

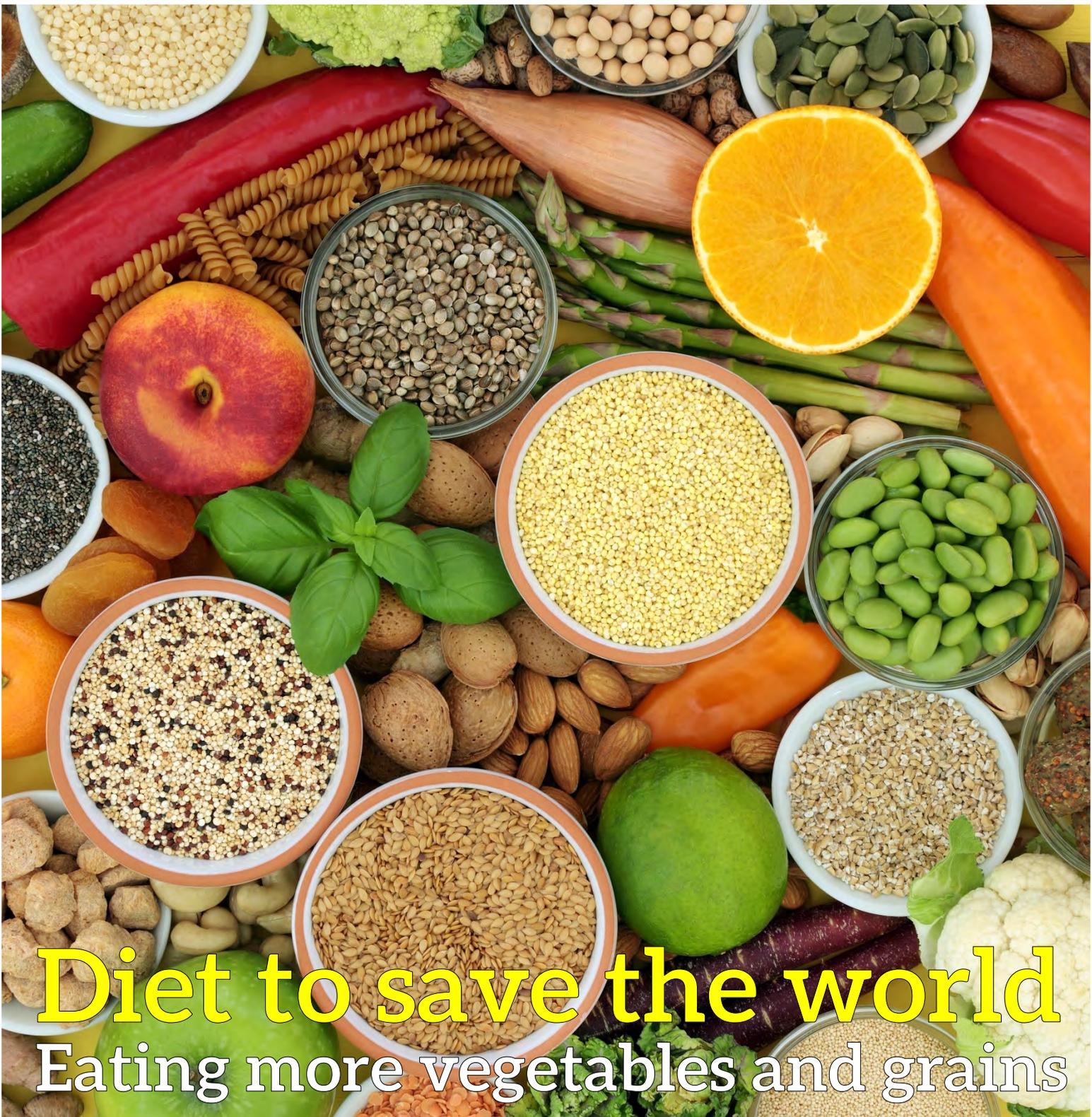
OCTOBER 2019 HARVEST FESTIVAL

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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WELCOME

Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

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

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 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: 079 5012 2294

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.

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Church & hall bookings
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Children's Champion
Lou Coaker 020 8979 2040

Church Cleaning Team
Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Letter from the Editor

With all the extreme weather again this year many of the leaves from the trees are already down, having died from the heat or lack of rain. Let's hope we still have the colourful autumn display.

This month's main feature looks at all the uses that our church hall is put to during the week. It is used not only on weekdays by Hampton Hill Nursery School, but also by a wealth of different classes over the week. It is also available for private functions, making it a real community venue.

