



St Mary's  
Harrow on the Hill

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MayDay! MayDay! Edition

# The Spire

(May 2022)

## Christian Aid, May Day and Meanderings



### Moving into May

After a truly glorious Easter Sunday at our Open Air Morning Service in the churchyard, we are gradually resuming Normal Business, somewhat exhausted by both the Easter Week's activities and the collaboration with Harrow School's 450 Celebrations.

Various things are happening in May—we aim to keep you up to date with all of them—so see further details inside.

Father James and Douglas Dodd will be seeing Red yet again as we launch into St Mary's campaign to support Christian Aid Week.

Douglas Dodd will also be stewarding the Annual Long Distance sponsored walk for St Luke's Hospice that his wife Lesley initiated and organised for 20 years. This year it will be St Oswald's Way which runs up the Northumberland Coast to Lindisfarne. St Mary's Church congregation has always been supportive with at least 8 members of the congregation or parish taking up the challenge over the years. As there are no other church members being sponsored this year, if you would like to support St Luke's Hospice walkers in some way then Doug's Justgiving page is [www.justgiving.com/Douglas-Dodd2](http://www.justgiving.com/Douglas-Dodd2)



### Diary Date—MAY 8th

Please put May 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning Service in your diaries—as we will hold a Christian Aid Sunday.

### In this issue:

Father James shares his photo album from Easter!  
Marian launches her new series into Music and Faith.

Fiona has some wonderful Food and Feasts as she recommends a special recipe for Lanfranc day!

Everyone-(or almost everyone), has been in Fancy Dress for the 450 Community Day!

And lots more news besides!

Dear Friends, On the first day of the week, at early dawn.....*Luke 24:1*, it was a joy to welcome almost 150 people onto the Chapel Terrace at Harrow School for our first Dawn Service in three years with another 100 or so gathering in the Churchyard at 10.30, not to mention the breakfast wonderfully provided by Spire Café “in the middle”. To add to this year’s Easter celebration, what a joy it was to join with baptism and confirmation candidates from



across the diocese in St Paul’s Cathedral for the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening to witness our won nine candidates being baptised and confirmed by Bishop Sarah. There are photos elsewhere in this edition, but please pray for all our newly confirmed having taken this important next step in their own individual pilgrimages.

The Easter mystery incorporates the great events of Ascension and Pentecost – indeed, John’s Gospel suggests Jesus

“breathed” the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the evening of the first Easter day, “Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” *John 20:20-22* Together, Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost form a “Symphony of Hope” in a world where human beings remain, far too frequently, at best, self-centred and at worst, self-obsessed with all the terrible consequences that follow. Living as an Easter people, we are called to live in the hope of resurrection and act accordingly.

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*“It was a joy to welcome over 150 people for our first Easter Dawn Service in three years”*

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In that context, we shall once again, put some considerable effort into our support of Christian Aid during Christian Aid week beginning on Sunday 8 May. Christian Aid began in response to the refugee crisis created by the Second World War. Once more, Europe is creating its own refugee challenge in the face of war in Ukraine. The services on Sunday 8 May will reflect the themes and issues raised by Christian Aid and I urge you to respond generously and prayerfully.

#### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – Hungry for Justice**

Christian Aid Week will be 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May this year . Today the Ukrainian crisis looms large in our consciousness and in addition to responding to hunger and poverty in the world CA are working with 3 partner organisations Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in Ukraine and Hungary, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Poland, and Swiss Church Aid (HEKS) in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, to offer assistance to internally displaced peoples and to refugees.

Back home our volunteer collectors have had a difficult two years with the pandemic stopping us meeting people personally to collect envelopes, but we have reverted to online donations so collectors just deliver envelopes. If you can spare some time to distribute envelopes locally in the parish for this worthy cause in our troubled world please contact Douglas Dodd on 0208 864 6761.

Closer to home, this edition of the Spire will be published in the immediate aftermath of the Harrow 450 Community Day, when the Hill community will have joined with Harrow School in celebrating its “foundation”. St Mary’s is playing major role in these celebrations, not least because John Lyon almost certainly endowed the existing parish school. The Church on Saturday 30 April will be a focus of the Elizabethan and Jacobean era of the School, the period when John Lyon received the Charter from Queen Elizabeth in 1572 and the Old Schools were completed in 1615. The “modern School” continues to have very close relations with the Church, now worshipping weekly on Thursday mornings and with a healthy group of Harrovians swelling the congregation at 8.00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. I record my gratitude to all those who have been involved in the plans for this Community Day which will have attracted many visitors to St Mary’s.

