

FEBRUARY 2022 WORLD PRAYER

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



On home soil

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).
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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...

We are still having to keep our fingers crossed that 2022 will be a more positive year for all of us. Weather permitting, the spring flowers should soon be appearing in our gardens. I have a small group of snowdrops outside my window which have bloomed for several weeks, which helps to cheer me up.

You will have seen on the cover a picture of the Queen. She starts her Platinum Jubilee on 6 February – 70 years as our Queen – a remarkable event that we will mark later this year.

The World Day of Prayer has been prepared by England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Catherine Gash, who is part of the organising committee, has written about how the WDP has evolved and how we have celebrated.

We are introducing two new articles for 2022. Page 6 will feature *Biblical Heroes*, while the back page has *Life Stories*, where we choose mementoes that have deep meanings to us. The idea came from 'Memory Boxes' that many parents keep for their children. Not all of them fit into a box, but you can use your imagination!

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: A montage of images from England, Wales and Northern Ireland (see page 5)

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. Bank transfers to: 40-52-40, 00032595, Ref SPIRE. Cheques payable to the PCC of St James, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Church Office (see below).

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PRODUCTION

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PRINT

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NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

The Mar Spire is published on Fri 25 Feb.
Copy deadline: Thu 3 Feb.

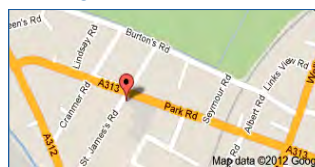
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St James's Church is a charity registered in England and Wales (1129286)

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:

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Clerical Capers

'The knitting circle are playing their part in our Eco Church heating efficiency programme.'

February – ordinary, but not boring time



DEREK WINTERBURN

This has the effect of separating Christmas and Easter by usually a large time - and this year February is 'ordinary time' neither in Epiphany or Lent. This year Easter will be on Sunday 17 April, but it is rarely later than this (but watch out for 20 April in 2025).

Lunar and solar calendars

The variable date of Easter stems from the early church wanting to mark Jesus's resurrection annually when Jesus rose, which was understood to be on the third day after Passover (when Jesus was crucified) which is always a full moon, even though the lunar calendar didn't fit neatly within the solar calendar (and so there could not be a fixed date for Easter).

Then Christians thought Easter should be celebrated on a Sunday (the original day of the week).

One can understand that this soon becomes very mathematically complicated; Bede (a Benedictine monk) tells how Queen Eanflæd, on one system fasted on her Palm Sunday, while her husband Oswy, king of Northumbria, feasted on his Easter Sunday — the same day!

Agreement on a new date

A consensus emerged by the tenth century. However when the Catholic Church (but not the Eastern churches) adopted the Gregorian Calendar (correcting the overestimate of the length of a year) in 1582, once again there was a divergence. It was only in 1752 that Britain accepted the newer calendar and the Prayer Book updated.

The Orthodox churches still keep to the

original Julian calendar, and so celebrate their religious festivals at different times. From time to time there are moves to fix the date. In fact, an act of Parliament passed in 1928 allowed for Easter Sunday to be fixed on the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April, but it has not been implemented.

Epiphany runs after Christmas until another fixed date, 2 February, but Lent (the season that precedes Easter) moves back and forward with Easter. So the gap between Epiphany and Lent varies in length, this year it is almost exactly February; and we call that ordinary time.

Anything but ordinary

That name suggests it is 'boring time'. In a sense we can look at the big days like Christmas and Easter and the rest feels flat. But the word 'ordinary' in this context does not mean that. It has the sense as in 'ordinal numbers'; the weeks are marked out by counting them, for example the 'Third Week in Ordinary Time.'

The hangings in the Church of England are green during ordinary time. I don't

think of this as a 'boring colour', but as the colour of growth.

Perhaps it is a reminder that we need to be growing in our faith even in the quieter times!



