

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2020 SCILLY ISLES

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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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 Wednesdays (his day off).

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

ASSOCIATE PRIEST 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, based in the church hall, with her family.

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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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CHURCH OFFICE Church & hall bookings Nick Bagge

The office is currently closed during the covid-19 health crisis. All enquiries should be through the vicar.

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Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

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Letter from the Editor

This is the third time we have produced only a digital copy because of covid-19 rules. Nothing else changes and it can be downloaded from our website or by using the link in Derek's weekly e-message.

We owe an enormous debt to Derek for his hard work in streaming our services and arranging our meetings and group chat sessions — as well as the day-to-day running of the parish! I know he is pleased that so many of our more mature parishioners have embraced Facebook and Zoom!

We must not forget Thom, our organist, and choir members who have worked remotely each week to record hymns and singing — in sync — quite a task!

This month we feature the Isles of Scilly, which Pip and Anne Rowett usually visit every year. Ironically, this year it was a victim of lockdown restrictions.

As most of us will probably be having staycations, I have chosen some of my favourite local places which were painted by well-known artists.

Our next edition in October will hopefully be in print!

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: The harbour and town on St Mary's, the largest of the Isles of Scilly

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.

STORIES FOR THE SPIRE

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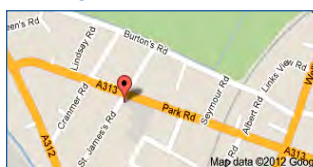
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Finding us



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

Follow us

For the very latest news go to our website or follow us on social media:

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Clerical Capers



'It looks like no one was available to fill in during the vicar's summer holiday!'

God's work does not wait for us to re-open



DEREK WINTERBURN

As someone who has been in the 'paid employment' of the Church of England for 35 years, I remind myself regularly that not everyone sees the church the way I do. As we prepare to 'go back to church' I offer three phrases that correct my thinking.

The church was not closed, it is alive

During the lockdown period when all church buildings were closed, many people talked about the church being 'shut'. Some people felt this very acutely; both the absence from the building and the enforced separation from their friends.

However we found ways of sustaining our church life, mainly through IT. People who had been allergic to Facebook and who had never heard of Zoom, took the plunge and learned how to use them.

So Sunday services, with a difference, continued uninterrupted. Liturgy and preaching, storytelling, reading and leading of prayers were rather different — but they were done.

But 'church' is not about Sunday only. A number of people gathered within Zoom, for *Coffee at the Vicarage* and others joined the *Prayer Course*.

Similarly, the youth group continued to meet at home weekly online for their 'fun and games'. The Parish Visitors kept in touch with the congregation, mostly by telephone. We were also able to help those who were 'shielding' or 'self-isolating' with shopping and so on.

The Brownies wrote to a number of older people. Finally the 'business' side of church life continued: committees and the Parochial Church Council!

We have often said 'the church is the people, not the building'. The past few months have demonstrated that St James's Church has continued despite not being gathered in the building.

People have offered prayer and practical support to each other, shared news and struggles, and come through this time together.

It is quite possible that when we open the building for public worship we will not be able to accommodate everyone (and not everyone will want to come) and in any case things will not be the same as before.

We will need to continue to reach out beyond the 'four walls' to those who cannot join the gathering, so we will endeavour to stream live whatever is happening in church.

One of the exciting things about the forced relocation to 'online' is that we have made connections with people who have not been with us regularly on Sunday. It remains to be seen whether live streaming is the answer to all the church's challenges, but it has been good to welcome new people even at this time.

However I have always been aware that not everyone has found the move to 'digital church' practical or to their taste. As a church we have tried to keep in touch. But when even printed materials cannot be circulated, no doubt a sense of fellowship has suffered.

I am also saddened that our work with children has suffered. Although our service on Sunday at 11 has continued (I admire the parents trying to keep the children focused), our blossoming work with Messy Church has been stymied and our schools work has been paused.

Don't confuse Kingdom with Church

What this more theological slogan means is that God is doing more than what is seen in the church.

It has been heartening to see how people have rallied together both in the community and most heroically those who have been dubbed 'key workers'. There has been a wider concern than for 'me and mine'.

Perhaps we cannot fully appreciate the financial cost that we citizens have accepted, but it seems we have been willing to pay it — for other people's health and welfare.

It remains to be seen whether the Church comes out of this better or worse. There are certainly financial clouds, but the eye of faith sees God's hand at work beyond our own boundaries.

