

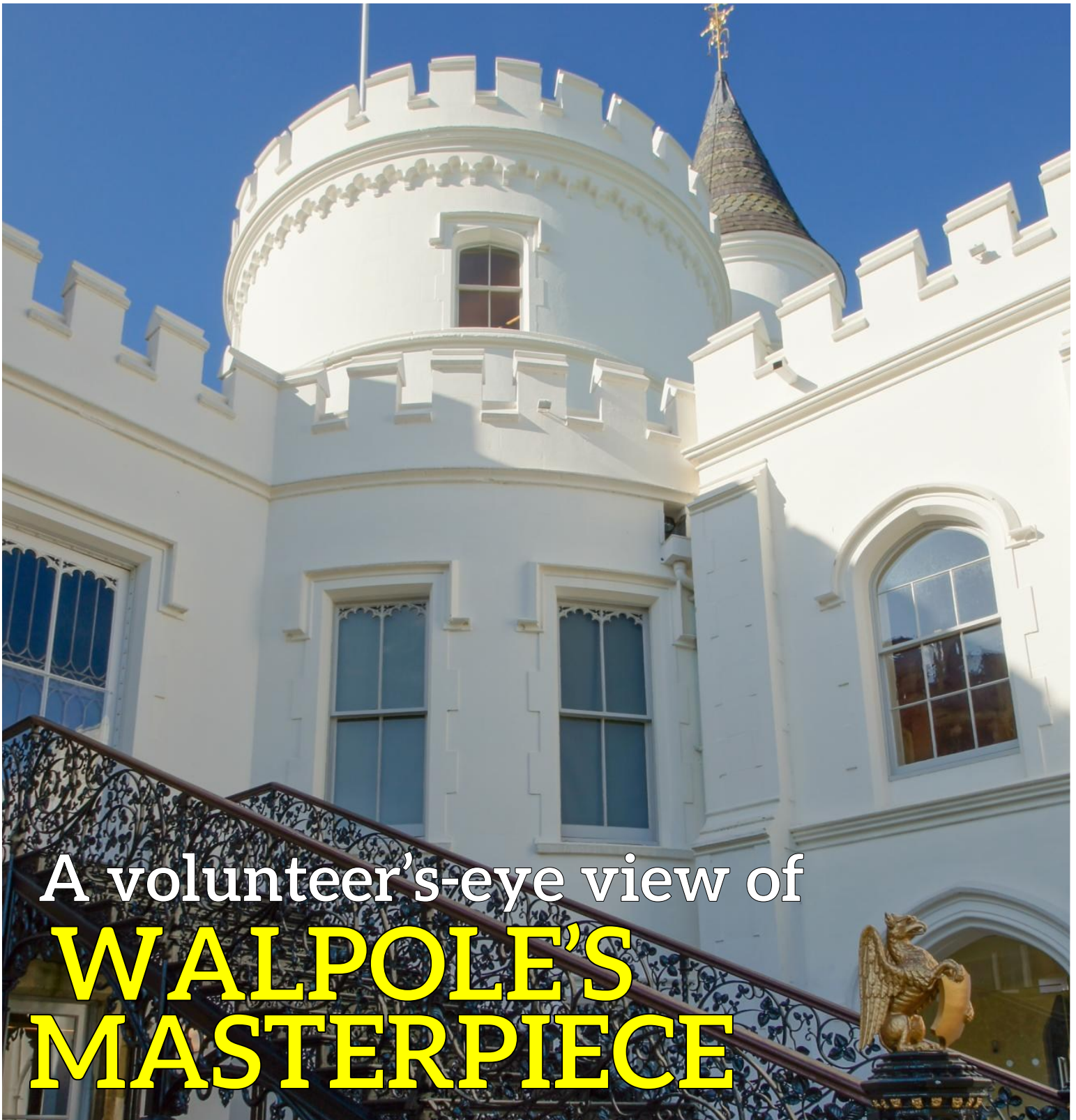
MARCH 2025 LOCAL HISTORY

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



A volunteer's-eye view of

# WALPOLE'S MASTERPIECE

[stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk) or find us on



 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



**Meet the clergy**



**VICAR Rev Prebendary 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).  
**Tel: 020 8241 5904**  
**Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk**

**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**  
**Email: jackycammidge@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk**



**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.  
**Tel: 073 6928 0040 Email: frtimmarwood@hotmail.com**

**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.  
**Tel: 020 8614 6800 Email: julianreindorp@outlook.com**



**CHURCH OFFICE**  
**Church & hall bookings**  
**Nick Bagge**  
Nick deals with enquiries and Church and hall bookings.  
Open: Mon, Wed, Fri 0930-1230; Tue, Thu 1230-1530  
**Tel: 020 8941 6003**  
**Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk**  
**Address: St James's Church, St James's Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ.**



**CHURCHWARDEN**  
**Susan Horner**  
**Tel: 020 8979 9380**  
**Email: smhomer5@yahoo.co.uk**



**CHURCHWARDEN**  
**Nick Bagge**  
**Tel: 020 8941 6003**  
**Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk**



**CHOIR DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST**  
**Thom Stanbury**  
**Email: thom.stanbury@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk**



**ORDINAND**  
**Joy Beauchamp**  
**Tel: 077 8060 6990**  
**Email: joy@wheeler-beauchamp.co.uk**

**FINANCE TEAM**

**Treasurer Dawn Miller 020 8941 6508**  
**Assistant Treasurer / Planned Giving Carol Bailey 020 8783 0633**  
**Chair Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844**  
**ALMA Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844**  
**Ark Playgroup via Church Office 020 8941 6003**  
**Bell Ringers Susan Homer 020 8979 9380**

**Book of Remembrance Recorder Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325**  
**Care and Contact (Visitors) Derek Winterburn 020 8241 5904**  
**Charity Support Team Dennis Wilmot 020 8977 9434**  
**Children's Champion Sarah Richardson trixiesmallpiece@gmail.com**  
**Church Cleaning Team Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078**  
**Church Flowers Team via 020 8941 6003**  
**Church Safeguarding Officer Annalea Gratton 077 7576 4419**  
**Churches Together Around Hampton Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862**  
**Churchyard Records Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325**  
**Connections Café 020 8941 6003**  
**Deanery Synod Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345**  
**Eco-Church Team Derek 020 8241 5904**  
**Electoral Roll Recorder Nick Bagge**  
**Friends of St James 020 8941 6003**  
**Gardening Team Lou Coaker 020 8979 2040**  
**PCC Secretary Nick Bagge 020 8941 6003**  
**Properties Team Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040**  
**Scouts Richard Moody 020 8286 6918**  
**Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345**  
**Social Team Derek Winterburn 020 8241 5904**  
**Sunday Kitchen Team Patricia Newton: lady.newton@icloud.com**  
**Welcome Team Linda Cargill via Church Office 020 8941 6003**

**PREFER A DIGITAL COPY?**

**Email Susan Horner: smhomer5@yahoo.co.uk**

**FROM THE EDITOR**

do enjoy spring and the longer days—and it won't be long before we put the clocks forward at the end of the month.

