

JUNE 2022 THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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## Our Platinum Queen

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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 1951. 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...

The Queen features on our cover in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee on 2 June – 70 years is a remarkable achievement. She was also married to Prince Philip for over 70 years. I remember my headmistress coming into the gym at school to tell us that George VI had died. I also recall watching the Coronation on a black and white TV. How times have changed. Like us, the Queen is now adept at using Zoom! Derek reflects on her life in his leader on page three.

The centrespread is written by Jane Newman, a trustee and volunteer at the River Thames Boat Project. The charity has two boats which can be hired. I had the privilege of going on a cruise with the Crossroads charity for carers. The crew were so friendly. I highly recommend it.

Enclosed with this edition is our Annual Appeal. We raised over £1,700 last time and this goes towards production costs. Perhaps we can reach £2,000 this time. Thank you in advance for all your generous donations.

Let's hope June will see the sun. The Diamond Jubilee river pageant in 2012 was held in torrential rain!

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: The Queen celebrating her 34th birthday at Buckingham Palace © Alamy

SPIRE

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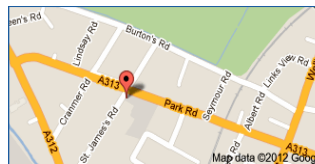
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Finding us



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



Heather looked radiant in white, the details picked out subtly in gold...

# Life of faith and duty



**H**ow does one write about the Queen? I have seen her in the flesh on a few occasions, but never met her. Most of my knowledge of how she has lived her life, and ruled, has come through television and newspapers, but I am wary of them, there is usually an angle! And then there is *The Crown*, which I do not trust at all!

When I have tried to explain to people from overseas the origin of the Church of England and its relationship with the monarchy, I've been acutely aware of how odd it all sounds.

Even though most of the character of the Church of England followed on from the actions of Edward VI and Elizabeth I, Henry VIII and his six wives are an inevitable part of the story! As indeed is Oliver Cromwell and the Civil War. But we are where we are, and the monarch has a role in the church, as well as in the religious life of the country.

## Our supreme leader?

Although she is popularly known as 'the head of the church', that's not true — Elizabeth I changed that title to 'Supreme Governor' — and she has more *influence behind the scenes* than executive power.

It is no secret that the Queen is a Christian. I wonder if someone has added up the number of great church or cathedral services she has been to over the past 70 years?! She has voluntarily attended *Sunday* services regularly throughout her life. At Windsor she would drive herself to All Saints, in the Great Park, and enter through a side door, to sit quietly before other people arrived. And, of course, there are those other holiday occasions when she has taken her family to church at Sandringham or Balmoral.

It was Queen Elizabeth I who said she would not 'open windows into men's souls', so we should be careful about interpreting what others believe from our partial knowledge of them, but I think we can give thanks for these two aspects of the Queen's faith.

## Perseverance

The Queen was formally invested with regal power at her Coronation. Although the service traces its origin back to 973, it was retouched for the 1950s. The Queen gave her permission for a hymn to be written for the congregation to sing for the first time. But the greatest innovation was that she also agreed to Prince Philip's suggestion that the service be televised, for the whole world to watch.

This was not to be just a spectacle. The heart of the epic service, the Act of Consecration, was still conducted privately behind a screen. All her finery is taken off, she remains in a simple white dress.

The moment in which the Archbishop of Canterbury anointed her, and blessed her, was just her own. And that quiet, private faith has endured. Society has changed dramatically through her reign; we can imagine that without her anchoring, our society might be even less Christian, or religious. Great national occasions, such as Remembrance Sunday, royal weddings and funerals, and Jubilee celebrations are inevitably focused around services.

Then at Christmas, annually the Queen has addressed the Commonwealth. Not just a seasonal *bon mot* or an end of the year



DEREK WINTERBURN

review, she has almost invariably drawn everyone's attention to Jesus in a way that included those of other faiths and none.

Most of us know the trials and tribulations of the Queen's family life. She has also experienced unpopularity and ridicule. However, she has spoken about how her faith has sustained her: 'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give my best in all that the day brings and put my trust in God. I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian Gospel.'

