

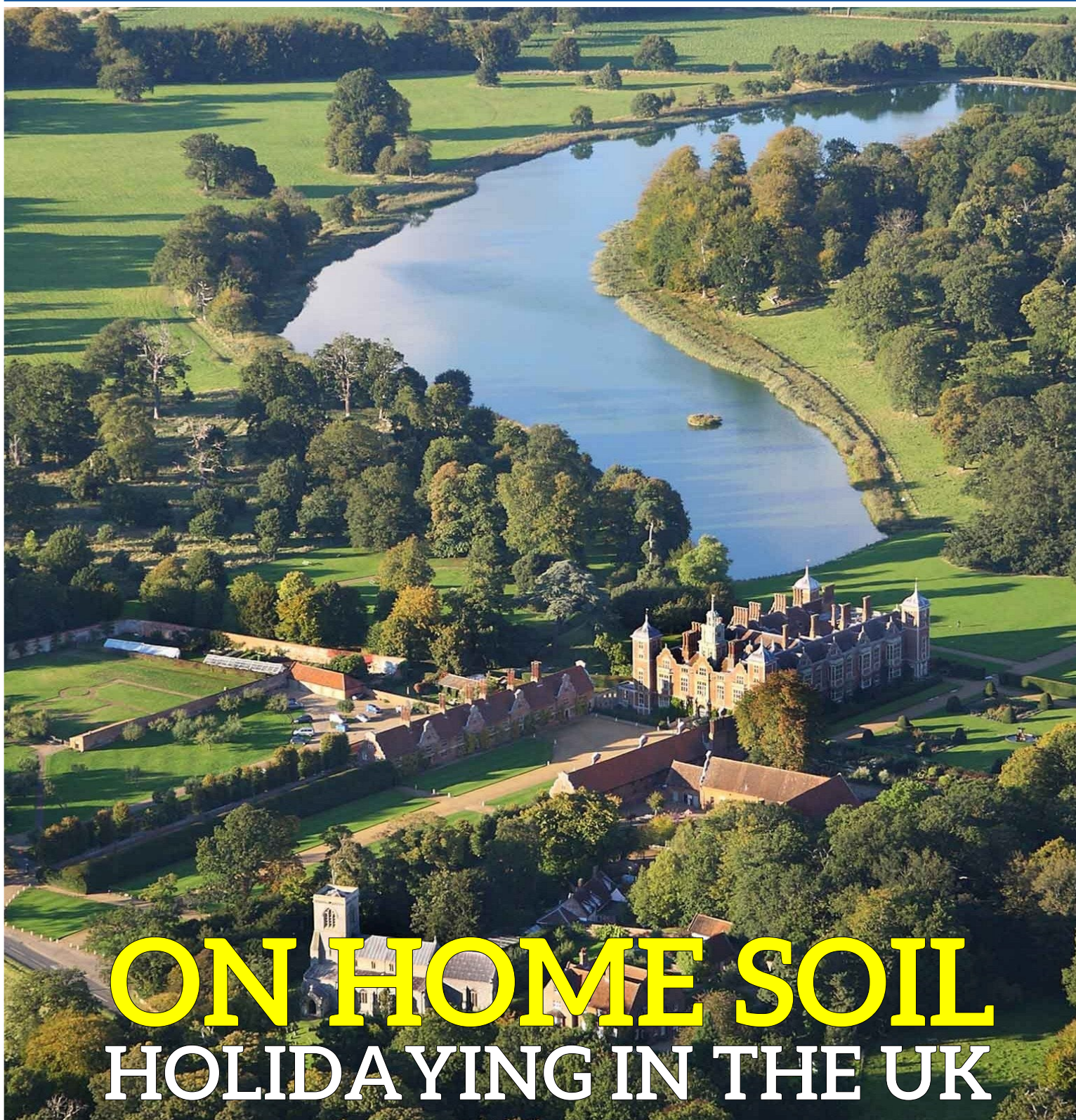
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023 HOLIDAYS

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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ON HOME SOIL
HOLIDAYING IN THE UK

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

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

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ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

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

Tel: 079 5012 2294

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Supported by

ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Tim Marwood

Tim taught in London primary schools for 36 years. He was ordained priest in 1996 and was parish priest at Petersham for 13 years, retiring in 2021. He is now a part-time Chaplain at Kingston Hospital. Tim is married to Jane, a former headteacher. He supports Harlequins RFC, England cricket and walks his brown labrador, Ruby.

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ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

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

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Email Susan Horner:
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FROM THE EDITOR

The summer holiday season is at its height, and with many of us wanting to cut our carbon footprint by not flying we have asked four people to tell us about their favourite UK destinations. It illustrates how we can find everything we need on our doorstep.

