

NOVEMBER 2018

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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1918
2018

War & Peace

The diaries of a WWI ambulance driver

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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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CURATE Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. 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

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1 and by chance we came across some very personal memories of one of our church families. On the cover is a picture of Vivienne

Prentice (née Fulljames) in her uniform as an ambulance driver in Rouen and behind it are some of the hand-written pages she wrote about her war experiences.

All this came about when her granddaughter Coryn Robinson was sorting through family possessions in an old suitcase. She also found two diaries from 1917 and 1918, and an album of photos taken by Vivienne, which has enabled us to produce a snapshot of life in WW1.

I remember Vivienne very well, as will many of the congregation, and have been privileged to read this treasure trove. Just a few weeks ago four generations of the family came to the baptism of two of Eila Severn's (Vivienne's daughter) great-grandchildren.

Do join us on Remembrance Day, as we parade to the War Memorial for the two minute's silence.

Best Wishes

Janet



Cover photo: 19-year-old Vivienne's experiences as a WW1 ambulance driver

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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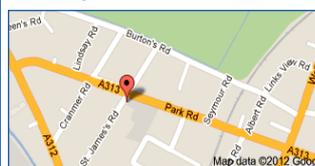


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Finding us



The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is next to the church and vicarage. There is ample parking. Buses include 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



'His constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!'

Making the peace that prevents future wars



This November we celebrate the signing of the Armistice that brought peace to Europe after four years of war. Even with all the retelling of the history of the First World War, as events of 100 years ago have been tracked, it is hard for us to really understand what it was like.

For most people under 75, our knowledge of war is second-hand. Yet in the conflict a century ago, 70 million people fought and 16 million died; every family was touched and a generation of (largely) young men devastated. We have learned to remember the sacrifices that 'ordinary people' made for our country, and to grieve the tragic loss of life, and the damaged health of those who survived. (One example of the life of those who lived through the war is on page 4.)

Good and bad wars

We are more wary about 'remembering' the justness of the First World War. As Max Hastings writes: 'It has become part of modern British folklore to think of the 1939-45 conflict as our "good" war, and 1914-18 as our "bad" one.' Historians argue about the inevitability of the war, given the complex web of alliances across Europe and the appetite for expanding territory. The question 'was this just?' which depends on 'was this the only way?' is not finally answered.

All we can say is that Britain relinquished its neutrality (even if that involved taking up arms against 'Christian brothers') and was slowly drawn into war. .

'No other course, but war'

A statement from the bishops of the Church of England and Free Church leaders in 1914 read: 'It has not been a light thing for us to give our assent to the action of the Government of our country in this matter. But the facts of the case as we know them have made it impossible for us to do otherwise.... It is upon these facts that we rest our assured conviction that, for men who desire to maintain the paramount obligation of fidelity to plighted word, and the duty of defending weaker nations against violence and wrong, no possible course was open but that which our country has taken.'

As we commemorate the signing of the Armistice we should recognise that the terms of peace sowed the seeds of future conflict. The new German Republic was required to accept responsibility for all loss and damage in the war (only finally paid in 2010). This injustice led to nationalism in the 1930s and the rise of Hitler.

War reparation

Germany had endured the wartime naval blockades strangling the importation of food. For years the population had been under-nourished and disease-ridden. Perhaps 750,000 civilians died through starvation, followed by a flu epidemic.

The campaigning of the Quaker sisters, Dorothy Buxton and Eglantyne Jebb, supported by other Christians, woke the public to the need and led to the founding of the Save the Children Fund.

What conclusions should we draw? **Peace needs work** Few in Britain had believed in war for war's sake, but neither did people expect war to flare up so quickly between nations ruled by Queen Victoria's grandchildren. But as is often said, the vision of peace in the Bible is more than the absence of conflict. Peace has to be sought. In the aftermath of the war there was a renewed pursuit of peace. This included unity between churches, and states (The League of Nations) fostered by an awareness that not enough had been done before the war to knit people together. We must learn as a nation, as a community and as individuals, that 'sin is crouching at the door' Gen 4: 7.

Peace needs forgiveness Jesus said 'Blessed are the peacemakers.' So we should learn something about *making* peace. The desire for peace would be undermined in the 1920s and 30s by the aftermath of war. Greatly wounded, the victorious powers were vengeful in their demand for reparations or negligent in rebuilding the conquered peoples (not just Germany, but the Balkans and the Middle East). Might history have been different if justice had been tempered with mercy, and forgiveness offered to make peace?

