

ST MARY'S CHURCH, THAMES STREET, HAMPTON

The Parish Link



Let there be

JOY

Christmas 2019



www.hampton-church.org.uk

If you have just come to live in Hampton, your Parish Church welcomes you. Please make yourself known to one of the Parish Staff or Churchwardens. Please visit our website, Facebook or Twitter feeds for all St Mary's Church and our Parish information.

Connect with St Mary's...

Please visit our website for all the latest news, events and activities for all age groups.

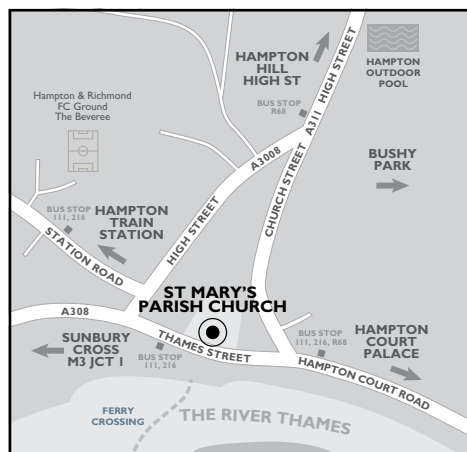
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You can also find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or Instagram...



St Mary's Parish Office
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Hampton TW12 2EB
Tel: 020 8941 7221
parish.manager@hampton-church.org.uk

How to find us...



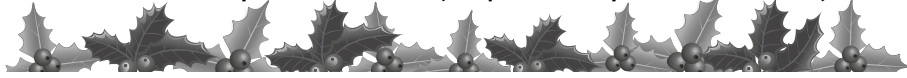
- Vicar: The Reverend Ben Lovell**.....07734 775102
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- Curate: The Reverend Cara Lovell**.....07879 404201
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- Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)**
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Nally Fernando.....safeguarding@hampton-church.org.uk
- Choir Director and Organist**
David Pimm, CertRCO.....020 8399 2404
- Bell Ringers**
Alison Ward.....020 8979 9848

Have a joyful Christmas at St Mary's

Contemporary Carols

Sunday 15 December 6.30pm

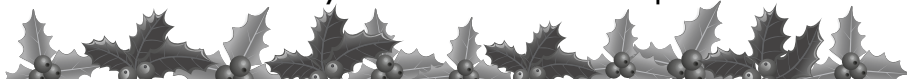
This is an exciting recent addition to the Christmas calendar. It's a creative approach to a traditional carol service with a chance to sing many Christmas classics given a contemporary musical twist. The service will be followed by Christmas refreshments. Grab your Christmas jumper, invite your friends and join the festivities.



Carols By Candlelight

Sunday 22 December 6.30pm

The choir leads us in a traditional Festival of Eight Lessons and Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



Children's Carol Services

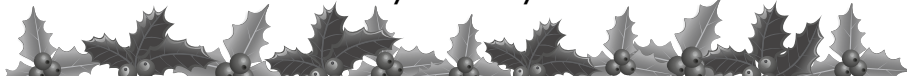
Tuesday 24 December 3pm & 4.30pm

Our Christmas Eve Children's Carol Service is so popular that we need to hold it twice so that we can comfortably accommodate everyone.

Midnight Communion

Tuesday 24 December 11.30pm

Celebrate the First Communion of Christmas in our traditional midnight service led by organ and choir. It's a beautiful way to start your Christmas.



Christmas Day

Wednesday 25 December 8am & 10am

8am – Holy Communion (Said)

A traditional spoken service at the start of Christmas Day.

10am – Carols & Holy Communion for All Ages. Join us on Christmas Day at 10am for a big family celebration as we celebrate the birth of Christ and hear the good news of Christmas.



Christingle

Sunday 2 February 11am

The celebrations don't stop after you have taken the Christmas tree down! On Sunday 2 February at 11am we will be holding a Christingle Service and everyone is welcome to come along.

