

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024 HOLIDAYS

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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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.
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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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FROM THE EDITOR

As I write this, the hymn *Summer suns are glowing over land and sea* comes to mind, as this certainly hasn't been true so far this year! For the first time for many years, the weather proved a challenge for our festival weekend, so it was wonderful to see so many people at the open day, and Sunday's service, led by Bishop Emma. Instead of lunch outside, we made good use of our movable benches turning the church into a dining room!

Our centrespread features four parts of the UK that church members enjoy visiting. Like Tim Marwood, one of my favourite places is East Devon. My parents retired to Exmouth and I spent many holidays there. Latterly, I have been to Sidmouth 10 years running. It is a lovely area and a bit off the tourist trail.

We recently lost one of our long-standing members. Dick Wilde had looked after the church clock, so it was apt that the chimes sounded as his coffin was carried into church.

I hope the weather improves and we are all able to take advantage of our lovely country.

Best Wishes

Janet

Editor



Cover photo: The dramatic cliffs at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, on the Jurassic Coast.

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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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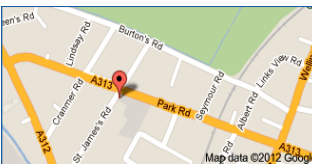
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Finding us



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.

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Clerical Capers



'How thoughtful to wear a hat we can all shelter under should it rain.'



IT'S A TV MIRACLE!



It takes effort to find religious TV. The 'God slot' is shunted around. That's why **Derek Winterburn** says we should be shouting about *The Chosen* — a crowdfunded series that has quietly become a hit.

What's the most watched, yet widely overlooked TV series? I would suggest *The Chosen*. Even the Atlantic website commented: 'You could pay close attention to the television industry and not know that it exists.' Yet the show has pulled off a crowdfund miracle, seen by more than 200 million people. And the series is about... Jesus!

historical background, and the production has a reasonably authentic gritty 1st century Palestinian feel. Jesus and the disciples are very down to earth; they do not walk around with halos!

■ *The Chosen* brings to the fore the Jewishness of the people in the story. All of life is touched by Jewish prayer and the wider culture. John the Baptist and Jesus

The Chosen has pulled off a TV miracle. With little publicity, it has found an audience of over 200 million and is now shooting season five. Why the surprise? This is a series about... Jesus!

are seen to emerge as the next part of God's work with his people. The audience is helped, by flashbacks, to make connections with the Old Testament.

■ In a similar way, the role of women is well illustrated. The very first episode begins with Mary Magdalene's troubled past and she becomes a key character in the group. Jesus's mother similarly is given a vital role in caring for her son (even as an adult). But other women are portrayed with attention: Simon Peter's wife, the woman who touched Jesus's robe, the vintner at the wedding at Cana, an Ethiopian refugee, Joanna a rich benefactor...

■ Because there is the time, there is the opportunity to 'show rather than tell.' One of the strengths of the series is that we watch the followers of Jesus grapple with his teaching. There are not long speeches, (although the Sermon on the Mount is the climax of Season Two), rather the characters try to put into practice what they have been taught. And it does not always come easy. What would it take for a violent zealot to rub along with a tax collector for the Romans? As Jesus preaches we see how each line of the Beatitudes has a counterpart in the back story of a disciple. This is a Jesus connected with hard reality.

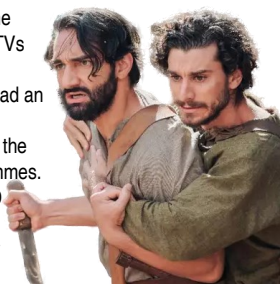
■ In particular, the issue of suffering arises time and again. Could a disciple of Jesus be disabled and not be healed? Should someone close to Jesus be protected from tragedy? And unlike the 1970s production Jesus is often not in shot. More like our experience, they have his words, not always his presence.

■ I would recommend watching this series as an imaginative exploration of Jesus's life. True, not everything in the programmes happened, the creators value plausibility though. There are many very moving and inspiring scenes. It should not replace your Bible — that is our bedrock — but as an entry point to a fresh understanding of the gospel, this is a remarkable resource.

Ways to watch it

There are many ways to watch the episodes, but these might be the best:

- *The Chosen* website or app - <https://www.thechosen.tv>
- Some smart TVs can download an app to stream the programmes.
- DVD or Blu-ray discs.



