

DEC 2019-JAN 2020 DOUBLE ISSUE

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY

Christmas Services

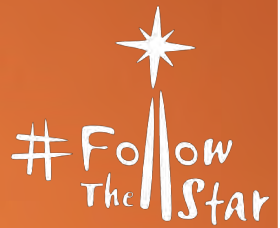
The Longest Night 21 Dec 6pm

Carols by Candlelight 22 Dec 6pm

Children's Carol Services 24 Dec 3pm & 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Service 11pm

Christmas Day Services 8 & 9:30am



A Very Happy Christmas

Come and celebrate with us

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 1915. She is a self-supporting minister and has been at St James's since starting her ordination training. Jacky is married to Alan, and has three children. During term-time she runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.

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ASSISTANT PRIEST Canon Julian Reindorp

Julian was born in Durban, South Africa, and ordained in 1969. He has worked in parishes in East London, Chatham and Milton Keynes, and was Team Rector in Richmond until retirement in 2009. He continues to lead a busy life, often out and about on his trademark red scooter. Julian is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren.

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Letter from the Editor

An email has just arrived in my inbox announcing there are only 45 days left to Christmas! It is impossible to avoid the hype and the pressures it brings — far removed from the true meaning of the season.

Our celebrations start on Sunday 1 December with Christingle. We all leave church with a candle and an orange.

Our church then becomes the hub of the community with schools coming into church for their carol services and nativity plays watched by family and friends. This year will also include *Experience Christmas* when children learn more about the story of Christmas. Our own *Carols by Candlelight Service* is on 22 December.

Sallie Colak-Antic shares special memories from her time as Sophia Loren's body double in the centre pages. On the back page Peter Kain writes about his favourite music, shaped by his time in the Parachute Regiment.

On behalf of the Spire Team I wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and look forward to 2020.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Follow the star to the baby Jesus, Saviour of the world

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 are a regular reader we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs to enable us to expand our outreach across the parish. Cheques should be made payable to the PCC of St James, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the church office.

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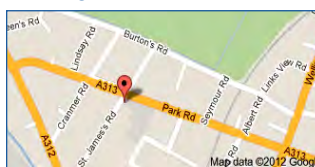


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Finding us



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

Follow us

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

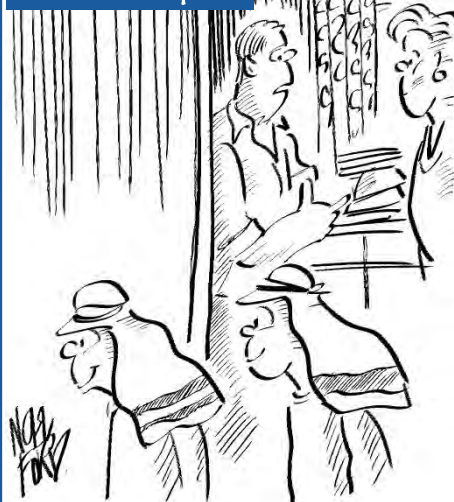
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Clerical Capers



'The junior school must be putting on a Nativity play this week — I can't find any tea towels!'

Imagination is a good thing at Christmas!



DEREK WINTERBURN

Over the past few weeks the BBC has broadcast *His Dark Materials* on Sunday evenings. It is the most expensive production it has ever made. Co-financed by the American network HBO, it is said to have cost £50 million.

This is a remarkable gamble given that when Hollywood attempted to film the same sequence of novels by Philip Pullman, the first movie, *The Golden Compass*, was not successful enough to continue with a second one. Now, 20 years after it was published, a fortune is again being invested in the fantasy saga.

Pullman cast his work as an antidote to CS Lewis's *Narnia Chronicles*. He was very critical of Lewis's post-war style and his Christian allegorising. Pullman set his work in a world in which the Church was corrupt and sinister and the deity frail and finally relieved to be euthanised.

Subverting the Bible stories

At that time Pullman identified with the British Humanist Association. He went on to write a more extraordinary book, *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ*, which explicitly sought to subvert the Biblical stories of Jesus.

There is no doubt that the BBC's decision to attempt *His Dark Materials* was encouraged by the wild success of *Game of Thrones*, perhaps hoping that the American audience would be less hostile to an anti-church story than ten years ago.

But they are not the same kind of thing at all. Pullman's work is not dependent on sex and violence for its charge (although they are there and surprisingly candid for young adults' fiction). No, it is powered by hugely more rich imaginative detail (and a more controlled plotline) and is theological.

