th century. The prolific translator of musical works into English Rev. John Troutbeck, whose credits include the first full English version of Bach's Christmas Oratorio, spent the later part of his life as Canon Precentor of Westminster Abbey. The particular stimulus for Troutbeck's interest in Eccard's music is unknown, but his English version of Eccard's German motet was first published in the Bach Choir Magazine in 1877, and later by Novello. Eccard's original was published in a now lost collection entitled *Preussischer Fest-Lieder* (Prussian feast-songs), put together by his pupil Johannes Stobaeus in the 1640s. The collection contains strophic settings of poems by contemporary poets celebrating the major feasts of the church's year. Fortunately the collection was copied out and thus preserved in Berlin by the mid-19th-century German scholar Gustav Teschner. The author of the original text 'Maria das Jungfräuelein' was Peter von Hagen, who like Eccard and Stobaeus worked in the former East Prussian city of Königsberg. This was a major intellectual and cultural centre before 1939, but now having been completely destroyed, the city is the Russian naval port of Kaliningrad, sandwiched awkwardly between Poland and Lithuania. The religion of Königsberg under Prussian domination was Calvinist, so the musical life of the churches was rather limited, but it did give rise to these delightful songs. The top voice has much melodic charm, and Eccard happily leavens the homophonic lump with modest bursts of independent part-writing within the six-part texture.

# Music List for February

## **Sunday 1st February – The Presentation of Christ**

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

Organ Prelude *Mit Fried' und Freud' ich fahr dahin* (BWV 616)  
J. S. Bach

Opening Hymn 339

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Mass in F* (K 192) W. A. Mozart

Gradual Psalm 24.7-end Tone vii/5

Offertory Hymn 209

Communion Motet *Jubilate Deo* attrib. Mozart

Post-communion Hymn 612

Organ Postlude *Praeludium in C* (BuxWV 137) Dieterich Buxtehude

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *Variations on Lucis Creator* Jehan Alain

Introit *Maria das Jungfräuelein* Johannes Eccard

Preces & Responses William Byrd

Psalms 112, 132 Walmisley / Elgar

Canticles *Evening Service in G* George Smart

The Lord's Prayer Robert Stone

Anthem *Lift up your heads (Messiah)* G. F. Handel

Hymn 207 (t. 380)

Final Amen Orlando Gibbons

Organ Postlude *Fiat Lux* Théodore Dubois

## **Sunday 8th February – Second Sunday before Lent**

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

Organ Prelude *Intermezzo (Miniature Suite)* Healey Willan

Opening Hymn 580

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Missa brevis* G. P. da Palestrina

Gradual Psalm 136.1-9/26 Tone iii/6

Offertory Hymn 378

Communion Motet *Dostoino est* P. I. Tchaikovsky

Post-communion Hymn 'Give me joy in my heart'

Organ Postlude *Finale (Miniature Suite)* Healey Willan

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *Andante* (Sonata for Organ) Basil Harwood  
Introit *I will love thee* Peter Gritton  
Preces & Responses William Byrd  
Psalm 148 Robert Ashfield  
Canticles *Evening Service in D minor* T. A. Walmisley  
The Lord's Prayer Robert Stone  
Anthem *Splendente te, Deus* (K 336a, Anh. 121) W. A. Mozart  
Hymn 354  
Final Amen Orlando Gibbons  
Organ Postlude *Cantabile* César Franck

### **Sunday 15th February – Sunday next before Lent**

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

Organ Prelude *Praeambulum in D minor* Heinrich Scheidemann  
Opening Hymn 237  
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in C minor*  
Charles Wood  
Gradual Psalm 2 Luke Flintoft  
Offertory Hymn 556 (omit v. 5)  
Communion Motet *O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht* (BWV 118)  
J. S. Bach  
Post-communion Hymn 499  
Organ Postlude *Canzon in F* Heinrich Scheidemann

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *Intrada* (Miniature Suite for Organ) John Ireland  
Introit *Locus iste* Anton Bruckner  
Preces & Responses William Byrd  
Psalm 84 John Camidge  
Canticles *The Second Service* Orlando Gibbons  
The Lord's Prayer Robert Stone  
Anthem *I was glad* C. Hubert Parry  
Hymn 353  
Final Amen Orlando Gibbons  
Organ Postlude *Imperial March* Edward Elgar

## **Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday**

### **6 pm. Holy Communion**

Organ Prelude *Toccata per le levatione* (Messa dellì Apostoli)

Girolamo Frescobaldi

Opening Hymn 88

Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Missa salvatorem expectamus* Allegri

Gradual Hymn 460 (omit v.4)

