

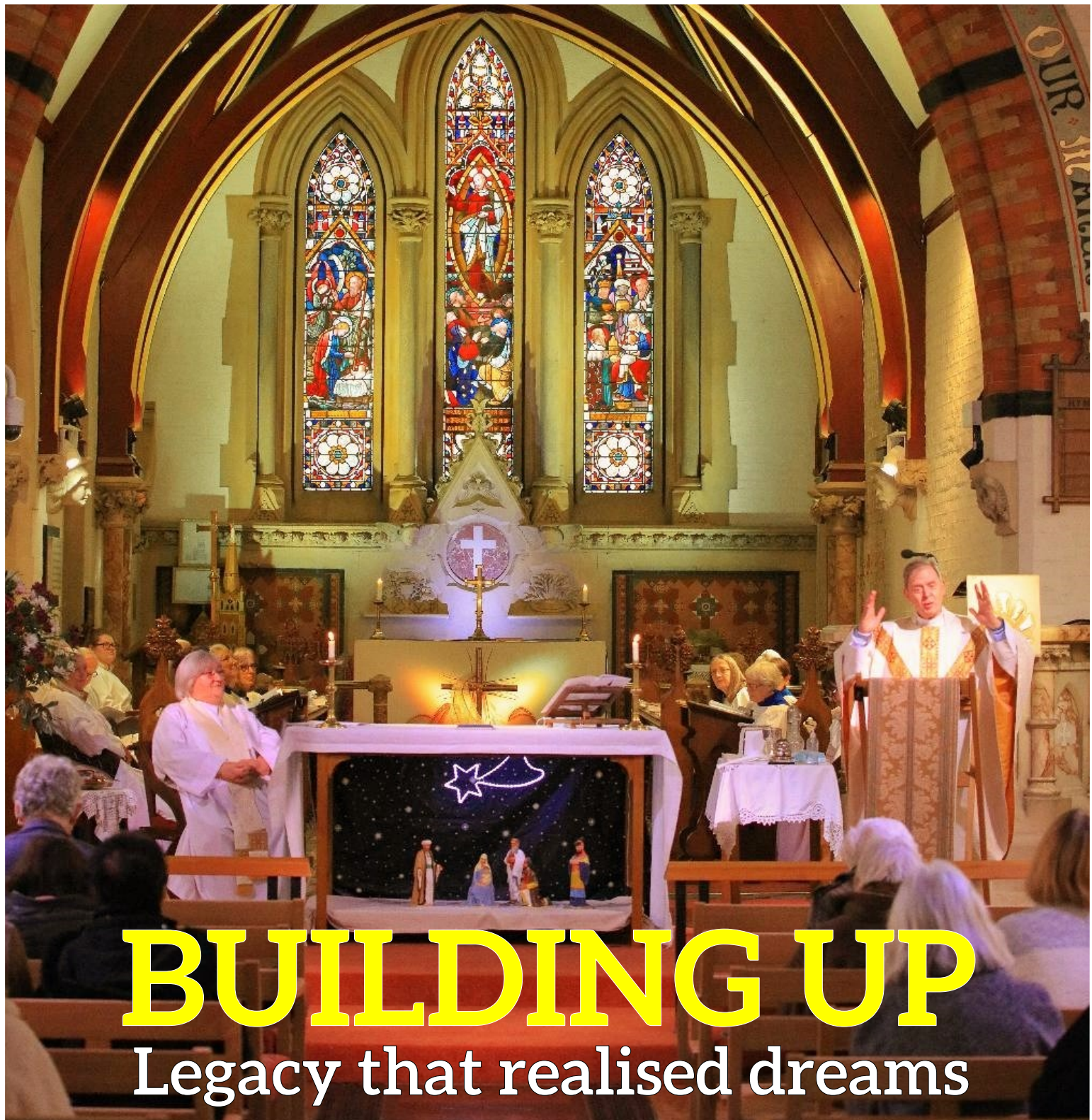
FEBRUARY 2023 REFURBISHMENT

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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BUILDING UP

Legacy that realised dreams

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).

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

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

Tel: 079 5012 2294

Email: jackycammidge@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



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.

Tel: 020 8614 6800 Email: julianreindorp@outlook.com

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.

Tel: 073 6928 0040 Email: rftimmarwood@hotmail.com



CHURCH OFFICE

Church & hall bookings

Nick Bagge

Nick deals with enquiries and Church and hall bookings. Open: Mon, Wed, Fri 0930-1230; Tue, Thu 1230-1530

Tel: 020 8941 6003

Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Address: St James's Church, St James's Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ.