## Inspired to serve

The Queen's Speech is tailored to a particular time and audience, so it is not the place for a wide-ranging theological reflection, but a regular theme at Christmas for the Queen goes back to a speech she made before the Coronation, on her 21st birthday: 'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family, to which we all belong... God help me to make good my vow. And God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.'

This willingness to serve is a hallmark of her attitude to life. There is no doubt Elizabeth has lived this way. The example and wisdom of Jesus continually inspires her: 'countless millions of people around the world continue to celebrate Jesus's birthday at Christmas, inspired by his teaching. He makes it clear that genuine

human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served.'

## Knowing the need of a Saviour

The Queen frequently speaks about forgiveness. 'It lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships, and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we build the power of God's love.' Another time: 'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing.'

Our knowledge of the Queen is not 24/7 — although we are told of her wicked sense of humour when off camera. Nevertheless, she presents as someone who is calm and thoughtful in her words and actions. Andrew Marr wrote: 'There are no reliable recorded incidents of the Queen losing her temper, using bad language, or refusing to carry out a duty expected of her.'

But for all her self-command, to speak often of the need for forgiveness surely indicates that she has reflected on her own need for forgiveness. In 2011 she said: 'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves — from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person — neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.'

## A Jubilee Prayer

*Gracious God, we give you thanks for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen, and for the example of loving and faithful service which she has shown among us. Help us to follow her example of dedication and to commit our lives to you and to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# St James

## Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am 

(10am on 5 Jun) Streamed live.

Together 11:15am (Not 5 Jun)

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

## Ark Playgroup

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!

## Jubilee Celebration

Sun 5 June 10am

An all-age service followed by a celebration in the hall to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

## The Good Guys

Mon 6 June 7pm

To join the men's fellowship group for food and drink at The Beech House, Hampton Hill High Street, contact the office.

## Connections

Tue 7 June 10:30am-12:30pm

Join us at the social club for all ages, including a walk-in hearing aid clinic

## Gardening Club

Saturday 11 June 10am

Join us for light weeding, clearing brambles. Refreshments and laughter guaranteed!

## Life Groups

Tue 14, 21, 28 June 8pm

Join our small groups to learn and pray. Sign-up lists in church

## Messy Church

Sunday 26 June 3-5pm

If you have children, join us for an afternoon of stories, crafts, worship and food. Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJMessyJun22>

## Pop-up Cinema

FREE Saturday 16 July 4pm

(Doors open 3:30pm)

Film to be announced

# A special time on



**JANE NEWMAN**



Side by side the charity's two boats, *Thames Venturer*, and *Thames Discoverer*

I am standing on the deck of *Thames Venturer*, our converted Dutch barge, in the early morning sunshine. A stiff breeze is furrowing the river. Although we are in the middle of Kingston, it's very peaceful, with swans gliding by and a couple of rowing eights slicing through the water.

I am a teaching volunteer with the River Thames Boat Project, and together with our Education Coordinator and a couple of volunteer crew we are awaiting the arrival of 30 excited seven- and eight-year-olds who are coming for our Eco Venturers programme to explore how we can help to save the planet.

#### How it all began

A moment to reflect on how far the charity has come since 1988, when Martin Emerson, then Mayor of Richmond, resolved to do something about the fact that many people longed to be able to access the Thames, but were unable to do so because of disability.

The plan was to set up a charity with a fully accessible community boat, and the River Thames Boat Project was formed. The boat I am standing on now was acquired by the charity at this time. Then called *Gerja*, she arrived in her original state as a pensioned-off cargo vessel.

A team of dedicated and enthusiastic supporters began the hard work of restoration and

**After 37 years as a primary school teacher, Jane Newman knew she would miss working with children when she retired. Volunteering with the River Thames Boat Project, a charity she already knew through bringing her classes to their education days, seemed the obvious answer. As a Trustee she has learnt much more about the wider work of the charity and its work to make the Thames accessible to everyone.**

conversion. By a stroke of good fortune, the charity's work was chosen the following year as a suitable project for the BBC One makeover programme, *Challenge*

*Anneka*, which significantly speeded up the transformation of *Gerja* into *Thames Venturer*. Now, the important work of the charity could begin.