From the Registers

Baptisms

29 September Grace Rosa Houchin
13 October Charles Vaughan Thompson

Blessing of a Civil Marriage

10 October Gareth Flynn to Nicole Kunnen

Funerals

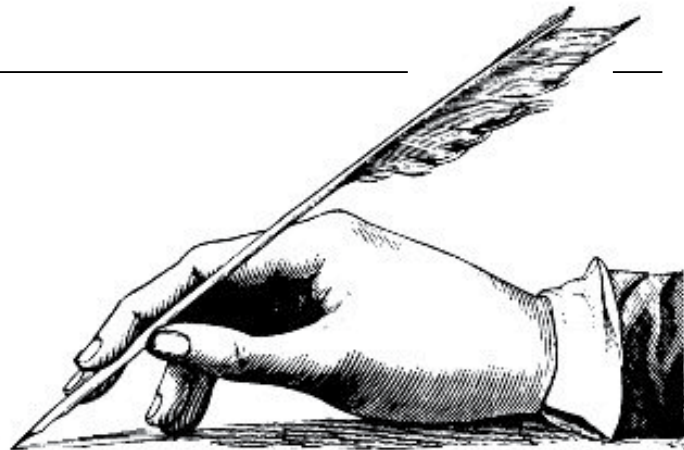
25 November Joyce Barbara Bell, aged 94 years, of Harfield Road,
to South West Middlesex Crematorium

15 November Kenneth James Rivers, aged 95, of Linden Road,
to South West Middlesex Crematorium

28 November Terence John Keelin, aged 88 years, of Tudor Road,
to St Mary's Church, then to Kingston Crematorium

Interment of Ashes

23 September Richard Felstead
7 October John Hollings



SERVICE TIMES AT ST MARY'S

SUNDAYS

9.30am Holy Communion
A choral service with traditional hymns
I am Sunday Praise
A family friendly contemporary service with youth and children's groups and crèche
6.30pm Prayer Book Evensong
A gentle, traditional service

WEEKDAYS

6.20am Start the Week Prayers (Monday)
9am Morning Prayer (Monday – Thursday)
10am First Steps Toddler Praise (Wednesday)
A service for pre-school children with craft, games and refreshments.
11.30am Holy Communion (Wednesday)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parish Link

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Contact the editor:
link@hampton-church.org.uk

Advertising:
RON PETTIT
linkads@hampton-church.org.uk





JOY

The occasion on which you are ordained, when you move to being a 'Reverend', is a joyous occasion. A celebration with family and close friends. A time spent with colleagues who you have journeyed with for years and new acquaintances who have only just arrived in the region. Those to be ordained in London enjoy a day at St Paul's Cathedral with a rousing choir, magnificent organ music, a sense of occasion which is unsurpassable, and a moment as the newly ordained leave when the towering great West Doors are flung open: the air rushing in stirs your unfamiliar robes, as the view of London is revealed. A sense of the new stage of a journey and the enormity and significance of the task before you was to me a deep joy at what God has done and the promise of what he will do in the future.

The day after you are ordained is spent in your new parish, which can seem mundane after the pomp of the cathedral. For me, we moved to an area of Harrow which I had a deep affection for, and a church that, although I loved the people, was ascetically the furthest from St Paul's Cathedral that you could imagine. It was not a church people wanted to get married in as the photos would not have flattered.

My first sermon was on the subject of 'Joy' which seemed like an easy start. The problem with this first foray into being a 'Rev'd' was that it was an 'All Age Service'. For those who rarely come to church: an 'All Age Service' is where we have worship with no separate teaching for our children and young people. We try to speak to, engage and inspire everyone in our church from zero to a hundred years old. It is the most difficult type of service to get right.

I found myself, a newly ordained, fresh curate asking children and adults what made them happy. As a gimmick, to keep people's attention, every time the

word 'happy' was mentioned Pharrell Williams' hit track 'Happy' would play:

'Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof... because I am happy'

Suggestions offered about what made people happy; 'sporting success', 'time with family', 'a evening spent with friends', or 'when I am praised'. All these were met by the sound system playing a chorus from Pharrell's song 'Happy'. To which the new cleric would dance. Badly:

'Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth... Because I'm happy'

The conclusion of the talk was that happiness is not enough. It is not. Despite that the hideously catchy Pharrell song suggests that it is 'the truth'. What we need and desire is not found in something we clap along to. Joy is found in a deep trust and security in knowing how God is at work in our life. That we are cherished and have a purpose.

Joy is not the same as happiness. Being happy is a fleeting moment of ecstasy, but joy is a deep rooted contentment that surpasses joviality. Joy cannot be rocked by the situation we are in.

Sometimes we have to conclude that Joy is not in our grasp, rather it is found in letting go and allowing God to be in charge of our direction and achievements.

Is this not the message of Christmas? The source of all joy, of security, of salvation is born to us. In a moment of unrest, worry and disturbance: he who is Joy personified is born. Not in quiet happiness, but in chaotic joy.

