

MARCH 2019

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



Island life

Favourite castaway locations

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or find us on



Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

Derek was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He served in several diverse London parishes before becoming vicar here in 2016. He is married to Sandra, a teacher, and has two children. A keen photographer, he posts a picture online every day, combining it with a daily walk or cycle ride. He can be contacted at any time other than on Mondays (his day off).

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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.

Tel: 074 9677 0505

Email: curate@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



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.

Tel: 020 8614 6800

Email: julianreindorp@hotmail.co.uk



CHURCH OFFICE

Nick Bagge

The administrator deals with enquiries, and manages all church hall bookings.

Opening hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 0930-1230; and Tue, Thu 1230-1530.

Tel: 020 8941 6003

Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Address: Church Office, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Dani Robertson

Tel: 074 7110 1487

Email: danielle.robertson@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



CHURCHWARDEN

Gwynneth Lloyd

Tel: 020 8943 0709

Email: gwynneth.lloyd@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



TREASURER

Dawn Miller

Tel: 020 8941 6508

Email: dawn.miller@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



CHOIR DIRECTOR / ORGANIST

Thom Stanbury

Tel: 079 5199 0433

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



ALMA Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Ark Playgroup

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Bell Ringers

Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Brownies via 0800 1 69 59 01

Charity Support Team

Dennis Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Children's Champion

Lou Coaker 020 8979 2040

Church Cleaning Team

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Church Flowers Team

020 8941 6003

Churches Together Around Hampton

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Churchyard Records

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

CMS Mission Partner Link

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Connections

Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Deanery Synod Representatives

Clive Beaumont 020 8943 4336

Eco-Church Derek 020 8241 5904

Electoral Roll 020 8941 6003

Finance Team Don Barrett 020 8979 3331

Hall Bookings 020 8941 6003

PCC Secretary Nick Bagge 020 8941 6003

Planned Giving Carol Bailey 020 8783 0633

Properties Team

Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Safeguarding Officer

Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

Scouts Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Shell Seekers via Derek 020 8241 5904

Social Team 020 8941 6003

St James's Hospitality / Parish Breakfast

via Church Office 020 8941 6003

St James's Players

Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

Traidcraft Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

TWAM Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Visitors' Team Derek 020 8241 5904

Welcome Team

Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

Letter from the Editor

How fortunate St James's was when Scott and Dani found us after coming to this country from America in October 2017. They are both a great asset to our church and will by now be known to most people.

Dani is our Children and Families' Worker and Scott preaches at some of our 09:30 services and runs a Life Group. Both are also involved with our young people.

In the centrespread, Scott tells us more about the journey across the pond to study.

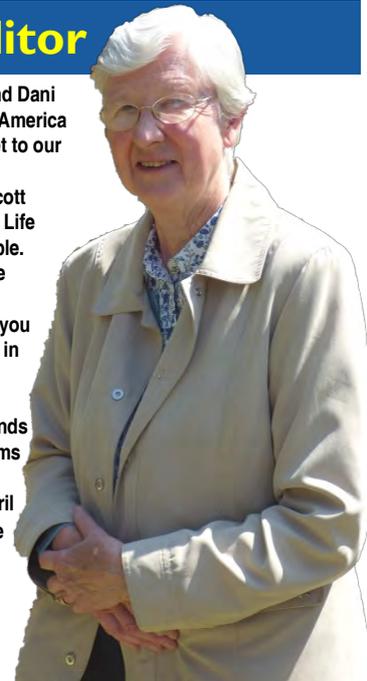
The other piece of good news is that by the time you read this our new organist, Thom Stanbury, will be in post. You can read about him on Page 5.

After all the wintry weather it is good to look forward to holidays and Nick Bagge's favourite islands makes excellent armchair reading and perhaps dreams of holidays to come!

This year Easter doesn't fall until the middle of April but we have put selected service dates on Page 3. There will be more in next month's double issue.

Best Wishes

Janet



Cover photo: Herm, in the Channel Islands, one of Nick's Favourite Islands on page 8

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.

STORIES FOR THE SPIRE

If you have a story idea or would like to make a comment, contact Janet Nunn, the editor.

Telephone: 020 8979 6325

Email: janunnhh@btinternet.com

E-SPIRE / WEBSITE

To receive the magazine by email, please contact Prill Hinckley.