#### A different world

The transformation that takes place when you step away from solid ground onto a floating vessel is extraordinary. Even familiar

sights are seen in a new light from this very different perspective and it feels as if one were literally stepping away from everyday preoccupations into a different, calmer and more relaxing world.

Certainly our cruise clients quickly find this to be so. Our boat provides a tranquil haven and special time on the river for people of all ages with disabilities: ex-service personnel, adult carers and young carers, children and adults with cancer, people living with MS, Parkinson's and other neurological conditions, people recovering from strokes, care home clients, clients with dementia, adults and children with learning disabilities, visually and hearing impaired clients and many more.

There is loyalty, and gratitude; a former young carer is now a fully-qualified volunteer skipper.

#### Bringing people together

Our cruises are for a maximum of 12 passengers, enabling our friendly volunteer crew to interact closely with every group to ensure that their day on the river is special and memorable.

In addition to our services provided for client groups, we organise *Linking People Afloat* cruises for individuals. These cruises bring people together in a safe, welcoming environment to enjoy the restorative effects of the river and some much-needed companionship. In 2018 our new custom-built accessible day boat *Thames Discoverer* was delivered; the panoramic views of the river



Cruising on a custom-built and fully accessible boat provides a memorable day out for groups

# the river



**Rewarding work** Some of the more than 70 volunteers who keep the charity 'afloat'

from her large windows mean that cruise clients are now able to enjoy the scenery and feel connected to the water, whatever the weather.

## Educating the next generation

Our environmental education programmes for primary school children are another key part of what we do as a charity. They are led from *Thames Venturer* and the children are always very excited to be learning on board in such an amazing floating classroom.

Our original programme, School on the River, is based at Teddington, where the tidal and non-tidal Thames meet. It includes activities and experiments to develop their understanding of how rivers begin and are shaped by the landscape they flow through, how locks and weirs work and why they are there, and the effect of the tides.

They investigate water quality and look for evidence of animal and plant life on the foreshore, learning about the importance of diversity of species in a healthy river system.

Today, we are in Kingston for an Eco Venturers day at our home mooring beside the historic barge dock, where in the past, five boats the size of *Thames Venturer* would arrive every day loaded with coal for the power station.

Pupils explore the consequences of burning fossil fuels in the process of generating electricity and the impact that this continues to have on climate change. They are often shocked to learn that they are probably using well over one planet's worth of energy, and that only 1% of the Earth's water is drinkable. But the focus is on positive action; they love to be eco-inspectors, checking our boat to see how well we are performing in becoming

more sustainable and enjoying the opportunity this gives them to explore every part of the vessel; 'It's so cool!' And the session ends with some creative inventions and the knowledge that by working together to improve sustainability we can make a huge difference.



## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Both our programmes include Drastic Plastic, in which pupils explore the impact of plastic pollution in the Thames and how rivers carry plastic waste out to sea. The revelations are shocking, but it is encouraging to see their awareness of the dangers of single-use plastic and the session again involves positive action, as they discuss how to reduce our reliance on plastic and investigate alternative materials we can use.

## All hands on deck

We subsidise our activities to make them affordable. Grants, donations and our own fundraising provide the balance each year to cover the costs. Four dedicated staff members run the day-to-day operations of the charity, but volunteers, (over 70 of them) deliver almost everything we do, and we were honoured last year to receive a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, left, in recognition of this.

Today's schoolchildren are leaving, taking their sustainability message back to school and their homes. All is quiet once again. Moored next to us, in the Barge Dock, is our cruise boat *Thames Discoverer*, where another volunteer, a skilled marine engineer, has been occupied with maintenance in readiness for the cruising season. At the end of each day, smiling faces and appreciative comments reflect the positive boost of a day on the river for everyone.

■ If you are interested in volunteering, joining a cruise or finding out more about the charity, do visit our website:

[www.thamesboatproject.org](http://www.thamesboatproject.org).