The babe born in Bethlehem is not a source of momentary happiness, Jesus is the source of Joy that surpasses any situation we find ourselves in.

Blessings, Ben



to the World

NEWS FROM MTV YOUTH

As the year draws to a close it's good to reflect on how far we have come as a club these past 11 months. The year got off to a great start as we signed a 2-year lease of the ex-caretaker's bungalow next to St Mary's Hampton CE primary school with an option to purchase it.

New premises were vital for MTV's survival following two and a half years of running the club split site. A £75,000 grant from Richmond Borough's Community Fund enabled us to do the necessary internal renovation of the dilapidated, damp-ridden building that had sat empty for the previous 5 years.

By May the internal work was complete and MTV Youth opened the doors of its new venue in time for the first club of term. As expected, our hopes of attracting greater numbers of young people to

the club were immediately realized and in July, 153 people joined us to celebrate the Bungalow's official opening as well as 8 successful years of running the club.

In September we started the new term as we left off, with new members joining the club every week and enjoying a wide array of indoor activities as well as the use of St Mary's school's floodlit courts for basketball and football.

Bungalow garden clear up



NEW ASTROTURF

MTV Youth HAMPTON

However, the outside garden of the Bungalow remained a wasteland but through grants from The Harlequins Foundation, Heathrow Community Fund and the Travers Smith Foundation we were delighted to develop this area during the Autumn half term break. The difference it has made has been huge. Quite simply it has transformed the outside area. Every week we now run a fitness challenge on the artificial turf and it's also enabled us to open up the other outside areas for air hockey and pool as well as providing safe access to our log cabin where the young people can have a bit more space to hang out.

Each week an average of 45 young people are now enjoying the improved facilities at the Friday night youth club.

The Bungalow and its garden however were never just meant for the sole use of MTV. Our desire is for this land to become a vibrant hub for the local community, providing residents with additional support and opportunities to get involved and make a difference. That the premises are already starting to be used by other groups outside of MTV bodes well for the future and, as word gets out about the Bungalow, we hope that more and more of the community can benefit from using this facility. If you are interested in hiring the Bungalow, or finding out more about MTV Youth, please visit www.mtvhampton.org.uk

Bungalow interior work in progress



Lovely refurbished space



Smart rooms at the Bungalow available to hire





FOR CHILDREN OF JUNIOR SCHOOL AGE

COSMOS meets in the hall during our 11am service for activity, craft and fun.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month during our 11am service.

We come back in time for a blessing in the service.

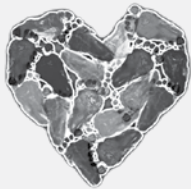


FOR INFANTS 3 TO 7 YEARS

Mini-COSMOS begins in the church service and then the children leave for their own activities in the church hall.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month during our 11am service.

We come back in time for a blessing in the service.



FIRST STEPS BABY & TODDLER PRAISE

An opportunity for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups to get together for singing, stories, crafts and Jesus.

Every Wednesday during term time at 10am.

St Mary's Church, Thames Street, Hampton TW12 2EB

Contact Laura Woodhead for further details:
laura.woodhead@hampton-church.org.uk

BIBLE STORIES SINGING
CRAFT & JESUS



FOR BABIES, TODDLERS & THEIR GROWN-UPS

A safe space for your little ones to play while you relax, have a cup of tea and make friends. Our weekly activities include craft, singing and story-telling. If your baby is still too young to join in with some of these activities then we have baby mats so your baby can still enjoy watching the older toddlers play.

We are here every Monday during term time, 1.30–3pm

St Mary's Community Hall,
Church St, Hampton TW12 2EB

Contact Laura Woodhead for details:
laura.woodhead@hampton-church.org.uk

TOYS CRAFT STORY SONGS
COFFEE CHAT FRIENDSHIP

Introducing Kristy, our newest Churchwarden!

We interviewed Kristy Chow, one of our Churchwardens, about her role at St Mary's

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CHURCHWARDEN AT ST MARY'S CHURCH?

I started at the end of April this year, so almost 7 months now.

HOW DID YOU BECOME CHURCHWARDEN?

Ben, the vicar, asked me if I would consider becoming a Churchwarden whilst I was manning the hog at the Hog Roast last year! I was taken completely by surprise and thought he was joking. I told him that my immediate answer was 'no!' but that I would go away and think about it!