On Low Sunday the Parish held the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM). I take this opportunity to record my thanks to Jane Hurley who has asked to step down as Churchwarden to explore other areas of ministry within St Mary’s. This creates a vacancy for Churchwarden which MUST be filled – it is a statutory obligation to fill this post! Please consider whether you are the person to succeed Jane and contact me directly to discuss what the role may involve.

The meeting also received the accounts for 2021. In common with many churches over the pandemic our financial position has been undermined by lack of service and visitors. The primary responsibility for correcting this position rests with those of us for whom the ministry of St Mary’s is part of our own Christian calling, i.e. everyone reading this magazine!! We need to consider prayerfully “a real terms increase” in our Planned Giving of 11%. We are all “squeezed” financially at this time and St Mary’s is no different, so do give serious and prayerful thought to this.

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### *“St Paul reminds us that “God loves a cheerful giver”*

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St Paul reminds us that “God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Corinthians 9:7. In the darkness of the suffering world, we still have much for which we can be cheerful and hopeful as an Easter people.

There is real joy in being able to reach out to fellow human beings, offering a real welcome and receiving so much in return. As the writer to the Hebrews put it, “practise hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” Hebrews 13:2

St Mary’s is a place of peace (welcome) and prayer for all people – that is our Easter message, that is our mission: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

A very happy and blessed continuation of the Easter season to you all

With every blessing

Fr James



## Confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral on Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil Service at St Paul's Cathedral nine parishioners from St Mary's were confirmed by the Bishop of London. They were Lisa Malki, Bradley Pack and Alasdair Reilly, who were baptised as well as confirmed (pictured immediately below



on the left) and Debora Catherall (centre of the bottom picture with the Bishop), Liviu, Flavia and Eric Zoica (in both pictures on the right). They were joined by Anoushka and Neve Sharma.





## Monumental Connections and the 450 Celebration Day.

As we go to print, we are anticipating a wonderful day for the 450 Community Celebration on April 30th.

The plan is...

**11am-6pm. Spire Cafe** open for really good homemade fayre.

**12-12.45. Monumental Connections Talk..**we will present some of the amazing stories of people connected to both St Mary's and Harrow School in the church, and introduce our new leaflet.

**1. 40pm and later...St Mary's Bellringers** celebrate 450 years in special peals..the opening one for Queen Elizabeth I the closing one for Queen Elizabeth II.

**From 2pm**

**Characters from St Mary's past** will spring to life to meet you..your chance to meet John Lyon, Dr Graham, Fanny Trollope and others who have children's activities lined up to share with you and your family.

**Tower and Roof Tours..**visit the 600 year old Spire, meet the Victorian lady plumber, Hannah Putnam who will tell you about the work of re-leading the Spire in 1860

**Church and churchyard displays..**talk to our guides and experts and learn more about the fabulous wildlife and wild-flowers in the churchyard



SEE YOU ON SATURDAY 30TH!!

Chester the Sea Otter trying Dr Graham's wig on for size!

This, the first of a series about music in the Bible, features a decree found in Daniel chapter 3 which embraces all instruments. The *Jerusalem Bible* gives a much fuller and clearer account of events subsequent to the issuing of this directive as it includes passages from an Aramaic original surviving in Greek but not in Hebrew manuscripts.

When Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, captured Jerusalem, certain boys of high birth, good appearance, much intelligence and the right age were chosen to undergo three years' training for future service in the palace administration. Among them were Ananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Such foreign names were not countenanced so they were renamed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to impress their changed circumstances upon them. However the three seemed very aware of the importance of their true names, remaining unflinchingly faithful to God. The '-iah' ending denotes 'Yahweh' and the '-el' God. After their apprenticeship they were entrusted with the affairs of the province. Nebuchadnezzar was an irascible man with a violent nature and vengeful streak who expected instant obedience and would vehemently declare what awful fate awaited the disobedient. It took great courage and steadfastness of character to defy him. The King erected an oversized gold statue of a Babylonian god. Was it Nabu, their god of wisdom, or was it Nebuchadnezzar himself? 'Nebu' is a variant of 'Nabu'. This connection might have given him a sense of his own divinity. It was at its dedication that a herald proclaimed to all the inhabitants that, regardless of nationality or language,

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*'the moment you hear the sound of the HORN, PIPE, LYRE, TRIGON, HARP, BAGPIPE, OR ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT, you must prostrate yourselves and worship the golden statue . Those who do not shall immediately be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.'* (v. 5-6)

