

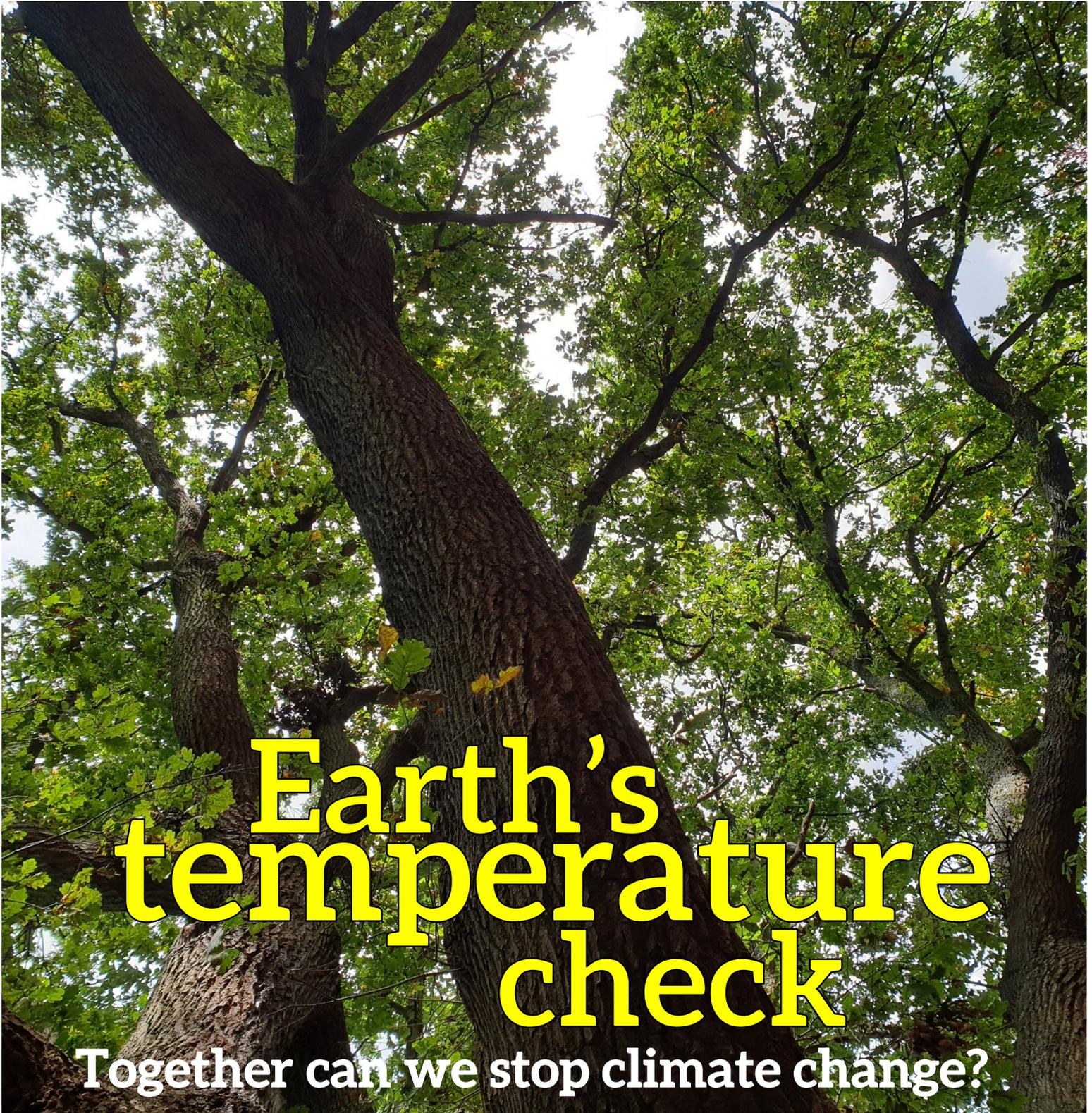
OCTOBER 2021 CLIMATE CHANGE

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



Earth's temperature check

Together can we stop climate change?