A few months went by, and I had been thinking and praying and talking to my husband about it, and then Ben asked me again. I was hoping he'd forgotten or asked someone else, but realised I had run out of reasons and excuses to say no! I had been reading some things in my Bible over those few months, and those things made it a bit easier to eventually agree to being the Churchwarden! It has been a journey for me, with lots to learn, but it has been a privilege and a real joy to be able to be a part of this journey with St Mary's Church and everyone here.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE ROLE FOR A FEW MONTHS, CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT WHAT THE ROLE ENTAILS?

Part of the role of the Churchwardens is to help and encourage the vicar, to make sure they are supported and check that vicars are looking after themselves as well as looking after the congregation!

There is a practical side to the role too, we make sure the church building and its fabric and furniture are looked after.

We are also a point of contact for the congregation. People in the church can approach us with feedback, comments or concerns. We are there to help alongside the other volunteers in various ministries to enable church services to run smoothly and to be a welcoming church.

WHAT IS THE BEST BIT ABOUT BEING A CHURCHWARDEN?

I have enjoyed getting to know more people at St Mary's, especially at the 9.30am service, as I hadn't



been to that service before I became Churchwarden. It's been lovely to meet lots of new people and get to know others better.

It's also been great to discover a new meeting place – The Jolly Coopers pub on High Street! I often meet Nally, the other Churchwarden and Ben, the vicar, there to discuss church business!

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT BEING PART OF ST MARY'S CHURCH?

The reason we first joined and kept coming to St Mary's was because it feels like a family. I also like that St Mary's is very involved in the community of Hampton, and even beyond.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT AT CHURCH?

According to my husband, not a lot! Apparently, I just have coffee with my friends and go for a run!

I am not in a paid job at the moment, as I took the decision not to go back to work after my two children were born, and to stay at home to look after them (and my husband!)

During my precious free times when both of my children are at school or nursery, and I have time to do something for myself, I enjoy running, swimming, cycling, being outdoors and being active.

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Hampton Fund is the working name for Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity (Registered Charity No. 211756)

HAMPTON FUND

Hilary Hart (Trustee – Chair of Community Grants)

In July this year the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity was relaunched under a new name 'Hampton Fund'. The old name had led to some confusion – were we responsible for allotments or fuel for cars? Our role is twofold: to provide fuel grants and other forms of help to low income families and individuals, primarily helping them with the costs of their electricity and gas, and also to make grants to local charities that support local people and provide a range of services within the community.

Due to the perceived affluence within the Borough there is an additional effect on those with real need:

- there is less infrastructure to meet the specific requirements of those in need;
- organisations from outside the Borough have little interest in helping those within it;
- the gap between the rich and the poor leads to greater isolation.

These needs manifest themselves in a variety of ways, including mental health issues and homelessness.

Due to the strength of our endowment fund we are able to award grants to individuals totalling just under £1 million and community grants totalling £1.34 million.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, 6 MARCH 2020

by Hilary Hart

Every year the World Day of Prayer is celebrated across the globe, beginning as the sun rises over Samoa in the Pacific Ocean and ending as the sunsets over American Samoa, some 36 hours later. Each year the service is written by a different country. In 2020 it has been prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe who call us to 'Rise! Take your mat and walk'.



We are encouraged to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued Zimbabwe over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future and invite us to support them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation. Next year the Hampton area service will be held in St Mary's at 2 o'clock on 6 March 2020.

The theme 'Rise! Take your mat and walk' comes from the story of Jesus healing the man by the Sheep

Gate in Jerusalem. John 5: 2-9. In the service we are asked to consider what this story means to us and to make commitments to support our communities with actions of love, peace and reconciliation.

Do come and join us to participate in a great wave of prayer encircling the globe.



The cover of the service booklet designed by Nonhlanhla a Zimbabwean-born artist.

FRIENDSHIP FOR A CHANGE

The Anglican Communion links together churches in 160 countries. Our diocese, London, has links with dioceses in Angola and Mozambique (ALMA).

St Mary's has developed a friendship with churches of the Mandimba parish in the Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique.



For more information about the Hampton Mandimba Partnership please contact:

Fiona Rowett
c/o St Mary's Church Parish Office
Church Street
HAMPTON
TW12 2EB

www.hampton-church.org.uk

Hampton-Mandimba Partnership



Hampton-Mandimba Partnership

The Hampton-Mandimba Partnership (HMP) was established in 2005 and is part of the Angola London Mozambique Association (ALMA). St Mary's is linked with São Paulo Mandimba, Mozambique.

