

NOVEMBER 2020 REMEMBRANCE

SPIRE

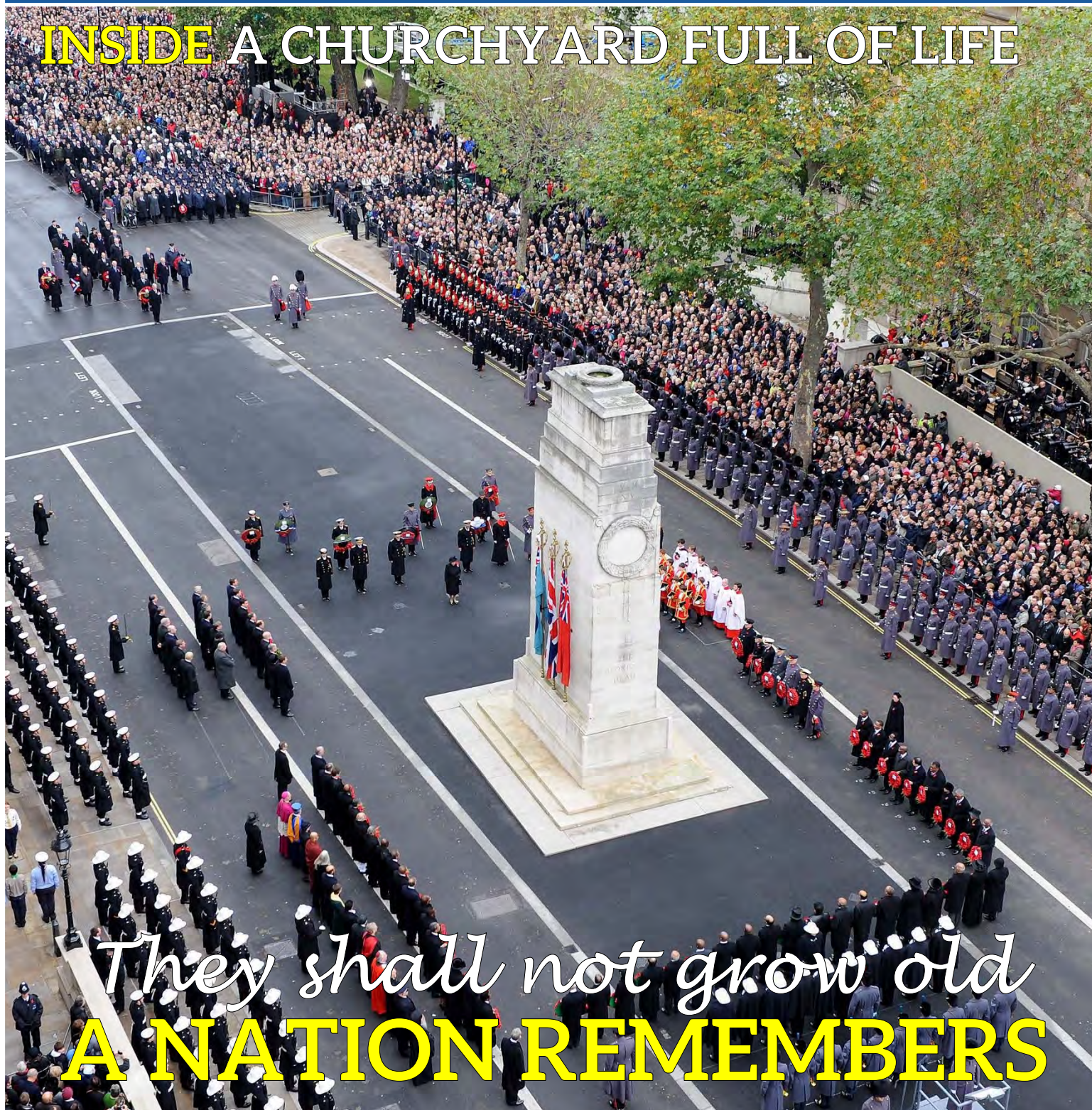


HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY

This magazine has been delivered to you with appropriate precautions to prevent the transmission of Covid-19

INSIDE A CHURCHYARD FULL OF LIFE



WELCOME

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

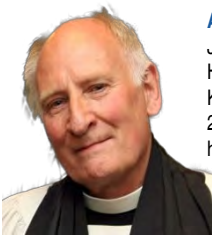
Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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.

Tel: 079 5012 2294

Email: jackycammidge@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.

Tel: 020 8614 6800

Email: julianreindorp@outlook.com



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.

Tel: 020 8941 6003

Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Address: Church Office, St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ.



LICENSED LAY MINISTER

Sylvie Collins-Mayo

Tel: 079 4022 0477

Email: sylviamayo296@gmail.com



CHURCHWARDEN

Gwynneth Lloyd

Tel: 020 8943 0709

Email: gwynneth.lloyd@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



CHOIR DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST

Thom Stanbury

Email: thom.stanbury@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

ALMA Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Ark Playgroup Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Bell Ringers Susan Homer 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Brownies

(via national HQ) 0800 1 69 59 01

Charity Support Team

Dennis Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Children's Champion

Lou Coaker 020 8979 2040

Church Cleaning Team

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Church Flowers Team 020 8941 6003

Church Mission Society

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Churches Together Around Hampton

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Churchyard Records

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Connections

Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Deanery Synod

Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Eco-Church Team

Derek 020 8241 5904

Electoral Roll Recorder

Nick 020 8941 6003

FINANCE TEAM

Treasurer Dawn Miller 020 8941 6508

Assistant Treasurer / Planned Giving

Carol Bailey 020 8783 0633

Chair Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Gardening Team

Ros Daly 020 8979 3687

Parish Visitors' Team

Derek 020 8241 5904

PCC Secretary Nick 020 8941 6003

Properties Team

Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Safeguarding Officer

Annalea Gratton 077 7576 4419

Scouts Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Social Team / Sunday Kitchen Team

020 8941 6003

St James's Players

Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

TWAM Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Welcome Team

Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

Youth Group

dani.robertson@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FROM THE EDITOR...

