

DECEMBER 2018-JANUARY 2019

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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The Star

Happy Christmas
to all our readers

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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

The Christmas season is fast approaching and it is difficult not to get overwhelmed when the shops have been full of the trimmings of the festive season for so long. So far I haven't heard any Christmas songs as background music in the shops!

This year our focus is on the Church of England's social media campaign — #FollowTheStar — as seen on the cover and in Derek's leader. We shall be singing carols which mention the star; the chorus of *We three kings* beginning 'O star of wonder, star of night' comes to mind.

This theme also links with the Young Spire and the journey of the kings to Bethlehem. In the centre pages Susan Horner tells us about Christmas in Germany.

As Derek says, it is not easy seeing starlight in London because of light pollution, yet once it was a traveller's only guide before maps and satnavs!

On behalf of the Spire Team may I wish you a very Happy Christmas. You will be most welcome at any of our services over Christmas and beyond.

Best Wishes

Janet



Cover photo: This year's Church of England #FollowTheStar Christmas campaign

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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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:

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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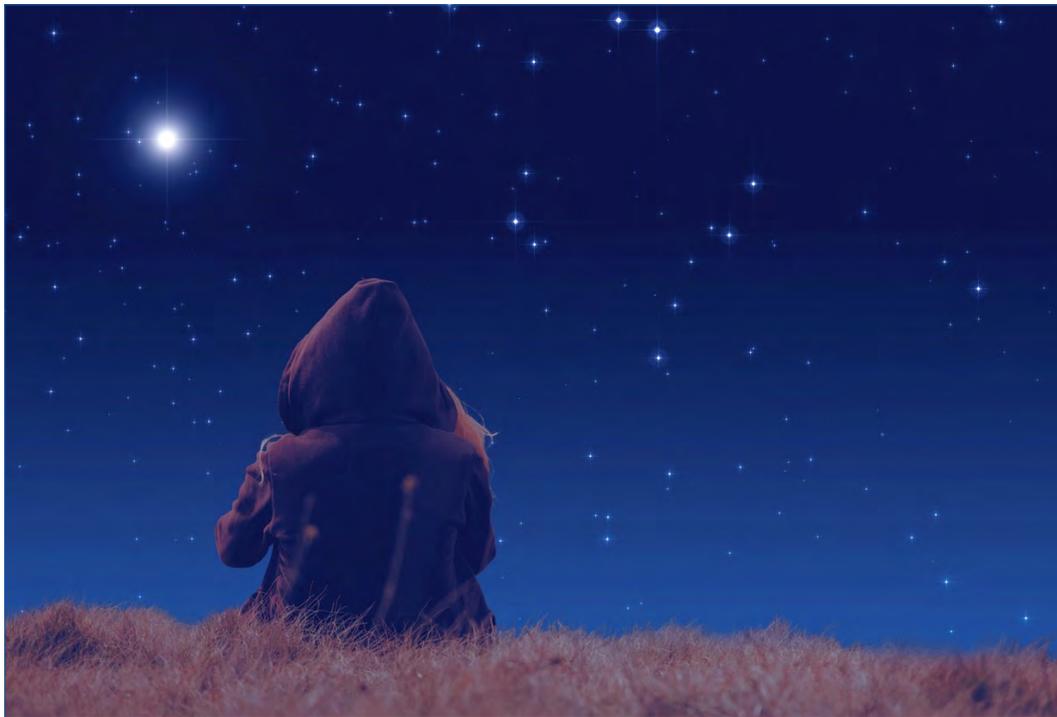
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Clerical Capers



Don't be blinded by the other Christmas lights



DEREK WINTERBURN

One disadvantage of living in a city is that seeing the night-time stars in their grandeur is almost impossible. On a clear night one might see fewer than 10 stars. Of course, the stars and planets are always there, but light pollution makes them hard to see, particularly for us in Hampton Hill as 19 of the 20 brightest boroughs in the country are in London.