We wish Derek well during his three months' study leave. He will be using the time to think about his ministry, as well as enjoying the countryside in England, Scotland and Wales. Maybe next year he can write the holidays centrespread all by himself! While Derek is on leave, Jacky, Tim and Julian will lead the church, supported by the churchwardens, Nick and Susan.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Spire appeal towards printing costs. It is very encouraging for the team to know that the magazine valued by so many. There is still time to contribute (details below).

We shall miss Ashleigh, our ministry intern, who left us in July. She reflects on her time here on page six.

Happy holidays — wherever you are!

Best Wishes

Janet



Cover photo: Blickling Estate, Norfolk, covers a vast area © National Trust/Mike Page

SPIRE

The Spire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We make no charge for this magazine, but if you enjoy regularly reading it, we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs. Bank transfers to: 40-52-40, 00032595, Use Ref SPIRE. Cheques payable to the PCC of St James's Church, Hampton Hill, and sent to the Spire Appeal c/o the Church Office (see below).

I cost **£10** **A YEAR***

Yes, I'm free, but donations help me to go on being printed. Use the QR code to give money. *£1.10 a copy

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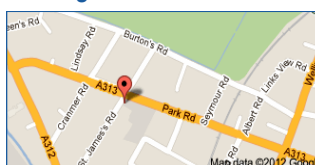
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Finding us



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

Follow us

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

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Clerical Capers



'What d'you mean, "No"? I told the vicar you would be happy to lead a House Group over the summer.'

Will you open a new chapter this summer?



TIM MARWOOD

When I was a young teacher fifty years ago, I made the mistake of asking the children in my class at the beginning of term in September to write about what they did in the holidays.

The first pupil to finish provided one sentence: 'I went to the shopping centre once'. It transpired that most of the 40 children in the class were equally limited in the length of their account and the experience that it described. A day excursion to the seaside in a borrowed car, a visit to relatives nearby, or a trip to the recreation ground were the highlights of most of these essays.

However, dear reader, this story has a happier ending! The next summer saw every child staggering home with 10 books they had chosen to read during the six weeks. They could also swap volumes at the Sunday afternoon picnics that their parents organised, where families met to play impromptu games with equipment 'borrowed' from the school PE cupboard. Those picnics were great fun and started friendships that have lasted half a century.

The first Reading Challenge?

Returning to my story, before the school holidays that year, all the

class were enrolled in a new 'book club' run by a visionary librarian who had opened a public library for children in a converted shop on a nearby estate.

Before the holidays began we made a couple of visits to this new library as reaching it required a perilous journey into a neighbouring postcode. However, parents were reassured and safe passage was guaranteed.

By the end of the six weeks holiday there was a lot more to write about in September and reading habits for a lifetime had been acquired.

Hampton Hill library

Hampton Hill High Street has a great range of shops and facilities, which include the Hampton Hill library. As usual, the Summer Reading Challenge is being provided for children through the library — and it's all free. I mention this because, 50 years on, we are again experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, when many children will have no opportunity to take a break away

from home. I wonder why this situation persists in one of the richest countries in the world?

A library in one book...

Many Christians describe their Holy Bible as 'a library in one book' because it contains many separate books with different purposes, history, rules, poetry, advice and narrative. Summer breaks provide an opportunity to read something different, so maybe you should include the Bible in your Summer selection?

There are plenty of websites to guide your reading, including the Bible Reading Fellowship at: brf.co.uk.

I once had a Bible that had stamped on the cover in large letters: *Warning! Reading this book may change your life!* Maybe this Summer is the time to find out?

How to take part

The Summer Reading Challenge runs from Saturday 8 July to Saturday 9 September. Delivered in partnership with national children's charity the Youth Sport Trust and public libraries, it aims to keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer, empowering young people to forge new connections with others and unleash the power of play, sport, and physical activity through reading. Anyone aged from 4-11 can sign up at their local library, receive a Ready, Set, Read! pack, then read any library books of their choice to collect special stickers and other rewards along the way. There is a digital platform too, so the fun can carry on at home. Go to summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for all you need to get reading.



St James

Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Livestreamed on Facebook.

RETURNING ON 10 SEP

Together 3:30pm

Our shorter, all-age service, is at 3:30pm, making way for Messy Church once a month.

Mon-Fri

Morning Prayer (not Wed) 9am

Holy Communion (Wed) 9:30am

Connections Café

Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm



Join us for coffee, cake and conversation, with a free, walk-in NHS Hearing Aid Clinic on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Plus, the chance to talk to a mental wellbeing professional about any concerns.

