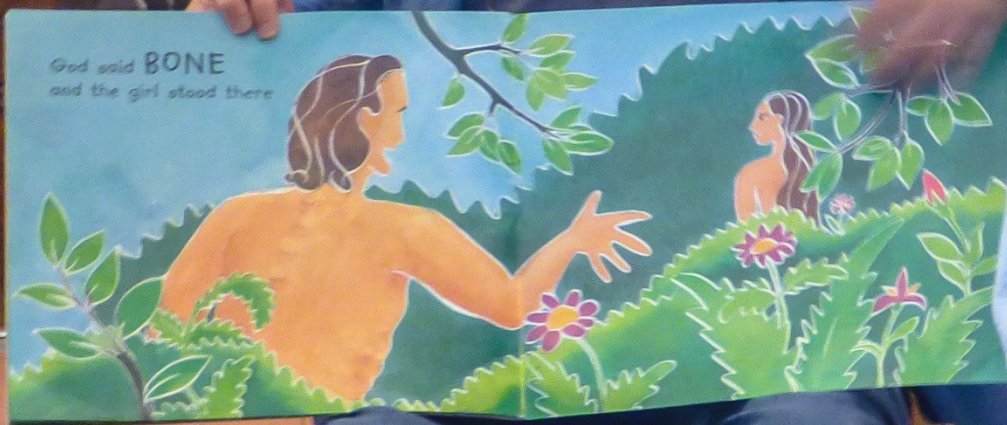


JUNE 2017

SPIRE

HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE YOUR FREE COPY



together at eleven

A new style of worship

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

HERE TO HELP

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).

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CURATE

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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. Jacky is a trustee of the charity running the Greenwood Centre.

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THIS ISSUE

JANET NUNN

It won't be long now before we reach the longest day so let's hope the weather allows us to enjoy our gardens and the beauty of our churchyard and the local area. The bluebells were particularly spectacular this year.

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to the Spire Appeal. The total is currently standing at £1200, including Gift Aid. The more we raise, the more copies we can distribute to reach new people. And because the appeal runs throughout the year, we welcome donations at any time.

In this month's centrespread, Derek has set out the development plans agreed by the Parochial Church Council to enable St James's Church to grow, to attract new members and help others to share God's love. Many of you will have heard about the plans at the Annual Meeting in April.

For the first time in over a decade, St James's has introduced a new, regular service. Called *together at eleven*, and aimed particularly at families, it is already proving a success as you can see from the front cover and page 4.

There are also lots of practical things happening in church to improve facilities –



the main one being the installation of toilets in the west porch. Progress on all our projects will be reported in the weekly Pew Sheet and on the website

Best wishes

Janet

Editor

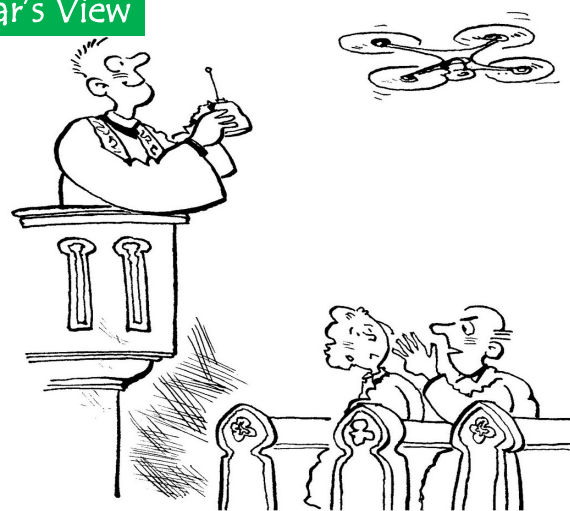
Cover picture: storytelling is a popular part of the new *together at eleven* service

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



'His constant droning from the pulpit is getting on my nerves!'

STORIES, FEATURES

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

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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

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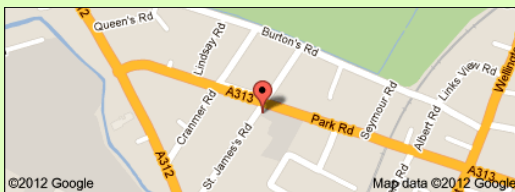
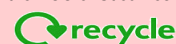
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Politics and religion mix



Without any warning we are in the midst of a General Election. On the day that the poll was announced it was easy to find people who thought it was too much (remember 'Brenda from Bristol?') However, most of us appreciate the freedom we have to help appoint those who will be in government. Winston Churchill's words still ring true: 'Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others.'