Germany is in a better place today because the Allies learned this lesson in 1945 and saw reconstruction to be part of the responsibility of victory. We know of course that has not been the policy followed elsewhere since.

Finally, this is not just about great international matters. In our personal lives we should value forgiveness as much as being right. Jesus also said: 'Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.'



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am

Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am

Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 11 Nov)

11 Nov 9:30am

Remembrance Sunday service, including at 10:55 gathering at the War Memorial

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)

Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am

Tuesdays

6, 20, 27 Nov Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am

13 Nov

Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am

Pop-up Cinema (FREE ENTRY)

Saturday 3 Nov 6.30pm

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society (12)

Compelling romantic drama with an all-star cast. Doors open at 6pm. No need to book

Fairtrade Stall

Sunday 4 Nov 10:30-11:30am

Stock up on all your Traidcraft goodies

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov 10:30am-12:15pm

Weekly playgroup for toddlers. £2 per family

Connections

Tuesday 6 Nov 11am-12:30pm

Our drop-in session for older people with refreshments, games, crafts and exercises

Life Groups

From Tuesday 30 Oct and Thursday 1 Nov 8pm

The house groups run fortnightly

In Concert: Alistair Griffin

Saturday 17 Nov 7.30pm Tickets £16/£8

We are excited to be hosting a concert during his latest UK-wide tour. Followed by a hot meal.

Book via office or online: <http://bit.ly/StJ-Griffin>

Hampton Hill Lighting-up Night

Friday 30 Nov 6pm

The High Street is closed to traffic from 5.30pm for an evening of music, food and late-night shopping

Christingle Service

Sunday 2 Dec 10am

All age service in aid of The Children's Society

Rock Choir at Christmas

Saturday 8 Dec 7.30pm

All the razzmatazz you'd expect, plus some seasonal songs at this public charity concert

Candlelit Carol Service

Sunday 16 Dec 6pm

The Christmas story with rousing carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharing our food with those most in need



HUNDREDS of tins, packets and sachets of food were gathered up at St James's last month during Harvest Festival on 7 October.

They came not only from churchgoers, but children at Carlisle Infant and Hampton Hill Junior schools, and were later collected by The Upper Room. The Hammersmith-based charity serves some 26,000 hot meals and takeaways every year to homeless and other disadvantaged people.

It relies on churches across London to provide much of the food needed to sustain the service.

The all age service was supported by uniformed organisations. Cubs helped to

collect the donated goods and took part in the service.

The plate collection was also given to the charity to help its many other projects, including getting people into work.

After the service many people stayed for a two-course lunch in the hall that included sausages and mash.



Hampton Hill's traders get Christmas underway

LOCAL TRADERS will have plenty of Christmas spirit on Friday 30 November when Hampton Hill's Christmas lights are switched on. The annual event attracts hundreds of people. Details were still to be confirmed as we went to print, but it all starts at 6pm. Go to: lovehamptonhill.com

Christmas starts here!

Charity Christmas cards, calendars and diaries will be on sale alongside Traidcraft goods on 4 November. You can also buy or reserve your Real Advent Calendars, with a 24-page storybook, for just £4 each.



Leaf sweep needs you!

Our annual leaf sweep and gutter clean takes place on **Saturday 8 December from 9.15am**. If you can spare some time please turn up at church suitably dressed and with any brushes you have. Hot refreshments will be your reward for a few hours of important work!



Bishop Graham and suffering

IF GOD IS GOOD, why does he allow bad things to happen in his world? It's an age-old question and one that in an interactive teaching evening Bishop Graham will attempt to answer.



He will also suggest some approaches to understanding this mystery, showing how, rather than an objection to faith, our experience of suffering is in fact a pointer to it. Bishop Graham will be delivering his talk at two churches locally:

- 7.30pm at St Saviours, Sunbury, 21 November
 - 7.30pm at St Stephen's, Twickenham, 5 December
- There is no need to book, just arrive in good time.

FEATURE: EXPLOITS OF A WWI AMBULANCE DRIVER

Diaries of a



JANET NUNN

The First World War ended on 11 November 1918 after four years of unparalleled sacrifice. The conflict cost the lives of more than nine million

fighting men. History books rightly devote much space to the bravery of those who fought for king and country, but little of it to the pioneering women who served close to the front line.

