

DECEMBER 2022-JANUARY 2023

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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Meet the clergy



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

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister, 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 Rev 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, is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren, and nine grandchildren.  
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**ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Tim Marwood**

Tim taught in London primary schools for 36 years. He was ordained priest in 1996 and was parish priest at Petersham for 13 years, retiring in 2021. He is now a part-time Chaplain at Kingston Hospital. Tim is married to Jane, a former headteacher. He supports Harlequins RFC, England cricket and walks his brown lab, Ruby.  
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FROM THE EDITOR...

This year all the preparations for Christmas in the shops and in the media don't appear to have been so early or so prolific. I have yet to even hear a Christmas carol or song in a supermarket or store!

Fortunately, the redevelopment of our church has progressed enough for Christmas events to take place. Our church really does live up to its name of a parish church, enabling four schools to hold their carol services here. It is quite a juggling act to fit in all the rehearsals as well, but there is a real feeling of community in the church. This year they will benefit from new, flexible seating, and stage lighting.

Many of the big charities hold carol concerts in London churches. I attend the Asthma UK/Lung Foundation service at St Luke's, Chelsea, with a choir from the under-school of Westminster Abbey. Celebrities have included Julian Fellowes and Anton Du Beke and the service forms the pivotal point for me in the build up to Christmas.

On behalf of the Spire Team may I wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Some of the words that express the meaning of Christmas

SPIRE

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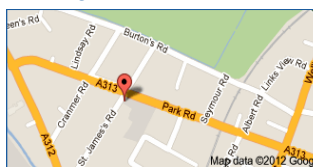
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Finding us



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.

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For the very latest news go to our website or follow us on social media:

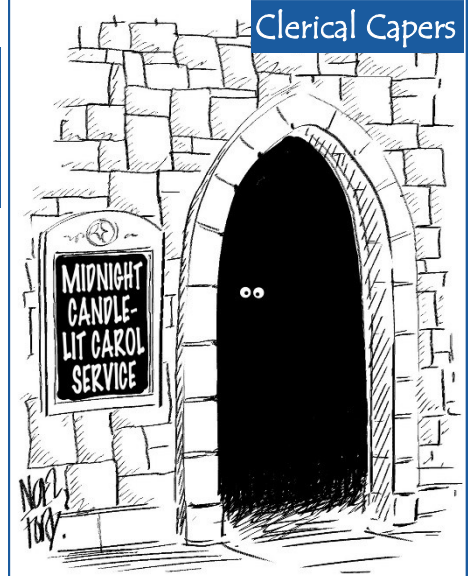
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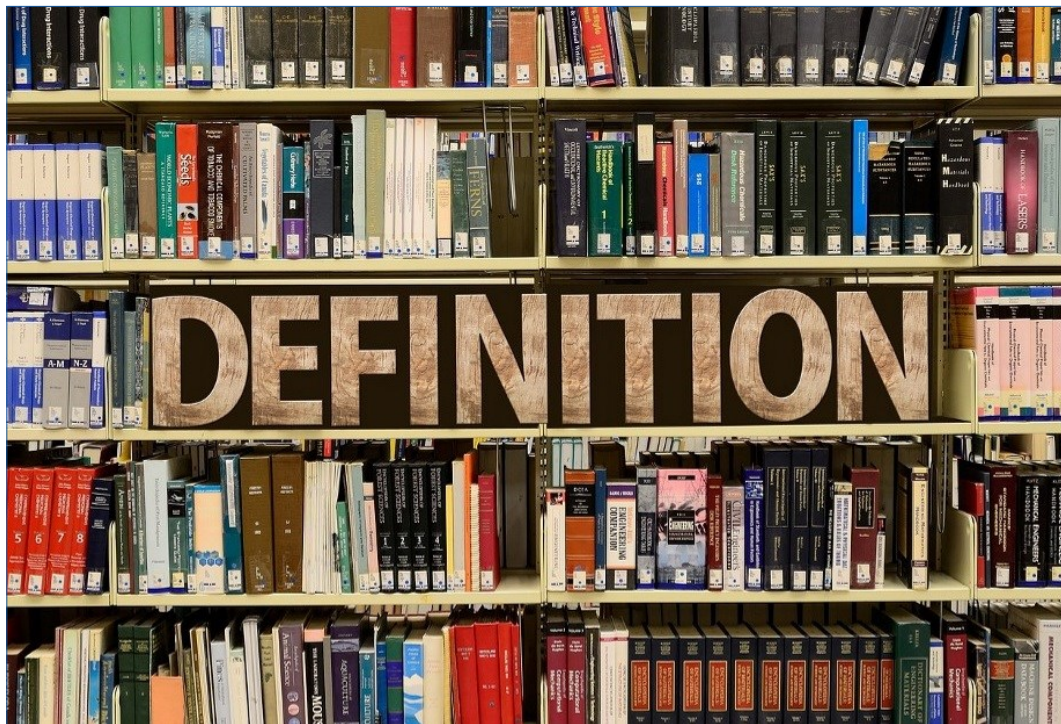
Clerical Capers



