

NOVEMBER 2022 REMEMBRANCE

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY

Poppy Factory



Centenary
celebrated

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 Wednesdays (his day off).

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ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister, married to Alan, and has three children. During term-time she runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.

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Supported by

ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev 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, is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren, and nine grandchildren.

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ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Tim Marwood

Tim taught in London primary schools for 36 years. He was ordained priest in 1996 and was parish priest at Petersham for 13 years, retiring in 2021. He is now a part-time Chaplain at Kingston Hospital. Tim is married to Jane, a former headteacher.

He supports Harlequins RFC, England cricket and walks his brown lab, Ruby.

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FROM THE EDITOR...

In this issue we spotlight remembrance, ranging from the centenary of the Poppy Factory to the two days the church marks – All Saints and All Souls – at the beginning of November. The church services cover a wide spectrum of people, but they are also very personal, remembering loved ones and friends no longer with us. This year is even more poignant as we remember our late Queen Elizabeth. We feel we have lost someone very special in our lives.

Derek's centrespread covers a variety of people connected with London, including Octavia Hill, one of the founders of the National Trust. I have just returned from a holiday in the North East where I visited Crook Hall and Gibside – both NT properties away from the hubbub of city life. They do good lunches too!

Derek has included St Mellitus, the first Bishop of London, after whom the theological college attended by Jacky Cammidge was named. I had always wondered about the origin of the name! We hope this issue will give you a glimpse into what this special time holds for us.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: The late Queen, on a visit to the Poppy Factory in Richmond in 2012.

SPIRE

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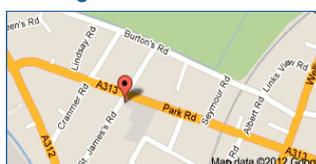
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Finding us



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

Follow us

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

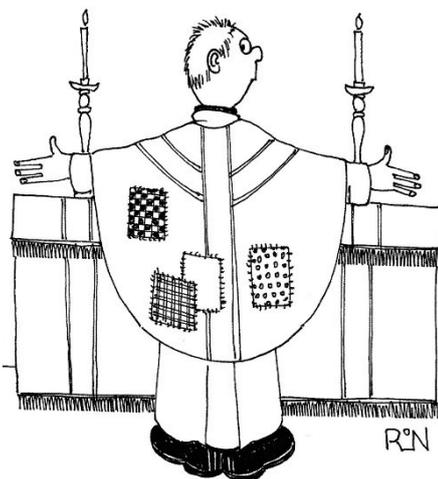
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Clerical Capers



The curate hated asking for money, but he sometimes gave subtle hints.

Spare a thought for all those saints and souls



DEREK WINTERBURN

particular challenges to those who care for dementia patients. But I take some encouragement that even when a person forgets who they are, God remembers them. As one writer says 'God thinks, therefore I am.'

Collective remembrance

However this season of remembering is more about remembering *together*. Although the first Armistice Act of Remembrance was in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, once the Cenotaph was erected a very public event was held every year after 1920.

For a generation (and then after 1945, another generation) the remembering was a collective remembering of the first-hand experience of war, and an honouring of the fallen.

'I take some encouragement that even when a person forgets who they are, God remembers them'

But as decades have gone by it would have been easy for that kind of remembering to decline to just 'factual recall', a nod to those before our time. However, that has not happened.

Growing observance

Collective remembering has kept the annual commemoration going. Observation of the 'Two Minutes' Silence has had a renaissance in recent years.

Broadcasters almost universally choose to wear poppies from 31 October and approximately two in three of us wear one.

This nationwide observation gives all sorts of opportunities to tell 'the human story' of the wars — and so the memories live on. In a sense 'their story becomes our story'; it has been a great step forward that the diversity of those who served in the wars is now widely recognised.

Saints forgotten?

Considering the church, I think there is a much greater 'amnesia' about 'All Saints' and 'All Souls'. What are these? Simply, they are two days (1 and 2 November) when we remember those who have died in the faith. All Saints has the emphasis of honouring those who are an example (not necessarily world-famous), and All Souls directs our thoughts to those we have particularly loved.

It seems to be a modern mistake to think we have so little to learn from those who have followed Christ before us, although it is true that even those commemorated in the church's lectionary may sometimes have rather sketchy biographies.

But when there is a very popular series of children's books, *Little People Big Dreams*, telling the stories of 'secular saints' to a new generation — shouldn't we pass on some account of our heroes in faith, especially the ones with fuller life stories?

Here are just a few key ones: from overseas, Athanasius and Francis, and from Britain, Aidan, John Bunyan, Cuthbert, Elizabeth Fry and William Wilberforce.

■ Four key London 'saints' are featured on pages 4 and 5.

