

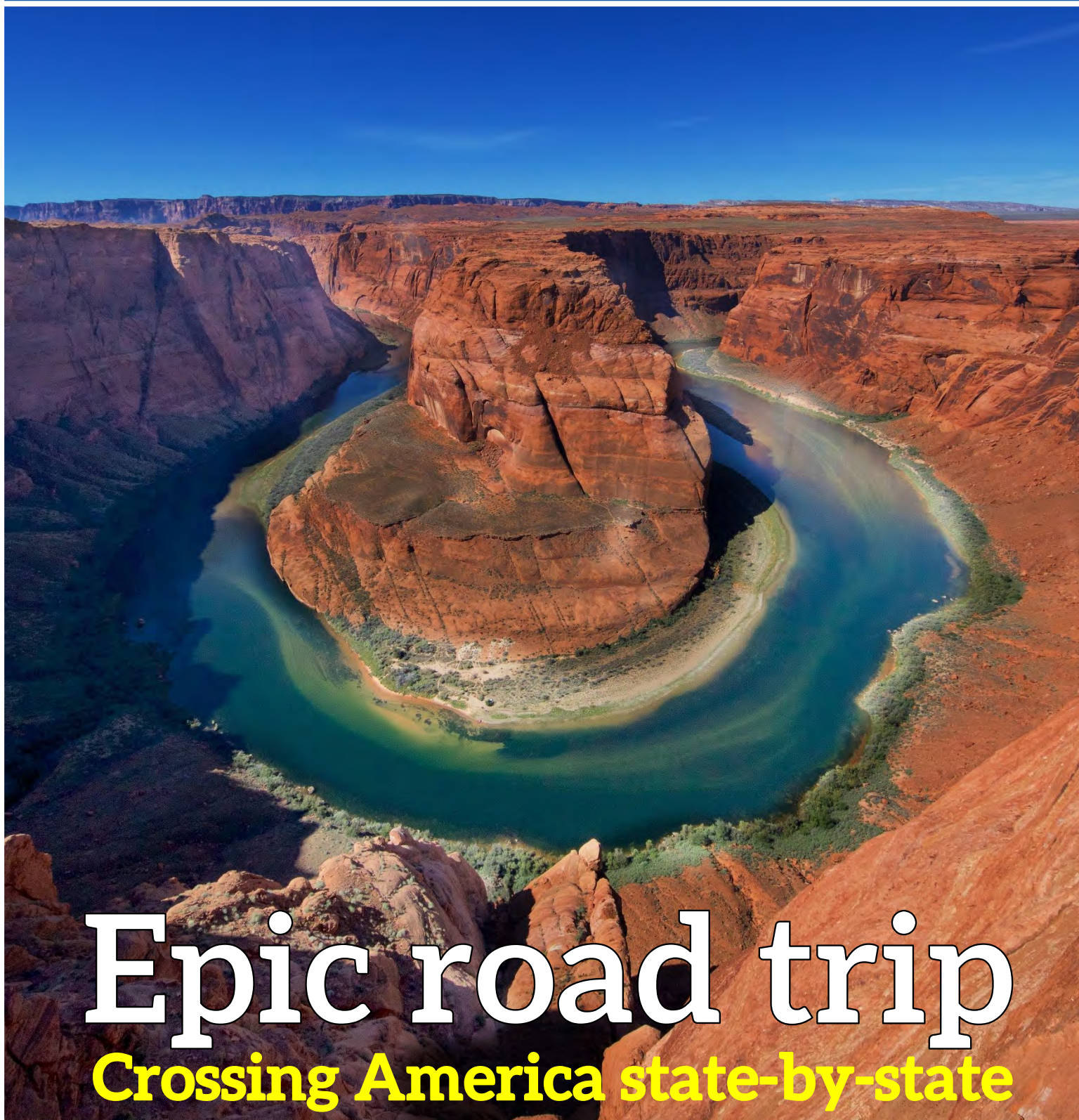
JUNE 2021 EXPLORING THE USA

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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# Epic road trip

Crossing America state-by-state

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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 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

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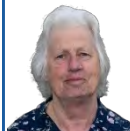
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## FROM THE EDITOR...

With this issue we have included our annual Spire Appeal. We thought it inappropriate to run an appeal last year as we were unable to print some issues because of Covid (though all were posted online). The PCC has continued to support us during this time and we hope you will give generously this year to make up for 2020.