This edition has a local flavour. David Taylor has a keen interest in history, and shares his knowledge of Kingston. I am particularly fond of going into All Saints' Church, when I am shopping in Kingston, for a break and refreshments. It is a vibrant church which has become a great community asset.

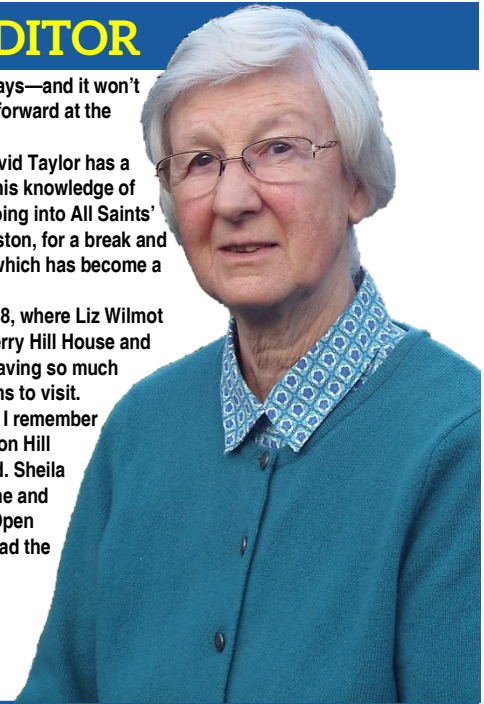
History can also be found on page 8, where Liz Wilmot writes about volunteering at Strawberry Hill House and Turner's House. We are blessed in having so much heritage along with parks and gardens to visit.

We also mark Sheila Bligh's death. I remember her very well from her time at Hampton Hill Library when it was in Windmill Road. Sheila has also written for the magazine. She and her friend Mary Gray studied at the Open University together, neither having had the chance when they left school.

Best Wishes

*Janet*

Editor



Cover photo: Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill House, part of our local heritage issue

**SPIRE** The Spire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We don't 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* **£11.25** A YEAR\*  
 Yes, I'm free, but donations help me to go on being printed. Use the QR code (or see above) to 'buy' a subscription. \*£11.25 a copy

**EDITOR**  
Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325  
or janunnhh@btinternet.com

**SPIRE POSTAL ADDRESS**  
Spire, Church Office, St James's Church, St James's Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ

**WEBSITE**  
Prill Hinckley p.m.hinckley@me.com

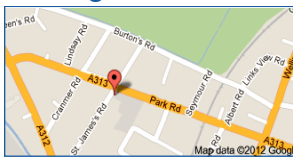
**CIRCULATION**  
The Spire is available in church and local shops, and is distributed across the parish by volunteers. For more information contact Susan Horner. 020 8979 9380 or smhomer5@yahoo.co.uk

**PRODUCTION**  
Design Nick Bagge  
Proof readers Catherine Gash, Susan Horner  
**PRINT**  
Peter James Printing Limited 01932 244 665 or PJP123cards@aol.com

**NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE**  
The April / May Spire is published on Fri 28 Mar. Copy deadline: Tue 4 Mar.

© St James's Church 2025. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission from the editor. Manuscripts, photos and artwork are accepted on the basis that the Spire does not accept liability for loss or damage to them. We cannot print anything subject to copyright. Views expressed in the Spire are not necessarily those of the PCC of St James. St James's Church is a charity registered in England and Wales (1129286) Printed on paper sourced from well-managed forests.

**Finding us**



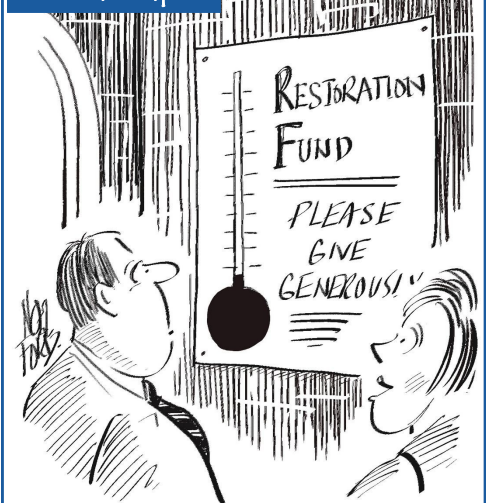
We are on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is next to the church. There is unrestricted parking. Buses stopping nearby include the R70, R68, 111 and 285.

**Follow us**

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

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

**Clerical Capers**



'No, not the roof – it's for the vicar's pre-Easter recuperation holiday!'

# DEREK WINTERBURN



YouTube / @TheChosenSeries



Judas (Luke Dimyan) is portrayed in the TV series as someone who was challenged by Jesus

One of the most striking pictures from President Trump's inauguration was the row of 'tech giants' around him. These are some of the richest people in the world and they wanted to be seen with the new president.

These influential men found it to their advantage to bury their differences and to make allies with the 'most powerful man in the world'. Only time will tell if their support will be reciprocated by the President, or if their inauguration truce will revert to rivalry again.

Readers may remember that I have encouraged folk to watch the TV series *The Chosen* before. Season five is about to be shown. It will cover the events of Holy Week. In anticipation of the new release a few scenes are available on the internet. One is a five-minute conversation between Judas Iscariot and Jesus. The clip illustrates very clearly the ambiguity of the title *The Chosen*.

### Praise and mockery

Jesus is 'the Chosen One.' It is how John the Baptist describes Jesus in John's Gospel. The phrase is also on the lips of the crowd around the cross, used as an insult: 'Let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.' The TV series is clearly telling Jesus's story.

But the word 'chosen' might be singular or plural. So *The Chosen* might be, and I think is, also the story of the people around Jesus, largely people he has chosen.