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

CIRCULATION

The Spire is available in church and shops. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Further information from Susan Horner, 5 St James's Avenue, TW12 1HH.

Telephone: 020 8979 9380

Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

The April / May Spire is published on Fri 29 Mar.

Copy deadline: Tue 5 March.

PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge

Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

PUBLISHING

Printer Peter James Printing Limited

Telephone: 01932 244 665

Email: PJP123cards@aol.com

The Spire is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests.



© St James's Church 2019. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission from the editor. Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are accepted on the basis that the Spire does not accept liability for loss or damage to them. We cannot print anything subject to copyright. Views expressed in the Spire are not necessarily those of the PCC of St James.

Please recycle this magazine after use



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

[f @stjames-hamptonhill](https://www.facebook.com/stjameshamptonhill)

[t @stjameshamptonhill](https://www.twitter.com/stjameshamptonhill)

[i @stjameshamptonhill](https://www.instagram.com/stjameshamptonhill)

Clerical Capers



"I know it's Lent. I'm stockpiling for Brexit... just in case we crash out!"

What makes people come back for more?



DEREK WINTERBURN

The recent dramatisation of the referendum campaign in the Channel Four programme, *Brexit: The Uncivil War*, contrasted two styles of politicking. The Remain Campaign was shown as being very establishment and conventional.

The 'action' was in the Leave office which was driven by the idiosyncratic Dominic Cummings.

Rather than use the existing lists of voters to create nicely balanced focus groups, Cummings simply asked what people thought about the EU; *some people he met in the pub*. As told in the film, he was 'an egotist, with a wrecking ball' yet he asked the right people the right questions.

Why people go to church

There are various explanations of why people go to church. There are high theological principles, and subtle sociological pressures.

If one dares to look in the comments under any article that touches on religion in an online newspaper one will see less than charitable theories about Christians' psychological needs, and their wishful thinking about 'sky fairies'.

However, I can find very little research work that asks church members, 'Why do you go to church, and keep on going?' — which seems like a key question.

The Parochial Church Council members tried answering that question for themselves at their recent awayday. Rather than thinking of reasons why people should go to church, they volunteered why they in fact did belong.

We came up with six core themes, clustered around one central concept: 'It makes a difference for the better'.

At first sight that seems a rather obvious remark. But I am not so sure. Isn't it commonly assumed that religion is like a hobby or a private interest; nothing that should intrude into the public sphere? A report on the BBC's religious coverage in 2017 found that people of faith were 'often absent, poorly presented or satirized' in mainstream TV shows.

For many people, mainstream TV shows are the only way they encounter religious people. So perhaps it is not self-evident that religious faith or church membership makes a difference for the better.

Our church leaders, at least, described various ways that Sunday worship made a difference to them, and sent them out into their day-to-day lives challenged and strengthened.

People changed by their faith

And beyond the self-reporting there is pretty good evidence that people are changed by their faith and by belonging to a church community (e.g. increased life expectancy, hours volunteering, donations to charity...) We are continuing to think about why people stick at church (other comments are welcome!) and considering how we can communicate the Good News difference that it can make.

Meanwhile Lent is another time for *making a difference*. We can do some 'essential maintenance' on our spiritual life by reading a Lent book, or setting aside time for silence and prayer, or we can give something up perhaps to raise money for the Lent Appeal.

Finally we can be inspired by hearing about some iconic Christians in our Lent course. Why not come along and experience a difference for the better?



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am

Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am (not 31 Mar)

Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 31 Mar)
followed by crafts and refreshments

Family Pancake Party

Sunday 3 Mar 11:35am

Bring your own main course, we'll provide the pancakes for pudding. Followed by games.

Mothering Sunday (clocks +1 hr)

Sunday 31 Mar

All Age Service 10-10:45am

All ladies will leave with a free gift!

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)

Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am (not 6 Mar)

Tuesdays

19, 26 Mar (not 5 Mar)

Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am

12 Mar

Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am
(2nd Tuesday of month)

Fairtrade Stall

Sundays 3 Mar & 7 Apr 10.30am

Support Fairtrade Fortnight (25 Feb-10 Mar)

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 4, 11, 18, 25 Mar 10:15am-12:15pm
Weekly playgroup for toddlers. £2 per family.

