

MAY 2016

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy



The Queen at 90

A new statue at Runnymede

AROUND THE SPIRE P5 ■ A-Z SACRED PLACES P6 ■ WHAT'S ON P7

Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy



Vicar

Vacant

All enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings and funerals should go through the Parish Office.

Curate

The Revd Jacky Cammidge

Jacky, pictured right, 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.
Telephone: 074 9677 0505
curate@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, or email: annpeterken@gmail.com

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

Nick Harris 020 8943 2025

Churches Together Around Hampton

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

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

Hall Tea / Coffee Rotas Clare Ryan 079 6413 1135

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 Kirstie Craig 077 7588 2935

Planned Giving

Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

Properties Committee

Bryan Bassdell 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 Parish Office 020 8941 6003

From the Editor...

This year with Easter being so early we not only had to cope with very poor weather, but also the loss of an hour's sleep on Easter morning! We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Revd Jacky Cammidge and Canon Julian Reindorp for their hard work in covering all the services and to Mark Blackwell and the choir for the great success of Stainer's Crucifixion on Palm Sunday.

The cover photo this month has links to the 90th birthday of the Queen and My Favourite 'local gems'.

The statue, sculpted by James Butler, was unveiled at Runnymede, close to the memorials mentioned in 9 and 10 of my feature on the back page. The statue is on the banks of the Thames and can be reached by crossing the field from the memorials or parking in the car park by the river. You will also find a timeline, listing all the monarchs from the signing of the Magna Carta up to our present Queen.

Our church bells rang out on April 21 to mark the Queen's 90th birthday and this year's St James's Day on Sunday 3 July will celebrate both our patronal festival and the royal milestone.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

Cover image: Runnymede gardens (see page eight)



thespire 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.

STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas, or would like to write for the magazine, please contact the Editor, Janet Nunn.
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AROUND THE SPIRE

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WHAT'S ON

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Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

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Prill also compiles the Young Spire page.
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Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 1 May Easter 6

Acts 16: 9-15; Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5; John 14: 23-29.

11.15am Prayer Time, Upper Room

Thursday 5 May Ascension Day

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 8 May Easter 7

Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Luke 24: 44-53

Sunday 15 May Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27.

Sunday 22 May

Trinity Sunday All-age Service

Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15.

Sunday 29 May 1st after Trinity

1 Kings 8: 22-23; 41-43;

Galatians 1: 1-12; Luke 7: 1-10

11.15am Prayer Time, Upper Room

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

(Except Thu 5 May)

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

COMING SOON

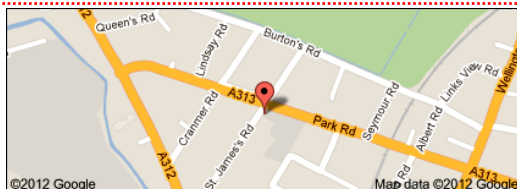
Sunday 3 July St James's Day

11am An all-age service with the Rt Revd Martin Wharton, former Bishop of Kingston, followed by lunch in the hall / vicarage garden. The church will then open for a chance to ring the bells and climb the tower. Put it in your diary now!



Finding us

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



Leader Column with Julian Reindorp

Your spiritual journey



Two people were key in taking the message of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from being the experience of a small group of Jews meeting in Jerusalem to being a turning point in the history of our world. The first was Paul of Tarsus.

Some years ago friends took me to see Howard Brenton's play *Paul* at the National Theatre. Brenton's introduction in the programme ended with these words: 'Paul's letters contain some of the greatest religious and human insights into our condition that we have inherited. Paul invented and defined the concept of love. He was a moral genius. The ideas in his letters are the bedrock of Western culture.'

'My view is that Jesus will never return and there is no God, but if Paul had not believed and had not written to the Corinthians and the Romans we would all be immeasurably impoverished. He was profoundly wrong but also mysteriously right.'

Paul's Conversion – the only model?

Paul's life was changed by a disembodied voice on the road to Damascus asking him why he was persecuting Christians. And Paul, a Pharisaic-trained Jew, finds himself called to be the apostle to the gentiles. Would any of us be reading *The Spire* without his influence?

For centuries Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus has been seen almost as the model conversion: sudden, dramatic, at a certain time and place. Some of you may remember Billy Graham's crusades. I took our twin girls to Aston Villa's football ground 35 years ago to see him. At the end of Graham's sermon people were invited to come forward and commit their life to Christ.

Your spiritual journey?

Now, I could not say when I became a Christian, can any of us? I can remember events, particularly people who have influenced me, but not the time and place. And the research

today suggests that it takes a person about four years from the time they come through a church door to the time they can say in their own way: I have become, I am a Christian.

