

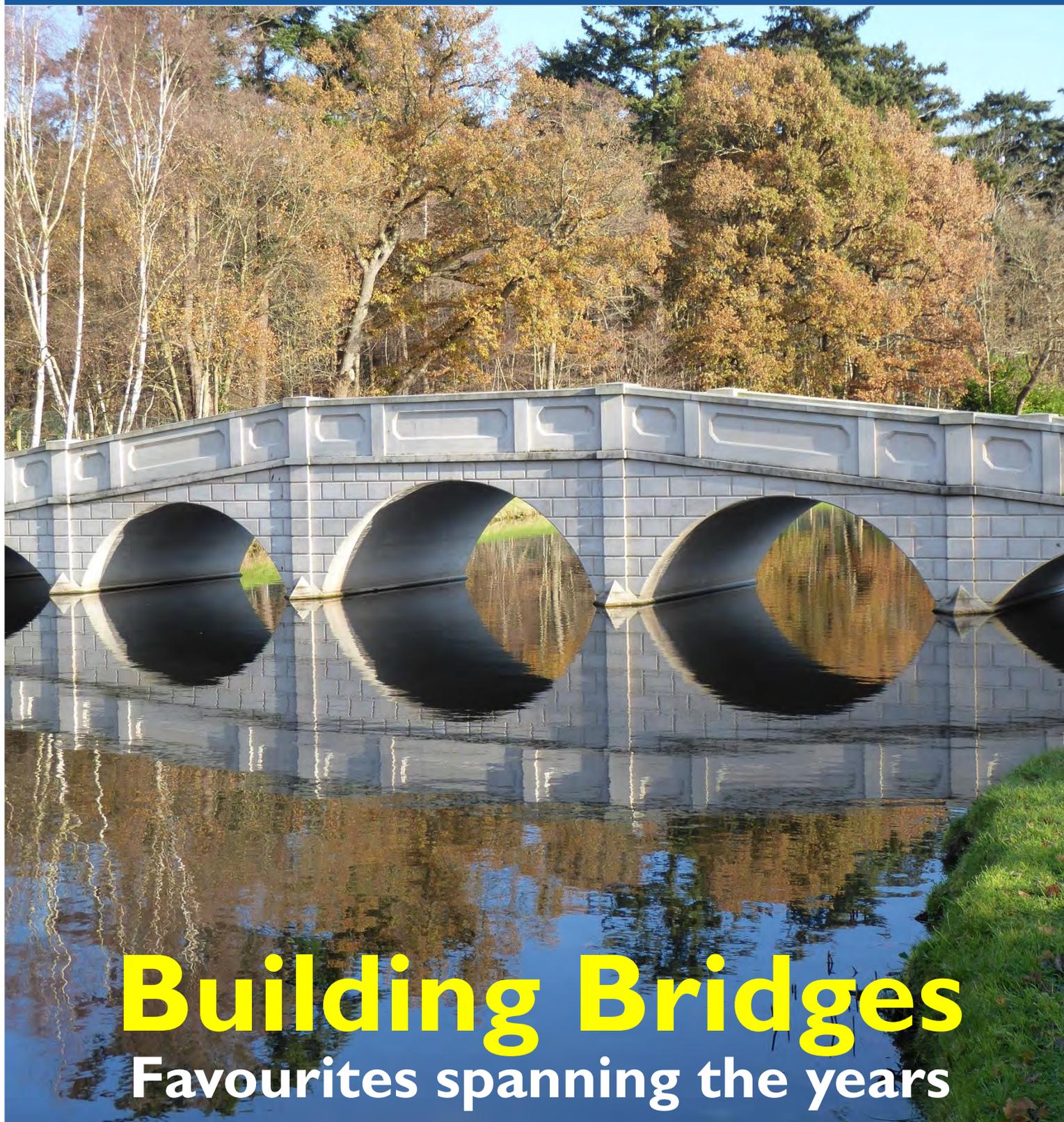
FEBRUARY 2018

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



Building Bridges
Favourites spanning the years

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or find us on



Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

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

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

CURATE Rev Jacky Cammidge

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

Tel: 074 9677 0505

Email: curate@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



ASSISTANT PRIEST 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, often out and about on his trademark red scooter. Julian is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren.

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Traidcraft Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

TWAM Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Visitors' Team Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Welcome Team

Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

From the Editor

This year starts a new chapter in the life of St James's with the appointment of Karen Roach as our Children and Families' Work Leader.

