


JUNE 2016

# the spire

[stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

FREE please take a copy



**Join us  
at our  
Open Day  
12.30pm  
Sunday  
3 July**

**Let's celebrate!**  
**St James's Day gets a royal makeover**

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 Basdell 020 8979 2040

Safeguarding Officer Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

Scout Group Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Sidespersons Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

St James's Ark Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

#### St James's Hospitality / Parish Breakfast

Clare Ryan and Kirstie Craig 079 6413 1135

St James's Players Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

#### The Shell Seekers (Sunday School)

Term-time (except when there is an all-age service) Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854

Tools with a Mission Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Theatre Club Peter Hale 020 979 9287

Visitors' Group Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Weekly Pew Sheet Parish Office 020 8941 6003

# From the Editor...

On 21 April we marked the Queen's 90th birthday with other Anglican churches by ringing the church bells. There will be all the official celebrations around the weekend of Trooping the Colour in June and we are having our own celebration by combining her birthday with St James's Day on 3 July. More details are given in our centrespread. Please make a note in your diary to join us for the service and the festivities afterwards.

Our churchyard is looking particularly beautiful at the moment with all the primroses and bluebells in full bloom and the leaves breaking through on the trees. It is particularly appropriate then that we should feature Ros Daly's favourite trees on Page 8.

Our curate, the Revd Jacky Cammidge, is coming to the end of her year as deacon and on Sunday 26 June she will be ordained a priest at St Mary Abbot's in Kensington and celebrating her first Eucharist at St James's on Wednesday 29 June. This will be a very special time for Jacky and her family and friends and we look forward to these two events and Jacky's continued involvement in our church.

## Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

Cover image: St James's Day 2013 (see page four)



the **spire** is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James.

We make no charge for this magazine, but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs to enable us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

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

## STORIES, FEATURES

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

## AROUND THE SPIRE

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

## WHAT'S ON

Nick Bagge is listings editor. If you have an event to be considered for inclusion, contact him. Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

## WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

Prill Hinckley is webmaster. If you would like to receive the magazine by email, please contact her. Prill also compiles the Young Spire page. Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

## CIRCULATION

the **spire** is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Contact Susan Horner. Telephone: 020 8979 9380 Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk Write to: 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1HH

## NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

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## Officials



### Churchwarden

#### Nick Bagge

Nick is a former television journalist, now working at a local theatre. Telephone: 020 8783 0871 Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com



### Churchwarden

#### Nick Harris

Nick is an Executive Director of the bank Credit Suisse, based in London. Telephone: 020 8943 2025 Email: nicholasjharris@gmail.com



### Treasurer

#### Nick Harris

Nick is an Executive Director of the bank Credit Suisse, based in London. Telephone: 020 8943 2025 Email: nicholasjharris@gmail.com



### Organist / Choirmaster

#### Mark Blackwell

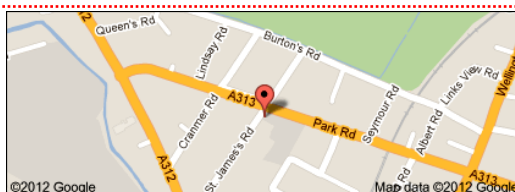
Mark is an accomplished parish organist with 40 years of experience. Telephone: 077 6814 6879 Email: organist@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

## SUPPORT US!

- The more **volunteers**, the more we can do
- Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do
- Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy

## 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.



# Come and worship with us!

## Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

## Sunday 5 June Trinity 2

1 Kings 17: 8-16 (17-24); Galatians 1: 11-24; Luke 7: 11-17.

## Sunday 12 June Trinity 3

2 Samuel 11: 26-12:10,13-15; Galatians 2: 15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3.

## Sunday 19 June Trinity 4

Isaiah 65: 1-9; Galatians 3: 23-29; Luke 8: 26-39.

## Sunday 26 June Trinity 5

1 Kings 19: 15-16,19-21; Galatians 5: 1,13-25; Luke 9: 51-62.

3pm Jacky's Ordination to Priesthood, St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington High St.

## Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

## 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.

This year, there will be hot dogs, beef burgers and pizza as well as the usual bring and share salads, meats and cheeses. And don't forget to leave room for the desserts!



FOR DETAILS OF CHURCH AND LOCAL EVENTS GO TO PAGE SEVEN

# Leader Column with Julian Reindorp

## Children are our future



One of the most encouraging features of life at St James's is how people are making plans for the future, including the use of a generous legacy we have received.

Recent research suggests there are five keys to church growth:

- Having a clear mission and vision for growth. Over 60% of churches with a clear sense of mission and purpose have grown; without this 52% have declined.

