

JULY 2021 FESTIVAL WEEKEND

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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# Inspiring views

See for yourself by climbing the tower  
at our open day on Saturday 3 July

[stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk) or find us on



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

Nick is currently on furlough and working restricted hours, mainly from home. You can still phone or email.

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@ Email Susan Horner: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

## FROM THE EDITOR...

July is always a special month for our church as we celebrate our patron saint. The official day is 25 July, but for many years we have moved our celebrations to earlier in the month before the summer holidays.

One of the highlights for many people is climbing the spire to see the views. Our cover photo features one such view. Our church can also be seen for many miles around. As you return along the M3 at the rise near Sunbury you can look across to the right and see the spire in the distance.

Equally if you go to the grounds of Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park to King Henry's mound you can see us in one direction and St Paul's Cathedral in the other. Our church is listed on the board at the viewpoint.

In our centrespread this month Coryn Robinson shares her memories of past St James's Days.

On page 8, Joy Thompson reveals her favourite cathedrals. She has been lucky enough to have sung Evensong in many of them. We hope it won't be too long before we are able to sing again in church.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: The view from our spire of London Square Star and Garter, on Richmond Hill.

## 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 (see below).

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### PRODUCTION

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Proof readers Catherine Gash and Susan Horner

### PRINT

Peter James Printing Limited

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PJP123cards@aol.com

### NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

The Aug / Sep Spire is published on Fri 30 July. Copy deadline: Tue 29 June.

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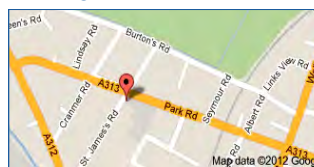
St James's Church is a charity registered in England and Wales (1129286)

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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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i @stjameshamphill

## Clerical Capers



Sharing the Notices whilst socially distancing was proving particularly tricky

# What did you say your name was?



**DEREK WINTERBURN**

**W**hen the Duke and Duchess of Sussex announced the birth of their second child, a baby girl, they also revealed her name:

Lilibet 'Lili' Diana Mountbatten-Windsor. It is plain to see that she had been named after the Queen and Princess Diana. What is particularly notable is that they picked 'Lilibet' for her first name, a family nickname for Queen Elizabeth.

However, the choice of this name has proved controversial. Names have all sorts of resonances and subconscious power. Although we might think that names are most often chosen by parents just 'because we liked it', sometimes they are selected to honour family members. Wise parents need to be diplomatic.

### From Disney to Chelsea FC

Over recent years there has been a much wider range of choices parents can pick from, or there is even acceptance of made up names. I have known children whose names came from Disney movies, or Game of Thrones (sadly that character turned out not to be so heroic by the end of the series.) I even remember one

mother who when registering the birth of her son unilaterally included all the names of the Chelsea football team!

A campaign I will never win is to change St James to St Jacob. To most people these names look quite different. The New Testament, which is written in Greek, spells 'our' apostle's name *lakobos*, or Jacob. As it was translated into Latin it became *iacomus*, which then led to *Giacomo* (Italian), *Iago* and *Diego* (Spanish) and *Gemmes* (Old French).

When John Wyclif translated the Bible into English, for the first time, he used *James* to represent Jacob. When the Authorised Version was produced — it would be difficult to correct Wyclif — the monarch who commissioned the translation was King James!

### Out with the old, in with the new...

But does it matter? I would say 'Yes' — because Wyclif made very strange decisions when translating: in the New Testament he used *James* for *lakobos* when speaking of the two apostles, but *Jacob* for Jesus's grandfather and in the Old Testament for *Ya'aqov*, he stayed with the 'sounds like' Jacob. So there is one Hebrew name used for a great patriarch in the Old Testament and for at least four people in the New Testament, but they are divided by *apparently* different names.

Particularly heart-wrenching: James — Jesus's brother — was presumably named after his grandfather, Jacob! In case you are wondering, Jacob/ James was the

11th most popular male name in Palestine at the time; Joshua/Jesus was the fifth.