Darkness in the countryside in the UK or abroad opens up another view of the heavens, perhaps 2000 stars and most wonderfully the Milky Way. So the most obvious star to be seen around Hampton Hill in December will be the *Christmas Star* (or stars!).

The star has been adopted as one of the symbols of the Christmas season. It can be used by TV channels, shops and schools without being expressly Christian or even religious.

Lighting the way to Jesus

However, the *original* Christmas star is the one described in Matthew's gospel as leading the wise men to the infant Jesus. There has been no shortage of explanations of what this 'star' might have been; there are many theories on the internet and there will be probably at least one TV programme at Christmas offering the latest evidence.

In the Bible the importance of the story is that it brings non-Jewish people seeking a king from far away to Bethlehem, the very hometown of the greatest king of Israel.

It turns the domestic scene of mother, father and their new son into news with worldwide relevance.

A birth like no other

This birth, as Christians understand it, is not a private family event, but something of cosmic significance.

Jesus represents God becoming human; to live in the material world, to experience life first hand, to show and teach us about a full human life, to build a new community and, by dying and rising, to defeat sin and death.

This is an event without parallel, and heavenly fireworks were quite appropriate! But not everyone saw them. Just like our problem with light pollution, King Herod was blinded by his own lust for power and insecurities.

Rather than seeking out the King of Kings, he sought to establish his security at any cost. As ever, our challenge will be to see the real deal amidst the distracting lights at Christmas.

#FollowTheStar with us!

The Church of England has launched a spiritual journey to and beyond Christmas Day #FollowTheStar.

There will be a variety of resources, including interactive calendars, apps and booklets for families, and adults to prepare for and then celebrate Christmas.

Keep in touch and we will share them as they become available or use the hashtag #FollowTheStar in social media.

St James's will offer our community our own range of services for young and old (details in the column on the right). Highlights include the Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday 16 December and two Children's Carol Services on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm and repeated at 4.30pm.

Keeping with the star theme we also have a Christmas film for all the family on Sunday 9 December at 3.30 pm. *The Star* is a new take on the Christmas story with a star role for a donkey. Do come and see it! Full details are in our Christmas flyer.

■ This is a useful website to help you find the ideal place to go stargazing: https://www.avex-asso.org/dossiers/wordpress/en_GB/tutoriels-logiciels/archives-cartes-europeennes/uk-light-pollution-map



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am
Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am (not 2 Dec)
Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 2, 23, 30 Dec)
followed by crafts and refreshments

Christingle Service

Sunday 2 Dec 10am
All age service in aid of The Children's Society

Mon-Fri

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

Tuesdays

4, 11, Dec; 15, 22, 29 Jan
Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am
18 Dec*, 8 Jan
Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am
(*2nd Tuesday of month, except in December)

Fairtrade Stall

Sunday 2 Dec 11.00am
Stock up on all your Traidcraft goodies

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 3, 10 Dec; 14, 21, 28 Jan 10:15m-12:15pm
Weekly playgroup for toddlers. £2 per family

Connections: Christmas Special

Monday 3 Dec 12:30-3:15pm
Our drop-in session for older people with wreath-making, games and exercises (Usually 1st Tuesday of month, but not in Jan. Next session Tue 5 Feb 11am)

Rock Choir at Christmas

Saturday 8 Dec 7 for 7:30pm
A sparkling concert with seasonal songs in aid of church charities. Tickets £10 on the door.

Pop-up Cinema (FREE ENTRY)

Sunday 9 Dec 3:30pm *The Star* (U)
Bo, a little donkey, becomes an accidental hero in the Greatest Story Ever Told. Doors open at 3pm. No need to book.