- Being willing to change. This is not always easy, nor is doing things differently and making space for new people to serve.

- Ensuring the lay leaders are not stuck. Almost 20% of churches that had some rotation reported growth, and more strikingly, almost 50% grew where a large number of people were used in volunteer leadership roles.

- Actively engaging children and teenagers. Growth happens where there is a high ratio of children to adults — the magic number is 25% of the congregation.

- The quality of a church's welcome, hospitality and follow-up. We need to be an open community with events for newcomers, open house groups, and lots of chances to get involved.

### Children and dogs

St James's does many of these things well. Our post-service coffee and food are the best I know in the 25 churches I have visited!

I want to focus on children. Our Shell Seekers group is small, averaging about 10, well led and always having something of interest to add at the end of our main service.

How to welcome children is key challenge for us. How to make parents to feel at home, however much noise their children make and however badly they may seem to behave!

Our Christingle service, and services on Mothering Sunday and at Harvest clearly are much appreciated, but I have been very struck that of the 25 churches I mentioned, eight have separate services focussed round children. These services last no more than 30 minutes, and children are involved in every way possible.

### Charity Box London Churches Refugee Fund

This year St James's is giving £400 to the London Churches Refugee Fund, which raises money to give small grants of up to £750 to churches and community groups assisting destitute asylum-seekers in the London area.

More than 20,000 people claim asylum in the UK each year and over two-thirds are initially rejected. 'Failed' asylum-seekers are not allowed to work and receive no state benefits. They struggle to stay alive with the help of friends or faith groups.

The charity was set up in response to the needs of organisations in the London Churches Refugee



The one that always makes me smile is the children's service at my brother's church in Chelsea (He is the vicar of Chelsea Old Church on the river.)

For about 20 years his church has had a children's service at 10am on Sunday morning. Between 50 and 150 children and parents come and there are usually two or three dogs lurking in the pews — this is Chelsea so the dogs are well behaved!

### Mars bars

The service format there is traditional: the prayers have a prayer book feel about them, there are three easy to pick up hymns, and a child reads a story from the Children's Bible (they cover the key stories in the Old and New Testament each year).

Early in the service a small group of children go to the vestry, are draped in Middle Eastern costume and return to act out the story. The leader of worship, often a lay person, re-tells the story, asks the children questions and for every right answer they get a mini-Mars bar thrown to them — their catching skills are being developed!

There is a sense of fun, feeling of being at home in church, and the great stories of our faith are being shared, leading up to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

### What could we do here?

The Chelsea service has many of the key ingredients that we could adapt. Whenever I go to the Ark group on a Monday morning in our church and find 30 adults, and perhaps even more children, I marvel at what they do during their nearly two hours together.

The children's corner in our church is excellent, my own children visiting rated it the best they had found. The Ark attendance and the number of baptisms we have suggests there is a real need for a children's service.

This is an exciting challenge for us at St James's, but a challenge that with a new vicar we can take on together.

Network (LCRN). LCRN members range from individual churches assembling food parcels to large drop-in centres offering a range of services, advice and counselling. Though they achieve miracles with gifts in kind and free help, some items need cash.

The Fund was launched at Westminster Abbey in June 2007. It has no staff and all activities are carried out by the trustees and other volunteers. Its funds are restricted to those who are destitute and it will typically give about £20,000 per annum in small grants. Rowan Williams will be the keynote speaker at their AGM on 21 June at St Martin's Gospel Oak.

■ For more info go to: [help4refugees.co.uk](http://help4refugees.co.uk)



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

For carers everywhere



There are 6.5 million people in the UK who are carers and this number continues to rise. June 6 marks the start of national Carers Week. This is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges that carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

### Strength and Compassion

God of love, our true shepherd! Fill our hearts with your strength, joy and compassion to continue to care for those in our lives, to care for those we find it difficult to care for and to be open to those in need of care.

'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.'

May the fruit of the Spirit continually nourish us and be ever-present within us, those we care for and those who care for us.

Lord of hope! Give us the courage to be people of hope, to show respect, dignity, empathy, love, faith and friendship. Help us to be truly present with those we care for and those who care for us.

And when we are over-burdened,  
restore us...  
comfort us...  
strengthen us...

We thank you God for the many opportunities of being Christ-like to others.  
Amen.

### A Carer's Prayer

By Heather Smith

Let me be kind when tiredness overwhelms my weary brain and turns my legs to lead; let me brave when truths must be conveyed, confronting the past and all things left unsaid; let me fight on for you when various rules make nonsense of your rights and reinforce your fears; grant me the stamina to speak and treat with fools, remaining calm when biting back the tears.

