

JULY 2024 OPEN DAY

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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Open Day - 6 July

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 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Meet the clergy



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

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

July is a special month for us as we celebrate James, our patron saint. Saturday 6 July is our open day, with all sorts of activities. The following day includes a service, followed by lunch in the vicarage garden. This year we are joined by the Bishop of Kensington, Rt Rev Emma Ineson, who will lead the service.

The centrespread is written by Julian Reindorp, who celebrated a significant birthday at the end of June. He tells us about his very varied ministries over the years.

The front cover also has two special connections. The picture shows flowers from the wedding of Nafas and Anoush. The altar frontal was embroidered by Margaret Lawrance, who died recently. She chose the theme of James the fisherman and wanted the cross to rise out of the turbulent sea (the world) and the waves to appear from the distance as bowed heads. You can read more about both in Around the Spire.

Please join us over our St James's weekend. Hopefully the weather is kind to us.

Best Wishes

Janet

Editor



Cover photo: 6 July is our open day when we invite people to explore the church.

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).

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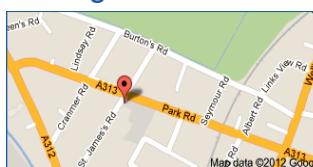
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Finding us



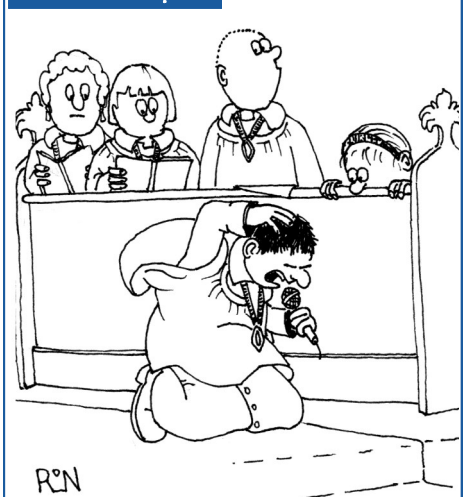
The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is between the church and vicarage. There is ample unrestricted parking. Buses stopping nearby include the R68, R70 and 285.

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Clerical Capers



Gary's solo for the bishop took everyone by surprise



WINNING LINE ENVY



It's easy to turn our lives into a competition, where coming first is all that matters. **Derek Winterburn** says that's not God's way.

We are very familiar with people 'jostling for power'. We glimpse something of it in the autobiographies of former politicians, in the comings and goings of the captains of industry, and we know that soccer management at the highest level is 'succeed or you are out.'

Programmes such as *House of Cards* and *Succession* bring such competitive behaviour into our living rooms.

Unsaintly saints

Some evidence for the veracity of the gospels is that we can see in their pages similar struggles. Although the Church came to call eleven of the apostles saints, they are not very saintly.

Of course Judas is the benchmark traitor, pursuing his own agenda and betraying his brothers. But the others are slow to understand, carry around wrong ideas and when needed fail to show up.

It is fairly clear that, at least to begin with, a taxman (Matthew) would have a hard time living with the fishermen (Simon, Andrew, James and John) he had extracted high taxes from, and would have faced even more hostility from a Zealot (Simon).

Then in the passage we read on every St James's Day, we hear the account of how James, John and their mother try to insinuate themselves into an exclusive position in God's Kingdom above everyone else. And the attitude when the others find out? — they seem put out that they didn't think of it first!

The favoured three

Companies sometimes construct organograms — diagrams marking out the leadership structures in the organisation. Although I think it is not right to say there was a hierarchical structure among Jesus and the apostles, the records show that Jesus was closer to three of them: Simon Peter, James and John.

They were allowed to see a resurrection miracle, they were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (as in the west window at St James's) and he looked particularly to them in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Simon Peter is often thought of as the pre-eminent apostle on account of his explicit confession of faith at Caesarea Philippi,

James stands for people like us, largely unremarkable people who heard the call to follow Jesus and signed up. Rather than competing with others, we should simply do what we can. Discipleship is not a competition, but an invitation.

and Jesus speaking about him as the rock on which the church would be built. But John runs a close second (he actually runs faster than Peter to the empty tomb on Easter Day), not least because he of all the apostles is at the crucifixion. He may well be the one described as the 'beloved disciple' in the Fourth Gospel.

