

MAY 2024 CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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**'People forgot I was human'**  
**you can change that**

**150th  
Birthday  
Gala  
Concert  
(page 5)**



**Book  
for our  
007  
fun-raiser  
(page 5)**



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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).

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-

### 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.

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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.

Tel: 073 6928 0040 Email: ftrtimmarwood@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.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

In finding words to describe our weather over the past few week, a 1980s Scottish pop group came to mind: *Wet, Wet, Wet!*

Hopefully things will improve and we can enjoy the spring flowers, particularly in the churchyard with the bluebells in full flower.

Over the past few months it has not been possible to walk through the courtyard and into the churchyard due to the temporary boiler making it necessary to seal this area off for safety. The boiler has now gone and we hope that by the autumn a new system will be in place. Many people told me they missed being able to walk this way and enjoy the peaceful setting.

As Easter was early this year we have a single May issue, enabling us to focus on Christian Aid in the centre pages. Gone are the days of street collections so we have to think of other ways to raise awareness and the much-needed cash. You will see our new take on fund-raising and Christian Aid envelopes will be in church.

Best Wishes

Janet

Editor



Cover photos: Aline fought against poverty with Christian Aid's help (see pages 4 & 5).

## 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. \*£1.25 a copy

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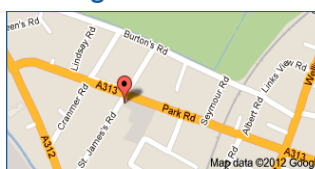
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## Finding us



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:

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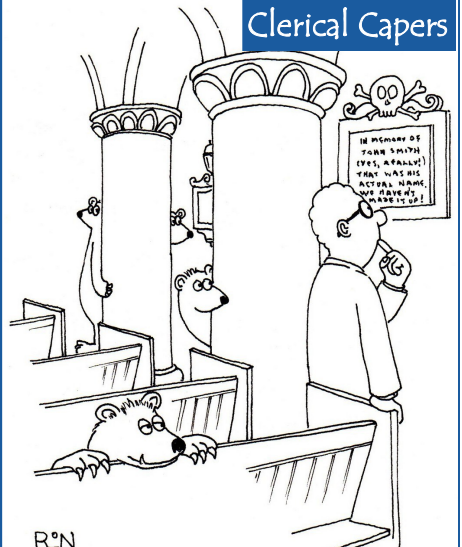


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## Clerical Capers



R.N

Arthur spent a long time in church looking for his forbears





# THREE INTO ONE GOES!



The Trinity can be tricky to grasp, but **Derek Winterburn** explains why it is worth the effort

**M**ost of us learned French at school. We have long historical connections with France, and it is the second most-visited country by Britons. However, twice as many people visit Spain (and Spanish-speaking countries), so it is not surprising that Spanish is offered in 75% of our state schools, and is now the most popular A-level language chosen. Spanish is reckoned to be easier to learn too. However, the easiest languages for English speakers to learn are said to be Norwegian and Dutch, which don't feature on any school's syllabus!

## Biblical languages

When we think about the main two Biblical languages, Koine Greek and Hebrew, there are major differences. Although Greek has its own alphabet, it is not so different to ours; Hebrew is different in every way.

English has many words that can be traced back to similar words in Greek — perhaps 15,000 including *alphabet*! — but we have borrowed very few words from Hebrew (e.g. camel and sack). So it is easier to get 'up and running' much more quickly reading the New Testament in Greek, than the Old Testament in Hebrew.

However, Hebrew in some respects does not get much more complicated. Greek, on the other hand, seems to have more and more irregularities and nuances. So broadly speaking one can get more immediate satisfaction reading the Bible in an original language if one starts with Greek. With persistence, however, someone with a grasp of Hebrew can read much, much more of the Bible.

My point is this: sometimes a subject initially seems too complicated, but getting past the first experiences of bewilderment and bafflement, has its reward. All the practising to play a piece by Mozart, all the training to reach the top of the mountain, all the vocab lessons to speak fluently...

## Trinity Sunday

At the end of May we celebrate Trinity Sunday. While we speak of the Trinity every Sunday, *this day* — after considering the Son (Christmas to Easter) and the Spirit (on Whit Sunday) — we pull them together in preparation for 'Ordinary Time' when our scope is more diffuse. (The season of Ordinary Time is not defined as being 'not special'; *ordinalis* means numbered, so the season is marked by being counted out, rather than having special titles.)

