

DEC 2023—JAN 2024 VICTORIAN CARDS

SPIRE



St James
Hampton Hill

HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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A
Happy
Christmas
is on the cards

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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 Mondays (his day off).

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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 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 labrador, Ruby.

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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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FROM THE EDITOR

Christmas has been with us for some time – if you go by the shops – but as you read this magazine we are fast approaching its real meaning. Details of all the events can be found on the page opposite.

In this issue, Catherine Gash looks at the origins of Christmas cards. Whilst more of us are sending digital cards or giving the money saved to charity, I still value them – despite the postage costs! I treasure the Italian cards my father sent me during the Second World War. Cards written by hand are so much more personal.

Elsewhere, steam train enthusiast Josh Webb, who works at Swanage Railway and volunteers at Hampton and Kempton, writes about the special trips they both run at Christmas.

There are also the light displays at Kew and Hampton Court which all ages can enjoy.

The Spire team wishes all our readers a peaceful and happy Christmas and looks forward to 2024.

Best Wishes

Janet

Editor



Cover photos: Three examples of Victorian Christmas cards that began the tradition

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 enjoy regularly reading it, we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs. Bank transfers to: 40-52-40, 00032595, Use Ref SPIRE. Cheques payable to the PCC of St James's Church, Hampton Hill, and sent to the Spire Appeal c/o the Church Office (see below).

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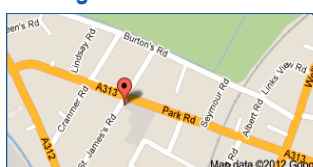
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Finding us



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.

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Clerical Capers



'We continue the carol service with new choir member Nigel's interpretation of *Silent Night*...'

Jesus is more than just a Christmas decoration



DEREK WINTERBURN

The 'Jesus' at the centre of the Christmas story that the Church tells year after year is a baby, named Jesus. For all the colourful extra details that the centuries have added, such as innkeepers and camels, the baby, Jesus, is the *sine qua non* (the essential thing).

Top Ten name

'Jesus' was not a rare boy's name in first century Palestine (perhaps in the top ten), as it is a version of the Old Testament's hero of faith, Joshua. However, both tellings of the nativity story in the Bible make it clear that the name 'Jesus' was selected by his parents, at the direction of the angel. Matthew's Gospel in particular makes it clear that 'Jesus' was chosen because of its meaning.

In British culture we pay little attention to the original meaning of a person's name. Only this week I was curious about an unusual name, and found it to be derived from the Old English word for *people's field*. I don't think the child's parents chose the name for its meaning!

A cultural thing

On the other hand, there is a young person in Mozambique who is called 'Welcome' because she was born shortly after I visited her church. She was named

to mark our arrival. Other cultures pick children's names more knowingly with the meaning in mind.

This was the case with Mary and Joseph. They chose a name that meant 'Yahweh (God) saves'. The gospel writer underlines this: 'You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Of course, it can never be known how Mary and Joseph understood those words. However, one clue might be in the words that Luke tells us that Mary sang a little

The birth of Jesus signals that God takes the mixed history of humanity as read, and decides to do something about it.

later. She sings about the established order being overturned and God showing mercy to his children, so keeping his promises to their ancestors.

Jesus saves

Other writers in the New Testament, and since, have explored intellectually other aspects of 'saving.' Countless Christians testify to how they have experienced salvation: 'My chains fell off, my heart was free.' Still others have taken up Mary's hope and, for example, worked to fill the 'hungry with good things' (over half the food banks in the UK are run by churches.)

Not managing is okay

So at the heart of the Christmas story is a baby boy named 'God saves'. Too often we prize being self-sufficient, managing things well, being in a better place this year than last year... But the Christmas message says 'Just stop for a moment: things aren't *that* great are they?'

Someone might still be struggling with their health (even in the 21st century!), another might be dealing with discrimination (even in modern Britain!), another is burdened by shame or guilt (even with positive psychology!) ...and then when we talk about worsening injustice in society and long-running wars...

Peacemaker

The birth of Jesus, that we celebrate at Christmas, signals that God takes the mixed history of humanity as read, and decides to do something about it. Matthew also gives Jesus the title 'God With Us.'

Christians believe that in Jesus, God came and lived amongst us. And acted to save, to rescue us. He did that in multiple ways, for example: modelling a way of peace-making and community building, offering forgiveness from God, dying shamefully to defeat death and offer the hope of wholeness and resurrection.