It is a commonplace observation that we are in a season of remembering. In church, chiefly we have Remembrance Sunday and All Saints / All Souls, and in wider society there is Black History Month, Halloween and what we used to call 'Guy Fawkes Night'.

It is not altogether clear why All Saints, All Souls and Halloween began to be celebrated in the Autumn 1100 years ago. Remembrance Sunday was chosen because it is linked to the date of the Armistice at the end of the First World War. Black History Month in the UK is at a different time to the week held in the USA. The Gunpowder Plot was timed for the State Opening of Parliament. So it would seem this remembrance season is a great historical coincidence!

We all get forgetful

Yet it is good to pay some attention to remembering. I know how frustrating it is to forget things: where did I put my keys? or what did we do at this time last year? We also know how major memory troubles, such as Alzheimer's, affect how people can manage life, see themselves, or relate to others.

If I cannot remember what has happened, and cannot hold onto what I have been told is about to happen, I become trapped in the present. There are

St James Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am (not 4 Dec)

Streaming is not possible during church building work

Together 11:15am (not 13, 20 Nov & 4 Dec)

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

Mon-Fri

Morning Prayer 9am

except 16, 23, 30 Nov

Holy Communion 9:30am

Wednesday 16, 23, 30 Nov

Quiz Supper & Auction

Saturday 12 Nov 7:30pm

You don't need to be an egghead to enjoy a fun evening. There will be a prize for the winning team. Money raised will support two of our good causes. Form teams, or leave that to us. More details on page five.

Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJPizzaQuiz>

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 13 Nov 9:30am

Join us as for our service in church and afterwards at the War Memorial in the churchyard where we will observe two minutes' silence at 11am and groups and individuals will lay wreaths.



Messy Church

Sunday 20 Nov 3-5pm



Join us for a fun afternoon of crafts, music, stories, worship and food!

To book go to: <https://bit.ly/StJMessyNov22>

Connections Café*

Mon 28 Nov 12:15-3:15pm

Join us for coffee, cake, games and puzzles, and make an Advent Candle table decoration. Alongside the café there is a walk-in NHS hearing aid clinic for servicing/advice.

Christingle Service

Sunday 4 Dec 10-10:45am

Join us for this popular all-age service, making Christingle candles.

Ark Playgroup*

Monday 28 Nov, 5 & 19 Dec
10:15am-12:15pm

Our popular group for carers and under 5s, with singing, crafts, stories and plenty of play. £2 per family, including refreshments!

* These events are subject to church building work finishing in late November (check website).

Imperfect people for



DEREK WINTERBURN

The Church of England has a calendar of Saints' days. The Church is not making any particular judgement of an individual's sanctity, merely a judgement about the value of commemorating them: as such, official materials do not refer to, for example, St James, rather, just James.

This may sound rather peculiar, but it does mean a range of people can be celebrated who were far from perfect.

Here are four people with London links that the Church recognises as worthy of celebration.

Mellitus - 7th Century

The first Archbishop of Canterbury, Augustine, appealed to the Pope for extra help in bringing the Gospel to England.

Gregory 1 sent Abbot Mellitus in June 601. While on his way, Mellitus received further instructions from the Pope, guiding him not to confront pagan practices but persuade the English step by step, progressively taking over the best of their buildings and customs.

Augustine consecrated him Bishop of the East Saxons in 604, with his cathedral in London (their capital). About 15 years later, the East Saxons reverted to paganism, after the death of the King, Sæberht, and Mellitus sought refuge in Gaul.

(There would be no further bishop of London until 653.)



Mellitus First Bishop of London sent by the Pope to convert people from paganism

Perhaps, you were taught to think of saints as statues in a church building. The Bible teaches something completely different. God calls a saint anyone who trusts in Christ alone for salvation. All Saints' Day reminds us of our connectiveness as Christians. The Church of England's calendar of Saints' days includes many who were far from perfect, but they all allowed God to guide them through life. Here are four saintly Londoners.

The next archbishop to England, Laurence, recalled him sometime later, and soon after Mellitus became the third Archbishop of Canterbury in 619. It has been said that he diverted a fire in the city that threatened a church.

Ethelburga (Æthelburh) - 7th Century

Ethelburga came to the attention of Bede when her brother Erkenwald (later to be the Bishop of London in 675) built two abbeys, one in Chertsey for his community, and

one in Barking for her. There are stories about miracles of healings in time of plague and of visions of heaven in the convent.

The abbey owned land in the City, and the Domesday Book records that 28 houses and half a church (!)

belonged to it. That church was probably All Hallows by the Tower. The medieval church of St Ethelburga in Bishopgate was severely damaged by an IRA bomb in 1993. It is now a centre for reconciliation.

