

OCTOBER 2022 HARVEST FESTIVAL

SPIRE



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Harvest



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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

WELCOME

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, 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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Supported by

ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

Julian was born in Durban, South Africa, and ordained in 1969. He has worked in parishes in East London, Chatham and Milton Keynes, and was Team Rector in Richmond until retirement in 2009. He continues to lead a busy life, is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren, and nine grandchildren.
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ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Tim Marwood

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

This has been a sad time for all with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. I remember vividly when George VI died. I was in the gym at school when the headteacher came to tell us. This time I was sitting at home watching the news unfold. Now we must get behind King Charles III as he begins his reign. The hot summer seems a distant memory now. Thanks to the rain the gardens are recovering, but it has come too late for many farmers. Harvest will be bittersweet for the farming world and no doubt we shall feel the knock-on effect of increased food prices. Nevertheless, it is interesting to read Moya's piece (on page five) about a traditional harvest service held in Dorset.

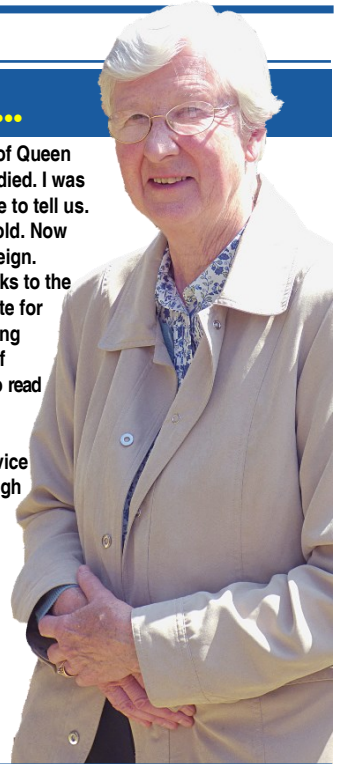
For many years now the emphasis at our Harvest service has been providing food for less fortunate people through the Upper Room project in London. Food and money will be collected at our Harvest service on 2 October, along with gifts from local schools.

This first edition in the reign of King Charles III is a mixture of great sadness and hope for the future.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: We take bread for granted, but we are reliant on so many things for the wheat.

SPIRE

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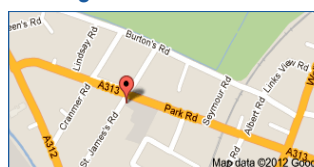
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Finding us



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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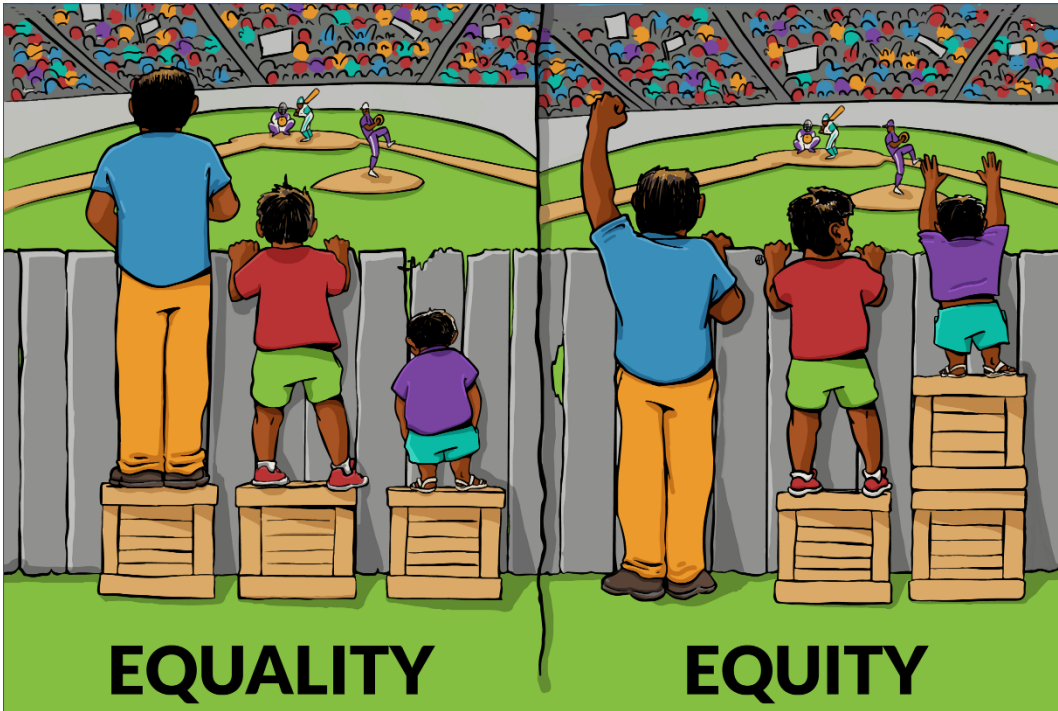
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Clerical Capers



'Oh well, let's just be happy that Baz came to our lovely church in the first place!'

