

ST MARY'S CHURCH, THAMES STREET, HAMPTON

# The Parish Link

Christmas 2016



# Celebrate CHRISTMAS *at St Mary's*



*For our Christmas service details, see page 3*



[www.hampton-church.org.uk](http://www.hampton-church.org.uk)

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

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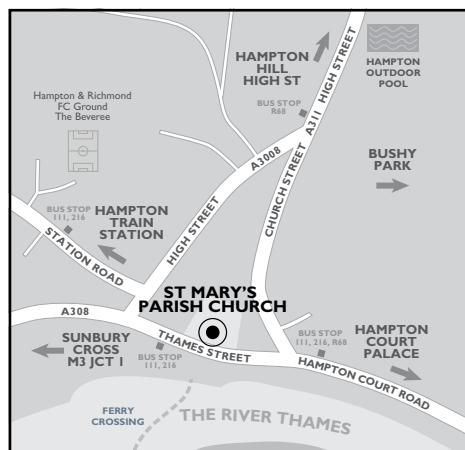
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**Sam Waako** ..... 07923 331108

### Safeguarding Officer

**Carrie Lees**, 28 Cardinal's Walk TW12 2TS ..... 020 8979 9522

### Choir Director and Organist

Contact: **David Pimm, CertRCO** ..... 020 8399 2404  
New choir members, adults or children, are encouraged.

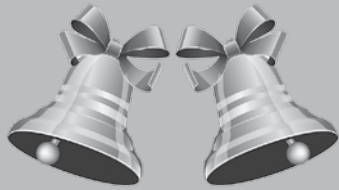
**Worship Band** ..... email: [john@hampton-church.org.uk](mailto:john@hampton-church.org.uk)  
**John Winterburn** ..... 07816 855941

### Bell Ringers

Beginners or experienced ringers are always welcome.  
Contact: **Alison Ward** ..... 020 8979 9848

Registered Charity no. 1133768

# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S



## SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

6.30pm Festival of Carols & Readings by Candlelight



## SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

(Christmas Eve)

3.00pm Children's Carol Service

4.30pm Children's Carol Service

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas



## SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

(Christmas Day)

8.00am Holy Communion (Traditional)

10.00am Carols and All Age Communion



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## The Parish Link



*Volunteers deliver the Parish Link free to every home in the parish.*

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## From the Registers

### Baptisms

18 September . . . . . Anna McNeish Bolton

25 September . . . . . Millicent Edun Oluwa Coleman

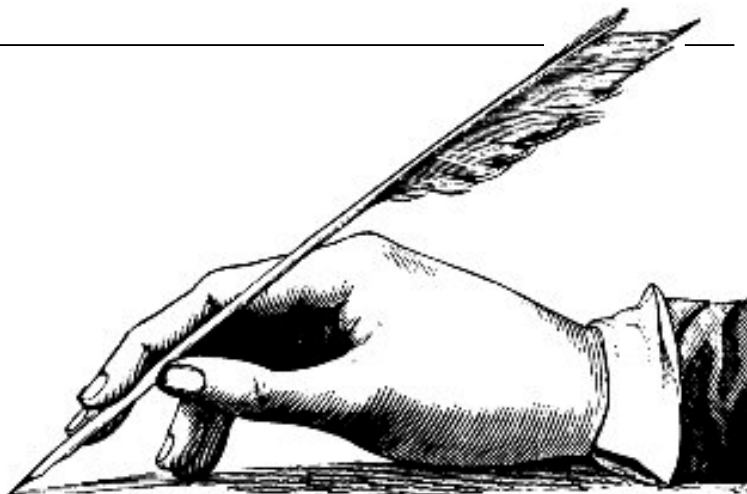
27 November . . . . . Olivia Rose Liguori

### Weddings

17 September . . . . . Paul Ian Parsons to Joanne Elizabeth Bache

1 October . . . . . James Edward Andrew Derrick to Lucy Margaret Rose Foulser

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## "Peace child"

Written by Rev Alan Jackson

As Christian people we believe that Jesus, God's Son, came into our world to bring peace. When we look at the 55 armed conflicts and wars raging in different parts of the world at this moment in time, and all the other lesser human conflicts tearing apart friendships and families, you might be forgiven for thinking that he hasn't made a very good job of it!