Samuel Johnson - (1709 - 1784)

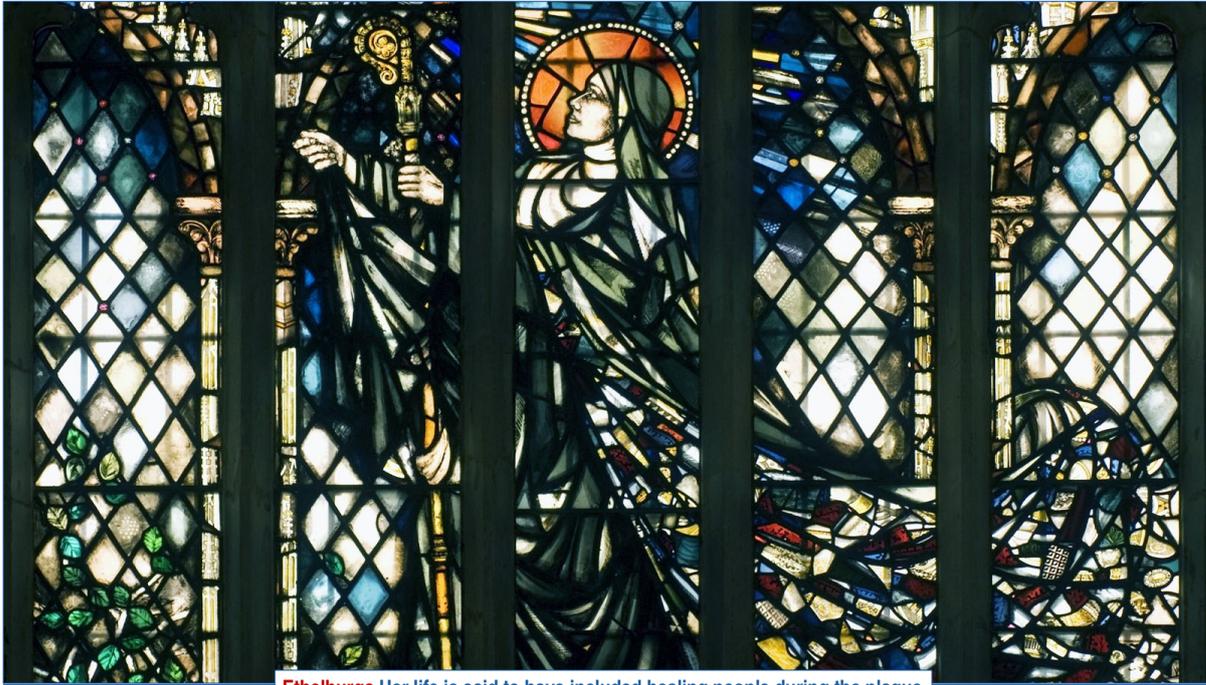
If one's knowledge of Johnson is first through Robbie Coltrane's portrayal in the TV series *Blackadder*, it might be a surprise to find him in a list of Anglican notables. Born in Lichfield, he was converted to Christianity as a young man after reading the classic book *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* by William Law.

After trying his hand at teaching he settled in Greenwich (later he moved to Fleet Street) and began a career as a writer. It is likely that he suffered a string of health issues: deafness in one ear, blindness in one eye, testicular cancer and tics from Tourette syndrome.

In his first major literary work, the poem *London*, published anonymously in May 1738, Johnson portrays London as a place of crime, corruption, and neglect of the poor.

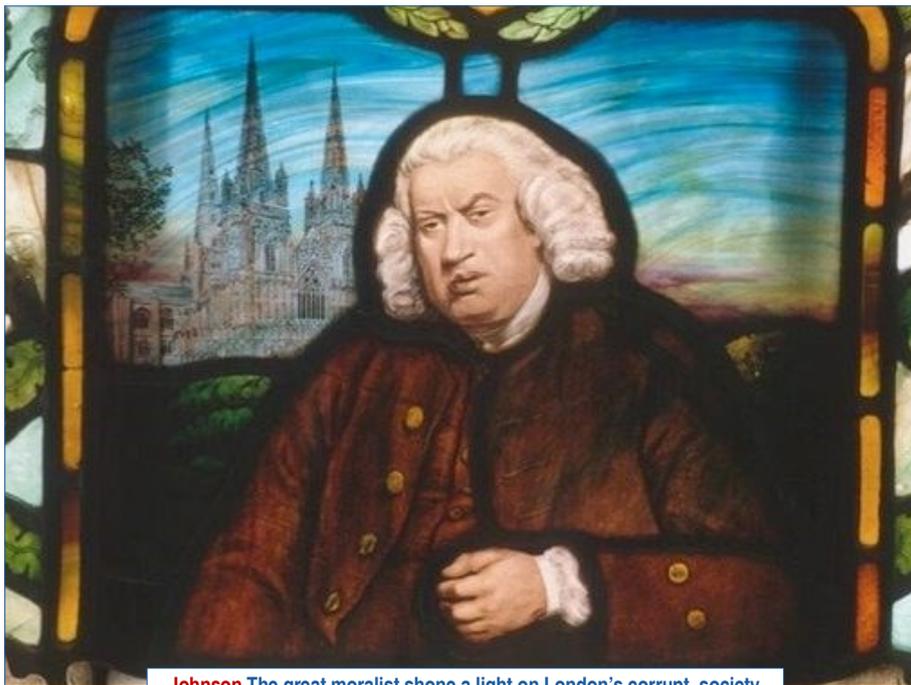
In 1746 he was commissioned to write an authoritative dictionary of English. He completed it nine years later. Even while he was working on this he produced essays, poems and sermons. He became known as the Great Moralist.