Her aim is to expand our work with children and young people, making our church more appealing to young families. Karen joined us in December and introduces herself on Page 6. She will, in future, be editing our Young Spire page.

The beginning of a new year is a time for reflection as well as looking forward and the cover photo of one of the bridges at Painshill Park in Cobham shows the stillness of the water and wonder of reflections.

We have such a rich abundance of lovely places around us which can give us inspiration and time to think, away from the noise and bustle of everyday life. This also links in with My Favourite Bridges on Page 8.

Derek has written about marriage, the second of his three features about the significant occasions in our lives. As he wrote



the article the engagement was announced of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle and we have their wedding to look forward to at St George's Chapel, in Windsor Castle, later in the year.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

Cover photo: Painshill's Five Arch Bridge, Cobham, Surrey

SPIRE The Spire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We make no charge for this magazine, but if you are a regular reader we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs to enable us to expand our outreach across the parish. Cheques should be made payable to the PCC of St James, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the church office.

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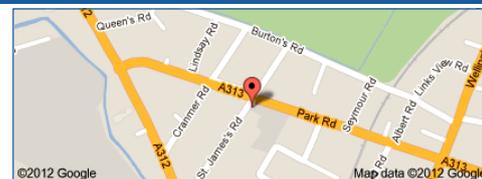
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Please recycle this magazine after use



Finding us

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



Clerical Capers



...er, apart from a little hiccup, it was an excellent Lent supper...

What sort of life do you want with God?



There has been an extraordinary display at Kew Gardens since October. These are not the vibrant orchid blooms that are celebrated in February and March - but dried, dead flowers. The 'floral artist', Rebecca Louise Law, has stitched together over 375,000 preserved flowers in 1000 garlands (each of which takes over a day to make.) It is a marvellous experience to walk the narrow pathway through the lines hanging from the ceiling. The installation is called *Life in Death* - in part to show that there is still value and beauty in things that are dead and fading.

Unsupervised 'free flow'

Kew encountered a problem however. At first people were allowed to wander through, 'free flow'; the first time I visited there was a queue to get in, but in the gallery we were unsupervised. Three months later we were accompanied by a chaperone. Tens of thousands had visited, but too many people had touched the delicate flowers, tourists had trundled through with suitcases and small children had even run into the garlands. Now volunteers 'acted as police', she said.

With hindsight this was inevitable - the garlands were within reach and the impulse to touch is strong. Someone in Kew knew this - the publicity posters for the exhibition features three adults actually fingering the flowers. They were selling an 'experience'.

While I would never want to diminish getting our thinking right, the church should never be shy of inviting people to experience the life of faith before understanding all the doctrine of the Creeds. Jesus invited enquirers 'to come and stay' even though they understood very little.

An 'unfeeling' experience

But of course the installation was vulnerable to damage; for it to survive until March, 'do not touch' had to be enforced! Many people encounter the Christian faith as 'spectacle' - primarily as something observed.

From being in the congregation (audience!) at a carol service, to attendance at a relative's wedding or baptism, it is something seen and heard. An emotional engagement seems accidental.

I don't think that the impulse to *experience* is weaker - but that it isn't very much allowed for. It seems to me that the points in the service when most people are engaged is when they clap (at

baptisms and weddings) or at the Peace in the communion service when everyone greets their neighbours - suddenly there is energy in the room!

Offering an activity

At our all-age services we try to find ways for people to express prayers with a physical action; a simple movement or activity can be profound.

The Church of England has been strong on offering a 'spectacle' - both in parish churches and cathedrals, but poorer at actively involving. But worship is largely about an encounter with God - an experience. Then there is life beyond Sunday.

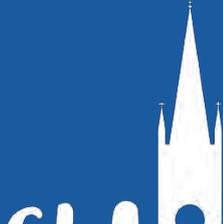
Only when Christians grasp that they have a responsibility for their own spiritual life will they take up the challenge to pray on Monday as they are led in prayer on Sunday, and to live at work or at home as they aspire to when in church.

Hands-on or Hands-off?

At this time of year we reflect on our life with God. I would encourage everyone to think about this.

Are you expecting 'hands-off' religious 'art appreciation' or 'hands-on' and 'interactive'?

