



September Editorial.

By Father Gerald Beauchamp.

As we move into the latter part of the year we can have a sense of time running out. Days are getting shorter. Life at work and school is revving up. Christmas is coming. Demands upon us seem endless. How we crave 'space'.

Churches are usually large buildings. To enter such great spaces is an invitation to make space in our lives: living rooms for God. What we see around us is to be replicated within. But how? If I had the definitive answer I could write a self-help best seller. But I don't. My experience however is that the best approach is constantly to return to fundamentals.

What are the most important things in life? At the end of each day I play the hours back to myself. Who did I meet? What did I say? What happened? Was I conscious of Christ the unseen guest in every encounter or was I pursuing my own agenda? Was the day fulfilling or frittered away?

And the day goes better if I begin it by consciously asking that it will end with a joyful recollection not a painful one.

These exercises are prayer. Prayer creates the space within. It enlarges the soul. The greater the soul: the better the world. When we are running out of time the temptation we are like hamsters in a wheel running ever faster. The counter-intuitive thing is to stop. Be still. Draw breath. And allow the universe to inhale. It's a call to the fundamental: God.

Jamie Lonsdale & Friends Centenary Concert.

The Annunciation Centenary concert has been kindly organised by Jamie Lonsdale, the great nephew of a WW1 fallen soldier who is commemorated in the Church. 2014 also happens to be the 100 year anniversary of the Church. Jamie is an opera singer, so it will be an evening of arias and songs from operas and West End shows... not too heavy and a lot of fun! Jamie will be joined by:

- English Soprano Alexandra Kennedy: Performance highlights include a recital at the Ritz for Prince Albert of Monaco, singing for Boris Johnson the night he was elected Mayor of London, a private recital for Gordon and Sarah Brown at Chequers, an historic performance for the earthquake appeal in the Great Hall of People in Beijing, and more recently, a private recital for the Duchess of Cornwall at Clarence House.

- Mezzo-soprano Flora McIntosh: 'The music itself was powerfully rendered...Flora McIntosh was sensuous, sophisticated and strong as Violetta's best friend Flora' (Charlotte Valori, Bachtrack). Flora in La Traviata (OperaUpClose, Kings Head Theatre)

- Chinese X-Factor winner Mary-Jess.

- Musical Director Robert Emery: Award-winning Robert D.C. Emery is a multi-skilled musician, equally at home playing or conducting classical and light music. His work has taken him all over the world conducting amongst others, the London Philharmonic, Japan Philharmonic, British Philharmonic, National Symphony, Basel Symphony, Birmingham Philharmonic, Central Aichi and The London Chorus.

Please come and support this wonderful event and see our October Diary overleaf for more details. Tickets are limited so please book online at www.jamie-lonsdale.com or by contacting Laura Royde on lroyde@gmail.com. Feel free to invite friends along!

Tweets

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Jamie Lonsdale @LonsdaleJamie 13 Sep

Another 27 tickets sold yesterday for my Birthday Musical Extravaganza in Marble Arch on 23 October. Best apply now for remaining tickets

Retweeted by Jamie Lonsdale

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#Birthday #musical #extravaganza 23 October 7.30pm Marble Arch

Tweet to @jamie_lonsdale





October Diary:

- Tuesday 7, 14, 21 October, 3.45pm.
Children's Choir Practice. The After School Music Club has now been renamed the Children's Choir. Hannah Parry-Ridout continues
- Thursday 23 October, 7.30pm.
Jamie Lonsdale & Friends present an Evening of Arias & Songs from your Favourite Operas and West End Shows.

Artists include:

-Mary-Jess: (Chinese X-Factor winner, album of the year (2012), Best Newcomer Award.

-Flora McIntosh: 'A model of expressive and musical integrity' (OPERA)

-Alexandra Kennedy: 'A Stunning Soprano' (Daily Mail)
Musical Director: Robert Emery

Tickets £25 each or 4 tickets for £60 (includes a glass of Prosecco)
Tickets available from:
www.jamie-lonsdale.com / 01367 820599 or lroyde@gmail.com. All proceeds for the church restoration appeal.

Conversations with ... Evelyn Chua.



