

OCTOBER 2018

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



From allotment to table

Giving thanks at Harvest
for all the food we have

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or find us on



Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

Derek was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He served in several diverse London parishes before becoming vicar here in 2016. He is married to Sandra, a teacher, and has two children. A keen photographer, he posts a picture online every day, combining it with a daily walk or cycle ride. He can be contacted at any time other than on Mondays (his day off).

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CURATE Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister and has been at St James's since starting her ordination training. Jacky is married to Alan, and has three children. During term-time she runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.

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ASSISTANT PRIEST Canon Julian Reindorp

Julian was born in Durban, South Africa, and ordained in 1969. He has worked in parishes in East London, Chatham and Milton Keynes, and was Team Rector in Richmond until retirement in 2009. He continues to lead a busy life, often out and about on his trademark red scooter. Julian is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren.

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Letter from the Editor

The Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is now with us after a very hot summer. Sadly, Autumn probably won't be as spectacular this year as many leaves have already died due to the drought.

This issue sees the second of our Marathon articles. In June we featured Jon Holloway who ran the London Marathon and, in this issue, Sara Butterfield tells her story of undertaking the Arctic Marathon. Very different – but both raising funds for charity.

October means Harvest and, as in previous years, we are supporting the Upper Room which provides meals for homeless people from its base in Hammersmith.

This has been a very difficult year for farmers and gardeners alike. Crops have failed and livestock have relied on the winter feed for food. This means rising food prices in the shops, making it even more difficult for homeless people this winter, so please be generous with your gifts when you come to our Harvest service on 7 October.

Best Wishes

Janet



Cover photo: Fresh from the allotment... just one source of food this harvest festival

SPIRE The Spire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We make no charge for this magazine, but if you are a regular reader we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs to enable us to expand our outreach across the parish. Cheques should be made payable to the PCC of St James, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the church office.

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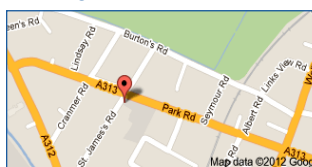
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Finding us



The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is next to the church and vicarage. There is ample parking. Buses include R68, R70 and 285.

Follow us

For the very latest news go to our website or follow us on social media:

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Clerical Capers



...and the theme of today's service is 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...

When the best things take longer to grow



DEREK WINTERBURN

At Harvest our minds think of farmers and fields. While I know that many people in Hampton Hill are keen gardeners, I don't think anyone can be a farmer – at least they can't be farming in Hampton Hill! But I suppose there's much in common between the two.

One of the key things a farmer or gardener must do is wait. There has to be planning, and then the seed is sown. Through the growing season (our long hot summer this year) perhaps there needs to be feeding and watering. But through it farmers have to let nature move at her own pace, and wait for the harvest. The writer Eugene Peterson calls this the *Law of the Farm* – things take time to grow.

The best things take time...

Our modern life prizes things that are achieved quickly. Of course, some things are much better faster (the journey home from work, or the queue in the Post Office?) But the *Law of The Farm* suggests that important things may take time. The temptation is to ignore what can be achieved if it takes longer. Someone once told me that we overestimate what we can achieve in one year, and underestimate what we can do in five.

Growing in faith is lifelong

Adults can be wary of 'growing'; not all growth is healthy! But Jesus calls us all to 'lifelong learning' - discipleship. Often we don't notice the slow growth in ourselves, growth in faith, growth in wisdom, growth in goodness.

Being part of a small group (at St James's we call them Life Groups) puts us together with people who can encourage and strengthen us.

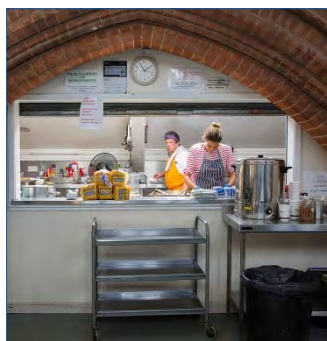
'Modern life prizes most things that are achieved quickly, but important things can take longer. The temptation is to ignore what takes longer. Often we don't notice the slow growth in ourselves, growth in faith, wisdom or goodness'

New this season is a short course, *Quest*, for people who want to find answers to life's big questions. It will meet every other Wednesday in October and November (see right for details).