**Education** Learning about science and ecology

# Around the Spire

## ANNUAL MEETING ROUND-UP

# Church powers ahead with hope

**AT THIS** year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Nick Bagge and Susan Horner were elected to serve a second year as churchwardens and the PCC welcomed two new members.

Our vicar gave a rallying call to parishioners. Derek said that in its 157-year history, church growth had been achieved through prayer and the energy and dedication of its congregations.

Now, as the church prepares for modernisation work, those qualities are needed again.

The church's accounts for 2021 showed a big improvement on the figures for 2020. The plan to produce a balanced budget for this



**New to the PCC** Graham McHutchon, left, and Dr David Wile.

challenge given the economic climate.

The church will shortly begin its modernisation programme, adding a servery and meeting room, replacing the pews and repainting.

■ The first stage of replacing the defunct lighting in the chancel, pictured left, was completed in time for Easter. The project will run alongside the building work.

■ A modern cycle shed is being installed in the courtyard following successful fundraising. The project is part of the Eco Church group's aim to encourage more cycling.



## Snapping up Bushy Park walks

**HAMPTON HILL** Photographic Society has come up with a great way to appreciate nature.

It is organising free monthly photo walks in Bushy Park. Learn more about photography, enjoy our green and open spaces and meet like-minded people. You don't need expensive cameras either—camera phones are fine!

The walks are on **18 Jun, 16 Jul or 20 Aug**, starting at 2pm and lasting about two hours. To sign up, contact the chairman David Hicks: 079 1730 2747 or [chairman@hamptonhillps.org.uk](mailto:chairman@hamptonhillps.org.uk) ■ [hamptonhillps.org.uk](http://hamptonhillps.org.uk)



## Tools sewing a future

**JANET NUNN** has seen off her final collection of tools for Africa. Over 12 years hundreds of tools, sewing machines and computers have been collected from her garage by the charity **Tools With A Mission**.

It took two men nearly an hour to load a van to take the tools to Ipswich where they were sorted, refurbished and organised into collections bound for Africa.

One refurbished sewing machine can make a livelihood for a whole family, also enabling children to attend school. It is

this philosophy of recycling and improving people's quality of life which so inspired Janet.

She thanked everyone who had given tools or spread the word.

The new collector is: Philip Smith. Email: [philips@twam.uk](mailto:philips@twam.uk), or phone 020 8399 3632.



# She danced for the Lord



**JACKY CAMMIDGE**

**D**uring my studies I had to complete an essay on the Exodus, the most important redemptive event in the Old Testament. It was inspiring to read in depth about the journey of God's people as they wandered in the desert, their needs met by God alone.

Some dismiss the Old Testament as irrelevant to Christians today, and viewed from our modern-day perspective some aspects are difficult to accept or understand, but I see it as a tapestry of stories, full of imagery and events that enrich our faith.

The role of women in the Old Testament should not be underestimated. They often play an important part in the stories and an examination of the roles they played and the impact they had is worthwhile. My interest in the Exodus drew me to one woman: Miriam.

### Who was Miriam ?

Miriam was used by God in a marvellous and unique way. She played a significant role in three incidents described in Exodus and Numbers. As a child she was the sisterly protector of Moses, as an adult prophetess she led the delivered slaves in praising God and as an unhappy woman she challenged Moses's special relationship with God.

Miriam was also an obedient daughter, the first woman to be called a prophet, the first biblical woman to sing and lead other women in song and dance. She appears in more Old Testament books than any other woman.

### Sisterly protector

The Israelites travelled to Egypt, encouraged by God because they needed to find food. Initially they flourished there, but as they multiplied the Egyptians viewed them as a threat and enslaved them, causing great hardship. Slavery did not stop their numbers growing and the Pharaoh decreed in an act of cruelty that all male babies born to Israeli women had to be thrown into the Nile.

Miriam's mother, Jochebed, delivered a son, Moses, who 'was beautiful in God's sight'. (Acts 7: 20). She kept him hidden for three months and then made a basket out of

bullrushes, put him in it and placed it amongst reeds on the bank of the Nile.

The basket landed in the place where the Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe. Miriam was there, charged with watching over her brother. Only a child herself, this must have taken great courage, especially as snakes, crocodiles and hippos would have been in the river.