Things could be better

But all that begins only when we accept that we are not quite the success we would like to pretend we are. There is much good in society, much in you, and me — but we are not beyond reproach.

At Christmas God says, 'Here I am, right with you. Not just as a decoration but here to work, even to save. Will you let me?'



Sundays (not 24 Dec)

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am (not 3 Dec)

Livestreamed on Facebook.

Together 3:30pm (not 3, 24 Dec)

Our shorter, all-age service, is at 3:30pm, making way for Messy Church once a month.

Messy Church 3:30pm 21 Jan

Christingle/Advent

Sunday 3 December

All Age Service 10am

Make and take home your own Christingle candle at this family service.

Choral Evensong 4pm

The choir leads a service for Advent Sunday.

Mondays

Ark Playgroup 10am-12pm

(Term time: not 25 Dec, 1 Jan) £3 for the first child, £1 for any others. Christmas Party on 18 Dec.

Hearing Aid Clinic 1-3pm

Free NHS drop-in service — new tubes, batteries
Clinic runs 1st and 3rd Mondays (starts 15 Jan)

Tuesdays

Connections Café 10:30-12:30

(19 Dec only. Weekly again from 2 Jan)

Join us for coffee, cake and conversation, plus NHS Hearing Aid Clinic (moves to Mon from Jan)

Wednesday Group

Book of Revelation 7:30pm 6, 20 Dec

Scarlett & Cynthia's Carols

Friday 1 December 6pm

Community event in aid of cancer charities

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 17 December 6pm

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24 December

Holy Communion (said) 9:30am

The usual 8am service moves to 9:30am

Messy Christmas 3pm & 4:30pm

Two identical children's carol / crib services for you to choose from. The perfect way for your children to learn about the Nativity story.

Christmas Communion 11:30pm

Christmas Day

Monday 25 December

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Livestreamed on Facebook

A few words mean



CATHERINE GASH

Do you still send Christmas cards? For me, the giving and receiving of cards is one of the greatest pleasures in the weeks before Christmas. Yes, writing all the cards, adding just enough news to be interesting but not boring, is a bit of a chore but when the reciprocal cards arrive it's all worth it. As someone once said, 'It's a sad house indeed that has no Christmas cards displayed.'

Christmas missives have been popular for centuries – even the Romans wrote seasonal greetings to each other – and the earliest recorded instance of wishing 'Merry Christmas' in a letter was in the mid-1500s.

The first known Christmas card was sent in 1611 by Michael Maier to James I and his son, the Prince of Wales. It was a very large, hand-made affair and definitely not a commercial product!



Greetings Many of us value giving and receiving cards, with a personal message

How it all began

However, the face of Christmas was transformed in 1843 when Sir Henry Cole, a senior civil servant, didn't have time to write Christmas letters to all his friends and acquaintances and decided to send a card instead.

Sir Henry, pictured right, was an energetic and enthusiastic innovator. He wrote books on art and published children's books, as well as helping to organise the Great Exhibition, and was instrumental in setting up the Royal Albert Hall, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the Royal College of Music. He also introduced the Penny Post and may have designed the world's first stamp, the Penny Black.

As a patron of the arts, Sir Henry



asked a member of the Royal Academy, John Calcott Horsley, to design a Christmas card for him. It bore the greeting *A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You*, with a picture of a convivial family gathering raising a toast. Panels on each side depicted acts of charity to the poor. The design,

which was printed on stiff card and coloured by hand, so impressed Sir Henry that he had 1000 printed and sold those he didn't need for a shilling each. There were some objections to the design, however, as it showed children being encouraged to drink red wine!

Affordable postage

The Penny Post had made communication more affordable and was a boon for families living further apart with the advent of industrialisation, so gradually the idea of sending Christmas cards caught on.

In the 1860s, colour printing became much cheaper and the habit of sending cards spread to Europe and America.