Ark Playgroup (from 11 Sep)

Mondays 10am-12noon

Friendly playgroup for carers and under 5s during school term-time but not Bank Holidays. £3 for the first child, £1 for any others.



Harvest Festival

Sunday 8 October

All Age Service 11am

Our 9:30 and 3:30 services come together to celebrate Harvest.

Make a note in your diary as this is a week later than usual. The service will be followed by lunch in the hall. There will be more details in the the October issue, in church and on our website's Engagement page (from the pull-down list on the *In Touch* tab).



The wonders of a



ALAN CAMMIDGE

Isle of Harris and Lewis, Outer Hebrides

Every Summer for the past 10 years, Jacky and I have ventured to the Isle of Harris and Lewis in the Outer Hebrides for our summer break. From London it takes two days to get there, travelling to the ferry port of Uig, on the Isle of Skye, and then a five-hour crossing to Tarbert.

Once there you are exposed to the rugged beauty of the mountains, golden sandy beaches, and crystal blue waters straight from a Caribbean postcard.

The wildlife is varied and special, and we never tire of watching the golden and sea eagles and abundance of other native birds. We drive over Otter Bridge on the way to our accommodation, where as well as otters we almost daily see dolphins and porpoises, and there is no shortage of seals sunbathing on the rocks. There is also the chance of sighting Minke whales, and on one trip to St Kilda on a boat we caught sight of puffins and dolphins swimming alongside us. There are also many beautiful red deer roaming freely.

If it is ancient history that interests you, then a visit to the Callanish Standing Stones in Lewis is a must. Over 6000 years old (older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids), they stand tall over the landscape.

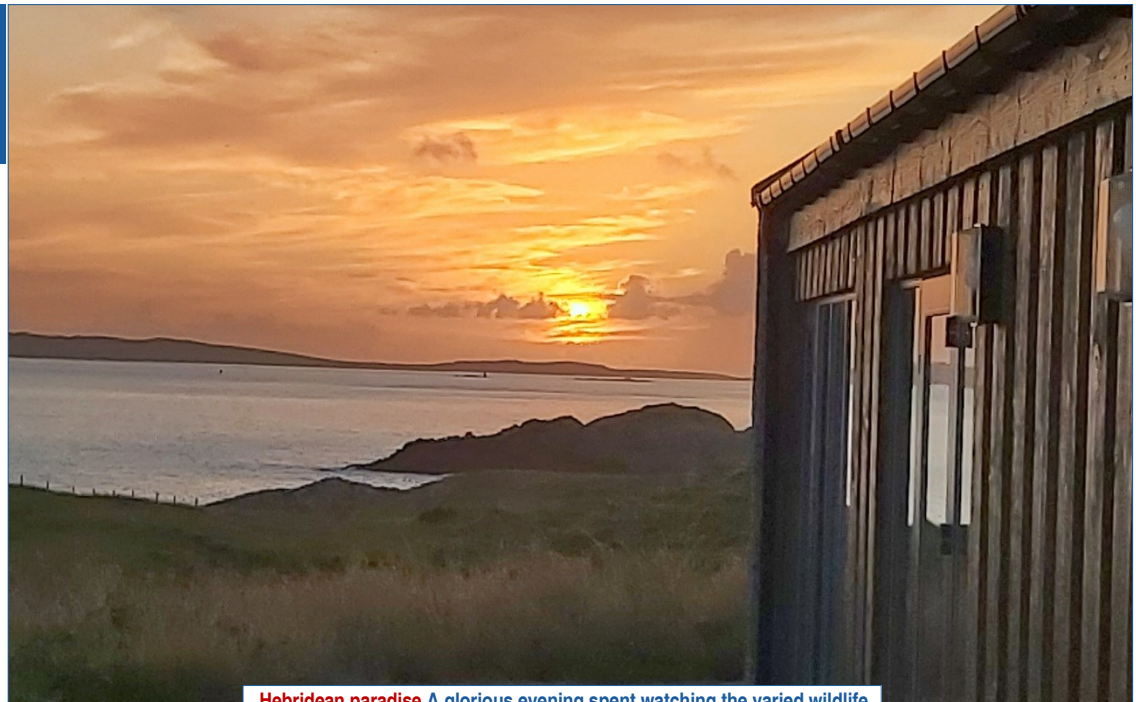
Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty at Carolway you will

The pandemic gave us all the chance to rethink our holidays, particularly if we want to cut our carbon footprint. It doesn't mean never heading to the airport, but with Great Britain attracting millions of foreign tourists every year, perhaps now is the time to see what our home nations have to offer. Here are four ideas for a staycation that doesn't involve queuing at the airport or buying any foreign currency.

find the Gerrannan Blackhouse Village where you can step back in time and experience the way of life in a typical crofting township. If

Viking history is the draw, then six of the Lewis Chessmen (of *Harry Potter* fame) are to be found in the Museum in Stornoway.

