

FEBRUARY 2016

thespire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy

The Big Breakfast

Page 4

A woman with dark skin and hair, wearing a grey polo shirt, is shown in profile, focused on harvesting tea leaves. She is holding a large bunch of freshly picked tea leaves in her left hand and reaching for more with her right hand. The background is a vast, green tea plantation under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene is bright and natural.

**Start your
day the
Fairtrade
way**

AROUND THE SPIRE P5 ■ A-Z SACRED PLACES P6 ■ WHAT'S ON P7

Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy



Vicar

Vacant

All enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings and funerals should go through the Parish Office.

Curate

The Revd Jacky Cammidge

Jacky, pictured right, was born in Abertillery, South Wales. She is a self-supporting minister, ordained in July 2015. During term time she runs one of two Hampton Hill nursery schools owned by her family.

Telephone: 074 9677 0505

curate@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Bell Ringing Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Brownies and Guides

Girlguiding.org.uk or 0800 1 69 59 01

Charities and Links Committee

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Children's Champion

Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854

Church Cleaning

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Church Flowers

Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Churches Together Around Hampton

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Deanery Synod

Clive Beaumont 020 8943 4336

Electoral Roll

Jane Gibson 020 8941 6003

Eco-Group

Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563

Hall Bookings

Jane Gibson 020 8941 6003

Hall Tea / Coffee Rotas

Clare Ryan 079 6413 1135

Mission Partner Link

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Mozambique/Angola Link

Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Music and Worship Committee

Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

PCC Secretary

Kirstie Craig 077 7588 2935

Planned Giving Committee

Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

Properties Committee

Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Safeguarding Officer

Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

Scout Group

Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers

Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Sidespersons

Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

St James's Ark

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

St James's Hospitality / Parish Breakfast

Clare Ryan and Kirstie Craig 079 6413 1135

St James's Players

Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

The Shell Seekers (Sunday School)

Term-time (except when there is an all-age service)
Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854

Tools with a Mission

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Theatre Club

Peter Hale 020 979 9287

Visitors' Group

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Weekly Pew Sheet

Jane Gibson 020 8941 6003

From the Editor...

This year promises to be an exciting one for us with Jacky Cammidge being priested in July and the appointment of a new vicar.

Each year we review the articles in our magazine and forward plan for the coming year. The 10 Favourites page has proved so popular that we are able to continue for a third year as many people have offered to do articles. We also have some very interesting centre-spreads planned.

One new article will appear to replace the recipes which Griselda Barrett produced so expertly for two years. We shall be running a feature called A-Z of Sacred Places on Page 6 which Laurence Sewell has agreed to write for us.

It doesn't seem possible that daffodils and snowdrops were out even before Christmas with the very warm weather. This year everything happens early and this edition has details of our Lent services and the popular Lent group meetings as well as two parish meals, one in the church hall on Sunday 7 February, the other on Shrove Tuesday, 9 February. Do support them if you can. We also look forward to Easter in March.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

Cover photo: Tanzanian tea plucker Rahel Mhabuka (see p4)



thespire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James.

We make no charge for this magazine, but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs to enable us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to The PCC of St James and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office.

STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas, or would like to write for the magazine, please contact the Editor, Janet Nunn.

Telephone: 020 8979 6325

Email: janunhh@btinternet.com

AROUND THE SPIRE

If you have any news, please contact Susan Horner.

Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Nick Bagge is listings editor. If you have an event to be considered for inclusion, contact him.

Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

Prill Hinckley is webmaster. If you would like to receive the magazine by email, please contact her.

Prill also compiles the Young Spire page.

Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

thespire is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Contact Susan Horner:

Telephone: 020 8979 9380

Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

Write to: 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1HH

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

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Please recycle this magazine after use



Come and worship with us!



Sundays

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 21 February Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18;

Philippians 3:17-4.1;

Luke 13:31-end

Sunday 7 February Next before Lent

Exodus 34: 29-end;

2 Corinthians 3:12-4.2;

Luke 9:28-36.

Sunday 28 February Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9;

1 Corinthians 10:1-13;

Luke 13:1-9.

Wednesday 10 February Ash Wednesday

9.30am and 7.30pm

Isaiah 58: 1-12;

2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10;

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 14 February Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:1-11;

Romans 10: 8b-13;

Luke 4: 1-13.