Which leaves James... third! But being third is not so bad. There has been some

research that shows that people who finish third (bronze medal position) are happier than those who come second (silver medal position).

Winning a silver medal may carry with it the pain of not winning gold by one place. If one comes third, one has missed by two — not so close, and better than *fourth*, with no medal!

After watching clips from an entire Olympics' medal ceremonies, people who only saw the expressions on the winners' faces, rated bronze medalists to be happier than silver medalists. The researchers concluded that athletes were happier if they focussed on what they had achieved rather than what they had failed to do.

James represents us

It has to be said that within the gospels James does nothing that makes him stand out. Sometimes he is called *James the Great*, but that is not a reference to his achievements, but comes from a post-Biblical need to distinguish him from another apostle called *James the Small*!

When Peter says to Jesus at the Transfiguration, 'Lord it is good for us to be here,' perhaps James was saying to himself, 'I can't believe I am here!'

So in a way James stands for people like us, largely unremarkable people, who have heard Jesus's call to follow and said 'I will.'

Discipleship is not a competition, but an invitation. Our attitude needs to be not about measuring ourselves against other people, but doing what we can, becoming who we are in Christ.

Ending his life well

Lastly, Luke tells us rather abruptly in Acts that King Herod 'had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.' Even when being martyred, James is yoked to his brother.

We think John died in old age, but James is the first apostle to give his life for his faith. James ends his final race well.



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am
 Parish Communion 9:30am **not 7 Jul**
 Livestreamed on Facebook
 Together 3:30pm **not 7 & 28 Jul**
 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
 £3 for the first child, £1 for any others.
 (until 22 Jul; resuming 4 Sep)

NHS Hearing Aid Clinic 1-3pm
 Free service **1, 15 Jul**

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

The Romans Course 8pm **Ends 3 July**
 Paul's letter addresses big themes, including sin, grace, salvation and mission.

St James's Festival
 Saturday 6 July 2-4:30pm



We open our doors to the community, with the chance to climb the spire and ring the bells (suggested donation £3 per adult), or go on a church tour. There will be a churchyard treasure hunt and bagatelle game for children, and book, plant and cake stalls and refreshments. Book for the tower & bells tour at: <https://bit.ly/StJTower24>



Sunday 7 July 11am

Join us for a celebration service with the Bishop of Kensington, the



Rt Rev Emma Ineson, presiding. Afterwards we will

gather in the vicarage garden to enjoy a barbecue lunch. Adults £5 for a hot dog (meat or veggie) and side dishes, with a choice of puddings. Pimm's, wine or soft drinks are available to buy. Children under 16 go free.



Buy your lunch in advance at: <https://bit.ly/StJLunch>.

Children's games and crafts available in the garden.



Poplar Hospital and All Saints Church

MY LIFE IN PARISHES



For over a thousand years being a parish priest has meant being involved in every aspect of a community, and supporting people in their working lives. Turning 80, **Julian Reindorp**, reflects on his 55 years in ministry. He says leading worship in stimulating parishes has been the challenge and privilege of his life.

Until I retired and came to St James's in 2009, I had always worked in large parishes with a number of congregations and often with clergy of different denominations, particularly Methodists. You learn from colleagues (55 to date), they tease you, you laugh and share the crises together. I have been very fortunate.

Poplar 1969-74

My parish ministry began in the Poplar Team Ministry in 1969. I remember walking along our road with my wife, near Poplar Hospital. A small boy of about six, sidled up to me and looking across at my wife, said, 'Hey farve, (we were all called 'father' in some form) where'd you get her?' During our five years there, our three daughters were born. Our identical twin girls were delivered by Sister Jessica in Mile End Hospital. Jessica was one of the nursing sisters

two 'earts in there, farve.' This was news to all of us! I had much to learn. Nightly, I listened to stories about the dreaded Dock Labour Scheme, men hired or not hired by the day. One evening a man came to our flat with a knife wound. People could be angry about the living conditions they faced, particularly lack of money. Compared with the City of London they felt ignored. But they were warm and straight, and whenever I went to our large local pub, *The Aberfeldy*, there was always a welcome. In the whole of the five years we lived in Poplar, I never had to buy a round at the local pub!