November is a time of remembrance in all sorts of ways. Although the *Festival of Remembrance* from the Royal Albert Hall will go ahead on BBC One on 7 November, it will be without the usual audience.

Here at St James's our service will have restricted numbers in church, before gathering around the War Memorial.

It is also a time to remember loved ones who have passed away. Our All Souls' service, *In Loving Memory*, takes place in church, but will also be streamed online so people can watch it at home to hear the names read out.

The centrespread this month is by Ros Daly, who has a passion for all things ecological. You can learn about all the insects, fungi, flowers and birds that visit the churchyard. I am sure you will be amazed when you read it. It really is a haven for all types of wildlife!

Dennis Wilmot has written about more of his favourite London churches. If you plan to visit any, do check that they are open. We are glad that we at St James's can remain open despite the change in restrictions.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: The Cenotaph, where the national Service of Remembrance is held annually.

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.

EDITOR

If you have a story idea or would like to make a comment, contact Janet Nunn, the editor.

Telephone: 020 8979 6325

Email: janunnhh@btinternet.com

WEBSITE

Prill Hinckley manages our website.

Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

The Spire is available in church and shops. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Further information from Susan Homer, 5 St James's Avenue, TW12 1HH.

Telephone: 020 8979 9380

Email: smhomer5@yahoo.co.uk

To receive it by email contact the vicar.

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

The Dec / Jan Spire is published on Fri 27 Nov.

Copy deadline: Tue 3 November.

PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge

Proof readers Susan Homer and Prill Hinckley

PUBLISHING

Printer Peter James Printing Limited

Telephone: 01932 244 665

Email: PJP123cards@aol.com

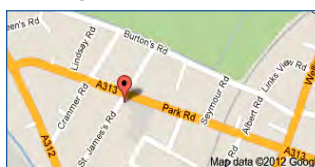
The Spire is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests.

© St James's Church 2020. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission from the editor. Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are accepted on the basis that the Spire does not accept liability for loss or damage to them. We cannot print anything subject to copyright. Views expressed in the Spire are not necessarily those of the PCC of St James.

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 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

[@stjames-hamptonhill](https://www.facebook.com/stjameshamptonhill)

[@stjameshamptonhill](https://www.instagram.com/stjameshamptonhill)

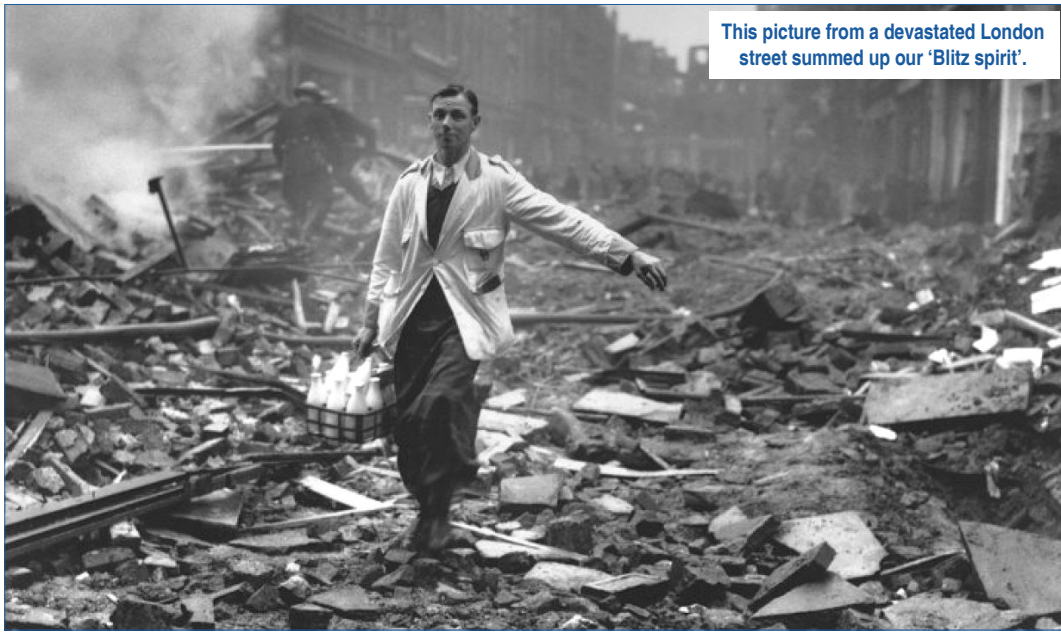
[@stjameshamptonhill](https://www.tiktok.com/@stjameshamptonhill)

Clerical Capers



'We were all ready to remember them, vicar, but some rotter's pinched the plaque with their names!'

The 'Blitz spirit' taught us to love one another



This picture from a devastated London street summed up our 'Blitz spirit'.