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or find us on     THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

Email: julianreindorp@outlook.com



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Nick deals with enquiries and Church and hall bookings. Open: Mon, Wed, Fri 0930-1230; Tue, Thu 1230-1530

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Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

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Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

Welcome Team
Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

Youth Group
Sarah Richardson 077 9090 0505

PREFER A DIGITAL COPY?

@ Email Susan Horner:
smhomer5@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE EDITOR...

Morecombe and Wise came to mind this morning with their famous song, *Bring me Sunshine!* The sun was shining when we came out of church on Back to Church Sunday in September — the first near-normal service since the pandemic. Singing hymns and responses, with the choir in attendance, and being able to have the service as we remember certainly brought sunshine back into our lives. Equally, being able to have coffee in the hall and garden and meet everyone socially was so inspiring. Fingers crossed it can continue.

Climate change is a major topic at present — we really can do our bit. Derek has written about this in the centre pages and we are having a Green 'open day' for people to learn about our churchyard and all that it offers. Derek also puts an Eco tip on his Saturday email.

The favourites this issue features Liverpool. Nick and his family spent a week there last year and found it as fascinating as I did when I went. You don't have to be a Beatles fan, but it does bring back a lot of memories!

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: The great oak tree in our churchyard, part of our Care for Creation

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. 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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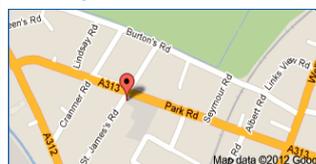
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Finding us



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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t @stjameshamphill

i @stjameshamphill

Clerical Capers



"Mum, if the vicar wasn't trick-or-treating, why did she take the chocolates I offered her?"

Life on earth is just the beginning...



DEREK WINTERBURN

The magazine *Church Music Quarterly* has just landed on my doormat. This is a surprisingly good read, even for the non-musician. One of the regular features is *Hymn Meditation*. The

author usually presents the biography of the composer and reflects on the song. I think this is so helpful; I am amazed at how we can so easily sing words that jar with the setting (Fight the Good Fight at weddings?); but, of course, Thom Stanbury always picks our Sunday hymns carefully!

Although *CMQ* has a harvest picture on the cover, the meditation is not in fact on a harvest hymn. However, I had been thinking about writing about this one: *Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home*. I had this idea as I was reading *Four Thousand Weeks* by Oliver Burkeman.

Burkeman made his name writing for the *Guardian* about modern living — what is called ‘self-help’ and ‘productivity’. His new book takes the everyday observation that our lives are finite (although we do not know how much time each of us has) and questions so many popular attitudes that cause all kinds of anxieties because we unthinkingly assume we have endless lives; time to get everything perfect.

He then compounds his criticism of our overblown sense of importance by pointing out that the longest human life is

short-lived in the grand scale of the universe and so ‘what you do with your life doesn’t matter all that much’.

As far as it goes, Burkeman’s book is a wake up call to our secular society’s assumption that we can do as much and achieve what ever we set our heart on. In many ways he writes things that a Christian might.

For example, he extols the benefits of marriage: ‘There’s no possibility of a romantic relationship being truly fulfilling unless you’re willing, at least for a while, to settle for that specific relationship, with all of its imperfections — which means spurning the seductive lure of an infinite number of superior imaginary alternatives.’

He speaks about truly focussing on our present experiences, and not just seeing them as preliminaries to an imaginary future — or as Jesus said, ‘Today’s troubles are enough for today.’ Nevertheless, a Christian would have issues with some of his conclusions.

Although Burkeman has an acquaintance with the New Testament and some Christian authors — using quotations throughout — he does not really understand what difference a Christian hope makes to his subject.

It was Psalm 90 that first marked the finite length of life as ‘three score years and ten’; compare ‘Four Thousand Weeks.’ That is not news!