Pullman is telling his story so that we think about our life again. In a dialogue he agreed with the Rt Rev Rowan Williams that an author 'builds a world in which certain things may become plausible, or tangible, palpable, but not to get a message across.'

Following the new philosophy

Pullman has written two volumes of another trilogy, extending *His Dark Materials*. In the latest volume, *The Secret Commonwealth*, his protagonist Lyra is in trouble because 'she has lost her imagination' and in her world that is a major fault.

She has been reading books that have seduced her into rationalism and scepticism. In one fierce argument, defending her new heroes, she protests that not to follow the new philosophy is 'superstition'. The main device of the five books is being denied (that humans have external souls or demons). The irony is that we, the readers, know she is wrong; she is forgetting all that we have read.

Pullman sets up a conflict between cold reason and the experience of reality which is infused with things beyond logic. As the story progresses Lyra encounters 'the secret commonwealth' which is the world of the supernatural. We are promised that there will be more of this in the third and final volume of the trilogy.

While the trajectory of *His Dark Materials* implies that Pullman is setting out to kill off God in a riposte to CS Lewis, his later work suggests that the reason that he writes fiction is to excite our imagination.

His website begins: 'I'm not in the message business; I'm in the "Once upon a time" business.' Cold reason is deadening.

Pullman is a former teacher and often comments on the power of literature to stimulate and mould young minds. I think it is intriguing that while continuing to craft stories that nurture an anti-church humanism, he also feels that he must now advocate for imagination and wonder against materialist rationalism.

So the BBC series will finish just before Christmas. On the other hand we will still be telling the Christian story of Christmas. It is not about the death of God, but the birth of a child, who is God-for-us. As in Pullman's book this is a child promised in prophecy. There are also powerful enemies of the good as well as 'small people' who do the right thing. There are messengers in the sky and tragically there are murdered children too. There are even animals (though they only talk in nativity plays!)

The Greatest Story Ever Told

The Nativity is perhaps the 'Greatest Story Ever Told'; certainly it has given rise to more tellings and retellings over the years. But a story is not just a story. Rowan Williams said to Philip Pullman: 'We are, at least, talking about a set of historical events which have, as I would say by God's guidance, become the centre of a vastly complex, imaginative scheme in which the whole of human history and human life gets re-orientated.' That is quite something to explore this Christmas!

Whether young or old, Christmas is inspiring as we celebrate it at St James's. However popular *His Dark Materials* proves to be, we know that across the world billions of people will rejoice 'come and worship, Christ the newborn King.' Come, join us.

St James Hampton Hill Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am
Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am (not 1 Dec)
Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 1 Dec)
Perfect for young families. Followed by crafts and refreshments.

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)
Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am (not 26 Dec-1 Jan)

Tuesdays

3, 10 Dec; 7, 21, 28 Jan
Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am
17 Dec*; 14 Jan
Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am
(*2nd Tuesday of the month, except in December)

Advent Sunday 1 December

Christingle 10am
All Age service as we make Christingle candles
Advent Choral Evensong 4pm
Followed by tea and cakes

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 2, 9 Dec; 13, 20, 27 Jan 10:15am-12:15pm
Weekly playgroup for under 5s. £2 per family.

Connections Christmas Special

Monday 2 Dec 12:15am-3:15pm
Wreath-making, games, plus drop-in
NHS hearing aid clinic. Hot soup lunch.

Alistair's Christmas Concert

Saturday 14 Dec 7:30pm
Alistair Griffin returns for carols and seasonal favourites. See Page 7 for full details.

The Longest Night

Saturday 21 December 6pm
A quieter, reflective service for those who might find Christmas emotionally overwhelming

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 22 December 6pm
Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve Tue 24 December

Children's Carol Services 3pm and 4:30pm
The Christmas story for children
Christmas Night Eucharist 11pm

Christmas Day Wed 25 December

Holy Communion (said) 8am
Family Communion 9:30am

Pop-up Cinema presents...

Saturday 25 January 3 for 3:30pm
The Secret Life of Pets 2 (2019)
Free entry, no need to book. Snacks to buy

Burwood Quartet Concert

Saturday 15 February 7:30pm
Mozart *Quartet in D major K575*; Frank Bridge *Three Idylls*; Purcell arr. Britten *Chacony*; Ravel String Quartet. Tickets £10 on door (under 18s free).

