

JULY 2022 OUR OPEN DAY

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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Towering view



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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn
Derek was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He served in several diverse London parishes before becoming vicar here in 2016. He is married to Sandra, a teacher, and has two children. A keen photographer, he posts a picture online every day, combining it with a daily walk or cycle ride. He can be contacted at any time other than on Wednesdays (his day off).
Tel: 020 8241 5904
Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister, 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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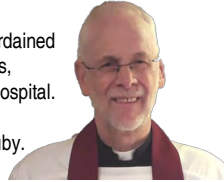
ASSISTANT PRIEST Canon Julian Reindorp

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, is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren.
Tel: 020 8614 6800 **Email: julianreindorp@outlook.com**



ASSISTANT PRIEST 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 Kingstons 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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Nick Bagge

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FROM THE EDITOR...

After all the splendour of the Platinum Jubilee, St James's celebrates its patron saint over the weekend of 2-3 July. Saturday will be an open day, while on Sunday we have a special service and lunch.

One of the features of the Jubilee celebrations has been the planting of flowers and trees. Last year, a nature count in the churchyard found an abundance of animals, insets and plants. This year's count is even higher. Historic Royal Palaces are making a splash with wildflower meadows at Hampton Court Palace. The biggest display will be at the Tower of London. A lack of rain has delayed it, but it promises to be a wonderful display from now onwards.

Our cover has an aerial view of the church taken by a drone. You can see the spire for many miles around. In Richmond Park it is noted on the display board at King Henry's Mound. You can climb the spire on our open day. Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has supported the Spire Appeal to help towards printing costs. You can still give money (the details are in the box below).

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: An aerial view of St James's Church, taken from a drone (theskycam.co.uk).

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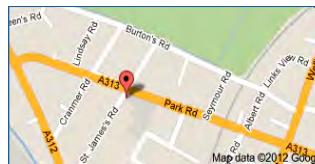
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Finding us



The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is between the church and vicarage. There is ample unrestricted parking. Buses stopping nearby include the R68, R70 and 285.

Follow us

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

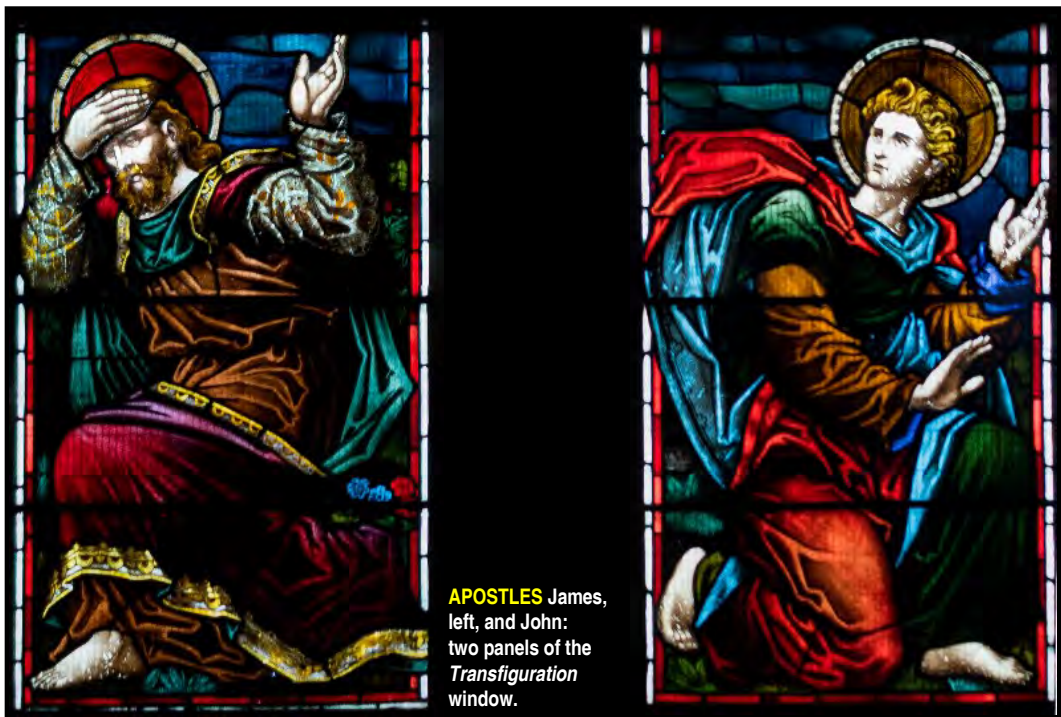
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Clerical Capers



'I've moved with the times,' said the visiting bishop. 'I've now got a solar-powered radio microphone.'

