

APRIL/MAY 2023 BISHOP EMMA

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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Happy Easter

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 Mondays (his day off).
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ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister, married to Alan, and has three children. During term-time she runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.
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Supported by

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 labrador, Ruby.
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ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

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

This year is proving to be a very special one for several reasons. Firstly, we have the coronation of Charles III on 6 May. I remember watching the late Queen's coronation on a new black and white television with my parents and grandparents. I particularly remember a very small Prince Charles sitting with his grandmother, the Queen Mother.

We are told that this Coronation will be much shorter and will also include the crowning of the Queen Consort. The whole world will be watching the sort of occasion we do best, but we must not forget that it is also a religious occasion with the King and Queen being anointed with holy oil and proclaiming their allegiance to serve the people. I am sure there will be celebrations locally and we will be ringing the church bells at some point on the day!

No doubt we shall be singing *God Save the King* on many occasions over the holiday weekend.

Locally, we also have a new beginning with the appointment of the Rt Rev Dr Emma Ineson as the Bishop of Kensington. You can read about her in our centrespread. We wish her well in her new post.

Best Wishes

Janet



Cover photo: The spring flowers mark new life, echoing the eternal message of Easter.

SPIRE

The Spire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We make no charge for this magazine, but if you enjoy reading it, we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs. Bank transfers to: 40-52-40, 00032595, Ref SPIRE. Cheques payable to the PCC of St James's Church, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Church Office (see below).

I cost £1

Yes, I'm free, but donations help me to go on being printed. Use the QR code to give money.

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PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge
Proof readers Catherine Gash, Susan Horner
PRINT
Peter James Printing Limited 01932 244 665
or PJP123cards@aol.com

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

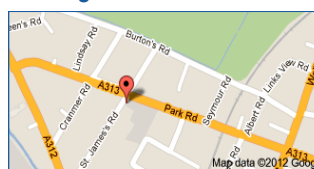
The June Spire is published on Fri 26 May.
Copy deadline: Tue 2 May.

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Printed on paper sourced from well-managed forests.



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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'Police? This is St Mary's Vigilante Knitters. We've caught two men trying to steal the church silver.'

In the rush to Easter, don't ignore 'failure'



DEREK WINTERBURN

He has been seemingly abandoned by almost everyone who had greeted his arrival in Jerusalem, except his mother and one or two stalwarts. He is cruelly executed in such a degrading fashion; his last hours are agony. 'Nothing to look at here, move on.'

But there is a fellowship among sufferers. There is comfort in knowing that we do not suffer alone. I hope you know the feeling when someone has listened to your troubles and understood.

Jesus appeared to have failed, and for a moment, at least, thought he had failed.

So that image of Jesus, pinned to a cross, stands for the truth that God is not a stranger to suffering and failure, but that in the person of his Son he has 'first-hand' experience.

Christians reading Isaiah 53 apply to Christ the title *Man of Sorrows*. We can trust that God does listen to our trouble and understands.

There is no doubt that Jesus suffered, he appeared to have failed and for a moment at least thought he had failed ('*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*').

God never fails

But Bishop Emma in her book insists that at no time had *God* failed. The Father

always had Easter in sight; in due course a new day dawned and Jesus was gloriously raised. She references the famous sermon 'It's Friday, but Sunday is coming!'

Don't ignore Holy Saturday

In looking for comfort when failing, she suggests we look neither to Good Friday nor Easter Sunday, but to the day in between, *Holy Saturday*.

We might see the day that Jesus is in the tomb as a continuation of the pains of the cross (he descended to the dead), or with the anticipation of victory the next day, but either way it is a day of waiting.

And that, Bishop Emma writes, is our situation too. Failure cannot be avoided; we carry regrets for all kinds of actions. Great success might be promised, but it is not here yet.

Yes, God does not fail, and he has a plan, but for now God is with us 'on Saturday'. Good Friday and Easter Sunday bookend Holy Saturday and surround it with causes for confidence and hope — still we have to live with failure.

'Much of life seems to be lived in the gaps between pain and hope, and dwelling in Holy Saturday is the most honest place we could be.'

Fast-forwarding to the good bits

Holy Week and Easter offer multiple points of view of Jesus' last days, and ways of thinking about our human experience (companionship, betrayal, suffering, failure, bereavement, triumph, reunion...)