At St James's we are aiming to grow as a church bit by bit too. Most recently we have begun a service for families and an activity club for older people, we are hosting regular big-screen 'film shows' and have formed a group for young people.

Be grateful for the food we have

At harvest time we rightly give thanks for the food that we usually take for granted. I think we can never be too grateful for the food that we can enjoy from all over the world. We also remember those who have less, particularly the homeless in London (whom we support through the work of The Upper Room, Hammersmith, seen below).



One of the oldest harvest hymns is *Come, ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest-home*. It moves from our agricultural harvest to God's harvest – gathering his people. That's the ultimate perspective. How are we growing as people bearing fruit – and then how much do we need God's power to work in us?



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am

Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am

Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 7 Oct)
followed by crafts and refreshments

7 Oct

Harvest All-age Service 11:00am
followed by lunch and a Talent Show!

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)

Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am

Tuesdays

2, 16, 23, 30 Oct

Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am

9 Oct

Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am
(2nd Tuesday of month)

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 1, 8, 15, 29 Oct 10:30am-12:15pm
Our playgroup for toddlers and carers

Connections

Tuesday 2 Oct 11am-12:30pm

(1st Tuesday of month)

Our drop-in session for older people

Life Groups

From Tuesday 2 Oct and Thursday 4 Oct 8pm
The house groups resume, running fortnightly,
followed the Sunday readings from Hebrews

Fairtrade Stall

Sunday 7 Oct 10:30-11am and 12-12:30pm
Stock up before or after the Harvest service.

Quest

From Wednesday 10 Oct 8pm
A group for people who wish to explore
their faith. For more information contact Derek.

Pop-up Cinema (FREE ENTRY)

Saturday 13 Oct 3.30pm

Peter Rabbit (U rating)

Peter's quiet life is shattered by the arrival of a
new family of rabbits. Doors open at 3pm.

Saturday 3 Nov 6.30pm

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society (12)
All-star cast in a romantic drama. Doors open 6pm.
No booking required for cinema. Snacks on sale.

In Loving Memory (All Souls)

Sunday 28 Oct 3:30pm

A service for us to remember those who
have died. Followed by refreshments.

In Concert: Alistair Griffin

Saturday 17 Nov 7.30pm Tickets £16/£8

A charity concert followed by a hot meal
and bubbly (see page 7). Book via office or
online at: <http://bit.ly/StJ-Griffin>

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gardening Club helps churchyard take shape



ELEVEN PAIRS of willing hands, including those pictured above, met at the beginning of September to help prepare the churchyard wildflower meadow and the new garden area on the corner of Park Road and St James's Road.

This was the fourth gathering of the Gardening Club since its inauguration on 18 November last year.

A rotovator was hired to plough the meadow area. Weeds and grass roots were painstakingly sifted out by hand and the soil raked over, ready for sowing the fresh seed later this autumn.

The new garden area was also rotovated. Weeds were cleared, hedges trimmed and brambles dug out. Ivy was cut away from grave stones and the persistent alkanet plants were sprayed in preparation for a new layout to be ready for next spring.

The Garden Club meets some four times a year and all are welcome for either light or vigorous activity, as well as lots of fun, company and, most importantly, care of our lovely churchyard.

Look out for announcements in church or on the website for the final session this year, in either October or November.

Hall refurbishment nears end

RENOVATION WORK of the Church Hall, carried out during the summer holidays, has been praised by the first hall users of the autumn term.

Work completed so far has included refurbishing all of the toilets. Flooring has been replaced, there are new toilet bowls and tiling, and the sinks have been given new taps.

The hall floor has been stripped and resealed. The radiators have been replaced with wall heaters, and the walls have been repainted.



The stairs and Upper Room also have new flooring. The final stage of the project, new hall cupboards, will be built during October half-term.

Greenwood Centre rebranded

THE HAMPTON and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care organisation has served the community since 1976, offering services to support less mobile and more vulnerable people. Its base in School Road, known as the Greenwood Centre, has been renamed the Greenwood Community Centre to reflect its wider use. The logo has also been changed.