In the western world we seem to be living in an age of maximum stress, and not just in the workplace. Families are under pressure and even children and young people appear to be suffering from higher than ever levels of stress. Ironically, even Christmas has been described as one of the most stressful times of the year! And yet Jesus said: 'Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

Of course Jesus doesn't force peace or rest on people who prefer conflict or stress, however wrong they might be. God respects human freedom to choose.

Jesus offers peace and rest to those who come to him and seek his help to live his way. What could be a more powerful picture of peace and rest than a defenceless baby fast asleep? In Jesus, God entered our world as a baby, coming in peace to help us to find peace with God, peace with each other, and peace within ourselves.

- Real peace comes from knowing that we are safe in the hands of God our Father in spite of the storms which rage around us.
- Real peace is having Someone superhuman who loves us and forgives us in spite of knowing all our faults.
- Real peace is a gift from God, which we can only receive when we stop putting ourselves first and ask for Jesus' help to live in love with God and others.
- Real peace was won for us by Jesus Christ when He died on the cross, and it was all set in motion when he was born in a stable and laid in a manger that first Christmas night.

*May you know this peace and the love of God in your hearts and in your homes this Christmas time. As we celebrate the birth of 'the Prince of Peace', we hope you enjoy the festivities and that you may be able to join us at one of our Christmas services.*



# Unto us a boy is born! King of all creation, Came He to a world forlorn, The Lord of every nation

Written by David Pimm, Organist and Choir Director

As we approach Christmas time again, many will feel that 2016 has been an unsettling and puzzling year of change, unrest and ongoing troubles. The need for God's kingdom in the world and in our nation is as clear as ever. We are reminded that Jesus was born into a world very much in need of salvation.

It is good to read and sing again of the angel's remarkable message to Mary that she was to 'be with child and give birth to a son' who 'will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.' The angel went on to promise that 'His kingdom will never end'.

As I write this article, the choir has been preparing for both our Advent and our Christmas Carol Services. And I am struck once more by both the intimacy and the enormity of the Christian message.

At the intimate end, we will be singing 'A spotless Rose' in which Herbert Howells sets some 14th Century words to a gently flowing, almost plainsong-like, melody that juxtaposes a triumphant and optimistic message with the harsh reality of the world Jesus has come to save:

*'For through God's great love and might,  
The Blessed babe she bare us...  
In a cold, cold winter's night.'*

At the Christmas Carol service we will also sing a new setting by Cecilia McDowall (for Dulwich College Chapel Choir) of some rather quaint 15th Century words that remind us in picture language that:

*'A heavenly song, I dare well say,  
Is sung on earth to man this day.'*

On the other hand one of the Bible readings in our Advent Carol Service from the prophet Zechariah, speaking five hundred years before Jesus was born, captures the enormity of Jesus's mission:

*'See, your king comes to you,  
Righteous and having salvation,  
Gentle and riding on a donkey....*

*'He will proclaim peace to the nations.  
His rule will extend from sea to sea  
And from the River to the ends of the earth.'*

The kingdom of God that Jesus brought in is intended as no small or merely local blessing! But it does require a response - personal and global. On a personal level, we will be singing the much loved Harold Darke setting of the quintessentially Victorian words of Christina Rossetti which conclude:

*'What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him,  
Give my heart.'*

Do join us for our Christmas services as part of your response to God's kingdom, perhaps at the traditional Carol Service of lessons and carols by candle-light on 18 December, for one of our children's services or the Midnight Communion, on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas day itself (details are on page 3).

As we pray for God's kingdom to be worked out both in our own lives and on a global scale we can look up from our own particular worries of 2016 and forward with hope in the words of the famous Advent Carol (by Charles Wesley and others):

*'Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand, thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.'*

*For unto us  
A child is  
born, unto us  
A Son is given;...  
And His name will  
be...  
Prince of  
Peace.*  
ISAIAH 9:6

# The Christmas Story in Art

Written by Ivan Powell

The birth of Jesus, from the time of the Archangel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary to the family's flight into Egypt, has always been a popular subject in works of art, particularly in the Renaissance period. These works of art would arouse deep feelings of emotion and help people to understand the bible story. The birth of Jesus is relayed in two of the gospels, namely Matthew and Luke, and as such was the source of the artist's work. However, details were added to the pictures over the years which are not found in the Bible such as animals, etc.



