

APRIL & MAY 2022 EASTER ISSUE

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



# Happy Easter!

Celebrate the Good News with us

[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  
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**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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FROM THE EDITOR...

You may have been surprised to see hot cross buns on the cover for our Easter issue, but they do, in fact, have a Christian connection. The cross is a symbol of the crucifixion and traditionally they were not eaten until after midday on Good Friday, as food containing dairy products was avoided during Lent. Some people stick to this tradition, but nowadays you can buy them at any time of the year and supermarkets have flavours such as Marmite, cheese, apple and even with a chocolate cross – not to be toasted, I fear!

Derek has written in the centrespread about the exciting plans to transform the inside of church over the summer. We are now in the final stages of the planning process.

There is also news of a Christian Aid Fair taking place on Saturday 14 May – more details on Page 7.

Our back page is proving popular and in this issue Dennis Wilmot shares his memories with us. He has been able to share his early memories from Australia as the family slides have been scanned to his PC.

A Happy Easter to all our readers.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Hot Cross Buns are a celebration of the Good News that comes with Easter

SPIRE

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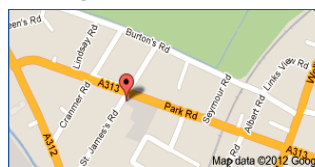
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The Spire is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests. Please recycle after use.



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:

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'It's not as picturesque as the old spire, but it's saving us a fortune in energy bills!'

# The greatest story ever told!



**DEREK WINTERBURN**

### Going deeper in Holy Week

So even in the 21st century the church returns to the story of Jesus's last week and pays particular attention to the accounts we have of all that he said and all that happened to him.

Of course, every week in our Communion Service there are links to the Last Supper, Jesus's death on the cross, and the resurrection, but in Holy Week we look more closely, we listen more deeply and draw closer to him. How do we do this?

On **Palm Sunday** we act surprisingly — we go outside! Taking a short walk, we act as if we were part of the crowd walking to Jerusalem, entering the church as they entered the Temple with him. Just by doing something different we jolt our spirits into being open to something fresh.

Then during the Eucharist on Palm Sunday, we read through the whole account of Jesus's last week; this year it will be from Luke. Different parts are taken by different voices. Again, reading over 120 verses is unusual — but the cumulative impact of Scripture can be powerful.

Our night prayer services are quieter moments to step back from the 'action' and reflect on what Jesus is going through.

### Washing feet

**Maundy Thursday** is when we recall how Jesus held a Passover meal with his disciples, how he washed their feet and gave them instructions to remember him with bread and wine. We do each of these things; literally washing feet and eating bread and wine (communion). We are not play-acting, but through our bodies and minds we are remembering him.

After the service decorations are taken from the church as an expression of Jesus's abandonment by his friends in the Garden of Gethsemane.

**Good Friday** is a solemn day. If one has walked with Jesus this far, it is hard to treat his death as just another event in history. I believe we have begun to *feel* it. We read another gospel account, John's, and mark the occasion in a number of ways.

This year the choir will lead us through *Tenebrae* - psalms are sung that reflect the action of the gospel. But this is not merely a wake, mourning the pointless death of someone we have come to love. The Good News is that Jesus freely gave his life out of his love for his Father, and for his sisters and brothers. (There is more, but that has to wait until after Saturday).

### Glorious Easter Day

And then there is **Easter Sunday!** Some of us gather before dawn, to begin the day in darkness to better appreciate the new day, the day of His rising. Now we realise that Jesus died to enter death, to break the power of death, to be raised and open the way for us to enjoy his risen life. There are all sorts of ways we celebrate this great festival: triumphant hymns, the Easter Garden, even eggs!

The church walks us through these events each year, not simply because it is a great origin story, but because following it closely shapes us, builds our faith, and inspires us.

You are very welcome to join us for some or all of the services described above (and details to the right). We also celebrate Good Friday in a way appropriate for children — Messy Church.

**T**here are sequels and there are prequels. Bridget Jones and Adrian Mole have sequels; Star Wars and Star Trek have both. At the vicarage we like BBC Four's *The Young Montalbano*, which is entertaining in its own right, but intriguingly lays the ground for *Inspector Montalbano*, which was, of course, written first!

### Origins of life

In fact, origin stories are eternally popular. Answering the question how Earth became the *Planet of the Apes* gave birth to a string of other movies. Daniel Craig's first Bond film began before Bond was 007. The Harry Potter series of books only concludes when the reader learns the true story of Harry's beginning.

All the above is just a way of saying that the 'origin story' of the Christian church is worth paying attention to — and repeatedly.

In the fourth century, Egeria wrote about her visit to Jerusalem and how the Christians there annually enacted Christ's passion in their liturgy. Francis of Assisi was another figure who popularised entering into the events of Holy Week.