Perhaps the temptation this week, and at other times, is to rush past from one 'big event' to another and miss the 'living-with-failure' of Holy Saturday?

We have a new bishop in our part of the world: The Rt Rev Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington. Just as she begins her episcopal ministry in London she has a new book out, *Failure*.

Heroic failures

Our history has some notable heroic failures. The Antarctic immortalised two — Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton — and there have been many others, including Boudica, Joan of Arc, the crew of Apollo 13, the England men's football team under Gareth Southgate... but, of course, we generally prefer success stories.

We would much rather go to a match if we can be reasonably confident our team can win, we watch reality TV to see winners slowly emerge, we read books about how to lose weight / cook / be healthy, like a celebrity.

Good Friday does not seem to be a success story. Certainly to anyone who saw Jesus of Nazareth being crucified it looked like an absolute failure. A young man, full of promise, is crushed by the expediency of his own people's leaders and the carelessness of the occupying forces of Rome.



Holy Communion (said) 8am
Parish Communion 9:30am
 Livestreamed on Facebook.
NEW Together or Messy Church 3:30pm
 Our shorter, all-age service, is moving! From **30 April** it will run at 3:30pm, making way for Messy Church once a month.

Mon-Fri

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

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 10am-12noon
 Friendly playgroup for carers and under 5s during school term-time but not Bank Holidays. £2.50 for first child, 50p for others.

Connections Café

Tuesdays 10am-12noon

Join us for coffee, cake and conversation, with a free, walk-in NHS Hearing Aid Clinic on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Plus, the chance to talk to a mental wellbeing professional about any concerns.

Palm Sunday Sun 2 April

9:30am Parish Communion.
 11:15am Together

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 6 April 8pm
 Liturgy of Last Supper and Washing of Feet

Good Friday Fri 7 April

10am-12noon Messy Church
 2pm *At the Foot of the Cross*

Easter Day Sun 9 April

6am Dawn Service
 9:30am Parish Communion

Alpha Course

7:30pm Starting 19 April
 The course is for anyone asking the big questions about life, or wanting to reboot their Christian faith. Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJAlpha23>

Messy Church Monthly

Church — but not as you know it — with singing, stories, crafts and food.
 3:30-5:30pm Sundays 23 Apr, 21 May, 25 Jun

Meet the Murrays

7-9:30pm Saturday 29 April
 A chance to catch up with Drs Adrian and Hilary Murray from St Luke's Hospital, Milo.

APCM Sun 21 May

11am Our annual meeting, with the election of officers and a review of the previous year.

We are confident



NICK BAGGE



Selfie time Bishop Emma flanked by Middlesex Archdeacon Richard Frank and Bishop of London Sarah Mullally

Few of us would like to be labelled as failures. But the new Bishop of Kensington, The Rt Rev Emma Ineson, might soon be known as the Bishop of Failures. As she officially began her work, parishes across the country are studying the Lent book she has written, simply called *Failure*. Part of her message is that we all fail, and that the church welcomes failures, so she is becoming the Bishop of Failures!

About Bishop Emma

So, who is our new bishop? Emma Gwynneth Ineson was born in Birmingham, but spent most of her childhood in Kenya, her family moving to Wales (just a few miles from where our Assistant Priest Jacky was then living) when she was a teenager.

'I was raised in Kenya where we went to Nairobi Baptist Church services,' she told me on her first visit to the Hampton Deanery in her new role. 'It was a wonderful thriving church with very good children's and youth ministry. But really, my faith started before I was born, because I am part of a wonderful line of Christian women in the South Wales valleys. My great grandmother was a very strong Christian – she died aged 105, and sat in the same pew for all of her life. She passed her faith to my grandmother, who passed it to my mother, who passed it to me. I can't remember a time when I wasn't a Christian. I was a secret Baptist actually; I only became an Anglican when I went to university.'

It's been a turbulent few weeks for the Church of England, rocked by General Synod's decision on same-sex relationships. But, as Nick Bagge found out, Bishop Emma is unruffled, and believes the Church needs to focus on becoming more confident, compassionate and creative in bringing the Gospel to communities in London. She also explains what challenges she faces as the new Bishop of Kensington.