The Bible way is very definitely to come along and find out for yourself. As Psalm 34 says (mixing our metaphors!): '*O taste and see that the Lord is good.*'


St James
Hampton Hill

Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 0800-0830
Parish Communion 0930-1030
Together at Eleven 1100-1140
followed by crafts and refreshments
Compline (Night Prayer) 2000-2020
18, 25 Feb; 4, 11, 18 Mar

Mon-Fri

(not Tuesdays, except 13 February)
0915-0940 Morning Prayer
0915-0940

Tuesdays

6, 27 February
0930-1015 Holy Communion
0930-1015
20 February
Holy Communion and Coffee
1000-1130 (note change of week)

Connections

NEW Tuesday 6 February
1100-1230 (1st Tuesday of month)
Join us for a monthly informal drop-in to chat over coffee and cakes! This first meeting will gather ideas for future dates.

Quiz Supper

Saturday 10 February
1830 Our popular Quiz Supper returns to the Fitz Wygram Hall

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14 February
0930 & 2000 Holy Communion + Ashing

Fairtrade Fortnight

Sunday 4 March
1030 Our usual Traidcraft stall in the hall

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 11 March
1000 All Age service f/b Holy Communion
1050 Traidcraft stall selling Easter Eggs

Palm Sunday 25 March

0930 Procession, followed by Holy Communion, inc. dramatised Passion and Shell Seekers

Maundy Thursday 29 March

2000 Holy Communion inc. washing of feet, followed by the Watch

Good Friday 30 March

0930 An All Age Service inc. craft and making of Easter Garden
1400 Liturgy of Good Friday

Easter Day 1 April

(no 0800 today)
0600 The Easter Liturgy, followed by breakfast
0930 Holy Communion inc. craft workshop and Easter Egg hunt

New community-based project for older people

WE ARE LAUNCHING

a new group, primarily for older people. *Connections* will initially be held on the first Tuesday of the month from 11-1230.



Come along and enjoy fresh coffee, homemade cakes, friendship and support. Meeting in church, it provides a great opportunity to meet people in a safe environment.

The first meeting is on **Tuesday 6 February**. Co-ordinator Coryn Robinson said: 'We would welcome anybody who is free to come along to chat about our ideas

and maybe contribute some of their own. We want people from the wider community to participate, so feel free to share the information with friends and neighbours'

The plan is for a constantly changing range of activities to form part of each meeting, with everything from craft demonstrations and games to speakers.

Take the right path with our Lent group

THE FORTY DAYS before Easter Sunday give us an opportunity like no other in the Christian calendar. In commemorating Jesus' preparation for his earthly ministry, we can do something he himself did - spend time apart from the world and focus on our individual and collective relationship with God. Our Lent course runs every **Thursday 22 February-22 March** in the hall at 2000.

Former nurse, Sarah, becomes first female Bishop of London

SARAH MULLALLY'S

appointment as the first woman Bishop of London has delighted campaigners for gender equality.

Bishop Sarah who grew up in Woking, where she went to a comprehensive school, said she was 'delighted and slightly terrified' by her appointment.

She held clinical nursing posts in several London hospitals, specialising in cancer care, before she was ordained.



It was after she became the youngest ever Chief Nursing Officer (the most senior nurse in England) that she trained for ordination and then became a Self Supporting Minister (similar to our curate Jacky).

After she left nursing she became a Team Rector in Sutton, and then a Canon at Salisbury Cathedral. Since 2015 she has been Bishop of Crediton.

She is married and has a daughter and a son.

But for most women, the fight goes on

THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, to which St James's is affiliated, reports that women are not coming even close to equality. Its magazine editor says: 'Forget about having it all — women are still battling for their basic rights and safety.'

In most countries men earn 1.5 times more than women; 830 women die every day from the consequences of pregnancy and childbirth; 81% of landowners are men; half of all females killed worldwide were murdered by a partner or male family member.

At the UN there is a mixed story. Women make up 44% of staff in total, but just 28% of international staff, arguably its most important job. Most are in low-level jobs and it would take 703 years at the current rate to reach parity at senior director level. The UN says it remains committed to equality.

Occasion fit

The recent announcement of the engagement of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle has highlighted the complicated status of marriage in our society. Harry and Meghan are both children of divorced parents, and the latter has also had a previous marriage, *and* they are currently living together, yet they are still opting to be married.



DEREK WINTERBURN

I have had a happy experience of marriage and family-life; being a husband, and then a father and now a grandfather, have been both enriching and stretching.

I realise that not all marriages are so contented, that couples may get along fine without being married, and that children brought up by a lone parent can be well-balanced and achieve their dreams.