## Sundays

(See also Easter Day)

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Watch on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Together 11:15am

Our shorter, all-age service, including a story, singing and crafts. All ages welcome!

**Compline (Night Prayer)**

Sundays 3, 10 April 8pm

Mon-Wed 11-13 April 8pm

**Mon-Fri (but not Thu)**

Morning Prayer 9am

A short service of daily prayer in church

## Thursdays

Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

### Lent Lunch

Sun 3 April 12pm

The first of our Stay for Lunch events

### Connections

Tue 5 April & Tue 3 May

10:30am-12:30pm

Join us at the social club for all ages

### Maundy Thursday

Thu 14 April 8pm

Holy Communion, followed by The Watch

### Good Friday Fri 15 April

Messy Church 10am

If you have children, join us for a morning of stories, crafts, worship and food. Book at: [stjameshh.churchsuite.co.uk/events/aw54yc25](http://stjameshh.churchsuite.co.uk/events/aw54yc25)

**Tenebrae 2pm**

A moving service led by our choir.

### Easter Day Sun 17 April

Dawn Service 6am

Parish Communion 9:30am

### Pop-up Cinema FREE

Both at 4pm (Doors open 3:30pm)

Sat 30 April Dream Horse (PG)

Sat 21 May Clifford the Big Red Dog (PG)

### Ark Playgroup (From 9 May)

Mondays 10:15am-12:15pm

£2 per family (not per child) including refreshments!

### Crafts Fair

Sat 14 May 10am-12:30pm

Crafts galore, local artists, tombola and refreshments (see page 6)

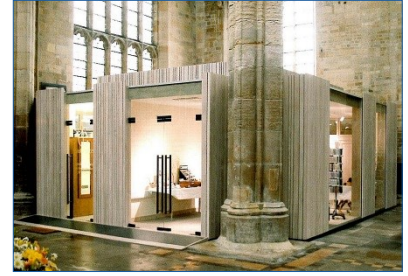
# A church ready for



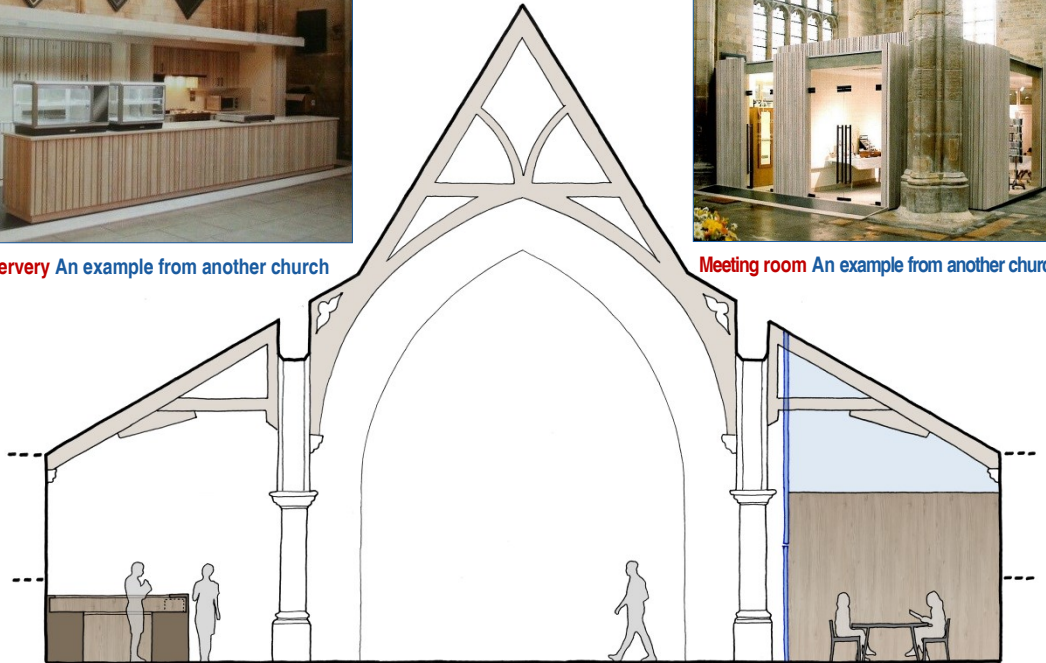
**DEREK WINTERBURN**



**Servery** An example from another church



**Meeting room** An example from another church



**A** decision that many people have faced over the past few years is 'should we move house, or build an extension?' There are not many roads in Hampton Hill that haven't had one property or more swathed in scaffolding as a loft extension is put in, and estate agents boards are not a rare sight either. St James's has been on a long journey not to move house, but to improve the church building.