How did we come to be James's church?



APOSTLES James, left, and John: two panels of the Transfiguration window.



DEREK WINTERBURN

Which James is ours?

Our St James is *James the Apostle*, the brother of John, one of four fishermen that Jesus called to 'catch people', and one of his closest friends (with John and Peter). Part of the stained glass window of the transfiguration is shown above. Acts 12 tells us that he was the first apostle to be martyred.



The next best known James from the Bible is James the brother of Jesus. Acts depicts him as the 'Chairman' of the Council of Jerusalem, the leader of the fledgling church. Tradition, I think with good reason, attributes to him the Letter of James in the New Testament. He is sometimes called *James the Just*.

Incredibly, there are no Anglican churches in England dedicated unequivocally to him. There are two other James, usually taken to be the same man: the second James in the list of the 12 apostles and *James the Younger*, son of a (not *the*) Mary, and so named to distinguish him from our James. So, there are churches dedicated to *St James the Less* or *St James the Great*.

Why were so many people called James in Jesus's world? Well none were! They were called Jacob, a patriarch in the Jewish Bible. It was only after the King James Version of the Bible was published that it became common to translate Jacob as James.

the mid-14th century when King Edward III moved the Royal family's ceremonial robes and garments from the Tower to a house near the church. The house became known as the Great Wardrobe. That parish needed to be distinguished from St Andrew Undershaft, less than a mile away.

This St Andrew was 'under' (beside, we would say) the shaft of a maypole. The pole itself was a casualty of the anti-foreigners *Evil May Day* riot in 1517 and was never re-erected, but the name survived! Although many things in the Church of England changed in the Reformation, naming churches after saints continued.

Churches of many names

According to the current list there are 446 different dedications of Anglican churches in England. Not surprisingly, the most common are to Mary, about 16%. Even thinking locally, there are St Mary churches in Sunbury, Hampton, Teddington and Twickenham! Even without *St Mary the Virgin*, and the *Blessed Virgin Mary*, *St Mary* is still the most common dedication (1516).

All Saints (1425) and St Peter (1327) are not far behind. Then there is a big drop to the rest! St James comes in at number 10 (467). There are 12 other dedications to St James in the London Diocese, but no others in the Kensington Area.

It is the Diocesan Bishop that has the authority to set the name of a new church. Obviously they would be wise to consult those who are involved locally in the creation of a new parish.

I wonder what suggestion might have been made to Rt Rev Archibald Campbell Tait by Rev James Burrows, vicar of St Mary's Hampton, who had initiated the new parish?

This is the time of the year that we focus on St James in particular, because his festival day is 25 July.

History does not tell us why the new church in Hampton Hill,

dedicated in 1863, was named James.


Since the fourth century when Christians were legally able to own buildings for worship, it was conventional to name them after eminent figures.

Frequently, bones of martyrs were placed in the church, perhaps under the altar-table. So the church took the name of the saint. The original St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome were named in this way.

Other churches that remain from that time in Israel took their name from events in the life of Christ (The Church of Holy Nativity in Bethlehem, and the Church of the Resurrection / Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem).

Curious names

Closer to home, the curious names of some of the older churches in the City of London illustrate that this ancient practice continued: combining the name of a saint with some local feature. One instance is St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe! Although a Wren building (1695), it takes its name from

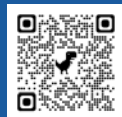
Holy Communion (said) 8am
Parish Communion 9:30am 
 (11am on 3 Jul) Streamed live.
Together 11:15am (Not 3 Jul)
 Our shorter, all-age service, including a story, singing and crafts. All ages welcome!

