

# Hampstead Parish Church

## Magazine for May 2026

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

Mthr Carol considers **Art  
and Animals** on her  
post-Easter break

Reviews:  
**Stainer's Crucifixion**

\*

**The Passion Play**

\*

**Celebrating John  
Harrison**



**An example of how they  
help**

**Churches Together in  
Hampstead** invite you on  
a walking tour of local  
churches



# HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

[Registered Charity No. 1129264]

Church Row, NW3 6UU

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vestry@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

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

Revd Carol Barrett Ford

**0207 794 5808**

vestry@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

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

vestry@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk



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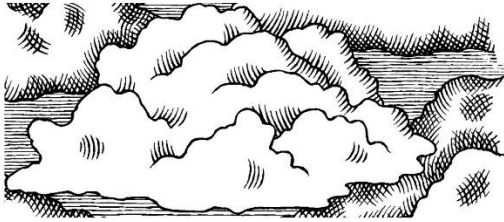
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May  
2026

## Contents

Diary for May	5
The Vicar writes	7
May – Judy East	8
Sermon – <i>Mthr Carol</i>	9
Christian Aid Week	12
Craft Fair	14
Churches together in Hampstead Walk	15
Celebrating the Musicals	16
MUSIC SECTION	
Music for May – <i>Geoffrey Webber</i>	
Music List	19
REVEIWS	
John Harrison	23
Community Choir – <i>Bonnie MacBird</i>	24
Palm Sunday Passion Play - <i>Matthew Sergent</i>	26
‘I see his blood upon the rose’ - <i>Joseph Mary Plunkett</i>	28
Dove or Goose?	28*
Book of the Month	30*
Children’s Page	31*

\*From Parish Pump

# Diary for May

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am Gardening group meets

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter 5

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Choral Holy Communion (with Junior Church in the parish rooms)

5.00pm Choral Evensong followed by sherry with the choir

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Hampstead Collective concert – *Dido and Aeneas*, Tickets £15

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> *Local elections – church in use as a polling station*

7.30pm Community Choir in Crypt

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 11am-4pm Craft Fair – see page 11



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Easter 6 – Christian Aid Week

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Choral All Age Communion

2.00pm *Churches Together in Hampstead Walk* – see page 12

5.00pm Choral Evensong

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion

**6.00pm Ascension Eve Communion**

Thu 14<sup>th</sup> **Ascension Day**

7.30pm Community Choir

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm *Desert Island Discs*



## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Easter 7

- 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Choral Holy Communion (with Junior Church  
in the parish rooms)  
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Annual Parochial Church meeting in the Crypt  
Room – all welcome, refreshments from 7pm

6.30pm Opera Prelude concert in church. Tickets £25

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Community Choir

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 4.00pm Organ Recital

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Pentecost

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

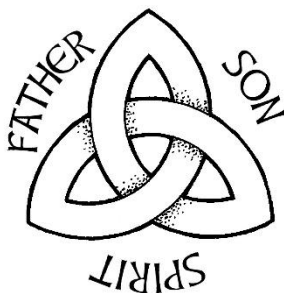


Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Community Choir

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Hampstead Players 50<sup>th</sup> : *Celebrating the  
Musicals* - see page 13

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm *Celebrating the Musicals*



## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Trinity

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



## The Vicar writes

Spring was blooming gloriously all over Northumberland this April and we had a wonderful post Easter break in the county we love so much. This year we were blessed with glimpses of a wide variety of flora and fauna—in particular a number of hares, a hardy weasel running across our path on a country lane carrying a hapless mouse in his jaws, and plenty of raptors. We made our annual pilgrimage along Ross Sands, walking out to Guile Point to say hello to the seals (with Tonwen in Alun's arms so that she did not frighten them). However, the appearance of a pod of orca off the coast near Beadnell, filmed by a local man and his children as they played around their fishing boat, must take the prize as the nature story of the year so far.

It wasn't all just wildlife spotting though, we returned to Holy Island (Lindisfarne) which we haven't managed to visit for the last two or three years. Separated from the mainland and subject to the tides, it is a beautiful and holy place. I had the opportunity to visit one of my favourite pieces of art: *Journey*. It is a wooden sculpture carved from seven elm trees created by Fenwick Lawson in 1999, and resides in St Mary's Church on Holy island. The sculpture depicts the monks of Holy Island carrying the coffin of St Cuthbert to safety and eventual rest in Durham Cathedral c.875 AD, when Viking raiders threatened the island.