'Does anyone have a light, please?'



# Christmas lexicology: It's all in the Word



**DEREK  
WINTERBURN**

There is one 'Christmas reading', however, that is occasionally read at other times of the year. (And it has to be read once over the festivities according to the Lectionary.) That reading is the first chapter of the Gospel of John - and it tells about *the Word*.

***'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'***

In the gospel, John seven times writes of Jesus as saying 'I am...', completing the sayings as 'I am the bread of life' or 'I am the good shepherd' or 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. But here at the start of the gospel the author introduces Jesus as 'the Word.' What was his intention? The Greek word here is λογος (logos) — and it has multiple meanings; it does

not just mean a written or spoken word. Beyond that it includes 'thought', 'reason', 'teaching'... John seems to be suggesting that an indivisible aspect of God was his agent in creating the world, in enlightening people, and (in the rest of the passage) being the means of people being reborn as God's children.

#### God in human person

There is a lot of heavy-duty theology contained in the opening of John's gospel, which is hard to express in a few words. But the key element for Christmas is summarised in another Christmas word, 'Emmanuel' — a name that means 'God with Us'. The birth of Jesus is the moment when God expresses himself completely in a human person. As CS Lewis wrote, we become the visited planet.

What I think John intends us to understand by using the word *Word*, is that this is a 'public truth'. What Christians call the incarnation (the taking of humanity by God in Jesus) changes history. It is not intended to be 'our truth' (or even 'my truth') but a public truth.

The Word, the architect of the universe, its guiding principle, pours himself into a very ordinary baby. He will continue to shape our world — but with the human life of Jesus of Nazareth.



Words are important. Christmas has its own seasonal lexicon. But the Word is supremely important — God is with us.

did not think that dictionaries were competitive. To the average reader they seem very sedate. (Of course, thinking back to last month's *Spire* and Samuel Johnson, I should have been wiser.) In any case, Collins has beaten Oxford to naming their words of the year. Six of the ten words that the publisher says embody the year are neologisms (freshly minted) and top of their list is *permacrisis*.

Oxford Dictionary has still to declare its list; its lexicographers measure the rate of increase of use of the word, so perhaps cannot announce until the end of the year. But Collins is able to produce a headline, ready for the Christmas market.

#### Words used at Christmas

There are a number of ways in which words connect with Christmas. There is a particular Christmas vocabulary. Some are to do with just the winter season. We use some words commonly in December that we barely use in the rest of the year: yule, Santa, crackers, sleigh, mistletoe and so on.

In church we sing songs that we don't sing at any other time and listen to Bible readings we hear only at Christmas. The nativity story, familiar to so many people, is only really told about now. Our grandson, who loves hearing about the baby and the animals all year round, is an exception!



Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am (not 4 Dec)  
Streaming will resume soon.

Together 11:15am (not 4 & 25 Dec, 1 Jan)  
Our shorter, all-age service, including a story, singing and crafts. All ages welcome!

### Mon-Fri

Morning Prayer (not Wed) 9am  
Holy Communion (Wed) 9:30am

### Ark Playgroup

Monday 28 Nov & 5 Dec  
10:15am-12:15pm

Our playgroup for carers and under 5s, with singing, crafts, stories and play. £2 per family.

### Connections Café

Monday 28 Nov 12:15-2:30pm

Join us for tea and coffee, board games and jigsaws. There will also be our monthly Hearing Aid Clinic for servicing and advice.