Dallas Jenkins, the co-writer and director of the show, has spoken about how it is a challenge to 'tell a story' about Jesus. As he says, the character of Jesus doesn't change very much over time.

But the development of the characters around Jesus is more interesting. So, for example, the first episode of the first series is *not* about Jesus. He only appears at the very last moment (a strategy that the makers of the *West Wing* also used - the President only appears at the end of the first episode).

The disciples are very much part of the gospels in the New Testament. It has been said for a long time that they are portrayed 'warts and all' by the evangelists. So much so that it has been supposed that Peter gave Mark his own account to use; who else

## A COMPLEX VILLAIN

would be so bold as to highlight the weaknesses of the leading apostle. Nevertheless, the arc of the story is from initial enthusiasm, through confusion and denial to ultimately life-changing faith... except Judas.

this TV scene speaks to us. In Lent we often think of the path Jesus took to the cross and reflect on the life of discipleship of his first followers.

In one sense we are going over the same ground.

### Why did Judas turn against Jesus? Maybe he was wrong about Jesus's intentions. In that sense he brings into focus the disciples' regular muddle about who Jesus was and why he talked about his death.

### Treachery and muddle

Scholars and re-tellers of the gospel story want to find a reason why Judas turned against Jesus. John's gospel suggests that it was to do with money.

Another solution is to see him as wrongly interpreting what Jesus's intentions really were. In that sense he brings into focus the disciples' regular muddle about who Jesus was and why he talked about his death.

*The Chosen* uses these motifs too. They are played out in the scene I mentioned. Judas comes to Jesus to encourage him to act in a 'window of opportunity'. He speaks about Jesus claiming his kingly birthright and 'closing a deal'.

But of course, Jesus is unmoved. He shifts the conversation onto different ground. He suggests there is a choice to be made - not for him, but for Judas. 'You have a choice to make, Judas... who do you belong to? Who has your heart? I want it.'

### Testing loyalty

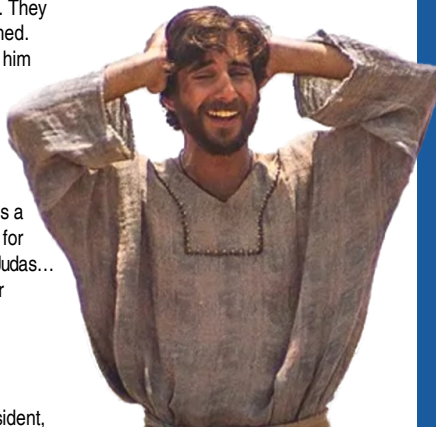
While we wait to see if the tech billionaires stay loyal to the new president,

So here is a question to carry with us daily to Easter: Jesus says, 'Who do you belong to? Who has your heart? I want it.'

### Finding *The Chosen*



To watch the promotional clip of Season 5 use the QR code or search YouTube for 'the chosen sneak peak judas'.



## St James Services Sundays

- Holy Communion (said) 8am
- Parish Communion 9:30am *not 30 Mar*  
Livestreamed on Facebook
- Together 3:30pm *not 9, 30 Mar*  
Our shorter, all-age service, making way for Messy Church once a month
- Messy Church 3:30pm 9 Mar
- Compline (night prayer) 8pm *from 9 Mar*

## Tue-Fri (not Wed) Morning Prayer 9am

## Wednesday

Midweek Communion 9:30am

## Mondays

Ark Playgroup 10am-12pm

Our popular playgroup for under 5s and carers includes crafts, music and play.

NHS Hearing Aid Clinic 1-3pm

Free servicing of NHS aids only, while you wait, at our walk-in clinic on 3, 17 Mar

## Tuesdays

Connections Café 10:30am-12:30pm

Join us for coffee, cake and conversation.

## Wednesdays

Turning Points in Scripture

with Julian and Tim 2-3:20pm.

12 Mar Isaiah: three prophets in one

26 Mar Jesus: the heart of our faith

9 Apr Paul: church planter and letter writer

## Climate Justice

with Derek and Jacky 7:30-9pm.

Lent course with videos from London's bishops.

12 March Humility: hosted by Bishop Sarah

19 March Solidarity: hosted by Bishop Anderson

26 March Example: hosted by Bishop Emma

2 April Accountability: hosted by Bishop Joanne

9 April Hope: hosted by Bishop Lusa

## Ash Wednesday 5 Mar

Holy Communion 9:30am and 8pm

The evening service will feature the choir.

## World Day of Prayer 7 Mar

United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill, 2pm

The service comes from the Cook Islands. As guardians of beautiful islands, the service is based on Psalm 139: 14 'Wonderfully made'

## Lent Lunch 23 Mar

Soup, bread, cheese and fruit for £5 (meal only) or £15 (+ donation to our Lent Appeal). Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJLentLunch>

## Mothering Sunday 30 Mar

All Age Service 10am

Giving thanks for the women in our lives.



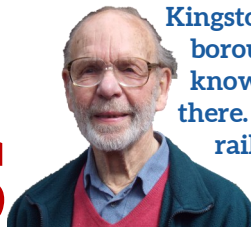


**Kingston All Saints Church** has a commanding position in the centre of town



**Clattern Bridge** built around 1175 and still in use

# KINGSTON'S MONARCHS



Kingston upon Thames is one of just three royal boroughs in the capital. But most visitors don't know the extraordinary events that took place there. Few stop to look at a stone, protected by railings that mimic a crown – yet this is England's own Coronation Stone.

**David Taylor** explains its significance.

**K**ingston's history goes back as far as the Anglo-Saxon period, with kings crowned there from the 10th century. Up until the 20th century it was the centre of the early aircraft industry. Many people are drawn to it as the biggest shopping centre in SW London — but it has so much more to offer.

Seven Anglo-Saxon kings of the West Saxon dynasty are believed to have been crowned in Kingston's wooden church: Edward (AD 902), Æthelstan (AD 924), Edmund (AD 940), Eadred (AD 946), Eadwig (AD 950), Edgar (AD 959) and Æthelred 'the Unready' (AD 979). The coronation stone is by the Guildhall. There are modern tapestries of four of the kings in All Saints' Church, opposite Bentalls.

Kingston's name means *The King's Town*, as it was a Royal Manor in Saxon times. It was conveniently placed near the boundary of Wessex and Mercia in south and central England, the two kingdoms which made up England at the time.