Elections and the Bible

The Bible has little to say about how leaders are selected, or systems of government. It contains stories of absolute rulers, charismatic leaders, hereditary monarchs, and even a naive communism. However, Scripture gives every indication that God is very concerned about how leaders operate and govern.

1. A leader should lead for the benefit of the people

After the death of King Solomon, the people offered the crown to his son, Rehoboam, if he would lighten the burden of service and taxation. He is counselled by 'the old men' to 'be a servant to the people this day.. then they will be your servants for ever.'

But the 'young men' offer him other words: 'My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.' The youthful king took his peers' advice. It is no surprise that soon there was civil war and that Rehoboam lost the majority of his territory.

Jesus lived by the wiser advice and was noted for the way he served his followers - even

washing their feet. Finally he gave his life for others.

Although Westminster had a string of scandals over expenses, we can be grateful that our government is not corrupt or self-serving. Democracy, in giving the vote to everyone, tends to direct the politicians to addressing the needs of voters. But...

2. A leader should 'remember the poor'

In a democracy there can be a tyranny - a tyranny of the majority. Membership of the largest group of opinion is not a guarantor of being

Hold MPs to account by God's values and accept that they are fallible

right or wise. Churchill also said: 'The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.' So a good leader has to balance the wishes of the largest section against protecting others.

Again and again the Bible directs a ruler to think of the poor. Psalm 72 after the most triumphant praise of the King says: 'For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.'

Sometimes a leader will have to convince the majority there are interests other than their own. (Or as in the case of Pontius Pilate, for example, the vocal majority are just plain wrong.)

Christians over the centuries have taken their cue from Jesus. He characteristically reached out to those on the edge of society. He used his power compassionately.

3. A leader will make mistakes

Sometimes people think we should read the Bible so that we can copy good examples. But there are probably as many bad examples as good ones. Solomon amassed great personal wealth, Cyrus was a cruel colonialist, Zedekiah made a series of catastrophic mistakes, Herod the Great was a megalomaniac...

But in the case of Moses (a murderer) and David (a murderer and an adulterer), failure was not the last word. Both became better leaders for their humbling. Enoch Powell was wrong when he said 'all political lives... end in failure.' Jesus restored his disciple Peter after he betrayed him; forgiving him, and Peter became one of the most important leaders in the early church. Our politicians are fallible.

4. Believers will honour and pray for their leaders

Christians will hold their leaders to account - by God's values. But we will also respect them for what they are trying to do, and ask God to equip them in their leading. Paul and Peter living under Roman rule (including Nero) wrote, 'Be subject to the authorities' and, 'Honour the emperor'. Paul wrote to Timothy, 'I urge that petitions... be made for... kings and all in high positions'.

As we enjoy (or endure) the rest of the campaign, I hope we can hold these principles in mind and pray for all seeking election and all who are voting.

WHAT'S ON IN CHURCH

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

Sundays

0800-0830

Holy Communion (said)

0930-1030

Parish Communion

1100-1145

together at eleven

followed by crafts and refreshments

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)

0915-0940

Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

0930-1015 **6, 20, 27 June**

Holy Communion

1000-1100 13 June

Holy Communion and Coffee NEW
on the second Tuesday of the month

Faith at Work

Saturday 3 June

0915-1015 *Faith in Headship*
with John Taylor

Saturday 10 June

0915-1015 *Faith in Mental Health*
with Kirstie Craig

Saturday 1 July

0915-1015 *Faith in Working Hands*
with John Daly

Film Club

Saturday 3 June

1800-2030 *Some Like it Hot*
starring Marilyn Monroe,
Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon

Saturday 24 June

1400-1630 *Moana*
Disney's latest hit animated film

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 5, 12, 19, 26 June

1015-1215 For toddlers and
parents / carers

Eco Team

Monday 5 June

2000 in the vicarage

Rock Choir

Wednesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 June

1030-1200 rockchoir.com

St James's Day

Sunday 9 July

1100 *Service of Celebration* with the Bishop of Kensington, followed by a barbecue lunch and fun for all the family in the vicarage garden, including a giant slide and games. The open day also includes a chance to climb the spire and ring the bells

NEWS IN BRIEF

A new churchwarden and PCC start work

GWYNNETH LLOYD is the new churchwarden. She was elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 23 April and replaces Nick Bagge, pictured, who has completed six years in the role.

Nick Harris was re-elected to serve another year as churchwarden and treasurer. In his report he said the church had recorded a deficit for the second year. The solid performance in our investments had masked the full extent of our finances. He said we had to increase our income and not rely on savings to plug the gap.