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am 

Come to church or watch live or later on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Together 11:15am

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

Mon-Fri (but not Thu)

Morning Prayer 9am

A short service of daily prayer in church

Thursdays (but not 3 Mar)

Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

Walk and Lunch

Sat 5 February 10am

Our new group launches with a 3½ mile walk around Pyrford, Wisley, with minimal gradient. It will be followed by a pub lunch. To join us contact office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Messy Church

Sun 27 February 3pm

If you have children join us for a fun afternoon of stories, crafts, worship and food. Please book at: stjamesh.churchsuite.co.uk/events/8w3mhyyev

Pancakes Party

Tue 1 March 8pm

Join us in church for a fun social event to mark Shrove Tuesday. We have seasoned pancake flippers on hand to cook up a satisfying supper!

Ash Wednesday

Wed 2 March 9:30am & 8pm

We mark the start of Lent with Holy Communion and ashing. The morning service replaces the usual Thursday midweek service.

Mothering Sunday

Sun 27 March 10am

Our 9:30 and 11:15 services come together for an All Age Service — and we will have a gift for all the women attending!

Sun 27 March 2pm

The Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band perform a Platinum Jubilee Concert in honour of the Queen. Tickets £15 on the door. Children go free.

Time to Pray Mon-Fri

If you would like to listen to the weekday podcasts please email: 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

The Great Clock in Hampton Court Palace is a mechanical wonder. But most of us struggle to read its complex display. Do you use your watch for the minutes mostly? Henry VIII's clock is more focused on the phases of the moon, the sun's position in the zodiac, the date and the hour; there is no minute hand. Knowing where one was in relation to the annual calendar was more important than the time on one day.

Easter and the full moon

When Edward VI (Henry's son) sought to further the English reformation a key part of the new Prayer Book (1552) was the calendar and the reckoning of the date for Easter.

Not surprisingly the reformers kept to the then universal way of reckoning Easter Sunday based on when the full moon is (The Great Clock can help there!).

But this means that it changes from year to year, unlike the fixed date for Christmas. (There is some evidence that the first Christians believed that Mary conceived on the same date that Jesus died, and so calculated his birth to be nine months later in December.)

Finding hope in our



CATHERINE GASH

Where does the year go? Suddenly, it's time again for the World Day of Prayer. In previous years, we have found out so much about the countries where the service has been prepared – Vanuatu, Zimbabwe and Slovenia being the most recent. This year's service, however, has been prepared much closer to home, by the three voices of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. (Scotland has its own WDP organization.)

The origins of World Day of Prayer date to the 19th century, when Christian women in the USA and Canada, in spite of strong opposition from all-male mission boards, had begun organising days of prayer, working directly with women and children across denominational divides.

This led to two united days of prayer (one in Canada, one in USA) on the first Friday in Lent in 1922.

In 1926 North Americans distributed their worship resources to many other countries, with an enthusiastic response, and suddenly a World Day of Prayer had begun!

Women whose lives took them to other countries spread news of it around the world. A Scottish woman attending an international missionary gathering in Jerusalem in 1928 took the news back home and the first service there was held in 1930. England followed in 1932, Wales in 1933, the Republic of Ireland in 1935 and Northern Ireland in 1943.

After the Second World War the

movement grew dramatically. By 1968, 127 countries were participating and it was felt that there should be an international meeting every four or five years, with representatives from every national committee. The original date of the first Friday in Lent was changed to the first Friday in March, a date more suited to the

Orthodox churches. As more countries joined, Roman Catholic participation grew, especially after the 1962 Second Vatican Council.

Enriched by cultures

Today around 130 countries take part and the service is translated into more than 60 languages (including Welsh).

Through the World Day of Prayer, Christians affirm their faith and share their hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, opportunities and needs.

We are encouraged to be enriched by the faith of Christians of other cultures, take up the burdens of other people and pray for them, and become more aware of the wider world.