So this is another small way in which the Jewish roots of Christianity are obscured. Or to put it another way, we miss how the Old Testament connects with the New — because God began his great work of salvation way before baby Jesus was born.

Jacob the Patriarch was a figure full of tricks and deceitfulness, and God had to take him on a long journey to unpick his bad character. He is the one that is given the name Israel, the name taken by the nation that grew out of his family.

### Part of the inner circle

Our James/Jacob (James the Apostle) was part of that nation: the 'Twelve Tribes of Israel'. Jesus picked him to be part of his reboot, he was one of the Twelve.

James was part of Jesus's inner circle of three and although not as prominent in the gospel stories of Simon Peter, he, like John, was there at the key moments.

And after everyone's desertion he is back with the others when the risen Jesus appears and commissions them afresh. However soon King Herod Agrippa takes him and has him killed: the first of the Twelve to be martyred.

### Tracing the connections

I don't think we will ever change James to Jacob (or Jesus to Joshua!) but it is worth paying attention to names, and tracing the connections.

Names are important.



### COMING TO CHURCH

Until restrictions are lifted, we need to limit the numbers attending to enable social distancing. Please allow extra time to take your seat.

You can also watch Sunday's 9:30 service on Facebook. You don't need an account, just go to: [facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill](https://facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill)

## Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Come to church or watch live or later on our Facebook and YouTube pages. If you come to church, remember to wear a mask. (The service on 4 July will be at 11am)

Together 11:15am (not 4 July)

Our shorter, All-Age Service, including a story, singing and crafts, is back in church.

## Mon-Fri (but not Thu)

Morning Prayer 9am

A short service of daily prayer in church

## Thursdays

Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

Please remember to wear a mask.

## St James's Festival

### We're together again!

Saturday & Sunday 3-4 July

Our Open Day is back this year. On the Saturday you may join us for an organ recital, church audio tours, and the chance to climb the tower and ring the bells. There will be plants to buy, a bottle tombola, a quality books stall, and time to enjoy tea and cake.

**Booking is essential for tower tours, audio tours and the organ recital.**

More details are on page five, on our website, and in the *You're Invited* leaflet that we will be delivering locally.

**You must also book for Sunday's 11am service.**

## Time to Pray Mon-Fri

If you would like to listen to the weekday podcasts please email: [vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

## Weekly News

If you would like to receive the weekly eFlyers, with details of services and events, email: [vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

# Thanks for such happy



**CORYN ROBINSON**



**O**ur second son, James, was born 44 years ago and when he was a couple of weeks old, we managed to attend the morning service with his eighteen-month-old brother, Duncan.

I remember this clearly as it was also the celebratory service for St James's Day (how appropriate, I felt), so it must have been the nearest Sunday to 25 July.

I can't remember much else about the service, but know it was well attended and we received plenty of heart-warming congratulations and happy attention.

Over the years the event date was moved to earlier in July as, inevitably, the specified date almost always coincided with the first weekend of the school holidays and a number of young families had gone away and were unable to attend the planned events.

We, as a church, had long abandoned traditional fetes, though I do recall the annual church fete being held in the beautiful grounds at Laurel Dene care home.

**Me, a flower girl!**

There are archive photos of me as a little girl with my parents and grandparents at this event and later, selling flowers with other church teenagers, so I think it highly likely

**The sun shines, the Pimm's flows, the food arrives... it can only be St James's Day! Coryn Robinson recalls some of her happiest church memories as she and her family joined her church family over the years to celebrate our patron saint. And while this year's festival will be a little different, one way or another, we will be together again. Details of this year's plans can be found in the yellow panel below.**

that this was the predecessor of our special celebrations. St James's Day became the focus for our alternative 'in-house' celebrations, again this was more

appropriate once the planned giving scheme had been introduced as fundraising was no longer considered necessary. New ideas were tried and some

were repeated for a few years. I particularly remember we had a popular bike event of *Beating the Bounds*, when families, individuals and even the then vicar and his

wife on a tandem, cycled round the borders of the parish and returned to the church for welcome refreshments, followed by a meal.

