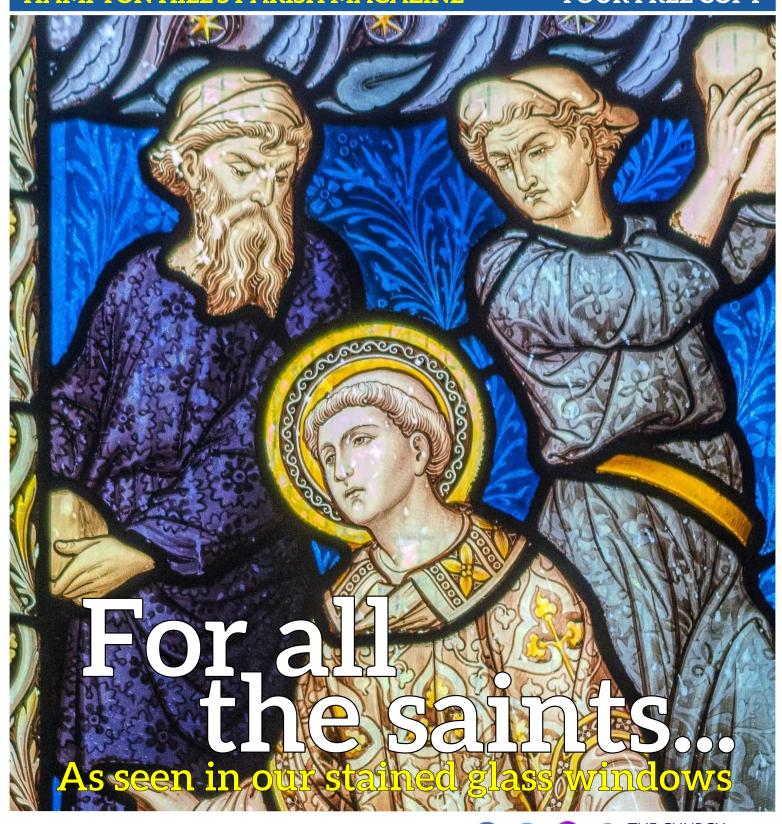


HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

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

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Email Susan Horner: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE EDITOR..

aving not had a very good summer, the year seems to be racing along and we are now focussing on a time of the year when we remember those that have gone before us. Hopefully, this year, all the events connected with remembrance will be able to go ahead.

We also have All Saints' Day on 1 November, and Penny Sewell has written about the saints seen in our stained glass windows. The Great West window is one I have always found inspiring. It is also the one few people get to admire unless, like the clergy and servers, you are standing at the front of the church.

This month's Charity Box focusses on the plight of young people helped by the Children's Society. Our annual Christingle service, on 5 December, supports their work. This is a family service at which we all get to make a Christingle candle. Many of us also have annual collecting boxes, organised by David Hetling.

Paul Peterken's favourites on page 8 provide us with lots of ideas for day trips for now and in 2022! **Best Wishes**

Janet Nunn

Cover photo: Stoning of Stephen, one of the saints depicted in our stained glass windows.

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. Bank transfers to: 40-52-40, 00032595, Ref SPIRE. Cheques payable to the PCC of St James, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Church Office (see below).

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Finding us



The church is on the comer 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



@stjameshamphill

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Clerical Capers



'It's not the most dynamic of vision statements, but at least it was approved unanimously by the PCC!'

A vision helps us to shine a light on Jesus





ne of the most influential books

about productivity in the past 30 years is Getting Things Done, by David Allen, a massive best-seller.

It offers a lifeline for people struggling to keep up with modern life. Allen provides 'time management' strategies inflected with a little Buddhist spirituality.

On the last page of the last chapter there, unexpectedly, is a quotation 'from a church in Sussex, England. ca 1730': A vision without a task is but a dream, a task without a vision is drudgery, a vision and a task is the hope of the world.

Quite which church is the source of the quotation is a mystery!

There were three bricklayers...

The line reminds me of another story (perhaps apocryphal too!) about St Paul's Cathedral: One day in 1671, Sir Christopher Wren observed three bricklayers on a scaffold, one crouched, one half-standing and one standing tall.

