

Hampstead Parish Church Magazine for September 2026

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

The Churchwardens
look to the future
of the parish

Music & Drama
Music for September
And
The Hampstead
Players at 50

Charity News
The Asra Hawariat
School Ethiopia



and
C4WS Night Shelter



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Book of the month
Between Interpretation &
Imagination: C.S. Lewis and the
Bible by Leslie Baynes

Hampstead Parish Church

[Registered Charity No. 1129264] Church Row, NW3 6UU

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Website: hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Sunday worship:

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Common Worship)
5.00pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Weekday worship:

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 10.15am
but please check the weekly email*
Thursdays: Rosary Prayer 8.30am
(zoom only – ask for link from office)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communions and
Home Visits
please contact the office.

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



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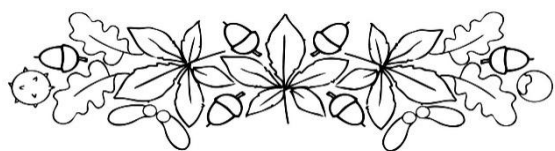
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September 2026

Contents

Diary for September	5
From the Churchwardens	7
September – <i>Judy East</i>	8
PCC report – <i>Helen Taylor</i>	10
Reved Stephen Tucker, RIP – <i>Rt Revd Peter Wheatley</i>	11
Solomon, Must5ard and Yeast (sermon) – <i>Andrew Penny</i>	14
Creation Season (<i>from ACE</i>)	16
C4WS – <i>Andrew Penny</i>	17
MUSIC AND DRAMA	
Music Notes – <i>Geoffrey Webber</i>	18
Music List	20
Hampstead Players at 50 – <i>Jon Siddall</i>	23
Emma: Review – <i>Judy East</i>	25
Asra Hawariat School update	26
Renew all: Retreat Week	29
Book of the month	30
Poetry page	31
Children's Page (<i>from Parish Pump</i>)	32
Some dates for your diary	33

Diary for September

Wed 2nd 10.15am Holy Communion
 Sat 5th 10.00am Gardening group meets. All very welcome!

Sunday 6th Trinity 14

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am All Age Choral Holy Communion:
 Backpack Sunday
 5.00pm Choral Evensong. Sermon series¹ starts with
 Peter Haddock, Parliamentary Aid to the
 Bishop of Southwark and Lay Reader



Tue 8th 9.45am Hampstead Parochial School
 Welcome back service

Wed 9th 10.15am Holy Communion
 Thu 10th 7.30pm Community Choir term starts



Sunday 13th Trinity 15

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion
 5.00pm Choral Evensong: Preacher Revd Andrew
 Thomas, Rural Dead, Tavistock and Rector
 West Dartmoor Mission Community

Mon 14th *Holy Cross Day*
 7.30pm PCC meeting with the Archdeacon

Wed 16th 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 17th 7.30pm Community Choir

Sat 19th 7.30pm Hampstead Players 50th Anniversary Gala – see
 Page 23

19th – 26th National Retreat Week – see page 29

national retreat week
renew:all
 19 – 26 sept 2026

¹ Full details of the Sermon series, Lessons from History: Past and Future, can be found on posters around the church and in the weekly eletters.

Sunday 20th Trinity 16

- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion
5.00pm Choral Evensong: Preacher Rt Revd Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon and Acting Bishop of Southwark

Sept 21st – Oct 4th Fairtrade Fortnight



Mon 21st *Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

7.30pm PCC meeting

Wed 23rd 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 24th 7.30pm Community Choir

Sat 26th 10.00am Church cleaning.

All most welcome to help!



Sunday 27th Trinity 17

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Choral Holy Communion

5.00pm Choral Evensong: Preacher Canon Clement Hutton-Mills, Trustee of Westcott House and Managing Director At Goldman Sachs

Tue 29th *Michael and all Angels*

Wed 30th 10.15am Holy Communion



The Sermon series continues with The Very Reverend Jessica Martin, Dean of Chelmsford on 4th October and The Reverend Dr Ellen Clark-King, Dean of King's College London on 11th.

From the Churchwardens

For many of us, September is closely associated with the new academic year, making a fresh start, and a time to take up new challenges, possibly a little outside our comfort zone.

As a church community, we may feel a little outside our comfort zone right now too, in the absence of a Vicar to lead our worship and be among us in the joys and the difficult times. A vacancy period, when we are without a Vicar, is however also a time for us to come together, to show kindness and support for one another and our church community, to value the contribution of each person, and to pray for one another and seek God's guidance in all that we do.

A number of you have asked about the procedure for appointing a new Vicar. We thought it might be helpful to explain a little of the process involved and the steps we will be taking over the coming months.

The appointment of our next Vicar will involve a number of individuals, including the Bishop of Edmonton, the Archdeacon of Hampstead, the Area Dean, representatives from the Patronage Board and two Parish Representatives. However, unlike a secular organisation, there are a number of stages in the process that we must first work through before the position is advertised and an appointing panel is convened. Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') attended training on unconscious bias earlier in the summer, which has been developed for the Diocese of London and is delivered at the start of a vacancy period. The Archdeacon, Fr John Hawkins, who is supporting us through the process, will meet with the PCC on 14 September to discuss the various stages, requirements and timeline in detail.

A vacancy is an opportunity for us all to reflect on where we are as a parish, to celebrate our mission and ministry and the areas of our church life that are flourishing, and also to recognise areas where we may be ready to change and grow. There will be an opportunity for everybody to be involved in this important process of discernment - and we encourage you, please, to get involved. Do look out for details

of our consultation process in the autumn. It is important we hear your thoughts and views as these will help inform the development of our Parish Profile - the prospectus that is shared with prospective candidates for the role of Vicar.

