

Hampstead Parish Church

Magazine for October 2026

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

Fr Jeremy Cavanagh
introduces himself

This month we celebrate
our **Dedication Festival**
but what does that
mean for us all?

**Churches Together in
Hampstead** are having
a Quiz Night

Music in October

The Hampstead
Collective are back

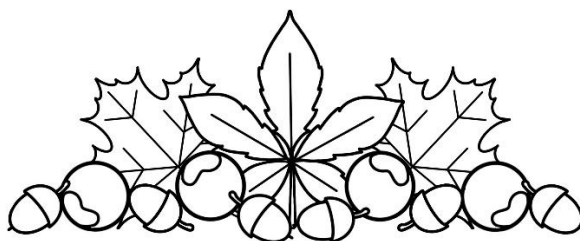
Charity News

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**C4WS Night Shelter
needs you!**

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The Children's



Hampstead Parish Church

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

Parish Office: 020 7794 5808 /
vestry@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk
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



Church Staff and Office holders

Churchwardens

Angela Gardner, Nicholas Walser
Churchwardens@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Treasurer

Inigo Woolf - treasurer@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Readers

Handley Stevens 020 7794 0874 -
handleystevens@yahoo.co.uk
Andrew Penny 07754 833 631
Andrewpenny1955@gmail.com

Director of Music

Geoffrey Webber - music@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Junior Choir Director

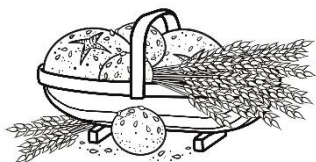
Aidan Coburn - aidan@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Administrator

Courtney Terwilliger -
Courtney@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

Magazine editor

Judy East - judy.east@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk



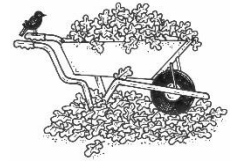
October 2026

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Diary for October

Thu 1st 7.30pm Community Choir
 Sat 3rd 10.00am Gardening group meets.
 All welcome



Sunday 4th Dedication Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion & Junior Church
 5.00pm Choral Evensong

Mon 5th 7.00pm The Hampstead Collective – see page 18
 Tue 6th 9.45am Parochial School Harvest service
 Wed 7th 10.15am Holy Communion
 Thu 8th 7.30pm Community Choir
 Sat 10th 7.30pm Churches Together Quiz Night at Emmanuel Church – see page 13 for details

Sunday 11th Harvest Thanksgiving & Blessing of the Animals

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



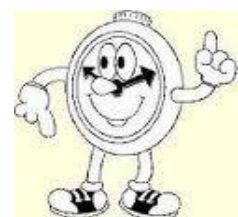
Wed 14th 10.15am Holy Communion
 Thu 15th 7.30pm Community Choir

Sunday 18th Luke the Evangelist

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



Wed 21st 10.15am Holy Communion
 Thu 22nd 7.30pm Community Choir



**Sat 24th British summertime ends –
 clocks go back an hour**

Sunday 25th Last after Trinity / Bible Sunday

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

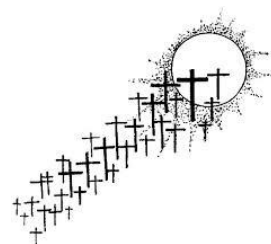
Wed 28th *Simon and Jude, Apostles*

10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 29th 7.30pm Community Choir

Sunday 1st November All Saints

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



From the Churchwardens

October is traditionally designated as our Dedication Month, commemorating the dedication of our present church on 8 October 1747. As we remember the dedication of the church building to the glory of God, we also remind ourselves of the many generations of worshippers who have gone before us, and who have dedicated themselves, their talents and their resources to the service of God in this place.

Another key word that we often highlight at this time of year is Stewardship. What do we mean by Stewardship? The basic idea is that we are stewards of the resources and traditions that have been entrusted to us by past generations, and have a duty to look after them and pass them on to those who follow after us. This fits neatly with the theme of Dedication, and makes this a good time to reflect on how each of us can play our part in maintaining and developing this Christian community of love and hope that is so precious to us.