Church ministry

At the age of 24, she and her husband, Mat, trained together for ordination at Trinity College, Bristol, before serving a job-share curacy in Sheffield. She later returned to Trinity College to become a tutor for six years, then Principal for five. She was appointed chaplain to the Queen in 2016, and three years later Bishop

of Penrith, as well as Chaplain to the Mothers' Union.

In 2021 Bishop Emma became the first 'Bishop to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York'.

Diplomacy is a good strength to have. She had chaired the Lambeth Conference Working Group co-ordinating the coming together of bishops from around the world.

Acknowledging her high-profile position, Archbishop Justin said she had 'played a key role in some truly historic moments for the Church of England. Much of this work has been complicated and sensitive, and there has been no better person than Bishop Emma'.

In her new role she is responsible for the western

section of the Diocese of London, covering the London boroughs of Kensington & Chelsea, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham, part of Richmond upon Thames, and Spelthorne in Middlesex.

Home-grown evangelists

Bishop Emma was quick to state that she hadn't arrived at her new desk with a plan ready to roll out. 'I think when someone says "Well, this is my vision, hello everybody, follow me", it's probably not going to work! I think my role is to listen to what's going on, to gather it all together and say that this is maybe what God is saying to us, this is the direction that we might go in together, so it's very much a shared thing.'

Quoting the Diocese of London's plan, she said, 'I think a vision of confident disciples, compassionate communities, and creative growth, is not a bad place to start actually, because those three things sum up what we need to be doing.'

'I've spent a lot of time in theological college, but theology should happen everywhere. I want to encourage people to read the Bible and to speak confidently about their faith to others. If we did that, we would see our faith bearing fruit and the church would grow.'

Church's role in tough times

She said the church also had an important role in the community, especially now. 'You just have to look at the situation around us and the cost-of-living crisis and how communities are struggling to know that the church can play a really important part in bringing the whole love of God.'

And the church should not shy away from getting involved in politics. 'Jesus was quite political, actually, and spoke



Local clergy A chance to meet Bishop Emma on her visit to the deanery

in our faith



In the pink Bishop Emma with Derek and Jacky at St James's

out about things that were not right, not in tune with God's Kingdom. It's important that where we see people oppressed and marginalised or struggling, and if we see the systems that are making that happen, to be able to say this isn't right and what can we do to make it better. It's not about being party-political, but being confident in what we see; the sorts of things that we think Jesus would have said.'

Part of the Diocese's plan is to become a younger church – and that means attracting young people! 'We need to be talking about the things young people are concerned about, such as climate justice, equality, ending poverty, mental health and so on. The Bible is highly relevant to these concerns, although we're not always great at putting that across.'

Parish life is changing

There have been many changes to church life as a result of the pandemic. Many parishes, ours included, now stream services online.

Bishop Emma sees a more important change. 'Church is now seen as something that everybody does, rather than the vicar doing it all by necessity, particularly where ministries are spread thinly across the country. In Cumbria, where I was a bishop previously, it's not so much one vicar, one parish, but one vicar covering 14 churches.'

'The good side to this is that people then have to step up and play their part in the church. The church

belongs to everybody, and I think increasingly it is getting outside of its walls, which is really encouraging.

'I've seen places where the church is going out to the places the people are, rather than expecting them to come to us.'

Success and failure

Bishop Emma has written books about both failure and success. How will she judge herself? 'Success is a difficult word to use in the context of Christian ministry. It may be better to refer to faithfulness. The main things Jesus said we should succeed at are loving God and loving our neighbour, so I'd be happy if both those were increasingly true in my own life and those of the people I serve.'

'Failure has been defined as "what happens when things don't go according to plan". But as long as we're following the plans and purposes of God, we won't be failing, at least not in God's eyes.'

'Failure is a club we're all part of and so perhaps we need to be kinder to each other when (not if) it happens. And we need to get better at understanding its nuances. Not all failures are the same!'

Failure can hold us back

Bishop Emma agreed that a fear of failure could hold the church back. 'If, as soon as something goes wrong, we instantly ask who is at fault and how they should be punished, people will always be afraid of taking risks. Perhaps a

better question to ask when things go wrong is what has happened and how can we learn from it?'

'That way, we also create an atmosphere where people are more confident to try new things, which is very much what the church needs.'