Johnson's life and work are celebrated in a stained glass window in Southwark Cathedral, seen on page five. He also has monuments in Westminster Abbey, Saint Paul's Cathedral, London, and Lichfield Cathedral.



Ethelburga Her life is said to have included healing people during the plague

our times



Johnson The great moralist shone a light on London's corrupt society

Octavia Hill (1838 - 1912)

Octavia Hill, born in Wisbech, was her father's eighth daughter, and tenth child. The family moved to Finchley, but she had no schooling. At first she was a beneficiary of a guild for 'distressed gentlewomen' learning glass-painting, but when she was 14 she was put in charge.

Charles Kingsley and F. D. Maurice gave a Christian focus to her socialism. She and a sister began to attend daily morning prayer at Lincoln's Inn, where Maurice was chaplain. Until then, there had been no formal religion in her upbringing. 'It was Mr Maurice who showed me a life in the Creeds, the services and the Bible; who interpreted for me much that was dark and puzzling in life,' she said.

In her spare time she acted as a copyist for John Ruskin. In 1865 he leased three cottages in Marylebone

for tenants with low income. He entrusted Hill with their management, with a challenge to bring the properties into good order, and make a return of just 5%, any other profit being reinvested in the homes.

Through brilliant management, by 1874 she grew the portfolio to 15 schemes, with 3000 tenants. A key policy was a weekly visit, by women,

'When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.'

SAMUEL JOHNSON

to collect the rent. An American admirer described her as 'ruling

over a little kingdom of three thousand loving subjects with an iron sceptre twined with roses'.

In 1884 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners handed over 48 of their slum properties in Southwark, Walworth and Deptford to her keeping, rather than sell the land.

She probably was responsible for five times more social housing than London County Council at the time.

Hill believed that people in town, especially the poor, must have access to green space. She campaigned for the protection of London's parks — what she called the people's 'open air sitting rooms'. She was the first to use the phrase 'Green Belt'. And on a wider canvas, she was one of the original founders of the National Trust.

Octavia Hill's funeral service was held fittingly in Southwark Cathedral in 1912.



Octavia Hill A pioneer of social housing and Green Belt land

Around the Spire

SILVER AWARD – NEXT STOP GOLD!

Putting energy into eco church



Silver Helen Stephens, centre left, presents the team with their award

MORE THAN 150 churches in the Diocese of London have registered as Eco Churches. These include two Gold Award winners, 10 Silver and 48 Bronze — and we have just achieved Silver award status.

Run by the Christian charity, A Rocha UK, Eco Church is an environmental awards scheme that supports and equips churches in expressing care for God's creation.

The scheme was launched in 2016, presenting its first award — a Bronze level award to St Paul's Cathedral. There are now more than 3300 Eco Churches across England and Wales, and by 2030

the Diocese wants every church to be an Eco Church.

Our present team was set up less than three years ago. To receive the awards St James's has to demonstrate environmental attainment across a wide range of areas, including care of buildings and churchyards, energy-saving, recycling, food and lifestyle, worship, preaching and teaching, engagement in communities and the wider world.

St James Piccadilly and St Paul North Marylebone are London's only Gold award winners, but we are nothing if not ambitious!

■ Climate Crisis men's breakfast — see page seven.

Reducing our carbon footprint

TO LEARN about reducing our carbon footprints, the Diocese of London is running a free literacy training project on three Tuesdays, 8, 15 and 22 November, 7.30-9.30pm, on Zoom. It will be led by Derek, the Anglican Creation Care Lead for this part of London, and Professor Sigrun Wagner, from the University of London. To book go to [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search for *Carbon Literacy Course for Dioceses of London and Southwark: Nov 2022*

■ Derek will explain how Christians can bring a distinctive perspective to fighting climate change at the Twickenham Christian Men's Breakfast group. Newcomers are welcome to come along for a delicious hot breakfast from 8.30-10am on Sat 26 Nov at St Margaret's Church, 130 St Margaret's Road, St Margarets, Twickenham, TW1 1RL.