**Sharing meals**

Food has always been a significant element of the celebrations, and for many years we were encouraged to come along with a donation of a 'sharing platter', and we all ate together. There was always enough food and there was nothing to pay — it was truly 'sharing and caring'.

Other adventurous food-centred events were trialled. We often had huge barbecues, and one year had a whole hog roast! About this time (the mid-1990s) the church tower was opened to visitors and this proved hugely popular, both to the congregation and to the wider community who always turned up to tread the many steps — sometimes even ascending the wooden ladder to access the highest point within the bell tower. There are some amazing photos of the surrounding area and distant landmarks!

**Did the sun always shine?**

I can't remember any St James's Day having poor weather. In my memory, rightly or wrongly, we always had bright, sunny days. They were certainly always relaxed events, and they attracted a lot of positive attention.

We marked our 150th anniversary in 2013 with a more formal affair. The service was attended by the then Bishop of



**Clockwise, from left: Beating the Bounds, clowning clergy, ringing the bells, meeting friends over lunch**

# memories



150th displays with Rev Peter Vannozi

London, Richard (now Lord) Chartres. We had properly laid tables and no chances were taken as to the food selection and quantities! This meal, as with all the meals I can recall, was held outside — so it couldn't have rained!

Once I became involved with the flower arranging rota — through Helen Taylor about 30 years ago — we also used this as a special day to decorate the church. Not quite a flower festival, but still a chance to celebrate the interior of our much-loved building.

### Flowers and dresses

The loveliest of these flower celebrations was in our anniversary year when we also honoured commemorative clothing. There were displays of wedding dresses, christening robes, shawls, clerical copes, and clothing, alongside beautiful flower arrangements.

This will abide with me as one of my happiest recollections of St James's Day celebrations as it seemed to combine so many of our parishioners with their families, sacred events, cherished items, very special memories, all, again, enhanced with delicious food — cream teas this time in our wonderful church building — and encapsulating all that St James's means to me.



The Flower Team What a line-up!

## Come to our open day on Sat 3 July

Things will be a little different this year. For events inside the church: **please book for the indoors tours and the organ recital** via our website: [stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)



**Inside 1.30-5pm Tower Tours and Bell Ringing** Unrivalled views from the spire and the chance to ring our bells. No under 8s beyond the bell-ringing area. Full regulations when booking.

**1.30-4pm Church Tours** You will need to download an audio guide to your phone and have your own earphones.

**3-3.30pm Organ Recital** Thom Stanbury will entertain us with new and familiar music in a contemplative half-hour performance.

**Outside\* 2-4.30pm Bottle Tombola, Plant Stall, Book Stall** Try your hand at the tombola, buy some plants and a quality book or two.

**2-4.30pm Refreshments** Allow time for tea and a slice of cake.

**and on Sun 4 July** **Please remember to book places (as above)**

**11am-12.15pm Parish Communion** Our special speaker will be Scott Robertson, who will be joining us on video from Florida.

**12.30pm Bring your own picnic** We can't all gather together this year, so as well as the vicarage garden, a number of households will be providing garden space. **\*weather permitting**

# Around the Spire

Eco-Church Wins Bronze Award

## Church gives helping hand to nature



Hampton Hill Brownies looking for wildlife

**ST JAMES'S CHURCH** was recently given a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of the work that has been done over a number of years to foster an awareness of the need to Care for Creation, and take practical steps in sustainability.

This is not a competition and this is only a beginning, a 'pathway', supported by A Rocha (a Christian environmental charity), so now we are working for the Silver Award.

As part of the 'land' element of the scheme we have been considering the management and use of the churchyard.

In June, as part of the national *Churches Count on Nature* week, we encouraged people to spend time here to 'spot' wildlife. As well as church members and the public, spotters included Scouts,



Brownies, Hampton Hill Nursery and Hampton Hill Juniors. Some 94 different species were identified and logged with the national database. Next year we hope to break the 100 barrier!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Christian Aid Week. We collected a total of **£2158** (including Gift Aid) — a respectable amount given the current Covid-19 circumstances.