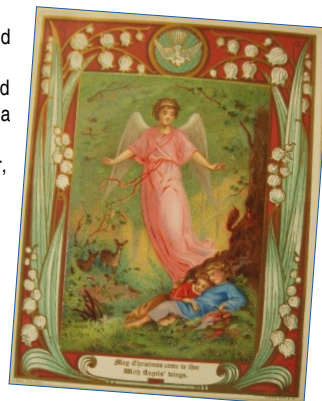
Early British cards seldom showed winter or

Many of us are busy writing Christmas cards to send far and wide. Like many traditions, they started 180 years ago with the Victorians. These days the stamp can cost more than the card, and many predicted their future was doomed. But we still expect to send over 100 million cards and, as Catherine Gash explains, perhaps it is the personal touch of a handwritten card that keeps the tradition alive.

being produced using the chromolithography process of printing. Gradually, the beautifully crafted, elaborate Victorian-style cards disappeared, and the industry standard was finally established by the Hall Brothers (later to become Hallmark Cards) in 1913, who introduced folded cards in envelopes.

The first personalised card was sent from Scotland in 1891, featuring a cover picture of its sender, the world-famous female sharpshooter Annie Oakley! She was touring Scotland with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and obviously wanted to keep in touch with her friends (and public) back home.

Christmas cards with a religious theme were less common before the early twentieth century, and have never outsold the secular alternatives.

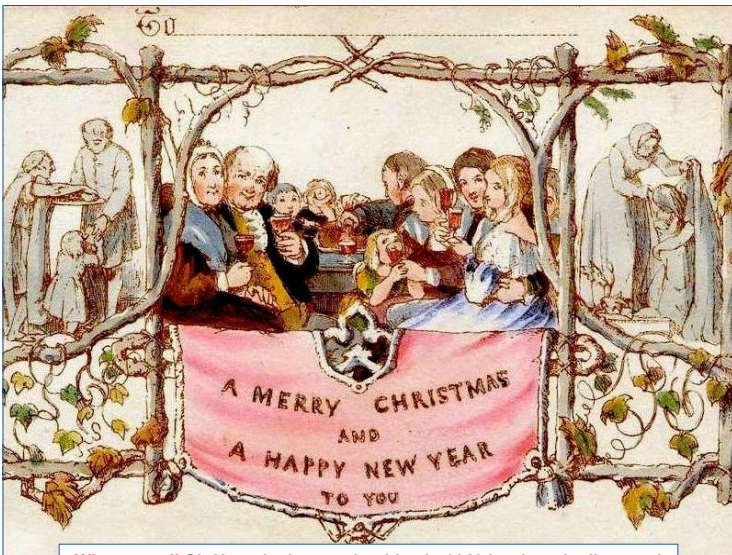


Religious cards, like this one from 1870, were in the minority © V&A

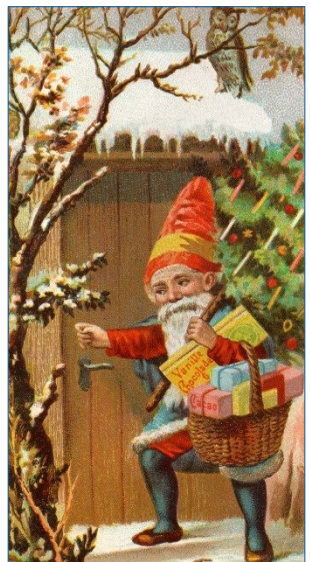
religious themes, instead depicting flowers and humorous or sentimental images of children and animals. New designs would sometimes be reviewed in the national press.

Critical of the 'social evil'

In 1870 the ha'penny stamp was introduced, which greatly increased the number of people who could afford to send cards. However, the cards were not universally popular, with a letter to The Times in 1877 calling them 'a social evil!' By the 1880s, five million cards a year were



What a card! Sir Henry's time-saving idea in 1843 is where it all started



everything



Morale booster Troops receiving a Christmas card from the King and Queen in 1914

From the front line

The demand for Christmas cards increased greatly with the advent of two World Wars, as Christmas was a time when separation from loved ones was most keenly felt.

Cards sent and received by soldiers helped ease the pressure of life on the front line and provided a quick way of keeping in touch.

During the First World War, decorative cards were hugely popular with soldiers. Many were embroidered silk, mounted on stiff card, with romantic motifs or local landmarks and these were highly sought-after. They were produced by out of work French civilians and refugees and some had a silk pocket which could contain a small written note. Patriotic themes also made an appearance, especially in World War Two, with large numbers of cards sent by both sides of the conflict.

White House card. Businesses large and small also often send cards to their customers as a way

to develop general goodwill – we have certainly received a Christmas card from our local Curry House!