A spirit of generosity to those with the least



DEREK WINTERBURN

We are probably all familiar with the child's cry, 'It's not fair!', when something untoward

happens to them. But fairness or justice remain very important to us, throughout our lives.

The word *justice* is attached to a number of 'hot button' adult topics, such as 'climate justice', 'racial justice' and 'social justice,' etc. I was reminded recently that an appeal to fairness often is not a good argument, because people believe different things about it.

Home advantage

One way of thinking about fairness is 'giving everyone equal opportunities in life'. I reflect on the many advantages I have had in life, not least being born male in the mid-20th century in the UK.

Many things have been available to me that were not to someone born in Mozambique: education and healthcare to name but two.

A natural justice would suggest that was not fair, and something should be done for those in the developing world.

Another way of thinking says that it is not enough to give everyone equal chances in life. People (or groups of

people) have been so disadvantaged that extra help should be given, previously advantaged groups must be 'held back' until there is a final equality of outcome (sometimes called equity).

RAF's pause of white men

One example of this has been in the news recently when the RAF reportedly 'paused' recruitment of white males to increase the number of women and ethnic minorities. This debate is very explosive and political, especially, but not only, in the US.

Another way that fairness is applied variously would be the discussion we have been having about tax cuts, and support in the 'cost of living' crisis. For some people, it is a matter of justice to provide financial support for the poorest. For others, it is not fair that money fairly earned should be taken away and redistributed to a different person.

This time of year we call Creationtide, and it includes Harvest. Whether we are reading about people's lives, and livelihoods, being snatched away by floods or droughts, or counting our blessings for the diversity of food we can still afford, close at hand is the issue of fairness — climate justice, or relative poverty in our own country.

The Bible's 'Third Way'

Does the Bible offer us a 'Third Way'? I think it does, not least in the way it seems to have a 'both, and' approach.

1. Some differences are clearly part of the richness of God's bountiful world, and if they have become grounds for injustice that is human sin, and to be combatted. For example, in the early church some

widows were being overlooked in comparison to others, on the basis of their ethnic background. Once the apostles learned of this, they stepped in.

2. Meanwhile some differences do arise from nature: for example, some children who are born in areas of high malaria are much more likely to die before the age of five than anyone born in the UK. Injustice 'through no fault of their own' cries out to be tackled. In a similar way, Paul went around the ancient world, raising a collection for the poor in Jerusalem who were victims of a famine.

3. On the other hand, there are examples of people who, once given a fair start, are judged by their results. Think of the stories that Jesus tells of workers given money to manage. The boss has harsh words to say to the one who doesn't set about the task with diligence; he even loses what he has. (And remember the master in some sense is representing God.)

4. In a different dimension, the growth of the early church is fuelled by a twin conviction, that Jesus is Lord of All, and that everyone should have the opportunity to hear the gospel and respond to the Good News. Paul knows all too well that some who hear it will turn away — but they must be given the chance.

We are blessed to live in a lovely part of the world, but faith in the Creator (and simple justice) directs us to protect it for those who are suffering climate injustice now, and for future generations. Then, while each of us has a responsibility to respond to God's love as we choose, if we have received freely is it not up to us to freely give to those who have less than we do?

St James Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am (not 2 Oct)

Streaming not possible during church building work*

Together 11:15am (not 2 & 16 Oct)

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

Mon-Fri

Morning Prayer 9am

A short service of daily prayer in church

Harvest Festival

Sunday 2 Oct 11am

Join our all age celebration service.

We will once again be collecting food and medical supplies for The Upper Room (see website). The service will be followed by a Harvest Lunch in the hall.

Middlesex Yeomanry

Sunday 2 Oct 3pm

The Concert Band perform their Autumn Concert.

Tickets (including programme, tea and cakes)

£15 on the door. Children go free.

Messy Church

Sunday 16 Oct 3-5pm



Join us for a fun afternoon of crafts, music, stories, worship and food!