To the first bricklayer, Christopher Wren asked the question, 'What are you doing?' He replied, 'I'm a bricklayer. I'm working hard laying bricks to feed my family.' The second responded, 'I'm a builder. I'm building a wall.' But the third bricklayer, the most productive of the three, when asked the question, 'What are you doing?' replied with a gleam in his eye, 'I'm a cathedral builder. I'm building a great cathedral to the Almighty.

Company visions

It is quite common in business to talk about the purpose, vision, mission or values of the company. The examples of Martin Luther King Jr. ('I have a dream...') and President JF Kennedy ('I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon...') are often cited as classic examples of the power of leading by casting 'a vision'.

'We want to be a community that is compassionate to one another and to others. growing spiritually, vounger and in number. and reaching out in service and witness'

It is easy to find many more, less stellar, examples: Lego, Dyson, Zoom, Waitrose, Ryan Air, M&S, Costa Coffee... (www.mission-statement.com).

Recently when talking to a community leader I was asked directly what was the church's vision statement. Fortunately the Parochial Church Council had agreed a working draft earlier that week! The ideas in the paper were presented to the congregation on Sunday 10 October.

While I hope no-one who volunteers at St James's thinks of their contribution as drudgery, perhaps it is not always clear how sweeping the car park, ringing the bells, cleaning the loos, welcoming

newcomers or even washing up contributes to the 'bigger picture' if we don't know what the bigger picture is - we are not building a cathedral after all.

Our vision statement

Our vision is to be an authentic community, shaped by Jesus Christ. Of course, a church has to have a Christlike character. St Paul describes the church as the 'Body of Christ' and speaks of being 'in Christ' and growing in likeness to Christ.

But there is always a larger sense to being a Christian; the early Christians thought of themselves as belonging to a new family: they called each other brothers and sisters. They were new communities.

One of the greatest challenges for members of the churches in New Testament times was to get on with each other — especially when very different people were drawn by their common faith in Christ into the one church family.

he Bible holds before us a vision of the ultimate future when God creates an all-inclusive community of loving persons with himself at the very

But our vision for St James's has to have an 'until then' aspect! We have picked out three key themes to emphasise: we want to be a community that is compassionate (to one another, and to others), growing (spiritually, younger and in number), and reaching out (in service and witness).

To make this more than a pipedream of course there have to be tasks! But to avoid the tasks having no meaning, we have a vision. All that we are doing, and will be doing, will take us further along the road to being an authentic community shaped by Jesus Christ.



SundaysHoly Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Come to church or watch live or later on our Facebook and YouTube pages. No booking required and singing is back.

Together 11:15am (not 14 Nov)

Our shorter, all-age service, including a story, singing and crafts. All ages are welcome!

Remembrance Sunday

Sun 14 November 9:30am

Church 9:30am / Churchyard 10:55am

Join us in church for a service of reflection, or meet in the churchyard around the War Memorial for a short Act of Remembrance, observing two minutes' silence at 11am, followed by the laying of wreaths by various organisations.

Mon-Fri (but not Thu)

Morning Prayer 9am A short service of daily prayer in church

Thursdays

Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

Pop-up Cinema

Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway The FREE ENTRY

Sat 20 November

4pm (doors open 3:30pm) Peter ventures out of the garden to a world where his mischief is appreciated. When his family risks everything to find him, Peter has to decide what kind of bunny he wants to be.





Connections Advent decorations Mon 29 November

12.15-3.15pm

Learn to create your own advent table decoration. There will also be mulled wine and mince pies!

Time to Pray Mon-Fri

If you would like to listen to the weekday podcasts please email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Weekly News

If you would like to receive the weekly eFlyers, with details of services and events, email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Depicting saints in



he first day of November in the Christian calendar is All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day. On it, people all over the world celebrate the saints. In the early years of the Christian church many martyrs died for their faith.

Begun in 609 AD by Pope Boniface IV, All Saints was originally held on 13 May, until Pope Gregory III (c. 731-c. 741) moved it to the present date of 1 November.

There are more than 10,000 saints recognised by the Catholic Church on particular feast days and the Church of England commemorates many of them, mostly on the same day.

The origin of saint

The word saint comes from the Latin sanctus and refers to someone who has been set apart for their 'godly life, with good deeds', or a person who is recognised as having an exceptional degree of holiness, likeness or closeness to God.