Synod's marriage debate

Recently there has been much coverage of the 'response' from the Bishops of the Church of England about sexuality, relationships and marriage, and the subsequent debate at General Synod. Bishop Emma is not a member of General Synod (she is not a Diocesan bishop, and so not a member of the House of Bishops) and so was not directly involved in the Synod vote. Did she think the Synod vote was an example of failure? 'This is a very difficult topic, with strongly held convictions all round. There are certainly things that we could have done better, and we need to learn from that. The implications and outcome of the synod decision to approve the House of Bishops' proposals are still being worked on and worked out. I encourage people to read the documents for themselves, rather than relying on the headlines.'

Optimistic for future

Bishop Emma is optimistic about where we will be in a year's time. 'I would hope that we would have come to a more settled place on the consequences of the discussions on same-sex relationships. Above all, I would hope that the church would be thriving and being all we are called to be in our communities, showing to all the love of Jesus Christ and holding out the hope and grace he offers to all. I see that already happening in so many places across the Kensington Area, and as its bishop, I hope to encourage it more.'



Early visit Bishop Emma meeting pupils at Bishop Wand School

Around the Spire

FAMILY SERVICE MOVES TO 3:30PM

Getting Together in the afternoons



together

IT IS SIX YEARS since we launched *Together* at 11:15, our shorter service, aimed particularly at young families.

With the introduction of a monthly Sunday afternoon Messy Church (replacing the 11:15 that week) it can get confusing knowing what is running when!

So, from 30 April we are going to trial running *Together* at 3:30pm, replacing it once a month with Messy Church. That means family church in one

form or another will be happening most Sunday afternoons.

We have a growing number of families supporting the service; it's a great way of meeting and making friends.



The service is fast-paced, with lively songs, great Bible stories told for a young audience, and plenty of participation, ending with crafts and refreshments.

If you thought all church was quiet and solemn, think again! Come along and see for yourself.



Questions about faith

DESPITE a life of adventures, Bear Grylls counts his time on an Alpha course as one of his greatest achievements.

There's a chance for you to experience it for yourself at St James's on Wednesdays from 19 April at 7:30pm. The course is designed for anyone asking the big questions about life, or wanting to reboot their Christian faith.

Whether you are curious about Christianity, needing answers, or wanting to strengthen your faith, this is the course for you.

It's free to join, but it will help if you book in advance. To register, please go to: <https://bit.ly/StJAlpha23> or use the QR code.



Church AGM and elections



THIS YEAR'S Annual Meeting is on Sunday 21 May at 11am. As well as electing wardens, and up to four members of the PCC, this is a chance to hear about what has been achieved over the past year, and what is being planned for the year ahead, as well as reporting on the church finances. Do come along!

Modest fame and fortune



Templeton Lodge with its blue plaque



SHEILA BLIGH

On one of his holidays in Scotland he called upon his former minister, Dr Brown, who asked him to 'take the desk', i.e. to sing the psalms in the precentor's allotted space. Templeton agreed on condition that the matter was kept quiet, and then found, on the day, that the church was full to capacity. Initially the congregation sang too, but gave up, leaving Templeton to sing solo the better to enjoy his renditions.

Stranded on a farm

On another visit, when touring with some other professional musicians, the stagecoach broke down on the approach to Aberdeen and the company was offered hospitality in a nearby farmhouse. The family opted to sing some psalms in the later evening and, naturally, Templeton and his companions joined in. As before, the family stopped to listen.

The next day the farmer refused to accept payment for the temporary lodging, claiming that he and his family had been 'entertaining angels unawares'.

Templeton retired from public life in 1852 and by 1861 had settled to live a quiet life in Tempe Villa, 114 High Street, Hampton Hill, now known as Templeton Lodge, where a blue plaque commemorates his residency.

Marriage and deaths

John was married to Letitia who died there on 21 June 1873, aged 71. John died, aged 83, on 2 July 1886. There is a very unimposing horizontal stone grave with a cross in the oldest part of the churchyard between the church and Park Road.

In 2012 *The Scottish Genealogist* published a booklet featuring famous Scots, including John Templeton, with a picture of his gravestone. He is also commemorated, with two other Scottish tenors, on a monument on Carlton Hill, Edinburgh.



Templeton The simple grave

Lost sheep matter to God



The Lost Sheep Families explored it at 11:15



ASH WAKEFIELD

Children's ministry is an exceptionally important part of our church. It's where our team takes the great truths of God and makes them accessible. Here, we do this in three ways – at the Ark playgroup, during the Together service and through Messy Church activities. Here are some of the ways we have shared God's great truths with our children!