To book go to: <https://bit.ly/StJMessyOct22>

Ark Playgroup

From 31 Oct*

Mondays 10:15am-12:15pm

Our popular group for carers and under 5s, with singing, crafts, stories and plenty of play.

£2 per family, including refreshments!

Connections Café

Tue 1 Nov* 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/advice.

Quiz Supper & Auction

Sat 12 Nov 7:30pm

Join us for a fun quiz and pizza supper to raise money for two

of our charities. There will also be an auction of great gifts donated

by local businesses. Tickets cost £15 (including pizza, salad and a glass of bubbly).

Book now at <https://bit.ly/StJPizzaQuiz>



* These events are subject to church building work finishing in late October (check website).

Marriage. To be, or



DEREK WINTERBURN

Marriage has been controversial recently. Mainly, I mean the BBC One drama *Marriage!* This four-part series has divided critics and its audience. Many people despaired over the lack of action, or were plain bored after the first episode and stopped watching (although audiences on the iPlayer are rising again.) In fact there were just enough events (not quite action!) through the episodes, but this was 'slow TV'.

What the writer and actors gave us was a steadily building portrait of a marriage after 30 years. The couple, Ian and Emma, had been through the death of a son, followed by adoption of a daughter, each had a career, although Ian had recently been made redundant and his mother had died. All 'normal' life experiences – no car chases, heart-wrenching betrayals or super-heroes.

Life in all its detail

What was remarkable was the ordinariness of many of the scenes; what the *Radio Times* called 'micro-aggressions and micro-affections'. Examples included bickering in the supermarket about which chicken to buy, or eating companionably, both silently thinking about the day together. Of course, there had been drama in their lives, but the marriage had stood firm. We learned that Ian's support had been a life-saver when Emma had lost their baby, and in the same way Ian (who began the series



A place for God? A church wedding is now just one of many options for a couple

Once upon a time it was the dream of most girls to glide up the aisle of a church in a beautiful white dress to Wagner's famous tune. These days it's often carried out in a stately home or on a Caribbean beach – if at all. For many, getting hitched is no longer part of the having-a-family package. But staying together, for better for worse, is a challenge. The best chance of growing old together might surprise you.

looking very vulnerable) had only got through recent weeks with Emma's care. Contrast this series with another programme running at the same time *Sanditon*. Certainly it was not as serious minded as *Marriage*,

but still it offered a very clear take on marriage. This Jane Austen spin-off seemed to have high-minded views of romance, of the kind attributed to Austen. There are three young women, all set to find a husband before the summer

season is over. All three fasten on their men. But all three are gravely disappointed and hurt by them. The commentary on marriage here switches from 'wedding bells and happy ever after' to a suspicion of matrimony altogether. I don't think

there were any happily married couples in *Sanditon* at all.

Fictional marriage blues

But then there are extraordinarily few 'fictional couples' in popular entertainment who are happy together. There is a myriad of love stories of people coming together or swapping to another partner, but vanishingly small numbers of explorations of two peoples' faithful life together.

Stefan Golaszewski, who wrote the BBC series, said about marriage: 'It is the institutionalisation of togetherness. ... what fascinates me about marriage as an idea is that it is basically impossible. What I love about going to a wedding is seeing two people taking a leap into the unknown and trying to spend the rest of their lives together. That's an incredibly complicated thing to achieve. It's the sheer difficulty that makes the idea beautiful.'

That is an interesting perspective – that marriage is almost impossible. Many couples are put off marrying because they have seen other relationships end in acrimony.

Divorce can be so painful. This was why Nicola Walker (who plays Emma) delayed marriage as long as she could. Then Sean Bean (Ian) has been divorced three times. It is salutary to note that it takes time, attention and work to sustain a marriage. It isn't 'just falling into bed.'

It is not a secret that the number of marriages is dropping (source ONS: 2019 for opposite-sex and same-sex couples). And as part of that trend there are fewer church or



Happy ever after? Sean Bean and Nicola Walker in the BBC drama series *Marriage*

not to be?



Having your cake Marriage is still the best chance of a lasting relationship

religious ceremonies — the greater choice of venues having an effect.

Yet research has found the great majority of young adults still want to marry. Some, I presume, because they have seen their parents' marriage close up and want something like that for themselves.

It is, however, sobering that while 87 per cent of high earners (over £43,000) marry; only 24 per cent of low earners (under £16,000) do. That can't be right.