We will share relevant updates with you, over the coming months, but please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

There is much to look forward to at the start of September including 'Backpack Sunday' on 6 September (don't forget your school bags, work bags, shopping bags...); the return of our Senior Choir, Junior Choir and Junior Church groups; and the start of our six-week Sermon Series with visiting preachers.

And there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at church - we would love to hear from you if you would like to bring your time and talents to the church, or perhaps learn a new skill and make new friends in the process! Please speak to us or email Churchwardens@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

In the meantime, we thank you for your prayers for us as Churchwardens, for all PCC members and for our staff team.

Angela Gardner and Nick Walser

September

Judy East

Did you bask in the sun this summer? Or wilt in the heat? Do you dread the predicted stormy autumn or think “We need the rain”? Those of us who struggle to look after the graveyards are possibly a bit relieved that it hasn't been a good growing year. It's not quite as wild as it sometimes is as we approach autumn.

Inside the church has prospered rather better. We've welcomed a few new faces to the altar (and the congregation) and are immensely grateful for all the support we're receiving as the interregnum gets under way. We are in awe of the churchwardens who, in spite of

both having “day” jobs, are keeping the church running smoothly, and grateful to the volunteers who are helping with day-by-day opening, locking up and generally “being around”.

Which brings me neatly to the subject of **stewarding or “church sitting”**. It’s something we always used to do but like a lot of things it dried up during covid and somehow hasn’t started again. It’s not very onerous – just being in the church for an hour or two during the day to welcome visitors, really just to be a presence – it’s up to you whether you engage with them or not (and many of them just want a quiet space to sit). You can do it alone or in pairs/groups, bring a book, knit, pray. Of all the church jobs available this must be the easiest! Please let me know if you could offer an hour or two occasionally. It doesn’t have to be every week and we only anticipate going on for the next two or three months. The December diary is full and it’s not something anyone wants to do in the dead of winter.

And talking of December: As one way of using the building we’re starting a craft group on Monday afternoons in September, leading up to **The Christmas Café** on 5th December (it’s never too early to start making things to sell!) and will be plying our needles between about 2 and 4pm. More information from Elizabeth Beesley or Margaret Willmer after a service. And we might do some hassock and cassock mending while we’re there.

Meanwhile back to September and everything starting up again as the Churchwardens have outlined in their introduction above. All credit to our dedicated helpers, we have managed to maintain a creche through the summer, but it’ll be good to welcome the older children back to their groups. The choir are back the same week – we enjoyed the Community Choir one Sunday in August and revelled in a rare outing of Merbecke (a complete mystery to anyone who hasn’t been coming to HPC since – well, I’m not sure when - but a long time ago we always sang the Merbecke setting of the communion service) and we even managed one week without the organ. I think the heat got to it. The **Hampstead Collective** aren’t starting up yet but “Watch this space” – they will be back. There are initial plans for the **Night Shelter** – please see Andrew’s article further on and think about what you could do to help – anything from washing the sheets to staying overnight with the guests. And the **Hampstead Players** celebrate

50 years of entertaining us in church and crypt. We look forward to joining them on 19th. And a final shout-out to the cleaning team who meet on Saturday 26th and as always would welcome a few more helpers to wield broom and duster.

A busy autumn ahead!

PCC REPORT

Helen Taylor, PCC Secretary

Archdeacon's Visitation – New PCC Members – Contribution To The Diocesan Common Fund – Renewal Of Investment Policy – Communion Administrants

On 9 June 2026, the PCC met with our Archdeacon, Fr John Hawkins, as part of his triennial Visitation. This was a valuable opportunity to reflect on our local mission, celebrate our growth as a church and share perspectives on our challenges.

This was followed by a regular meeting of the PCC on 29 June 2026. The meeting elected three candidates as members of the PCC to fill casual vacancies arising from the increased number on our Electoral Roll following the recent annual review: Diana Finning, Ony Ogodazi and Helen Perry. In addition, the PCC co-opted Peter Ginnings (with a specific brief to support the choir vestry refurbishment project), and Ogechi Anodu (one of our volunteer junior church leaders).

We agreed to contribute £106,764 to the London Diocese's Common Fund for 2027, which pays for clergy stipends and housing costs and other central support services for all parishes in the Diocese. This pledge matches the amount requested by the Archdeacon and is the same contribution we made last year.

After reviewing an investment policy statement circulated in advance to PCC members, we approved the renewal of the PCC's investment policy with a few minor changes as recommended by the Finance Committee. This policy aims to preserve the real value of investments

in property and pooled investment funds to provide an asset base on which borrowings can be secured to support major improvements. The PCC reaffirmed the suitability of a number of people to serve as communion ministrants ahead of seeking the renewal of their permissions from the Bishop. It was also noted that both the bread and wine can be administered by authorised lay ministrants.

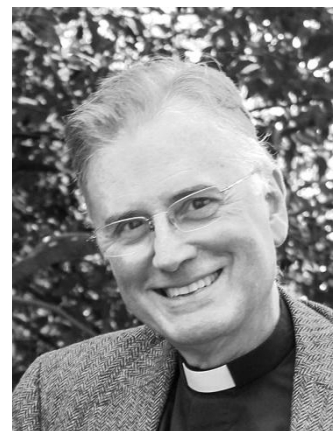
As this was Mthr Carol's last PCC meeting, she was thanked for her ministry to us and attention was drawn to the arrangements made for clergy cover during the first few months of the Vacancy.