Ark Playgroup



God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it! (Genesis 1:21)

We painted paper plates blue, cut out some fishes, seaweed and crabs, and stuck them down! The children used their vivid imagination to create some great underwater scenes.

11:15 Together Service

The Parable of the Lost Sheep: A man has 100 sheep. One is lost. The man leaves the 99 and seeks the lost sheep until he finds it. (Luke 15:1-7)

When something is lost, there is only one thing you can do – go looking for it! We printed lots of sheep and stuck them around the church. The children went on a treasure hunt looking for them.

Messy Church

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

We created a paper mâché mountain, similar to the Mount of Temptation, and asked the children to help decorate it with greenery from the churchyard.



Idea for you at home

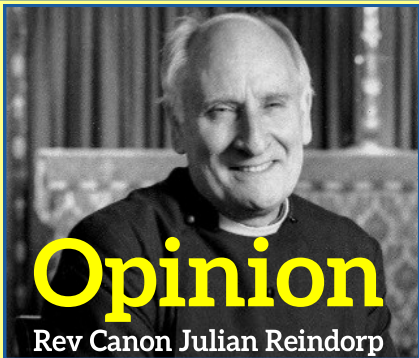
When Moses met God at the burning bush, he asked God who he was.

God responded 'I am who I am'. This is an incomplete sentence. Jesus completed it, by saying:

*I am the Bread of Life
I am the Light of the World
I am the Door and the Good Shepherd
I am the Resurrection and the Life
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
I am the True Vine.*



Why don't you have a go at creating an 'I am' flower, writing on each petal what you are? Just remember to be kind to yourself!



Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

FUTURE OF OUR NHS

Jeremy Hunt, now Chancellor of the Exchequer, when chairing the House of Commons Health Select Committee in 2019, said the Government needed a 10-year plan. Sadly, he had not introduced this in his six years as Health Secretary. The seven-plus years of training for doctors clearly needs long-term planning. Since 2010 the number of hospital doctors in England has increased by 30% from 95,000 to 127,000 in 2022. This has paralleled the rise in the number of over 65s with their health needs, while there has been a steady decrease in hospital beds.

Hospitals are far the most expensive part of the NHS. The key to the future surely lies in more GPs, Social Care capacity, and increased funding. A 10-year plan, agreed in principle, is now awaited.

GPs & SOCIAL CARE

There are currently 27,000 GPs, about 9,000 fewer than needed — and more are leaving than joining, citing morale and the work/life balance as key factors. Then there is Social Care, with increasing need and fewer care homes each year, and an estimated shortfall of 150,000 care workers. Their minimum wage of £9.50 an hour is out of step with all the alternative jobs. Social Care is the responsibility of local authorities who have had cuts of more than 50% through the austerity decade. According to Age UK, £8 billion was stripped from adult Social Care between 2009 and 2019. We are all aware of about 13,000 patients waiting to come out of hospital, 'bed blockers' as they are sadly called.

Then funding: David Nicholson, Chief Executive of the NHS in 2013 warned of a shortfall of £30 billion by 2021. There was an £8 billion uplift in 2015. All the health indicators have been deteriorating since 2010 and public satisfaction with the NHS is the lowest it has ever been. Public health and care in the community have never been more important if the NHS is to survive and to respond to rising demand.

COURTS CLOGGED

We are all aware that our prisons are overcrowded, but our courts are worse. The system is clogged. Three years ago the average amount of time victims of serious crime had to wait for their cases to be heard was 525 days. The backlog pre-Covid was 37,434 cases. The latest figures show a backlog of 64,757. Staff shortages are worse, 25% fewer prosecutors than pre-pandemic. New courts are being opened in former court buildings closed by the Government in 2010 to save money!

When the barristers went on strike last summer, the Criminal Bar Council showed that their real earnings had fallen by 28% since 2006, with government-set fees so low that many junior barristers were earning less than the minimum wage.