The progress has been slow and mostly steady — although the lockdowns were an obstacle that made us pause.

- There are two main drivers:
- The general standard of decoration is tired and needs a 'fresh lick of paint'
  - People's experience of being in the building can be improved by well-chosen developments.

Everyone's house needs repair and redecoration from time to time, even if it is mostly like-for-like. Large parts of the church paintwork are peeling. We want to repaint the walls and polish the floors so that the church looks cleaner and fresher.

We also need to improve people's experience of coming into church. As the church family, and other users, come into the building more often for a wide variety of events, we need more facilities. It was only five years ago that toilets were introduced!

**If all goes to plan, this summer will see our redevelopment plan get underway. As Derek Winterburn explains, the project has been years in the making and we are grateful to God and all those who have helped us to get to this point. We believe the plans will be a blessing to both our church and the wider community, providing a more accessible, usable and welcoming place for all, helping us to grow.**

We would like some simple tea-making facilities for these events, so that offering refreshments is simpler and more convenient.

We have plans for creating a

small meeting room in the north-west corner of the nave that would be useful for children's work on a Sunday, a PCC meeting or for private counselling.

We have also been thinking about entrances, and disabled access, in particular the south porch will benefit from a refit, and a new ramp.

**Pews or chairs?**

Lastly pews! This, of course, is often a subject that provokes great controversy, but we have thought and talked a long time about this.

We have learnt that people are all shapes and sizes! And that people often don't hold the opinion we expect them to! So after numerous church visits and having samples from four companies for over two years, we have chosen to reseat the nave with 'pew-benches', and on bigger occasions these will be supplemented with steel-framed wooden chairs.

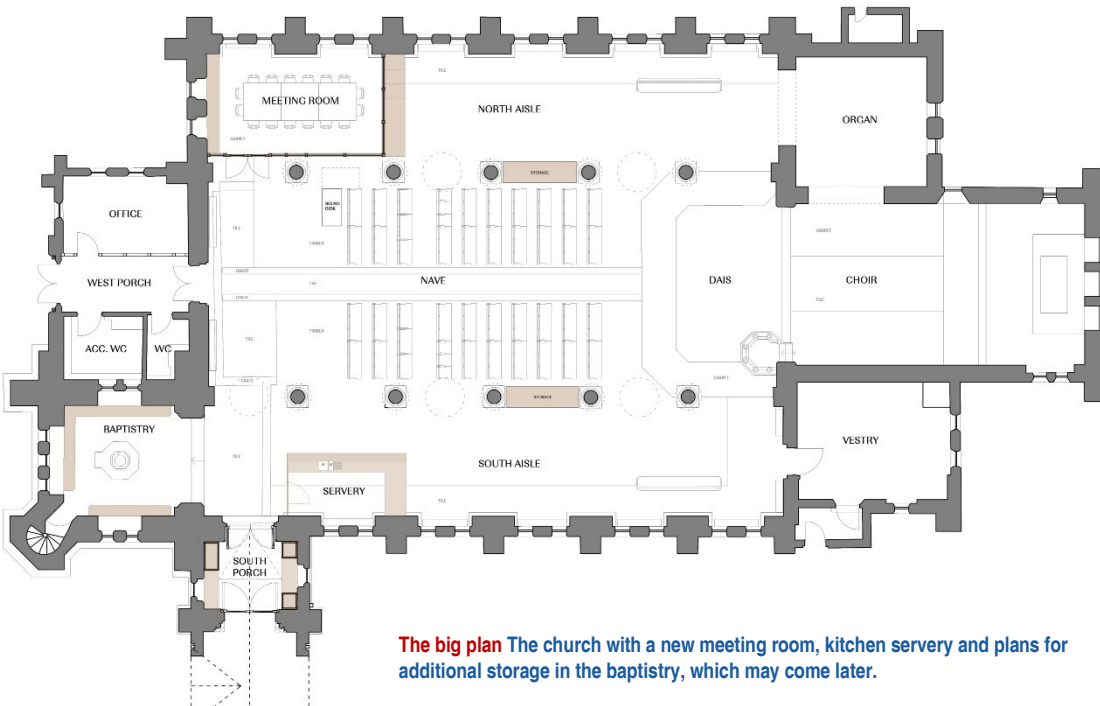
We believe that the new seating will be more comfortable and far more flexible, enabling them to be moved to create more space when needed. The wood from the old pews will be used in creating the servery and the meeting room.

**Planning permission**

At present our final plan has been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee — the Church's planning committee — and builders have been invited to tender.

This means we do not have the final design nor precise estimates of cost. But with the assistance of our architect the PCC believes that this work is affordable using our reserves for building work and some of the legacy that Rev Betty Stewart left St James's.