The pre-section 11 meeting with the Archdeacon is scheduled for 14 September 2026, and the PCC's next regular meeting will be on Monday 21 September 2026.

Stephen Tucker RIP

Rt Revd Peter Wheatley

'Peace I leave with you. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not let them be afraid.' These are the words of Our Lord, but, as chosen by Stephen, they are words he addresses to us all, especially to Claire, Cameron and Alex. Fr Jim Walters, Stephen's former curate, says 'He always took such care over funerals. He was at his best.' So it is now when he has prepared his own funeral.



Sister Marion Fry speaks of Stephen as 'intensely present', his capacity to focus his attention fully on the person speaking to him, and with what Sister Rosalind calls 'the warmth with which he related to us all': warm friendly and generous. Sister says 'he was an interesting preacher and a good teacher who related well to people of very different interests.' That was characteristic throughout his life. It made him a good parish priest in Portsmouth, Brighton and Hampstead; Professor Ian Bradley recalls that they were undergraduates together going to university Borstal camps. Stephen related well to the Borstal lads when they camped together for a week.

He later enjoyed taking parties of students to the university chalet in the French Alps. He did this for years after he had ceased to be Chaplain at New College and ended up as a Trustee of the Chalet.

Throughout his ministry Stephen was teaching, particularly his six years at Chichester Theological College, similarly as Chaplain and Dean of Divinity at New College, Oxford, and five years overseeing the ongoing education of clergy ministering in parishes. It was at New College that he felt the need to develop his own commitment to pastoral care and undertook a postgraduate course in Counselling. A number of people cite Stephen's erudition, his voracious reading and wide appreciation of music and the arts as gifts of God, all combined with a deep pastoral commitment.

In helping with the ongoing education and development of the clergy, Stephen found us clergy frustrating, while valuing his parish in Ovingdean; and so he applied to be Vicar of St John at Hampstead. The Diocese's interviewing panel was far too large and the previous interview had not gone well, with different people having their own interests to promote. Stephen was the next person to be interviewed and again the conduct of the interview was not flowing well. After about five minutes Stephen gave one of his twinkling smiles and said, 'Would it help if I asked you some questions?' From there on he was really in charge. He was his own person.

People cite his 'serenity'. That was perhaps a hard won gift. The Church of England does not value as she should her single, celibate priests. Stephen at times found such singleness difficult. He sought the counsel of others and at all times he was rooted in prayer. Cameron cites him saying, 'Asking me not to say mass is like asking me not to breathe'. He greatly valued his long association with the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Cross Tymawr as an Associate, and for some years was their Warden.

It is very appropriate that we meet today on the Feast of Our Lord's Transfiguration. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up Mount Tabor to pray. As he prays, he is transfigured. His face shines like the sun and his clothes become a dazzling whiteness. He is seen conversing with two great prophets, Moses and Elijah, and we are told his disciples 'saw his glory'. 'Glory' is what describes God in the Old Testament. God's creation of the world reveals his glory. Psalm 19 begins 'The

heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands,' Christ's glory is seen in his acceptance of the path of suffering, confirmed by the voice from heaven. In the encounter with the ancient prophets we see that the living and the departed are one with Christ. We see that the old covenant of divine wellbeing and the new covenant of love are inseparable. We see that the Cross and Christ's glory are one. We see that the age to come is anticipated, and that as Christ's brothers and sisters our destiny is glory.

Perhaps in death we too are transfigured, 'being in God's presence more fully than we have ever known in this life'. Stephen himself wrote, 'In his presence we shall know ourselves as he knows us.' Stephen in retirement continued to teach, helping to run thoughtful conferences on Catholicity and 'Death be not proud.' Stephen writes:

'A creator God is surely capable of recreating us in some form where we have self-consciousness and memory. A loving creator would not choose to see his work destroyed.

'Judgment means looking at the whole story of our lives through God's eyes, with God's compassion, mercy, truthfulness and justice. And if we take responsibility for the whole story of our lives and accept God's forgiveness and his love, then 'death shall have no dominion over us', and we shall rest in the presence of God.'

May Stephen rest in God's presence and rise with him in glory. Amen

Solomon, Mustard and Yeast

A sermon preached by Andrew Penny

We are not exactly in the position of the young Solomon at Gibeon but we do, as a parish, stand at a point of change and perhaps, renewal, and a few reflections are in order about where we should be going; about what matters - and perhaps what should matter - in our parish life; and so, about what sort of leader we want as our next Vicar.

We are not "little children" as Solomon calls himself - although he's old enough to have married Pharaoh's daughter recently. Collectively, I hope we as a parish, are beyond teenage turmoil, but not beyond

considering and debating what Christian maturity might mean for us. This interregnum is surely a fitting time to do so.

Wealth and fame as opposed to wisdom may seem rather remote concepts when considering parish life and they are of course presented in our reading almost in caricature terms which make them seem rather far from any choices we as a parish may be facing.

Wisdom is, however, very much a current and endangered idea. In Isaiah and elsewhere Wisdom is seen as standing by God as he creates the world, and the link between cosmography - or the way creation works - and morality, is a common theme in the Old Testament. The basis of our ethics is a consciousness that we are fellow creatures both with our animate neighbours and in the inanimate world around us. Equally it is greed and envy - the bedfellows of excessive wealth and the desire for the fame it may bring - that lie at the heart of much unethical behaviour or unrighteousness.