Two long-standing members of our congregation, who were also great friends, died recently. You will find a tribute to Eila Sevm and Ruth Gostling on page 5.

Our Traidcraft article on page 6 features the use of palm oil, topical as it was on BBC News last month.

Harvest Festival on 6 October will be supporting The Upper Room in Hammersmith, which cares for homeless people. Once, harvest meant bringing produce from our gardens. Now, we collect tinned food, toiletries and clothes — and so do the local schools.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: This harvest we consider our diet to help reduce global warming

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

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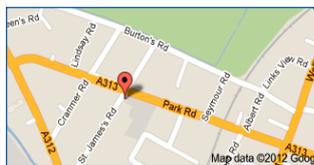


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Finding us



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

Follow us

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

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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Clerical Capers



'I don't mean to sound ungrateful, Fred, but when I asked for something to represent farming at our Harvest service, this wasn't what I had in mind!'

Care for creation or risk future harvests



DEREK WINTERBURN

Since the late 19th century, the global average temperature has risen by about 1°C and the global sea level has risen by about 20cm.

The rising temperature is leading to wider changes to our weather. Both the House of Commons and Richmond Council have declared that we are in a Climate Change emergency.

The Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change's report was largely accepted by the Government and enshrined in a legal goal for the UK to become carbon neutral by 2050.

This country leads the world in making such a commitment.

Single use plastic

Alongside climate change most of us have become much more sensitive to 'single use plastic'.

David Attenborough has shown us how widespread waste plastic is in nature and the BBC One programme *War on Plastic*, challenged a mainstream TV audience to shop with an eye to packaging and be much more careful about recycling.

I have met people who think Christians would have no interest in this world. They suppose we are 'too heavenly-minded to be any earthly use'. But that is fundamentally wrong.

Believers are called to care for creation — because we believe the planet is just that, the creation of God. Genesis in its

colourful way, tells how nature newly minted was declared by God himself as 'good'. If we love God, we will love his creation - and thank him for it.

That's what Harvest Thanksgiving is about: we celebrate how we have benefitted from the good earth.

Then Christians have a future perspective too. We hope for a new world coming - but it will be this one remade (this one is not thrown aside).

Pollution doesn't just kill wildlife; it destroys forests, rivers and seas, leading to poverty and hunger. And while once it only affected people far away, now it is getting closer to home

So good things in the here and now will be gathered up in the new creation. That gives us every incentive to be conservationists. But there are also justice issues in the here and now.

As we take stock of how we have far more than the bare necessities and live in a lovely part of the world we remember those who get a rougher deal.

Pollution doesn't simply hurt wildlife it destroys other people's sources of food (forests, rivers and seas) giving rise to more poverty and hunger.

Once these casualties were unseen and overseas. But they are coming closer to

home; we are experiencing changes in the weather ourselves and the cereal crops across Europe have been poor this year.

At present only 14 per cent of England's waterways are at a good ecological level — the minimum standard required under EU rules — down from 25 per cent a decade ago.

Waking up to our future

We will have thought about some of these issues at our *Care for Creation* services on 22 September. But we will have to wake up to the fact that our future life and the lives of our children and grandchildren will not be unchanged.

We may be familiar with the triplet 'reduce, reuse, recycle'; perhaps we should recognise that we have blunted their edge. *Reduce*, in particular, will need reworking. I have seen another trio that is freshly challenging: 'fly less, drive less, eat less.'

So at this time of the year we balance two imperatives 'Care for Creation' and 'Give thanks for the harvest.' It is good to have the balance ; we need both.



St James Hampton Hill Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am
Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am (not 6 Oct)
Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 6 Oct)
Perfect for young families. Followed by crafts and refreshments.

Harvest Festival

Sunday 6 Oct 11am
An all-age service, followed by a meat or vegetarian lunch in the hall. All are welcome.

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)
Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am

Tuesdays

1, 15, 22, 29 Oct
Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am
8 Oct
Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am

Traidcraft Stall

Sunday 29 September 10.30am-11:30pm
A week early because of Harvest, stock up on all your goodies

Connections

Tuesday 1 Oct 10.30am-12:30pm
Our drop-in session for games, crafts, meeting or making friends, plus our NHS hearing aid clinic.

NEW Alpha Course

Tuesdays 1, 8, 15, 29 Oct;
5, 12, 19, 26 November 7.30pm

Are you searching for answers to the big questions about life? Maybe you are thinking about what you do believe? That's where Alpha comes in. It will allow you to explore Christianity, or act as a 'refresher course' if you want to firm up your beliefs. Over eight weeks it will cover topics such as 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why and how do I pray?' You don't need to be a church member to come along. If possible, email Derek ahead of coming.