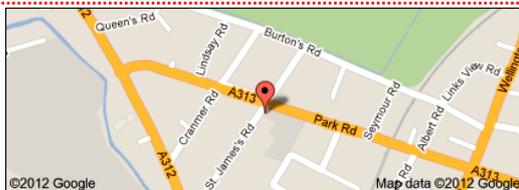
COMING SOON

Sunday 6 March Mothering Sunday

Sunday 20 March Palm Sunday

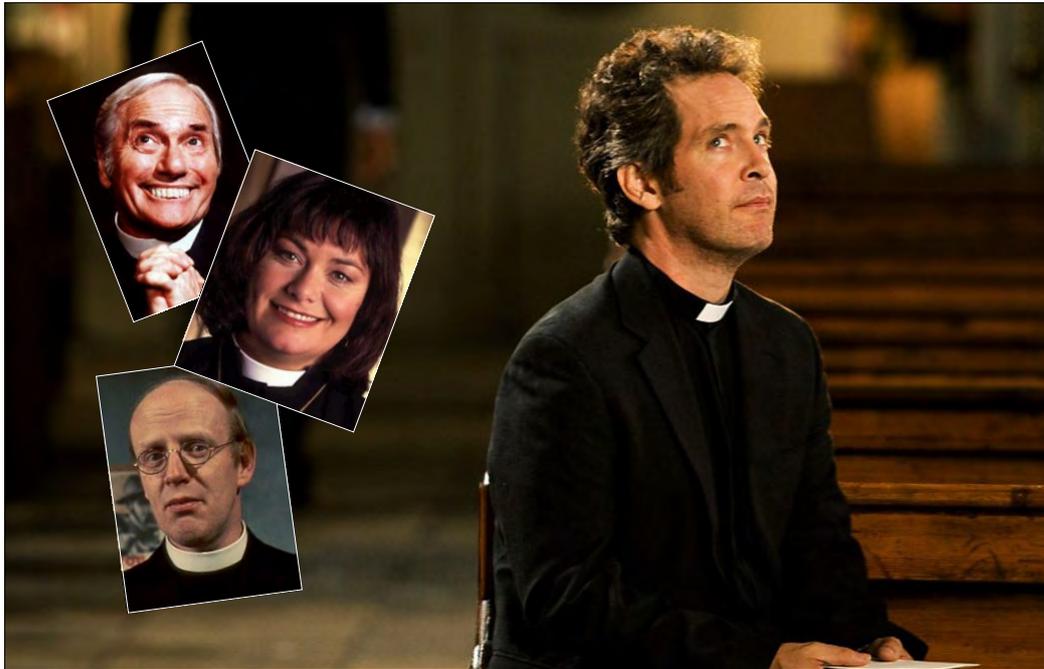
Finding us

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. There is ample parking in the road.



Leader Column with Julian Reindorp

Who's your ideal Rev?



This is the eighth vacancy that I have been involved in helping with since I retired six years ago. And at some point in each parish I have preached a sermon beginning like this: 'Imagine the bishop has written to you saying, "I have shortlisted four candidates for your parish. I cannot tell you their names for confidential reasons, but they remind me in their personalities of four Biblical characters: Paul of Tarsus, John the Baptist, Peter of Capernaum and Mary of Magdala".'

If I know the congregation well enough I have then asked for a show of hands as to which of these four characters they would choose? The one they chose least was John the Baptist! I wonder why?

A JOB SHARE

My own answer is very simple: a job share between Paul of Tarsus and Mary of Magdala. In this way you would get the best of both worlds, the most remarkable missionary of all time in Paul, and also an instinctive pastor in Mary.

And because they are both deeply committed Christians, and probably over-conscientious, we would get seven or eight days of work from them, rather than just six! This seems to me the expectation of most employers who have job-sharers.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

But I come back to John the Baptist. Why are we wary of him? I suspect it is because we think of him as a very austere character, and perhaps a vegetarian or vegan. He would make most of us feel incredibly overdressed. And we would have to go into the wilderness to hear him.

That meant at least a day's walk from Jerusalem to the other side of the Jordan. Unlike Jesus, who might visit us at home, be seen in the pubs and clubs of our town, mix with people of every

background, however posh or poor, John the Baptist was clearly not 'one of us'.

OUR WILDERNESS

But he knew that if we are to hear God speaking to us, it might need to be in the silence and eeriness of the wilderness. It was the psychiatrist Anthony Clare who used to say 'the wilderness for us today is inside ourselves'. The priest and poet RS Thomas has written, 'Keep us within listening of the silence that we call God.'

I know I can fill my life with business. Being a parish priest you can feel 'I can never do enough for Christ'. But I need to recognise this is not what Christ is saying to me, it is my own compulsion.

SILENCE

Jesus had to go into the wilderness, not just to be baptised, but in the silence to hear the temptations of his compulsions. I don't know what your compulsions are, your addictions, but we all have them.

Jesus heard a voice in the silence saying, 'You are my son and I take great delight in you.' And out of this experience, what I call 'the swimming pool of God's love,' he was released from his compulsions and free to be the prophet and saviour he felt called to be, but answerable to God and no-one else.

OUR NEW VICAR

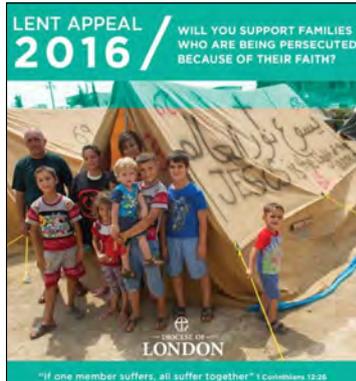
I believe we will get the vicar we deserve. I will always remember the *Mr Men* books. One of their lessons was that we shrink through criticism, but grow through encouragement.

If we can communicate just a little of the swimming pool of God's love he or she will grow into the pastor, the priest and prophet we all need.

