

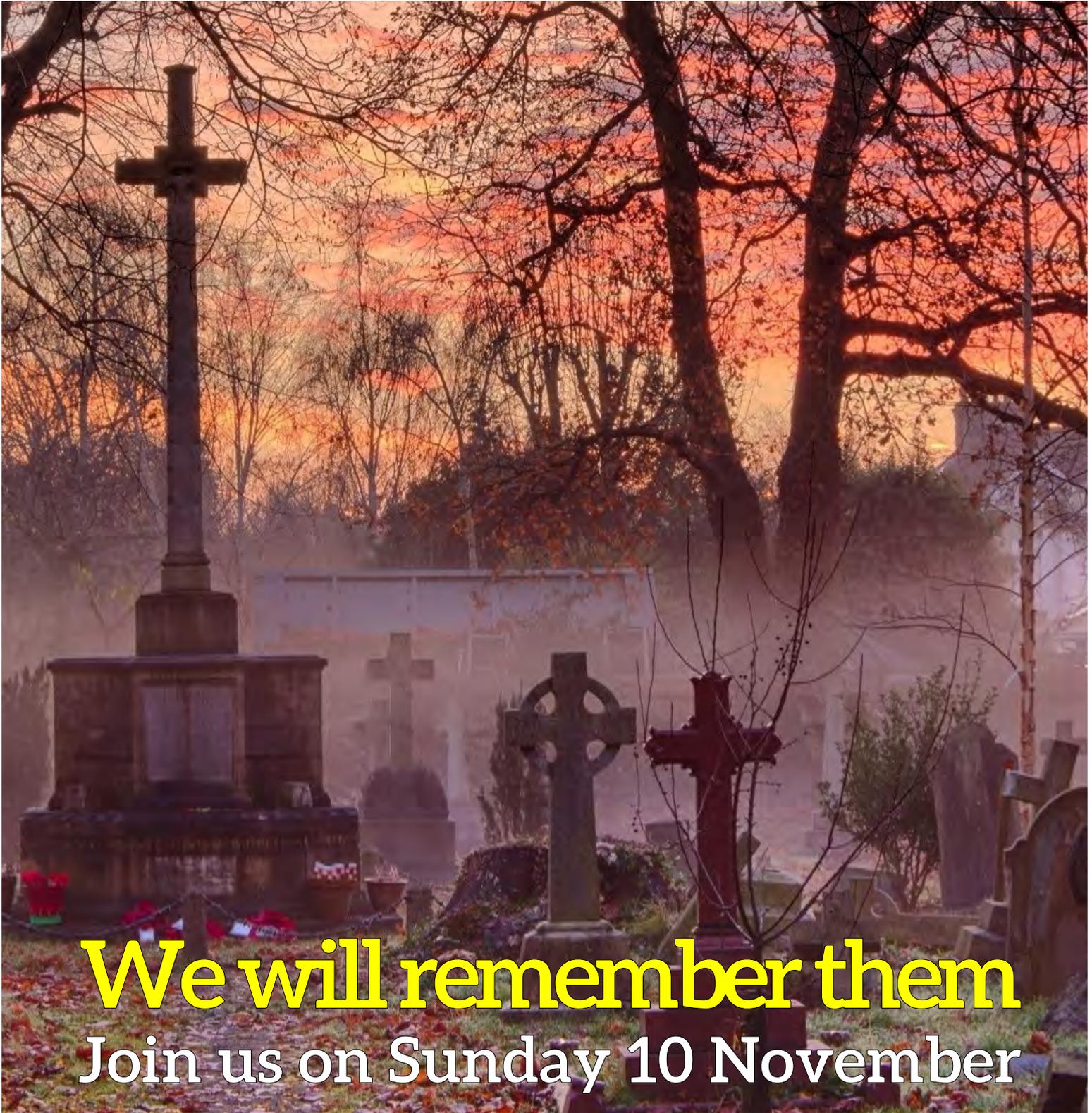
NOVEMBER 2019 REMEMBRANCE

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



We will remember them

Join us on Sunday 10 November

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or find us on



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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Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

Letter from the Editor

The nights are drawing in, especially now we have put the clocks back an hour. November is also a time to reflect and give thanks. The church has three occasions: All Saints and All Souls over the first weekend in November and then Remembrance Sunday.

After the 9:30 service in church, we process to the War Memorial in the churchyard for a short open-air service where we observe two minutes' silence and lay wreaths from the church, local council, schools, uniformed groups and other organisations. This part has grown in size over the years and is now well supported by the community as well as the church.