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 7, 14, 21 Oct 10:15am-12:15pm
Weekly playgroup for under 5s and carers.
£2 per family with craft, singing, refreshments.

Pop-up Cinema presents

Saturday 19 Oct
3:30pm *Dumbo* (2019) (PG)
Free entry - no need to book - doors open 3pm

NEW Halloween Trunk or Treat!

Thursday 31 October 6-7pm, church car park
Join us for a fun and safe alternative to trick or treating. Explore decorated car boots for sweets, plus games and popcorn. All ages welcome.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10 November 9:30am
Join us as we remember those who served our country during wartime. At 10:55am we gather outside at the War Memorial.

The community's home



NICK BAGGE

The church hall celebrated its 25th birthday in September. Over the years it has been witness to hundreds of church events, both celebrations and more sombre occasions. The hospitality team must have served thousands of hot drinks over the years, not to mention the delicious food St James's is known for.

At its heart it has always been a community hall, built to meet their needs as much as our own. It is home to a nursery school during term time, there are a number of different groups that use it in the evenings, and very few weeks go by without at least one birthday party or anniversary or wedding reception. It has also been used for exhibitions and public meetings.

The ground floor has a large room with an outside gated garden. Alongside it there is a fully equipped kitchen. There are toilets, with disabled access, and baby-changing facilities. Upstairs there is a smaller room with a capacity of 20 people.

Outstanding nursery

Hampton Hill Nursery School was opened in 2001 and moved to the church hall in 2015. It is run by Jacky Cammidge and daughter Angharad and was awarded Outstanding in All Areas by Ofsted following inspections in 2010 and again in 2016.

It makes good use of the hall and garden and the children enjoy frequent outings, including visits to the local junior school's vegetable garden and chickens. A nature trail has also been developed in the church courtyard for the children to explore.

Most of the children live in or

around Hampton Hill, Hampton and Teddington, but they also have families from Twickenham, Kingston and Sunbury.

■ For more information phone 079 3249 9047 or email: hamptonhillnursery@gmail.com.

Mondays

Marie Curbie's yoga classes follow the school year, plus extra summer dates. She teaches Iyengar yoga, the world's most

widely practised method. It is named after B K S Iyengar, an Indian who practised and taught for over 85 years.

His yoga is one of precision and alignment. It was Yehudi Menuhin who brought Mr Iyengar to the West. He went on to have a very wide influence on physiotherapists, athletes and ballet dancers.

This type of yoga is suitable for anyone. It can relieve stress and anxiety as well as alleviate back pain.

■ For more information phone 079 2818 1063 or email: marie.curbie@gmail.com.

Tuesdays

Richmond Gymnastics Association has an impressive track record, training some of Team GB's stars who have gone on to appear at the World and European Championships.

It offers a structured after-school programme for children from four-



Our church hall is much more than a place to go after a service for refreshments. Most weeks, hundreds of people enter the building for sports, exercise, or learning. Nick Bagge explores what makes the hall a thriving home from home for our community.

years-old upwards. Recreation gymnasts train for an hour a week, for three terms per year. The gymnasts follow the BG Badge Scheme and the RGA Badge Scheme and compete in club events.

The RGA delivers gymnastics to over 1,800 young people every year and was formed in 1992, succeeding Staveley Gymnastics Association, itself founded in 1960.

■ For more information phone 020 8878 8682 or email: rga@richmondgymnastics.co.uk.

The 1st Hampton Hill Brownies, for ages 7-10, meet on Tuesday evenings. They enjoy a variety of activities, including badge work, creative projects and off-site visits.

■ For more information phone 0800 1 69 59 01 or go to: girlguiding.org.uk.

Nadine Wright, who runs the Perform2Perfection Pilates classes believes that strength comes from within. She teaches the importance of precision of the exercises. Her classes are energising and breath-focused, encouraging strength and flexibility. Students leave the classes feeling totally relaxed, yet knowing that they have worked hard.

Nadine helps people at an individual level to ensure that everyone improves at each class.

She is constantly learning and attends workshops and courses to develop her knowledge.

■ For more information phone 078 2466 0184 or email: info@perform2perfection.co.uk



from home



Wednesdays

Cathy Lampert's Pilates classes are another established group, using the hall for over ten years. Whilst applying the main principles of Joseph Pilates, the exercises are more focused on functional movement to relate to everyday life. The classes will help improve your overall strength, posture, mobility and flexibility

■ For more information phone 077 2407 3407 or email: cathy@purplepilates.co.uk.

Thursdays

The Woodcraft Folk Venturers is a youth group for ages 13-15, an educational movement which aims to develop self-confidence and activity in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, friendship, peace and cooperation.