Charity Box Lent Appeal

This year St James's is supporting the Diocese of London's appeal for persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria. There is a threat to the very survival of the Christian population in these most ancient homelands of our faith.

Throughout the diocese there has been a desire to rally together and help. Prayer is an essential act of solidarity with those who suffer, but the Bishop of London reminds us that prayer must be matched by actions and gives us a way to act.



During Lent, the appeal will be raising funds for two Christian organisations (Open Doors and Aid to the Church in Need) that are running vital projects in Iraq and Syria.

Let's all respond and aim to raise £2000 during Lent. Flyers will be in church, but all you need to do is put your donation in a blue Gift Aid envelope, write *Lent Appeal* on it, and bring it to church by 27 March, Easter Sunday. If you aren't a taxpayer, just hand in your donation in an envelope marked *Lent Appeal*.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Prayers for Lent



These prayers are taken from Tearfund's website, which has one for each day of Lent.

Lord God, thank you that you care for those who are suffering, for people grieving, those in mental torment or feeling physical pain. We recognise that we can feel broken-hearted at times and we thank you for binding up our wounds. But, Lord, extend your comfort to those suffering across the world because of poverty, disease and disaster. Help us to also comfort the broken-hearted. *Amen.*

Peter Shaw

Lord, we thank you that you have promised to carry us through our darkest times. We remember those throughout the world who are suffering from trauma. Relieve their burdens and grant them your peace.

Please help us to do everything that we can to support those around the world suffering from the effects of conflict and disaster. *Amen.*

Clare Third

Father, help me in my dark moments, to fully trust in you. Thank you for all the times that you have heard my cries for help and stepped into the situation. In turn, help me remember people around the world who are oppressed and feel they have no hope. As they cry out for deliverance, may I be ready to become part of your answer to them. *Amen.*

Richard Ahronson

God who came to earth as a man with 'no place to lay his head', give us eyes to see those around us today who also have no homes. Fill our hearts with love, and our minds with the knowledge that, as we serve the homeless, we are also serving you. *Amen.*

Josie Hicklin

Father, give us the words and the courage to speak about you, to spread your light and love, to tell the world about your story - to go where the need is greatest and follow your example, proclaiming the good news wherever we end up. *Amen.*

David Freeman

Teach us to love deeply and insistently, believing in your promises that it is how we will change the world. Remind us that we are drenched in your love and have been since the beginning of time. *Amen.*

Josie Hicklin

Discover all the prayers at: tearfund.org



Local and National stories

Start your day the Fairtrade way

WHAT DO YOU have for breakfast? It probably begins with a cup of tea or coffee, followed by toast and jam, or perhaps cereal, fruit or muesli.



Martin Luther King Junior said: 'Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world.' Think about the tea, coffee, jam / marmalade, oranges, bananas, nuts and more besides.

Yet despite our dependence on farmers and workers around the globe, many don't earn enough to provide sufficient food for their families.

During this year's **Fairtrade Fortnight, 29 February-13 March**, we are being asked to remember that every time we buy a product with the Fairtrade Mark, we help to improve their lives. The Tanzanian tea plucker **on the front cover**, Rahel Mhabuka, can vouch for this and how wonderful that she works only 80 miles from our much loved Milo hospital.

Remind yourself of lives improved during breakfast and commit to buying Fairtrade products whenever you can. The next Traidcraft stalls at St James's are on **Sunday 7 February** and **Sunday 6 March** after the 9.30pm services.

Lent Course details announced



THIS YEAR'S LENT COURSE starts on Thursday 18 February and draws on five speakers with wide experience of the impact of faith on our society. The guest speakers will include the Ven Stephan Welch, Archdeacon of Middlesex; the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington; the Revd Rachel Carnegie, Co-Director of the Anglican Alliance and a former adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury; Miriam Kramer, Chair of the European Union for Progressive Judaism; and Rashid Laher, a trustee of the Kingston Islamic Centre and advisor to mosques in London. The evenings will begin at 7.15pm with a meal, followed at 8pm by a talk and discussion, finishing at 9.30pm. Full details are in a leaflet, available from church. To help with catering, please let Jane Gibson, in the Parish Office, know if you would like to attend.

New drainage channel installed

MAJOR WORK to replace a blocked drain by the north side of the church has been completed. The old drainpipe and soakaway (a pit into which the water is piped so that it drains slowly into the surrounding soil) had been damaged by tree roots, causing water to soak into the brickwork.

Former curate's new posting

CONGRATULATIONS TO the Revd Debbie Oades, a former curate at St James's, who has been appointed vicar of St Michael's Church, Amersham on the Hill. Debbie, pictured with our present curate, Jacky, has been associate vicar of the parish of Maybush, Southampton, since leaving Hampton Hill in February 2011. Her induction service will be on March 15 at 7.30pm.