'I suppose I was always



SALLIE COLAK-ANTIC

Sophia Loren, left, with Sallie, her 'body double' for the film *The Pride and The Passion*



For me, Christmas triggers memories of a Spanish torchlight parade featuring everything from a flock of sheep to the three kings riding camels. And then there was music, singing and clapping.

The film *Zorba the Greek* is often shown on television at Christmas, and that transports me back to Athens and my time as Antony Quinn's PA. But I am getting ahead of myself.

I was born in Hampstead in 1931 to two adoring parents. I suppose you could say I was an adventurous and outgoing child. I joined the Brownies and eventually was made a Queen's Guide. I was particularly close to my father, and was devastated when he died aged just 47. I was just 19 at the time and at teacher training college. When my mother later remarried, it was the push I needed to make a go of my life.

I expect most of us will have been inspired by a special teacher at some stage. I was fired with a passion for all things Spanish by my English teacher, Miss Johnson. I knew that I simply had to explore Spain and in 1954 I travelled to Madrid to become governess to the Marques de Cabriñana's three children, Maria, Cristina and Ivan.

The three kings riding camels

As Christmas approached, I learnt that the custom of exchanging presents differed substantially from the rituals I had grown up with in England. The real excitement was saved for Epiphany on 6 January.

After supper we all wrapped up warmly and waited on the pavement for the parade. A flock of sheep was driven along the road by shepherds with flaming torches, then came men

on horseback and finally, to rapturous applause and the delight of all, the three kings arrived riding on camels!

There was music, people sang and clapped, it was magical and absolutely unforgettable.

Afterwards we went back to the apartment and the children were allowed to open their presents.

The following year I taught English

for the British Council. It was while there that I met Julian Bream, a young English classical guitarist, who came to give concerts. I took him to a place off the Plaza Mayor for supper. Afterwards he borrowed a guitar and astounded the patron by playing like an angel. He closed the restaurant and we sat marvelling at the magic he produced.

A lot of ex-pats went to the

British American Club and I became friendly with a group of stuntmen. They sneaked me on to the night-time location of *Alexander the Great* where I witnessed Richard Burton in a hairnet and mini-skirt, much the worse for wear!

When the chaps left for North Africa I hitched a ride. A few weeks later I got an urgent message asking me to get back to Madrid as

With no real life plan other than a desire to see Spain, no one was more surprised than Sallie Colak-Antic to find herself as Sophia Loren's 'double' in a Hollywood film. It was just the start of a remarkable life, but one she took some persuading to talk to us about!

an American film company was about to start shooting *The Pride and The Passion*, and Sophia Loren's body double was pregnant and unable to perform some of the more arduous stunts.

In all I spent five months filming all round the Castilian plain, working with Frank Sinatra, one of my heroes, and Cary Grant. Sophia was a wonderful warm and vibrant woman with the most amazing lightweight corsets. They used to say, 'She carries it all before her like a bowl of fruit.' I couldn't match her amazing embonpoint, but I wore the costume (and auburn wig) throughout that hot summer of 1956.

Dodging controlled explosions

The film followed a group of revolutionaries as they dragged an enormous cannon across Spain to breach the walls of the ancient city of Avilla. I can still remember dodging the controlled explosions as the cameras rolled and I charged towards the walls in the climax to the film.

My Spanish vocabulary improved immensely. I also learnt a lot of choice words from the mule drivers as we pulled the gun up the hills!

In 1956 I returned to Madrid to help run the press office at the Pakistan Embassy. A year later I returned to London to become personal assistant to the Mexican Ambassador. But the world of film was not finished with me. In 1960 I went to work for the chairman of

Sallie in a flamenco outfit during the Spring Fair (Feria de Abril) in Seville in April 1956



adventurous!



Ciga and Sallie on their wedding day in Notting Hill Gate in 1968

Columbia Pictures in Wardour Street.

In 1963 the actor Anthony Quinn blew into town and asked me to be his PA. A year working with him saw the making of *Behold a Pale Horse*, *The Visit*, *Marco Polo* and the unforgettable *Zorba the Greek*.

It was while filming *Zorba in Crete* on Good Friday that I saw a coffin carried silently through the narrow streets of Chania to rest in the village church. At midnight on Saturday all the bells started ringing and everyone turned out to celebrate the start of Easter Sunday.

People had painted hard-boiled

eggs in the Orthodox tradition and these were tapped against each other, rather like conkers in the playground back home, to see which were the strongest.

Quinn was an awful bully, very rude and unkind to waiters, chambermaids and the crew on set, which did not endear him to the democratic Greeks!

