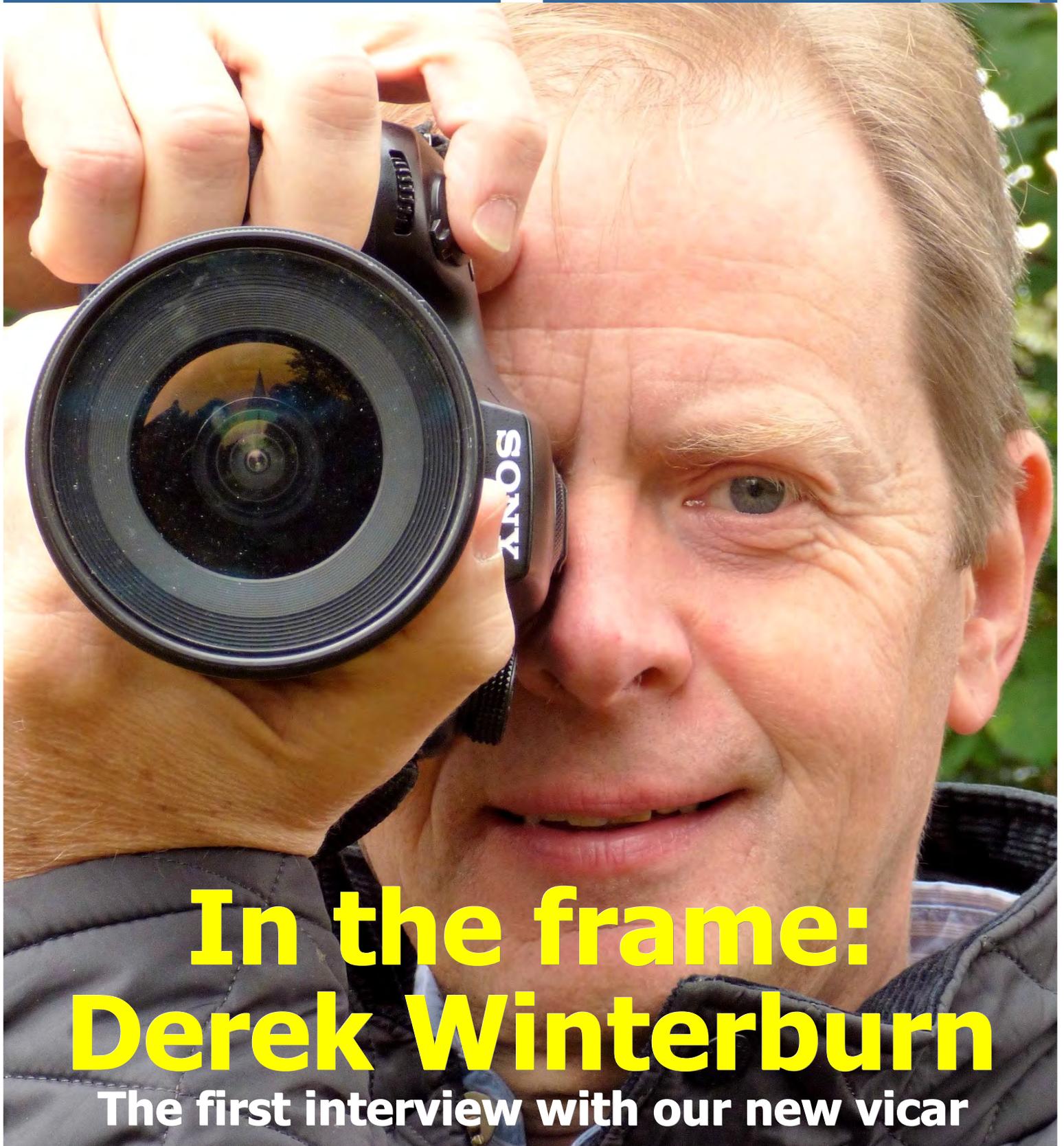


NOVEMBER 2016

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy



In the frame: Derek Winterburn

The first interview with our new vicar

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Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy

Vicar

The Revd Derek Winterburn

Derek, pictured right, was born in Orpington in 1960 and ordained in 1986. He has served in several London parishes, most recently at nearby St Mary's, Hampton. He is keen to grow the church by reaching out to the community, and particularly young families. Derek is a keen photographer and is looking forward to his daily walks in the parish.

Telephone: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Bell Ringing Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Brownies and Guides 0800 1 69 59 01

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Children's Champion

Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854

Church Cleaning Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Church Flowers Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

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Mission Partner Link Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Mozambique/Angola Link

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Music and Worship Committee

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Properties Committee

Bryan Bassdell 020 8979 2040

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Scout Group Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Sidespersons Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

St James's Ark Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

St James's Hospitality / Parish Breakfast

Clare Ryan and Kirstie Craig 079 6413 1135

St James's Players Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

The Shell Seekers (Sunday School)

Term-time (except when there is an all-age service)
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Tools with a Mission Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Theatre Club Peter Hale 020 979 9287

Visitors' Group Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Weekly Pew Sheet Parish Office 020 8941 6003

From the Editor...