Chatham 1974-1984

Walderslade was just a village in 1900, but by the time we arrived its population was 19,000, growing to 28,000 in the next decade. It was one of the early Anglican/Methodist parishes. On my first Sunday, on the altar were little communion glasses for the Methodists, a chalice with fermented wine (i.e. alcoholic), and a chalice with non-alcoholic wine. You had choice of three. I was grateful I was just giving out the bread! Within two years we agreed to have just one chalice — but should it be alcoholic for the Anglicans or not, for the Methodists? Everyone wanted what the other denomination wanted. I had the casting

vote and decided non-alcoholic out of respect to our Methodist members. Fortunately everyone accepted that. This was a parish of young families, so many of us had small children, and there were nearly 150 baptisms a year.

Milton Keynes 1984-1991

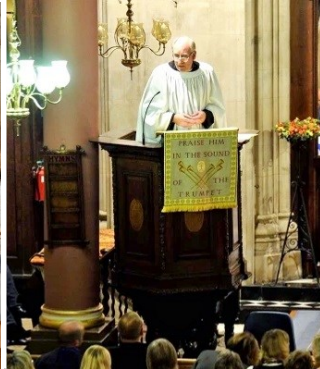
This was an exciting parish. Stantonbury Ecumenical Team had seven congregations and clergy from four denominations: Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Church.



Growth Walderslade, left, was rapidly expanding in the 1970s. St William's was one of several churches



Churches Milton Keynes and, below, Richmond



We also worked with an exceptional Roman Catholic priest. Our growing new town was a city of trees, roundabouts and cycle tracks.

People were open to change. We had the concrete cows in our parishes. We started another congregation in a new area. As our particular congregation grew, we started another morning congregation. We had a screen, and a small orchestra, we interviewed people during worship, and had a Saturday breakfast Christians at Work group.

In the city we were involved in employment projects and recycling schemes. When I left, James, who I had prepared for confirmation, said to his mother, 'I'll miss Julian, but I realise he has to take his sermons somewhere else.'

Richmond 1991-2009

From a speedboat to a slow-moving tanker, this was a totally different kind of parish. From the historic town centre Church of St Mary Magdalene, on the site of a 12th century church, to the Victorian churches of St Mathias, on Richmond Hill, and St John the Divine, by the station, they had all been brought into one team ministry by the time we arrived.

People wanted to discuss their faith and doubts. Our *Christianity Explored* groups grew, and in 1995 we had a week-long Festival of Faith, with a procession through the town led by a jazz band. A May Fair on Richmond Green, organised from our team, was the largest event of its kind in the borough and raised large sums for charity.

Where we all had most to learn was with people of other faiths. We visited our local synagogue and had a rabbi to preach every year, a Buddhist / Christian meditation group met in the vicarage, and we began to visit and hold dialogue with Kingston Mosque.



Clergy Julian, far right, with deanery clergy colleagues meeting Bishop Emma, centre.

I often reflected that, compared with Poplar, peoples' homes were so much larger, and what people earned was dramatically different. Our stresses were different too, but felt most by our young people, with such high expectations.

Hampton Hill 2009-present

Linked to one church — St James's — and not being responsible for anything has been a relief and a joy. But I have helped out in 36 parishes, 23 of them during a vacancy between vicars. As my training incumbent said in 1969, 'Julian, you should arrive first and leave last, having spoken to everyone in the church.' I have tried to follow his instructions.

When our vicar, Peter Vannozi, left Jacky Camridge and I became a good partnership, but we were both grateful when Derek arrived a year later.

We have been joined by Tim Marwood. Tim, after 27 years as a primary school head, became the vicar of the parish next to us in Richmond, in Petersham. We have long been friends and regularly drink together in the Roebuck pub, imagining that we are curates again with Derek as our training incumbent. And he trusts us to run groups, in particular *Hard Questions*, where people discuss the issues of today and of our fractured world.

Sharing people's celebrations and their bereavements, and leading worship in stimulating parishes, has been the challenge and privilege of my life.