Above: ANNUNCIATION

*Fra Angelico 1442-1443, Basilico di San Marco, Florence, Italy*

## THE ANNUNCIATION

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth to a virgin named Mary who was engaged to a man called Joseph. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid Mary for you have found favour with God and you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you will name him Jesus'

There are many paintings depicting this event but one outstanding one is the fresco by Fra Angelico which can be seen in the convent of San Marco, Florence. This beautiful work shows the winged Gabriel delivering the news to Mary. Mary's hands are crossed over her body as though she is protecting the new life there.

## THE DREAM OF JOSEPH

Mary was engaged to Joseph, who was a righteous man, and when he learnt that Mary was pregnant he was troubled. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said; 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit'. When Joseph awoke from sleep he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took her as his wife.

Joseph's dream is captured in the beautiful and colourful painting by Philippe de Champaigne which is in the National Gallery London. Joseph obviously has had a hard day with his tools of the trade scattered on the floor.

Right: DREAM OF SAINT JOSEPH

*Philippe de Champaigne, 1642-1643, National Gallery, London*



Below: CENSUS AT BETHLEHEM

*Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1563-1569, Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels*



## THE CENSUS OF BETHLEHEM

Luke tells us; 'And it came to pass that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the world should be taxed, everyone in his own town. Joseph travelled from Nazareth unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David); to be taxed. Mary being great with child went with him.'

Pieter Bruegel, in his painting, The Census at Bethlehem (Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels) depicts a cold and busy city with many people completing the census and in the forefront we see Mary riding on the donkey which is being led by Joseph.

## THE NATIVITY

Luke's gospel covers the birth of Jesus, saying that whilst in Bethlehem for the Census; 'The time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn'.

The art world is not short of paintings of the nativity but the one by Lorenzo Lotto (National Gallery of Art Washington) is beautifully simple showing Joseph and Mary looking adoringly down at their new born baby. A couple of angels are hovering and two doves are sitting in the rafters of the barn.

Right: THE NATIVITY

*Lorenzo Lotto, 1523, National Gallery of Art, Washington*



Below: ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

*Le Nain Brothers, 1640, National Gallery, London*



## THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

Luke tells the story of the shepherds who were in the region keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel came unto them and told them the good news of a baby born in the City of David, a Saviour who is the Messiah. The shepherds went to Bethlehem where they found Joseph, Mary and the child lying in a manger. The shepherds made known to Joseph and Mary the good news they had been told about the child.

The painting I have selected is by Le Nain Brothers and can be viewed in the National Gallery, London.

## THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT

Matthew records the flight to Egypt. The Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: 'Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child and destroy him'. Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night and went to Egypt.

The Rest on the Flight into Egypt (Doria Pamphilj Gallery, Rome) is one of Caravaggio's first religious works. Here the family are resting on their long journey, Joseph rubbing his feet, Mary nodding off to sleep to the gentle music of the violin and the Christ child restful and peaceful.



Above: REST ON THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

*Caravaggio, 1597, Doria Pamphilj Gallery, Rome*

*Have a blessed and happy Christmas*

# Mary the Mother

Written by Jenny Winterburn

Last Christmas I was 15 weeks pregnant, feeling sick and crying at everything! This, combined with singing 'Mary Did You Know' at the St Mary's Midnight Christmas service (check out the Pentatonix version) inspired me to think more deeply about someone we often overlook in favour of angels and kings - Mary. I found I had a new sense of respect for Mary the mother of Jesus, and an understanding that I hadn't had before. What she undertook was enormous; to physically and emotionally commit to bringing the Son of God into the world.

When we discovered we were pregnant, as a 29-year-old I didn't feel ready or responsible enough to have a child, but Mary was probably little more than twelve! What young shoulders this news fell on. As a country girl from a small village in the near east she would have hardly resembled the tall, northern european woman dressed in blue (a colour affordable only to royalty) we are familiar with from our Christmas cards.

