

FEBRUARY 2017

THE SPIRE

HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE **YOUR FREE COPY**

INSIDE

Inside China: The lure of the East

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

CLERGY VICAR

The Revd Derek Winterburn
Derek, pictured right, was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He has served in several London parishes. He aims to grow the church by reaching out to the community, and in particular to young families. Derek is a keen photographer, which he combines with a daily walk. He is happy to be contacted at any time other than on Fridays (his day off).
Telephone: 020 8241 5904
Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



CURATE

The Revd Jacky Cammidge
Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales. She is a self-supporting minister, ordained in July 2015. During term time she runs one of two Hampton Hill nursery schools owned by her family. She is a trustee of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group.
Telephone: 074 9677 0505
Email: curate@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



OFFICIALS PARISH OFFICE

Nick Bagge
The administrator deals with all enquiries, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as hall bookings.
The office is open every weekday.
Mon, Wed and Fri: 9.30am-12.30pm
Tue and Thu: 12.30pm-3.30pm
Telephone: 020 8941 6003
Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk
Address: St James's Church, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ



CHURCHWARDENS

Nick Bagge
Nick is a former television journalist, now working at St James's Church. He is married with a daughter.
Telephone: 020 8783 0871
Email: nickbagge1@aol.com

Nick Harris
Nick is an executive director of the bank Credit Suisse, based in the heart of the City of London. He is married with a son.
Telephone: 020 8943 2025
Email: nicholasjkharris@gmail.com



TREASURER

Nick Harris
Contact details as above

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

Mark Blackwell
Mark is an accomplished parish organist with 40 years of experience of playing in churches, cathedrals and also puts on concerts and recitals. During the week he runs his own accountancy company.
Telephone: 077 6814 6879
Email: organist@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



- Bell Ringing Susan Horner 020 8979 9380
- Book of Remembrance Recorder Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325
- Brownies and Guides 0800 1 69 59 01
- Charities and Links Committee Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862
- Children's Champion** Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854
- Church Cleaning Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078
- Church Flowers Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786
- Church Growth Working Group Derek Winterburn 020 8943 2025
- Churches Together Around Hampton Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862
- Churchyard Records Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325
- Deanery Synod Clive Beaumont 020 8943 4336
- Electoral Roll Parish Office 020 8941 6003
- Eco Group Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563
- Hall Bookings Parish Office 020 8941 6003
- Mission Partner Link Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434
- Mozambique/Angola Link Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844
- Music and Worship Committee Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528
- PCC Secretary Nick Bagge 020 8941 6003
- Planned Giving Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709
- Properties Committee Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040
- Safeguarding Officer Jane Newman 020 8979 6154
- Scout Group Richard Moody 020 8286 6918
- Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345
- Sidespersons Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046
- St James's Ark** Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078
- St James's Hospitality / Parish Breakfast** Clare Ryan and Kirstie Craig 079 6413 1135
- St James's Players** Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528
- The Shell Seekers (Sunday School) (Term-time, except when there is an all-age service) Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854
- Tools with a Mission Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325
- Theatre Club Peter Hale 020 979 9287
- Visitors' Group** Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434
- Weekly Pew Sheet 020 8941 6003

You will notice quite a few changes to the layout of *The Spire* this month.

We have incorporated several ideas from Derek, and Nick has taken the opportunity to refresh the layout. We hope you will find it easier to read and enjoy the new features. For instance, **all events at St James's Church in February** are now on Page 3. A selection of other events remain on Page 7, which is also the new home for an expanded Charity Box.

Last year, Carol Bailey had the chance to visit China when her daughter Jenny was taking part in a gymnastics event. They also took the opportunity to do some travelling. Jenny also went to Rio de Janeiro last year as part of a gymnastics display team and managed to watch some of the gymnastic events at the Olympics.

This year Easter is not until the middle of April so the main focus of February will be our preparations for Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent, and you will find further details in this issue.

Fairtrade Fortnight starts at the end of February and we hope that you will take the opportunity to buy goods and perhaps



arrange a small event yourself — see the article on Page 4.

Best wishes
Janet
Editor

Cover picture: Panda breeding centre in Chengdu (see page four)

THE SPIRE is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We make no charge for this magazine, but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs to enable us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to *The PCC of St James* and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office.

Vicar's View



STORIES, FEATURES

If you have ideas, or would like to write for the magazine, contact the Editor, Janet Nunn.
Telephone: 020 8979 6325
Email: janunnhh@btinternet.com

AROUND THE SPIRE

If you have any news, contact Susan Horner:
Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

If you have an event contact Nick Bagge.
Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

WEBSITE / YOUNG SPIRE

If you would like to receive the magazine by email, please contact Prill Hinckley. She also manages the website and Young Spire page.
Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

THE SPIRE is available free from church and local shops. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Further information from Susan Horner:
Telephone: 020 8979 9380
Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

March issue is published on Fri 24 February. The copy deadline is **Thu 2 February**.