Woodcraft Folk is a registered charity and is run by volunteers. The Teddington district has other groups from age six and up.

During the year they go camping, sometimes alongside the London region or national organisation.

■ For more information email: ashley@scirra.com or visit teddingtonwoodcraftfolk.org.uk.

Fridays

Karate has seen an explosion of interest, no doubt helped by its inclusion in next year's Olympics.

The English Wado-ryu Sport Karate Association was founded in 1980 by Clayton Murrain and has over 1000 members in clubs across the UK.

Classes here are led by Ben Emmins, who has been a member since he was eight. He is a passionate instructor and has coached many champions.

He believes that learning and practising karate and kickboxing should be a satisfying and enjoyable experience.

■ For more information email: ben.emmins@icloud.com or visit ewska.com.

Saturdays

Step On Stage is a local independent, award-winning performing arts school, founded in 2005 by Emma-Louise McCauley-Tinniswood.

It offers Ballet and Tap classes in the hall for children aged 3-8, as well as a range of classes in Drama, Music and Musical Theatre, and a youth theatre in Hampton and Twickenham.

It also provides private lessons in piano, singing, music theory and LAMDA.

In the holidays the school runs workshops in Dance, Acting and Musical Theatre, as well as summer schools and there are numerous performance opportunities throughout the year.

■ For more information email: emma@steponstageacademy.co.uk or visit steponstageacademy.co.uk.

If you would like to hire the hall please telephone the Church Office 020 8941 6003



Around the Spire

Lasting friendship over packed lives

St James's Church lost two faithful members and long-time friends over the summer. Eila Severn died in July, aged 92, and Ruth Gostling passed away in August, aged 95.



Ruth Gostling, left, and Eila Severn

BACK IN JULY a packed church of family and friends paid tribute to Eila and celebrated her long life.

A slide show before the service summarised what family, friends and St James's meant to her.

Eila Vivienne Prentice spent all her life in Teddington and Hampton and married Hal Severn in our church in 1948.

Family weddings and baptisms have continued to take place in St James's throughout the years. Hal and Eila had three children, Coryn, Michael and Roger, and Coryn spoke movingly about her mother's life at the service.

Eila had enjoyed a full and varied life with many interests and was at the centre of so many occasions. She was very keen on music, singing, dancing and particularly dressing up!

Eila founded the Ladies' Choir at St James's and in the 1990s the liturgical dancers, who gave many memorable performances during services.

With her great friend, Pat Young, she ran a fitness class in the Church Hall well into her 70s.

Eila also took her turn as a churchwarden and was involved in the formation of the Stewardship Scheme which continues to this day to support the church.

Whatever Eila undertook she always did with enthusiasm and commitment and she could relate to almost everyone – always interested in all aspects of people's lives, particularly fond of children of all ages.

Eila has left a legacy of lots of happy memories and long may she live on in her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends.

Janet Nunn

the Wrens at the beginning of the Second World War, but was obliged to resign in 1945 when they married.

They started their married life together in Portugal Gardens, Twickenham, moving to St James's Road, Hampton Hill, around 1956, where they continued raising their three children, Heather, Gill and John.

They soon became involved in St James's Church. Like Eila, Ruth was involved in setting up the Stewardship Scheme, which was and continues to be vital for the church's wellbeing.

Ruth was in great demand in her role as a trained counsellor for the charity Cruise Bereavement Care. She was an active member of the Mothers' Union.

She was also on the church's Social Committee, helping to organise marvellous Harvest suppers and other enjoyable occasions in the church's year.

On a personal note, Ruth and Jack were our friends, part of that group who were such a support to me when I nervously started to attend St James's Church with our son Geoffrey about 40 years ago.

Our monthly church cleaning duty was followed for many years by tea, cake and a chat with Ruth and Jack, making it a pleasure, not a chore.

Their house parties were legendary! Ruth was an excellent cook – they loved entertaining and were perfect hosts. In later years, on Valentine's Day, Ruth, Jack, Eila and Hal would have a meal together at home.

Debbie Nunn

THE CHURCH WAS again filled in September for a thanksgiving service for Ruth Gostling.

Ruth Margaret English met Jack Gostling in Twickenham, through their respective families. She joined

We thank God for the invaluable, dedicated service that Eila, Ruth and their peers gave to St James's over many years, helping to shape our church into what it is today.

Going on summer holiday



DANI ROBERTSON

Seven backpackers and five travel guides (one junior) embarked on an epic journey at St James's three-day holiday club at the end of August!