God not only had a purpose for Moses, but for Miriam as well. The Pharaoh's daughter was filled with compassion and going against the edict of her father she decided to save the child. Miriam offered to find a woman who could nurse the child. She chose, of course, the child's mother — a perfect solution.

### Prophetess who lead her people

Many years later, we learn that like Moses, Miriam had the prophetic gift and calling. God opened the Red Sea for his people and destroyed the Egyptian army. This lifted the hearts of the Israelites. Miriam led the women in praising God for his victory over slavery and death.

She dances with tambourines and the Song of Miriam is one of the oldest texts in the Bible: *Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously. The horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea* (Ex 15:24)

### The Challenge

In Numbers we witness Miriam's human frailty, her moment of weakness — maybe even of jealousy — when she spoke out with her brother Aaron against Moses: 'They complained, "Is it through Moses alone that the Lord speaks? Does he not speak through us also?"' (Num12: 2)

God was angry with them for challenging the leadership of Moses and his message was clear and swift. Miriam was struck with a skin disease, possibly leprosy, forcing her to be apart from her people — punished, shamed and unable to lead them in worship. But Aaron and Moses prayed for Miriam and after seven days God restored her. Her people had waited, unwilling to leave without her.

Miriam was the first of the siblings to die and was buried in Kadesh, an important sanctuary on Israel's route through the desert.

The memory of Miriam continued through the prophetic period. The prophet Micah in the 8th century named her as one of the three great heroes in the desert, equal to Aaron and Moses.

For me, both in her strength and her frailty, she seeks to serve others and gives of herself. She remains true to God and for this she is my biblical hero.

# Our mission to succeed



Church life in *The Vicar of Dibley*



**NICK BAGGE**

**W**atching *The Vicar of Dibley* might lead you to believe that church meetings are bizarre in the extreme! In fact, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of our church. It is also a charity. A PCC like ours, with an annual income of more than £100,000, must be registered with the Charity Commissioners. Because it has legal status, the Church Representation Rules apply.

### What does the PCC do?

The PCC is chaired by Derek, and Jacky also attends meetings. There are 12 lay members. A third are elected each year and serve for three years. They may also serve a second consecutive term. Our churchwardens are elected annually, and can serve a maximum of six consecutive years.

Our three members of the Hampton Deanery Synod also sit on the PCC. They serve for three years on the Synod, but can stand for re-election indefinitely!

Together, they are responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of the church, the church members, and the buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community.

Some of the responsibilities are devolved to Derek and the wardens but members have the right to be consulted. A treasurer, secretary and vice-chair are elected at the first meeting after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The PCC also appoints a standing committee, comprised of the vicar, the wardens, the treasurer and two elected members.

### Worship is their first priority

Prayer and Worship are at the heart of the work of the PCC. It ensures that appropriate arrangements are in place for public worship and provides an opportunity for people of all ages to meet for prayer and worship.

### Mission and outreach

The PCC has an important part to play in promoting the mission of the church amongst

the congregation and in the wider community, and members of the PCC should demonstrate their commitment to the Christian ethos, through leadership, by example and by witness, in the parish.

The PCC develops our Mission Action Plan (MAP), to review the life of the church and identify mission opportunities.

### Pastoral care

Another important aspect is pastoral care. The PCC has a duty to provide support to the clergy, members of the congregation, and to extend a welcome to all who visit the church. The Care and Contact Team work with the clergy to provide care to all who live in our community, including the sick and housebound. PCC members take the lead in that care.

### Safeguarding

Taking care of and protecting children and vulnerable people within our church is of increasing importance. The PCC must have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops and like every PCC we must appoint a Safeguarding Officer and Children's Champion. Safeguarding features on every PCC agenda and once a year we reaffirm the Safeguarding Policy and conduct an audit to ensure we meet requirements.