## Summer concert to cheer

**WITH** the easing of restrictions due shortly, we are delighted to welcome back the singer-songwriter Alistair Griffin for a summer concert in church.

Lockdown hit singers hard, but he became the first singer to tour the UK during restrictions; in his case, in a campervan.

Alistair was also busy in the recording room releasing three albums, and he wrote the music for a new play, *Iron and Steel*, about his native Middlesbrough.

He will be performing with a band on **Saturday 14 August, at 7:30pm**. Tickets cost £22. To book, go to: [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk) and search for Alistair, or follow the links from his Facebook page.



# Some exquisite windows



**PRILL HINCKLEY**

Guild. The inscriptions read: 'Go ye also into the vineyard' and 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men'.

**An exquisite angel**

High up over the last pair of windows is a small window, pictured right, depicting an exquisitely executed Angel, announcing the Beatitude:



*Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled'.* Next to it is another small window, showing the *Lamb of God*.

At the east end of the north aisle there is a wooden barrier to protect the exposed organ pipes. Above these pipes is a brick arch with black and gold text saying *Sing Unto The Lord And Praise His Name*. Just in front of this there is an area with chairs arranged around the boudoir grand piano, where choir practice is held on Friday evenings.

There are two beautifully worked mosaics, each surrounded by a marble border, also at the east end of the north aisle. They are depictions of *Christ the King* and *St James*. The latter tells us that James was both martyr and missionary as he is shown with a sword (he was the first of the apostles to die for their faith) and a book, presumably the gospels.

Chairs replaced the pews 1991. Further seating can be added when needed.

A children's corner was originally dedicated in June 1936 and will be used again for the 9.30am Sunday service and also for the Ark Playgroup when regulations allow.

Along the wall are various brass plaques commemorating people connected to the church, including George Casey, the founder of the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group, who died in 1980.

**E**nlargements, alterations and extensions to the church started in 1873 with the addition of a north aisle. *The Surrey Comet* criticised this addition, consisting of six bays with transverse gables, reporting that 'the work did not seem to be in keeping with the old. To gain height and light these gables pierce the roof of the old nave. The new work has a more pretentious appearance.'

However the comments about the interior were much more positive.

**From plain to stained glass**

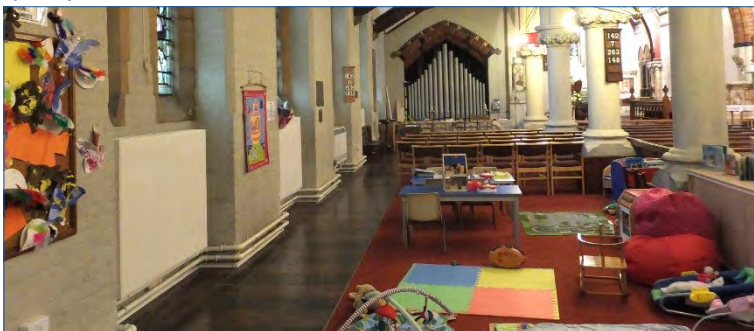


The windows in the north aisle were originally plain glass, but later replaced by beautiful ones in stained glass, dedicated to parishioners who were well known at the time.

The first pair of these, *David Rex*, pictured left, and *Sancta Cecilia* in 1877, were in memory of William Singleton, St James's first organist.

Over the next 40 years further window pairs were installed depicting *A Centurion kneeling*, *Jesus carrying the Cross*, *Mater Dolorosa*, *Mater Purissima*, *Faith*, *Hope*, *I am the Resurrection and the Life*, *Melchizedek*, *Zacharias*, and *Saint Elizabeth*.

In 1900 and 1910, small windows were given by the Communicants' Association and



# Blooming marvellous!



**LINDA CARGILL**

**Those special occasions**

Flowers play an important part in special occasions: particularly Christmas, Easter, on St James's Day and Harvest Festival.