My life in the UK began at a boarding school where I completed my A levels. It was not an experience I relished but nonetheless, served its purpose and goal. I pursued my career at the Royal Academy of Music for three years followed by another 2 years in the United States to complete my postgraduate degree in music education. Although I have treasured the finer moments of my musical career, it was my passion for teaching and learning that eventually drew me back to school. After a brief spell as a classroom teacher, I launched into my first headship at Hampden Gurney



Life with a wonderful husband, two amazing children and two adorable dogs could not be more normal. However, with a happy home life, it had allowed me to devote much of my time to my second home, Hampden Gurney School. Ironically, when I began my career at Hampden Gurney as a newly qualified teacher, it was never my long term plan to remain at the school after my induction year. I suspect God had other plans and here I am, after 17 years, still happily thriving and enjoying every moment at this wonderful school.

My career at Hampden Gurney was very much guided by an inspirational and remarkable man, Father Michael Burgess. Father Burgess, who was then the parish priest and Chairman of Governors, had faith that I would take his beloved Hampden Gurney to the heights of success, and that I would somehow, against all odds, fulfil his vision and dream to bring the Annunciation and Hampden Gurney School closer together. Together with Mr Brian Hilton, his successor, we hope to have accomplished some of Father Burgess's foresight and vision.

I trust that my journey from a small town in Malaysia will continue to move in the direction steered by my spiritual faith and strong desire to navigate the ever changing landscape of education to influence the lifelong learning of all our children. ”

Hampden Gurney – A personal History. By Brian Hilton.

Evelyn Chua will tell you about the Christian ethos and success of the school under her inspired leadership. It is one of my most significant achievements as a school Governor to be party to her appointment as Head-teacher. I thought my piece would contribute a personal history of the school! September 2015 will mark the time when my mother, Gladys Haylett, joined the school as a rising 5 year old one hundred years ago. I joined the school as a 5 year old in 1945 and my sister, Penelope, in 1952 at the same time as her future husband, Clifford Baker.

My mother and her brothers and sisters all went to Hampden Gurney which at that time was both a primary and secondary school. They had a redoubtable headmistress in Miss Ironside. Ironside by name and Ironside by nature - but she was never called that in school!

When I started school in 1945, the school was well established in a Victorian building in Hampden Gurney street. Our play ground was small but we had Hyde Park on our doorstep which was great for football and cricket. We had only one male member of staff, the caretaker. He had been a Dutch submariner during the war, was good at football but pretty hopeless at Cricket. We too had a formidable Headteacher in Miss Wall and Miss Shepherd took the top class.

I do wonder what life would have been like for them if the carnage of the First World War had not robbed them of the opportunity of marriage and children of their own. Their loss was our gain. I owe my success in life to their Christian ethos and teaching.



Hampden Gurney School – the Old and the New...

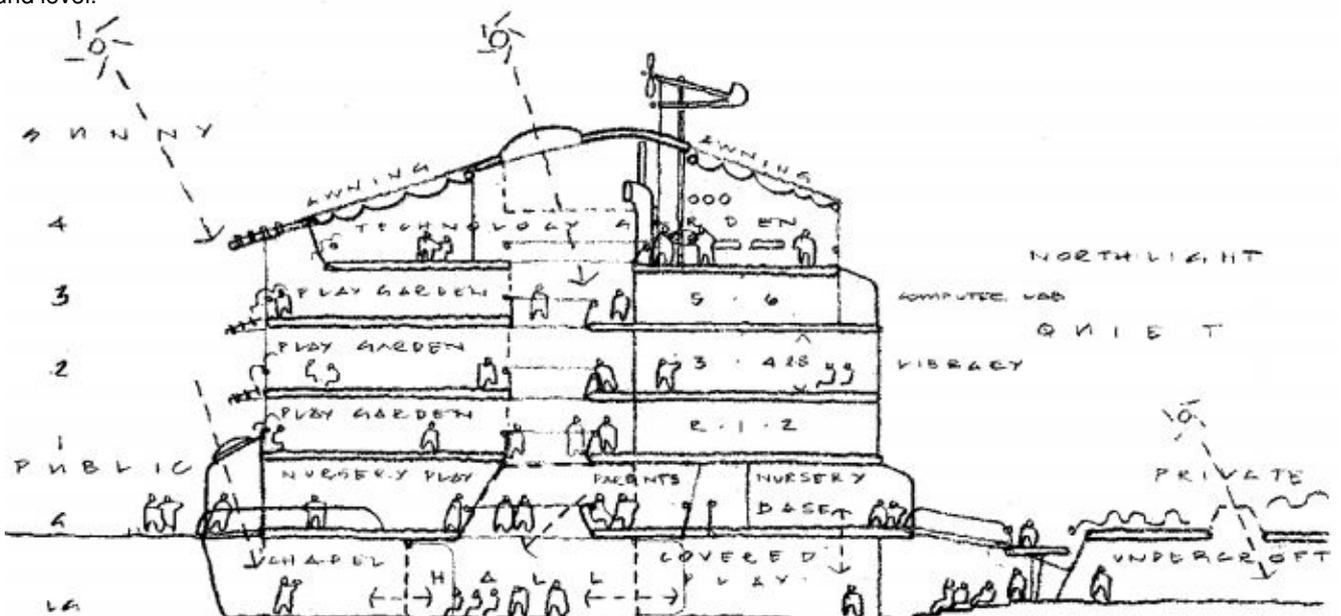
Hampden Gurney school was established in 1863 in memory of the Reverend John Hampden Gurney. He died in 1862 of typhoid, and had made enough of a mark in life not only to have a school named after him but to receive a character sketch in a religious magazine sixteen years after his death. *Sunday At Home* in its 26th April 1879 edition described him as “a blunt, impassioned preacher [who] offended some of wealth and power.” I like him already.