Help me to know somehow that life goes on beyond this time of stress and sleepless nights; help me to smile and love you in the midst of endless pointless and exhausting fights. And when the caring ends, help me to be kind, in my guilt and weariness, to me.





Local and National stories

## Coming to a big screen near you...!

A BIG SCREEN and a new sound system should transform services at our church.

Engineers installed the system last month and over the course of the next few months the small team of operators will get to know its capabilities.

Jacky, our curate, said she was looking forward to making use of the screen, particularly at all-age services.

The upgrade also includes state-of-the-art stereo microphones, including headsets for clergy, replacement speakers and a digital mixing desk. A laptop will power the audio visuals. The equipment will be operated from a new console desk at the back of church.

The work has been made possible by the legacy of the Revd Betty Stewart, and is the first stage of church improvements aimed at attracting more worshippers. The plan is being led by the Church Growth Working Group, set up by the PCC for the big ideas in which to invest the legacy.



## The Bard and the Bishop...



**THE BISHOP OF** London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, preached at a special service at Southwark Cathedral to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare and attended by the Duke of Edinburgh, patron of the Globe Theatre.

## Archbishop's 'surprise' father

**THE ARCHBISHOP** of Canterbury has said a DNA test result revealing the identity of his biological father had come as a 'complete surprise'.

The Most Revd Justin Welby discovered he is the son of Sir Winston Churchill's last private secretary, the late Sir Anthony Montague Browne. He had believed his father was whisky salesman Gavin Welby, who died in 1977. His mother, Lady Williams of Elvel, confirmed she had a 'liaison' with Sir Anthony just before she wed in 1955.

## Church to host classic opera night



**A NIGHT OF FAVOURITE** operatic arias, duets and ensembles will not only entertain the audience, but benefit St James's Church too. Ormond Opera, a local company of young, professional opera singers, was formed last year by Justin Bindley and Rosalind O'Dowd, offering opera concerts, full productions, community work and workshops.

Their recent production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, pictured above, was a great success and featured a Boris Johnson-lookalike!

*Forever Opera* will be performed at St James's Church on Saturday 11 June at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £15, and include a programme and refreshments, and part of the proceeds will go to church funds.

To book please contact Rodney Taylor, telephone 020 8979 0046 or email [rodtayl@gmail.com](mailto:rodtayl@gmail.com)

# St James's Day



St James's Day 2010

**This year's St James's Day promises to be the biggest for some time, with plenty to entertain the family. We hope to welcome many from our community too for a double celebration as we also mark the Queen's 90th birthday**

**E**very July, churches throughout the world celebrate the life of Saint James, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus, and considered to be the first to be martyred. The actual day is 25 July, but, as a church which bears his name, we celebrate earlier in the month. We have a special service followed by lunch, which spills out into the vicarage gardens, weather permitting. There is a garden party and open day for the whole community.

This year, St James's Day will be celebrated on Sunday 3 July and we shall be combining our celebrations with those for the 90th birthday of the Queen and organising a bumper occasion. We have celebrated all the Queen's milestones from the Coronation in 1953 to the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees.

Another feature of our celebrations is to have a guest preacher and this year it will be the Rt Revd Martin Wharton. Ordained in 1972, he was Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames from 1992-1997 before becoming Bishop of Newcastle. He retired in 2014 after 17 years there and now lives in Twickenham with his wife, Marlene.

### Celebrations in 1885

The first record of celebrating St James's Day is 1885. On the Saturday a children's service was held at 3.15pm and nearly 500 children with their teachers filled the



church. According to usual custom the children met at the schools (now the Greenwood Centre) and having formed a procession marched with Hampton Brass Band to church.

Afterwards, the procession re-formed and passed round the racecourse staked out in the vicarage garden. The 100 flags carried in the procession decorated the racecourse and as soon as grace had been said the children set to work on bread and butter, buns and cakes. A Punch and Judy show followed.

One snippet from the Coronation celebrations which is relevant to today's situation involves a film about the coronation. This was shown in people's



Good food and drink, good friends...and good weather!



# comes of age



homes on a projector and wall until the church could afford to buy a large screen.

Very few people had televisions in 1953 so this must have been quite a novel event. The Young Wives held a grand party for all their children — 94 attending. Lots of local people went into central London to see the Coronation.

We have our new sound system in place and a large screen. We can't get close to the Queen's 12 Prime Ministers during her reign, but we have had just five vicars during her 90 years, starting with the Revd Frederick Harvey.