November is a time of remembrance with the All Souls' Service for loved ones who have passed away and Remembrance Sunday on 13 November, with a service at the War Memorial in the churchyard to remember all those who gave their lives for their country.

This year, it is also a time of celebration as we welcome the arrival of the Revd Derek Winterburn and his wife Sandra. Derek's official institution will be on Tuesday 8 November (details under What's On) and his first services on Sunday 13 November will follow. This will be a busy time for Derek as he settles into the vicarage and building up to all the Christmas activities and services. Our centrespread gives us an insight into our new vicar.

The Interregnum has lasted exactly a year and we must say a big thank you to the churchwardens, the Revd Jacky Cammidge, Canon Julian Reindorp, the office team and many other helpers too numerous to name who have all worked so hard to keep the church running smoothly. We are all looking forward to the next chapter in the life of St James's with Derek at the helm.



Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

Cover image: Derek Winterburn, pages 4 and 5



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If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to The PCC of St James and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office.

Parish Office

Administrator

Nick Bagge

For all general enquiries, including baptisms and weddings, as well as hall bookings, contact the office.

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Mark Blackwell

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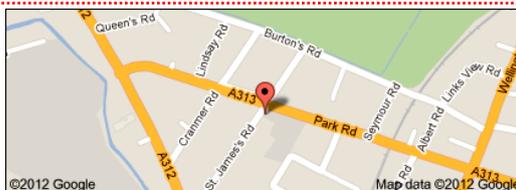
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SUPPORT US!

- The more **volunteers**, the more we can do
- Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do
- Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy

Finding us

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. There is ample parking in the road.



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AROUND THE SPIRE

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WHAT'S ON

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Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion (except 13 Nov)

Sunday 6 November

3rd Sunday before Advent

Job 19: 23-27a;

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17; Luke 20: 27-38

3.30pm All Souls' Service

Tuesday 8 November

7.30pm Institution and induction of our vicar

Sunday 13 November

Remembrance Sunday

9.45am Malachi 4: 1-2a;

2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13; Luke 21: 5-19.

11am Service at War Memorial

Sunday 20 November

Christ the King

Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Colossians 1: 11-20;

Luke 23: 33-43.

4.30pm Songs of Praise

Sunday 27 November

Advent Sunday

Isaiah 2: 1-5; 2 Romans 13: 11-14;

Matthew 24: 36-44.

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

COMING UP

11am Sunday 4 December Christingle

Celebrate the work of The Children's Society and help us form a giant circle as we light the Christingle candles. Note later time this year.

6.30pm Sunday 18 December Carol Concert

Raise the roof at this family favourite.

3pm and 4.30pm 24 December Crib Services

Not one but two services as we tell the nativity.

11pm Midnight Mass

9.30am 25 December Parish Communion

Our final words...



find preaching on Remembrance Sunday the most challenging Sunday of the year. My only experience of war was being a parish priest in Chatham when the dockyard equipped the fleet for the Falklands. They knew it would be their last task as the dockyard was then being closed. I will never forget listening to a young man whom I had married whose ship was sunk and he was in the sea for some hours.

Like so many people I am always moved by watching the British Legion ceremony from the Royal Albert Hall the night before Remembrance Sunday. One year, the standard bearer from our unit in Richmond, where I was chaplain, was part of the parade. And the work of the Richmond Poppy Factory is astonishing. As the legion's motto says, *The Sacrifice Goes On*.

Bereavement

Last year, on Radio 4, Eddie Mair hosted a programme in which the novelist Julian Barnes and the political journalist Robert Peston talked about their feelings and experiences, both having lost their wives relatively recently.

Two themes stayed with me. They shared how almost every day they talked to their wives at some point. Julian Barnes often visits his wife's grave. I wondered how many thousands of people listening would echo their experience, that in bereavement we are conscious in so many different ways of those we love, but who are no longer with us physically.

I felt it was a doubly moving programme because it was men sharing their feelings. We men so often find it more difficult than women both to own our own feelings and to express them.

Letters to the bereaved

Barnes and Peston said two things about bereavement letters: do write about your own memories of the person who has died, particularly those memories that their partner may have no experience of, as they fill in pieces in the jigsaw of the person's

life. And never write 'if there is anything I can do, just contact me.' as they will be too shattered to respond. Instead be helpful. Cook them something, or make a note in your diary to contact them some weeks after the funeral, perhaps with your memories and thanks, and, of course, mention their loved one by name.

Our true selves

In one parish I took communion to a woman who had been married three times, and each husband had died. I asked if she felt the temptation to compare them? She replied, 'Not really because each of them in their different ways enabled me to be the person I truly want to be.' I reflected we all need people to encourage us to be our true selves, but also people who will accept us when we are feeling miserable or just being difficult with those around us.

Listening to people I have sometimes felt their understanding of God is of someone who only accepts what they think is their good side. When people are writing their memories for a funeral I suggest they try to include characteristics which may not have been easy to live with. When speaking at my first funeral, for my first father-in-law, I talked about his Yorkshire Terrier, Adam, of whom we were all frightened. I wondered how could such a lovely man put up with Adam for so long?