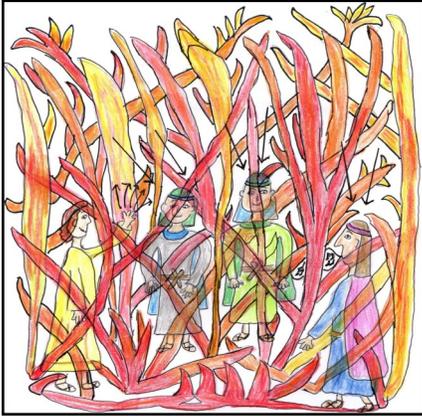
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There were to be no exceptions. Whatever the time, whatever was being done, however inconvenient, everyone was to perform this ritual. How many times a day did an instrument sound? Was this based on the normal routine? Was it a special programme? Were there eunuchs watching for those who remained upstanding? Might failure to obey have gone unnoticed?

After some time certain Chaldeans reported Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's lack of compliance. Perhaps they were motivated by jealousy of the power given to foreigners, sought recognition for upholding the decree or had a ghoulish desire to see men suffer horribly. A furious Nebuchadnezzar summoned the three miscreants and asked which god could possibly save them. The young men stood firm, undaunted, replying that if their God was able to save them, He would do so. The King, incandescent with rage, ordered the furnace to be made seven times hotter than usual, a heat so fierce that it burned to death those who transported and deposited the intended victims who had been bound fully clothed.

## IN THE FIERY FURNACE

There were probably musicians at the scene. Azariah received a call to worship and prayed to God, acknowledging his justice and judgment, recognising that the people had sinned by failing to keep the Law, requesting that He did not abandon them for ever, hoping that a contrite soul and humbled spirit could be an acceptable atonement and beseeching, *'Grant us deliverance; let your name win glory, Lord. Confusion seize those who ill-treat your servants. Let them learn that you alone are God.'* (from v. 44-46).



The King's servants stoked the furnace with oil, pitch, tow, and brushwood until flames rose high above it, generating heat so fierce that those standing nearby died. Those further back must have been amazed and puzzled to hear a calm voice from within and not the expected shrieks or cries of pain. God was present with the three, for *the angel of the Lord came down beside Azariah and his companions;*

*he drove the flames outwards and fanned in to them a coolness such as wind and dew will bring, so that the fire did not even touch them.'* (v.49-50).

Onlookers would have been more perplexed to hear three voices singing joyfully but incomprehensibly. The companions were extolling God for saving them from death in the flames and exhorting all of his creation to bless and praise Him, listing everything from angels and the heavens down to humankind, ending with themselves, using their rightful names, Ananiah, Azariah, Mishael. (These words are in the *Apocrypha* as *The Song of the Three Young Men / Holy Children* and also appear as the *Benedicite* at Matins.)

Nebuchadnezzar could not fathom what had happened. There were no signs of any bonds and there were **four** men walking in the furnace. He called on the three in his service to come out. There was no singeing, no scorching, no smell of burning. Astounded, he insisted, *'Let anyone speak disrespectfully of the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and I will have him torn limb from limb and his house razed to the ground'* (v. 96). He then promoted the favoured three. Instruments would have continued to sound in the course of daily life. Was the decree cancelled or amended? Did the practice cease?

We, too, have a musical call to worship and are fortunate to have a dedicated team of bellringers to summon us with rounds, changes and quarter peals, as *'the sounding bells do through the air proclaim God's welcome far and near.'* (from *On Christmas Day* by Thomas Treherne [slightly adapted])

## May Food and Feasts Focus on Lanfranc

On 28<sup>th</sup> May it is the celebration of Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec in Normandy, Archbishop of Canterbury and scholar who died of fever in 1089 and was buried at Canterbury.

Lanfranc has a particular association with St Mary's Harrow on the Hill as he laid the foundation for the church in 1087. The project was continued by Anselm one of his former pupils at Bec who, eventually, followed him as Primate. In his role as Archbishop of Canterbury Lanfranc was a frequent visitor to the area as he had a hunting lodge situated on the site of what is now the Grove boarding house which abuts the current church yard boundaries. The story is that he wanted a church more in keeping with his status rather than the humble Anglo Saxon building that existed on the Hill prior to the Norman Conquest.