The Local Church is the Hope of the World

This phrase might sound triumphalist in the present context; but it is always a statement of faith. The New Testament has a very high view of the Church; it is called to be holy and an agent of change.

Those who come to church are not to think that they are withdrawing from the world. Rather, we gather to worship on behalf of the Creation, and to be 'recharged' to go out into the world 'to love and serve the Lord.'

We are coming out of a time of required 'distancing' and 'isolating'; it might have looked as though we were in retreat — 'church closed'. That was not and will not be the case. Although the future is unclear we are still here!

A new chapter is beginning and I am praying that we take sure steps in the next few months as we answer Jesus's call to be salt of the earth and a light for the world.



Services and events are subject to change. Go to our website for the latest information.

Sundays

Parish Communion 9:30am
in church and online LIVE

Join us in church for Sunday Worship. Your safety is paramount, which is why we have measures in place for hygiene and social distancing. Please check the website to see how **strictly limited spaces** are available. Arrive in good time as you may need to queue before taking your seats.

The service will be live streamed on Facebook. Go to: www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill Look for the red **LIVE** box from just before 9:30.

The service will be uploaded to YouTube to view afterwards (find the link via our website).

Together at Eleven 11am

Our All Age Service continues zoom online via the Zoom platform.

The link is sent out weekly by emailing Derek: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Monday-Friday (but not Thursdays)

Morning Prayer 9:15-9:45am

Thursdays

6, 13, 20, 27 Aug; 3, 10, 17, 24 Sep

Holy Communion 10-10:30am

Tuesdays & Fridays

Personal Prayer in Church

(Aug only) 10am-12noon

The church building is now open for individual visits on Tuesdays and Fridays. Visitors can book in advance, but it is not essential — you may just need to wait a bit.

Timed bookings can be made via our [website](https://www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk). If you are stuck, telephone Derek 020 8241 5904 or email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Tuesdays & Fridays

Storytime 3-3:15pm **for August**



Fear not, Dani has left us with plenty of Bible stories for the summer, told in her fun and engaging way.

Go to: www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill Look for the event from just before 3pm.

Heaven on Earth is not



PIP ROWETT

About 30 miles West South West of Land's End Cornwall there is a magical archipelago known as the Isles of Scilly. These comprise 56 islands (five now inhabited) and hundreds of rocks, all within an area nine by six miles. The main island, St Mary's, is about 1.5 by 2.5 miles; the other four inhabited islands are smaller. The total resident population is 2,100, swollen by visitors to 9,000 in August.



I first visited Scilly with my family in 1964 and came again with my wife in 1966, the year we were married. My father, Bill, pictured left with my mother Betty, was appointed Chaplain to the Isles (vicar of Scilly) in 1966 and served until 1971.

Unlike most tourists, we have therefore been able to visit Scilly in winter for Christmas and New Year. Apart from a break for 10 years when my parents lived near Penzance, we have visited Scilly virtually every year since 1966.

So what is special about Scilly?

Unlike almost the whole of Britain the sea is oceanic, making the water appear turquoise over the silver sand. Sub-tropical plants from Madeira, Canary Isles and South Africa grow wild here thanks to the mild winters.

The gardens on the island of Tresco



Tresco's world-famous Abbey Gardens



Inset top: Scillonian, one way of getting to the islands; middle: St Mary's harbour; bottom: the island of Bryher. Main: Great Bay, St Martin's, voted the UK's best beach

Azure seas, sub-tropical gardens and white sand beaches, and just 15 minutes from Cornwall. The Isles of Scilly have been a destination for Anne and Pip Rowett for more than 50 years — but what keeps them going back? Could it be that these are unspoilt islands in paradise?

are world-renowned; many cruise ships come for people to visit them. (You may also see red squirrels there.) More rare birds visit Scilly, especially in the migrating season, than anywhere else in Britain. Visitor accommodation is always full in the 'twitcher' season. The resident ornithologist gives guided walks.



Puffins are a common sight on Scilly

Scilly is a Mecca for deep sea divers due to the clarity of the water, the sea fauna and flora that live here and the wrecks. There are more notable wrecks around Scilly than anywhere else in Britain. Most forms of water sports are also available.

There are more ancient sites from Neolithic to Iron Age in Scilly than in the whole of Cornwall. The resident archaeologist gives guided walks on several of the islands including some uninhabited.