This is not an abstract debate, but one of huge practical significance before us now. The leaders of the most powerful nation in the world have put the pursuit of wealth as their guiding principle. Respect for the natural world, and indeed much of the human world, is a dangerous distraction from the pursuit of that objective. We are not free of this pernicious trend. Distressingly, for example, university recruiters encourage young adults to make choices pursuing wealth over wisdom. "Come to university to earn more" - not to be wise; it's a message as illusory as it is immoral.

There are other implications of wisdom and wealth that may be relevant - and challenging - for us as a parish. First, wisdom is something which comes gradually and grows slowly taking in ever wider considerations; wealth and fame are usually the objects of urgent desire; the fashion is to get rich quick but both wealth and fame are inevitably ephemeral; sooner or later they fade. In our desire for easy answers and instant gratification, we miss the full potential of what we, as humans made in the image of God, may be.

Wealth and fame also have an introspective aspect to them; they generate both admiration and envy from others, even if that is not the intention of the wealthy individuals or famous communities. Wisdom on the other hand is extrovert; the truly wise choices are those that

will promote the happiness (or reduce the unhappiness) of everyone - not just ourselves.

These observations about wisdom versus wealth, may, I hope, assist our thinking, not because either is likely to be an express objective for the parish and guidance for any priest seeking to lead us, but because whether we look in on ourselves or look out to the world and whether we look for short term solutions or longer perhaps harder but solider answers, should be a major influence on our thinking.

By happy coincidence this is also the message - or one of them - in our Gospel reading. These odd comparisons of a mustard seed and a small amount of yeast are not immediately obvious ways of looking at the Kingdom of Heaven; however I take the point of them to be that even small attempts to establish the Kingdom have effects and influence beyond the expected.

A little easy research reveals that Jesus is not here talking about the bushes which produce the mustard we might put on our ham sandwich. The standard mustard bush is about a metre tall and would not bear many birds for long. The mustard tree however is a substantial if not huge tree on which birds might easily perch and it's common in dry areas such as much of the middle east. Its seed is indeed tiny compared to the tree.

Yeast or leaven is generally seen as a bad thing in the Bible. This has always surprised me as I make our bread and love the smell of yeast making my dough rise. I'm also quite keen on fermented grape juice. I suppose yeast is thought bad as it could be seen as corrupting the pure dough of just flour and water or making the freshly pressed juice of grapes fizzy and sour. But as that corruption, in the end, has such delicious results, it's odd to see it as bad. And in this parable, it is not bad.

The point of both parables is that even tiny amounts of kindness and love, even the smallest attempts to establish justice and peace, can ripple out promoting growth and invigorating a community as it does a huge quantity of dough. This is however a natural miracle which takes time, as it takes time for the mustard tree to grow. We should not expect instant results; although in fact even the slightest kind gesture can have a remarkable effect.

The lesson for us as a parish now is that our decisions and our policies and the leader whom we choose to help us bring them into effect may seem, well, parochial and introspective, but in fact will have influence and implications well beyond our own experience. They may take time to mature but we are not dealing with the ephemeral but the eternal - whatever that really means. It's a daunting challenge, but equally an encouragement. Our deliberations matter, and if we get them right, they will grow like the mustard tree and rise like a magnificent loaf of fragrant bread. Amen



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Roman Catholic Church in 2015, and in 2019 started celebrating the Season of Creation as well.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts on 1st September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

You can find out more on their website seasonofcreation.org where they have a range of resources.



C4WS Cold Weather Shelter at Hampstead Parish Church 7th November to 16th January

Andrew Penny

We shall again be hosting the shelter for up to sixteen homeless people on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings in November, December and half of January next year, and I am again asking for volunteers to help.

As before there are numerous tasks and something for everyone to do, specifically:

- Setting up the beds (getting out the mattresses and fitting sheets, stuffing duvets and pillows) and laying the table for dinner. Especially suitable for young families. (From c.5pm to 6.30pm)
- Cooking a dish for dinner and bringing it along on the night
- Welcoming the guests and acting as hosts for the evening (6.30pm to 9pm)
- Washing up, which involves minimal guest contact (8pm to 9pm)
- Staying overnight - preferably a man and a woman needed but at a pinch two men. You sleep on mattresses like the guests but separate from them. (9pm to 7am)

- Preparing and serving a continental breakfast on Sunday morning (7am to 8.30am)
- Clearing up breakfast, stripping the beds and stowing the mattresses (c. 8.30am to 9.30am) and
- Washing the sheets etc and bringing them back by the following Saturday afternoon

Some of these activities have separate rotas (and I am not certain yet who may be organising them) so if you are able to help, please let me know initially andrewpenny1955@gmail.com or 07754 833 631 (the landline given in previous parish magazines etc is now defunct)

I would especially like to hear from any of you who are computer savvy and prepared to help with organising the main rota and also, any of you who have volunteered before and could be in charge for an evening or morning to give me a weekend off. I can provide a full briefing!

Thank you

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Music Notes ~ September 2026

Geoffrey Webber

This month we welcome not one but two new altos to our professional choir. At Sunday morning services our new regular alto will be Lucy Gibbs. She has sung with us on a few occasions in the past, but having been based abroad over the last year or so, she is now back in the UK, and is currently a '2026 Rising Star of Voice' at the Edinburgh International Festival. At Sunday evening services our new regular alto alongside Jess will be Eleriin Müüripeal. Eleriin is Estonian, and a graduate of the Sibelius Academy in Finland, recently moved to London. At the organ this month we will have two visiting organists: Francesca Massey returns, and we welcome Joshua Simões, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music who has recently won the 2026 Musicians' Company Award for Organists. (Our Organ Recital Series is currently suspended until we appoint a new Organist.)