Five members of the Parochial Church Council were elected at the same meeting. They were Nick Bagge, Jennifer Clay, Lou Coaker, Paul Fitchett and Rita Malyon.

This was the first APCM for our new



vicar, and Derek used the opportunity to set out the future direction of the church, beginning with the launch of a new service in May, *together at eleven*, aimed particularly at families and more informal than the 0800 and 0930 services.

Boxing clever for Children's Society

OUR ANNUAL count of Children's Society boxes will begin shortly. The Children's Society fights child poverty and neglect, helping children have a better chance in life.

The donations from box-holders are a key source of income for the charity and, despite this source of funding decreasing in recent years,



that has not proved the case here at St James's, where we have been bucking that trend and steadily increasing our contributions.

If anyone would like to support the charity's work by signing up for a box to collect your loose change, please speak to Nicky or David Hetling or contact the office.

Rodney faced his illness with courage



WE ARE SORRY to report that Rodney Taylor died on 3 May, at the age of 74. He had been diagnosed with the rare bone marrow disorder myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) ten years earlier.

A requiem mass is being held at St James's Church on Thursday 1 June at 1500. There will be a full obituary in our next issue. We send our condolences to Janet, their children Alice, Romilly and Beatrice, and their families.

Our Lent Appeal total tops £2300

MANY THANKS to everyone who made a donation to the Diocese of London's Lent Appeal. We sent the diocese £2300 and it will be divided between three educational projects in Mozambique and Angola. Our donation included £170 from the Shell Seekers and almost £400 from Gift Aid. We will in due course let you know the amount raised across the diocese. The 2016 Lent Appeal raised £164,000 for persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

Church at your convenience

WORK HAS BEGUN to convert the storeroom in the west porch into toilets. The shrubs behind the railings had to be removed in order to dig a trench for the waste pipe. The work is expected to be complete later this month. Plans for replanting and landscaping the area, extending to where the beech tree was felled, will be announced later. Elsewhere, the church and hall have additional storage, the children's area has been given a makeover, a sink has been installed in the vestry and the electrics have been updated.



Plan, stretch,



together at eleven is a new departure for St James's — but one families have embraced

Thomas Edison said: 'Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration.' We would love to feel that great things might happen without much effort, but most of the time it doesn't occur that way.

Whether we take our guide to be the Second Law of Thermodynamics (entropy increases) or Christian teaching (there is sin in the system) or gardening (the weeds are coming), we know that left to themselves, things get worse more often than get better.

Humanity has learned that it is better to look ahead and have a plan of action. Schoolchildren are given personal targets, businesspeople have 'objectives and key results'.

Churches have been slow to adopt this way of thinking. We might remember Paul's words: 'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.'

So Christian leaders are conscious that whatever we do it will be God's activity that makes the final difference. We should be cautious about thinking measurable outcomes are entirely within our power.

Jesus and his three-year strategy

Nevertheless the Bible is not against planning! It was Joseph's forward planning that saved Egypt and the surrounding lands from years of famine, and Jesus clearly had a strategy for his three years' ministry.

Archbishop David Hope introduced *Mission Action Planning* to the Diocese of London over 20 years ago and that language and method has spread throughout the country.

Our Parochial Church Council (PCC) has been

It's six months since Derek took the helm at St James's. Following lots of listening, and backed by the PCC, he has begun to implement a strategy to grow the church... but he needs *our help and prayers*

working on a series of strategic statements which led to an action plan that was presented to the Annual Church Meeting.

In trying to summarise the sort of church we are aiming to be, three statements have been agreed:

■ **God is good, all the time.** At the centre of our life together is our worship. There are opportunities to worship in a variety of styles; everyone (of all ages) is welcomed and included.

■ **Everyone matters.** St James's is a family. We nurture the young and the young-in-faith, and each of us is always learning and growing. We care for one another - from experiencing an initial welcome as a newcomer, to being encouraged to play a full part as an established member of the family. We support one another as we can.

■ **Not a cruise ship but a lifeboat.** We are outward-looking. We have identified our neighbours'



Church services don't have to be boring! Some hands-on activities for children and adults

pray... grow!



What goes up... family fun at the St James's Day celebrations in the vicarage garden

needs and are offering our time and putting our gifts into action. We serve as individuals, and together as a church.

We believe this is how God is calling us develop our church. It will be the measure of our 'success,' in the years to come.



