

MARCH 2020

OUR CHURCH

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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## Meet the clergy



### VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

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

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### ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 1994. 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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## Letter from the Editor

There is increasing talk nowadays about wellbeing and mindfulness. Why not try this for yourself by walking through our churchyard, stopping to admire the spring flowers and to hear the birdsong. Even a short walk will lighten your mood and helps you focus on the good things around. With the help of the local council, our team of volunteer gardeners have improved it tremendously. Soon it will be ablaze with daffodils.

This year will see the start of exciting plans to improve the church interior, making it more flexible to meet our future needs. Derek has written about this on page 3.

In April, we hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The centre pages explain how the church is governed and the work of the PCC. Maybe this year we can find a second churchwarden to lighten the load. Elsewhere, Jamie Mortimer has written about his favourite cricketers.

The Lent events, including the Lent Course, are listed on page 3 and you will be welcome at any of them.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: a focus this month on the church's plans to attract more people

## 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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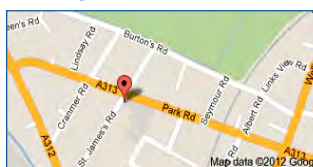


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### Finding us



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



'I think I have finally been fully accepted here. After 25 years the villagers have stopped calling me the new incumbent!'

# Building on our faith takes more than bricks and mortar, but we have God's love



**DEREK WINTERBURN**

**W**hen a church is thinking about making any permanent changes to its building (as we are) it has to write

two documents: a Statement of Significance and a Statement of Needs.

A Statement of Significance has to sketch out the importance of the building. So we describe how St James's is one of the oldest buildings in Hampton Hill, how it was being built as the neighbourhood was growing and how so many of its residents were baptised, married and buried here.

But the focus of the document is really on which features are special or unique. We mention the tower and spire, the organ and most of all the colourful windows.

### Back to the future

If a Statement of Significance looks to the heritage we have received from the past, a Statement of Needs is more focused on the future. The church is asked to describe the limitations of the present set-up and justify any changes planned in terms of how the mission of the church would be strengthened.

The church's planning authorities want to know that a change is not made for the sake of change, but is part of a strategy for growing. The PCC wants to improve the facilities in church by creating a meeting room, a simple kitchenette, redecoration and making the space more versatile with flexible seating. We are able to consider doing this work because Rev Betty

Stewart left the church a legacy. A building of the stature of ours should be in use for more than four hours on a Sunday, but we need to adapt.

### What makes us special?

As I have been thinking about these documents I have been wondering about what statements of significance and needs would look like for the living church of St James. Here are some of the things that makes St James's 'special':

- a commitment to peace and justice
- a genuine desire to welcome everyone
- a deep sense of community
- an openness to learning and thinking
- a reverence in worship
- a desire to grow by welcoming new people - especially children and families.

### What do we need?

Here are just three things:

- We need to increase our income by giving and other means such as letting our building - there is still a large gap in our budget. (The PCC believes that a 'living church' should pay its way and that the legacy should be invested in projects for the long-term growth of the church.)

- We should learn to be more confident in speaking about our Christian faith. I hope our Lent course will be of help here. As we reflect on how King George VI learned to speak in public, perhaps we will gain a voice of our own?

- I believe we have a need to be more prayerful. There are 'protected moments' of prayer - a few minutes in our services, and Morning Prayer at 9.15. In Lent we add Compline on Sunday evenings. I would like to explore new ways of praying together (even if not physically together!)

I have also been thinking about how we would answer the questions about significance and needs personally. What is significant about one person - and who gets to judge?

### Making an impact on a personal level

I have only occasionally conducted the funeral of someone more well known than their immediate family and work colleagues. But even in those cases there has been a world of difference between their CV and what was said about them at the funeral.

Often there is very little about professional achievements in the tributes. More often what are remembered, and treasured, are shared experiences such as holidays and the 'loved one's' love. Many of us hope to make an impact in the world - to be noticed by the public eye - but all of us hope to be significant to our nearest and dearest.