Our sermon series this year has the general theme 'lessons from history', and our anthems will pick up on aspects of this, mainly

through texts from the Book of Psalms. The anthem *O how amiable are thy dwellings* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (Sunday 6th) ends with the first verse of the hymn 'O God our help in ages past', whilst the setting of verses from Psalms 78 and 103 by Heinrich Schütz (Sunday 13th) involve a similar theme. In Edward Bairstow's magnificent anthem *Lord thou hast been our refuge*, (Sunday 20th or 27th) with words from Psalms 90, 103 and 144, the memorable opening text is given special emphasis through repetition.

Our year-long exploration of the music of Charles Wood (d. 1926) continues with another of his Communion Services, that in C minor, composed in his *stile antico* idiom with no independent organ part. This month we sing two contrasted settings of the evening canticles by former Chichester Cathedral organist Thomas Weelkes (d. 1623). His 'Short Service' is indeed short (we are singing a longer anthem) but full of character, alternating between the two sides of the choir as was typical in this idiom. His 'Service for Trebles' is a more extended setting with an independent organ part, and the title refers not so much to the matter of who was to sing the top line, but to its unusually high tessitura, recalling the pre-Reformation style of choral writing in which the boys routinely sang the top two lines of the standard 5-voiced texture, the lower part called in Latin *Medius* (in English *Mean*) and the top part *Triplex* (Treble), the latter famously described retrospectively in 1636 as a 'high, clear voice'.

Hugh Blair was Organist of Worcester Cathedral at the end of the nineteenth century, where he famously encouraged local musician Edward Elgar to compose his Organ Sonata, and conducted the first performance of Verdi's Requiem at the Three Choirs Festival. He struggled with the authorities during his time at the Cathedral and appears to have left prematurely when the (unknown) last straw occurred on return from his honeymoon. He became organist at a fashionable London church (not Hampstead, but Holy Trinity Marylebone - the now redundant church very similar in style to Marylebone Parish Church close by on the Marylebone Road beyond the Royal Academy of Music), and became involved in various musical activities in London. His most famous church composition is his setting of the evening canticles - Blair in B Minor (partly re-written by his Worcester successor Atkins) - but he published many other fine

service settings including the Communion Service in G which we perform on Sunday 27th.

Finally, the main music chosen for the service at which we remember former vicar Revd Stephen Tucker was requested by him (20th or 27th September TBA): Howells & Ireland.

Music List

Sunday 6 September – 14th Sunday of Trinity

10.30 am. All-Age Holy Communion

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

Introit Hymn 580

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Messa a quattro voci* L. G. da Viadana

Gradual Psalm 119.33-40 tone viii/1

Offertory Hymn 513

Communion Motet *Adoramus te, Christe* Giuseppe Corsi

Post-Communion Hymn 528

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

5 pm. Choral Evensong

Organ Prelude *Prelude in D-sharp minor* Otto Olsson

Introit *A Prayer of King Henry VI* Henry Ley

Preces William Child

Psalm 108 Robert Ashfield

Canticles *Evening Service (Coll. Magd. Oxon.)* Kenneth Leighton

Responses after the Creed after William Child

Anthem *O how amiable are thy dwellings* Ralph Vaughan Williams

Hymn 352

Final Amen Basil Harwood

Organ Postlude *Fugue in D-sharp minor* Otto Olsson

Sunday 13 September – 15th Sunday of Trinity

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Andante* (Sonata no. 1 in C-sharp minor) Harwood

Introit Hymn 508

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in A flat* Basil Harwood

Gradual Psalm 103.1-13 tone viii/2

Offertory Hymn 575

Communion Motet *Tota pulchra es* Charles Gounod
Post-Communion Hymn 555 (iii)
Organ Postlude *Prelude in G major* (BWV 541) J. S. Bach

5 pm. Choral Evensong

Organ Prelude *Praeludium in D minor* (SSWV 576) Samuel Scheidt
Introit *Hör, mein Volk, mein Gesetz und Weis* Heinrich Schütz
Preces William Child
Psalm 119.41-56 Pye / Walmisley
Canticles *Evening Service for Trebles* Thomas Weelkes
Responses after the Creed after William Child
Anthem *Lobe den Herren, meine Seele* (SWV 39) Heinrich Schütz
Hymn 351
Final Amen Basil Harwood
Organ Postlude *Te lucis ante terminum* Hieronymus Praetorius

Sunday 20 September – 16th Sunday of Trinity

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Celtic Melody* Geoffrey O'Connor-Morris
Introit Hymn 570
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in C minor* Charles Wood
Gradual Psalm 145.1- 8 tone vii/5
Offertory Hymn 393
Communion Motet *Prayer to Jesus* George Oldroyd
Post-Communion Hymn 537
Organ Postlude *Paeon* (Plainsong Preludes, No. 2) Alec Rowley

5 pm. Choral Evensong (Some music may be transferred to Sunday 27th)

Organ Prelude *A Ground* William Byrd
Introit *Iustorum animae* William Byrd
Preces William Child
Psalm 119.121-136 Buck / Walford Davies
Canticles *Evening Service (Collegium Regale)* Herbert Howells
Responses after the Creed after William Child
Anthem *Greater love* John Ireland
Hymn 565 (onit *)
Final Amen Basil Harwood

Organ Postlude *Fancy in D minor* William Byrd

Sunday 27 September – 17th Sunday of Trinity

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Adoration* Florence Price

Introit Hymn 181

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in G* Hugh Blair

Gradual Psalm 25.1-8 tone i/I

Offertory Hymn 492

Communion Motet *O for a closer walk with God* Charles Stanford

Post-Communion Hymn 400

Organ Postlude *'Little' Fugue in G minor* (BWV 578) J. S. Bach

5 pm. Choral Evensong (Some music may be transferred to Sunday 20th)