Some more immediate goals to achieve

Within that broader perspective we have developed some more immediate goals - our action plan. Here are some of them:

- Draft a year's programme of social events - some for everyone, some for adults, some for families
- Seize the opportunities to use our building midweek - now we have toilets
- Take further action to improve our welcome to visitors and newcomers
- Strengthen links with local organisations, including the schools
- Recruit a Children and Families Work Leader
- Arrange learning events or short series for discipleship on Thursday evenings

- Create a team to plan St James's Day, when the Bishop of Kensington visits

But the first of our initiatives has been the launch of *together at eleven*, a service created to meet especially the needs of families (though, of course, everyone is welcome.) Everyone stays together in church for worship, teaching and prayer. To keep *everyone* interested there's lots of interaction and activity; we aim to be on to refreshments and craft by 11.40!

Until 2 July we are working our way through the Bible looking at the 'must-know stories'. They're listed on page 3, and flyers are available in church or on St James's website.



There are many more of these initiatives in our Action Plan: some immediate, some for the coming year, and some for the future.

It is encouraging to know that Google considers that it is doing well if it hits 60-70% of its 'stretch goals.' In fact, I think Christian people should have goals that are a bit beyond what we can do ourselves - otherwise we are factoring God out!

So St James's has a vision and a plan. Now with prayer, let's move forward!



The answer to all our prayers... the inaugural quiz night and supper was a big success



Sunil's final journey

SUNIL DE MEL, a long-standing member of our congregation, died on 14 March after struggling with many complex medical conditions over the past nine years. He was 78.

Sunil was born in Mount Lavinia, a suburb of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, and brought up in nearby Moratuwa.



After attending St. Thomas's College for his secondary education, he came to England for his higher education, gaining qualifications in heating, ventilation and air conditioning. He worked in the UK for 17 years, and then in Lagos, Nigeria, for a further nine years.

Returning to Sri Lanka to look after his mother, Sunil met Gloria, pictured together above, and they married in 1987. The turbulent situation in Sri Lanka caused them to move to London in the year that their son Chetan was born.

Sunil worked tirelessly, but also found time to pursue his great love of cricket, becoming a coach at Teddington Cricket Club. Between 2001 and 2003 Sunil worked for the United Nations in a civilian role, with postings to East Timor, Iraq and Kuwait.

Sunil's funeral took place at St James's on 3 April, where touching tributes were paid to this quiet, modest and much-loved man. It was streamed over the internet to enable relatives in Sri Lanka and the US to watch it.

The family organised a second service at Colombo Cathedral, on 17 April. Following the service, part of Sunil's ashes were interred in the family vault at St. Peter's Church, Moratuwa. We send our sympathy to Gloria and Chetan, who looked after Sunil devotedly through many bouts of illness.

Fitting tribute to choral composer



BRITISH CHORAL music lost a rare talent in 2016 with the untimely death of William Petter at the age of 34. William was a former director of music of Concordia Voices, a choir that rehearses at St James's and includes members of our congregation.

William was diagnosed with clear cell sarcoma in 2013. As the illness progressed he continued to sing, conduct, teach and to the greatest extent possible, live life to the full.

He began to compose in the final years of his life and shortly after his death his professional musician friends recorded a CD of his choral work in the Wren Chapel of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. *Ablaze with Light* has been published to critical acclaim, including a five-star review by the *Observer*. Proceeds from sales go to Sarcoma UK, the cancer charity. The CD can be bought from the Novum website or from Amazon.

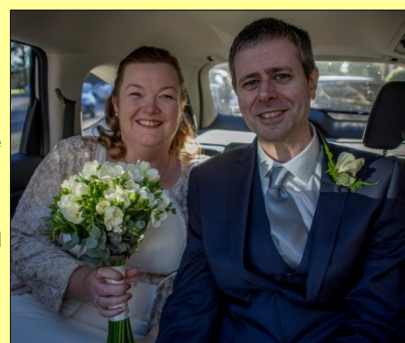
Full details at williampetter.org.

Special day for Kirstie and Tim

KIRSTIE CRAIG and Timothy Girling were married at St James's on 25 March.

It was a lovely, intimate ceremony conducted in the chancel with all the family and friends in the choir stalls.

The service was followed by a celebratory meal at Oatlands Park Hotel, and with Kirstie's and Tim's mothers there, the celebrations continued into Mothering Sunday the following day.



