

OCTOBER 2023 HARVEST FESTIVAL

SPIRE



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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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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 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

It is hard to think about autumn when we are in the middle of a heatwave, but schools and universities have started a new term and the holiday season is over.

Erica certainly had an adventure at the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea (see page six). I remember going to the World Guide Jamboree in Windsor Great Park in 1957, attended by a very young Queen Elizabeth II.

Our centrespread focuses on music in worship and is written by our organist, Thom Stanbury. We also pay tribute to Geoffrey Bowyer, a previous organist, who died recently.

Nicky Hetling writes about her *Simple Pleasures* on page 8. She really enjoyed writing it. Perhaps you will feel inspired to write the next one!

We will welcome Derek Winterburn back from study leave at Harvest. We will be collecting for The Upper Room. Sadly, it is no longer just those without jobs or homes who go hungry. Many in work are struggling to make ends meet. Do join us on 8 October.

Best Wishes
Janet



Cover photo: Food poverty now affects people in jobs as well as the homeless (see page 5)

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).

I cost £10 A YEAR*

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Finding us



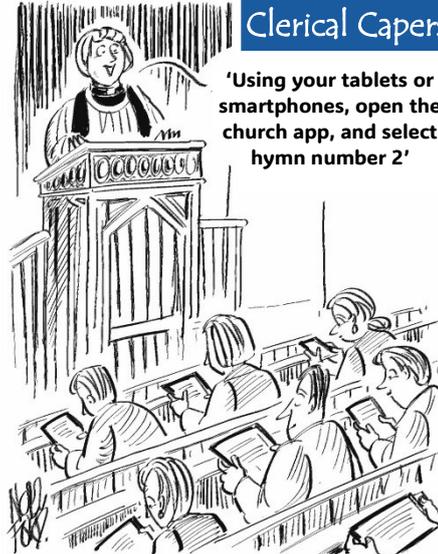
The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is between the church and vicarage. There is ample unrestricted parking. Buses stopping nearby include the R68, R70 and 285.

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Clerical Capers



'Using your tablets or smartphones, open the church app, and select hymn number 2'

Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny.

A journey founded on hope should be shared



TIM MARWOOD

the teaching of Jesus Christ was given to his followers as he travelled from place to place over the final three years of his life.

There is a long tradition of people learning as they make a journey together, sometimes referred to as a pilgrimage, an idea that is increasing in popularity. The abilities of the Windrush Generation were not always acknowledged, but 75 years on there is an opportunity to reflect on what has been learnt from their experience, their journey.

As a priest I am fortunate to have opportunities to listen to people of all ages. Sometimes these listening moments are planned in a church, a school, or a hospital but most often these opportunities are unplanned on a journey to the High Street or walking my dog. Very often people talk about their experiences 'on the journey'.



Windrush Basil Watson's sculpture

The Windrush Generation

Very often a journey is a physical movement from place to place. In Waterloo Station stands the National Windrush Memorial, a sculpture by Basil Watson that commemorates the Windrush generation: people from the Caribbean who made their journeys to this country, beginning with a voyage by *HMT Windrush* in 1948.

The government said the memorial is intended as 'a permanent place of reflection, fostering greater understanding and celebrating the talent, hard work and contribution of the Windrush generation who arrived in Britain between 1948-1971'.

A person moving through time can be described as 'being on a journey'. Much of

Mostly these listening moments are about the joys and sorrows of their journey through life. What I find most humbling is the amount of hope that I hear.

We need young leaders

Whilst we are used to the idea of older people having wisdom earned from many years of life, the wisdom of young people is not always acknowledged. Recently, I listened to a radio play set in 2050 in which a group of journalists were reflecting on how the target of Net Zero emissions had been achieved. The key moment in advancing the green agenda had been the election of a majority of MPs in their 20s and 30s and a shift in government policy.

Most young people that I listen to hope that caring for the environment will move up the political agenda before it is too late. Jesus was about 30 when he began his radical teaching ministry. Maybe it is time to look to youth for leadership?

As we travel on a journey it is important that we have hope. Hope that we will reach our destination safely. Hope that we will learn from those that we will meet on the way. These are hopes that could be shared by people of any faith and none, however it is interesting to remember that the early followers of Jesus were known as the people of 'The Way'. This is how Jesus described himself, saying: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' (John 14: 6). May your journey be filled with hope.

A prayer for the journey

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and
until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

(Traditional Irish Blessing)

St James Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am (not 8 Oct)

Livestreamed on Facebook.

Together 3:30pm (not 8 Oct)

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

Harvest Festival

Sunday 8 October

All Age Service 11am

Our 9:30 and 3:30 services come together to celebrate Harvest. The service will be followed by lunch in the hall. We will once again be collecting food, clothing and accessories for The Upper Room. There is a list of items that the charity needs on our website's *Engagement* page (from the pull-down list on the *In Touch* tab).