Despite being Italian by birth<sup>1</sup> Lanfranc was a significant member of the Norman establishment and on occasions would act as vicegerent in England for William the Conqueror<sup>2</sup>. It is likely that he achieved this status through his support of William when his marriage to Matilda of Flanders was being questioned by the Church. As the Prior of Bec, in line with Pope Leo IX, he initially opposed what was considered to be a non-canonical relationship, prohibited because of the law of consanguinity. For this stance he incurred a sentence of exile which was revoked when he agreed to argue the Duke of Normandy's case in Rome and obtained Pope Nicholas II's approval of the union.<sup>3</sup> Through this and other diplomatic errands that he conducted for William he was able to exert considerable political influence over the Duke.<sup>4</sup> William, in turn, nominated Lanfranc for the See of Canterbury and supported his programme of ecclesiastical reform in England. His deposed Anglo Saxon predecessor was Stigand, who had been excommunicated for pluralism by five successive popes<sup>5</sup>. For propaganda purposes, Stigand was branded as corrupt by the Normans who imprisoned him and confiscated his estates and immense wealth<sup>6</sup>.

Lanfranc as Arch Bishop of Canterbury made it his mission to rid the English Church of corruption and promote monasticism<sup>7</sup>. It was also his aim to ensure that Normans were placed in preferments of importance over their English counterparts.<sup>8</sup> When looking at the list of Rectors of St. Mary's situated behind the choir stall on the south side of the chancel the names are all Norman during the medieval period.

Lanfranc's greatest political service to William was the foiling of a plot against the king by the Earls of Norfolk and Hereford and on William's death in 1087 he secured the succession for William Rufus and exacted promises of just government which



Lanfranc as he appears on the walls of Canterbury Cathedral

were not always upheld.<sup>9</sup>

The Byrkhede cope on display in the North Transept was commissioned 1987 to commemorate the foundation of St. Mary's by Lanfranc.

As Lanfranc has strong connections with Normandy this month's recipe is from that region of France. Any dish that includes apples,

cream and cider, or calvados if being more indulgent, is labelled à la normande. It is, also, a good way of using up the wrinkled apples in the fruit bowl that nobody wants to eat!

## Normandy Chicken<sup>10</sup>

Serves 6

12 Chicken thighs with skin

12 small round shallots, peeled and halved through the root

4 eating apples, cored and cut into wedges

¼ tsp of ground allspice

4 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed

6 sprigs of thyme

A splash of olive oil

Salt and black pepper

25g of butter

Juice of ½ lemon

125ml dry cider

2-3 tbsp of crème Fraîche

1 tbsp Dijon Mustard

Heat the oven to Gas Mark 6/200C

Put the shallots and apples in a roasting tin with the allspice, garlic and thyme. Add a splash of oil with the lemon juice and toss together until everything is well coated.

Season the chicken well and smear the skin with the butter and put in the centre of the tin pushing the apples and shallots to the sides. Roast for 25 minutes or until the skin is crisp and browned. Add the cider and cook for another 15 minutes, checking that the juices from the thighs are running clear. Remove the shallots and apples to a plate to keep warm and allow the chicken thighs to rest. Put the tin on the hob and bring the juices to bubble, stirring well until they thicken slightly. Remove from

the heat and add the crème fraîche whisking it in well. Add the mustard, bring to a bubble and simmer, whisking vigorously to form the sauce. Pour into the sauce any juices from the resting chicken thighs and add further seasoning if required.

Place the thighs on a serving plate surrounded by the shallots and apples and pour the sauce over the chicken. Serve with crusty French bread to mop up the sauce.

Notes— 1. Birt, Lanfranc Catholic Encyclopedia Volume 8 (Editor Hebermann) Robert Appleton Co. (1910), 2. Davis (1911), 3. Birt, 4. Davis, 5. Knowles, Monastic Order in England Cambridge University Press (1963), 6. Douglas, William The Conqueror University of California Press (1967), 7. Barlow, The English Church, 1066-1154 Longman (1979), 8. Davis, 9. Ibid, 10. Hollweg, Sunday Times Style Magazine

Iolanthe-June 12th

Several people from St Mary's Choir are busily rehearsing Gilbert and Sullivan for a performance in Ickenham on June 12th. NOT TO BE MISSED!

White Knight presents Gilbert and Sullivan's

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## Other News Round Up

**The Spire Editor writes-due to space constraints in the April Spire, we didn't print these articles then-however, we thought you may still find them interesting..**

### **World Day of Prayer**

Churches of Central Harrow contribution to World Day of Prayer For 2022 was held at St John's Greenhill at 7 p.m. on Friday 4th March. The theme was God's plans and readings around the book of Jeremiah. The emphasis was that you should place your faith in God as he has a plan for you. Packets of seeds were distributed to the congregation so that they can grow plants and have these as a symbol of hope. As in other years the service revolved around a number of different readers taking part and the lighting of 7 candles across the course of the service. Some of the readers had to do role-play and take on the voices of true people who had experienced great trauma in their lives but found faith in God. St John's Greenhill put on a very good welcome for us- represented were Harrow Baptist Church, Trinity Church Hindes Road, Our Lady and St. Thomas Church and of course St John's Greenhill and St Mary's Harrow on the Hill.