**W**e are currently a very small team, but we all love having the opportunity to decorate the church with flowers which play an important part in church and are a form of celebration.

'Doing the flowers' involves time beforehand to source the flowers from either a supermarket, a garden centre or, possibly, Kempton Market (there is a modest budget for flowers). Historically, flowers were purchased from local nurseries, but times have changed. Greenery comes from our own gardens and also the churchyard, which is planted with several specific shrubs which are perfect for the arrangements.

**Preparation is key**

The flowers and greenery are usually prepared the day before, allowing them to have a good drink overnight in deep water, making sure that the stems are freshly cut, since stems seal over once they are cut and left without fresh water and food.



In recent times we have all become more appreciative of the gift of nature and of the enjoyment of seeing fresh flowers and greenery inside our homes, and particularly in our church.



At these times, the team is joined by other very welcome volunteers to share in creating the extra arrangements.

A special memory was the Flower Festival for the 150th Anniversary of St James's in 2013 with the theme of celebrations. It was an honour to have had the opportunity to source some very special flowers and decorate the whole church.

Ideally, the flowers are checked and refreshed on a weekly basis and we are all appreciative of being in the peace and quiet of the church while we work. Sometimes we are lucky enough to have an organ 'recital' at the same time if Thom is practising! Nick, in the church office, kindly provides tea, coffee and biscuits, for which we are very grateful.

So, as you see, flower arranging can often turn into a social occasion.



Arrangements are often simple and informal or they might be more intricate and planned, but they always look lovely. All our equipment, vases and

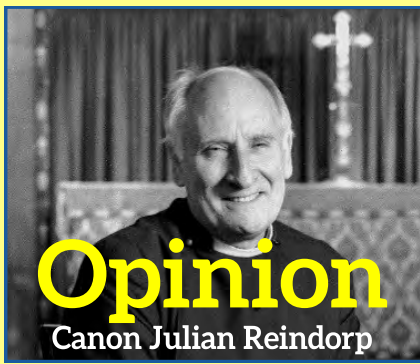


pedestals are kept in the purpose-built cupboards in the porch, where there is also a tap.

Flowers by the Book of Remembrance are not to be forgotten and these are kept going all year round.

We really hope that the flowers give pleasure to all the congregation.

■ If you have a passion for flowers and would like to join the team, do speak to one of us.



## Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

### JEW & ARAB COALITION?

In May, the Abraham Initiative, which works to promote shared society and equality between Jews and Arabs, pointed to recent deliberate escalations of tension. Political motives aimed at driving a wedge between the 'Change' political block and the Arab parties, who were engaged in advanced coalition talks. At the same time, attempts to remove Palestinians from the Old City and replace them with Jewish settlers were matched by restriction of freedom to worship for Muslim citizens of Israel at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. All this resulted in tragic communal riots between Jews and Arabs in many communities. Years of peaceful coexistence destroyed almost overnight. But the coalition government begun on 13 June, including for the first time Arab representatives, gives some hope for the future.

### MORE WINDRUSH DELAY

The Windrush Generation came from the Caribbean with passports between 1948 and 1971. Nearly half a million people were encouraged by the UK government to fill labour shortages. They neither needed nor were given any documents on arrival. From 2012 the Home Office created 'a hostile environment' aimed officially at illegal immigrants. In time this affected many from the Caribbean who did not have 'leave to remain' documents. People lost homes, jobs, benefits, and NHS services, many were wrongfully detained and 83 were deported.

This scandal came to a head in 2018 when 12 Caribbean leaders were refused a meeting with the PM. A review and compensation were promised. In 2019 it was estimated that 11,500 were eligible and £60 million was set aside. The recent highly critical National Audit Office report said that 2,163 claims had been processed so far; 633 had received compensation, ranging from £10,000 to £100,000; 108 claimants had died. It had been estimated that each case would take 30 hours to process; in fact, it was 154 hours. The most recent budget was £8.1m, of which £6.3m was spent on staff.