CHURCHWARDEN

Susan Horner

Tel: 020 8979 9380

Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk



CHURCHWARDEN

Nick Bagge

Tel: 020 8941 6003

Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



CHOIR DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST

Thom Stanbury

Email: thom.stanbury@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



MINISTRY INTERN

Ashleigh Wakefield

Tel: 077 1256 2010

Email: ash@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FINANCE TEAM

Treasurer Dawn Miller 020 8941 6508

Assistant Treasurer / Planned Giving Carol Bailey 020 8783 0633

Chair Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

ALMA Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Ark Playgroup

Ash Wakefield 077 1256 2010

Bell Ringers

Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Brownies (HQ) 0800 1 69 59 01

Care and Contact (Visitors)

Derek Winterburn 020 8241 5904

Charity Support Team

Dennis Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Children's Champion

Lou Coaker 020 8979 2040

Church Cleaning Team

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Church Flowers Team

via Church Office 020 8941 6003

Church Safeguarding Officer

Annalea Gratton 077 7576 4419

Churches Together Around Hampton

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Churchyard Records

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Connections Café

Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Deanery Synod

Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Eco-Church Team

Derek 020 8241 5904

Electoral Roll Recorder

Nick Bagge 020 8941 6003

Gardening Team

Lou Coaker 020 8979 2040

PCC Secretary

Nick Bagge 020 8941 6003

Properties Team

Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Scouts

Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers

Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Social Team

Derek Winterburn 020 8241 5904

Sunday Kitchen Team

Patricia Newton: lady.newton@icloud.com

Welcome Team

Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

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@ Email Susan Horner: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE EDITOR...

Snowdrops outside my window means that spring is not far away! This edition features the refurbishing of our church, mostly funded by a very generous legacy from Betty Stewart (see page 5). On 14 January we held an open day for people to see the nearly completed work. The following day we held a thanksgiving service.

With a meeting room, flexible seating, a kitchen, and toilets (a previous development), we are ready to host events from classes to meetings and concerts.

In the last issue we introduced Asleigh. I am delighted to say that she will be writing a new column on page 6 as well as helping at the Ark playgroup and Connections Café.

We have also welcomed Hassan Kordi, originally from Iran, who is looking towards ordination and has come to us to observe our style of worship. We will introduce him in greater detail in the next issue.

Another new column on page 6 focuses on our churchyard. There are fascinating stories to tell about some of the people buried there.

We look forward to 2023 with anticipation.

Best Wishes

Janet



Cover photo: Derek preaching at our thanksgiving service on 15 January.

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).

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EDITOR

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325
or janunnhh@btinternet.com

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Spire, Church Office, St James's Church,
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WEBSITE

Prill Hinckley p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

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The Spire is available in church and local shops, is delivered across the parish, and posted further afield. For more information contact Susan Horner. 020 8979 9380 or smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

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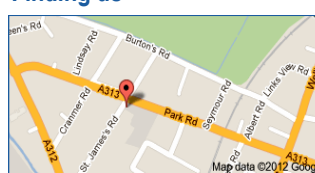
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Finding us



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

Follow us

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

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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'He says it's warmer outside than in the church since the PCC took action to cut our heating bill!'

Our church, as we go through the keyhole



DEREK WINTERBURN

previous generation toned down the polychromatic brickwork, so now the riot of colour (best on a sunny day!) comes chiefly from the windows. Almost all those windows portray Jesus in some way.

The east window (the nativity) and the west window (the transfiguration) illustrate two essential Jesus stories. Other windows show other gospel events, or his parables. There can be no doubt that this a Christian place of worship.

■ The layout is 'open' — there is a chancel, but it is not beyond a choir screen. In times past, services must have been led from the very east end of the church — far off from the congregation.

Decades ago clergy and people decided to celebrate Holy Communion closer together, so the dais was built and the altar-table brought forward. With our new moveable pews we have begun to experiment with different arrangements of clergy, choir and people.

■ The ambiance is welcoming. An early project after we had received Rev Betty Stewart's legacy was the installation of two toilets. We also put in a modern central heating system and recently new, colourful lights (that can be individually controlled for all manner of effects.)

By taking away the fixed pews, we can create a more open space as visitors enter, which makes greeting them more relaxed. The addition of facilities to make hot drinks in the church makes hospitality that much easier. Wheelchair access has also been improved.

■ 'Open for business'. Using a building for just a few hours on Sunday makes no sense. Our adaptations mean that it is more practical for the Monday playgroup, for Tuesday's Connections Café, for small

groups, as well as concerts and theatre.

Recently, we have begun to offer the church as a 'warm space' in the cold of winter, and the chill of the 'cost of living crisis'.