CREDITS PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge
Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

PUBLISHING

Printer Justin Hollingsworth 020 8686 4481
THE SPIRE magazine is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests, as laid down by the Forest Stewardship Council.

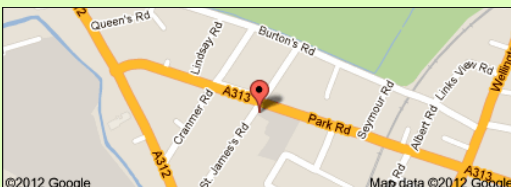
© **St James's Church 2017**. Unauthorised reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission from the editor. Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are accepted on the basis that **The Spire** does not accept liability for loss or damage to them. We cannot print anything subject to copyright. Views expressed in **The Spire** are not necessarily those of the PCC of St James.

Please recycle this magazine after use



FINDING US

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road with ample parking in the road.



Show the love



How we can all spread God's love — and not just on Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day comes so soon after Christmas! The festival of hearts and pinkness is promoted by shops both to people longing for love and to those in settled relationships.

Some call it a *Hallmark Holiday*, which are days that seemingly exist primarily for commercial purposes. Others have marked out 15 February for *Singles Awareness Day* — as a deliberate contrast to 14 February!

However, I rather like 17 February: *Random Acts of Kindness Day*. Being kind could easily be brushed aside in our busy lives, but I don't suppose anyone would say kindness was a bad thing. In fact, it is so valued that there is also a World Kindness Day (14 November).

Danny Wallace (comedian and broadcaster) even started a cult called *Join Me*, with each member undertaking one random act of kindness for a stranger every Friday (*Good Fridays*).

Although the idea of *random acts of kindness* began as a deliberate reversal of '*random acts of violence*' the phrase captures something of selfless, even unplanned giving.

Very often we give because of some reciprocity (we get something back) — for example, a poppy or an announcement on an online giving page. Charities even play on this natural response by giving us some '*free*' cards or a pen in their mailshot.

There is such a thing as a free cup of coffee

However, to speak of *random acts of kindness* suggests that the kindness is being given without any anticipation of a return.

Apparently patrons of coffee shops in Naples can pay for two cups at Christmas, leaving one '*suspended*' until claimed by another customer. Another example of this would be the Hot Cross Buns that local churches give out to commuters at the railway stations in Holy Week.



It is by choosing to act kindly, that kindness is strengthened by God working in us



In the Bible, God is described as kind in a number of places, for example: 'But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy' (Titus 3: 4).

We can see here the same thought of giving to people freely, without any obligation involved. But we should not think that this kindness is unprepared or random. After an explanation of God's eternal purposes, Paul writes this was all 'that... he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus' (Eph2: 7). God planned it all out carefully.

As God is kind then we should grow in kindness too, and so kindness is praised in the Bible. We receive from God his kindness and so we in turn are kind to others.

This is the central idea in the film *Pay It Forward* — that receiving a good deed, one pays it forward (i.e. not 'pay it back') to someone else.

But I don't think being kind can happen randomly. That is why the Bible describes kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is by choosing to act kindly, that kindness is strengthened by God working in us.

We will soon be marking Lent — a time for prayer, fasting and study before Easter. Lent provides us with an opportunity to focus on doing something kind regularly, expressing the grace we have received from God, helping another person, and shaping our heart in a more kindly direction.

But before then remember Friday 17 February — The Random Act of Kindness Day!

Random Acts of Kindness Day: randomactsofkindness.org

Ideas for Acts of Kindness: kindnessuk.com/acts_of_kindness.php

You will receive a warm welcome at any of these church services or events

Sundays

0800-0830

Holy Communion

0930-1030

Parish Communion

Sunday 29 January

All-age non-Eucharistic service at 1100 instead of 0930

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)

0915-0930

Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

0930-1000

Holy Communion

Tea for Newcomers

Sunday 29 January

1600 at the Vicarage

Everybody Welcome

Wednesdays 1 & 22 February

1930-2100

How can we make St James's more welcoming to newcomers?

Meet the Vicar

Saturday 4 February

1500-1700 at the Vicarage

Film Club

Saturday 4 February

Door open 1800

Film starts 1830

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Free entry, donations welcome
Snacks for sale, cushions for hire

Lent Quiz and Supper Night

Saturday 25 February

1830 in Fitz Wygram Church Hall

Teams of six compete for

chocolate and glory,

includes snacks, drink and

two course meal — all for £10

(see Page 4 for more info)

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 1 March

2000-2100 Holy Communion + Ashing

Lent Course

Every Wednesday in Lent

from 8 March

1900-2130

Lenten meal, followed by Pilgrim Course.

Learn more about prayer and praying.

Sign up now

(See Page 5 for more info)

Will you rise to the Fairtrade challenge?

THIS YEAR marks the 23rd Fairtrade Fortnight in the UK — and it needs all of us to think of imaginative ways to hold Fairtrade breaks in our communities.