St James Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am **not 6 Oct**
Livestreamed on Facebook

Together 3:30pm **resumes 8 Sep**

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

Messy Church 3:30pm **22 Sep**

Mon-Fri (not Wed)
Morning Prayer 9am

Wednesday
Midweek Communion 9:30am

Mondays

Ark Playgroup 10am-12pm (**From 4 Sep**)
£3 for the first child, £1 for any others.

NHS Hearing Aid Clinic 1-3pm
Free service **5, 19 Aug; 2, 16 Sep**

Tuesdays

Connections Café 10:30am-12:30pm
Join us for coffee, cake and conversation.

Wine Tasting

Saturday 14 September 7:30pm



A fun night, with a tutored tasting of *seven* Italian wines, plus two competitions and the chance to buy what you try at a special price.

Tickets £30 include a glass of

Prosecco DOC on arrival, seven tasters, plate of cheeses, meats and bread. The event is open to all (over 18s only), so you can bring a whole table of companions! Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJWine24>

Harvest Festival

Sunday 6 October All-age Service 11am

We support homeless and hungry people.

Community Lunch 12:15pm



Stay or join us after the service for a two-course lunch by donation (suggested price £10). Profits to The Upper Room. Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJHarvestMeal24>

Charity Quiz Night

Saturday 2 November 7pm



A fun evening in aid of the London Churches Refugee Fund and our link parish in Mercuburi. Tickets £15 include a two-course meal. Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJQuiz24>

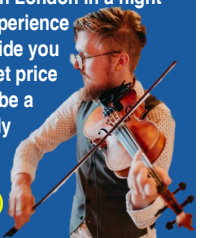
Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 30 November 7:30pm

Three hours of the best fun in London in a night like no other! No dancing experience required as the caller will guide you through the steps. Your ticket price includes food and there will be a well-stocked bar. Bring family and friends.



Tickets £35 (£20 u16s)
Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJCeilidh24>





West Country Left: St Austell Bay, Cornwall, painted by Amanda Hoskin. Right: Jacob's Ladder, Sidmouth, Devon

IT'S GREAT BRITAIN!



One in three of us plans to holiday in the UK this year. Although that's fewer than in 2023, it still means 22 million of us are looking for a destination. Cornwall and Devon draw many, but Dorset, Yorkshire, and the Lake District are not far behind, with Wales and Scotland growing in popularity. Four anglophiles explain their love affair with the UK.

PENNY SEWELL
CORNWALL

My childhood was spent in mid-Cornwall, the area known as China Clay country. The surreal landscape consists of moorland with white sand conical mounds from old clay mines. The most famous became the home of the Eden Project, which together with the Lost Gardens of Heligan, are two excellent tourist attractions. My childhood days were spent either on the beach or on the golf course. These days there are many more activities across Cornwall, including sea kayaking, scuba diving, surfing, and gig rowing.

My husband and I have spent annual visits there for over 40 years, enjoying coastal walks, some excellent golf courses, beautiful gardens (my favourite being Trebah, a sub-tropical paradise), and the cliffside Minack Theatre, all well worth a visit.

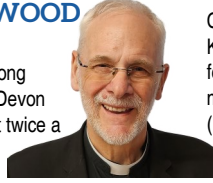
There are many art galleries to visit, including the Tate in St Ives. We especially like the paintings of two well-known artists in Cornwall. Our favourites are one of Portscatho, by John Brenton, and Amanda Hoskin's painting of St Austell Bay, seen above.

Over the years we have found many good pubs and restaurants, one of which is Edie's Kitchen in Carlyon Bay.



TIM MARWOOD
DEVON

My family has a long association with Devon and I visit at least twice a year. Devon is a county of great geographical variety and includes moorland, lush valleys, marshy estuaries and two coastlines – with the Bristol Channel in the north and the English Channel in the south. Links with England's maritime history are numerous through famous sailors such as Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Chichester and there are many historic sites to visit including



Castle Drogo, Slapton Sands and Killerton House. Devon's farming industry features many local agricultural shows, my favourite is the Okehampton Show (this year on 8 August). My favourite destination is the Jurassic Coast in East Devon, stretching from Exmouth eastwards to Studland in neighbouring Dorset, including golden sands, pebble beaches and soaring cliffs with a vast range of flora and fauna. To walk along a beach as the sun sets and the waves murmur in the background is one of the glories of Devon. In such a setting you can ponder one of the great conundrums of life, do you put the cream or the jam on a scone first in a *Devon Cream Tea*?