So I find it heartening that the clearest (and repeated) words we have of God to Jesus are these 'You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'. Christians believe what is true of Jesus, is shared with us, daughters and sons of the same Father.

The Gospel includes this good news that we are valuable to God, that he likes us - that's the bedrock of our significance, not anything we think we might achieve by ourselves.

### We are all significant to God

And our needs? Physically there is a basic set of needs (food, water, warmth, shelter...). But in this context the one thing we need most of all is to know that we are significant to God - despite our grave limitations and failures. Sometimes we say that when we die and meet God he will ask us if we believed in him. Someone put it differently: 'When we meet God he will ask "do you believe that through your life, I have loved you?"

**G**ood Friday marks out the extent of God's love, in saving us and dealing with Sin and Death, as the beloved Son gives up his life. But he shows us love each and every day. That is truly a challenge as we enter Lent, to grasp afresh 'how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ'.

## St James Hampton Hill Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am  
Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am (not 22 Mar)  
Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 22 Mar)  
Perfect for young families. Followed by crafts.

### Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)  
Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am


### Tuesdays

3, 17, 24, 31 March  
Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am  
10 Feb  
Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am  
(2nd Tuesday of the month)

### Traidcraft Stall

1 March 10:30am; 22 March 11am  
Fairtrade Fortnight 24 February-8 March

### Pop-up Cinema

The King's Speech (2010)   
Sunday 1 March 3 for 3:30 pm  
Colin Firth stars as King George VI who battles to overcome a stutter with the help of his wife (Helena Bonham-Carter)

### Compline

Sundays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March; 5 Apr 8pm  
Night prayer for Lent

### Ark Playgroup

Mondays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March 10:15am-12:15pm  
Weekly playgroup for under 5s and their parents or carers. £2 per family.

### Connections

Tuesday 3 March 10:30am-12:30pm  
Talks, hobbies, games, refreshments,  
plus a drop-in NHS hearing aid clinic.

### Lent Course: Finding a Voice

5 Wednesdays at 7:30pm from 4 March;  
5 Thursdays at 3pm from 5 March  
Taking the film, *The King's Speech*, as a starting point, the course explores ways in which fear holds us back and examines how we, like the King, can face our fears in Christ.

### Messy Church

Saturday 7 March 3-5 pm  
Craft, worship and food.

### Mothering Sunday

Sunday 22 March 10am  
The 9:30 and 11am services combine for an All Age service, with a gift for every woman.

### Quiz Supper Night Hall

Saturday 28 March 6:30 for 7 pm  
Tickets £15 include a two-course meal and a glass of sparkling wine. All profits to our Lent Appeal. Book at: <http://bit.ly/StJLentQuiz>, via our website or through the Church Office.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES



# The PCC is continuing



**DEREK WINTERBURN**

**D**id Jesus intend to start a church? Although he gave his followers teaching on how to get on together, he did not provide a Constitution or Terms of Reference. Instead, he started a movement that drew people and gave them a purpose - to proclaim the Good News.

As the New Testament was being written, groups of believers began to be called the 'Gathering in (for example) Phillippi' (church originally meant assembly or gathering) and various forms of leadership structure were tried out involving overseers, elders and servers.

Two thousand years later different faith traditions have different forms of church government. Over the past 50 years the Church of England has developed a form of organising itself that gives considerable autonomy to the local church and a major role for non-ordained people.

### Three houses of governance

Of course, there is a national body, the General Synod. Synod means *on the way together*. There are 467 members of that synod — grouped not in 'political parties' like the Palace of Westminster, but by three houses: Bishops, Clergy and Laity. It meets twice a year.

The majority of the members are elected from the Dioceses. General Synod deals with top-level issues (legal affairs, financial business and matters of doctrine and forms of worship.) It also takes time to debate matters of religious or public interest.