From refreshments at work and our places of leisure, to coffee mornings and tea parties, it is such an easy way to remind people that buying products with the Fairtrade Mark helps millions of farmers in

developing countries. So please get thinking about what you could do during the fortnight. Derek is hosting a coffee morning after the 0930 Holy Communion on Tuesday 7 February.

27 February — 12 May



Maybe you would like to organise an event. You can stock up at the Traidcraft stall in the church hall after the 0930 services on Sunday 5 February and Sunday 5 March.

Scarlett's legacy goes on growing



THANK YOU to everyone who supported Scarlett's Christmas Carols on 1 December. During a wonderful evening to remember the life of Scarlett Lill, a pupil at Carlisle Infant School, who is greatly missed, there were performances by the Hampton Hill Rock Choir, local schoolchildren and readings from Angellica Bell and Dominic Wood. Organisers raised £1650 for Great Ormond Street Hospital and they hope to do it all again this year.

You don't need to be a genius to be in our quiz!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT is an apt description for a fun night this February, when we hold a general knowledge quiz and supper in the Fitz Wygram Hall.

Fear not — it won't be a *Brain of Britain*-type of quiz, but one that is accessible to all. So, put the date in your diary and bring your friends with you. They don't need to be members of St James's — if they are friends of yours they are friends of ours. Each team will have six players, and don't worry if you don't have a ready-made team, we can make up the numbers for you.

Best value in town!

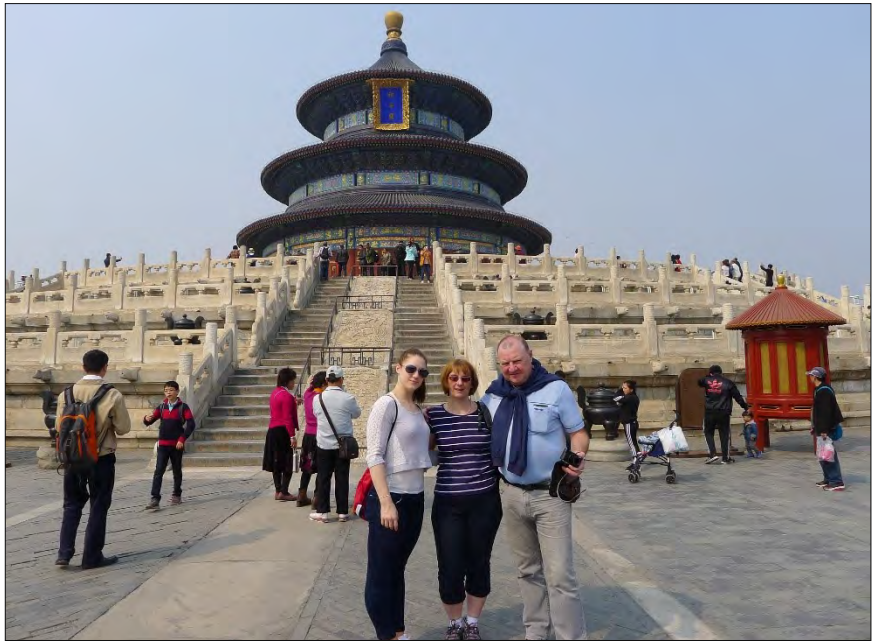
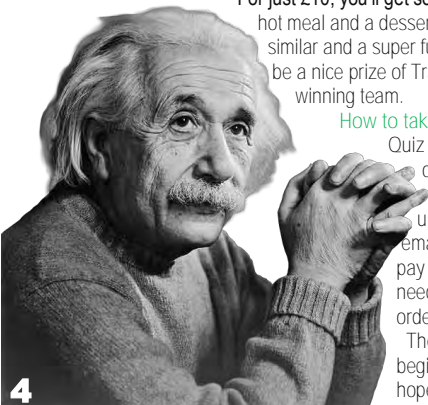
For just £10, you'll get some snacks on arrival, a hot meal and a dessert, a glass of bubbly or similar and a super fun evening. There will also be a nice prize of Traidcraft goodies for the winning team.

How to take part

Quiz Night is from 1830-2200 on Saturday 25 February.

To take part, simply sign up in church, or phone or email the parish office. You pay on the night, but we do need to know numbers in order to have enough food.

The evening marks the beginning of Lent, so we do hope you can support it.



Jenny, with parents Carol and Chris, at the Temple of Heaven on a rare clear day in Beijing

I was lucky to have an opportunity to visit China when my youngest daughter, Jenny, was selected for the GB team at the Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships in Putian City last year.

China is a country and culture that has fascinated me for years. I had a preconceived idea of China as being polluted, with huge cities of skyscrapers and fascinating architecture.

It was all these things and more. I should start by saying that we were there for just two weeks and due to the time and language constraints we had a guide in most places we went to. We therefore saw the 'tourist' side of China, staying in Western hotels with just glimpses of other ways of life. Everywhere bureaucracy and rules were very important and strictly adhered to. For instance, to get a one-page photocopy at a cost of 5p involved filling out a form in triplicate and getting two signatures.