Hampden, as he was known, trained and practiced in the legal profession but withdrew from it to become a clergyman. He was the curate of St Mary’s Church at Lutterworth in Leicestershire for fifteen years before returning to his birthplace, London, to take up the post of prebendary at St Paul’s Cathedral. He was a committed supporter of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, an evangelical agency of the Church of England in the mould of the more nonconformist Religious Tract Society. During his time at St Paul’s he founded the Scripture Reader’s Society.

He was appointed rector of St Mary’s Marylebone, and his experience of inner city life during his tenure there prompted him to write pamphlets in support of the Poor Law and of church reform. Although he was himself a member of the establishment church, his family’s long history of non-conformity as Quakers and Baptists over many generations before him must have nurtured his tendency to iconoclasm. Hampden also published three volumes of sermons, two collections of hymns (known as the Lutterworth and Marylebone Collections) which included some of his own compositions, and several historical biographies.

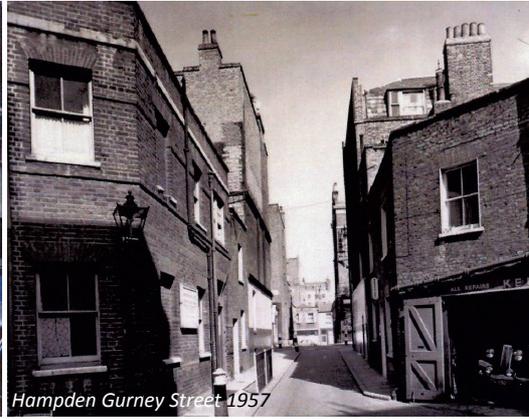
The school which carries his name moved to its present location in Nutford Place off the Edgware Road in 1967 when the then new school building, erected to replace one destroyed during the Blitz, was officially opened. The school originally stood on nearby Hampden Gurney Street, a road presumably laid out in 1863 when they built the school. There were two classrooms on the ground floor and three upstairs. That first building is demolished now, but after the school vacated it, it had an interesting series of occupants from the creative industries. In 1975 the upper floor was rented by an emerging young composer and former member of Greek pop group Aphrodite’s Child – Vangelis. As Nemo Studios, it was Vangelis’s recording base for the next 13 years and the birthplace of all his early triumphs. *Chariots of Fire*, *Blade Runner* and many other scores were all written and recorded in the upstairs classrooms of Hampden Gurney Anglican School.

The new Hampden Gurney School was designed by the BDP architectural practice and shortlisted for the 2002 Stirling Prize. Classrooms are set on three levels above ground floor and there is a technology teaching room on the roof. Children “move up” the school from nursery level at the ground floor. Play decks, located at each level of teaching, are separated from the classrooms by bridges across the central atrium. The decks provide safe, weatherproof play for different age groups adjacent to their classrooms as well as the prospect of open-air classrooms on warm days. The hall, chapel and music and drama room are set at the lower ground level.





Hampden Gurney School's original building of 1863 (photographed c1982)



Hampden Gurney Street 1957



The dedication to Hampden Gurney in its original position beside the Boy's Entrance to the school in Hampden Gurney Street; the panel now hangs in the new school building in Nutford Place

HAMPDEN GURNEY SCHOOL

Founded by the Reverend John Hampden Gurney it was built in Hampden Gurney Street in 1863 and transferred to the present site in 1967

It is the Church of England Primary School of THE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION BRYANSTON STREET W.1