Wanted: new vicar for St James's

AN ADVERTISEMENT for a new vicar of St James's has appeared in *The Church Times*. Applicants are directed to our website where they can download the Parish Profile, effectively a job description, and an application form. The closing date is 15 February. Our patron, the Revd Derek Winterburn, vicar of St Mary's, Hampton, will then produce a shortlist to be interviewed by a panel, which also includes Nick Bagge and Linda Webb, representing St James's, the Bishop of Kensington and the Rural Dean. The interviews take place on 2 March. Our website and *The Spire* will keep you informed of any developments.

Let music speak



It is hard to believe that Mark Blackwell has been a church organist for 40 years. As he prepares to celebrate that milestone, he looks back to where it all began and the journey he made to his new home here at St James's



My interest in playing the organ started when I was a very young choirboy at St Augustine's, Whitton, and used to watch the organist play after the service. He suggested to my parents I should have organ lessons (I was 11 at the time and had been playing the piano since I was six).

My first organ tutor left the area after I was with her for a year or so. I was then recommended to see Geoff Bowyer, pictured right, who, as some of you will know, was organist at St James's for a number of years. His enthusiasm for teaching the organ and his amazing musical talent (the only organist who never plays a hymn in the original key, and his interpretation of hymns with the registration of the organ for different lines) was inspirational.



It all began at Twickenham URC

It does not seem 40 years since I first started at Twickenham United Reformed Church in 1976; a church which had a warm welcome for someone who was only 14 at the time, and their support was invaluable and so encouraging. My first performance there was as organist for Stainer's Crucifixion and it was an insight into the world of accompanying choirs.



Where it all began: Twickenham United Reformed Church

In 1980 I moved to St Philip and St James in Whitton, giving me my first experience of running a choir and playing for weddings. It would seem hard to believe to younger people now, but in my first year there I played for over 30 weddings, sometimes four in a day; including one occasion with three weddings wanting Widor's *Toccata* for the exit of the bride (anyone who has played this piece will know why I mention this!)

Organist at other denominations

I left St Philip and St James in 1984 and spent a number of years playing in different churches in the area which gave me experience of different denominations. I soon realised that there were very few differences between the Christian denominations.

During this time I also played for the Wednesday evening service at the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Richmond, a post I held for nearly 20 years.

Back to Anglican roots at St James's

Since 2007 I have been based at St Edmunds RC Church in Whitton as organist, but I had felt for a while that I wanted to return to my Anglican roots (being a confirmed Anglican) and I was ready to take on a post conducting a choir again (I had put this on hold whilst establishing my accountancy practice).

I was playing occasionally at St James's after an earlier curate, Debbie Oades, asked to me to help out one Sunday. When I played at St James's in January 2015, I was surrounded by a number of your choir members who persuaded me to make it my new home (it did not take much persuasion).

The warmth of welcome I have received from everyone at St James's has been wonderful and this has

where words fail



The cathedral choir on tour at Winchester, the mighty ceiling of which is pictured left

been echoed following the recent Choral Evensong by a large number of the visiting choir.

Keen interest in youth music

Apart from playing at St James's I have a keen interest in youth music having been, for the past 13 years, a trustee of a youth choir in Staines called Spelthorne Young Voices (SYV), under the direction of another very talented musician and friend, Joanne Gardner, pictured.



The choir numbers over 100 young people at present across three choirs, and they attract large and enthusiastic audiences whenever they perform together, as can be seen below.

I also have Joanne to thank for encouraging me in a new genre of show and contemporary music which, for some reason, always seems to have multiple key changes, much to Jo's amusement.



I was also musical director of the Spelthorne Gang Show for six shows, with 35 to 100 young people for each show (made all the more enjoyable as my daughters joined me in running these shows, along with Scout and Guide leaders).



Christmas cheer: The choir at St James's give voice at the carol service

My cathedrals choir

I am also kept busy twice a year organising a choir to sing at cathedrals for normal services when the cathedral choir are on holiday. We have so far visited Bristol, Winchester (twice) and Gloucester. We have also been accepted at Rochester and St Albans in 2016 and Ely and Norwich in 2017.

This choir is made up of anyone who wants to join us for the eight-10 rehearsals beforehand, no audition is required, just an enthusiasm to sing.

A celebration concert at St James's

As I mentioned earlier, this year marks my 40 years as a parish organist, and to mark the occasion I plan to put on a concert at St James's in 2016 or early 2017; the concert is intended to involve anyone who has worked with me over the last 40 years in the music world and will also reflect the different types of music, hopefully featuring SYV.

Any funds raised will be split equally between SYV and another youth charity, continuing my firm belief that the future of choral music lies in the hands of these young people.

I mentioned very briefly at the beginning that the organist at St Augustine's suggested to my parents I should have organ lessons. My Mum (sadly no longer with us) and Dad, have always been there for me, encouraging, cajoling ('you need to practice!').

Without their support and encouragement I would not have met some amazing people, a lot of whom I now have the privilege to call friends, as well as the moving experiences of singing in cathedrals, playing for Sunday services and the shows. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you Mum and Dad.