Around the Spire

A swell performance at 150th gala concert

MOZART described the organ as 'the king of instruments' while Bach claimed you only had to 'hit the right notes at the right time and the instrument plays itself'. One thing they did agree on was the power of organ music.

This year marks the 150th birthday of our organ, something Musical Director Thom Stanbury felt we should celebrate.

On 1 June he was joined by friends Katie Milton, a soprano, and Dave Price, on trumpet, for a concert that included music by Handel, Bach, Mozart, Strauss, Fauré and Vieme. Interspersed by readings, and supported by choir members, it was a memorable evening, ending with rapturous applause, and raised £1500.



new Fundraising Team, tasked with delivering events that will appeal to the local community.

As part of this, the Friends of St James's Church has been re-established, enabling people who value the 161-year-old building and ecological churchyard, to help maintain them for the community.

Fundraising

This month sees the launch of a



Wedding bells

CONGRATULATIONS to Nafiseh and Anoushirwan, who were married at St James's on 25 May. The couple have quickly become valued members of our church. Nafas volunteers in the kitchen, while Anoush rings the bells — though on this occasion other ringers happily performed the task for them.



Lasting legacy of Margaret's needlework

MARGARET Lawrance, whose needlework can be seen in church, has died at the age of 88. She and her husband Tony were regular worshippers at St James's in the 1970s-1990s. They lived in Wellington Road with their three daughters, Susan, Helen, and Johanna, who were all married at St James's.

They moved to Walton-On-Thames to accommodate Margaret's mother and had a lovely garden which they both enjoyed. Eventually, they moved to East Molesey to a townhouse near the lock.

One of Margaret's many talents was needlework and in 1985 she designed and made the white and gold altar frontal which we still use today on special occasions, representing St James the fisherman. Only last year Margaret made another fish to cover a small tear.



Margaret and Tony

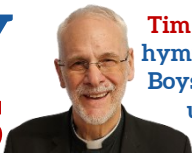
In Tony's words, 'Margaret always felt a strong bond with St James's which contains some of her best and most creative needlework.' Margaret also played a big part in the kneeler project in 2000.

Margaret always remained positive over many years, despite her hearing loss and poor eyesight, and continued to enjoy life by the river and keeping up with family and friends.

Janet Nunn



STORMY WATERS



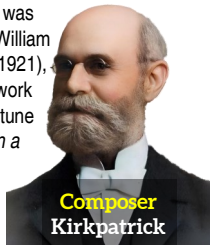
Tim Marwood has chosen a hymn that is familiar to the Boys' Brigade and was once used in church to signal the start of his holiday!

Perhaps best known as the hymn of the Boys' Brigade, *Will your anchor hold* was written in 1882, a year before the uniformed organisation was founded.

The words were written by Priscilla Jane Owens (1829-1899), who lived in Baltimore, in the US, where she was closely involved in Sunday Schools all her life.

Hebrews 6: 12 says, 'We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,' words which resonate with this hymn and may have inspired the writer. The composer of the accompanying tune was another American, William J Kirkpatrick (1838-1921), whose best known work is *Cradle Song*, the tune for the carol *Away in a manger*.

Will your anchor hold is especially popular amongst seafaring communities. A friend from the port of Fowey in Cornwall included it at her wedding; it has the pace and vigour of a sea shanty.



Composer Kirkpatrick

Holiday comedy

I worked for many years with an organist who had a musical sense of humour. As the service concluded on the Sunday before my departure on holiday to Devon, a worthy voluntary by Handel suddenly acquired a line of *I do like to be beside the seaside* to the general amusement of the congregation!

The following summer I chose *Will your anchor hold* as the final hymn. This time the voluntary by Bach included a line from, *For those in peril on the sea*.

Owens must have been a great Sunday School teacher, for the chorus to her hymn is especially memorable — no wonder the founders of the

Boys' Brigade chose it to guide their young members through life.

140 years later the message of the hymn remains relevant for all of us, not just the young or sailors.

We need a safe anchor to hold onto in the increasingly turbulent times in which we live, 'Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!'

Will your anchor hold

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

(Chorus)

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear?
When the breakers roar and the reef is near,
While the surges rage, and the wild winds blow,
Shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow?

(Chorus)

Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
When the waters cold chill your latest breath?