Organ Prelude *Canzona* (Sonata for Organ) Percy Whitlock

Introit *Jesu, the very thought of thee* Edward Bairstow

Preces William Child

Psalm 124 William Harris

Canticles *The Short Service* Thomas Weelkes

Responses after the Creed after William Child

Anthem *Lord, thou hast been our refuge* Edward Bairstow

Hymn 603

Final Amen Basil Harwood

Organ Postlude *Hymn-Prelude on 'King's Lynn'* Percy Whitlock

Aidan Coburn *Director of the Junior & Community Choirs*

Geoffrey Webber *Director of Music*

The Hampstead Collective will be starting again soon –
Look out for posters and leaflets

The Hampstead Players at 50

Saturday 19th September

The year-long celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of The Hampstead Players continue on the evening of Saturday 19th September when a group of past and present Players – both longstanding and new – will be putting on a programme of scenes, monologues, songs, and memories from past productions drawn from the last fifty years.

Little did Graham Dowell, the then Vicar, and his wife Sue know what a rich tapestry of amateur drama they were setting in motion when they decided to put on a play in Hampstead Parish Church for the first time in 1976. Much has followed in the intervening period since the very first productions of *The Fall and Redemption of Man* and *The Lark* through to this year's acclaimed summer production of *Emma* and the eagerly awaited forthcoming autumn production of *The Winter's Tale* (from 26th to 28th November).

As Bill Risebero noted in his aptly scripted piece for the April edition of the church magazine, the Players have “changed and developed over time without losing sight of their origins in religious drama” delivering a rich and varied range of works from Shakespeare to Chekhov, from Brecht to Stoppard, from Wilde to Arthur Miller to name but a few. The group's important and sustained contribution to the local church community and the community at large has seemingly stood the test of time as hundreds of appreciative audience members continue to make their way through the welcoming doors of Hampstead Parish Church year on year.

This one night only showcase provides the perfect opportunity to recreate some memorable moments and recall with fondness some excellent performances and talented performers as the group endeavours to capture the essence of what has led Wikipedia to describe The Hampstead Players as a “notable amateur theatre group in north London”. It promises to be an evening of splendid entertainment and all are very welcome to join us for this special celebratory event.

The steadfast support and encouragement of successive Vicars in recognising the invaluable role that The Hampstead Players play in

helping to support the church's mission in the local community has been instrumental in the group's record of longevity and success. Long may this association continue – and flourish! It seems entirely appropriate that the 50th anniversary celebrations will come to a formal close with a special Thanksgiving Evensong in church on Sunday 22nd November.

The Fall and Redemption of Man The Lark Events in an Upper Room JB The Miracle Worker A Man for All Seasons Children Green and Golden A Phoenix Too Frequent / Shadow Anastasia Abelard and Heloise The Diary of Anne Frank Under Milk Wood The Love of Four Colonels The Crucible Whose Life is it Anyway? Waters of the Moon And A Little Love Besides Twelfth Night Uncle Vanya Wakefield Mystery Plays A Midsummer Night's Dream Candelight Theatre: The Seven Deadly Sins Separate Tables Candelight Theatre: Sackcloth and Ashes As You Like It George Herbert Readings The Importance of Being Earnest Murder in the Cathedral Christ in the Concrete Guy Rose Slipper The Winslow Boy A Separate Peace Wilbur The Linden Tree Next Time I'll Sing to You Follow the Star 1745 And All That John Keats Love Letters The Scout's Secret Measure for Measure Oedipus at Colonus The Merchant of Venice The Taming of the Shrew Anne Frank Macbeth Overlord Richard III All My Sons A Midsummer Night's Dream The Mystery Plays Shakespeare's Kings Andronicus Titus Andronicus Julius Caesar A Tale of Two Cities The Merchant of Venice Paradise Lost Twelfth Night The Caucasian Chalk Circle We Happy Few Murder in the Cathedral Musica Sacra The Merchant of Venice The Sacred Flame Antony and Cleopatra An Ideal Husband The Winter's Tale Fiddler on the Roof Under Milk Wood Waiting for Godot A Woman of No Importance Arsenic and Old Lace As You Like It The Cherry Orchard The Food of Love The Way of the Cross Alls Well the Ends Well The Lamps are Going Out The Man Born to be King Richard II Pride and Prejudice Dangerous Corner The Alchemist Forty Years On The Way of the Cross The Glory of the Garden The Government Inspector The Dream of the Rood Macbeth The Importance of Being Earnest The Importance of Being Earnest Much Ado About Nothing Blithe Spirit Measure for Measure My Fair Lady Evensong and Upper Churchyard The Merchant of Venice The Merchant of Venice Pity Peace Blue Stockings Cyrano de Bergerac The Importance of Being Earnest the musicals Emma A Literary Hour

Celebrating The Hampstead Players at 50

Saturday 19th September 2026 at 7.30pm
Free but donations are welcome

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 Registered Charity No: 288012



Jane Austen's Emma

Adapted for the stage by Alice Lambert

Review – Judy East

I should start by admitting I've never warmed to Emma Woodhouse but I suspect I'm not alone in that – Jane Austen herself said she was creating “a heroine whom no one but myself will much like”. She strikes me as rather a silly woman, trifling with Harriet's feelings, teasing Jane Fairfax, as well as her obvious slighting of Miss Bates in order to attract Frank Churchill. What does Mr Knightley see in her? But Leila Lockley's sparking performance quite won me over. This Emma could easily become the wife Knightley wanted. Nor was she lacking in support as she developed. Harriet, bouncy, emotional, easily swayed perhaps but clearly good at heart, Yasmin Clare Jamshidi played her to perfection. Jane Fairfax, the subject of so much of the plot, is rather a shadowy figure, but Lucrezia Phifer gave her a gentle grace and simplicity and her poignant longing to be alone went straight to the heart. And the reason she needed to be alone? Here once again Angela Gardner shone – the bouncy, enthusiastic Miss Bates, always overcompensating for her loss of status in society and hiding her hurt at Emma's thoughtlessness.