The open passenger boats visit all the inhabited and some uninhabited islands every day. You will see seals, puffins (up to July), maybe dolphins and much more on your journey. When the boat unloads at your chosen island,

within a few minutes you are unlikely to see more than a dozen people; a half-mile beach is crowded with 10.

Visiting the islands

Apart from St Mary's the other inhabited islands are Tresco, St Martin's, St Agnes and Bryher, each with 75-140 residents, and each can be rambled round in half a day. Every 'off' island has cafes. but we would recommend that you take your lunch with you and stop to eat at any view which appeals.

Although geologically similar, each off island has its own distinctive personality. All the inhabited islands, except St Agnes, are surrounded by shallow water and up to about 1,000 years ago were, with many uninhabited islands, just one much larger island. You can see evidence of field systems now part of the sea. There are three working lighthouses, none of them now manned, one four miles west of any inhabited island (you can visit by boat on a calm day).

Getting there and where to stay

Accommodation comprises hotels, B&B, guest houses, self-catering or camp sites. Transport to and from involves the *Scillonian* steamship from Penzance harbour, fixed wing aircraft from Exeter, Newquay or Penzance, or helicopter from Penzance. The sea crossing is inclined to be rough and takes 2hr 45mins. Flights from Penzance last 15-20mins, and from Exeter about an hour.

so far away



The view greeting visitors to the islands from the air. Left: The Bishop Rock Lighthouse. Below: Pip and Anne in the stone maze on St Agnes. Bottom: a haven for youngsters



If you are considering Scilly as a possible holiday venue why not include it within a holiday in Cornwall? A day-visit by boat from Penzance harbour will give you four hours on St Mary's, enough for a stroll round Garrison peninsular with fortifications built after the Spanish Armada in 1588, or a coastal walk to the Peninnis lighthouse at the southern tip of the island. A two-night stay would enable you to visit Tresco gardens or another off-island, as well as seeing more of St Mary's. Both could help you decide whether you would like to see more of Scilly. If you are interested, we have a more detailed description of Scilly available on request.



Around the Spire

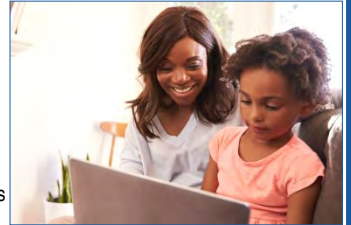
Your giving helps cash-hit charities

MORE THAN £2500 has been distributed to four charities supported by St James's. The sector has been hit hard by a drop in donations during the pandemic.

We have been involved with Welcare, which supports parents and children in the Richmond borough, for many years. Our donation of **£1250** helps provide a lifeline to parents.

Bea was referred to Welcare's Myspace programme to support her and her daughter's recovery from domestic violence. Welcare provided her with a grant to buy a laptop for her daughter to do school homework, and which also enabled Bea to get virtual support.

Other donations sent were: **£808** to Milo hospital (including



Welcare helped Bea during lockdown

a £250 personal donation) to buy much-needed testing equipment.

£558 to the London Churches Refugee Fund, supporting destitute refugees and asylum-seekers in the capital.

£250 to The Bishop Wand Church of England School, Sunbury-on-Thames, towards the cost of a chaplain to support the staff and students.

AFTER THE brutal death of George Floyd the world heard a cry for justice that could not be ignored, and then it saw a scramble to say and do the 'right things'. Over the past few weeks we have been thinking in our sermons about the issue as it surfaces in Paul's letter to the Romans; in the first century there were racial tensions within the churches in Rome. The apostle wrote his greatest work with this prayer on his lips: 'May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another.'



Derek, our vicar, said: 'There are no statues in St James's that need to be pulled down, but I am sure that there are things we should be considering both in our private lives and our common life together.'

If we have *done* nothing yet, we still recognise the importance of listening to the experience of our BAME members and putting right what is wrong.'

Jane's church safeguarding role ends after 20 years

JANE NEWMAN, pictured right, is stepping down as Church Safeguarding Officer after 20 years in various roles at St James's.



She said holding the post had been a great privilege. 'Many changes have been needed in the past few years to ensure that our safeguarding procedures are rigorous and that everyone involved in running church activities is aware of their responsibilities in this area.'

'Thanks in no small part to Nick, Derek, Gwynneth and Dani, we now have a very efficiently-run system and I decided it was time to stand aside.'

We are delighted that PCC member **Annalea Gratton**, pictured below, has agreed to take on the role. The changeover, due to happen at our Annual Meeting, will now happen over the summer.