JACKY CAMMIDGE
WALES

I don't need an excuse to return home to Abertillery, South Wales, but if I did, it would be to attend the *Wonderwool Festival*, held on the last weekend in April at the Royal Welsh Showground, at Builth Wells, Powys. The 2025 date is in the diary! Knitting is my hobby. I was taught by my grandmother when I was seven and she encouraged me to continue to enjoy the craft. Knitting requires wool or yarn and this gives me the perfect excuse to visit producers wherever we travel.

Wonderwool is one of the largest wool festivals in the UK, with more than 220 exhibitors. They all take joy in sharing their products and offering advice.

Visitors attend from all over the world. I shared a table for lunch with a group from America, who were going on to Scotland to visit producers there too.

The event began in 2006 to promote Welsh wool, winning a major tourism award. It's a place to find everything from the start of the creative process, including exhibits of sheep, through to raw and hand-dyed fibres, yarn for knitting and crochet, equipment, books, and beautiful examples of finishes,



Glorious Sidmouth is part of the dramatic Jurassic Coast in East Devon





Wonderwool All the fun of the fayre in Powys

textile art, craft clothing and home furnishings. It's very well organised, making the festival an very enjoyable experience. My sister-in-law uses pillows and duvets filled with wool, and has never slept so well!

JENNIFER CLAY AFLOAT



In the 18th century James Brindley, a pioneer canal builder, had the vision of a 'Grand Cross' linking the rivers Mersey, Severn, Thames and Trent. Thanks to him, subsequent canal builders in the 19th, and canal restoration and preservation societies in the 20th, we can still cruise between London, Bristol, Liverpool and many other towns and cities.

There are 165 wide beam locks between Brentford and Birmingham, built to accommodate a pair of narrowboats side by side. It is always good to travel with another boat, sharing the work. That may be for just a few locks, but sometimes we travel for several days with the same boat, agreeing overnight stops and morning start times.

London to Bath takes two hours by train, three by car, 14 days by boat! But then we did stop at some beautiful places to admire our wonderful countryside, architecture and impressive feats of canal engineering. The Caen Hill flight of 29 locks at Devizes raises the canal 237 feet in two miles and is a scheduled ancient monument – which is what we felt like, having worked the flight!

Sometimes the canal builders tunnelled through a hill rather than constructing locks up and down it. On entering the tunnel the exit is usually visible. However, this is not always the case, with the exit only revealed a long distance into the tunnel.

Similarly, valleys were sometimes crossed by aqueducts. On a trip to Llangollen we crossed the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a world heritage site, taking care not to look down at the River Dee 126ft below.

With a maximum speed of 4 mph, life slows down and this has to be one of the most relaxing and enjoyable ways to spend time.



Locked in Caen Hill's 29 stages



Cruise control Jennifer at the stern of Genie in Llangollen



Around the Spire

DICK WILDE THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN



DICK Wilde, who played such a key role in the church for many years, died on 10 June, aged 93.

Richard Walter Wilde was born in Romford, Essex, and had two elder sisters. He passed all his exams at school and went to Kings College, London. His first job was as an engineering apprentice in Manchester. He then served his National Service in the Army, continuing until 1957.

Dick and Mary's fathers served in the First World War together, and both retired to Dorset where they visited each other. One weekend in 1961, Dick's father brought his son along when Mary was also visiting her parents. They married six months later on 11 November - a partnership that lasted 62 years. Their five children, Jane, Susan, Sarah, Matthew and Ben, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren, were a great joy to them.

In 1963 Dick started work at Imperial College, London, cycling 13 miles each way from Hampton Hill whatever the weather. He would often buy flowers for Mary and strap them on top of his briefcase for the ride home.

In 1991, Dick and Mary went to Zimbabwe for three years, where he was a lecturer at Bulawayo University. Dick retired at 65, when they returned home three years later.

It will be no surprise that Dick's favourite toy as a child was Meccano and throughout his life he loved mending things.

