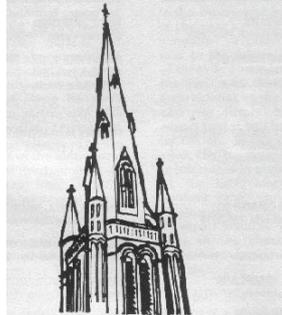


# The Spire



## Christmas 2016



## Christmas 2016

2016 has been a momentous year. Right across the political spectrum the agenda has changed. On the left Jeremy Corbyn has confounded the experts and consolidated his position as Leader of the Labour Party, promising a new style of politics and a socialist programme for the next election.

Again, confounding the experts, the referendum went against the government, opting for Britain to leave the European Union. In America, Donald Trump won the Presidential Election against the Washington establishment, exemplified by Hillary Clinton.

In Europe, anti-establishment parties have been gaining strength, and next year there could be another turn in the popular vote with parties with more isolationist views. No one saw this populist trend happening across the West. The main losers in this momentum has been the experts, the pollsters and the mainstream elite.

But how are we as Christians to view this shift in the political agenda. After all, the system of democratic elections has its roots deep in the Judaeo- Christian tradition. We are all equal in the sight of God. We are all made in the image of God. It is God who is the final arbiter.

In addition, the Christian faith has scarcely been on the side of the elites through the centuries. From the Annunciation when Gabriel appeared to Mary promising that her son would be the Messiah, she cried out:

*He has mercy on those who fear him, •  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm •  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,*

*Casting down the mighty from their thrones •  
and lifting up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things •  
and sent the rich away empty.*

These verses form the core of the Magnificat, the Song of Mary, recorded in St Luke's Gospel. This is the beginning of a pattern that goes right across the New Testament. It has been called the Great Reversal. The turning of everything upside down, with its chorus: 'the first shall be last, and the last shall be first'. The problem is that God has a habit of upturning the status quo quite frequently. No elite, even new elites, can feel entirely comfortable. Not that this is an comfortable message as we seek stability and continuity in our daily lives. The Great Reversal can cast its shadow long. It can be part of the darkness that enfolds us from time to time. It tests our faith. We are called to hang on to our faith in God when darkness surrounds us and we can see no way out. The Psalmist says:

*Give judgement for me, O God,  
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; •  
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.  
For you are the God of my refuge;  
why have you cast me from you, •  
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?  
O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, •  
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,  
That I may go to the altar of God,  
to the God of my joy and gladness; •  
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.  
Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, •  
and why are you so disquieted within me?*

*O put your trust in God; •  
for I will yet give him thanks,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

What I have just described might be the Advent spirit which acknowledges the realities of the world and throws us back onto God and exercises our faith.

But then there is Christmas. Here the light shines in the darkness. In the lowliest place, amongst the lowliest humans and the animals, something wonderful happens. A child is born. Hope comes into the world and lifts our spirits. The simple love that bonded Jesus, Mary and Joseph flowered in Jesus' life left us a legacy beyond any human aspiration or construct. That love between the Holy Family became the banner for a whole new religion.

Love was magnified and unified through Jesus and his ministry. He showed in himself and explained how God is love – a love that brooks no distance. God entered the world of humanity. He did not remain in heaven, as it were. He became one of us. No distance, but the fullest fellowship imaginable.

JAMcK

*In the article which follows Jan Ives, the daughter of Bill and Jean Richardson, describes how she and a group of concerned relatives sought to change the ways in which the NHS cared for its patients suffering from the diseases of old age. In some ways it was simple stuff, but she and her team showed just how important the hospital environment was for elderly people, and how just such aspects of care, attuned to the needs of the elderly in their fears, frustrations and anxieties could make all the difference. A light shining in the darkness.*

## **BREAKING GOOD NEWS**

Since 2013 Kingston Hospital has been working towards creating a ward with an healing environment for their patients who were living with dementia. There is increasing evidence that the environment of care in hospitals can have a significant and detrimental effect on patients with dementia. (Alzheimer's Society 2009). When someone is admitted to hospital they are often frightened, confused, frustrated and anxious and they have to stay away from their family who are often their most loved and trusted carers.

Kingston has worked with advisors, staff, carers and people living with dementia to redesign and transform one of the elderly care wards. Particular care was taken with the wall colours – they need to be bright and vibrant, gentle lighting is important, good signage and sensitive, homely spaces away from the ward for eating, activities and sharing time with family and friends.