Mon-Fri (but not Thu)
Morning Prayer 9am
 A short service of daily prayer in church

Thursdays
Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

Open to View
Sat 2 July 2-5pm

Our annual open day is your chance to explore the church. Climb the spire for unrivalled views, try bell ringing, enjoy an organ recital, or take a guided church tour. There will also be a nature trail, refreshments and a raffle. Book tower tours at <https://bit.ly/StJTower22> or use QR code.



St James's Day
Sun 3 July 11am

Join us as we celebrate our patron saint. Our guest preacher is Rt Rev John Went, former Bishop of Tewkesbury. Following the service, lunch will be served in the vicarage garden (weather permitting).



Ark Playgroup (to 18 Jul)
Mondays 10:15am-12:15pm

Our popular group for carers and under 5s, with singing, crafts, stories and plenty of play. It's a great place to make new friends. £2 per family, including refreshments!

Connections Café
Tue 5 July 10:30am-12:30pm

Join us at the social club for all ages, with coffee, cake, games and puzzles, and time to meet and make new friends. Alongside the café there is a walk-in hearing aid clinic for servicing and advice.

Pop-up Cinema FREE
Sing 2 (U) Saturday 16 July 4pm
 (Doors open 3:30pm)

A gorilla sings Coldplay and a lion gets his claws into U2. It can only be *Sing 2!* All your favourite singing, dancing all-stars return in the definitive feel-good event of the year. This is a film for all the family. Refreshments available to buy.



Out of Africa: our



DEREK WINTERBURN

John Wesley famously said 'The world is my parish.' And it has often been said that for many of us 'my world is my parish'. For we belong to 'my church', it is where we go on Sunday, and to which we give our collection. Our bishops are occasional reminders that there is a wider (Church of England) church in London. And the odd references in the media to the Archbishop alert us to the national church.

My guess is that we largely forget that we are part of a large family of churches that spans the world: the Anglican Communion.

It is generally regarded as the third largest Christian denomination with member churches in 165 countries. Over the past 30 years there have been various initiatives to make links between components of the Anglican Communion. Every Diocese in the Church of England has one or more links with a diocese in another part of the Anglican Communion.

London's links with Africa

London's companion links are Mozambique and Angola. London is unusual, but not unique, in having more than one link, *but* only links with dioceses in the developing world. In London the link is coordinated by ALMA (Angola London Mozambique Association) which was set up in 1998 when a covenant was signed by the bishops.

St James's has been involved in supporting ALMA for many years;

Ann Peterken played a very active part in the early days of ALMA and Paul Peterken still maintains the ALMA website. Laurence Sewell now represents us in ALMA.



Hello from Mercuburi The faces of some of the worshippers of our new link parish

Derek Winterburn introduces us to our link parish, St Luke's Mercuburi, in the Diocese of Nampula, in NE Mozambique



In the past year we have established a parish-to-parish link. Through ALMA we have been matched with St Luke's Mercuburi, in the Diocese of Nampula.

Mercuburi is a rural area; the people are mainly farmers. It is 50 miles from the city of Nampula. The priest there is Father Mauritio Namilo. In the whole parish there

are 40 churches (yes 40!). So he travels each week visiting as many as he can. He has no car so he walks or cycles; sometimes he borrows a motorbike.

Building for the future

St Luke's in Mercuburi was founded in 1960, and Fr Mauritio has been there since 2012. The original building is now deteriorating and is too small. They are presently raising money to finish a new church.

We are slowly building a relationship between our two parishes. There are two major obstacles. Firstly, Mozambicans speak Portuguese, and local languages. Fr Mauritio does not have any English. Secondly, internet connections are not good,



Sunday best The women dress for church and the weather



Building Work has begun on a new church

and conversations via Zoom or WhatsApp are quite difficult. Nevertheless, we persevere and we feel we are getting to know one another. Google Translate helps

link parish

Around the Spire



Street life Some of the traders out early to catch 'commuters' on their way to work

with short text messages quite well, and it is possible to share photos and videos.

Sharing life experiences

The primary purpose of the parish link is to share what it is like to live and believe in a different land. For example, we talked recently about the war in Ukraine — how it dominated our news.