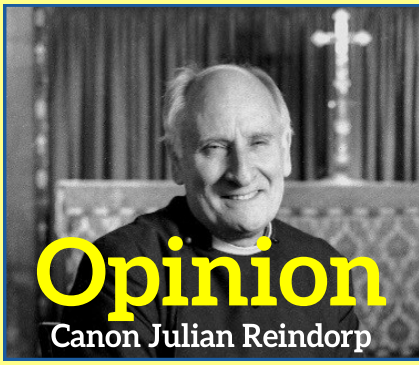
All PCC members (trustees of a charity), along with church volunteers in a number of roles, are required to have DBS checks that would show if they were unsuitable for working with children or vulnerable adults, or to be trusted with money. Safer recruitment includes carrying out DBS checks on all appointments.

### Finance

The PCC is so lucky to have Carol Bailey, our assistant treasurer, to manage the day-to-day finances. She maintains the books, has a good knowledge of the parish, and has the full confidence of the PCC. The Finance Team keeps members informed on the financial situation and presents a report to each meeting. PCC members are Trustees and are responsible for managing our finances. They must ensure that all funds are properly accounted for.

As you can see, the work of the PCC is all-encompassing, but it is also exciting to help maintain the buildings, shape the work of the church, and find ways to help it grow. Of course, you don't need to be on the PCC to get involved. Talk to Derek or a warden.

# Chaplain integrates our Christian ethos



**Opinion**  
Canon Julian Reindorp

## LEVELLING DOWN

Events in Ukraine have rightly dominated our news, but children going to bed hungry and cold in large numbers here is surely deeply shocking too. In February at a Parliamentary committee with MPs, key leaders of the Citizens Advice Centres, the Trussell Trust (the largest Food Bank provider) and the Joseph Rowntree Trust — the leading researchers in this field — agreed that large numbers of people were 'being driven into destitution'.

Loughborough University's *Minimum Income Standard* said that a couple with two children on Universal Credit, after rent and council tax, needed £511 a week for essentials. From 1 April this year they have received £274. These are people not in work, and often with disabilities. Last October, the government removed the weekly extra £20 that local households had been receiving during the Covid crisis. 'The £20 that George Osborne when chancellor had already removed' according to Sir Ian Duncan Smith.

Inflation and dramatic rises in heating costs are making the situation worse week by week. How much has the debate about welfare been poisoned by claims of 'cheats' and 'scroungers' when the vast majority of the poor are working all hours they can and still cannot make ends meet?

## WHOSE FAULT? OURS?

We can, of course, blame the government, the Chancellor, but how much is it because we are all simply 'walking by on the other side' like characters in the Good Samaritan parable?

## ONSHORE WINDFARMS

The government admits that their new energy strategy could take up to five years to start reducing people's bills. They announced a dramatic increase of nuclear energy — eight new nuclear power stations. Meanwhile, far faster routes to fulfilling our net zero targets and driving down spiralling fuel costs have been rejected.

Four out of five members of the public support the use of onshore windfarms which could be built quickly and cheaply if planning rules were eased. This was rumoured to be on the cards, but it seems the NIMBY (not in my back yard) instincts of some Conservative MPs and ministers have prevented this.

Equally disappointing was the Treasury's apparent refusal to fund the expansion of an existing scheme to help poorer households with better insulation. As the chair of the government's official advisers said, commenting on the effects of climate change, 'Poorer households are more severely affected by the health and financial consequences of flooding and other extremes.'

## ORTHODOX CHURCH TENSIONS

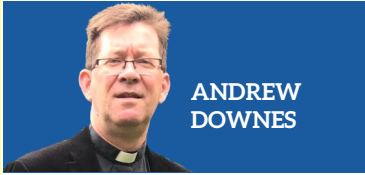
It has shocked many in the West that the Russian Orthodox Church has backed President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine so publicly — state TV showed its leader, Patriarch Kirill, blessing Russian troops.

Since 2019 part of the Church has been granted independence, though this is not recognised by Putin and Kirill. Both argue that Russians and Ukrainians are one people. Kirill said, 'May the Lord protect the Russian land and the peoples who today inhabit this land in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.'

The Church's claims have been challenged by an international declaration signed by more than 1000 Orthodox theologians and academics, stating: 'How can Orthodox Christians unleash violence and bloodshed against their brothers and sisters in Christ?'