### Christingle Service

Sunday 4 Dec 10-10:45am

### Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 18 Dec 6:00pm

A traditional service of lessons and carols. Stay afterwards for mince pies and mulled wine.

### Longest Night

Wednesday 21 Dec 6:00pm

A quieter, more reflective service, particularly for those finding it hard to celebrate.

### Messy Christmas

Saturday 24 Dec 3 & 4:30pm



Join us for a fun afternoon of crafts, stories, carols and food, wrapped around the nativity story. There are two identical services — choose the best time for you.

### Christmas Eve Sat 24 Dec

Holy Communion 11:30pm

### Christmas Day Sun 25 Dec

Holy Communion (said) 8am  
Family Communion 9:30am

### Open Weekend 14/15 Jan

Open Day Sat 1-3pm  
Thanksgiving Service Sun 9:30am  
See page 5 for further details



# The Greatest Story



**DEREK WINTERBURN**

**O**ne of the exercises I like couples-soon-to-be-married to do is to plan Christmas in their home. Although there are some standard things most families do, it is self-evidently true that

everyone has their own traditions. There are some things that are not very important (when do you pull your crackers at mealtime?) and others seem more controversial (how soon can children open presents?)

Churches are a bit like that. On a noticeboard or flyer there will be a list of services, but what actually happens; how is Christmas celebrated? Here is a simple explanation.

**It starts with Advent**

The countdown to Christmas in church begins on Advent Sunday — four Sundays before 25 December. Once a six week period of preparation; four weeks now is quite long enough!

We mark the progress in the season by lighting one more candle each week in the Advent Wreath. Then on Christmas Day, the central white candle is lit. Christmas continues until Epiphany or Twelfth Night so the candles continue to be lit for almost another two weeks.

**The Carol Service  
6:00pm Sunday 18 December**

Although it might seem that all Christmas services are services with



**Crib** The Nativity story is retold at our Children's services on Christmas Eve

**Christmas is celebrated by millions of people across the world. For Christians, it is a time of great joy, inspiring many traditions. Many of them – carols, cribs, decorations, and special foods – are shared with and enjoyed by millions of people across the world. But there is more than tinsel, trees and reindeer. There is amazement, wonder and joy. Come to St James's to find out more!**

carols, the Carol Service is structured around carols and readings. In 1880 the Bishop of Truro instigated *Nine Lessons and Carols*, particularly to keep the revellers in the city out of the pubs! Thirty-eight years later, the Dean

of King's College, Cambridge, reworked the increasingly popular service to attract people back to church after the First World War.

In 1928 the BBC began broadcasting it; now there is a revised version for television that

is pre-recorded and broadcast on Christmas Eve.

At St James's we feature our choir, who sing a number of carols as well as leaving the congregation plenty of opportunities to join in.

We change some of the Bible readings each year. The essential Nativity story is told, but a selection of other passages flesh out God's great plan of salvation. The vicar offers a short reflection. And after the service everyone is invited to stay for mulled wine and mince pies!

**The Longest Night  
6:00pm Wednesday 21 December**

Christmas can be loud, bright and cheerful, but sometimes that is not what we are feeling, or looking for.

Recognising that life has its 'long nights', on the shortest day we have quieter, more peaceful carols. It's a gentle service, with the lighting of candles and a reaffirmation that God holds us.

**Messy Christmas (especially for families)  
3 & 4:30pm Christmas Eve, 24 December**

The 'Nativity' or 'crib services' have also been very popular services. Trying to recognise that most of the families who come on Christmas Eve are welcome visitors rather than week-by-week regulars, the emphasis now is on finding ways to engage everyone, without any prior preparation!

We can do this in a number of ways: short familiar carols, visual storytelling, displaying the crib, and craft. 'Making things' is a large feature of our monthly *Messy Church*, so this year we are styling the children's service *Messy Christmas!*

This service is so popular that we choose to offer it twice in the afternoon, so that the whole experience can be relaxed and enjoyable — not being squashed in! The service is about 45 minutes long. All are welcome from the youngest to the oldest.



**Countdown** We prepare for Christmas during the four weeks of Advent



# told afresh



Shining Star Dani Robertson makes the Christmas story very exciting!

## 'Midnight Mass': The First Communion of Christmas 11:30pm Christmas Eve

'Midnight Mass' is rather a misnomer as the service does not

start at midnight — and we don't normally call Holy Communion, Mass, but the name has stuck!