Our last words

I have been fortunate that I have been able to speak to those I will always love in the last few days of their lives. Last year, my father-in-law Brian died in his 99th year. I knew he was dying when I drove up to Worcester Hospital, where my own children were all gathered beside a seemingly unconscious Brian.

Thinking about everything we had shared together I said, 'Brian, an English batsman has just scored the fastest century ever.' He opened his eyes and mouthed 'good' — his very last word.

her son Moses. While she is on maternity leave, Flora Kilwale is acting matron. Flora's father was our dear friend Benaiah who died in 2011.

The parish of St Luke belongs to the Diocese of South West

Tanganyika where Bishop Matthew Mhagama is doing a fine job.

The transfer and accountability of funds is managed by our friends in Wales and we always hear when any donation reaches the hospital. This year they intend to put our gift of £750 towards buying a second oxygen concentrator.

Charity Box St Luke's hospital, Milo

Dr Adrian Murray visited St Luke's hospital in September, thanks to the twinning link between Milo and his home parish of Bala in north Wales. He spent a lot of time with Dr Benedict Sandigila and other hospital staff and even performed two Caesarean deliveries!

Adrian reports that the number of babies delivered has been going up thanks to Dr Sandigila's presence. New solar cells have been installed for lighting and land is being prepared for the construction of a new laboratory.

The photo shows matron Saraphina with



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

We will remember them



As with every year since 1921, the Royal British Legion calls on the nation to unite in commemorating the fallen on Remembrance Sunday on 13 November

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service: in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Father, you know our hearts and share our sorrows.

We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved: when we are angry at the loss we have sustained, when we long for words of comfort, yet find them hard to hear, turn our grief to truer living, our affliction to firmer hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, have mercy on those who mourn who feel numb and crushed and are filled with the pain of grief, whose strength has given up. You know all our sighing and longings: be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, do not abandon us in our desolation. Keep us safe in the midst of trouble, and complete your purpose for us through your steadfast love and faithfulness, in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Our eyes, Lord, are wasted with grief; you know we are weary with groaning. As we remember our death in the dark emptiness of the night, have mercy on us and heal us; forgive us and take away our fear through the dying and rising of Jesus your Son.



Local and National stories

Curtain up on St James's Film Club

GOING TO THE CINEMA

has suddenly become a lot more local. St James's has launched its own film club, making full use of the big screen and wonderful sound system.

The idea came from PCC member Josh Webb, pictured at the test night, and his family have now joined forces to offer the full experience, which



includes sales of popcorn, drinks and snacks. There will also be cushions for hire if the pews prove too uncomfortable!

To start, there will be one film night a month, and the first two are: **Saturday 5 November**, *The Sound of Music*, and **Saturday 3 December**, *It's A Wonderful Life*. Doors open at 6.30pm and the films start at 7pm. Donations towards the annual licence fees are welcome.



Christmas gifts from Traidcraft



BE SURE TO VISIT the Traidcraft stall on **Sunday 6 November** to buy your cards and Advent calendars and many other goodies. There are some lovely mini olive wood

nativity sets and tree decorations from Palestine. You can also order your Advent calendars, and don't forget to look in the Traidcraft catalogue for Christmas gifts that can be ordered to ensure delivery in good time. There will also be a stall in church on **Wednesday 16 November** from 12.30-2pm and on **Sunday 4 December** after the service.



Many hands make light work

THE ANNUAL LEAF sweep and gutter clean will be carried out on **Saturday 3 December** at 9.30am. This important work is carried out annually by the Properties Committee — but they need your help too. If you can help please turn up suitably dressed.

Charity concert in memory of pupil



A CHARITY carol concert will take place in church on **Thursday 1 December** at 5.30pm in memory of Scarlett Lill, pictured, who was a pupil at Carlisle Infant School and died in 2014. Please join us to celebrate her life and raise funds for the Great Ormond Street children's hospital. The concert, organised by family friends, including the TV presenter Amanda Lamb, will include a rousing performance by the Hampton Hill Rock Choir. For more information go to: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Scarlett-Lill

New stone to remember the fallen

A NEW GRAVESTONE for someone who died on active service or as a result of their wounds has been added to the churchyard.

Provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the graves are marked by small white stones that include details of the regiment the person served in.

In addition to the 13 graves for Canadian soldiers, there are other war grave memorials around the churchyard. The addition of the new distinctive stone brings the total number of war graves in our churchyard to 27. At the beginning of November each year we place a wooden cross with a red poppy on each grave.



We must open



Derek Winterburn is a man on a mission to enrich and grow our church. But while he comes with many ideas, his first aim is to listen to the congregation and get to know the wider community. Moving two miles may not sound a lot but, as Nick Bagge discovered, he's making no assumptions

Almost exactly a year after Peter Vannozzi handed me his church keys, a new resident has moved into the vicarage. Although this might seem an absurdly long period to be without a leader, for the Church of England this is quite a speedy outcome!

Derek's installation on 8 November marks a new chapter in the life of our church. Some of you will know him from his time as vicar of our neighbouring parish of St Mary's, Hampton, but his imminent arrival as our vicar has made our thirst for knowledge that much greater.