In the Catholic Church a person who is officially and authoritatively declared a 'saint', is given this religious honour after they have died, normally after a period of five years.

However, there are exceptions: St Bede, the theologian, who died in 735, was not declared a saint until 1,164 years later in 1899!

For centuries Christians have looked to the saints as 'God's intermediaries', praying to them for protection, comfort, inspiration and





While nowadays many may focus on Halloween with trick or treating and scary movies, the day after is All Hallows' Day, a holy Christian celebration. Also known as All Saints' Day, it is the occasion to remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history — in contrast to today's Halloween candy and thrills. Penny Sewell examines some of the saints depicted in our stained glass windows.

miracles. They can be designated as 'Patron Saints' of a particular country, cause, profession, illness or disaster.

Churches were named after apostles and martyrs as early as the 4th century AD. Our church was consecrated in the name of

St James in 1863 - and there are 546 churches in the Church of England dedicated to him!

Over the centuries the saints have been depicted through different symbols or objects to denote their particular attributes.

St James's symbol is the cockle

shell, reflecting the shells found on the coast of Galicia in northern Spain where legend has it that he came ashore. England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland all have their Patron Saints: George, Andrew, David and Patrick respectively.

A well-known person sanctified in recent times is St Theresa, the Albanian nun who ministered to the poor people of Kolkata in India. She died in 1997 and was canonised as a saint in 2016 in recognition of her charitable works.

The story of St James

We are richly endowed with mosaics and stained glass windows depicting scenes from the Bible, including 10 saints.

The first, St James, can be seen in an intricate mosaic on the left side of the nave and also in the stunningly beautiful Transfiguration stained glass window above the west entrance to the church.

He was the son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of St John, and may have been Jesus's cousin. He is also said to have travelled to Spain to spread the Gospel before returning to Jerusalem where he was martyred in 44 AD.

Legend has it, that after his death his followers returned his body to the Galician shore where it was interred in a tomb. It soon began attracting pilgrims, and around this shrine the city of Santiago de Compostela grew up.

Since the early Middle Ages the story of pilgrims travelling there has become interwoven with the development of Christianity in Western Europe.

Today, it is still a popular pilgrimage destination and the culmination of various routes from starting points across Europe that several hundred thousand Christians and others undertake each year.

In 2016 more than 278,000 people, including 6,000 from the UK, completed the final section of the Camino, a 62-mile stretch which entitles pilgrims to a compostela, a certificate written in Latin and issued by the Cathedral of St James in Santiago.

Michael, an archangel

The second intricate mosaic on the right side of the nave depicts St Michael, who was one of God's four archangels. In Revelation 12 he plays a part in the triumphant war over Satan. Here, he is portrayed as a warrior holding a sword.

Going around the church in an anticlockwise direction, the stained glass windows depict eight saints:

St Stephen, first Christian to be martyred, is in the sanctuary on the right. He was a deacon in the early church in Jerusalem, but his teaching angered members of



full colour





synagogues and he was stoned to death in 36 AD. He cared for elderly widows, who were often neglected at that time, and is the patron saint of deacons, bricklayers and stonemasons.

St John the Evangelist is on the left of the altar. Thought to be the only apostle not killed for his faith, and known traditionally as the author of the Gospel of John, he was a pillar of the Jerusalem church after Jesus's death.

Continuing on down the North Aisle, the next saint is St Cecilia, portrayed playing a musical instrument. She was a noble Roman who vowed her virginity to God and was executed for her faith, aged about 30. She was chosen as the patron saint of musicians and music.

St Mary the Virgin, the mother of Jesus, features in two windows. She is believed by many to be the greatest of all Christian saints.

Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist, are commemorated as saints in the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and the Lutheran Church. They can be seen in a small window at the end of the north aisle.

St James is seen in a stunningly colourful window above the West porch entrance depicting Jesus's transfiguration. Jesus chose only three witness for this event: James, Peter and John the Evangelist. The colours of this window are so brilliant when seen later in the day.

In the Baptistry you will notice two elderly people. On the left is Simeon, a just and devout man who had served the temple for a long time.

According to Luke, he met Mary, Joseph and Jesus as they entered the temple 40 days after Jesus's birth for his presentation to fulfil the requirement of the Law of Moses. Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah, and so having recognised Jesus as the Messiah he was thereafter prepared to die.