Burkeman thinks that belief in eternal life (which he understands to be an infinitely long life after death) would render this life trivial, and the next life endlessly boring. The great mistake here is to leave God out of the picture. Psalm 90 is not the most cheery, but it is God-orientated: ‘Teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.’

The Bible’s description of life beyond death is far from detailed. The emphasis is less on quantity than on quality. Less on ‘heavenly delights’ than on being in God’s presence.

Rather, there is much more of a focus on living this life well. And that brings us round to the harvest hymn (at last)! At our Harvest Festivals we give thanks for the crops and the food that we enjoy. Although there are harvest festivals in the Bible, Jesus and the New Testament are more interested in God’s harvest.

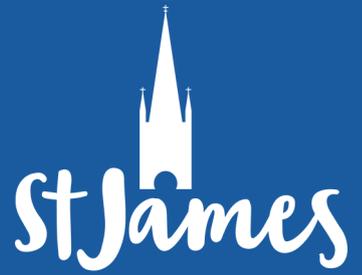
*‘All this world is God’s own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield...
grant, O Lord of life, that we
holy grain and pure may be.’*

God is the farmer, the field the world and we are plants growing grain for harvest. Elsewhere Jesus talks about us needing to produce fruit, or being like servants using our resources to produce good things for our master.

Far from being just a time to tread water until heaven, Christians are called to use their ‘Four Thousand Weeks’ for the Lord. That means doing things that would please him: bearing witness to his grace, caring for creation, building communities of love, serving others especially the poor, bringing beauty to the world in art and music, exploring the world in science, and being changed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

All these are part of God’s final harvest; he gathers them up and weaves them into the new heavens and the new earth. Everything that is good in God’s sight has an enduring value — nothing is lost.

Yes, this life is finite and so very precious, but it is, as CS Lewis said, just the beginning of the real story.



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am (not 3 Oct)

Come to church or watch live or later on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

No booking required and singing is back, but please continue to wear a mask.

Together 11:15am

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

Mon-Fri (but not Thu)

Morning Prayer 9am

A short service of daily prayer in church

Thursdays

Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

Harvest Festival

Sunday 3 October 11am

Join us for our all-age service celebrating all the food our planet has produced. Our annual Harvest Appeal is raising money for The Upper Room, a charity based in Shepherd’s Bush that produces hot meals for many of London’s homeless people. Money also helps house, train and equip people for employment, enabling them to get back into society. Tinned and packet food, toiletries and clothes, also form part of the appeal.

12:30pm Harvest Lunch will be served in the hall, with money raised going to The Upper Room.

Pop-up Cinema

Judy 12

Saturday 23 October

6:30pm FREE ENTRY

Winter 1968 and showbiz legend Judy Garland arrives in London to a sell-out run at The Talk of the Town. Starring Renée Zellweger, the film features some of Garland’s best-known songs, including *Over the Rainbow*. The multi-award-winning film will have you laughing and crying. Doors open at 6pm.



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

Climate change is more



DEREK WINTERBURN

It wasn't that long ago we were watching the Tokyo Olympics. Although some athletes were soloists, many were in pairs or teams. Even the whole group representing the country was named Team GB. There were a number of very successful relays at the Olympics.

Athletes 'passed the baton' from one to another to finish the race. Each has been a component in the greater achievement.

The world is facing a major change to keep to the promises national governments made at Paris in 2015 to limit carbon emissions.

In November, representatives will make fresh promises at COP26, in the light of indications made in June at the G7 Summit. There is a saying: 'The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.' There is no doubt that the road to COP26 in Glasgow is similarly paved. But good intentions are not enough, promises need to be kept.

A cry for change

So, there is a relay from Carbis Bay (G7) to Glasgow (CP26). Organised by the Young Christians Climate Network — it is a cry from the younger generation to heed the need for change.