DEREK WINTERBURN

How much is a human life worth? That is an eternal question, but one that has been underlying our daily news. As politicians weigh up how Covid-19 can be overcome the debate is on between those who *seem* to give greater value to 'lives' and others to 'livelihoods': should cities be locked down at the cost of businesses being closed down?

Of course, few are as brutal as suggesting that the virus really should be allowed to let rip at whatever cost to human life. On the other hand, we have grown accepting of some calculation of human life. For example NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) measures the quality of life and health in 'QALYs' (quality-adjusted life-year) when assessing the cost-effectiveness of any treatment.

Wartime resilience needed

'Not since the Second World War...' has been a common phrase on commentators' lips as they have sought to describe the disruption of the Covid crisis. While we are bothered by our constrained social lives, worried by the rise in unemployment, and alarmed at how some sections of society bear a heavier burden, it is worth considering the privations that British people accepted during the Second World War.

Many of the stories that we have been told about the war have been heroic or comedic. But my guess is that for many

people who were not in the armed forces it felt 'one more day after the next' — sometimes it was good news, sometimes it was bad. People's lives went on, not being able to do all that they had planned or hoped for. And no-one knew how it would turn out, or when it would end.

Spirit of the Blitz

There is no doubt that there was a 'coming together' facing a common enemy. A book written during the Blitz, *The Screwtape Letters* by CS Lewis, argues that the War, while a catastrophe of fear and suffering, would not break the human spirit, but that 'thousands' might turn to God for help and 'tens of thousands' at least would think less of themselves and more of the needs of their neighbours.

Indeed the 'Blitz Spirit' arose, fostering a sense of solidarity, and that paved the way to the Welfare State. Haven't we seen a similar thing this year, sickness and death but also a greater community spirit and the wider public joining church worship through online media?

I am not sure whether in 1939 the general public could foresee all the trauma that lay ahead. Lives were taken, families separated, homes bombed and the economy trashed. Yet few would question that the cost was worth paying to resist the enemy of Nazism, that threatened to engulf Europe.

The challenge then and now

With the luxury of hindsight we may question many aspects of the Allies' actions, but I for one am glad that a former generation rose to the challenge of their time.

Our challenge — at least in the immediate cost to people who do not fall

sick — seems a lighter thing. But even if we are not fighting the virus in a hospital or lab, we still have a challenge.

Lewis in his book suggests that for people during the war the greater temptation would be not to hate the foreign enemy, but not to be charitable towards the next-door neighbour. (Of course, that sounds rather trivial until one remembers that it was the suspicion bred between neighbours that enabled the Holocaust to proceed.)

While 2020 has seen some ways in which we have moved closer, there have been numerous times when we have been pulled apart. There are forces (and Lewis would name some of them as demonic) that delight in destruction and division. Perhaps one cue that we might take from an earlier generation, this Remembrance time, is to hear Jesus's instruction to love our neighbour — even when it costs us something dear.

Remembrance this year

There will be a service in church at 9.30 as usual, with a Remembrance theme — please reserve a place via the church website: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk.

Then, afterwards, the shorter Act of Remembrance outside around the War Memorial will be live streamed on Facebook.

The service is in a public area and there is space, but people must stand at two metres distance from others not in their bubble (and there can be no more than six in a group).

There will be a much better view online, so we are encouraging most people to go home and watch the stream.

Representatives from a number of local organisations will lay wreaths after the two minutes' silence, but individuals will be asked to plant crosses etc. after the main party has dispersed.



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

Sundays

Parish Communion 9:30am

in church and online

Join us in church or online. Your safety is paramount. Spaces are limited because of social distancing. Please book online or via the link in the weekly e-flyer. You must wear a face covering.

The service is live streamed on Facebook.

Go to: www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill LIVE

Look for the red LIVE box from 9:20am.

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

Together at Eleven 11:15am ^{Not 8 Nov}

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

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

In Loving Memory

Sunday 1 Nov 3.30pm

For All Souls' Day, a service to remember loved ones who have died. LIVE

www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 8 Nov 9:30am

Church 9:30am / Churchyard 10:55am

Join us in church (booking essential) or meet in the churchyard (socially distanced) for a short Act of Remembrance, observing two minutes' silence at 11am, followed by the laying of wreaths.



You must wear a face covering in church.

Monday-Friday

(but not Thursdays)

Morning Prayer 9-9:30am

Join us in church. No booking necessary.

You must wear a face covering.

Thursdays

5, 12, 19, 26 Nov

Holy Communion 10-10:30am

Join us in church. No booking necessary.

You must wear a face covering.

#Alpha Online WEEKLY

Mon 2, 9, 16, 30 Nov at 8pm

Join others to explore our faith. Runs until 14 Dec. zoom

Life Groups FORTNIGHTLY

Tue 3, 17 Nov at 8pm

Continuing our exploration of the CS Lewis book, *Screwtape Letters*. zoom

A haven for wildlife on



ROS DALY

If you have a garden you will know that special feeling of being in touch with nature, but even if you don't there is a place here in Hampton Hill, our own churchyard at St James's, where you can walk along the pathways or sit in quiet contemplation to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

At any time of year there is something to treasure, whether it's the bursting forth of white snowdrop carpets in early spring, autumn colours, or even the winter majesty of stark, frost-touched trees. Here in God's Acre, where the dead are laid to rest, life is burgeoning.

Beneath your feet the firm earth is filled with a living web of roots and fungal threads (mycelium) where a myriad of mini-beasts digest organic matter and spread the mycelium.