Born in Orpington, in Kent, Derek's path to St James's Road is nothing if not varied. Like many priests he doesn't come from a particularly religious family. 'I was sent to Sunday School every week. The lessons, however, weren't inspiring and I'd have said the odds on me continuing as a Christian later were no more than 50-50.'

However, he began attending a church youth club — and it was here that signs of his future emerged. Inspired by the young men who took the group he became a junior leader.

Even so, Derek's strengths at school were the sciences and he opted to study Botany and Zoology at Bristol University, with no definite career path. 'All I knew was that I didn't want to be a teacher. When the careers advisor suggested I become a teacher, I knew something had to happen.' Something else did — he met his future wife, Sandra, and they were engaged by the time he graduated in 1982.

Derek visited a number of churches, independent, Anglican and Roman Catholic, looking for a spiritual home, settling on Christchurch Clifton.

Then, in 1980, violence erupted in the St Pauls district of Bristol. The riot

stemmed from a police raid on a café and 130 people were arrested. The disturbance occurred against a background of increasing racial tension, poor housing and the alienation of black youth. This acted as a catalyst for Derek, who suddenly knew he wanted to work in some capacity for God in the inner city. He was offered a placement in Widnes, and less than a year later Derek was at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, beginning a Theology degree and ministerial training.

A new start in East London

Ordained in 1986, he began his ministry in Islington, an inner-city parish with high deprivation, where he started a youth club for youngsters on the local council estate. Three years later he moved to Hackney, where he became a team vicar, again working in challenging circumstances, and where he helped to get a decaying housing estate demolished and better homes built in its place.

In 1996, Bishop Richard suggested he move to St Mary's, where he has been vicar for 20 years.

When we met for this interview he was in characteristic form. A man on a mission, who had just returned from his sixth pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he was still busy running St Mary's as well as taking an active interest in St James's — including taking a school Harvest assembly for us.

His energy levels are impressive, and when some people might be considering slowing down, Derek, 56, shows no signs of easing into a quieter life — and nor would we want him to.

His 20-year tenure at St Mary's has been a great success, seeing the church grow and strengthen.



Derek has strong links to ALMA

our doors wide



Back row: Winterburn brothers John and Mark with Derek. Front row: Jenny, Tabitha and Sandra

He introduced a second main service to meet the needs of families who wanted something less formal, developed a more outward-looking church, with strong links to ALMA, led fundraising to renew the church and initiated the opening of a church school.

So why leave, and why move just two miles? I was looking for a place where there was a job to do and had considered various places. I was asked to think afresh about St James's by Bishop Graham. I felt strongly that this was something I could do; that God was saying, take what you have learnt from St Mary's and put it into practice in Hampton Hill.

'So for me, the geography was not really the issue – I know it's a tiny move in most people's view. The question for me was, did I have something to offer, would I have something to learn, and was there something I could work on with the congregation?'

'I think the people at St James's were saying, we are on the threshold of something new. We want someone to come in and work with us, and lead us, and teach us and guide us, and care for us. The range of possibilities excited me.'

Separation between Hampton and Hampton Hill

'I think there is some degree of separation between Hampton and Hampton Hill, although clearly people go to church across parish boundaries. For me, Hampton Hill is fresh, a community to get to know, new ward councillors, organisations like the Greenwood Centre and new schools with which to be engaged. So that's exhilarating and different.'

There are benefits for St James's. As Derek said, 'I know the area, the bishop, the other clergy. I don't have to make lots of fresh contacts.' There are benefits for the Winterburns too. Sandra works at St Catherine's School, Twickenham, and both their sons live in London. Derek is clear about one thing: 'The new vicar of St Mary's has to know that I will not interfere. On the other hand, there are things that the parishes could do together, and I would include All Saints, Hampton, in that too. There is a growing family feeling that could be fostered more after my move.'

The distance between the two churches may not be large, but Derek is making no assumptions about his new parish. 'I am not coming thinking I know exactly the lie of the land. I want to get to know the people at St James's, to get a sense of who they are, what frustrates them, and what are their ambitions.'

Getting to know all about you

'I want to visit as many of the members of St James's as I can. I want to get to know them and what their dream is for St James's.'

'I will also be working with Jacky and others in thinking through Sunday worship. That will lead into working with the PCC in developing a vision. By Easter next year I would hope that things would be a bit clearer as to what are our priorities.'

'I know people have been anxious to get going, but there is an appropriate time to think about things so that the decisions we make are well-founded.'

'Some in the church have been talking about a new service and at St Mary's we did find offering a different style of worship within the same church opened the doors for other people. In the spring I will bring forward plans to develop a new service alongside the 9.30am.'

'It is important to stress that I am coming with a blueprint not a template. As a first step I'll be working with the whole church to decide how St James's appears to those on the outside. Often we put silly barriers in the way because we haven't thought about things. We want to open our doors as wide as we can.'

As a church congregation we should have some care for every person who lives in our parish. The Church of England has always sought to be all things to all people. The challenge for a church like St James's is how do we connect with all these people?'

'Rick Warren, a US pastor, said the hope of the world is the local church. I think he means that the world desperately needs the love of God expressed through Christian people in service and word, in changing lives around us. What you do in the local church really counts. Being involved in a local church has an impact above and beyond the ordinary.'