As a single pennant is passed from one group of walkers to another, it is a symbol of hope — 'Look what we can do together. Don't be the break in the chain.'

I joined the relay as it came through the Kensington Episcopal Area on August 2. Starting at St Hilda's, Ashford, we walked through Bedfont



The recent intergovernmental climate change report was unequivocal: we must take urgent action to curb global heating to prevent a catastrophe. But will the Cop26 conference in Glasgow be up to the task? Christians across the UK are taking part in a walk to show that together we can make a difference. Derek Winterburn put on his walking shoes to join them.

and Feltham, to St Stephen's, Twickenham. There were nine of us — three young people and six older ones supplementing them.

A good number were seasoned walkers, some had been part of a similar walk to Paris for the COP21, many had been on other

marches for Climate Justice. The majority had been on the walk since Reading on Saturday (I was just doing one day).

That day's walk was almost 12 miles and fairly straightforward (no mountains to climb or moors to cross!) There were some stretches

alongside busy roads, but most of the walking was quieter, beside the River Crane (or the Duke of Northumberland's River).

Thankfully we were spared all the rain that had fallen in recent days and the weather was warm and mostly sunny.

'Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades'

Source: IPCC Report

As we passed through Twickenham, we called at Dial House, and Bishop Graham joined us for the last leg. (He even bought us all tea and biscuits at Marble Hill House!) The team were finally received at St Stephen's Church to a most welcome dinner.

The journey continues

The pennant went on from Twickenham, through South London to St Paul's Cathedral and then north through Muswell Hill to Oxford and by November it will be in Scotland!

Although some of the walkers on my day have plans to re-join the relay on other stages, no one person is walking the whole route.

This is a relay — all of us working together, doing our bit, achieving something beyond a few: a parable of the care for creation that we share.



Best feet forward The Kensington team, including Bishop Graham and Derek, at either end

than hot air



The recent intense heatwave has devastated parts of Greece

Our part in tackling climate change

Here are some ways you can help.

Take action in your community

Climate Action groups are the local solution to a global crisis. People are coming together to make their towns and cities more climate-friendly. Search the internet and social media for such groups.

Hold government to account

Two-thirds of Britons believe climate change is as serious as coronavirus, and the majority want the climate to be prioritised in our economic recovery. Contact your councillors, your MP, the Prime Minister, and urge them to create climate-friendly communities with warm homes, clean air, green jobs and thriving wildlife.

Eat less meat and dairy products

Meat and dairy production is responsible for 14% of global climate-changing emissions. Too

much meat is not good for your health either. There are many ways to reduce your impact. You could order a veg box, or grow your own vegetables. If you do eat meat, make sure it has the *RSPCA Assured* label. This means the animals are reared to the highest standards.

Cycle or walk more

Petrol and diesel cars spew out lots of climate-wrecking emissions and increase air pollution, yet most trips are under five miles. Many of us could leave the car at home. Top up your fitness by cycling or walking, or use public transport.

Use renewable energy

Wouldn't it be nice to weaken the big climate polluters that burn fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas? Switch to a green-energy provider. It might surprise you that clean tariffs are often cheaper than the standard tariffs most of us are on.

Train over plane

Your carbon emissions will be sky high if you fly frequently. Instead, think about all the beautiful places in the UK you can reach without flying. With the Channel Tunnel you can get to Europe too.

Save energy at home

A lot of our electricity now comes from renewables, but your home is bad for the climate. Turning off lights and unplugging appliances will help, as will insulation, but gas boilers are the enemy. There are now more eco-friendly heating options, like heat pumps.

Move to a green bank

Are your savings for the future being used to make that future worse? Choose a bank that invests in the type of things you agree with. Your money will help slow climate change, create jobs and drive green industries.



Around the Spire

Christians respond to crisis

Urgent help for Afghans

MORE THAN

10,000 Afghans flown out of Kabul after the Taliban took control are now staying in hotels in the UK until permanent homes can be found. One of the hotels is in Kingston.