**I suspect many Christians file the Trinity as "likely to be true, but not useful", like the Standard Model of Particle Physics. When told it is of cardinal importance, we say "Good for you", but we have other things to do in our lives**

However, having one Sunday designated Trinity causes many preachers problems. A common perception is that the doctrine of the Trinity is 'difficult'. It is either explained in arcane philosophical terms (substance, person and worse) or by trivial illustrations (ice, water, steam) that are misleading.

I suspect many Christians just file it as 'likely to be true, but not useful' like other ideas such as, the 'Standard Model of Particle Physics' or 'Neoclassical economics'. When told by theologians that the Doctrine of the Trinity 'is of cardinal importance for

spirituality, liturgy, ethics, for the whole of Christian self-understanding' (Archbishop Rowan Williams) we say, 'Good for you, but I have other things to do with my life'.

Glen Scrivener's new book, *How to See Life*, began with the Trinity. Scrivener is a respected evangelist who has excelled in using new media to communicate to a non-Christian audience. Why would he start a presentation with this hard to grasp doctrine — that God is 'three in one'? (Why go the Hebrew hard route when there are much easier options, like Greek?)

## Where to start

The answer is that if our thinking-through begins with 'God' and does not get to Trinity quickly, God the Father is powerful but distant, Christ his sacrificed trouble-shooter and the Spirit, well, a distant third.

If our starting point is the Spirit, God as we experience him, then that entry point might narrow down what we are open to receive about the rest of God from Scripture and the Tradition. Rather, if we start with Jesus, and understand Jesus as the clearest revelation of God the Father, and the Spirit as the one who takes on the work of Christ to introduce us into the ongoing life of the Godhead, now and for ever, then we arrive at a broader, more balanced understanding of what God has done, and will do for us. And perhaps we are rescued from confusions later on.

We need to be thinking Trinitarianly all the time, not just once a year. We don't need to be taught full-blown theology from the cradle, but each of us can reflect on how God has connected with us in Trinitarian ways — forgiveness, personal presence, how he has comforted or challenged us...

We can take it at our own speed, but don't shy away from the 'difficult doctrine'. What Gregory the Great said about scripture can be applied to the Trinity. It is 'like a river, broad and deep, shallow enough here for the lamb to go wading, but deep enough there for the elephant to swim.'



## Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Livestreamed on Facebook

Together 3:30pm

Our shorter, all-age service, making way for Messy Church once a month

Messy Church 3:30pm **9 Jun**

## Mon-Fri (not Wed)

Morning Prayer 9am

## Wednesday (Not 8 May)

Midweek Communion 9:30am

## Mondays

Ark Playgroup 10am-12pm

£3 for the first child, £1 for any others.

(Not 6, 27 May)

NHS Hearing Aid Clinic 1-3pm

Free service (20 May; 3, 17 Jun)

## Tuesdays

Connections Café 10:30am-12:30pm

Join us for coffee, cake and conversation.

## Wednesdays

Hard Questions 2pm

**29 May** Israel, Palestine, Hamas

**12 Jun** Assisted dying

**26 Jun** Our country's future

The Romans Course 7:30pm

**8, 22 May; 5, 19 June; 3 July**

Paul's letter has changed hearts and lives, and whole societies. Addressing big themes such as sin, grace, salvation and mission.

## Walk to Lunch

Saturday 4 May 9:30am

Contact Derek for more details.

## Ascension Day Thu 9 May

Midweek Communion 9:30am

Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral 5pm

Derek will be preaching at St Paul's.

Come and support him — free entry!

## Evensong at St James's

Sunday 12 May 4pm

## Annual Meeting

Sunday 19 May 11am

## 150th Birthday Gala

Saturday 1 June 7:30pm

Celebrating the 150th birthday of the organ. Thom Stanbury (organ), Katie Milton (soprano), Dave Price (trumpet).

Tickets £15 and £25: <https://bit.ly/StJGala>

## Parish Quiet Day

Saturday 15 June 9:30am

St Mary's Hampton

Join us for part of the *Way of Life* course.





Aline Nibogora at a business meeting, with her three children, and the house that she is building to change all their lives. Pictures: CA/Armstrong Too



# PUSH BACK POVERTY



Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival. She was abused, homeless and hungry. But driven by hope, faith and the love of her children, she fought against the inhumanity of poverty to build a new life. As **Liz Wilmot** discovered, the appeal gives us seven days and so many ways to transform lives and bring hope.