Around the SPIRE with Susan Homer

The Spire loses a great supporter

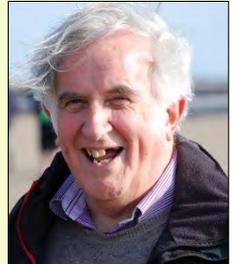
MICHAEL HORNER, who has organised the distribution of *The Spire* for many years, died on 28 December after a short illness.

Born in Stoke-on-Trent, Michael moved to Leek, Staffordshire, at the age of 10 and then to the Twickenham area on starting his first job.

He was an industrial photographer before his retirement and retained his interest in photography to the end of his life.

Michael was active in the Rotary Club of Twickenham upon Thames for over 30 years, having served as president twice and being very involved in all their charitable activities.

Michael's funeral service was held at St. James's on 8 January. We send our sympathy to Susan and their children Angela, Peter and Matthew



Waste Watchers' big weigh-in

MORE THAN TWO tons of rubbish has been cleared from Hampton Hill's streets in six years by Hampton Hill Association's Waste Watchers.

They meet up once a month, clearing an average of

40-50kg of rubbish in just two hours, including some unusual finds, such as a glass fish tank. Although this is an achievement for which we should all be grateful, as the group's leader, George Andrews, said, 'It is a sad indictment that all of this rubbish could so easily have been placed in the recycling bins or, at worst, the rubbish bins.'



War Memorial now Grade II-listed

THE WAR MEMORIAL in our churchyard is now a listed monument. The recommendation for Grade II-listed status came from Historic England as part of their First World War Commemoration Project. It described the monument as 'tall and striking' and 'an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community and the sacrifice it made' in two world wars. The church already has Grade II-listed protection.

Support for Hampton Foodbank

A NEW FOODBANK

has opened at the YMCA White House in Hampton and is to be supported by St James's Church.

For the past two years we have been sending food donations to the Storehouse, which is managed by the Riverside Vineyard Church in Feltham, but this new local

foodbank was initiated by Churches Together Around Hampton and our Parochial Church Council decided to back it too.

A box will be put out every time there is a Traidcraft stall to encourage people to buy an extra item or two for the foodbank. You may, of course, bring your own donations at any time to church. The foodbank itself provides food to people in need on Tuesdays from 9.30am-12.30pm and Wednesdays 2-5pm.





Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

Climb every mountain!

Scouts conquer fears and achieve their goals in Switzerland



How 10 days in the alps helped the scouts gain new friendships, conquer fears and come home with a huge sense of achievement.

By **Wend Williamson, Cub Scout Leader**
3rd Hampton Hill Scouts

An event like this needs a team of volunteers to execute it. I had the perfect mix of adults, all willing to participate and to deal with issues, from homesickness, to sore feet, grazed knees and getting everyone to where they needed to be, with what they needed, on time.

Below are some of the highlights of our trip.

Take a hike

Guided by a scout from another country, such as Pani from Spain and Rob from Australia, the scouts hiked up mountains and slept in mountain huts with other groups. The mountain huts were primitive, isolated and a confined space above the tree line.

Some 51 scouts walked to 2000m altitude, 10 made it to 2696m and 13 to the top of the highest peak in the area, at 3296m (Ben Nevis, by comparison is about 1340m high).

Rapid rafting

A gentle river rafting trip from Thun to Bern was 25km of scenic calm with the odd rapid. Then after drying off we spent some time exploring the old town of Bern, the Swiss capital.



Our Sunday School, The Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 9.25am during school terms, except for one Sunday in most months when there is an all-age service in church. We welcome new members. Come along for a trial visit and see just how much fun it can be.

Swiss National Day

The entire country celebrates their national day and that included the whole campsite, some 1500 scouts from around the world, taking part in games, trying foods and learning about traditions.

Climbing high

Some scouts completed a mountain climbing workshop. Taking a cable car high into the mountains, the views were amazing.

There were six grades of climb, all tackled as they progressed through the day. They all overcame fear and put in so much energy. Every scout also had responsibility for another scout as they climbed, holding their rope.

More adventures

Some scouts went canyoning, travelling down a gorge in the water, abseiling from rock pool to pool, jumping and sliding down rocks. Then, some high ropes. There were eight levels of difficulty and every individual had their own safety to consider. During the trip all the scouts achieved something, though they may not yet recognise it.



A-Z OF Sacred Places

with Laurence Sewell



ANTIOCH

Acts of the Apostles (chapter 11, verses 25 & 26) tells us that the term *Christian* was first coined in Antioch: *then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.*

But where is Antioch and what of it today?

Antioch is near the modern Turkish city of Antakya, near the mouth of the Orontes River in south central Turkey, inland from the Mediterranean, about 12 miles from the Syrian border. Little remains of the ancient city and river port today, although archaeological excavations since the 1930s have uncovered a magnificent treasure trove of ancient mosaics and artefacts, most notably the cave said to have been dug by Saint Peter and which became the very first Christian church. The ruined church on this site was built later in the twelfth century by the Crusaders.

When was it founded?

Antioch was founded in 300 BC by one of Alexander the Great's former generals. It flourished owing to its strategic location on trade routes north-south and east-west across north-western Syria, and through goods being transported from Persia to the Mediterranean.