Donald Soper, Methodist minister and life peer, was asked in a radio interview when did he consider himself a Christian? He replied: 'I have modest ambitions in that direction!'

And I am aware that today the challenge is for people to hear about Jesus who may never have entered a church.

The charcoal fire

The disembodied voice that Paul heard on the road to Damascus was matched by the effect of a charcoal fire on one of the most enthusiastic disciples who when the crunch came betrayed him – Peter of Capernaum.

Peter may have told this very story to Paul when they met. In St John's Gospel the night before Jesus dies, Peter is warming his hands on a charcoal fire when he betrays Jesus three times. For the rest of his life, every time he returned from fishing to the warmth of his home, the smell of the charcoal fire, the sight of its flames would remind him of his betrayal of his friend and Lord.

How significant and poignant then that Peter experiences Jesus after his resurrection when he has just come in from fishing on the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus invites him to share breakfast which Jesus appears to be cooking on a charcoal fire. Then Peter is mysteriously commissioned three times, to match and heal the memory of his three betrayals.

I have often felt that as we kneel to receive communion, perhaps more aware of our own needs and vulnerability than at any other moment, into our hands is placed the bread, on our lips the wine.

Our betrayals forgotten, we are re-commissioned with the words at the heart of the Eucharist – the Lord's Supper. And we are commissioned for the next week to live and work to God's praise and glory.

Charity Box Parish Giving

Here is a reminder of how St James's gives to many charities throughout the year. The parish policy is to try to give one-tenth of its income, so giving is a core part of our ministry.

Each year our budget allocates a sum for charitable grants, currently £10,000. The Charities and Links Committee meets early in the year to discuss how this sum will be given, dividing it between charities supporting people here at home and those working overseas.

A proposal is presented to the PCC for approval and donations are made from the parish account throughout the year.

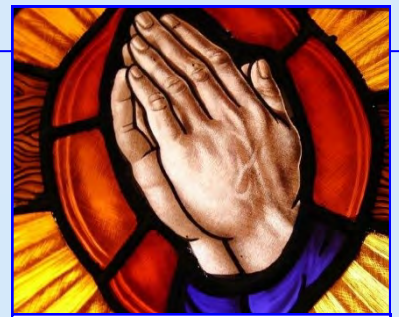


We boost this budgeted giving with additional fundraising, typically during Lent, Harvest and Advent. The Shell Seekers fundraise twice a year for their own charities by selling lovely goodies in the church hall. Many parishioners have collecting boxes for the Children's Society and the Ark helps to boost what the parish gives to Welcare.

In 2015 our grand total of budgeted and other giving was £14,700. This sum is about 9% of parish income, so we are doing well but could do

even better!

■ Please keep in touch through the quick link to Charities and Links on our website at: stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

School of Prayer



Jesus Christ calls every person to follow him. It is our duty and joy to share that invitation. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting us to join a week of prayer this Pentecost, to give every Christian confidence in sharing our faith.

Prayer for those who seek

Lord Jesus, when your followers walked the Emmaus road, wondering what was true and what was not, you came alongside them and revealed yourself through opened word and broken bread.

Come alongside those we know and love who wonder and seek at this time. Reveal yourself in your love, and make us ready to walk alongside them too, until they see your face and know your presence. Amen.

Prayer for wholeness

O Lord, penetrate those murky corners where we hide memories and tendencies on which we do not care to look, but which we will not disinter and yield freely up to you, that you may purify and transmute them: the persistent buried grudge, the half-acknowledged enmity which is still smouldering; the bitterness of that loss we have not turned into sacrifice; the private comfort we cling to; the secret fear of failure which saps our initiative and is really inverted pride; the pessimism which is an insult to your joy, Lord; we bring all these to you, and we review them with shame and penitence in your steadfast light. Amen.

Evelyn Underhill

Prayer for love

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us; and for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Prayer for insight

Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ, to hear the music of your voice above the chaos of this world; open our eyes to see the vision of your glory, for you are our King, now and for ever. Amen.

thykingdom.co.uk

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Local and National stories

Treasurer retires after seven years

DON BARRETT stepped down as treasurer at the Annual Parish Church Meeting after seven years in the role. During that time he has helped the church to plan for long-term projects by building reserves to pay for major improvements.

He was presented with a bottle of vintage port by Nick Harris, pictured right, who has been appointed interim treasurer until a permanent replacement can be found. Referring to the Revd Betty Stewart's legacy, Nick Bagge said that he was probably the envy of every church treasurer in the country.

In Don's final report he said the church ended 2015 with a small deficit of £4716. Expenditure of £165,575 was broadly the same as the previous year when the cost of the new heating system was not included.