**S**ometimes the simplest things can make a world of difference. Every year, people all around the UK come up with fundraising ideas to support Christian Aid — from coffee mornings to talent shows, cycling tours to sponsored treks. At St James's we are hosting a James Bond-themed evening with cocktails (and mocktails) delivered, naturally, shaken, not stirred. There's more about this in the panel on the opposite page.

The appeal gives us seven days and so many ways to make a difference to people in the most vulnerable countries around the world.

the simplest things can make a world of difference.

In a patriarchal society where men dominate in almost every aspect, life is particularly challenging for women. They've been conditioned to be dependent on and dominated by men.

## Tools to break free

But Aline found the strength and determination to push back against the injustices she was facing. She went to a three-day community workshop where

Christian Aid-funded trainers taught people about village savings and loans associations.

'I came out of it with amazing knowledge and skills. During the training, I stayed focussed, determined to not miss out on anything. I really liked the teachers' methodology; they restored my sense of hope and energy to take on initiatives. I started working hard, so I would not be dependent on anyone.'

With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally;

then used her profits to buy a bicycle to transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield.

## Now a grocery wholesaler

Aline is now a grocery wholesaler; she's been reunited with three of her sons and lives on her own plot of land in a village in Kayogoro, in Makamba Province. She is planning to expand the business and is building a home for her family — keeping alive the hope that one day all her children will be reunited.

'I bought some solar panels,' Aline said. 'We now have electricity and the children are able to see to do their homework in the evenings. It's true there's still not enough food, so there's no lack of problems, but I'm doing what I can to get by, before we are able to harvest.'

'I enjoy spending time with my children. We make plans for the future and we pray together. This is important; we are still alive thanks to God's grace. God comforts you through troubled times and gives you hope for a better future.'

Aline is also now the chairperson of her own village's savings and loan association and has helped 25 other families. 'It's important for me to give back and train others who didn't get the opportunity. That way our community can grow, and hopefully our country too.'

## Aline was beaten regularly

Our global neighbours are amazing, in so many ways, at transforming their lives. Take Aline Nibogora, 35, and living in Burundi. She was married young and when she was 14 she gave birth to the first of her six children. Her husband was violent and beat her regularly — one day it got so bad, she fled.

'He would often jeer that he would kill me and bury me without anyone knowing.' Forced to leave her children behind, Aline wandered the streets trying to stay close by, asking anyone for a place to sleep.

'Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult,' she explained. 'People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow.'

Every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives; sometimes



Aline Nibogora transporting baked bricks from the brick kiln for her new house



Aline says the support of Christian Aid has empowered the whole community. 'We are not alone in our initiatives. Before, we couldn't see opportunities around us. Now we can see positive and significant changes in our lives. We can be independent and live on our own thanks to your help. I really thank you for that from the very bottom of my heart.'

#### Helping people out of poverty

Christian Aid supporters helped make this transformation for Aline and her neighbours – as well as millions of other people in the most vulnerable communities around the world. Last year, the organisation reached 3.3 million people through 275 programmes, from savings and loans associations to farming co-operatives, and climate disaster risk training to healthcare schemes.

This Christian Aid Week, from May 12-18, supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action, helps transform lives.

Many of the projects Christian Aid funds are long-term and designed to combat poverty and help communities tackle issues like the climate crisis. Burundi, like many similar countries, is heavily reliant on agriculture – and is one of the least prepared to tackle climate emergencies, including droughts, floods and landslides.

The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges families face. More than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty, and over half of children are chronically malnourished.

Philip Galgalo, Director of Christian Aid Burundi, said: 'In the areas where we work, people without their own small business or income will typically head out on an empty stomach each morning to look for casual work to buy food for the evening. Most only eat once a day. It's not uncommon to live in a one-bedroom house built of unbaked mud brick walls with an iron sheet roof. Unstable buildings like this are exceptionally vulnerable to collapse during the landslides and fierce storms which the climate crisis is making more frequent.'

'Most families don't have a water supply, so they'll collect water from rivers or communal water points; the threat of water-borne cholera is ever present. In most instances, neighbouring families share toilets, but it's not uncommon for there to be no communal toilet, forcing people to nearby bushes. Similarly, there are no bathrooms or showers. It's a fragile existence that pushes many to the brink of survival.'

#### What we can do...

There are three ways you can play your part in our annual fundraising campaign:

- Buy tickets to our James Bond evening (see below). Why not invite your friends and neighbours along too?
- Sponsor the cycle ride (see below)
- Make a donation to CA Week

Whatever you do, don't do nothing. Pray, donate, take part in our event. Together we can show the world we care and individual people matter.