When I got back to England I worked for the director Nicholas Ray, with whom I went to Yugoslavia with the intention of making a film. It was during this period that I met Ciga Colak-Antic,



Anthony Quinn with Sallie on the set of *Zorba the Greek*

a larger-than-life Serbian film maker.

The film fell through... but I fell in love. I flew back home and three months later Ciga joined me and we set up home together in Chelsea.

My last and most rewarding job in 1966 was as secretary to the director Frank Zinnemann. Mr Zee, as he was known, had already made *High Noon* and *From Here to Eternity*. When I joined him he was putting the finishing touches to *A Man for All Seasons*. The film won seven Oscars and gave John Hurt his first screen role.

Married in a foreign tongue!

Ciga and I were married at the Serbian Orthodox Church in Notting Hill Gate in 1968. The ceremony was in a language I barely spoke, so I had to take his word for it that we were legally married!

Our son Ilya arrived in July 1971 and has kept the media connection going with a career in television production. I am the doting grandmother of Honey and Woody. Ciga died in May 2008, aged 78.

A lot of well-known people came to see Mr Zee, including David Niven, Edward Fox and John Paul Getty Jr. He was greatly respected in the film industry. I continued as his temporary secretary, and, looking back, cannot help but think just how lucky I was to have had so many interesting jobs – I took advantage of every opportunity.

I remember going to a party in Mayfair one evening where Sean Connery and his then wife Diane Cilento were quietly bopping away. Around midnight the doorbell rang and there was Marlene Dietrich and Rudolph Nureyev!

Those were the days when one could survive on very little sleep. I used to stay at the Ad Lib Club off Leicester Square (where the Beatles hung out) until the early hours and start work at 8.30am.

In 1987 I returned to teaching and enjoyed several years working in primary schools up to the age of 70.

In 2002 I won a seat for the Fulwell and Hampton Hill ward of the borough council for the Conservatives. Shortly afterwards Brian Leathard, then vicar of St James's, asked me to intercede after the council turned down our application to build the West Porch. My presentation to the planning committee was successful and the work was able to go ahead.

I am an optimist who believes in the power of love and having a spirit that will never give up. I have never felt myself special. I have just been very lucky, that's all.

Around the Spire

Local schoolchildren get to Experience Christmas

ONE OF THE joys of Christmas is welcoming so many school children into the church for their Carol Concerts. A new addition this year is *Experience Christmas*.

Two year groups, one from Carlisle Infants and one from Hampton Hill Juniors, will pay an extra visit and be guided through a

number of reflections and activities by church members that will help the children engage with the Christmas story in a deeper way as part of their Religious Education.

The *Experience Christmas* week builds on the very successful *Experience Easter* that we ran earlier in the year.

Scouts aim high in competition



LOCAL 3RD Hampton Hill Scouts entered a team of eight Scouts and three Explorers at the National Scout Rifle Championships at Bisley in October, an event which attracted over 700 shooters this year. As in previous years, our team did extremely well. Among their successes, the Junior A team came overall fifth and the senior team, which included Louis, one of our young bell-ringers, came overall second. Explorer Ben came away with three gold and three silver medals! Congratulations to all of them, and their instructor Paul Fitchett.

Former parish priest dies

THE FUNERAL of the Rev Alex Walter, 84, took place at All Saints' Church, Hampton, on 21 November. He and his wife Pamela often worshipped at St James's, where his reading of the Scriptures was much appreciated. Born in Mauritius, for 17 years a parish priest in Jamaica, and then for 20 years vicar of Holy Trinity, Twickenham, he will be remembered for his warm personality, love of sport and pastoral ministry.



Keeping it in the family

THERE WAS A happy family occasion on 27 October when Jacky, our associate priest, baptised granddaughter Evelyn Eileen Joy Hampton. Evelyn is the daughter of Jacky and Alan's youngest daughter, Angharad, and her husband Oliver, who were married at St. James's last year.

Staying at St James's

SYLVIE COLLINS-MAYO, who joined us in June as a Licensed Lay Reader, is to stay with us for three years while undergoing Ordination Training in the Diocese of Rochester. Sylvie works at Kingston University and is married to Bob Mayo, chaplain at HM Prison and Young Offenders Institution, Rochester.

Wedding in a Cornish idyll

PAUL AND CAROL Fitchett's daughter Kim married Ben Watts on 5 October at Tregullund Farm, St Clether, Cornwall, a wonderful venue in the heart of farmland.