Change where it was needed

Previous generations were more cavalier about the changes they made to our historic buildings, churches included.

Nowadays, there is less freedom to make wholesale changes. To proceed with our refurbishments we have had to satisfy various authorities that the changes were justified. We truly believe that we have taken what we have inherited, and added value: making a much-loved local feature more accessible and fit for a new generation.



An aerial view of the church

St James Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am
(not 19 Mar) Livestreamed on Facebook.

Together 11:15am (not 19 Mar & 2 Apr)
Our shorter, all-age service, including a story, singing and crafts. All ages welcome!

Compline 8pm (26 Feb-2 Apr)
Also Mon-Wed 3-5 April

Mon-Fri

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

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 6, 20, 27 February
10am-12pm

Friendly playgroup for carers and under 5s.
£2.50 for first child, 50p for others.

Connections Café

Tuesdays 10:15am-12:15pm

Join us for coffee, cake and conversation.
with a walk-in NHS Hearing Aid Clinic.

Ash Wednesday

22 February 9:30am and 8pm

Messy Church

Sunday 26 February 3-5pm

Friday 7 April 10am-12pm

Crafts, singing, storytelling, food.

World Day of Prayer

Friday 3 March

This year's service comes from Taiwan
11am St Michael & St Martin, Hounslow
2pm St Francis de Sales, Hampton Hill

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 19 March 10am

An All Age service, with a free gift for every lady!

Palm Sunday

Sunday 2 April 9:30am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 6 April 8pm

Liturgy of Last Supper and Washing of Feet

Good Friday

Friday 7 April 3pm

At the Foot of the Cross

Easter Day

Sunday 9 April

What does our church tell us?

As we have reshaped and refurbished the church, built 160 years ago, what story might it be telling? What are the values that it embodies?

■ It speaks loudly about Jesus. I often say that St James's glory is its windows. A

Gift that is a lasting



DEREK WINTERBURN



Ready to go A refurbished church signalled a post-Covid reboot

Receiving a large legacy is a nice problem to have! That was the common-sense advice we gave to ourselves when thinking how we can best use Rev Betty Stewart's gift. From the early days the church has believed that not all of the money should be retained for ourselves, and we have been pleased to make gifts to other churches and charities.

Most importantly, the Parochial Church Council took a decision that money should not simply be taken up with either routine expenditure or 'prettifying' the building.

Even before the most recent project, sums have been used for work - but always with development and the future in mind. These have included installing an audio-visual system and church toilets, repairing stonework and the clock, renewing the heating in the hall, and partly funding the refurbishment of the organ.

On the way to the big refurbishment many smaller items have been improved (radiator covers) or introduced (hall cupboards).

Recruiting a Children's Worker

The PCC also believed it was a priority to fund a post for Children and Families' Work Leader — first Karen Roach and then Dani Robertson.

But a building project was always going to be the biggest item. In fact,

talk about refurbishment predates Betty's legacy. The general principles have always been clear: a decorative uplift for a new generation, and making the premises more adaptable for multiple use.

So the walls have been repainted, and the floor sanded, and new creative lighting added. Together, they make the nave feel lighter and brighter.

After long ruminations (extended by the COVID lockdowns) the

consensus view was that it would be worthwhile replacing the original, but uncomfortable, pews with modern pew-benches (more comfortable and movable).

A meeting room (appropriately

When St James's was told it had been left a considerable legacy by one of its friends, the church began deliberating how it should spend the money wisely. The consensus was that this gift should be used to secure the church's future. The focus became making the church fit for the 21st century and providing services particularly for young families, without whom the church would die.

named the Stewart Room) and a servery (for refreshments) were created within the nave. The Baptistry would be designed to include much-needed cupboard space, around the original font.

Finally, the rather awkward south porch would be remodelled to be safer and more attractive.

Work slowly progressed

The work began in the early summer, and through the holidays Sunday worship was held in the hall. It is fair to say that things have not progressed as quickly as any of us would have liked, partly because the church needed to use the building more often than we expected.

Nevertheless, by Christmas most of the work had been completed. And although the large panes of glass were still awaited to complete the Stewart Room, by mid January, a Thanksgiving Service was held, with celebratory refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Covid and streaming

One good thing that came from the pandemic was the introduction of streaming via our Facebook page. For many months, when public worship was not permitted, it was the only way of reaching out to the parish.

A team quickly learned how to do it, and the first broadcasts began using a single camera and some slides.

Our organist, Thom Stanbury, got to grips with zoom choir practice, and the gradual addition of more cameras and captions enabled our broadcasts to become more professional and interesting.