Life Groups

Tuesday 11 Dec and Thursday 13 Dec 8pm
The house groups end for Christmas

Candlelit Carol Service

Sunday 16 Dec 6pm
Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve Mon 24 December

Children's Carol Services 3pm and 4:30pm
The Christmas story for children. Come as your favourite nativity character
First Eucharist of Christmas 11pm

Christmas Day Tue 25 December

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

New children's worker joins St James's team



WE ARE DELIGHTED to announce that we have appointed a new Children and Families' Worker.

Danielle Robertson was already volunteering as part of the Children's Ministry and began work in the part-time post on 12 November.

Dani was born in the US state of Virginia. She completed a Bachelor of Arts

degree in Music in 2011, and a Masters in Theological Studies in 2017.

She moved to Teddington last year to enable her husband, Scott, who has preached at St James's and is also a member of the Children's Ministry, to complete his PhD at St Mary's University.

They first visited St James's last year on Christmas Eve and she says they have 'loved it ever since'.

Dani has worked with children for many years, including as a summer youth intern in Hawaii, and carrying out mission work in west Africa. She has also worked at a nursery school in Teddington.

There will be a full interview with Dani in our February edition.

Alistair's concert raises £1000



ALISTAIR GRIFFIN'S concert at St James's Church on 17 November raised £1000 for charity. Over 130 people listened to Alistair, a prolific singer/songwriter, whose songs are regularly heard on television, most recently during the Royal Wedding. The money will go to Bishop Wand Church of England School, the London Churches Refugees Fund, Tools with a Mission and ALMA.

Transforming our churchyard



THE GARDENING CLUB has made great strides in developing the churchyard over the past year.

The most visible area is at the front of the church, on St James's Road, but work has also been carried out beyond the war memorial, where ground has been rotovated and a wildflower meadow sown. It forms part of a major project to increase the ecosystem to support and

encourage wildlife. Early results have seen an increase in bees and butterflies and, for the first time, juvenile crickets.

The latest part of the work will be to develop the front corner plot running alongside Park Road. Plans include shrubs, provided by the Mayor of London, to create a hedge, a grass area, and a bench.

General maintenance is carried out by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

FEATURE: CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY

Celebrating



SUSAN HORNER

Last year, I enjoyed my first German Christmas with my son and his family, who live in Erlangen, north of Nürnberg. Although shops in England seem to

have Christmas displays as early as September, most people's festivities are confined to just two or three days.

In Germany, family celebrations are spread over a month, from St. Nikolaus Day on 6 December to Epiphany.

Most families have an Advent wreath on their dining-table and light the candles every mealtime, with an extra candle being lit each week, as we do in our churches.

On the evening of 5 December, children put their shoes in front of the door overnight, the equivalent of English children hanging their stocking on Christmas Eve (although as my grandchildren have mixed British / German heritage they do both!).

In the morning they find that St Nikolaus has filled the shoes with nuts, satsumas and other small presents.

Preparations for Christmas include the baking of Lebkuchen (soft gingerbread cakes, often decorated with chocolate) and many different sorts of Plätzchen (Christmas biscuits). Children

often help to make these and the many decorations for the house.



Christmas markets

Germany is famous for its Christmas markets and we visited the local one.

There were roundabouts and train rides for the children and an ice rink.



We are all familiar with the traditions of Christmas in the UK, but last year Susan Horner spent hers in Germany for the first time. She found it quite different to today's commercialisation in Britain — a reminder of how it used to be celebrated here in the 1960s.



Germany is famous for its Christmas markets, like this one in Erlangen

traditionally



Wooden gifts and toys and tempting food and drink are on sale at the market

Stalls sold a wonderful variety of wooden decorations, toys and gifts and all manner of sweets, biscuits and cakes plus, of course, beer and Glühwein (mulled wine).

It was very much a place for all the family, with live music and a happy, festive atmosphere.

On Christmas Eve we went to the local Crib Service where we followed the star round the church and the children were each given a star to take home. On our return, the children decorated the trees in the garden and put out nuts and seeds so that the birds and animals could enjoy Christmas.