The beaches at Scarista, Seilebost and Luskentyre on the west coast of Harris would rival any in the world, although the water is a tad cold.



Hebridean paradise A glorious evening spent watching the varied wildlife

Culturally, Harris is home to a large arts and crafts community including painting, photography, glassware, pottery, jewellery and its world-famous Harris Tweed.

Harris also has a gin distillery at Tarbert. Gin is infused with the local seaweed and other ingredients and is sold all over the world.



PENNY SEWELL

Lymington, Hampshire

Lymington is a bustling, historic town with a rich marine history. Laurence and I have been visiting the town for over 30 years and have never ceased to find interesting things to do and see, both in winter and summer.

The New Forest itself offers many different walks on the open heathland, with the various types of woodland, rivers and streams that flow through the 'forest', and by the sea. The forest also has resident ponies, donkeys, cattle and sheep, and in summer pigs, to attract the walker. The area is rich in birdlife especially in the Lymington-Keyhaven Nature Reserve with its salt marshes, mudflats and lagoons.

Our favourite walks are around Lymington Ponds, Keyhaven, Milford-on-Sea and Mudeford (Hengistbury Head). A day visit to the Isle of Wight from the ferry terminal to Yarmouth is well worth doing. We enjoy a particular walk to the Red Lion pub at Freshwater not too far from Yarmouth.



Lymington There are two marinas and the river feeds into the Solent

UK holiday



LAKES Walking and water-based activities aplenty

Local attractions include Exbury Gardens and steam railway, Beaulieu, with its famous Motor Museum, and Bucklers Hard, where there is a full-scale village restored from the time of Nelson, when he had his fleet of ships built for the Battle of Trafalgar.

The perfect combination for us is a good walk and an excellent lunch at one of the many pubs in the area. These include The Gun Inn at Keyhaven, The Chequers Inn in Lymington, The Smugglers Inn at Milford and The Drift at Beaulieu Road.

This gives only a snapshot of the things to do and see in Lymington and the surrounding New Forest.



PAUL FITCHETT

Lake District, Cumbria

To be honest, Carol and I are a little loath to tell you about 'our' Lake District. If, like us, you can go outside the school holidays then it is lovely. The busiest town is Windermere, so we always stay in quieter Keswick which is more 'walker' than 'tourist'. The two main activities are walking

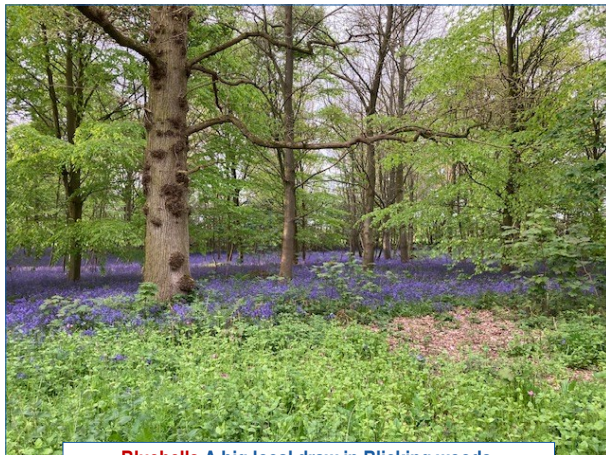
or water-based, but there are lots of tourist attractions too.

If you're just used to being in the Surrey Hills, then these 'fells' are a step change, even if you avoid the big tops. The walking can be quite strenuous and difficult particularly in the north as there's little flat ground and, partially due to erosion, the paths are mostly topped with loose stones; the southern fells, however, are rounder and softer. Either way, you'll benefit from confident use of a map and compass, although apps like *Komoot* or *Hiker* can be useful.

Many of the lakes have hire centres for kayaks, canoes or motor boats, and there are tourist boats too, the must-do one is Coniston Water's NT steam yacht *Gondola* (advance booking necessary).

Other ideas are the train La'al Ratty, the Honister slate mine, Beatrix Potter's home Hill Top, near Lake Windermere, or the world's biggest pencil in Keswick Museum.

When it comes to the weather, just remember that there's a very good reason why there are so many lakes in the Lake District... It's usually a bit cooler than London and the weather can be varied and change quite suddenly, so it pays to 'be prepared'.