Imposition of Ashes *Miserere mei Deus* Gregorio Allegri

Offertory Hymn 95

Post-Communion Hymn 406

Organ Postlude *Toccata e Recercar cromatico* Girolamo Frescobaldi

## **Sunday 22nd February – Lent I**

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

Organ Prelude *Herzliebster Jesu* Johannes Brahms

Opening Hymn 530

Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in F* Harold Darke

Gradual Psalm 32 Joseph Barnby

Offertory Hymn 82

Communion Motet *O sacrum convivium* G. B. Pergolesi

Post-communion Hymn 84

Organ Postlude *Mein Jesu, der du mich* Johannes Brahms

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *Vater unser im Himmelreich* (BWV 737) J. S. Bach

Introit *Bow down thine ear, O Lord* Charles Wood

Preces & Responses William Byrd

Psalm 50.1-15 Henry Smart

Canticles *Evening Service in E minor* Charles Wood

The Lord's Prayer Robert Stone

Anthem *In ieiunio et fletu* Thomas Tallis

Hymn 80 (ii)

Final Amen Orlando Gibbons

Organ Postlude *O Mensch bewein' dein' Sünde gross* (BWV 622)

J. S. Bach

Aidan Coburn Director of the Junior & Community Choirs

Geoffrey Webber Director of Music

# Sidwell Anniversary Concert

Saturday 21st February at 7.30pm

*Maurits Dolmans*

The Choir of Hampstead Parish Church will be joined by an orchestra with period instruments, all under the direction of our very own Geoffrey Webber, and former members will be invited to join in the final items of the concert. The Friends of the Music look forward to welcoming you!

This is just a few days before what would have been his 110th birthday. Martindale was instrumental in reviving the standard of musical excellence at St. John-at-Hampstead that continues to this day.

Entrance is free, courtesy of the Hampstead Church Music Trust. There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Trust afterwards for those who wish.

We hope that the event will be both a beautiful concert to lighten up dark February days, but also a kind of informal reunion for musicians and friends from Martindale's time at the church. The Friends of the Music will be hosting a reception afterwards, to which everyone is warmly invited. The concert will be briefly introduced by the Very Revd Dr Philip Buckler, who was Vicar at the time of Martindale's tenure. The programme for the concert includes music that Martindale directed and recorded (and composed), and that his wife Prof. Barbara Hill played as an eminent professor of harpsichord music.

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D J. S. Bach

Birthday Ode: Come, come, ye sons of art Henry Purcell  
INTERVAL

Dum complerentur G. P da Palestrina

Faire is the heaven William Harris

Festal Jubilate Martindale Sidwell

Rejoice in the Lamb Benjamin Britten

Ehre sei dir, Gott (BWV 248/V/i) J. S. Bach



# SIDWELL ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Celebrating 80 years since the appointment of  
Martindale Sidwell as Organist and Choirmaster

**Come Ye Sons of Art**

Henry Purcell

**Brandenburg Concerto No. 5**

J. S. Bach

**Rejoice in the Lamb**

Benjamin Britten

Anthems by Palestrina and Harris

The Choir of

**Hampstead Parish Church**

Orchestra of **Period Instruments**

Conductor **Geoffrey Webber**

**Saturday 21st February 2026 at 7.30pm**

There will be a  
retiring collection for the  
Martindale Sidwell Fund  
of the  
Hampstead Church  
Music Trust

fom.org.uk

Information: 020 7794 5808

**HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH  
CHURCH ROW, NW3 6UU**

Tube: Hampstead (Northern Line) Buses: 46, 268  
Parking is difficult in the immediate vicinity



# Martindale and Barbara Sidwell

*Gillian Perrin*

Hampstead's debt to Martindale Sidwell is incalculable. Appointed as Organist and Choirmaster to the Parish Church in 1946, he found an old musical tradition devastated by seven years of war. He set about restoring it, and in doing so created a choir which became one of the finest parish church choirs in the country. Sidwell's boy trebles (sixteen of them, judging by contemporary photographs) were so good that Klemperer chose them to sing in his legendary recording of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. In 1958 Martindale added the directorship of St Clement Danes in the Aldwych to his workload, and thereafter his weekends were spent between Hampstead and the Strand, and weekdays nurturing the Hampstead Choral Society, the Martindale Sidwell Singers and the London Bach Orchestra - all of which he himself founded.

The outstanding quality of Martindale's conducting is said to have been a result of his iron discipline: he was "fanatical" about tuning and intonation; his favourite composer was Bach and he conducted Bach's music much faster than many of his contemporaries, in the "light, brisk style" later adopted by Early Music specialists.