British society then was dominated by men, and there were many in power both in the military and politics who held the view that a woman's place was in the home. The huge cost in life, however, forced a change in thinking. The army's insatiable need to replace soldiers lost in action could only be met if women freed up men by taking on the many key support roles.

Soon those women would demonstrate every bit as much courage as their male counterparts. One such woman was a young Vivienne Fulljames, whose thirst for adventure led her to become an ambulance driver. Her granddaughter Coryn Robinson found two pocket diaries that Vivienne had kept in 1917 and 1918. This is her story.

Vivienne's war

I left school in 1914, aged 16, and learnt to drive. There was no official driving test, so I wrote to the St John Ambulance Brigade offering my services as an ambulance driver and put my age as 19!

They replied, saying that I could not be accepted until I was 21 and to get two years' driving experience. Since my family didn't own a car I decided to join the Women's Land Army (WLA).

[Known as the Land Girls, the WLA replaced men called up to the military service, working on farms.]



Top: Vivienne, third from right, with her ambulance company. Below: the devastation she saw at Arras. Inset: Vivienne in later life.

As the death toll in the First World War mounted Britain faced defeat unless it could deliver more troops to the front line. Despite opposition from military chiefs, women volunteers, including Vivienne Fulljames, took on the jobs of ambulance drivers, freeing up men and eventually playing their part in victory.



Vivienne's camp in Rouen, with the Nissen huts in the background. She is sitting on the wall, fifth from left.

war survivor



Vivienne, pictured at 19, and her future husband Jock, an Army officer. Inset: Coryn with the diaries.

After two years I got a letter asking me to go to London for a driving test, and a written exam on the mechanics of a car. I bought a book about it and read it on the train. My test was to drive an ambulance through Kensington. It was a bit frightening, but I passed!

I soon got my orders to go to France with a newly formed company – 41st Auxiliary Ambulance Car Company. The form I had to complete showed my age as 21, but I foolishly told them my real age of 19. They said to put down 20 they would pass me!

[The job Vivienne was taking on was exhausting, unpleasant and emotionally draining. The vehicles were difficult to drive and the roads treacherous. Worst of all was the suffering of their casualties. Ernest Hemingway, a volunteer ambulance driver with the Red Cross, described it succinctly in a letter to his parents: 'The ambulance is no slacker's job.']

Her spartan new home

Our camp in Rouen consisted of Nissen huts, with no glass in the windows, only brown paper. The only heating was an old 'donkey' in the middle of the hut, which we could light with wood and coal if we were lucky. In the winter it was bitterly cold. We only had a bed and a locker. In the summer we would take our mattresses outside and sleep on the sandbags. If there was an air raid (the warning was a soldier on horseback, galloping through the streets, blowing a trumpet) we hurried back inside!

Our mess hut was sturdier and we managed to get a piano, so were able to have singsongs and we produced musical concerts which went down well with the troops. I played the piano and was very much in demand. It was a great relaxation from the horrors of some of our ambulance driving jobs.

All mod-cons not included!

The ambulances had no electrics, all had to be cranked or towed. The glass on the lights was painted apart from a

tiny hole in the centre, so we got virtually no light on the road. It was difficult to avoid potholes, and we averaged a puncture every two weeks. We had to change and repair the tyres ourselves, which was difficult work. The vehicles also had no windscreens so we got very wet and cold at times.

We had to do all the servicing too. When I was demobbed, I reckoned I could have tested almost any car.

[Rouen was a major hub. In all there were 11 hospitals based around the city. The busiest treated 90,000 casualties over three years.]



Vivienne, left, dressed to entertain

One of the jobs we all liked doing was going in convoy to a railway station to meet a Red Cross train, straight from the front and full of wounded men. It was then that we really felt that we were helping.

There were terrible sights, some limbless, others blinded, most of them very dirty; a number of them died in the ambulances. I remember one young airman, aged 18, who was desperately ill. Poor lad, he was trying to say something, but with three other stretcher cases I had to get to the hospital. Sadly, he died before I got there. I always regret that I didn't just hold his hand and listen.

Some days I took as many as 50 bodies to the cemetery. We would have to go out at night during air raids to collect the injured. Thank God we always made it back again.

Another upsetting job was meeting relatives at the station, taking them to the hospital to see their dear one, but on so many occasions arriving too late. Trying to give comfort was so difficult. We had to leave them with the nurses, who all worked almost beyond endurance.