Fr Mauritio shared how the price of their bread had also gone up dramatically. We have also discussed the impact of climate change, which made extreme rainfall heavier and more damaging during January and February. More than a million people were affected across the region, with 230 reported deaths. Rainfall (always precious!) had been concentrated in two storms and Fr Mauritio was concerned about the maize harvest. In Nampula, production is likely to be below average, and poorer families will be reliant on aid agencies for rations. Year on year, as the temperature rises, crops are likely to fail without access to irrigation.

These are early days on what should be a mutually enriching relationship. Others are very welcome to join in the link-team, and we will continue to do our best to involve the wider church in the partnership.

MOZAMBIQUE



Population: 31 million.
Religion: 28% Catholic, 28% Protestant, 18% Muslim.
Land: 310,000 square miles.

History: Almost five centuries as a Portuguese colony came to a close with independence in 1975.

Large-scale emigration by whites, economic dependence on South Africa, a severe drought, and a prolonged civil war hindered the country's development.

The ruling party formally abandoned Marxism in 1989, and a new constitution the following year provided for multiparty elections and a free market economy.

A UN-negotiated peace agreement with rebel forces ended the fighting in 1992.



Motoring on Father Mauritio has 40 parish churches to visit!



FAREWELL LETTER TO ST JAMES'S

Welcome signs of a good place

ST JAMES WAS a spire in the distance when I first arrived at my new home on the borders of Fulwell and Hampton. I had a new job running a ward at Charing Cross Hospital. Life became a routine of working hard five days a week and exploring London in the remaining two.

I had attended church regularly in Aberdeen and was keen to find somewhere to worship. I can't recall the first time I set foot inside St James's, but I do recall the beauty of the church and the familiarity of worship.



They knew my father

The first people who spoke to me were John and Betty Rainbow. I was standing on my own rather forlornly when they approached. What a difference when you are greeted warmly by people who really do want to know all about you! The most amazing thing was that they met my father in Zimbabwe and shared a meal with him. I saw this as a good sign.

It took time to get to know everyone, but I was happy to be part of the congregation. Thanks to Ann Peterken I became involved in the charities group.

Helping me to belong

Other things have helped me to belong. There were Lent groups, I went to Sri Lanka with a group led by Brian Leathard, and I was encouraged to join the PCC. A group of us went to South Africa, the land of my birth, and two years later to Orkney and Shetland. I went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Peter Vannozi and Julian Reindorp, and I trod in Paul's footsteps in Greece, with Derek.

I joined the Lent Groups, became a welcome (which I loved doing), and I went to Julian's *Faith at Work* meetings on Saturdays where one of us talked about our faith.

I retired in 2015 and Derek arrived soon after. Nick Bagge had done a wonderful job during the vacancy, as had Julian and Jacky. I was now ready to give more time to St James's. Rodney Taylor was poorly at the time, so I was delighted when he told me that he approved of me becoming a warden.

These past few years have been a huge learning curve, but I have been helped by Derek and Nick and had wonderful support from the congregation.

Pastures new

When you read this I will be in Edinburgh and soon a new home. It was the right time to go. I want to spend time with my son, his wife, and my delightful grandson, but I take away many happy memories.

I have realised over 20 years that the church wasn't just built for people to worship, but also to encourage the feeling of community. I saw this when a group, who had been at school together, shared a joint birthday celebration with us. It showed that the church was part of a wider community. I felt it at the funeral of my younger son, Richard, when people supported me.

We are a family, and we should all be doing all we can to help this wonderful place to continue. Derek works hard and deserves our support — both financial and time. What is volunteering? I think it is doing things that are out of your comfort zone. Perhaps joining the choir, serving coffee on Sundays, welcoming, attending a different service, or joining a group.

Growing in faith

It all comes back to growing in faith, the most important reason for attending church, and St James's makes that possible. So thank you. I will keep you in my prayers.

■ My address from 15 July will be GF1, 15 Trinity Crescent, Trinity, Edinburgh, EH5 3ED.

Gwynneth Lloyd

Brave, devoted disciple



TIM MARWOOD

Jesus then sends Mary Magdalene to his disciples to give them the news of his resurrection. Mary Magdalene is often called the 'Apostle to the Apostles' in view of this commission from Jesus.

What makes Mary a hero?