The curse of the Selfie

Our visit started at the competition in Putian, a little-known city on the south east coast with a population of 3.2 million (that's more than Manchester). The people of Putian were fascinated to see so many western people, particularly children. The gymnasts could not move without crowds of people asking to have their picture taken with them — selfies are a very big thing in China.

Pandas, smog & selfies

Carol Bailey found plenty to surprise her on a family trip to superpower China



Apart from watching an extremely well organised gymnastics competition, we visited a beautiful hillside monastery and a Buddhist temple.

After Putian we visited four of China's main tourist destinations: Beijing, X'ian, Guilin and Chengdu.

Twice we travelled on the 'bullet trains' instead of flying. I highly recommend this as a method of travel. They are very efficient, comfortable and you get to see some of the countryside. As we travelled, the thing that struck me most was the vast number of huge cities in China and how nearly every bit of land is used wherever possible.

When space is at a premium...

The tower blocks are always in groups of at least six to ten and in each city we passed through these groups extended for miles from the central station. In the countryside nearly all the land is used for agriculture and the fields are full of crops as far as the eye can see — even in hilly regions, the terrain is terraced over huge areas to allow crops to be grown.

In the cities we often saw chickens and goats living under huge overpasses. It appeared that when it comes to infrastructure there are no constraints. Roads or railways are built over or through whatever is there.



The Meifeng Temple, Putian, originally a pavilion of Goddess of Mercy

In Beijing we saw all the main sights: Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace and a trip to The Great Wall.

I was very aware of the constant haze due to pollution — it is even worse than people had said.

We were lucky and one day the sun came out and we saw blue sky. That day we visited the Summer Palace, just outside Beijing, which is a beautiful complex of gardens, pavilions, lakes and bridges.

The People's Park in the middle of Beijing was surprisingly peaceful and not too crowded — amazing considering the number of people and cars in the city.

The traffic and driving is truly crazy — I had tremendous respect for our drivers. The roads consisted of about eight lanes of traffic and two lanes of mopeds and bicycles each side. The merging and crossing of these at junctions was utterly chaotic.



The Great Wall stretches away in the smog

Armies and boats and caves

We then took the train to X'ian where the main attraction is the terracotta army. The number of these life size warriors that have been excavated is quite incredible. There are many more still buried but excavation has stopped until new methods are developed to preserve the colours on the terracotta once it is exposed to the air.

Our next city was Guilin. Nestled by the river, it has a waterfront that is beautifully lit at night. We took a three-hour boat trip down a famously scenic stretch of the River Li. Our guide was particularly anxious that we did not miss the photo of a scene that is on one of their bank notes, but the Chinese on the boat (everyone except us) were far more interested in taking selfies.

Our return trip to Guilin by car was rather less scenic - the road was being entirely rebuilt but that did not mean it was not used - we, together with all the others on the road including a few oxen, simply drove around or through huge pot holes at random. Our final destination in Guilin were some beautiful caves of stalactites and stalagmites with amazing lighting — the Chinese can certainly present things brilliantly.



Our last stop was Chengdu — only belatedly added to our itinerary as there was a convenient flight back to Heathrow.

Here we did some shopping — there was an 11-storey shopping centre that made the Bentalls Centre seem so small.

In a shopping complex built in a subway intersection, Jenny and I had to use the compass on her phone (honestly) to find the correct exit out!

Pandas with all the time in the world

For me, the best thing about Chengdu was that we visited the Panda breeding centre. They really are the most delightful animals.

I am however not surprised that they are in danger of extinction. They appear to be ridiculously lazy, almost falling asleep as they walk or eat, and quite stupid.

I saw baby pandas climbing a small tree without looking up first, only to discover another panda has already taken the space and then repeating this at the next two trees.

I could have watched them for hours, definitely worth a visit if you are ever in that part of the world.



The Sun and Moon Pagodas in the waters, left, and the vast dripstone Reed Flute Cave, both in Guilin

Around the SPIRE

with Susan Homer

Celebrating Hal's 92 years

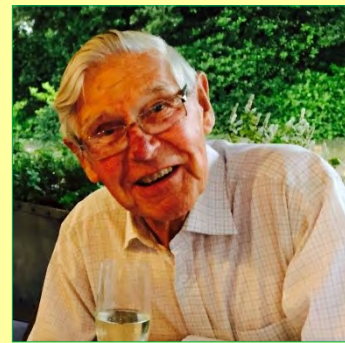
THE CHURCH was packed with family and friends on Friday 23 December for the thanksgiving service for Hal Severn. Hal passed away on 9 December and as Christmas was one of his favourite times of the year the church was decorated ready for the Christmas services.

Hal was born in 1924 and lived in Teddington with his family. He went to school at Stanley Road Primary and then Hampton School. He was called up in 1942 and qualified as an engineer and continued this work until he was demobbed in 1947. Post-war, Hal studied to become a chartered secretary and this he continued to do with several firms until he retired.