This edition features Graham McHutchon travelling across America in an RV. Because of Covid, Graham had to cut short the tour — having visited 48 states — and return home.

Photography is at the forefront in this edition. Besides Graham's magnificent photos, on page 8 Derek has chosen some of his favourites. Derek also took the wonderful photos of our stained glass windows used in our streamed services, along with the 'before' videos. We hope that the pandemic is now behind us and we can look forward to better months ahead.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Goosenecks State Park, Utah, part of Graham's journey across the USA.

## 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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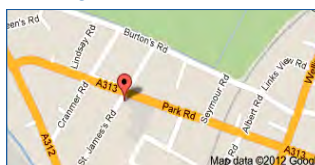
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## Finding us



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



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practice.

# Religion's voice in saving the planet



an industrial revolution, powered by coal. Looking at the cumulative weight of our emissions, Britain is still the 5th biggest emitter of all time. And some of the developing world's emissions are due to them making so many items for us. But guilt alone is not a good motivator.

■ **Anger:** Greta Thunberg has done the world a great service in catalysing organisations and governments to pay greater attention to the deteriorating global situation, and the lack of progress towards the 'Paris Agreement' (to limit global warming to well below 2°, preferably to 1.5° Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.) Her particular genius is to express righteous anger in a coherent and controlled way. Not all her followers have been so level-headed. We see in the Bible that anger is useful in some situations but is dangerous. It won't be the best way to motivate people who have more at stake in the status quo.

■ **Self-concern:** it seems as if many of the remedies for global warming have a 'green premium' - they cost. But there are ways that it rewards us to be greener. If we all followed the government's recommendations for a healthy diet (more fruit and veg but less sugar, meat and dairy) that would be good for us, *and* it would reduce our average emissions by more than 15%. After all, Jesus encouraged us to love ourselves (but see below too).

■ **Love for God's world:** When the author, Marilynne Robinson, was asked: "What single thing do you believe would make the world in general a better place?" she replied very simply: "Loving it more." Polar Bears have been used as sentimental symbols of the impact of the climate crisis. It is impossible to visualise the build up of *invisible* gases, but we respond to a picture of a bear on a broken piece of floating ice.

Genesis and the Psalms encourage us to marvel at and love the world God has created. To love something means to cherish it for what it is, not for what it can

give us. When we see the world simply as a means to an end, just for our benefit, we have lost sight of something very important.

■ **It's what we do:** Christians through history, like many people of their time, have misused creation. But many have been shining lights for the respect of nature. UNESCO inaugurated Earth Day (22 April) for 'all faiths and none' but its roots are in the environmental campaigning of a Christian, John McConnell. So many of our English churches have been at the centre of rural communities and celebrated the natural cycle, or in towns offered oases of greenery in their churchyards.

■ **Love for our brothers and sisters:** we are well aware that we are rich compared to most of the world. For the first time in over 20 years the number of people in extreme poverty rose last year. This was partly due to COVID-19 and conflict. But another reason was climate change. Climate change is a particularly acute threat for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and S Asia — the regions where most of the global poor are concentrated.

It's sobering when we realise this burger, or this car journey, or this holiday abroad, even in a tiny way harms other people. Isn't it a matter of compassion that we do our bit to help others who have so little?

■ **Love for God:** It is ironic that a critic complains that the Ten Commandments don't reference environmental matters. One of them speaks of land directly (do you know which?) and they are embedded in fuller instructions about how to live in the land that God was giving the land-less Israelites.

Christians understand the gift of the land to the Israelites, to be transformed into the gift of the whole world. We cannot say we love the Creator and not his creation.

**T**hat's eight reasons to act, to care for Creation. What will you do?

**W**hen the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Rev Justin Welby and Lord Browne (former CEO of BP) wrote a newspaper article recently advocating action in a time of climate catastrophe, I was intrigued by the posts 'below the line' on the website, from the very opinionated commentators.

Predictably there were people who resented any mention of religion at all, and certainly not in an article that also referred to science. But my eye was caught by the comments that expected any argument that an Archbishop made to be explicitly Christian, or conversely by others who believed he should have nothing to say because CO2 emissions were not referenced in the Ten Commandments!

Once the facts have been understood (the climate *is* warming, human activity has caused it, things need to change or it will be bad for everyone) — what will motivate people to shift their lifestyle?