## MISSION: POSSIBLE

### Support Christian Aid Week

#### Shaken, not stirred

**Saturday 11 May 007-9pm**

Join us for an evening of all-things Bond in aid of Christian Aid Week. We'll be serving cocktails and mocktails, along with snacks. There will also be a fun quiz to test your knowledge of James Bond. If you have a tuxedo or cocktail dress come dressed to impress!

#### BOOK NOW



Tickets cost £15 and include a drink and snacks. Go to: <https://bit.ly/Shaken24> or scan the QR code above.

#### 70k in May!

Liz Wilmot is marking her 70th birthday with a 70k sponsored cycle ride. Let's

give her a real incentive to complete the journey.

To sponsor her, go to <https://bit.ly/StCAride> or scan the QR code below.



#### CA WEEK DONATIONS

To donate directly to our appeal, go to: <https://bit.ly/CAWeek24> or scan the QR code.



# Around the Spire

## Gala Concert with organ centre stage

**THE** first ancestor of the organ at St James's was installed in 1874 — so it's time to celebrate its 150th birthday with a gala of music for the organ and some special guests.

Thom Stanbury, organist at St James's, is joined by soprano Katie Milton and trumpeter Dave Price for a fundraising celebration concert of music by Handel, Bach, Mozart, Vieme and others, together with some surprising extra musical anniversaries.

Thom said: 'The organ was originally built by Bishop & Son, for St Peter's, Eaton Square in the 1830s, and

bought for £150 in 1874 by our first vicar. For the next 36 years, the church employed an organ-blower, starting salary £6 a year. We have moved on, but the organ has survived when many churches have replaced theirs with a keyboard. That has to be something to celebrate!'

The concert is on **Saturday 1 June at 7:30pm** (doors open at 7pm). Tickets from £15, with a limited number of £25 VIP tickets with reserved seating and an interval glass of prosecco and a slice of cake).

From left: Thom, Katie and Dave



Book now at: <https://bit.ly/StJGala> or use the QR code.

£15 standard tickets

£25 VIP tickets (reserved seats, prosecco and cake)



## Service that never falls on deaf ears

**TWELVE** million people across the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus of whom two-thirds are aged 60 and over.

Hearing aids could help about six million people, but only two million have them. If you are one of the lucky ones who has seen an audiologist and got aids, you will know that they need regular maintenance, which can be time-consuming if you are travelling long distances to NHS clinics.

That's where St James's steps in, hosting an NHS walk-in service run in partnership with the diocese.

What has it got to do with us? Audiology-trained Hearing Champion

David Thompson says, 'Is it not the teaching of the church to care for everyone?'

David wears aids, and brings 39 years' experience to a role he cares passionately about.

Clinics run from 1-3pm on the first and third Mondays of the month (excluding Bank Holidays). They help users avoid long waits for hospital appointments, as well as the time and cost of travel.

'The clinic can resolve over 95% of issues,' says David. 'Many have the annoying problem of feedback. We can help with that, as well as uncomfortable fits and blocked tubes. We can replace batteries, provide advice and guidance, and even offer home visits for the less mobile.'



## Chestnut Sunday is back on a smaller scale

**THE** Friends of Bushy and Home Parks are reviving Chestnut Sunday on 12 May.

It will capture both the historic and traditional spirit of this Victorian family day out, celebrating the blossom on the horse chestnut trees. Londoners were encouraged to enjoy the fresh air without venturing too far from the city.

The event won't be on the scale of past years as park staff are stretched, carrying

out an unprecedented amount of improvement work held up by Covid.

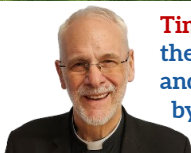
Instead, the Friends are encouraging people to bring picnics and enjoy guided nature walks led by Park Rangers and Friends, and there will be a photographic exhibition of the wildlife of the park. The event runs from 12-4pm on the grass area between the Diana Fountain car park and the playground.





Glastonbury Abbey

## POETIC LICENCE



**Tim Marwood** explores the origins of *Jerusalem* and the challenges faced by congregation and organist!

**T**he words of this hymn, now known as *Jerusalem*, were written by the poet William Blake in 1804 as part of his long poem *Milton*. Blake wrote much about his dreams and

visions and has been described as a mystic. Certainly his engravings have a mystical nature.

In Blake's later writing a theme emerged of 'the revelation of forgiveness through Christ' (Bryan Bradley).