Mandimba is a poor town on the border with Malawi. It has two schools, a small hospital, and a busy market. There are two churches, São Paulo and the Roman Catholic Church, and two lodges. Mandimba is on the main route connecting ports on the Indian Ocean and Malawi – much of the road is not made up. There is a bus (chapa) service to Lichinga the provincial capital, but no railway as this was lost after the Portuguese left in 1976 when Mozambique became independent.



LIFE IN MANDIMBA

The Mothers' Union

is very active and supports the Good Seeds project and the sick.



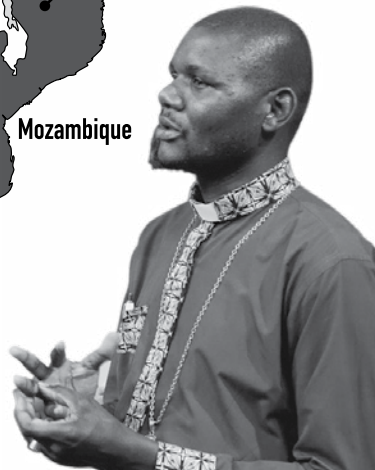
The Church Padre Austen is the full time priest for Mandimba and the outlying village churches. We have funded a motorcycle to facilitate this work. Church services are held weekly and the Parochial Church Council meets regularly.

Communication

There is regular email communication between São Paulo and St Mary's, and sharing of prayers for both congregations.



DIOCESE OF NIASSA
 Founded 1980
 Vicente Msosa
 Bishop of Niassa (2017)



The ALMA Partnership Prayer

God our Father the source of all gifts, give us humility to receive, honesty to ask, and generosity to give, in order to bring each other up to your honour and glory.

We ask this through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour,

Amen



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MOZAMBIQUE FACTS

Population	27,977,860
% Population <15	45%
Life expectancy	M:54 F:57
Size	3 x the UK
GDP per capita	\$529.2

EDUCATION

Literacy (male) 47% (female) 28%
 Finish primary school < 50%
 Attend secondary 8%

HEALTH

Infant mortality 134 per 1,000 births
 Maternal deaths approx. 9,800 per year.


Source: data.worldbank.org





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THE BELLS OF St Mary's

In the New Year we will be launching an appeal to raise £80,000 to keep the bells of St Mary's ringing. Cast together as a set for the current church building in 1831, our eight bells have been a call to worship for nearly 200 years. They are a key part of our local heritage.

The bells are rung every Sunday, also for weddings and other special occasions. However, for this joyful practice, a major overhaul of the bell mechanisms is urgently required.

What needs doing

The last major maintenance and refurbishment work on the bells was carried out 70 years ago. The fittings, which include the bearings, wheels, ropes and pulleys, degrade over time and now need to be replaced. The bells need to be removed from the tower, taken to a bell foundry for restoration and tuning, then returned and reinstated with their new fittings.

What will be achieved



The bells will be restored for the next generation in Hampton.



The ancient art of change ringing will continue. We are the only church in the local area with bells hung for full circle ringing.



We will renew our teaching of bell ringing at St Mary's. Anyone above the age of about 12 can learn, only a normal level of physical fitness is required.



The bells will continue to ring on Sundays and mark occasions such as Remembrance, Christmas and Easter.

Sponsoring the appeal

We will be looking for donations both large and small. Would you like to sponsor the rehangings of one of the eight bells, either as an individual or as a family or group of friends? This would cost £2,000. Each of the eight rope wheels can be sponsored for £500 or a rope pulley for £250.