It was a small, family event, continuing over the whole weekend. Kim and Ben are pictured with Paul and Carol.



Our faith unwrapped



DANI ROBERTSON

used for fun in one instance, but business in another. One child likes shoes and gets to try on her mum's expensive heels, while another child doesn't like shoes, and must spend her days polishing them for others to bring in money for her family.

The book advocates a right for children to have a childhood, but acknowledges that this is not the reality for children everywhere. The back of the book offers more information on poverty and child labour, along with suggestions on how to get involved in the fight against it.

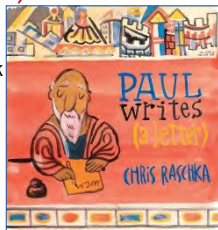
■ Published in 2017 by Eerdmans, for young readers. RRP £16.

Paul Writes (a letter)

Written and illustrated by Chris Raschka, this book offers a brilliant introduction to Paul and his writing style. Often Biblical stories are communicated through a narrative, but Raschka takes a unique and insightful approach in presenting Paul's works in letter form. Children may relate to this approach as they make connections with writing a letter or a birthday card. It begins with a short introduction to who Paul was and closes with a comment on the end of his life.

Each letter is two pages long and contains a greeting, a short message to his friends (usually the main theme of the Biblical book or passage) and he ends by signing his name. The illustrations are as witty and captivating as the letters.

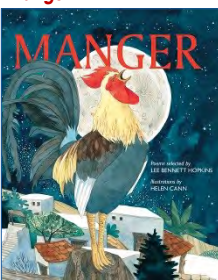
■ Published in 2018 by Eerdmans, age range 6 and up. RRP £17.



Manger

With poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins and illustrations by Helen Cann, the book imagines what the animals might have thought about baby Jesus on the night of his birth. Hopkins has chosen beautiful poems expressing the animals' celebrations, observations, and gifts to the new little prince. The cat offers his soothing purr, the cow sings a moo lullaby and the wren provides feathers for a pillow. The book ends with a full nativity illustration.

■ Published in 2014 by Eerdmans, age range 4-8. RRP £9.

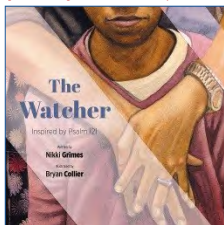


Already have a *Children's Bible* for your little ones and looking for more books to continue your child's spiritual growth? We may be well versed in the storybook options for Christmas and Easter, but what about more difficult concepts like poverty, bullying, and Paul the letter-writer not just Paul the man blinded on the road to Damascus?

Here are a few recommendations for children's books on these topics and more.

The Watcher (Inspired by Psalm 121)

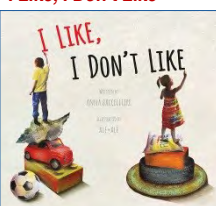
Written by Nikki Grimes and illustrated by Bryan Collier, this book uses Psalm 121 as inspiration for poems that feature hope, friendship, and prayer. They follow a form of poetry called the 'golden shovel' which Grimes explains at the back of the book.



This would be an excellent aid for parents in conversations with their children about bullying, as it includes poems from the point of view of both the bully and the bullied. The book explores the idea that people are not all good, or all bad, but a mixture of both, and sometimes people act out of pain, fear, or loneliness. The illustrations celebrate diversity and capture complex emotions often felt by children.

■ Published in 2017 by Eerdmans, suitable for age range 6-10 years. RRP £17.

I Like, I Don't Like



Written by Anna Baccelliere and illustrated by Ale + Ale, this book is invaluable for discussing the difficult reality of child poverty in

our world today. With exposure to the internet, children are made aware of such issues at a much younger age than in the past. The text of this book is simple as each couple of pages contrasts items that are

Burgers and deforestation



LAURENCE SEWELL

nowadays also become much more widespread in the West.

While there are many benefits of soya, around 80% of the global production is used to feed livestock, and according to many reports (including the World Bank) it is this that is responsible for up to 90% of the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. We have seen the extensive fires there on our television screens in recent months.

Did you know that there is a link between consuming your favourite beef burger and deforestation in the Amazon basin? It is the soybean or soya bean, (scientifically known as *glycine max*), a species of legume originating in East Asia, but which is now mostly grown in the Americas. It is a major constituent in animal feed which has driven the growth of the beef industry, particularly in the USA.

Agricultural expansion to produce commodities such as soya beans, (and also palm oil that we looked at previously) is driving two thirds of tropical deforestation worldwide.