Bluebells A big local draw in Blickling woods



CORYN ROBINSON

North Norfolk

As a student in Norwich, I soon became familiar with the beautiful cathedral city and, by contrast, was fortunate enough to be placed in a tiny rural village school for my first teaching practice.

College friends eventually retired to Aylsham, a charming market town in North Norfolk. We visited frequently and soon reacquainted ourselves with the area — close to the Norfolk Broads, the coast (Cromer is some 10 miles away), nature reserves, bird sanctuaries, steam railways and stunning countryside, perfect for walking.

The area is historically abounding in interesting buildings, including the iconic Blickling Hall — the ancient seat of the Boleyn family.

The adjacent village school was 'my school', now a study centre. Shamefully, I realised that it was only a few steps away from the iconic National Trust property that I had never visited.

We now spend many hours in this much-loved place, recently enjoying the stunning bluebell woods. We also browse in one of the most extensive charity bookshops we have found — both supplying and buying copious numbers of books. All this is within a comfortable walk or cycle ride across the fields from Aylsham.

Aylsham is equidistant between Norwich and the coast enabling us to get about a bit. North Norfolk is widely celebrated as a popular tourist destination. We never tire of our explorations and always return home refreshed, relaxed and looking forward to our next 'staycation'.

Around the Spire

DOUBLE CELEBRATION IN JULY

Three cheers for Rita on her 90th



CONGRATULATIONS to Rita Malyon, who celebrated her 90th birthday on 4 July. We presented her with a cake and a card signed by all her friends two days earlier on St James's Day.

Rita was born in the house where she still lives, near Fulwell Station, and she regularly walks to church. She went to Stanley Road Infants and Junior Schools and Victoria Girls Secondary School. She left school at aged 15 and her interest in photography led her into a job colouring black and white photographs. With the advent of colour films her job sadly came to an end. Rita moved into office work until retiring in her 60s.

She can often be seen walking her dog and she still enjoys going on holiday. She is a faithful member of the church, and enjoys sharing stories about her life. Few people have lived in the same house for 90 years!



The Archdeacon of Middlesex, Richard Frank, joined our celebration service. It was followed by lunch in the vicarage garden and our annual group photograph. The day before, we opened our doors to the public, providing an organ recital, the chance to climb the tower and ring the bells, and learn about our 160-year-old church, raising £700 for church funds.



Brian's 40 years

ON 25 JUNE Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard celebrated 40 years since ordination at a service in St Luke's Church, Chelsea. Brian was vicar here from 1989-2006 before the move. We send our best wishes to Brian and Ramani for so many years of devoted service.

Keep wrestling with the hard questions

ON FIVE Wednesday afternoons in June and July a group met to discuss *Hard Questions* for us and our faith. Topics included immigration and who should we welcome to our country?; poverty — why are so many people poor in the UK?; democracy — how much does it matter?; race — are we all recovering racists?; and sex — how do we relate our faith and our sexuality? Tim and Julian found there were no easy answers, but the group agreed they had to keep wrestling with these questions.

The late station master



Gravestone George Wright's last resting place



JANET NUNN

Burtons Road, Edward Road and near the Pantile Bridge, but these were rejected in favour of one in Fulwell.

This is the reason why when it opened, the station was originally named Fulwell and Hampton Hill.

On the right-hand side as you enter the churchyard by the middle gate from Park Road you will find the gravestone of George Barrett Wright – late Station Master, Fulwell who died on 27 May 1883.

He may well have been the first station master. His address in the Burial Register is Fulwell Station so obviously there was a

house at the station as well as a ticket office. Rev Henry Bligh conducted his funeral in 1883.

The Thames Valley Extension Line of the London & South Western

Railway opened on 1 November 1864 (a year after the church was opened) between Twickenham and Shepperton with stations at Fulwell, Hampton and Sunbury.

Where to build the station?

The railway had extensive discussions with local landowners about possible locations for the new station. Possible sites included

Freight first, then passengers

Initially the track opened for freight on 1 July 1864 and passengers in November 1864. There were seven steam-hauled passenger trains via Twickenham each way every day. Equally important were the freight trains bringing coal, bricks and goods in and moving the extensive quantities of local nursery produce up to Nine Elms for Covent Garden.