We also place a wooden cross on all the war graves – recognised by the small white headstones – including a line of Canadian graves. Both the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Richmond Council tidy the areas ahead of the service. Do come and join us.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: St James's Churchyard at sunrise, with the war memorial in the foreground

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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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 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

@stjames-hamptonhill

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Clerical Capers



'It's tricky to get started on these damp November mornings. Luckily our organist works for the AA!'

The pull of heaven can transform our outlook



DEREK WINTERBURN

I have listened to three speakers recently who, having thoroughly investigated Christianity, remain non-believers but worry about a society that is no longer Christian. Tom Holland, a historian, Brett Weinstein, an evolutionary biologist, and Jordan Peterson, a psychologist, all pay tribute to the way that Christianity has shaped our culture and fear for the future without its principles guiding the way. I have also read a book by philosopher Jules Evans who found that the classical philosophy that he taught, while being very popular, had two gaping holes - an inability to motivate beyond personal happiness and a lack of openness to the transcendent.

First family grave

In the centre spread Janet Nunn writes about the churchyard, and she mentions the oldest grave. Walter Richard Daines died aged 11 months and was buried in 1864, the year that the church was opened. The gravestone, however, also records the names of four other members of his family who are buried with him. In order: his grandmother, his father, his sister and last of all his mother. Four of them have epitaphs:

- *Suffer little children to come unto me,* words of Jesus for Walter, who died as a baby
- *The strife is o'er the battle done...* lines from a contemporary hymn for Walter's father
- *She is safe in her father's house...* similar to John 14 for his sister

■ *There shall be no more death or sorrow...* from Revelation 21 for his mother. All four bear witness to the Christian hope of a life beyond death: a better life, and a life in the company of God.

Changing words from the grave

The religious climate changed over the next 150 years. Certainly the numbers of people attending church declined, but until fairly recently most funerals were taken by the Church of England. However, when people could choose words to be put on a grave they were increasingly less specifically Christian - perhaps even just *In Loving Memory...*

Christianity is not about getting us into heaven, it is about getting heaven into us

What a family selects to mark a loved one's grave is very personal and I intend no criticism. But I think it demonstrable that while the majority of people still say that they believe in some sort of life after death, it is less likely to be described in Christian terms.

This matters because the Christian hope is not simply about our persistence as individuals in the future.

Jesus's resurrection is celebrated as the inbreaking of the future world. He dies, (goes through dying and conquers death) to enter the new world. He comes back on Easter Sunday to demonstrate his victory and then at Pentecost to pass on that new

world's life by his Spirit to those who identify with him.

Pulled forwards, not backwards

Jules Evans' book details a series of classical philosophical strategies for being better people or dealing with the struggle of getting the most out of life. It contains much practical wisdom. However I have in my mind a picture of the philosopher tied to a stake with some strong elastic. She or he can make some progress but the further they get away from their starting place, movement gets harder and harder. The Christian sees things differently. We are not moored to where we were, that line has been cut. Now we are roped to someone, in the *future*, pulling us forward (although we often drag our heels!)

A Christian who hopes for heaven is not simply drawing on comfort in bereavement. A vision of the future directs our energies. Christianity is not about getting us into heaven, it is about getting heaven into us. 'Eternal life' begins now. Assured that there will be a time when all our moral weakness will be gone, we fight sin now.

Confident of a future inclusive community life we can start building that shared life now. Trusting in God to see justice finally done, we can confidently champion fairness now. All the time we are moving with the pull of that heavenly rope!

And as our Victorian ancestors testified, much hardship can be borne now if one day the battle will be won.

Hope of the life to come

So as we come to Remembrance, All Saints and All Souls, we should not think that we are just commemorating those who have died, but we are also celebrating 'the hope set before us.' A hope that has changed our world, and can continue to do so.

St James Hampton Hill

Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am
 Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am (not 1 Dec)
 Together at Eleven 11-11:35am (not 1 Dec)
 Perfect for young families. Followed by crafts and refreshments.

Mon-Fri (but not Tuesdays)

Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am

Tuesdays

5, 19, 26 Nov
 Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am
 12 Nov
 Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am

Traidcraft Stall

Sunday 3 November 10.30am-11:30pm
 Stock up on all your favourite goodies

In Loving Memory

Sunday 3 November 3:30pm
 A service to give thanks for the lives of loved ones. Light a candle in their memory.