However there will be a gift day later in the year, to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to the work that will enhance our experience of being in our lovely church building.



**The big plan** The church with a new meeting room, kitchen servery and plans for additional storage in the baptistry, which may come later.

# the future



## The planning process

### STEP ONE

Apply to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to carry out a reordering scheme to the church. As part of this application, St James's completed Statements of Significance and Need. These documents set out our case for change (e.g. replacing pews with movable seating).

### STEP TWO

The DAC visit our church to look at and discuss the plans in general. Our application was during Covid restrictions, so the meeting was held via Zoom. The DAC broadly accepted our proposals, but suggested that we considered benches as part of our seating options.

### STEP THREE

Detailed plans are submitted to the DAC to discuss at one of their planning meetings. Our revised design was discussed at the DAC's planning meeting at the beginning of March. Our plans were also sent to the Victorian Society for their opinion. If the DAC are happy, as they were in our case, they will issue a Notification of Advice. St James's must then post a notice, detailing the plans, outside its doors for 28 days. At the same time we sent the DAC's notice to the Diocesan Registrar.

### STEP FOUR

The DAC does not itself grant Faculties. That decision is taken by the Chancellor, but he will normally give due weight to its advice. Following the expiry of the notice period, St James's will seek the granting of a Faculty by the Chancellor. Once this is issued, the building work can begin.

Wood from our pews will become panelling in the meeting room



Additional seating for bigger occasions will be stored away, similar to this (above)



## Pews for the 21st century

After extensive research, site visits, testing and feedback, the Building Development Team chose this bench and upholstered chairs (similar to the one pictured, right) to replace existing pews. The team was impressed with their use at St Mary's, Twickenham.

For bigger occasions they will be supplemented by chairs that will be stacked and held in storage in the church.

Our benches and chairs will come with shelves for service and hymn books.



# Around the Spire

## Annual Meeting and Elections

# Rebuilding our route to growth

THIS year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), will be held on Sunday 24 April at 11am.

It will be the first near-normal annual meeting to be held since the pandemic, and we will be able to show the green shoots of growth, both in the imminent return of home groups, and hall and church rental income.

The challenge will be to reduce our deficit in order to pay our way. Finance Team chair Laurence Sewell talks about the finances on page six.

Derek, our vicar, has also launched a new stewardship

campaign and there are some encouraging early signs of church members increasing their giving.

The meeting will hear from Derek about the church's plans for 2022 — the building project being the biggest for many years. But the church is above all about people, not buildings. And we need to find people to fill PCC vacancies. The two churchwardens are elected annually.

They represent part of the total workforce of volunteers who support the clergy, and many of the teams need more members to keep all the church activities going.

## Cookies power Erica to South Korea



ERICA, one of our younger church members, is raising money to fund her trip to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023. She is a member of the Hampton Explorer Unit and a Young Leader at 7th Hampton (All Saints) Scout Group. Erica has to raise £3900 for the trip and is selling cookie kit jars at a cost of £7.50 each or 2 for £10. Milk or white chocolate are available. To order, or to find out more about Erica's fundraising or to sponsor her, email her at: [ericawsj36@gmail.com](mailto:ericawsj36@gmail.com).

## Ellie's cakes rise to the challenge!

THIRTEEN-year-old Ellie, a pupil at Radnor House School, is working towards the Duke of Edinburgh's bronze award.

For her service section, she has been baking a variety of delicious cakes for the past three months and selling them as part of our post-service refreshments.

She has raised a total of £430, part of which has funded three woodpecker-proof birdboxes for the churchyard, the remainder going towards the cost of a new covered bicycle shelter.

We are very grateful to Ellie for this and wish her well with the remainder of her tasks for the award: learning piano for the skills section, rowing for the physical activity and an expedition.



# Great is thy faithfulness



**ANTONY BALL**

### Cursing his birth

Three of Job's friends arrive to console him. They sit with him in silence for a week — just 'being there for him'. Job himself breaks the silence by cursing the day of his birth, his very existence, but he will neither deny God nor admit that his suffering could be a consequence of anything he has done.

The first of his friends trots out the traditional line that suffering is God's response to sinfulness, so Job must have sinned. Job becomes angry, both with his friends and with God, whom he accuses of being unjust and uncaring, even irrational and vindictive. He thinks death would be preferable to his present situation, but will not commit suicide — still claiming that he has done nothing to deserve death. (It helps at this point to remember that this is the Old Testament and there was no clear conception or even hope of eternal life — death was considered 'the end' in a way disproved by Jesus's resurrection.)