The organisation urgently needs more volunteers to enable it to continue its valuable work. It is seeking minibis drivers and helpers,



volunteers using their own cars to drive people to medical appointments, help with running events, admin and fundraising, as well as help to start and run a new community café. Contact them on 020 8979 9662 or drop in.

FEATURE: ARCTIC ADVENTURE FOR BREAST CANCER

A marathon



SARA BUTTERFIELD

Working for the Royal Marsden can be a very crushing experience, as patients you journey with and grow attached to don't always pull through. I have, on the other hand, been struck by the extraordinary courage and resilience of many of the men and women I meet there, who are living with cancer.

Listening to how they felt when diagnosed, how fear became normal, and family and friends a lifeline, these experiences led me to want to do something more to help.

The final trigger came when a young, female patient with breast cancer showed me her wedding album. I was struck by the change in the last six months. As her tumour had become more aggressive and treatment intensified, she had gone from the radiant person in the photographs to the weak figure who lay beside me, with no hair, bravely hoping for 'good news'.

The next day, thinking also of two aunts who had shown great courage during their own cancer journeys, I rang the charity Walk the Walk and volunteered for their Arctic Marathon.

I came across the charity through colleagues at the Marsden. Founded by Nina Barough CBE, herself a breast cancer survivor, Walk the Walk funds research and prevention programmes. Via a series of Power Walking challenges, run in the UK and across the world, it encourages us all to increase the amount we walk as a means of having fun and getting fitter.

The Challenge

Heading out to the Abisko Mountain Station in northern Sweden, the



Inspired and moved by cancer patients at the Royal Marsden, Sara Butterfield challenged herself to go beyond her working day to raise money for a cause close to her heart.

Completing a marathon in sub-zero temperatures (a drop to minus 33°C) across the Arctic Circle, however, tested her to the limit.



The team gather beneath the Northern Lights prior to the start of the backcountry Ski Marathon

in the freezer



Exhaustion, elation ...and relief as Sara finally crosses the finish line. Inset: Sara's medal for finishing

challenge facing me was to ski a backcountry marathon — 26 miles across the desolate, frozen plains of subarctic Lapland, in sub-zero temperatures — to raise money for people living with cancer.

A matter of life or death

After being selected for the team a rather daunting seven-page kit list arrived, together with an intensive training programme. Having the right equipment, we were reminded, could save our lives. Skis and ski boots were provided, but we had to buy the rest.

Whilst an experienced Alpine skier, I had never taken part in a marathon. Nordic skis are also longer and thinner than their downhill equivalent. Skiing on ungroomed pistes demands a high level of fitness, balance and stamina.

I was daunted to find the marathon graded as an 'extreme' challenge. I would need the 14 months I had set aside for my preparation. I joined Hampton Pool gym, a Pilates class and a Nordic walking group. Together with regular dry ski sessions, I took up rollerskiing and my parents, Mike and Val, kindly funded some 'ski de fond' training in France.

The training got harder

Trying to stick to the final intensive 16-week programme was difficult. We were instructed in power walking, gradually increasing from 4 to 20 miles. I stopped climbing onto my bike or jumping into the car and began to walk everywhere. One day I set off early across Richmond Park, returning after dark, having completed 24 miles.

Along with the training schedule was an equally challenging fundraising target. We each had to raise at least £650 in sponsorship. Asking people to give is not easy, but when you believe passionately about the cause it is astonishing how insurmountable barriers can be overcome. I was moved by people's generosity.

Donations came from many sources,

including my son Ambrose's school in Hampton, the Puppet Barge in Richmond and from family and friends at St James's Church. Even strangers donated, such as a climbing instructor I met once. He had recently lost his Mum to breast cancer and said he felt the expedition was a tribute to her.

Lapland and the Northern Lights

For the start of the marathon we flew to Kiruna, the largest city of Swedish Lapland, arriving to thick snow underfoot. Lapland is a sparsely populated area bordering Finland, Norway, Russia and the Baltic Sea. Known for its vast subarctic wilderness and natural phenomena, it is home to the Sami people, who are traditionally semi-nomadic reindeer herders, but who now increasingly participate in professional and cultural life.

After a welcome dinner at the Aurora Sky Station we set out to the viewing point. Under a canopy of stars our hearts missed a beat when we saw ribbons of green streaking across the sky and felt an indescribable awe as the elusive Northern Lights appeared.