### Aggressive and pious

The most well-known was Æthelstan (924-939), grandson of Alfred the Great. He was a strong military leader, who was aggressive towards his neighbours and won a notable victory in 937, but his gains were short-lived. In particular, Eastern England remained as the Danelaw.

He organised a mint and was pious, supporting many churches and monasteries. There will be a series of events over the summer to commemorate the 1100

years since his coronation, including Wessex Week.

### Town's church

All Saints' Church was built in stone in the 12th century, though there have been changes since then and the tower dates from 1703. The town, from its first mention in 838, grew sufficiently to receive a Royal Charter in 1208. Around that time, a narrow wooden bridge was built across the River Thames, replaced by the present bridge in 1828. Until the

mid-18th century, going downstream the only other crossing was London Bridge. Little remains of

medieval Kingston and only four sites can be seen. The first is the Clattern Bridge across the Hogsmill River, flowing into the Thames, built in the 12th century. It still carries the main road by the Guildhall. To see it you need to go down steps by the side of the bridge. The second site is the Coronation Stone, near the Guildhall, surrounded by railings. It was used in the coronation ceremony, but may not be the original.

The third site was discovered in 1900 and was the basement of the old Rose and Crown Inn. During the construction of the John Lewis store in the 1980s it was awkwardly placed, so was encased in concrete, moved and now forms part of the store's foundations. It can be seen through a glass panel on the riverside.

### Lovekyn Chapel

The fourth is the Lovekyn Chapel, a chantry chapel, named after Edward Lovekyn, a prominent Kingston butcher. It was built in 1309 and he paid a chaplain to pray for the souls of his family.

Henry VIII brought daily worship there to an end in 1540, but fortunately it was not destroyed, and today it is one of the few surviving examples of its kind in England. It was endowed to Kingston Grammar School in 1561 by Queen Elizabeth I and is now used by the school for music lessons and recitals, and can be hired for weddings. Kingston Grammar School, very

successful academically, is fee-paying. Next to it is the other grammar school, Tiffin School for boys. It opened in 1880 and it too is academically strong. It became an academy in 2011, has no fees, but with admission by academic ability. Tiffin Girls was opened in the same year on Richmond Road and is also an academy. On average there are 10 applications for every place in either school. Both have mixed sixth forms, and each has over a thousand pupils.

### Kingston's industries

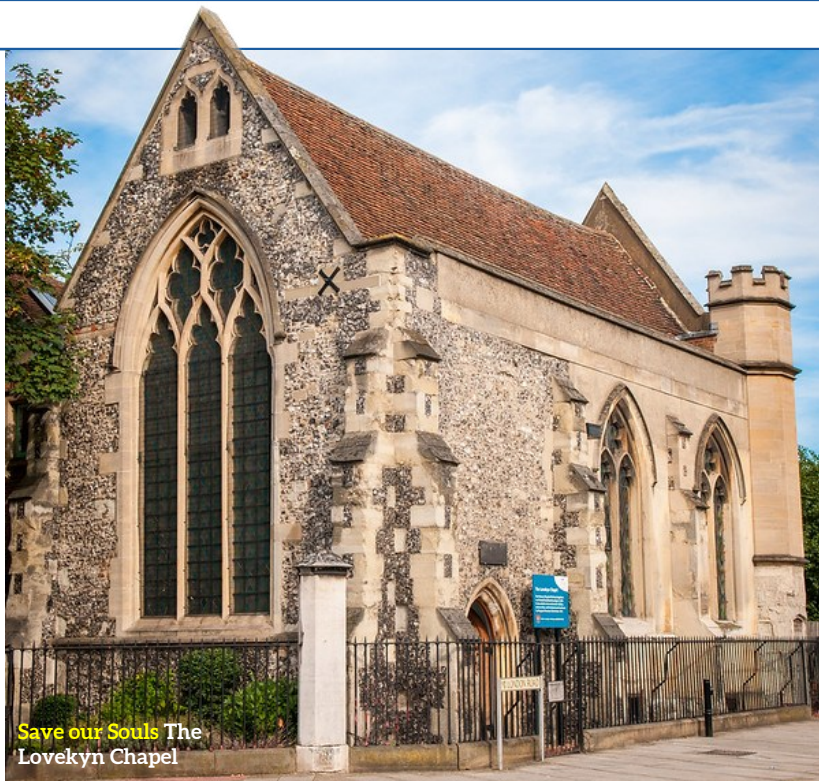
In medieval times Kingston had several industries, including pottery. The remains of one or two kilns have been found and there is a display of the pottery in Kingston Museum on Wheatfield Way. The town also had candle making, brewing and the production of gin. The name of Turk has been associated with boat building since medieval times. The original boatyard has now gone, but boat hire and pleasure trips continue. There were several mills on the Hogsmill River recorded in the Domesday Book.

In 1912 Thomas Sopwith bought a disused roller-skating rink in Canbury Park Road where aircraft were built during the First World War. Over 5000 were built, including the *Sopwith Camel* that was better than the German aircraft. Some had a Lewis gun on the top wing to shoot down Zeppelins. Towards the end of the war Sopwith was able to lease a new factory in Ham.



**Crowning glory** The Coronation Stone





Save our Souls The Lovekyn Chapel

In 1920 Sopwith Aviation changed its name to Hawker Engineering because of bankruptcy (Hawker was the test pilot who was killed in 1921).

**Battle of Britain**

The Hawker Hurricane became a major player in the Battle of Britain in 1940. Designed by Sidney Camm, it first flew in 1935 (and the Spitfire a few months later), powered by the famous Rolls-Royce Merlin engine. It had a body frame mostly covered by special fabric, which could be easily repaired. Although mainly built at Langley, near Slough, Kingston played a part.

The Spitfire was faster and more glamorous, but the Hurricane shot down 60% of all enemy aircraft in the Battle of Britain. Some 3000 were shipped to Russia during the war. Towards the end of the war, Hawker produced the Typhoon and the Tempest, the latter fast enough to catch the German V1 rockets and 700 were shot down.

Hawkers employed 13,000 by the end of Second World War. The Ham factory closed in 1992, replaced by housing.