On the right is **Anna**, an elderly woman, who like Simeon had served in the temple for a long time and was with him at the presentation of Jesus.

A lasting legacy

t is thanks to vicars, their families and local parishioners who have so kindly and generously donated these beautiful stained glass windows and mosaics in memory of loved ones that we can enjoy them today. We wish you all a meaningful and prayerful All Saints' Day on 1 November 2021.

Around the Spire

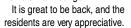
Church is out in the community

Care home and school visits back

THE LOCKDOWN threw some of our links with local community organisations into confusion. But things are now returning to 'normal'.

It simply was not possible to visit Laurel Dene Care Home while precautions were severe.

Happily, since July, a small team has been able to visit a number of times and take a service through some French windows into the home's main lounge.





Laurel Dene Care staff keeping up morale

Harvest assemblies

During the lockdown our vicar. Derek Winterburn, provided assemblies on video for local schools, including Carlisle Infants, Hampton Hill Juniors and LEH Juniors. But, this term, beginning

with Harvest, he

to visit the schools again and speak directly to the children. The schools also asked for

donations of food and other goods to supplement what St James's was sending to The Upper Room.

The charity offers practical help to homeless and vulnerable people in the Hammersmith area, as well as providing hot meals, using the produce donated.

has been able School carol services In the run-up to Christmas we will be welcoming these schools, as well LEH Seniors and the

Jack and Jill family of schools, to the church for their carol services.

Help us with annual sweep and clean

THE ANNUAL leaf sweep and gutter clean is an important part of our maintenance programme. Clearing drains and gutters of leaves can prevent costly flooding. This work is led by the small, but dedicated, Properties Team, but they need our help. Please come and support them on Saturday 4 December from 9.30am. Refreshments will be provided.

Standing strong for a century

FOR A CENTURY, the poppy has been an enduring symbol of support for our Armed Services. Events in Afghanistan have made the Royal British Legion's centenary this year even more pertinent. With COVID-19



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

restrictions lifting, this year the charity's Poppy Appeal collectors will be back on the streets, helping to raise millions of pounds to fund its vital work. On 14 November, as we stand around our War Memorial, we will be reminded that wars are not a thing of the past. Remembrance Sunday is as important as ever. We hope that people will come out in force to show that 'We will remember them'.

Seated at the Lord's Table





he sanctuary, part of the chancel, is at the east end of the church. It is separated from the choir, the other part of the chancel, by a step and a brass rail supported on carved stone and marble pillars.

The sanctuary is the most sacred part of the church around its high altar. This is sometimes called the 'Lord's Table' because it represents the table where Jesus shared the last supper with his disciples. Nowadays, a portable altar, normally kept in the south aisle, is carried to the front of the chancel for the celebration of parish communion. This means priests can face the congregation instead of having their backs to them when up in the sanctuary.

Altar linen

The altar cross and two candlesticks are kept on the high altar which is covered with several different special cloths, collectively called altar linens. They are so called because Jesus' grave-clothes were made out of linen. The coloured altar frontals are changed to match the liturgical season.

Behind the high altar is a beautifully carved stone ornamental screen, a reredos or 'altar-piece', with several religious symbols. When St James's was first built, it is unlikely that there was a cross on the high altar, so the central panel of the reredos shows a white cross. If the altar cross is removed from the high altar, as it is in Lent, the reredos cross provides a very obvious focus for the church, drawing one's eyes towards it.

Above the cross there is an apex stone showing a dove carving, representing the Holy Spirit and peace. The cross is flanked by carvings of bread and wheat on one side and wine and grapes on the other. The altar is the focus of the celebration of the Eucharist when bread and wine are shared. The depiction not just of the final products of bread and wine, but also of the ingredients wheat and grapes, further remind us, especially at Harvest Festival, that we use the fruits of the harvest in the Church's principal act of worship.

Locked cabinet

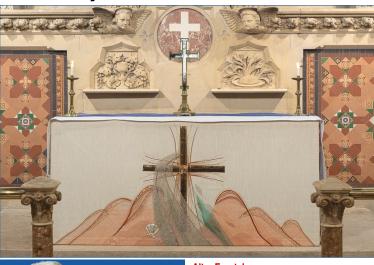
In the north sanctuary wall there is an aumbry, a locked cabinet in the wall to hold the consecrated (made sacred) bread and wine left over from Parish Communion. This can then be taken to the ill or housebound. Next to this is a decorated niche, pictured right. A wax sanctuary lamp stands here as a sign that the sacrament is stored here. The lamp is always burning to remind us that Christ is always present.