St John's Greenhill have invested in technology and are now streaming their services live via their website. The service is also show recorded on YouTube for those who wish to watch it after the event. After the service I spoke to two ladies from Our Lady and St. Thomas Church who explained they also are involved in the Street Pastors. They explained that since Covid it was difficult for the homeless as most of the places to go to close early. They also explained that the Weldon Centre had closed and that The Breakfast Club that used to be run for the homeless had stopped. We all enjoyed meeting each other and hope the churches together in Central Harrow can do some more events together in the coming year.

### **Harrow-on-the-Hill becomes 91st step-free London Underground station**

by **ROGER SMITH** 14th March 2022 in [Network](#)

One-third of London's Underground stations are now step-free after the installation of four new lifts at Harrow-on-the-Hill station on the Metropolitan Line, which became the 91st Tube station to provide step-free access.

Taylor Woodrow BAM Nuttall Joint Venture and Otis installed the lifts. They now provide a step-free route between the street and Metropolitan Line trains, and greatly improve access for customers with reduced mobility, people travelling with heavy luggage, or with children in buggies. To assist with wayfinding in the station, signage has been enhanced.

For customers boarding or alighting from Chiltern trains, boarding ramps will continue to be provided, and with TfL's Turn-up-and-go service, staff will be on hand to assist customers if required.

Councillor Graham Henson, Leader of Harrow Council, and Louise Weldon, Chief Executive of Harrow Association for Disabled People, joined the Mayor of London and TfL to celebrate the opening of the lifts.

Last year, step-free access schemes were completed at Sudbury Hill, Osterley, Battersea Power Station, Nine Elms, Wimbledon Park, Ickenham, Debden, and Amer-sham. In addition, Ealing Broadway was made step-free in May 2021 in preparation for the Elizabeth Line.

Cllr Graham Henson, Leader of Harrow Council, said: "For so long many commuters including those less able and parents with prams have been left unable to use Harrow-on-the-Hill station – a key transport hub in the borough. "Although it's been a long wait, I am delighted that step-free access is now available. It opens up Harrow for hundreds more people who were unable to access it previously.

"There are also other huge benefits – it also meets our air quality agenda by giving more people access to public transport.

### Comic Verse

Laughter said to be the best medicine, I think funny poems are important. Verse rather than poetry, comic verses are a distinct English genre with some poets specialising. Think of Edward Lear and his nonsense rhymes like *The Owl and the Pussycat*, and *The Jumblies*, and Hilaire Belloc's cautionary tales including the one about naughty Jim who was eaten by a lion as a consequence.

I have entered these two in a competition in *The Spectator* magazine for 'poems on an embarrassing body part written in the style of a famous writer'. I have chosen to write mine in the style of Hilaire Belloc. A device which contributes to making a poem funny is end rhyme but particularly mosaic rhyme (mosaic – pieces making a whole) eg *dispute a / hooter*.

These were fun to write and, I hope, for you to read.

Dorothy

#### Pooter's Lament

Chief among the several woes  
of young and hopeful Mr Pooter  
was his quite enormous nose –  
a Guinness Book of Records hooter.  
As party guest, whichever he chose:  
to squash it in a champagne flute or  
drape it outside, soused his clothes.  
When he aspired to be a suitor,  
vertical or sideways pose,  
his kisses failed. Beyond dispute a  
tragic blow. He tried, God knows.  
One girl declared, 'You ugly brute! A  
girl can take so much!' then rose  
disdainfully and fled. Acuter  
heartache! Last straw! History shows  
he shot himself with sawn-off shooter.

Dorothy Pope

#### The Prime Minister's Hair

The sight of Britain's PM's hair  
filled the nation with despair.  
Though one and all advised a trim,  
it didn't seem to bother him.  
All they could do was stand and stare  
and ask, 'With what does it compare?

Burst mattress? Or at very best  
last year's abandoned heron's nest?  
A forest after Force Ten gale?  
The shop floor after Harrod's sale  
or litter at a football match?  
Apprentice's first go at thatch?  
The routed French at Waterloo  
or Coventry in World War Two?

then cede, 'This trichologic sin  
comes with the most engaging grin.'

Dorothy Pope