Realisation
Mary Magdalene realised the unique and sacred nature of Jesus. This may have come about when Mary was healed by Jesus from what we would describe as a mental illness. Through her realisation of his unique nature, Mary understands what makes Jesus a very special teacher, she 'gets it' and holds to that belief from that time forward.

Mary Magdalene is an inspiring role model. I have met many such women of faith in the church, inspiring those around them, whose role as teachers has often been unnoticed. Have you met such a person? Did you acknowledge her influence on your faith?

Resilience
The women remained with Jesus as he hung on the cross. They were in great peril — the low status of women in their society accorded them little protection against any violence that might have come their way, and yet they stuck to their task of standing by Jesus until the end.

Christian Aid Week this year celebrated the effect that the resilience of women can have on their communities. Mary Magdalene and the other women of her group were 'in it for the long haul', they supported the journeyings of Jesus as he took his teaching ministry from place to place, and they were there at what appeared to be the end on Good Friday. It was not in their character to give up on an unpopular cause when all seemed lost.

Recognition
Mary Magdalene's recognition of Christ after his Resurrection was not immediate, but she did recognise the voice of Jesus as soon as he said her name. Mary Magdalene was the first person to recognise that Jesus had risen from the dead and she was rightly entrusted with the role of telling the apostles what had taken place.

In our day have the talents of women as teachers of the faith been fully released from the limitations that have been in place for centuries? I am not qualified to answer that question. It would be interesting to hear your views!

Do you know someone who can be guaranteed to 'keep the faith', who can be relied upon when the going gets tough? These days, we might describe such a person as being 'there for you' in the good times and the bad. Mary Magdalene is portrayed as that kind of faithful person in all four Gospels.

In Luke Chapter 8 verse 2 we read that Mary Magdalene was healed by Jesus and became part of the group of followers who accompanied him during his ministry. Mary came from Magdala, a town by the Sea of Galilee, she is mentioned 12 times by name in the Gospels, more than most of the male apostles. She is often mentioned first amongst a group of women who played an important role in supporting Jesus during his ministry.

Women were braver than men

In the Gospels the accounts of Jesus's crucifixion mention a group of women watching nearby (three Gospels mention Mary Magdalene by name). These women remained as witnesses after the men had run away. Why was this? Some scholars say that the women were braver than the men, others that they were less likely to be arrested.

In art Mary Magdalene is often depicted as standing at the foot of the Cross with Mary the Mother of Jesus. In Mark Chapter 15 verse 47 both women are recorded as witnesses to the burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea.

In John Chapter 20 verses 1-10 we read how Mary Magdalene went alone to the tomb while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been rolled away. She ran to alert Peter and the beloved disciple who returned with her and found the tomb empty.

The narrative continues in John verses 11—18 with Mary initially mistaking the risen Jesus for a gardener, recognising him only after hearing him speak her name. Mary Magdalene then calls Jesus by the title *Rabbouni* which means 'teacher', the familiar term used by his followers.

Protecting God's creation



DEREK WINTERBURN

The Eco-church Team enjoyed a renaissance after our Lent Course last year explored *Caring for Creation*. The five week study covered climate change and other damage done to the natural world through a number of interviews, including people in the developing world directly affected. The material was challenging, and encouraged action. As a result, the Eco-church Team was rejuvenated and given fresh purpose.

Good practices

We were not starting from nowhere, and very quickly, with some restarting of good practices, like ensuring we were using recycled materials, we were able to apply for an Eco-church Bronze award. We continue to manage the churchyard for wildlife; our land is a major responsibility when we consider 'care for creation.' Each week, there are tips or news from a sustainability perspective in the weekly email.

Significant initiatives

But there were three significant initiatives last year. In May / June St James's took part in the *Churches Count on Nature* — this was a week in which church members, the public, and other groups, were asked to note down 'anything wild' that they saw in the churchyard. The Hampton Hill Nursery, the Brownies, Scouts, and Hampton Hill Juniors, all took part.

Overall, 99 species were logged. The same event ran this year from 4 June. *Churches Count on Nature* is now recommending the *iNaturalist* app to log species, and data can then be collected throughout the year.