Reading the Christmas story

We sat outside and read the Christmas story to the children. When we went back into the flat, which we had left in darkness, all the Christmas lights were magically on and the Christkind (Christchild) had left a pile of presents under the tree. We had a simple meal and spent a leisurely evening opening presents. Later that evening, we lit real candles on the tree.

The Christmas morning Communion service was very similar to ours at St James's, starting with the German version of *O come, all ye faithful* to the same tune. The main difference is that in Germany you sit down to sing hymns and stand to pray.



Top: the Advent wreath lit each evening at meal times. Above: the new year blessing for the house.

Getting the goose

As in England, the big meal is on 25 December, but it is usually goose.

As the presents have already been opened on Christmas Eve, the rest of the day is spent quietly with the family and the following day often visiting the wider family.

German shops are always closed on Sundays and on 25 and 26 December - no heading off to the sales there!

Finally, on 6 January, Sternsinger (star-singers, children dressed as the Three Kings) go from house to house. They sing a song and bless the house, writing in chalk above the door. The photograph shows 20*CMB*17, which stands for Christus Mansionem Benedicat (may Christ bless the house) during the year 2017.

My impression, from my time in Erlangen, is that Christmas was less commercial and a gentler, more thoughtful time than it often is in England.



Early presents: St Nikolaus brings sweets, nuts and oranges on 6 December

Around the Spire

Julian returns to Sri Lanka for new centre opening

JULIAN REINDORP has recently returned from Sri Lanka, where a charity he helped to start during the bitter war between the government and the Tamil Tigers, has completed its most ambitious project — and its last.

Hope Outreach UK began in 1985 to improve the lives of poor people in the remote villages of Sri Lanka. The aim was to bring hope to people who had none, help them rebuild their lives, and reconcile the communities.



Julian during sports day

In 2009 the 30-year civil war came to a brutal end after the loss of over 40,000 lives. The charity met traumatised survivors in Tharmapuram, at the heart of the war-torn area of North East Sri Lanka, heard the terrible stories of loss and set about raising £100,000 to build a community centre to be used for vital services, including counselling, healthcare, after-school activities, training and spiritual help.

In October St Luke's was consecrated by the Bishop of Colombo and opened by Julian and Sam Muthuvelop, an inspirational GP and priest. Hope Outreach has raised £1.5m since formation, but now the war is over it is now being wound up.



Transforming Sri Lanka: St Luke's new Community Centre

Armistice Day commemorated



REMEMBRANCE DAY was especially poignant this year as the nation marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. Derek, our vicar, reminded us why this was more than just history, and we needed to go on remembering.

Following a church service a larger than usual crowd gathered at the war memorial for an Act of Remembrance, during which the Last Post was sounded and we stood silently for two minutes on the stroke of 11 am.

Then wreaths were laid by politicians, the Hampton Hill Association, schools, uniformed organisations, and the church. Individuals then planted crosses for family members.

At 12.30 pm the bells rang out in unison with churches and cathedrals across the UK. All the ringers had family members who fought in one of the two world wars.



PRILL HINCKLEY

son, they worshipped him and gave him their best gifts, they cared greatly for Jesus and those in his family, and they followed what they knew of God's Word. These men are unknown by name, yet have left a huge mark in the Bible through their remarkable actions.

Christmas is really about the big present that God gave the world about 2000 years ago - Jesus! One of the most famous Bible verses, John 3:16, says: 'God loved the world so much, that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life'.

The story of the Three Wise Men
(Matthew 2:1-12)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Magi (wise men) from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the sky and have come to worship him.'

King Herod consulted the Jewish religious leaders who told him the Messiah was prophesied to be born in Bethlehem. Herod ordered the wise men to find Jesus for him.

The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem where it stopped over the place where Jesus lay. They bowed down and worshipped him then presented their gifts.

The wise men were warned by God not to go back to Herod, so they returned home by a different route. When the wise men did not return, Herod had all male children two years old and younger in Bethlehem put to death as he feared that Jesus would overthrow him.