There is a beautiful stained glass window, the Great East Window, above the high altar with three panels showing the birth of Jesus, the Ascension and the Holy Family and Magi. On the south side of the sanctuary there is a sedilia (two stone canopied seats) and within this space are two stained-glass windows, showing the Last Supper and the Stoning of Stephen, with a plaque beneath.

The alms dish or collection plate stands to the left of the sanctuary. It is inscribed 'All things come of thee and of thine own have we given'. Two of the clergy chairs are housed in the sanctuary. The credence table stands to the right of the high altar. Covered with a fine linen cloth, it used to stand the chalices and patens during Parish Communion.



They come to serve us





efore I became a server, I was blissfully ignorant of everything that went on behind the scenes to ensure the orderly and seemly running of services. Like most people, I came into church presuming that the candles would be lit, the altar and other furnishings would be vested in the correct liturgical colour, the linen would be

clean and the communion vessels appropriately

But who ensures that everything is in place, and what is stored in the vestry?

The Vestment Chest

The most prominent piece of furniture in the vestry is the vestment chest, purchased with a legacy from Margery Orton, a former parishioner.

The top drawer contains the communion wafers and the small items of altar linen, such as the purificators used to cleanse the chalice and the lavabo towels used for drying the priest's fingers after they have washed them prior to the consecration.

In the drawers below are kept the most important liturgical vestments – stoles, chasubles and copes, together with the chalice veils and burses and pulpit lectern falls, separated according to colour: purple for Advent and Lent; white and gold for important feast days, such as Christmas and Easter; red for Pentecost, Palm Sunday and feasts of the martyrs; green for 'ordinary' time, the remainder of the year.

The servers must keep an eye on the wafers and linen to make sure we don't run out.

Altar Frontals

The altar frontals, stored at the back of church, match the vestments. One of these is unique. Pictured above, it was made by a former parishioner, Margaret Lawrance, and focusses on St James the fisherman.

Robes

Stored in hanging cupboards are the choir robes and servers' robes. Servers wear amices, stiff collars, over their red cassocks and under their white albs. They have to remember to

change the colour of their amice according to the season to match the clergy vestments.

Candles

There are brass candlesticks on the high altar and the nave altar and two wooden torches, carried by servers in procession.

The aumbry light, which burns continuously in the niche to the left of the high altar to indicate the presence of the reserved sacrament, is replaced every 7-10 days.. Servers must take care to replace candles in good time, while Nick orders supplies.

to replace candles in good time, while Nick orders supplies. Setting up the altar for Holy Communion

In pre-Covid times, servers would set up the altar for the 9.30am Eucharist, including filling the wine carafe and counting the wafers into the ciborium. They would vest the chalice with paten, priest's wafer, burse and veil and make sure all the service books were in place.

Currently the clergy do this, but the servers light candles, check everything is ready and clear away.

Preparing for a service is a joint endeavour, involving clergy, servers and other volunteers, but their aim is the same – to ensure that worship is carried out in a respectful and orderly manner to the glory of God.





UNIVERSAL CREDIT CRUELTY

Occasionally a policy is experienced as cruel both for the victims and by those administering the policy. It was the right-wing Conservative MP Steve Baker who urged the government to abandon the $\mathfrak{L}20$ a week cut to Universal Credit as 'intolerable' levels of hunger and poverty hit his Buckingham constituency. Sir lain Duncan Smith, the Conservative minister responsible for introducing the policy in 2011, amalgamating 6 benefits into one, said the $\mathfrak{L}20$ a week uplift at the beginning of the pandemic simply restored the cut that Conservative Chancellor George Osborne had made to UC in 2015. Sir lain had resigned in protest.

From IT failures to people waiting from five weeks up to five months for their first benefit, this policy has been criticised for bringing hardship to the poorest people in our country, almost half of whom are in work – i.e., their pay does not meet minimum standards. This cut affects 5.8 million people and drives another 200,000 more children into poverty. According to some estimates a third of all children will be in absolute poverty.