Having a baby not only transforms your body but also your mind; add to that the fact of being an unmarried virgin and I believe most women would jump ship! To become pregnant outside of marriage in her culture would have been punishable by death. To say she had to trust in the goodness of God's plan is something of an understatement.

So last year I found myself trying to put myself in her shoes. Not only thinking of the commitment that she gave to God in pregnancy but the fact that she gave her whole life to God's plan for her. She was courageously obedient, faithfully waiting for her time as her child grew inside her.

The song 'Mary Did You Know' touched me for a number of reasons but what stood out the most is that when Mary gave birth in simple surroundings she could not have known what was to come for her little baby. Every parent looks into their new baby's eyes and wonders what lies ahead of them, but Mary could have had no idea in that moment the true significance of that baby boy, what

he would accomplish, that she would watch him die a brutal death and then be raised to life again. As a mother it is hard to even begin to comprehend the emotions she must have felt watching her son over those years.

That's Mary to me - a woman of courage, commitment and inspiring faith. This Christmas I invite you to join me reflecting on the character of Mary and to consider how we might, with the help of the Holy Spirit, grow to be more like her.



Above: ANNUNCIATION  
*Domenico Bruschi 1886, St Paul's Cathedral, Mdina, Malta*



# New Halls for Old

Written by Nigel Francis


I can't pretend to be able to conjure up a genie so the latest development of the Hall has involved a lot of hard work but it has definitely been worth it. As diligent readers of this magazine will know, phase 1 involved the removal of the stage, new flooring put down and a complete redecoration. All this was completed last year. This summer we turned our attention to the kitchen and undertook phase 2. That is more or less complete and we now have a much enlarged kitchen with more cupboards and more cooking facilities, all done up to the latest standard, so that the Hall can now be used to cater for meals for a large number of people. We have already used the facilities to cater for a full English breakfast for 40 and that worked a treat.




As well as the kitchen we took the opportunity to upgrade the toilet facilities upstairs.

The remaining part of the programme is in the body of the Hall. The electrically operated screen is already in place; as I write the projector and speakers have yet to be installed but I confidently expect that this will be done before the end of the year.


The Hall Management Team hope that all this work, which has been made possible by a matching grant from the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, will provide a new community resource enabling hirers to put on functions involving cooked meals or to give 21st century presentations. Bookings can be made by contacting the Hall Booking Secretary, Patricia Lewis (hall-booking@hampton-church.org.uk or 020-8979-2615).



**ST MARY'S  
COMMUNITY HALL  
CHURCH STREET  
HAMPTON**



Available for bookings  
at weekends for  
children's parties, etc



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## Drama Group News

Written by Andrea Harris and Audrey Sinnott

Our Autumn 2016 production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Hampton Hill Theatre proved to be a success with a strong cast and yet another wonderful set. Our thanks go to everyone involved with the production. Our audiences thoroughly enjoyed the show and a few of the reviews and comments received are shown below:

*'In common with a lot of people who are interested in theatre I have seen a number of performances of "The Importance of Being Earnest", both professional and amateur, all enjoyable because of the sparkling wit of Oscar Wilde.'*

'One of the outstanding features of the performance by St Mary's Drama Group was the suitability of the ages of the cast. Andrea Harris looked very svelte and suitable as Lady Bracknell, the mother of a 20-something girl! And what a mother! Her inborn aristocratic confidence and expectation of being obeyed were convincing and splendid.'

*'The evening when we attended the play went smoothly at a good pace, allowing for the change of scenes. And what sets! Michael Harris always gives us excellent sets but these were his best yet and drew quite a gasp from the audience.'*

'Without picking out any one performance I would say that the acting was consistently good, bringing out the humour of the witty dialogue.'