These people have no more than a suitcase of belongings. Various Christian organisations are offering practical help. The most urgent need is to provide essentials for mothers and babies.

Afghan Welcome, a coalition of charities working with the government, has set up a wish-list

on Amazon for people to buy the much-needed supplies.

Go to afghanwelcome.org and scroll to the 'Baby Basics' panel.

■ On 17 October, Chris Brice, from the London Churches Refugee Fund, will be talking about the issue at our 9:30 and 11:15 services.

A new home in Suffolk



AFTER MORE than 25 years as part of the St James's family, Clive and Ria Beaumont have left Hampton Hill for a new home in Darsham, in Suffolk, nearer to Clive's sisters.

Clive said, 'Our time here has been a hugely enjoyable period in our lives, and a great opportunity to acquire valuable experiences.'

When the Pastoral Visitors Team was set up in 2002, Clive was one of the founding members. Since then Clive has visited many parishioners. Particular highlights were enjoying a morning sherry with Jean Western, and jazz concerts with Eve Stock!

Over the years Clive has been an invaluable member of the PCC, and later the Finance Team. He has represented St James's as a trustee on the Hampton Fund Charity (formerly Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity), and also on the Deanery Synod.

Ria started and ran our Theatre Club for six years. On one occasion there were 36 attendees. She is a great cook and has always been ready with a smile while serving post-service refreshments, as well as catering at church functions.

Together they have hosted successful fundraising quiz nights where Clive excelled as quizmaster. They were also members of the bell ringing team and Sunday morning Welcomers.

They have been an important part of our church community and will be sorely missed, but we all wish them many years of good health and happiness in their new surroundings.

Liz Wilmot

Piping up for good music



PRILL HINCKLEY

and the wooden louvres that open and close to change the volume.

Lilies and foliage were painted in cream and gold (pictured above) on the pedal pipes in 1894, with gold leaf supplied by the Admiralty. These pipes were originally visible to the congregation, but later they were moved to the rear of the organ chamber and substituted with the metal pipes that now fill the arch.

Organ renovations

The organ is very complex, deteriorating with age and prone to air leaks from reservoirs and pipework. Leather decays, wiring and relays rust, wood splits, dust accumulates and vermin can wreak havoc! These effects are minimised by regular maintenance, which our organ has had over the years, but even this cannot prevent deterioration. Consequently, through the years the organ has undergone many cleanings, repairs, refurbishments, modernisations, additions, and improvements.

Work has included rebuilding it as a three-manual instrument with a pedal organ and new pneumatic actions in 1912. Bishops incorporated a new electric action in 1972, replacing the old pneumatic mechanism.

Twenty-five years later the organ was again overhauled, serviced, modernised and 162 new pipes of varying sizes were added. Some of these were salvaged from a neighbouring church while others were paid for by sponsors, dubbed *organ donors!* The registration (the technique of choosing and combining the stops of a pipe organ in order to produce a particular sound) is now much improved.

Major restoration project

Around 2015 various problems developed, requiring our organ builder, Bernard Whitmill, to spend 18 months deep in the organ chamber, meticulously repairing or replacing the parts of the instrument that were broken or showing their age. He took the opportunity to improve the positions of some of the pipes.

Inside the Organ Chamber

Members of St James's congregation and visitors to the church will probably be familiar with a somewhat distant view of the organ on the north side of the chancel. Only an intrepid few, however, will have ventured into the interior of the instrument, behind the console. Here can be seen hundreds of metal and wooden pipes of many shapes and sizes



Bernard Whitmill refitting organ pipes

Getting the message out



DEREK WINTERBURN

Over time, Prill has managed to make available a vast range of material, including histories of Hampton Hill and the church, churchyard records and detailed explanations for the building and church 'customs.' It is admirably kept up to date and always has the latest news.