Get a slice of our pizza quiz supper



YOU DON'T NEED to be an egghead to enjoy our fun quiz — just enjoy pizza! The fun night is to raise money for the London Churches Refugee Fund and our link parish in Mozambique. There will also be an auction of some gifts donated by Hampton Hill traders

Teams will compete for glory. Form your own team or leave us to do it. Tickets cost £15 and include pizza, salad and a glass of bubbly. Book now at <https://bit.ly/StJPizzaQuiz> or use the QR code on your mobile phone.



Justice and resurrection



SANDRA WINTERBURN

What makes a hero?

I was watching *DIY SOS* on BBC One this week and the mother of the family whose home had been renovated had looked up the word 'hero'. One definition is 'a person admired for great deeds or fine qualities'.

I have chosen Martha of Bethany as my hero, not because she is perfect, but because she is someone that I identify with. Her deeds might not appear to be 'great', but that is true for most of us.

One of her finer qualities was the faith that she was able to put into words during a period of grief following her brother's death.

Jesus meets with her and her family on several occasions and these are described in the Bible.

Who was Martha?

Martha was a woman who welcomed Jesus into her home in Bethany. In Luke's gospel she is a homemaker, creating a place, alongside her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus, where Jesus feels confident and comfortable to be himself.

Traditionally, she is seen as being the busy sister, rather than the listening sister. She wants Jesus to come to her home and relax, be cared for, be wholeheartedly welcomed.

When someone comes to my home, I want things to be as good as they can be for my visitor. I want to provide a place of welcome, of good food and of peace. And that's where I relate to Martha.

She is described as worried about all the work that has to be done, so much so that she even complains to Jesus that Mary isn't helping her. But Jesus, with a kind word, recognises that Martha is worried and upset about many things.

However, he says Mary, sitting and listening to him, has chosen a better way.

In my life I often find myself pulled in many directions. Sitting reading, listening or contemplating, is much harder for me than being active, organising or planning.

So much so that, although Martha is lovingly rebuked, it's she, rather than Mary, that I can relate to.

But there's more to Martha...

We are told in the gospel of John that Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. What a wonderful thing to be loved by Jesus and to be aware that he loves your whole family.

But when Lazarus was dying, and Jesus knew it, he waited for two days before he set off to visit them.

When Jesus got to Bethany, he found that Lazarus had died several days earlier and had been buried in a cave.

As soon as Martha hears that Jesus has arrived in the village, she's the one who goes out to meet him.

That's when a very significant conversation between Martha and Jesus is recorded in the Bible.

She says to him, 'Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died, yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask.'

Jesus says to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'

She replies to this challenge, 'Yes Lord! I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.' What a statement of faith this is, and it is certainly one that challenges me.

John records that Jesus and many others went to the tomb. Of course, when Jesus asks for the stone to be rolled away it's the ever-practical Martha who says that her brother has been dead for four days and there will be a bad smell!

But Jesus prayed anyway, and then shouted, 'Lazarus come out!'

The man, who had been dead, came out and Jesus told the people to, 'Untie him and let him go,' because he had been wrapped in burial cloths.

Jesus had promised Martha that he was the resurrection and the life, and she saw with her own eyes that her faith in Him was justified.

What an amazing day that must have been for the whole of her family!

What would Martha be doing now?

Maybe Martha would be a priest or a bishop. Possibly an administrator, teacher or doctor.

I visualise her as stuck into her community, fighting for justice, wanting the best for others, highlighting the climate crisis, but all within a faith grounded in knowing that she was personally loved by Jesus and in the hope of the resurrection to come.

The power of a flower



JANET NUNN

Royal visits

There have been many royal visits to the Poppy Factory over the years and Queen Elizabeth II visited four times, the last in 2012. One of the workers remembers that the Queen spoke to everyone at the factory and was very generous with her time.

The patron of the charity is the Queen Consort, and Camilla opened the new visitor centre in 2021.

The new centre is well worth a visit. The factory arranges special tours which include a talk and a film, with time to look at all the interactive displays from the opening of the factory in the 1920s to personal stories of people who have worked at the factory. You can also make your own poppy or try your hand at one of the wreaths.

If you want more information go to their website: poppyfactory.org

The simple red poppy has come to symbolise remembrance in so many ways. When *Punch* magazine published the poem *In Flanders field* in 1915 the poppy

started to represent remembrance and it really took off after World War One, when a French lady, Anne Guerin, began to employ war widows in France to make silk poppies.