## Meet the bishop: just don't mention those wind farms!

**YOU MIGHT** imagine that after working on the Criminal Justice Bill, assisted dying, the rights of asylum seekers, bringing to light poverty in the North East, and promoting food banks, when Martin Wharton retired after 17 years as Bishop of Newcastle, he would be best remembered for his tireless campaigning. You'd be wrong. It was after speaking out against wind turbines, which he felt were turning the rural North East into a 'disfigured industrial landscape', that his letterbox was at its busiest. 'I don't think I'd ever had so much mail about anything! Interestingly all the letters that supported me came from people in the North East; those who called me a disgrace came from elsewhere. I don't regret my comments. I think they stirred up the debate.'



But it's not wind farms but women bishops for which Martin would like to be remembered. He voted in favour of women bishops at the General Synod decision in 2014, and in 2012 when it was rejected. He also voted in favour of introducing women priests into the church in 1992.

And, he said, the Church had to welcome everyone, whatever their sexuality, if it was to remain relevant, especially to young people.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**11 am** All-age Parish Communion led by the Rt Revd Martin Wharton, celebrating St James's Day and the 90th birthday of the Queen. The family-friendly service will include the singing of the National Anthem.

**12.30 pm** Lunch will be served in the hall and, weather permitting, the vicarage garden. This will include hot dogs, hot sausages, beef burgers and pizza.

There will be lots of other choices, including hams, cheeses, accompanied by salads and bread. To complete the lunch menu there will be lots of tempting desserts available too.

**As usual, we are asking people if they would bring food to share. There will be a list in church to sign up to. If you have not brought food you are still very welcome.**



**1-3 pm** The church opens again in the afternoon, giving you the chance to climb the tower for impressive views over the neighbourhood and further afield. On a clear day you can see the arch over Wembley Stadium and in the other direction into central London.

If you have ever wanted to ring the church bells, now is your chance. Meanwhile, in the garden there will also be a giant inflatable slide and games and activities, including face painting and a churchyard nature trail with prizes to mark Cherishing

Churchyards Week. Cakes and refreshments will also be on sale, including glasses of Pimm's.



## Former church member's death

**WE RECENTLY** heard of the death of David Dore, a loyal member of St. James's for many years. During the 1980s he became a Reader, was treasurer of the Hampton Council of Churches, secretary of the Kensington Area Readers' Sub-committee and vice-chair of the College of Readers. In 1989 he moved to All Saints, Twickenham, and subsequently to St. Stephen's, Gloucester Road. David was a Civil Servant who also loved exotic holidays. He married later in life and sadly his wife died after only a few years. David was a quiet man with an underlying sense of humour and a good friend to many.

## Church bells ring out for the Queen

**ST JAMES'S CHURCH** joined with churches and cathedrals throughout the UK in ringing its bells for 20 minutes on Thursday 21 April to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The main celebrations will be held over the weekend of 10-12 June, to coincide with her Official Birthday.



On Friday 10 June there will be a service at St Paul's Cathedral, followed on the Saturday by the Trooping the Colour ceremony. On the Sunday there is to be the Patron's Lunch along the Mall. Our bells will once again be rung on that Sunday, to coincide with the lunch. Our main celebration for the Queen will be on our celebration of St James's Day.

To mark her birthday, the Bible Society has published an attractive illustrated book *The Servant Queen*, setting out largely in her own words the essential heart of that faith. The Queen has written a Foreword to share her evident enjoyment of a committed Christian faith.

## Not just our father, but all fathers!

**WILL YOU BE** celebrating Father's Day on Sunday 19 June? If your own father cannot be with you, is there a 'spare' father somewhere in church or your circle of friends whose children cannot be with him, and who would welcome some special treat on the day?

Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. It has certainly become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and socks) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: in America, for example, more 'reverse charge' calls to home are recorded on Father's Day than on any other day of the year!

## Why choose Church of England?

**EVERY YEAR** the Church of England publishes the statistics collected the year before. Some 20% of worshippers in 2014 were under the age of 18, and 29% were 70 or over.

In England, 82,000 people joined an Anglican church in 2014, while 56,000 left (including those who died). This is why they started coming: 34% of adults and 24% of children because they moved into the area; 35% of adults and 60% of children were coming to church for the first time; 15% of adults and 9% of children had transferred from another local church; and 16% of adults and 7% of children started coming back to church again.

People moving into an area are often easily spotted as the 'for sale' sign outside their house changes to 'sold'. Could volunteers from our church visit newcomers with advice about the local shops, the nearest GP, dentist and church? It might encourage them to consider coming to St James's.