The horrors of war

In 1918 the Germans advanced to within 40 miles of Rouen. We could hear the roar of the big guns and realised the slaughter that was going on. We went to the railway station where there were crowds of troops waiting to go 'up the line'. Most of them were just 16, boys in tears and really frightened that they wouldn't come back. All I could say was to hope and pray that they would be the lucky ones.

Fortunately the advance suddenly stopped. On 11 November the armistice was signed and I went mad with celebration that afternoon with three Scotsmen in the car! Princess Mary came to inspect our camp which was a great thrill.

We went to visit the battlefields. I have never seen such devastation; no buildings or trees, and trenches just as they had been left, shells everywhere.

The whole experience will remain with me forever. War is so terrible that we must do everything possible to prevent it and to follow Christ's teaching 'to love one another'.

■ Vivienne met her future husband Robert (Jock) Prentice in France and they were married in 1921. In her 90s, Vivienne returned with her family to Rouen to see where the field hospitals had been. A few open spaces where she used to play hockey and cricket remained, as did the road to the cemetery. She visited the railway station where Jock departed with his battalion to Haifa, and the forest where she went courting with her boyfriends!

Around the Spire

Fond farewell to a much-loved friend

FRIENDS AND FAMILY were at St James's Church on 28 September to say goodbye to Mary Metcalfe, who died aged 91.

Born and bred a Shetlander on the island of Whalsay, Mary was one of seven children and didn't have it easy. Her father was killed in the Second World War, and her mother died soon afterwards, leaving Mary, aged 16, as the legal guardian of her younger brother, Peter.

Later when Peter came south to work at the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, Mary followed, and worked there as a cook. It was where she met Ron. They married, and had two children, Margaret and John.

Mary was always a hard worker. Before her children were awake she was cleaning at The Lady Eleanor Holles School and after seeing them to school she worked as a domestic help, before returning home to make them lunch. Then she attended to her own housework. Like many islanders she learnt to become self-sufficient, and was adept at painting, making curtains and laying carpet.

Mary also worked for Hannah Stanton. After Hannah's death she still enjoyed visits from her brother, Father Tom Stanton.

Her home was known as *Mary's Café* and everyone was welcome. Above all, Mary was devoted to her own family, especially her much-loved four grandchildren.

She attended St James's Church for over 50 years. Her strong faith was of particular help in later life when she was often in discomfort. Mary always watched *Songs of Praise* on TV and once housebound still loved to read the *Spire*.

Mary was an example to us all, always looking for the best in people. We shall always remember her tales of life in Shetland and most of all her lovely smile.



All creatures great and small



WE WELCOMED animals of all shapes and sizes to church on 30 September for our annual *Pets' Service*. During the service owners were invited to take their pets up to the altar to receive a blessing. We are happy to report that there were no accidents!

Pictured are, from left, Stuart, Arran, Erica and Sarah with their two dogs, Murphy and Mistletoe, and rabbit, Bonnie.



Four recent baptisms at St James's, from left: Kristian and Hayley Fitchett with Maxwell, Robert Cranston and Sophie Williams with Callie, and Warren and Annalea Gratton with James and Alexia.



DEREK WINTERBURN

One of the most undermining elements of Richard Dawkins in *The God Delusion* was his attack on the 'indoctrination' of children by religious families or schools. It seemed so plausible; 'let them make up their own mind, when they are old enough' is the line repeated from one parent to another. It is ironic then that he is now in the business of promoting his own picture book said to be called 'OMG, I think I am an atheist.'

Of course there are twin truths we can all agree on: (a) childhood is not a belief-free zone and (b) values and views adopted in childhood often persist through to adult life. Voltaire archly suggested that Ignatius of Loyola said, 'Give me the child for the first seven years and I will give you the man.'

I have no shame in urging parents to take up the responsibility for the Christian growth of their children. A good parent will introduce their son or daughter to what they consider good. We gather them up and expose them to football, ballet, hillwalking, reading, National Trust houses, beach holidays... the list is endless.

We say, 'This is what we do as a family - it is who we are.' Many have explicitly taken on this responsibility by having their children baptised into the Christian faith.