Each diocese has its own synod, and each local area has a Deanery Synod. Members of the Deanery Synod elect Diocesan and General

**It is a tough time to be responsible for a parish church. There are pressures of numbers, finance, and buildings, to say nothing of the social issues facing even the leafy streets of Hampton Hill. But as Derek Winterburn explains, the PCC has always had the one key mission: to grow the church**

Synod members. Deanery Synod members are elected this year at the our annual meeting.

### Our Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting this year is on Sunday 26 April. In many ways the church's annual meeting is like the AGM of another voluntary organisation or charity. It receives a report on the activity of the church, and the accounts of the

previous year, and it elects officers — in our case the churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council (PCC). One third of these posts are elected every year. The 'electorate' is listed in the Church Electoral Roll, not to be confused with the Borough's electoral roll, but a separate list for those who live in the parish or attend worship regularly.

Each local parish church is a charity and so the PCC is legally a

Board of Trustees governed both by church and charity law. PCCs have a legal duty to consult with the vicar on 'matters of general concern and importance to the parish' to 'promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

So, similar to school governors, PCCs should have an eye to the strategic development of the church rather than the operational details.

Like other trustee bodies, a PCC should manage the church's resources responsibly. That means that finances and building matters are regular items for consideration. Another core responsibility of a trustee body is ensuring the charity is compliant with all the legal requirements, and particularly in regard to the safeguarding of children and adults. Finally the PCC has a hand in the selection of a new vicar.

### What else does the PCC discuss?

The PCC usually meets on six evenings through the year, and once for a day 'off-site'. Over the past year we regularly considered the finances, various building matters and received a safeguarding report at each meeting.

In January last year the council reflected on how we might encourage people to develop the habit of regularly coming to church as part of our ambition to grow.

Last March the PCC welcomed two young people who helped it reflect on questions provided by the Diocese about work amongst our youth.

Later in the year the PCC discussed some questions that had been put to us by Bishop Sarah as part of the diocesan process of discerning a vision for 2030.

Through the year the PCC has guided the process of appointing a new architect and drafting the brief for a reordering project.



St James's Days in 2018, above, and 2019, below



The General Synod of the Church of England



# Jesus's work



St James's needs a clear vision to head in the right direction

## Who can be a PCC member?

Anyone who is on the Electoral Roll can stand for election at the annual meeting. They should be people who are regular worshippers — known to the congregation so that they are hearing what people are saying, and can relay PCC thinking and decision-making. Of course, they should also be able to give the time needed for council meetings.

This year there will be elections for both the Deanery Synod and the PCC. (DS members are ex-officio members of the PCC.) Will you stand or at least encourage someone else to do so?

I began by thinking about Jesus' lack of blueprint for a church. But whatever form a local church takes it remains a part of the 'church of Christ'.

Moreover the apostle Paul teaches us to think that we are members of the *body* of Christ.

We need to remember that whatever are the practicalities of church life we are not organising just another voluntary association, but are part of God's great work to reconcile the world to himself.

Do join us on **26 April at 11am** for our AGM. It may just inspire you to stand for election!



After eight: an octet of former churchwardens at St James's Church. Much of the work carried out by the PCC and other volunteers is developed, steered and encouraged by churchwardens.

## WE NEED YOU!

**CHURCHWARDENS** are regarded as the senior lay people in the parish. They are the bishop's officers in the parish, but in practice work very closely with the vicar. In a sense they make sure everything is on track — but they should not end up doing everything!

They have a responsibility for the building and its contents, presenting a report at APCM. And there is a pastoral role, listening to members of the congregation and being a critical friend to the incumbent.

Gwynneth, pictured below, has fulfilled this post on her own for three years — it is customary to have two wardens. While she has done a fine job, the responsibility would be much better shared.

Two people can support one another — and there would be a wider spread of skills. Will this be the year we find a second warden? Pray and think about how we could fill both posts.



Ask her about the role. Don't be shy!



## Around the Spire

### Are you sitting comfortably?

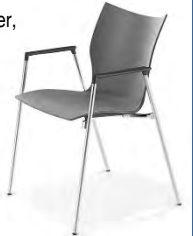
THE PCC decided that as part of its plans to transform the church into a more welcoming and flexible space it needs to replace the pews, which are in a poor state and are not very comfortable.