## Good and bad reasons

Here are some reasons, first some bad ones and then some better reasons to care about Climate Change:

■ **Fear:** 'Planet on Fire' is one book title that seeks to provoke a reaction. It is easy to summon up mental images of forest fires, or extreme storms. We ourselves have known the anxiety at the beginning of summer — 'will there be enough water?' But too much fear brings despair — 'what can be done?'

■ **Guilt:** We were the first country to have



## COMING TO CHURCH

Until restrictions are lifted, to attend a Sunday service you must book. The link is in the weekly email, or go to: [stjameshh.churchsuite.co.uk](http://stjameshh.churchsuite.co.uk) and navigate using the calendar.

You can also watch Sunday services 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 book and wear a mask. (The service on 4 July will be at 11am)

Together at 11 11am (not 4 July)

Our shorter, All-Age Service makes a welcome return to church from 13 June

## Mon-Fri (but not Thu)

Morning Prayer 9am

A short service of daily prayer in church

## Thursdays

Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

If you would like to come to church (booking not required) please remember to wear a mask.

## Charity Quiz Night

Friday 18 June 8pm

Join us online for a fun night's quizzing. Sign-up details in Weekly News (see below).

## St James's Festival

Saturday & Sunday 3-4 July

Our Open Day is back this year. Join us from 1pm. Events include an organ recital, tours, and the chance to climb the tower and ring the bells. There will be plants to buy, a prize tombola and time to enjoy tea and cake. Full details will be in the *You're Invited* leaflet which we will be delivering locally, as well as on our website. Sunday's service at 11am will be followed by a barbecue lunch in the vicarage garden.

## 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)

# A journey of a lifetime



**GRAHAM McHUTCHON**



The RV parked up in Goblin Valley State Park, Utah.

Late one evening I found myself sitting outside under an inky black sky. The ribbon of lights from the traffic in the far distance had no impact on the scintillating array of twinkling stars above. The Milky Way stood out like a fuzzy stripe across the heavens, the lipstick sunset had by now faded below the horizon and the desert air was cooling rapidly. I reflected on some words I had read earlier: 'For all the toll the desert takes of a man it gives compensations, deep breaths, deep sleep and communion with the stars.'

That is what inspired us to buy a motorhome or RV (Recreational Vehicle) and set off to explore the vast and diverse land that is the United States of America.

Here is not the place for the technicalities or practicalities of owning such a vehicle as *Permitted Aliens*, which is our official status! Suffice it to say that it is 40 foot long, weighs 15 tonnes and has all the facilities to live comfortably off grid for over a week.

As one manufacturer claims, this is 'roughing it smoothly'. We also tow a car behind for local trips. Many of these RVs will only travel from one campground to the next, never leaving the tarmac or spending a night not hooked up to power, water and sewage. That was not our intention.

### Spectacular natural wonders

America abounds with spectacular natural wonders, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park and Niagara Falls to name three. There are many more that are less visited but equally as dramatic.

**With four million miles of spectacular coastal roads, dizzying mountain passes and empty desert highways, a road trip is by far the best way to discover America. After all, it's a rare opportunity to traverse the country at a speed where you can see the country. Graham McHutchon decided to do it in style with a large RV and the time to linger – a journey inspired by gazing at the stars.**

One of my favourites is Goosenecks State Park in Utah. Here the San Juan river has carved its way into the archaic rocks forming a sinuous channel a thousand feet below, the sparkling water so enticing, yet tantalisingly beyond reach in this 'Entrenched Meander' as it is known.

Or there is Valley of Fire, just half-an-hour's drive from the tacky

superficiality of Las Vegas. Here the forces of wind and rain have created magnificent edifices in rocks that have swirling patterns of reds, yellows and beige. Big Horn sheep can be seen nimbly leaping across crevices and scaling steep ravines.

The gaudy lights and perpetual noise of *Sin City* seem a world away.

Being close to nature is one of the delights of this lifestyle. Having the time to do it at leisure is, I know, a privilege for which I am grateful. To sleep by an open window with an orchestra of night insects each making their own distinctive noise and yet somehow creating a harmonious sound together, or wake suddenly to the

erie calls of a pack of coyotes as they mark out their territory is very special. The dawn chorus is always wonderful whether it be deep in the forests of the north-western states or in the wetlands along the Colorado River close to the Mexico border.