Field Marshall Douglas Haig, First Earl Haig, was so impressed with her work that he asked Major George Howson to start a factory in England making poppies.

He received £2,000 to start the factory and opened the doors in 1922. The factory was initially in the Old Kent Road but moved to bigger premises in Richmond in 1926 with the aim of helping ex-servicemen return to work.

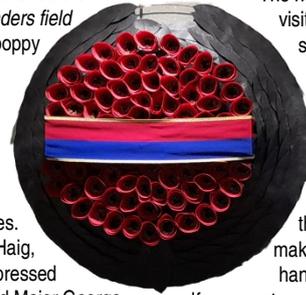
Focus on wreaths

Despite the fact that the individual poppies are now made by machine in Kent, the factory in Richmond still employs 25 full-time workers, concentrating on making all the wreaths that are laid throughout the year all over the world by royalty and service personnel, as well as all those laid on Remembrance Sunday. They make well over 100,000 wreaths a year, each individual to the particular event, regiment or country.

Now helping to find employment

In 2005 the Poppy Factory expanded its work to support veterans and help them to find meaningful and sustainable employment in all sorts of environments, as well as supporting people working in the factory.

This has proved to be a very important progression and I remember seeing a film at the factory about an ex-serviceman who, with their help, managed to obtain a job as a greenkeeper on a golf course. He could cope with this as it was outdoors and working with only a small team of people.



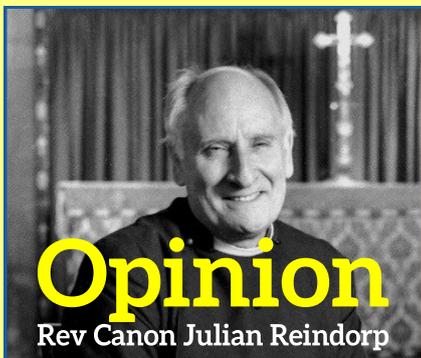
The Queen's wreath

The factory also has on display a wide variety of the wreaths that they make, including all the royal wreaths laid at the Cenotaph.

I never knew that Queen Elizabeth II had a ring of black leaves round her wreath, seen above, in memory of her father, George VI. It will be interesting to see how the wreaths are made for this year's service at The Cenotaph for King Charles III.

No doubt the factory is already making up new wreaths for the occasion.





Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

HEARTFELT CEREMONIAL

Looking back some weeks, mourning the death of the Queen, I gave thanks for her life of service and the meticulous ceremonial funeral, matched by the skill and discipline of all our broadcasters.

I suspect many of us watched more TV than we have for a long time, and were taken by surprise by our range of feelings. As a nine-year-old, I watched the coronation in 1953 and was overwhelmed by the vast procession of armed forces from all over the world — I collected lead soldiers at the time.

Among many, two images of the Queen remain. We are told that until very recently each night she knelt by her bed to say her prayers. And two days before she died she said goodbye at Balmoral to her 14th Prime Minister and then welcomed her 15th.

Her faith and her work ethic were both quite extraordinary. As her private secretary said, 'You gave her the red boxes each night and they were back on her desk at 8am the next morning having been dealt with.'

OUR KING IS WOKE!

One of the features of our new King Charles III is that so many of the issues he has taken up and was often criticised for at the time — '*Charles is mad...he talks to plants*' — have become not just mainstream thinking but vital for our future, and he is often a prophet for our times. Jonathan Porritt, the environmentalist and former chair of Friends of the Earth, said recently, 'Charles knows more about environmental issues than any politician during the Queen's reign.'

The role he played in Cop 26 last year (UN Conference for Climate Change) was widely accepted amongst the world's leaders. What is Woke? I am tempted to say anything that ministers in our present government disagree with, and yet may become vital for our future.

GROWTH v REDISTRIBUTION

This was one of the many unfortunate consequences of the debates about who should be our next Prime Minister. When warned that the richest tenth of households would gain £1800 from her planned National Insurance cut, (the 1.25% tax rise was intended specifically to pay for health and social care) while the poorest gain just £7.66, Liz Truss insisted there had been too much focus on redistribution at the expense of growth. This ignores the fact that numerous economies including Germany, France, the Nordic countries, Australia and New Zealand, are not only more equal than the UK, but richer.

Both are surely necessary and the poorest will suffer most in what may well be another 'winter of discontent' caused by growing inflation and the dramatic rise in energy prices.

GOOD INVESTMENT

Gordon Brown in his recent book, *Seven Ways to Change the World*, points out that the wealthy countries have seen a return of almost £5 for every £1 spent on the global response to the pandemic. If we grew rather than cutting back our overseas aid budget, we would pay for the aid budget many times over.