In *Jerusalem* there are Biblical references, including 'chariots of fire' (2 Kings 2:11). Blake drew also upon the myth that Jesus accompanied Joseph of Arimathea to Glastonbury, where the Abbey is still a place of pilgrimage today.



Mystical engravings

as a hymn at all, but rather as an English national anthem. Rugby and cricket are two sports that play it before matches.

Parry's tune is an excellent partner to Blake's stirring words, but like any hymn it needs to be sung well. I am happy to include it in services

provided there is a musician who can both express through their skill the subtleties of the instrumental passages and bring the singers in at the right point!

I have memories of this hymn being sung as the fitting peroration of many funerals and civic services. My favourite is when we come to the end of a wedding service. I am not sure who is most relieved, myself or the groom. Parry's familiar opening bars are successfully negotiated, and the congregation break in...

*And did those feet in ancient time,  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God,  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?*

*And did the countenance divine,  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here,  
Among those dark satanic mills?*

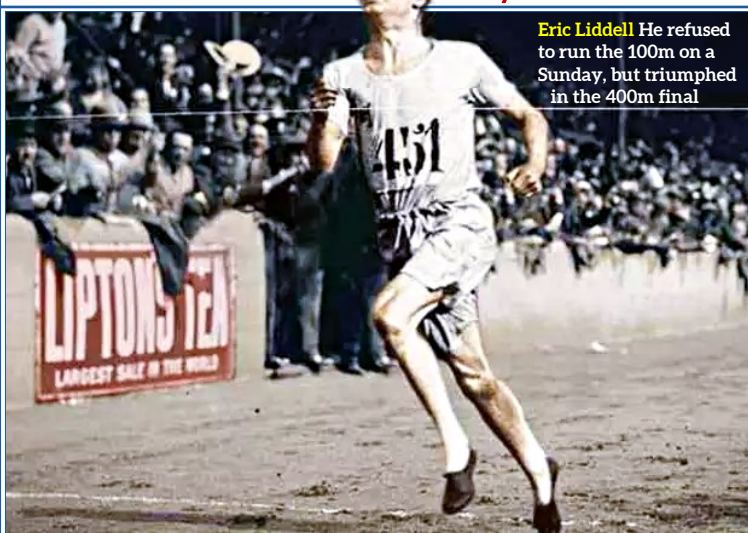
*Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!*

*I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand;  
Till we have built Jerusalem,  
In England's green and pleasant land.*



Sir Hubert Parry

William Blake



**Eric Liddell** He refused to run the 100m on a Sunday, but triumphed in the 400m final

## NEVER ON A SUNDAY



**Richard Melville** recalls Eric Liddell's win despite his self-imposed race ban

**S**ometimes church matters are quite detailed, especially when it comes to balancing the books for the various charities and clubs. May 1924's *Spire* notes that the Girls' Club income was £2 12s 2d and the expenditure included £1 5s 0d on *Social* and 2 shillings on *Key and Game*, what ever that might be!

### Solemn forty days *My Dear People,*

Looking back over the Lent that has gone, I am more than thankful that the good congregations were maintained all through the solemn Forty Days, including Good Friday. We were particularly fortunate in having Mr. Browell [vicar of St Dunstan's, Feltham, and linked to Browells Lane] to conduct the Three Hours' Service. His addresses were most practical and helpful, and many have spoken in grateful appreciation of them.

The choir did themselves and Mr Russe great credit in their rendering of Stainer's *Crucifixion*. We hope in the future that they will be heard to as great advantage in other works.

I am afraid this, month's magazine will be somewhat dull as it is full of accounts, and figures are not as a rule interesting.

To keep the Assessment scheme [Planned Giving] in its present flourishing condition, it is necessary to add to the number who at present have assessed themselves for this year. For various reasons some people are not able to continue their assessment, and we have to rely on others to take their place.

I hope many more will join the scheme this year as I feel sure it is the only possible way of running the accounts of the church on a business-like footing. One always looks forward to the time when this scheme will entirely displace collections in church.

*Frederick Harvey*

### School football

The Football Team of our Day Schools has been doing wonderfully well during the

season, and has managed to get into the semi-final of the Middlesex County Cup. We congratulate Mr Willis and his lads on their success and hope they may win the Cup.

### Parish Wants List

1. A Parish Hall.
  2. A Bier for use in Church at funerals, (approximate cost £30.)
  3. A piano for the Infants' School
- [The list kept appearing over several months, often with the same items.]