Connections

Tuesday 5 Nov 10.30am-12:30pm
 Our drop-in session for games, crafts, meeting or making friends, plus the NHS hearing aid clinic.

Alpha Course

Tuesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 November 7.30pm
 Are you searching for answers to the big questions about life? Alpha allows you to explore Christianity.

Ark Playgroup

Mondays 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov 10:15am-12:15pm
 Weekly playgroup for under 5s and carers.
 £2 per family with craft, singing, refreshments.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10 November 9:30am
 Join us as we remember those who served our country. At 10:55am we move to the War Memorial.

Wine Tasting

Saturday 23 November 7pm
 A tutored wine tasting as part of a fun social occasion, then buy wine at special low prices.
 £20 per person, all profits to charity.

Pop-up Cinema presents

Saturday 30 Nov
 6:30pm *Fisherman's Friends* (2019) (12)
 Free entry - no need to book - doors open 6pm

Christingle

Sunday 1 December 10am
 Join our All Age service as we make Christingle candles and support The Children's Society

Advent Evensong

Sunday 1 December 4pm
 Choral Evensong, followed by tea and cakes

The history of Hampton



JANET NUNN

The month of November centres round two events concerned with the past – *In Loving Memory* (our All Souls' service) on 3 November, remembering all those loved-ones who have passed away, and

Remembrance Sunday, on 10 November, when we commemorate all those who gave their lives in the two world wars and more recent conflicts, with a service ending at the War Memorial.

Our churchyard covers a large area. There are nearly 1,000 graves, including the Canadian war graves from the First World War, looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, many other war graves, and also ashes in the Garden of Rest.

It is also an area of great beauty in many ways and used regularly by local people, especially children and parents walking to and from school.

The first grave in the churchyard was dug in 1864 on the corner of Park Road and St James's Road for Walter Richard Daines, aged 11 months.

The last grave is in the far corner of St James's Avenue and the vicarage fence for Bruna (Walter) Blaschke in 1987.

Closure of churchyard

In 1991 the churchyard was closed by an Order in Council made by the Privy Council and handed over to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to maintain. Only burials in existing spaces and the interment of ashes now take place.

The original churchyard records were on a huge roll of linen inscribed with each individual grave with a name in each box – the work

undertaken by Jack Gostling and his contemporaries.

In the early 1990s, with the undergrowth cleared, a working party set about recording all the information on each grave in the churchyard and started a numbering scheme to make it easier to locate graves. All this information was collated into a book entitled *Churchyard Records 1864-2000*.

It was updated with information and included a list of interments of

ashes from 2000-2014. The book not only listed all the graves, but included plans of each area of the churchyard with the numbers of the graves.

This has proved to be a very useful reference with the increasing interest in genealogy and the access to the internet as we receive many requests for searches of past relatives from people researching their family history.

Family history society

In 2018 we were approached by Roland Bostock from the West Middlesex Family History Society, which is aiming to record the details of every grave in the former county boundary.

Roland lives in Teddington and said he had been looking forward to working on our churchyard. He said it was the first time he had met a church which provided such useful information online and

posed the question whether doing another survey would be of value.

He thought it would be as the Society would produce a printed book containing all the inscriptions and the layout of the graves. As well as retaining the book for their own records, copies would be given to the church and Richmond Reference Library. The Society allowed its details to be used by the genealogy website *Find My Past* and it earned a small fee each time someone downloaded the record.

As well as the inscriptions, St James's would be the first church to have photos of all the gravestones attached to the online records. Roland, and his assistant, Yvonne, took photos of every grave as well as recording all the inscriptions. The photo shows Roland with the finished book he presented to us.

Beauty of the churchyard

One of the things which Roland commented on was how lovely the churchyard was through all the seasons – snowdrops, daffodils, bluebells, ox-eye daisies and the autumn leaves. He said it was a delightful place to work. We are proud of how the churchyard is managed now for wildlife and wild flowers and the local council now leaves cutting the grass until the flowers have bloomed, encouraging more wild flowers. We are in the process of sowing a dedicated wild flower meadow near the Canadian war graves.