*'The stage sets were beautifully done, the costumes very attractive, the cast word perfect and obviously enjoying their work'*



'James Henry's assured Algernon Moncrieff was vain, confident, duplicitous and Richard Pool's Jack Worthington was pragmatic, cool and calm. How the sparks flew when the flighty fickle and flirtatious Gwendolen met romantic risk-taker Cecily Cardew: both were gorgeously catty. Christina Bulford's Gwendolen was the stylish urbanite turning society constraints to her advantage while Catherine De Roure's Cecily, the sheltered young

lady of the rural village manor garden, was fresh, feminine and feline. Sue Birks gave a priceless performance as Miss Prism and

John Pyle showed us a Rev. Chasuble whose inner feelings peeped out in spite of himself. The minor roles of the staff were cleverly acted; Lane, the London Butler, played with an insightful world-weariness by Graham Beresford, and Merriman,

the county Butler, played with respectfully suppressed glee by Paul Lawston.'

*'Andrea Harris played Lady B as a haughty perfumed gorgon, brittle in voice and withering in looks. She clearly enjoyed the role and skilfully handled its portrayal. An actress in this part has the audience listening out for those most famous of lines "A handbag!" These are probably also the most malleable lines of English drama and Harris' interpretation is of derisive disgust. The audience loved it'*

A full version of Mark Aspen's review of the production can be found at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com)

## *Spring Production 2017*

Our next production, to be directed by Jean Wood and performed in St Mary's Community Hall on 6, 7 and 8 April 2017, will be Lesley Storm's *Black Chiffon*. Casting for the production has been finalised and rehearsals are scheduled to get underway early in the New Year.

# Children and Young People at St Mary's

## First Steps

**A simple and fun worship service for babies and toddlers**

Alternate Wednesdays  
10-11am in church  
Bible stories, songs, craft,  
drinks, snacks and time  
to chat or play

### FIRST STEPS DATES

14 December  
11, 25 January  
8, 22 February  
8, 22 March



**For young people of secondary school age**

F.A.B. meets in church on some Sunday mornings at 11am and most Sunday evenings for discussion, games, acting, eating and other activities. In the programme there are also occasional socials and trips to Soul Survivor.

**For further details contact Sam Waako 07923 331108**  
sam.waako@hampton-church.org.uk



## Explore

After school club for children of primary school age

Alternate Tuesdays during term time 3.45-5.15pm in the church hall

### Explore Dates

13 December  
10, 24 January  
7, 21 February  
7, 21 March

Contact **Sam Waako** for further details: **07923 331108**



**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.



**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.

## Come and join our group for carers, babies and toddlers

We meet on Mondays at 1.30-3pm in St Mary's Community Hall for play, craft, story, songs, coffee, chat and friendship



### OASIS DATES

12, 19 December  
9, 16, 23, 30 January  
6, 20, 27 February  
6, 13, 20, 27 March



## Celebrate Christingle at St Mary's



**Christingle Service Sunday 5 February at 11am**

*It would be lovely to see you*  
[www.hampton-church.org.uk](http://www.hampton-church.org.uk)



## An update on the club

Written by Nick Neilan

Since November the youth club has been running from two sites whilst we continue

working towards securing a long term venue for MTV Youth. We hold an indoor only club at Hampton Baptist Church and an outdoor only club on the site of St Mary's primary school on Oldfield Road. Despite our disappointment at having to temporarily split the youth club, the feedback from the young people has been very positive and there has been a great buzz at both sites.

The indoor club has a different craft each week which continues to prove immensely popular with the young people as well as a cooking activity, Xbox, table tennis, table football, pool, air hockey, board games and tuck. Our outdoor club is sports focused, making use of the superb floodlit courts and large green space at the school. It's wonderful that we are able to use this space, which is where it all began one Saturday morning in March 2011 when we ran our first session coaching football to five children from the Oldfield road estate.

Four Senior Young Leaders (aged 15+) have continued in their roles from last year and they have been joined by eleven new Young Leaders (aged 13). The weekend residential proved to be a fantastic lead in to the new academic year and all our Young Leaders have done a really great job this term. They arrive early to help set up the Friday night club and stay behind afterwards to pack away. More importantly they have embraced the extra responsibility given to them whilst at youth club, supporting all the various areas of the club (e.g. Reception, Tuck, Craft etc.) as well as assisting and sometimes leading activities. The development and contribution of our Young Leaders has been a huge highlight of the term so far. MTV Youth's Junior Council,

which is currently made up of five young people of mixed ages (Yr. 6 to Yr. 9) also continues to impress. The aim of the group is to empower its members to support the development of the club through their ideas and skills. In addition to providing great feedback and suggestions about the Friday night club they are currently planning a fundraising film night to take place in early 2017. Junior Council won MTV Youth's 'Team of the Year' at our annual awards night in July.