New seating will be movable, enabling the space to be cleared to meet the needs of the church or of outsiders using the building.

A number of manufacturers have provided the church with examples of seating for the congregation to try out. Do look out for the seats and try them for size and comfort.

Even better, use them during a service, as this will enable you to see how comfortable they are over a longer period.

There are some questionnaire sheets that you can complete, scoring the different seats and enabling us to see which ones are the more popular.



### Farewell to the Nettletons

WE RECENTLY SAID farewell to Charles and Susannah Nettleton, who have been part of our congregation for about 30 years. Their children Olivia, Isobel, Henry and William were all baptised at St James's and grew up in the church.

Charles and Susannah have contributed greatly to the musical life in the choir and the band and in encouraging young people to sing. Susannah forged a very strong link

between the church and Hampton Hill Junior School. Charles regularly led intercessions with sensitivity and vision. We wish them well in their new home in Dorset.



### Strong start to new style service



MESSY CHURCH launched in February, attracting almost 50 people for two hours of crafts, storytelling, singing and worship, ending with a shared meal. Messy church runs on the first Saturday of each month from 3-5pm. The next date is **7 March**.

### Moya's outstanding achievement

PROFESSOR MOYA Meredith Smith received a Lifetime Achievement Award from King's College, London, for her long career of exceptional teaching and research in the Dental Faculty. Moya delivered an acceptance speech about managing a career whilst also raising a family. Her work started in 1968 and will end this year at the Guy's campus. She has also published over 100 scientific papers in top journals. Moya is seen holding the award with, from left, Professor Sir Robert Lechler, Professor Evelyn Welch, and Professor Ed Byrne. Congratulations to Moya on this recognition of her work.





# Start talking to God



**DANI ROBERTSON**

**T**he moment a child makes a connection with God through prayer is such a special one. At St James's Church we teach younger children to engage with God through Rachel Turner's 'chat and catch' model for prayer. It involves chatting to God about big and small things, and 'catching' what God is saying.

If you'd like to try it at home with your child or grandchild, here's a helpful 'how to' guide, adapted from Bethany at All Saints, New Haw.

**Chat**

Say to the child(ren) that God loves hearing things about them. You can whisper things to God into your hands so that others don't have to hear, but God can hear.

Suggest things for them to tell God, and then give a few moments for them to whisper them to God:

*Examples: Tell God...*

- Your favourite chocolate bar
- Something that makes you laugh/smile
- Something that is making you angry right now
- Something that you are scared of
- Someone you are thankful for
- The best thing / hardest thing that happened this week

You may find the children love to tell you these things, but remind them it is God they are chatting to right now, not you! If they are unsure of their answers, tell them to tell God that. As time goes on, encourage them to trust God and tell him anything they fancy letting Him know.

**Catch**

Tell them God likes to tell us things too. Like when we catch a ball, we can use our



whole body to catch from God. We might get a picture in our mind, an emotion, hear something, or feel something on our skin.

Suggest a question to whisper to God, then wait with your eyes shut (to help concentration) for about 30 seconds to catch from God.

*Question suggestions:*

- Ask God to show you how much He loves you
- Ask God to tell you something about Him
- Ask God what His favourite thing about you is
- Ask God how important you are to Him
- Ask God if there is something He wants you to do for Him

After you have had the short time of 'catching,' encourage sharing what God has said afterwards, however crazy! Affirm anything encouraging or biblical. If they are unsure what something they have been given means, get them to ask God what he is saying to them about it.

Encourage them afterwards – if they feel like they got nothing tell them, That's okay, God likes you spending time with him and you can have a chat again with God later.'

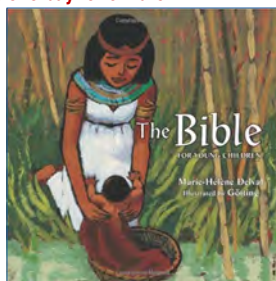
If they have caught, encourage them by saying, 'God so spoke to you just then!' rather than praising them for doing it well. It is about God and them.