## ANDREW MARR

Andrew Marr, looking back after leaving the BBC and writing after the recent mini budget, commented, 'I have thoroughly enjoyed our introverted, materialistic, heedless society. But if we want to defend the liberties and the peace we have come to take for granted, then there are changes coming, far bigger than this budget presaged. The day, is indeed, today.'



ANDREW DOWNES

**B**ishop Wand Church of England School is very grateful for the financial support that you offer our chaplaincy department.

We are blessed to have a non-teaching chaplain, Moya, who offers spiritual and pastoral support across the whole Bishop Wand family and leads services and assemblies throughout the school.

Our School Chaplain's role is to support students and staff on a personal level and to help everyone integrate the Christian ethos of our school into every aspect of life and learning, contributing to a caring, positive and supportive learning environment.

We have so much to learn from each other and we aim to promote an atmosphere of listening to and learning from each other wherever our neighbour is at on their faith journey, so respect, understanding and good relationships are built between us.

Each week our school explores a different spiritual theme in form time and through assemblies. These are explored in many varied and creative ways by staff and students who contribute to that special time in the morning that is set apart for reflection on our lives and spiritual development.

We are supported by our local churches. Clergy and church youth workers regularly contribute to assemblies and chaplaincy activities.



Shine a light Bishop Wand School is a community where each pupil finds, grows and shares their gifts for the good of all.



As a school we have suffered like others with the substantial effects of Covid, but we have, I believe, risen magnificently to the challenges with new online methods of teaching and learning and we have really pulled together.

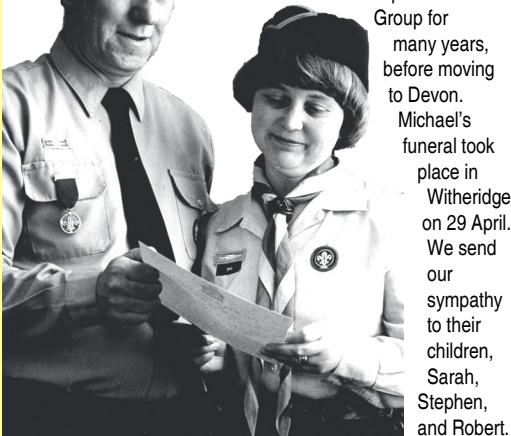
We have just endured the rigours of an OFSTED inspection and were commended in a wide range of areas and we are delighted that we continue to be rated a Good school.

As the Summer term opens up for us, we are faced with the challenges of delivering public exams (GCSEs and A-levels) after a two-year hiatus and we are so proud of the efforts that our students are putting in. We have high hopes for results day in August.

## Former Scout leaders die

**WE ARE** sorry to learn of the death of Michael Childs on 25 March, aged 84. His wife, Yvonne, died in May 2021, aged 78. Michael and Yvonne were married at St James's in May 1964 and were regular members of the congregation.

They were both leaders in 3rd Hampton Hampton Hill Scout



Group for many years, before moving to Devon. Michael's funeral took place in Witheridge on 29 April. We send our sympathy to their children, Sarah, Stephen, and Robert.

## REGISTERS

### MARCH

#### FUNERALS

- 1 William (Bill) Joseph Breedon, 75, Hampton
- 17 Marian Fairweather, 97, Hampton
- 28 Rosalind Patten, 65, Hampton Hill



# Celebrating family life

Sandra was born in Kingston Hospital. She lived in Surbiton, and regularly travelled along Hampton Hill High Street on the way to visit her mum's cousin in Feltham. Her family are Christians, and she grew up in a loving home with her parents and a younger brother, Tim. As a teenager, she attended Tiffin Girls' School in Kingston.

After studying at Bristol University, she completed her teacher training year. Having met Derek at Bristol, they married and moved to Oxford where she taught Biology and Chemistry, subsequently retraining as a personal assistant.

Following Derek's ordination, they moved to London where they have lived in five homes with their two sons.

Sandra returned to teaching in 1998, and is currently teaching Maths at a Twickenham school. She and Derek spend a day each week caring for their two grandchildren.