Bad luck strikes before the off

We spent our first day attending briefing sessions and trying out our kit. Disaster struck when my room-mate fell down an icy bank, fracturing her wrist. It was devastating to lose her, but she was not to be the only casualty. Another member developed 'frost nip' in her feet, and one of the charity's leaders fell and broke his ribs.

The rest of the team soldiered on, through the harsh, but breathtakingly beautiful, landscape of frozen rivers and snow-covered plains. Two moose and a herd of migrating reindeer were sighted, but no signs of human life.

In the middle of a huge, white wilderness, we left behind all contact with the outside world. Nothing could prepare us for the penetrating temperatures, eerie silence, isolation and sheer effort which lay ahead.

Every team member had to dig deep.

At -33°C my dried mango, sun cream and hand wipes froze! But whenever energy flagged, someone raised morale. Finally, after 26 or so miles, we crossed the finish line, physically exhausted, to whoops of joy, and feelings of relief and elation. We had all been touched, transformed and humbled by the tough surroundings.

To the Ice Hotel

To celebrate we each received a medal and then shared a magnificent three-course dinner, before spending our final night at Sweden's acclaimed Ice Hotel. The temperature inside is a constant -5°C. After a night on an ice mattress we received a certificate and glass of warmed lingonberry juice.

What a homecoming!

I felt proud to raise £4,450, the highest 'individual' contribution to the team's impressive £52,000 total.

Beneficiaries included an innovative support centre in Bristol, a new Maggie Centre in the Forth Valley, and the Lagan Dragons, who bought a boat for Northern Ireland's first ever breast cancer survivor team.

I returned home to Hampton to the most wonderful welcome, with a beautiful note on the door from my husband Chris and hugs from family. Ambrose named the white reindeer I brought him back Cloudberry after the delicious soft fruit that we ate out in the Arctic. The two of them have hardly been separated since!



Around the Spire

Gold award for Scouting friends

CONGRATULATIONS TO Jonathan Webb and Louis St John Smith, who recently received their Gold Award from their Scout leader Selina on their last night as Scouts.

To achieve this award over their four-and-a-half years as Scouts they each had to earn six activity badges and complete nine challenge awards, comprising world, skills, creative, outdoors, adventure, expedition, teamwork, team leader and personal challenges.

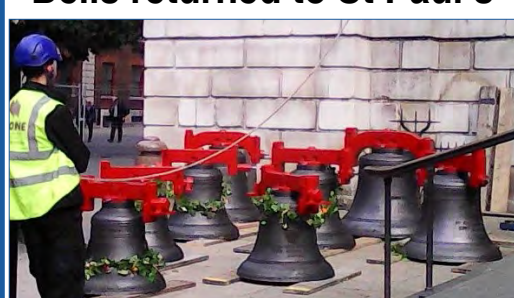
Both Louis, pictured left, and Jonathan, right, will be continuing in 3rd Hampton Hill Scouts, as Young Leaders helping with the Cubs. They are also working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award and have found time to train to be bellringers and are now part of the 9:30 service ringing team.



Poppies in Guildford Cathedral

This stunning projection will fill Guildford Cathedral for a unique light and sound show to commemorate the World War One centenary on 5 and 6 October from 6.30pm. Tickets £5 (children £2.50) from: guildford-cathedral.org.

Bells returned to St Paul's



THE TWELVE change ringing bells which hang in the northwest tower of St Paul's Cathedral have been silent since New Year's Day when they were removed for refurbishment.

They were cast in 1878 and are the second largest ring of bells in the world.

They were taken back to the foundry where a thick layer of grime was removed. The timbers in the bell tower have also been strengthened.

It is only the fourth time in their history that they have fallen silent – the previous

occasions being the two world wars and during the restoration of the cathedral from 1925-30.

However, the tower has not been entirely silent as the clock bells, including Great Tom in the SW tower, continue to sound as well as the original service bell.

The photo shows the bells resting on the ground in early September beside the steps for the delicate operation of lifting them back up.

The plan is to have the bells ready to ring on 1 November, on their 140th anniversary.



Where in the world?