Financial support is an important element of stewardship, and we are enormously grateful to those who organise our fundraising events or

give money to help us with the costs of running our regular church activities, which amount to almost £1,000 per day. We receive no funding from the State or the national Church, so money given by our congregation is vital for us to continue our mission and ministry.

Regular donations help us with budgeting and future planning, so if you are not already doing so please do consider setting up a monthly standing order for whatever you are able to afford, including Gift Aid if you are eligible. For more information, please speak to one of us or email treasurer@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk

However, stewardship is not just about money. That number of £1,000 per day would be much higher if we did not have dedicated teams of volunteers who freely give their time and their talents to support the church in so many ways. If you would be willing to help by joining one of those teams, you can find contact details on the last page of this magazine, or email vestry@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk to be put in touch with the relevant organiser.

We look forward to celebrating our Dedication Sunday this year on Sunday 4 October. This is followed on 11 October by our Harvest Festival, when we have an All Age Eucharist service to give thanks for all the good things that God has given us in this wonderful but vulnerable world, which we are looking after as stewards on behalf of future generations.

Nick Walser and Angela Gardner

Fr Jeremy writes

I want to introduce myself as I am starting as interim assistant curate at St John-at-Hampstead. I'll be presiding at services on Sundays as well as undertaking parish pastoral work during this time of the interregnum. This is to help St John-at-Hampstead be free to collectively concentrate on and prayerfully discern the way forward to your next vicar. I won't be leading any of this process, instead I am

here to be alongside everyone as a priest in our collective prayer with worship and pastoral life.

To tell you a bit about myself, I'm Australian but have lived most of my adult life in London with a career as an engineer having worked across various sectors including; telecoms, broadcasting and energy. During my career I discerned a vocation to the priesthood and after training at St Augustine's theological college in Kent I served as a curate and then as assistant priest in two parishes in Westminster; St Stephen's Rochester Row and St Saviour's, Pimlico.

However, I've been back down in Australia for the past eighteen months, first ministering as an assistant priest in an Anglican parish in the lovely city of Melbourne and then during this year as a locum priest-in-charge of two small but faithful inner-city parishes in Newcastle, NSW. Newcastle as a coal, steel and heavy industry centre shares many characteristics with its UK namesake including fabulous beaches, but beaches that have dolphins offshore and a yearly whale migration.

I'm very much looking forward to being at St John-at-Hampstead, it's a real privilege, and I look forward to getting to know everyone and being a priest amongst you. Do come up and introduce yourselves to me and tell me about life in the parish.

Fr Jeremy

October

Judy East

The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness isn't looking particularly fruitful or mellow yet (or even misty). Disappointing crops and dry earth have rather tended to wither than plump up the harvest. But for those of us who enjoy the heat - wasn't it a glorious summer? If I say it still seems to be lingering I know that by the time this magazine is

on the shelf there'll have been a drastic change and it'll be all wet and windy – so I won't say it.

But however unlikely it seems the autumn is really truly upon us – and along with it come all our traditional autumn celebrations. **Dedication Sunday** – about which the Churchwardens have written above, is our yearly reminder to rededicate ourselves and look at our giving, whether in money or in kind. Then there's **Harvest** - no details yet of whether we'll be collecting food but perhaps an opportunity to add one more item to our shopping baskets for a foodbank, or make an online donation to, maybe, Trussell, Kentish Town foodbank, Little Village – there are lots of alternatives.

Whatever the focus of the service Harvest is always a joyful occasion far removed as we are from field and furrow (well, OK, maybe some of us have a vegetable plot). The service will be followed by The Blessing of the Animals. We'll bless anything. I remember one year someone bringing a snail – it transpired it was a very rare Spanish snail, not your common English garden “don't eat my lettuce” snail but we didn't know that at the time.

Churches Together in Hampstead are holding one of their famous Quiz Nights on 10th – see poster further on. No need to book, just turn up on the night.

We're delighted to see the **Hampstead Collective** starting their season of concerts again on 5th October – not all in our church so check the venues. And taking a peek at November, note that the Come and Sing Requiem, (Mozart this year) is on 14th Nov. (the Saturday AFTER Remembrance not the day before).