Annalea is well qualified for the job as she is Early Years lead at a school in Isleworth, where she has been teaching for 13 years.

She is married to Warren, who comes from Canada, with two children, Alexia, seven, and James, five. They enjoy Canadian holidays, exploring parks, swimming, and spending time with their extended family, including at a holiday home in Hayling.

Annalea has strong family links to St James's as her grandparents and great grandparents attended, as she has on and off since birth.



Mind the (generation) gap!



DEREK WINTERBURN

What effect has lockdown had on our children?

We used to talk about the Generation Gap. But there are times when there seems to be no distance at all. Yesterday, my grandson learned how to push himself forward in his baby walker.

For 20 minutes he self-propelled further than he had ever travelled before, all I had to do was turn him around and zip round to the other end of the hall for him to start moving along again. He isn't talking yet, but we were both happy playing together.

But sometimes there does seem to be a difference in experience between me and my grandchildren.

Another story...it was time to watch TV (even the greatest grandparents need back up).

My granddaughter prefers one show above all others: *Octonauts*. Gone are my days when it was BBC One or ITV, or even which DVD shall we pick (my children's generation).

Now a grandparent switches to the BBC iPlayer and the child can pick the particular programme and then an episode. So the four-year-old has to pick from 33 — I think you can imagine that was a challenge at the end of a long day!

Adults like choice, but it can be too much for small ones.

Lockdown with the children

Time will tell what has been the effect of the lockdown on growing minds. Parents have had to talk about 'the germs' in a way

that has not been frightening, but has been clear enough to justify all the hand washing. School-aged children have lost months of teaching. I feel particularly for those who have lost key points of educational life: leaving the primary phase, those who would have been taking GCSEs or A-Levels at school, or Finals at university.

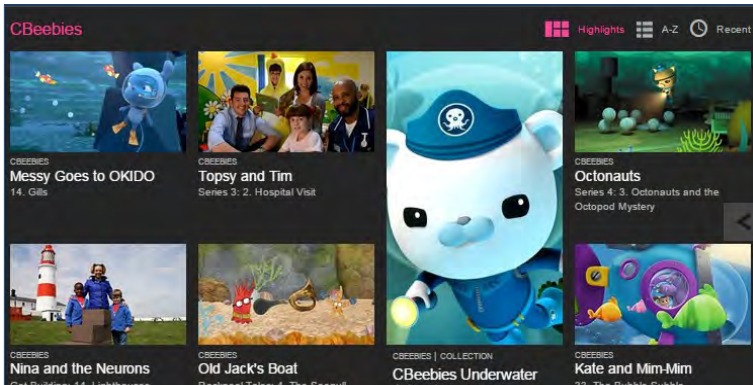
Our children's mental health



There has been much talk about the cost to our mental health while being cooped up together. Some older people have spoken about how the future looks bleak with 'everything cancelled'.

Spare a thought for a younger generation who are not even sure what school will look like in the autumn, whether there are jobs when they leave school, or what state the climate will be in when they are adults — no matter how much TV they stream!

Let's do what we can to listen to the younger generations, and close that gap.



Sisal makes a comeback!



LAURENCE SEWELL

If you grew up in the 1950s and '60s, you would be very familiar with string made from sisal, and sisal mats that were common in the bathroom. More importantly, in farming, where more than seventy percent of sisal products were consumed, it was the leading material for agricultural twine especially used in hay baling.

Then suddenly, in the 1970s, competition from synthetic materials, particularly polypropylene, and changing agricultural practices destroyed the sisal industry and with it income for developing countries and the livelihoods of those dependent upon it.

For many years the industry languished with an absence of research or positive reaction to this technological change, until more recently with new consumer demands for natural fibres that are expanding the markets for sisal into more high-value applications such as in paper, reinforcing composites and plastic composites.

What is sisal and who produces it?

Sisal is a plant species of agave (*agave sisalana*) that is indigenous to the southern region of Mexico. It was originally used by the Aztecs and the Mayans for the production of crude fabrics and paper. It is a hardy plant thriving in temperatures above 25°C and is thus considered a tropical or subtropical plant, growing well all year round in soils which are often unsuitable for other crops.

A sisal plant consists of a bunch of sword-like leaves about 1.5-2m tall, each consisting of hundreds of individual fibres. These fibres are scraped away from the fleshy material generally by a mechanical decortication process, and by hand stripping. After cleaning and drying, the fibres are machine-combed and sorted into various grades.