**Shops and hospital**

The biggest retail outlets in Kingston are Bentalls, part of the larger Bentall Centre shopping mall, John Lewis, and Marks & Spencer. Bentalls was founded in 1867 and has been on the existing site since 1935, though the current store, along with the Bentall Centre and John Lewis, were constructed in the 1990s. Kingston Hospital started life as a workhouse

infirmary in 1843. It became Kingston and District Hospital in 1920. Since 1948 it has been an NHS hospital with new buildings added as recently as 2024. It was recently voted best general hospital in SW London. The New Victoria Hospital is a small, private hospital. It opened in 1958, though its origins go back to 1893 as the Victoria Hospital.

**University in top ten**

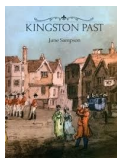
Kingston University is modern, situated on two sites, both in the south of the town. The first is by the Hogsmill River and the second quite close on Penrhyn Road. It dates from 1992, being an upgrade from a Technical College which was founded in 1899.

It has been named one of the top 10 institutions in the country in seven subject areas, including design and crafts, sports science, journalism, fashion and pharmacy. Altogether there are about 20,000 students.

We are fortunate to have a neighbouring borough with easy access and everything you may wish to buy, on top of which there are bits of history peeping out here and there to satisfy your curiosity.

**References**

*Kingston Past*, by June Sampson, can be found in Kingston Library, which is in the same building as the museum on Wheatfield Way (well worth a visit). There are other history books in the library or to purchase online.



Courtesy of Kingston Museum



Bridge Old Kingston Bridge (Thomas Rowlandson c. 1810)



# Around the Spire

## SONGS OF PRAISE VAL'S AMAZING ANCESTOR



ST JAMES'S hosted *Songs of Praise* on Sunday 26 January, when seven local churches gathered and a member of each chose their favourite hymn and explained the reason for picking it.



From our church, Val Jones chose *Amazing Grace*, written by John Newton, pictured, Val's ancestor on her mother's side. Newton, the son of a merchant ship commander, was press-ganged into the British Navy, receiving terrible punishment when he deserted.

Years later he was the master of a slave ship and lived a life of debauchery, but was converted when God spoke to him during a storm. He confessed his sins, turned his life around and was eventually ordained to ministry in the Anglican church and railed against social ills such as his former life in the slave trade. He wrote over 300 hymns, including *Amazing Grace*, which describes how even a wretch such as he was can be saved by God's grace.

## BY APPOINTMENT A PREBENDARY

DEREK, our vicar, pictured with Bishop Emma, has been installed as one of four new prebendaries of St Paul's Cathedral.



Prebendaries are appointed in recognition of their work in the Diocese of London. They are each given their own stall in the quire, are invited to preach once a year, and are given a portion of the Psalms to recite daily.

Bishop Emma, who nominated Derek, said, 'Derek is a very well-loved parish priest, whose wider leadership and advocacy, especially for Christians to respond to the climate crisis with urgency and commitment, continues to make a significant difference far beyond his own parish.'

After the service Derek was given a bread roll — 'a roll for a rôle'. In times past, Prebendaries received an income. The roll now fulfils the payment.

## SHEILA BLIGH 'GRANDMA THE GREAT!'



FAMILY and friends gathered at St James's Church on 22 January for a service for Sheila Bligh, who died on 6 December, aged 88.

Sheila was born and brought up in Leeds and started work at the local library after leaving school. While on holiday with a friend she met Bernard and they were married the same year, starting their married life in Redcar.

Six years later, they moved to Teddington and then to St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill. Sheila devoted herself to bringing up their three daughters, Frances, Juliet, and Caroline. When they were older, she went to work in Hampton Hill Library, then in Windmill Road. Loving literature and books, she also enrolled in the Open University and graduated with a BA degree.

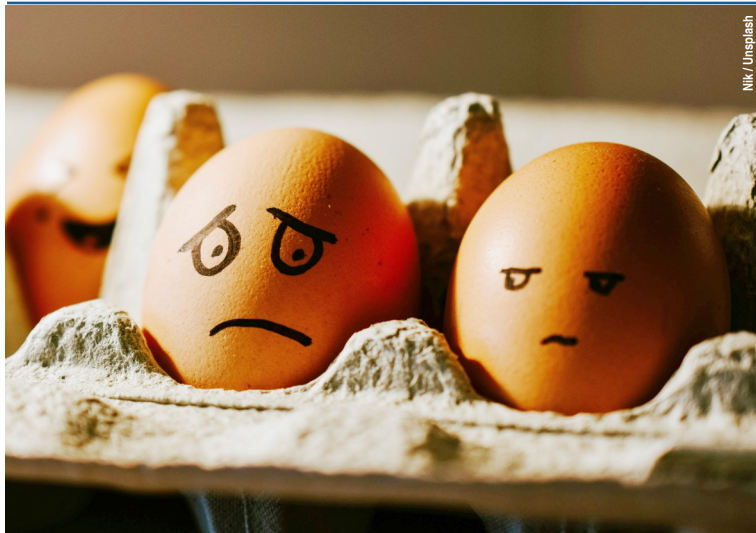
Grandsons Sheila with Christopher and Ollie

Sheila loved music, played the piano, and was also a member of Teddington Choral Society for a time. She also became passionate about genealogy, researching her own family tree. On a trip to Australia, she was able to connect with a branch of her father's family.

Sheila was well-known in the community and will be missed by many, and especially by her daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to whom she was known not as great-grandma, but 'Grandma the Great!'

Susan Horner





Nik / Unsplash

## GRUMBLE NO MORE!



**Tim Marwood** explores the traditions of Lent – and sets himself quite a challenge for its forty days and nights.

**T**he church season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (5 March this year), and services held on that day traditionally include the hymn *Forty days and forty nights*.

The words were written by George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870), adapted by Francis Pott (1832-1909), and are sung to the tune *Aus Der Tiefe*, also known as *Heinlein*, written by 'MH', thought to be Martin Herbst, (1656-81). They relate to the accounts in the Bible of Jesus spending 40 days and nights 'in the wild', in preparation for his ministry. Lent lasts for 40 days (excluding Sundays).

On Ash Wednesday many Christians will attend services in which they will receive a cross marked in ash on their forehead as a sign of penitence. This is an ancient tradition that has become more popular in recent years.

### Lent's customs

The traditions of Lent have evolved over many centuries and can include excluding certain foods. Why the custom of abstinence during Lent has remained in the public memory, when so many other religious observances have been overlooked, is a bit of a mystery. However 'giving up' something for Lent is often a topic of conversation for people who would not normally observe religious customs.