Good values from Christian life

Here are some good things that come to a child growing up in the Christian faith:

- The security of knowing that their Father in heaven loves, values and accepts them.
- The perception that he is with them wherever they are, and whoever they talk to.
- Jesus, as brother, friend, hero, who gives everything for them.
- A moral framework that is coherent, and rooted in tradition and experience, and turns us outward to consider others.
- A storehouse of stories to excite the imagination, and offer tested insight into life.
- A multi-generational community who want to bless them.
- Language to describe death, set in the context of hope and purpose.

The Bible is full of people who have faith in God, but there is no 'Sunday School' or 'Youth Work'. Faith has been taught and caught in the home, from the family.

The only person we know for sure who taught Jesus was his mother. Nowadays we have reduced 'believing' to 'understanding things pretty hard to understand' and that's tough for a parent (who may be less than clear about every line in the Creed!) and that responsibility has been passed on (and accepted) by the Church.

St James's welcomes children

So, like many churches (but sadly not most churches), St James welcomes children to a Sunday School - Shell Seekers at 9.30am. There we help the children and young people by introducing them to their heavenly Father.

It is great to have these servants of the church offer friendship and guidance week by week, but they can only connect with the child for 45 minutes in a week that has perhaps 4,500 waking minutes; 1% of time is not much!

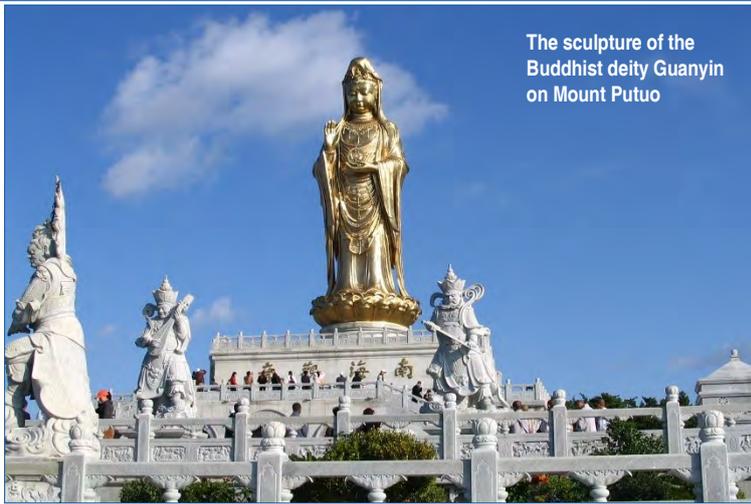
Generations of parents have been deskilled and not been given the resources to help them at home. With the pressure on Sunday attendance even the 1% is now under threat. Happily, there are now vastly more resources to help with faith at home:

- Wonderful children's Bibles, picture books and novels. It's best to try a Christian website like eden.co.uk. Reading a Bible together at bedtime has never been easier. You can also find DVDs and music.
- At *Together at Eleven* church is 'done' as families. We ask you to work together on a question, or help each other with craft, and we all sing the same songs - all things that can be picked up later at another time.
- We send out a monthly email to families with focussed news, and information. We also include a mini-magazine *Faith at Home*.
- *Parenting for Faith* is a special website, based on the work of Rachel Turner, and has resources for parents: parentingforfaith.org.

The best resource for your children is you! It is as you put your faith into practice that your children will learn why trusting God is important. That's why we offer small groups and the short course *Quest* - tackling questions that we might have - so that parents deepen their faith too.

The Baptism Service in commissioning parents says, 'This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God,' but after that rather sobering assessment goes on, 'Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding these children in the way of faith.'

That's the beauty of being a Christian parent - God is alongside, all the way.



The sculpture of the Buddhist deity Guanyin on Mount Putuo



LAURENCE SEWELL

The Zhoushan islands in China lie south-east of Shanghai in Zhejiang province, an archipelago of some 1,400 islands located at the mouth of Hangzhou Bay, an area of outstanding natural beauty of islands and mountains scattered in the sea.

Here on one of the islands we find Mount Putuo. It is one of the four sacred mountains in Chinese Buddhism (the others being Mount Wutai, Mount Jiuhua, and Mount Emei) and home to the most famous Guanyin Temple in all China.

Guanyin is an East Asian bodhisattva (a Sanskrit term for a person who is able to reach nirvana, but delays doing so through compassion for others' suffering) associated with compassion and venerated by Mahayana Buddhists and followers of Chinese folk religions, also known as the 'Goddess of Mercy' in English.