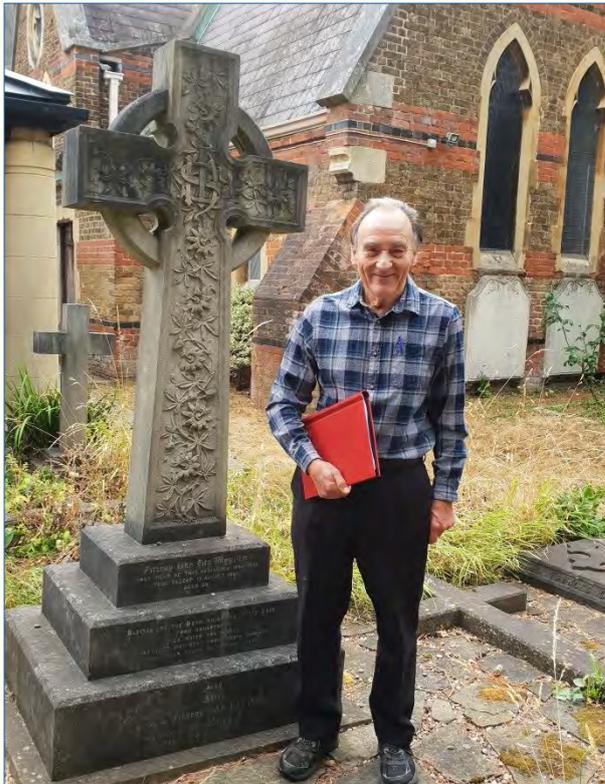


The churchyard is about life and death. Alongside nearly 1000 graves is a haven for wildlife, a place to sit and contemplate. Janet Nunn manages the churchyard records and regularly helps people from across the world find the last resting places of loved ones.



Lt Col Jean Trudel, of the Canadian High Commission, planting a cross on each of the Canadian war graves in our churchyard on 9 November 2014. Inset: one of the crosses

Hill lies here



Roland Bostock with the completed record of our churchyard

Some oddities

In their searches Roland and Yvonne came across a few mistakes.

One such example is a large grave with a cross on top in the corner of the north-east area of the church facing the wrong way. All graves and gravestones are laid facing the east and this one is facing north!

As it is a multiple grave it might have been moved when extra people were buried there, or it might have been damaged and re-laid facing the wrong way.

Just outside the church hall is a cross on a three-tiered plinth. The bottom plinth is upside down. We can even track when this occurred as it was the right way up when we completed our survey in the 1990s. Perhaps a repair team were distracted during their work!

Website resource

Thanks to our volunteers' earlier hard work and the work done by Roland and Yvonne we now have excellent records of all the graves in the churchyard which are easily accessible in paper form. Easier

still, there is a records search option on our website that allows people to search by surname and print out a location map. Go to: stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk.

The church office gets a regular stream of people arriving to find family graves. Ashes continue to be interred in the Garden of Rest, an area of grass near the lychgate, and occasionally in graves. There are no plaques at the Garden of Rest, but, on request, names are recorded in a Book of Remembrance inside the church.

Garden development

When toilets were installed in church it was necessary to excavate the ground near the West Porch for pipework. This was a good opportunity to replant the area with attractive shrubs and these are now growing well.

Sadly, in 2017, it was necessary to have the lovely copper beech tree at the corner of St James's Road and Park Road removed as it was diseased. In its place is a young tree, but the Gardening Team have also worked hard to create a small garden with flower beds, lawn and a bench. This is a sun trap that has already attracted visitors and wildlife alike.

The Gardening Team meets several times a year on Saturday mornings and would welcome new recruits. Look out for dates.

We are very lucky to have such a lovely surround to our church which has over the years developed into a carefully managed graveyard and pleasant areas to enjoy. Lots of people have devoted their time and energy to make this happen and we thank them for all their hard work.



Spot the mistake with the bottom plinth!

Around the Spire

Making connections with our community



ON THE FIRST Tuesday of the month we run a popular drop-in group called *Connections*. This not only provides coffee and cake, games, craft and conversation, but a free NHS-supported hearing aid clinic.

David Thompson is a volunteer, trained and certified by the audiology department of Kingston Hospital. He is able to carry out some hearing aid maintenance, including replacing batteries, cleaning and re-tubing, as well as fixing faults. He can also give advice to anyone contemplating a hearing aid, and can request a home visit for those less mobile.

This applies to every aid supplied and funded by the NHS in our geographical area. David can also fast-track clinic appointments, reducing waiting time from months to weeks.

It is a good opportunity for people with aids to call in to the church and see David rather than travel to the

local clinic or hospital, with the added benefit of a cup of coffee and congenial conversation.

■ *Connections* meets 10.30am-12.30pm on **Tuesday 5 November**. There is also a Christmas special on **Monday 2 December** from 12.15-3.15pm with a soup lunch.