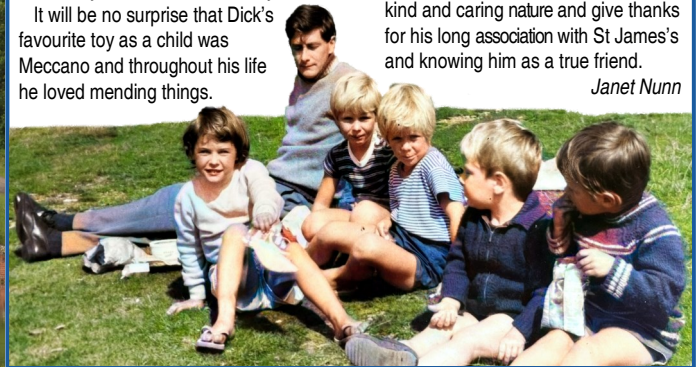
In later years he extended his precision to maintaining the church clock. Susan Horner recalls him arriving for Morning Prayer, checking the clock chimes against his radio-controlled watch, and rushing up the tower to adjust it. He often left the family meal table for the same reason!

Life in Hampton Hill revolved around St James's and Dick was heavily involved in church life. He was on the Properties and the Spire Teams for many years, he sang in the choir and served as a churchwarden with Ann Peterken, who deeply valued his gentle manner, warm smile, organised working and questioning faith.

Dick also spent many years in retirement volunteering for Citizens Advice.

We will remember Dick not only as a devoted family man, but as a great example of devotion to church life in all its aspects. We will miss his warm, kind and caring nature and give thanks for his long association with St James's and knowing him as a true friend.

Janet Nunn



Reboot of supporters

WE have decided to re-establish the Friends of St James's group that ran successfully for many years and included many people who, though not worshippers, valued the building and churchyard.



The new group was launched at the St James's Day weekend. Membership starts at just £30 a year and in return we will offer a calendar or events, starting with a tutored wine tasting (see page 3) and a ceilidh.

There will also be special Friends

meetings, and the chance to have your say about future events. For more information contact the church office (see page 2).



EARTH'S BEAUTY



Tim Marwood gives thanks for creation in all its forms, and offers advice on what to do should we meet cattle on the loose!

The hymn *For the beauty of the earth* was written in about 1863 by Foliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917) while he was teaching classics at Somersetshire College, situated in No11 of the famous crescent of houses in Bath known as The Circus. There are eight verses from which I have selected the four most often sung in Anglican churches. Over the years different Christian denominations have included different versions of it in their hymn books, depending on their theological stance. There are also no fewer than nine tunes! The most used in the Church of England is *England's Lane*, by Geoffrey Shaw (1879-1943) followed by *Dix* by Conrad Kocher (1786-1872).

Joy in Creation

A version was also recorded in 1983 by The Cambridge Singers to a tune by Sir John Rutter, the English composer and conductor knighted in the King's Birthday Honours in June this year. The pace and verve of this recording really matches the sheer joy that many of us feel as we experience the wonder of Creation. The hymn can be sung at any time of the year, but it is especially appropriate for August, when we might celebrate meeting up with friends and family, and September when we are most reminded of nature's harvest.

We give thanks for creation in all its variety, great and small. Through the enthusiasm of a friend, I have learnt to appreciate butterflies and moths, and I do enjoy watching the cattle at agricultural shows.



Locally, we can experience 'the beauty of the earth' in Bushy Park, but we can also meet animals unexpectedly in the suburbs. Bearing in mind the runaway cow in Feltham, I finish with a reminiscence that may prove useful.

One misty summer's night we were driving cautiously along a lane in Devon when out of the dusk came lumbering towards us a group of cattle, out of their field. The trick on these occasions is to grab the cattle's attention and lead them back to where they have come from, making a noise like cow-cake rattling in a bucket (in my case dog biscuits in a cup) worked and the curious cattle followed me to their field where they rejoined their less adventurous cousins, to everyone's relief!

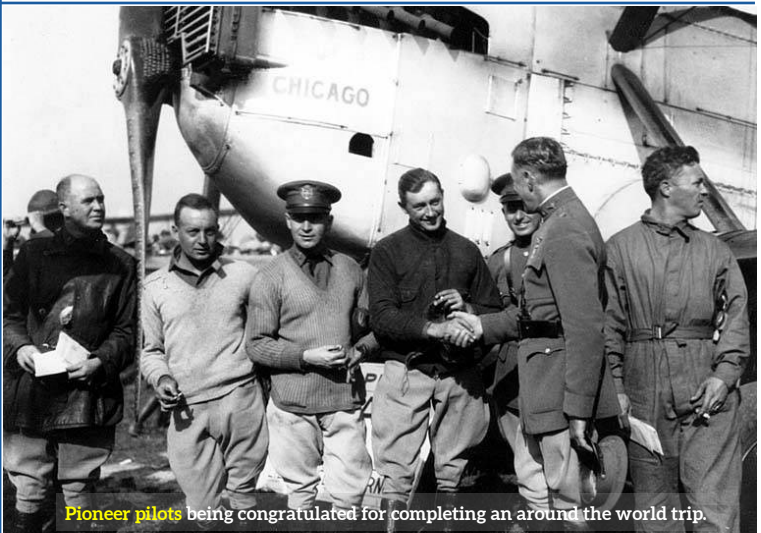
For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heaven:



Pioneer pilots being congratulated for completing an around the world trip.

FLIGHT OF FANCY

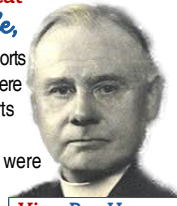


Richard Melville finds familiar church events run alongside a brave new world of achievements.

The big event over the summer was the annual church fete, a modern version of which we still run today. Meanwhile aviators were making history, flying around the world in four months. It just goes to show that while some things change, others seem timeless.

Sunday School Treat *My Dear People,*

Summer is the time for sports and fetes. Many of us were at the inter-school sports which were held in the Manor House field and were gratified in seeing our children in all departments give a very good account of themselves. They are to be congratulated for retaining the Handicap Shield for Boys and Girls. Cecil Cartlidge was champion boy.



Vicar Rev Harvey

The Sunday Schools went for their annual excursion to Littlehampton (see last month's *Spire*). The weather was all that could be desired, and the children had an enjoyable time by the sea. By joining with three other churches, we were able to charter a train.

Miss Newman and the staff and pupils of St Mary's College are to be congratulated for a very successful Fancy Fayre, held on behalf of the Waifs and Strays Society. The big event was the annual fete, held in the vicarage grounds. Fortunately we had a fine day, and a large gathering of people.

The Patronal Festival was filled with happy experiences. Services were well attended; the choir excelled themselves, and quite a number of mothers attended the Quarterly Service. The social side was marred by rain. Tea was just over when there was a downpour and all had to make their way into the vicarage. There, we had songs, piano solos and recitations, and we are grateful for the kind friends who entertained us.

The service for church-workers was also well attended, and the address by Rev WR. Ronayne was much appreciated, being both a call and an encouragement to those whose aim is to win Souls for Him.

Frederick Harvey

PCC's new committees

The Parochial Church Council elected three committees for special work. A structural committee was chosen to look after the fabric of the church, taking the Church Room under its wing as well; a missionary committee was appointed to create and further interest in the mission work of the church at home and abroad; and a churchyard committee was formed for the purpose of stirring up practical interest in the work of getting the churchyard into order and removing any cause for complaint about its untidy state.

Rev Harvey asked parishioners to send donations to help pay for its cleaning and repairing. The cost was £21, but there were only ten shillings in the fund.

Fete income

Tickets, gate money and programme sales totalled £28 11s 11d and the best stalls were the *Guess the cake weight* (£8 0s 6½d); Coconut Shies (£10 11s 5½d) and the rather irreligious *Wheel of Fate* (£12 19s 0d).

In the news 100 years ago...

■ **7 August** The Housing Act paves the way for councils to build homes for rent.

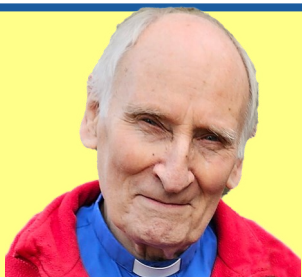
■ **7 August** The BBC news presenter Kenneth Kendall, right, is born in British India (died 2012).



■ **28 August** Children's writer Enid Blyton, left, married Hugh Pollock. It was not a happy marriage, and it was later revealed that she had affairs and scandalous parties, which shocked fans of the supposedly 'prim' writer.

■ **28 September** Four US Army pilots complete the first aerial circumnavigation of the world: 26,345 miles, in 175-days and 57 stops.





OPINION
Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

ELECTION REFLECTIONS

I am writing this a few days before the election. By the time you read this you may almost have forgotten we had one! The election may only be remembered for the mistakes/disasters that happened to the main parties: the treatment of Diane Abbott; the Prime Minister hurrying back from the D-Day celebration to record an election interview, leaving foreign secretary Lord Cameron to stand beside the other world leaders present; Nigel Farage seeming to blame the European Union for the Russian invasion of Ukraine; and finally the betting scandal, culminating in Conservative backbencher Sir Philip Davies (a Boris-awarded knighthood), betting £8,000 he would lose his seat. (N.B. footballers at all levels are banned from betting on football.)