Hal met Eila Prentice through her brother Alan and they were married in 1948, enjoying 68 years of married life with their three children, Coryn, Michael and Roger and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, some of whom spoke at the thanksgiving service.

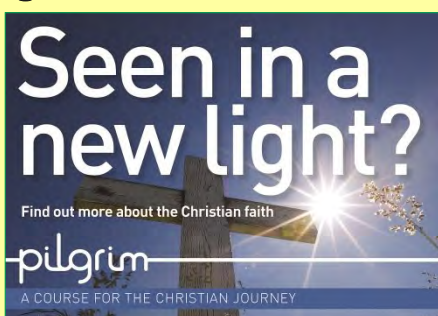
Throughout the years Hal had been keen to support organisations, and he served as a school governor, helped run a badminton club for children, was secretary of the Strawberry Hill Golf Club, and was a committee member at the Haying Island Health Society. At St James's, Hal's work included serving on the PCC, treasurer, and as part of the Stewardship Committee. He was always willing to take on jobs, but never sought to lead. He could be relied on to give good advice and help where needed.

Hal was a fully-committed family man, a gentle man and a gentleman, and a faithful member of the congregation at St James's. We send our love to Eila, Coryn, Michael, Roger and their families at this time.



To be a pilgrim... our Lent course

WOULD YOU like to learn more about prayer and praying? Jesus taught his friends the Lord's Prayer to give them words to start praying with. This year's Lent Course takes that prayer line by line and helps us to understand more deeply what we say.



Pilgrim is a Church of England resource. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers. Every Wednesday in Lent (from 8 March) there will be an opportunity to learn and pray together 'in the words that Jesus taught us'. The course will be in church and start at 1900 with supper, followed by coffee and a discussion. Please book a place via the office (by phone or email) or sign the list in church. The course book is £6.

Women's World Day of Prayer

THIS YEAR'S Women's World Day of Prayer comes from the Philippines and has the title *Am I Being Unfair to You?*

The Philippines is one of the fastest growing Asian economies with labour migration a major economic force. This has impacted on the social fabric of the country. Ninety per cent of domestic workers are women — of which the majority work in the Gulf countries.

Three local services are being held on Friday 3 March:
 1000 at St Edmund's RC Church, 213 Nelson Road, Twickenham TW2 7BB;
 1330 at Hampton Hill United Reformed Church, 35 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NB; and
 1930 at Sacred Heart RC Church, 262 Kingston Road, Teddington TW11 9JQ.



Helping hands



PRILL HINKLEY

Saint Valentine

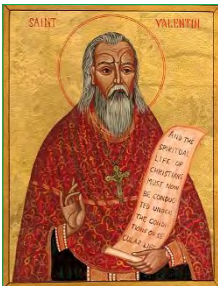
The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed a strong army to fight his wars. Many of the men **didn't want to be soldiers**, possibly because they preferred to stay home with their wives and children. So Claudius decided to forbid all young people to marry so that the young men had to become soldiers!

Valentine was a priest during this time and believed that people should have a Christian marriage. He thought that this was part of God's plan and purpose for the world. So he married couples in secret, hoping that the **Roman soldiers wouldn't find out**. But they did find out and Valentine was arrested.

The Emperor thought Valentine was a wise young man, and tried to get him to stop being a Christian and become a loyal Roman. But Valentine would not deny his faith and was arrested and executed as a martyr.

The story goes that one of the judges was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. While Valentine was in prison he prayed with and healed the young girl and that resulted in Asterius and all his family becoming Christians.

The last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He signed the note *"from your Valentine"*.



Acts of kindness

Saint Valentine, along with other saints, acted with kindness. Jesus himself was kind to everyone he met and he teaches us to be kind by his own example.

The Bible is filled with stories and examples of kindness with God being at the centre.

As God shows us his kindness, he is teaching us to be kind and not to expect anything in return. Did you know that 17 February is *Random Acts of Kindness Day*, which encourages people of all ages to be kind not just on that day but all the time. If we do this we will then be growing in kindness **with God's help**.



How could you help someone?

In the chart below give yourself a tick every time you do a particular act of kindness. The bottom row is left empty for you to fill in your own acts of kindness.

Did my chores without being asked	Invited another child to play	Read to someone	Held open a door
Helped someone	Asked someone about their day	Made a new friend	Gave a friend or family member a hug
Cleaned up a mess that wasn't mine	Put something in the recycle bin	Said 'thank you' to someone	Made someone smile
Let someone go in front of me in line	Gave someone a compliment	Smiled at another child	Sent a positive message to a friend

Our Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 0925 every Sunday during school terms, except for one every month when there is an all-age service in church. We welcome new members. Come along for a trial visit, or ask one of the clergy about it and find out how much fun it can be.