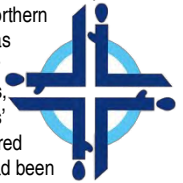
Our national committee includes members from 18 different Christian denominations, plus delegates from Wales and Northern Ireland. It is the work of the national committee to edit and publish all the service material each year, sending it out to about 3000 local branches, whose members promote the service in their churches and jointly organise the services in their area. Money collected is distributed in the form of grants to national and international charities. (Details of these are given every year in the service booklets.) The national committee also supports partners in Albania.

Twice before in our country

Our country has hosted the service twice before, in 1940 and 1945. Right up until the 1960s,

most of the WDP services were prepared by just one or two individuals. In contrast, the current service has been prepared by a team of more than 30 diverse women from the three nations.

In 1982, the service was written jointly by women of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and was memorable for the 'four corners, praying figures' emblem (pictured right) which had been designed by a member of that writing group. This emblem was subsequently adopted by the International Committee as the official WDP logo, first used in 1984.



Hampton branch

Our own Hampton Area branch has been flourishing for over 60 years. In the archive there are minutes of meetings from 1962, but it's clear that the branch had been established sometime before that. Five churches were represented: St James's, St Mary's, All Saints, Hampton Methodists, and Congregational (later becoming the United Reformed Church).

There were no Catholic churches involved at this point. In 1964 it was noted that 'the Catholic priest refused to tell his congregation about the service!' Thankfully, this problem was finally overcome and in 1970 the committee welcomed members from St Francis de Sales and St Theodore's. St Richard's joined in 1987, forming the group of eight that we have at present.



Natural beauty Durdle Door, Dorset, part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site

How well do you know our green and pleasant land? This year's World Day of Prayer uses God's promise, found in the book of Jeremiah: 'I know the plans I have for you.' Focusing on freedom, forgiveness, justice and peace, the service shows how this can be a sign of hope for all of us. Catherine Gash explores the history of the annual service and our long involvement as part of the local organising committee.



St David's This beautiful Welsh cathedral attracts people from across the world

diverse land



Around the Spire



Cover artist Angie Fox, from Norfolk, embroidered the image for this year's World Day of Prayer service

Here at St James's

St James's hosted the service in 1963, when 'the bishop had sanctioned the use of the church', and has done so seven more times. The names of several current parishioners appear on committee lists, including in 1992 Janet Nunn. In 1997, Sandra Winterburn features, representing St Mary's, Hampton. Margaret Taylor was one of our representatives for 20 years, up until Linda Webb and I took over in 2013. Our Liturgical Dance group took part from 1995 to about 2000. Over the years, while the structure

has remained largely the same, meetings and services have changed. In 1962 meetings were very formal and most correspondence was handwritten. I imagine the ladies of 1962 would be startled to see that recent meetings, and last year's service, were conducted on Zoom!

A few complaints

There have been complaints – the music was 'too sophisticated' or not modern enough; in 1996, when we had two services, both speakers were male. In 2006 the speaker went on far too long.

One year, no one turned up for the rehearsal (I can relate to that!) and 1976's Mexican service 'tasted a little of women's lib!' The name change from Women's World Day of Prayer to World Day of Prayer in 2018 was first suggested by our group in 1973.

This year's service...

This year's service will be held at All Saint's Church, Hampton, on Friday 4 March at 2pm. We hope to have the service livestreamed for those who cannot attend, but do come if you can. All are welcome!



Playtime A sandy beach on Tresco, Isles of Scilly

COVER IMAGES

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- 1 Angel of the North, Gateshead;
- 2 Blackpool; 3 North York Moors; 4 Titanic Museum, Belfast; 5 The Queen;
- 6 Millennium Stadium, Cardiff;
- 7 Seaford, Sussex; 8 Birmingham;
- 9 Giant's Causeway, Antrim;
- 10 Peak District, Derbyshire; 11 York Minster

Our link to anti-apartheid movement

Tutu shared in the nation's joy and pain

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu of Cape Town, died aged 90 on Boxing Day and tributes poured in from world leaders.

As a priest he had campaigned non-violently against apartheid in South Africa all his ministry, but in time he came to be seen as a champion of universal human rights.