On the rising tide you can never fail,
While your anchor holds within the veil.

(Chorus)

Will your eyes behold through the morning light
The city of gold and the harbour bright?

Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,
When life's storms are past for evermore?

(Chorus)



BESIDE THE SEASIDE



Beach attire Enjoying a bucket and spade day at Littlehampton



Richard Melville discovers the many summer treats on offer to church members of all ages

A century ago, the large number of children in Sunday school were treated to a day at the seaside. More surprising, perhaps, was that St James's Day was marked on a Wednesday. It only makes sense when one recalls that Wednesday was half-day closing in the High Street.

Sunday School Treat *My Dear People,*

We were delighted to have so many Sunday School teachers at the quiet afternoon, which was arranged and conducted by Rev W Sara, the Secretary of the Bishop of London's Sunday School Council. He gave us some very helpful addresses, full of practical suggestions for our difficult task



Vicar Rev Harvey

The Sunday School Treat will take place on 15 July this year. We have joined with two of the Teddington Sunday Schools in securing a special train to take us all to Littlehampton for the day. We shall probably have ten hours by the sea.

The children will meet at church at 5.45am. They will go into church for prayer before starting for Teddington station.

There is room for a certain number of people not connected with the Sunday School. Applications for tickets (Adults ·10/-, Children, 5/6, including tea), should be made to Mr Jordan as soon as possible.

This treat is rather costly, and we should be grateful for subscriptions, especially from those who have not joined the Assessment Scheme, towards defraying the expenses.

The church clock has been repaired, and may once more be relied upon for catching the business trains. Some have already expressed their pleasure at hearing their old friend chiming forth the hours.

I hope that many who have missed it will send me donations to help pay for its cleaning and repairing. The cost is £21, and at present I have only ten shillings towards this amount.

Frederick Harvey

St James's Day

The Annual Fete (now known as St James's Day) was held on Wednesday 23 July. A brass band had been booked to make the event more lively, with no charge for dancing! Admission was reduced to sixpence for adults and threepence for children after 6pm. Parishioners were asked to donate gifts for these stalls: needlework, flowers, fruit and vegetables, pound and provisions, and sweets.

The fete would be opened at 3pm by Lady Pilditch, whose name often appeared in the magazine. She was the wife of Sir Philip Pilditch, the first MP for the new (in 1918) constituency of Spelthorne, covering Hampton, Feltham and Staines. In 1945 Hampton, Hampton Wick and Teddington were transferred to the Twickenham constituency.

In the news 100 years ago...

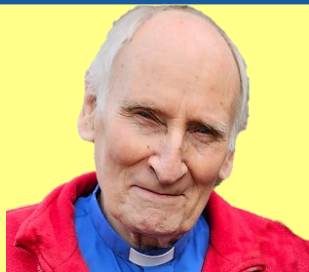


■ **4 July** Kitty McKane of England, pictured, beats American Helen Wills for her first of two Women's Wimbledon singles titles. The first all-French Men's final was won by Jean Borotra, beating René Lacoste.

■ **20 July** Persia (now Iran) comes under martial law after the American vice consul, Robert Imbrie, is killed by a religious mob in Tehran enraged by rumours he had poisoned a fountain and killed several people

■ **24 July** Janine Charrat, the French dancer and choreographer, is born. She appeared in *Ballerina* at the age of 12 and went on to choreograph over 50 ballets. In 1961, during a live television show, a candle set fire to her tutu, causing burns to 70% of her body.





OPINION

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

OUR SICK NOTE CULTURE?

The prime minister has been vowing to tackle Britain's 'sick note culture'. Andy Haldane, former chief economist at the Bank of England, said recently, the UK is worse at getting people back to work than comparable countries. There has been a rapid increase of 18-24-year-olds not in work, now one in eight. But the problem of sickness started well before Covid. As the Marmot reports of 2010 and 2020 outlined, part of the cause is health inequality and poverty.

Life expectancy is five years less in the deprived areas of the North East compared with the deprived areas of London. The growth of food banks over the past 14 years illustrates the growth in poverty. Haldane is critical of our benefit and support system, which focusses on benefit sanctions (punishments), rather than helping people into employment and providing training support. He says, 'You can't compel people into work.' There is a huge need for more occupational health support and reskilling people.