And then there are children... Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, recently published a review paper. Her concern is less about marriage as a social institution, and more about the wellbeing of children.

An end to 2.4 children

'Family' no longer means mum, dad and two kids. Investing in family is the single greatest investment you can make,' she says.

Most lone parents probably have it tougher. The UK has a much higher rate of lone parent households than the rest of Europe (23% compared to 13% average).

In 2020, 49% of children living in lone-parent families were in relative poverty after housing costs (compared with 25% of children living in married or cohabiting families). These families need support to thrive.

But we can still pay attention to the 77% of families headed by both parents (63% of them are married.) Family breakdown is the single biggest predictor of internalised and externalised problems for children.

Dame Rachel said: 'Our research shows that close relationships between children and their parents are associated with better outcomes for children, from higher Early Years Foundation Stage scores, to better GCSE scores to wages in young adulthood.'

Marriage wins through

And there is a clear correlation between being married and the longevity of the relationship. Cohabiting parents make up 23 per cent of all couples with dependent children, but account for half of all family breakdown. Or to put it another way: 90% of cohabiting parents who stay together until their children reach 15 are married. (Source: The Marriage Foundation).

This takes me back to weddings and marriage. There is no doubt that a church service offers a spacious, historic, beautiful building, and a sense of occasion. But of course there are many other



places that couples can choose these days to get married.

A church's weddings

I think the 'unique selling point' of a church service is that it is more *Marriage* than *Sanditon*. There are some lovely words of romance, and blessing: 'Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts and a crown upon their heads.' But there is more.

The TV programme, I think, took its cue from the vows made by the bride and groom:

*from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.*

If a couple says these words, knowingly, then they are embracing the 'sheer difficulty' of marriage. Which is why we, and many other churches, offer a Marriage Preparation Course.

We help with the challenges

We take our part seriously; we provide an opportunity to think through some of the challenges that lie ahead.

These courses are very popular – appreciated by all sorts of couples that we have seen.

They are not particularly problem-orientated or embarrassing, but seek to equip people with some essential relational skills that will be great resources for the future, after the honeymoon.

God's at the wedding!

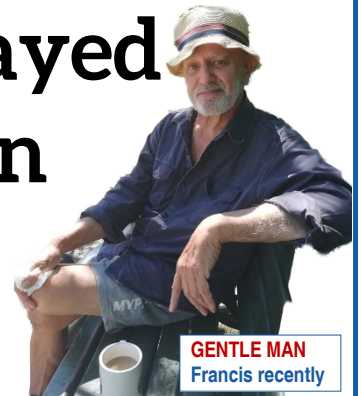
But, of course, the final clincher of a church wedding, is that God is invited too. Couples don't have to be especially religious; but lots of people who have hardly been in a church before think that being married in church before God (and friends and family) is the right thing to do.

Jesus went to weddings – and God invented marriage after all!

Around the Spire

FRANCIS JAMES BRUNT 1953-2022

He played riffs on our bells!



GENTLE MAN Francis recently

FRANCIS BRUNT died on 2 April, aged 68. His ashes were interred in the Garden of Remembrance on 16 September.

Francis was the youngest child of Rupert Brunt, vicar of St James's from 1951-80. Born in 1953, named after his saint's day, with the middle name James, Francis was always very affectionately regarded as something of a 'child of the parish'.

He was in the first cohort to attend St James's nursery group at the old parish hall, which was run on the then innovative lines of 'learning-through-play'.

As a teenager he joined the bell-ringing team – though his unique,

three-ropes style, including transposition of the rock band Cream's riffs, was not universally appreciated! But his woodworking skills undoubtedly were, especially when it came to the puppets he made and operated for his mother Constance's Wayside Sunday School.

He was delighted to discover recently that his vicarage study bookcase was still extant. Francis died of cancer after a wide-ranging social work career in mental health.

Rosalind Brunt

■ We send our sympathy to Francis's sons Danny, Tom and Will, and his siblings Rosalind, Clare and Bernard.



Theatre Francis shows off his puppets, watched by Gill Gostling

A Sunday service in the farmyard

MOYA MEREDITH SMITH spent a weekend in Dorset with friends and attended a service for Lammastide. In the early English church it was customary to consecrate bread made from the first-ripe corn on this day.

The service was held in a farmyard square. 'We arranged ourselves in a semicircle facing a stable block, watched by a grey horse called Granite,' said Moya. 'The service included hymns, prayers, two readings and a psalm. The newly-baked bread was consecrated and we sampled it at the end.'