Traditionally the fourth Sunday of Lent, known as Refreshment Sunday, is a day when Christians have a day's relief from Lent abstinence. My grandmother, born in 1888, had a career in domestic service which began at the age of 13 and like many servants she was given Refreshment Sunday off to visit her mother, taking with her the Simnel cake that she baked in the kitchen of the great house where she worked (very like Downton Abbey).

In modern times Refreshment Sunday has evolved into Mothering Sunday (this year on

30 March) and our All Age Service is at 10am at St James's, to which all are welcome.

### I'm giving up...

I am often asked what I am giving up. Having made and broken so many Lent promises down the years, I hesitate to share with the readership of such a widely read magazine what I am giving up for Lent in 2025, especially as it involves that great English pastime of grumbling. Yes, I am going to try and give up grumbling for Lent!

This might be one of my rasher promises – a lot can happen in 40 days and nights to test my resolve. I will let you know how I get on.

*Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled.*

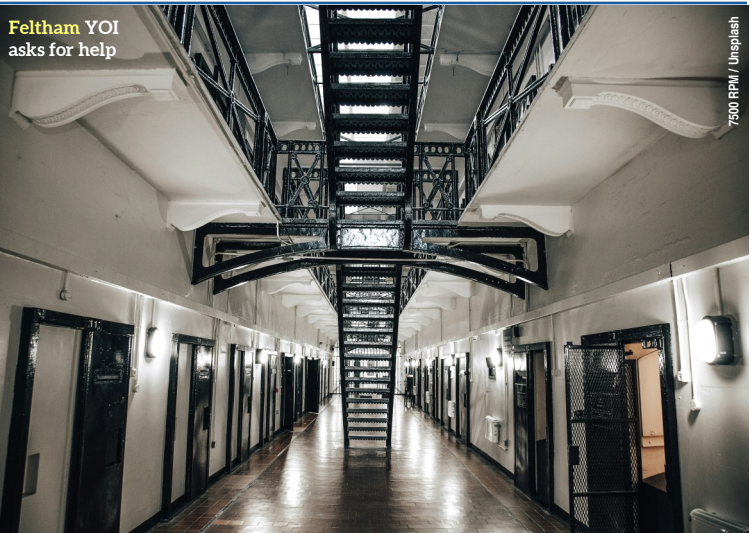
*Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.*

*Shall not we thy sorrow share  
and from worldly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer,  
glad with thee to suffer pain?*

*And if Satan vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before,  
grant we may not faint nor fail.*

*So shall we have peace divine:  
holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us, too, shall angels shine,  
such as ministered to thee.*

*Keep, O keep Us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Easteride.*



7500 RPM / Unsplash

Feltham YOI asks for help

## RUNNING ON TIME



**Richard Melville** delves into the *Spire* and ponders time in its many forms as we enter Lent.

**T**he start of Lent puts our then vicar in reflective mood, focusing on time. It's a subject that can be extended to other areas of church activity, including an appeal for prison volunteers.

particularly if it was their first contact. Visiting often got no easier. The prison wanted to support people, but lacked volunteers. Many inmates came from families who had never been involved with the criminal justice system. Someone to welcome them would help to diffuse their apprehension.

### Dear Friends,

What is it about time that makes it such a slippery commodity? Watching the clock for an appointment or waiting for a bus to arrive can make even a few minutes seem to stretch out for ever. On the other hand, a couple of hours spent with friends can whizz past so quickly. Time certainly cannot easily be brought under our control. It is worth thinking about how we spend ours. How many hours per week, or days per year, are we asleep, or spent eating, cutting the grass, or doing the washing up?



Rev Brian Leathard

Times of year are also associated with particular markers. There is a distinctive smell in autumn and when the snowdrops appear I know it is time to wish Margery Orton a happy birthday. When Lent arrives on Ash Wednesday, it is time to take stock. This Lent we shall be thinking a lot about time. We have called our celebration at Parish Communion each Sunday in Lent 'A time for God'. Take time for God; after all God has all the time in the world for you.

*Brian Leathard*

### Greetings from Botswana

St James's sent £250 to a day centre in the Diocese of Botswana for their work with orphans whose parents have died with AIDS. The centre sent news that the money had bought netting to protect vegetables from the sun... and the birds. The orphans, they said, needed the food more than the wildlife. The village population of 36,000 included over 1,000 children who had lost both parents.

### Feltham volunteers sought

Feltham Young Offenders Institution (YOI) contacted St James's asking for help. For the families and friends of the 750 inmates visiting could be extremely traumatic,

### Power to the people!

Margaret Hobbs explained how the Twickenham and Richmond United Nations Association had helped change the government's education policy. After a campaign for pupils to be taught about the UK's unique position as a permanent member of the Security Council and a member of the EU and the Commonwealth, the Education Secretary had agreed to include it in the curriculum.

### Climbing high

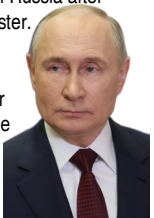
Also making the news was Sara Butterfield's ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of the Medical Foundation's Victims of Torture.

### In the news 25 years ago...

■ **6 March** Guitarist and singer-songwriter Eric Clapton, left, enters the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for a third time, now as a solo artist. He is still the only artist to be inducted three times. Joining him then were James Taylor, Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday.

■ **18 March** England clinch the inaugural Six Nations Rugby Championship with a 59-12 thrashing of Italy at Stadio Flaminio, Rome. Flyhalf Jonny Wilkinson kicks seven goals and winger Austin Healey scores three tries.

■ **31 March** Vladimir Putin, below, is named as the new president-elect of Russia after serving briefly as prime minister. He visits a leading nuclear weapons design centre and promises to maintain nuclear strength, but not to restart the arms race, and supports ratification of the Start II arms reduction treaty.



## REGISTERS

### JANUARY

**FUNERAL**  
22 (Irene) Sheila Bligh, 88,  
Hampton





**OPINION**  
Canon Julian Reindorp

**Confronting populism**

Faced with President Trump in America and Nigel Farage in the UK, how do we confront populism? Peter Hyman, left, an adviser to Tony Blair and later a school head, writing in *The New European*, describes how many of us can be seen. *Patronising*: we are the clever ones...we look down on those who are not living by our rules. *Complacent*: we believe the logic of our position will win out in the end. *Abstract*: the populists speak in direct terms, too often we speak in riddles. *Censorious*: we are the thought police, we are in the shame game, people don't like being shamed. *Gullible*: we are easily wound up by every anti-woke remark. *Conservative*: we are cautious, born of fear of the far left and far right. *Bland*: our emotions start at earnest and end at sincere. We are the TikTok of an antique carriage clock, not the viral clip. These seven deadly sins are a barrier between us and the electorate. We are the ones who have built a wall.