Five new members were appointed to the PCC: Rodney and Janet Taylor, Mark Blackwell, Don Barrett and Dawn Miller.

The four retiring members were: Alan Cammidge, Kirstie Craig, Lorraine Glover and Linda Orkney.

In his report Nick Bagge paid tribute to our curate Jacky Cammidge, and Julian Reindorp for presiding at most of our services during the vacancy. He also thanked everyone who volunteered to help keep the church open and running. Nick Harris shared some of the work undertaken by the Church Growth Group. This included developing the church's vision, designing a new logo, as well as some of the debates surrounding illuminating the church and creating a toilet in the church.

New ALMA leadership team in UK

ALMA, the London diocesan partnership with the Anglican Church in Angola and Mozambique that St James's supports, has a new UK team.



The Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, pictured left, has announced that Bishop Rob Wickham, the new Bishop of Edmonton, centre, will be the Bishop for ALMA in London. Bishop Rob will be joined by the newly appointed Archdeacon of Hampstead, John Hawkins, right, in helping to drive forward the work of ALMA as it continues its ambitious programme of strengthening the link between London and its partner dioceses in Angola, Lebombo and Niassa province in Mozambique.

Lent Appeal boosted by cake sale



THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to this year's Diocese of London Lent Appeal. We have collected £2809, including £475 Gift Aid, for persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria, where there is a threat to their very survival in these most ancient homelands of our faith. The collection was boosted by a cake sale by our Sunday school, the Shell Seekers, on Mothering Sunday, which itself raised over £140.

Changing lives is



Morsheda and her family live in fear

All Photos © Christian Aid / Nicky Milne

Jesus calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and not just the ones next door. As Linda Webb and Liz Wilmot report, Christian Aid Week unites 20,000 churches to put this love in to action



Seventy years ago, the charity Christian Aid was born out of war. In 1945, in the aftermath of World War Two, church leaders in Britain and Ireland reached out to people in continental Europe left hungry, destitute and homeless. Christian Aid, as it would soon become known, was forged.

Over the decades that followed, their work expanded across the globe: they delivered humanitarian aid to people in urgent need and supported some of the world's poorest communities as they walked the long hard road out of poverty.

Although a Christian organisation, the charity works globally to help people of all religions or none and insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

They work with local groups to provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the root causes of poverty as well as its effects.

St James's volunteers

St James's Church has supported this great charity for many years with the Christian Aid Week door-to-door collections. Every year in May, each of our 20-25 volunteers posts the red envelopes through the doors of around 25-30 houses in a designated road. They then return to collect the (hopefully) filled envelopes during Christian Aid Week.

If they are lucky the envelopes are ready filled and the gift aid declaration completed when they knock on the door. Sometimes they will be told that they never received an envelope, but most people give a donation.



Liz and Linda

That gift, however large or small, is an important addition to the final sum collected and then sent to Christian Aid to continue their valuable work.

Volunteers helped raise £9m last year

House-to-house collections brought in £9 million of the £12.5 million raised from last year's Christian Aid week. In 2015 St James's hardworking volunteers collected £3304.63, plus £542.42 in gift aid, totalling £3847.05. Maybe this year we can reach £4000!

This year the focus of Christian Aid is the People's Republic of Bangladesh. It is one of the most densely populated and disaster-prone countries in the world. The country has a population of over 160 million people of whom 80% live in rural areas where they depend largely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Among the marginalised groups, women are the most vulnerable and lack most forms of power, political, social or economic.

Focus on Morsheda's daily fears

Bangladesh was rated 142 out of 187 countries in the UN Development Programmes Human Development Index 2014. Approximately 43% of people live under the poverty line (earning less than \$1.25 a day). Although Bangladesh has made considerable progress in reducing poverty, many challenges remain, including corruption, an over-dependence on natural resources, the status of women and the impact of climate change.

Picture a young mother of four. Her husband has left. She has no land. No assets. No savings. And the only work she can get is backbreaking manual labour



Morsheda has a constant battle against floods

within our power

The constant threat of floods means Morsheda can't grow her own crops or tend her own animals. The only work she can get is doing hard manual labour for 74p a day.



for as little as 74p a day. Her home has been flooded numerous times. This is Morsheda. She's our neighbour, and she desperately needs our help.

With her family, she lives on low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra River where floods are a terrifying part of everyday life. Morsheda can't even count on having a safe place to call home: the single-room, corrugated-iron house she shares with her children flooded four times last year.

'I feel very scared of the river. When I look at it I keep thinking "it is coming".'

One time her baby fell into the floodwater

One year her house filled up to her knees in water, so to stay dry and avoid the snakes that swam through her home, she raised her bed on bricks. During the night she was woken when she heard a splash and realised her baby had fallen into the water; he could have easily drowned in moments.