Life-changing challenges

'My role in that is encouraging people to listen to God, to say, "What is he asking me to do? How is he working with me to change my life?" It's about raising expectation that through teaching and nurture and care and support, people become more like Christ.'

Derek was described in last month's magazine as a 'safe pair of hands'. If that means experienced and reliable, then it is undeniably true. But I'd throw in two more adjectives: provocative and challenging. Derek will make us question ourselves and explore our faith. So fasten your seat belts. As Stephen Fry might say, things are about to get *Quite Interesting*.

Around the SPIRE

with Susan Homer

Many happy returns to Mary, 90

Congratulations to Mary Metcalfe who celebrated her 90th birthday on 7 October. Until fairly recently, Mary was a familiar figure to us on her mobility scooter in church and on the High Street. Sadly, she is no longer well enough to attend church but she retains a great affection for St. James's and its congregation. Joining Mary for the celebration were her daughter Margaret, visiting from Australia, her son John and grandchildren.



Poignant journey from Australia



IN FEBRUARY we received an e-mail from Ron Clarke telling us he was coming to England as part of a world tour and particularly wanted to visit St. James's and Hampton Hill Junior School. Ron is a Pastor in the United Church in Australia, equivalent to our Free Churches. Ron and his future wife Vera both lived in Hampton Hill as children and attended Hampton Hill Junior School.

They were married by the Revd Rupert Brunt at St. James's in 1953, pictured above, and they emigrated to Australia the following year. Ron now lives in Noosa, near Brisbane. Vera passed away in 2015, aged 84. On 25 September Ron, now a very sprightly 86, spent the day with us. He read a lesson at the 9.30am service, joined us for coffee afterwards and then Julian interred some of Vera's ashes in our Garden of Rest. Ron then had lunch with Mary Gray. It was good to hear about his life in Australia and help him to go back down memory lane as he revisited his old haunts.



Hats off to Kirstie Hird!

WE HAVE HEARD from Kirstie Hird, who left us in June when she and her husband Neil moved from Teddington onto their boat *lescale*. They have spent the summer sailing the rivers of the English south east coast. Kirstie used our leaving gift to buy a state-of-the-art Tilley hat, pictured, that carries the guarantee, 'It'll never wear out!' They will be staying in Plymouth over the winter before setting off on their travels again. We were also pleased to hear that their son Will, a former server and bellringer, is now at Nottingham University reading chemistry after spending the summer inter-railing 12,000 km around Europe.



Leaves on the tree for Harvest time



LED BY THE SCOUTS, parishioners were encouraged to stick prayer leaves of thanks on our 'tree' at Harvest Festival. In a special all-age service led by Jacky, our curate, there were also contributions from the Brownies and our own Sunday School, the Shell Seekers, who read psalms they had written. The day ended in the hall with a bring-and-share lunch.





Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

The good in us



By David Hetting

The Shell Seekers were invited to take the activity at our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 2 October. The Autumn term has seen us looking at the challenging theme of *Good and Evil*, a subject chosen by the group themselves. We are taking examples from three areas of the Bible to look at this theme – the Old Testament, the New Testament and the life of Jesus – and we chose to base our harvest thanksgiving on the Book of Psalms.

Psalms are songs and poems covering a multitude of subjects. Many psalms address the subject of good and evil and there are lots of examples of how God is invited to reward the righteous and punish the wicked – we spent time looking at psalm 37 in particular, which has some wonderful examples of these opposites.

Our presentation gave us the opportunity to write our own psalms, thinking not just about good and evil, but also how psalms give thanks to God too. At this time of year, we give thanks to God not only for his gifts of food and drink, but also the gifts he gives to others: that they can farm, produce and provide for all.

Thanks for his creation

We give thanks also for his creation, and especially for his grace and power not only in creating all of us, but also in giving us everything we need to sustain our lives as well, both for our minds and our bodies.

Our psalms, some of which are detailed below, and all of which can be seen on the Shell Seekers display in the church hall, give thanks to God, but also help us to remember what's important – that we shouldn't take for granted the hard work that goes into the harvest we receive – and that we should do what we can to share that harvest with others.



Our Sunday School, The Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 9.25am during school terms, except for one Sunday in most months when there is an all-age service in church. We welcome new members. Come along for a trial visit and see just how much fun it can be.

Emma's Psalm



God, you are strong and mighty – you are powerful and always there to help and listen. I praise and worship you for creating life on earth and for when you help me or someone. I am sad when I see homeless people or poverty – I am sad when I hear bad things in the news such as wars. Help us when we are lonely and sick and when something bad has happened.

Jonathan's Psalm



God, you are saviour of our world, the stopper of evil and giver of life. I praise and worship you for all the wonderful food you provide for all of us. I am sad when others less fortunate than me go hungry. Help us when people go hungry and we can't help them.

Chloe's Psalm



God, you are helpful when you care for us. I praise and worship you for food and water. I am sad when I have to wait for dinner. Help us when we struggle.