## Boxing clever for Children's Society



**THE ANNUAL BOX** opening of Children's Society collection boxes will be taking place soon so would all box holders please look out for reminders about that in church and on the Pew Sheet — thank you.

We are hoping to beat last year's total of £562 so there's still time to top your boxes up if they still have space in them!





Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

# Celebrating St James with the Shell Seekers



**T**hanks to the generous loaning of a book to Shell Seekers by John Daly, we have been inspired to find out more about our patron saint as we approach his day of celebration.

We will be preparing for our commemoration of St James's Day by looking at his life, both as documented in the Bible and also historic reports of him after his death.

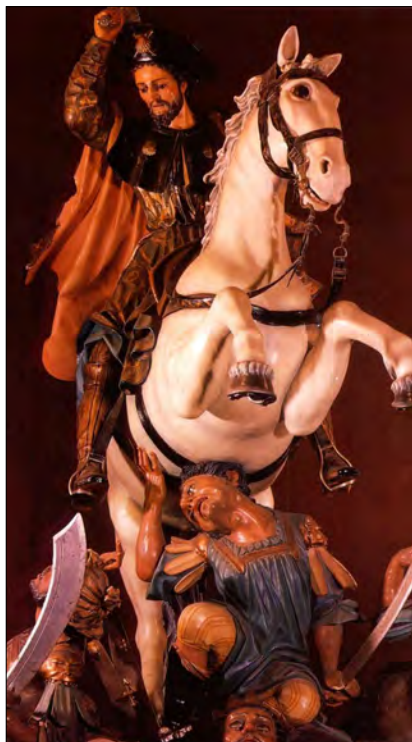
James is mentioned only a few times in the New Testament:

- In the gospels of Matthew and Mark, when he and his brother John were called by Jesus to be followers and, later in the same accounts, when their mother asked Jesus that they might sit on either side of Jesus when he became king;

- In Luke's gospel when Jesus rebukes him for offering to command fire from heaven upon a Samaritan town that refused to receive them;

- In the Acts of the Apostles, when he was executed by King Herod Agrippa.

Interestingly, James is the only apostle who is mentioned as being martyred in the New Testament and it has become commonly held that he was the first of the apostles to be put to death in Jesus' name.



Much happened after James is mentioned in the Bible though. Perhaps most importantly, he was thought to have journeyed to Spain, as well as around the Holy Land, and his body is famously



**Above: the Way of Saint James, in Spain.**

**Left: the scallop shell is shown in most images of Saint James, the fisherman**

buried in the city of Santiago di Compostela in the north-west of Spain.

His association with the Spanish people is very deep and, as well as being the patron saint of Spain, St James is often depicted in works of art as fighting for Spain against her enemies over the centuries.

Today, St James is still a Christian icon and hundreds of thousands of pilgrims each year make the journey for all or part of the 500-mile Camino de Santiago, or Way of St James, to visit his burial site in the Cathedral of Santiago di Compostela.

Pilgrims walked the Way of St. James, often for months and sometime years at a time, to arrive at the great church in the main square and pay homage to St. James. Many arrived with very little because of illness or having been robbed along the way or both. So many pilgrims have laid their hands on the pillar just inside the doorway of the cathedral that they have worn away at the stone.

Even today most travel by foot, while a few travel as some of their medieval counterparts did, on horseback or by donkey. Many consider the experience a spiritual adventure to remove themselves from the bustle of modern life. Some do it for the challenge.

This journey is marked by the famous scallop shell, after which Shell Seekers is named, and other than James's job as a fisherman when he first met Jesus, there are lots of reasons why the shell is thought to be his symbol.

It's some of these that we'll be discussing in Shell Seekers as we approach St James's Day, so more of that later!

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.

## A-Z OF Sacred Places with Laurence Sewell



### Dome of the Rock

**T**he Dome of the Rock, or *Qubbat Al-Sakhrah*, is the renowned sacred site situated on the Temple Mount in the old city of Jerusalem. It is from here, according to Muslim belief, that Muhammad ascended to heaven, after his miraculous night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem on the winged steed al-Buraq; and where, according to Jewish belief, Abraham offered up Isaac as a sacrifice to God.

It was the first domed shrine to be built; completed in AD 691 by Caliph Abd al-Malik and is the oldest surviving Islamic building in the world.

It was constructed on the site of the Second Jewish Temple, which was destroyed during the Roman Siege of Jerusalem in AD 70 and had been left undeveloped for centuries until the Muslim siege of Jerusalem in AD 637.

Caliph Abd al-Malik is said to have built the dome in an attempt to transfer the Islamic hajj to Jerusalem from Mecca in Saudi Arabia. It should not be confused with the neighbouring Al Aqsa mosque, the third most holy site of Islam; the Dome of the Rock is a shrine not a mosque – technically a ciborium, erected over a sacred site.