Earthworms, which can reach 30cm and of which any fertile acre can hold three million, turn the soil. If you stir the topsoil litter, you will easily find the black snake millipede with its 96 pairs of legs, or the long golden centipede scurrying for cover. There are also woodlice — among our most ancient of living creatures — plus black ants, turf ants, violet ground beetles and, where there are rotten stumps, the large white stag beetle grubs.

Plenty of creepy crawlies

In damper places there are great black slugs, common garden slugs, garden snails and the garlic glass snail, a smaller, flatter snail which smells of garlic if crushed. Though we tend to try to avoid these 'creepy crawlies' it is good to know that they are there, part of the living root of life.

At ground level there is a striking

We are blessed with many parks and green spaces in our borough, but we are rightly proud of one closer to home: our churchyard. As Ros Daly explains, it is home to a myriad of trees, plants and bushes which, in turn, support a wide variety of insects, birds and mammals.

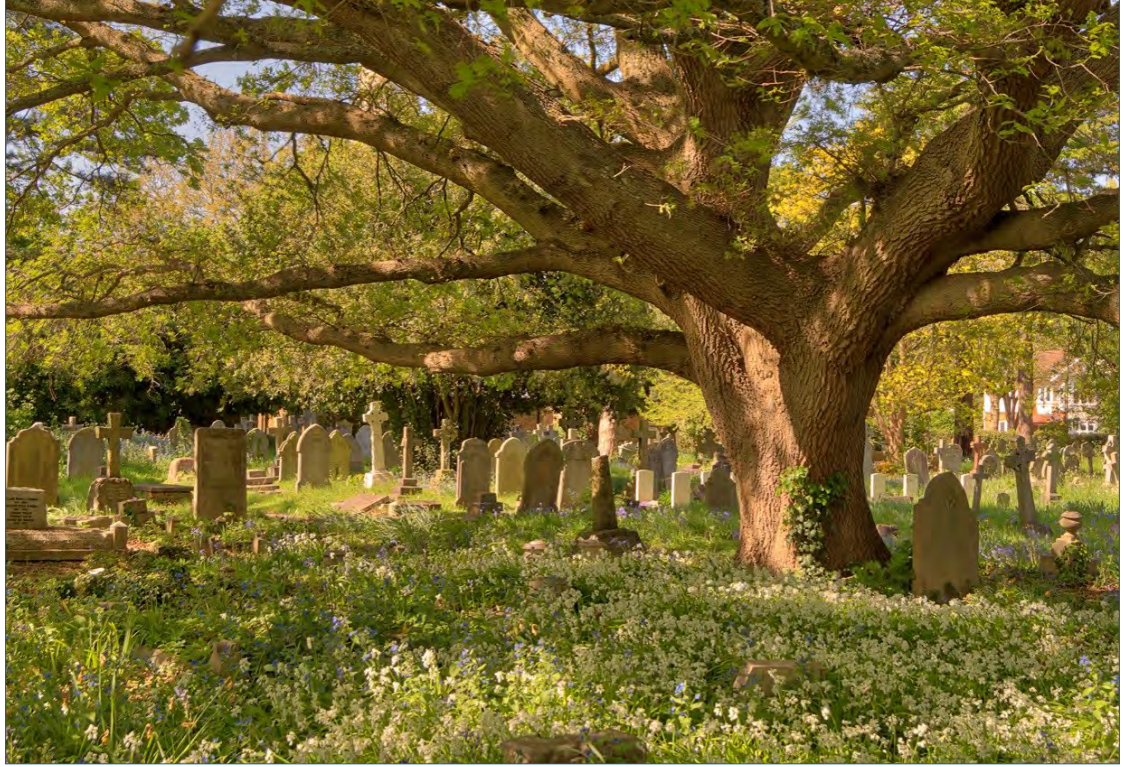
variety of plants and creatures, not always easy to see and it's worth remembering that the native species found here represent much of the original habitat that existed before the churchyard was enclosed and streets and houses built.

As well as the ever-present gravestone lichens, from late summer onward, when the land is

still warm but the weather damper, various fungi, the fruiting bodies of the mycelium, begin to appear.

These include the small fairy club fungus, like tufts of white coral amongst the grass and pine needles and, during September, large, brown mushroom-shaped boletus pop up in the leaf litter near the main copper beech.

Many varied woodland toadstools also show amongst the grasses and trees, varying from the tall, spindly but harmless conocybes to the poisonous but attractive lilac inocybes. It is best not to touch or damage any of the churchyard fungi, but rather to leave them to ripen and spore to be enjoyed again another year.



Native and Spanish Bluebells

The swathes of English bluebells are mostly found in the north-west portion, the more central plants unfortunately substantially crossed with the upright Spanish bluebell, introduced, perhaps, as a grave ornament. Violets, both the sweet and the common dog, flower widely.

The native primrose, *Primula vulgaris* has made a recent comeback on the north-eastern side since a mature beech fell in a storm. Herb robert and red dead nettle with their pink flowers are plentiful as is the blue-flowered germander speedwell.

Meadow buttercup, lesser celandine, bushy tutsan, once dried and used as a moth repellent, and bird's-foot trefoil all flourish with their bright yellow flowers.

There is also white dead nettle and wood avens, once used as a fly repellent and for flavouring ale. Tall Queen Anne's lace opens its feathery white flowers in later spring, as does low-growing ground elder, introduced by the Romans as a vegetable and now an invasive curse for gardeners. Pick it, wash it and cook it like spinach. You will be surprised at how good it is.