While we rightly make space in our society for all styles of relationships, there is clear evidence that suggests that more is at stake than the personal choice of two adults: the welfare of children.

Family breakdowns

Children are now more likely to have a smartphone than a father at home

If current trends remain as they are, any child born today in the UK has only a 50/50 chance of being with both their birth parents by the age of 15

Unmarried couples with children make up one in five of all parents but account for more than 50 per cent of the relationship splits.



Whilst few weddings will be as grand as Harry and Meghan's, choosing to marry in church makes everyone's day a uniquely personal, meaningful, spiritual and beautiful occasion. In the second of three features about rites of passage, we look at Marriage and the part the church can play in building a stable, loving partnership.



Nadia Rajan and Christian Bassani's wedding in St James's Church on 14 July 2017

for a prince

The secret to our 60-year marriage? Working as a team



MICHAEL AND PAT FUTTER, pictured, were married at St Mary's Church, Hampton in 1957 and moved to Hampton Hill in 1961. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding last March with all their family around them, as they have always done with all anniversaries and birthdays.

The couple, who have been attending St James's Church for many years, put the secret of their long marriage down to working as a partnership. They always sort out problems, have no secrets from each other, and do things together.

They have a very strong family ethic and their two sons, Anthony and Nicholas, and their families are all very supportive and enjoy sharing birthdays and anniversaries with their parents. Both sons were married in church and their grandson, Dominic, is to be married in June.

Their home in Uxbridge Road is very welcoming and Pat and Michael like nothing better than showing you photos of their family and talking about all their activities past and present.

Renewing your wedding vows in church

John and Moya Meredith-Smith chose to renew their wedding vows in church to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. As regulars at St James's they made their declarations during a Sunday service. Talk to Derek if you are interested in doing something similar.

Nearly all parents (93%) who stay together until their oldest child reaches 15 are married.

Teenagers' mental-health is often influenced by whether or not their parents are married.

Enduring relationships

So families are more likely to break down if the parents are not married. Then follows a great financial cost to society when families break down, and a heavy emotional price to all involved.

Getting married is no guarantee of daily joy, but all other things being equal, it does increase the likelihood of your relationship lasting and your children benefitting from living with both parents.

The Happy Occasion

Thinking of getting married? You don't have to be a church member to be married at St James's. As far as it is legally possible, we want to welcome you for a church wedding.



There are lots of ways that your service can be customised to make it your own, from thinking about the music and the readings to having special arrangements for decorating the church.

We have plenty of space for your family and friends, with access for wheelchair users.

We like to think that we are more than a venue and are helping you to prepare for your marriage as well as your wedding.

Wedding preparation

Couples are invited to our Wedding Preparation Course which gives you the chance to think through some of the joys and challenges of married life.

You will also meet, several times, the member of the clergy who will take your wedding, to plan the ceremony in detail together.

The basic cost of the service is £484, although most people opt for extras like an organist and bells.

The Church of England has an informative website to help you make the right choices for your special day www.yourchurchwedding.org.

For further information about being married at St James's telephone either the vicar 020 8241 5904 or the Church Office 020 8941 6003.

Most of these statistics used in this feature are from the Marriage Foundation, which is non-religious. Where possible, I have checked the conclusions that have been drawn from the data.

Around the Spire

Lifegroups bring the Bible alive

BACK IN THE AUTUMN St James's launched two Lifegroups, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays in different homes, to discuss how the Bible is relevant to our lives today.

The initial meetings studied Paul's Letter to the Philippians, led by Derek, our vicar, relating its meaning to our lives and the world today. Over the weeks, the small groups found it an



enjoyable and inspiring time. Following a break over Christmas, the groups resumed in January and will run until Lent. If you would like to join either group contact Derek.

When St Valentine and Ash Wednesday collide!

Did you know that this year, 14 February is both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day! It seems an odd mix, yet there is a link: *love!*



Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning to love God more, as we give him space in our lives. Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, where he was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love. Valentine, a priest in the 3rd century, was committed to sharing God's love with others. He showed it in action, helping persecuted Christians in Rome.

Sit and watch the world go by...

OUR NEW BENCH

has been installed near the South Porch. Made of beech wood, it was given to us by the local council after they had to fell our beech tree, which had become infected. Our thanks to them and to our gardening team who did the back-breaking job of preparing the ground.