Now we have a church ready for the future — whatever it may hold.



Bigger and better New flexible seating creates space for other uses

Legacy



Church Cafe A new servery makes events catering easier

Betty, a pioneering life

Lesley Mortimer recalls Betty's achievements while at St James's.

BETTY WAS born and brought up with her older brother Charles in Stanley Road, Teddington, in the flat above her parents' newsagents/confectionery shop. She attended Twickenham County School for Girls, then undertook a secretarial course.

For many years she was an NHS administrator at the South London Women's Hospital in Clapham, a unique institution which always employed an all-women staff. When it closed in 1984 she moved to Springfield Psychiatric Hospital in Tooting, where she worked until her retirement in 1996.

Betty's Christian journey began at the age of nine when a neighbour offered to 'take her off her mother's hands' and proceeded to escort her every Sunday to St James's.

As Betty later said, 'You never know what might happen when you invite someone to church with you!' It was the start of her

lifelong association with St James's. She was a Sunday School teacher, together with her great friend Jean Western, from the time of her confirmation until she retired 45 years later.

Classes took place on Sunday afternoon in Rectory School (now Hampton High) with the result that her remarkable commitment to outreach in this



far corner of the parish often went unobserved – and unacknowledged – by the Sunday morning congregation.

Her sense of vocation to ordained ministry was long-standing, although it was not then open to women. Helping the chaplain at Springfield Hospital led her to take a Lay Readers' course and she was licensed to Springfield in 1990.

When the Church of England voted for the ordination of women in 1992, despite being 66, she was allowed to undergo the

discernment process and was admitted to the Southwark Ordination course.

She was ordained deacon in Southwark Cathedral in October 1993 and a year later priest, among the first women to be ordained to the priesthood in England. She was initially licensed to the parish church of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common. In 1996, on her retirement from Springfield, her licence was transferred to St James's and she was appointed Honorary Curate. She retired from ministry in 2001.

In her later years, when she was no longer able to drive, a rota of parishioners brought her to church each Sunday. Turning into St James's Road she would always remark on how much the sight of the spire lifted her spirits.

She truly loved the church which had played such a significant part in her life, where she had first felt called to her Christian ministry, and to which she bequeathed the proceeds from the sale of her house.

Betty had a calm, no-nonsense temperament which stood her in good stead when dealing with challenging situations and clients in her long professional life in the NHS. At the same time she was immensely kind and compassionate, had an impish sense of humour and a twinkle in her eye. She was not one to dwell on the past.

She would have thoroughly approved of the re-ordering of the church to provide the best possible facilities for the greatest number of people for the worship and glory of God.



Sunday School Betty with some of the children in the 1950s

Around the Spire

FAREWELL TO ARK VOLUNTEERS

Goodbye – and hello at the Ark



Flowers Thanks to Lou Coaker and Debbie Nunn

TWO OF the Ark Playgroup's volunteers, who retired after many years service, were presented with flowers in January. The next day the team successfully opened the group again after a long gap for the church building work.

Debbie Nunn, who had been there since its launch writes: the group began in September 2009. The vicar, Rev Peter Vannozi, commissioned curate, Rev Debbie Oades, to start the group, as part of our Mission Action Plan.

Debbie gathered together a few willing souls and we chose Monday mornings. Toy and book donations came flooding in.

The group soon became very popular and we sometimes had to limit numbers. Weekly arts and crafts, singing sessions, the Christmas party and summer picnic, all became regular features.

When Debbie Oades left, the mantle of team leader fell to me (I saw it coming!) and I was happy to take it on, having run two groups when my children were young – one at St James's, and the other at All Saints, Hampton.

It is not an onerous task. I have had many wonderful people to help me and it really is a team effort.

I have very much enjoyed my time. It is fun and such a privilege to spend time with young people and their charges, seeing the children grow and develop.

So, as *The Wheels on the Bus...* drops out of my musical repertoire, I am leaving the Ark in extremely safe hands and I wish the group well.

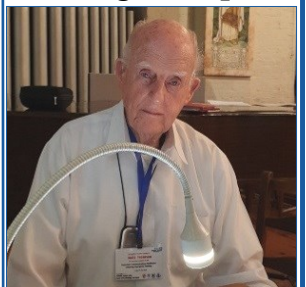
■ The Ark relaunched on 9 January with a strong turnout of parents and carers. A new layout and a kitchen in the church are both making it a fun area.

New experiences



HASSAN KORDI will become a familiar face over the coming months as he gets to grip with life in a parish church as part of his training prior to hopefully becoming a priest. Hassan, an Iraqi refugee, is sponsored by Holy Trinity Brompton.