The Queen spoke of his great warmth; former US President Barack Obama, said, 'He never lost his impish sense of humour and willingness to find humanity in his adversaries.'

The present Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, talked of how 'he felt with the people... he cried because he felt people's pain. And he laughed, no, not just laughed, he cackled with delight when he shared their joy'.

He campaigned against injustice in all its forms and was a supporter of gay rights round the world.

Nelson Mandela invited Tutu to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa in the



'We don't want to drive the white people into the sea, but is it too much to ask that in the land of our birth, we walk tall as human beings made in the image of God?'

Tutu won the Nobel peace prize in 1984 for his non-violent efforts to end apartheid

1990s, bringing together both the perpetrators and victims of apartheid. This will be a lasting tribute to his work, summarised in his book *No Future Without Forgiveness*. His life, steeped in daily prayer and Bible reading, was the basis of what became his worldwide prophetic ministry.

Julian Reindorp, (born in Durban, South Africa)

Hannah's tireless campaigning

Archbishop Tutu came to Richmond in June 1990 at the invitation of Hannah Stanton – a well known and much-loved resident



in York House. Tutu paid tribute to his special friend, describing Hannah as 'a stalwart of the South African Apartheid struggle'.

of Hampton Hill and campaigner against apartheid. Hannah was also one of three founders of the Greenwood Centre in 1974, and a lay reader at St James's.

Hannah asked the archbishop to speak to a packed meeting of the Richmond Anti-Apartheid Group

In 1990 Hannah returned to South Africa and was invited to lunch with Tutu. In 1993, when she was poorly, he sent her a posy which she especially treasured. There is more about Hannah on our website, or search for her on the internet.

Return of Messy Church

MESSY CHURCH successfully resumed in December and the next session is on **Sunday 27 February** from **3-5pm**. The family-friendly formula explores biblical themes with activities, games and crafts; a story, prayer, and songs; and food. The emphasis is on having fun and it is suitable for people of all ages, adults and children. To help us cater you please book at: stjamesh.churchsuite.co.uk/events/8w3mhyev

Extraordinary, but flawed



DEREK WINTERBURN

What makes a hero? Perhaps there needs to be something admirable about a person; inspiring and aspirational. They would not need to be perfect, but *really* good at what they are good at and humble about their failures.

I have picked David as my hero for reasons such as this — and because his story is just so rich.

We know more about David and his life than any other person in the Bible, with the possible exception of Jesus. He lived around the year 1000 BC — the Iron Age.

His story is told twice in 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, and about half of the Psalms are linked to him too. So we have a narrative record supplemented by his own words — some of which are linked to specific events in his life.

What makes David heroic?

There are some tremendous stories. The 'Sunday School favourites' are great: Samuel anoints David the younger son; David fights Goliath, when others wouldn't, without armour but with God.

But there are other more adult episodes: David lives as an 'honourable outlaw' in the badlands, hounded by the King; David wants to build a house for the Lord, but is promised that God will build him a house with a new David.

David is extraordinary in his achievements. Militarily, he builds a campaign for the outlaw gang to take the whole kingdom and then to expand Israel, and capture Jerusalem to make it his capital.

He laid the foundations for the Temple in Jerusalem and through the Psalms crafted words for worship that are still used in two world religions today.

But is he likeable?

He certainly was at the time. Charismatic would be the word we would use. His quick success as a soldier won him a great following. Even while outlawed he attracted the very rich and worldly wise Abigail, to be his third wife.

Of course, there was a dark side to David.

His greatest moral failure, the narrative tells us, was his abuse of power by sending a man to die in battle to cover up his adultery with that man's wife (the text is silent on the question of consent).

But then we see a glimpse of his 'greatness' when he accepts his guilt without demur and accepts the immediate consequences of his actions.

However, from this point onward he is compromised (and perhaps is over-sentimental about his sons) and, although enraged, he does not discipline his son Amnon who rapes Tamar. This leads Tamar's brother Absalom into open rebellion and David loses his throne.