The Chinese name Guanyin, short for Guanshiyin, means [*The One Who Perceives the Sounds of the World*], and is also recognised as the patron saint of seafarers. Some Buddhists believe that when one of their adherents departs from this world, they are placed by Guanyin in the heart of a lotus, and then sent to the western Pure Land of Sukhāvatī.

Guanyin is often referred to as the most widely beloved Buddhist divinity, with miraculous powers to assist all those who pray to her.

Sacred significance from a storm

Mount Putuo has been a pilgrimage site for

over a thousand years. It was originally called Mount Meicun after a man named Meifu in the Han Dynasty who had once lived here. It got its sacred spiritual significance during the Tang dynasty after a Japanese monk visiting China planned to carry a Guanyin sculpture obtained from Mount Wutai back to Japan. He was held up by storms in the area, and believing the Guanyin was reluctant to leave, he came ashore and built a temple to host the sculpture.

Legend also recounts that Guanyin once appeared here on Mount Putuo, and each year on specific dates in the Chinese calendar millions of visitors come to celebrate the birth of Guanyin.

In its heyday, there were three main temples and 88 monasteries with more than 4000 monks in active service on the mountain. In addition, there were 128 thatched houses for various other persons engaged in work in support of the temples and monasteries on the island.

Mount Putuo was understandably a place of great reverence, being referred to as the *First Buddhist Kingdom in Zhendan*.

Today a site of academia

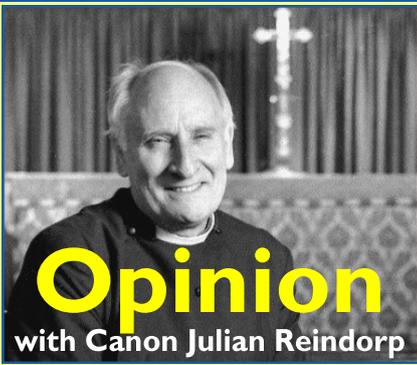
Today, there are more than 30 major temples or monasteries located on Mount Putuo which covers an area of approximately 4.8 square miles. In addition to these temples, there is the Institute of Buddhism, one of the largest Buddhist academic institutes in China. All are under the direction of the Chinese Buddhist Association.

The temples and shrines on the island are full of colourful sculptures depicting the deity in her various forms, from the South-Sea Guanyin in her welcoming posture overlooking the sea, to various depictions of the Thousand-Hand Guanyin, whose tangle of limbs represents her ability to offer a helping hand to anyone in need.

As the tourist literature describes it today, Mount Putuo, saturated with the fragrance of incense and the strains of Buddhist chants... 'now offers a spiritual sanctuary in contrast to the wafting, exhaust fumes and the din of automobile horns that haunt many cities in which we live!'



Duo Bao Pagoda, Zhoushan



Opinion
with Canon Julian Reindorp

POLITICIANS

People seem more cynical about politics and politicians nowadays than I can ever remember. As a Tory MP put it rather crudely, 'Things are not s***... if I needed a word to describe the way things are going, I'd probably go for dysentery. That gets closer.' So I write positively about our MPs above all in their constituency role.

Being born in South Africa and following events there alerted me early on to the importance of politics. Apartheid meant only white people could vote. Genuine democracy really matters. Our theological principal advised us to make friends of our MPs.

I have had 11 different MPs representing me in my almost 50 years of parish ministry: 3 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrat and 5 Conservative. I became friends with almost all of them. I have found them approachable, conscientious and very hard working.

The one I was closest to had a heart attack and died aged 58. Bob Bean was Labour MP for Chatham and I shared in officiating at his funeral. As the curtain closed at the crematorium the congregation sang old Labour's party song, *The Red Flag!*

My MPs were all at their best when contacted about individuals and also international issues.

In Poplar, recently ordained, I sent a campaign card (ready completed for me to sign) to my MP, Ian Mikardo. I got a three-page letter back saying the campaign was rubbish, and with his practical suggestions. From then on I only wrote to MPs from my first-hand experience.

HOW I WON £5

When I first arrived in Milton Keynes, a choir member's husband had a heart attack and needed to move home. I suggested contacting the MP whose name or party I did not then know. She said it would be 'a waste of time', though she didn't know the name or party of the MP either. I bet her £5 that if she wrote to the MP she would get a reply within three days. The next day she arrived at the vicarage with £5. The MP, Bill Benyon, had received her letter, driven straight to her home and arranged for her and her husband to move the next week. He was an outstanding constituency MP who I enjoyed telling about my £5 win.