**Our response**

Peter Hyman suggests we need to build our own disruptive new agenda of change, respect for ordinary people and pride in our country. History is on the side of the disruptors. In an age of rampant insecurity, the disruptors know the present system is not working. The business-as-usual politicians believe it can still be made to work. We need to rebalance the country to working people; side with the people against the powerful; a smaller more strategic state focused on solutions to peoples' everyday problems; change our failing economic model including a new partnership with business and the clean power transition; pride in our nation and a sense of belonging. Secure borders and orderly immigration are a basic requirement of good government. We need to avoid 'the seven deadly sins' and take seriously the scale of our task.

**Aid to Gaza curbed**

One of the conditions of the ceasefire from 17 January was that 600 aid lorries a day should be allowed into Gaza by the Israelis. Before the hostage taking in October 2023, Gaza was totally dependent for food and medical supplies on 500 aid lorries a day. Gaza is one of the most densely populated areas in our world, with 2.18 million people. During the conflict, on some days aid lorries were reduced to a trickle. As the head of Gisha, an Israeli human rights organisation, said, 'The Israeli authority is ready to fast track aid requests to meet the target. I can't think of anything more glaring as an admission that until now they have been doing the opposite.' The cruel long-term effects of this deliberate policy of withholding aid on the health and attitudes of the Palestinians only further undermines the long-term prospects for peace.

**GAY CATHOLIC PRIESTS**

The Italian Bishops' conference now says gay men are not barred from seminary, provided they are prepared to remain celibate. Under Pope Francis there has been a gradual change in the Catholic church's attitude to gay people. In some German Catholic parishes, clergy are blessing gay relationships with the permission of their bishop.

**EARLY MARRIAGE**

Walking to Tesco's in the High Street with my two youngest grandchildren, Anna, four, and Alexander, eight, to buy comics, we pass a wedding shop. One wedding dress in the window had red roses down the front. 'Grandpa, I'd like that wedding dress,' said Anna. On the walk home, passing the same shop, she announced, 'Grandpa I will get married... but not to Alexander.'



Cyclone Greater and more frequent storms are the result of a warming climate.

**THE PRICE OF HOT AIR**



This year's Lent Appeal will support fellow Christians in Angola and Mozambique, Many of them have lost everything due to climate change, as Dennis Wilmot reports.

The Diocese of London has partnered the Anglican church in Angola and Mozambique since 1995. And this Lent the diocese's appeal is supporting our brothers and sisters in Africa through the Angola London Mozambique Association (ALMA).

These two countries, particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, provide a unique context for reflection during Lent as we consider Climate Justice and the challenge of living to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew life of the Earth.

Cyclones Chido (December 2024) and Dikeledi (January 2025) struck northern Mozambique, devastating Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces. Nampula is where St James's link parish of Mecuburi is located. These areas, already grappling with an Islamist insurgency since 2017 that has displaced over a million people, have suffered extensive damage.

**Churches destroyed**

In Cabo Delgado, 17 of 19 congregation buildings were destroyed, including Pemba Church, which had previously served as a distribution centre for people displaced by the insurgency. Inhambane Diocese, situated on Mozambique's Indian Ocean coast, battles severe coastal erosion. The diocesan headquarters sits precariously close to the ocean, which encroaches further each year.

Rev Aurelio Uqueio, the Green Anglican lead for

Southern Mozambique, has spearheaded mangrove replanting to protect the coast. These efforts, supported by ALMA and led enthusiastically by Bishop Emanuel, include interim measures like using sand-filled tyres to stabilise the shoreline while mangrove beds are established.

**Election protests**

To make matters worse, Mozambique has been ripped apart by demonstrations against the election result last year. Police cracked down on protesters with live bullets, tear gas and arbitrary arrests. Many were killed or wounded and hundreds arrested. Amnesty International said no one should be detained, injured or killed for simply protesting.

Southern Angola is facing its worst drought in 40 years, compounded by six years of poor harvests. Crop failures have caused food prices to triple since last year. Water shortages have left 1.2 million people without access to clean water, forcing many families to migrate.

**Our Lent Appeal**

The Diocese of Nampula, including our link church in Mecuburi, has launched an appeal to assist those who have lost everything in the cyclones, but they have not sought help to rebuild 17 churches, priests' homes, and accommodation for the elderly. Could we further support this rebuilding effort? Please give what you can.

Go to: <https://bit.ly/StJLent25>



**FRIENDS OF ST JAMES WITH CHRISTOPHER CARSON**



IT IS only eight months since the new Friends of St James was launched, but we have been busy creating a whole year of events to put us on map and reach out to our community. We hope you agree that the Spring/Summer Season has something for everyone.

I will be hosting a pre-summer Wine Tasting on 12 April, a fun evening that will help you choose wines for all your summer events: garden parties, barbecues and picnics!

On 9 May we are privileged to have Angus Fraser, one of England's most consistent seam bowlers, entertaining us with his sharp wit and insightful opinion about cricket.

Following the enormous success of our first ceilidh last autumn, we are delighted to be doing it all again with the same band (expanded to include an accordion).

If music and drama are your thing, then I point you to one of our autumn events. Carmen Co's recent three-night run in Barnes was a sell-out, so book early for this little gem as they present *A Pocket Opera*.

If you live in Hampton Hill, a brochure should have landed on your doormat. You can also find them in High Street shops, and everything is on the Friends' website.

**Friends get discounts!**

And if you haven't yet joined, do consider becoming a Friend of St James. Membership starts at £30pa and among the benefits will be 10% discounts on tickets (including the Early Bird offers), advance notice of events, regular newsletters by email, and invitations to special events.

Of course, the Friends is much more than a membership scheme. It's primary aim is to bring the community together, using the church as a focal point. If you care about Hampton Hill, your membership will help us to maintain the beautiful building and continue to invest in the churchyard as a haven for flora and fauna.