Nectar for bees

Green alkanet, another gardeners' curse, with its long tap root provides vital nectar for bees from its clear blue flowers. The native stinking iris with bright red seeds appears in odd patches throughout, as do lords and ladies with their curious spathes and poisonous red berries.



BIRDS

Main picture: Greater spotted woodpecker.
Clockwise from top right: Sparrow hawk, Goldcrest, Nuthatch, and Blue tit.

our doorstep

MAMMALS



Main picture: Field mouse. Insets (clockwise from right): Hedgehog, fox and grey squirrel

The ribwort plantain, stinging nettles, brambles, ivy with its late nectar-rich flowers, smooth sow-thistle, the leaves of which can be eaten in winter salad, woody nightshade and sorrel all do well here, as do wild strawberry, cyclamen, the tall ox-eye daisy and garlic mustard, host plant of the orange tip butterfly. Grasses abound. Crested dog's-tail, which is especially found in older and well-established grasslands, is also present.

Bees, crickets and spiders

Bees include the large buff-tailed bumble bee which nests in the ground, the smaller orange-tailed bumble bee, the brown carder-bee and the solitary mining bee. Common wasps and juvenile oak bush crickets are often seen, as well as seven-spot ladybirds which hibernate in the church steeple to be swept up in spring and taken outside.

The female garden spider, with a white cross on her back, spins beautiful webs in summer. The smaller male scavenges off her web. There are

veil-web spiders, long-legged harvestmen, mesh-web spiders, spitting spiders and, curiously, a small colony of the large brown house spider (the one that makes you scream if you find it in the bath) on the War Memorial, overwintering in the poppy wreaths. The white fat-bodied crab spider can be found inside flowers in the new garden by the West Porch.

Butterflies include the small white, meadow brown, orange tip, red admiral, holly blue, small copper and the speckled wood.

Woodpeckers to hawks

Nesting birds include blue tits, blackbirds, crows, jays, greater spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches, wood pigeons, sparrow hawks, wrens and our smallest native bird, the goldcrest, which can be heard during spring in the pine trees.

Grey squirrels and field mice are common and, at night, foxes are active, with occasional hedgehogs. Toads are also found, but no frogs.

Our crowning glory

The churchyard's crowning glory, however, must surely be its trees. Of the five English oak found here, the dominant oak, estimated at some 312 years, extends its mighty branches wide and high, reaching to 25m. The main copper beech with its smooth grey bark and 3.8m girth spreads its vast, dense canopy on uplifted limbs.

Other established churchyard natives include two more beech, common lime, ash, field maple, yew, holly, hazel, scots pine, hawthorn, and elder.

The mature non-natives are walnut, sycamore, Austrian pine, Norway maple, exotic ginkgo biloba, autumn-fiery sweet gum, Swedish birch, purple cherry plum and an impressive atlas cedar.

We know from Genesis that the Tree of Life existed in the Garden of Eden and our own churchyard's magnificent trees can only put us in mind of the miracle of life itself.

BUGS



Main picture: Orange tip butterfly Insets (clockwise from right): Black snake millipede, Buff-tailed bumble bee and Spitting spider

Around the Spire

New faces on church council



Susan Horner

Jon Holloway

Patricia Newton

THIS YEAR'S annual church meeting, delayed from April by coronavirus, finally went ahead online on 18 October.

Three new faces were appointed to the Parochial Church Council: Susan Horner, Jon Holloway and Patricia Newton. Lou Coaker, Paul Fitchett and Rita Malyon return to serve another three years.

Gwynneth Lloyd remains the only churchwarden, reappointed for a fourth year. She has also joined the Hampton Deanery Synod as

one of our three representatives alongside Moya Meredith Smith and Lesley Mortimer, who were reappointed for three more years.

Like many churches, life has been challenging since Covid-19. The church had to move online, initially streaming a service from the vicarage before returning to church in August with a smaller number of worshippers allowed.

There will be more about how we have got through the year and our plans for 2021 in the next issue.

Life-saving defibrillator funded from appeal



A DEFIBRILLATOR is being installed outside the church hall — paid for from a crowdfunding appeal by local traders.

The device, which can save a life during a cardiac arrest, is one of four that the Hampton Hill Business Association hopes to buy and install. They are invaluable in the time before paramedics arrive.

■ Sadly, the Association said that this year's Lighting-up Parade would not take place later this month because of Covid-19.

Mike dies after long battle

MIKE BUTTERFIELD, a long-standing member of our congregation, has died after battling against illness. We send our love and prayers to his wife Val, and to Sara, Pippa and their families. We will have a fuller tribute to Mike in a later issue of the magazine.



Church's vital role in 'second wave'

THE CHURCH has a vital role to play in offering hope and comfort to the nation as we face an expected second wave of the coronavirus, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a joint letter to the bishops of the Church of England, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell set out a stark assessment of the challenges facing the UK amid the pandemic, including hunger, homelessness, and domestic violence.

But, they say, the Church, through its presence in every community, can play a vital role in serving those most in need.

'Most of all we need to draw close to Christ and continue to offer the hope and stability of the Gospel. That alone can bring hope and an eternal perspective to the very pressing trials of the moment.'

We will remember them



PRILL HINCKLEY

The first day of the Battle of the Somme, in northern France, was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army and one of the most infamous days of World War One. On 1 July 1916, the British forces suffered 57,470 casualties, including 19,240 fatalities.

It was in 1916 that St James's Church decided to erect a war memorial for those 'resident in, or connected with, Hampton Hill, who have fallen, or may fall, in the War'.