ROBOTS AND EMPLOYMENT

There has been understandable concern about how far robots will replace human beings in the job market, not least for people with few skills. According to the World Economic Forum, however, about 133m jobs globally could be created with the help of rapid technological advances in the workplace over the next 10 years, while 75m could be displaced. The chair of the WEF makes the point this will require far greater investment in training and education to help workers adapt. But the risks are stark. Company bosses say more than half of all workplace tasks could be performed by machines by 2025.

ARCHBISHOP'S VIEWS

Archbishop Justin Welby came in for predictable criticism for his involvement in a think tank report focusing on employment and poverty, and then possibly involving the Church of England in a consortium to help sort out the affairs of the pay day lender Wonga.

I liked this letter in the *Guardian*: 'Politicians and journalists love to tell church leaders they should stick to religion. But Welby's authority to speak out about economic justice derives from the work the Church has done on the ground, in food banks across the country. As an agnostic food bank volunteer I thank God church leaders are drawing attention to the political decisions that have left millions dependent on food aid. Food poverty is a national emergency and the church is fighting on the front line. To paraphrase another Archbishop - Desmond Tutu - it is only right the church has stopped just pulling people out of the river and has gone upstream to find out why they are falling in.'

How we can help to tackle abuse



DAVID HETLING

St James's has supported The Children's Society for many years and we have a very loyal and generous group of box-holders who regularly donate their small change to support its work. All that small change adds up! Over the past 30 years more than £24,000 has been raised by our church to support the charity's work with vulnerable young people – a tremendous achievement.

Local knowledge

There are 26,841 children in the constituency of Twickenham. Of those, 506 are known to the borough's children's services because of abuse and neglect. And Metropolitan Police data shows that 4,359 sexual offences were committed against children in London in 2015/16.

The Children's Society is keen to highlight their approach to tackling these grave issues, an approach that is only possible due to support from parishes like ours.

Responding to the need

The charity knows that when young people access their services for support with one aspect of their life, they are often having difficulties in other areas too. This experience has enabled the charity to identify three key areas in which young people encounter challenges:

- Where they face risks to their safety and well-being.
- Where the resources they need to flourish and thrive may be compromised.
- With the resilience they draw on to respond to adverse experiences in life.

Through the charity they learn more about the complexity of the issues that affect children and young people. This learning influences their campaigning and policy work.



Grooming victim Kyran, now helping others at risk of exploitation

Their campaigns tackle deeply-ingrained issues that children face, influence Government policy and change prevailing attitudes to the most vulnerable in our society.

Large-scale achievements...

Much of their work in 2016/17 focused on influencing the Policing and Crime Bill as it went through Parliament.

Following a campaign, the Government agreed to set up a working group to better protect teenagers from abuse and invited the charity to play a key part in the group.

...and more personal successes

This story is typical. Kyran was groomed by an older man, who lied about his age online. His mother contacted The Children's Society and they helped Kyran tell the police, leading to a successful prosecution. Kyran is now working with the charity to help other young people at risk.

If you would like a collecting box to support the charity contact Nicky or me.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 18 November — Dave Farris from the charity will speak at the 9.30am service about their work.

Sunday 2 December, Christingle — The service, at 10am, is the charity's most important fundraising event.

Teenagers 'bowled over'



A GROUP OF OUR young people had an enjoyable evening out in Kingston with youth group leaders last month. They enjoyed a competitive ten-pin bowling contest, followed by a snack at a fast food restaurant. The outing was part of regular monthly Friday night events for our older children. In December they will join hundreds of others at the O2!

REGISTERS

SEPTEMBER

BAPTISMS

- 23 Maxwell Thomas Fitchett, Hampton
- 23 Callie Elizabeth Cranston, Hanworth
- 23 James Thomas Gratton, Ashford
- 23 Alexia Jane Gratton, Ashford

WEDDINGS

- 8 Robert Peter Winn and Elizabeth Anne Victoria Thornton, Teddington
- 27 Dennis Mantle and Nina Dawn Dalton, Staines upon Thames

FUNERALS

- 11 Karl James Bolam, 54, Hampton
- 12 Elizabeth (Bette) Molyneux, 99, Twickenham
- 24 Arthur Ernest Dennett, 94, Twickenham
- 28 Mary Jane Margaret Metcalfe, 91, Hampton Hill

INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 20 Halford (Hal) Ernest Severn, 92, Hampton



I could have danced all night



LINDA CARGILL

There is a quiver of excitement and expectation in going to see a musical either live at the theatre or as a film. It is a treat to be transported to another world for a brief period of time. Many of the songs have become 'standards', that is, they are played so often on both radio and television that you almost forget which musical they came from. It was hard to choose, but I decided to select those that were special to me and those whose music I remembered the most fondly.