*Christopher*

Leader, Friends of St James

To join or book tickets, go to: [friendsofstjames.org.uk](https://www.friendsofstjames.org.uk)



# GIVING BACK

## What it means to be one of the UK's 15m volunteers



WE are so lucky to live in an area with so many historic houses and buildings to visit and enjoy. Some are owned by, and have the financial backing of, the National Trust or English Heritage (and they too need volunteers) but others like Turner's House and Strawberry Hill House are essentially self-supporting and rely heavily on volunteers to keep them open and available to the public.

Both houses have benefited from National Lottery Heritage Fund help to restore them to some of their former glory and now they must be maintained. I have volunteered at both these gems for the past seven years, working typically 2 or 3 hour shifts serving in the shop and ticketing; as a room steward; tour support (assisting the tour guide with their groups); helping with fundraising events, such as weddings, concerts, quizzes, wine tastings and flower festivals; and more recently at Strawberry Hill House helping with bookkeeping in the office.

Both houses also need volunteers to be tour guides, work with the 'sewing bee', work in their gardens and help with outreach to local schools and groups.

### Strawberry Hill House

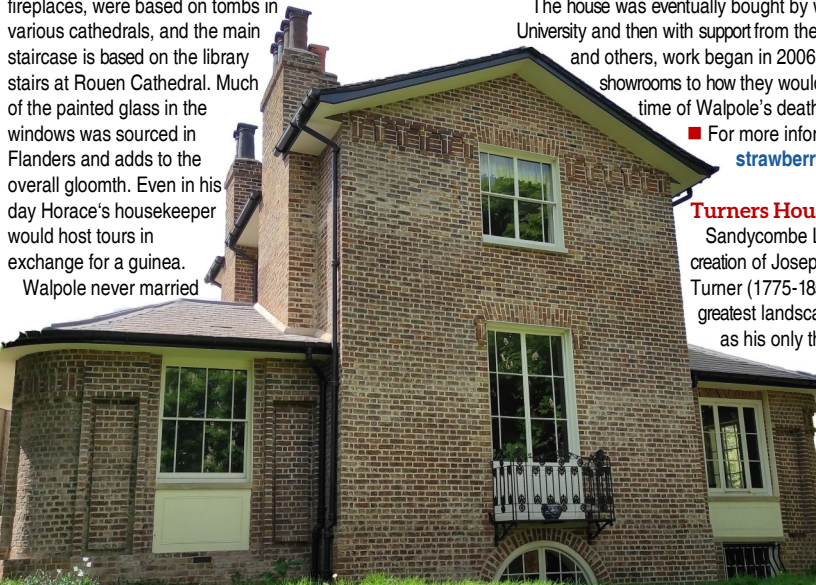
In 1747 Horace Walpole (1717-1797) bought the modest *Chopp'd Straw Hall* and its estate of five acres for £776.10s. The house was in a perfect position by the river in Twickenham, which was very fashionable and only a two hour 'drive' from London. Horace was a pivotal figure in 18th century society, literature, art and architecture.

The third son of Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister, Horace was establishing himself as an MP, a 'man of letters', a collector and author of the first gothic novel *The Castle of Otranto*. He was also the creator of the first private printing press (the Strawberry Hill Press).

During his 50 years at Strawberry Hill he extended and developed the house into his 'little Gothic Castle' steeped in 'gloomth' (a mixture of warmth and gloom!) and created the finest example in Britain of Georgian Gothic Revival architecture and interior decoration, where he housed his vast collection of antiquaries.

Many of the interior features of the house, particularly the fireplaces, were based on tombs in various cathedrals, and the main staircase is based on the library stairs at Rouen Cathedral. Much of the painted glass in the windows was sourced in Flanders and adds to the overall gloomth. Even in his day Horace's housekeeper would host tours in exchange for a guinea.

Walpole never married



Artist Turner's House in Twickenham



Shopping opportunity Liz at Strawberry Hill House

# THE ART OF DESIGN IN HOUSES

Richmond upon Thames has been a favourite retreat of the rich and famous for hundreds of years, but saving the buildings doesn't come cheap and relies upon volunteers like **Liz Wilmot** to keep them open for future generations to enjoy.

and on his death the house and contents passed to his niece and eventually to George, the seventh Earl Waldegrave and his wife Frances. In 1842 George decided to sell Horace's beloved collection to refill his coffers. Horace's treasures were distributed far and wide, but the house retains some of his eccentricities in the fabric and the interior decor.

The house was eventually bought by what is now St Mary's University and then with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and others, work began in 2006 to restore all 25 showrooms to how they would have looked at the time of Walpole's death.

■ For more information go to: [strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](http://strawberryhillhouse.org.uk).

### Turners House

Sandycombe Lodge is the unique creation of Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851), probably England's greatest landscape painter. It stands as his only three-dimensional work.

In 1790 Turner first exhibited work at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. At 27 he became a full member of the Royal Academy and by 1805 was attracting commissions and



leading a very busy professional life. In late 1807 he was appointed the Academy's Professor of Perspective. Although he had premises with his own gallery in London he bought two parcels of land near the river in Twickenham in 1807 where he would design and build a small house for the larger plot, influenced by his great friend and architect Sir John Soane.

Here he could retreat from the pressures of the London art world and spend time sketching, fishing on the river and entertaining his close friends. His ideas for the house and its interior are illustrated in his sketch books of 1810-12 and show a broad-eaved central two-storey block with single storey side wings and a basement beneath, but so busy was he that it took until 1813 to complete the house.

The house was home to his 'Old Dad', who retired from his profession as barber and wig maker, but Turner himself did not live permanently in the house and there is no evidence that he painted there. The house was sold in 1826 and passed through many owners and had several extensions.

During World War Two it was requisitioned as a 'shadow factory', producing airman's goggles. The heavy machinery used caused such damage that it faced demolition, but in 1947 the house was bought by Professor Harold Livermore who brought it back to life. He planned to gift the house to the nation and before he died in 2010 the Turner's House Trust was set up. It raised £2.4m and removed the extensions, returning the house to its original design. Work finished in 2017 when the house was opened to the public.

When I retired I knew I wanted to volunteer and my interest in the arts led me to these two roles, which I really enjoy.

■ For more information go to: [turnershouse.org](http://turnershouse.org). To mark the 250th anniversary of Turner's birth, *Beauty, Birds and Beasts*, from 23 April-26 October in the house, explores a lesser known side of his art – his fascination with birds and animals.