I have had the pleasure of being involved in the project from its conception to seeing patients moved into the finished ward on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many people within Holy Trinity have been wonderfully supportive and I hope that these few photographs illustrate some of the new ideas that have been included. My Mum, Jean Richardson, made me very aware of the need for significant changes in the way that patients with dementia and their carers are treated in an acute hospital. This new ward is a testimony to what can happen when enough people get together with a shared goal that will benefit so many people.

It has also been realised that so many of these changes will benefit most patients and their carers and so many of the new wards features and the changes in the culture of the medical and nursing teams will be evident throughout the hospital. It won't all happen tomorrow but changes are happening. It's very exciting.



# **Burns Night Concert**

**a Celebration of his**

**Songs and Poems**

*Join us for an Evening of Scottish Fun!*

*With a few English songs as well*

*And some Tap Dancing!*

*at*

***Holy Trinity Church***

***Ponsonby Rd***

***Roehampton SW15***

***5.00 pm Sunday 29th January 2017***

*Tickets £5.00 include Light Refreshments*

*Come and have fun and perhaps a wee dram!*

# Services for Christmas 2016

Sunday 18th December

## **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10.00am Parish Eucharist

12.00pm Holy Communion

**3.00pm Carol Service at Minstead Gdns**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

**7.00pm Carols by Candlelight  
at Holy Trinity**

## **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

5.00pm Crib Service at Holy Trinity

11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity

## **Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

8.00am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

10.00am Christmas Eucharist at Holy Trinity

12.00noon Christmas Lunch  
at Minstead Gardens





Ann Budhram wishes all her friends a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:**

Justine Greening MP  
020 8946 4575.

**Surgeries:**

First Friday each month at  
Roehampton Library:  
3.30pm - 4.30pm; and at the  
new Putney Library. 5.30pm -  
6.30pm. On Third Saturday of  
the month at Southfields  
Library: 9.00am - 10.00am

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*Roehampton Ward Councillors*  
Cllrs Peter Carpenter, Sue  
McKinney and Jeremy  
Ambache.

**Surgeries:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays  
from 11.00am - 12.00noon at  
Roehampton Library  
Contact Number:

020 8944 0378.

*West Putney Ward Councillors*  
Cllrs Lewer, Jane Cooper and  
Stephanie Sutters

**Surgeries:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from  
10.30am - 11.30am at Putney  
Library  
Contact Number: 020 8944  
0378

**SCHOOLS**

**Nursery**

*Alton Children's Centre*  
Ellisfield Drive

*Alton Community  
Playschool*

'One O'clock Club'  
Fontley Way  
Telephone 020 8780 2008

*Eastwood Nursery School*

168 Roehampton Lane  
020 8788 3976

**Primary**

*Roehampton Church  
School and Nursery*

Head - Mr Richard Woodfin  
020 8788 8650

*Heathmere Primary School*

020 8788 9057

*The Alton Primary School*

020 8876 8482

*Sacred Heart School and  
Nursery (RC)*

020 8876 7074

**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

020 8788 5012

Fr David Gummett

## **ROEHAMPTON ECUMENICAL PARISH**

HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH  
Ponsonby Road SW15 4AA

Sundays      8.00am    Holy Communion {1<sup>st</sup> Sunday only}  
                 10.00am    Parish Eucharist (CW)  
                 12.00noon Holy Communion (BCP)

## **MINSTEAD GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH**

Sundays            3.00pm Afternoon Service:  
                          Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)  
                          Prayer & Praise (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

### **Staff**

Vicar: The Reverend James McKinney MA  
The Vicarage, Ponsonby Road, SW15 4LA 020 8788 9460

Minister: The Reverend Roy Jackson MA  
13, Enmore Road, Putney SW15 6LL      020 8788 1219

Urban Missioner: Ms Ali Stacey Chapman 07858710916

#### Licensed Readers:

Mrs Anne Arnold BA MPhil  
Mrs Em Woodroffe BD ARCO

#### Churchwardens:

Mrs Valerie Shelmerdine                    020 8780 1030  
Mrs Ann O'Sullivan                            020 8876 7102

#### Church Steward:

Mrs Jean Harrison                            020 8487 5660