Our vision at MTV is to really care for and support the young people, provide them with great role models, offer a safe and supervised place for them to meet, have fun and develop their talents. Whilst the Friday night club is aimed at 8 – 14 year olds we continue to support our young people right through into adulthood. We are therefore always looking to develop partnerships with local organisations to provide further opportunities for our young people, particularly those over the age of 14 and we are very grateful for the relationships that have already been fostered.

Since we began we have had some amazing support from local charities, businesses and individuals. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped the club and a special mention to our wonderful team of volunteers who go the extra mile each week and who, along with our fantastic young people, make MTV Youth what it is. MTV Youth is a local youth project run by the community for the community. If you would like to support us financially or join us as a volunteer please do get in touch!



## Hindleap Warren

### A Young Leaders' Residential Trip

Written by Eleanor Bidgood

In September 2016, most of the new and some of the old young leaders went on a team building residential trip to Hindleap Warren. We departed on a Friday split over two minibuses. During the journey we spent most of the time talking about the activities we thought we would be doing at Hindleap, with everyone getting increasingly excitable the closer we got to our destination.



Once we arrived we were shown to our rooms where we got our personal items organised then went down for dinner. After dinner was our first activity which was to go down to the woods in the dark and then try and find our way back to the main building. We all worked as one big group, using a map and multiple torches to guide our way. Even though we successfully got ourselves back, there were a few people who decided to scare others along the way (Tully and Ben – we haven't forgotten!) which was hilarious and made the exercise a fantastic ice-breaker. Over the next two days we were split into varying groups and were given many activities to try, such as a high ropes course, archery and a zip-line. All the activities were designed to make the team work together and encourage each other, whilst also letting the individual learn to take on a

challenge. On the Sunday we left after lunch and pretty much everyone fell asleep. It had been a long and energetic weekend!

I believe that the trip helped the Young Leaders' team as we learnt a lot about each other's weaknesses and strengths, likes and dislikes and personality traits. I personally feel that my friendships were strengthened and that my confidence as a young leader has increased. I want to say a big thank you to Nick and all the other adult volunteers who helped organise the trip, as without their efforts it would not have happened and we would have missed out on a great experience.

**To find out more about MTV please visit our website at [mtvhampton.org.uk](http://mtvhampton.org.uk) email: [info@mtvhampton.org.uk](mailto:info@mtvhampton.org.uk)**



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## A breath of fresh air: update on our organ appeal

Written by Anselm Frost

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the response to our appeal, launched in September; for funds to renovate the main wind reservoir ('bellows') and other parts of the wind system in our church organ. We have raised a magnificent £40,000, twice the sum targeted, from over 50 donors, which will be combined with a contribution from Parish funds, a grant from Allchurches Trust (the parent of Ecclesiastical Insurance) and money raised at a recent coffee morning. This greater than anticipated total will allow us:

- to replace the leather of the main reservoir; stop motors and other parts of the organ (which, after 120 years of service with various re-patching repairs over the decades, are now 'life expired'). This requires the relevant parts to be removed to the organ builder's workshop for rebuilding; and
- in addition to the original scope of work, to refurbish the manuals and replace the 1970s electronics (transistors and diodes) that take the signal from keyboard to pipes. This will enable us at the same time to incorporate a modern solid state 'capture' system that permits the programming and subsequent execution of stop changes at speed – a standard item on any modern organ.

We aim very soon to finalise details of this substantial programme and appoint an organ builder; hopefully resulting in the work being undertaken in the summer of 2017. This will, of course, mean a period of some weeks without the charm of our organ pipes.

Please accept our thanks on behalf of the Parochial Church Council for your generosity, which ensures that future generations will continue to enjoy this magnificent musical instrument.

*'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!'*



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## The Good Seeds Project – Supporting children in Mandimba, Mozambique

Written by Fiona Rowett, Good Seeds Co-ordinator

Our partnership with Saõ Paolo's Parish in Mandimba is now 10 years old. The longest running partnership project has been supporting vulnerable children and young people, called the 'Good Seeds' to attend school. The project also provides mentors to help the children with homework and the challenges of daily life.