Give this style of prayer a try with your children or grandchildren and let us know how it went or join us on Sundays at 11am as we frequently practise this style of prayer corporately.

**A great Bible to buy for children...**

**The Bible for Young Children**

by Marie-Hélène Delval and illustrated by Götting.



This Bible is ideal for young listeners or even for children learning to read as the words are simple, the sentences short, and the text large.

The stories are selections from the Old and New Testaments, ranging from Creation through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Many of the stories move from one to the other seamlessly for continuous reading and each is illustrated like a painting.

- Published in 2010 by Eerdmans.

Age range for young children.  
RRP £17.00

# BBQ's burning question



**LAURENCE SEWELL**

**A**s Spring approaches many of us think about getting out the barbeque and, of course, for the best flavours it has to be using charcoal. Bags of charcoal start appearing in our supermarket foyers and garage forecourts, but before buying we need to know that it has been ethically sourced.

As with all the commodities we have looked at, its production has significant environmental impacts: there are both advantages of charcoal production and usage, but also severe downsides caused by massive forest and ecosystem destruction, illegal charcoal trading, and health issues for local people using charcoal.

**Charcoal for local consumption**

Charcoal is a lightweight, and hence easily transportable, black carbon residue produced by removing water and volatile constituents from wood by heating it to high temperatures in the absence of oxygen in a process known as slow pyrolysis. Much of the charcoal in tropical countries is commonly made in traditional earth and pit kilns with a wood-to-charcoal conversion rate of about 20%.

For most of the people in the developing world charcoal is the main source of heat and cooking fuel, not only in the rural areas, but is also very important as a domestic urban source of energy (providing up to 80% in certain cities). Its production provides valuable livelihoods for producers, transporters and traders, and for some countries is an important source of export income.

**Threats but also benefits of charcoal**

However, charcoal smelting often takes place without formal permission and in the absence of proper regulation. This unregulated

and illegal charcoal production is often a major reason for deforestation; for example, studies suggest that Africa accounts for nearly 80% of charcoal-based deforestation in tropical areas.

Others argue that a large proportion of the area utilised for charcoal production has the potential for rapid forest recovery especially with good post-harvest management (replanting and sustainable use of the forests); and can provide clean efficient energy at a strong competitive advantage, especially when used in conjunction with modern fuel efficient stoves and cookers.

The growing popularity of al fresco dining in Europe is also driving an international trade in charcoal. Surprising as it may seem, Namibia has become the major source of charcoal for the UK market. The country produces about 200,000 tonnes per year, mostly for the South African market, but about 55,000 tonnes come into the UK (some 60% of the total we use each year).

There are currently 604 registered charcoal producers in Namibia with some 10,000 people involved in the industry.

Production in Namibia exhibits both the good and bad points mentioned above, with evidence of illegal harvesting, poor working conditions and exploitative wages.

**Controlling production process**

But charcoal production is an important activity to sustainably manage bush encroachment, and strenuous efforts have been made to formalise and strengthen the charcoal industry by the Namibia Charcoal Association (NCA), which supports initiatives and the operation of its stakeholders to contribute to the economic growth of this important sector.

The NCA encourages the adoption of certification and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) standards – something we wrote about in last month's *Spire* – realising that the export market in Europe is now increasingly aware of the environmental impacts of charcoal burning.

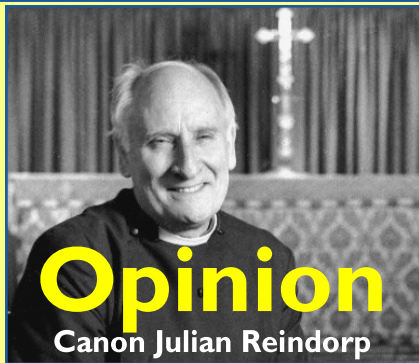
The NCA is assisting its members with this process of certification where farmers have supply agreements with a certain producer. FSC Southern Africa recently reported that 568,000 hectares in Namibia are certified, and should reach 900,000 hectares by the end of 2020.