Another year, huge waves crashed against her house, giving her less than hour to scramble to safety. She hastily gathered her terrified children and made a raft from a banana tree. She put her youngest in a cooking pot and clung to it as it floated in the current.

'My children were so scared. My sister was holding them very tightly and we were panicking because my neighbour's child was washed away.'

Just £250 is enough for a Christian Aid Home Safety Package. It could make Morsheda's home flood-proof, raising it up by eight feet on an earth plinth. It could also buy a goat, seeds and a wormery to help produce compost, all of which will give her a long-term income and a solid foundation for a new life for her family.

'If I could raise my house then I would feel much safer living here with my children.'

We would like to thank our collectors past and present who have helped us raise the funds to support Christian Aid over the years and we would welcome anyone who would like to join our group of volunteers.

■ If you feel you could help contribute to the life-changing work of Christian Aid by helping with street collections please contact Liz Wilmot (020 8977 9434) or Linda Webb (020 8783 1515). Thank you.



This single-room, corrugated-iron shack Morsheda shares with her family has been flooded numerous times.

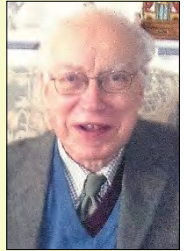
Around the SPIRE with Susan Homer

Long-time church member dies

LAURENCE WEEDON, who died recently, was born in 1933 and lived all his life in Cranmer Road. He had been a member of St James's Church since joining as a choirboy during the Second World War.

He attended Hampton Hill Junior School and Hampton Grammar School. Laurence qualified as a maths teacher, as well as teaching music, and taught at Rectory School, The Mead at Egham and Ibstock School at Roehampton before retiring.

His great passions were model railways and music and he was also a founder member of the Hampton Hill Association Music Group. He played the piano in the café at Squire's Garden Centre, Fulwell, for eight years. He regularly attended the 8am Holy Communion service on Sundays as well as Tuesday's Holy Communion. He moved to the Laurel Dene care home three years ago.



Church stalwart, Monica, dies

MONICA HEAFORD, another long-standing former member of our congregation has died, aged 89. Monica was brought up in Cranmer Road by her aunt Phyllis Rogers and she first came to St James's in 1937 when she was 11.

She met her future husband in 1944 at Richmond ice rink when Sid quite literally swept Monica off her feet by crashing into her on the ice. They wrote to each other until the Second World War ended and married the day after Monica's 21st birthday in May 1947. They came to live in Uxbridge Road in 1955 where they stayed until February of this year when due to their frailty they moved to a nursing home in Norfolk to be near their son Graham. Sadly Monica passed away on 6 March and her funeral was held in Norwich in April.

They had both supported St James's Church for a very long time. Monica's faith was very important to her and they would frequently open their home for study groups. She was a regular on Sundays and in later life arrived in her wheelchair, stoically assisted first by Sid and by others.

Monica taught and practised yoga and reflexology for many years. She was also a very keen member of the women's Wednesday badminton club held in the church hall during the 1960s.

Sid and Monica had an ironmongers' shop in Twickenham called Neals, which specialised in locksmith's work. Throughout the Second World War, Sid served in the Royal Navy and in later years he was very interested in naval history, marine navigation and boats in general.

After the shop was sold Sid went to Twinings Day Centre in Twickenham to help and his DIY skills and sense of humour were a great success. He also loved driving his Rover car, which he gave up only three years ago.

Sid and Monica sent a card to their many friends in Hampton Hill as they were unable to say goodbye before moving. We send our condolences to Sid, Graham, his wife Gill, and grandsons Andrew and Christopher.

Golden Wedding celebrations



CONGRATULATIONS to Pip and Anne Rowett, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 19 February.

They were married at St. John's Church, Hampton Wick, in 1966, and have four children and five grandchildren.

Pip and Anne, who have over the years contributed in various ways to the running of the church, celebrated with a family party and, a week later, with drinks and a special cake, as seen in the picture, in the church hall following Parish Communion.



Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

May's three celebrations are all round the church!

This year, three important celebrations take place in May. If you look round our church and church hall you will see all three represented in some way.

The Ascension

Ascension Day celebrates the day when Jesus Christ is said to have ascended bodily into heaven. The name 'ascension' comes from the stories in the Bible in Mark's Gospel and Luke's Gospel that tell of Jesus being taken up (ascending) into heaven. It always takes place 40 days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday.

Pentecost

At Pentecost Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is often portrayed as flames or as a dove (see below). Pentecost is recognised as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church's mission to the world. It remembers the story of the Holy Spirit being given to Jesus' disciples so that they could spread the message of Christianity.