Together, we backpacked through Paris, the mountains of Switzerland and Hyde Park, London (or so we imagined). The children learned of God's love for them through the story of Jesus's last days on earth.

We explored the excitement that the crowd felt when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and how the not-so-excited Pharisees felt about it too. Debbie helped us make our own palm branches to wave as the crowd did. Some of our branches had feathers, some had glitter, but all had lots of colours.

The tastes and language of travel

Through our travels in France we tasted the local cuisine as we passed around croissants and quiche provided by Debbie, who also taught us some helpful French phrases. Scott got our energy going with a sightseeing tour each day where we dreamt of what we might see at our destination and he made us jump a lot along the way.

Each day, I led us through our discussion time. We thought about how Jesus felt being betrayed by one of his closest friends, and his time praying in the garden of Gethsemane as his friends slept, and ultimately ran away.

Derek, our travel guide, interviewed a new guest each day about our story. We heard from a child (Erica), a soldier (Scott), and a

woman (Debbie) about what happened during Jesus' last week. Our travel guide also gave us lots of information about our destinations, played music (including some yodelling) and helped us translate the story into what it means for us now.

Scott led us through prayers as we held candles and focused our hearts and minds on God and how he is always with us, even when we feel alone, or our friends may disappoint us. We kept up our energy with a rousing 'snowball fight' and some Swiss cheese, crackers and chocolate (clearly the favourite). Derek ended each day with a lively quiz, showing just how much the children had learned, and their prizes were postcards from our destinations for them to take home and remember the fun we had.

On the last day we acknowledged the saddest part of the story, when Jesus died, but quickly moved on to the excitement of his resurrection! The children learned that they can always talk to God, and how Jesus paid the price for all the wrong things we've all done so we can be forgiven.

Finally, an epic water fight!

We took this excitement outside and created individual Easter gardens, so that each child could reflect on the Easter story when they got home.

Perhaps the most anticipated part of the three days was the water fight at the end! After lots of stories were heard, songs sung, games played, and crafts made, we headed outside with over 200 water-filled balloons. Erica led us through a few relay games and into one big epic water fight! We all went home happy, wet, and already talking about next year! We hope to do a five-day holiday club next year, so tell your friends and don't miss out!



Palm oil, a mixed blessing



A palm oil plantation in Indonesia



LAURENCE SEWELL

Palm oil is ubiquitous in everyday products we consume, but is it good or bad: a versatile vegetable oil or responsible for harming the planet in its

production? Palm oil comes primarily from the fruit of the African oil palm, *Elaeis guineensis*. It was introduced into South-East Asia just over 100 years ago, where production is now concentrated mainly on large estates.

Palm oil has many different properties and functions which makes it so useful and widely used: in foodstuffs (including pizza, doughnuts and chocolate), toiletries, in animal feeds, and as a biofuel. Two types of oil can be produced: crude *palm oil* comes from squeezing the fleshy fruit, and *palm kernel oil* which comes from crushing the kernel, or the stone in the middle of the fruit. It is a highly efficient crop and on a per-hectare basis it produces between six and ten times more oil than equivalents, like soya beans.

Where it is grown?

Indonesia and Malaysia make up over 85% of global supply of 73.5 million metric tonnes, but there are 42 other tropical countries that also produce palm oil; in Africa, Nigeria is the largest producer. Indonesia has grown into the biggest palm oil producer in the world, contributing to 2-3% of its GDP, accounting for half of global output. Since the early 1990s the amount of land devoted to the crop has increased more than ten-fold, now covering 123,000 square kilometres (an area the size of Greece). Malaysia is the second largest producer with a third of production.

Controversy over palm oil

This expansion of production has led to the criticism of the industry's impact on the environment. Clearing of land for palm oil is a major driver of deforestation of some of the world's most biodiverse ecosystems, destroying wildlife habitats (often of already endangered species, notably the Orangutan and the Sumatran rhino), and means the draining and burning of carbon rich peat soils that create millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases discharged into the atmosphere and contributing to climate change. Some concerned non-governmental organisations

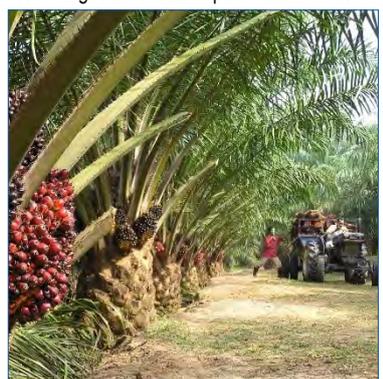
(NGOs) claim that an estimated acreage of rainforest equivalent to 300 football pitches is cleared every hour! Then there are the effects on traditional forest communities — issues of migration, especially in Indonesia; and concerns at the exploitation of workers and child labour by growers and production companies. These are serious issues that the whole palm oil sector needs to address.