Fenwick Lawson's devotional work particularly appeals to me for its scale and simplicity. While studying for ordination in Durham I regularly visited his *Pieta*, made between 1974 and 1981, an extraordinary depiction of Mary and Jesus following his crucifixion. Fenwick Lawson died in February of this year at the age of 93, leaving behind a substantial body of work.

[wikipedia.org/wiki/Fenwick\\_Lawson](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Fenwick_Lawson)

*With best wishes*

*Mthr Carol*

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# May

Judy East

The summer Craft Fair (on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> this year) is notable for several reasons: Esther's thrift stall where amazing bargains will undoubtedly be available along with some really classy clothes; the Crafters' stalls inside with a range of items (the list of stalls hasn't been finalised yet but they're always exciting and show a range of talents) and I can confirm that there will be marmalade! Also coffee, cake, lunches – come any time between 11am and 4pm to hunt for bargains, pick up interesting gifts or just have a day out browsing with friends. Money raised goes to the church.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> is also a busy day – it's the start of Christian Aid Week, it's the British Pilgrimage Trust Rogation Sunday Pilgrimage on the Heath, and it's the Churches Together in Hampstead walk, starting from the Quaker Meeting House in Heath Street at 2pm and finishing at the Salvation Army headquarters in Chalk Farm at 5pm. You don't have to do it all – there's an itinerary further on in this issue so you can join in or drop out at any church along the way. And the Salvation Army are close to Chalk Farm tube station if you don't fancy the long pull back up the hill.

The Friends of the Music welcome Lee Ward back to take us through his Desert Island Discs on 16<sup>th</sup> (contact the Friends of the Music for details) and the Hampstead Players end the month by *Celebrating the Musicals*, an evening of nostalgia looking back over the musicals they've presented in the last 50 years. It's not the only commemoration they'll do this year I'm sure but whether you were involved, saw the shows, or have never heard of them, it promises to be a lot of fun. But book early because space is limited in the Crypt Room.

There's quite a lot to review this month too – from the bellringings commemorating John Harrison to the Community Choir singing Stainer and the Hampstead Players putting on what proved to be very moving Passion Play outside the church on Palm Sunday.

And finally, since we have a pilgrimage this month it seemed appropriate to review *Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives - A Gospel Journey with the English Saints*. But don't forget we'd be happy to have recommendations from any of you for books you've particularly enjoyed.

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## Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe

(John 20:19-3)

*A sermon preached for Easter 2 by Mthr Carol*

People say, of course, that seeing is believing. When you explain an incident to someone they often respond with 'I see', when actually there is nothing to look at and they were not present during the event you are describing. Perhaps Thomas was one of those people for whom 'seeing is believing'. If so, and we believe Jesus's words, then he got a little bit more than he bargained for, he got to touch as well as see. Jesus Thomas sees, Thomas touches, Thomas believes.

Rather unfairly Thomas then goes on to be known as the doubter when in actual fact he is the one who makes a beautiful, fulsome profession of faith—my Lord and my God—that clearly expresses the truth of who Jesus is. And Jesus does not chide or criticise Thomas—he simply makes himself available, literally, bodily, so that Thomas can behold him, can see him, can touch him. And who can blame Thomas for wanting to see for himself. After all, the last time he has seen Jesus is to watch through tears as he is captured, mocked, beaten and crucified. Knowing that the apparent end of the story was a lifeless, broken body, how could he possibly have appeared to the disciples? In God's overflowing and abundant love there is space for Thomas to be himself, to have this perfectly reasonable doubt. But Jesus breaks through this doubt quite literally by appearing through a locked door.

He reaches out to Thomas, he is **determined** to touch Thomas, to respond directly and personally to the words 'until I see the mark of the nails' ... Jesus does not allow doors and bolts to stop him connecting to the faith that he **knows** Thomas still has, beneath his

despair. And then, Jesus gives him the great **gift** of seeing and touching, the great gift of the **opportunity** to affirm his faith.

Casting Thomas's doubt as a negative thing, is something to be avoided. It is unfair to Thomas (who was a faithful disciple of Christ) and it also fails to recognize the importance of doubt to our life of faith. We all experience times when we doubt. We doubt whether God loves us when we do something of which we are ashamed. We doubt whether God listens to us when an earnest prayer **seems** to go unanswered. We doubt whether God is there at all when faced with pain or anguish, the loss of a loved one, or terrible tragedy in the world. We doubt ourselves, we doubt God.