Food for thought quiz night

OUR QUIZ NIGHT

is back! Following last year's sell-out evening, demand for tickets is sure to be high for this year's event, on **Saturday 10 February** from 1830-2200, so contact us as soon



as possible if you'd like to take part. For just £10 you'll get snacks on arrival, a hot meal and dessert, a glass of bubbly or similar, and a fun evening. There will also be prizes for the winning team. You don't need to be a regular at St James's to take part. Sign up in church, or phone or email the church office (details on page 2) and ideally pay in advance.

On top of the world: the view from Table Mountain, Cape Town



Children have sometimes been called the 'church of tomorrow', but they are key members of the church of today. Jesus called his disciples both to care for children and to learn from them.



DEREK WINTERBURN

young people and their parents is given a priority, churches will continue to lose younger generations. St James's has for many years offered 'Sunday School'-style groups (Shell Seekers) and all-age worship. Last year this was supplemented by our 'family-friendly' *Together at Eleven* weekly service.

We are now blessed to employ Karen Roach, an experienced and gifted person, to further strengthen our ministry.

We are praying that through her work with our volunteers, many children and their parents will discover and grow in the Christian faith.

This is a new post that has been paid for from Betty Stewart's legacy. As she was someone who worked with children, the PCC felt that part of her gift should be used to provide a richer experience for young people.

The sad truth is that there are so many distractions today and the church cannot simply rely on children and parents just turning up because there is nothing better to do.

Families have higher expectations of premises and other resources; society rightly has higher safeguarding requirements. Schools are increasingly hesitant about a Christian input. Unless ministry to children,

ALL ABOUT ME

Hello! I'm the new Children and Families' Work Leader at St James's Church.

I was born in Jamaica and have been living in the UK for the past 30 years. In 2004, after years of working in professional services as a client relationship manager, I felt a call to go to theological college and took a three-year career break to do a degree in Christian Life and Ministry, including counselling, at the London School of Theology.



KAREN ROACH

'I have a passion to see children know God's love and to grow in their knowledge and experience of him.

I hope that I will become an ambassador in demonstrating this love to the children and families I will come in contact with at St James's and in the surrounding community.'

to an injury in 2012, my running days are over and I now settle for swimming and cycling, and I'm an avid reader.

I also have an interest in sacred art and helped organise the *Stations of the Cross - Art & Passion* exhibition in London during Lent in 2016, endorsed by the then Bishop of London, Richard Chartres.

In 2014 and 2016 I went on two mission trips to Cape Town, South Africa, spending a year and a half working with the homeless, helping to feed and rehabilitate them back into society, counselling young women at a YWCA and working with churches to provide humanitarian support in various townships.

This included building jungle gyms for primary schools. You can read more about my missions at: missiontosa.yolasite.com.

I first experienced God when I was a child and this is the key influence of my work. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

■ *My contact details are on page 2.*



Not a walk along Park Road to our very own St James's Church, but a 500-mile trek along the *Camino de Santiago (the Way of St James)* brings us to the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela



LAURENCE SEWELL

and the reputed resting place of Jesus's apostle after whom our church is named.

Since the early Middle Ages the story of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, situated in Galicia, north-western Spain, has become interwoven with the development of Christianity in western Europe and a symbol of Spanish Christians' struggle against Islam.

Today, it is still a popular pilgrimage destination and the culmination of various routes from starting points across Europe that several hundred thousand Christians and others undertake each year.

Spreading the Gospel

St James was leader of the church in Jerusalem after Christ's resurrection, but he is also said to have travelled to Spain to spread the Gospel, before returning to Jerusalem where he was martyred in 44 AD.

Following his death, his followers are said to have returned his body to Spain where it was interred in a tomb at a site near the *finis terrae* - the end of the known Earth - in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula, after which its location fell into obscurity for centuries.

According to legend, in the early 9th century, a hermit called Pelagius saw a mysterious light shining over a Roman-era tomb forgotten in the middle of a forest. This was recognised as a miracle by the local bishop, Teodomiro of Iria Flavia; and the king at that time, Alfonso II (791-842) of Asturias and Galicia had a church built on the site of the tomb.

It soon began attracting pilgrims and around this shrine the city of Santiago de Compostela grew up.