TOO MANY PRAYERS!

There is some evidence that the late Queen felt, as a child, that she was on the receiving end of too much religious teaching. At the age of 10, when asked by Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang, whether she would like to join him in a walk in the Sandringham gardens, she is said to have responded, 'Yes very much, but please don't tell me anything about God, I know all about him already!'

The following year, she wrote an account of her father's coronation, complaining that 'at the end, the service got rather boring as it was all prayers'.

Staying relevant in changing world



DAVID HETLING

Although The Children's Society was established over 140 years ago, it has worked hard to remain relevant to the times in which it operates. It has local relevance to us in Hampton Hill too, because it began in South London when Sunday School teacher Edward Rudolf responded to the poverty he witnessed around him — and especially how poverty impacted the young people of Victorian society.

Today, the charity is a vocal proponent of young people's rights with a vision to overturn the steady decline in children's wellbeing. It focuses on the most pressing issues facing our youngsters today and raises the profile of the forgotten and ignored challenges that prevent young people from living the fullness of life that God desires for us.

Recent issues that have been given a platform through the work of The Children's Society include:

- **Child trafficking** — the society fights the hostile response of many in the UK to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. Using as an example local hero Mo Farah — who was born Hussein Abdi Kahin and trafficked to this country into a life of domestic servitude — the society demonstrates that providing an outlet to disclose exploitation can build the trust relationships that children need to reach their potential.

- **Mental wellbeing** — as well as campaigning to ensure that mental health is at the top of the Government's agenda, the society provides drop-in centres, support and advice both for young people and for their parents and carers. In addition, the society's Safe Zones team enables young people to explore their identity, seek positive reinforcement and develop a healthy sense of self.



Trafficking Mo Farah recently revealed he was a victim

- **Knife crime** — knife-carrying frequently takes place as a result of coordinated exploitation by organised crime gangs. Through calculated grooming of young people, criminals engender trust that is returned through ever-escalating favours from their victims. The society puts them in contact with positive role models that change the way they view their exploiters.

- **Cost-of-living** — vulnerable families are struggling and their children suffer disproportionately as a result; it is often young people whose physical health is impacted and this has a knock-on effect on their education, their mental health and their relationships.

All of these issues are dealt with on a national scale by The Children's Society — but equally they are problems that we hear a lot about locally. This demonstrates the real and present dangers experienced by young people everywhere and, in some cases, in places very close to us.

Help us to help them

Our long-standing commitment in supporting the work of The Children's Society is to alleviate the struggles that many young people face daily. Join us for our Christingle service on 4 December. For more about the charity go to: www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs.

Funding for Milo



WE HAVE SOME good news from Milo. The government has approved seven funded posts at St Luke's hospital: one doctor, two nurses, a dental therapist, a pharmacist, a lab technician and a radiographer.

Dr Benedict Sandagila has filled all the posts apart from the radiographer (there is a shortage nationally and, anyway, they don't have x-ray equipment as yet!) They now need to raise about £1300 for dental equipment.

It is really good news that the government is finally recognising and supporting the hospital.

REGISTERS

SEPTEMBER

FUNERALS

- 5 Robert Bruce Simester, 82, Long Ditton
- 21 Conway Richard Gerard Douglas Carmody, 83, Hampton Hill
- 21 Vera Maud Eaton, 97, Hampton
- 27 Lynn Beverley Mary Bellamy, 67, Hampton Hill

INTERMENTS OF ASHES

- 2 John Howard Birch, 86, Hampton Hill
- 16 Francis James Brunt, 68, Kentish Town



Friendships near and far

Ann's childhood home was in Harrow Weald, in a house her maternal grandfather bought during the Metroland building boom of the 1930s. Her mother lived there for 72 years until two weeks before she died. Ann went to the Sacred Heart Grammar School in Wealdstone and then on to Brunel University and a career with IBM. The purchase of a flat in Hampton Hill in 1982 was the beginning of her attachment to St James's Church and she has lived in the area ever since.

1 Lifelong friend

I and my brothers had a very happy childhood and my maternal grandmother lived with us in my early years. We all loved nanny and are sad we never knew our grandfather. Our friends were always welcome and my special friend, Karen, pictured right, started school the same day as me, pictured left, when we were almost five. We were in the same class throughout our school years.

2 Baby brother

I was thrilled when Michael was born. I was eight and Peter eleven and my mother, at the age of 45, coped valiantly with a new baby and her ageing mother. I was apparently partly responsible for Michael's arrival as one of my school friends had a baby sibling and I kept telling my mother that I would love one too!