### God judging God

Job doesn't try to debate with his friends — his ideology is similar to theirs — but he remains confident that any inadvertent sin which he may have committed would certainly not have merited the suffering he is enduring. A just God should surely appreciate that, so Job decides to take his case directly to God — but that is going to be easier said than done, for who but God could possibly judge a case between Job and God Himself? God agrees to engage with Job, providing only that Job concedes that he would not be able to create and rule the entire world in the way God has to do, to which concession Job readily agrees. Once Job has engaged with God, he 'repents', not in the sense of turning away from his sins (which he still doesn't acknowledge) but in the sense that he, a mere mortal with such limited understanding, should not have challenged the Creator God.

### Fairy tale ending

The story had a wonderful 'fairy tale' ending in which Job's possessions are more than fully restored (as is his health, presumably) and he has a further seven sons and three beautiful daughters before dying at a very great age, having seen his sons and grandsons to four generations.

I'm still not sure that 'hero' is an appropriate word, but I admire Job for his steadfast faithfulness, his perseverance and, above all, his determination to engage with God.

**J**ob is, perhaps, a surprising choice as a 'Biblical hero' — but he does seem to me to satisfy the heroic criteria listed in the first article of the series. Apart from in the book which bears his name, he's mentioned only twice in the Old Testament (Ezek 14: 14, 20), where there are passing references to his righteousness, comparable with that of Noah and Daniel, but it is really only in the Book of Job that we find his life story, told there in extraordinary detail.

### Blameless and upright

Job is introduced as 'blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil'. He was exceedingly prosperous and 'the greatest of all the people of the east', with all the conventional trappings of prosperity: seven sons, three daughters, plenty of slaves (whom he treated well) and thousands of sheep, camels, oxen and donkeys. He was such a devoted, pious father that he even offered sacrifices each morning just in case any of his sons might somehow have sinned against God.

### In the court of heaven

His story really begins in 'the court of heaven' with the Lord asking Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? You will find no one like him on earth, a man of blameless and upright life, who fears God and sets his face against wrongdoing.'

Satan replies that it's easy to be like that while you're blessed and prosperous, but Job would not be so otherwise. God challenges that by allowing Satan to have his way with all of Job's possessions, providing Job himself is not touched.

A series of accidents deprives Job of his children and his livestock, but Job remains faithful: 'The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord,' he says. Satan then attributes Job's continuing faithfulness to God's proviso that Job himself not be touched, so the Lord concedes: "So be it. It is in your hands; but spare his life" and Satan 'smote Job with running sores from head to foot'. Job still remained faithful.

# Giving to greater cause



**LAURENCE SEWELL**

**T**he Finance Team is a sub-committee of the PCC, overseeing the financial affairs of the church on its behalf. It supports and directs the work of the Treasurer (Dawn Miller), proposes an annual budget, regularly reviews the accounts, arranges for the annual audit — this is the annual examiner's report that is presented at the Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) each year — and supports stewardship / giving campaigns.

The Finance Team itself is not a decision-making body on finance matters, but makes recommendations to the PCC based on considerations and judgements of the Team. The Team is especially indebted to Carol Bailey our Deputy Treasurer and Bookkeeper for maintaining the accounts and all the regular day-to-day management of church income and expenditure.

As you may imagine, drawing up the annual budget is one of the key responsibilities. Estimates are prepared on the likely income each year, largely consisting of collections and giving from parishioners and the fee income we derive from letting out the church hall, and any fundraising efforts.

### Common Fund

The largest item of expenditure is the annual contribution to the Common Fund, which meets the costs of clergy (including our own vicar), their housing, and training and support costs in the Diocese of London.

We also have to provide for the upkeep and running costs of the church and hall, salaries for the administrator and organist, producing the Spire parish magazine, and various miscellaneous expenses all required for operating the church as a place of worship.

Another important function of the Team is determining the 'Reserves Policy' which has to be adopted by the PCC. This governs the way our funds are managed and can be used, based on how the monies have been derived and making sure we can continue as 'a going concern' in monetary terms.

### Investments and legacies

The Finance Team also liaises with our investment managers, CCLA Investment Management Ltd., who manage our Church investments in a number of portfolios in Church of England Funds. These monies have been derived from bequests — including the very generous legacy of the Rev Betty Stewart, pictured — and the share due to the Church from the sale of previously held assets which comprises our buildings fund.



Dividends and gains from these investments have contributed to our income in recent years and helped offset the deficit on our annual running costs. In particular, it has enabled us to support the administrator's additional time in extending the opening of the church office.

The significance of legacies cannot be overstated; what we have been able to do in terms of special donations (to St Richard's in Hanworth, and Milo hospital in Tanzania) and church refurbishments in the past few years has only been possible due to the large unrestricted gift (meaning undesignated use to be determined by the PCC).