### In the news 100 years ago...

■ **4 May** VIII Summer Olympic Games open at the Olympic Stadium of Colombes, Paris. Notable successes were the 'Flying Finns' who dominated the long-distance running. Paavo Nurmi won the 1500m and 5,000m (held with only an hour between them). Ville Ritola won the 10,000m and the 3,000m steeplechase.



Harold Abrahams wins

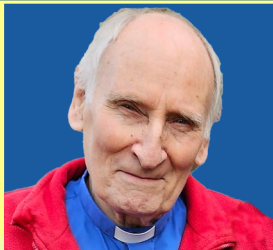
The British dominated the shorter events. Harold Abrahams, above, won the 100m. His rival, Eric Liddell, a devout Christian, dropped out of his strongest event because the final was scheduled for a Sunday. He went on to win the 400m. Their stories were depicted in the 1981 movie *Chariots of Fire*.

■ **12 May** Tony Hancock is born. He was an influential English comedian and the star of the classic BBC comedy *Hancock's Half Hour*. It began its life as a radio show in 1954, before also becoming a TV show featuring such comedy names as Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Hattie Jacques.



Tony Hancock





## OPINION

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

### BUYING A CONSTITUENCY?

If I had been a member of the Conservative Party I would have voted for Jeremy Hunt over Boris Johnson to be Prime Minister. I was relieved when he became Chancellor of the Exchequer after Liz Truss's 47 days as PM. He comes across as a thoughtful politician and careful chancellor.

So I guess I was shocked to read that he had contributed £107,000 of his own money to his South West Surrey Constituency party (his 2019 majority was almost 9,000) to help him get re-elected. Shortly afterwards came the news that £15 million was contributed by the entrepreneur Frank Hester to the Conservative Party. Hester's remarks about Diane Abbott MP — how she made him 'want to hate all black women', and that she 'should be shot' — he recognised as rude. How much is politics today a matter of buying influence and power?

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Last year in a Warrington park, 16-year-old Brianna Ghey was brutally stabbed to death by two teenagers, one of whom, Scarlett Jenkinson, she thought was her friend. Two days after Scarlett was sentenced to 22 years in prison, Brianna's mother Esther said on BBC News, 'I don't blame Scarlett's mother for what her child has done', and she was open to meeting her mother, Emma. Shortly after they met, Esther Ghey said, 'It was a positive and respectful meeting.' They discussed the challenges of parenting and how she would be willing to campaign with Emma on the dangers for children of mobile phones and the internet. As Professor Lawrence Sherman, a leading expert on restorative justice, said, 'I've never heard anything like this before. And for it to have happened so quickly.'

### ROAD THROUGH GAZA

In February Israeli forces built highway 749 through the interior of Gaza to 'defend the area, to raid through the enemy's lines, to prevent movement from South to North, and to control it in a very precise way'. A university campus and a hospital were demolished in the process. I suspect many of us would agree with the Roman Catholic weekly the *Tablet*, in its March leader: 'Israel has the right to defend itself against those who would seek to destroy it, but its actions in Gaza have gone far beyond reasonable self-defence. Israel must change course. The British government must say so, and act accordingly.'

As someone who first visited the West Bank, Palestine, in 1967, and often since, I remember that for every Jew killed in the West Bank since that time, 50 Palestinians have lost their lives.

### EVERYONE IS POLITICAL

'Everyone is political in some way,' writes Alastair Campbell in his book, *But what can I do? Why politics has gone so wrong*. Who does not have an opinion about tax levels, about crime in their communities, about the state of the roads, about the quality of our leaders, about racism, about the education of their children, about Putin, about China and America, about the impact of social media?

We may think we do not do politics, but politics does us. We might as well make it a two-way thing.

### PORTILLO IN CONCRETE

Michael Portillo, former Conservative minister, now TV railway-travelling star, describes how when he was canvassing in a new area in his constituency, he walked up a drive, and only when he had knocked on the door did he realise that he had trodden on the newly-concreted path. When the door opened he said he was the new *Labour* candidate!

## CHARITIES WE SUPPORT WELCARE / BISHOP WAND



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



**Derek Winterburn** reports back on how our regular giving is supporting two of our long-term partnerships

St James's was pleased to welcome the Chief Executive Officer of Welcare, Anna Khan, to our Sunday morning service in February. This was an opportunity to breathe the fresh life into our longstanding link with Welcare, hearing first hand about the work of the charity.

Ms Kahn spoke about how the charity now seeks to build on the strengths of parents in a challenging world. Some might wonder if there is a need for a church organisation like this, when boroughs have social workers.