Connections

Tuesday 5 Mar 11am-12:30pm

Our drop-in session with games and exercises.
(1st Tuesday of month)

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 6 Mar 9:30am and 8pm

Holy Communion with Ashing.

Christian Icons

Thursdays from 14 March-11 April at 7:30pm
Each week in Lent we will hear about a different inspiring person's achievements. Preceded by soup, bread and cheese at 7pm.

Pop-up Cinema (FREE ENTRY)

Saturday 16 Mar 6:30pm *Swimming with Men* (12A)

Faced with a mid-life crisis, Eric (Rob Brydon) joins a group of male synchronised swimmers.

Doors open at 6pm. No need to book.

Palm Sunday

Sunday 14 Apr 9:30am

Beginning with a procession along the streets

Easter Day

Sunday 21 Apr 6am, 9:30am and 11am

The 11am service is followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the vicarage garden.

A 5000 mile journey



SCOTT ROBERTSON



Scott and Dani at Strawberry Hill House

My wife, Dani, and I moved to Teddington in October 2017 so that I could work on my PhD in New Testament at St Mary's University. Prior to that, we had both done undergraduate degrees in Music in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and masters degrees in Theology and Biblical Languages in Fort Worth Texas.

Through my master's degree and the PhD coursework I completed in the United States, I became interested in a group of letters in the New Testament, often called the Pastoral Epistles — 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus.

I also studied social-scientific approaches to interpreting the New Testament and came to see the tremendous value these interpretive lenses have for understanding the New Testament and Early Christianity.

St Mary's University has a research centre — The Centre for Social-Scientific Study of the Bible — that focuses on promoting social-scientific research into the Bible with a world-class faculty.

Because of my research interests and the profile of St Mary's, I decided to apply to study there, and I was fortunate enough not only to be accepted to the university, but also to receive a full studentship.

Our lives in three suitcases

Not being able to pass up this tremendous opportunity, and even though neither my wife nor I had ever

How many of us would travel 5000 miles to further our understanding of the Bible? How many of us would uproot our lives and leave behind most of our possessions? But for Scott Robertson this was no fanciful whim, and luckily his wife was only too willing to cross the Atlantic with him. Finding a church where they felt at home, now that wasn't so easy.

been to England, we moved all our belongings from Texas into storage in Mississippi and packed what we could fit in three suitcases and a couple of backpacks to move to a new country.

We spent our first night in London with another American family, a fellow PhD student at St

Mary's and his wife, whom we had met once on Skype, and the next day we moved into our apartment, which we had also only seen once on Skype.

We quickly set to the task of getting settled with all the things you need for life. Some of these tasks we had not done in decades

and had just taken for granted their existence, such as having a bank account or realising we needed to buy a dustbin because now we did not have one.

Some, however, proved more difficult than anticipated — such as getting that bank account, Dani finding a job, and finding a new

church home. We did eventually find someone who wanted to keep our money for us and my wife became gainfully employed.

A welcoming church

Finding a church was a more difficult matter. Part of this was probably because both my wife and I are highly educated in theological and biblical studies and because I am an ordained minister who has worked in churches for a number of years, so we had quite a few things we were looking for in order to satisfy our participation in a local group of Christians.

We were looking for a place that was welcoming to newcomers, where we could find a sense of community, and where we felt that the people actually cared for one another.

We also wanted to find a church that was committed to its people growing in faith, to caring for its community, and where we could actively serve in some way.

Fortunately, we attended St James's on Christmas Eve, 2017, and found a church that not only met what we were looking for, but far exceeded our hopes.

We realised that we had finally found a church to call home, and we have been at St James's ever since.



Dani with Scott at his graduation in 2014 at Southwestern Baptist Theological College, Fort Worth, Texas

of faith

The Church's identity

As the main reason for our coming to London was for me to study at St Mary's, I have been steadily working on my doctoral thesis over the course of our stay. I am particularly interested in identity construction and how the Pastoral Epistles contributed to creating a Christian identity for the early church. Over the course of our time here, I have been studying past research into the Pastoral Epistles along with various social-scientific and critical theories — such as social memory theory, postcolonial theory, and critical spatiality.