Doubt is—if you like—a facet of faith. Because part of having faith means that you have **decided** that you will believe, even though there might be many reasons why you should not. And where faith leads doubt may well follow, poking at the edges, stirring up the waters that we might wish to keep becalmed. Because to have a living—a lively—faith means that you are open to question, to ponder, to think and inevitably at times, to doubt. Faith without **some** doubt, at **some** point is a very odd type of faith indeed. The way we believe as a child is not the same as how we grasp the issues of faith as a teen ager, as a young adult or as an older person. Real faith—living faith—is seen through the prism of who we are, it moves and flexes and changes just as we grow, live and change.

So we should never be afraid of times of doubt—rather we should see them as times of opportunity—times when God might be able to break through the locked doors of our minds and hearts, to reach out to us as he reached out to Thomas. Those might be the very times when Jesus comes to find us just as he did to Thomas. He reached out to Thomas in love. And just as the disciples seemed to find it difficult to recognize their friend and Lord in his post resurrection appearances, so we too sometimes fail to recognize Jesus when we are wandering on the path of doubt, unsure of where we are going.

So if we are confused, or struggling with issues of faith, how will we recognize Jesus when he reaches out to us? St John tells us that Jesus—in each of his appearances—said ‘Peace be with you’—so we will know that Jesus is present in those moments where peace is offered. And because the risen Christ still bears the marks of his passion, we can also be sure that whenever we are hurt, or lonely, in those moments when we experience the difficulties of life at their most acute, most painful, then the Risen Christ stands with us.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe ... How will we recognize him? One writer describes Jesus in the clothes of those who we might meet around us, those who show us glimpses of the Divine. So, Jesus may come to us in fine, rich garments—the garments of celebration and joy, worn by those whom we love, who uphold and sustain us, who bring us joy. Or we might glimpse him in dirty, stained clothing—in the clothes worn by someone who will remind us that love is costly, that Jesus lives with the poor and marginalised, the forgotten and unloved. We might glimpse him again in the deepest black of mourning, when we stand with those who have suffered tragic loss—in the clothing of those who weep with us. We will find him in the wounds and we will find him in the love.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe ... On the retreat before ordination a wise old priest told the story of the pulpit on which were inscribed the words ‘Sir, we would see Jesus’. A rather frightening idea for a young priest—that when one speaks the congregation will expect to see something of Jesus. It can make you doubt that you will ever be up to the task. But perhaps it is best seen as a gentle admonition to us all—that it is our task to show something of the divine life. To be—as St Teresa of Avila describes so beautifully—Jesus’s hands and feet. It is our task to try to live a life of real faith, faith that at times is messy, less than perfect but always real and able to cope with times of doubt. For whenever we doubt, he will undoubtedly find us. Amen.

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## What is Christian Aid Week?

*From the CA website*

Christian Aid Week runs from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May this year and is a powerful expression of what can happen when compassion leads to action.

It's our shared moment to come together – across churches, communities and households – to stand alongside people living in poverty around the world.

For one week each year, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together. Together, those actions make change possible. For instance.....

### **Where hardship means hunger**

#### **...urban farmers can grow hope.**

In the bustling informal settlement of Dagoretti, Nairobi, families are



facing extraordinary hardship. Homes made of steel sheets and concrete blocks are packed closely together. Access to clean water, sanitation and electricity is limited. With secure jobs hard to find, and most people earning less than a dollar a day, buying food is a constant struggle. Aching hunger compounds relentless stress. Fridah Moraa lives in Dagoretti with her children and grandson. She recently lost her husband and feels anxious about the future. 'Sometimes I don't

know how I'll buy food,' Fridah says. 'I don't know how I'll feed my family.' Drawing on her unstoppable resolve, her deep faith in God and training in vital new skills, Fridah is taking action to ensure her family has enough to eat. She has joined a project run by Christian Aid's

partner, Beacon of Hope, which trains people in Dagoretti to become urban farmers. With the tiny spaces available, you might think that farming would be impossible. But women like Fridah are learning innovative techniques that allow them to grow crops in unexpected places. The vegetables Fridah grows feed her family, and she sells the surplus to generate a more reliable income.

With seven days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts. What will you do to support someone like Fridah to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?



- £5 could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.
- £10 could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.
- £15 could purchase the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.
- £30 could buy the trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space.

Find out more about the campaign at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

**There will be an opportunity to give through the church collection on 10<sup>th</sup> May or you can make a donation through the Christian Aid website [give.christianaid.org.uk/donate](http://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate)**

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### **It's how you say it....**

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST JOHN-AT-HAMPSTEAD

# CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 9th May 2026  
11am - 4pm

Handmade Artisan Crafts  
Thrift & Upcycle Stall

Children's Activities  
Coffee and Light Lunches  
Cakes & Homebaked Goods

**EAT, SHOP AND PLAY**

Church Row, London NW3 6UU

**Raising Money for Church Activities**

Craft Stallholders please contact: [sarah.cheritonjones@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.cheritonjones@gmail.com)  
Thrift & Upcycle Donations can be left in church.