**PRILL
HINCKLEY**

In Britain, thanks have been given for successful harvests since pagan times. Harvest reminds us of all the good things God gives us, and so at St James's we give thanks by singing, praying and decorating our church. We also bring gifts of food and other items which are later given to people in need. Britain has a rich farming heritage, producing an abundance of fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and dairy products. Harvest is a good time to think about our food and where it comes from.

Food miles and environment



- Shipping and air-freighting fruit and vegetables around the world is a major cause of greenhouse gas pollution. A quarter of all lorries on the road are carrying food.
- Locally grown food doesn't have far to travel so has a lower carbon footprint and is fresher. Well-managed local farms conserve fertile soil and clean water in communities and provide habitats for wildlife.

Which is better for the environment, a or b?

Quality and flavour



- Food from abroad has travelled long distances in ships or planes, has been stored in warehouses so is therefore older and less fresh when it finally gets to our tables. Consequently, by the time it does reach our tables the taste and nutrients have decreased.
- Local crops are picked at their peak freshness and the less time that passes between farms and tables, the fewer the nutrients will be lost. The produce will also keep longer in our fridges.

Which is better for us, a or b?

What about things we can't grow locally?

We all eat things that cannot be grown in this country, like bananas and spices. So these have to come from abroad. Importing food allows us to experience the tastes and flavours of other countries.

What about Fairtrade?

Fairtrade is about giving the people who produce the things we buy from abroad a fair price for their work. Without Fairtrade many people in poorer countries have to sell their goods at prices so low that they can't make a decent living. Fairtrade also allows the workers to have better working conditions and stops the companies that sell their products from exploiting the workers.

What about frozen and tinned produce?

Fruits and vegetables are often frozen or canned when they are at their peak in quality. Modern-day processing of canned and frozen produce usually occurs within a few miles and, most important, hours of harvest. The food is blanched (heated for a short time in hot water or steam), then immediately cooled in ice water before being sealed in its packaging. This speed helps stabilize many of the nutrients.

Seasonal food

The changing seasons provide us with the opportunity to buy foods that are only available at that time. Seasonal foods offer a natural diversity that we should take advantage of for both our own well-being and the health of our planet.

Other considerations

Eating local food supports the local farmers and businesses in our community. Local food can be great value for money because of the freshness, taste and quality of ingredients. Ultra-processed foods often use cheaper ingredients to bulk out the product, making them appear better value but feeding us less well. As some food travels a long way, it is more heavily packaged, creating millions of tonnes of wrapping waste every year.

The Red Tractor Assurance



We need to know that the food we are buying is safe and produced to high standards. With the Red Tractor assurance scheme we know where the food comes from and that the suppliers are inspected and certified.

The scheme covers production standards on animal welfare, safety, traceability and environmental protection.



**LAURENCE
SEWELL**

Earlier this year there was a fascinating series on English cathedrals introduced by Tony Robinson (the actor and broadcaster). These are well worth viewing and still available on Channel 5 catch-up. Six of our most notable cathedrals were selected, amongst which was York Minster, certainly one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, with foundations rooted in the nation's earliest history.

Church life in York dates from the 7th century and the construction of the first stone-built church in AD 633 around an earlier wooden construction that was built for the baptism of King Edwin of Northumbria.

In AD 735 York's first archbishop was appointed, but these were turbulent times and the church was often ransacked by invaders, including William the Conqueror's forces during the 'harrying of the North' in 1069.

Norman-style cathedral

However, it was after the appointment of the first Norman archbishop, Thomas of Bayeux, in 1070 that a recognisable cathedral was first built, in the Norman style.

The present gothic-style church, or to give it its exact title, 'the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York', dates from 1220 when Archbishop Walter de

Gray began construction of the north and south transepts. The term *minster* is applied to an important church that was built as part of a monastery established as a missionary teaching church. Building work continued throughout the Middle Ages and it was only in 1472 that the cathedral was consecrated and declared complete.

Major restoration of windows

It is a stunning building, and with its stained glass windows an atmospheric place of worship. It contains more than half of all the world's medieval glass, including the Great East Window which is the world's largest medieval stained glass window. This was part of a major conservation project between 2008 and 2017, costing £11 million and involving 311 panes of glass.