Reduced to ashes

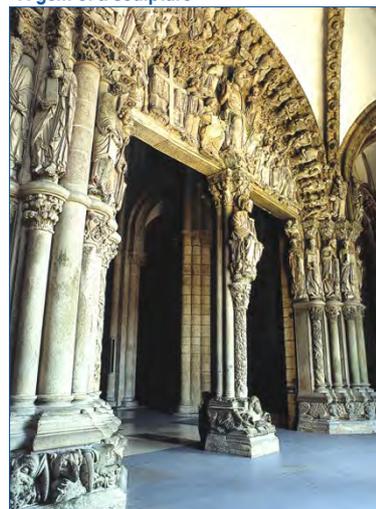
This early church and buildings were sacked and reduced to ashes in 997 by the army of Al-Mansur Ibn Abi Amir, under instructions from the caliph of Córdoba, although St James's tomb and relics were left undisturbed.

Construction of the present Romanesque cathedral began in 1075 in the reign of Alfonso VI (1040-1109) of Castile under

the patronage of Bishop Diego Peláez, but it was not until over a hundred years later that the cathedral was finished and consecrated in 1211.

Meanwhile, in the year 1122, Pope Callistus II had granted the city various privileges including an indulgence for those who journeyed there on pilgrimage; and thus pilgrim numbers increased during the century, so that by the early thirteenth century over half a million pilgrims each year were making their way to Santiago de Compostela.

A gem of a sculpture



The cathedral is entered via the famous *Pórtico da Gloria*, pictured above, a jewel of Spanish Romanesque sculpture designed as a porch with three arches and built by Mestre Mateo in 1188.

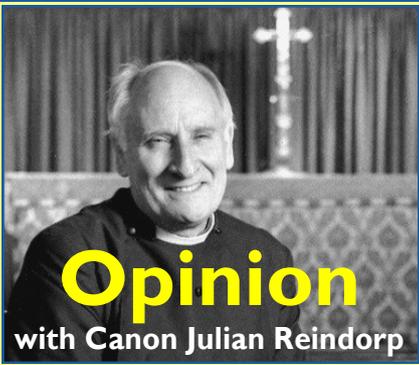
The intricate stonework contains a sculpture of the risen Christ, a depiction of St James, statues of the apostles and scenes depicting the Book of Revelation.

The crypt below the main altar houses the tomb and supposed relics of St James and two of his disciples (Theodorus and Athanasius).

The silver reliquary was put in the crypt at the end of the 19th century after the relics were authenticated by Pope Leo XIII in 1884.

■ **Travel agency followthecamino.com**

offer a way to discover the famous walk without having to rough it. Their trip combines boutique hotels, quality restaurants, castles and churches without losing the essence of the walk. Better still, they whisk you through the less interesting sections by minibus and carry your luggage from place to place.



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

THREATS TO REFUGES

Some policies, not thought through, should never leave Whitehall. Recently the Government announced they plan to remove refugees and other forms of short stay-supported housing from the welfare system. About half of the revenues refugees receive come from housing benefit. There are fears that more than half of all refugees will close or have to reduce their places.

Katie Ghose, the head of Women's Aid, said, 'This will dismantle our national network of life-saving refugees and put the lives of women and children trying to escape domestic abuse at risk'. The Conservative ex-cabinet member Nicky Morgan also thinks this is a huge mistake. 'This makes me feel very, very uncomfortable and very, very concerned. I know that when you are a minister, you can have put to you what appear to be great ideas in Whitehall. But actually, as they get nearer the ground and to real life, they are found wanting.'

FARAGE FAKE VIEWS?

When the suggested Brexit bill of £40-55 billion was announced in late November, Nigel Farage said on TV that we should not pay this amount, we should leave the EU in March 2019, we did not need a transition period, and no deal was better than a bad deal.

In early November a journalist met him at an airport. He endorsed the idea of the Government raising the €20 billion Euros divorce offer, closer to probably €50 billion Euros because it is vital to secure some form of continuity transition, since no deal is 'not a good outcome'. Another referendum was unnecessary, but not undemocratic.

POOR SUFFER MOST-WHY?

Following the recent budget, higher rate taxpayers will be £340 a year better off, lower earners will gain £70, and those on Universal Credit will be 50p a week better off. As Lord Wolfson, a Tory peer and chief executive of the clothing retailer Next, said on TV's *Question Time*, commenting on the five-week wait for Universal Credit, (a quarter have to wait longer). 'The Government can borrow money very cheaply, why are we expecting the poorest people in our country to borrow money at exorbitant rates to cover their waiting time?' So far, about 10% of those eligible for UC have received it and in those areas the use of foodbanks has gone up 30% according to the Trussell Trust. People are being evicted from their homes at the rate of over 100 each day

FAITH, FOOTBALL, RELIGION

John Humphrys, the Radio 4 presenter, bet parish priest Giles Fraser £5 that more people go to football matches than go to church on a typical Sunday. He lost the £5 as more than 5% are in church, whereas just 3% go to football. Some 544 men and women began training for ordination in the Church of England this academic year, the highest number for a decade. However, the British Social Attitudes survey said that for the first time just over 50% of people said they were non-religious.