And then follows another revealing episode. David is persuaded to stay in a town and let his soldiers enter battle against Absalom, but David tells them not to kill him (Absalom is David's son).

Absalom becomes caught in a tree. Joab (David's henchman) will in no way spare this man, the cause of all the trouble and impales him with three javelins.

In a long drawn out passage David learns of Absalom's death and is crushed. Although his men have won a famous victory he goes to his chamber and laments: 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!'

The situation needs to be redeemed by Joab: 'You have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased.'

David gathers himself and begins to rebuild the kingdom, pardoning his enemies. (But still the story does not end well...)

A man after God's own heart

The Bible says David became 'a man after [God's] own heart' (1 Sam 13:14). We can guess that he was shaped by days and night shepherding sheep, and by the times when he was on the run from Saul and Absalom.

The narrative gives us accounts of exuberant praise, singing and dancing. The Psalms testify to a faith that was both solitary but also celebratory.

David shows us a gritty, earthy spirituality. Psalm 23, fittingly ascribed to David, the Shepherd Psalm is one of the most valuable parts of the Bible. It testifies to God's presence and power even in the 'valley of the shadow of death.'

We never miss a deadline!



JANET NUNN

The Spire Team probably meets more frequently than any other committee as we work to regular deadlines. It is also the team which has had the fewest changes over the years. Little did I know when I took over in 2008 that the title of Editor included chairing all the meetings, sending out the agenda and typing the notes for production!

Monthly meetings

We meet 12 times a year — nine of them are production meetings, getting the material ready for printing. The other three meetings on the months when we have a double issue are for our planning — looking to the future and making sure we have articles commissioned for as many issues as possible. We also have two proof-readers who check each edition before printing.

I took over the Editorship at a very exciting time in 2008 as we were in the process of moving from in-house production to using a professional printer. At that time the magazine was largely in black and white because we were using the church's ageing photocopier. The whole process was quite involved and relied on a team of us spending many hours of folding, collating and stapling.

That began to change when our budget allowed our printer to use colour, initially just on the front and back in October and then to full colour in December 2008 at no extra cost. If you visit churches on your travels you will notice that many of their magazines are still in black and white!

Printing and Distribution

We have been very fortunate in having printers who work so well with us and give us competitive prices. Our magazine is currently printed by Paul and Julie at Peter James Printers Limited, in Shepperton. They also deliver the printed copies directly to us each month.

Then it is quite a job sorting out the copies for the 16 distributors all around the parish. Again, many of these people have been doing this task nine times a year and we are very grateful for their continued support.

We have also built up a relationship with local traders, particularly the Post Office, now in WH Smith, who take up to 100 copies. Their supply is topped up regularly.

Writing Articles

At our planning meetings we look ahead to see what articles would be appropriate for future issues and start thinking about replacing those that have run their course.

An instance of this is the back page, where *Favourites* ran for eight years. We thought subjects — and willing contributors — would dry up after two! We started planning for the new page early last year and did several dummy options and layouts before we came to the result of the feature now on page 8.

Contributors are sent writing guides so they know how many words and pictures are needed. We try to give at least a month's notice to give writers sufficient time, and we always send them a proof to make sure that in editing, nothing important has been lost.

Regular contributors dread receiving the familiar email from the Editor beginning 'This is just a gentle reminder...!'

All the team feel privileged to produce a magazine that has such a diverse range of articles and we are very grateful to the PCC who fund it as part of their outreach mission. We are also lucky that so many of our regular readers respond to our annual appeal.

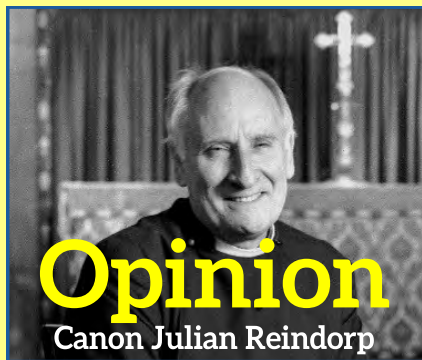
Online archive

Our website has a copy of every magazine in our archive from the first edition in 1884 (with just a few gaps). A couple of years ago we also passed all our paper copies to the London Metropolitan Archives, which holds church magazines from across the diocese.