Hearing champion



DAVID THOMPSON has resumed his popular walk-in NHS hearing aid clinic at Connections Café – the only local church offering an instant solution to servicing. He can replace tubes and batteries, and offer advice, all under the auspices of Kingston Hospital.

Matter of life and death

Church without coconut?



First and last Daines, left, and Blaschke



JANET NUNN

Christian graves are always orientated east to west to face the rising sun. There is one gravestone plinth, replaced by a none-too-careful mason, which is now upside down! Another is facing north/south!

The memorials are the responsibility of the families of those interred, including repairs to broken stones and renovations.

The first and last

The very first grave in the churchyard is on the corner of Park Road and St James's Road near the church noticeboard. The grave is that of Walter Richard Daines, aged 11 months, who died in 1864.

The last grave is in the southwest corner, behind the gardens in St James's Road. Bruna Vedovelli Blaschke died in 1987. She was the wife of Walter Blaschke, who used to regularly help the churchyard working parties before the council took over. He is also buried there.

A rich habitat

The churchyard is a very rich habitat. I particularly love the copper beech, near the Garden of Remembrance, and the Ginkgo Biloba, where the paths cross. We have numerous birdboxes as well as a bug hotel, and an inventory has been done of all the trees, wildflowers and insects. The Gardening Club mentioned in Ash's column opposite has tried to introduce more wildflowers.

There are many interesting graves that we will be featuring in this column in future issues.



Golden The copper beech in full colour

Our churchyard is very much acclaimed by people far and wide as a place of rest and also to walk through and enjoy the trees, wild flowers and birds.

This was particularly so during the pandemic when local people walked through on their daily exercise.

Over the years the nearly 1000 graves and 4000+ names have been recorded and now produced digitally and added to our website.

Record of all the graves

We have a handwritten record of all the names, dates and descriptions on the graves when we did our own survey in the 1990s.

This is a valuable reference source for people researching their family graves and where time has taken its toll on the wording on the stones.

Roland Bostock, a member of a local history society and with an interest in churchyard records, used it when carrying out his own survey.

When we did the original recording we gave each area a reference letter and each grave a number. We then transferred this information to our Burials Registers.

Only the current register, dating from 1948, is kept in church, but before we sent the full registers off to the London Metropolitan Archives we took a photocopy which has proved a very valuable resource.

No new graves

The churchyard became full and also very overgrown as it was impossible for us to maintain such a large area. In 1991 the churchyard was closed by Order in Council and there are no more new graves.

After 1991 there have only been burials in existing graves, or ashes interred in family graves and in the Garden of Remembrance.

The churchyard is looked after by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and volunteers from the congregation help out from time to time with weeding, watering and pruning.



ASH WAKEFIELD

Bounty Bars have been removed from limited edition tubs of Celebrations* after it was revealed that 40 per cent of people hate the coconut sweet.

Now, I know most of you will be thinking, 'So what, I don't like them either!' Most of us, it seems, are only interested in grabbing the Malteser or the Galaxy and aren't the least bit bothered by its absence. After all, it's always the last one left!

I must say, I don't like coconut and I've never reached for the Bounty, but for someone out there, the Bounty is their favourite, their first choice.

This had me thinking, I wonder what the reaction would be if it was the other way around. What if all the Maltesers or the Galaxys were removed? 'That's not fair', I hear you cry.

The thing is, big tubs of chocolates only work because of their variety, because you can open it up and know that there is something for everyone.

Church is like Celebrations

Church is like a big tub of chocolates: you aren't going to like everything that happens, but you know that there is always something for you. Like Celebrations, it just wouldn't be right if we removed all of the bits that we don't like. To be the whole body of Christ, we need a variety of activities, teams and people.

Here at St James's, we have many different chocolates for you to try. I definitely think that there is something for everyone!

Since I have been here, so much has happened that you might like to sample:

Messy Church

Messy Church is a craft-based service, particularly suitable for families. It includes a welcome, creative time to hear a short story and a prayer, sing songs, play some games and explore a biblical theme through craft. In the past three months we have made origami boats, decorated photo frames, and created our very own jigsaw puzzles.

We have also eaten lots and lots of cake!



Ark Playgroup

The pre-school playgroup restarted on 9 January, having taken a break during the building work. It is aimed at families with children aged up to five. We have lots of different sections for children to enjoy, like a kitchen-play area, soft-carpeted section, a place to read, and a craft zone. Whilst the children are playing, adults are offered a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. This group is not just great for children to socialise, but also for adults to meet other carers, with an opportunity to make life-long friends.