Thousands of snow geese migrate here to avoid the harsh northern winters. The cacophony the birds make, that rises to a crescendo when a predator is sighted and the whole flock takes to the air in panic, defies belief.

### Creatures that spoil your day...

There are many of God's creatures that, although beautiful, can spoil your day. Along the Gulf of Mexico lurk the obvious ones, the alligators. For the most part as long as they aren't threatened, or you don't come between a female and her offspring, they will leave you alone.

Snakes are the next category to be wary of; a park ranger told me that venomous snakes have vertical slits for pupils in their eyes whereas non-venomous ones have round ones.

That's all very well, but you have to get far too close to make that distinction as I found out with a cottonmouth, one of the most deadly snakes on the continent.

The sound of a rattlesnake is also something I will not forget. Top of my list though, has to be fire ants. One day whilst dressed in shorts I knelt on the grass to check the RV's tyre pressures. Within seconds I felt pain that rapidly became excruciating. I ran for the hosepipe and a sponge and



The mystic Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

# across the US



Cottonmouth snake, note the slit pupils!

frantically tried to remove dozens of these tiny insects, but the damage was done, for hours my lower legs felt as though they were still being burnt.

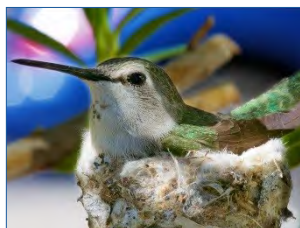
Crossing the state line into North Dakota was a significant moment.

How could this large featureless state so far from the oceans with few tourist attractions be so significant? It was our 48th state

doing to the natural world. Sadly though, further north, fracking has ruthlessly scarred the landscape in what appears to be an uncontrolled rush to wealth using this destructive process.

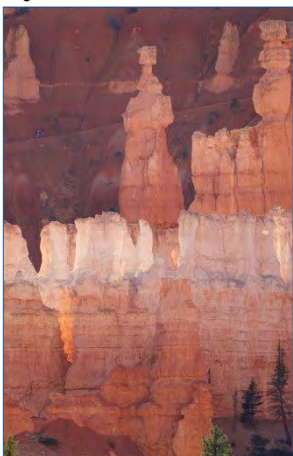
### ...while others make you smile

Many other animals bring only a smile to my face. The pelican, these lumbering birds look so ungainly on land, but when in the air they are the most expert flyers, travelling for miles along the shoreline, skimming the waves with hardly a beat of their wings. I have spent many hours watching them plummet into the water to catch a beakful of fish.



### A hummingbird on its nest

Another bird that can keep me entertained is the tiny gravity-defying hummingbird. Their iridescent colours and feisty aerial duels with each other over feeding rights are a joy to observe.



Bryce Canyon, Utah

and more by accident than careful planning we had entered it in our 48th month on the road.

The jewel in the bad-lands of North Dakota is the stunning Roosevelt National Park, created by a president who acknowledged the immense damage we were

### Dodging all kinds of weather

Just over a year ago we returned to the relative safety of Arizona, having evaded wildfires in California, dodged tornadoes in the central states and run from two hurricanes making their way up the eastern seaboard.

It is essential to have a really good weather app on your phone in a country where the climate can take sudden and devastating turns.

There have been incidents and accidents along the way, but none that has detracted from enjoying the extraordinary diversity of America.

### Thwarted by the pandemic

Then Covid-19 struck! We hastily put everything into storage and took the last British Airways flight from Phoenix to London. Who knows when we will be allowed back or whether we will ever make it to Alaska?



Big Horn Sheep in The Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada

# Around the Spire

APCM Future strategy sought

## Church must stay relevant to community

### TWO CHURCHWARDENS

were appointed at this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

There was one nomination for Susan Horner, and Derek said he had asked Nick Bagge if he would fill the other post for six months, while a more permanent solution could be found. He said he was aware of several people who couldn't stand now, but who might be able to later this year.



Wardens: Nick Bagge and Susan Horner

Laurence Sewell and Dennis Wilmot, who chair the Finance and Charities teams respectively, were both re-elected to serve another three years. The third PCC vacancy remained unfilled. Dawn Miller, who had served the maximum of two consecutive terms, agreed to be co-opted to remain as treasurer.

In her annual report, Dawn thanked parishioners who donated regularly by envelopes, standing orders or direct debits for largely maintaining their level of support.