Antioch was the centre of the Seleucid kingdom until 64 BC, when it was annexed by Rome and was made the capital of the Roman province of Syria.

It became the third largest city of the Roman Empire in size and importance (after Rome and Alexandria) and possessed magnificent temples, theatres, aqueducts, and baths. It became an early centre of Christianity and of special significance given that the church

Artist's impression of ancient Antioch

there was founded by the apostles Peter and Paul, thus gaining influence in early theology and ecclesiastical politics.

Antioch was the centre for organising the apostles' missionary efforts throughout Asia Minor and Greece. It has rightly been called one of the *cradles of Christianity*.

The rise and fall of Antioch

During Augustan times it was a metropolis of half a million people, but its decline began in the 6th century due to fires, repeated earthquakes, and a Persian invasion; and in 637 AD was absorbed into the Arab caliphate.

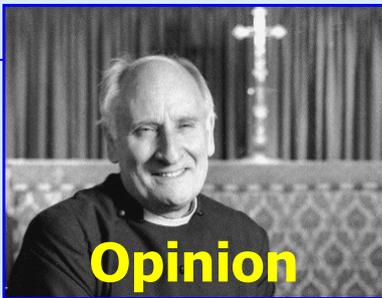
It was captured during the first crusade in 1098 becoming the capital of one of the Crusaders' principalities, but was completely destroyed by the Mamluks in 1268.

When the Ottoman Turks seized the area in 1517 from the Mamluk sultanate Antioch was nothing but a small village. The Ottomans ruled over the area until after World War One, when the region was transferred to Syria under the French mandate. France allowed the area to re-join Turkey in 1939.

Refuge from Syrian conflict

Modern Antakya is an unremarkable Turkish city of some 250,000 people with industries based on the flourishing agricultural production from the intensively cultivated surrounding Amik plain. Its Archaeological Museum has many of the mosaics from historic Antioch. More recently, it was in the news as one of the reception centres for the refugees from the Syria conflict.





Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

PARIS in DECEMBER

The Climate conference in which 195 world leaders signed a document to try to cut greenhouse gas emissions was a remarkable achievement. They pledged to limit the global average temperature to a rise 'well below' 2C (3.6F) compared to pre-industrial levels — a level of warming deemed to be the point when dangerous climate change could threaten life on Earth. Some business leaders even wanted to set a 1.5% target. Now the political leaders have to meet every five years and set gradually lower targets. There is some hope for our fragile planet, though it is the most vulnerable countries which will suffer the most. Seeing the floods in Cumbria, Yorkshire and northern Scotland gives us some idea what it could be like regularly for Bangladesh and other low lying countries.

CHILDREN and POVERTY

Twenty years ago poverty was concentrated in unemployed families, particularly single mothers. Now almost two-thirds of poor children live in working families. As one economist put it: 'In the past seven years we have had the greatest transfer of wealth from the poor to the wealthy since the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s.' Last year, Richmond Food Bank fed nearly 2000 people, a third of whom were children.

Over Christmas, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, warned that present policies on poverty and welfare in Britain have left too many people unable to feed their families. He singled out bureaucratic delays in welfare benefit payments and sanctions — financial penalties imposed by job centres — which leave vulnerable claimants without food for weeks.

MYTH and REALITY

Polling shows that the gap between public perceptions and reality is very wide indeed. One poll found that the public believed benefit fraud was 34 times higher than it actually is. The Department of Work and Pensions says 70p in £100 is fraudulently paid. Teenage pregnancy was thought to be 25 times higher than it actually is. The number of Muslims in the UK was thought to be six times higher than the reality.

MUSLIM FORGIVENESS

The Grand Mufti of Syria, the senior Sunni Muslim cleric, has a reputation as a man of peace working for good relations with people of other faiths. Last year he was targeted for assassination by the Saudis. The hitmen were told if they could not kill him, kill his son. So they murdered his teenage son.

After some months, two of the killers were caught and the Grand Mufti asked to see them. He asked for their blindfolds to be removed. Standing before the father of their victim they were terrified. To their astonishment, the Grand Mufti gently reached out his hands to them and told them not to be afraid. He said he did not want their mothers to weep as his own bereaved wife had wept for their son, and therefore he forgave them.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT

My son gave me David Jason's biography for Christmas, telling me I 'needed some light reading'. Reading about Del Boy, from the BBC's classic comedy *Only Fools and Horses*, I was reminded of the episodes about Peckham spring water (water sold from a leaking pipe), the statue of Our Lady which shed tears (every time the church roof leaked), and their flat — 15 minutes from the West End, 15 minutes from the motorway and 15 minutes from the ground. Chez Derek, Nelson Mandela House, Peckham.

What's On

with Nick Bagge



NEW

Bring and Share Meal

Sunday 7 February, 11am-3pm, Fitz Wygram Church Hall
By way of a last indulgence before Lent, our hospitality team are hosting a Bring and Share Meal to bring us closer together. All we ask is that you bring a contribution towards lunch with you on the morning. There will be a full complement of liquid refreshments too. A notice on the events board in church has more details. Please support this initiative; if it proves a success the lunches may become a regular part of church life.