These have been exceptionally helpful in understanding how identity is formed and interacts with the surrounding society.

Roman Empire and the NT

At the moment, I am engaged in historical and archaeological study of a particular area of the Roman Empire. I am looking at how people in the time leading up to the writing of the New Testament to the time just afterwards expressed their identity in their writings, monuments, and even their houses.

I am finding interesting ways that they structured their society and expressed and passed on the memory of their communities, which



Preaching at St James's has become a rewarding experience

itself buttressed their identity.

In the future, I will take this data along with how the Pastoral Epistles construct identity and synthesize the two to build a model for how these New Testament texts contributed to and created new identities.

More involved at St James's

In the midst of this, my wife and I have found ourselves ever more involved in the life and work of St James's. Dani is now the Children and Families' Worker, and I have had the opportunity to lead one of the Life Groups, meeting every other week (or fortnightly in UK

English) to study the Bible, and occasionally preaching in the 9:30am service.

We are excited to be involved in the growth of this community of believers and are looking forward to seeing it grow even more over the course of our time here.

Although life in a new country is full of ups and downs (as is life anywhere), we have come to love living in England and this is in no small part thanks to the people who have come to love us and we them at St James's in Hampton Hill.



Studying early manuscripts at the British Library is key to Scott's PhD



Around the Spire

Learn about five inspiring Christian Icons this Lent



THIS YEAR'S Lent Course will put five inspiring Christian Icons in the spotlight, including the former United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, above.

Each week a different speaker will introduce their icon and tell us about their achievements. The audience then have the chance to ask questions and take part in a discussion to assess their legacy.

Christian Icons runs from Thursday 14 March-Thursday 11 April in church. The evening starts

at 7pm, for those who want to eat, with soup, cheese and bread. The talk begins at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along to all or part of the series, and just to the talks if preferred.

Other icons revealed include Francis of Assisi and the Canadian missionary Dr Helen Huston. More details are available on our website.

To help with catering please sign up in church or email office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

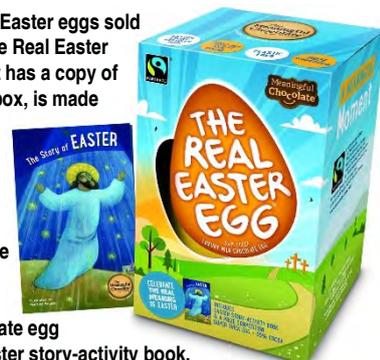
Egg that shares the Easter story

OUT OF THE 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK every year, the Real Easter Egg is the only one that has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

This year the original, pictured, and dark egg are both plastic-free. The original (£4) contains a prize competition, a super thick milk chocolate egg and a large 24 page Easter story-activity book.

The dark egg (£5.50), which is also suitable for adults, contains the book, plus a simple Easter guide, 3 dark chocolate Mini Squares and a luxury smooth dark chocolate egg.

They can be ordered at the Traidcraft stall in the church hall on Sunday 3 March (10:30am-11:30pm) or from Ann Peterken telephone 077 5922 7767 by 24 March, to be collected by the next stall on 7 April.



Showcasing music in church

THOM STANBURY, our new Choir Director and Organist, pictured, began his musical life as a chorister in his local church in Staffordshire, where he also learned the organ.

He read music at Royal Holloway with organ as his principal study, and sang in both the Chapel Choir and Schola Cantorum under Lionel Pike. Thom was also organist at All Saints' Church, Windsor.

His full-time career has been in opera and theatre production and management. He is General Manager at Watermans in Brentford.

Thom believes 'music can and should be a key element of worship, strengthening and adding resonance and relevance to the



work of the parish church. My vision is of a choir that takes joy in unlocking a new work, or revisiting a familiar one, to find the truest possible performance and understanding.'

Thom plays at his first 9:30am service on Sunday 3 March.

Monday play for all ages!



Debbie and her loyal team of helpers



DEBBIE NUNN

refreshments, an art or craft activity and singing, with instrumental accompaniment – not for the fainthearted! This is all for £2 per family – unchanged since we opened nine years ago.

Not to be underestimated is the companionship and a listening ear – this group is as much for the adults as for the children.