Over 120 species were counted this year in the official week. Our own running list, with pictures, can be found at: <https://bit.ly/StJINat>.

Big Green open day

Then in the autumn, inspired by the success of the *Open to View Saturday* in July, we held another open Saturday, encouraging visitors to the churchyard, and

challenging people to think about the carbon footprint of their food, and what actions they might take. This was part of the national *Big Green Week*, prior to the COP26.

Cycle shelter

Lastly, the PCC agreed to match donations for a new covered cycle shelter. This would improve ease of cycle parking and security enormously. People were very generous! This has now been installed in the churchyard. Maybe this will encourage you to cycle to church, or to spend some time in the churchyard, watching the wildlife or admiring the diverse fauna and flora.



New challenges



For the future, we need to do some more work on reducing our energy use and we should be able to apply for a silver Eco-church award.

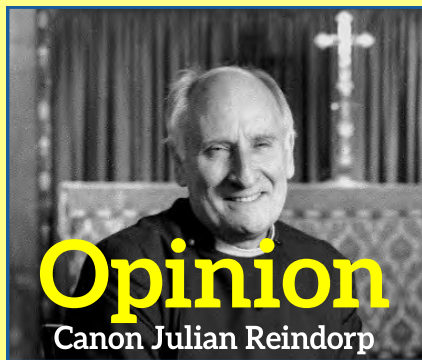
Talking Eco this autumn

On 25 September, again as part of the *Big Green Week*, Helen Stephens, pictured, Church Relations Manager for the Christian environmental Charity, A Rocha UK, will speak at our 9.30 service.

'There's a big role for churches in being part of a movement for change,' said Helen. 'I'm very much encouraged by stories of what churches are doing. I'd love to see more churches getting involved, deepening the good work already going on.'



Bringing happiness to broken families



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

HOME OFFICE FIT FOR...?

It was Labour Home Secretary John Reid who said in 2006 that the Home Office 'is not fit for purpose'. Since then, we have had Theresa May's *Hostile Environment* to deter illegal immigration; followed by the Windrush Scandal, when thousands of West Indians who came to Britain in the 1950s and whose children were born here, faced repatriation without the right documents; documents in many cases not given in the first place.

Then we had the shockingly slow response from the Home Office to welcoming Ukrainian refugees. Now, we have the Rwanda scheme, where anyone arriving in the UK on a small boat seeking sanctuary (28,000 last year) will be flown to Rwanda where their asylum claim will be processed, without the option of returning to the UK. Is the Home Office fit for purpose for any such scheme?

A BROKEN SYSTEM?

At the moment it is taking more than a year to process 'illegal immigrants' and their asylum claims. Until they are accepted, they cannot earn money, and receive just enough in benefits to survive. Of those not accepted, two-thirds go on to win their appeal and are allowed to stay.

RWANDA A SAFE COUNTRY?

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has described Rwanda as one of the safest countries in the world, yet last year the UK's international ambassador for human rights accused the country of human rights violations. Rita French also said the country was failing to support victims of human trafficking. Britain has accepted asylum seekers claims from Rwanda over the past decade. Although Rwanda has made great strides in economic growth, socially and politically it still bears the scars of the recent past, including the genocide of 1994.

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

Almost at the same time as the Rwanda scheme was announced, the Fabian Society — the left-leaning think tank — published *New Arrivals*, a fair immigration plan for Labour. The author is Thom Brooks, professor of law and government at Durham University, himself an immigrant who became a citizen in 2011.

Mindful of Boris Johnson's statement that 'there is no silver bullet to solve this crisis', he makes 62 recommendations including an end to indefinite detention. Implicit in this is a changed attitude by the Home Office, allowing asylum seekers to find work after six months, developing the extradition arrangements with Europe (what used to be the Dublin agreement), reviewing the safe legal routes for claiming asylum and banning outsourcing of vetting asylum applications to third countries.

After a recent discussion between different political views on the BBC's *Politics Programme*, not least about the legal battles ahead, Camilla Tominey, associate editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, was asked if she thought the Rwanda scheme would go ahead? She replied 'No!' I only hope she is right.