#### Architecture of the Dome of Rock

The Dome of the Rock is a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. The structure is octagonal, based on Byzantine design. It comprises a wooden dome, approximately 20m (66ft) in

diameter, which is mounted on an elevated drum consisting of a circle of 16 piers and columns with coloured glass windows lighting the central space. Surrounding this circle is an octagonal arcade of 24 piers and columns. The outer facade is made of porcelain and mirrors the octagonal design.

Inside and outside, the Dome of the Rock was enriched with marble columns and facings and floral mosaic patterns, much of which was added several centuries after its completion. It also contains Koranic inscriptions inscribed across the top of the tile work, commissioned in the 16th century by the Ottoman Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent.

#### All that glitters...

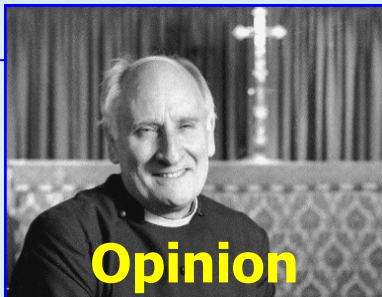
The great golden dome that crowns the Dome of the Rock was originally roofed with lead covered in gold, rising 35 metres over the holy rock. Today, it is covered with gold leaf, following restoration in 1993 with a donation from the late King Hussein of Jordan (interestingly, he raised the money for this from the sale of one of his properties in London!)

The dome is topped by a full moon decoration which evokes the familiar crescent moon symbol of Islam. It is aligned so that if you could look through it, you would be looking straight towards Mecca.

**Below: An aerial view of Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock**







## Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

### ANTI-SEMITISM

Many of us may have strong feelings about how the Israeli government treats the Palestinians. I have long felt there are parallels with apartheid in South Africa, where I was born, but is it that different from what is sometimes said and done in this country? The Christian church has a sad record on anti-Semitism over the centuries and Hitler used it to justify the Holocaust. I remember being shocked when a rabbi colleague in Richmond was assaulted on Richmond Bridge. Then I discovered that at both the synagogues I knew, Richmond and Wimbledon, members patrolled their perimeter fences when they gathered for Sabbath worship, and for big occasions there were police. How would we feel if we had to patrol the churchyard every Sunday and have police present for special occasions? Our Jewish friends deserve our support and our awareness of how easily anti-Semitism can affect parts of our society.

### PRESIDENT OBAMA

Of course we had huge and unrealistic hopes of the first black president of the United States, but his recent visit to this country reminded us of his and his wife's natural ability to relate to people of all ages. He recently danced happily with a 106-year-old woman in the Oval Office. He also found inspiring words on the side of justice and building a better world and he carpeted the Oval Office with Martin Luther King Jr's words: 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.'

### ACADEMIES OR BUST

I wonder how many Conservative MPs were amazed to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer announcing in the budget that all state schools would become academies by 2022. All the major political groupings support the Local Governments Association's appeal to the government to reconsider the policy. According to the government inspectorate, Ofsted, several of these multi-school chains have performed poorly. Sir Michael Wilshaw, the chief inspector of schools, wrote to the Education Secretary saying, 'Despite having operated for a number of years, many of the academy trusts manifested the same weaknesses as the worst performing local authorities and offer the same excuses'.

Conservative MPs voiced three reservations. Why were schools being forced into a one-size-fits-all policy? Why were parent governors being undermined? And what of the village schools, without the resources to make the change, and which would have to close as a result? Quite how this policy will help the major challenge of teacher retention and how Whitehall will supervise every school in the country without local government help remains unanswered.

### VICAR TOLD WHOPPERS!

I did like the story that when Sheffield vicar's son Danny Willets won the Masters Golf Championship in Augusta in March, his mother revealed that her husband used to write 'the most appalling excuses' to get their golf mad son off school. His father admitted 'my wife used to argue with me as I would take him to a golf club every Wednesday, drop him off, and pick him up at 8pm and get told off for keeping him off school.' Nevertheless 'the school were fantastic'.

### BRIAN RIX'S TROUSERS!

Many of you will remember Brian Rix farces at the Whitehall Theatre. Lord Maurice Peston, who died recently, shared a room in the House of Lords with Lord Rix. One day Peston found Rix changing his trousers. He apologised profusely. Rix replied, 'People used to pay good money to see me doing this!'