Connections Café

Connections Café is exactly what its name suggests — it is a café where people are able to come along and connect with others. It is a warm space where you can sit comfortably with a cup of tea and cake, perhaps tackle a jigsaw puzzle (usually 500 or 1000 pieces), have your hearing aid checked for free, or just sit and read a book. Every now and then, we will have a swap table, where you can swap your old puzzles or books for other ones.

Gardening Club

We have a large churchyard and a small, but beautiful, garden at the front of the church. Although the bulk of the churchyard is maintained by the local council, we maintain the garden and tackle extra maintenance. We arrange to meet up once a month or so to cut back some bushes, do some weeding or to sweep up the leaves. Recently, we helped to tidy up the churchyard for Remembrance Sunday. The best part about this club is you don't need any skills to join in.

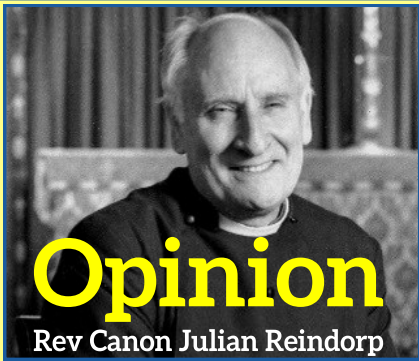
Volunteering opportunities

Each and every one of the above activities is run by wonderful volunteers. If you would like to volunteer with us, please do contact me. My details are on the page two.

You don't need to be a church member to come along to any of these events — or become a volunteer at one of them.



*Other chocolate brands are available.



Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

ON THE PICKET LINES

With others, I spent a number of sessions on the picket lines locally, supporting the posties and the bus drivers. Their main concern was less their pay than with their work conditions and their management. The bus drivers at Fulwell are from two companies. Abellio pays c£15 an hour, the other c£19, to drive the same buses. Surely extraordinarily little for so much responsibility? £15 an hour is what we pay our very good cleaner.

On a lighter note, as I saw the buses lined up, I wondered if they chatted to each other at night, as in the Thomas the Tank engine stories? (Author Rev A W Awdry)

NATIONAL EMERGENCIES

A Conservative asked Rishi Sunak in Prime Minister's Questions in December about two national emergencies. First, the huge number of asylum seekers waiting to have their claims assessed — currently 144,000, two-thirds waiting more than six months, the technical legal limit. In 2012, there were 2,500 asylum seekers claims.

The second, how to reduce the number of people crossing the Channel in small boats, then about 44,000 a year. The PM, like the former Home Secretary Priti Patel, and the present Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, talked only about the people crossing the channel. Sunak has now promised to tackle the first 100,000 claimants by the end of this year. (4% assessed in 2021, 2% in 2022) Many regard our treatment of these people as deeply inhumane. The Conservative MP Tim Loughton said it needed far more than the present 1,000 civil servants working to tackle the backlog, many thousands, surely? The policy about the small boat crossings seems to be to make as many as possible illegal and deport them. Is that effective, legal, humane?

EVICTING THE DISABLED

Among my teenage heroes were Guy Gibson VC of the Dam Busters and Leonard Cheshire VC. Gibson was killed flying, but after the war, Cheshire, later with his wife Sue Ryder, set up homes for the acutely disabled, now caring for 3,000 people in 120 care centres in the UK. The funding crisis with social care has forced the charity to evict some residents. Without the proper payment from local councils, the charity says it will be 'broke very soon'. This is another illustration of how failing to tackle the Social Care situation is impacting the most vulnerable in our society.

HOLY LAND'S GRIM MINISTER

Benjamin Netanyahu, again elected Israel's PM, has appointed Itamar Ben-Gvir as national security minister. Ben-Gvir is against Palestinian statehood in all its forms. He is a Jewish settler living in the West Bank — illegal by international law. During the recent election campaign he was filmed brandishing a gun at Palestinian demonstrators in occupied East Jerusalem (formerly Palestinian). He champions capital punishment and looser 'open-fire regulations' for soldiers.

Palestinians are largely Muslim and Christian. Their authority said this appointment would potentially have 'a catastrophic impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict'.

HOCKNEY'S CROCS

What do you wear for lunch with the King if you are one of the 24 members of the unique Order of Merit? Each member is specially chosen by the monarch for their contribution to our national life and the life of the Commonwealth and it has been described as the pinnacle of the honours system.

The artist David Hockney wore his signature checked Savile Row suit, knitted chequerboard tie and pair of yellow garden crocs. A fan of the great outdoors, King Charles was delighted, 'Your yellow galoshes, beautifully chosen'.