Many people like to send charity Christmas cards as a fundraising boost for good causes. The well-known UNICEF cards programme was

launched in 1949, using selected artwork from internationally known artists.

In the past we have had a sale of cards in aid of various charities here at St James's.

From the beginning, Christmas cards have been avidly collected. Queen Mary's large collection is now housed at the British Museum. Of Henry Cole's original 1000 cards, 12 still exist today in private collections.

In the UK we still send millions of

Christmas cards, although sales are decreasing every year, probably due to rising postal costs and the ease of sending E-cards.

Recycle or make your own!

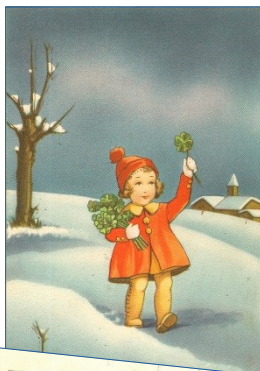
The environmental impact of printing, mailing and delivering cards needs to be considered too. The conservation charity Woodland Trust runs an annual campaign to encourage recycling of Christmas cards, and last year's cards can always be recycled into next year's cards by making your own!

Homemade cards have been popular since the 19th century, they are cheaper and avoid some of the commercialism of Christmas. I can recommend potato printing as a fun way for children to make their own cards (if you don't mind some mess!)

Whether you continue to send cards or not, let me wish you all, in the words of Sir Henry Cole: *A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



Modern? No, from the 1890s



*My dear Uncle
A Happy Christmas
to you & family. I
shall be thinking of you
all the time.
all my love,
Daddy
xxxxx*

Janet Nunn's card from her father, serving in Italy during World War Two.

Victoria made it 'official'

'Official' Christmas cards began with Queen Victoria in the 1840s and have continued ever since, generally with a portrait of family members. This custom was taken up in other countries, too, although it wasn't until 1953 that President Eisenhower issued the first official

Around the Spire

Christmas is a busy time as...

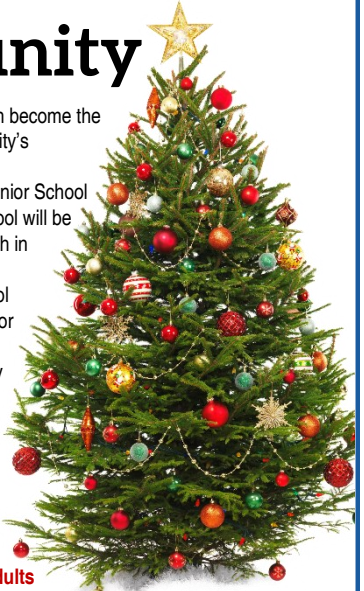
Church focus of community

THE CHURCH will once again become the focus of much of the community's celebrations for Christmas.

Pupils from Hampton Hill Junior School and Lady Eleanor Holles School will be holding their services in church in the run-up to the end of term.

Hampton Hill Nursery School will also be using the church for their nativity show. The Ark Playgroup will have their party on 18 December.

This year sees the return of a charity carol service on 1 December in memory of Scarlett and Cynthia in aid of various cancer charities.



Services for children and adults

Our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 17 December is always a popular occasion in the run-up to the big day itself.

There will be a 'Messy Christmas' with two children's carol services on Christmas Eve afternoon, when along with familiar songs and craft activities, the children help to prepare the crib.

Children may like to come dressed as their favourite nativity characters. Later we hold a Christmas Night Communion.

On the morning itself there will be both a 8am said service, and at 9:30am a family communion to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Full details on page 3.

Local Scouts claim UK hotshots title



ALTHOUGH a smaller team than in previous years, the 3rd Hampton Hill Scouts excelled at the national target shooting competition at Bisley — coming away junior UK champions. The Duke of Connaught's trophy, the largest shield, above, and 100 years old, was awarded to a team of three Scouts with the cumulative best scores in rifle, pistol and field target. In addition, the Junior Under 14 team won several individual awards as well as the Team Pistol Gold and the Team Rifle Silver, both trophies assessed on the best three youth shooters on a team plus one adult. Well done to Wend Williamson who led the team and also took a bronze in the adult knockout competition.

Humble resting places



Pipe Conan Doyle's grave with Sherlock's pipe at All Saints Minstead



JANET NUNN

written there, and it remained her main home until she died.

She had one daughter, Rosalind, and her grandson unveiled a statue of Christie on a bench in Wallingford.