SEX

Diana Williams, Dean of Guildford, remembers her seven-year-old brother, asking their mother to explain sex. 'My mother launched into what seemed to the nine-year-old me, the most far-fetched answer possible. Some of the words she used I understood, but many I did not, and most of what she said made no sense to my brother. When she had finished he held up an application form for a school trip 'How am I going to fit all that into this little box marked B or G?'

WHOSE SURNAME?

Some 72% of newlyweds adopt the groom's surname, 10% take the bride's surname, 11% use a double-barrelled surname, and 7% keep their own names.

New initiatives to support charities

In 2017 St James's Church made donations totalling almost **£15,000** (a list in church gives details of all the charities we supported).

Many donations were from the £10,000 set aside in the parish budget for charitable grants, with half supporting the work of local charities, such as Project Grow at St Richard's, Hanworth, and the Greenwood Centre.



ANN PETERKEN

The other half went to support our overseas links, including Milo hospital in Tanzania and the work of David and Shelley Stokes in northern Argentina.

The additional £5000 came from the Lent Appeal, collections at Harvest and Christingle, and from our young people in Shell Seekers who held two fundraising events for the charities of their choice.

The Lent Appeal raised £2300, Children's Society boxes and Advent candles a very pleasing £1000 and the Shell Seekers' wonderful contribution was almost £500.

Christian Aid Week and TWAM

During Christian Aid Week in May parishioners collected over £3600 from the local community to help this charity continue its ongoing work with people of all faiths and none in combating poverty and injustice.

Many people continue to donate a wide range of items to Tools with a Mission (TWAM) via our parish contact, Janet Nunn. This fine charity refurbishes our surplus goods and ships them to developing countries to enhance the livelihood opportunities of many families.

Importance of Lent Appeal

Following the PCC's difficult decision to suspend charitable grants in 2018 (to help tackle the parish deficit),



The roof of a new car-port being built at Milo hospital, Tanzania

there will be various fundraising initiatives to continue to support our charities.

The first opportunity is our annual Lent Appeal. It typically raises over £2000, and this year we hope to do even better. The sum raised will be divided between Welcare (for their work with families in south west London) and our mission partners in northern Argentina, David and Shelley Stokes. Details will follow in next month's *Spire* and on flyers in church, but please note the importance of your donation to help the parish continue its support to both causes.



Refurbished sewing machines put to use via TWAM

COMING SOON

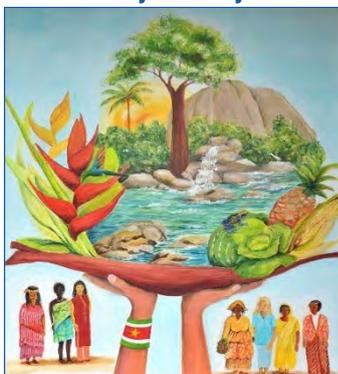
Women's World Day of Prayer

All God's Creation is Good!

Friday 2 March 1400
St Richard's,
Hanworth

This year's service comes from the women of Suriname, the smallest independent nation of South America. Their people are descended from African slaves and labourers from India, Indonesia and China, together with those of Portuguese, Jewish and Lebanese descent. The way people live together is unique in global terms. Much of their country is made up of rainforest, and although it is protected the threat to irreplaceable habitat is growing at an alarming rate.

Their theme from Genesis 1 is a call to action to protect and care for the environment wherever we live.



REGISTERS

NOVEMBER

BAPTISMS

- 26 Leo Robert MacFarlane, Hampton
- 26 Abigail Rose Angelina Mhando, Feltham

WEDDING

- 25 Daniel Richard Skinner and Rebecca Louise Hughes, Aldershot

FUNERALS

- 10 Daphne May Clayton, 94, Hampton
- 16 Irene Henderson, 83, Twickenham
- 24 Lt Col Denis Austin Milford Phipps, 89, Whitton

DECEMBER

BAPTISM

- 29 Kitty Alexandra Jay Brownson, Hampton Hill



Spanning time and water

This may seem a strange subject to choose but to me, bridges are important on all sorts of levels. There is the song *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*. We talk about 'bridging the gap' and 'building bridges'. No doubt particular bridges come to mind when we think about these sayings. Bridges have come a long way in size and structure. They are very photogenic and I find them fascinating and, with the flow of water, quite spiritual.