# Churches Together Walk

Sunday 10 May 2pm onwards



As an expression of our unity, we will walk together and stop along the way to visit some of the churches in our neighbourhood. Everyone is welcome, please join us!

**2 - 2.30pm Hampstead Quaker Meeting House:**

Welcome and Intro

**2.40pm Heath Street Baptist Church**

**3.20pm Rosslyn Hill Chapel: refreshments**

**4.15pm St Saviour's, Chalk Farm**

**5.00pm Chalk Farm Salvation Army**

**ORGANISED BY CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HAMPSTEAD**



# 50 Years The Hampstead Players

## Celebrating

Won-der-ful food, mar-vel-lous food. Fa-bu-lous food

The hills are alive with the sound of mu-sic,  
got a lit-tle list Of  
ne-ver caught a rain and you are no friend of mine  
run where we know ev-'ry-one,  
Make me a match,  
I'm not going to be a wall-flower!  
church. Get me to the church. For Gawd's sake, get me to the

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or on the door if available  
Information 020 7794 5808

Friday 29th / Saturday 30th May 2026 at 7.30 pm

**THE CRYPT ROOM  
HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH  
CHURCH ROW, NW3 6UU**

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

[www.hampsteadplayers.org.uk](http://www.hampsteadplayers.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 288012



# Music Notes ~ May 2026

*Geoffrey Webber*

The organ music that surrounds our services week by week is often chosen to fit either a liturgical or purely musical theme, and May's selection of music has many examples of this. On the morning of Sunday 3rd we hear hymn preludes by the great Anglo-Irish friends and contemporaries Stanford and Wood, alongside choral music by both composers. In the evening, when we happily celebrate two diamond weddings (as written about in last month's magazine), the final voluntary will be Widor's famous Toccata that became particularly popular for weddings following the royal marriages of Princess Margaret (1960), the Duke of Kent (1961) and Princess Alexandra of Kent (1963), and was played at both weddings being remembered (1966). During the periods of Ascension and Pentecost we will enjoy the organ music of Olivier Messiaen composed for this feast, together with settings of Whitsun chorales by J. S. Bach, and plainsong melodies by Peter Philips, the English Roman Catholic organist who worked in the Spanish Netherlands in the early 17th century. And on Trinity Sunday we hear two movements of a monumental cycle of verses on the plainsong *O lux beata Trinitas* by Lutheran organist Mattias Weckmann, a contemporary and friend of Heinrich Schütz who worked in Dresden and Hamburg.

Last year we sang the earliest known setting of the evening canticles by a woman composer, that by Lucy Moseley of Exeter, composed in 1812. There are still not a large number of such settings in circulation (a splendid one by Ruth Gipps from 1959 is too difficult for us to take on under normal circumstances), though the number is now increasing of course. Those of you who attended the Martindale Sidwell anniversary concert in February may recall that we sang Sidwell's *Festal Jubilate* in an edition by former Hampstead chorister, the composer Sebastian Forbes. One pleasing aspect of this was that the conductor Lee Ward (see *Desert Island Discs* on Saturday 16th) invited Sebastian's daughter Joanna Forbes L'Estrange to sing the brief soprano solo. Joanna herself is a noted composer of church music, and

at Evensong on the 10th May we will sing her King's College Service, composed not for the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, but the college's more informal mixed choir, King's Voices, which sings Evensong on Monday evenings.

On the morning of Sunday 10th May, the music and hymns will have a strong Rogationtide flavour, preceding the Hampstead Heath Rogation Sunday Pilgrimage 2026 (British Pilgrimage Trust) being organised by Rupert Sheldrake and Guy Hayward. The adjacent Evensongs for Ascensiontide and Pentecost contain two notably contrasted selections of music. For Ascension we sing a mostly plainsong-based service in Latin, including a notably elaborate setting of the Magnificat, sung in alternatim with polyphony and chant by Victoria, a set of Preces by Lassus adapted to BCP texts, and a splendidly joyful motet by Peter Philips (as mentioned above).

For Pentecost we return to more traditional Anglican fare, with two grand works from 1892 and 1914, respectively Basil Harwood's sonorous Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in A flat and Elgar's rousing Psalm setting Give unto the Lord, composed for the annual Festival of the Sons of the Clergy in St Paul's Cathedral.