October is, of course, **Black History Month**, which this year is celebrating its centenary. You can read more about that, and Barack Obama's visit to the UK, further on in this issue.

So autumn is in full swing and there's lots to look forward to!



My month in Calais

Sian Smith, C4WS Staff member

Sian Smith is one of the staff with C4WS. The trustees, her employers, gave her a month's leave last summer to stay in the refugee camps in and around Calais. This is her report intended for the trustees but, I believe, of general interest and reproduced here with her permission.

Andrew Penny, Trustee of C4WS

“Firstly, thank you for supporting me to go to Calais this summer, I found it both personally enriching and useful for working at C4WS.

A few bullet points about what I was doing in Calais and the things I learnt -

- I was volunteering with a charity called La Capuche Mobilisée who provide frontline humanitarian aid to people on the move in Calais
- The work there was split into two halves (1) work on ‘the field’ which are activities where the team are interacting with people on the move and (2) at the warehouse organising their stock of tents, sleeping bags and clothes. I spent my time split between the two.
- On ‘the field’ we did three different activities:
 - Driving out to informal living sites where people were rough sleeping to drop off and pick up laundry
 - Driving to living sites to distribute tents
 - Spending the afternoon at the main day centre to register people onto the tent waiting list – the day centre has a big playground area for football and music, where other charities including the Red Cross and MSF operate from.
- The most insightful and hardest part of being in Calais was understanding the political context, and experiences that people who stay in our shelter may have had whilst moving across different borders
 - The most challenging things to witness were the horrific overpolicing and violence against people rough sleeping at the border, with evictions of living sites and confiscations

of people's belongings daily, and the forced deportation of people to other parts of France by the French police

- It was also difficult attending the almost bi-weekly memorials of people who die while crossing the channel, whilst knowing that measures the French police are implementing in Calais make it harder for people to cross, forcing people to make riskier and more dangerous crossings.
- It was helpful on an organisational level, undertaking new trainings on working with vulnerable people and witnessing new team structures and ways of working. It's informed the safeguarding work I've been doing over the summer and introduced new ways of working including how we run our team meetings.
- Finally I've already made use of the connections I've made in Calais, being able to divert resources offered to C4WS to organisations in Calais."



Last Call for Volunteers!

The start of the Night Shelter season approaches and there are still slots to fill on the Volunteers' rota.

C4WS Cold Weather Shelter at Hampstead Parish Church

7th November to 16th January 2027

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

Naomi Davey and Rebecca Dodson have again very kindly agreed to organise the setting up and cooking rotas respectively, so if you can help with either (or both!) of those tasks please contact Naomi on ncdavey@gmail.com or WhatsApp 07870 575784 and Rebecca on rebeccakatebalcombe@hotmail.com * or (preferably) WhatsApp 07766 234886. NB Rebecca would rather not be telephoned as she works a night shift and may be trying to sleep.

If you are able to help in the other tasks, welcoming etc., please let me know initially with a copy to Rebecca who is also very kindly helping with the main rota at 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 have volunteered before and would be prepared to be in charge for an evening or morning to give me a weekend off. I can provide a full briefing!

*I misspelled Rebecca's email address in the previous notices; it should have an M not an N.

Thank you, Andrew Penny

Churches Together in Hampstead

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 10th October

Doors 7.00 for 7.30 start

At Emmanuel, West Hampstead

emmanuelnw6.com



Fundraising for

Children's Crisis Fund

cathchild.org.uk/crisis-fund

Tickets £10 – includes a glass of wine
& light refreshments

Plus Prizes

MUSIC SECTION

Music Notes ~ October 2026

The first two Sundays of October feature our Dedication Festival and the celebration of Harvest. On the 4th the organ postlude by Buxtehude is based on Luther's famous Reformation battle-cry chorale *Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*, the most common translation being 'A safe stronghold is our God'. The anthem at Communion is a setting of the BCP collect for St John the Evangelist by the Organist of Ely Cathedral at the turn of the 18th century, James Hawkins. He probably composed it for St John's College in Cambridge, where he had strong links, looking after the choir there for a time. The celebratory anthem at Evensong, *O give thanks unto the Lord*, is by the Master of the King's Music in the middle of the 18th century, William Boyce. The anthem is composed for 8-part choir, a feature that is normally associated with later repertoire, though our Introit by Henry Purcell, *Hear my prayer, O Lord*, is another early example of this scoring. Boyce decides to use his 8 parts, SSAATTBB, in various ways, but principally featuring either the same two voice parts together on their own, or by adopting the double-choir pattern of SATB/SATB. There is a verse section for four voices, and after a joyful Hallelujah to conclude. I've not heard the piece performed before, so am particularly looking forward to it.