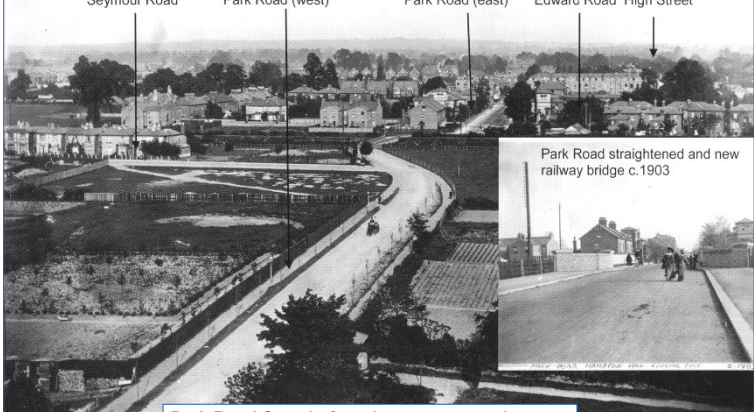


There was a curve in Park Road at this time, seen in the picture at the bottom of the page, taken in about 1895 when the first, wooden railway bridge was built, with the railway

passing underneath. The road was subsequently straightened when a new bridge was built in around 1903. By 1909, there were nine direct passenger services to Waterloo and 13 to Twickenham.

Hampton Hill had goods and coal yards and was also the pick-up for the nursery produce. The branch line was electrified on 30 January 1916.

View from St James's tower c.1895 looking east along Park Road with the original, wood railway bridge



Park Road Seen before the curve was taken out

Au revoir, not goodbye!



Ash Gone, but not forgotten



ASH WAKEFIELD

On 2 July my internship came to an end. Leaving was never going to be easy but it had to be done! Fortunately, there was a BBQ on the same day so I got to say 'goodbye for now' in person to most people.

My time at St James's has been an incredible period of affirmation and understanding. I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity and to have done what I have been afforded the opportunity to do. I will be praying for St James's Church and the upcoming season.

What have I done?

That's a question – I've moved some benches, some tables and some chairs! I've hidden 80 Easter eggs around the building (I may or may not have deliberately left one – can you find it?) I've listened and learnt how to make a proper cup of tea – who knew the milk goes in *after* the water!

On a serious note, I've been blessed to participate in many of our services – reading, serving etc; and to serve at our community outreach groups (Ark and Connections Café); lead our social media campaigns; and explore many different courses with so many of you – Difference, Psalms, Thoughts of God, Alpha, Hard Questions.

I have some amazing memories from the past year that I will cherish, wherever I end up next!

What have you enjoyed?

I've enjoyed learning how to ring church

bells, how to run a children's group, how to annoy the vicar... I've enjoyed writing articles for the *Spire* and preparing crafts for the children!

I've also enjoyed our community walks and church-wide events (Messy Christmas, Easter Experience, Eco day)... the list is endless. I'm certainly going to miss this church, but I don't feel like this is adieu – it's more au revoir.

Do you have a highlight?

Yes – so, so, soo many. It's hard to say one thing is my highlight, as the whole experience has been enriching! I've loved all of the one-to-ones with people – whether that was in church, at people's houses, going for lunch or visiting exhibitions.

My favourite highlight was how welcoming everyone was and how easy it was to settle into the church family.

What's next?

Well, St James's is nearing the end of a time of change. This is indeed a wonderful season. The refurbishment has been completed, the All Age *Together* service is in its new time of 3:30, and the regeneration of the Ark Playgroup and Connections Café is well underway!

God has blessed St James's with his provision and is raising each and every one of us up to serve his kingdom here on earth and to support our community initiatives, whether that has been through volunteering or baking homemade goodies.

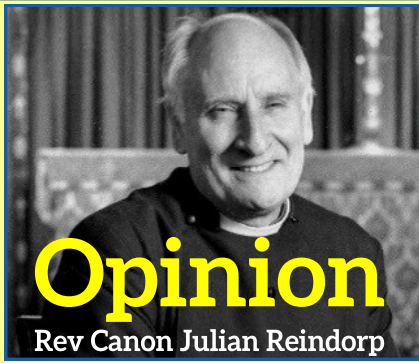
Keep working with God's plan!

Whilst I have left, I'm full of expectant hope for all that God is doing here and what he can still do for this much-loved church family in the near future. I am certainly looking forward to seeing God's plan unfold.

May you all continue to hear His voice and respond in faith, hope and love!



Teamwork Ash with Tim, Jacky and Derek



Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

NURSES and DOCTORS

I suspect we are all disturbed by nurses and doctors, amongst others, striking this year. I realise there is a lot we may not know, but I am left wondering why the Government haven't negotiated their way out of this very challenging situation. Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, says 'We have more GPs in training than ever before, but numbers entering the workforce are outnumbered by those leaving to work in other countries... our own surveys indicate a further 22,000 GPs are considering leaving the profession in the next five years, many citing stress and burnout as the reason.' (There are now c27,000 GPs in the UK, c9,000 short.)