Our Sunday School, The Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 9.25am during school terms, except for one Sunday in most months when there is an all-age service in church. We welcome new members. Come along for a trial visit and see just how much fun it can be.

Right: Jesus ascends to heaven



The story is that, during the Jewish festival of Pentecost, a wind blew through the house where the disciples were gathered and flames rested on their heads. Then when the disciples spoke, people of all nationalities and languages could understand them.

Trinity Sunday

Trinity means a group of three, one God being made up of three aspects (parts): Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The symbols of the Trinity always have three parts with the idea being that the single God appears in different forms for different purposes.

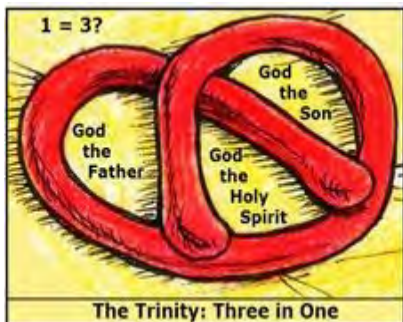


Think of it as a clover leaf, pictured, which has three parts to it. All three work together.

God the Father is the creator of all things. Jesus Christ, his only son, is the saviour of all people, as he died on a cross for us, rose again and is always with us.

The Holy Spirit blesses everyone and everything and makes them holy. It is in our lives, invisible like the wind.

It guides us and teaches us the right way to think, helps us make decisions and to love and care for others.



A-Z OF Sacred Places with Laurence Sewell



Canaan

According to *Exodus*, Moses led his people, the Israelites, out of the bondage of slavery in Egypt and towards the *Promised*

Land of Canaan where God said they would live in peace in a 'land flowing with milk and honey'. (*Exodus* cites this phrase four times in chapters 3, 13, and 33). Earlier in the Bible, *Genesis* (chapter 10) explains that the land was named after Canaan, the grandson of Noah. God later promises the land to Abraham, and eventually provided it to descendants of Abraham, the Israelites.

The Book of *Joshua*, following the *Exodus* narrative, tells of the campaigns of the Israelites in the land of Canaan subduing the populace and famously destroying the city of Jericho, which was the oldest city in the region. The invasion of the Israelites is dated about 1250 BC based upon archaeological excavations in the region.

The Books of *Joshua*, *Judges*, 1 and 2 *Samuel*, 1 and 2 *Kings* describe the Israelite conquest of Canaan.

important literary sources for the region's history are the Old Testament; the Ras Shamra tablets, discovered at the site of ancient Ugarit, on the north coast of Syria; and the Amarna Letters, dispatches sent in the 14th century BC by governors of Palestinian and Syrian cities to their Egyptian overlords.

Ancient history of the area

The original pre-Israelite inhabitants were called Canaanites. The habitation of Canaan can be traced back to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic times, and excavations have revealed that a settled community and an agricultural way of life existed at the site of Jericho by 8,000 BC. More widespread settlements first appear in the Neolithic Period (c 7000-4000 BC). There were many invaders in succeeding periods, including the Amorites, the first Semitic people, the Egyptians and the Hurrians (Horites in the Old Testament).

The Late Bronze Age (c 1550-c 1200 BC) was one of Egyptian dominance in Canaan, although their power was contested by the Hittites from Anatolia. The period was also marked by incursions of marauders called 'Habiru', who some scholars consider to be the original Hebrews.

The Canaanites were also the first people, it is thought, to have used an alphabet; in Late Bronze Age strata at the site of Lachish, archaeologists found a form of script recognised as the parent of Phoenician and hence of the Greek and Latin alphabets.

The land of Canaan

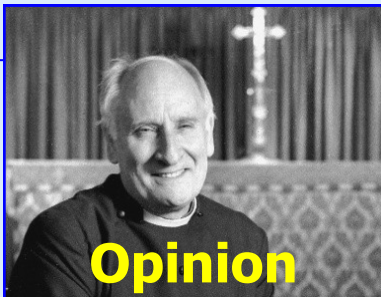


Geographically, the area has been variously defined in historical and biblical literature as the area of land extending south of Lebanon to Egypt lying between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River valley, or in other cases, it refers to all of Palestine and Syria. However, it is always centred on Palestine. Canaan was situated at the crossroads of several cultures, and was of significant geopolitical importance in the late Bronze Age as the area where the spheres of influence of the Egyptian, Hittite and Assyrian Empires converged.