Forests are cleared to make way for farm land, destroying valuable wildlife habitat, affecting the livelihoods of local communities, and exacerbating climate change. In particular, without proper safeguards, the soya bean industry is causing widespread deforestation and displacement of small farmers and indigenous peoples around the globe.

Production is dominated by three countries – USA, Brazil and Argentina – accounting for about 82% of global production of 346 million tonnes in the 2017/18 season. China is the largest producer in Asia (predominantly for its pig industry), and in Europe it is Ukraine as the world's eighth largest producer; although with only 3.9 million tonnes as compared to the USA with 119.5 million tonnes.

Environmental concerns

The growth in demand and production of soya beans has increased 15 times since the 1950s and has put severe pressure on resources in areas like the Amazon basin. In the Cerrado region — home to roughly 5% of the world's biodiversity — it is thought that half of the original native vegetation has been lost due to the agribusiness boom in the region, much of it centred on soya production and the beef industry. Some 6,500 square miles has been cleared for soya plantations in the past 11 years.

To try to deal with these issues The Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) was established in 2006. It is a non-governmental organisation of producers, food companies and others that promotes responsible production, processing and trading of soya.

In 2011, RTRS adopted production certification standards that require producers to protect the environment, but as a voluntary code it has had limited impact. What is required are ambitious, binding commitments to achieve deforestation-free supply chains by governments, companies and investors.

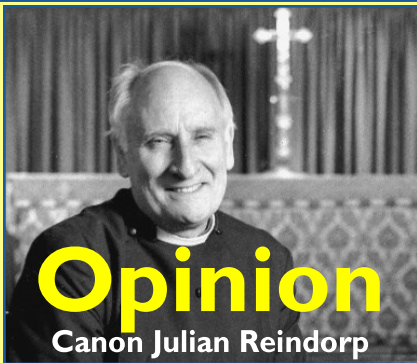
Uses and production of soya beans

Soya beans are a globally important crop, providing oil and protein; they are one of the few plants that have a full array of amino acids in their protein compositions to be considered on a par with meat, milk products, and eggs. Commercially important products commonly made from soya beans include: protein powders, vegetable oil, dry beans and sprouts, tofu, milk, cheese and curds, and much more.

We traditionally think of Chinese and Japanese cuisine when considering soya, with tofu, edamame, miso and soy sauces being common in their diets that have



Soya beans are a globally important crop



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

NO ROOM IN THE INN

Rightly, at this time of the year, we receive requests from charities like Shelter and Crisis at Christmas to provide help for the homeless. At the heart of the Christmas story there is that haunting phrase 'because there was no room for them in the inn'. Later Jesus says, 'The son of man has nowhere to lay his head' (Lk 9: 58)

We are all aware of growing homelessness and the growing number of deaths of people living on our streets. Two clues help to explain this huge challenge for us in the fifth richest nation on earth.

In 2009 the number of social homes built (formerly called council homes) was 40,000 — the lowest for some years. Last year the figure was 6,000. Despite the millions on waiting lists and in rented accommodation, the Government's priority and financial support has been on home ownership.

The other clue was in an exchange between Heidi Allen MP (formerly Conservative) with the minister responsible for the implementation of Universal Credit (the policy to combine six welfare benefits into one). So far, 3.6 million people have been affected. The MP said that evidence suggested that in areas where Universal Credit was being introduced the use of Foodbanks had increased by 30%.

The wait before people can receive their first payment (without borrowing in advance) can be upwards of six weeks and continues to cause debt and hunger among the poorest in our society. More than half the people receiving benefits are in work.

In the 12 December election our concern for the future of our planet should surely be matched by our concern for the most vulnerable in our society—the poor, the disabled, the elderly and those facing mental health issues.

10 MORE YEARS

'Let's get Brexit done' has been the cry for many months. But as Mathew d'Ancona in the *Evening Standard* reminded us recently, 'Promising a quick fix on Brexit has always been a monstrous con...for the next 10 years we will continue the process of disentangling ourselves from an institutional, commercial and legal relationship'.

On the same day, Labour's Margaret Beckett MP, and the Conservative MP Oliver Letwin, both former cabinet ministers, said the signing of the withdrawal deal 'would merely be the start of an excruciating process lasting a decade or more in which successive governments would be forced to go back and forth to Brussels'.