Oklahoma Rogers and Hammerstein



This was the first musical that I can remember. I loved the film (and later a stage production). I played the LP incessantly and sang along to all the lyrics, which I still remember today! The music was wonderful. Who cannot remember *Oh, what a beautiful morning* as Gordon MacRae (as Curly, pictured) rode his horse through the 'corn that's as high as an elephant's eye'?

My Fair Lady Lerner and Lowe

Adapted from the 1913 play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw, it opened in London at the Drury Lane Theatre, starring Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison. Sadly Julie Andrews, playing Eliza Doolittle, was 'indisposed' for my performance. What a disappointment, as it was my first visit to a West End theatre, and a long train ride from my home in Essex. But I felt *I could have danced all night* on my way home!



Salad Days Julian Slade



Performed at the Vaudeville Theatre, this show was a simple production compared to the complex sets of today. The musical, which I saw recently at the Hampton Hill Playhouse, brought memories flooding back about the piano 'that made

everyone want to dance'. The story tells of the piano vanishing and being found again by Uncle Zed and his flying saucer. Needless to say, everyone lived happily ever after!

The Sound of Music Rogers and Hammerstein



This must be the classic of all musicals: the true story of Maria (Julie Andrews), a young novice nun, who leaves the convent to become governess for Captain von Trapp's (Christopher Plummer) seven children. She soon wins the hearts of the children and their father, but when Austria unites with Nazi Germany, the whole family makes a daring escape over the mountains into Switzerland. The house in Austria is still a huge tourist attraction and the wonderful music and songs have stood the test of time.

Bugsy Malone Paul Williams

This American musical gangster spoof film is one of the most unique movies ever made, with an all-child cast who shoot cream at each other with splurge guns and dance their way through the story (starring a very young Jodie Foster and Scott Baio, pictured). The music was played constantly on long family car journeys, so we all knew it word for word. Seen again as a stage show, the splurge guns were not nearly so effective!



Candide Leonard Bernstein and Stephan Sondheim

The main character, Candide, is constantly searching for 'The Best of All Possible Worlds' and his journey takes him through many different countries, while Voltaire, played by Simon Russell-Beale in this production, narrates his story. At the end of their many adventures, Candide and his friends find a place where they will all live in peace, work hard, not hurt anyone else and 'make their garden grow'. Leonard Bernstein's music was incredible.

The Phantom of the Opera Andrew Lloyd Webber

This is the longest running musical in the West End. It began in 1986 when Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman were the first actors to take the lead roles. We saw the show the day after the Great Storm of October 1987, so just getting to the theatre was an adventure! It was the most talked about show, and we imagined we were at the Opera Garnier in Paris as the chandelier swung over our heads.



CATS Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice



CATS was adapted from a book of poems by T S Elliott. The set (a rubbish tip), make up, amazing costumes and Gillian Lynne's choreography of feline movement was innovative. Having learned some of the poems at school, it was wonderful to experience them brought to life before my eyes, especially as the 'cats' danced through the audience and came face to face with you. We saw this the night before we moved house!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice
Written originally as a school production, *Joseph* was brought to the West End stage in 1973. A narrator tells the biblical story of Joseph, Jacob's favourite son, and his jealous brothers who sold him into slavery. Later, unjustly thrown into prison, Joseph interprets dreams and is able to predict that Egypt will have seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine, thus saving the Egyptian people from starvation. A children's choir accompanies the actors, and the catchy music and words narrate the story perfectly.



Les Misérables Cameron Mackintosh and Trevor Nunn

Adapted from a historical novel by Victor Hugo, this musical was predicted to be a failure before it even opened. However, it defied its critics and opened to great acclaim in 1985 and has continued to be played in theatres around the world. It is the story of injustice, sacrifice, passion, unrequited love and of a fight for freedom in one small corner of France in the 19th century. The sets were outstanding: rotating, sliding and changing before your eyes.