Hagia Sophia

In this issue we look at one of the world's iconic buildings, Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, with its rich architectural and historical significance. It has been a Christian Orthodox cathedral known as the *Church of the Divine Wisdom*, a Sunni Islam mosque, and in 1935 was designated as a museum by the Turkish President and founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. He strictly prohibited it as a place of worship, although since 2006 the government has allocated a small prayer room in the museum complex for Christian and Muslim museum staff.

Today, it is once more in the news with moves by both religious and political leaders in Turkey to convert it once again back into a mosque. In July the muezzin's call to prayer reverberated inside the Hagia Sophia for the first time in 85 years, when it was temporarily opened for religious observance during Ramadan.

Built by Constantine

The original church on the site of the Hagia Sophia is said to have been built by Constantine I in AD 325 on the foundations of a pagan temple. The current building was originally constructed as a church between AD 532 and 537 on the orders of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I and designed by the Greek mathematicians, Isidore of Miletus and Anthemius of Tralles. It remained the world's largest cathedral for nearly a thousand years, until the completion of Seville Cathedral in 1520.

Hagia Sophia is acknowledged as the most important Byzantine building, famous in particular for its massive dome. In plan, the structure combines a longitudinal basilica and the main dome; there are three aisles separated by columns with galleries above and great marble piers rising up to support the dome. The walls above the galleries and the base of the dome are pierced by windows, which in the glare of daylight obscure the supports and give the impression that the canopy floats on air.

The building was damaged by earthquakes and partial collapses prior to the 10th century, leading to rebuilding and reinforcement from the outside. In 1204 it was looted by the Venetians and the Crusaders on the Fourth Crusade. It was further restored in the mid-14th century.

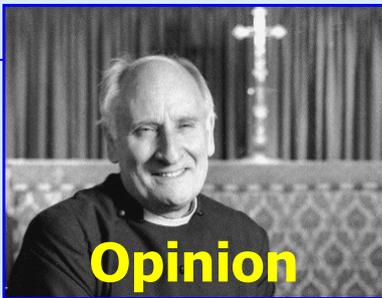
Conquered by the Turks

In 1453, when Constantinople (as Istanbul was previously known) was conquered by the Ottoman Turks, Sultan Mehmed II ordered this main church of Orthodox Christianity and the seat of the Patriarch to be converted into a mosque. The bells, altar, iconostasis, and sacrificial vessels and other relics were removed and the mosaics depicting Jesus, Mary, Christian saints and angels were also



removed or plastered over. Islamic features, such as the *mihrab* (niche indicating the direction of Mecca), a *minbar* (pulpit), pictured above, and four minarets were added. There was further restoration by Sultan Abdulmecid from 1847-1849. It remained a mosque until 1931, when it was closed for four years, before re-opening as a museum.

Today, Hagia Sophia is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site, Turkey's most visited tourist attraction with over three million visitors each year. This includes the 17th century Sultan Ahmed mosque that is known more popularly as the *Blue Mosque*, and the Topkapi Palace; all three wonderful architectural gems making Istanbul a 'must-see' destination.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

CLINTON v TRUMP

Just when I wanted to describe the debates between the candidates for the US president as between fact and fiction, I was sobered by a remark of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Philadelphia. He said, 'I believe that each candidate is very bad news for our country. One can be viewed as a belligerent demagogue with an impulse control problem. And the other can be viewed as a criminal liar, uniquely rich in stale ideas and bad priorities.'

The Brexit vote has made us aware how much anger there is from those who feel left out of our society. The elitist feeling of much of our politics, and the slow pace of democracy, can seem a barrier to those who feel there must be another way. Trump's simplistic cry, 'I'll fix it, I'll make America great again' will surely find echoes with many voters, as did a similar cry in the Brexit debate.

MRS MAY & THE STATE

On the steps of Downing Street our Prime Minister, responding to the issues that face both America and the UK, said our country's needs meant 'fighting against burning injustices ...' and she listed many of them. Of course, she will be criticised when she does not live up to what she said, but she was surely brave to take that risk. As one friend said, 'She has parked her tanks on the Labour Party's lawn!'

In the process Mrs May was reaffirming the role of the state. It was Martin Wolf in the *Financial Times*, normally considered to be on the right, who said, 'There's a renewed interest in the state. The state binds society together. If the state becomes too weak, society fragments.' This is crucial in a country sometimes described as Food Bank Britain.

ISLAM & EUROPE

Two Roman Catholic Cardinals have raised the issue of the future of Christianity in Europe. Cardinal Schonberg, of Austria, asked, 'Will there be an Islamic conquest of Europe? Many Muslims hope so and say Europe is finished and is about to gamble away its Christian heritage.'

He made headlines worldwide, and responded, 'The opportunity for a Christian renewal of Europe lies in our hands if we look at and come to Christ, spread his Gospel and deal with people, strangers included, as he has taught us both lovingly and responsibly.'

Cardinal Muller, of the Vatican, said, 'Islamic countries must not only reject the use of violent means to spread religion, but also any aims at religious-political world domination... Countries where the majority believed in one religion must recognise the right of religious minorities to practise their religion, and freedom of conscience must be recognised everywhere.' He quoted the open letter from 138 Islamic scholars in 2006 that offered dialogue on peaceful coexistence between people of different religions.