Mon-Fri

Morning Prayer (not Wed) 9am

Holy Communion (Wed) 9:30am

Ark Playgroup (not 23 Oct)

Mondays 10am-12noon

Friendly playgroup for carers and under 5s during school term-time, but not Bank Holidays.

£3 for the first child, £1 for any others.



Connections Café

Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm

Join us for coffee, cake and conversation, with a Free NHS Hearing Aid Clinic on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Plus, on the first Tuesday, the chance to talk to a mental health professional about any concerns you may have.



Wednesday Groups

Hard Questions 2-3:20pm

Join Canons Tim and Julian fortnightly for more topical discussions, including:

4 Oct *Welcoming the stranger: who are the refugees?*

18 Oct *Our Growth: at whose expense?*
Future dates: 1, 15, 29 Nov

Book of Revelation 7:30-9pm

Join Derek and Jacky fortnightly to better understand John's work, written in AD 95.

Dates: 11, 25 Oct; 8, 22 Nov; 6, 20 Dec

Responding to God



THOM STANBURY

To start: it's by no means a given, that there *should* be music in worship. And there are times when silence speaks very loudly indeed — I'm thinking of that devastating quiet on Maundy Thursday.

At its most basic, adding music can make the word go further — as simple as chanting 'cooo-eeee'; or at greater length, 'your supper's ready'. For longer phrases, we can set more complicated melodies; and as they become more familiar, then the melody itself starts to represent the words it sets, if you see what I mean. We'll return to the dangers of familiarity later on.

The shape of a tune, a melody, can help us to think about the text it's setting, in a new way — the composer's response can be like ours, or radically different whether because of outlook, or antiquity, or origin.

The power of association

We can't talk for long about music without thinking about the power of association, which operates at a near-unconscious level — music, like little emotional depth-charges, bobbing about at the back of your mind, and ready to invoke ancient memory and sensation, effortlessly and inevitably. A Proustian *Magnificat*.

(*The Keel Row* casts me back over 50 years to my mum singing in her kitchen, for example. You'll have your own examples.)

There are ways in which this effect can be used in worship.

Music has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul. Through it, the call of God reaches the depths of our hearts — and singing enables us to respond deeply. As Thom Stanbury explains, the music played in every service is intrinsically linked to the occasion. Rather than random choices, the pieces played have the power of association that can unite us to the church — and to one another.

Of course, we recognise that hymn tunes are distinct from the hymns themselves (there's more than one way to sing *Love divine*,

for example, and neither of them are wrong). Bach wasn't the first or the last composer to take these melodies, and weave incredible

music around them, called variously 'chorale-prelude', 'hymn-prelude' and the like. I've recently discovered three sets of chorale-preludes by

Parry (he of *Jerusalem* and of *Blest pair of sirens*); and so if we've sung *My God, and is thy table set* as our offertory hymn, then I might play Parry's prelude on the tune *Rockingham* during Communion.

This might also bring to mind the hymn *When I survey the wondrous cross* — associations, all the way down.

Sometimes the level of invention means that the music stands almost independent of its original: the splendid chorale-improvisation of Sigfrid Karg-Elert, upon the tune *Nun danket* (we use it for *Now thank we all our God*), renders its source almost inaudible, but is full of festive brilliance and means what it says, regardless of what's gone before.

The association can be challenging when we're introducing new hymns. There is usually a familiar tune of the right metre for the words, but we have to be careful to avoid a tune which is very closely associated with another hymn.