However, Joseph had been warned in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt before Herod discovered where Jesus was.

The story and our lives today

The wise men's remarkable actions can have an impact on our lives today in many ways: they humbled themselves before God's



The gifts

The Magi's gifts recognised Jesus as *king* (not just an earthly king but also the *King of Kings*), *priest* (people would worship and praise Jesus) and *sacrifice* (the ultimate bitter sacrifice that Jesus would make - his life).

Gifts of service

The first gift that the Magi gave Jesus was gold, the proper gift for a king in biblical times, showing wealth and power. But Jesus was not the usual sort of king. From his birth in a stable to his burial in a borrowed tomb, Jesus made it clear that his kingdom was not about money and might, but service and mercy. The King of Kings did not come to be served, but to serve. In Jesus' kingdom, to reign is to serve. *Perhaps we could put our skills to work for someone's benefit by giving our time or by donating to a charity.*

Gifts of enrichment

The second gift of the Magi was frankincense, an aromatic resin used in incense and perfumes in biblical times and a very expensive gift appropriate for a priest. In Jesus' time, the temple priests used this incense as part of their worship. In our worship today we offer what we have done to God in thanksgiving for all he has done for us. *Enriching someone's life will give them more to offer in thanksgiving, so perhaps we could give the gift of an experience or help someone learn something new.*

Gifts to be used

The final gift was myrrh, a rich-smelling perfume often blended into oil. As it was used to embalm bodies, it was a fitting gift for Jesus, who sacrificed himself to save us. *We could give gifts a family can share to bring them closer, like a club membership, a magazine subscription, or food.*

Our giving

Christmas is fun because we celebrate with our families and friends and show them how much we love them by giving them gifts. We give because we are grateful for their love and we are grateful to God for giving us life. As we do our Christmas shopping, we should follow the example of the Magi - and give gifts that will be really appreciated.



Above: The Black Madonna of Częstochowa



LAURENCE SEWELL

pilgrimage that I overlooked, having only included the article on Santiago de Compostela which some in the parish recently visited.

This series has finally come to its logical conclusion having reached the letter 'Z' last month. Back at the beginning of 2016, we began with an article on Antioch in south central Turkey and completed the alphabet in the Zhoushan islands in China. I hope you have enjoyed the series as much as I have in preparing the articles. They have been an eclectic mix covering individual buildings, historic cities and territories, all sacred places and embracing many of the world's religions and faiths. Some areas, such as the Orkney Islands and Uluru in Australia, have great spiritual significance.

A wide selection of sacred places

I have tried to cover a wide variety of geographies and have included places from every continent; many of course focused on the Middle East, home to the monotheistic religions, but neither were some of our great monastic houses here in the UK that were destroyed during the Reformation (Fountains Abbey and Tintern Abbey) forgotten.

Some of the places I know well from my own travels, others are well-known pilgrimage sites, and in other cases I had to spend time researching the background information to places I only vaguely knew about.

I am sure everyone will have their own ideas of sacred places I have missed, but in this final article I wanted to briefly mention some of Europe's important sites of

Sites of pilgrimage in Europe

We have all heard of Lourdes in south-western France, the third most important site of international Catholic pilgrimage after Rome and the Holy Land, with some six million visitors a year. It was here in 1858 that the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a local woman in the Grotto of Massabielle (Grotto of the Apparitions).

Many of you will know of Oberammergau in southern Germany and its once-a-decade performance of the world renowned Passion Play. The next will be in 2020; its 42nd production.

But go further east and we discover other sacred places of Catholic pilgrimage. In Poland, there is Częstochowa and the Jasna Góra Monastery with its famous shrine to the Virgin Mary, known as the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, to which miraculous powers are attributed.