There is something rather special about staying up late, and going

out into the cold, dark night to church! As at the Carol service, we have 'twinkly lights', candles and the Christmas Tree to set the scene. Although the crib, featuring elegant but fragile figures, was out earlier in the day, we bless it at the beginning of this service.

There are some especially poignant carols when sung at this time: e.g. *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*, or *Silent Night*. And then it's back to bed — and we can say we have been to church on Christmas Day.

## Christmas Communion 8am and 9:30am Christmas Day

The great day has arrived and we rejoice with some hearty carol singing, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God incarnate. We aim to have a good time in church, but the vicar knows people have lots of other exciting things to do on Christmas Day, and keeps it short!

Christmas is a great time to drop into church, even if it will be your first time. We will do our best to make you feel at home. The best services for children are 3pm and 4:30pm on Christmas Eve, and 9:30am on Christmas Day. Christmas really does begin at St James's Church!



Scene is set Christmas is all about celebrating the birth of Christ

# Around the Spire

CELEBRATING A NEW-LOOK CHURCH

## St James's looks to the future



Meeting Room under construction in the church

VISITORS TO St James's can't fail to have noticed that we've had the builders in for the past few months!

Church life, from Sunday services to a wedding, funerals, and a public meeting, have had to fit around work to transform the inside of the church, to equip us to face the future with confidence.

The past 18 weeks have been the final part in a programme that began with the installation of a new audio visual system, including a big screen, giving our clock a major overhaul, and a year-long refurbishment of the organ.

The church now boasts new, movable, seating — feedback also confirms it is *more* comfortable!

We have also installed a servery to provide refreshments at events such as our Carols by Candlelight service, and a meeting room. The walls have been repainted and we have updated our lighting.

St James's has always been a venue that is used and enjoyed by the whole community. Both the church and hall host outside groups, and this refresh will make us even more adaptable.

Our *Connections Café* for older people will now be a cosier affair, and the *Ark Playgroup* will be able to make better use of the flexible space, whilst keeping everyone close.

## Come and see the church for yourself at our Open Weekend Saturday 14 January 1-3pm

To celebrate the completion of the work we are holding an Open Weekend when you will get the chance to see the changes for yourself. You can also climb the tower for an unrivalled view of not just Hampton Hill but some London landmarks, including Wembley Stadium.

And if you would like to have a go at ringing our bells, here's your chance.

## Sunday 15 January 9:30am

The weekend ends with a Thanksgiving Service with the Venerable Richard Frank, Archdeacon of Middlesex, and our wonderful church choir.

■ Our February issue will feature some stunning images of the completed work.



Ready to serve The kitchen will be used at services and events



# Not all doom and gloom!



**LAURENCE SEWELL**

to foretell the defeat of the kingdom of Judah — God's indictment against his people, that God's chosen people had been cast off, and that all the ancient promises and covenants had come to nothing — and the supremacy of Babylon following its conquests.

His advice to submit to the will of Babylon and his message of 'life as usual' for his exiled people branded him a traitor in the eyes of many. Doom indeed! His counsel not to rebel against Babylon in fact marked him out as a man who loved his own people and could not stand by silently and watch them destroy themselves. By warning them to submit, Jeremiah was revealing God's mission to them.

### Hope for the future

God revealed to Jeremiah that he had a purpose for his people beyond the judgement that had befallen them, and this sustained him as he witnessed the death-throes of his nation.

Jeremiah's message talked of both the immediate and the future. He emphasised that God is very much concerned about individual people and their accountability to him. He confirmed that God's judgment of his people (and the nations), though terrible, was not to be the last word of God in history. Beyond the judgment would come restoration and renewal. He prophesied of a time when God would make a new covenant with Israel where all would know God directly and receive his forgiveness, superseding the old Mosaic Covenant.

### Impact of Jeremiah

Jeremiah saw God as the creator of all that exists, as ever present and all-powerful. Although he correctly prophesied the destruction of the kingdom of Judah, recognising the relationship between sin and its consequences, God also revealed through him that there would be a new 'tomorrow' and better times ahead. He was a fearless and faithful prophet in revealing God's intentions, and his anguish, readily seen through his writings, has led him to be called the 'weeping prophet.'