CARDINAL NEWMAN

In the past few years the Pope has canonized two people with whom many have identified: Mother Theresa of Calcutta, in her care for the dying and the 758 homes, hospices and shelters in 139 countries her order has provided, and then in October this year Cardinal Newman.

Newman, a former Anglican priest, has been described by many as the most influential Christian thinker of the 19th century. He believed passionately in the crucial importance of 'generous and open discussion'. He was convinced that doctrinal disagreement was a normal route to the discernment of truth. And as a Catholic he was ready to learn from the Anglican tradition the role of the laity.

My favourite quote comes from his great hymn *Lead kindly light*. It says: *I do not ask to see the distant scene: one step enough for me*. I've often thought if that was good enough for Cardinal Newman, it is good enough for me!

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

It is time for my favourite Christmas Blessing: *You who are the God of a thousand faces, yet whom nothing can reveal so completely as the face of the child in Bethlehem, continue in our lives the mystery of your incarnation, that we may be for all those whom we meet a revelation of your love.*

A small price to pay to survive childbirth



LESLEY MORTIMER

For nearly 40 years the parish has supported St Luke's Mission Hospital in Milo, SW Tanzania, through its charitable donations.

We have helped fund everything from a motorbike to laboratory equipment.

The Charities Support Team decided to make St Luke's one of four main beneficiaries of our fundraising events in 2019, largely as a result of the arrival at the hospital in August of Drs Adrian and Hilary Murray from Bala, North Wales.

Invited by Bishop Matthew Mhagama of the Diocese of South West Tanganyika to work as volunteers at Milo for 1-2 years, their aim is to make St Luke's a maternity centre of excellence, a centre of excellence for the treatment of HIV, and to fundraise for X-ray equipment.

There is an acute shortage of clinical staff across the whole of Tanzania – Milo has had one qualified doctor since 2014 for a population of around 9000 people, plus those who live in the five surrounding villages. The arrival of a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology, a health educator and their friend, Lindsay Watkins, a retired accountant, is a cause for great excitement and thanksgiving.

Since September Adrian has been working alongside Dr Sandagila and is also involved in training staff. Hilary is teaching English in the village school and talking with the community about a health education programme for HIV and related matters, particularly relevant to the well-being and safety of girls and young women.

Lindsay is working with two Peace Corps volunteers, setting up registration and filing systems and improved accounting procedures.

Now they have settled into village life and routine, Adrian believes that the immediate priority is the acquisition of a



Drs Hilary and Adrian Murray with Dr Benedict Sangila, far right

portable ultrasound scanner suitable for a district-wide mobile obstetric, gynaecological and cardiac imaging service. Pregnant women currently have no certain idea of their due date. A mobile service to provide scanning in early pregnancy will immeasurably improve the situation, as well as identify those patients expecting twins or who require urgent intervention.

X-ray will cut deaths in childbirth

The cost of a six-month old, ex-demonstration mobile ultrasound machine is about £26,000. Adrian has asked all previous donors to pledge a specific amount in the hope of raising the whole sum, or at least triggering a grant if he can show part-funding via donations. To date, over £15,000 has been pledged, including £1750 from St James's.

Adrian said: 'Mothers and babies don't have to die in childbirth if we provide the best care available. We don't win all the battles, but we can fight them all, and we need to use the best weapons.'

■ If you would like to make a personal donation, please contact Dennis Wilmot on 020 8977 9434.

Alistair's Christmas Concert



ALISTAIR GRIFFIN, a talented singer-songwriter from York, is returning to St James's Church with a Christmas Concert on **Saturday 14 December at 7.30pm**. The show, a mix of traditional carols through to Slade, Shakin' Stevens and The Pogues, is a major fixture in Yorkshire. 'Fans have been asking me for ages to bring the show to London,' said Alistair, 'and St James's is such a great venue. I have played there twice now. I just hope you come and support me!' Alongside his band will be the Games Makers' Choir, made up of the volunteers who helped make the London 2012 Olympics such a success. Book online at:

alistairgriffin.eventbrite.co.uk

Tickets cost £20 adults (£10 children under 16). There are also a limited number of £35 VIP tickets that include the chance to meet Alistair, and a seat in the front two rows.

REGISTERS

OCTOBER

BAPTISM

27 Evelyn Eileen Joy Hampton, Hampton

FUNERAL

11 Jillian Anne Magnusson, 86, Fulham



March on, march on



PETER KAIN

I learnt to play the trumpet whilst at school, and also gained an O-level in music theory. I then enlisted as a musician in the Army, where I was further educated in music theory as well as learning to play the cornet (different technique to the trumpet). Certain pieces of music bring back fond memories, whenever I hear them played. These are just a few.