The plant has a lifespan of 7-10 years and

produces about 200-250 economically usable leaves.

World production of sisal and a similar agave fibre, henequen, is estimated at about 300,000 tonnes. The major producers are Brazil, with almost 50% of global production, followed by Tanzania and Kenya. Madagascar, China and Mexico are the other significant producers. Like most other agricultural products, the terms of trade of sisal has been deteriorating over the years so its price of about £ 500 per tonne with wide annual fluctuations is little changed over the past 20 years. The average yield of dried fibres is about a tonne per hectare, although yields in East Africa can reach four tonnes per hectare.

Sisal offers environmental benefits

Whilst historically sisal was often criticised for being responsible for clearing forest land, especially when grown in plantations, it is in fact a renewable resource *par excellence* and can make a small contribution to the overall solution to climate change.

Sisal absorbs more carbon dioxide than it produces; during processing, it generates mainly organic wastes and leaf residues that can be used to generate bioenergy, produce animal feed, fertiliser and ecological housing material; and, at the end of its life cycle, sisal is 100 percent biodegradable. In contrast, synthetically produced fibres do not possess any of these traits.

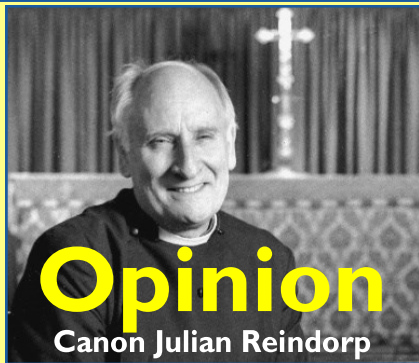
Additionally, grown on the farm, sisal plants reduce soil erosion through their extensive root system, are an effective vegetative fencing material, and contribute positively to watershed management.

A brighter future

'Creative destruction' with the use of synthetics saw the sisal industry brought to its knees as its traditional uses in twine, ropes, string, mats, and various handicrafts disappeared. However, in recent years various initiatives for new uses mentioned above, and also because of growing public awareness that natural fibres, like sisal, are environmentally friendly, are assisting in its revitalisation.

As a result, sisal production is once again being looked at as a reliable cash crop by business and many smallholder farmers. Use of sisal in non-traditional markets shows that it is becoming increasingly recognised as a valuable and diverse resource material, enabling the industry to continue playing its part in the economic development of producing countries, poverty eradication and expanded free international trade.





Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

HOLIDAY HUNGER

When I was a young curate in Poplar, in the East End, four local boys took me to football matches — ‘Chelsea for the football and West Ham for the swearing!’

Back then, footballers spoke briefly about football after matches, commentators reflected on football, and journalists wrote about football. At that time, the suggestion that a black Premier League footballer would help change Government policy would have been unthinkable.

Marcus Rashford, 22, the England and Manchester United striker, using his experience of childhood hunger on a housing estate on the outskirts of Manchester, wrote to the government and spoke on the *Today* programme. He clearly influenced the government to extend their voucher system for children, not just for school time but for the whole of the summer holidays.

Food insecurity and holiday hunger have been growing for more than a decade. In May, UK food banks had their busiest month ever, with a 90% increase in need for emergency food parcels, and an even greater increase in parcels given to children.

The ‘Covid Summer Food Fund’ will benefit 1.3 million children in England and cost £120m. Rashford also helped found FairShare, a charity aimed at relieving food poverty and reducing food waste in the UK. He has helped it raise £20m to provide meals for three million vulnerable people, far exceeding the target of £100,000.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

I suspect we recognise that racism in the UK is a problem for us all. How many Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic friends do we have? The Church of England has five BAME bishops out of 100, none of them a diocesan bishop.

After the Windrush scandal the government commissioned a report by distinguished black lawyer and HM Inspector of Constabulary, Wendy Williams. They also set up a report led by the black Labour MP David Lammy. Their recommendations were accepted, but so far little action has followed.

What difference will the newly announced government commission to report by Christmas make? The 1999 Macpherson Report on racism in the police is also being re-examined by Parliament.

OUR PRISONS

One piece of good news: Covid-19 has so far not resulted in the swathe of deaths in our prisons that many feared. But the situation among the 82,000 prisoners is as grim as ever.