'At the end of the service, tea and cakes were offered. A day at church in the open with Granite looking on was one to be remembered.'



Welcomed as a foreigner



JON HOLLOWAY

Boaz, being a relation of Ruth's first husband, was suitable and able to marry Ruth. A man of good morals, and impressed by her selflessness, Boaz cared for Ruth and between them they had a son, who was later father to Jesse, who was father to David, who would eventually become King.

Ruth may therefore have had a tough beginning and been considered of little consequence in her day-to-day life, but in terms of biblical importance she was a fundamental lynchpin to all that followed.

Multiple challenges

Remember, this was a woman challenged by widowhood, poverty, homelessness, and low immigrant status who, with the support and acceptance of those around her, was able to overcome many of these challenges.

That she was welcomed and admitted into society as a foreigner was critical to what followed, and despite all of Ruth's actual or perceived flaws, God shows that it is possible to accept and forgive anything, and that with a bit of planning – in this case, God's planning – even the smallest and weakest of us can still produce the biggest and most important results.

Reflections on Ruth

My reflection is that the book of Ruth in part illustrates a number of things. First, whatever our background, status, or history, we all have a role and a rightful place, and that through the exclusion of others we risk missing out on the most amazing opportunities.

The second is that by inclusivity, coupled with love, trust, acceptance and understanding we can deal with everything life throws at us, and that we have the strength and power to challenge and overcome all forms of prejudice.

Thirdly, however inconsequential we might feel sometimes, or whatever losses we face, through faith we can believe in ourselves and be secure in the knowledge that we all contribute to a much bigger plan.

I chose Ruth as my biblical heroine not just for who she was and what she did, but as much for how her story delivers a tremendous message of trust and love, and the importance of inclusivity and the resulting opportunity that can sometimes come from the most unlikely of sources.

A brief background

A woman named Naomi, her husband and two sons, fled a famine in Judah and went to Moab. While in Moab her two sons were married, one of them to Ruth.

Sadly, Naomi's husband and both her sons died, leaving both her and her daughters-in-law as widows and in dire straits.

One of Naomi's daughters-in-law stayed in Moab, but despite other options, Ruth's faithfulness to her mother-in-law meant that she returned to Bethlehem to be with and care for her, and to follow the God of Israel.

Where you go, I will go

This might sound like a fairly innocuous choice, but it's important to note here that in staying with her mother-in-law, Ruth was

breaking a major social convention, and being a Moabite (from a nation that was founded from rather dubious beginnings), she was in effect an immigrant of a pretty unpopular type.

Ruth herself sums it up in one of the most famous lines in the Old Testament (Ruth 1:16), where she says to Naomi: *'Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.'*

God's great plan

However, all was not lost, and it was found that a man named



THY PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE

Putting energy into Eco



DEREK WINTERBURN

What does it mean to be an 'eco church', and what have we done to be awarded a silver award are fair questions! 'Eco church' is an award

scheme for churches wanting to grow their environmental credentials, or what in church circles is commonly called 'Caring for Creation.'

I am not a great one for winning awards or prizes. I think of the scheme less as a race and more of scaffolding, for building a house.

The strength of the scheme is that it says to churches 'move forward in a balanced way'. There are five areas that a church needs to tackle:

- Worship and Teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and Global Engagement,
- Lifestyle.

Only when a church has hit targets in all five areas can it receive an award.

The Bronze award is like saying the ground floor is completed of your house. Silver the first floor, and Gold - everything is finished (for now)!

Sharing ideas with others

The second advantage of the scheme is that the organisers provide almost 100 actions that could be taken to make progress. So a church is not left to work out what to do from scratch but can borrow ideas from experts and other churches.

St James's has had a concern for social justice and the environment for a long time, not least through being a Fair Trade church and supporting Christian Aid's work with communities affected by natural disasters.

Starting from that good place, reaching bronze last year was not a big stretch. Moving on to silver was a bit harder, requiring continuing what was already in place and going further.

In September 2021, as part of the national Big Green Week, we held a community open day to encourage appreciation of the churchyard and challenged visitors to think

about their carbon footprint. We also thought about and prayed for the COP 26 meeting in Glasgow. In the New Year the congregation completed a survey about their lifestyle and support for environmental issues. In Lent we organised various recycling events such as jigsaw swaps, and a plant stall.

The PCC agreed to match gifts from the congregation so that a splendid new bike shelter might be provided for those who come to the church or the hall by cycle. We have also installed a water butt for the churchyard.