Or Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina, not far from Mostar, where in 1981 local children are said to have seen visions of the Virgin Mary. The messages attributed to *Our Lady of Medjugorje* have a strong following among Catholics and Medjugorje has become Europe's third most important apparition site, where each year more than one million people visit.

For Orthodox Christians there is Mount Athos in north-eastern Greece, one of the most important centres of Eastern Orthodox monasticism. Within the peninsula, which does not allow women visitors, are found 20 monasteries under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul). First founded in the fourth century as an important place of worship, the earliest monasteries date back to the 9th century.

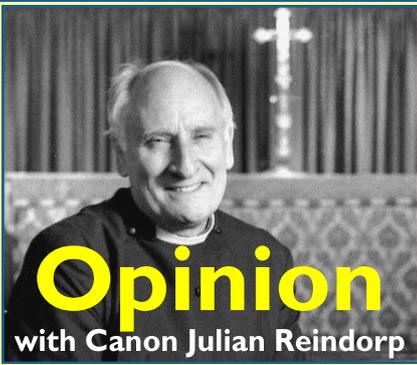
Closer to home

Finally, we return to our own shores and Walsingham in Norfolk, where there are both Roman Catholic and Anglican shrines.

It was here in 1061 that a pious noblewoman, Richeldis de Faverches, had a vision of the Virgin Mary, and whilst this site and its Catholic priory suffered during the Reformation, in recent times it has seen a revival as a centre of pilgrimage. The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was created in 1938.



Simonos Petras monastery on Mount Athos



Opinion
with Canon Julian Reindorp

THANK-YOU LETTERS

A downside of Christmas for me as the eldest of 4 was writing 'thank you' letters. My brothers and sister pretended to be illiterate (later they became a head teacher, a teacher and a priest!) So I wrote the letters and made them add their names- they were not as grateful as they might have been...

So I was interested to discover that research in the last 10 years suggests that 'gratitude is a unique predictor of wellbeing, a protective cloak that could help shield those who feel it from poor mental health. It helps with stress and depression, more fulfilling relationships, better sleep and greater resilience. People are being encouraged to write a brief letter every day listing three things for which they are grateful. Having the capacity for gratitude is about having faith that you do not have to earn everything yourself.'

MARTYR BECOMES A SAINT

Above Westminster Abbey's great West door are 10 statues to modern martyrs, one of whom is Archbishop Oscar Romero, of El Salvador. On 14 October he was canonised by Pope Francis. For the ceremony the Pope wore the blood-stained cincture (belt) that Romero was wearing when in 1980 he was shot as he celebrated Mass in his cathedral. His last words were 'whoever, out of love for Christ, gives himself to the service of others, will live, like the grain of wheat that dies, but only seems to die...only in giving itself does it produce the harvest.' He used to say of himself 'when I feed the poor they call me a saint, when I ask why the poor are not fed they call me a Communist.' A saying recited almost daily now 'With Monsignor Romero God passed through El Salvador.'

POOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Universal Credit, combining six benefits into one was widely welcomed in 2012. But its introduction has been hugely criticised. Iain Duncan Smith the minister who designed it then, resigned in 2016 when he realised how demoralising and demeaning the system was; how many people were reduced to using food banks, as the Government reduced the benefits and the already poor became poorer. By the end of next year families, typically a single parent in part-time work or one coping with a disabled family member, may find their weekly income falling by as much as £50 a week. Sir John Major said recently unless at least £2 billion is added to the system it will become like the poll tax for the government, unfair and unworkable.

MAKE MEAT OBSOLETE?

Pat Brown, a US Stanford biochemist, is taking on 'the most destructive technology on earth' - livestock rearing, which uses about 80% of the world's agricultural land and produces more greenhouse gases than transport. He decided that getting people to go vegan was unrealistic so he founded 'Impossible Foods', a plant-based meat substitute with a similar taste. Glowing reviews have grown the company from 40 US locations to 3000 locations worldwide in the last year.