COUNSELLING STUDENTS

The number of students seeking counselling has soared 50% in the past five years fuelled by mounting pressure to get the best degrees to secure a good job to pay off their student loans. One student said, 'You know you're going to come out with around £50,000 of debt. I stress about that all the time.' A report from the Higher Education Institute said that a number of universities needed to triple their spending on mental health support.

FAITH & FAIRIES

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, the former Minister for Faith, has called for the reinstatement of the role. Speaking about developing a more English brand of Islam, she revealed that government colleagues referred to her previous role as the 'Minister for Fairies, Goblins and Imaginary Friends'.

What's On

with Nick Bagge



NEW

St James's Film Club

Saturday 5 November, 7pm, St James's Church

The curtain goes up on a new club, opening with the classic musical *The Sound of Music*. Watch it on our own big screen. Entry is free, with any donations towards licensing fees. Refreshments available to purchase. Doors open at 6.30pm. Next film is *It's A Wonderful Life* on Saturday 3 December.

NEW

All Souls' Day Service

Sunday 6 November, 3.30pm, St James's Church

A service to remember loved ones who have died. Names may be added to the list at the back of church on Sundays.

Institution and induction of our new vicar

Tuesday 8 November, 7.30pm, St James's Church

Just over a year after Peter Vannozi left Hampton Hill, the 10th vicar of St James's, the Revd Derek Winterburn, will be instituted by the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin,

Please help us to welcome Derek and his wife Sandra. The service will be followed by refreshments in the hall.



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 13 November, 9.45am, St James's Church, followed by a short service at the War Memorial at 11am.

Join us as we honour those who sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. The service will move from the church to the War Memorial shortly before 11am.

Capital Mass: a celebration

Thursday 17 November, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity and St Saviour Church, Upper Chelsea, London SW1X 9DF

The Diocese of London and Church Urban Fund celebrate our churches' response to poverty and inequality in London.

Songs of Praise

Sunday 22 November, 4.30pm, St James's Church

For weeks now people have been naming their favourite hymns. If you haven't done so, do so quickly and you might still make the shortlist. At this service we'll learn more about the selected hymns and why people have chosen them.

NEW

Christmas Lighting-up Parade

Friday 25 November, 5pm-late, Hampton Hill High Street

The parade will be bigger than ever with plenty of festive cheer for all the family. Enjoy Christmas Carols, a brass band, a Rock Choir, outdoor and indoor markets, a vintage car show, children's entertainment, dressed-up dogs, Santa's grotto and helter-skelter. The road will be closed from 5.30pm and parade will be at 7pm. For information see: lovehamptonhill.com

NEW

Scarlett Lill Brighter Future Concert

Thursday 1 December, 6pm, St James's Church

A charity concert, featuring carols and readings, in aid of the charity for Scarlett, a pupil at Carlisle Infant School who died in 2014. It will feature a performance by the Hampton Hill Rock Choir.



Brighter Future Fund

NEW

Leaf Sweep and Gutter Clean

Saturday 3 December, 9.30am, St James's Church

This important work is carried out annually by the Properties Committee — but they need YOUR help too! The gutters of both church and hall need to be cleared of leaves. If you can help please turn up suitably dressed. There will be hot drinks and snacks for all the helpers. For more information contact bryan.basdell@btinternet.com.

NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm, All Saints' Church, Market Place, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1JP

The Christmas concert, with Guest Choirs from St Pauls Junior School Kingston Hill, and Kingston University Chamber Choir, plus audience participation. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on the door or from infoteddingtonchoral.com.

NEW

Christingle Service

Sunday 4 December, 11am, St James's Church

This is a great family occasion when we remember the work of The Children's Society and encircle the church with our lighted Christingle candles. Children will be given a candle-shaped collection box to take home and fill with coins for the charity. Please note the later start for the service this year.



NEW

Concordia Voices

Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm, St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA

Concordia's winter concert will get everyone in the Christmas spirit. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) on the door or £10 (£8 concessions) in advance from members, or by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org.

NEW

Cantanti Camerati

Saturday 17 December, 7.30pm, St Mary's Parish Church, Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NJ

A traditional Christmas concert. Tickets £12, available from Hillsound, 24-26 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1PD, by telephoning (020) 8898 8020, or on the door.

Registers for September



BAPTISMS

- 4 Cooper Cranston, Hanworth
- 11 Scarlett Jane Celia Carmel, Teddington
- 11 Ella Hayley Birks, Walton on Thames
- 11 Harvey James Kennard, Walton on Thames
- 18 Chloe Alice Barker, Hampton Hill

WEDDINGS

- 3 Kristian Paul Fitchett and Hayley Taylor, Hanworth
- 17 Daniel Cofie Pemberton and Amber Jean O'Brien, West Molesey



FUNERALS

- 12 Barbara Gwyneth Mason, 87, Hampton
- 12 Joan Ethel Brown, 93, Hampton
- 26 Hilda Evelyn Hannaford, 91, Teddington
- 27 Ellen Nappin, 96, Hampton Hill

INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 25 Vera Lillian Clarke, 84, Queensland, Australia

Vicar's View



The new vicar was keen to unleash the full potential of the church's state of the art audio system



Paint me a picture to tell a story

What a difficult assignment – to choose 10 paintings from so many contenders! A task made a little easier by Liz Wilmot's excellent choice of modern painters (*The Spire*, June 2014), which meant that Matisse, Picasso, Dufy, Hockney and Chagall did not need to jostle for space this time. My choices all hold special significance for me in one way or another. Some paintings depict places I know, or bring back memories. Others tell a story, or help me to unpick the meaning of the story they depict. Here you will find familiar works and perhaps make some discoveries. I hope you enjoy them.