This demonstrates the benefits of customer pressure for ethical sourcing of what we consume and the need for legitimate policy development. In this way charcoal production can significantly contribute to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.



Producing charcoal in an earth pit





# Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

## GOD and SEX

At first I could not believe the headline, *C of E declares sex is only for married heterosexual couples*. The bishops' guidance actually says 'sexual relationships outside (heterosexual) marriage are regarded as falling short of God's purpose for human beings. To many people that is an extraordinary statement, but it reflects the position of the church agreed in the 1980s. I, like many people, think that the time has come to rethink this.

I have two questions. First, of the 34 parishes where I have taken services in my 10 years of retirement, a quarter have gay/lesbian parish priests who have partners. In the past this might have been just not spoken about, but if God has made human beings with a variety of sexual orientations can that be right? Second, in the Bible, and in history, women were often betrothed and married before they were 14. Today the average age for marriage is over 30. How can we support young adults in the era of dating apps, *Love Island* and *YouPorn* to live up to their ideals?

In fact the Church is conducting an in-depth review of matters to do with identity, sexuality and marriage. Meanwhile the bishops produced their statement responding to the change in law about Civil Partnerships. However, to many its formal tone seemed uncaring and paid no regard to the many different patterns of relationships emerging in our society.

The archbishops have since offered an apology for the division and hurt the statement has caused. This whole subject is so difficult to talk about. As the Archbishops say, this is a time to build bridges.

## OUR PRISONS

We are sadly used to hearing about the levels of violence in our prisons, the self-harming and the growing suicide rate. What this must do to the mental health of all prisoners, and many of the staff can only be imagined. Recently data from HM Inspectorate of Prisons reported that the number of prisoners developing a drug problem had almost doubled in the past five years, from 8% to 15%. As one inmate put it, 'It's easier to get drugs in prison these days than get a clean pair of socks.'

## NORTH to SOUTH AGAIN

Some months ago the Conservative-controlled Local Government Association suggested a new funding formula that would in effect see £320m a year shifted from the 'left behind' communities in the North of England to the Southern shires. Ironically, in the light of the recent election where the Conservatives gained a majority of 80 seats, many of the Northern councils who will suffer most are in recently-won Conservative seats — 37 of the new 50 Tory MPs in England.

## ARE WE LISTENING?

We can all sense when somebody is really listening to us and not just waiting to get in their reply. Kate Murphy's book, *You're Not Listening: What You're Missing and Why it Matters*, makes the point that 'everybody is interesting if you ask the right questions. If someone is dull or uninteresting it's on you.'

She suggests our growing failure to listen has dire political consequences because we are no longer willing to engage with people with whom we disagree. She adds, 'Can we show empathy, enter into the other person's world, concentrate, ask open-ended questions like *What was it like for you?* or *How did you feel?*'

## AUSCHWITZ ANNIVERSARY

I write this on 27 January, the 75th anniversary of soviet troops liberating the concentration camp in Auschwitz. I always remember that two of Christianity's greatest theologians, St Augustine in the 4th century, and Luther in the 16th century, were also deeply antisemitic. The prejudice shown against Jews has been called 'the longest hatred in human history'. Today, we face this prejudice in renewed forms and it is a challenge we can only face together.

# Help keep this key mission work alive



ELIZABETH WILMOT

The money raised in this year's Lent Appeal will be split between the work of David and Shelley Stokes in Argentina (through the Church Mission Society) and ALMA, the partnership between the Anglican Church in Angola, London and Mozambique.

David and Shelley have been living and working in Ingeniero Juárez, a small town in the remote north of Argentina, for 10 years, and for most of that time St James's has been supporting them.

This will be their final year there and the challenge will be to secure funding to enable their work with the indigenous Wichí and Toba people to continue. David's work involves visiting and encouraging the local church leaders in the 150 or so small Anglican churches scattered across the area. His role has been to coordinate annual leadership training events, as well as arranging many of the practical details.