Attempts at a more sustainable approach

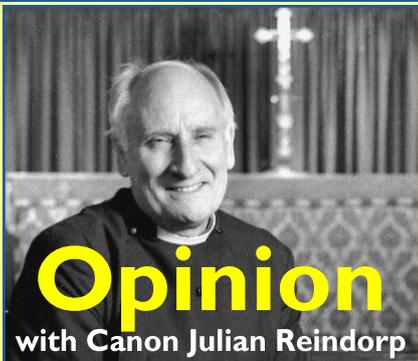
Awareness of the bad publicity and its effects led to some in the palm oil industry starting the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in 2004, comprising palm oil growers, investors, traders, retailers and NGOs. It certifies those growers and palm oil mills that follow 'green' practices, and in theory should lead to more environmental responsibility and to premium pricing of 'certified' products. However, it is a voluntary organisation and covers only 50% of palm oil sold on the international market, and many Asian importers are not motivated to support environmental and social well-being.

Even its members do not always comply with the RSPO codes and its independent auditors. In 2016 the large Malaysian conglomerate, IOI, was suspended for failing forestry protection measures.

Here in the UK, the Government set a commitment in 2012 for 100% of the palm oil used in the UK to be from sustainable sources that do not harm nature or people. By 2017, 75% of the total palm oil imports to the UK were reported to be sustainable, so progress is being made. There is also the example of Traidcraft's experience of sourcing palm oil from small-scale producers in West Africa for its *Clean & Fair* range of cleaning products, showing that global trade can bring real benefits to poor communities.



Malaysia is to double production by 2020



Opinion
with Canon Julian Reindorp

CARDINAL'S WISE ADVICE

Western powers must force Saudi Arabia to recognise human and religious rights, Cardinal Ranjith of Sri Lanka insisted recently. He was speaking about the 259 people killed and the 500 injured on Easter Day in Colombo. The West had grossly misjudged Wahhabism and Salafism — extremist interpretations of Islam.

These aspects of Islam had fuelled conflict between different religions. Muslims in Sri Lanka, a minority of about 8% were basically 'peaceable people', but had been exposed for the past 30 years to a 'very radical, ideological form of Islam' imported from abroad. Fuelled by Wahhabism and Salafism this had led to radicalisation, especially among young Muslims in Sri Lanka.

The Cardinal's views could surely be echoed in this country. Our links with Saudi Arabia, who buy their arms from us, seem to prevent our government from asking the serious questions raised by the Cardinal about Saudi Arabia and its very conservative theology exported to this country.

BORIS, KEN & 'ILLEGALS'

When Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson were consecutive Mayors of London, they both agreed on some form of amnesty for illegal migrants. At his first Prime Minister's Questions, Boris appeared to call for an amnesty for Britain's illegals. 'I do think that our arrangements in theoretically being committed to the expulsion of perhaps half a million people who don't have the correct papers and who have been living and working here for many, many years without being involved in any criminal activity...I think the legal position is anomalous.'

Johnson mentioned that these people cannot pay taxes without documents. The number may well be higher and certainly in Richmond I came across people just about surviving — migrants unable to work officially, who desperately needed to be brought legally within our society.

CEOs' WAGES DROP TO £4.7m

The CEOs of the top 100 companies took a pay cut last year of 16%, yet their average salary was still £4.7 million. The average chief executive was paid 114 times the typical salary in their company of £29,574. The suggestion is salaries will rise again next year. Francis O'Grady, TUC General Secretary, pointed out that 'it would take most workers two lifetimes to earn what CEOs get in a single year'. I remember when Communist countries boasted that CEOs in Russia got only six times what the workers got. And Traidcraft has had a policy of the CEO being paid no more than six times their workers. There is a great deal of evidence that the most unequal countries, including the US, UK and South Africa, face the most social dislocation. (Source: *The Spirit Level, Why Equality is Better for Everyone*, Wilkinson & Pickett 2010)

UNJUST & ILLEGAL

Some headlines need hardly any explanation: *Israel to build 6,000 homes for settlers, and 700 for Palestinians*. This appears to be part of the Trump administration's £41bn economic support plan for the Palestinians, part of a new peace proposal, yet to be released, but widely dismissed by Arab leaders as attempting to bribe the Palestinians into submission. This will entrench the Jewish settlers in the 60% of the West Bank land that was legally planned for the Palestinians by the UN, as part of the Two State solution. The late Rabbi David Goldberg, for 30 years head of the Liberal Synagogue in St John's Wood, summed it up in his book: *This is not the way: Jews, Judaism and the State of Israel* in 2012.