The installation of the sound system and lighting, toilets in the West porch, work in the vestry, the clock and tower repairs, and the organ repairs have all been financed from Betty's legacy. We have recently begun further phased drawdowns from our investment portfolios to finance the forthcoming church reordering (including the replacement of the pews) and refurbishment.

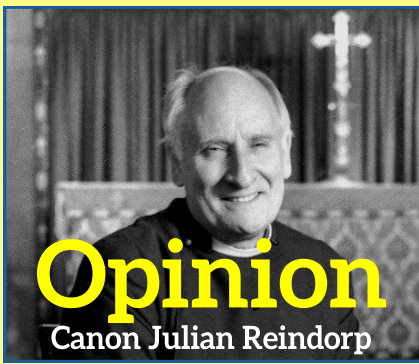
### Deficits and the pandemic



The past two years have been especially difficult in financing our current operations with the annual deficit exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic and at times closure of the church. For all this time there have been no plate collections at services and planned giving has decreased.

This has given the Finance Team many headaches in working out how we might 'balance the books'. It is only through the generous regular giving of parishioners and making provision for a legacy to the church that we can maintain a thriving and developing church community at St James's.

# Help us to provide hope to the hungry



**Opinion**  
Canon Julian Reindorp

## LEVELLING UP?

Perhaps the most ambitious policy in the Conservative manifesto of 2019, and widely welcomed, was its agenda to 'level up' the left-behind parts of the UK by tackling inequality.

Last year the Prime Minister compared this to the levelling up that had been needed to unite East and West Germany — West Germany so much wealthier. He lamented how three decades after reunification, GDP per head across much of the UK was lower than it was in the former East Germany. He did not mention the costs of German reunification — £1.7 trillion — nor that for 30 years West Germans paid up to 9% of their taxes into this crucial project.

The less than £4.7 billion announced so far for levelling up will make a very modest impact, even though more is promised.

## PARTY POLITICS?

The normally government-supporting *City Am* newspaper has suggested that the levelling up policies trailed so far were designed to give Conservative MPs positive stories to tell at the next general election. Meanwhile the *Guardian* commented that some of the wealthiest areas, including those represented by government ministers, have so far been allocated 10 times more money per head than the poorest parts of the UK.

Southampton and Knowsley, among the fifth most deprived councils, have received nothing so far. In contrast, the Health Secretary's constituency of Bromsgrove, one of the wealthiest, has received £148 per head, and the Culture secretary's constituency, Central Bedfordshire, has received £91 per head.

## NHS MENTAL HEALTH BEDS CUT

My family had very good health treatment over the time of Covid, but a family member having a long mental health breakdown has faced a very different situation. Between 2010 and 2021, mental health beds have been cut by a quarter to 18,000. All this while the demand for treatment has grown, particularly these past two years. One result is that many people were found beds far from home and family.

## QUEUES FOR JUSTICE

Cuts of 40% over 10 years to the Ministry of Justice budget, including halving the number of magistrates, followed by the pandemic, mean there are now 372,000 cases waiting to be heard in magistrates' courts, and almost 60,000 in crown courts. While this affects victims, witnesses and defendants, there is evidence this also emboldens offenders. The number of reported rapes reached a new record of 63,000 in the year to September.

## PENTECOSTALS' HUGE GROWTH

Described as the fastest growing religious movement on earth, estimates suggest the Pentecostal movement is converting 35,000 people each day. Its 600 million followers represent a quarter of the world's Christians. At their heart is an experience of the Holy Spirit, and their passionate worship.

There are around 17,000 Pentecostal churches in UK, slightly more than the Church of England. Across the world a pattern is emerging: for migrants, minorities, people feeling alienated in big cities, the working poor and people whose lives have fallen apart, joining a Pentecostal church is what meets their need. Both their life experience and what attracts them to Pentecostalism echoes the striking growth of the early church in its first three centuries.

## JERUSALEM TO BETHLEHEM

A report from Amnesty International has described the situation facing Palestinians in Israel as similar to apartheid. I remember staying in East Jerusalem in 1995 and looking down the valley at seven miles of open country to Bethlehem. Now it is filled with Jewish settlements — land originally reserved for Palestinians. For years there has been talk of a two-nation solution, but with new settlements being built every year, this is surely unrealistic.



LIZ  
WILMOT

**D**rought starves. It robs women of the power to farm and grow food for their families. Now for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and

the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

People in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mothers often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have. One of these mothers is Jessica Mwedzi (pictured right). Drought makes every day a struggle for survival.

Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family. One bowl of porridge is all her family can eat today.

'My children crave a good meal,' Jessica said, 'but I can't provide. It pains me to send them to bed hungry. They give me the power to go ahead and I pray they have a better future.'