Addressing the isolation

Life with under-5s can be isolating – luckily in this area there is a lot of support for young families. At the Ark Playgroup we are pleased to be part of that, as well as a Christian outreach into the community of Hampton and Hampton Hill.

We put on a party near Christmas – Derek does a fun Christmas activity and we have carols, food and presents, as well as the usual activities.

We are self-supporting and donate any left-over money at the end of each term to St James's Church and Welcare, which provides support for families in the local area.

Running the Ark is very much a team effort and there are 10 helpers in my team – five help regularly most weeks and five are occasional helpers, filling in when required. They are: Carol Bailey, Ria Beaumont, Jennifer Clay, Lou Coaker, Sarah English, Mary Gray, Linda Webb, Liz Wilmot and Caroline Young.

Coryn Robinson comes in regularly to do a floral craft activity. I could not run the group without this wonderful team of people - to them my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

What makes the Ark worthwhile for the volunteers? Being with young children and seeing them develop; getting to know their carers; working with a small but beautifully put together team of committed and loyal people. But most of all because it's fun!

Unbelievably, we are now in our tenth year and still going strong.

New faces, same ethos

Volunteers have come and gone, but all have played their part in the continuing success and very existence of St. James's Ark.

Many carers and children have also come and gone in that time and it is always sad to see them go when the time comes for nursery or school. The Ark team looks forward to continuing to provide this contribution to our outreach.

Ark Playgroup is on Mondays 10:15am-12:15pm during school terms.

The idea for this Christian playgroup for carers and under-5s originated in the Mission Action Plan for 2009. Our previous vicar, the Rev Peter Vannozzi, commissioned our then curate, the Rev Debbie Oades, to set up the group with the help of some volunteers from the congregation, one of whom was me. She did some research in her old parish in Staines and then we worked together to find out about other groups in the area, how they were run and on which days. This led to us deciding to opt for Monday mornings in term time. Other volunteers got involved and we began setting it up – quite an undertaking from scratch.

We were required to run safeguarding checks (now known as DBS searches) on all the volunteer helpers and we continue to regularly update these.

Equipment and supplies were purchased. We asked for donations of toys and books – they came flooding in and still do from time to time, mainly from the current patrons. We bought larger items like a play oven and a workbench. Debbie Oades covered all the administration and she and I went to a conference for ideas and resources.

A story, a song and a chat

Our aim remains the same: to provide a safe and stimulating Christian environment for carers and their pre-school children.

The group has always been well attended but numbers vary – the better the weather, the fewer visitors we have.

Our vicar, Derek, comes in regularly to tell a story, sing and chat. We provide unlimited



Playtime at the Ark

A respectable cuppa



LAURENCE SEWELL

Have you ever thought about the origins of your morning cup of tea? Tea remains one of Britain's most popular drinks, with an estimated 165 million cups drunk every day (coffee consumption is still less than half of that!). But we rarely stop to consider how those tea leaves or the tea bags have been produced, or the working and living conditions of those who picked the tea in the first place.

Where does it come from?

All types of tea come from the *Camellia sinensis* bush – it is how it is grown, harvested and processed that produces the different types of tea. Tea originated in south-west China where it was used as a medicinal drink, popularised during the Tang dynasty, and it was only much later that it was introduced into Europe by the Portuguese in the sixteenth century.

China is still the largest producer of tea in the world, but most teas drunk in Britain come from India, where it was introduced by the British East India Company in the 1820s, Kenya and Sri Lanka. Together with Turkey these five countries produce about 78% of the world's tea. Other countries in Asia and Africa are also important producers, and the UK even has its own tea plantation in Cornwall, where the Tregothnan estate has been producing English teas since 2005.

From a British perspective, Unilever, Tata and Associated British Foods (ABF) are the major global companies accounting for a fifth of the world tea market, although there are also other significant niche players, such as Finlays (part of the Swire group) specialising in Ceylon teas from Sri Lanka.

The 'big 6' UK brands by market share are PG tips, Twinings, Tetley, Yorkshire, Typhoo and Clipper. These account for about 70% of the UK market, amounting to around £500 million per year.