Since the cut of £20 to UC from 6 October was announced, there has been a dramatic rise in energy prices, and the 1.25% increase in National Insurance from next April. August saw consumer price inflation of 3.25%, the biggest monthly increase since records began.

All this falls heaviest on those with the lowest incomes. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation calculates that this £6 billion cut in UC will be 'the largest single cut to the basic rate of social security since 1945'

SOCIAL CARE WORKERS

Often at funerals I thank the care workers for the family, suggesting we will all eventually come into their care. The government has recently announced a £36 billion package for the NHS and Social Care. Critics said the plan for Social Care has no plan for Social Care, and that the money should come from more tax on dividends and capital gains, cutting inheritance tax, and raising income tax, rather than increasing National Insurance Contributions, which is paid solely by working people.

Dominic Cummings, the Prime minister's former chief adviser, said, 'Why should young people lose disposable income to pay for a subsidy for the older middle classes?'

A recent BBC survey suggested that at under £18,000 per annum, care workers are paid £7,000 a year less than comparable jobs in teaching and the NHS. And the young need more social care than the old. More than a third of all social care users in England are of working age, while younger people with learning or physical disabilities make up over half the spending in this sector.

FROM OIL TO LITHIUM

If the 20th century was the century of oil, the 21st century will be the century of Lithium. Why? The batteries for electric cars need lithium. Who dominates its supply? China. Volkswagen, the world's largest car maker plans to launch 30 models powered purely by lithium-ion batteries by 2025. Lithium batteries are also essential parts of laptops and mobile phones.

Around 2000, China's planners realised that electric cars were key to the future. Five million are on Chinese roads, 42% of the world market. And China has long been seen as a supporter of the Taliban. Why? Among other minerals, Afghanistan contains some of the world's largest deposits of lithium!

YOUNG PRAY & WORSHIP

A recent survey of 2000 people found that 51% of 18–34-year-olds pray regularly, compared with 24% of those over 55. Almost half of the younger group worship at least once a month, compared with 16% of those over 55. What is not revealed is whether younger people worship in church or online? Is this one effect of the pandemic, with so much online?

Each face had a broken life fixed



aylor loves to sing and draw.
Today, she is a confident young woman – but it wasn't always like this. Taylor lost those closest to her when she was young. Desperate for a connection, she got into an abusive relationship and things started to spiral. At her lowest point, she took an overdose and ended up in the same mental hospital as her mother. "I was so desperate, I was broken. I didn't know who I was. I thought, if this is life, I don't want it."

It was only when she met one of the Children's Society project workers that she started to believe her life could get better.

'I felt like I hadn't been heard before that. And it was a relief. To finally be honest with someone and have no judgement for it and have someone say this is what you can do and this is how you can do it.' Taylor's story is just one of countless cases that might have gone unnoticed, but for the charity.





Taylor's life was unbearable and almost lost — until she spoke to a Children's Society worker who helped her

they arrive in the UK to endless questions from immigration. Without support, it's easy for them to lose hope. The Children's Society fights alongside them, providing the tools they need to rebuild their lives in an alien country where they know no-one.

Right now, there are families who can't afford their next meal, children who are manipulated into carrying drugs but have no one to talk to, young carers who miss out on school because they're looking after mum and dad. There are neglected young people who run away from home, sleep rough and get sexually abused by strangers.

Christingle can shine a light on those at risk

Last year's Christingle services raised £16 million for the charity. That's why the money we raise at our Christingle service on Sunday 5 December, and from the the collection box candles you can take home, make such a difference. Help us to offer some hope.

Alistair's Christmas

Concert

ALISTAIR'S Christmas shows are big events, but for many years they stayed in his native Yorkshire. Then, in 2019, he brought one to a sell-out audience at St James's Church and had them dancing in the pews! Now he's



back to put the festive fizz into Christmas. He'll be backed by the Games Maker Choir (formed from the London 2012 Olympic Games volunteers). Dancing shoes recommended!

TICKETS £50* and £33 (£20 for under 16s).
*VIP — includes early entry, reserved seating at the front and a drink. Subject to availability.

GO TO: alistairgriffin.eventbrite.co.uk or scan the QR code (right) with your mobile phone to go to the booking page.