The word Canaan is mentioned over 150 times in the Old Testament, but there are only three references to it in the New Testament (twice in Acts of the Apostle and once in Matthew). The most

The Land of Israel

During the transition from the Late Bronze to the Early Iron Age (around 1250 BC) the Israelites entered Canaan, settling in the hill country and in the south. The Israelites' infiltration was opposed by the Canaanites, who continued to hold the stronger cities. In the following century, Canaan suffered further invasion at the hands of the Philistines. Under the leadership of King David (10th century BC), the Israelites were finally able to break the Philistine power and at the same time to vanquish the native Canaanites, taking the city of Jerusalem. Thereafter Canaan became, for all practical purposes, the Land of Israel.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

WELFARE CUTS

One comment after the Budget that came from people of all parties is that the ring-fencing of pensions has had huge consequences for some of the most vulnerable people in our society, and particularly for disabled people. In a welfare budget of about £200 billion, about half of this goes on pensions. If there are to be still more welfare cuts, surely they should come from pensioners? Many pensioners are genuinely poor, but there are many, including myself and my family, who are much better off. Not only are our homes increasing in value towards a million, but our inheritance tax allowance is to be increased to a million. As I pay our council tax, I remember too that between Tower Hamlets where I was a curate for five years and this borough, where I now live, are 18 healthy years.

UNIVERSAL CREDITS

The Universal Credits policy was initially widely welcomed. The aim was to simplify six benefits into one and ensure that people were always better off in work. It was intended to be more generous to claimants, but the welfare cuts have reversed this. There is 50-page online claim form to complete, leaving many with learning difficulties or mental health problems unable to apply. The Institute for Fiscal Studies predicts that this policy will leave working families worse off, with an estimate of 2.1 million families facing an average loss of £1,600 a year. The Department for Work and Pensions says it will be fully operational by March 2021. The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts delays.

ZERO-HOURS CONTRACTS

Increasing employment has been a remarkable and unexpected feature of the last few years, but there has been a real cost for many: official figures suggest that over 800,000 people are on zero-hours contracts and the TUC estimates that those on these contracts earn on average £188 a week while a person on a permanent contract averages £479 a week. The New Zealand parliament has just unanimously passed a bill banning these contracts.

NEW YOUNG FOGEYS

The youth of today have a claim to be the best behaved generation since the social upheavals of the 1960s. Over a quarter of those aged 16-24 in Britain are teetotal according to the Office for National Statistics; just 29% drink heavily compared with 44% decade ago; only 23% of them smoke, a 10% decrease since 2001. Drug use among under 25s has fallen by more than a quarter in the past 10 years; teenage pregnancy is at its lowest since records began in 1969; and sexually-transmitted infections, rising among older generations, have declined. Crimes committed by the under-18s have fallen by 68% since 2003; schoolchildren are a third less likely to be truants than in 2008.

EU DEBATE

My own views of the EU debate are influenced by two factors: in a shrinking world going it alone seems unwise, not least facing the biggest challenge of our time — climate change. And while those who want to leave say we will come through the unavoidable upheavals, the people who will be most affected are the most vulnerable in our society.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

We had a recent visit from two Jehovah's Witnesses; they could not have been more courteous in offering their magazine, *Watchtower*. I was left with this question: what stops me/us knocking on doors and offering people copies of *The Spire*, perhaps a few streets each month? And how much human need and loneliness would we find even in Hampton Hill where there is much community activity?

What's On

with Nick Bagge



NEW

Faith at Work

From Saturday 7 May, 9.15am, St James's Church

Our popular series of talks where people discuss the difference faith has to their everyday lives begins its spring season with our organist, **Mark Blackwell**, and *Faith in Music*, followed on 21 May by *Faith in Physics* with **Dr Martin Symons**. Pick up a leaflet in church for more details.

NEW

Your Kingdom Come

Saturday 14 May, 7.15pm, St Paul's Cathedral EC4M 8AD

Join the Bishop of London, Pete Greig, Liz Adekunle, Al Gordon, Tim Hughes and Jake Isaac for an evening to ignite and inspire worship and intercession with a fresh passion and confidence for the proclamation of the gospel. To book places: eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-kingdom-come-tickets-21636038975

NEW

Cantanti Camerati

Saturday 14 May, 7.30pm, St Anne's Church, Kew TW9 3AA

The spring concert includes two of Handel's Coronation Anthems. Tickets £15 from 020 8898 8020 or on door.

NEW

Twickenham Charities Fair

Bank Holiday Monday 30 May, 10am-3pm, Twickenham Green

There will be 75 charity stalls selling crafts, plants, gifts, cakes and refreshments and also a barbecue and amusements.