*Junior School children receiving their new uniforms*

The children are selected by a local committee which includes the Headteachers of the primary and secondary school and members of the church council. Children are chosen according to need and not according to their faith. For several years we have funded 70 students at the Samora Machel secondary school. Last year, we also funded 30 students at the Julius Nywere primary school, some of them much older than primary pupils in the UK.

*Junior, aged 9, lives with his mum. He wants to be a teacher when he leaves school. He said 'Thank you for helping me and please continue to help us'*



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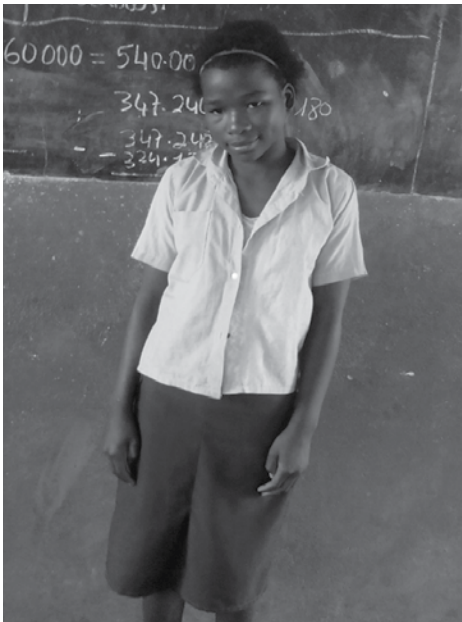
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One reason for this is that children do not automatically progress from one year to the next – they have to pass the end of year exams. Additionally, the Good Seeds children have all been affected by significant challenges. Many have lost one or both parents and some could no longer afford to attend school when both their parents died. With help from the Good Seeds project they have re-enrolled. Two students affected in this way are 16 year old Francisco, who is hoping to complete his primary schooling soon and eventually wants to join the police, and 15 year old Catarina.



*Catarina is an orphan and lives with her sister. She is very grateful for the help with school books and materials so she can continue her studies. She hopes to be a nurse when she leaves school.*

Continues on page 18.



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The school facilities are basic. Repairs are underway at the Julius Nywere School, after the roof came off. Whilst this is carried out, lessons take place in classrooms like this...



I am delighted that St Mary's Primary School will be supporting these students next year, whilst we continue to support the 70 students at the secondary

school. We have received messages of thanks from the secondary aged students. Many are amazed and grateful that people so far away care enough to support them.



*Some of this year's secondary school students.*

Thank you to everyone who has supported these students through generous donations and through their prayers. Together with the local team in Mandimba, we are able to make a real difference to these children and young people's lives. It is hugely appreciated by the community in Mandimba.



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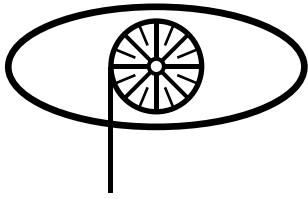
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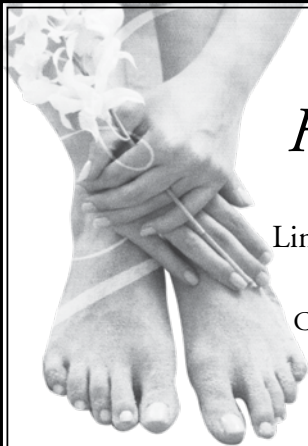
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### Bell Ringing

For anyone who would like to combine pleasant physical and mental exercise. Tuesday 8pm practice

Contact: Alison Ward on 020 8979 9848

### Friends of St Mary's

Help care for the upkeep of the building by fund-raising and social events. Discretionary annual subscription fee. All welcome

Contact: Nigel Francis 020 8941 1467

### St Mary's Drama Group

Perform several plays each year. Actors and backstage help always welcomed

Contact: Andrea Harris 020 3560 5796

### Children and Young People at St Mary's

We have activities for children and young people of all ages at St Mary's, see pages 11 to 14 for further details.