Finally, we must pay tribute to Nick Bagge, who with his background in journalism, is able to produce such first class layouts from just a page of script. We are so lucky to have his expertise. I know he loves doing it, but it is an enormous commitment which we all appreciate so much.



You responded despite challenges



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

SAME STORY AS LAST YEAR!

My five-year-old grandson asked for an Advent Calendar. When it came he was very pleased and enjoyed the chocolate. But when he opened the little booklet about the birth of Jesus, he looked up disappointed. 'Grandpa, it's the same story as last year!'

END OF FAMILY DOCTOR?

A survey published last year in the *British Journal of General Practice* examined the value of longstanding relationships between GPs and their patients. The health outcomes of those who had the same family doctor over many years were at least 25% better than those without this relationship. It found 30% were less likely to use out of hours service, 30% less likely to be admitted to hospital in an emergency, and 25% less likely to die than those registered with a GP for less than a year. It concluded that 'being known by your GP is really good for your health'.

What has undermined this? The shortage of GPs, 6,000 short of the government's stated target, a 20% shortfall in total numbers leading to burned-out GPs retiring early while younger recruits switched to alternative careers.

Then there's the government policy to encourage GPs to work 'at scale' (bigger is more cost-efficient?) One GP, who also works in hospital and does some research needing 'some balance just to survive', said: 'In General Practice I'm working 13-hour days, at the end of which I am broken'.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Just occasionally a government policy emerges that is both cruel and crazy. The Nationality and Borders Bill would make all 26,000 recent refugee arrivals by sea illegal. How will this prevent people from coming? They are desperate and have travelled thousands of miles — illegality is the very least of their worries. Will they all be put in prison (our prisons are overfull with more than 80,000 prisoners)? Are the police expected to track their movements?

Everyone from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders, the police, all the humanitarian agencies involved, including the churches, and all who work directly with asylum seekers and victims of modern slavery, agree this bill will not achieve its aims.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Nichols summarised the views of so many: 'Focused international cooperation, safe routes to sanctuary and joint efforts to tackle poverty are needed in the face of a global flood of desperate humanity.'

As many have said, asylum seekers if effectively and fairly treated have much to offer this country. One correspondent explained the craziness of the present policy. 'Trying to deter migration by restrictive and legalistic means has as much chance of success as a maternity unit that turns away mothers about to give birth.'

NAZANIN ZAGHARI RATCLIFFE

We will all have seen the dignified attempts of Nazanin's husband Richard to get her released from her detention in Iran for six years on the charge of plotting against the Iranian government.

She is a dual national who used to work here for the charitable arm of Reuters International. Recently a former colleague's wife, now Bishop of Chelmsford, made her maiden speech in the House of Lords. Guli Francis-Dehqani, is Iranian born, and she urged the Government to repay the £400 million debt owed to Iran for tanks never delivered 40 years ago. She asked for immediate action to release Nazanin.

WIFELY WISDOM

I was due to preach on Boxing Day, St Stephen's Day, the first Christian martyr. I said to my wife, 'I won't find it easy to preach about martyrdom on Boxing Day.'

She replied, 'I don't know, by Boxing Day quite a few people will feel they have been martyrs!'



DENNIS WILMOT

This time last year I was exclaiming what a year 2020 had been. It is now appropriate to talk about how tough it has been over the past two years — while yet again celebrating that

our giving has held up.

It has been difficult without many of our traditional charity events, such as a quiz night in the hall, wine tasting, and the auction and raffle on St James's Day. We have, however, been able to make up for these losses in other ways.

Our Lent appeal raised **£3,925 — up 50% on 2020** — enabling us to make generous donations to three charities: ALMA, the Diocesan of London's appeal to support groups challenging youth violence, and, locally, Activate, based in Teddington.