3 All Saints, Harrow Weald

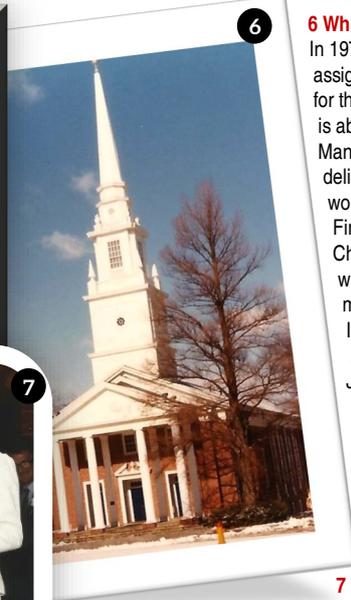
Many of my mother's relatives were baptised, married and buried at All Saints, and my parents' ashes are there too. I always visit the churchyard when I go to Harrow Weald. My family were not regular churchgoers, but we children were all baptised and I was confirmed there. As the vicarage was very near our home, we spent many a happy hour playing with the vicarage children. My Catholic school was chosen because my mother had been there in the 1920s and it definitely played a part in my faith journey.

4 Norway

Having greatly enjoyed some family holidays in Scotland, in 1967 we embarked on our first holiday abroad – to Norway – taking our car on the ferry from Harwich. We followed a pre-planned route up the eastern side, before heading back south through the fjord country. Thanks to car troubles, we met Liv, by chance, on a train and have been friends ever since. After Liv married, she had five children and worked as a school teacher. There have been many reunions and we all feel more like family than friends.

5 IBM

Throughout my degree I was sponsored by IBM and spent three work placements at Hursley Park, near Winchester. I had a Honda 90 motorbike to get around and remember my first morning's journey to Hursley in the pouring rain. Back in the 1970s punched cards were used to submit programs to mainframe computers – how things have changed. After graduating I worked on airline systems for the next 24 years. I love travel and knowing people in



6 White Plains

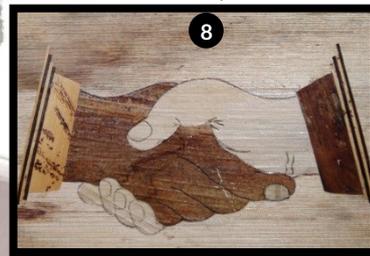
In 1978 I went on an assignment to White Plains for three years. White Plains is about 25 miles north of Manhattan, a city that still delights me. Thanks to a work colleague I attended First White Plains Baptist Church (another church with a spire) where I made many friends. I was lucky to share an apartment with a Jewish lady from Brooklyn, just out of college, and she and her husband have invited me to the weddings of their children.

7 Paul

In 1987 I went to work on a lengthy project at British Airways. Three years later, we worked through an entire night to ensure the upgraded system was ready to handle flights in the morning. The project's success was a highlight of my working life and there was the added bonus of getting to know Paul. When we were married by Brian Leathard at St James's in 1993, the hall was being built and we had to use the west porch doors. It was lovely to marry in a church where we were known.

8 Africa

The handshake is a bamboo leaf plaque given to me in Rwanda. My interest in Africa was nourished at St James's thanks to Hannah Stanton and the parish connection with Milo hospital in Tanzania, but I was in my fifties before I got first-hand experience. I made several visits to Tanzania and Rwanda and am blessed to have ongoing friendships that keep me aware of daily life, with all its struggles and joys. I also know a special couple in Malawi, who started a charity to help refugees and they have taken me to the huge Dzaleka Camp outside Lilongwe.



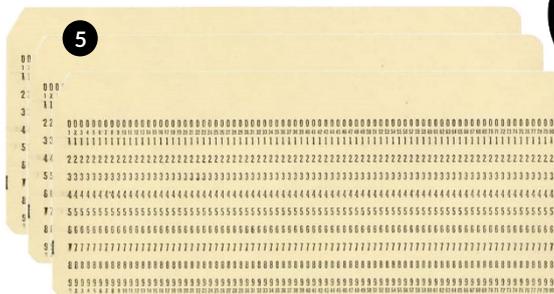
9 Fairtrade

The Fairtrade Mark is a reminder of my concern for the developing world. I was very involved with the Jubilee 2000 campaign for debt cancellation and then Trade Justice and Make Poverty History. It is so important to try and influence policy makers and the campaigns did have some success. Knowing the importance of



For Ann Peterken, her life has been marked by lifelong friendships, a love of travel, especially to Africa, and an overarching concern for the developing world and for the marginalised at home and abroad.

other countries, but climate change means we all need to think much more carefully about flying.



trade in helping poorer communities, I ran a Traidcraft stall at St James's with Catherine Gash for 14 years. The craft items were as popular as the food and Catherine and I continue to place orders for our own use.