But what of the men? The aforementioned Mr Knightley, another excellent performance from Jake Berry who powered through Cyrano de Bergerac last year; benign Mr Weston (Geoff Prutton), querulous Mr Woodhouse (a delightful cameo from David Gardner), Colin Holland as Mr Elton, obviously a great favourite with the audience, was much less objectionable than is often portrayed, and was all the better for it. And Frank Churchill - on whom so much of the story hangs. One wonders what Jane's life with him will be like. And Clovis Parker-Jervis contributed to that unease. If I fail to mention some of the smaller parts it's not for any lack of ability but merely want of space. No performance is complete unless everyone pulls together – and they did.

“Never act with children or animals” – the Hampstead Players have had dogs, and even a cat in their shows, but never, I think, a baby. And, yes, she stole the show. Lily Day-Williams, daughter of two members

of the Players so no doubt acting is in her blood, regarded the audience with cool indifference and drew every eye to her. I'm told Phoebe Lambert-Wise was equally enchanting at the Saturday performances.

Costumes, as ever, were excellent – it's always difficult to dress a show set in such a particular period but Emma Wingfield pulled it off. The set, too, was simple but effective.

None of this would have worked, of course, without Alice Lambert's excellent adaptation and, with Sheena Craig, direction.

But if I applaud the production – and I do – for the standard of the acting, the work that goes into each event, the writing, the casting and so on, yet I do have one slightly less enthusiastic observation:

Sightlines. I don't know if it's church policy that doesn't allow for the stage being put up for the summer production but it's a pity because so much was completely hidden – every time anyone sat down they disappeared from the view of most of the audience. The carriage scene – cleverly devised at the top of the steps - was all the more effective for actually being visible! Because I go back a very long way with the Hampstead Players I can remember when both the year's performances (one in the spring and one in the autumn) were with the stage. A thought for the future? Please?

But all in all the Hampstead Players, in their 50th year, have shown how much they've learnt and how professionally they've maintained their approach to “doing plays in church”.

The Asra Hawariat School, Ethiopia

Extracts from their Annual Report for 2025

The Asra Hawariat School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is a non-fee paying, non-religious and non-political voluntary organisation that for decades has worked with the poorest children and their families to

provide an education as a route out of poverty. Since its foundation in 1961 by Asfaw Yemiru, an inspirational leader and educator, the school has educated over 140,000 children. Asfaw died in May 2021



and his wife Senayet Aklilu and her staff are working hard to maintain standards in the schools and carry forward Asfaw's vision. For the past 35 years the Asra Hawariat School Fund has been the sole overseas funder of this work.

Much has changed in Ethiopia. There is an emerging middle class and government education has, in some areas, caught up with the Asra Hawariat School. Where the Asra Hawariat remains unique is in its small classes, open and attractive campuses, a strong emphasis on educating girls, high levels of parental and alumni involvement and excellent exam results. The inspirational legacy of Asfaw still inspires the school and the local community – indeed, it seems to grow with each passing year. This gives the school significant leeway and security.

To date the political upheavals in various parts of the country have not impacted the school directly, although there is much discontent around the city. High inflation is to some extent offset by exchange rate fluctuations – devaluation of the Birr in July 2024 has helped this Fund's contribution go further.

The School

This academic year (2025/26) the school catered for 1053 children, with 56 teaching staff.

The school follows the national curriculum (which has recently been revised), with greater emphasis placed on English Language, Science and Maths. The school passed a Ministry of Education inspection, but has been asked to upgrade some of the facilities, most notably a new toilet block on the 'Old Land'. This has now been completed, with a total of 18 units (eight male, eight female and two disabled). To ensure a reliable water supply, not least to the new toilet block, a borehole has been drilled and is now on tap. One of the classroom blocks, built many years ago out of wood and mud, was in danger of collapse and was condemned by the Ministry of Education. It has since been replaced.

The school participated in the Science and Innovation Exhibition organised by Addis Ketama Sub-City, alongside five other schools. Our

students showcased their projects, and in recognition of their work the school was awarded a first place certificate. They also achieved a 98% pass rate in national exams.

The school places great emphasis on parental involvement, with regular meetings between them and the wider community. New students are selected on the basis of socio-economic need; the process is supervised by a committee of staff and representatives of the wider community.

Alumni

One of the highlights of the past few years has been the increasing role played by some of the school's alumni, who have been contributing books for the school library, as well as taking additional science classes on a Saturday morning. As young professionals they are very hands-on in supporting and advising the school administration in their efforts to implement and advance our Founder's vision for the 21st century.

School clubs

There are several lively and educational school clubs, including Health and Sanitation Club, Literature Drama and Music, Girls' Club, Sports, Arts, Debating, Environmental Protection and Beautification. Sports have received a renewed emphasis with the completion of a new sports field.