Shelley works with Wichí women and AMARE, the Argentine branch of the Mother's Union. During her tenure the number of members has increased greatly and now there are members in 16 different zones. Three big challenges remain: to train more women to teach others the Christian truths of AMARE, to help women to develop the right level of organisation to enable them to function and grow, and to find ways to help and support family life.

### ALMA's response to droughts and floods

Laurence Sewell writes: The Diocese of London's appeal, *Wheels for Climate Change Emergencies*, addresses the needs identified within ALMA to support the churches there so they can respond to the devastating droughts and floods that have affected the area this past year.



A gathering of AMARE, the Argentine branch of the Mother's Union

The four Partner Bishops in the Diocese need to respond by delivering food, materials and supplies to stricken communities over vast areas. The 2012 Lent Appeal provided lorries so they could deliver these vital supplies alongside their pastoral support. Such emergencies have become more prevalent with climate change and they now need to replace and add to this fleet.

The money we raise will have a very practical benefit to those communities that have suffered so much last year.



Unreliable vehicles could stop delivery of vital food supplies

## Joyful confirmation for Erica



CONGRATULATIONS to Erica, 12, a member of our church youth group, who was confirmed by Bishop Graham at a service at All Saints, Hampton, in January. Erica is seen here with parents Sarah and Stuart and brother Arran.

## REGISTERS

### JANUARY

#### BAPTISMS

- 26 Isla Eve Gregory, Hampton
- 26 Beau Peter Gregory, Hampton

#### FUNERALS

- 10 John Meredith Smith, 82, Teddington
- 13 Gary John Jeffreys, 63, Hampton
- 29 Ian Ronald Post, 68, Teddington





# Over and over again



**JAMIE MORTIMER**

**C**ricket has been a big part of my life. I played for my school team, at university and for the Old Latymarians. I follow Yorkshire at county level, as well as England. The lows of cricket can be boring, frustrating and disappointing, but the highs unbelievably exhilarating, with performances of skill, strength and determination. No wonder it produces so many wonderful stories and characters.

**Sir Jack Hobbs (1882-1963)**

Was Sir Jack Hobbs the greatest English batsman of all time? He scored 199 first class centuries - more than anyone else, at an average of over 56. One of his finest matches was the last test of 1926 against Australia at the Oval. England were behind on first innings, but Hobbs scored 100 and Herbert Sutcliffe scored 161 in the second innings to help win a thrilling test and regain the Ashes. About 60 years ago I was given a completed scorecard for this match. It is now framed and hangs proudly on my wall.



**Sir Curtly Ambrose (1963-present)**

Curtly Ambrose plays bass guitar in the Saturday night band that performs at the hotel in Antigua we visit each January. His guitar playing is not bad, but his singing of Sweet Caroline is very ordinary. He is happy to shake the hand of fans like me who want to pay their respects. His bowling for the West Indies was awesome - 405 test wickets at under 21 runs each. (Jimmy Anderson, England's best bowler of recent years, has a test average of around 27.) YouTube has a clip of the unplayable Curtly taking seven Aussie wickets for one run.

**Sir Viv Richards (1952-present)**

Antigua is a tiny island with a population of around 80,000. Everyone seems to know everyone else, and many of the locals appear to have gone to school with or are friends of Viv Richards. We drive down a street named after Viv on our way to the airport whenever we visit. And what a wonderful cricketer he was, with around 8,500 test runs at an average of over 50. The *Master Blaster* was instrumental in helping to transform cricket into a more athletic, exciting and attractive game. Little wonder he is high on most people's lists of star batsmen of the twentieth century.



**Jim Laker (1922-1986)**

Jim Laker's is surely the best bowling performance of all time. On a rain-affected pitch at Old Trafford in 1956 he took 19 Australian wickets in the match for 90 runs. He single-handedly won a game which was heading for a draw. Trivia quiz lovers should note that Jim Burke was the only Aussie to fall to another bowler - Tony Lock. I remember meeting Laker by the pavilion at Lord's when I was a boy. He kindly introduced me to the former England wicket-keeper, George Duckworth. I still have (somewhere) the autographs they gave me.