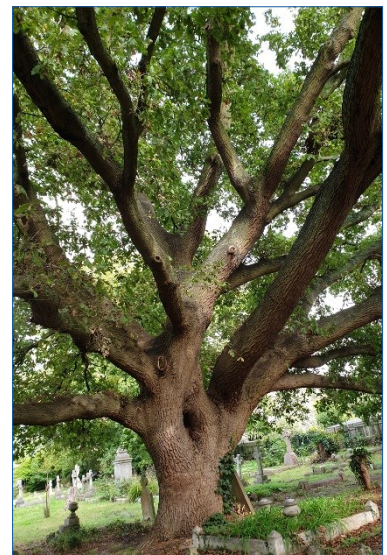
Going for Gold is harder!

The building part of the survey is the hardest. The hall is already double-glazed, we are using LEDs and our electricity comes from green sources, but the boilers for church and hall, though fairly efficient, are both gas.

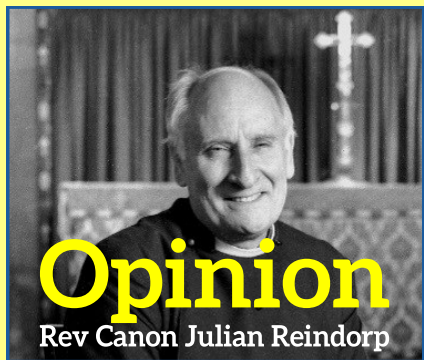
Our energy use is regularly monitored, and our carbon footprint is now calculated. The PCC has agreed that we should aim to reduce our energy consumption by 5%. Of course, there is now a greater financial pressure to do this, as well as being better for the environment.

It's my view that the Gold Award is still worth aiming for. There are further steps to be taken with regard to the churchyard (land) and community engagement.

The buildings will be our biggest challenge. Nevertheless, we should remember that gaining an award is not an end in itself, just a signal that we are taking seriously our responsibility to care for all of God's creation.



Hospital life and all its challenges



Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

QUEEN'S THOUGHTFULNESS

So many people have talked of the Queen's kindness and thoughtfulness. I liked the story of her protection officer of 27 years, Dick Griffin. Travelling in her car, she said, 'Dick, for nine months you have been talking about the coming of your grandchild, and now he is born you haven't brought him to see me'. It was quickly arranged and his grandson was cuddled by the Queen.

HOTEL COMPASSION

When lockdown was announced in March 2020, four-star hotels across Britain shut their doors — but the staff of the smartest hotel in Shrewsbury, the Prince Rupert, opened theirs to the towns homeless. People who hadn't slept in a bed for decades were put up in four-posters in Tudor rooms.

'We treated them like guests', said Charlie Green, the enthusiastic manager, 'except we threw our arms around them.' The local council hoped that the hotel would take one or two of the town's homeless, the staff decided they would take all 100 of them.

Today, the hotel keeps a small number of rooms for the council to house vulnerable people, currently a number of families from Ukraine. Would they do it again? Yes, say the staff, but they would insist on complete control to avoid all the bureaucracy. The staff simply felt it was 'the right thing to do'.

Christina Lamb from the *Sunday Times* moved into the hotel to interview the new guests and tells their story: *The Prince Rupert Hotel for the Homeless: A True Story of Love and Compassion*.

INFLATION AND THE POOR

A recent report for the Institute for Fiscal Studies showed how inflation for the poorest fifth of the population was almost 10%, while for the richest fifth it was under 8%. A CEO of an energy company, in backing an energy price freeze, said that without it state pensioners now receiving £9000 pa would have to pay a further £3000 in their energy bills. And while city workers' wages have risen by more than 10% in the past year, the lowest paid had a 1% increase (Centre for Economic & Business research).

FROM POOR TO RICH

I was shocked by Rishi Sunak when he said to potential Conservative voters in Tonbridge Wells that he was siphoning money that Labour had planned for deprived urban areas into places like Tonbridge Wells. I was reminded that in 2020 the *Financial Times* said there had been the greatest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in the last 10 years since recent records began. This is clearly continuing.

POLICY FOR THE FUTURE?

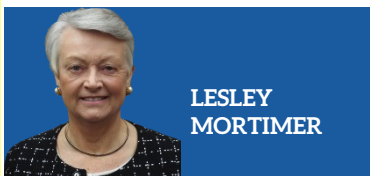
Michael Gove perhaps spoke for many arguing that millions of people and huge numbers of businesses could be financially crippled by high energy costs.