Never underestimate the value of good communications. Unfortunately, even in this day and age, it is hard to do it well. The first telling of the message of Jesus was called *Good News* in the Greek language, and in English we call the four biographies about him 'gospels', which meant *Good News* too. So, deep in Christianity is the value of spreading the word.

At St James's we have a number of 'channels' by which we try to present the good news of Jesus, and information about the church. Quite a number of people are involved.

Spire Magazine

I am sure you appreciate the value of the *Spire!* You will probably recognise a number of regular contributors, and others who form the team: involved in planning, commissioning, editing, laying out, proof-reading, and delivering.

Our ambition is to provide a magazine with articles of general appeal, plus 'news and views' from the church. The magazine is distributed in paper form, and digitally, without charge, although we do ask for donations each year.

The Website

Prill Hinckley is the mastermind behind the impressive website stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk, pictured below. St James's was comparatively early in producing a full website in 2000.

Saturday Email

Every week (twice during the lockdown periods) I send out an email with the 'up to the minute' news. Not really intended for the general public, it covers what's happening and what is about to happen in the church's life. There is also an 'eco-tip' to stimulate us all to care for creation.

You're Invited

For each 'season' we have produced a simple leaflet that is delivered to almost every house in the parish. Nick Bagge works hard to create something that will stand out from the pizza menus and estate agents' flyers. It generally covers all that is going on, but with a feature event such as Christmas.



Social Media

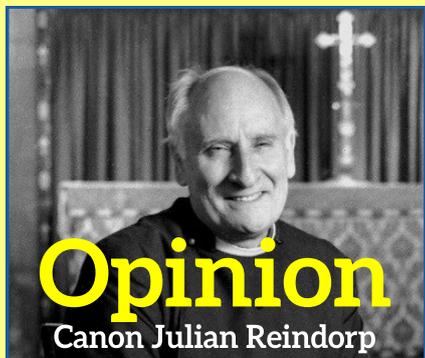


Derek and Nick (and Dani when she was with us) post a

variety of items to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. For example, each daily *Time to Pray* podcast is shared on Social Media. Sunday's 9:30 service is streamed live on Facebook, and is available afterwards there and on YouTube. Viewing figures are impressive!



Pedal power to improve hospital



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

KEY QUESTIONS FOR COP 26

Two key questions for all those meeting in Glasgow in November: What will the rich nations give to the poor nations to offset what the poor nations face? The poor are the major victims of the pollution of our planet by rich nations. When will the rich G20 nations change? They have spent \$291bn (£212bn) bailing out the fossil fuel industries and only \$246bn (£179bn) on clean energy.

'INTELLIGENCE' v REALITY

On 10 August the *Washington Post* published a scoop: US intelligence had revised their assessment of Afghanistan and said that Afghanistan could fall to the Taliban in 90 days. Meanwhile Bruno Maçães, Portuguese Europe Minister from 2013-2015, was in Kabul. He listened to local businessmen and journalists who said Kabul would fall in five days' time. He booked his ticket for two days later, the 13 August, and got home safely to Portugal.

The Taliban are from the Pashtun tribe which borders Pakistan, the largest of the 16 ethnic groups which make up Afghanistan. Its diverse tribal nature means the Taliban is 'more or less unwelcome to the rest'. It also means that attempts to turn Afghanistan into a self-sustaining Western-style democracy were 'almost certain to fail'. The sight of armed Taliban fighters flanking the Supreme Imam at Friday prayers at Kabul's main mosque would have been as painful for Moslems to see as for anyone of whatever faith.

COST OF LEVELLING UP

The Centre for Cities think tank suggests that funding on the scale of the reunification of Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall — towards £2 trillion — is needed for levelling up (rebalancing the economy between London and the rest of the UK). The plan outlined so far by the Government was a 'drop in the ocean', and the closing of the north-south divide will cost billions of pounds over decades. Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds have the lowest productivity and life expectancy in western Europe.