Two years later, when the war had ended, the vicar, Rev Richard Coad-Pryor, wrote in the church magazine: 'I am glad that it has been decided to erect a memorial in the churchyard to those who have given their lives for us in the war. It is hoped that a donation, however small, will be given by every inhabitant in the parish.'

Thinking, no doubt of the human cost — some 900,000 died on the British side alone — he added: 'It will be an offering of thanks for the safety and deliverance which the sacrifice of these brave men and lads has secured for us.'

The new memorial is unveiled



The memorial was unveiled on 26 May, 1920. The magazine reported that the day would 'live long in the memories of those who took part in the impressive service of unveiling'.

The bishop's address, the singing, the quiet, sad thankfulness of the occasion, had all contributed to make it a memorable day. The arrangements were 'carried out with a resplendent reverence which we must all have felt'.

The memorial, designed by PM Andrews, bears the following inscription: *Their name liveth for ever more. These died the death of honour for God, King and Country in the Great War 1914-1919. (Some died after the war ended)*

The octagonal plinth is surmounted by a tall stone Latin cross which is visible from nearly all the churchyard. At the intersection of the cross head is a crowned sword, carved in relief. Roses are carved onto four sides of the shaft.

The upper stage of the base is formed of four broad pilasters on which panels record the names of those who died during World War One. The lower, octagonal, stage is carved with a general dedicatory inscription and floral designs. On the lower stage there are four separate panels which record the names of those who died during the Second World War. The memorial is surrounded by the original low bollards carrying a chain.



Those lost in both world wars

The war memorial commemorates those who died in the forces in the service of their country during both the two world wars. The plinth of the memorial is inscribed with the names of 124 local men who died in World War One and the 29 men and women who died in the World War Two (1939-45).

Wreaths are laid in a ceremony at 11am on Remembrance Sunday every year. In 2017 the local Scout group brought clay poppies, pictured above, which they had made.

The War Memorial became a Grade II-listed monument in 2015. The recommendation came from Historic England as part of their First World War Commemoration Project.



Picking the right bananas



LAURENCE SEWELL

Bananas are the world's most popular fruit. Over 100 million tonnes of them are grown each year, which means more than one hundred billion are eaten annually!

But, did you know that the banana is actually a herb and not a fruit, and there are more than 1000 varieties to be found throughout the world?

The banana plant was originally classified by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus into two species, those used for cooking, known as plantains, and the more familiar dessert banana. Modern cultivated varieties are seedless and thus sterile, so propagate vegetatively. They derive from *Musa acuminata* or *Musa balbisiana*, in the case of plantains.

Producing and exporting bananas

The word banana stems from the Arabic *banan*, meaning finger. Whilst they can be grown throughout most of the world, they are essentially a tropical 'fruit', and those entering the export trade are primarily grown on plantations in the Americas. Whilst India (with 29 million tonnes per year) and China (13 million tonnes per year) are the biggest producers, it is in many Latin American and Caribbean countries that bananas constitute the most significant portion of export revenues.

Ecuador is the largest exporter of bananas in the world, accounting for around 30% of world supply, followed by the Philippines. In Africa, the largest producers are Cameroon and Uganda. Ecuador and Uganda are the largest per capita consumers of bananas, and here in the UK we consume over 5 billion per year — an average of nearly 100 per person.

Banana plants thrive in tropical regions where the yearly rainfall is between 75 and

100 inches. The plants need rich, dark and fertile soils with good drainage. It takes 9-12 months from sowing a banana bulb to harvesting the fruit.

Growing bananas is labour-intensive, and production and supply are complicated and expensive processes. On plantations, it involves clearing the land, propping of the plants to counter bending from the weight of the growing fruit, as well as intensive use of pesticides. The conventional production process involves covering banana bunches with polyethylene bags to protect them from wind, insect and bird attacks, and to maintain optimum temperatures.

After nine months, the bananas are harvested while still green. At the packing station they are inspected for quality and sorted for export. The fruit is transported to ports and loaded into refrigerated ships for the 6-12 day voyage to UK or Europe, for example. In order to increase shelf life, they are kept at a constant temperature of 13°C, and require careful handling to prevent damage.

Humidity, ventilation and temperature conditions are also carefully monitored to maintain quality. When the bananas arrive at their destination port they are first sent to ripening rooms (a process involving ethylene gas) and then dispatched to the retailers.

Fairtrade mitigating industry problems

As we saw in the previous article on pineapples, bananas are also emblematic of the growing power of supermarkets along global supply chains, and of the wide range of injustices present in international trade today, including unacceptable working and living conditions for many who grow and harvest the bananas, the suppression of independent trade unions and a unfair sharing of profits along the value chain.

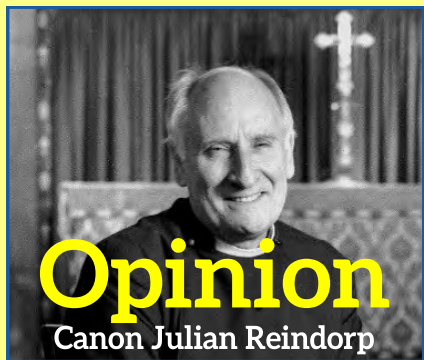
Given such problems, consumers have responded and today a third of bananas bought in the UK are 'Fairtrade,' making a huge difference to thousands of farmers, workers and their families.