It had been a difficult year for the church, as with all charities. With disrupted services and restricted numbers in church, income from the collection plate was down and groups that hired the church or hall did not meet for much of 2020.

Although the church recorded an overall deficit, this was half the 2019 figure. The church had taken action then and again now as we strove for a balanced budget.

In his annual address, Derek said the church had adapted to life under Covid by streaming services and working with smaller teams.

Going back to how things were before the pandemic was not an option, and streaming would need to continue. The pandemic also showed that we must connect with all parts of the community.

The Ark playgroup, *Connections*, and Messy Church will return, and Derek said he wants us to become known for providing a valued service to the community.

A Strategy Team would be formed to come up with ideas and focus resources where they would be most effective.

## Keeping it in the family

CONGRATULATIONS to Coryn and Ian Robinson on their Golden Wedding. Because of Covid they were only able to have two small family parties in their garden. The garden was decorated with bunting made by Coryn many years ago from scraps of material and which always comes out at family celebrations.

They were married at St James's on 17 April 1971 by Rev Owen Fulljames (Coryn's grandmother's brother), assisted by the vicar, Rev Rupert Brunt. Their three children, Duncan, James and Caitlyn, were also later baptised by Owen.

Ron Bridges took a cine film and Gill Gostling recorded the service on a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Families in St James's Road provided blossoms to decorate the church, organised by Roma Bridges.



# Everything is ship-shape!



**PRILL HINCKLEY**

entrance to the chancel is a tiny window depicting the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove (c1909).

**Pulpit looms large**

The stone pulpit, with marble decorative columns and inset panels, stands at the front of the nave and is where the preacher can give the sermon.



**T**he nave is the central, main aisle, with rows of pews; fixed benches where people sit. Once there were no seats in churches and the congregation stood or knelt. Later, St James's added a few seats along the wall for those unable to stand. It is from this that comes the saying, 'The weakest go to the wall'. Our wall seats were removed in 2019 when radiators were put under the windows.

Each pew has a shelf for people to rest their service and hymn books. Welcome cards, leaflets and donations envelopes are also placed there.

Along each pew there are several hassocks, or kneelers, for people to use during services. A group of women made a set of kneelers to celebrate the new millennium.

The nave roof timbers are shaped like an upturned ship's hull, reminding us that James was a fisherman. The nave is divided from the side aisles by 10 columns supporting the church roof. Each column is topped by a carved stone capital representing flowers, leaves and fruits.

The Great West Window, dedicated to the first vicar, Rev Fitzroy Fitz Wygram, is at the west end of the nave and depicts the *Transfiguration of Christ* (c1882).

High above the nave at the

It is the largest piece of church furniture, to show that the Word of God is the most important part of the weekly service. The pulpit falls are decorative pieces of material which hang down in front of the pulpit book stand. There are different colours according to the time in the liturgical season.

The brass eagle lectern, left, the stand on which the Bible rests, can be used for readings and to lead the congregation in prayer. The eagle stands on a ball, representing the world, while the Bible on the eagle's back symbolises the Gospel being carried on wings to all four corners of the world.

On the wall at the west end there are shelves for the hymn books. Boards showing the hymn numbers hang in the nave facing the congregation.

The audio-visual system includes a large screen, speakers, and microphones, including wireless headsets for clergy, and an induction loop for people with hearing aids. The screen can be used to show films and the words of hymns. A camera makes it possible to stream services or record concerts. The equipment is operated from a console desk at the back of the nave where there is a digital mixing desk and a laptop. To enhance concerts and other events stage lights can also be set up.



# Ringling out the message



**SUSAN HORNER**

time (indicating that you should hurry?)

In addition to the regular Sunday ringing, bells are rung for special services, such as the Carol Service and midnight service at Christmas, and also at New Year. This also has its own pattern: slow, mournful ringing as the old year dies and single chimes to indicate the old year just before midnight (20 single chimes for 2020). After midnight has struck, there are single chimes to indicate the new year (21 single chimes for 2021) followed by joyful ringing to welcome the New Year.

Most people marrying at St James's request bells, which are rung as they leave the church. We also ring for special occasions: for example the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees, royal weddings, the 50th, 60th and even 70th wedding anniversaries of members of our congregation, the centenary of the end of World War One, and the anniversary of D-Day. We have occasionally been asked to ring at funerals to celebrate the person's life. We currently have 12 adult and 3 young ringers, which enables us to fulfil all these requests.