A GOOD LENT FILM

Our Lent course this year is based on the film, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. Based on real events, it describes how the untaught Indian genius Srinivas Ramanujan, between 1914 and his death aged 32 in 1920, transformed (and is still influencing) the world of mathematics. Brought from India to Trinity College Cambridge, he became uniquely first a Fellow of the Royal Society and then the first Indian Fellow of the college. There were beautiful scenes of my former college, discussions about God, atheism, other faiths, science, racism, and even the importance of cricket. It ticked all my boxes! The course book, *Thoughts of God* (£10), is packed with facts, apt quotations and good questions. Thank you Derek, another great find.

LETTERS TO PAUL'S MUM!

A cartoon of an angry mother, complaining to St Paul: 'You write to the Thessalonians, you write to the Romans, you write to the Corinthians, but do you ever write to your mother?'

Easy peasy way to fight poverty



LINDA WEBB

For this year's Christian Aid Week, we are celebrating how our partners in Malawi are helping farmers transform their livelihoods using the humble but mighty pigeon pea: a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop.

JEN'S STORY

Jen is a loving mum who lives in Malawi, and she is determined to provide her children with the education they deserve.

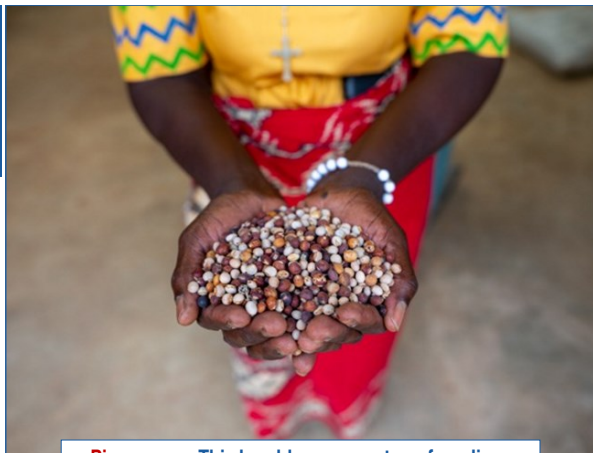
Her two oldest sons have obtained places in tertiary education, which is rare for children from a rural area. Despite Jen working hard to provide for her children, she can barely scratch a living from the soil.

Costs have soared for food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniforms and school fees. Jen has to make the choice no parent should be forced to make. The rising costs mean Jen is only able to pay for one of her sons to go to college.

Jen desperately needs to earn more to allow both her sons the opportunity to study in further education. However, the erratic weather is also affecting any profits that could be made. 'The result is that our harvest is very little' she says.

She and her husband have two acres of pigeon peas, but the effects of the climate crisis mean that rainfall is unreliable and there are more storms, flooding and stronger winds. The pigeon pea is a tough plant, but Jen needs to be able to plant good quality seeds and to be able to sell for the best price possible without any unscrupulous middlemen.

Please help us to raise funds for Jen and others like her. Your support for Christian Aid will help farmers like



Pigeon peas This humble crop can transform lives

Jen plant better seeds and secure a fairer price for her crops. Then Jen's dreams of providing her children with an education and a happier future can become a reality.

■ At the start of Christian Aid week, on **Sunday 14 May**, there will be a film during the 9:30am service, followed by a cake sale.

■ Then on **Saturday 20 May**, please join us for the *Easy Peasy Quiz Supper*. Tickets cost £10. Book now at <https://bit.ly/StJCAQuiz23>

or use the QR code. There will also be the familiar red Christian Aid envelopes available from the church and office.

Please support us. Thank you.



Education Only one of Jen's sons can go to school

Reflection



The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Numbers 6: 24-26

REGISTERS

FEBRUARY

FUNERALS

3 Marjorie Kathleen Hume, 101, Hampton



A potty time traveller

'Camden' it says on Graham's birth certificate. After a brief period in Knightsbridge, he lived mainly in the borough of Richmond upon Thames. Despite an inglorious educational record, he landed a job at the BBC, where he stayed until retirement. He now fills his time volunteering for several organisations centred around Bushy Park, or fiddling with wires at St James's Church. He has two sons and two grandchildren.

1 DUCKY POTTY

'Ducky, made in Britain, Patent applied for' it says on the bottom. Of the potty, I should add, not the child that regularly sat on it! This wonderful piece of 1950s bakelite design has seen many years of service. I believe I was the first child to enjoy its comfort and marvel at the ergonomic way its beak doubled as a handle. As my granddaughter has now graduated to more commodious facilities, Ducky has been returned to the loft to await the next generation.