How it is grown

Tea was historically grown on large estates as are commonly found in the tea-growing areas of India (e.g. Assam or the Darjeeling district of West Bengal) and Sri Lanka, but in recent times especially in Africa small-holder farmers have been organised into groups growing tea. The largest of these is the

Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) which provides services to more than 565,000 small tea farmers with support in extension, transportation, processing, and marketing in the Highlands.

In Malawi, the second largest tea producer in Africa, there is the Smallholder Tea Authority servicing the small farmers. There, a coalition of Malawian tea producers, trade unions, the largest international tea buyers, NGOs and donors have launched the *Malawi Tea 2020* programme to achieve a competitive, profitable tea industry that can provide its workers with living wages, living incomes, and improved nutrition by 2020.

Problems in the tea sector

These concerns of working conditions and living wages have blighted the sector whether it be on the tea estates or with smallholder organisations. Over the years the poor conditions and exploitation of tea pickers and factory workers have been a feature of the industry largely ignored by the UK companies. No longer!

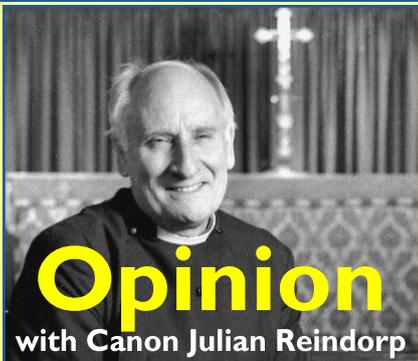
There is the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP), a not-for-profit organisation including many of the major brands, that seeks to improve tea sustainability, the lives and livelihoods of tea workers and smallholder farmers, and the environment in which tea is produced.

Traidcraft Exchange (the charity arm of Traidcraft) has been working for improvements to conditions on the estates in Assam where much of the blended tea in the UK originates and where almost 10% of the world's tea is grown.

Their campaign – *Who Picked My Tea?* – aims to nudge the UK brands to be more transparent from whom they are buying, and to shine a light on the exploitation of workers, especially women on the estates and in the tea factories. For more about this go to www.traidcraft.org/uk/tea.

Making your morning 'cuppa' with Traidcraft tea or Fairtrade teas ensures that all along the supply chain from picking to marketing, workers are respected and provided with living wages.





Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN BED

Among the findings of the National Educational Union one teacher said a third of her class slept in their uniforms to keep warm because they did not have pyjamas; two-thirds of teachers said many more families were unable to afford adequate winter clothes or shoes than three years ago; and almost half said more children were going hungry. According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies total school spending per pupil has fallen 8% in real terms between 2010 and 2018. At the same time the number of classes of over 30 pupils in infant schools has doubled. It is clearly children, and parents, teachers and schools who are in the eye of the austerity storm.

MIGRANT CRISIS?

Some 220 refugees or migrants tried to cross the English Channel in small boats in November and December. In 2017 Turkey hosted 3.5 million refugees, Pakistan (from where the Home Secretary Sajid Javid's parents came) had 1.4 million, Germany 970,400 and Lebanon 998,000 (one in six of its population). The Home Secretary described our 220 as 'a major incident.' Pictures on the news of a British warship patrolling the Channel, newspaper stories and leading articles, suggest that racism and xenophobia were the underlying message of so much reporting.

BOROUGHES AND HOMELESSNESS

In the first six months of last year the number of households being moved out of London by councils increased by 50% to some 1,200. Some families were moved to Glasgow, Newcastle and Cardiff. At last London boroughs are joining forces to find homes for families at risk. So far 11 boroughs have got together, including Tower Hamlets, Croydon and Ealing.

The Capital Letters programme with Government support is planned to help 35,000 households out of homelessness in Greater London over three years. The *Big Issue* magazine estimates there are 5000 people sleeping rough every night. The charity Shelter says 320,000 (including 130,00 children) are homeless in the UK, that's one in every 220 Britons and an increase of 4% on last year. The *Big Issue* puts the cost of a single person sleeping rough in the UK for 12 months at £20,128, including £4,298 NHS services, over £2000 for mental health services, and £11,300 per person in contact with the criminal justice system.

PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Jeremy Hunt, the Foreign Secretary, reflecting on worshipping with his family on Christmas Day, wrote that 'Christianity is in peril in the region of its birth... A century ago 20% of those in the Middle East were Christian, today it is below 5%.' He quoted Open Doors, the International Society for Human Rights, who say 215 million Christians suffer persecution across the world and Christians are the victims of 80% of all acts of religious discrimination. Hunt has invited the Bishop of Truro, who has wide experience of the international situation, to lead an independent review on how to effectively protect Christians and other minority groups under threat, to report back by Easter. Quoting St Paul, 'We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.' (2 Cor 4.9). Hunt ended, 'It is time to echo that message of hope to the persecuted church around the world; with our deeds as well as our words.'

MUSLIMS AT MIDNIGHT

Amongst the worshippers at midnight mass at St Albans, North Harrow, were more than three dozen Muslims from their local mosque. For the past ten years Muslims have joined St Albans for this service. As one said, 'For us, attending midnight mass is a great chance to participate in an important part of Christian celebrations and meet people from our local church, many of whom have become our friends. Now we meet regularly, work together and organise joint events.'

Two good causes share fundraising



DENNIS WILMOT

THIS LENT we are asking you to support two charities – our longstanding partners David and Shelley Stokes and their work for the Church Mission Society in Argentina, and work against Modern Day Slavery (MDS), the focus of the Bishop of London's Diocesan Lent Appeal.

The Stokes continue their challenging work

Liz Wilmot writes: Since 2010 St James's has been supporting David and Shelley Stokes in their work with the indigenous Wichí-speaking congregations in the remote town of Juárez, in northern Argentina.

David's role is to visit and encourage church leaders and to help develop training patterns for new leaders. Shelley works with the women and AMARE, the Mother's Union in Argentina. There are many challenges in their work, not least the extreme weather conditions in that part of the world. In summer the temperature is around 40°C or more and the rainfall is very heavy.

This affects their work considerably as the heat makes it difficult for both teachers and students to concentrate, and the rain results in very muddy roads making travel difficult in a part of the country where there are few paved roads.

David and Shelley will serve for two more years in Argentina and are concerned to find and nurture suitable local leaders who will continue their work after they leave.

David and Shelley have visited St James's several times to tell us about their work and they send regular newsletters which are displayed on the charities board in the south aisle of the church.

Modern Day Slavery – hidden in plain sight

The idea that slavery exists in one of the richest countries in the world is hard to believe. It is thought there are 14,000



Modern Day Slavery can often be found at car washes

modern day slaves in London, with the problem growing. MDS is mostly a part of organised crime, with high profits and low risk, where people are forced into domestic servitude or sexually exploited in plain sight of Londoners, but hidden from authorities, charities and the church.

They receive little or no pay for work, are reliant on their 'employer' for food and accommodation and suffer dehumanising treatment, including physical violence. They often speak no English, so are unable to complain.

MDS typically exists in the cleaning, hospitality and construction industries, domestic service, car washes and nail bars. If you see anything suspicious ring the London Slavery Helpline on 08000 121700.

St James's support for the Bishop's appeal goes to five charities selected by the Diocese which each support different types of victims of Modern Day Slavery. Derek will talk about MDS at services on **Sunday 10 March**.

■ Please give generously with cheques made payable to **PCC of St James's Church** or via the blue Gift Aid envelopes, in both cases marking them for the **Lent Appeal**.

A Shanghai wedding



IT IS NOT unusual for St James's to receive a wedding enquiry from a couple outside our parish, but rarely do they live 5,700 miles away in Shanghai! Newly-married Xu Zheng and Wang Leixi, pictured, longed for a British church ceremony while on honeymoon here. Derek conducted a wedding blessing and they arrived in full dress. To complete the service, a hymn was played on the organ.



REGISTERS

JANUARY

BAPTISMS

- 20 Sutton Micaela Kelly, Hampton Hill
- 20 Sadie Joelle Kelly, Hampton Hill

WEDDING BLESSING

- 25 Wang Leixi and Xu Zheng, Shanghai, China

FUNERALS

- 10 Pauline Rosemary Kennard, 86, Tunbridge Wells
- 15 Derek Frederick Sorrell, 88, Feltham
- 17 Vera Maud Lyford, 95, Hinchley Wood
- 18 Mabel Eileen Anthony, 95, Hampton Hill
- 24 Dennis Arthur Higgins, 94, Kingston
- 25 Irene May Spear, 87, Chessington
- 31 David John Morley, 78, Hampton



Happy beside the sea



NICK BAGGE

Perhaps it is because I was born on the coast, but I have always been fascinated by island life. I love the sense of community it brings. Reliant on each other, islanders are rich in character and individuality. Forget the sharp suits, posh coffees and powerful jobs that the city affords. When surrounded by water life is simpler, slower and, statistically, happier. Next on my list to visit are the Isles of Scilly. Friends Pip and Anne have painted an idyllic picture.