KEY GROUP 50-64

Although the prime minister highlighted jobless younger people, by far the largest group not working are the 50-64-year-olds, a million more of whom are on long-term benefits, and whose number has doubled recently. As one frustrated GP said, 'Long-term sickness varies hugely industry by industry, with wholesale and retail having the highest rates.' He said he would value serious long-term research into the issue rather than the PM raising the spectre of 'legions of potential workers with mild depression or anxiety being signed off by lackadaisical doctors on the basis of subjective and unverifiable claims'.

PM'S VIEWS OUTDATED

The president-elect of the British Psychological Society wrote in the *Guardian*, 'The prime minister's language is outdated and fails to promote open discussions about mental health... everyone living with mental health conditions deserves support. This includes gaining financial security, and Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) are therefore a vital lifeline for those who rely on it. We also know that the threat of removal of benefit payments causes increased stress and anxiety for those most in need and does nothing to support people back into work.' (My stepson Andrew, who has learning and speaking difficulties, receives PIPs.)

CHURCH GONE WOKE!

Nigel Farage says he no longer attends church, the Church of England having 'surrendered' to the 'woke' agenda. The word comes from America and was used to describe those who have 'woken up' to racial discrimination. It has now come to be used about any issue that does not fit into certain, largely conservative, views.

I always thought the church was woke by definition. In Luke's Gospel in particular, Jesus goes round the edge of society inviting all the excluded groups into the kingdom of God including then, women, children, the sick and disabled, and those of other races, including the Samaritans. In his first sermon in his home synagogue, he preaches about 'woke' themes, and they drive him out of the town because they recognize the challenge he poses to the society of his day (Luke 4:14)

TAYLOR SWIFT COURSE

A UK college is offering a course on Taylor Swift, to educate parents accompanying children to the singer's sold-out tour. More than 2.9m fans attempted to secure tickets for her *Eras Tour* in the US. Her dates in Murrayfield, Edinburgh will be watched live by 215,000 people. Glasgow Clyde College has launched a masterclass for parents and plus-ones which will cover her songs and her evolving wardrobe and hairstyles.

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID



PROBLEMS DON'T GO



St James's has been supporting Christian Aid for more than 60 years. But as **Derek Winterburn** reports, while the red envelopes have lost their appeal, the charity's needs are as great as ever.

St James's has had a long association with Christian Aid. Although the earliest reference of Christian Aid I can find in our archives is 1960, it seems to be well established by then.

The five churches of the Hampton Council of Churches divided the neighbourhood between them for the delivery of gift envelopes. St James's raised £95 out of a total of £353! Two years later, however, this fell to £58 out of £400, with a note that some people refused to give.

The charity has grown enormously since its foundation in 1945. According to the most recent published accounts, for 2022-23, £80 million was spent on charitable activities (including a large emergency donation for Ukraine).

Shift in funding sources

Broadly speaking about half of Christian Aid's income in 2022 came from fundraising and gifts, and a tenth of that from Christian Aid Week (£5m) and that has fallen significantly; in 2017 £9.6m was raised.

However, nearly three times that was given through legacies. This is a useful way of supporting good causes. Christian Aid's fundraising is no longer centred on delivering envelopes door-to-door. There is a shifting balance between donation income and grants from institutional awards.

And still Christian Aid remains a Christian organisation. Making links to local churches is very important to them. Prayer and worship inevitably increase our concern for the poorest. Prayer and worship are also activities we share with fellow believers in the less developed countries.

New crises, old problems

The charity began in response to the refugees across war-torn mainland Europe. Last year there were displaced people in Syria and Turkey following the earthquake and so many people on the move in Ukraine. As the charity said, 'There's nothing new under the sun'.

Across 27 countries almost three million people have been directly helped. Christian Aid, of course, is much more than a 'relief agency', working in development and in campaigning.

In November 2022 the charity was part of a partnership that successfully pressed for a loss-and-damage fund at the COP climate meeting.



Aline Nigobora

Our support to CA Week

This year St James has sent £3022 to Christian Aid raised from Christian Aid Week events, including Liz Wilmot's 70k cycle ride. In our last issue we told the story of Aline whose hard work helped her transform her life. We also raised £1800 for Christian Aid's Middle East Crisis Appeal during Lent. But every pound is welcome - no matter when you give.