Our gifts could help Jessica and families like hers to grow drought-resistant crops, to set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She could then turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

### Support our crafts fete

Our Christian Aid team are holding a Crafts Fair in church on **Saturday 14 May from 10am-12:30pm**, as part of our fundraising for Christian Aid Week.

There will be a church crafts stall, a bottle tombola, and stalls featuring plants, gifts, books, jigsaw puzzles, paintings, and cakes. There will also be refreshments stall selling cakes and drinks.



**Building a future** Jessica Mwedzi, is hungry to provide food — and hope — for her family in Zimbabwe. With your help, she can.

We will also be hiring tables to outsiders. As we went to print these already include three professional artists.

In order to run the church stalls we need your donations. Boxes will be put in the Baptistry on the two Sundays before the event — 1 and 8 May. You can also bring your contributions along to church during office opening hours (see page two). We will also need help on the day.

Of course, we hope you will also come along on the day.

### Please give generously

Besides our fundraising event, you can give directly to Christian Aid Week by using this QR code on your mobile phone, via our website, or by using the blue envelopes in church (marking them *Christian Aid Week*). You can also post or drop off cheques and cash to the Church Office.



## Justin's jubilee fig tree



**THE** Archbishop of Canterbury has planted a fig tree in the garden at Lambeth Palace as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee.

Archbishop Justin said: 'The beauty of trees reminds us of our responsibility to care for God's creation, for each other and for generations to come. It's a fitting tribute to the Queen's seven decades of service, and the trees we plant this year will be a sign of our gratitude and celebration of this remarkable occasion for many decades to come.'

St James's will be planting its own tree in the churchyard later this year.

## REGISTERS

### FEBRUARY

#### FUNERALS

- 10 Ronald (Ron) James Stewart, 83, Ashford
- 11 Ronald (Ron) Michael Cook, 74, Ashford
- 17 (Michael) Felix Nolan, 25, Hampton

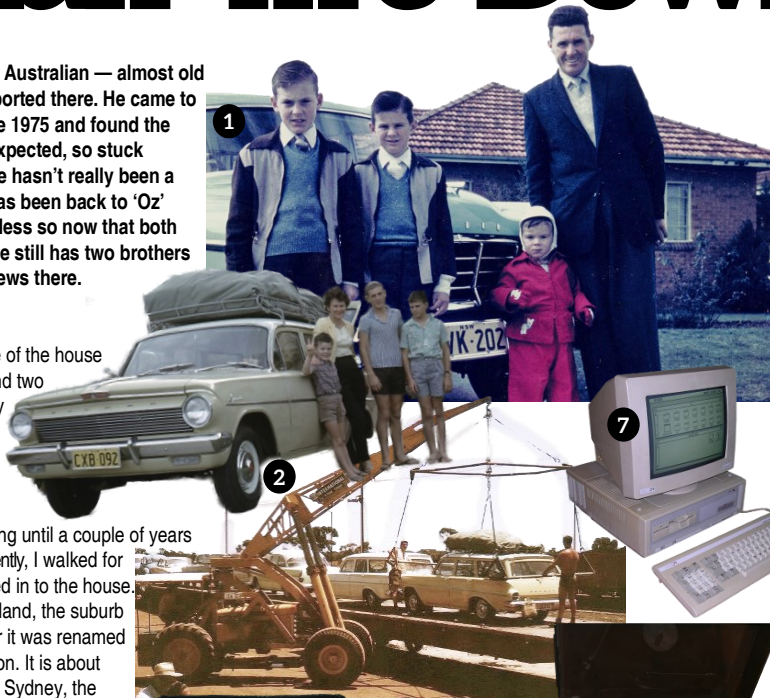


# A half-life Down Under

Dennis is a third generation Australian — almost old enough to have been transported there. He came to London on a holiday in June 1975 and found the weather much better than expected, so stuck around — even though there hasn't really been a year to match it since! He has been back to 'Oz' many times over the years, less so now that both his parents have died, but he still has two brothers and seven nieces and nephews there.

## 1 HOME SWEET HOME

Here is the best picture I have of the house I grew up in, with my father and two brothers blocking the view. My father, with help from my grandfather, built the house from scratch. It was modern and spacious and I was very happy growing up there, staying until a couple of years before I left for the UK. Apparently, I walked for the first time the day we moved in to the house. When my parents bought the land, the suburb was called Dumbletown. Later it was renamed Beverly Hills — a good decision. It is about 15 miles south west of central Sydney, the same distance and orientation I am now from central London.