Our harvest appeal at **£721** for The Upper Room was well down on the previous year, though up on 2020. And while monetary donations were lower, the amount of food and other goods, including from Hampton Hill Nursery School, Carlisle Infants and Hampton Hill Junior, was up hugely according to the driver from The Upper Room who had to make two fully-loaded van collections.

£375 was also raised for the London Churches Refugee Fund. The church PCC again approved **£1,500** for Welcare and Bishop Wand School.

Sponsored cycling for Milo hospital

The really big story in the autumn was the success of the appeal for St Luke's Hospital, Milo, Tanzania, mostly due to our vicar's idea of a sponsored cycle ride, together with Liz Wilmot, of 20 miles in Bushy Park. This event,



Tanzania St Luke's Hospital, Milo, received one of our largest donations, from a sponsored cycle ride across Bushy Park.

together with a bookstall, raised **£2,600**, very close to three times as much as we gave to the hospital in 2020. The money was used for refurbishing the paediatric ward. Drs Adrian and Hilary Murray sent their heartfelt thanks.

The total collected for charity in 2021, traditionally excluding Christian Aid and the Children's Society, was **£9,121**. This is up considerably on 2020 (£6,894). Again, our supporters seem to have responded very positively despite the lack of face-to-face contact.

This year sees us supporting a new church link in northern Mozambique reported on by Laurence Sewell in the last issue. I can also advise that the Diocese of London Lent Appeal for 2022 will be supporting three charities which work with churches to help them deal with issues raised by those suffering from mental health, wellbeing and domestic abuse.

Thank you on behalf of all the good causes St James's supports.

Ringing the changes



THREE NEW recruits have joined the team who ring the bells at St James's Church. Erica Richardson and William and Gabriel St John-Smith have been learning to ring the bells since October. They have now joined the team and rang before the 9:30 service for the first time on 9 January.

REGISTERS

NOVEMBER

BAPTISM

28 George William MacFarlane, Hampton

FUNERALS

10 Robert James Bell, 84, Hampton Hill
19 Eileen Alannah Davey, 87, Hampton Hill

DECEMBER

FUNERALS

13 Paddy Nolan, stillborn, High Wycombe
13 Sheila Annette Brewer, 89, Marlow
21 Muriel Frances Sanders, 80, Cricklewood

INTERMENT OF ASHES

4 Marcella Fraser, 84, Twickenham



As one door closes...

Nick left school in 1980 and joined his local newspaper as a trainee reporter, completing a three-year apprenticeship before qualifying. In 1991 he joined the BBC as a Broadcast Journalist, based at Television Centre in London, producing the national news programmes. After being seriously injured in a road traffic accident he changed careers, working in theatre, before becoming parish administrator at St James's Church in 2016.

1 SIGNED BOOK

I have always loved reading. As a child I remember saving my pocket money to buy books. I survived measles, mumps and chicken pox due to Enid Blyton's *Secret Seven* or *Famous Five* novels! They were replaced in my teens by political memoirs, and biographies and these, along with crime fiction (including Scandi noir) remain my favourites. A large percentage are biographies of journalists who one day I would work alongside. I must have about 800 signed editions by now. I get them from specialist shops, though I do on occasions stand in line to receive one in person. The biggest problem now is space. I really need a second study!

2 HOLD THE FRONT PAGE

I knew from an early age — seven, I'm told — that I wanted to be a journalist. I joined my local newspaper group and spent time at various district offices, living above or in lodgings. Being a 'Cub Reporter' as a trainee was called, meant covering a lot of flower shows, golden weddings, and magistrates courts, but it taught me the importance of accuracy, however trivial the story might seem. A colleague mixed up the winners of the Largest Marrow and Best Carrot and the secretary never forgave him! My kit was basic: a notebook, pen + shorthand of 120 words a minute (there were no voice recorders in my day), change for telephone kiosks, and a torch! It was quite common to get called out at night to a fire. There was limited time to scribble together a story, find a phone box and read it to a copytaker. I wrote for morning and evening daily papers as well as a weekly. It's a big thing to get your first page one 'splash' with a by-line (your name in print). My mum had carefully cut them out and kept them in a book, which I discovered years later. I stayed at the newspaper for 11 years, becoming their youngest ever Deputy Chief Sub-editor.