Meet our new team members



New team leaders: from left, Becky Jones, Fiona Collins and Dawn Miller



DAVID HETLING

In our last feature on Shell Seekers, we mentioned how pleasing it was to have witnessed a rise in numbers over the past year – this has allowed us to restore a two-group approach to Sunday mornings with activities for primary schoolchildren alongside a more mature exploration of the faith journey with our secondary schoolchildren.

We are delighted to also welcome some new leaders to our team to support this growth! All will be familiar faces as they have been coming to St James's with their children for some time – Fiona Collins, Becky Jones and Dawn Miller.

Fiona returned to St James's about three years ago having grown up in the area – she attended St James's as a girl, but there was no Sunday School at the time!

Fiona comes to church with her son Jacob, who is six years old and currently in Year 1 at school. Fiona and Jacob have both mentioned how much they appreciate the broad age range that we have in the congregation at St James's, a foundation that enables nurturing relationships with fellow Christians from all backgrounds.

Fiona also commented about how Jacob's coming to Shell Seekers has given her time in church to worship and that her new role as a leader gives her the opportunity to give back a little in return for that. Many of you will also know Fiona's mother, Ann Collins, just one member of that extended family at St James's that made Fiona feel so comfortable when she returned.

Dawn has been coming to St James's for a little over 18 months and, demonstrating that God moves in mysterious ways, came into the church that first Sunday when her

car broke down and she was unable to get to her usual church! Dawn also attended St James's as a girl, at a time when there was a Sunday School, and now comes with her son Marcus, aged 10 and in Year 5 at school.

Dawn has talked of the importance of the family environment at St James's, how welcome she and Marcus have both felt since joining, and how this has contributed to a deepening of her faith. By taking on this new responsibility, Dawn is extending her commitment to the church, having joined the PCC last year.

Becky has been attending with her son Alex for a year. Becky was encouraged to come to St James's by Fiona following some personal difficulties and has been further inspired by Alex himself!

Alex, aged seven and also in Year 1 at school, has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Becky describes him as being very thoughtful and kind; it was his simple exclamation about God's existence though – "just imagine if he is real!" – that has helped Becky to overcome her doubts. Becky has also mentioned both Jacky and Julian's support in helping her find her faith again.

Fiona, Dawn and Becky will be joining the Shell Seekers rota from the Autumn term in September, but are shadowing the other Shell Seekers' leaders this term in preparation.

We thank them all for their commitment to this important element of our church's ministry and look forward to hearing from them about their activities with the children!

We are always open to volunteers in this crucial area of our growth too. As well as continuing to benefit from Sandra's experience, working with our older children each month, we are happy to talk to anyone who might feel inspired to offer some of their time in support of our young people. Please speak to any of the Shell Seekers leaders if you're interested!

Our Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, starts in church from 0930 every Sunday during school terms and parades into the hall, except 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.



Millions make sacred journey



The spectacular Hajj attracts millions of pilgrims from across the world



LAURENCE SEWELL

Mecca is the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad in AD 570. Nearby is the site of Muhammad's first revelation of the Quran. As such, it is regarded as the holiest city in the religion of Islam, located in the Hejaz region of western Saudi Arabia some 45 miles inland from the port city of Jeddah. It is the capital of the Makkah region with a population of some 2.5 million.

Only Muslims are allowed in the city, and it is most famous for the annual Hajj, or pilgrimage, when millions arrive each year during the 12th Muslim lunar month of *dhu al-Hijjah* to perform the complicated rituals associated with the pilgrimage, something incumbent upon all Muslims to perform at least once in their lives.

Sacred place of worship

The Grand Mosque, the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca dating from the 7th century is Islam's most sacred place of worship. It surrounds the Kaaba, the cloth-covered cubic structure that is Islam's most sacred shrine, as well as the focal point for the direction of Muslim prayer.

The Kaaba is built around a sacred black stone, a meteorite that Muslims believe was placed by Abraham and Ishmael in a corner of the Kaaba, a symbol of God's covenant with Abraham and Ishmael and, by extension, with the Muslim community itself.

Mecca was long ruled by Muhammad's descendants known as Sharifs, acting either as independent rulers or as vassals to larger political organisations. It was under Ottoman control for much of the time until conquered by Ibn Saud in 1925 and incorporated into modern day Saudi Arabia.

In recent years Mecca has seen tremendous expansion; but unfortunately, during this expansion, it has lost some of its most historical structures and archaeological sites. Today, more than 15 million Muslims visit Mecca annually, including several million during the few days of the Hajj. As a result, Mecca has become one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the Muslim world.