NEW

Shrove Tuesday Parish Meal

Tuesday 9 February, 7.30pm, La Familia Restaurant, 99 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NJH
Please join us for our annual meal to mark the start of Lent. Two courses and a glass of wine from a set menu will cost £19.95. If you would like to come add your name to the list in church or phone the Parish Office to reserve places.

NEW

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 10 February, Holy Communion with Ashing, 9.30am and 7.30pm, St James's Church
Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence to mark the start of Lent. At these services, worshippers can be marked with ashes as a symbol of death and sorrow for sin. Christians replicate the 40 days of sacrifice and withdrawal Jesus spent in the desert.

NEW

Traidcraft Roadshow

Friday 12 February, 10am-3.30pm, Amnesty Human Rights Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA
Come and see all the craft products in the new catalogue and get a 20% discount. Contact Ann Peterken on 020 8891 5862.

NEW

Lent Course 2016: Faith for Today

From Thursday 18 February, 7.15pm, Fitz Wygram Church Hall
This year's Lent Course will feature the Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Ven Stephan Welch, the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, a former advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Revd Rachel Carnegie, and experts from two other religions: Rashid Laher, an advisor to mosques in London, and Miriam Kramer, chair of the European Union for Progressive Judaism, both pictured. Pick up a leaflet in church for further information.



NEW

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4 March, 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Hampton Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton TW12 2JT
The service has been written by the women of Cuba and the theme is *Receive children, receive me*, which reflects St Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 verses 13-16, that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love. **Note new afternoon time.**

NEW

Cantanti Camerati

Friday 4 March, 7.30pm, and Saturday 5 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, *Just a Song at Twilight*, Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Park, Teddington TW11 9PS
Join Cantanti Camerati for a special celebration of 40 years of this series, with guest conductor Geoffrey Bowyer, the founder of these concerts. The theme is *My Fair Lady*: an appreciation of female beauty and virtue in song. Tickets cost £15 from 0333 1212 300 or langdondowncentre.org.uk.

NEW

Thames Philharmonia

Saturday 5 March, 7.30pm, Tchaikovsky, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN
Prize-winning violinist Elvina Sung-Eun Auh performs the Tchaikovsky concerto, one of the best-loved of the violin repertoire. The programme also includes *Printemps*, Debussy's joyous celebration of spring, the overture *Rob Roy* by Berlioz and Debussy's *Marche Ecossaise*. Tickets £12 (concessions £8) or £24 for a family ticket from the Box Office 020 8977 7558 or landmarkartscentre.org.

NEW

Traidcraft Stall: Fairtrade Fortnight/Easter

Sunday 6 March, 10.30-11.30am, Fitz Wygram Church Hall
The stall will have lots of edibles, a selection of craft items and Easter Eggs. The first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter will again be on sale for £3.99. Inside is a beautifully illustrated Easter story in the shape of a cross, a milk chocolate egg (125g) and a Fairtrade milk chocolate bar (25g). A charity donation is made from each sale. Mothering Sunday and Fairtrade Fortnight make this an excellent day to support the stall. The previous stall is on Sunday 7 February.



NEW

Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 12 March, 7.30pm, *The Creation*, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN
Franz Joseph Haydn's magnificent oratorio is performed in English by the TCS under their new Musical Director, Sam Evans, as part of the Richmond Music and Drama Festival, with professional soloists and orchestra. Early booking is recommended. Tickets £13 in advance or £15 on the door. Box Office 020 8977 7558 or landmarkartscentre.org.

NEW

Concordia Voices

Saturday, 19 March, 7.30pm, St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA
Their spring concert includes music from Strauss and the Brahms Requiem. Tickets £12 on door (concessions £10) or £10 in advance (concessions £8) from members or by emailing secretary@concordiavoices.org

Registers for Nov and Dec

NOVEMBER		24		DECEMBER	
Baptisms		22	Mercy Edith Kent, 87, Hampton	Baptism	
22	Isla Mae Carter, Ashford	13	Macsen Mc Ilwaine, Hampton Hill	Funerals	
22	Evie-Hope Ada Theresa Purdey, Twickenham	4	Kenneth Ivor Pugh, 92, Hampton Hill	4	Antony (Tony) Richard Woodhouse, 73, Hampton Hill
22	Liv Vincent, Hampton Hill	11	Irene Violet Turner, 88, Feltham	14	Kathleen Florence Redfern, 81, Hampton
Weddings		4	Edward Joseph O'Driscoll & Haley Cole, Hampton Hill	17	Jessica Alison Hammans, 43, Twickenham
6	Edward Joseph O'Driscoll & Haley Cole, Hampton Hill				
12	Christopher James Mansbridge and Ieva Dailidene, Hampton Hill				
Funerals					
5	Gary Hyde, 58, Hampton Hill				
19	Cathleen Mary Minihan, 60, Hampton Hill				

Vicar's View



During the interregnum, retired clergy are always willing to take services...



If you're asking...mine's atmosphere!