ISSUES NOT TACKLED

The election may also be remembered for what was not said. Where were the Old Testament prophets' concerns for poverty, homelessness, and young widowed mothers? Education was barely mentioned, and our greatest challenge of climate change was largely left to the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. The focus was on those crossing the channel in boats, but not on what happens to them when in this country, left in 'hotels' with no chance to work, to contribute to this country. Rwanda, by the timing of the election, became the country to which only successive foreign secretaries have been! Perhaps the most serious criticism of all the main parties came from the Institute of Fiscal Studies. They said the manifestos of both main parties failed to say where the money would come from to fund their spending plans. The backcloth to it all was the wars in Ukraine and in Gaza. In our right concern to root out antisemitism, have we failed the millions of Moslems in this country, many with links to Palestine and Gaza?

GRATEFUL FOR BORING?

Among the podcasts I listen to is *The Rest is Politics*, with Rory Stewart and Alastair Campbell. Reflecting on the last of the debates between Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer, and looking ahead to the US debates between Biden and Trump, Stewart said, 'Watching them we may be grateful for having a slightly boring lawyer against a slightly boring banker!'

WOMEN ON LOW/NO PAY

There are one million women, aged 18-30, living on low or no pay in the UK (out of 9.5m). On average they receive a fifth less pay than young men (around £4,000) and earn less than the Living Wage. Women in general, and all those of black and minority backgrounds, are more likely to be in insecure work (26% of working women - 3.9m - compared to 14% of working men). Almost 2.2m women earn less than the Living Wage, compared to 1.5m men. Some 28% of managers surveyed agreed it was harder for women to progress in their organisation than men. 1 in 10 managers said young women had been paid less than young men for jobs at the same level. Young women in particular face low pay and discrimination.

RORY STEWART

I don't usually read the *Times*, but I found a fascinating feature on Rory Stewart, the former Conservative cabinet minister, and candidate to be PM and also mayor of London, now a professor at Yale in the US. Among the things he said, 'Sunak's decision to call an early election was incomprehensible' and 'the Rwanda deal was completely daft'. Reflecting on himself, 'I'm not completely settled in myself. I'm too sensitive to criticism... I need to grow up and feel OK. I'm far from perfect, but I'm a rough-and-ready, middle-aged man with strengths and weaknesses. I just need to be more relaxed about those weaknesses.'



HELPING HANDS



St James's has been supporting The Upper Room for many years. As **Dennis Wilmot** reports, our church plays an important role in helping the charity to feed and clothe the many homeless people in west London.

The main support programme The Upper Room (TUR) has always provided hot meals for the homeless and needy. But the charity is seeing growing numbers of people granted refugee status, but evicted from their Home Office accommodation.

Sometimes refugees have only seven days to move out, find rented accommodation and, if possible, secure employment – a near impossible task. As always, the charity supports them as best they possibly can.

New ways of support

On top of that, the magnificent team of paid and volunteer staff are looking for new ways to meet the many and varied needs of our guests. One excellent example is the Polish Support Group, which was recently set up in partnership with Rethink Mental Illness (rethink.org) to create a safe space with counsellor-led support service.

This initiative is being managed by Nisia, the wonderful Employability and Wellbeing lead. The first couple of sessions were fairly quiet affairs, but the attendees soon become more and more vocal, and many sessions have



ended with a singalong of traditional Polish folk ballads – songs each member of the group would have sung when they were young, bringing back memories for all of them.

More help for more people

It's really most inspiring to see the positive differences TUR can make to people's lives with more and larger programmes of support. This means food, general supplies and of course cash, and St James's is proud to support the charity in all these ways. Other support projects carry on in ever increasing numbers including, most notably, UR4Driving and UR4Jobs.

The driving courses help ex-offenders and those who are vulnerable to get a driving licence, then hopefully a job and a healthy future life.

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 the provision of essential equipment or clothing.

■ As usual, St James's will be collecting food and money for TUR at Harvest Festival on **Sunday 6 October**, including a Harvest lunch (see p3).