PAPER CANDIDATE

I explained to a 10-year-old grandson that I was standing as a Labour candidate in the local elections. 'Will you be famous grandpa?' he asked. His mother, my daughter, replied in a withering tone, 'Grandpa is just a paper candidate'.

In the event he was very proud of my 440 votes, not seeming to worry that I was 1000 votes short of being elected. Nor that our council would still have no Labour councillors after 25 years. In our ward we continue to have two very good Liberal Democrat councillors and a new Green one.

Being born in South Africa, playing some part in local democracy has always been vital for me. Sadly a heavy bout of sciatica meant hardly any campaigning.



DENNIS WILMOT

We have a proud association with Welcare, going back many years. The Christian charity helps families with children up to the age of 13, providing practical and emotional help and one-to-one support.

In the Richmond area, where our money is targeted, the charity focuses on families living with the legacy of domestic abuse and violence, as well as children with special needs.

Welcare has been strengthening families since 1894, and found a way to continue that work through the pandemic. In partnership with local Anglican churches it is providing practical support, emergency grants, food vouchers, and access to computers and mobile phones.

Caring Dads group

A new Caring Dads group is being piloted, parenting courses which plan to help men become better fathers. Other new Welcare projects include The Family & Schools Together (FAST) initiative, which works towards supporting children who have difficulties with social and emotional wellbeing, often caused at home, many of whom are in danger of being excluded from school.



Playtime Welcare helps to nurture happy and confident children. Below: Welcare CEO Anna Khan giving a talk in Teddington.



Abusive situations

The charity helped a mother suffering violent and emotional abuse from her husband, who also wanted to take their daughter overseas to a country where children are often subject to female genital mutilation.

Dealing with divorce and access rights also meant the daughter became frightened and vulnerable. Welcare provided help via *MySpace*, their community-based treatment and recovery programme for children affected by domestic violence and abuse. This focuses on helping children to recognise and understand their feelings, to raise self-esteem, to improve their family relationships, and support the parents to understand and help their child. In this case the father has been banned in court from taking his daughter out of the country.

Cash boost for growth

THE CHURCH of England is significantly increasing funding for the next three years. It will be used to support parishes and grow new worshipping communities, with ministries to young people especially targeted.

The Church Commissioners for England will distribute £1.2 billion from 2023-25 — up 30% from £930 million in the current three-year period. They also plan to maintain this level of funding in the subsequent six years.

In total, they plan to distribute £3.6 billion to frontline work between 2023 and 2031, making them and the Archbishops' Council among the largest grant givers in the country.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: 'I am especially pleased that the funding will support our aims to double the number of children and young disciples by 2030 and aid the parish system in what the Church does best: making the love of God known to every person.'



REGISTERS

APRIL

None

MAY

BAPTISM

22 Henry Arthur Cooke-Yarborough, Hampton Hill

FUNERAL

4 Helen Howie, 92, Whitton



Let the music play on

I was born in Kingston Hospital and brought up by my parents in Barnes, with my older brother. My parents both had a strong Christian faith and we attended St Mary's, Barnes. In my teens I helped my Dad in Sunday School.

I have been attending St James's for over 40 years and the church family has been ever-present throughout my life — not least in all the rites of passage which have taken place in that time: baptisms, confirmations, weddings and latterly next-generation baptisms.

I have been involved in many church activities over the years: Young Families, the choir, Liturgical Dancing/Fellowship Group, Sunday School and the Hospitality Team to name but a few. I am currently involved in the Ark Playgroup, the Care and Contact (Visitors) Group and church cleaning.

1 Music

My parents were both musical — Dad played the trumpet and Mum was a singer. I started piano lessons at the age of eight and was introduced to an eclectic range of music genres as I grew up. I adored 60s music, especially the Beatles — I saw, but couldn't hear, them at Hammersmith Odeon!

We went as a family to many BBC Proms concerts and I am hugely grateful to my parents for their musical investment in my upbringing.

2 School

I attended Tiffin Girls' School, in Kingston, and thoroughly enjoyed it! I remember thinking at the time that it is true what they say about school days being the best time of your life. I had to work hard academically, which I didn't mind, and I had the most fun playing in the hockey and rounders teams. Sometimes, we played against The Lady Eleanor Holles School, which seemed so far from Barnes at the time. Little did I know that eventually I would be living just up the road! I continued to play hockey until I was in my 40s.