For Harvest we will enjoy singing the traditional harvest hymns in the morning at the All-Age service, and at Evensong we continue our exploration of the music of Charles Wood (d. 1926) this year with his anthem *Summer ended, harvest o'er*. Wood took great care in selecting the texts for his anthems, often choosing words not previously set by composers. The poem is by Greville Phillimore (1821-84), a priest and hymn enthusiast who served his ministry mainly at Down Ampney in Gloucestershire and Henley-on-Thames. Phillimore links the traditional harvest concept to the last judgement, as in the fourth verse:

When the reaping angels bring,
Tares and wheat before the King,
Jesus! may we gathered be
In the heavenly barn to Thee.

Wood composed the anthem in 1917 for a once significant preparatory school, now closed, called Heatherdown School in Berkshire which had close ties to Eton College. In charge of the music there was Martin Akerman, the main editor of the Year Book Press, which published several works by Wood. Akerman notes on the published copy (1919) that only a handful of boys, 1 tenor and 2 basses were available to perform it; Wood wrote for the standard SATB choir nevertheless, though his textures mainly alternate between boys only and men only. Phillimore's emphasis on the last judgement allows for a shift to the minor for the central episode with some turbulent organ writing before the triumphant conclusion.

At Evensong on Sunday 18th we sing another early example of writing for SSAATTBB, the anthem *O God the proud are risen against me* by Thomas Tomkins, composed some time before 1617. I've long admired this anthem (though have not performed it at Hampstead) with its wonderful text from Psalm 86 which faces the troubles of life, featuring an 'assembly of violent men', by calling on our pitiful and merciful God who is 'slow to anger' and 'great in goodness and truth'. Tomkins captures this dichotomy brilliantly, all within single movement in duple time, using a wonderful series of passing-note dissonances for 'slow to anger' where the harmony slows down. The anthem on the 25th accompanies the reading from Ecclesiastes on the subject of vanity: *Omnia vanitas* by Samuel Wesley. This was one of two anthems that his son Samuel Sebastian Wesley published as examples of how good church music could be. It's a mighty essay in C sharp minor full of double sharps, probably inspired by Samuel's love of Bach's 48 Preludes and Fugues that had recently become known in England at the start of the 19th century.

Music List ~ October 2026

Sunday 4 October – Dedication Sunday

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn* (BuxWV 192)

Dieterich Buxtehude

Introit Hymn 273

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Missa Dixit Maria* Hans Leo Hassler
Gradual Psalm 122 Tone iv/6
Offertory Hymn 274
Communion Motet *Merciful Lord, we beseech thee* James Hawkins
Post-Communion Hymn 371
Organ Postlude *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* (BuxWV 184)
Dieterich Buxtehude

5 pm. Choral Evensong

Organ Prelude *A Grounde in Gamutt* Henry Purcell
Introit *Hear my prayer, O Lord* Henry Purcell
Preces & Responses Gabriel Jackson
Psalm 132 Edward Elgar
Canticles *Evening Service in E flat* Michael Wise
Anthem *O give thanks unto the Lord* (8 vv) William Boyce
Hymn 270
Final Amen John West
Organ Postlude *Voluntary in D minor for Double Organ* Henry Purcell

Sunday 11 October – Harvest Festival

10.30 am. All-Age Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Trio Sonata No. 1 in E flat* (BWV 525/i) J. S. Bach
Introit Hymn 358
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Mass in G* Franz Schubert
Gradual Psalm 65 Tone viii/1
Offertory Hymn 360 (ii)
Communion Motet *O salutaris hostia* Abbé Vogler
Post-Communion Hymn 365
Organ Postlude *Trio Sonata No. 1 in E flat* (BWV 525/iii) J. S. Bach