Martindale had met and married the keyboard player Barbara Hill in 1944, and they came to live in Hampstead together. Barbara was an outstanding musician in her own right: she became Professor of Piano at the RCM and played the harpsichord for the regular concerts and broadcasts which she and Martindale gave together. The Sidwells' hospitality and kindness at the house in Frognal Gardens was legendary: after concerts the musicians would gravitate towards No. 1 and continue to enjoy good food and impromptu musical performances well into the night.

Hampstead Parish Church's debt to these two exceptional musicians is immense. Thanks to the strong foundations laid by Martindale, the Church's musical tradition continues to flourish, and the present

Director of Music, Geoffrey Webber, maintains Sidwell's impeccable standards by attracting fine young professional musicians to the Church.



## Monteverdi Vespers – Review

*Katherine Nicholson*

In 1975, the Hampstead Church Music Trust was founded to build on the legacy of the strong musical tradition at Hampstead Parish Church, where Martindale Sidwell had been choirmaster for 30 years. As the musical offering at Hampstead has developed over the years, so too the Trust has evolved, with meaningful bequests in memory of Martindale Sidwell, Barney Rodgers, Ian MacDonald Hay, Lord and Lady de Bunsen and then in 2014, the substantial generosity of Charmian England. Thus it was on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, amid the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle, a concert was staged to celebrate the milestone of 50 years of the Trust, with a warm and numerous audience buzzing with excitement, as the splendours of Monteverdi's **Vespers of 1610** were unfolded for us by Geoffrey Webber, a handpicked ensemble of period instruments, and the Hampstead Church Choir regulars and guests, with able support from singers of the Junior Choir.

The full ensemble singing in movements like *Laudate pueri Domine* and *Ave maris stella* showed immediately how well chosen a group of singers we had - the tutti singing was well-matched, sonorous and joyful. As the glorious *Dixit Dominus* rang out, with its seemingly never-ending melismatic waterfalls of sound, echoed by the warm tones of the orchestra, it became clear that this was clearly a group of performers who were enjoying themselves!

There were plenty of opportunities for our singers to sparkle throughout the performance: Hannah Dienes-Williams, a regular face to many evensong-goers, and our own Christine Buras sounded

sublime in the *Pulchra es*. In *Duo Seraphim*, Aidan Coburn and Chris Lombard-Fitzgerald were indeed an angelic duo, then joined by James Geidt to represent the Trinity in three-part virtuosity. James and Will Gaunt's bass duet in the *Laudate pueri* brought wide-ranging, fiery flair. There were so many moments of virtuosic brilliance that it is difficult to choose favourites - the *Audi coelum* with an echo provided by Chris in the side chapel to Aidan's performance in the central aisle was a particular highlight - but Aidan's resplendent *Nigra sum* was a joy both to behold and hear. Monteverdi gives his altos no solo roles to shine individually, but Camille Seale and Jessica Gillingwater nonetheless provided the glue to bond everything in the large ensemble sections – and as an alto I would say, you would quickly miss us if we weren't there!

Toby Carr's sensitive and sympathetic continuo playing allowed soloists and ensemble alike to really bring the text of the Marian motets and psalms to life. Midway through we were treated to organist Sebastian Gillot's thoughtful rendition of Tarquinio Merula's *Capriccio chromatico*, but surely one of the best moments was the singing of the *Sonata sopra Sancta Maria* featuring members of the Junior Choir with real warmth of tone, beautifully underpinned by stunning playing in all corners of the orchestra.



## The Hampstead Collective

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.00pm**

Mendelssohn: String Octet

The Players of the Hampstead Collective

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.00pm**

Agrippina's Betrayal

Rebecca Hardwick / Jacob Garside

The Players of the Hampstead Collective

Featuring music by Handel, Schütz and Buxtehude

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm**  
Piano Recital: Matthew Fletcher  
Featuring Schumann's Fantasia in C

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm**  
Purcell: Dido and Aeneas  
The Hampstead Collective / The Players of the Hampstead Collective

Tickets and more information at [www.thehampsteadcollective.com](http://www.thehampsteadcollective.com)

## Organ Recitals

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00pm  
Andrew Dewar, *Paris*

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 4.00pm  
George Inscoe, *St Paul's Cathedral, London*

Further recitals on  
18<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July

There's no charge for these organ recitals but we welcome  
donations to help cover costs.

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## *OperaBites Hampstead*

OperaBites is a charming, 55-minute recital series hosted by Opera Prelude's Young Artists at St Mary's Church, Barnes and St John's Church Hampstead.