■ For more information, or to donate to the charity, go to: <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-006503>

Preaching at St Paul's



DEREK was asked to preach on Ascension Day at the afternoon service at St Paul's Cathedral.

REGISTERS

MAY

WEDDING

25 Seyed Anoushirwan Nicolas Lagevardi and Nafiseh Essmaeilzadeh, Hampton Hill.





SIMPLE PLEASURES

The things we do when we take time out

LAUNDRY

There are few sights finer, to my mind, than a line of clean washing flapping in the breeze. I love hanging out the clothes – they smell so much nicer for being in the fresh air and the drying-power is free!

FORAGING

And here's something else that's free: searching the hedgerows for blackberries, sloes, wild garlic or elderflowers and berries. It seems a shame to pass by nature's bounty without taking advantage of it.

I have cupboards and a freezer well stocked with jams, elderflower cordial and sloe gin, because PRESERVING is another pleasure of mine. So, the picking is fun and the preserving is satisfying – two pleasures in one!



Clockwise from top: Watching cricket in Twickenham, hanging out the washing, and the joy of speaking on the telephone.

PHONE A FRIEND

I love chatting to friends and family on the phone, and I would always rather hear someone's voice (especially my children's) than have a video call. You can tell a great deal from the tone of voice if you are not distracted by visuals. One of the most important things in life is relationships, and the telephone is a great way to keep in touch. I think we all discovered the importance of the telephone during Covid.

PRUNING & PROPOGATING



I do love working in my garden, but arthritic joints now mean that kneeling to do the weeding, for example, is no longer a possibility. However, two jobs that can be done from an upright position are pruning and then using the clippings to take cuttings. Both very satisfying! I have several plants around the garden grown from cuttings and it's good to have extra ones to give away to friends (or to church plant sales!)



THE BEST THINGS...



Catherine Gash finds that it is the small things in life that lift her spirits – and with many of them costing nothing, it goes to prove true the old adage about life.

CRICKET

My Dad had no sons, so from an early age I became his companion when a Test Match was on television. I've never played cricket and admit to only a sketchy understanding of the game (although I do know what a googly is!), but cricket has given me many pleasurable moments over the years. Sitting behind the boundary on a summer's evening, with maybe a glass of something in my hand, watching our two sons play for Twickenham, was quite idyllic, (although getting the stains out of their whites afterwards was less pleasurable!) And the sound of an English summer, to me, is the dulcet tones and schoolboy humour of Jonathan Agnew broadcasting ball-by-ball commentary on the radio.

PUZZLES

Give me a puzzle to do and I'm happy. I have always loved jigsaws, and used to spend hours doing them when I was a child, and now there are Sudoku, Word Wheels, Wordsearch and Crosswords as well!! I look forward to doing a 1000-piece

jigsaw every time we go to Cornwall, as I have more uninterrupted leisure time there. I think this liking of puzzles is to do with the satisfaction of achieving a correct solution, and there is also a (possibly erroneous) thought

that I am giving my brain a work-out, rather than just wasting my time when I should be doing something more important!



SORTING OUT



Anyone who knows our house realizes that we have a lot of 'stuff'. I admit to being a bit of a hoarder and have inherited my mother's habit of

cutting interesting bits out of the newspaper, so the clutter soon mounts up and it all needs sorting out. However, a rather mundane job can yield treasures. A letter from a friend, old photographs, an article from five (or ten!) years ago which is still relevant, that dress I used to wear which reminds me of happy occasions in the past – it turns a tedious chore into an unexpected pleasure. The only difficulty is in persuading myself to throw anything away!

CHILDREN

Standing on the platform at Teddington station, watching a small child racing towards me with arms outstretched, shouting 'Granny!' at the top of her voice, before almost knocking me over with the force of her embrace – now that's the best feeling in the world. I have always enjoyed spending time with children and it is a great privilege to cuddle up with a child to read a book, or even just wheel a pushchair while having a chat.

The closeness, warmth and spontaneity of children are a real joy. This is definitely my Number One pleasure.