Pilgrims praise God in the valley of Arafat

Performing the Hajj

The act of pilgrimage is the fifth pillar of Islam. It involves 10 rituals performed before and during the hajj. It starts with preparation (the state of *ihram*) and the act of worship (the *tawaf*). This is the renowned circumambulation of the Kaaba when pilgrims circle counter-clockwise seven times, repeating *du'as* (prayers), and if possible, stop and kiss the black stone, emulating the kiss that it received from the Prophet Muhammad.

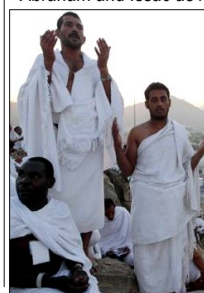
Afterwards there is the *sa'ay* - walking between Safa and Marwah within the Grand Mosque seven times, when devotees sip Zamzam water, which comes from a sacred well, which is believed to have saved the Prophet Abraham's wife Hagar and son Ishmael from dying of thirst.

Thereafter, pilgrims converge on the tent city of Mina, some five miles away from Mecca, for prayer, and remain there until dawn the next morning. Pilgrims then travel to the valley of Arafat and stand in the open praising God.

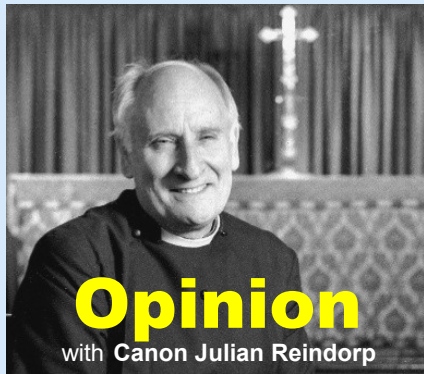
At the end of the day they travel to Muzdalifah for the night. Here begins *Ramy al-Jamarat*, the gathering of pebbles for the symbolic stoning of the devil, when pilgrims fling pebbles at three pillars in the city of Mina the next day. A lamb or sheep is slaughtered and the meat is given to the poor, to mark Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael upon the command of God. This also marks the *Eid al-Adha* festival in the Muslim calendar. Pilgrims then return to Mecca for tawaf.

Although this marks the end of hajj, many also return to Mina for further stoning of the pillars and a final *tawaf* on the 12th day of the month *Dhu al-Hijja* to ask God's forgiveness for past errors and offer prayers.

Christians accept the biblical testimony that God instructed Abraham to sacrifice Issac and that the covenant was with Abraham and Issac as his 'successor'.



However, based on Islamic scholarship Muslims believe that Allah commanded Abraham to sacrifice his elder son, Ishmael and they place Ishmael before Issac.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

THE DISABLED DEFENDED?

I was interested that within a week of the recent Budget, the Government had to abandon its plans to increase taxes on the self-employed, partly after protests by its own MPs. Schools budget cuts (see below) are also arousing deep concern across the political spectrum, but who is speaking up for the 5 million disabled and the low paid who are facing a further £12 billion cuts during this parliament, while the top rate of tax is reduced for some of the wealthiest people in society?

The richest will reap 80% from the tax and benefit changes, while the poorest will become worse off according to the Resolution Foundation. As one commentator said, this is another huge transfer of money from the poor to the rich. This is when four million adults don't eat regularly because of a lack of money and a record seven million people in poverty are working families.

SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS

A controversial new 'fair funding formula' for schools has been announced by the Government. What nobody seems to have denied is that schools are facing an 8% cut in real terms in funding per pupil by 2019-20. The number of teachers is being cut and parents are being asked to contribute more money for their children in state schools. At the same time the Government is putting £300 million into new grammar schools, despite widespread evidence that in the counties with grammar schools the overall educational attainment of pupils suffers.

SEXUALITY SURPRISES

The Roman Catholic journalist Clifford Longley suggests that human sexuality remains a mystery, with many surprises still to come. Roman Catholic authorities have criticised 'gender theory' which promotes the idea that gender is a given, not a choice.

Longley says, 'The Church does not deal well with individuals who do not fit the standard pattern. This *one size fits all* sexual anthropology led to the treatment of homosexuality as a sinful choice that could and should be reversed.

'The Catholic Church hasn't listened to what homosexuals have said about themselves. If it had, it would have heard them say they were convinced they were the way they were because that was how God or Mother Nature intended them to be. They profoundly felt themselves to have a distinct sexual identity. It had chosen them, not the other way round. Freedom came from accepting who they were, and by being loved and accepted by others as such. This is also close to what transgendered people say about themselves.'