'I am deeply concerned,' he said, 'that the framing of the leadership debate has been a holiday from reality...the answer to the cost of living crisis cannot simply be to reject further handouts and cut tax [our new Prime Minister, Liz Truss's initial pledge].

He continued: 'Proposed cuts to national insurance would favour the wealthy, and changes to corporation tax apply to big business, not small entrepreneurs. I cannot see how safeguarding the stock options of FTSE executives should ever take precedence over supporting the poorest in our society, but at a time of want it cannot be the right priority.'

AGE ON OUR SIDE

New research shows that the most productive decade of our lives is 60 to 70, then 70 to 80, and finally 50 to 60. When I first arrived in the Richmond Team Ministry in 1991, three key posts were very ably filled by people in their 80s — and that taught me not to be ageist!



LESLEY MORTIMER

It was a joy to welcome Drs Adrian and Hilary Murray to St James's on 10 July, fresh off the plane from Tanzania. We had first met them in December 2019 as they were preparing to volunteer at St Luke's Hospital in Milo, southwest Tanzania, an institution which our parish has supported for almost 50 years.

The link was established by the late Hannah Stanton and we have watched the hospital and its surrounding village grow and develop, aided by various donors including USPG and the Diocese of St Asaph in Wales (Adrian and Hilary's home diocese).

Adrian spoke of his experiences working in the obstetrics and gynaecology department.

It was encouraging to hear that the portable ultrasound equipment which St James's helped to buy was now in everyday use in-house and in remote outreach clinics, operated by local trained staff. We saw for the first time a picture of the new paediatric ward building which we recently helped to furnish and equip.

No running water

However, it came as a shock to learn that the hospital still has no running water. Water is supplied daily, by hand, to wards, operating theatres, laboratories etc., from a tank in the hospital quadrangle. No less surprising was the fact that many of the staff, including those working in surgery and



Challenges The hospital relies on many volunteer staff

performing Caesarean sections, were volunteers, albeit trained.

Hilary, meanwhile, had been working in the local primary school. She spoke of the challenges of delivering the national curriculum and conforming to the demands of the exam system. Although primary education is free in Tanzania,

families must pay for secondary education, and this is generally beyond the means of Milo's local population who are mostly subsistence farmers.

Some of the brightest children have already been sponsored to attend private, usually faith, secondary schools. Hilary suggested that we might be interested in this scheme. Contact Ann Peterken (or the office) for details of how to participate.

Returning to Milo

We are hoping that Adrian and Hilary will come back and talk more about their time in Milo. They are returning there for three months in 2023, accompanied by a pre-medical student. It would be a chance to hear the latest news and to fundraise for improvements.



Murrays Hilary and Adrian's work goes on

Respect for faithful Queen

THE QUEEN'S death on 8 September led to an outpouring of grief.

The following day we joined churches across the UK in marking her passing by sounding a bell 96 times — one for each year of her life. Although the church was closed because of building work, people were invited to come to the church lobby to light candles and write messages in a book of condolence. Services were held to remember her and pray for the new King Charles III.



Ashleigh joins the team

WE WELCOMED Ashleigh Wakefield to the team last month. Ash is a Ministry Intern, and is particularly looking forward to working with young families. There will be more about her role next month.



REGISTERS

JULY

BAPTISMS

- 30 Josiah Deacon, Hampton
- 30 Neylani Deacon-Legaie, Hampton

FUNERALS

- 5 Linda Bryant, 63, Hampton
- 6 Christina (Chris) Martin, 63, Burghfield Common, Reading

AUGUST

BAPTISMS

- 28 Lily Janet Anne Whittington, Southampton
- 28 Connie Debbie Daisy Howlett-Cuming, Hampton

FUNERAL

- 20 Patricia Eileen Carey, Teddington

INTERMENTS OF ASHES

- 26 Beryl Sylvia Jones, 97, Hampton



A life well travelled

Although I was born not far away in south-east Surrey, I spent the first three years of my life in Jamaica where my father worked as a mission partner for the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG). They were wonderful years and went a long way to shaping all of us as a family. That life abroad instilled in me a deep love for travel and the desire to experience different cultures has been a defining element of my life. Both as a youngster and in my life with Nicky and our family, travel has always been a feature and we are often plotting our next adventure, be it near or far.