# What's On

with Nick Bagge



### Faith at Work

Saturday 4 June, 9.15am, St James's Church

Our popular series of talks concludes its spring season with our **Christopher Carson**, pictured, and **Faith in Wine**, then **Jacky Cammidge**, and **Faith as a Deacon**, on 18 June, and **Dr Martin Symons**, and **Faith in Physics**, now on 25 June.



### Shooting Star House Open Day

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

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](http://eventbrite.co.uk) or email [info@shootingstarchase.org.uk](mailto:info@shootingstarchase.org.uk).

### Forever Opera

Saturday 11 June, 7.30pm, St James's Church

Ormond Opera, a local company of young, professional opera singers, present an evening of well-known and beautiful arias, duets and ensembles. Tickets £15, including programme and refreshments. Part of the proceeds will go to church funds. To book, please contact Rodney Taylor, telephone 020 8979 0046 or email [rodntayl@gmail.com](mailto:rodntayl@gmail.com).

### Jacky's Ordination to the Priesthood

Sunday 26 June, 3pm, St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington High Street, London W8 4LA

The ceremony that transforms Jacky Cammidge from deacon to priest marks the culmination of five years of training. We are organising a coach to take people to Kensington and back. Sign up to the list in church if you are interested.



### Jacky's first Presiding Eucharist

Wednesday 29 June, 7.30pm, St James's Church

Join Jacky as she presides at her first Eucharist since her ordination and celebrate with her afterwards in the church hall.

### 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. Tickets £12 on door (concessions £10), or £10 in advance (£8) from members or by emailing [secretary@concordiavoices.org](mailto:secretary@concordiavoices.org).

### 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*, with music from Bernstein, Barber, Brahms and Saint-Saens. Tickets £15 on door (£13 in advance). Go to: [teddingtonchoral.co.uk](http://teddingtonchoral.co.uk).

## Registers for April



#### Baptisms

9 Rose Olivia King, Hampton Hill



#### Funerals

19 Doris Violet Olive Taylor, 101, Hampton  
22 Laurence Vernon Weedon, 83, Hampton Hill

### St James's Open Day Celebrations

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 was Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames from 1992-1997 before becoming Bishop of Newcastle. He retired in 2014 after 17 years there.

Our all-age Parish Communion starts at 11am to be followed by a barbecue lunch, weather permitting, in the vicarage gardens. We'll be serving hot dogs, beef burgers and pizza.



And, as usual, we'll be asking everyone to bring and share salads, cheeses, meats, and desserts. There will be a list in church to sign up to.

There will also be an inflatable slide, music, More children's entertainment, a nature trail, and stalls.

The church will re-open from 1pm-3pm, giving both parishioners and visitors the chance to climb the tower, for an unrivalled view of Hampton Hill, and ring the bells.

### 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](http://sjss.org.uk) or telephone 020 7222 1061.

### 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 and events take place all along the High Street and in Bushy Park. There will be more details in our next issue, or go to: [lovehamptonhill.com](http://lovehamptonhill.com).

## Vicar's View



*'It's true then, his tumble drier has broken...'*





## God's breathtaking gift to the world...

**T**rees have been called 'the lungs of the earth'. Their leaves generate pure, life-giving oxygen and, without them, our planet would be a wretched place. Trees enrich soil, sustain wildlife, provide protection from the elements, uplift us with their majesty and beauty and have provided mankind with food, fuel, medicines and building materials since the first humans learned to make tools and dwellings. Trees evolved four million years ago and the oldest living ones are a North American bristle-cone pine, known as *Methuselah*, the Fortingall Yew in Perthshire and the Llangernyw Yew in Conwy, all of which are some 5000 years old. For me, trees embody the ever-present, renewable power of life, God's gift of The Creation, as symbolised in Genesis by *the tree of life*.

### 1 ENGLISH OAK TREE They built the nation



It took 2,500 English oak trees to build a single warship in both Drake and Nelson's day. Deep-rooted, living for up to a thousand years, and exceptionally strong with a wide, irregular, rounded crown, English oak is our most common woodland tree. It grows quickly during its first 120 years, then slows and even reduces its height to preserve longevity. Used for beams in buildings, churches and cathedrals, it can weigh up to 23 tons and reach a girth of 10.5 metres. Each tree may support 284 insect species, 324 lichen varieties and its acorns feed many birds and mammals, including jays, badgers and deer. The Woodland Trust website features the oak in our churchyard.