NEW

Shooting Star House Open Day

Friday 10 June, 10am-4pm, Shooting Star House, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RA

See first-hand how supporters help make every moment count for children and young people with life-limiting conditions. Tours run every 30 minutes from 10am (last tour at 4pm). Refreshments will be available. To book places on a tour go to eventbrite.co.uk or email info@shootingstarchase.org.uk.

NEW

Jacky's Ordination to the Priesthood

Sunday 26 June, 4pm, St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington High Street, London W8 4LA

Jacky Cammidge's priesting marks the culmination of five years of training. The ceremony will be performed by the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, who was dean of St Mellitus College (where Jacky trained), one of the largest theological colleges in the Anglican Church.

NEW

Concordia Voices

Saturday 2 July, St Mary with St Alban, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

A concert celebrating the work of William Shakespeare in collaboration with the Richmond Shakespeare Society. To include excerpts from Purcell's *Fairy Queen*. Tickets £12 on door (concessions £10), or £10 in advance (£8) from members or by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org.

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 2 July, 7.30pm, Waldegrave School, Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham TW2 5LH

The theme of the evening is *Draw on Sweet Night*. Tickets £15 on door (£13 in advance). Go to: teddingtonchoral.co.uk.

NEW

St James's Open Day Celebration

Sunday 3 July, from 11am, St James's Church

Please join us for our annual celebration and church open day. This year, we will also be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. Our guest preacher is the Rt Revd Martin Wharton. Ordained in 1972, he served in Birmingham, Croydon and Oxford before becoming a canon of Bradford



Cathedral. He became Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames in 1992 and five years later was appointed the 11th Bishop of Newcastle. He retired in 2014 after 17 years there. Known for his strong opinions on everything from women bishops to wind farms, we look forward to some lively discussions when Martin and his wife Marlene, who now live in Twickenham, join us.

Our all-age service starts at the later time of 11am to be followed by a barbecue lunch, weather permitting, in the vicarage gardens. There will also be a bouncy castle, music, children's entertainment, a nature trail, and community stalls.

The church will re-open from 1pm-3pm, giving parishioners and visitors the chance to climb the tower and ring the bells. Our Traidcraft stall will also be there, selling a wide selection of food and products.

NEW

Twickenham Choral Society

Saturday 9 July, 7.30pm, St John's Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HA

Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, with the Brandenburg Sinfonia and soloists Miranda Westcott, Peter Auty and David Soar. Gerontius leaves the world, facing his judgement and beyond, guided by angels. The 100-strong choir are his comforters; then nasty devils; and finally angels praising God in heaven. Elgar's dramatic, atmospheric orchestration goes from solemnity through fear to ecstasy. Tickets £5-£22 online from sjss.org.uk or telephone 020 7222 1061.

NEW

Hampton Hill Summer Festival

Saturday 16 July, 10am-7pm, High Street and beyond

This popular event is organised by members of the Hampton Hill Traders Association. There will be more details in our next issue, or go to: lovehamptonhill.com.

Registers for February & March



FEBRUARY
Funerals
16 Guy Patten, 29, Hampton Hill
24 Warren Henry Lucas, 84, Hampton Hill

MARCH
Wedding
18 Andrew Wilkins and Laura Briden, Walton-on-Thames

Funerals
3 Doris Alma Tisdale, 93, Southall
3 Rory Spinks, 2½, Tooting
14 Charles Fletcher, 90, Laurel Dene
15 Lorraine Angela Deering, 64, Hampton Hill

Burial of Ashes
18 Phyllis Gertrude Vanner, 93, Cheam
22 Jean Rose Aiden Brow, 79, Feltham

Vicar's View



'...and when it comes to the peace I want all those who want to stay in Europe to shake hands with all those who want to leave...'



Uncovering history on our doorstep

We live in a lovely area of outer London and over the years I have discovered so many local places of interest which I find many people don't know about. All my favourites can be visited either as a specific outing or combined with a local walk and are free of charge. We have such a rich heritage with the Royal parks, the River Thames and many others on our doorstep so I hope if you haven't already visited them you will be inspired to discover them for yourselves.

1 THE WALLED GARDEN Lower Sunbury Road



This is a real haven just off the river at Lower Sunbury. Not only is there a lovely garden, but the main attraction is the purpose-built gallery opened in 2006 to house *The Millenium Embroidery*.

This tells the story of Lower Sunbury and its community and is a remarkable piece of work. It was founded by David Brown and designed by John Stamp and has involved over 150 embroiderers who are reckoned to have worked 100,000 hours.

There are also 68 stitched emblems representing organisations in Sunbury. The Gallery is open throughout the year and there is a good café as well (closed on Mondays).

2 HAMPTON COURT PALACE The Kitchen Garden



For 160 years, royalty at the palace were served fresh fruit and vegetables from the walled gardens which were built for William and Mary in 1689 on the site of the tiltyard (jousting area) between the restaurant and main road.