C of E CLERGY

When I was ordained in 1969 there were about 600 men being ordained. Now about 550 people are being ordained each year, about half are women, and half self-supporting who will continue with their paid job. One in three are under 32 and 23% of Bishops, Cathedral Deans or Archdeacons are women, compared to 12% in 2012.

THREE WISE WOMEN

A Christmas card said, 'if the wise men had been women, they would have asked for directions before they set out, they would have arrived on time, helped deliver the baby Jesus, brought practical gifts, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and there would be peace on earth.'

Two UK doctors commit to Milo



ANN PETERKEN

Milo sits on a ridge in the south west of Tanzania at 7000ft above sea level (2133m). The hospital serves over 9000 people who live in Milo and five surrounding villages.

It is owned and run by the Anglican Diocese of South West Tanganyika and operates at the District level of Tanzanian healthcare. The last government inspection recommended an upgrade of several facilities.

Our support

Our knowledge of the hospital and its most urgent needs is greatly helped by doctors Adrian and Hilary Murray, whose home town of Bala in north Wales is linked with Milo.

The photo of Felix Ngailo, above, shows the microscope we funded in 2017. Our support continued this year, thanks to a kind donation from a parishioner. During a recent visit the Murrays asked Dr Sandigila how he would like to use it and he said there was an urgent need for some desktop computers. Our much-appreciated contribution has already been used to purchase two computers and a printer.



Felix Ngailo with the microscope we paid for in 2017

Future plans

Adrian and Hilary had lengthy talks with Dr Sandagila and with Bishop Matthew Mhagama, who visited St James's with his wife in 2017. They agreed not to embark on building upgrades, but to focus on:

- Making the hospital a maternity centre of excellence
- Making the Care and Treatment Centre (CTC) for HIV a centre of excellence
- Fundraising for X-Ray equipment (and a radiographer)

New life



The midwife in this photo is Flora, the daughter of Benaiah Kilwale. Our friend Benaiah worked as a clinical officer in the hospital for many years and died in 2011.

Help with the plans

Adrian and Hilary have accepted Bishop Matthew's invitation to go and work in Milo for at least a year, starting next August. Their combined medical experience will be of immense help, both practically and in the passing on of skills. Adrian will focus on maternity facilities, while Hilary is very keen to extend HIV testing and health education.

It will be very good to hear all about their life and work there.

Keeping it in the family as Angharad and Oliver wed



All weddings are happy family occasions, but the marriage of Angharad Cammidge to Oliver Hampton on 27 October was even more so than usual. Not only was Angharad escorted into church by her father, Alan, with her sisters Abigail and Amy as bridesmaids, but her mother Jacky conducted the wedding ceremony. Angharad runs the nursery school in our church hall and Ollie is a sales manager. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at Brooklands Museum. The couple are pictured with their respective parents.

REGISTERS

OCTOBER

WEDDINGS

- 27 Oliver Jay Hampton and Angharad Eileen Cammidge, Hampton Hill

FUNERALS

- 3 Maureen Patricia Fox, 85, Hampton
4 Kathleen Elizabeth Gilchrist, 88, Hampton Hill
31 Patricia Allery, 85, Laurel Dene Care Home, Hampton Hill

INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 1 Mary Jane Margaret Metcalfe, 91, Hampton Hill



London's great survivors



DENNIS WILMOT

Before the Great Fire in 1666 there were 97 parish churches within the City of London's walls. Every house would have been within the sound of a church bell. The Fire, the Blitz and terrorism have reduced that number to 37. The railways and the financial success of the City have meant few of these churches have a local parish function and they have diversified in many ways.

St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe *Queen Victoria Street, EC4V 5DE*



This simple dark red brick church got its name from being located next to Edward III's Wardrobe. It was lost to the Great Fire and rebuilt to Sir Christopher Wren's design in 1695. Destroyed again by the Blitz in 1940, it was rebuilt in 1961. Wren rebuilt 51 churches after the

Great Fire, many of which have not survived. William Shakespeare was a member of the parish for about 15 years. Services are now conducted here by the Indian Orthodox Church.