### END PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

I have long felt that if we abolished all private education, within 10 years our national education system would dramatically improve for people of all backgrounds. Middle class drive, wealth, and aspiration would transform our political priorities. Paul Stubbings, the head of Cardinal Vaughan, a high-performing Catholic state school, recently argued that 'you get a better education at a good comprehensive than at private school because you are mixing with people from a whole range of backgrounds'. But he admitted he worries about money. The Department for Education gives him £6,163 a year per pupil; fees for local private day schools are typically more than that for one term.

### ONLY ONE GREEN MP

It is one of the depressing features of our political system that whenever an environmental issue is debated there is only one Green MP to consult. Caroline Lucas is always well informed. Meanwhile in Germany, a Green MP may become Chancellor after their elections. In our threatened planet this is surely a key argument for proportional representation.

### POPE FRANCIS & MARK CARNEY

The former Bank of England Governor Mark Carney tells the story of Pope Francis saying to him, 'Humanity is many things: passionate, curious, rational, altruistic, creative, self-interested. But the market is one thing: self-interested. Your job...turn the market back into humanity.'

### TOP TEN TEDIOUS TASKS?

In a poll of 2,000 people these were the 10 most boring tasks: Scrubbing the bath, waiting in a call centre queue, cleaning the oven, deleting spam emails, listening to someone from customer services read out the terms and conditions, filling in online forms that don't work, finding the start of sticky tape, picking off bits of paper from laundry after someone left a tissue in their pocket, waiting for a delivery to arrive, and an automated recording call.

# Caring for those who are often disregarded



ANN PETERKEN

**T**he London Churches Refugee Fund (LCRF) is a Christian-based organisation that helps to alleviate destitution among refugees and asylum seekers in the Greater London Area, regardless of creed or colour.

A YouTube video on [help4refugees.co.uk](http://help4refugees.co.uk) gives a very good overview of their work and includes some words from the Chair of Trustees, Rev Chris Brice, a man who continually responds to Christ's request to help those in need. Do take a few minutes to watch it.

LCRF does not work directly with refugees and asylum seekers, but gives grants to the frontline charities that do. Two of the twenty-nine agencies that it supported in 2020 are the Barnet Refugee Service and the Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network. The grants are small, about £700-£800, and are used to purchase phone and travel cards, to make emergency payments or provide food or toiletries – all of which help destitute asylum-seekers survive, keep in touch with family and friends, and seek legal aid and other vital help.

#### Small charity reliant on volunteers

LCRF is a small charity with an income of just over £42,000 in 2020. Virtually every penny of income goes out in grants as there are no staff and all its work is carried out by the trustees and other volunteers. Their 2020 Annual Report (see website) is easy to read and includes some case studies.

On 25 March 2021 the charity hosted an online event, *All Sisters and Brothers*, at which Father Timothy Radcliffe



**Asylum-seekers** Without our support, people who have often sacrificed everything might feel they have little public sympathy.

delivered the keynote speech. You can hear what he had to say on the website, together with other videos of the event.

#### Supporting those that many disregard

St James's continues to support this charity, knowing that it enables help to be given to the people least likely to have public sympathy and who would struggle to stay alive without some assistance. The frontline agencies that give the actual help do so with little public awareness and very limited resources.

They achieve miracles with gifts in kind and volunteer help, but some essential items do need cash and a grant from LCRF can make all the difference.

Please keep the charity in your prayers and do spend some time to be better informed by watching some of the videos mentioned in this article.

## Diamond Wedding



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Wendy and Brian Baker, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 20 May.

They were married in Didcot, Oxfordshire, and have two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who were all able to attend a party at the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club. They are pictured with their card from the Queen.

Brian and Wendy will also be marking this milestone with a cruise along the south coast of England later this year.

## REGISTERS

MAY

There were no events recorded this month



# Singing with Joy!



**JOY THOMPSON**

I have been fortunate to have belonged to several choirs for nearly 40 years, and have sung in some wonderful cathedrals. Four years ago I joined an ecumenical cathedral choir, managed by Mark Blackwell, a former organist at St James's. We would sing in cathedrals when their choirs were on their holidays.