Jericho, with excavated ruins in the foreground



LAURENCE SEWELL

Jericho is famous as reputedly the oldest town on earth, and also the lowest (at 258 metres below sea level). It is known as the **'city of palms'** and lies on the west bank of the Jordan River in the Palestinian territories; land occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Today, Jericho is an enclave with limited Palestinian self-rule based on the 1993 Oslo Accords, and the Gaza-Jericho Agreement of April 1994. The surrounding area is under full Israeli control with roadblocks encircling the city, thus inhibiting Jericho's Palestinian population's free movement through the West Bank.

Archaeological evidence shows that the first settlement was established around 9000 BC. Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of more than 20 successive settlements at Tell es-Sultan (or Sultan's Hill), an earthen mound two kilometres north of the present city. This was formed over the centuries as towns were destroyed and new ones built on their rubble. The most striking discovery unearthed is a thick-walled stone tower, some 7 metres high and 7.6 metres wide, dating back to 7000 BC.

Jericho in the Old Testament

It was this early settlement that Joshua destroyed in the famous battle when the Israelites first entered the Promised Land and captured Jericho (Joshua 6: 1-21). This is perhaps the most well-known reference to Jericho in the Old Testament; although, the city is mentioned seventy times in total in Old Testament passages.

The perennial spring necessary to the **city's survival and providing irrigation water** for its plants and crops was another notable reference, when Elisha purified its waters by throwing salt into it (2 Kings 2:19-22). Today this is a specifically built fountain on the tourist trail around the city.



The site of Zacchaeus's sycamore tree

Jesus's connection with Jericho

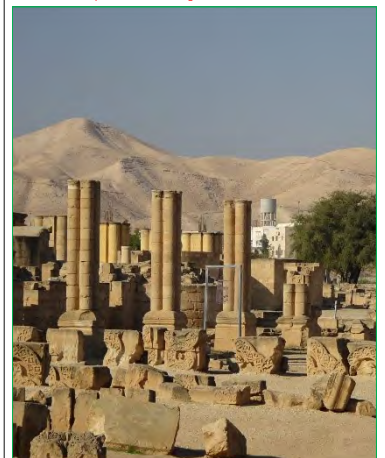
By the time of the New Testament, a new city had been constructed on the banks of the wadi by the Hasmonean rulers and Herod the Great creating a lush oasis.

Since Jericho lay on the usual route from Galilee to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled through it several times. Jesus chose the steep, rocky road from Jerusalem down to Jericho as the setting for the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37).

It was here in Jericho on the journey before his triumphal entry into Jerusalem that Jesus healed Bartimaeus, the blind beggar (Mark 10: 46-52; Luke 18: 35-43).

Matthew's Gospel mentions two blind beggars being healed in the city (Matthew 20: 29-34). Here too, He stayed with Zacchaeus, **the rich tax collector who had drawn Jesus's** attention from his vantage point in a sycamore tree (Luke 19:1-10).

Subsequent history



Ruins of the Monastery of St George

After the fall of Jerusalem to Vespasian's armies in the Great Revolt of Judea in AD 70, Jericho declined rapidly, and by AD 100 it was but a small Roman garrison town. However, during the Byzantine era Christianity took hold and the area became heavily populated.

A number of monasteries and churches were built, including St George of Koziba in AD 340 and a domed church dedicated to St Elisha (ruins of which can be seen today).

Famous once more

The city flourished until 1071 with the invasion of the Seljuk Turks, followed by the disorders during the Crusades. After the battle of Hattin in 1187 the Crusaders were evicted by Saladin.

The city enjoyed mixed fortunes during the Ottoman period, but it was in the 19th century with the visits of European scholars, archaeologists and missionaries that Jericho once more became well-known.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

PRESIDENT OBAMA

So, we will have a new president of the United States. But will we ever have a more gracious, attractive, and scandal-free couple in the White House than Barack and Michelle Obama? His legacy includes a reduction in US unemployment from 10% in Oct 2009 to 4.6% now. A telling statistic, though, is that between 2001 and 2012 the median income of households headed by people without university degrees, nearly 2/3 of all homes, fell as they aged. As the rich got richer a key part of the electorate got poorer, a feature surely behind our own Brexit vote.

Joe Klein, a TIME magazine journalist in the US, summarised Obama's legacy thus: 'The stimulus package he fought for and passed in 2009 prevented a depression and laid the ground work for economic recovery... Overseas, Obama made some mistakes, but he got the big things right: he wasn't arrogant, he was not belligerent, he reached out to enemies in Cuba and Iran, and most important he was confident that our ways will prevail over Islamic extremism.'

PRESIDENT TRUMP

TIME magazine chose Donald Trump as *Person of the Year*, but beside his photo described him as 'President of the Divided States of America'. Against previous Republican policy he supported gay rights and planned parenthood and admitted that the war in Iraq was a mistake. But how far will his election speeches become long-term policies, e.g. does he recognise global warming and what will his policy be? Will he sign or denounce the Paris agreement of Dec 2015? How far will the misogyny and racism of his speeches, the false claims he so often made, affect public debate of issues?