POPE: MARRIED CLERGY?

In a recent interview Pope Francis talked about married men being ordained priests as one way of tackling the shortage of priests. 'In many communities committed women are preserving Sunday as a day of worship by holding services of the word, but a Church without the Eucharist has no strength.' He has also set up a commission to study the possibility of women deacons.

HAPPINESS BEGINS AT 70

Almost two thirds of older people say they are 'happier than they have ever been'. The Royal Voluntary Service said that 63% of people over 70 feel more content than at any other point of their lives. Half claim they are in the prime of their life. Worrying less, having more time for personal activities and no longer caring what people think, are some of the things highlighted as a benefit of growing older by 1,500 British adults questioned.

GIRLS WIN BOYS' LEAGUE

A girls' football team in Spain has made history by winning a youth football league otherwise made up of boys. AEM de Lleida, the only girls' team in Catalonia, with players aged 12 to 14, swept to victory 16 points ahead of their nearest rivals. Coach Dani Rodrigo hailed his 'taboo-breaking' players.

CHARITY BOX

SUPPORTING LOCAL CAUSES

Giving a voice to those most in need



**GWYNNETH
LLOYD**

I am sure many of you will have heard of the Greenwood Centre. You may also be aware that a loved member of our church – Hannah Stanton – was involved in setting up the Community Care Group locally.

It was so successful that it soon needed larger premises. St James's was partly responsible for the building on the present site. This is where our church hall used to be. Selling the land enabled us to build our hall next to the church and the Greenwood Centre was opened in 1992.

There are over 200 volunteers who help the 400 people requiring assistance in various ways; of these 100 people are supported through the befriending service.

The key thing is the volunteers are mainly local. They may well know those they help. This leads to community cohesion and the charity can respond quickly to a problem.

An example is an elderly lady whose family no longer live locally. They approached the Greenwood Centre, who found someone to befriend the lady. This started with phone calls and was soon followed by regular visits.

Do look at their website for more information on all they do and perhaps consider volunteering there – they also need an editor for their newsletter.

Money is always needed, which is why St James's gives the centre an annual donation. The council does give some support, but this is not long-term funding and could easily stop. You, too, could donate an annual sum. Who knows, you may be one of those they help in your old age!

St Richard's Church

We are also pleased to be supporting our near neighbour, St Richard's Hanworth in their *Project Grow*. This church, just two miles away, is set in one of the most deprived parishes in England, but the Christian community is thriving and outward looking. The church has a strong connection



with families through its children's work. As evidence of its good reputation, in 2015 the local community primary school became St Richards's Church of England School.

The church building is becoming increasingly dilapidated. Built in 1965, it has been repeatedly damaged by thieves. St Richard's has developed a vision for a new building that will be fully accessible and large enough for all the local groups that need space. The project will cost more than £1.3m million; as well as looking for grants the congregation are active in raising money locally.

St James's has given gifts towards the cost of fund-raising as well as towards the overall target. Members of St Richard's will be visiting St James's on Sunday 11 June at 0930 to share the latest news. project-grow.org.uk



LOCAL EVENTS

St James's Day celebration

Sunday 9 July from 1100

The sun always seems to shine on our patronal festival. This year Bishop Graham will be at our service. It will be followed by a barbecue lunch, served, with continued good luck, in the vicarage garden. We'll also be serving a variety of drinks, including glasses of Pimm's. There will be plenty to occupy our younger members, including an inflatable slide and games. Last year's churchyard nature trail proved popular, so will be repeated. Our open day extends to the spire, and from 1300-1500 visitors can ring the bells and climb the tower for unrivalled views over the surrounding countryside. We look forward to welcoming many visitors to our celebration.



TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Sunday 4 June at 1145

Join the vicar for a teddy bears' picnic in the vicarage garden immediately after the *together at eleven* service. Bring your own food, we'll supply the drinks and games. You don't even need to bring a teddy!



HOLY COMMUNION AND COFFEE NEW

On the second Tuesday of the month, Holy Communion will start at 1000 instead of 0930 and be followed by coffee and conversation.