**Salisbury, Wiltshire**

My first visit with the choir was to Salisbury: the ideal of the English cathedral. Completed in 1320, its spire rises to 404 feet, the tallest in the UK. The Chapter House houses its 1215 copy of the *Magna Carta*, one of four originals. The cathedral also has the world's oldest working mechanical clock. Built in 1386, it has no face and only strikes the hour.



**Clock**



**Norwich, Norfolk**

Another cathedral with a wonderful spire, but only 315ft this time! The vaulted ceiling runs its entire length. From floor to ceiling there are four rows of decorated windows and 1000 bosses. The Great West Window depicts scenes from the lives of Christ and Moses. The colours are stunning. Near the west end of the nave is a 5ft copper font once used in the city's Rowntree Macintosh factory for chocolate making.



**Ely, Cambridgeshire**

You can see the cathedral miles before you arrive. The nave is 248ft, one of the longest in England. Disaster struck in 1322 when the Norman central tower collapsed.

The reconstruction gave Ely its prized feature of a central octagonal lantern. The nave ceiling tells of Christ's ancestry. Originally the building had six towers, but only one remains.

**Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire**



Tewkesbury lies between the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills and there has been a church there since Saxon times. The huge Norman pillars in the south aisle are over two metres in diameter and would have originally been plastered and decorated. The Milton organ was built in 1631 for Magdalen College, Oxford, moving to Hampton Court, where the poet John Milton is reputed to have played it, before eventually arriving at the abbey in 1737, and later placed on a stone screen. The four manual instrument has 4611 pipes.

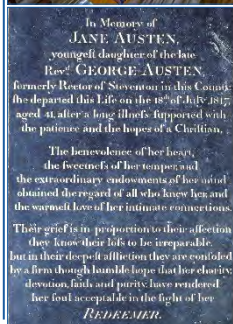
**Southwark, London**



Close to London Bridge and Borough Market, the cathedral was severely damaged by an incendiary bomb during the Blitz in 1941. One of the treasures is the Great Screen, above, dating from 1520. A former resident was *Doorkins Magnificat*, right, who made the building her home in 2008. I managed to stroke her, and the Queen once found her asleep in the Bishop's chair!



**Winchester, Hampshire**



Big rather than beautiful, no tower or spire, but at 535 feet it has one of the longest naves of any Gothic cathedral. When the bones of St Swithun, its patron saint, were moved inside the building on 15 July 971, the story goes that it rained for 40 days. A definite truth is that Jane Austen is buried in the north nave, left, though there is no mention of her being a great writer.

**Brecon, Powys**



A long way to travel, but worth it and it was so much smaller than anywhere else I had sung. No long aisle or towering pillars, the cathedral started life in 1093 as the Benedictine Priory of St John the Evangelist, built by the Normans on the site of an earlier Celtic church. It was rebuilt in the Gothic style in 1215 and became known as the Church of the Holy Cross. At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537 it was made Brecon's parish church. It became a cathedral only in 1923, on the establishment of the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon.

York Minster is the largest Gothic cathedral north of the Alps, and has the widest nave of any cathedral in England. Its vast, light interior was completed in 1472. During construction the central tower collapsed and had to be rebuilt. One of the glories of York Minster is the stained glass. In total there are 128 windows. The greatest four windows are the East and West, the Five Sisters Window, and the Rose Window, pictured above.



**York Minster, North Yorkshire**

**St Albans, Hertfordshire**



Known locally as the Abbey, the building dates from Norman times. The nave is 275ft long. The tower, the oldest of any cathedral in England, was built in 1077, and its 7ft-thick walls are built of Roman bricks. There are a total of 23 bells housed in the tower. The oldest bell, cast in 1290, is used today as the Sanctus bell. In 2010, 13 new bells were cast, and were rung, see below, for the first time at Easter 2011.