*'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls' (Jeremiah 6: 16) .... 'for I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'* (Jeremiah 29: 11)

We should take heart from Jeremiah's words that God will not abandon us and that solutions will be found for the world's ills, if we only follow his precepts.

**J**eremiah may be considered as one of the most important Old Testament prophets through whom God pronounced judgement on the people for their corruption, insincerity and wickedness.

His prophetic ministry and his own mental struggles at a time when Judah and indeed the wider region was in turmoil and facing disaster filled Jeremiah with despondency. It seemed as if God was annulling his covenant and abandoning his people.

Yet, God revealed to Jeremiah that there was a future and possibilities of a new covenant which thus gave him hope and new heart. I think his writings offer us important signposts as we face comparable situations about which he prophesied. Certainly then, a biblical hero that we all need to take note of.

### Long line of priests

Jeremiah was born around BC 650 in a village north of Jerusalem and came from a priestly lineage. It was a time of conflict between the powerful ambitions of Egypt, Assyria and Babylon into which smaller states such as Judah were sucked.

Jeremiah's prophetic ministry began around BC 626 during the reign of Josiah and lasted for 40 years until his death during exile in Egypt in BC 586. During this time he fell out with succeeding rulers (Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah), was often vilified and threatened, enduring much personal physical suffering, and yet retained a commitment and belief in a better future.

### A prophet of doom

Judgment is one of the all-pervasive themes in Jeremiah's writings, as he could see that the corruption all around him would lead to God's judgement; though he was careful to point out that repentance, if sincere, would postpone the otherwise inevitable.

In the early years of his ministry, Jeremiah condemned idolatry and the sins of his countrymen; this earned him their wrath and death threats. Yet despite their sins, Jeremiah stuck by the people and prayed for them even when God told him not to. He went on

# The power of God's love



**ASH WAKEFIELD**

**F**or someone who hadn't set foot in a church until 2016, it might surprise you that I have joined St James's as a Ministry Intern who is considering ordination! But let's go back a bit and explain how I got here.

I didn't grow up in a church. It wasn't something I did. I hated RE at school and was a somewhat rebellious child. For the first 21 years of my life I was an agnostic atheist. Basically, I didn't believe in God because I couldn't be sure he existed.

After completing a Psychology and English Law degree in the UK, I flew across the ocean to the University of North Carolina. The plan was to become a rich lawyer and own my own ranch — but everything changed when I found God.

Being an international student, the university put me in touch with a local family. They invited me to go to church with them. I'm not sure why I accepted, but I did. There is no denying that at first I didn't believe, but God's hand was already working in my life.

I gradually realised that Jesus was a real person, and that he wanted to take me as I was. I asked him to help me and in return I would help as many people as I could.

Then life got in the way again. I found I couldn't qualify as a US attorney because of my immigration status. I returned to the UK pretty angry.

### Open door to church

I had no intention of going to church, but when I was out for a walk one day I came upon St Matthew's, Surbiton. The door was open and I felt compelled to walk in.

I spoke to my nan about my faith and we made plans to go to a Christmas service, but sadly, and very suddenly, she passed away. I came to terms with her death and found peace in asking God for help.

I still wanted to become a solicitor and started a Masters degree in Guildford, but I kept recalling my promise. I found myself a job working as a paralegal and my legal aid work enabled me to support the vulnerable side of humanity.

Getting a homeless person off the streets, or helping a stroke patient to get aftercare was very satisfying. I was a social worker, a therapist, psychologist, counsellor – I felt like I helped in more ways than a legal solution.

I know that this is part of my calling. God for me has always been a God of Justice, fighting for people, standing with them. Something Julian said in a recent sermon stayed with me. In the story of Job, the simple answer is 'God is'. We will go through troubles, be taken off guard, hit hard, but we will always be supported by God – blessings come in many different shapes and sizes.

### Christian journey

Now that I have qualified as a solicitor I am giving it all up! Am I mad? Why am I doing it? While at St Matthew's, I found myself getting more involved. I started volunteering with children's groups, then began leading them, I joined the PCC and a house group.

I wanted to explore my faith more, learn more, do more. I had no intention of ministry, but I signed up to the Bishop's Certificate course in Southwark and it opened my eyes to the world of theology.