In recent years this area was part of the main garden, but it has now been completely restored to how it would have looked in the 18th century and historically accurate fruit and vegetable crops grown where possible.

The garden was officially opened in June 2014 by the Countess of Wessex. The produce is now used in the palace restaurant and is also on sale at specific times of the year.

3 THE WATER GARDENS Bushy Park



These gardens are in Bushy Park opposite the United Reformed Church, open every day except Monday and are a great addition to the park. The Crown Estate took over this part of Bushy Park in the 1990s and the Friends of Bushy and Home Park were instrumental in helping to achieve the restoration of the gardens which opened to the public in 2009 after years of neglect.

The Water Gardens were originally built in the 18th century for Charles Montague, 1st Earl of Halifax when he was ranger of Bushy Park and lived in Upper Lodge. The River Longford was diverted to flow through the gardens.

4 KING HENRY'S MOUND Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park



Traditionally this was where Henry VIII stood in 1536 to watch a rocket fired from the Tower of London to signal that Anne Boleyn had been executed!

This is only supposition and it is more likely to be a prehistoric burial chamber from the Bronze Age and later used as a viewpoint for hunting and falconry.

Today there is a view to the dome of St Paul's Cathedral which you can see with the naked eye (weather permitting), or through the telescope. This view is protected and no building is allowed to obscure it especially in the City of London. If you look from the Mound in the other direction you can see St James's Church Spire.

5 VIEW OF THE THAMES Richmond Hill

This is the only view in England to be protected by a 1902 Act of Parliament.



From the path above Richmond Terrace Gardens, leading to the top of Richmond Hill, you look down over the fields to the Thames at Petersham and also a wide panoramic view over the local area across to Heathrow Airport in one direction and the North Downs in the other.

This view has been painted most famously by JMW Turner, who lived at Sandycombe Lodge. The painting is in Tate Britain. Sir Walter Scott described the view in 1815 as an 'unrivalled landscape'.

6 RICHMOND LOCK / FOOTBRIDGE River Thames, Richmond



This is a Grade II* listed structure and the lock is the furthest down stream. It is a half-tide lock and barrage, which incorporates a public footbridge opened by the Duke of York (later George V) in 1894. The fascinating part is the three vertical steel sluice gates, suspended from the footbridge. For around two hours each side of high tide, the sluice gates are raised into the footbridge structure above, allowing ships and boats to pass through the barrage. For the rest of the day the sluice gates are closed and passing river traffic must use the lock alongside the barrage. The gates used to be operated by lock keepers who lived under the pedestrian bridge steps.

7 GARRICK'S TEMPLE River Thames, Hampton



The striking octagonal building on the riverside was built by 18th century actor-manager David Garrick in 1756 to celebrate the genius of William Shakespeare. The temple is open every Sunday afternoon from April to October. Inside, is an exhibition celebrating David Garrick's acting career and a statue of William Shakespeare. Many famous people have visited the temple, including Sir John Gielgud, Sir Peter Hall and Dame Judi Dench. Garrick's Lawn and Gardens surrounding it are worth a visit too.

8 ORLEANS HOUSE Riverside, Twickenham

Orleans House is a Palladian villa built by John James in 1710 for the politician James Johnston and later named after the Duc D'Orleans who stayed there in the 19th century.

It became derelict and was mostly demolished in 1926. All that remains is the Grade I* listed baroque octagonal room designed by James Gibbs. Together with the converted stable block it is now the Orleans House Gallery. There are changing art exhibitions throughout the year and an education centre and café.



9 RUNNYMEDE MEMORIALS Cooper's Hill, Englefield Green



Beside the River Thames are two memorials - the Magna Carta and John F Kennedy and above on Cooper's Hill the Commonwealth Air Force Memorial. The Magna Carta Memorial is seen by many as the birthplace of modern democracy where King John sealed the Magna Carta on 15 June 1215.

This memorial was created by the American Bar Association and unveiled in 1957. Close by is the British memorial to J F Kennedy, dedicated in May 1965. The Commonwealth Air Force Memorial contains the names of 20,456 airmen who were killed in the Second World War and have no known grave.

10 THE JURORS Windsor Road, Runnymede

In the field between the River Thames and the three memorials mentioned above there is a very poignant sculpture. It was commissioned by Surrey County Council and the National Trust to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta.

Huw Locke sculpted 12 bronze chairs which are decorated with 24 symbols of past and present struggles for freedom, equality



and the rule of law. You are invited to sit and reflect. The most moving one to me was the door of Nelson Mandela's Robben Island prison cell, left.