In the most recent figures, up to June 2019, of the 309 who died in custody, 86 were self-inflicted (up from 81 the previous year), with 57,968 incidents of self-harm — a rate of 699 per 1000 prisoners, and up 24% from the previous year. There were 34,425 assault incidents, 415 incidents per 1000 prisoners.

As the House of Commons Justice Committee commented: ‘Prisoners will not become less violent without proper investment in real activity for prisoners... Too often we have seen policy by press notice, without a clear vision for the future of our prison system.’

CHURCH IN MY STUDY

I suspect many of us are grateful to Derek and all those who have brought worship ‘Zooming’ into our homes. I haven’t even had to tidy my study before Derek is in front of me, leading our worship!

A Tearfund-commissioned poll suggested that 25% of adults have watched or listened to a religious service during lockdown (normally 6% regularly attend church). One in five people have started praying for the first time.

How can we build on this?

New ultrasound kit already saving lives



LESLEY MORTIMER

News from our friends at St Luke’s Mission Hospital in Milo, SW Tanzania, is always exciting. Drs Adrian and Hilary Murray have, at long last, moved into their new house adjacent to the maternity wing and are busy enclosing the adjoining land and cultivating their first crop of maize and vegetables. They have acquired a very handsome buck rabbit – the gift of a grateful workman and intended for the pot – which is now a treasured pet, has been provided with a mate and a litter of babies is expected soon.

Last year St James’s contributed to the purchase of a portable ultrasound for the hospital, already being put to excellent use. Apart from the base hospital, it is being taken out to mobile clinics in five locations.

Adrian reports that in Lipangala, the second outreach clinic visited, they managed to scan 20 pregnant women in six hours. The first patient, by her own calculation, was 19 weeks pregnant, but the ultrasound showed her to be 8 weeks further on. Four of her babies had already died and if they had not been able to give her the true expected date, she might once again have been too late to reach the hospital to ensure her baby a fighting chance of survival.

Although a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology — 18 Caesarian operations were performed in the first half of June alone — Adrian has to turn his hand to all sorts of surgical crises. A quick read of the relevant section of *Primary Surgery* is sometimes all the preparation he is able to undertake before seeing a patient in the operating theatre.



Mobile ultrasound is already helping to reduce infant mortality rates

Alongside the day job, another project of the Murrays is teaching children the Bible story using *Godly Play*. Adrian is rising to the challenge of providing objects for the children to interact with by employing his carpentry skills. The Creation story is complete and he is building Noah’s ark.

At the time of writing, Covid-19 had not reached Milo, although local schools have closed as a precaution. All are hoping that the virus spares the rural areas where there is no possibility of testing.

If it comes, Adrian says: ‘We will diagnose clinically, isolate ineffectively, treat symptomatically and continue optimistically. What else can we do but pray?’

Helping children at risk



OVER THE summer we would normally be collecting boxes from regular contributors to The Children’s Society. Like many things, Covid-19 has intervened, but we hope to begin the job in the autumn. We will be in touch with box holders as soon as that time comes.

In the meantime, you might consider making an online donation to the charity.

Throughout the pandemic, the society has continued to support vulnerable young people in what, for many, has been an especially challenging time.

To donate please go to: childrenssociety.org.uk/donate.

REGISTERS

JUNE

FUNERALS

- 8 Michael Futter, 87, Hampton Hill
- 11 Dorothy Evelyn Smedley, 83, Hampton Hill
- 25 Carol Louise Prince, 82, Hampton Hill
- 26 Patrick Nolan, 56, Canterbury, Kent



Strokes of genius



JANET NUNN

I have always taken a keen interest in local paintings. Not least because my sister-in-law, Phyll Nunn, was a well-known artist in Barnes and exhibited in London galleries, and my husband bought a book of engravings of Twickenham and Richmond which he framed and hung in my study. It has been fascinating researching all the artists and difficult to pick just one example of their work.

Augustine Heckel (1690-1770)



Heckel was born in Germany and came to England to establish himself as a water-colour artist. He drew eight views of the Richmond area and lived in the town until he died in 1770. This picture is of Twickenham and shows St Mary's Church, Sion Row and the White Swan Inn, all still standing. The original is in Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham. The same scene is captured in a black and white engraving by Edward Rooker, who specialised in scenes of London and the Thames.