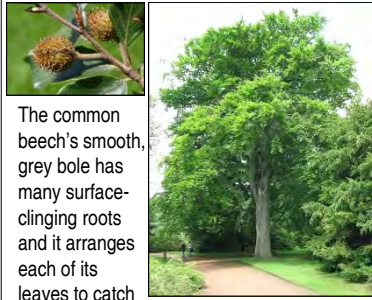
### 2 WHITE BLOSSOMED DAMSON The Kitchen Garden



The white-blossomed damson derives its name from the city of Damascus where it was first cultivated. Often planted singly rather than in orchards, its small, round purple drupes provided homesteads with preserves, linctuses and vitamin C-rich fruit. If an elderly damson has stopped fruiting, an old Hampshire saying advises thrashing the tree with a chain. I remember my father carefully slitting the

outer bark of two such trees from top to bottom with a Stanley knife. Thereafter they fruited magnificently.

### 3 COMMON BEECH Feeding the woodland wildlife



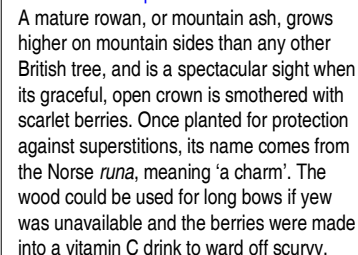
The common beech's smooth, grey bole has many surface-clinging roots and it arranges each of its leaves to catch the direct sunlight thus creating a massive, closed canopy that creates a bare forest floor in high summer. Its nuts are eagerly sought by birds, squirrels, wood mice and, in times past, pigs, under the forester's right of pannage. Stand beneath a beech in spring sunshine while the leaves are still translucent and gaze upward; you will find yourself marvelling under a dome of light.

### 4 GOAT WILLOW Alive with the sound of bees



Goat willow's separate male and female trees flower early, providing bees with both pollen and nectar. The oval, golden male catkins were once called 'palm' and were used to decorate churches on Palm Sunday. The female catkin is greenish-white, short and silky, giving the tree its familiar name, 'pussy willow'. Its yellowish sapwood, with brown heartwood, was used for clothes pegs, rake teeth and tool handles.

### 5 ROWAN or MOUNTAIN ASH For the superstitious



A mature rowan, or mountain ash, grows higher on mountain sides than any other British tree, and is a spectacular sight when its graceful, open crown is smothered with scarlet berries. Often planted for protection against superstitions, its name comes from the Norse *runa*, meaning 'a charm'. The wood could be used for long bows if yew was unavailable and the berries were made into a vitamin C drink to ward off scurvy.



### 6 HAWTHORN The legend of Glastonbury



The hawthorn, with its white blossom and wine-red autumn haws, a magnet for redwings and fieldfares, can reach 45ft/15m if left unpruned. When cut back and laid, it forms a thorny, impenetrable barrier. Red and pink-blossomed cultivars of the Midland hawthorn, which tolerates shade and prefers heavier, clay soil are grown as ornamental garden trees. The middle-eastern 'Biflora' is found in several places in the Glastonbury area, which some say supports the legend that Joseph of Arimathea planted his hawthorn staff on Glastonbury Tor. Also called 'may' or 'quickthorn', destroying a hawthorn tree was thought to bring peril and bringing its blossom indoors was bad luck.

### 7 CRAB APPLE The source of all varieties

All apples, whether eaters or cookers are derived from the thorny, bitter-fruited wild crab apple, named from the Norse *skrab*, meaning scrubby. Crab apple reappeared in Britain after the Ice Age and is classed as a native tree. It is still found throughout the countryside and its root stock is used for grafting new varieties of apple tree. The fermented juice was once applied as a remedy for scalds and, to this day, its fruit is gathered to make jelly, jam and wine.



### 8 SCOTS PINE Familiar sight for climbers

The Scots pine re-colonised Britain's mountainous regions after the Ice Age. More recently the once extensive Highland forests were ravaged for the tree's strong, straight timber and the turpentine, resin and tar which could be extracted from it. Mature trees can reach up to 120ft or 36m and



lose their lower branches to form a flat, spreading crown. Its upper trunk is clad with warm, red bark.



### 9 WALNUT Roman food for thought

The walnut is a handsome, broad-crowned tree that reaches 100ft or 30m. It was brought to Britain by the Roman legions for food and cooking oil. The resemblance of the peeled nut to the human brain led to it being used as a treatment for mental disorders. This is in accordance with the mediaeval belief, known as 'the doctrine of signatures', that plant parts which resembled human body parts, could be used as a cure.



### 10 COMMON PEAR A long-time visitor from Asia

Eaten in Europe for thousands of years, the common pear with its thick, white April blossom and hard, gritty fruits, originated from western Asia. The root stock is used to graft its many cultivated varieties. Common or wild pear can still be found in hedgerows and along country tracks.