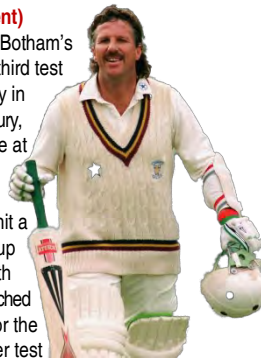
**Sir Geoffrey Boycott (1940-present)**



You either love this plain-speaking Englishman or hate him. There is no middle ground. As a life-long Yorkshire fan, I fall into the former camp. He was the first English cricketer to score 8000 test match runs, at an average of just under 48. England never lost a test when he scored one of his 22 test-match centuries. He averaged over 100 in two English seasons. The highlight of his career was his one-hundredth career century in a test match against Australia at Leeds. We could have done with Boycott in the 2019 series against the Aussies.

**Sir Ian Botham (1955-present)**

Surely everyone remembers Botham's fantastic performance in the third test against Australia at Headingley in 1981. I, along with half the Treasury, listened to the highlights while at work. After a big Australian score, England's batting failed, we followed on and Botham hit a wonderful 149 not out to set up a thrilling England victory (with the help of Bob Willis) that clinched the series. Although a man for the big occasion, Botham's career test record was outstanding. When he retired, he held the world record for test wickets taken and had scored 14 centuries.



**C B Fry (1872-1956)**

Charles Burgess Fry, but always known by his initials, played football and cricket for England and would probably have won the Olympic gold medal for the long jump if he had known the 1896 Olympic Games were taking place. It is said that he was offered and turned down the throne of Albania. A true Corinthian, he scored 94 first class centuries, mainly for Sussex and Hampshire, with an average of over 50. He went to my college at Oxford (Wadham). Both he and I captained the college cricket team.



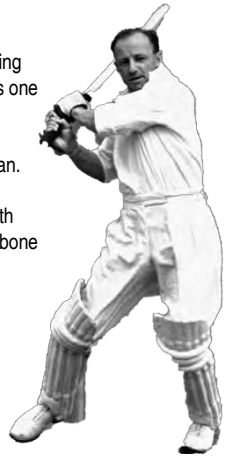
**Shane Warne (1969-present)**



Shane Warne was a great Australian test bowler, taking over 700 test wickets at a little over 25 runs each. But he is remembered above all for bowling the 'ball of the century' to Mike Gatting in the first test in the 1993 Ashes series at Old Trafford. It was the first ball Gatting faced. The ball started straight, then dipped and swung several inches outside leg stump before hitting a foot mark, turning sharply, beating Gatting's forward prod and clipping off stump. It was an almost unplayable ball and Gatting was dumbstruck. The Aussies won the match and went on to take the series comfortably.

**Sir Don Bradman (1908-2001)**

Those - like me - who love studying cricket statistics know that there is one batsman who stands head and shoulders above all others in the history of the game - Don Bradman. Over many years he was to Australian cricket what Steve Smith was in the 2019 season: the backbone of the batting and impossible to get out. In his last test innings at the Oval in 1948 Bradman needed four runs for a career test average of 100. He was, however, bowled by Eric Hollies for 0 and ended up with an average of 99.14.



**Ben Stokes (1991-present)**



My wife does not let me have pay TV (i.e. Sky Sports), so I cannot watch live cricket at home. I spend a lot of time listening to BBC Radio's *Test Match Special*, and I was lucky to catch the commentary on the finest performance of the 2019 season, Stokes' match-winning knock in beating Australia at Headingley. Stokes scored a brilliant 135 not out, with 11 fours and 8 sixes in a fourth innings run chase of 359.

I sat at the water's edge at Bosham in Chichester Harbour with others I had never met listening to someone's tinny radio and enthralled by a spectacular performance. We could not believe what was happening, and we would never forget what we heard.