2 HARRODS

When my father was demobbed in 1945, he found work at Harrods as a Christmas temp — he stayed for 41 years! Somehow, he was able to rent a flat in nearby Pont Street. My mother, who had given up her job as a midwife when I was born, liked the Harrods food halls. She would push me in my Silver Cross pram to No 10 door where the 'Green Men' would keep me entertained in between assisting customers from their limousines while she shopped at leisure.

3 FAMILY PHOTO

This exquisite autograph of my grandmother, aunt and father was taken in 1921. I have always loved it, and felt that as I was to be the next 'clan chief' - eldest son of eldest son, I had first claim on it. Shortly before Auntie Mary moved to a care home, I visited her and was horrified to discover that the photo no longer hung above her fireplace. She had sent it to me via my parents. They had put it behind the piano for safekeeping and forgotten about it. Over high tea with my aunt I had been thinking, 'How could she give the photo to someone else?' Meanwhile she had thought, 'What an ungrateful boy for not thanking me!'

4 BATTLE WAGON

In the sixties our family moved to Kew. My parents loved to practise hospitality and we always had space at the Sunday lunch table for the unexpected guest. Frequently young ladies from The Redcliffe missionary training college in Chiswick would join us. I would insist that they pull me round the garden in my Triang Battlewagon. Having missionaries from exotic locations to stay probably gave me the desire to travel. One tall man we called 'Lofty' would produce mangoes from his pocket picked from his garden the day before in Lagos. How many people in the UK had tasted a fresh mango in the early 1960s?

5 SALAD BOWL

My father continued to work at Harrods, but now as a buyer and manager. In my school holidays I would accompany him on business trips. My favourite was to Mr Hewitt, near Newbury. This reclusive pig farmer was also an expert wood



turner. He lived in a caravan deep in the Berkshire woods. Whilst Dad and Mr Hewitt discussed business, I played with the piglets, herding them into cages and trying to straighten their curly tails. This salad bowl is made from English Walnut and was a gift from Mr Hewitt.

7 CLOUD TABLE

This table was in the centre of the sitting room. I played Meccano and Lego on it. Later, my mother used it for everything. Magazines and books would be strewn over it, with her heavily annotated bible always on top. It was in a terrible state, scratched and stained. One Sunday I was watching *The Antiques Roadshow* with Mum and to our surprise there was an identical *Cloud table*. The expert enthused about the craftsmanship of this post-war gem made by Morris of Glasgow. Sometime later my sister came across another one when visiting the Kelvingrove museum in Glasgow. This example has now been expertly restored.

8 MATRYOSHKA DOLLS

My work took me all around the world, including Moscow. It was exhilarating and slightly terrifying knowing that I was being followed everywhere. On one trip my interpreter told me about some subversive Matryoshka dolls. Under the cover of darkness I was taken to a poorly lit underpass where a man produced them from under his thick naval coat. Sue MacGregor later mentioned my purchase on the *Today* programme, and the National Theatre, who were staging a play set in Moscow, asked to use the dolls in publicity photos.

9 ACCREDITATION

Covering world events meant I had to seek accreditation. The passes now act as reminders of some of the stories I covered, including: Nelson Mandela's release from jail, election and inauguration; Barack Obama on the long path to inauguration; Pope John Paul II's travels, including Cuba and The Holy Land; following the Princess



We discover that **Graham McHutchon** likes institutions, got a taste for travel from some exotic visitors, was not averse to meeting shady characters, and has somehow avoided going potty... even if he has kept his!

6 TELEGRAM

In my early years of attending the Young People's Fellowship at Duke Street Church in Richmond, girls and boys were supposed to keep a respectful distance apart. Physical contact was frowned upon, a practice I did not find easy. There was a big student population and each September the YPF ran a Freshers'

of Wales in Argentina after her interview with Martin Bashir. The most bizarre badge was for Hurricane Mitch in Honduras.

10 RETIREMENT BOOK

Once through the doors of Broadcasting House I never managed to leave, working there for 41 years, latterly in News, which was challenging and exciting. It was an era when new technologies enabled live broadcasting from almost anywhere. I travelled to many amazing locations, and some ghastly wars in Iraq, Chechnya and Bosnia. In this book are messages from some of the fantastic and talented people that I had the privilege to work with.