A mixed year, but with signs of hope



DENNIS WILMOT

Although Covid was still very much in evidence during 2022, this was a year of contrasts, with some occasions, and some charities, doing considerably better (or worse) than in previous years.

The year began with our Lent Appeal, raising a massive £3,530 — only just below 2021's total which was itself a record, so this was a really good result. Half of the total was given to St Luke's Hospital, Milo, and half to the Diocese of London's Lent appeal, challenging mental health and isolation. Our Church Council again approved £1,500 for Welcare and Bishop Wand Church of England School.

Patronal festival

We hadn't had a normal St James's Day weekend in July for quite a while. Last year's return to the open day on Saturday and the service and barbecue lunch on Sunday, raised £1,077 towards the church refurbishment, a massive project needing help from various directions.

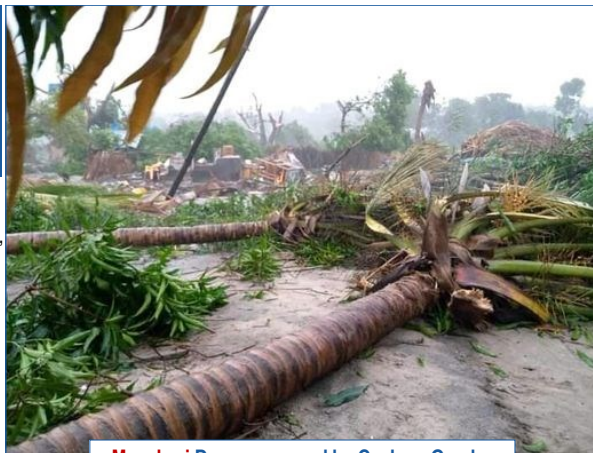
The Harvest Appeal raised a respectable £1,153 for the Upper Room charity in west London.

Donations of food stuffs and other goods from St James's and local schools pretty much equalled 2021's record, again requiring extra help to transport it to the charity's Shepherd's Bush base.

Quiz and auction

Our Quiz Night and Auction couldn't match the success of 2020, when the event was cancelled in the Covid fallout, but which ironically made more money when entrants gifted their ticket fees.

Although numbers were down on the previous time,



Mecuburi Damage caused by Cyclone Gombe

those attending said it was really enjoyable, especially as it was the first in-person event for a while.

The donations here went to the London Churches Refugee Fund and to our new link church in Mecuburi, northern Mozambique following an emergency request for help to repair storm damage to the church.

The total collected for charity in 2022, excluding Christian Aid and the Children's Society, was £8,336, somewhat down on 2021 (£9,621). Let us hope that we can hold more events this year and support returning to pre-pandemic levels. If you have any ideas for fundraising let me know.



Welcare Support for families in our communities

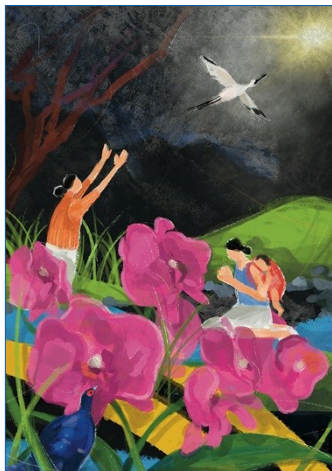
Taiwan's World Day of Prayer

THE WOMEN of Taiwan have produced this year's World Day of Prayer.

Artist Hui-Wen HSAIO has used several motifs that highlight the island's best-known features to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to Taiwan.

Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill, which are both of unique significance to Taiwan. They symbolise the people's confidence and perseverance in difficult times. The island is proud of its Butterfly orchids, a major export.

■ The local service is at Francis de Sales Church, 16 Wellington Road, Hampton Hill, on **Friday 3 March, at 2pm.**



REGISTERS

NOVEMBER

BAPTISMS

- 20 Evelyn Wolfe Lockington, Hampton Hill
- 27 Charlotte Margot Wilson, Teddington
- 27 Alexander Blake Berrisford-Soleil, Hampton Hill

FUNERALS

- 6 Marc Anthony Cherfan, 38, Barnes
- 22 Antoine Panayoti Konstantinidis, 82, Twickenham
- 25 Carole Ann Tappin, 80, Hampton Hill

INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 11 Conway Richard Gerard Douglas Carmody, 83, Hampton Hill

DECEMBER

FUNERAL

- 21 Daisy Edna Sullivan, 93, Hampton



My family and other animals

I was born and brought up in the Midlands and started school at Edgbaston Church of England School for Girls in Birmingham. At 11, I began boarding at Malvern Girls' College. After A-levels, I volunteered for a year with Community Service Volunteers, teaching in a school in Acton, then staying on in London for a degree in Social Sciences. I spent three years in Zambia with my husband, and have also lived in Kirkby Lonsdale, Gloucester, and Exeter where I worked as Librarian in the School of Nursing. In 1981 we moved to Twickenham and later Hampton Hill, where Christopher and I brought up our four children.