Herm, Channel Islands



You could be forgiven for thinking Herm is in the Caribbean, but it is 20 minutes from Guernsey in the Channel Islands. It measures just 1.5 miles by 0.5 miles and the soft white sand and clean blue water are the main attractions, but there is history too. The island has been home to woolly mammoths, monks and Nazi soldiers. Now, it is a haven for birds and tourists, and schools of dolphins often visit.

Antigua, Caribbean



And so to the Caribbean. Ringed with coral reefs, Antigua offers more than sandy beaches. From Shirley Heights, a former military lookout, is this fantastic view of English Harbour, which took its name from the Royal Navy's presence there in the 18th century. Alongside it is Nelson's Dockyard. Admiral Horatio made it his base in the 1780s.

Skomer, West Wales

Lying less than a mile off Pembrokeshire, Skomer is most famous for its 30,000 puffins, resident between April and August. Razorbills and guillemots can also be seen, as well as grey seals and dolphins — all there for the abundant seafood.



Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts USA



There are some locations where the weather can make or break the holiday. This is not one of them. A long-time New England summer colony, Martha's Vineyard encompasses harbour towns and lighthouses, sandy beaches and farmland. There is plenty to see and do away from the beaches. It has been a playground for millionaires and presidents for years, with expensive real estate to match. But it is also a popular weekend retreat for thrifty Americans, who like to dream.

Symi, Dodecanese, Greece

I spent my first holiday with my wife island-hopping in Greece and what a first choice! Arriving in the harbour I was blown away by the vista. Our luggage was taken up the hill to our villa by donkey. Fortunately we travelled light! A stunning landscape and friendly locals made it memorable.



Capri, Italy



The Mediterranean island of Capri, off the Amalfi coast, exudes glamour and natural beauty. Capri, from the Latin word *capreae* meaning goats, is often called Blue Island because of the water colour surrounding it. The island has been home to the famous from Roman times. In the 1950s the playwright Noël Coward lived there. This dizzy-inducing road was built in 1902 by a German industrialist as a short cut to his yacht.

Comino, Malta

Situated between Malta and Gozo, the smaller island of Comino is a paradise for snorkelers, divers, windsurfers and ramblers. The island's main attraction is the Blue Lagoon, seen here. In summer, this sheltered inlet of shimmering aquamarine water over white sand is popular with day-trippers.



Whitsunday, Queensland, Australia



Whitehaven Beach is a pristine stretch of sand on Whitsunday Island, the largest of the 74 islands in the Whitsundays. The beach, seen above, stretches over seven kilometres and boasts brilliant white silica sand that is among the purest in the world. We stopped off en-route to the Great Barrier Reef.

Knight Inlet, Vancouver Island, Canada



Vancouver Island, beautiful in itself, is also the stopping off point for an unrivalled close-up encounter with grizzly bears. A short seaplane journey takes you to Knight Inlet, where a floating lodge provides accommodation for a fabulous holiday. During salmon spawning season the tens of thousands of fish attract these magnificent bears, who need to pile on weight before hibernation. We spent four days marvelling at the wildlife — which also included orcas and golden eagles — from hides, small boats, and on foot. Although we didn't meet a bear during our walk in the forest, when we retraced our route we found a fresh and rather large paw print!

Robben Island, South Africa



You don't so much enjoy as experience Robben Island. But then with a prison as its chief attraction, that's hardly surprising. Although now a tourist attraction, for centuries the sea trip was one to be feared. Robben Island's attraction lies in its wretched history. Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected president, spent 18 years in prison there during the apartheid era. Our guide was an ex-prisoner who slammed the door shut on our prison wing. Chilling.