Funding

The school budget for 2025/26 means that the Fund is now committed to sending £7,500 monthly out to the school. Inflation is high in the country, and salaries for teachers and other staff were recently raised by 30% and may soon have to be raised again. These figures only cover the current day-to-day running costs of the schools. As outlined above the Fund will be facing additional demands to improve both the infrastructure of the schools (such as the new toilet block and classrooms) but also to maintain and improve educational standards.

How can you help?

- Consider supporting us with a one-off donation or monthly gift

- Nominate us as your workplace, church or school 'Charity of the Year'
- Fundraise through sponsorship or an organised event
- Make an online donation through our website or via Charities' Aid Foundation: tinyurl.com/AHSchoolFund

Asra Hawariat School Fund

7 Meadow Grove, Crawfordsburn, Bangor, Co. Down, BT19 1JL,
Northern Ireland, UK

Email: asrahawariat@btinternet.com

national retreat week
renew:all
19 – 26 sept 2026

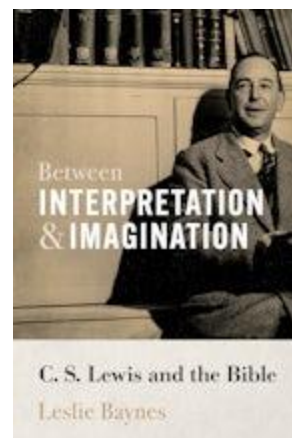
An initiative of The Royal Foundation of St Katharine's

- We are all busy juggling everyday life and it can be difficult to take time out to reflect, contemplate or pray.
 - Taking time out to pause, breathe and reset the rhythm of our lives is invaluable. Let's say it's a retreat to go forward... a time to trust in God more, to nourish your soul, a chance to check-in with your life's direction, to look afresh and to renew:all.
 - National Retreat Week is a call to be intentional about finding and setting that time – alone or with others – whether during the week itself or at any time throughout the year. We produce resources with experienced retreat leaders, and share other ideas and inspiration from across Christian traditions to help you do that.
 - Go to Renewal.org.uk for ideas about using your time, whether at home or at a retreat centre. You can sign up for email reminders each day during the Week or look up the resources at other times to suit you. And find us on Instagram and Facebook too.
-

Book of the Month

Between Interpretation & Imagination: C.S. Lewis and the Bible by Leslie Baynes: Published by Eerdmans

In this highly original study, New Testament scholar Leslie Baynes illuminates C. S. Lewis' writing on the Bible. She reveals never-before published notes Lewis wrote in his own books that offer unique insight into his thinking on Scripture, and she identifies the figures who shaped his approach to biblical interpretation: Charles Gore, James Moffatt, George MacDonald, Austin Farrer, and more.



While sympathetic to Lewis' work, Baynes uncovers problems, too. These hinge upon his understanding of the Gospel of John as evidenced by essays like "Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism" and the "Liar, Lunatic, Lord" argument. The controversies Lewis takes up in these arguments encompass fundamental questions in Christian thought, and his responses to them have formed the minds of his readers for generations. At the same time, Baynes highlights the subtle beauty of his use of Scripture in the Chronicles of Narnia, arguing that Lewis' most glorious writing emerges when he eschews academic biblical scholarship and relies instead on his greatest strength - his literary imagination.

Telegraph Pole Appreciation Day, 21 September

You couldn't make it up – but someone did!

As we go about our daily business, it's sometimes easy not to notice the hidden beauty around us, even in the most mundane things. Take telegraph poles for instance. These functional structures are seen by most of us everyday day, but they are almost invisible to our consciousness.

So why not take a moment and appreciate the functionality and design of everyday things, starting with telegraph poles?

From ACE

Autumn

The morns are meeker than they were,
The nuts are getting brown;
The berry's cheek is plumper,
The rose is out of town.
The maple wears a gayer scarf,
The field a scarlet gown.
Lest I should be old-fashioned,
I'll put a trinket on.

Emily Dickinson

Meditation

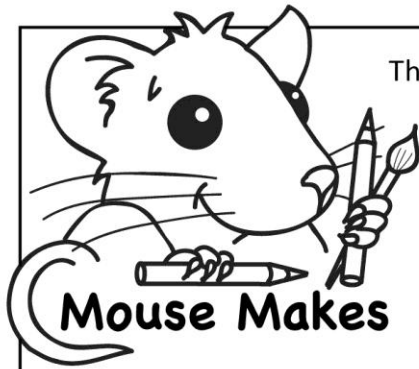
Cows get it about right,
Unhurried pace and gentle curiosity,
The natural rhythms of their day,
Giving them ample time to chew things over.
We could do worse than stand around like cows.

Ann Lewin

Resurrection

There are times when,
All being darkness and loss,
There is nothing for it
But to pick up your cross
And dance with it.

Ann Lewin



The New Testament has **four gospels**, **twenty one epistles** and the book of *Revelation*.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...



Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.

How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?

.....

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

Which are the longest epistles?

.....

.....

How many chapters do they have?

.....

DID YOU KNOW...?

At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls

Which is the shortest epistle?

.....

How many chapters does it have?

.....

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

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON
HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE

Looking ahead

October

Sunday 11th Harvest Thanksgiving

Sat 24th Daylight Saving Time: Clocks go back an hour

November

Sunday 1st All Saints Day

Sat 7th Night Shelter starts

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

Sat 14th Come and Sing Requiem

Sunday 22nd Hampstead Players 50th anniversary Thanksgiving service

Thu 26th – Sat 28th Hampstead Players' autumn production of *A Winter's Tale*

December

Fri 4th Community Choir Christmas Lights concert

Sat 5th The Christmas Café