Apart from the vicissitudes of history, such as the English Reformation and the Civil War, the Minster has also had to cope with fires throughout its more recent history, in 1753, 1829, 1840 and the latest in 1984 when a lightning strike destroyed the roof in the south transept. Around £2.5 million had to be spent on repairs.

Earlier, in 1967, a building survey showed that the central tower was at risk of collapse and £2 million was raised for major engineering works to reinforce the foundations of the tower and to repair damage to the stonework. It was during this work that evidence of the Roman fort on the site and remains of the Norman cathedral were rediscovered.

Our first diocesan black bishop

The Minster is of course the seat of the Archbishop of York, the second highest office in the Church of England. In 2005 it consecrated the country's first black diocesan bishop, Dr John Sentamu, and another notable first came in 2014 with the consecration of the church's first female bishop, Libby Lane.

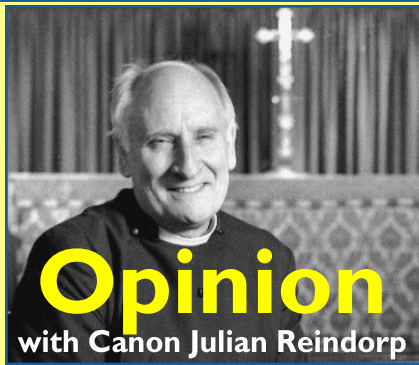
As many who have visited will know, there is not only the magnificence of the cathedral itself, but also the Undercroft Museum (the only accredited museum in a cathedral in the country) displaying objects and artefacts from two millennia of York's history.

The Minster also houses the largest cathedral library in the country, with just over 90,000 volumes, including the historic printed collections of the Chapter of York dating back to the 1470s.

A visit to York Minster is certainly worth the journey; otherwise watch the TV programme whilst it is still available.



Detail from the Great East window



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

MANDELA-PRISON LETTERS

As part of the celebrations marking the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth many of his previously unseen letters written from Robben Island prison have been published. Two letters stand out. One to his wife Winnie: 'Since the dawn of history, mankind has honoured and respected men and women like you, darling — an ordinary girl who hails from a country village hardly shown in most maps.' She too was often imprisoned, and at one point was held for 200 days without a shower. Another letter describes how he missed his family growing up, and his son's and mother's funerals. In 1971 he asks: 'Is one justified in neglecting his family on the ground of involvement in larger issues? Is it right to condemn one's young children and ageing partners to poverty and starvation in the hope of saving the wretched multitudes of the world?'

OUR GRIM PRISONS

It's said you judge a country by how it treats its prisoners. By any standards our prisoners (79,000 men, 4,000 women) are facing some of the worst conditions for a generation. The Chief Inspector of Prisons has accused ministers of 'being asleep at the wheel'. Stories abound of scared prison officers locking themselves in their offices, chaplains running from chapels fearing for their lives, and appalling physical conditions. Drugs are freely available (1 in 7 prisoners developed drug addictions while in prison). In the past year there have been 47,000 cases of self-harm, up 16% from the previous year. The problem has been made worse by 7,000 prison officers, mostly older and more experienced members, being shed to cut budgets. Now 2000 additional officers are being recruited, but much younger and needing considerable training. Belmarsh, opened in 1991, was the first adult prison built in London since 1874. Bishop Richard Moth, Roman Catholic Bishop for Prisons, commented: 'We have a prison system, including the buildings, designed for when the philosophy about how to treat prisoners was "incarceration rather than rehabilitation".'

HOMELESSNESS MONEY?

The Government announced a new policy to eliminate rough sleepers, numbering 5,000 every night, by 2027. The *i* newspaper said £100m was being spent, the *Guardian* said £50m had been set aside. The next day, James Brokenshire, the Housing Secretary, admitted there would be no new money for homelessness, but £50m had already been allocated for solving rough sleeping, and £50m moved from elsewhere in the housing budget.

Polly Neate, Chief Executive of Shelter, said: 'The underlying issue of housing is the dire shortage of social housing for people who cannot afford market rents. We need about 90,000 new homes a year to meet social housing demand. Last year 5,000 were built. You need houses to solve homelessness.'