How did TIME justify their choice? 'For reminding America that demagoguery feeds on despair and that truth is only as powerful as the trust in those who speak it, for empowering a hidden electorate by mainstreaming its furies and live-streaming its fears, and for framing tomorrow's political culture by demolishing yesterday's, Donald Trump is TIME's 2016 person of the year.'

SIMPSONS PREDICTED IT!

Donald Trump emergence as president was predicted in the TV series *The Simpsons*. In 2000 an episode showed Lisa Simpson taking over as 'America's first straight female president' from an outgoing Trump. 'As you know', she tells her team in the Oval Office, 'we've inherited quite a budget crunch from President Trump.'

SECRETARY CLINTON

Has there ever been a better equipped or more experienced candidate to be US president? In many ways she has been one of the most respected women in the world. Gallup polls named her the most admired women in the US a record 20 times, including 14 times in a row.

As a Senator from New York and then Secretary of State, her public approval rating was almost 60%. She won the popular vote by 2.5 million votes. As President Obama said, 'We always like the new shiny thing - I benefited from that when I was a candidate - and we take for granted sometimes what is steady and true.'

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

When I took my father-in-law's funeral last year he asked for one reading. It was the last broadcast he heard before going off to war (and six years in the RAF).

It was George VI's Christmas message in 1939. With so much uncertainty in our world I was glad to read the familiar words: 'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better than light and safer than a known way".'

CHARITY BOX

Where the money went in 2016

20 charities helped by us



ANN PETERKEN

It is very good to report that in 2016 St James's Church continued its proud tradition of giving one tenth of its income to charity.

About 20 causes benefited from the total sum of £15,148 as can be seen on the list displayed in church.

Many donations were from the £10,000 set aside in the parish budget for charitable grants, with half of this sum supporting the work of charities here at home, such as the Greenwood Centre, the Church Urban Fund and SPEAR.

The other half went to support our overseas connections including Milo hospital in Tanzania and our mission partners, David and Shelley Stokes, in Argentina.

Additional collections

The additional £5000 came from the Lent Appeal, collections at Harvest and Christingle, and from our young people in Shell Seekers who held two fundraising events for the charities of their choice.

Almost £700 came from the Children's Society collecting boxes that parishioners have in their homes.

Giving in kind is very important too. Many people continue to donate a wide range of items to Tools with a Mission via our parish contact, Janet Nunn.

The main costs of this fine charity are in shipping the goods overseas and St James's is glad to help with a donation of about £400 each year.

Money collected from the local community during Christian Aid Week in May typically raises over £3500 for a charity that works with people of all faiths and none to combat poverty and injustice.

This is a great addition to all the donations St James's Church makes from its own income.

Donations from us include:



£400

London Churches Refugee Fund



Church Urban Fund



£750

St Luke's Hospital in Milo, Tanzania



Tools With A Mission (TWAM)



LOCAL EVENTS

Women's World Day of Prayer

1330 Friday 3 March, Hampton Hill United Reformed Church, High Street.

This year the service comes from the Philippines using the theme *Am I Unfair to You?* There are also services at 1000 at St Edmund's Church, Whitton, and at 1930 at Sacred Heart Church, Teddington. See page five.

Concordia Voices Spring Concert

1930 Sunday 5 March, St Mary's Church, Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NJ

The programme includes Britten's *Jubilate Deo* and Tavener's *Funeral Icos*. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on the door or £10 (£8) in advance from members or by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org.uk

REGISTERS

NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

6 Lily Jane Angelica Clark, Walton on Thames

6 Henry John Mills, Feltham

WEDDING

21 Jonathan Paul Smallbones and Tanya Regan, Feltham

FUNERAL

30 Michael Arthur Falkner, 84, Hampton

BURIAL OF ASHES

27 John (Jack) William Gostling, 91, Hampton Hill

DECEMBER BAPTISMS

11 Ralph Daniel Cyril Green, Teddington

18 Noah Samuel Sparks, Hampton

18 Arthur Frederick Taylor, Hampton

WEDDING

10 Simon Martin and Karen Barrett, Hampton

FUNERALS

2 Penelope Mary Curthoys, 75, Cumbernauld, Scotland

7 Albert Derek Baker, 81, Twickenham

23 Halford (Hal) Ernest Severn, 92, Hampton

MY FAVOURITE CASTLES

The stories in those walls



JANET NUNN

Since my childhood holidays I have always been interested in visiting and exploring castles. We have so many in this country, built either for fortifications or as family homes, and nearly all in prominent positions with fascinating histories for all ages to enjoy.

Today many of these castles perform re-enactments of past events to entertain visitors. Not only do the buildings themselves tell great stories, but they have wonderful views from the ramparts which you can often walk round and many have hidden gardens.

The castles are mostly managed now by English Heritage or The National Trust, but some are still in private hands and lived in by descendants of the family.

Windsor Castle

This is the oldest continuously inhabited royal residence in Britain, originally made of wood and built by William the Conqueror in 1070 to guard the western approaches to London. The Round Tower, pictured right, was rebuilt in stone by Henry II and, as well as dominating the landscape, houses the Royal Archives and the photographic collection.