5 pm. Choral Evensong

Organ Prelude *Prelude on a theme of Orlando Gibbons* (Song 34)
Charles Stanford
Introit *Oculi omnium* (canon) Charles Wood
Preces & Responses Gabriel Jackson
Psalm 139.1-11 George Martin
Canticles *Evening Service in C major* Charles Wood

Anthem *Summer ended, harvest o'er* Charles Wood
Hymn 356
Final Amen John West
Organ Postlude *Postlude on a theme of Orlando Gibbons (Song 22)*
Charles Stanford

Sunday 18 October – 20th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Adagio* (Sonata No. III) Alexandre Guilmant
Introit Hymn 336
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in F* Herbert Sumson
Gradual Psalm 96.1–9 Tone viii/2
Offertory Hymn 604
Communion Motet *Salve Regina* Francis Poulenc
Post-Communion Hymn 373 (ii)
Organ Postlude *Prelude in E flat* (Op. 40/I) Alexandre Guilmant

5 pm. Choral Evensong

Organ Prelude *A substantial verse* (MB v/31) Thomas Tomkins
Introit *A new commandment* Thomas Tallis
Preces & Responses Gabriel Jackson
Psalm 142 John Barnard
Canticles *The Short Service* Thomas Morley
Anthem *O God, the proud are risen against me* Thomas Tomkins
Hymn 354
Final Amen John West
Organ Postlude *Voluntary* (MB v/28) Thomas Tomkins

Sunday 25 October – Last Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *O lux beata Trinitas* (vv 1-2) Samuel Scheidt
Introit Hymn 438
Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) *Mass for Four Voices* William Byrd
Gradual Psalm 1 (Responsorial) Harry Bramma
Offertory Hymn 583 (ii)
Communion Motet *Venite comedite* William Byrd
Post-Communion Hymn 466

Organ Postlude *Credo in unum Deum; Organo pleno pedaliter* Samuel Scheidt

5 pm. Choral Evensong

Organ Prelude *Innig* (Canon No. 4 in A flat) Robert Schumann

Introit *Abendlied* Josef Rheinberger

Preces & Responses Gabriel Jackson

Psalms 119.89–104 Atkins / Hurford

Canticles *Evening Service in C* Charles Stanford

Anthem *Omnia vanitas* Samuel Wesley

Hymn 616

Final Amen John West

Organ Postlude *Fugue No. 6 on BACH* Robert Schumann

Aidan Coburn *Director of the Junior & Community Choirs*

Geoffrey Webber *Director of Music*

The Hampstead Collective

Mega Polyphony

Monday 5 October 2026 at 7pm

Large-scale English polyphony by Byrd, Tallis, Taverner, Sheppard, and Fayrfax sung by the vocal consort of the Hampstead Collective, interspersed with contemplative English poetry.

Soprano: Christine Buras

Mezzo-soprano: Rebekah Nießer-Jones

Tenor: James Robinson

Tenor Archie Inns

Baritone: Malachy Frame

Bass-Baritone: Tristan Hambleton

Tickets £15 from thehampsteadcollective.com

And see their website for details of concerts at Caxton Hall and Heath Street Baptist Church on 31st October and 7th December respectively

50_{Years} The Hampstead Players

How do you condense 50 years of drama into one evening? In May the Hampstead Players treated us to a poignant romp through the musicals. Now they were attempting something much more ambitious. The young, (and not so young) current members paid tribute to the work of the last 50 years – the development from a frankly “amateurish” group of enthusiasts to today’s highly professional team. One of our directors once said “there’s no such thing as professional and amateur acting, only good and bad” – and the Players are undeniably good.

The company on the 19th comprised probably nearly all the current players, some former players, and the Hampstead Youth Players, so I’m not attempting to name anyone but full marks to Caroline Lezny and Katie Donovan as Director and Assistant Director, for getting it all together, and for the narrators who provided essential links and background – Angela Gardner, David Gardner, Jon Siddall, Matthew Williams.