3 BBC PASS

My time at the newspaper had been fun, but my ambition had always been to work for the BBC. Luck was on my side. I applied to become a producer, and from 11,000 applicants was shortlisted and invited to face a 'BBC Board' — an interview panel of senior editors. Television Centre was an exciting place to work. On one occasion I stood behind a Cyberman in the canteen queue, on another I rubbed shoulders with Richard ('I don't believe it') Wilson in the BBC Club. As a producer, I worked with correspondents and camera crews, carrying out interviews, writing 'the cue' read by the news presenter, and editing the news stories. Often I would be in an edit suite finishing the lead story as the opening titles were running. One night an engineer cut through a mains cable and plunged the BBC into darkness. Moira Stewart and I met crawling on the floor, lost

4 INDIANA JONES

I met my wife while working at the BBC — though our first meeting might have been our last. I had joined friends from the newsroom to watch *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. I met Genevieve while sharing an ice cream with Jill Dando — and she thought the star would win the fight! Somehow we ended up on a date, this time without any onscreen talent in the way. I used to say that Genevieve went into the cinema for Harrison Ford... and came out with me! We're reminded of it every time the film is on TV.

5 MRI SCAN

After years of writing the news, in 1992 I ended up making it. Genevieve and I were two months away from our

wedding, and busy with the arrangements when we were hit head-on by a minibus. We were lucky to survive. The accident made several front pages and a friend reported on it on local TV. We spent six weeks in hospital and I was in and out for the next ten years for more surgery. Many of the surgeons became friends, so while an MRI scan might seem a strange thing to keep, it is as much a part of my life as an old photo.

6 SAN GIMIGNANO

We got married at the third attempt because of the accident. Both of us loved Italy, and it was a natural choice for our honeymoon. We weren't up to a fly-drive, trip so joined an organised group. We returned a year later to do it independently, renting an apartment in the centre of San Gimignano. We fell in love with the area and spent our remaining lira on a ceramic model. We keep it with some icing flowers from our wedding cake.

7 THEATRE

Both of us love live theatre — we got married in Shakespeare's church in Stratford Upon Avon — and we have seen some memorable performances. When my injuries forced me to change jobs I joined Richmond Theatre as Friends' Coordinator. When I left there, they produced a montage of theatre brochures with my face morphed on to them!

8 A DAUGHTER

I still remember Genevieve's excitement at telling me that she was pregnant. Emma timed her arrival to perfection, just as the evening news ended! Returning home as a family was daunting, but watching her grow and develop has its compensations. It's hard to believe that she is now a teenager. An imprint of a hand and foot is a reminder of how it began.

9 BEAR'S FOOTPRINT

Another footprint is a reminder of a memorable holiday getting up close to grizzly bears in Canada. Knight Inlet Lodge lies in one of the last intact temperate rainforests on earth. We visited during the salmon season, a bear feeding frenzy before hibernation. We took a walk one day. We didn't meet any bears, but on retracing our steps we found the footprint of a grizzly. Our guide took a plaster cast and gave it to us.

10 TESTING FAITH

My faith intensified following the accident — I certainly prayed a lot before my brain surgery! But it went deeper than just asking God for things: I had a lot to be thankful for. After Emma was born I made the decision to be confirmed (my certificate is pictured) and over time my involvement at St James's grew. When the role of Parish Administrator was advertised, I heard a voice telling me to apply. And here I am — hopefully repaying some of God's faith in me.



Nick Bagge dusts off his cuttings and heads to the attic as he takes a journey through his life as a journalist, husband and father. It's been an eventful time to date, but as the old maxim says: 'As one door closes, another one opens...'