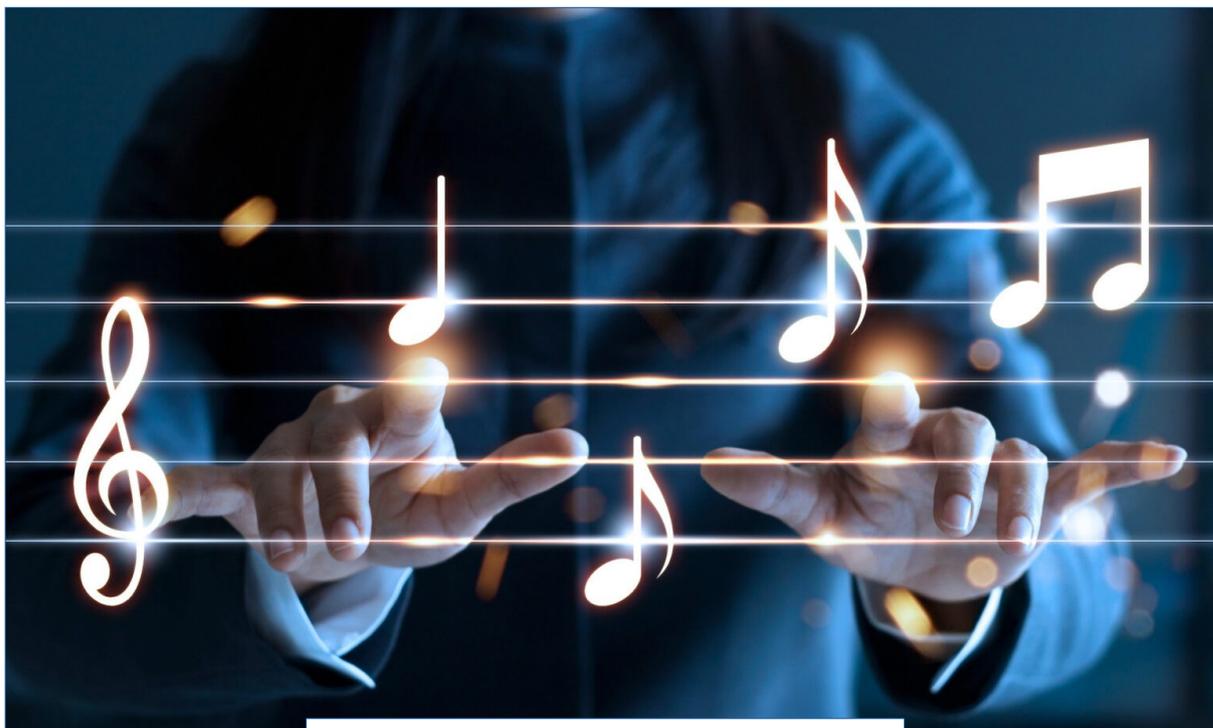
As for introducing new tunes: we do this cautiously, slowly, and with the support of the choir.

The Communion settings

The hymns are one part of music in worship that we make with one voice. The other is the Ordinary of the communion service — at St James's this is the Gloria, the Sanctus (*Holy, holy, holy*), the Benedictus (*Blessed is he*), and the Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*). Many composers have made many settings of these texts, and many of those were done for great courts, and for great churches.



CHOIR OF ANGELS Our choir takes the music up a level for maximum impact



Conversation Music is in constant development and we play our part

in music



ORGAN Thom continues association with music choices

For our purposes, the setting(s) we use must be singable by a congregation, and without a safety net. Once 'we' know it, then we're fine for a while, but a) what about newcomers? Do they know it?, and b) there's a danger with over-familiarity that we stop thinking about what we're singing, just go onto autopilot. We'd been using our current setting (that I impudently refer to as Frankenstein's communion setting – because it's drawn from the best bits of a number of different ones), for a good five years; and it felt as if a change to the musical setting used would help to refresh our worship.

Introducing new settings

Again, we've tried to introduce the new setting cautiously, providing as much support to the congregation as we can; and with the support of our excellent choir on the first outing. (You can judge how successful we've been in that.)

Turning now to the choir – well,

the choir's role is to lead the singing of course. And there's a sense in which the choir sings on behalf of all of us present – we can appreciate the artistry, of course, but also YES, I will sing with the spirit, too; or *My* soul will magnify the Lord, of course it will; and *mine* eyes have seen... And so on, and so on. So, as we rehearse, we spend quite a lot of time working on the text, and making it heard – because we will sing with the spirit, and with the understanding also.

For the organ alone

And finally, there's the organ, the Iron Voice. I quite often use some association when I'm choosing music for the organ alone – if there's some Bach that fits the themes, then he's a shoo-in (at the carol service, we go from Advent ('Sleepers, wake!'), to Christmas ('In dulci jubilo') in little more than an hour); but then, a lot of music played on the organ sounds as if it's probably to do with worship.

(I do generally check with the priest before using theatre music, though. For example, there's quite a good march by somebody-or-other Mendelssohn, that comes up at weddings from time to time.) But there are Bach preludes and fugues that work nicely as closing voluntaries. And of course there's the use for soft reflective music before the service (nothing so loud that people have to shout to be heard); and there's a whole subset of music played in the tempo called *andante religioso* which basically means that sort-of noodling-along tempo while the organist is watching the ministers like a hawk, to see when they've finished and are waiting for him to shut up.

Music down the ages

In all of the music we use, through all sorts of musical forms – the very ancient plainsong hymns, to 400 year old anthems by William Byrd, through Leipzig, Venice, and Vienna, to London and to the Malvern Hills; and if we're good for anything, to the present day, to Carol Sloman's new introit for Christmas and Martin Hinkley's sweet lullaby setting of *Ave verum corpus* – musically speaking, we're in a constant dialogue with all of our predecessors: the composers, the singers, the organists – including my predecessor at St James's, Geoffrey Bowyer, who I met at Brinsworth House a few months ago – and if we make our contribution well, then perhaps we may keep that conversation going, and form a link to our successors making music in worship.