1 My first voyage

It is perhaps a lesser known fact that the banana boats bringing produce to Britain from the West Indies actually used to return just as laden, usually with raw materials and engineering products with which post-independence Jamaica built its infrastructure. On occasion they also took people and it was on an adventurous 11-day journey in 1972 that our family – including pets, furniture and other personal effects – set off for our new home. We travelled on the *MV Jamaica Producer*, which operated between 1962 and 1981 – I was given this toy sailor as a memento of our life-changing voyage.

2 Reggae music

Most people probably think of Bob Marley when they think of Jamaican music, but he was just part of an incredibly diverse musical heritage that often reflects many decades of strife from post-slavery hardship. Jimmy Cliff's *The Harder They Come* became a cult movie 50 years ago this year, elevating globally the story of a desperate Jamaican trying to better himself against a backdrop of political unrest, gangland violence, drugs and corruption. At its heart, the star of the film is a talented musician and the soundtrack is full of classics, including the poignant *Many Rivers to Cross*. My music tastes are a lot more eclectic nowadays, but I still love reggae.

3 Exotic food

The taste for travel was not the only thing that I picked up in my early years – I also developed a discerning palate that was probably very different from most toddlers at that time. Famously in our family, I complained about the lack of seasoning in food when we returned to the UK and throughout my life I have sought out and cooked unusual dishes from all over the world. This picture is of ackee, the national fruit of Jamaica, that is cooked as a savoury dish with saltfish. To my partisan mind, it is one of the greatest dishes ever invented by humankind and I humbly believe that I can hold my own with any Jamaican mother in a cook-off!

4 Art

Like my music tastes, my love of art is quite eclectic and I manage to accommodate Renaissance religious art, the Pre-Raphaelites and African sculpture all with the same enthusiasm. This item is a beautifully carved piece of ebony with a happy memory – Nicky and I were given it as a wedding gift when we spent a few days of our honeymoon on Lukuba Island in Lake Victoria, Tanzania. Travel can be very limiting though – we have never brought home as much as we would have liked from our trips!

5 Wildlife

Travel has also brought us into contact with an incredibly varied selection of wildlife and, over the years, we have focused disproportionately on our favourites – elephants and big cats in Kenya and Tanzania, giant tortoises in Zanzibar,



David Hetling spent his early years in Jamaica, which has shaped much of his life. From music to food and drink, his quest for experiencing different cultures has enriched his life and led to an eclectic range of interests and favourites.

whales in Iceland and puffins in England, Scotland and Wales (Ireland is still on the list!). Our three cocker spaniels would never forgive us if they were not included in this too though – and they have been faithful travelling companions on trips all over the UK and even to the south of France. Not so much wildlife perhaps, just as long as you don't miss a mealtime.

6 England Rugby

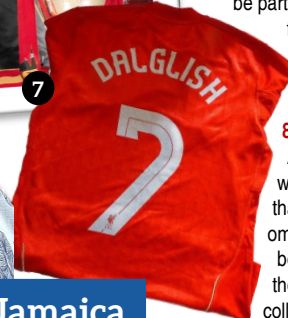
You can scarcely live around the south-west quadrant of London and not embrace rugby. My love of the game is exclusively as a spectator given my lack of size, speed and anything beyond schoolboy skills. I followed Richmond for many years when I lived a stone's throw from the famous



Athletic Ground but, in common with many rugby fans, nothing can quite top England winning the Rugby World Cup in 2003.

7 Liverpool Football Club

Fitting that this should be number 7 in my memory box because, as a boy, my favourite player was Kenny Dalglish, the greatest Liverpool player ever to wear this number and still a great ambassador for the club. I have followed Liverpool all the way through the glory years of the 70s and 80s, stuck with them through the more fallow years that came afterwards and, patience rewarded, been fortunate enough to see some wonderful recent successes under the current leadership. I appreciate how many people I have already alienated with these comments so, since they will likely no longer be reading this, I will finish by saying how proud I am to be part of the greatest set of fans in world football and even prouder to share that privilege with Jack.



8 Wine

Anyone who knows me well might have feared that there was a major omission from my memory box – last, but not least though, is our wine collection. Inspired again by travel, we have been fortunate enough to witness at first hand the beauty of the landscape in wine growing regions. There are few greater pleasures than sampling the

wine in the place it was made, with the people that made it, alongside the food it was designed to be partnered with.

There are countless places that achieve this perfect harmony but featuring in the top of many wine lovers' lists, including ours, would be Tuscany – the art and architecture are not too shabby either. We are, of course, already planning our next wine trip!