The Union Jack on the Round Tower is replaced by the Royal Standard when the Queen is in residence. This is often shown on royal programmes and I saw it happen recently whilst driving through Eton Wick!

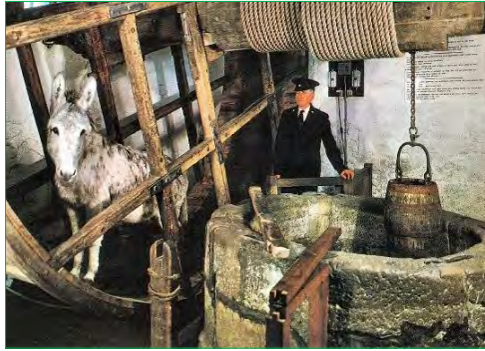
Corfe Castle



The spectacular ruins romantically crown a jagged pinnacle of rock above the charming village of Corfe (which means gap). The castle was built in the 11th century as a royal residence and in 1646 was demolished by Parliamentarians. Whether approaching from Wareham or Swanage you get a splendid view of the ruins. It can be very atmospheric when the weather is not so good. If you climb amongst the ruins you get breathtaking views across Purbeck and Poole Harbour and you might see a steam train at Corfe Station.

Carisbrooke Castle

Located in the village of Carisbrooke on the Isle of Wight, near Newport, this is a motte-and-bailey castle. Charles I was imprisoned here for 14 months before his execution in 1649. He tried to escape but couldn't get through the bars of the window. From 1896 to 1944 it was the home of Princess Beatrice, daughter of Queen Victoria, as Governor of the



Isle of Wight. One of the castle's claims to fame is the ancient wheelhouse which is still operated by donkeys.

Bamburgh Castle

Bamburgh Castle is on the Northumbrian coast and was one of the many strongholds in the north of England to protect the English from the Scots. The first major stronghold was built in 550. In its heyday it was used by Northumbrian kings



for coronations. In 1894 it was bought by Lord Armstrong who restored it and it still belongs to the Armstrong family. The castle overlooks the Farne Islands and the Longstone Lighthouse made famous by Grace Darling who is commemorated in the churchyard and the local museum.

Lindisfame Castle



This 16th century castle is located on Holy Island near Berwick-on-Tweed. It is a fairy-tale castle on a mound almost surrounded by sea. Built in 1550 with stones from the nearby priory, and much altered by Sir Edward Luytens in 1901, it was taken over by the National Trust in 1944. There is a delightful, small garden nearby, designed by Gertrude Jekyll and restored during 2002-6 to its original plan. Holy Island is only accessible at low tide.

Powis Castle

This castle is near Welshpool and is most famous for its gardens with three Italianate terraces and a lower garden and truly giant clipped yew trees, seen on many TV programmes. There are statues, niches and hanging gardens, all created between 1688 and 1722 and it is one of the only gardens



still in its original form. Despite the sham battlements, this red-sandstone building has served as a country mansion for centuries. The castle is entered by a gateway built in 1283 and has lavish interiors.

Conwy Castle

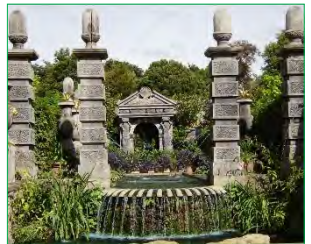
For many years David and I holidayed in North Wales and came to love the iconic view of this medieval



castle as we crossed the River Conwy from Llandudno. It was built by Edward I during his conquest of Wales in the late 1200s and constructed as part of a wider project to create the walled town of Conwy. In 1986 the castle was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe. Although in ruins, it is still possible to walk round the walls of the castle and the town with a magnificent view of Telford's suspension bridge.

Arundel Castle

There are nearly 1000 years of history at this great castle, situated high up above the River Arun in West Sussex and built at the end of the 11th century by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel. It has been the seat of the Duke of Norfolk for more than 850 years. The castle is a family home and the restored walled gardens were opened by the Prince of Wales in 2008.



Leeds Castle

Leeds Castle is near Maidstone in Kent. It was a favourite residence of Edward I and in 16th century Henry VIII used it as a residence for his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Today the castle dates from the 19th century and was built on the islands in a lake formed by the River Len. In 1926 Lady Baillie, an American heiress, bought the castle and transformed it into a family home. After her death in 1974 it opened to the public. In 2004 it hosted the Northern Ireland peace talks.



Dover Castle

When approaching Dover by water not only can you see the famous white cliffs, but also the magnificent Dover Castle. It was the largest castle in England in the 11th century. In the 18th century tunnels were dug 15 metres below the cliff top to house troops and stores. During the Napoleonic Wars 2000 men were billeted there. In World War Two they were used as an air-raid shelter, command centre and underground hospital, and Operation Dynamo was master-minded from here. Today not only can you visit the castle but also the tunnels, which remain as they were during World War II.