Just as there were some 38 participants so there were 22 items on the programme (plus one impromptu piece) and it’s equally impossible to comment on them all.

Some though were particularly moving – the Women of Canterbury from *Murder in the Cathedral* for instance – and didn’t Derek Spottiswoode use Becket’s sermon in the pulpit one Christmas? I think he did.

The extract from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* showed how well the Players have embraced physicality – it’s not easy to portray violence, in comedy or tragedy without making it look contrived – or someone getting hurt.

The programme was cleverly arranged to start with a speech from Anouilh’s *The Lark*, the first production of the fully formed Hampstead Players, and to finish with a preview of *The Winter’s Tale* which we will be enjoying on stage in a few weeks’ time.

The constitution of the Friends of the Drama, drawn up in the earliest days, contained the intention that plays put on in church would be “edifying” and we tied ourselves in knots some years trying to persuade people that some of our choices fitted this stricture! But I think it’s safe to say that none of the choices have actually been “unedifying”. The Players’ highly talented team of directors always seem to come up with something that fits the bill.

There’s no doubt that there was an element of the Players celebrating for their own sakes as well as ours but the audience was probably mostly former members or supporters so no one minded. But as well as the enjoyment they get from performing the Players have, over the years, made a significant contribution to parish life. It’s been a way into church life for the participants (actors, backstage helpers, costume designers, bar staff – there’s something for everyone); it may have been a foot in the door for audiences who might never otherwise have come into the building, as well, of course as the financial contribution the Players make to the church.

I can’t imagine, way back in 1976, anyone had any idea that the Hampstead Players would still be going – indeed going from strength to strength – fifty years later. And yet here they are – and here’s to the next fifty!

Black History Month marks 100 years – and brings Barak Obama to the UK

This year Black History Month celebrates its first centenary, and Barak Obama is coming to speak at events in Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester.

It was back in 1926 that ‘Negro History Week’ was first founded by the American Black historian Carter G Woodson.

By 1976 it had grown and expanded into Black History Month, and it arrived in the UK in October 1987.

The theme for this year is 'Honouring Black Britain 2026.' It features a major new exhibition celebrating 54 people who have each made an outstanding contribution to British Life.

President Obama, the 44th President of the USA, will visit Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester to make three arena appearances. His live conversations will explore the subject of leadership, democracy, resilience and challenges currently facing America and the wider world.

An Evening with President Barack Obama will begin at The O2 Belfast on Tuesday 13th October, before moving to Glasgow's OVO Hydro on Wednesday 14th October, and finally Manchester's Co-op Live on Thursday 15th October. Tickets for all three appearances are now on sale.

When Obama won the US presidential election in November 2008, he became the first African American elected President of the United States. He served two terms as America's 44th president, from 2009 until 2017.

His live conversations will take place as the United States marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.

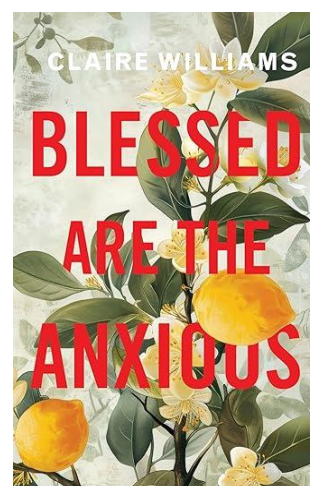
More details: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org>

Book of the Month

Blessed are the Anxious: Faith in Seasons of Anxiety

by Claire Williams

Blessed are the Anxious offers a deeply personal exploration of chronic anxiety within the framework of Christian spirituality. Claire Williams draws on her own experience to navigate the complexities of the anxious life, and provide insights into the potential for hope found in the regular rhythms of Christian faith and practice. Avoiding offering simplistic and easy answers, the book confronts the reality of chronic anxiety and demonstrates the ways in which,



throughout the year, the Christian story offers solidarity and hope for those suffering from it. In these pages, readers will discover tangible reminders of the divine presence amidst distress, offering comfort and reassurance in times of turmoil. *Blessed are the Anxious* will offer hope for those seeking spiritual guidance in the midst of anxiety, and a vital resource for those who care for them.