GENDER AND DIRECTORS' PAY

Just when you think the pay gap between men and women is closing, new research shows male directors of the top 100 FTSE UK companies are paid more than three times their female equivalents in the UK. Average male directors earn £875,900, while £237,000 is the average pay for female directors according to the New Street Consulting Group. One-third of all 100 FTSE directors are women, but largely in non-executive roles.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE

The Methodist Church has become the largest denomination in the UK to permit same-sex marriages. Delegates at the Church's annual conference voted 254 to 46 to rewrite the Methodist standing orders that stated only men and women could marry. The decision followed their 2019 report, *God in love unites us*.

Each congregation will now decide whether to allow same-sex marriages in their church. Most Methodist churches are in favour of the changes. The conference also affirmed cohabitation, stating: 'The Church recognises that the love of God is present within the love of human beings who are drawn to each other and who enter freely into some form of life-enhancing committed relationship with each other, whether that be through informal cohabitation or more formal commitment entered into publicly.'

IN A FRENCH CHURCHYARD

'When you enter this church, it may be possible to hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely he will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your mobile. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place, and talk to him. If you want to see him, send him a text while you are driving.'



LESLEY MORTIMER

IN NOVEMBER, St James's has pledged to raise money for St Luke's Mission Hospital, in Milo, Tanzania, principally through a sponsored cycle ride.

We are hoping that Fenella Hallett, a gap year student who has just returned from Milo, will be able to give us an up-to-date picture of life in the remote highlands of SW Tanzania.

In 2019 we contributed to the purchase of portable ultrasound equipment. Last year we helped to fund a biochemical analyser which has enabled the hospital to carry out a variety of basic blood and hormone tests.

Dr Sandagila has now provided us with a breakdown of costs for the completion of the new paediatric ward at the hospital, ranging from beds and blankets to baby warmers for newborns.



With our help the hospital hopes to complete the new paediatric unit, improving both facilities and care for families.



The paediatric unit

The project aims to make the ward more child-friendly with paintings and a play area, as well as creating a high dependency unit.

It would be excellent if we could help purchase some of these essential items and support the health of mothers and children in this very needy part of the world.

Will you sponsor our cyclists?

Derek and Liz Wilmot will be leading a sponsored cycle ride from Hampton Hill through Bushy Park to Richmond on **Saturday 16 October** to raise money for Milo. They would welcome company!

Please do your bit by sponsoring them. You can donate using the QR code or this link: <https://bit.ly/MiloAutumn>.



Sam serves up at St James's

WE WELCOMED Sam Millard, a third-year ordinand at St Mellitus Theological College, to St James's for a month-long placement in September.

Sam is based at Christ Church, Feltham, but said working here would give her the chance to experience a different style of worship.

Sam is married to Jon and has two daughters.

She is a keen baker and tennis player, and considers herself to be Andy Murray's number one fan!



REGISTERS

JULY

FUNERAL

20 Stanley Parr Turner, 99, Hampton

INTERMENT OF ASHES

11 Irene Cynthia Joyce Holmes, 96, Cavendish, Suffolk.

AUGUST

BAPTISM

29 Thomas John Wilson, Hampton Hill

WEDDING

21 Matthew Stephen Tilby and Gemma Amy Gregory.

FUNERAL

20 Jean Amelia Hadriill, 78, Hampton Hill



On the Mersey Beat



NICK BAGGE

Liverpool's history is inextricably bound up with the River Mersey and the world-famous port which grew on its banks. Today, it is a thriving and dynamic city, reinventing itself as a sparkling visitor venue that adds to the city's traditional chirpy self-confidence. While at times it seems that all roads lead to the Beatles — and music (and football) loom large — this city has so much more to offer the visitor.

City from the sky



Our family trip to Liverpool started with a Christmas present from my daughter: a 30-minute helicopter ride somewhere in the UK. Although I had travelled widely with work, I had never visited the city. With two Beatles fans involved in the decision, the choice was made. It was a great way to get my bearings!