As we continue our celebration this year of the church music of Charles Wood (d. 1926), on Trinity Sunday, 31st May, we perform his Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in G composed in 1915. Set for double choir, the work naturally invites comparison with his more well-known double-choir setting in F for King's College, Cambridge, also composed in 1915. The F major setting is with organ, and the G major setting without, and the latter opens in a fairly unassuming manner for the full chorus singing together as SATB, with verses alternative between Decani and Cantoris. However, at 'For he that is mighty' the music becomes properly composed for double choir, and Wood employs many of the same musical devices as in the F major setting, such as bringing the end of the doxology to a dramatic halt before the final triumphant cadence.

# Music in May

## **Sunday 3rd May – 5th Sunday of Easter**

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

Organ Prelude *Prelude Andante tranquillo* (Op.101/4) Charles Stanford

Introit Hymn 254

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in B flat & F*  
Charles Stanford

Gradual Psalm 31.1-5 Tone iii/5

Offertory Hymn 387

Communion Motet *I am risen; The earth trembled* Charles Wood

Post-Communion Hymn 578

Organ Postlude *Prelude on the Old CIVth Psalm* Charles Wood

### **5 pm. Choral Evensong** (with 'Saraband' string ensemble)

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

Introit *Beati omnes* Henry Purcell

Preces & Responses Philip Radcliffe

Office Hymn 572 (t. Elixir)

Psalm 147.1-12 Martindale Sidwell

Canticles *Collegium Regale* Herbert Howells

Anthem *Rejoice in the Lord always* Henry Purcell

Hymn after sermon 428

Final Amen Johann Naumann

Organ Postlude *Toccata* (Symphonie V) C.-M. Widor

## **Sunday 10th May – 6th Sunday of Easter**

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

Organ Prelude *Sursum corda* John Ireland

Introit Hymn 365

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in C* John Ireland

Gradual Psalm Psalm 66.7-end Tone i/3

Offertory Hymn 358

Communion Motets *Ave verum corpus* Charles Gounod  
*For the beauty of the earth* John Rutter

Post-Communion Hymn 360 (ii, omit \*)

Organ Postlude *Alla Marcia* John Ireland

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *Majesté du Christ* (L'Ascension) Olivier Messiaen  
Introit *This is the day* Charles Wood  
Preces & Responses Philip Radcliffe  
Psalms 87, 36.5-10 Hurford / Lloyd  
Canticles *King's College Service* Joanna Forbes L'Estrange  
Anthem *If ye be risen again with Christ* Orlando Gibbons  
Hymn 366  
Final Amen Johann Naumann  
Organ Postlude *Transports de joie* (L'Ascension) Olivier Messiaen

### **Wednesday 13th May – Eve of Ascension Day**

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

Organ Prelude *Ricercar arioso I* Andrea Gabrieli  
Introit Motet *O Rex gloriae* Luca Marenzio  
Mass setting (G/S&B/AD) *Mass for Four Voices* Thomas Tallis  
Gradual Psalm 47 Peter Hurford  
Offertory Hymn 380  
Post-Communion Hymn 173  
Organ Postlude *Ricercar arioso IV* Andrea Gabrieli

### **Sunday 17th May – Sunday after Ascension**

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

Organ Prelude *Hymn Prelude on Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>* Percy Whitlock  
Introit Hymn 176  
Mass setting (G/S&B/AD) *Missa brevis in B flat* (K 275)  
W. A. Mozart  
Gradual Psalm 68.1-10 Tone v/1  
Offertory Hymn 439 (omit \*)  
Post-Communion Hymn 368  
Organ Postlude *Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn* (BWV 630) J. S. Bach

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *Fancy* (MB v/23) Thomas Tomkins  
Introit *If ye love me* Thomas Tallis  
Preces after Lassus  
Psalm 47 Tone V/2

Canticles *Magnificat* (tone viii) T. L. da Victoria  
*Nunc dimittis* (tone iii) T. L. da Victoria  
Lord's Prayer Hieronymus Praetorius  
Anthem *Ascendit Deus* Peter Philips  
Hymn 593  
Final Amen Johann Naumann  
Organ Postlude *Voluntary* (MB v/24) Thomas Tomkins

## **Sunday 24th May – Pentecost**

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

Organ Prelude *Veni Sancte Spiritus* Peter Philips  
Introit Hymn 180 (ii)  
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Missa Veni Creator Spiritus* G. A. Bernabei  
Gradual Psalm 104.26-end Joseph Barnby  
Offertory Hymn 181  
Communion Motet *O sacrum convivium* G. A. Bernabei  
Post-Communion Hymn 184  
Organ Postlude *Komm, Gott, Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist* (BWV 667) J. S. Bach