Christie was made a Dame by Queen Elizabeth II in 1971.

Her characters Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple live on with the stories regularly shown on TV. She wrote 66 books, 14 short stories and *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest-running play.

In 1938 she bought Greenaway in Devon on the banks of the River Dart. Agatha was born in Torquay and had always wanted a holiday home there. It is now owned by the National Trust, and is a well worth a visit.

T E Lawrence

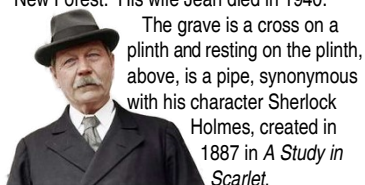
St Nicholas's Church, Moreton, a small village near Wareham, Dorset, has beautiful engraved windows by Laurence Whistler. Its second claim to fame is in the churchyard, where T E Lawrence (of Arabia) is buried.

Lawrence was a British Archaeologist, army officer, diplomat and writer (*The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*), who became renowned for his role in the Arab Revolt and the Sinai and Palestine Campaign against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War.

He retired to his cottage at Clouds Hill (now owned by the National Trust). He was killed in a motorbike accident in 1935, aged 46. His great friend Winston Churchill, devastated by his death, attended the funeral.

There is a full-size effigy of T E Lawrence in St Martin's Church, Wareham, but his grave is in this small churchyard at Moreton.

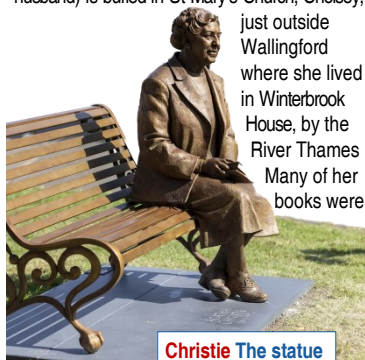
There are always fresh flowers on the grave, but no one is sure who puts them there.



Doyle, born in Edinburgh, was married twice and had five children, but as none of them had their own children there are no descendants. Doyle was knighted by King Edward VII in 1902.

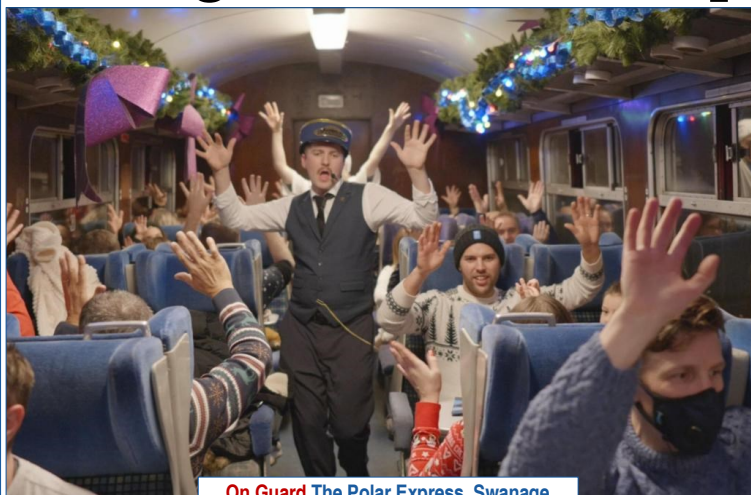
Dame Agatha Christie

Agatha Mary Clarissa Mallowan (from second husband) is buried in St Mary's Church, Cholsey, just outside Wallingford where she lived in Winterbrook House, by the River Thames. Many of her books were

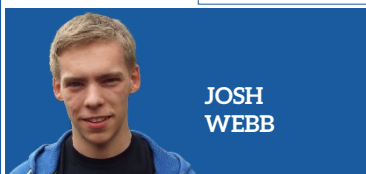


Christie The statue in Wallingford

Santa gets all steamed up



On Guard The Polar Express, Swanage



JOSH WEBB

have been told that my interest in steam engines started when, aged two, my Grandpa bought me a Thomas the Tank engine train set. It was a simple loop with one engine, but it wasn't long before extra track was needed for more complicated layouts and Thomas' friends.

Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway

My enthusiasm for steam engines continued and as soon as I was old enough I became a volunteer at the Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway. This is a heritage narrow gauge railway where the locomotive, *Darent*, built in 1903 runs in a loop pulling the recently restored Devonshire coaches.