David Thompson



New Town Centre Manager gearing up for Christmas

GEORGIA BALLANTINE, newly appointed Town Centre Manager for Hampton Hill, has a familiar first challenge — the Christmas Parade on **Friday 29 November** from 6pm. She has been involved in various roles in it for 14 years, but Georgia will be extra busy this time as besides her new role with the Hampton Hill Business Association she owns Georgia's Kitchen on the High Street. Her other main aim is to try to fill the many vacant shops.

Brother in tune at wedding

ISOBEL NETTLETON, daughter of Charles and Susannah, married George Fulton at the Church of the Transfiguration, Canford Cliffs, on 21 September.

The service was conducted by the Rev Brian Leathard, who baptised Isobel as a baby at St James's. Her brother William's brass quintet from Hampton School played during the service and at the reception in Studland.

Isobel and George met aged 15 when they were pupils at LEH and Hampton Schools and are now living in Oxford. George is training as a Patent Attorney and Isobel is Managing Editor at a small publisher.



A walk on the wild side



DANI ROBERTSON

'I help them safely take a close look and even hold the animal if they dare!' Jonathan appreciates this task most because he gets to be the brave one holding rare and exotic animals.

Coming of age

Jonathan has been visiting the farm for many years and was eagerly waiting to turn 15 so he could be involved in the care of the animals and running of the farm. He looked forward to being one of the people who got to go into the pens and hold the animals, and through his own hard work, willing spirit, and bravery, he has now seen his dream realised.

The farm welcomes 50 or more visitors a day, with more in the school holidays.

Jonathan has also been involved with the *Large Farm Fest*, an all-day event featuring new and different animals as well as fairground rides.

'Working there I have learned not only more about animals and their individual needs, but how to work as part of a team and engage with the public.'

He gets to welcome and teach people of all ages about the animals and life on a farm and knows how to keep them safe and happy. Jonathan has learned how to stay calm in tense situations and comfort both animals and people during their encounters.

A great thing to add to your CV!

He would recommend working on the farm to other young people. 'Even if you don't want a career working with animals, it's a great experience as you will get a feel for what a working day is like, learn to function as part of a team, and have some unique work experience for your CV!'

Jonathan has started Year 11 at Bishop Wand and hopes to continue working at the farm, though he will soon need to prioritise his GCSEs.

The young people in our community are doing some extraordinary things. Jonathan, who is a member of our own congregation, spends some of his weekends at Hounslow Urban Farm.

Jonathan began working on the farm nearly six months ago. As you can imagine, not all the jobs are pleasant, but Jonathan does them all with a willing spirit.

His work includes everything from cleaning cages to showcasing exotic animals at the daily *Animal Encounter*.

The farm is home to a variety of animals including pigs, goats, alpacas and wallabies, along with more exotic creatures such as snakes, lizards and a Thai water dragon!

Animal Encounters

Jonathan said, 'When I arrive I check the job list that tells me and the other volunteers what work we have to complete. We work together to lay straw for the animals, rid the pens and grounds of litter, clear away nettles, and make sure the animals are well fed.'

Jonathan enjoys looking after the animals, but his favourite role is being part of the Animal Encounters. The Encounters happen three times a day (10:30am, 12:30pm and 3:30pm) when the public sit down and someone talks to them about one of the animals housed at the farm.

Jonathan is often the one to take out the snake, spider, or some days rabbit, and show it to the onlookers.



A profit? You must be nuts



LAURENCE SEWELL

century and later brought to Africa. Cashews didn't become important in international trade until the early 1920s.

The cashew fruit consists of two distinct parts, a fleshy part called the 'cashew apple', measuring 5-10 cm, and a kidney-shaped nut which hangs from the lower end of the apple and from which the kernel is extracted. The nuts are rich in oil and protein, and are roasted and shelled before being eaten. Oil extracted from the shells is used as a lubricant and in the production of plastics.

Processing is a four stage process: the outer shell of the raw nuts has to be removed to produce the edible kernel; this is steam roasted and then cut (a precision process to provide unbroken kernels most valued in the market), peeled and graded. The apple can be eaten fresh, made into juices or used to make preserves and chutneys. Raw cashew nuts are poisonous, containing a toxin - *urushiol* - a chemical we also find in poison ivy and poison oak, so not to be eaten!

Market Overview

Among cashew producing nations, African countries contributed 56% of global production amounting to 3.97 million tonnes of cashew nuts (as the kernel) in 2018, while Asian countries contributed 44%. The major countries were Vietnam, India and Côte d'Ivoire with 22%, 19%, and 18% of the world's total respectively.