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend* (BWV 632)  
J. S. Bach  
Introit *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* Mode i  
Preces & Responses Philip Radcliffe  
Psalms 67, 133 Gibbons / Keys  
Canticles *Evening Service in A flat* Basil Harwood  
Anthem *Give unto the Lord* Edward Elgar  
Hymn 548  
Final Amen Johann Naumann  
Organ Postlude *Sortie* (Messe de la Pentecôte) Olivier Messiaen

## **Sunday 31st May – Trinity Sunday**

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

Organ Prelude *Praeambulum* Heinrich Scheidemann  
Introit Hymn 191  
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Missa Caça* Cristóbal de Morales

Gradual Psalm 8 after Luther  
Offertory Hymn 213 (omit vv. 6 & 7)  
Communion Motet *Benedicta sit Sancta Trinitas* G. P. da Palestrina  
Post-Communion Hymn 190  
Organ Postlude *O lux beata Trinitas* (Verses 2 & 6)  
Matthias Weckmann

### **5 pm. Evensong**

Organ Prelude *An Interlude* Harold Darke  
Introit *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God* Herbert Sumsion  
Preces & Responses Philip Radcliffe  
Psalm 93, 150 Hurford / Beams  
Canticles *Evening Service in G* Charles Wood  
Anthem *Angel Spirits, ever blessed* (Cherubic Hymn iii)  
Peter Tchaikovsky  
Hymn 483  
Final Amen Johann Naumann  
Organ Postlude *Prelude and Fugue on a Theme of Vittoria*  
Benjamin Britten

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

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## **John Harrison**

On 24<sup>th</sup> March, the anniversary of Harrison's death in 1776 (and birth in 1693) a group of bellringers gathered at Christ Church, Hampstead, to mark the occasion, and if you ask - Why Christ Church when he's buried in our churchyard, well, we don't have bells!





On Tuesday, 24 March 2026 in 56m

Hampstead, Greater London

Christ Church

Tenor: 24-0-5 in E $\flat$

1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

- 1 Michael Royalton-Kisch
- 2 Ian Campbell
- 3 James Belshaw
- 4 Paul Daybell
- 5 David Holdridge
- 6 Richard Chandler
- 7 Stephanie Pattenden (C)
- 8 Thomas Lawrance

A few of us gathered to listen  
and help them celebrate



A wreath was laid at 6pm Greenwich Mean Time on Thursday 26



March 2026 by Jonathan Betts (on the right) 35 years curator of clocks at Greenwich and author of a recent publication on Harrison. Mr Betts is a past Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers who have generously ensured the much-visited monument has stayed in good

shape. Pictured with Jonathan Betts is Lester Hillman from Camden Tour Guides and the organiser of a dozen commemorative events for the local and global anniversary. The floral tribute benefited from guidance thanks to the staff of Michelle Harris, florist at Hampstead Community Centre. Other floral tributes on the Harrison memorial kindly came from Yorkshire and the Humber Bridge, from Barton and Barrow on Humber where Harrison was born.

Note: the bellringers will be back in June to ring for John Constable, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of whose birth we commemorate on 11<sup>th</sup>.



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## The Hampstead Community Choir Spring Concert

*Bonnie MacBird*

A lovely audience of all ages, and including a friendly puppy, filled many pews in The Parish Church of St John-at-Hampstead on Friday March 27 to hear the Spring concert by the Hampstead Community Choir. The main attraction was the performance of the 'renowned Victorian-era oratorio *The Crucifixion*, by Sir John Stainer (1840-1901).

Stainer's work, which debuted in 1887 at St Marylebone Parish Church, was hugely popular in his lifetime. Stainer was born in

Southwark in 1840, and as a precocious young man became a church organist at only sixteen. He went on to be the organist at Magdalen College, Oxford, and eventually organist at St Paul's Cathedral, where he had sung as a chorister at ten. His final position was as a professor of music at Oxford University.

Soloists for The Crucifixion were tenor **Aidan Coburn** and baritone **Sam Poppleton**, with additional bass sections sung by choir member **Matthew Sargent**, and the conductor was **Nathan Mercieca**. The organist/pianist for the concert was **Lee Ward**, who was organist and Director of Music at The Parish Church of St John-at-Hampstead for eighteen years from 1994, and we are grateful for his guest appearance. He enjoyed returning to play on the magnificent Willis organ which is a centrepiece for the remarkable musical life in this church.