10 WORK COMMANDMENTS

I was sent a set of coasters, which used to be called beer mats. The heading on it was *LOVE: WORK*, and then 10 Commandments: Be Diligent, Be Forgiving, Be Honest, Be Prayerful, Be Positive, Be Alert, Be Caring, Be Healthy, Be Generous, Be Reliable.

Helping the Church grow in Mozambique



LAURENCE SEWELL

ALMA, THE PARTNERSHIP between the Anglican Church in Angola, London and Mozambique, celebrated 21 years of partnership this July. For much of this time St James's has been part of the story through our donations, especially the Lent Appeals.

Earlier this year we responded to the appeal following the devastating cyclones that hit Mozambique and the unprecedented destruction to infrastructure, buildings and livelihoods. Over £1000 was sent to a charity linked with ALMA that works with four Anglican parishes in the country. This assisted the relief effort and helped to rebuild churches, an important aspect of reconstruction given that they act as a focal point for communities in dispersed villages and something that humanitarian disaster relief often overlooks.

We would like a stronger link with Mozambique

As mentioned last year, our Charity Support team has recently submitted our parish profile to ALMA to form a parish link with a church in the Missionary Diocese of Nampula in northern Mozambique. This follows the visit and request from Bishop Manuel Ernesto to us in 2017 and the possible tie-in with St Mary's and All Saints, Hampton, who already have links with parishes in that part of Mozambique.

This part of the country has seen rapid growth of the Anglican Church with a result that Nampula was created as a separate diocese out of the Diocese of Niassa in September 2018. It includes the provinces of Nampula and Cabo Delgado and is home to 8.4 million people; yet there are just 15 clergy, 130 congregations, and 9 parishes.

Mozambique's government and the former rebel group (Renamo) completed a long-awaited peace pact in August ahead of elections later this year, ending years of conflict.



Mozambique's Anglican church growth is hampered by resources

Bishop Sarah was in Mozambique and at a ceremony in the British High Commission, with the Bishop of Lebombo (southern Mozambique), offered her prayers for the people of Mozambique and welcomed the new accord, which encompasses a permanent end to hostilities, constitutional changes and the disarming and reintegration of Renamo fighters into the security forces or civilian life.



A peace deal brings hopes of an economic upturn

Toast for Golden wedding



CONGRATULATIONS to Jamie and Lesley Mortimer, who celebrated their Golden Wedding last month. They were married at St James's Church on 6 September 1969 and marked their 50th wedding anniversary by sharing cake and champagne with church members after the 9:30 service on 8 September.



REGISTERS

JULY

WEDDING

27 Alex Jose Pacheco Rodrigues and Ana Filipa Freitas Capontes, Eastbourne

FUNERALS

- 11 Bryan David Oxley, 88, Hayes
- 25 Eila Vivienne Severn, 92, Hampton (followed by interment of ashes on 30 July)
- 25 Alan Brian Stewart Whitehouse, 80, Twickenham

AUGUST

BAPTISM

4 Archie Thomas Fielder-Hill, Hampton Hill

WEDDINGS

- 3 Nicholas James Shute and Nicola Ellis Pooley, Streatham Hill
- 10 James Doran and Margaret Olivia Nolan, Feltham

WEDDING BLESSING

24 Hamza Shaukat and Victoria Saleem, Hounslow

FUNERALS

- 7 Stuart Humphry Ward, 95, Twickenham
- 8 Margery Joan Pfeffer, 98, Hounslow

Rare flights of fancy



JAMIE MORTIMER

Lesley and I have been bird-spotting for about 30 years, mainly when we are on holiday. It has given us enormous pleasure. The birds have been a delight and the countryside where they are found has (nearly always) been stunning. Here are some of the best sightings.



Hyacinth Macaw, Brazil

This must be the most beautiful bird we have seen.

It is uniformly deep blue except for some bright yellow around the eye and beak. It is the largest of all the parrots, growing up to 39 inches in length.

We saw one in the Pantanal, a huge, open marshy area in the west of Brazil. There are relatively few hyacinth macaws left.

Numbers have suffered dramatically because of loss of habitat and the caged-bird trade.

Andean Condor, Peru

We saw this magnificent bird at Cruz del Condor in the Colca Canyon in the Peruvian Andes. It is one of the largest flying birds on the planet, with a wing span of up to 11 feet.

The viewing platform at Cruz del Condor is about 12,500 feet above sea level, and about a mile above the stream below, so we had to brave both altitude sickness and vertigo for this bird-spotting experience.