However, it is more flexible and can be more innovative than the statutory sector. Their workers are able to support parents at an earlier stage, and if needed accompany them longer. Again, standing outside the council structures, Welcare is able to link professionals from different departments and agencies.

Ms Khan offered a very striking example of an early intervention in Lambeth, Welcare is working with younger siblings of youths involved in knife crime — to prevent it spreading through the family.

We were able to present Ms Khan with St James's annual donation of £1250.



Bishop Wand pupils

### Bishop Wand Church of England School

Like Welcare, Bishop Wand School has a heritage that dates back to the 19th century. Before the state developed its own school system almost all primary schools were run by churches — the vast majority by the Church of England.

Through the decades 'church schools' have maintained a distinctive approach to education as the government required education for every child, and then extended schooling to the secondary phase.

Bishop Wand was opened in 1969 to serve the families of Spelthorne, Hounslow and Richmond. Although there are many primary church schools in the area, there were no secondary schools nearby. The site in Sunbury was chosen because St Paul's Cathedral, who owned the land, gave it to the school.

Church Schools are inspected by OFSTED and closely follow the National Curriculum. They also face inspection by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist

Schools). It looks at a school to evaluate how well it is reflecting its Christian vision in its curriculum. Last year SIAMS graded it as 'Excellent'. It described the Chaplaincy Team as 'central to this culture'. Our donation supports work of the Chaplaincy.

## First Milo ambulance



OUR friends at St Luke's Hospital, Milo, Tanzania, have received their first ambulance, courtesy of the district council. Dr Hilary Murray said it was in recognition of the valuable work that the hospital was carrying out.

Although not new, the vehicle is functional and has undergone a full service and has a new set of tyres.

The ambulance is being used for the outreach clinics, improving what can be offered in rural locations.

The hospital's catchment area is made up of six villages and serves 14,000 people. Milo is one of the highest villages in the area, being over 700 feet above sea level.

St James's has supported St Luke's for many years and seen it grow and develop. It has also been receiving greater funds from national and local government in Tanzania.

## REGISTERS

### FEBRUARY

#### FUNERALS

- 9 Sheila Agnes Best, 81, Staines-Upon-Thames
- 19 Angela Margaret Ives, 91, Twickenham
- 20 Ann Clerke Crane, 89, Weybridge

### MARCH

#### FUNERALS

- 7 Tina Ann Rabbetts, 67, Hampton
- 27 Stephen William Creigh-Tyte, 73, Hampton

#### INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 30 John William Arnold, 97, and Barbara Alice Arnold, 94, Hampton Hill







# SIMPLE PLEASURES

The things we do when we take time out

## FAITHFUL BUILDERS

To visit a cathedral is an overwhelming experience. It must be that some of the faith of the builders rubs off onto me and it is extraordinary that the wherewithal could be found to build one from a population as little as two million for the oldest ones from the Norman period. The stained glass (especially medieval) and the sculptures round the doors can be wonderful. Ones at the top of my list are Canterbury, York, Westminster Abbey, both cathedrals in my home city of Liverpool, and, above all, Chartres in France.

## FELL WALKING



I went on a couple of school trips to the Lake District, staying at youth hostels (don't find yourself cleaning the porridge pans!) We walked up the main peaks to be rewarded for the exertion by breathtaking views, weather permitting. Later, in North Wales, I had a go at rock climbing: far too hazardous to

be enjoyable, so gave it a miss.

## SCOTLAND

Margaret and I had two long trips to Scotland, the first motoring to Oban and taking a series of ferries to Outer Hebridean islands including Skye and Iona, and the second to Orkney, using the car where possible. We also had a family holiday on Arran involving driving hell-for-leather to Ardrossan to catch the ferry which, in fact, wasn't running due to bad weather. Instead we found a family room for the night with the dog sleeping in the middle of the bedroom! At other times I visited various distilleries for work, to commission equipment, with some good walking during time off.