Johan Zoffany (1733-1810)

Zoffany was born in Germany and in his early years in England was well known as a portrait painter and leading figure of 18th century British art. He painted over 200 pictures. He lived at Strand-on-the-Green in a house overlooking the River Thames. Mostly he painted royalty and their families, but it is this picture of *Garrick's Temple* on the riverbank at Hampton that has always caught my attention. Zoffany is buried at St Anne's Church on Kew Green. I must also mention his painting of *Christ's Last Supper*, which hangs in St Paul's Church, Brentford.



J W Turner (1775-1851)

Turner was born in Covent Garden and lived most of his life in England. He was an English romantic painter, known for



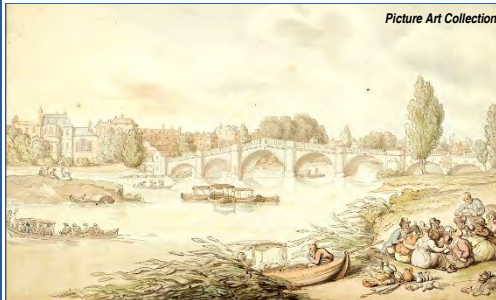
his imaginative landscapes and often violent marine paintings. It is his connection with Richmond that has fascinated me and every time I visit Richmond Hill I remember this wonderful painting. The protected view remains virtually the same today.

Leonard Knyff (1650-1722)



Knyff, the son of a landscape painter, was born in The Hague. He came to England in his 30s and specialised in bird's-eye views of stately homes, including this splendid view of the gardens at Hampton Court Palace, which he painted around 1710. The picture hangs in the palace and was bought by King George VI in 1948 for £25. You can clearly see the Privy Garden, which was redesigned in 1995, on the south side of the Palace leading down to the Thames. The painting helped plan the new garden.

Thomas Rowlandson (1757-1827)



Born in London, Rowlandson was a caricaturist as well as an artist, drawing his first caricatures at the age of 10. After a spell in Paris he returned to study for six years at the Royal Academy. This picture attracted my attention, aptly named *Where Thames smooth waters glide*, and shows a few people strolling along the towpath with Richmond Bridge and Richmond Hill in the background – a far cry from today.

Pieter Andreas Rysbrack (1685-1748)

Rysbrack was brought up in Antwerp and known for his still-life paintings and landscapes. He came to England in the early 1780s to paint English country houses and gardens, including this one of the grounds of Chiswick House. Commissioned by Lord Burlington, he painted two series of paintings of the house and gardens from different angles and he adopted exaggerated perspective. This painting attracted me and again is a far cry from the gardens nowadays.



Samuel Scott (1802-1872)

Scott was born in London and started his painting career as a marine artist, gaining considerable reputation for his shore and river scenes, particularly of London and the Isle of Sheppey as well as the Thames at Twickenham. He gained the reputation of the *English Canaletto*. In late life he came to live in



Twickenham and one of his well-known paintings is *A view of Alexander Pope's villa at Twickenham*, sadly no longer there, close to where St Catherine's School is now.

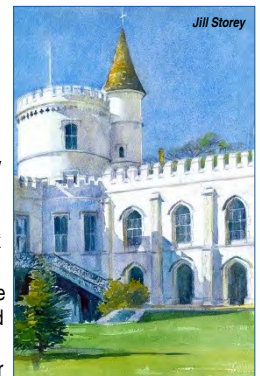
Richard Wilson (1714-1782)

Wilson was born in Wales, the son of a clergyman. He started painting portraits, but was eventually recognised as a pioneer of British landscape painting for its own sake and was a founder member of the Royal Academy in 1768. He worked in London and spent time in Italy. Two of his paintings are local, one of Syon House, and this of *The pagoda (at Kew Gardens) and the bridge*.



Jill Storey

From a small child, Jill was fascinated by the way things came to life on paper. She studied at the Gloucestershire College of Art and Design and has taught and exhibited widely locally and had paintings accepted for exhibitions all over London. Prints of her work can be found in card shops. She has had a fascination for the Thames and local buildings and it is her picture of Strawberry Hill House which stands out for me. She now lives in Idaho and continues her passion for art.



Marianne North (1830-1890)

I hope you will allow me artistic licence to include Marianne North. Whilst not painting local scenes, she established her own gallery in Kew Gardens. She travelled all over the world, mostly alone and for years at a time. Using oil on cardboard, her attention to detail and vision to paint botanical specimens against the local scenery is extraordinary. There are over 800 paintings at the gallery. I have chosen this picture of the pink ipomoea with the Seychelles in the background.