Another pleasant duty is to have ringers in the belltower for our open day in July, to tell visitors about the bells and to let them try their hand at ringing.

Ringling is very enjoyable and anyone over about the age of 10 can learn. Training for new ringers is usually spread over three months before they join the rota. When Covid restrictions are eased, I will be happy to teach any new learners!

**O**ur bells are quite unusual as they are Ellacombe bells (see below) which are fixed and cannot be rung by swinging them on their axles. The six bells each have an inner clapper and these are operated by ropes which hang vertically to the chiming board below.

Four of the bells have an additional outer clapper operated by wires from the clock, which automatically chime the hours and the quarters.

Although only one person can ring at a time, operating all six bells, we usually have two or three people 'on duty' on each occasion. Each rings for a couple of minutes and then passes to another; the changeover should not be noticeable to those listening. The Covid regulations meant that many of us have had to ring 'solo' in recent months!

The bells are rung from 9:15-9:30am every Sunday before Parish Communion. There is a pattern to this which has been followed at St James's for at least 35 years: tunes for the first 10 minutes, then a single bell for two minutes to call the congregation to church, and finally rapid ringing for the remaining

## Peal to celebrate 200 years

**THE SYSTEM** of bells we have at St James's is known as the Ellacombe apparatus.

This apparatus was devised in 1821 by Rev Thomas Ellacombe whilst curate at St Mary's, Bitton, near Bristol.

He invented the system so that all the bells could be rung from the vestry by one trusted person, as he was dismayed by the unruly and sometimes drunken behaviour of the ringers up the bell-tower!

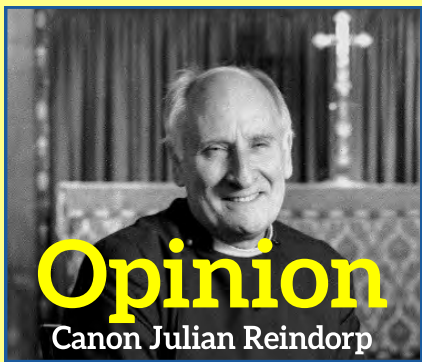
On 26 June there will be a worldwide celebration of the 200 year anniversary of Ellacombe's invention. Bells of this type

throughout the world will ring at noon local time, starting in New Zealand and continuing across various time zones, finishing in Vancouver, Canada, 17 hours after it starts.

Ringers at St James's will be joining in this event — do listen out for it!



# Helping families face some big challenges



## Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

### RACE REPORT DIVIDES

In the BBC comedy series *Yes Minister*, Sir Humphrey Appleby remarks: 'Minister, a basic rule of government is... never set up an enquiry unless you know in advance what its findings will be.'

The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, chaired by Dr Tony Sewell, has faced this criticism – members so chosen to reach conclusions the Government wanted. Setting up the Commission last summer, the Prime Minister said its job was 'to change the narrative so we stop the sense of victimisation and discrimination'.

The head of his policy unit, Munira Mirza, who it is suggested chose the members of the Commission, has attacked 'the anti-racism lobby and its culture of grievance'. Dr Sewell worked for the PM when Boris was Mayor of London, and founded Generating Genius, a charity that helps poor black students into top schools and universities.

Sadly, the makeup of the Commission and some of its report's language has undermined what *The Times* describes as 'a serious attempt to move the national conversation beyond polarisation and towards practical conclusions'. It has interesting evidence on employment, the health service, education, and the justice system.

### BLACK LIVES DO MATTER

How much will the Commission's report be used to undermine the Black Lives Matter movement and previous reports? The 2015 Angiolini report into deaths in police custody; the Lammy Review of 2017 (under Theresa May) into discrimination in the criminal justice system and 'Uncomfortable truths' re. discrimination in schools, courts, and workplaces; Theresa May's 2017 race audit report; the 2017 McGregor Smith Review on pay; and the Windrush Review of 2020.

Clearly there are illustrations of institutional racism, not least in the health service, as Covid-19 has revealed. Despite considerable progress, action is needed across great swathes of our national life, and the lived experience of people of colour taken seriously by us all.