It is in processing where value is added. Africa only processes 10% of their crop with the dried nuts mostly going to India or Vietnam for finishing. Tanzania produces 240,000 tonnes a year, but 90% of the crop is exported raw, mostly to India and Vietnam. Over half of cashew nuts consumed globally are processed in India, where the industry is a critical employer and agricultural exporter.

Changes in patterns of production and processing of commodities can have consequences for poor farmers and processors who often bear the greatest risk in their terms of trade. Take the example of cashew nuts, our favourite snack nut here in the UK, where we now consume almost 20,000 tonnes a year.

Whilst Africa is historically the largest producer, in the past 10 years Vietnam has consolidated its top position in the market through carrying out commercialised farming with high-density planting and seed programmes ensuring high yields. It has also invested heavily in mechanising the entire cashew processing to save on labour, and bring consistency and cost competitiveness.

Whilst such efficiency can be lauded and the resultant competitive prices we pay for the nuts in our shops has benefits for us, it has had dire effects on the traditional growers in East and West Africa.



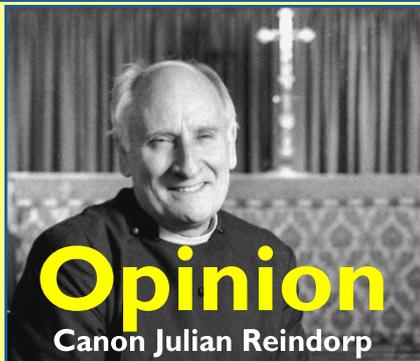
Nuts from the cashew tree

The cashew tree (*Anacardium occidentale*) is a tropical evergreen tree native to north-east Brazil, well suited to poor sandy soils and thriving in areas unfit for other crops.

It was introduced to the West Coast of India by Portuguese traders in the 16th



A farmer harvesting cashew nuts in West Africa



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

SUPREME COURT DECISION

It was fascinating watching the Supreme Court for three days of televised legal argument. The 11 judges had to decide whether the Government's decision to prorogue parliament was lawful. Whatever your views of their final decision, I agreed with the Guardian's columnist John Crace: 'The event gave me a new hero, Lord Pannick. Here was a man totally in command of both his brief and surroundings, who could make complex arguments in plain English and cut through bullshit with ease...if ever I found myself on the wrong side of the law, he's the man I would want on my side. Though I could probably only afford 20 seconds of his time'

SOCIAL CARE CRISIS

The NHS is always in the news about its desperate need for funding. The Government have so far said nothing about how they intend to fund social care. Age UK describes the social care system as in almost total collapse in the worst affected areas.

Health and Social Care services were 'operating in a perfect storm, of limited financial resources, significant workforce challenges (minimum wages) and increasingly complex population needs.' Meanwhile 84% of care homes are owned by profit-driven companies, e.g. private equity firms. Austerity cuts have meant local councils have almost totally withdrawn from this key sector.

RISING SEA LEVELS

Even if we restrict the world's temperature rise to 2% (some estimates suggest we will reach 5%) one in five people in the world will eventually see their cities submerged, including parts of New York, London and Shanghai. Fossil fuels — coal, gas and oil burning — are part of the problem and the huge political power of the fossil fuel industry.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that subsidies of fossil fuels, including the cost of pollution to people's health, was over £4 trillion in 2017. And the annual greenhouse gases emissions from worldwide beef production are 2.9 gigatons (a gigaton is a billion metric tons). By 2050 we will all have to be largely vegetarians.

MARATHON SWIM

I write this in the week that Sarah Thomas, 37, who last year recovered from cancer, has just swum the English Channel a record-breaking four times non-stop. The direct route meant swimming 84 miles, but due to the tides she swam more than 130 miles. She dedicated her swim to all cancer survivors. She celebrated with champagne and chocolate. One commentator reflected 'this feat points to a uniquely female resilience'.

ALEXA AND GOD

Amazon's Alexa is a virtual assistant that looks like a radio and responds to commands from a human voice to play music, give information and even make 'to-do' lists. It can now put you in touch with God! Tens of thousands of people have 'connected with God' thanks to a Church of England App. More than 75,000 people have interacted since it was set up a year ago. Users can access the app by saying, 'Alexa, open the Church of England'. They can then ask questions about God, or ask to hear prayers and reflections. Instead of the normal Alexa voice the responses were recorded by clergy and churchgoers, a mix of male and female voices.