## 2 HOLIDAYS

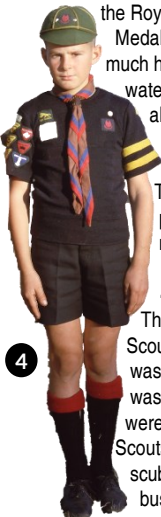
My parents had their own transport business, delivering goods around Sydney, and although they worked incredibly hard, we did manage two big holidays as I was growing up: one to South Molle Island in the Whitsunday area of the Great Barrier Reef, and Perth in Western Australia. South Molle Island was destroyed by a cyclone in 2017 and remains closed. To get to Perth from Sydney we loaded up the Holden Station Wagon and drove 960 miles to Port Augusta, South Australia, where the car was loaded on a train for an 800 mile journey across Nullarbor Plain, basically a desert. Two days later we arrived in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, and drove the last 370 miles to Perth.

## 3 SWIMMING

Swimming was an important sport for us children, and that included going to the beach and body surfing, or just splashing around in a municipal pool on very hot summer days. We also went scuba diving, played water polo and did some serious training against the clock, competing in competitions. I was privileged to represent my school in state competitions, though I didn't get anywhere of note. I achieved the Royal Lifesaving Society Medallion for skills in the sea, much harder than in the still fresh water of a lake or pool. I have always been surprised how well Australians do in swimming in the Olympics compared to Team GB as most (outdoor) unheated pools there are only open for about nine months a year.

## 4 CUBS / SCOUTS

The whole family immersed itself in the Scouting movement. At one point my father was a Scouting district leader, my mother was an Akela's assistant, and we three boys were all Cubs then Scouts. In the Senior Scouts we went sailing, caving (pot holing), scuba diving, rock climbing as well as lots of bushwalking.



**Dennis Wilmot was born in Australia where holidays were epic journeys. It was here also that his faith was cemented. Like most Aussies, he is interested in his family tree, which he has now traced back by more than 300 years.**

## 5 ST BEDES

This is the church where I grew up in my Christian faith, where I went to Sunday School and where I was confirmed. It is now known as the Beverly Hills Kingsgrove Anglican Church. My Sunday School teacher, Mr Muir, had a profound affect on my faith and I remember him still as the most Christian of Christians I have ever known. I tried, but failed, to track him down on one of my return trips to Australia. My two brothers were offered the same introduction to the church, but it was not to be. My girlfriend for a time was a devout Catholic, which made life interesting.



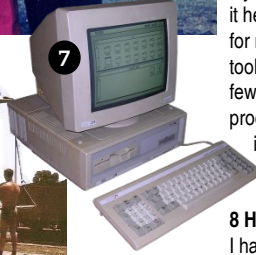
## 6 CANDY

My adorable and well-named dog, Candy, had the sweetest of characters and we all loved her. She was a thoroughbred Collie from breeders near to us and they were so impressed with her that they asked to take her along to dog shows and I went along for the ride and learnt some of the tricks of the trade to get her to walk and run with poise.



## 7 MY FIRST COMPUTER

My first computer was an Amstrad — thanks Lord Sugar — and it helped me enormously with the statistical analyses needed for my postgraduate studies. I was amazed that analyses that took me hours and hours with a calculator would run in just a few seconds on the computer. I also had one of the first word processors running on the Amstrad and this was also incredibly useful for the many revisions to my thesis. In later life the computer handled the company accounts.



## 8 HI-FI

I have had a hi-fi system of one form or another since I was old enough to afford one. I mainly play classical music and I take it very seriously, closing the door and concentrating on listening. I hate the idea of it becoming background music. The highlight of the system is the Linn Sondek LP12 vinyl deck. The Scottish-based specialists now price the deck, including tonearm and cartridge, at almost £7,000. Many years ago I paid nothing like that much.



## 9 SALEPOINT LTD

Salepoint had been my baby since 1981, supplying shopfittings to hardware and DIY shops, and garden centres. It was an interesting trade, with intrinsic satisfaction from coming up with clever designs which won me contracts. In later years the turnover fell as retailers invested in online systems and less in bricks and mortar. I sold the company in 2017. Elizabeth (later my wife) also worked for the company until a recession came along and I had to retrench her. A tear formed in her eye as this was particularly bad news for her, so I promised to make things better 'until death do us part'.



## 10 ANCESTRY

Visitors to our house are confronted by many of my ancestors, but have to head off towards the downstairs loo to see Elizabeth's. The oldest Wilmot on the wall is my great grandfather, Thomas Daniel born in 1855. His father Thomas Wilmot, born in 1823 in Bitton, south Gloucestershire, emigrated to Australia with his wife and four daughters aboard the *Northumberland* out of Birkenhead in 1852. He worked in roadbuilding near Launceston on the west coast of Tasmania before moving on, and Thomas was born on board ship in Hobart. My father, on his many trips to the UK, relished digging up Wilmots in parish records. There are records to hand of seven more generations going back to James Wilmot, born in 1690.