### THE FIRE NEXT TIME

Born in South Africa and visiting family there made me very aware of racial discrimination, but it was time in the US and reading James Baldwin's novels, particularly *The Fire Next Time* in 1963, that educated me. His writing has been widely quoted following the death of George Floyd and the formation of the Black Lives Matter movement. I have often described myself as a 'recovering racist', as perhaps many of us are, but a novel which has recently challenged me is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Published in 2017 and reprinted more than 30 times, it is about a court case involving a black nurse. I found it difficult to put down!

### SCIENCE CUTS NOW?

Within less than a year of the discovery of a novel coronavirus, research managed to develop effective vaccines. This is surely an odd time to be making large cuts to scientific research. Projects pursued by UK scientists cover many fields and include research into infectious diseases, microbial resistance, and climate change. UK Research and Innovation is having its budget cut from £422m this year to £125m next year. A far larger cut looks likely in our participation in Horizon, a European programme for research and innovation. Hitherto funded by the EU, this looks like a serious effect of Brexit. Scientists have always tried to work across international boundaries, and their work needs long-term commitment.

### TRICKLE-UP ECONOMICS

John Maynard Keynes once suggested, half seriously, that, contrary to received economic wisdom during a recession, bankers should stand on street corners and hand out £5 notes to passers-by. Following Donald Trump's lead, Joe Biden has made cash payments to everyone on the government's books. Shops benefit, manufacturers benefit, so do tax collectors. This is not the discredited trickle-down economics; it is surely social justice trickle-up, building back better.



DENNIS WILMOT

**W**elcare is a Christian charity helping families in London and Surrey. We have supported it for many years, recently with grants direct from church funds. Now in its 125th year, Welcare provides practical and emotional support for families with children under 13.

This includes supporting those with problems such as domestic abuse and violence; parents who have children with special needs and disabilities; those in financial difficulty, and parents with physical or mental ill-health.

In recent years there has been a change of focus to preventative work and life skills training, doing everything possible to keep families together.

### Covid and a new way of working

A Senior Support Worker told me how the pandemic had forced the charity to make big changes to the way it works. It is also busier than ever with an increased workload throughout the pandemic.

Much of the support has been organised via video links from home. Help with applications for grants, such as for an emergency replacement of a faulty fridge just last month, was completed this way. Similarly, help was provided online for families unable to pay their utility bills.

Generous supporters and fundraising have allowed the charity to distribute supermarket vouchers to be used to pay for groceries, and foodbanks have been organised to home-deliver in some cases. Practical advice has been provided with home-schooling support.



**Happy families:** Welcare provides support for parents and children through a range of challenges, including the lasting effects of Covid.

### The Long Term

Despite 'successes' in overcoming Covid challenges, Welcare Support Workers are keen to get back to face-to-face help. Charities were first to report the long-term damage to mental health caused by isolation, and the necessary help needs to be by face-to-face contact.

The pandemic has highlighted frailties which will take years to overcome. Young children's education has led to life-time damage in some cases.

St James's hopes to continue supporting Welcare for many years to come, with your help.

■ For more information or to make a referral please contact Welcare South West London on 020 8893 9123 or [southwestlondon@welcare.org](mailto:southwestlondon@welcare.org)

**welcare**  
strengthening families since 1894

## Alistair's back singing



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

Lockdown hit singers hard, but Alistair toured the UK in a campervan, released three albums and wrote the music for a new play about his native Middlesbrough. Alistair will be performing with his band on **Saturday 14 August, at 7:30pm**. Tickets cost £22. To book, go to: [eventbrite.co.uk/AlistairGriffin](http://eventbrite.co.uk/AlistairGriffin) or contact the office.

## Scouts need volunteers to grow

**OUR** local Scout Group has an urgent need for a Cub leader, without which one pack will have to close. Anyone appointed would have fully supported training, a free uniform, and the satisfaction of knowing that they are making a real contribution to our local community. Volunteering is also good for your mental health! For more information contact Paul Fitchett on 077 7764 6958 or [legion03@btinternet.com](mailto:legion03@btinternet.com).

## REGISTERS

APRIL

### FUNERAL

6 Bridget Forbes, 83, Teddington.



# A wonderful world



**DEREK WINTERBURN**

**W**hen I had a Sabbatical in 2013, as well as spending six weeks in Israel, I took a photography course. Since then I have published one image daily, that's almost 3000 photos. These are some of the most memorable ones.