Toccata & Fugue in D minor, Bach

My grammar school music teacher played this piece during an assembly, with over 700 pupils and teachers present. Johann Bach was aged just 18 when appointed as organist at Arnstadt Church, Germany. This music famously featured in Walt Disney's *Fantasia*.



Intermezzo from Cavallaria Rusticana, Mascagni



After leaving school, I enlisted in the Parachute Regiment as a musician and attended Kneller Hall, Twickenham, for training. We gave a concert at the Royal Festival Hall with Teddington Choral Society, during which we performed this with a band of over 200 and choir of about 100. The title of this one-act opera means *Rustic Chivalry*, and is set in 19th century Sicily.

Overture Solennelle (1812) in Eb Major, Tchaikovsky

The finale at the above concert was Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture (Choral Version). The 16 cannon shots were depicted by bass drums, complementing the powerful final



part of the overture. Tchaikovsky wrote the overture in 1880 to commemorate the successful Russian defence against Napoleon's invading Grande Armée in 1812.

The words to the choral version are very interesting: *Grant salvation vict'ry to those who fight to save our righteous faith*

and our dear sacred land and from all evil deliver us. Then the guardian of perfect grace, the cross will forever be.

Die Walküre, Wagner



After leaving Kneller Hall and completing parachute training, I joined the Regiment's 3rd Battalion. *The Ride of the Valkyries* is the Regimental March of the Paras, and we played it on ceremonial occasions, the most memorable ones being as we entered Buckingham Palace during Changing of the Guard in 1968. Wagner composed *Die Walküre* in 1856. Based on Norse mythology, it was used in the film *Apocalypse Now* about the Vietnam War.

Capriccio Espagnol, Rimsky-Korsakov

We were posted to Malta at the end of 1968 for a two-year tour of duty. Our new band president decided it would be a good idea if we played whilst the men were having their lunch in the cookhouse. We played this piece of music – and were never asked to accompany lunch again!



It was composed in 1887, and has five movements – Alborada, Variaciones, Alborada, Scena e Canto Gitano and Fandango Asturiano. It featured in the film *Brokeback Mountain* in 2006.

The Blue Danube Waltz, Johann Strauss II



During our tour in Malta, we gave a concert at an orphanage run by Catholic nuns on Malta's sister island, Gozo. Whilst playing this piece, our bandmaster danced with one of the nuns. I don't know who was more embarrassed – the nun or the band! This was one of composer's finest pieces. Written in 1866, it was used in the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, in 1968.

Summertime, George Gershwin

Whilst in Malta, we toured Turkey for a couple of weeks, giving concerts in Ankara and Istanbul. The latter was at the British Ambassador's residence, below, and we played *Summertime* as the finale.

Gershwin composed *Summertime* in 1934 for the 1935 Opera *Porgy and Bess*. The opera tells the story of Porgy, a disabled



black street-beggar living in the slums of Charleston. It deals with his attempts to rescue Bess from the clutches of Crown, her violent and possessive lover, and drug dealer Sportin' Life.

Overture to The Merry Wives of Windsor, Nicolai



My last tour before leaving the Army was in Ghana. We were asked to give a concert in Accra, but it was cancelled at the last minute. We were all dressed up with nowhere to go! Our bandmaster asked the driver to take us out of the city to the nearest village, where we set up and gave a concert to anyone who cared to listen. It was a huge success! One of the pieces we played was Otto Nicolai's overture to his opera, which had premiered in 1849 in Berlin.

In the Bleak Midwinter, Holst



It would be remiss of me not to include carols. This one reminds me of one year when I helped out the Salvation Army. As the photo shows, we were covered in snow whilst playing under Kingston's Christmas tree! Christina Rossetti wrote the lyrics in 1872. Gustav Holst added the music around 1902, quickly followed by a more advanced setting by Harold Darke in 1909. The latter is usually heard in broadcasts of *Nine Lessons and Carols* by the King's College Choir.

O Holy Night, Adams



This is head and shoulders above other Christmas songs. I played it with the Salvation Army at one of their carol concerts. Originally written by Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure in 1847 in French, and called *Cantique de Noel*, it was translated by American writer John Sullivan Dwight, and found favour during the American Civil War, especially in the North. The music, by Adolphe Adams, is very emotional, as are the words - especially: *Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born; O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*