Canterbury Press, Norwich – and available on Amazon

The Children's Society

Making a difference

Across the country, young people's needs are being ignored. Trapped in poverty, facing poor mental health and abuse both on and offline, too many only receive help once they reach crisis point. **We're working to change that.** By standing alongside young people when they need us most, we provide lasting support and campaign for the changes that will improve young lives.

Growing up, Paige experienced trauma no child should ever face. When she was referred to The Children's Society, she was frightened and vulnerable. With the right support, she was able to rebuild her confidence and look forward to the future. Today, she is thriving at school and enjoying life.

Right now, there are children living through abuse, exploitation and neglect. For them, childhood is a daily battle, with nowhere to turn.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach. To help young people open up, we might start with chess, a fidget spinner or writing thoughts and fears down. We offer support one-to-one and in groups. And we never describe children as 'hard to reach'.

We know they simply need adults who are willing to listen and reach them where they really are. Right now, with mental health waiting lists spiralling, our drop-ins are often the only place a young person can get timely support during teenhood.

Some numbers:

57,652 children and young people were supported through our services and events in 2024/25.

97% of children surveyed reported that they were happy with the support they received.

77,307 supporters took campaign actions with us to call for change for young people.

You can donate and find out more about their work through their website childrenssociety.org.uk or email them at supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk or write to

The Children's Society
Whitecross Studios
50 Banner Street
London EC1Y 8ST

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”- **Barack Obama**, former US President.

Ode to Autumn *John Keats*

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozy hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Dates in October

The church has its own calendar of events for each month – we've noted **Dedication, Harvest, St Luke, Bible Sunday** – but looking further afield there are many more we could be celebrating. These are all dates in someone's diary.....

National Poetry Day 1st Oct 2026

National Poetry Day is day for celebrating poetry's power to bring people together. Celebrated across the UK, it encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends.

Forwardartsfoundation.org

Grandparents Day UK 4th Oct 2026

Grandparents Day in October is the UK's celebration of grandmothers, grandfathers and all grandparents. It is a day to appreciate and show your love for your grandparents.

Eparenting.co.uk

World Teachers' Day 5th Oct 2026

UNESCO day which provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, to take stock of achievements, and to address some of the issues central for attracting and keeping the brightest minds and young talents in the profession.

unesco.org

World Mental Health Day 10th Oct 2026

The purpose of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

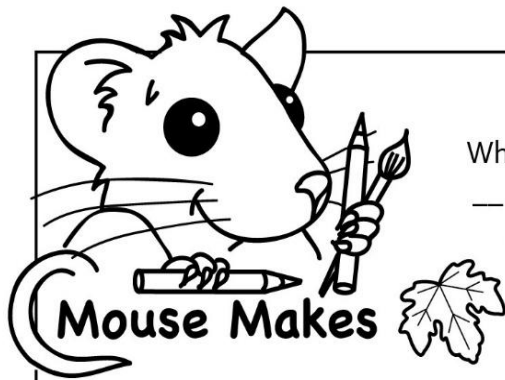
Who.int

World Singing Day 17th Oct 2026

World Singing Day is a global sing-along held annually on the 3rd Saturday in October. As a catalyst for positive human connection, this one day each year serves as an opportunity to celebrate our global family through the international language of music.

worldsingingday.org

And, of course, Daylight Saving – 25th this year.



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

— — — — —
John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

— — — — —"
John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

— — — — —
and

— — — — —
John 15:6



READ
John 15:1-17

How many times does Jesus use the word **FRUIT**?

What does Jesus command?

To — — — — —
one another.
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to **LOVE** one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

Looking ahead

November

Sunday 1st All Saints Day

Sat 7th Night Shelter starts

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

Sat 14th Come and Sing *Mozart Requiem*

Sunday 22nd Hampstead Players 50th anniversary Thanksgiving service

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

December

Fri 4th Community Choir *Christmas Lights* concert

Sat 5th *The Christmas Café*

Sat 12th Hampstead Young Players' performance of *A Christmas Carol*