The railway operates on Sundays from March to October. There are also a number of popular events during the year, including Superhero and Dinosaur days, and Halloween.

Every year the build up to Christmas can be enjoyed with the Santa Specials. Children can meet Santa and his elves and ride behind the engine, decorated in festive lights. Children receive a Christmas gift and the ticket price includes a drink and mince pie. This year the specials are being held on the weekends of 9/10 and 16/17 December. Go to: www.hamptonkemptonrailway.org.uk.

Swanage Railway

A few years ago, I also became a volunteer at Swanage Railway on the Isle of Purbeck. It operates full-size steam and diesel engines on

a five-mile route from Norden to Swanage, through the beautiful Dorset countryside.

There is a station at Corfe Castle, where you can stop off to visit the atmospheric ruined castle and there's a sandy beach to enjoy at Swanage.

When a paid role as a steam locomotive fitter became available it was too good an opportunity to miss and I am now working there full time, fixing and maintaining a fleet of engines.

Christmas is always a special time, and this year, the Polar Express will be running from 17 November-30 December. Characters from the book and film will be joining passengers on their journey to the North Pole.

Everyone is encouraged to wear pyjamas (as in the book) to add to the overall magical experience. Booking is highly recommended. Go to: swanagerailway.co.uk.

And on 6 & 7 January we have the Winter Warm Up, where steam and diesel locos will be hauling passenger and freight trains.

MWB No.4

I have taken my passion for steam locomotives one stage further and I am in the process of building a replica narrow gauge engine – a Kerr Stuart engine MWB no.4.

This engine is a replica of those that ran on the Metropolitan Water Board railway at the Hampton & Kempton Water works between 1915 and 1947. It may take some years, but I am looking forward to seeing this engine run in its original setting at the HKWR.

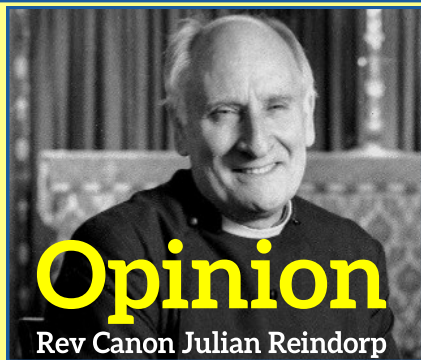
I have set up Webb Locos, a limited company, found all the original drawings (87 of them!) and begun construction of parts, including frames, axles and wheels.

If you would like to find out more or help out with MWB No.4, please visit my website webblocs.co.uk. There is a lot more information there on the project and I post updates on the build. It would be great if you could visit.



Now and then The HKWR Santa Express and the original MWB No.4





Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

THE HOLY LAND

Two voices have helped me in the recent overwhelming tragedies and cruelties in the Holy Land. Mosab Yousef is the eldest son of one of the founders of Hamas, the party that has controlled Gaza since 2006. His book, *Son of Hamas*, describes his journey through fighting, capture, working for the Israeli secret service and finally becoming a Christian and living in America; and how he wrestles with Jesus' words, 'Love your enemy'. On the final page he says, 'As long as we continue to search for enemies anywhere but inside ourselves, there will always be a Middle East problem... It is a cliché, but it's still true: hurt people, unless they are healed, hurt people.'

STANDING TOGETHER

The second voice is Alon-Lee, an Israeli, the national co-director of Standing Together, Israel's grassroots Jewish-Arab movement. While he recognises the horror of the 7 Oct attacks and its effects, he writes, 'Since 2005, there have been 16 major military operations launched by Israel against the civilian population in Gaza. None of them has brought safety and security to Israelis or Palestinians. None has laid the ground for any kind of peaceful settlement — rather, each only planted the seed for the next one.'

He goes on, 'The only way to safeguard the lives and wellbeing of both peoples, to protect innocent lives of both peoples, is through negotiations toward an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, based on UN resolutions, that will end the occupation and secure the freedom, justice and independence for both peoples. I stand in solidarity with Palestinians. I want it for myself, and my family — it is the real Israeli interest.'

The motto of *Standing Together* is 'Where there is struggle, there is hope.' And much of this was echoed by two fathers, one from each community, now friends, who had both had children killed in past conflicts. They spoke together on the BBC programme *The Moral Maze*. For us as a country we have historic responsibilities for the Holy Land.