St Mary-le-Bow *Cheapside, EC2V 6AU*



The tower and steeple are by Wren, but the body of the church was rebuilt by Laurence King after it was gutted in 1411. There is a very grand interior with modern stained glass, very different to Wren's clear glass. To be a true Cockney you had to be born within sounds of its bells. The church has a restaurant in the crypt, but regular parish services continue, many at lunchtime or early evening.

All Hallows-by-the-Tower *Byward Street, EC3R 5BJ*

The Great Fire of London started in Pudding Lane, a few hundred yards away. The diarist Samuel Pepys watched it from the tower, which with the walls is all that remained after 1940. Located next to the Tower of London, it



received numerous beheaded bodies, including those of Thomas More and Archbishop Laud. It is the oldest church in the City, founded by the Abbey of Barking in 675AD, 300 years before the Tower of London.

St Stephen Walbrook *39 Walbrook, EC4N 8BN*



The dome here was designed by Wren and considered to be a prototype for St Paul's Cathedral. A colonnade effect is given by the 16 columns, 12 of which support the dome. Wren has shown how to make a plain rectangle interesting and full of vistas. It also features a centrally-placed round altar table, designed by Henry Moore. The Samaritans was formed in the crypt by the Rev Chad Varah and the original telephone, the world's first 'hotline', can be seen in the church.

St Mary Aldermary *69 Watling Street, EC4N 4SJ*

This church really opens its doors at lunchtime, with a café at the rear of the church and people eating and drinking throughout the church. Parts survived the Fire, but it was mostly rebuilt by Wren in a Gothic style. It was damaged in the Blitz but the building itself remained intact.



St Brides, *Fleet Street EC4Y 8AU*



The Portland stone 226 foot high spire of diminishing octagons inspired the traditional tiered wedding cake. The church stands in a high churchyard and was originally designed to be seen above the Fleet River. St Brides was left in ruins after the Great Fire, but rebuilt in nine years under Wren's inspired direction. There are often lunchtime recitals and it became known as the journalists' church as Fleet Street was once home to most national newspapers.

St Bartholomew-the-Great *Cloth Fair, EC1A 7JQ*

St Bart's was established by Rahere, a courtier of King Henry I. He fell ill during a pilgrimage to Rome and vowed that



should he survive he would set up a hospital for the poor — St Bartholomew's Hospital is west of the church. The church tower houses five medieval bells. It is the oldest complete ring in London, and they are still rung regularly. Solid Norman pillars contrast with the rebuilt and much decorated tomb of Rahere. The church is associated with several of the Livery companies, including The Butchers, Haberdashers, Hackney Carriage Drivers and Tax Advisers.

St Magnus the Martyr *Lower Thames Street, EC3R 6DN*



This church has a richly-furnished interior with large circular windows, double gallery stairs and panelled Corinthian columns. All Wren's churches had clear glass windows to show the wood carvings, painted altarpieces and ironwork.

This church was restored in the 1920s, fortunately with clear glass. However since then, like many Wren churches, too much stained glass has been introduced.



St Mary Woolnoth *1 King William Street, EC3V 9AN*



Wren's churches had very little in common. Some were cross-shaped with a central dome, others were wholly domed. Some had one aisle and some were oblong with none. At St Mary, Wren's pupil Hawksmoor used mathematical regularity and squareness.

These inner London Churches provide a rich backdrop to the work of the City. Besides parish functions they offer concerts, cafes and coffee shops, a rehabilitation centre for the homeless (St Botolph, Aldersgate), a national centre for religious education (St Nicholas, Cole Abbey) and are increasingly used at lunch times. Some are used by other faiths, such as by Lutheran congregations at St Anne and St Agnes which was re-consecrated in 1966. Each church is different and has adapted in its own way to modern City life.