There is an astonishing range of pubs, from rough to smooth and old to new. What really defines a pub is its atmosphere, which is created mainly by its customers. I like pubs that feel friendly and welcoming. But the location, the furnishing and the staff also have an influence.

Pubs have an odd chemistry: you can feel part of a group, involved in the society there, but at the same time you are not compelled to be intimately involved with the other people. You can join in, or be self-contained as you want. The pubs I like are welcoming, but don't make any demands on you. I have visited pubs to meet people; or because the architecture or fittings are notable; or because the beer on offer is good; or to eat (for pleasure or necessity); or for somewhere to stay. All of my favourites have been enjoyed many times.

1 POSTGATE INN Egton Bridge, near Whitby



A small pub in the Esk valley in Yorkshire. I first saw it from the window of a passing train, and made a point of investigating further. I found a friendly and relaxed place, in a pretty village. I've returned regularly over 30 years, and have stayed there many times. I have taken friends there when I could – even meeting John and Betty Rainbow there once. More recently, it has added good meals to its attractions. When I go there, it feels a bit like coming home – which surely is the mark of a good pub.

2 THE WATERMAN'S ARMS Richmond, Surrey



Richmond has many pubs and bars, most of which seem to cater for the young visitor on an evening out. The Waterman's Arms in Water Lane is in a side street and has a small front bar and a smaller back bar. The television is ignored, as it is mainly a pub for talking to your friends. And the landlord knows the regulars well enough to serve the right drink without asking.

3 BASKETMAKERS ARMS Brighton



This pub is on a corner in the Lanes area of Brighton. It is often busy but for me it is calmer than the bustle of Brighton. It seems to have a very varied clientèle, and the décor



is fairly eccentric, with the walls covered by old photographs and tin boxes.

It has excellent food and beers too.

4 BLUE BELL York



A little pub in a backstreet in York, and an escape from the tourist hordes. There are two tiny wooden panelled bars which don't seem to have changed in a hundred years. The beers have always been served well when I have visited. It's a pity it is not next to the National Railway Museum.

BOTTLED BEER	
BROOKLYN CHOCOLATE	CHOUFFE MICHOUFFE
STOUT 100ml 5.00	STOUT 100ml 5.00
BROOKLYN LAGER	LINDENHAYN YAK
5.00	5.00
GOOSE ISLAND IPA	LINDENHAYN Pilsener
5.00	5.00
FLYING DUTCHMAN	LINDENHAYN Pilsener
5.00	5.00
SUNBEAM DIPA	TRIPLE
5.00	5.00
HARVESTING	TRIPLE
5.00	5.00
SHANE DOG	TRIPLE
5.00	5.00
KINGA	TRIPLE
5.00	5.00
CRIMMY DIPA	TRIPLE
5.00	5.00
YARML	TRIPLE
5.00	5.00
CARABANDA	TRIPLE
5.00	5.00

5 THE TREE TUNS INN Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

I've enjoyed this pub ever since a friend moved to Bishop's Castle in the Shropshire hills over 30 years ago. It has changed from a backstreet local to a pub for visitors, but has kept its welcome. It brews its own beers in the back yard – not so unusual nowadays, but in the 1970s it was one of only four pubs in the country to do this.



6 THE FOX INN Great Barrington, near Burford



The Fox has a lovely setting by the Windrush in the Cotswolds. I've made visits here since I was a student, and it's always been a pleasant lunch-out kind of pub.

I found it when looking for the pubs of a small local brewery, Donningtons. They have miraculously survived unchanged, and still brew for a handful of pubs in this part of Gloucestershire.



7 THE GRAPES Limehouse, east London

An old and famous pub by the river Thames in east London. The interior is unchanged for many years, and I have enjoyed a quiet visit, or taken friends there, or eaten in the excellent restaurant above the bar with a wonderful view over the Thames.



8 ROYAL OAK Borough, London

The Royal Oak is a fine back street pub, just off Borough High Street and close to London Bridge. It has a (well restored) Victorian interior, pictured above, with the bar area dividing two smallish rooms. I found it when on a beer hunting expedition, as it claimed to

be the only London pub serving Harvey's beer — Harvey's being a Lewes brewery serving a small estate in East Sussex. I found a friendly pub, with a good mix of customers, which served good beer and hearty meals. I have returned here once or twice a year, and taken a number of friends to enjoy the atmosphere.

9 GUILDFORD ARMS Edinburgh



Hidden away behind Princes Street, and five minutes walk from Waverley station, the Guildford Arms has a most impressive late



Victorian interior, with a decorated plaster ceiling and dark wood bar. And two doors away in the same street is a the Café Royal, a pub with even more magnificent windows and interiors.

10 LE PERROQUET Brussels



A café in the Sablon area of Brussels, Ann and I came across it while wandering aimlessly around the city at dusk. We were attracted by its lights in the gloom. It was then a quiet café/bar, mostly serving students, and they paid no attention to odd foreigners. We have returned there every time we visit Brussels.

Sadly, it is a busy cafe now, and less a place to sit and watch the world.