ENDING FOOD BANKS

The recent Labour Party conference had a policy to build 1.5 million homes and for 70% of people to own their homes. But, like the other main parties, why was there no policy to end food banks? The CEO of the Trussell Trust, the leading foodbank provider, and the CEO of the Rowntree Foundation, the leading researchers in this field, are recommending an 'Essentials Guarantee'. Their analysis shows that a single adult needs c. £120 a week for essentials — food, utilities, etc. People on Universal Credit (45% of whom are in work) are entitled to £85 a week, but many get less because they are repaying debts from their initial five-week wait to get the payments. Millions of people are using food banks, and numbers increasing, which in the sixth-richest country in the world is surely a disgrace.

A JEWISH JOKE

An Anglican priest, a Roman Catholic priest and a Rabbi were discussing happiness. The Anglican said, 'Happiness is when a young couple get married.' The Catholic said, 'Happiness is when a young couple get married, have a baby and they bring the baby to church for baptism.' The Rabbi said, 'Real happiness is when the children have left home and the dog has died!'

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

It is time once more for my favourite Christmas blessing. 'O God, you who are the God of a thousand faces, yet whom nothing can reveal so completely as the face of the child in Bethlehem, continue in our lives the mystery of his birth, so that we may become for all those we meet a revelation of your love, and the blessing of God...' Happy Christmas, loyal readers.

Building links is challenging!



DEREK WINTERBURN

St James's has supported the Anglican Churches in Mozambique and Angola for many years. ALMA is the organisation that links the Diocese of London and the dioceses in these Portuguese-speaking southern African countries.

St James's has contributed regularly to appeals from ALMA. Last Lent we gave £600 though ALMA to the Diocese of Nampula to support their ministry among people who have suffered severe trauma, during the insurgency in Cabo Delgado.

Language and shaky technology

A closer relationship with our Mozambican sisters and brothers is promised by a parish to parish link. However the language differences and the trials of (even modern) communication make sustaining a living link tricky.

I first went to Mozambique in 2005 to visit the then new link with my previous church. In all I joined five times on the various visits that the church made. The trips were not holidays: travel was long and arduous, and accommodation rudimentary. Nevertheless, those who went were greeted as family, and gained enormous insights into 'everyday life' in rural Africa, and the challenges that the church faces.

These visits made the link come alive, even for those who stayed in Hampton and could never visit. One continuing project, Good Seeds, sprang from an idea from the local people and has been managed in the UK by Fiona Rowett (Anne and Pip's daughter). With the help of



On loan Father Maurilio, left, with chalice and paten

the local secondary school, the Hampton church funds fees, uniforms and stationery for young people (often orphans) who would otherwise drop out. The local church provides mentoring.

St Luke's is a large parish

St James's has made a link with St Luke's Mercuburi in the new diocese of Nampula. The parish is large, and beyond the congregation in the principal town there are many smaller churches in outlying districts. There is one priest, Father Maurilio Namilo; he has a wife and two small children. The church building in Mercuburi is small. They are building a larger one, but don't yet have the money to complete it. Maurilio is often away from home visiting the outlying churches and he has no motorised transport.

We tried to communicate through Zoom, but the connection was poor and we lost our translator. I now use WhatsApp and Google Translate.

The Bishop of Nampula, the Rt Rev Manuele Ernesto, stayed in Hampton Hill in the summer. He encouraged us to build the link. One outcome was that we lent St Luke's a chalice and paten for communion services.

We will continue to share news and pray for one another. And if you would like to be involved please speak to me, or Laurence Sewell.



Visit Bishop Manuele on a trip to London

Janet Jeffries remembered

JANET JEFFRIES, who died recently, aged 84, had been a member of St James's for over 50 years. A deeply spiritual person, she was active in church life, as a server and reader.

She received communion at home when ill-health prevented her attending in person. This continued when she moved to St Mary's House, a care home in Hampton.

Janet was an active member of the Spire team for nine years, regularly writing about life's challenges and the importance of prayer. She was also a great supporter of the annual parish quiet day.

She will be sadly missed by her husband Brian, children Helena and Robert, her two grandchildren and her many long-standing friends.