1 THE WILTON DIPTYCH Unknown (c.1399)



This rare and beautiful painting is a sumptuously gilded portable altarpiece, designed to be taken on journeys as an aid to private prayer. It was created for Richard II, and his personal emblem, the white stag, is displayed on the angels' robes as well as his own. It emphasises the 'divine right of Kings' and Richard's claim to the throne, but contrasts this earthly power with a heavenly one – a salutary warning against the vanity of kings. (National Gallery, London.)

2 ST AUGUSTINE IN HIS STUDY Carpaccio (c.1460-1526)

My mother and I both loved this painting because of the tiny details. In the middle of writing a letter, St Augustine is startled by the voice of St Jerome telling of his imminent martyrdom. His study is bathed in light from the window, causing deep triangular



shadows. At the apex of one of these sits his little dog, who hopes that once St Augustine has finished his letter, it will be time for a walk... (Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni, Venice.)

3 CHRIST WITH MARTHA AND MARY Diego Velazquez (1599-1660)

This picture, to give it its full name *Kitchen scene with Christ in the House of Martha and Mary* is dominated by Martha and her necessary meal preparations.



She is clearly annoyed at having to do all the work herself, but is nevertheless in her 'comfort zone'. The gleaming fish on the table lead our eye to the view beyond and we are invited to consider the limitless possibilities offered if we have the courage to leave our comfort zone and find our 'inner Mary'. (National Gallery, London.)

4 A BOY BRINGING POMEGRANATES Pieter de Hooch (mid-17th century)

I love the way de Hooch's use of perspective allows us to walk through this painting, as we glimpse other vistas through a series of indoor and outdoor spaces. A boy offers a basket of pomegranates to a lady in an interior; behind them a courtyard leads into another interior, beyond which a second woman watches the transaction from afar. Did de Hooch use camera obscura, I wonder? (The Wallace Collection, London.)



5 PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST Rembrandt (c.1663)

Rembrandt, in familiar fur-trimmed gown and soft cap, his face creased and lined with age and experience, portrays himself as a master craftsman, complete with brushes, maulstick and palette. His face is reflective, but purposeful; his eyes full of knowledge, maybe self-critical. It is a powerful painting and it is easy to understand how actor Timothy West draws so much inspiration from the emotions on the faces of Rembrandt's portraits. (The Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood House.)



6 THE THAMES AND ST PAUL'S Canaletto 1746

Painted for the Duke of Richmond from the dining room of Richmond House, this shows the new London skyline after the Great Fire, including St Paul's, the Monument and spires of Wren churches in the City.

The Thames bustles with barges and lighters; it's an elegant view that would have been familiar to Pepys, but which is now sadly hidden by much new building. (Private collection, West Sussex.)



7 THE CHICHESTER CANAL WM Turner (c.1828)

This is the first of Turner's paintings for Petworth House, following his visit there in 1809. The view of Chichester Cathedral spire from a distance is one of my favourite images. If you take a trip on the newly-



restored section of the Chichester canal, however, you discover that the cathedral is on the opposite bank. An example of artistic licence on Turner's part... (Tate Gallery, London.)

8 THE MAGPIE Claude Monet (1840-1926)



Everyone knows this painting, but it is no less beautiful for that. You can feel the stillness and muffled silence of a landscape heavy with snow. The low winter sun colours the shadows grey/blue (before, painters had always used black for shadows) and the luminous quality of light and shadow on the snow conveys the biting cold.

In contrast, a lone magpie on the gate provides a focal point of life and movement in the frozen landscape.

9 TABLE BENEATH LANTERNS Henri le Sidaner (1862-1939)



A post-impressionist who described his style as *Intimist*, Henri le Sidaner spent his summers in Gerberoy, and many of his paintings feature his beautiful garden created in the ruins of a medieval fortress. Years ago I was in Gerberoy, supervising some young artists, when we were approached by his daughter-in-law, who invited us to visit his home and see the views that inspired his work. Some of his paintings were recently exhibited at the Royal Academy. (Private collection, US.)

10 NOLI ME TANGERE Graham Sutherland (1903-1980)



I grew up in Sussex at the time when Dean Hussey introduced many modern artworks into Chichester Cathedral, including this symbolic painting. Completed in 1960, and displayed on the altar of the Mary Magdalene chapel, it illustrates the moment on Easter morning when Mary Magdalene was standing outside Jesus's empty tomb and mistook him for the gardener. The diagonal handrail and second level of the staircase intersect, forming a cross. The angles between the staircase and the doorway meet to form a triangle, depicting the Trinity. The vibrant colours, reacting together, convey the tension of the encounter, and capture this amazing moment in a truly dramatic way.