1 ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

I was born in 1949, just a few years after the second world war, so although I had not personally experienced it, 'The War' was a very real event to me. My father was a doctor and served in the RAMC, attached to the 8th Army in North Africa and, later, Italy. He would often tell me stories of sleeping in a tent in the desert or working in a hospital in Bari, southern Italy, when it was bombed. He gave this brooch to my mother. She died when I was nine and I don't have many things to remember her by, so this is very precious to me.

2 CORNWALL

Both my mother and stepmother were born in Cornwall, and my dad lived there from the age of six, so we spent most of our holidays with relatives in the West Penwith. The photo shows me, aged about 14 months, enjoying the pleasures of Sennen beach, a place we have visited almost every year since. Luckily, our children and grandchildren love it as much as we do.

3 PRAYER BOOK/CONFIRMATION CARDS

My dad gave me this prayer book when I first went to Malvern and it was well used – we were encouraged to learn the Collect every week and were tested on our efforts in church! I was confirmed aged 14, along with most of my year. Confirmation weekend was very special as only the candidates were allowed out on exeat (leave). While we were with our parents, our dressing-tables were covered with cards from everyone in our House, about 50 in all. I keep them all in my prayer book and bible.

4 ZAMBIAN STATUE

I think this is a little devil! I bought it from an itinerant trader who called at our gate, when we lived in Chingola on the Copperbelt. We spent three years in Zambia in the early 1970s, at a time when expatriates were still filling many of the supervisory posts in the mining industry. It was an interesting and mostly enjoyable time, as on the whole we lived a privileged life, but it certainly opened my eyes to 'how the other half lives' in a developing country.

5 NEDDLE CASE

I learnt to sew properly at school and when I was a young woman I used to make most of my own clothes (fabric was cheaper than buying ready-made) and I also made countless costumes for our children. One Christmas, Eleanor, aged about 11, asked what she could give me and I

said I could really do with a new needle case. She made me a lovely felt one, but was then mortified to discover she had embroidered 'Needles' on the cover! But I treasure it and use my needle case all the time.

6 RECIPE BOOK

Like most people who spend a considerable amount of time cooking, I have several recipe books. This is a special one because it belonged to my mum, who copied out recipes into it not long before she died. There's something about handwriting that really evokes the person and it brings back memories of the Continental Cookery course she attended when my dad and I would try out her creations, e.g. Spaghetti Bolognese!

7 MUSIC

I can't remember a time when I didn't sing and I've been lucky to have been a member of several choirs over the years. For the two years while he was at college, our son, Tom, joined me at Twickenham Choral Society and *Spem in Alium* by Thomas Tallis is one of the pieces we sang together. It's a fabulous piece, in 40 parts, and has been described as a 'wall of sound'

8 OSCAR

If the world can be divided into Dog-people and Cat-people, I am definitely on the side of cats. I have owned several cats over the years, but outstandingly the most memorable is Oscar, who lived with us for 14 years when our children were growing up. He was a large ginger tom, very strong and extremely fast over short distances. His speciality was chasing squirrels and in his prime he caught, and ATE, 15 in one season!

9 MAKE POVERTY HISTORY WRISTBAND

I have been wearing this since 2005 and it reminds me of going to the big rally in Edinburgh, with our two daughters. It was Ann Peterken who got me into this in the first place, when she invited me to go with her to a conference about the impact of developed countries on the global south. I learnt so much! And that was really the beginning of my commitment to social and environmental justice. Every time I look at my wristband, I remember that what I do can affect the lives of fellow human beings on the other side of the world. Wristbands are now out of fashion, but I shall wear mine til it falls apart!

10 GRETA'S SCAN

We now have seven grandchildren, but this is the first one. I looked after Greta for two days a week when Eleanor returned to work and it gave

me an opportunity to develop a really close relationship with her. My family has been the most important thing throughout my life and I have been immensely blessed with loving parents and grandparents, a lovely sister, wonderful husband (mostly!) and children — and now our beautiful grandchildren. So many happy memories!

Catherine Gash has devoted herself to her family and treasures possessions passed on from her parents and made by her children. Other souvenirs remind her of time in Africa, and a 70-year-old love affair with Cornwall.