Lesley Mortimer



REGISTERS

OCTOBER

FUNERALS

- 13 Iris Gwendoline Mansell, 90, Hampton
- 23 Karin Fairweather, 95, Surbiton
- 25 Barbara Alice Arnold, 94, Hampton Hill

INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 7 Kenneth Garton Price, 89, Teddington





SIMPLE PLEASURES

The things we do when we take time out

The great exploration



Paul & Ann Peterken

FAMILY TREE (Ann)

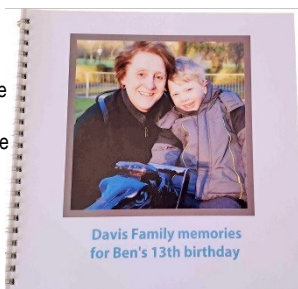


I spend many a happy hour expanding my knowledge of my ancestors with online search packages, which make research so much easier than my early trips to the Public Records Office. I have especially enjoyed meeting some second cousins for the first time

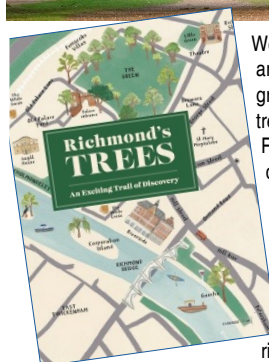
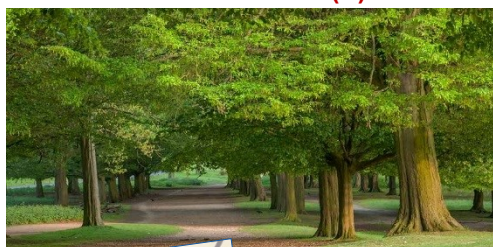
and finding out what happened to my third great uncles who emigrated to Michigan USA in 1857. I have not yet found any skeletons in the closet, but one never knows!

PHOTO BOOKS (A)

My family history interest prompted me to scan all the photos I had inherited to make a book, a much better way to enjoy and share them. I then did likewise with my collection of photos and slides from pre-digital camera days. I get a lot of pleasure in creating a new book, sometimes for a special trip or person. Such books are excellent for anyone who lives in care, reminding everyone of a full life lived.



RICHMOND TREE TRAIL (A)



We are blessed to live in an area of London with many green spaces and magnificent trees. While walking up Richmond Hill in August I discovered that some of the trees had discs with a number, as well as a name. They are part of a special two-mile-long trail that starts on Richmond Green, runs along the river and ends in the Terrace



Gardens. There are 30 labelled trees and it is a lovely way to increase one's knowledge of trees and local history.

THEATRE (A)

While I enjoy reading or watching a good film, it is live theatre that reaches me in a special way. I will always remember the impact of Peter Schaffer's play *Equus*, pictured, in the 1970s, a performance of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* in the 1990s and the first time I saw *Jesus Christ Superstar*. There have been many other productions over the years. Visiting the theatre can, of course, be an expensive treat, but special offers sometimes help.



EXPLORING TOWNS (Paul)



All towns have interesting buildings and neighbourhoods, and exploring on foot is always a pleasure. Sometimes a particular goal will take me to unexpected areas – so seeking out a church, or a pub or an old railway station can lead me to discover a fine building or an impressive townscape. And always there is the attraction of finding out what's round the next corner. I have enjoyed exploring in small towns and large. London seems to be an inexhaustible source of new and delightful things; and COVID made me thoroughly explore the mile or two around my home.

MAPS (P)

I was taught how to read Ordnance Survey maps when I was a child, and wherever I go I want a map of the surroundings so that I know where I am. They can be used to plan a visit, while looking about you, and to recall places you have been. Today's maps-on-your-phone are great



guides, showing you exactly where you are. I have discovered the National Library of Scotland web site, where old OS maps of a hundred or a hundred and fifty years ago are available, an invaluable tool if you are looking at the history.

FINDING OUT (P)



The Web gives me the enormous pleasure of being able to find out all kinds of information. Almost anything that arises can be answered. There is an unimaginable amount of material, and the search engines have the astonishing ability to find what you want. I saw *Peterkin Custard* in faded paint on a gable end in Wandsworth – Google told me the history of the firm involved! But it also ruins pub conversations.

PROBLEM-SOLVING (P)

There is a definite pleasure to solving a problem. I have encountered many computer program bugs, and the process of defining the issue, researching the background, and (mostly) correcting the problem is very satisfying. The more artificial problems – crosswords, newspaper puzzles, spotting the villain in an old-fashioned whodunnit – also give me a lift when solved.