100 NEW CHURCHES IN MOSCOW

The Russian Orthodox Church will have opened 100 new places of worship in Moscow by the end of 2019 under a massive building programme launched by Patriarch Kirill, after his election in February 2009.

'Construction teams are currently at work on 232 new churches in our capital, which still has far fewer churches than the national average' said the state Duma member Vladimir Resin, in charge of the programme.

Let's shine a light into darkness for children



DAVID HETLING

EVERY FIVE MINUTES in the UK another child runs away from home. That's a staggering 100,000 people under the age of 16. Many of them will be at serious risk of harm, and some will take their own lives.

Just imagine what sort of life they are enduring on the streets, in the cold and wet. It's scary, isn't it? But there is hope.

On 1 December, St James's will be holding a Christingle service, and the money raised from the collection and money boxes will go directly to The Children's Society to help children through some of the most difficult times of their lives.

Last year 6,000 churches raised £1 million this way. One of those to benefit was Jess. All she ever wanted was to be noticed and shown affection. Her father left when she was very young and her mother got involved with an abusive partner who never cared for her.

Stealing food and staying out all night

One day, instead of returning to her broken home, Jess decided to stay out with friends. Gradually this got more frequent, and before long staying out late became staying out all night. She recalls nights when she and her friends would end up in distant towns with no way of getting back. Her friends encouraged her to drink and steal from shops.

Eventually her mother got social workers involved, but Jess had difficulty accepting help. She thought it was too late for her mother to start caring now.

Then, Jess was put in contact with Jackie, a project worker from the charity's *Safe in the City* programme in Manchester. 'I wasn't sure at first,' Jess explained, 'but we met and Jackie really helped. She is easy to get on with and I can tell her things, even after just a few months.'



Children shouldn't have to scavenge for food on the streets

Today, Jess is feeling better about her future. She is studying hard at school and hopes to go to college. She was one of the lucky children who got help before it was too late. With your help we can reach out to many other children.



Jess has hope again

The Rt Rev Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro and Chair of The Children's Society said, 'I know from my own experience what a wonderful opportunity Christingle gives for young and old to gather together and celebrate the light of Christ.'

'Christingle serves to raise vital funds to provide a lifeline to vulnerable children across the UK. We can give hope to those children. Together we can shine a light into darkness for thousands of children.'

■ The 9:30am and 11am services come together for the Christingle service at 10am on 1 December.

Alistair's Christmas Concert



ALISTAIR GRIFFIN, a talented singer-songwriter from York, is returning to St James's Church with a Christmas Concert on Saturday 14 December at 7.30pm. The show, a mix of traditional carols through to Slade, Shakin' Stevens and The Pogues, is a major fixture in Yorkshire. 'Fans have been asking me for ages to bring the show to London,' said Alistair, 'and St James's is such a great venue. I have played there twice now. I just hope you come and support me!' Alongside his band will be the Games Makers' Choir, made up of the volunteers who helped make the London 2012 Olympics such a success. Book online at:

alistairgriffin.eventbrite.co.uk
 Tickets cost £20 adults (£10 children under 16). There are also a limited number of £35 VIP tickets that include the chance to meet Alistair, and a seat in the front two rows.

REGISTERS

SEPTEMBER

BAPTISM

22 Georgie-Louise Sandy Roberts, Shepperton

WEDDING

21 Matthew Anthony Wiggans and Cheryl Catherine Adams, Feltham

FUNERALS

10 Ruth Margaret Gostling, 95, Hampton Hill
 11 Cecilia Jane Lee, 88, Hampton Hill
 25 Rosemarie Margaret Wordsworth, 87, Isleworth



Going with the flow



JANET NUNN

It is no surprise that I have always been fascinated by rivers. Living so close to the Thames, I am in easy reach of places to visit. I have explored the whole of the river on foot, walking the Thames Path. I am also lucky to have the River Longford at the end of my garden, and when on holiday I love exploring the local rivers.

River Cuckmere, East Sussex



The river rises near Heathfield in East Sussex and cuts through the South Downs, reaching the English Channel at Cuckmere Haven between Seaford and the Seven Sisters cliffs. From there it meanders through a nature reserve, where I saw my first egret on the mud flats. The best views are from the cliffs that have inspired artists and photographers to capture the river.

River Otter, Somerset



This river starts its journey in the Blackdown Hills in Somerset near Otterford, then flows south for 60 miles through east Devon and into the sea at Budleigh Salterton near Sidmouth. The estuary is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and there are footpaths and bird hides along the banks. Once, 50 watermills were powered by the river. The mill in Otterton is over 1,000 years old and recorded in the Domesday Book. It is the only river in Britain with a breeding population of beavers — no otters yet!