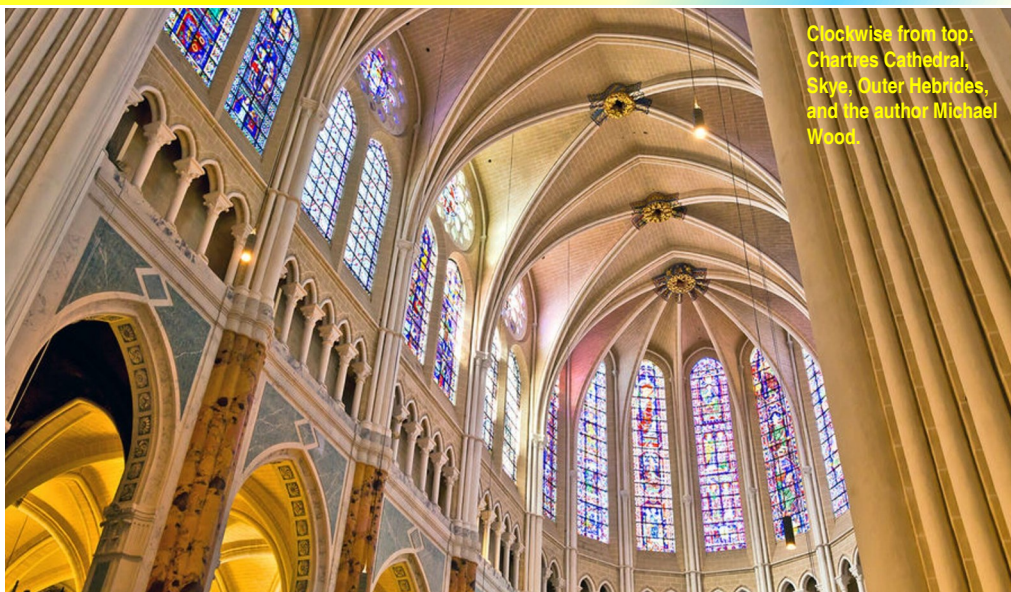
## CHORAL SINGING

Choral singing has been a hobby of mine since I was at school, and I indulged in it at Cambridge, being in the big choral society under Boris Ord. I also sang in a special chorus with London soloists in Kings College Chapel. The two works I remember were Bach's *B minor Mass* and his *St John Passion*. Later in the fifties in Birmingham I was in the City Choir under Sir David Wilcocks, pictured, who later gave *Carols from King's* a global audience. Among the works performed was *Belshazzar's Feast*, a difficult, but exciting, work.



## LOCAL VOICES

I have divided my time between church choirs in Twickenham and St James's and Cantanti Camerati (now Richmond Chamber Choir), led by the late Geoffrey Bowyer. I sang with them for some 50 years, part songs, especially madrigals, but later a wider range, including the annual *Just a Song at Twilight* which many people will remember: it was a big part of my life. When Geoffrey was organist at St James's we usually performed Handel's *Messiah* at Easter and everyone who wanted sang a solo, which worked surprisingly well. We also put on Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* in the church hall with home-grown talent singing the parts and choruses with around 100 people in the audience. Great fun.



Clockwise from top: Chartres Cathedral, Skye, Outer Hebrides, and the author Michael Wood.



## I'VE BEEN SO VERY LUCKY



David Taylor counts his many blessings in a life of singing, learning, and family

## STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERY

Nearly all my and Margaret's collection is Victorian, and pottery rather than porcelain. Items were often made to hold candles or tapers. They could be of historic subjects, including *The Death of Nelson*, or a lovely one of the *Milk Girl* on her horse, or everyday subjects, largely of bedroom scenes, which were sold at fairs. I particularly like *Peter returning at one o'clock*, his wife has leaped out of bed and is beating him on his backside! Sometimes I returned late, though I wasn't so late, but fortunately for me Margaret just slept on!



## LONDON MUSEUMS

We are fortunate to live within easy reach of world class museums containing many of the finest paintings and sculptures ranging in age from ancient Egypt to the present day (both original plus plaster casts of the best in Italy especially), together with tapestries, and jewellery. They are mostly free to visit: the National Gallery (my favourite paintings by Titian, Rubens, Rembrandt), the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate and Modern Britain, the British Museum, and Royal Academy. And free transport for OAPs!

## HISTORY PAGES

Four books have entranced me. *The Story of England* by Michael Wood is told through the eyes of the Midland village of Kibworth, *The Common Stream* by Rowland Parker, with a similar story, *The Hare with the Amber Eyes* by Edmond de Waal, a family history of the 19th and 20th centuries, and *Super-Infinite* by Katherine Rundell about the 17th century love poet John Donne, who became Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, his sermons would move him and his listeners to tears. You can see his portrait in the National Portrait Gallery, as a young swell. You can also see a statue of him wearing a death shroud, pictured, at St Paul's Cathedral.



## MARRIAGE

My main stroke of good fortune has been to have met my late wife, Margaret. We had a good life together for over 50 years and I have three loyal and caring children and an impressive number of grandchildren.