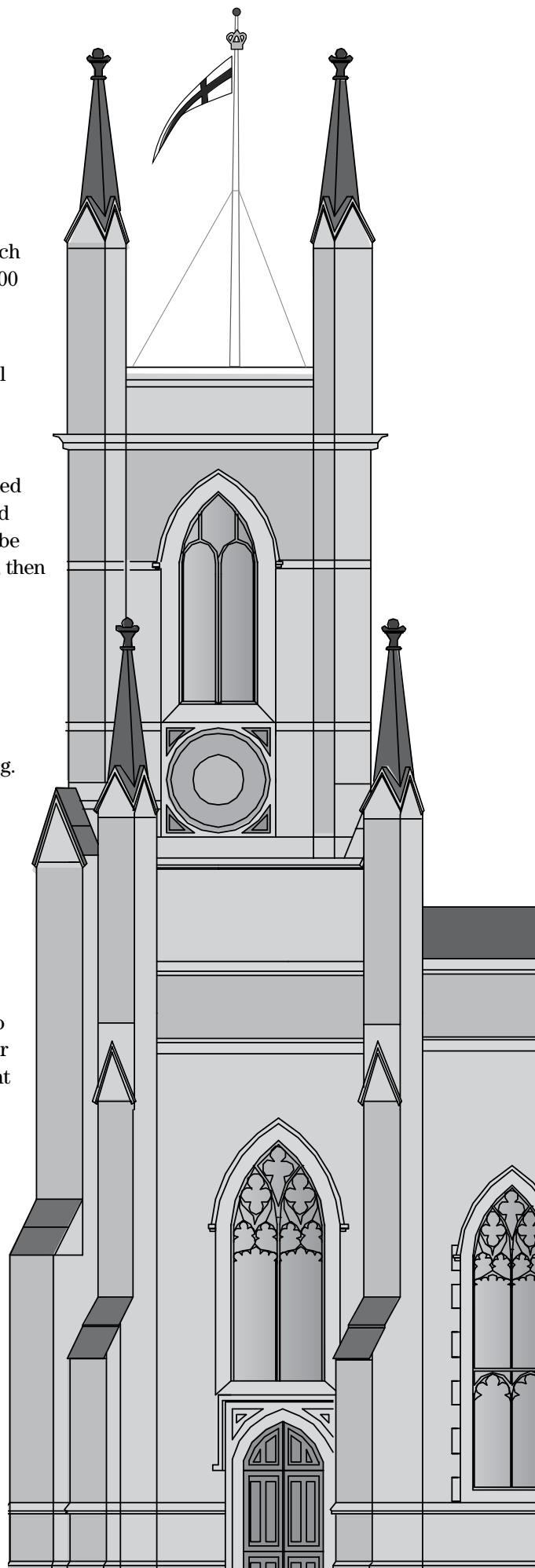
We also need to cover the cost of raising and lowering the bells from the tower, associated building work and refurbishment of the ringing chamber. As part of the project we will also install a sound control system so that the volume of the bells can be reduced for practice sessions.

If you are interested in the bell tower refurbishment project or in joining us as a ringer, please get in touch.

For anyone who would like to combine pleasant physical and mental exercise.

Wednesday 8pm practice

Jonathan Williams, Ringing Master
jonathan.williams@hampton-church.org.uk



QUIZ NIGHT

‘Probably the best Quiz in the district’

Saturday 25 January 2020

St Mary’s Community Hall, Church Street, Hampton

7pm for 7.15pm

**Tickets, to include a fish, chicken or pie*
and chips supper, are priced at £12.50 per person**

The evening will start with the meal which we aim to serve as near to 7.15pm as we can manage.
The quiz itself will start around 8pm with a short interval half way through.

If you have previously been to one of our Quiz Nights you will know that they are not to be missed. Come and exercise the ‘little grey cells’ in a fun format and, win or lose, you are guaranteed an enjoyable evening.

Come as a group, or teams of up to 6 can be formed on the night. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be available for purchase by the bottle or the glass. Please try to book by Wednesday 22 January at the latest so that food can be ordered in advance.

**Bookings can be made at
020 8979 5735**



*Pies available are: Steak & Kidney, Beef & Onion and Chicken & Mushroom



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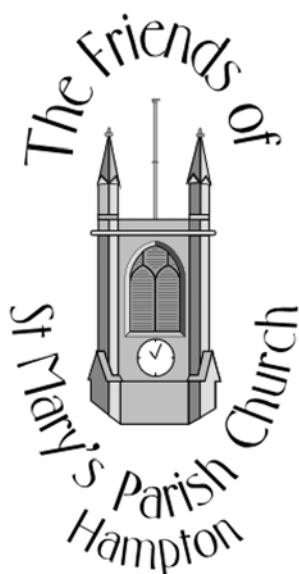
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All welcome

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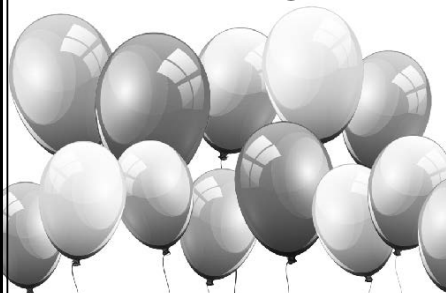
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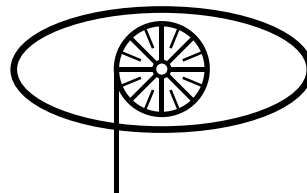
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