## 1 Suitcase

Growing up I was lucky to have two grandmothers, whom I saw on a regular basis. Nana came to see us once a week from the south coast, driving up in her Morris Minor. She would take us to school in the car on a Friday morning, which was extremely exciting as usually we had to walk.

The great thing about Nana was that she lived by the seaside and twice a year my brother and I would pack our small suitcases to spend three nights in her big house in Hove.

On these holidays we were allowed to choose what we ate every day!

In addition, we had a schedule of things that we'd like to do. The highlight was always staying up late to go to see the lights along Brighton promenade.

## 2 Teatime

My other grandmother lived locally, just 12 doors along the road from us until I was seven, and then about a mile away. We saw her regularly and every Friday evening Tim and I would go to her house for tea, which we loved.

We were allowed to sit on the floor of her living room having our tea watching the children's show *Crackerjack* on TV.

The meal was always the same and I've chosen that tea as my second object – obviously freshly cooked! It was toad in the hole, with roast potatoes, cabbage, and tinned spaghetti.

Dessert was always rice pudding with jam. It really was a great end to the week and Grandma cooked that same meal every Friday for 15 years, until the month before she died.

## 3 Bible

As a child I had a few books that I loved. My favourite was my Bible treasury because it had coloured pictures. I enjoyed looking at the pictures, telling myself the stories and hearing my mum read the stories to me. The inscription in the Bible says, 'To my dear Sandra from mummy, Christmas 1966'. Over the years I've had several Bibles but none that I have read as fondly as that first Bible treasury.

## 4 Uniformed organisations

Whilst at secondary school I was passionate about sport. Every break and lunchtime I would play hockey, netball, tennis or table tennis. My tennis racket stayed with me for many years and although I don't have it now, if I'd had the space to keep it, that would be something I would have in my treasure box.

However, although I don't have my tennis racket, I still have my Brownie and Guide handbooks. From the age of 7 to 18 I regularly attended Brownies and then Guides, later acting as a young leader in both groups.

Aged 15, along with two friends, I was awarded my Queen's Guide badge. As a competitive young person this meant a lot to me. I had worked hard over four years to gain

wedding hats. Their weddings were joyous occasions. Being the mother of the groom, it took me many hours to choose my wedding outfits. The two hats remind me of their weddings and how proud I am to be mother to two special young men.

## 8 Baby shoes

As mentioned in the introduction, Derek and I have the privilege of caring for our grandchildren on a weekly basis. In the autumn of 2015 John and Jenny presented us with a tiny pair of shoes. It was their way of sharing the good news that our first grandchild was on the way. So, my last treasure is that little pair of shoes. These remind me how fortunate I am to be part of a family, currently with four generations, and for this I give thanks to God.

a wide range of badges in the correct combination to achieve this award. I loved Brownies, Guides and being a leader, and the skills and experiences I gained within Guiding have stood me in good stead throughout the rest of my life.

## 5 Royal Society of Arts

After university I married Derek and I started out as a teacher.

However, at that stage I found teaching wasn't for me, so whilst Derek was studying to be ordained at Oxford, I retrained as a personal assistant.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course and although we had very little money that year, both studying, it was a happy time.

At the end of the course there were exams, as a result of which I was awarded a silver medal by the Royal Society of Arts.

My mum and Derek joined me for the presentation in London.

## 6 Jewellery

Derek and I have been married now for almost 39 years. Of course, I have very special memories of our wedding day, hence my wedding ring in the photo. We also had parties to celebrate our Silver and Pearl anniversaries. And along with my wedding ring I particularly value the pearl necklace and earrings Derek gave me almost nine years ago.

I also prize the Poole Pottery vase given to us by my parents on our silver wedding anniversary.

## 7 Wedding hats

When our younger son was born, Janet, a family friend, crocheted a blanket for him. The blanket was well used by John and his younger brother, Mark. Over the past 32 years I have accumulated a large collection of pictures, cards and presents from John and Mark. However, rather than share these, I have chosen my two



**Sandra Winterburn** recalls childhood visits to her grandparents and special mealtimes together, happy school days, teacher training, three weddings, beginning with her own, and the birth of her first grandchild.