Once that finished, I applied to do the Diocese of London's Ministry Experience Scheme to consider a call to either licensed ministry or ordination. I met with the programme lead and Derek — and here I am!

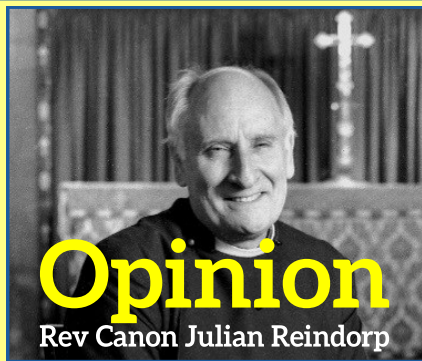
I'm hoping to gain a deeper understanding of what ministry is and what goes on during the week. Being a Christian isn't one day a week - it's seven days. I'm looking forward to growing deeper in my faith, so regardless of where I end up, I want to make sure that I'm following God's call and letting his Spirit lead me.

### At St James's

I'm looking forward to learning what Derek does on a day-to-day basis, and working with our children and young people. I particularly want to gain experience in Christian ministry whilst serving community initiatives, such as going to Laurel Dene care home and helping with the Ark playground and Connections, and discovering the Eco work that St James's is doing to protect God's creation.

I used to think that I could never be a true Christian because of the mistakes I have made, but God shows mercy and relentlessly forgives me. I have my own promise with him and now he is helping me to decide where my journey will take me.





# Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

## TEL AVIV or JERUSALEM

Like most nations, our Israeli embassy is in Tel Aviv. In September Liz Truss' office confirmed that she was reviewing the location of the embassy and recently told Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid she was considering moving it to Jerusalem. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh responded, 'Any change in the status quo in Jerusalem would undermine the two-state solution and be considered a tacit recognition of the city's annexation by Israel.' Fortunately our new government has reversed this peace-undermining decision.

## IS GROWTH OUR GOD?

Recently I took off my shelves three books — all published exactly 50 years ago, all became best sellers: *The Limits to Growth*, by the Club of Rome, thinkers and industrialists, asking how could we possibly have exponential growth with finite resources? Consumer capitalism was at stake; *Only One Earth*, the care and maintenance of a small planet, written by Ward & Dubos, commissioned by the United Nations, 'The squalid details of technology's impact on soil, sea and air, man's record in fouling his own nest'; *Can Man Survive?* by Hugh Montefiore, a New Testament scholar (later Bishop of Birmingham), writing as a prophet about the future of our planet.

Fifty years on, we are all aware how little practical notice we have taken of their warnings. The next three years will make clear whether our planet will warm at 1.5 degrees, or as many fear at 2.5 degrees. A recent report suggests at our present rate there will be an economic and societal collapse around 2050.

## WHOSE GROWTH?

When we were thinking of having children over 50 years ago now, two facts were suggested. Each of our children would use up as many natural resources as 250 Bangladeshi children, and Bangladesh would be the first country to disappear under water. In fact, this year one third of Pakistan was under water following the recent monsoon.

Our response in recent months was to prevent The King going to speak at Cop 27 in Egypt, even though he was a lead speaker at Glasgow's Cop 26. Also planned legislation to arrest and punish even more strongly all those demonstrating for Extinction Rebellion and Stop Oil is shooting the messenger, rather than addressing the message. 'Growth, growth, growth' is surely not the answer to our fragile planet's future. As a society are we simply shifting the deck chairs on the *Titanic*?

## MISTAKE OR WRONG?

Our short-lived Prime Minister Liz Truss apologised for September's mini-budget. She said it was a mistake to go so fast. President Biden commented almost immediately that trickle-down economics simply does not work. You cannot reduce taxes for the rich, and leave the poor to suffer. The facts suggest we are one of the most unequal countries in the developed world (after America!)

The book, *The Spirit Level — Why equality is better for everyone*, was published in 2009 and influenced David Cameron when he was PM. It states, 'How almost everything from life expectancy to mental illness, violence to illiteracy, is affected not by how wealthy a society is, but how equal it is. Societies with a bigger gap between rich and poor are bad for everyone in them — including the well-off.'