SOUTHGATE STATION

For 24 hours a London Underground station had an extra name on all its signs - Gareth Southgate station. In the World Cup England's national football team gave our polarised country something to celebrate. Gareth Southgate, managing our young team, came across as articulate, honest and self-critical. As one commentator wrote: 'Southgate is a model of a kind of masculinity largely absent from public life, dominated by hucksters and strongmen.'

POPE'S FORD FOCUS

On a Sunday evening in August a Ford Focus pulled up outside the home of an elderly bed-ridden woman in Rome. Out stepped a man dressed all in white. Pope Francis had come to visit a friend who had asked to see him. Quickly a crowd gathered and after visiting his friend Pope Francis greeted them individually and gave them his blessing. As a journalist said: 'The Pope likes nothing more than escaping from the Vatican bubble and meeting people.'

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT ALMA

Seeking our own link with Africa



LAURENCE SEWELL

ALMA is the partnership between the Anglican Church in Angola, London and Mozambique. Although St James's does not have a direct link with a parish in Mozambique or Angola, it has been very supportive of ALMA over the years, giving from our Charity Support and especially through Lent Appeals. Many will recall the *Sowing Seeds for Tomorrow* appeal last year when we raised over £2,300 thanks to the generous support of parishioners and the Shell Seekers.

The aims of ALMA were established in a covenant originally signed on 12 July 1998 and which was renewed in 2008 during the *Rivers of Life* service in St Paul's Cathedral. ALMA, the acronym, also appropriately means *soul* in Portuguese, so the continuing purpose is for the soul of the partnership to be a commitment to mutual support in prayer and worship, in ministry and mission. The aims, as set out in the covenant, are to develop the partnership:

- *Through prayer*: our parish and diocesan bodies will base and enrich the work of ALMA in local creativity and prayer

- *Through communication*: continuing to build a lay ministry of link officers, communications and twinning officers, catechists and parish representatives to support ALMA activities and ensure each diocese and twin parish and school shares information on its aims, priorities, joys and difficulties;

- *Through visits between dioceses*: by bishops, clergy and lay representatives, especially to support parish and school twinning;

- *Through projects*: to contribute to the education and health needs of our link dioceses and the theological education and training of clergy and lay ministers.



The Church of the Saviour of the World, in Lebombo, Mozambique

The Bishop of Edmonton, the Rt Rev Rob Wickham, was appointed as the Diocese of London's 'Bishop for ALMA', and the chair of the ALMA Strategy Group in March 2016.

The essence of ALMA is relationships, and links between individual parishes, schools or other organisations is an important part of ALMA's work. Currently there are 43 London parishes twinned with parishes in Angola (9), Lebombo (13) and Niassa (15). Seven schools are formally twinned and others are developing connections.

Exploring a link with a Mozambique church

St James's has been in contact with the ALMA Twinning Officer, John Tasker, about linking with a church in Nampula province in north central Mozambique following the meeting last year with Bishop Manuel Ernesto when he visited the churches in the Hampton deanery, but this is



not without its challenges, including communicating in Portuguese! So if there are any Portuguese speakers out there do let us know.

Bishop Vicente Msosa at ALMA Sunday in St Paul's Cathedral, July 2018

Singer a good sport for charity

WHILE HIS FACE may not be familiar to everyone, you will almost certainly have heard his voice. Alistair Griffin, a 40-year-old singer from York, has become something of a turn-to performer to write for big television events.

Griffin's songs have soundtracked some of the nation's biggest sporting moments and even a royal wedding.

He shot to fame in the BBC's *Fame Academy 2* and has had a string of Top Ten hits as a soloist, as well as sharing the microphone with others, including Kimberley Walsh.



His concert at St James's Church on 17 November at 7.30pm will raise money for four of our charities.

Tickets cost £16 (children £8) and include post-show refreshments. Book online at http://bit.ly/StJ_Griffin or telephone 020 8941 6003.

REGISTERS

JULY

BAPTISM

17 Aylin Pouralinejad, Hampton

FUNERALS

12 (Olive) Jean Pierrette Gavin, 94, Walton on Thames

25 Jean Mary Kathleen Maloney, 87, Bagshot

AUGUST

BAPTISM

26 Bradley George Alfred Hill, Hampton Hill

WEDDING

18 Isaac Ayodeji Omirin and Rhiannon Llewellyn, Feltham

FUNERALS

8 Kenneth Fanning, 69, Isleworth

29 Joseph Henry Nason, 89, Hampton Hill



Art that stirs the soul



CAROLINE YOUNG

I have studied art on and off since I was a child and completed my BA in History of Art at Birkbeck at the age of 56. I find connoisseurship in art uninteresting, but I have many images that mean a lot to me and I hope will interest you. They range from images about which I have written essays, those I see in my day-to-day life and others discovered in museums and galleries.