The concert opened with an exquisite selection of solo songs presented by Aidan Coburn. Aidan directs the Hampstead Community choir and the Junior Choir as well as being a member of the professional choir. He also directs the renowned chamber choir Colla Voce Singers. His solos tonight included Handel's *Where'er You Walk*, Franck's *Panis Angelicus*, Schubert's *Litany*, Adam's *A Holy City* — and two versions of *Ave Maria* — one by Schubert and the other by Bach/Gounot. Said an audience member: "A real treat. His voice and delivery were truly expressive and beautiful".

The Hampstead Community Choir fundraises for a different charity with each performance, and the recipient for this concert was **The Sheriff Centre** — which provides vital services for the community including debt advising, a food share, children's soft play, work placements for young people, and more. A brief intermission was held during which audience members enjoyed refreshments and generous donations were received for the Centre.

The Hampstead Community Choir concerts take place three times a year in the church, are free to attend, and are among the most eagerly anticipated events. It has been remarked that the choir, which has

been performing for ten years, has developed a sophisticated and balanced sound, capable of singing music from all eras. Members credit the immensely talented Aidan Coburn for this, with special mention to the very gifted Nathan Mercieca as well.

It's a friendly place. While aiming for a high musical achievement, the choir is open to all, with no auditions needed. It can be a place to learn and grow. Please join us! Email [CC@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:CC@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk) for more information.

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## Palm Sunday Passion Play

*Matthew Sergent*

For several years, on the Sunday preceding Palm Sunday members of the Hampstead Junior Church have staged a reenactment of the Passion narrative of Christ's Last Supper, betrayal and crucifixion. This 'roving play' has, weather permitting, been held outside, with different episodes performed at different points around the churchyard, rotating from one spot to the next, much like the Stations of the Cross.

This year, for the first time in living memory (and possibly in the parish's history), the Hampstead Players were invited to stage their own version of the Passion story, taking place exactly a week after the juniors' version, on Palm Sunday itself. The fourteen-strong cast and crew rose to the challenge and, despite limited rehearsal time, put on a fantastic semi-staging that made for a solemn, moving and joyful introduction to Holy Week.

Passion plays have enjoyed a rich and varied history, not just in Britain but in continental Europe and further afield; indeed, productions in Australia, Brazil, the Philippines and the USA, to name a few, can draw as many as 150,000 visitors annually. In the UK, they were the focal point of the Mystery Plays that were performed in medieval times by many city guilds, particularly in York, Chester and Coventry. They

saw their heyday during the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries, but declined in popularity during the Reformation, when they were increasingly suppressed by the anti-Catholic authorities. Nowadays, between 20-30 plays are performed in the UK around Easter each year – including (now!) two in Hampstead.

As a child, I remember sitting in church on Good Friday when the Passion got going. The congregation typically made a feeble effort at the interjections of the frenzied crowd, baying for Jesus's blood. In our version, we aimed to convey these elements of the narrative more animatedly – from the scorn heaped on Jesus's head on the cross by passers-by, to the triumphant shouts of exaltation as he rides into Jerusalem, prefiguring his ultimate victory over death.

The audience was transported from the intimacy of the upper room, to the shattered tranquility of Gethsemane, to the bleakness of Golgotha, and finally to that moment of wonder and trepidation in the garden when Mary Magdalene becomes the first to look upon our risen Lord. We held our breath as, two thousand years before us, Jesus' disciples held their breath. We watched as they watched. Saw Jesus forced to bear his cross, stumbling, gasping for air, just as they saw it. Knelt at his cross as they knelt. Bore witness to the glorious mystery of his resurrection just as they did.

I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Katie Donovan for co-directing, Jess Mathur for sound direction, Esther Fitzgerald and Jayne Gill for costumes, Jon Siddall, Mother Carol and all the wonderful cast. With any luck, this is the beginning of a yearly tradition that only goes from strength to strength!

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## **I see His Blood upon the Rose**

I see his blood upon the rose  
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,  
His body gleams amid eternal snows,  
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower;  
The thunder and the singing of the birds  
Are but his voice—and carven by his power  
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,  
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,  
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,  
His cross is every tree.