Fairtrade Standards improve employment conditions and protect the rights of workers on certified plantations and support certified farmers to increase their incomes and gain more control within the supply chains.

So buying Fairtrade bananas in the UK means that producers are guaranteed a minimum price, get an extra premium to invest in their community, and have improved workplace conditions and protection.



Reaching forgotten victims of Covid-19



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

POPE FRANCIS

The Pope warns us that humanity is faced with a crucial choice. The pandemic affects our whole world. After the immediate crisis will we continue with this economic system of social injustice and contempt for the care of the environment, of Creation, of our common home?

He said: 'It is imperative to find a cure for a small but terrible virus, which is bringing the whole world to its knees. But we must also cure a great virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalisation and the lack of protection of the weakest...it is the most vulnerable who will hurt the most.'

COVID QUESTIONS

Hindsight is easy and yet there are questions about Covid-19 that will remain with us like the virus itself. My GP Sri Lankan friend returned to Colombo at the beginning of February and at the airport his temperature was taken and the staff wore protective equipment. Sri Lanka is an island with 21m people, all BAME. Officially, the death total is 12. Even allowing for many hundreds dying, it is totally different from our 64,000 excess deaths.

Why did our medical and scientific establishment not learn from Sri Lanka and other countries, including Italy? Then there are our care homes. There was a huge challenge moving from protecting 212 hospital trusts to protecting 15-20,000 care homes — but clearly we were late protecting our most vulnerable citizens.

Then there's our track and trace system. As David Davis MP, and former contender for the Tory leadership, asked, 'Why is our track and trace system so world-leadingly bad?'

LOCAL v NATIONAL

It was clearly the belief of the last Labour government and now the present government that 'Whitehall knows best'. Covid-19 surely challenges this view. It has been local authorities, with local track and trace teams and local data, that have been most effective in tackling the virus. As with many other key areas, such as education and housing, without local decision-making and accountability, our democracy is undermined and our government less efficient.

THANK GOD FOR IMMIGRANTS

Early each morning I walk to Bushy Park and pass two homes with posters in their windows. One says *Black Lives Matter*, the other *Thank God for Immigrants*. I have particular cause to echo this poster. In mid-July, my eldest stepson had a stroke at work. Sainsbury's responded quickly and within three hours he was being operated on at Charing Cross Hospital, draining blood from his brain.

Now in late September he is back at work with no apparent ill-effects. It has been truly remarkable. But without hospital staff in two hospitals and the six-week post hospital care team, most of them originally from another country, Andrew would not be with us today, healthy and grateful.

Nearly 5,000 migrants have crossed the channel in small boats so far this year. Last year 34,000 people applied for asylum, and 677,000 moved to the UK as long-term immigrants.

There is widespread agreement that our immigration system is broken and the 'hostile environment of the Home Office' needs serious reform. Both posters speak to us all.

SCOUT BADGE & FAKE NEWS

Many of us when Cubs and Scouts tried to fill up our sleeves with badges. A new badge is to be launched – the digital citizen badge, to help recognise online lies.

Chief Scout and explorer Bear Grylls said, 'I am known for being able to survive in the wild. It's just as important that young people today have their wits about them when online.'



LAURENCE SEWELL

Our Lent Appeal earlier this year once more supported ALMA (the partnership between the Anglican Church in Angola, London and Mozambique) and their

Wheels for Climate Change Emergencies appeal. Donations from parishioners held up well despite the church closing due to the pandemic restrictions. We raised £2,000, split between ALMA and David and Shelley Stokes, our CMS partners in Argentina.

Tackling suffering

The purpose of the ALMA appeal was to purchase pick-up and small flat-bed trucks for the four partner Dioceses in those two countries in southern Africa, to enable the bishops and their church community leaders to respond to practical and pastoral assistance resulting from the many recent disasters that have affected that region. Many of these have been climate related.

You may recall the Idai and Kenneth cyclones in Mozambique in 2019 (appeals to which we also contributed), and both drought and subsequent floods in southern Angola earlier this year – and more recently the increase in the terrorist insurgency in northern Cabo Delgado, part of Bishop Manuel's Nampula Diocese.

Added to all this has been the public health emergency caused by Covid-19. There seems to be no end to the suffering for the local people. The Church is looked to as a refuge and for providing support and essential supplies, particularly to those in more remote communities that often get overlooked. The most urgent requirement is being able to transport goods across inhospitable terrain.



One of the new trucks, getting supplies to remote villages

Added problems of the pandemic

Whilst the essential climate-related work continues, the coronavirus pandemic has now taken centre stage. In both Angola and Mozambique churches have been pivotal in getting messages about handwashing and social (or physical) distancing to rural areas, and in distributing soap, face-masks, sanitiser and buckets.

Cabo Delgado has become the largest hot spot for Covid-19 in Mozambique, due to a high level of infection amongst those in the offshore gas industry, and the refugee crisis being brought about by the terrorist incursions.

Apart from our giving we are asked to remember the people of the diocese in our prayers as they rebuild their lives and homes.

■ In addition to the food collected for **The Upper Room** over Harvest, we raised £1340 (including Gift Aid).

Recipes for success!



MANY OF US spent time during the lockdown baking, perhaps going back to recipes that have been handed down through the generations. Some of our favourites have now been brought together in a recipe booklet that we are selling for £10, with profits going to church funds. To order online go to <http://bit.ly/StJrecipes>, or contact Gwynneth Lloyd, Liz Wilmot or Nick Bagge (see contacts page 2) to pay by cash or cheque.