NATION'S HEALTH

Prof Martin McKee, President of the British Medical Association, said in its members magazine, *The Doctor*, 'The reality is that starting with older people and now with younger people — particularly through deaths of despair (suicide, drugs overdoses and alcoholism) — we have been seeing a long-term decline in health which has been running for nearly a decade now.'

Ultimately the BMA wants more doctors trained and retained. In England the workforce is short of 46,300 doctors compared with the EU average. Prof McKee sees Brexit and austerity as major factors in doctor shortages and the nation's health. He adds, 'It is blindingly obvious Brexit is a major problem. But when you have both major political parties in England unwilling to confront the reality of Brexit that is even worse because that undermines public faith in politics.'

MINIMUM WAGE FINES

WH Smith, Argos (owned by Sainsbury) and M&S are among more than 200 companies fined a total of £7m by the government for not paying workers the minimum wage. The breaches stretched back over more than a decade. Their defence was: 'It was unintentional and swiftly remedied.' Some 63 000 employees were left out of pocket. The legal minimum wage for those aged 23 and over is £10.42 an hour. (It rose from £9.50 in April.) Rates vary according to age: 21-22 £10.18, 18-20 £7.49, Under 18 £5.28, also the Apprentice Rate, the same rates throughout the UK.

I still remember a hotel owner in Richmond complaining bitterly to me about the level of the minimum wage. She changed her mind when she discovered that it was what her daughter was being paid.

GARY LINEKER

I am a *Match of the Day* fan. I am also very sympathetic when the presenter Gary Lineker comments on issues outside football. In a recent interview he revealed, 'When I played I was quite cold. Issues like immigrants and refugees weren't talked about then, unlike today: I'm so proud of how our players behave now. I think I'm quite a different human now. You get older, have kids, things change: you read more, educate yourself. I don't think there's suddenly a moment when I switched, although I think back to the refugee crisis in Greece, people drowning, thinking: "God, this is so awful." But you get a section of society that shows no compassion'. He has been hosting a refugee from Balochistan (which doesn't really exist any more: sandwiched between Pakistan and Iran, it got divided up in the recent war).

MY BALL BOY

Every year there are ball girls and ball boys, hundreds of them from local schools, collecting balls and generally looking after the players at Wimbledon. They start on the outside courts and then possibly graduate after a year to one of the show courts. My eldest grandson, Tomos, is a ball boy this year. I don't mind what happens in 2024, I just don't want him to let himself or us down in public this year!

Hungry for fair deal for homeless



DENNIS WILMOT

St James's Church has supported The Upper Room at Harvest time for many years. The main support the charity has always provided is hot meals for the homeless and needy. In recent months the new goal has been to increase the numbers being helped and this has meant careful planning.

It has meant more work from the team of volunteers and greater generosity from supporters. The charity also needs more food and general supplies — and, of course, more cash.

We are proud to support The Upper Room in all these ways. The increase in numbers also applies to the charity's other programmes, most noticeably UR4Driving and UR4Jobs. The driving courses help ex-offenders and others who need a driving licence, but don't have the money to pay to learn. A licence can improve their chances of getting a job and this then gets them on to a healthy future pathway. UR4Jobs is a free multilingual service designed to help people experiencing homelessness, and those with other barriers to employment, to find work. This ranges from travel assistance to attend job interviews, to providing essential equipment or clothing.

Meaning Business

New Chief Executive, Iain Cooper, pictured right, has recognised that there are thousands of businesses in west London, many of whom would like to engage with the charity. Iain has been to business conferences and meetings to understand more fully how to present business opportunities to support the charity, including corporate



Hunger Providing hot meals remains key to the charity

volunteering days, supporting high profile events such as marathons and swimathons, and compiling 'charity of the year' corporate fundraising packs. The charity has joined the West London Chamber of Commerce which has more than 1000 members.

The beginning

In March it was announced that Father John Wheeler, parish priest at St Saviours, had died. Together with his wife, Brenda, they were the inspiration for the founding of The Upper Room more than 30 years ago. He began by feeding hungry people who came knocking at his door with sandwiches from their kitchen. This expanded to their garage and then to space above the church hall.

John's energy and commitment to social justice were instrumental in getting the charity off the ground and making it a success.

Please support our Harvest appeal with money and/or goods when the time comes later this year. We will produce details about what food and toiletries the charity will be collecting, along with cash to fund its other important work in mid-September. It will be available in church and on our website.