Joseph Mary Plunkett (21 Nov 1887 – 4 May 1916)

*A number of people asked for this poem, included in Mthr Carol's Good Friday sermon.*

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## **Dove or Goose?**

*Margaret Bevis\**

In Celtic Christianity, the symbol for the Holy Spirit is the wild goose. By flying in a V-formation, as each bird flaps its wings the whole flock adds 70% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

*People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they want to go more quickly and easily because they are all travelling on the thrust generated by all.*



Whenever a goose falls out of formation it quickly gets back so that it can continue to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

When the lead goose gets tired, it moves back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

*It pays to take turns at doing the hard tasks - sharing leadership and maintaining interdependence. And it pays to take turns at the mundane tasks as well.*

The geese in formation 'honk' from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

*A word of encouragement work wonders.*

When a goose gets sick, or wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow the one to help and protect it. They stay until it is able to fly again or dies.

*In our fellowship as Christian people, we stand by each other*

*\*From ACE (Association of Church Editors)*

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## Book of the month

### **Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives - A Gospel Journey with the English Saints**

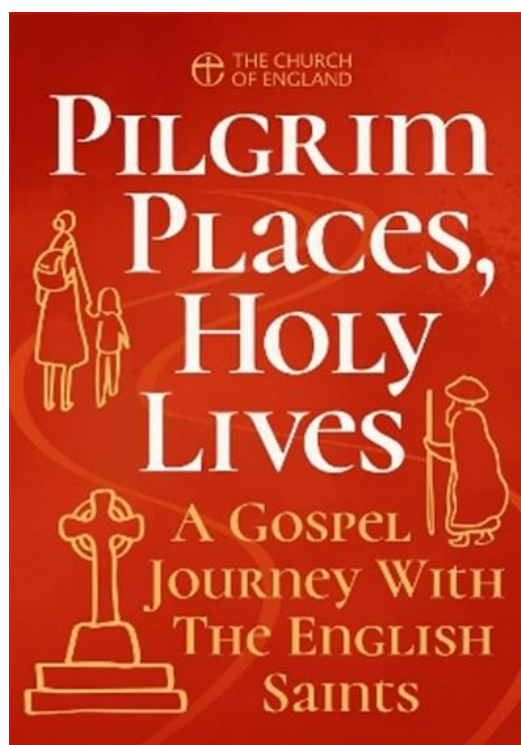
*By various C of E writers, CHP, £3.99*

The greatest story ever told is of God becoming human in Jesus Christ to offer us a transforming relationship with Him. *Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives* explores how this amazing story took root in Anglo-Saxon England, and how those who responded to it can still inspire and encourage us today.

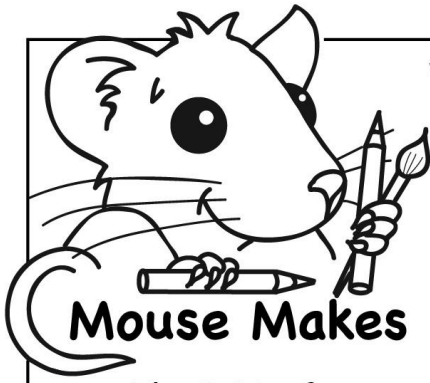
Through eight places of spiritual awakening and the saints associated with them, this full-colour devotional booklet offers 24 days of Bible readings, reflections, questions and prayers on the ancient practice of pilgrimage. From Durham to Canterbury, Lindisfarne to Lastingham, it will help you reflect on what it means to live as a pilgrim on a purposeful journey through life.

Each week focuses on two saints who dedicated their lives to God and shared the gospel with others: the Venerable Bede of Durham; Bertha of Canterbury; Cuthbert of Lindisfarne; Cedd of Lastingham; Frideswide of Oxford; Etheldreda of Ely; Alcuin of York; and Hilda of Whitby. Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives will help you to see the saints not merely as remarkable people from the past but as fellow travellers on the pilgrim journey who can shape our identity, our worship, and our witness to the world today.

Contributors include Sarah Mullally, Stephen Cottrell, Dee Dyas, James Shelton, Sammi Tooze, Sally Welch, Jenny Wright and Alexandra Zhirnova.



*Review taken from Parish Pump*



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
Genesis 1:2

The \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Father.  
Acts 1:4

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 8:15

H \_\_\_\_\_  
John 14:26

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
John 16:13

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit  
Galatians 5:22-23

\_\_\_ O \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ C \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ T \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ I \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ N \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ S \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ N \_\_\_

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER  
ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE  
GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

# Looking ahead

## June

- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> The Hampstead Collective
- Thu 4<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Opera Prelude
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Love your Burial Ground Week
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Organ Recital
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Community Choir Summer Nights concert
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Young Players Summer showcase  
Hampstead Chamber Choir concert

## July

- Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Hampstead Players Summer production: “Emma”
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> The Hampstead Collective
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Organ Recital

*Pentecost* 