A 90th garden party



CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Futter, who celebrated her 90th birthday twice: at a family party and a gathering of friends.

REGISTERS

JUNE

FUNERALS

- 17 Ruby Eleanor Atkinson, 97, Sunbury on Thames
- 21 Sarah Elizabeth Cheetham, 79, Isleworth
- 21 Martyn Peter Ives, 63, Twickenham
- 25 Richard Walter Wilde, 93, Hampton Hill





SIMPLE PLEASURES

The things we do when we take time out

IN THE BEGINNING

When I started coming to St James's, my son Stuart reminded me that joining a new church is a bit like boarding a helicopter — you need to keep your head down or you will be sucked into the rotas. I didn't, and he was right! I tried doing things new to me, like leading prayers (intercessions), but after a lifetime in live broadcasting with the BBC I was inevitably persuaded to join the Audio Visual team.



LET THERE BE SOUND...

Sound was and always will be my first passion. The quote, 'Nobody knows what I do until I don't do it,' sums it up. Think of any event or television show. The pictures may be captivating, but if you can't hear the content, it is worthless.

... AND VISION

Then 'multiskilling' in the industry demanded that I learn how to make television. Those of us who worked in radio would say that we had perfected television to the point where we could dispense with the pictures. Nevertheless, I did discover the *Art of Television*, and St James's now runs a sophisticated four-camera stream of the 9:30am service with moving cameras and captions. It is very demanding for the team that do it, but the results are very rewarding. The thrill of live broadcasting is still a simple pleasure for me.

LET THERE BE LIGHTS



What next? In a building with so many beautiful architectural features, the lighting was, in my view, functional and uninteresting. Maybe I needed to try something new? After all, the BBC mantra was 'Never stop learning'.

At work I had always employed a Lighting Director, I knew the value of their skills, but had never paid attention to how they achieved the result. It was time for me to learn.

Tentatively, I have introduced new ideas and begun to acquire an additional skill, which now has become my latest simple pleasure. The effects have been dramatic, as witnessed at the recent organ gala (pictured above).

On Sundays, the liturgical calendar can also be highlighted in the correct colour.



THE NERD IN ME...

There has been an entirely new vocabulary of nerdy terms to be acquired - Accent, Ambient and Reflected light. The lamps themselves come in Spot, Flood, Beam and Wash. Add to that a Moving Head — that's when the pan and tilt of the light can be controlled remotely — and there is a whole new world to be discovered. More than that, there are Universes! The lights in St James's are controlled by a protocol called DMX. We just have one Universe in our system, but it does have 512 addresses. So far I have only



Clockwise from top: *Romeo and Juliet*, in June; Radio 5 Live in Liverpool (the biggest event I managed); waiting (with attitude) for Noel Edmonds in the Radio 1 continuity suite



GOING LIVE



Graham McHutchon thought that his involvement in broadcasting would end on retirement. Instead, he has now added lighting to his CV and bathed our church in lights as the new go-to venue in the area for cultural events.



used 250 of them! Every lighting fixture requires an address for each feature, whether it be colour or type of movement.

We have one that can be controlled remotely by just the touch of a button and uses clean electricity.



WIRES AND LADDERS



Whilst I love these long summer days, it does constrain the ambitions of a nascent lighting designer. I yearn for those dark nights when the dramatic effect of the lighting will be evident by teatime! For a sense of my overblown ambition watch *Sting: A Winter's Night* live from Durham Cathedral, on YouTube (pictured). St James's has a window crying out to be lit from outside. Before long we will be in the run-up to Christmas and all the associated events. As those of you who have come to know me are discovering, fiddling with wires and climbing ladders are two more of my Simple Pleasures!

ENHANCED WORSHIP

At present there are 75 lights installed in the church, all of them can be faded up and down and set to any colour over a single cable. This may be older technology, but it is extremely flexible and relatively cheap to install. I hope you agree the results have enhanced the building and added to the sense of worship. And of course, we are not the only church to employ this type of lighting. Most of the local churches use it routinely, and it is always in evidence on *Songs of Praise*. Don't get me started on the cathedrals!

SMOKING IN CHURCH

On Easter Sunday morning at the dawn service I nervously introduced a smoke machine for some added drama as we went into church. Then I went to see Derek preach at St Paul's Cathedral on Ascension Day... and they had a smoke machine! It was an old-fashioned one that needed constant relighting, and a man to swing it around. It also consumed fossil fuel!