## ROYAL HUMOUR

Our late Queen appreciated the prayer Lord Mountbatten, Prince Philip's uncle, composed for his daughters, *The London Bus Drivers' Prayer*: 'Our Father which art in Hendon, Harrow be thy name. Thy Kingston come, Thy Wimbledon, in Erith as it is in Hendon. Give us this day our Leatherhead and forgive us our bypasses as we forgive those who bypass against us. Lead us not into Thames Ditton, but deliver us from Ewell. For thine is the Kingston, the Purley and the Crawley, for Esher and Esher, Crouch End.'

# Helping refugees in desperate need



ANN PETERKEN

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

Hebrews 13:2

**T**he London Churches Refugee Fund (LCRF) enables churches and individuals to donate to the many frontline projects across London that are helping destitute refugees and asylum seekers.

Many of you will remember Rev Chris Brice, who came to St James's just over a year ago and gave us such a good account of the charity's vital work. If you missed hearing him or want to listen again, a recording of the service can be viewed at: [lcrf.org.uk](http://lcrf.org.uk).

While Afghanistan and Ukraine have helped us all to understand the reasons for the flight of so many people, there are many longer and just as devastating conflicts elsewhere — Yemen, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Democratic Republic of Congo are just a few. The projects the charity supports in London assist people fleeing to the UK for sanctuary from all over the world.

In a typical year, LCRF distributes grants totalling about £45,000 to 30 or more projects, two of which are West London Welcome and the Baobab Centre for Young Survivors in Exile. The grants are small, about £800-£900, but provide vital help with the purchase of phone and travel cards, food and toiletries, and emergency payments.

### Hostile environment

The British government has deliberately created a hostile environment in response to what is, undoubtedly, a challenging situation. Many vulnerable people fall through the cracks of the system and become destitute. The Nationality



Refugees Many refugees arrive in the UK destitute

and Borders Act that became law in April included the Rwanda asylum initiative that has caused so much public outcry.

### Response to Rwanda policy

LCRF hosted an excellent event at which Rev Dr Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, pictured left, set out a theological response to the government's policy of sending asylum seekers to Rwanda. His speech, *So Many Kinds of Wrong*, can be read or listened to on the charity's website. Do try to make some time to find out what he had to say.



### Christmas fundraising

LCRF is a small charity with an annual income of about £55,000; carol singing at Oxford Circus and the sale of Christmas cards are an important contribution. All its work is carried out by the trustees and volunteers, with no office and no paid staff, so the bulk of its income goes out in grants.

St James's continues to support LCRF, knowing it enables help to be given to the people least likely to have public sympathy and who would struggle to stay alive without help. Please help as you feel able and keep its work in your prayers.

## Warm sanctuary

**DESPITE THE** Government's energy announcement, millions of households will still be in fuel poverty this winter, with people with disabilities, elderly people, children, people from ethnic minorities, and low-income households amongst the most affected groups.

St James's Church has joined over 2,900 registered organisations, including many churches, that are opening up free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public over this winter. There is an estimated £800 gap between the overall cost-of-living increase and the help on offer for families on means-tested benefits, meaning many will have to look to their local community and churches for support.

You are welcome to come to church on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30-3:30pm from 9 January and spend time, perhaps reading. We also have jigsaws and board games to share with others, along with tea and coffee by donation. Subject to demand we will continue to open up the church in February. Check on our website and in the February issue of the *Spire*.



## REGISTERS

### OCTOBER

#### BAPTISMS

- 30 Alba Maria Lily Gray, Feltham
- 30 Mathilda Sophia Channon Loebler, Hampton Hill

#### FUNERALS

- 13 Paul William Holmes, 60, Richmond
- 18 Violette Christina Handouka, 21, Hanworth
- 31 William Benson, 102, Walton-on-Thames





# Some Minor surprises!

Janet trained at secretarial college in the late 1950s, before beginning a career as a secretarial teacher at a college of further education. She took early retirement in 1988 to spend more time with her husband, David, and follow their joint hobbies of folk dancing, walking, gardening and charity work.

For many years she was involved with the local Asthma Support Group and for the past 15 years has volunteered with Crossroads Care, initially at their Caring Cafe in Sheen and now at the drop-in cafe for carers at Hampton Hill Theatre. Since 1976, St James's has also played a large part in her life, working as secretary to Rev Brian Leathard, vicar from 1989-2006, and helping out in the church office. She is also the editor of the *Spire*.