Greater Adjutant, India

This is a large bird with a long bill. Only around 1000 remain in existence. There are small breeding populations in Assam, India, and Cambodia. The birds are scavengers. Little wonder therefore that they enjoy rubbish tips.

To see this extremely rare bird, we made our way to the rubbish tip in Guwahati, (the largest city in Assam).



Sure enough, there they were – a significant proportion of the entire world's population rifling through the city's trash!

Galapagos Penguin



Everyone knows that you only get penguins in the southern hemisphere. But it is not so.

Galapagos penguins breed on a number of the islands in the Galapagos, and there is a small breeding colony just north of the equator. These small penguins are able to survive tropical air temperatures because of the cold Humboldt and Cromwell currents.

Even so, the water can be quite tolerable in the summer, when we were there, and swimming with these birds (and turtles and sharks and sea lions) was a real highlight.

Resplendent Quetzal, Costa Rica



This splendid-looking bright green and brown bird is up to 16 inches long.

The male has green tail feathers up to a further 26 inches in length.

The bird was considered divine by pre-Columbian Aztec and Mayan civilisations.

We set out to look for this bird in the cloud forest of Monte Verde in Costa Rica.

After three hours, as we approached the last tree on our walk, we saw one.

What a pleasure - and relief.

Rhinoceros Hornbill, Borneo

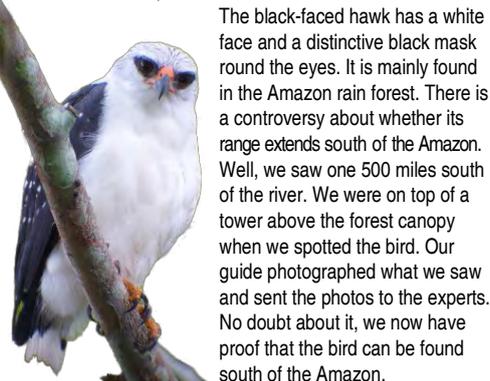
Borneo is famous for its hornbills. We saw the rhinoceros

hornbill in the Danum Valley in Sarawak in the east of the island. It is the state bird and can be up to three feet long and is mainly black.

But its amazing feature is the huge casque - or horn - above the bill. The bird is threatened, mainly because of loss of habitat. What a treat to see one.



Black-faced Hawk, Brazil



The black-faced hawk has a white face and a distinctive black mask round the eyes. It is mainly found in the Amazon rain forest. There is a controversy about whether its range extends south of the Amazon. Well, we saw one 500 miles south of the river. We were on top of a tower above the forest canopy when we spotted the bird. Our guide photographed what we saw and sent the photos to the experts. No doubt about it, we now have proof that the bird can be found south of the Amazon.

Yellow-crested Cockatoo, Indonesia

This is another spectacular-looking bird, mainly white with a distinctive yellow crest. It is found on the small, eastern islands of Indonesia.



What was interesting was that we left Bali – where there are none – and took the short boat trip to Komodo to look for a Komodo dragon.

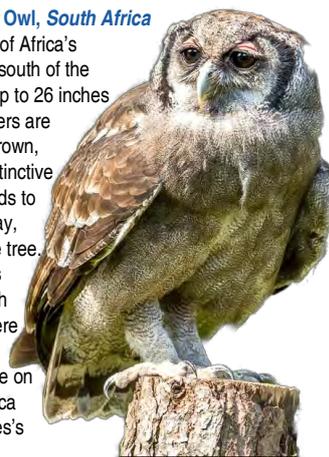
The bird book said that Komodo was the start of the range for the yellow-crested cockatoo, and sure enough almost the first thing we saw on landing in Komodo was one of these splendid birds.

Verreaux's Eagle Owl, South Africa

This is the largest of Africa's owls and is found south of the Sahara. It grows up to 26 inches in length. Its feathers are mainly grey and brown, and it has very distinctive pink eyelids. It tends to roost during the day, often in a favourite tree.

Local bird-spotters usually know which tree that is. We were taken to one such tree in Kruger while on a trip to South Africa with other St James's parishioners.

Seeing the eagle owl was one of the highlights of the holiday.



Shoebill, Uganda

What an extraordinary looking bird this is – a type of stork or pelican, standing up to four feet tall with a gigantic shoe-shaped bill, which it uses to kill and eat prey.

It is very secretive, living in papyrus swamps in tropical central Africa.

The rattling of its bill sounds rather like machine gun fire.

Film of the bird killing its own chick caused concern when aired in David Attenborough's BBC TV series *The Life of Birds* in 1998.

We were enormously lucky to have an excellent sighting of this bird in the open in Uganda.