REGISTERS

SEPTEMBER

BAPTISM

27 Elsie Violet Gresset, Teddington

FUNERAL

21 Jillian Mary Brand, 87, Hampton

24 Joyce Farmer, 88, Hampton

INTERMENTS OF ASHES

8 Sylvia Joan May Reed, 93, Hampton Hill

13 Ruth Margaret Gostling, 95, Hampton Hill



Places of faith and power



DENNIS WILMOT

Westminster in the Middle Ages, and to some extent today, was and is the home of Church, Court and Parliament. Westminster benefited from the 1711 Fifty New Churches Act and architect James Gibbs more than most with his masterpiece St Mary-le-Strand, at one end, and St Martin-in-the-Fields at the other.

Westminster Abbey

The Abbey has been the coronation church since 1066, and is the final resting place of 17 monarchs. It has been the setting for numerous royal occasions, including 16 royal weddings. The church we see today was begun by Henry III in 1245. It has the medieval shrine of an Anglo-Saxon saint at its heart, Edward the Confessor. Neither a cathedral nor a parish church, the abbey is a *Royal Peculiar* under the jurisdiction of a Dean and Chapter, subject only to the Sovereign and not to any archbishop or bishop. Henry VII lavished huge sums on a Lady Chapel which was not completed until 1516, nearly six years after his death.



All Saints, Margaret Street

All Saints, completed in 1859, has a 227ft spire, higher than the towers of Westminster Abbey. Commissioned by the MP Alexander Beresford-Hope, it cost £70,000, making it the most expensive Anglican church of the 19th century. Its Gothic design was ahead of its time. Poet and Victorian Society founder Sir John Betjeman said it was there 'that the revolution in architecture began'.



St Augustine, Kilburn



The church was a breakaway from St Mary's, Kilburn, where the curate, Father Kirkpatrick, and a number of lay people found the new vicar too low. A church followed and the architect took inspiration from Albi Cathedral in

Caen, France. St Augustine was commissioned in 1871 as a focus of Anglo-Catholicism in one of the capital's poorest, mostly Irish, communities. The church's spire was added in 1898 and Fr Kirkpatrick, 75, was hoisted 240ft to lay the top stone.

St Cyprian, Clarence Gate



When John Betjeman first saw this church in the 1970s he fell to his knees crying 'Ah, Norfolk in Baker Street'. The church was commissioned in the 1890s by Viscount Portman who chose young architect Ninian Comper, who promoted the English Perpendicular as the true style of the Anglo-Catholic revival. The style was popular for 200 years, mostly in East Anglia and the West Country, and typified by windows with enlarged openings, flattened tops and vertical and horizontal mullions.

St James, Piccadilly

One wartime bomb took away the vestry, the steeple and east end, and another set fire to the rest. Wren's only surviving West End church was restored in the original style with its fittings, which had been removed before the Blitz. The curious northern aspect to the church is because Piccadilly did not exist when it was built. The courtyard hosts a market and there are regular concerts.



St Margaret, Westminster

This church was built alongside Westminster Abbey in 1120 for the local residents who were not part of the Abbey's monastic community. It is the parish church of Parliament and where it holds its memorial services. MPs and Peers gave thanks there after two world wars. In 1945 MPs were led there by Lloyd George and Churchill.



St Mary Magdalene, Paddington

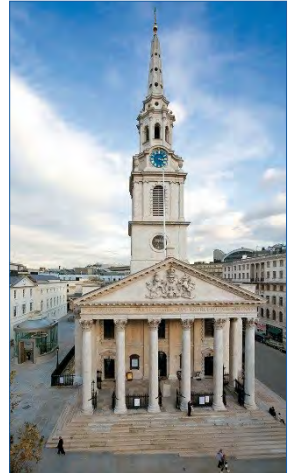
Work began in the new suburb of Paddington in 1865 under the aegis of the Anglo-Catholic vicar, Richard Temple West. West had a series of brushes with ecclesiastical authority for his High Church tendency, including using Roman Catholic prayers and hearing



confessions. In the crypt is a minor Gothic masterpiece, the memorial chapel to West, designed to recreate a medieval sanctuary chapel in memory of a celebrated Anglo-Catholic.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square

James Gibbs' design was completed in 1721. The full beauty of the church was not revealed until 100 years later when the area was cleared for Trafalgar Square. That it could stand the transformation from narrow street front to a large open space is a testament to Gibbs' greatness. His eccentric composition of tapering steeple atop a classical portico has been copied many times. The church has a royal pew, though the boundary embraces not Buckingham Palace, which did not exist in the 1720s, but St James's Palace. The crypt houses a café, a shop and reception for concerts. Its social care unit supports homeless people in central London.



Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family in Exile



This cathedral is part of the London-based diocese of the Ukrainian Catholic Church with parishes throughout the UK. It is named after the Holy Family, during their flight into Egypt. The original building which the cathedral now occupies in Duke Street was designed in 1891 and sold to the Ukrainian Catholics in London in 1967, serving the needs of the faithful.

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

The hall was opened in 1912 to mark the centenary of the death of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. It was one of the world's first purpose-built meeting places as well as a church. Rev William Sangster was a notable superintendent there, and at his first service in 1939 he was interrupted by the news that war had been declared. He had soon turned the basement into an air-raid shelter, serving over 2,000 people every night for the duration of World War Two. Speakers have included Mahatma Gandhi, Bertrand Russell, the Dalai Lama, Dr Martin Luther King Jr and Sir Winston Churchill.