Terracotta Pig *British Museum*



The British Museum is close to many places that I visit in central London and is a glorious place to browse and explore as well as to use for detailed research. This pig is the object that I most often seek out. To see the fingerprints of the maker, who worked on this about 2500 years ago, is very moving.

The King of Brobdingnag and Gulliver *British Museum*



One of the modules I studied for my BA was on satire and caricature. The genre is very specialised, and stretches through much of the history of art. It is characterised by humour, succinct visual imagery and cross reference to other art forms. This example, by James Gillray, from 1804 tells us so much about the context in which it was produced and is not quite so pointedly cruel as some of Gillray's other work.

The Red Splodge representing the reign of Ivan the Terrible

This image also came to my attention in the same module. French artist Gustav Dore produced several comic book-style collections of satirical work. Published in 1845, *The Rare and Extraordinary History of Holy Russia* showed, through different styles (some beautiful, some offensive or distressing), a commentary on



the development of Russia, through European eyes. This image is at once abstract, powerful, eloquent and succinct. It sparked my interest in the whole work and the context in which it was made.

Ecce Ancilla Domini! (The Annunciation) *Tate Gallery*

I was very keen on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in my teens. At that time the technical exactitude and the romantic subject matter really appealed to me. I am always bowled over by Dante Gabriel Rossetti's 1849 composition here, his attempt to bring a psychological reality to this spiritual moment that also had very human and profound earthly results. Perhaps it also fuelled my belief in the art of the Quotidian (occurring daily), which remains with me.



The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove *St James's Church*

This tiny window is my favourite image to catch sight of during services. However colourful and meaningful the large windows are, one of the most welcome periods of change for me at church was when some of the windows were removed for renovation, briefly replaced by clear glass. This little dove, high above, hardly seen and rather stumpy, tells its message clearly like a little jewel.



The Park (Le Square) *Museum of Modern Art, New York*



Edouard Vuillard's work, at once philosophical, radical, and moving, is made up of observation from his surroundings in Paris and parts of France. This 1893 composition, *Project for the Public Gardens; Le Square de la Trinité*, is one that I frequently return to as an example of both the reality of

normal life and the consciousness of the artist's hand in describing it. I find this depiction coming to mind whenever I see trees outlined in this way, or houses bordering London squares.

Untitled Film Still #23 *Museum of Modern Art, New York*

I came across Cindy Sherman's work while studying a module on 20th century art. Her work in this series examines the roles of and attitudes to women in various media. There are an



extraordinary number of these 'stills', where Sherman herself takes on all sorts of roles. In this one, part of a series apparently referring to a film about a girl from the country arriving in a big city, the subject is looking slightly gauche and anxious.

Double Portrait *Lucian Freud Archive*



Freud's work is beautiful, strange and respectful of the sitters, all of whom were people he was or became familiar with. In this 1985-6 oil on canvas, as in many others, he does not give us a narrative, does not make the body conform to formal rules, but examines what the woman and the dog express for themselves. Freud's treatment of flesh and fabric appeals to me and makes me want to emulate his interpretation.

Large leaf in Bushy Park *Caroline Young*



I include this image not because I am particularly proud of it, but because it reminds me of the struggle it takes to produce a painting. It took me a month on and off to get to this stage. I was recognising a feeling that the leaf evoked in me, working on composition, technique and the practical limitations of my ability, materials and time. It is now a record and daily reminder for me of that first feeling.

The Scramble for Africa *The Pinnell Collection, Dallas*



I have been aware of Yinka Shonibare's work for some time, but it was only in writing an essay about his work that I began to look with real attention at what he was producing and why. The works are mostly made in distinctive printed fabric (with its own story) and discuss privilege, imperialism and appropriation. They could be angry and ugly, but are instead wry, beautiful and accessible.