JANET NUNN

Tarr Steps, Dulverton, Somerset



One of Exmoor's most famous landmarks, this is a clapper bridge in its simplest form and is just stones resting on each other. There are 17 spans and the biggest stone weighs two tonnes. In the 1600s a corn mill stood at the side of the river. Mystery surrounds why the bridge was built, but it is still used today by walkers. It requires a lot of maintenance as the River Barle floods and washes the stones away.

Allerford Packhorse Bridge, near Mindhead, Somerset



This is a medieval bridge crossing the River Aller on the *Heritage at Risk* register. A new bridge was built to carry the main road. The village of Allerford appears in the Domesday Book. The bridge is a simple arch construction, very narrow and with low sides so that the horses crossing the bridge with their panniers could clear the sides, hence its name.

Halfpenny Bridge, by Lechlade, Gloucestershire



The bridge has a toll house at one end and was built in 1792. Designed by James Hollingworth, it is made of dressed stone and is now a listed Grade II building. The original toll was a halfpenny. Lechlade is the start of the navigable part of the River Thames. The bridge has two parapets which carry a central panel with a line on it to mark the boundary between Berkshire and Gloucestershire.

Bridge of Sighs, Cambridge



Spanning the River Cam, and not to be confused with the Bridge of Sighs at Oxford, this is a covered bridge at St John's College and was built in 1831 by Henry Hutchinson. It is the iconic view of Cambridge with students punting underneath. Myth has it that the name comes from the sighs of pre-exam students as they crossed from the college to the exam rooms. It was named after the famous Venice bridge, which linked the courts with the prison.

The Old Bridge, Pontypridd, South Wales



This was built by a Methodist minister, William Edwards, who, despite having no formal training, was determined to see if he could build a bridge across the River Taff so that farmers could take their cattle to market. The bridge was to be a single span and three attempts failed, but the fourth bridge, completed in 1755, is still used by pedestrians today. A new road bridge running alongside was built in 1857.

Iron Bridge, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire



Could there be a more stunning and photogenic structure? The bridge gave its name to the spectacular wooded gorge and was built for the thriving local industries. It was the world's first bridge made of cast iron and was erected over the River Severn in 1781. In 1934 it was closed to vehicular traffic but pedestrians still paid a toll to walk over the bridge until 1950. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is undergoing renovation to preserve it for the future.

Mathematical Bridge, Cambridge

This is one of the most recognisable structures on the River Cam, and can be found at Queens' College. It was built in 1749 by James Essex the younger and designed by William Etheridge, and rebuilt in 1866 and 1905. The design is based on the work of James King Tangent and uses radial

trussing – the arch describes an arc of a circle. For more technical details go online! There is also a replica of this bridge on the River Thames at Iffley, near Oxford.



Tower Bridge, London

It is difficult to choose a bridge in London but Tower Bridge has to be the most iconic. Built between 1886 and 1894 it



carries the A100 road across the river. The bridge is a combined bascule and suspension bridge with two horizontal walkways. The upper walkway is covered and can be reached by lift. There are wonderful views of London on a clear day. The lower walkway or bascule is raised about 1000 times a year to enable tall craft to sail further up river.

Old Pooley Bridge, Ullswater, Cumbria



This bridge, was at the northern end of Ullswater in the Lake District, where the River Eamont enters the lake, and popular with tourists. The bridge had three arches, was erected in 1764, and was a peaceful place to visit. That all came to an end in December 2015 when Storm Desmond completely washed away the old bridge. It was three months before a temporary bridge was completed, hitting the community hard. A new bridge now stands in its place.

Forth Bridges, Firth of Forth, Edinburgh

There are now three bridges: the original rail bridge, the old road bridge and a new one opened recently and the highest bridge in the UK. The original, opened in 1890, is a cantilever bridge and is considered to be a symbol of Scotland as well as an expression for a never-ending task! In 1964 the Forth Road Bridge was opened to replace a ferry and carried up to 65,000 vehicles a day. The bridge was wearing out so a new crossing was opened in September 2017. The old Forth Bridge will be used for buses, taxis, cyclists and walkers to reduce the wear and tear.