Support services for trauma



TRAUMA AND difficult life events can cause significant stress and affect relationships and daily living.



St James's Church is hosting a free event by Richmond Mind that will introduce you to the Richmond Borough services that can help people recover from such events. There will also be a chance to participate in a resilience building and art therapy session.

■ The event is on Tuesday 8 August, 3:30-5:30pm. Register for your free place at: outreach@rbmind.org.

REGISTERS

JUNE

BAPTISMS

4 Derek Logan Hubler, Hampton Hill
11 Brontë Octavia Fuller Kimpton, Hampton Hill

FUNERALS

9 Sallie Colak-Antic, 91, Hampton Hill
21 John William Arnold, 97, Hampton Hill
29 Marie Constantinides, 78, Twickenham





SIMPLE PLEASURES

The things we do when we take time out

Sea and mountains inspire me



Susan Horner

THE SEA

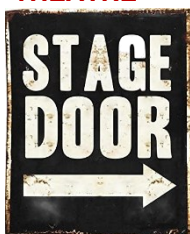
I can spend hours watching and listening to the sea. I have particularly enjoyed seeing the waves crashing against the sea wall at Totland Bay, pictured right, and Freshwater on the Isle of Wight, or walking along the shore at Sandown and hearing the much gentler lapping of the waves. The ever-changing colour and movement of the sea is fascinating, and gives me time to relax and think.

TREES

Trees give great pleasure throughout the year. From the various greens of the emerging leaves and blossom in Spring, through the beautiful sight of the trees in full leaf in Summer and then the wonderful colours in Autumn, there is always something to delight the eye. Then in Winter, there are the impressive silhouettes of the bare trees, so varied in their shapes. My favourite tree has to be the magnificent oak in our churchyard, seen below, stunning in all seasons.



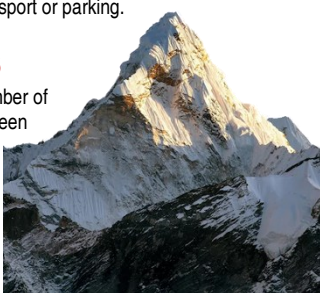
THEATRE



I have always loved the theatre. It started with being taken as a child to musicals such as *The Desert Song* and *The Student Prince*, as well as Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Since then I have enjoyed a great variety of performances, among them *Flanders and Swann*, more musicals, Alan Ayckbourn comedies and more serious and thought-provoking plays. Having a theatre on our High Street, which I can walk to in seven minutes, enables me to see live performances without the problems of transport or parking.

MOUNTAINS

It is now quite a number of years since I have been among mountains, and my legs would no longer be up to much walking in them, but they were a source of great



pleasure earlier. Whether on skiing holidays or walking in the summer, there was always such a feeling of awe and the presence of God. Sadly, mountains are in short supply in Hampton Hill (and I am still looking for the hill!)

SINGING

I love singing, though I am not very good at it! Singing in Gilbert and Sullivan shows was a highlight of the year as a teenager, and I first came across Handel's *Messiah*, with its stirring *Hallelujah Chorus*, during a school performance.

Of course, I have sung hymns for most of my life. My all-time favourite is *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*; both the words and music are so inspirational.



WALKING

I grew up in the Peak District, at the southern end of the Pennines, pictured, and enjoyed long walks in this beautiful countryside. Now having family living in Yorkshire has opened up new walking areas. Since moving to Hampton Hill after graduating, I have been glad to have Richmond Park and Bushy Park so accessible, the latter especially during lockdown. Walks with friends here



or in Surrey have been much enjoyed, particularly when followed by a pub lunch! Our recent church walks have been great for exercise, company and the lunch.

LANGUAGES

Languages have always fascinated me, particularly their structure.

I learnt French, Latin and German at school, and continue to take German lessons through the U3A as I have a son and his family living in Germany. Over the years, I have dabbled in Spanish, Russian (for the different alphabet) and Welsh (for the mutations). The latest challenge is New Testament Greek, (again a different alphabet) offered by Derek, fascinating, but sadly my old brain cannot retain vocabulary as the young one could.



OATCAKES

Not the Scottish biscuits, but real Staffordshire Oatcakes. These are savoury, a pancake in shape, made with flour, oats and yeast and very versatile. They can be filled with melted cheese, bacon, asparagus, or other fillings and then folded or rolled, or a batch can be warmed up and wedges cut to eat with a mixed grill. As a child, we sometimes had them for tea filled with butter and syrup, very unhealthy but delicious. On visits to my old home town I always return with a couple of dozen oatcakes, bought from the shop where you can see them being made.