Ferry across the Mersey

Immortalised by Gerry and the Pacemakers' song of the 1960s, a ferry across the Mersey is a cheaper and equally great way to see the world-famous waterfront. For a few pounds the journey takes you from the Pier Head to two points on the Birkenhead side.



Royal Liver Building



Representing the vast wealth of the Industrial Age stand the Three Graces. The Port of Liverpool Building (built in 1907), the Cunard Building (1913) and the Royal Liver Building (1910), topped by Bella and Bertie, the *Liver Birds* who sit on the clock towers, symbols for the city and famous from the 1970s BBC comedy of the same name. It's now possible to take in a panoramic rooftop tour.

Royal Albert Dock



The dock encapsulates both the history and regeneration of Liverpool. Opened in 1846 to store valuable cargoes, it was largely redundant when steamboats replaced sail. It finally closed in 1972 and the plan was to demolish it. Widespread opposition led to a rethink; it was redeveloped and is now home to the Merseyside Maritime Museum and Tate Liverpool.

The Cavern Club



The Cavern Club opened in the late 1950s as a jazz club, but beat music took over and one band more than any other: the Beatles, who played there 292 times. Incredibly the club shut in 1973 and the cellars were filled in. However, in 1984 it was rebuilt using the original bricks. It is now a leading live music venue and a mecca for fans. We were lucky to get in for a socially-distanced gig during International Beatles Week.



Beatles Statues

Liverpool is awash with statues of its famous stars, including Kenn Dodd and Cilla Black. I have chosen two of the Beatles statues. David Webster's statue of John Lennon, left, was modelled on the 1975 *Rock and Roll Album* cover. The only problem was that no one recognised it was him! After the head was vandalised, Webster swapped it for an alternative and it's now the city's most photographed statue.

The second is a bronze figure of the fictional character of Eleanor Rigby from the 1966 Beatles song. Her face is eerily blank, or as the song says: 'Wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the door.'



Museum of Liverpool

Spread over three floors of a landmark Waterfront building, this award-winning museum focuses on Liverpool's status as the 'second city of Empire'. In a short space of time the visitor can get a real overview of how Liverpool steadily grew until the explosion of the industrial revolution catapulted its status.



Galleries explore how the history and culture of the port, its people and sporting heritage have shaped the city. A big hit.

John Lennon's home

Beatlemania takes in everything about the Fab Four. Essential to this is joining the Magical Mystery Tour, by bus, of suburban Liverpool, visiting Penny Lane, Strawberry Field, and the childhood homes and schools of the stars. Two of them are owned by the National Trust: 20 Forthlin Road, where Paul McCartney lived for a time, and this des-res, pictured right, 251 Menlove Avenue, Woolton, where the surprisingly middle-class John Lennon resided.



Metropolitan Cathedral



The Metropolitan (Catholic) Cathedral, is known affectionately as 'Paddy's wigwam'. Work began in 1933 on Sir Edwin Lutyens grand project to rival St Peter's in Rome, but by 1958 costs were out of control and only the crypt was finished. A competition was held for a new cut-price design and in 1967 Sir Frederick Gibberd's famous concept was consecrated. The outside is novel, but it is only when inside that its full beauty is seen. The nave is circular and the high altar accessible to the entire 2300 congregation. Through masterful use of stained glass in the lofty corona the cathedral has a mystical atmosphere. Royal blue light is punctured by other rich colours and beams of sunlight fall onto Italian marble floors. Stunning.



Crosby Beach

A short train ride out of the city takes you to Crosby, once little known beyond Merseyside, but now a place of national note due to sculptor Antony Gormley's installation *Another Place*. A hundred lonely, life-sized, naked figures cast in iron stare out across the sands of Liverpool Bay. It's surprisingly peaceful and particularly haunting as the sun goes down. It's only when people move that you can distinguish life from life-like!