## 1 MORRIS MINOR

Neither of my parents drove a car and I was keen to learn to drive as soon as I could, not only to make it easier to get out and about, but also to help my parents. I bought my car before I passed my test as an incentive. It also meant that friends could take me out to practise. I passed first time — so it must have worked! I have had many different cars since my Morris Minor, but there are still some on the road 60 years later, and if I see one, it always brings back memories.

## 2 TENNIS RACKET

I don't have my first racket, which is perhaps just as well as it would be a museum piece, it being made of wood! I was not very sporty at school, but did enjoy tennis and played in many clubs throughout my life.

I love watching tennis on TV and have twice been to Wimbledon — the first time many years ago when I saw Maria Bueno, pictured above, and Roger Taylor on Centre Court and, more recently, Venus Williams.

Two of my favourites over the years have been Virginia Wade, who won in 1997, and Tim Henman — even if he did keep us on the edge of our seats on many occasions!

## 3 PHYL NUNN'S PAINTINGS

It would be hard to choose one of Phyl's paintings (David's sister) as our house has them hanging in every room.

She lived in Barnes and belonged to many art institutions, including the Royal Society of Watercolour Painters, and had many exhibitions locally and in London.

David and I were the backroom team helping to run the private views and ferrying Phyl and her paintings to various destinations, including a gallery in Eastbourne.

Phyl opened my eyes to the art world and I now enjoy going to exhibitions.

I even had my portrait painted by her many years ago and it was hung in the Mall Galleries!

## 4 DAVID'S SPOONS

David loved entertaining children and played the spoons very professionally to reels and jigs. He was popular when we had concerts on holiday when he entertained everyone.

The spoons he used were soup spoons from Woolworths, which I still have, and may become heirlooms eventually! He particularly enjoyed playing with folk bands and getting people to try themselves as any spoons will do.

## 5 ROSES

My father was a very keen gardener and we had nearly 100 different varieties of rose in our garden. In those days the Chelsea Flower Show held a competition for local horticultural societies and I remember vividly how proud

my father was when the local society came to select some blooms from his garden for their display. I always enjoy visiting rose shows, especially at the Hampton Court Flower Show and Squires Rose Shows. My favourite garden for seeing roses in bloom is the NT Garden at Mottisfont in Hampshire. Roses have developed considerably over the years but if I had to choose one it would be the Peace Rose, pictured left, with its faint tinge of pink on the yellow petal and its subtle scent.

## 6 WALKING BOOTS

Without a car, my family did a lot of walking, both locally and on holidays. When I left home I joined a walking group. This proved to be a good move and I have happy memories of walks in the Chilterns and North Downs. So much so that I went on walking holidays and took on leading groups. I never tire of walking the same routes as I enjoy sharing them with others and seeing their reactions on reaching such places as Old Harry Rocks or the Needles and admiring the views.

## 7 CAMERA

My first camera was a Kodak which you set with a light meter! Over time I have progressed to a digital camera. I am told I have the eye for a good picture (I won first prize for the photo shown above).

I once took a lovely sunset over Torbay and at the photo shop the assistant asked if I could remember the settings. I had just been in the right place at the right time and pressed the button! Now, I view my photos on a computer — and occasionally in the *Spire*!

## 8 OLYMPIA PORTABLE TYPEWRITER

After school I went to secretarial college and learnt to touch type on big black typewriters with four rows of keys, carbon paper copies and typewriter rubbers!

Typewriters have played a big part in my life and I went on to teach typing. I took all my RSA (Royal Society of Arts) and Pitman Teaching exams on an Olympia Portable typewriter. Unlike most portables, Olympia developed one that had a full-size keyboard. I took it to all of my teaching exams.

## 9 SPIRE MAGAZINE (ANNIVERSARY ISSUE)

I have been editor since 2008, and if I had to choose one issue it would be the 2013 souvenir issue marking the church's 150th anniversary. I thoroughly enjoyed putting it together and trying to cover all aspects of the church's life. I have just looked at it again and it brings back such lovely memories of all the people who have been so much a part of St James's since I joined it in 1976.

**Janet Nunn** opens her box of memories, which encapsulates some events in her life that have made a great or lasting impression. Some are personal belongings, which she still has, while others reflect her life-long interests.