REGISTERS

AUGUST

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

19 John Meredith Smith, 82, Teddington

SEPTEMBER

FUNERALS

- 1 Raymond Edward Fleet, 81, Feltham
- 30 Alastair Malcolm Cargill, 86, Hampton



One day at a time



PAUL PETERKEN

day out can be as rejuvenating as a whole week away, and much easier to plan. Living so close to London, we are truly spoilt for choice, but I have mostly chosen venues a bit further away. Each gives plenty of scope for a good walk, while including an inside attraction – even if it is only the local pub!

Hampstead Heath



A large, hilly, open-space with lots of different areas: ponds, woods, fields, a fine view of London (with an out-of-date panorama) and a stately home. There are lots of parts where it is possible to forget you are in London. Hampstead itself has many interesting buildings and back-streets, not least Ernö Goldfinger's house at 2 Willow Road, pictured above. There are many pubs and cafes to linger in too.

Southease and Rodmell

These two pretty villages in the South Downs are easily reached by train. Alighting at Southease station, the village is half a mile to the west, and the slightly larger Rodmell, just over a mile. St Peter's Church in Southease has a round tower from the mid-12th century. Rodmell is



home to Monk's House and garden where Virginia Woolf lived, but you do need to check the days it is open.

Friday Street

Friday Street is a hamlet in the Surrey Hills between Dorking and Guildford. There are many paths through the woods, which are beautiful any time of the year. We visited with Scott and Dani, pictured below. All the best walks end at the top of Leith



Hill, and the view to the South Downs dramatically appears just as you get there. There are good teas at the Leith Hill tower, and a pleasant pub in Friday Street itself.

Oxford



For me, there are all the pleasures of revisiting old haunts. As well as the colleges, there are fine open spaces – the Parks, Christchurch Meadow, Port Meadow, and the curiously named Mesopotamia. For the adventurous (and young) there is a chance to take a punt up the Cherwell, and (even better) you can sit on the bank and critique others' punting skills. A diligent explorer will find the Penrose Pavement, pictured above, near the Tower of the Winds.

Brightor



Far more character than other seaside towns. There is plenty to do and see. You can sit outside a café and watch the world go by – and it can be a very strange world too. There are plenty of buses if you fancy a ride along the cliffs, or into the Downs. And lots of interesting buildings – the Pavilion, pictured above, terraces and squares, and elaborate Victorian churches. Of course, there are beaches, a pier and a promenade if you like that kind of thing. You can visit Brighton 10 times and not do the same thing twice.

Rotherhithe and Deptford

The stretch of river bank between Rotherhithe and Deptford has a lot of history. Modern changes have obscured much of what was there a hundred years ago, but with a good guide, book or human, much can still be seen. From Brunel's tunnel (the stairway down is pictured), past the sites of commercial and naval dockland, and St Paul's Deptford, each visit will produce something that was

missed before. If you get bored, there is always Greenwich nearby.

Chilterns



I have been visiting the Chilterns all my life, and always enjoy a trip to somewhere there. I particularly

like the stretch on the North West edge, where the ridge path can afford wide views. Off the ridge, there are deep and wooded valleys, with quiet paths between the villages. I often end my day by visiting the village of Fingest, with its ancient church ringed round by hills.

West Wight



I have always enjoyed the western part of the Isle of Wight, and it is quite possible to have a day out there, using the train and ferry to Yarmouth. Whatever else I do on a visit, I always walk to the top of Tennyson Down for the best views in the South of England. Everything in West Wight seems on a smaller and more intimate scale than elsewhere – even the squirrels are smaller and redder.

Polesden Lacey



Margaret Greville's beautiful gold-coloured Edwardian house facing the Surrey Hills never fails to impress. It is easy to imagine the lavish house parties she hosted here from 1909 until the Second World War. The sweeping front lawn, the long walk, the formal gardens and many walks give plenty of choices for exercise. The second-hand bookshop is well worth a visit.

Clivede

The estate at Cliveden is on a grander scale. It is easy to see why it was at the centre of political and social life during the Astor dynasty in the 1900s. Its location high above the River Thames is superb and the beautiful gardens include a lily pond and a memorial for the allied troops who died in a hospital on the estate during the First World War. There are many woodland walks and some take you down to the river.