**St Catherine's Monastery, Egypt**



The monastery is at the foot of Mount Sinai. The group I was with spent two nights at Sinai — one of them was a night hike to the summit for dawn. That was wonderful, but there are other sunrises on my list. This was early morning, before the visitors arrived, when there was an extraordinary quietness.

**A garden, West Sussex**



I belong to a group of clergy friends and families and, as well as meeting every couple of months, every spring we spend a few nights together. For the past 10 years we have stayed at a large house, made available to people in ministry. The grounds have dramatic statues as well as lovely flowers.

**Crummock Water, Cumbria**



The photography course I took was in the Lake District. It was in March, there was some snow on the highest peaks and the

trees were not in leaf. We have visited several times, but we have mostly experienced rain. Photographs never really capture the scale of the landscape. One has to be there!

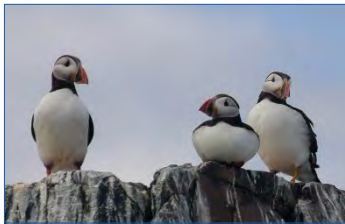
**Bushy Park, South West London**



I have more photographs of Bushy Park than anywhere — it's the place I most often visit. There are people who regularly post dawn pictures from the park; one can only be impressed at their willingness to be out of bed so early. I wouldn't like to make the effort and come back with nothing. However, this day I did get up and there was an impressive frost, as well as mist.

**Farne Islands, Northumberland**

Puffins are undoubtedly photogenic. There are dedicated photographic trips that will get someone much closer. We took a chance on a boat trip around the Farne Islands at the end of their season, and were rewarded with a sighting of quite a few, plus seals.

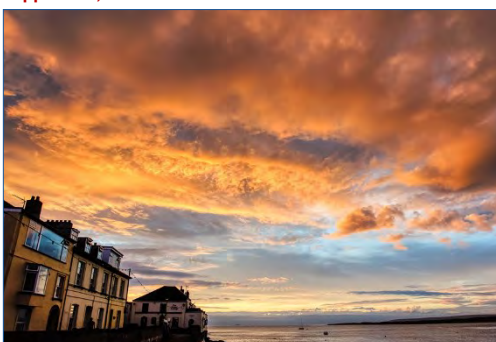


**A makeshift bridge, Mozambique**



I have been to Mozambique six times to visit a link parish. It was our ambition to visit an outlying community. That required going out of the country, and then back in again, following a road that became a track — it was remote. At this point our driver was 'rebuilding' the road over a ditch with tree trunks. The challenge was to get back across the border before the crossing closed for the night!

**Appledore, Devon**



There are some days that turn out unexpectedly wonderful. The pictures from earlier on this day in Appledore are nothing special. But then at sunset, there was magic in the sky.

**Petra, Jordan**



I have led groups to Jordan and Petra twice, as part of a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. The 'Red Rose City' isn't exactly red, but is truly spectacular. Indiana Jones made the *Sig* and *The Treasury* most famous. But right at the end of the visitor route (and past the cafe), up a fairly steep hike is the *Monastery*.

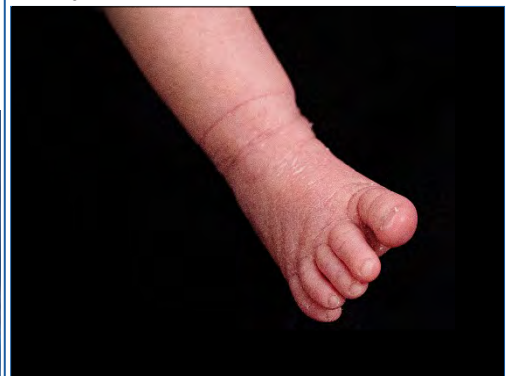
**Florence, Italy**



Another sunrise: this is the Ponte Vecchio in Florence. As in Bushy Park, photographers gather to catch the dawn. Happily our hotel was only five minutes away and sunrise was 7:30.

**Tabitha's foot**

One family photo — this is our granddaughter's foot. She is a couple of days old. I have a comparable one of her brother's: it is much the same! In my experience when they are small children don't seem to mind having their photos taken, then they put up with it, and then they begin to resent it. However, my son asked for his 'best bits' for a slide show at his wedding — it is worthwhile after all.



■ Derek's daily photo is posted at [www.blipfoto](http://www.blipfoto) and on his Facebook page.