REGISTERS

MARCH

WEDDING

25 Timothy Girling and Kirstie Craig, Hampton Hill

FUNERALS

10 Cyril Thomas Anthony, 91, Hampton Hill

22 Peter Lockyer, 95, Hampton Hill

APRIL

BAPTISM

30 Jude Alan Gabriel Hunter, Hampton

FUNERALS

3 Maxine Lesley Maxfield-Duff, 64, New Malden

3 Ravindra Sunil De Mel, 78, Hampton Hill

10 Sydney William Harrison, 84, Teddington

12 Roger Charles Hills, 65, Twickenham



MY FAVOURITE TRAIN STATIONS

A life that keeps me on track



**PAUL
PETERKEN**

I have always enjoyed travelling, and I think that the best mode of travel is to take the train. And I find the route network of the railways endlessly fascinating and have made a hobby out of visiting as many of the British lines as I can. So I find that I have spent a considerable amount of my life on railway stations. In making my list of favourite stations, I have mostly been influenced by the architecture and the space, rather than the trains themselves.

Eastcote, London



The London Underground expanded into the suburbs in the 1920s and 30s, and many new stations were built. A distinctive style of red brick, large windows, and concrete was created by the architect Charles Holden. I was familiar with many of these in my childhood and none more so than my local station Eastcote, as it was the start of the journey to school, and almost all other journeys.

The entrance from the street is into the large and light brick box containing the booking hall - classic Holden. The platform buildings have the characteristic semi-circular end. My pleasure in all Art Deco / modern architecture stems from these stations.

St Pancras, London



Even before its transformation to the Eurostar terminus, St Pancras was a highly impressive building (as intended by its builders, the Midland Railway!) The most obvious is the frontage building, the Midland Hotel, all dark red brick and pinnacles. The interior had some splendid public rooms, and a fine staircase, now happily restored for the re-opened hotel. Behind the hotel is the masterpiece, the arched roof over the platforms.

Surbiton, London

The Southern Railway built or rebuilt a number of stations in the 1930s, and had their own style of Art Deco/Modern. Surbiton is



one of the best, and worth a bus ride to see. The main feature is the large concrete box for the booking hall to the side of the line. There are long vertical windows to light the inside, and many good details. There is also a fine detached clock tower. The buildings on the platform have the rounded corners that are characteristic of the period. All the buildings are faced with white painted concrete.

Whitby, Yorkshire



I first came here in 1957 for a family holiday and have returned many times. It is a nice terminus by the side of the harbour with two platforms and has a fine classical station building on one side, with a very impressive portico. The train service here was badly affected by the Beeching cuts, but in the past ten years it has been revived by steam trains from the North York Moors railway. It is one of the few places where preserved steam trains run over normal Network Rail lines. The town outside is rather pleasant too!

Reading, Berkshire

The station at Reading has been greatly expanded since 2010 to cope with increasing traffic and now has space: the



platforms are wide, there are plenty of them, and the bridge connecting the platforms is a wide concourse. All of this is completely new, with the exception of the main station building of 1860, which has been cleaned and incorporated in the design. It's so good to use a station which is busy, but has the space to deal with it without becoming crowded.

Brighton, East Sussex



Brighton has a large and very busy terminus, with a good all-over roof. This is a station that pulses with life, with crowds arriving and departing on the frequent trains to London, and east and west along the coast. A visit to Brighton is always invigorating, and this starts at the station.

Lewes, East Sussex

Lewes has a quirky station - V-shaped with two sets of platforms, for London and Brighton, at an angle. This is a much simplified station compared with how it was in 1950. At platform level there is an immense covered circulating area between the sets of platforms, and a nice café. A good start or finish to a walk in the South Downs.



Bath Green Park, Somerset



Until 1966, Bath had two stations. Bath Green Park was the station for the Somerset and Dorset line to Bournemouth, and also for connections to the north of England. Dr Beeching applied his axe to all this, but the station building has survived. After being a car park, Sainsbury's saw the potential of using the buildings as a supermarket. The station was a terminus, with two platforms under a glazed arched roof and behind a fine office building in a classical style and of proper Bath stone. I did once travel on a train from the station, as a teenager, and I now make a point of visiting it whenever I am in Bath.

Norwich Thorpe, Norfolk



I obviously have a weakness for provincial termini. Norwich Thorpe is another one, being the terminus for trains from London, and most of eastern Norfolk. It has a fine main building built in the 1880s, with a clock tower flanked by symmetrical wings facing a spacious yard. Behind it is a large circulating area with a high glass roof, and six platforms. It has not changed much since I first came here in about 1960, on the way to a family Broads holiday. Since Norwich is an interesting city, for me this station is the start of enjoyable days out.

Southeast, East Sussex

Not an architectural choice at all. In fact, the only buildings are a footbridge and bus shelter on each platform. There are no other buildings around as the village is half a mile away. It is a small station on the South Downs Way, one of my favourite places to walk.