3 Work

After school, I worked in London for seven years as an International GPO telephonist in the Faraday Exchange near St Paul's Cathedral. It was interesting and varied work and I loved it. I witnessed much of the progress towards automation in the communications field. I still meet up with friends I made there.

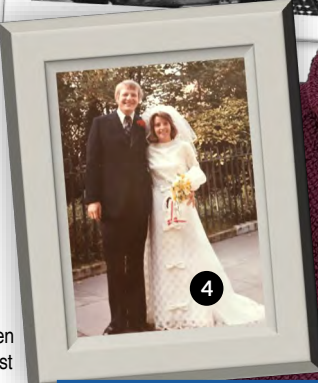
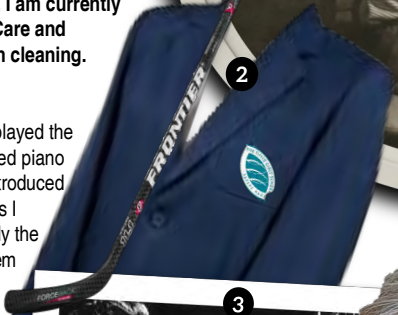
4 Marriage

While at Tiffin, I had met a girl who introduced me to bell ringing at St Mary's, Mortlake. At the church's youth club I met John and the rest is history! We married there and moved to a flat in Clapham. There followed a few years' gap in my church attendance, until we moved to Hampton and had Geoffrey baptised at St James's.

I then responded to a *Spire* article written by Eila Severn, encouraging parents with small children to bring them to the 9:30am Sunday morning communion service, but delaying the arrival until 10am, after the sermon, as that would be quite long enough for them. I am not sure that I would have returned to the church habit if it were not for Eila.

5 Family

I took seven years out of work while raising our two children, Geoffrey and Suzanne. I got involved in running two Mother



For the last few years I was there, Susannah Nettleton was appointed music specialist and we worked together,

which was fabulous. I spent 27 very happy years at Carlisle.

As my children got older, I also embarked on many happy years working as a classroom assistant in various schools with children with additional needs. I filled up most of the week doing this, eventually cutting it back down to just Carlisle. I retired in 2013.

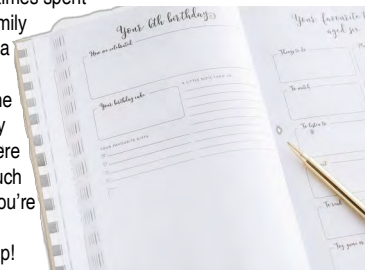
7 Ark Playgroup

In 2009, I helped set up the Ark Playgroup, under the direction of our vicar, Peter Vannozi, and curate Debbie Oades. This is a huge commitment for me and my team every Monday in term time, but it is very rewarding.

8 Children and grandchildren

What takes up by far the most space in this box are my memories of my children and grandchildren. I thank God for their presence in my life. I have a big collection of photo albums, which has grown greatly since 2009, when my first grandchild, Pippa, was born, followed by Henry and Sophie in 2010 and Effie in 2013.

I had great fun recently putting together an album for my daughter Suzanne's 40th birthday. I also keep individual diaries about each grandchild, containing photos, mementos and records of times spent together and family milestones. It's a hobby I love. I wish I had done the same for my children, but there is no time for such luxuries when you're in the middle of bringing them up!



Debbie Nunn values happy school days with a hockey stick, the age before mobile phones, and meeting her husband at youth club. Throughout it, her life has been filled with music and precious family occasions.

and Toddler clubs (at St James's and All Saints) and formed lifelong friendships with other local mums and their families. Yoga and Line Dancing became hobbies at that time. The picture here is of the Liturgical Dancers at St James's. I'm in the middle in front of Ramani. Eila's daughter, Coryn, is front centre.

6 Carlisle Infant School

Just as Suzanne started nursery, Coryn asked me if I would like to become the pianist at Carlisle Infant School. I jumped at the chance. It was daunting at first, as I was asked to play all sorts of new music and my sight reading left a lot to be desired! But 'needs must when the devil drives' and it improved no end over the years.