Designed to delight both newcomers and seasoned opera lovers, each performance blends stunning repertoire with insightful commentary. The intimate atmosphere offers a rare chance to connect with the artists after the concert, making opera more accessible, welcoming and personal.

Whether you are an opera devotee or brand new to the art form, this uplifting bite-sized performance is an experience guaranteed to delight.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00pm: The King of the high Cs  
Including *Che gelida la manina* from *La bohème* and *Salut demeure chaste et pure* from *Faust*. With tenor Sung-Eup Son.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm: Muses, Echoes and Songs of Love.  
Including glorious arias by Massenet, Gluck and Offenbach. With mezzo-soprano Clover Kayne.

Tickets £25 each from  
[operaprelude.org/eventsinlondon/operabiteshampstead](http://operaprelude.org/eventsinlondon/operabiteshampstead)

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## **Social and Racial Justice and CofE**

### **The C of E agrees to spend £12.4 million on social and racial justice programmes**

Back last summer, when the C of E announced its three-year national spending plans, the Triennium Funding Working Group (TFWG) included an allocation of £12 million for the areas of social and racial justice in the 2026-2028 triennium.

The precise allocation of that £12 million was a matter for the Archbishops' Council to determine. It has now agreed that £7 million will be spent on racial justice programmes over a three-year period, from 2026-2028. An additional £200,000 will also be carried forward from 2023-2025 and spent on racial justice.

A further £5 million will be spent in support of disability programmes. This money will aim to help the C of E become more diverse and inclusive, dismantling barriers from worship, participation and leadership in the Church.

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# Readings for February

10.30am

5.00pm

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**

Malachi 3.1-5

Haggai 2.1-9

Luke 2.22-40

John 2.18-22

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent**

Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

*Proverbs 8.1, 22-31 (tbc)*

Matthew 6.25-end

*Revelations 3 (tbc)*

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Next before Lent**

Exodus 23.12-end

Ecclesiasticus 48.1-10

Matthew 17.1-9

Matthew 17.9-23

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Lent I**

Genesis 2.15-17

Deuteronomy 6.4-9

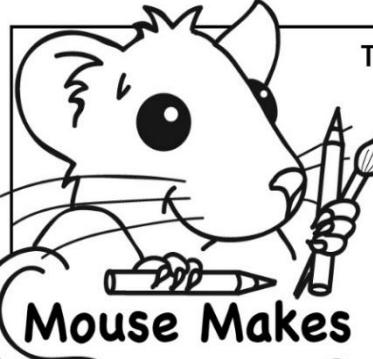
Matthew 4.1-11

Luke 15.1-10

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This is the place of prayer.  
Here where the inward pointing nails  
converge.  
The ever-narrowing gate  
intersection  
when the world of time and space  
yields up its measured form.  
Here in the needle's eye.  
Dark upon dark.  
The aching, echoing void  
of the hollowed heart  
suspended  
at the point of change.  
Unknowing  
(and that is the agony)  
bearing the unknown  
to the mystery  
at the place of prayer.

*May Crowther*



**Mouse Makes**

Read the story in  
Luke 4:1-13

**SECOND TEMPTATION**  
THE DEVIL SAID:  
"I will give you power  
and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:  
"Worship the Lord your God  
and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:  
Put God first  
Worship only Him.

**THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?  
What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him?  
What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do?  
What did Jesus say? v9

**FORTY DAYS SON K L O R D N H**

**T D O W N O N W O R S H I P**

**T E S T W O R L D L T U N B**

**L V T E M P T A T I O N G R**

**E I A M J E S U S F N G D E**

**N L K P D E S E R T E R O A**

**T H O L Y S P I R I T Y M D**

**I M J E R U S A L E M F S J**

**W I L D E R N E S S J U M P**

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

**FIRST TEMPTATION**  
THE DEVIL SAID:  
"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:  
"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:  
Read the Bible  
Learn God's word.

**THIRD TEMPTATION**  
THE DEVIL SAID:  
"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:  
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:  
God cares, trust  
Him do not test Him.

# Looking ahead...

## March

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> The Hampstead Collective  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> MOTHERING SUNDAY  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Organ Recital  
Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> The Passion according to St Mark by Charles Wood  
Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Community choir: Stainer's Crucifixion  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY

## April

Mar 30<sup>th</sup> – Apr 4<sup>th</sup> HOLY WEEK  
Sun 5<sup>th</sup> EASTER SUNDAY  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> The Hampstead Collective  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Organ Recital

## May

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> The Hampstead Collective  
Thu 14<sup>th</sup> ASCENSION  
Sat 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair (tbc)  
Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Organ Recital  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> PENTECOST