River Exe, Exmoor

The river rises near Simonsbath on Exmoor and flows 60 miles to the sea at Exmouth in Devon. The river is tidal to



just south of Exeter. The railway runs along both sides of the estuary — on one side is the Avocet Line from Exeter to Exmouth and on the other side the main line from Paddington via Exeter to Penzance. Always a spectacular ride, flooding at Dawlish in November 2018 caused chaos as the track runs right by the sea.

River Fowey, Cornwall



The river flows for 25 miles, starting NW of Brown Willy on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall and continues south to the Fowey estuary and the English Channel. Fowey is famous for sailing because of its natural harbour and also the quaint coastal villages of Polruan and Bodinnick. There has been a ferry crossing the estuary since the 14th century. Nowadays, there is one for passengers and also a car ferry, seen above. Daphne du Maurier wrote many novels while living near the ferry.

East and West Lyn, Somerset

Both rivers are fast-flowing, rising high on Exmoor and coming together at Watersmeet, near Lynmouth.

Together they flow down a steep gorge into the Bristol Channel. This is a lovely walk beside the rivers. I vividly remember the awful floods of 1952 when 34 people died in the village of Lynmouth. Water is piped from the river to generate hydroelectric power for the cliff railway to Lynton.



River Wye, Monmouthshire

The river is 134 miles long with its source at Plynlimon in the Welsh mountains. It flows through many lovely places, including Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth, and beauty spots at Symonds Yat and Tintern Abbey, meeting the Severn Estuary near Chepstow. Hay-on-Wye is famous for its book festival. This is one of our most important rivers for nature conservation. Crossing the Wye is not easy. Just below Symons Yat is the Biblin Suspension Bridge, pictured. Built in 1957 it is supposed to take only six people at a time. It sways quite a lot — take my word for it!



River Severn, Monmouthshire

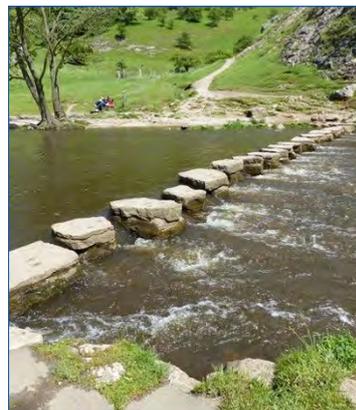


The Severn is the longest river in Britain — 220 miles, rising at Plynlimon and entering the sea via the Bristol Channel. It flows through Powys in Wales, Shropshire

(under the famous Iron Bridge), Worcestershire and Gloucester. One of my favourite stretches is at Shrewsbury where it forms a horseshoe stretching from the English Bridge one end to the Welsh Bridge at the other with a lovely peaceful tree-lined walk. The river is famous for the *Tidal Bore*, pictured, when the rising tide moves up the river in a series of waves.

River Dove, Staffordshire

The Dove is the principal river of the SW Peak District, forming the boundary between Staffordshire and Derbyshire. It is only 45 miles long, rising near Buxton and flowing gently south to its confluence with the River Trent at Newton Solney and on to the River Humber and the North Sea. The river cuts through stunning limestone gorges through the Derbyshire Dales. My favourite walk is the Dove valley, passing these stepping stones near Thorpe Cloud. The river is famous for trout and was the inspiration for Isaac Newton's *The Compleat Angler*.



River Tees, Cumbria

The Tees rises on the eastern slope of Cross Fell in the North Pennines and flows eastwards for 85 miles to reach the North Sea between Hartlepool and Redcar. The upper part of the river has a desolate grandeur, surrounded by moorland and hills. The river then reaches the spectacular High Force waterfall, pictured, with the water dropping 170 ft. Downstream the scenery becomes more gentle. As it flows to the North Sea it becomes an important waterway for Stockton-on-Tees and Middlesbrough.



River Tweed, Roxburghshire

Tweed in Celtic means border and it flows east across the border of Scotland and England, entering the North Sea at Berwick-on-Tweed. It rises in the Lowther Hills at Tweeds Well, is 97 miles long, and is one of the greatest salmon fishing rivers in Britain. For people travelling on the East Coast railway line to Scotland the highlight is crossing the Royal Border Bridge over the Tweed. Built in the 1840s and opened by Queen Victoria, it has 28 arches and the views from the train are stunning as it curves towards Berwick-on-Tweed.