BACH The composer wrote much for the church setting

Around the Spire

Geoffrey Bowyer 1936-2023

A chorale of choirs for music maestro

A PACKED CHURCH celebrated the musical life of Geoffrey Bowyer, our organist from 1994-2001, who died recently, aged 86.

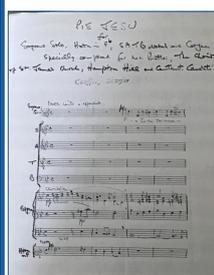
He worked for many years as a teacher, church organist, composer and amateur choir conductor. He was musical director of Cantanti Camerati (who rehearse in our church) for 40 years.

St Mary's Sunbury was full for a Thanksgiving Service. It included a combined choir from the groups Geoffrey had been connected to. Father Andrew Downs said he had rarely heard hymns sung so well.

Geoffrey was born in East Sheen in 1936 where his family owned a shoe shop. He joined the choir at All Saints, East Sheen, and went on to play the organ at a service there aged just 14. He became a qualified organist four years later and was appointed at nearby Christ Church.

His teaching career began at Sunbury County Grammar School, and included Maria Grey College (later West London Institute, now Brunel), Ballet Rambert, the Royal College of Music, and Richmond Adult Community College.

Locally, besides directing Cantanti Camerati, he was also involved with Teddington Choral Society and Teddington Ladies Afternoon Choir. Cantanti put on an annual concert called *Just a Song at Twilight* at York House, Twickenham. They performed it three times over a weekend and it usually sold out. Geoffrey chose the theme and arranged the music for the choir and instruments. David Taylor regularly sang a solo at these concerts.



Geoffrey composed *Pilgrim's Requiem*, his *magnum opus*, for Cantanti and our choir to sing, with a solo of *Pie Jesu*, pictured, to be sung by Liz Butler – a long-standing member of our church. It was fitting at his service that an amalgamated choir sang *O rest in the Lord* from this requiem.

Geoffrey was married to Susan for 17 years and leaves a son, Stephen, who spoke eloquently about his father and shared his love of music. As anybody who knew him would

say, Geoffrey was a 'character' and his talent as an organist, choirmaster and composer will be sadly missed.

Janet Nunn

Wednesday groups are back

OUR WEDNESDAY groups are back. Join the two Canons, Julian and Tim, for **Hard Questions #2** which runs fortnightly from 2-3:20pm.

4 Oct Welcoming the stranger — who are the refugees? and **18 Oct Our growth — at whose expense?** Other dates 1, 15, 29 Nov.

Meanwhile, Derek and Jacky delve deeper into John's words in **The Book of Revelation — Judgment Day** from 7:30-9pm on 11, 25 Oct; 22 Nov; 6, 20 Dec. You can, of course, go to both groups!

Harvest food for thought



THE COST of Living crisis has left many people in food poverty – even some in jobs. The Upper Room charity provides hot meals for people in need every year and we are supporting their annual appeal.

The list is at: <https://bit.ly/StJEngage>.

Our All Age Harvest Festival is on Sunday

8 October. To give money go to: <https://bit.ly/StJHarvest> or use the QR code on your smartphone.



Not the funeral director!

Life lessons from Seoul



MEET Frederick William Paines, the butcher



JANET NUNN

There is also Cecelia Louise Paines, who died on 16 September 1962, aged 88, who was possibly the wife of the original Frederick. The family lived above the shop in the High Street, but the second Frederick and Cecelia lived in Ormond Avenue.

Their funeral services were conducted by Rev Rupert Brunt, and their cremated remains buried in the grave. The previous two were burials taken by Rev Frederick Harvey.

Having been without a butchers in the High Street for many years it was good that Robsons Butchers and Deli was established at 173 High Street in 2011. Zach and Norma celebrated 10 years in the High Street in 2021 and are extremely successful butchers.

Useful sources of Information

Many years ago all our completed registers were sent to the London Metropolitan Archives for safe-keeping. There were four burial registers, A3 in size, with 100 pages, and eight burials per page. Before they went away we laboriously photocopied all the pages. They record the full name, age and address, and the date they were buried. There is also the signature of the priest who took the service and any special notes. They include the grave number so they are easy to find.

The current register was started in 1948. It is used to record all the burials of ashes, whether in the Garden of Rest or an existing family grave. They are all a valuable resource, particularly when people ask us for information when researching their family. I know all the information can be found on the website, but I still find it fascinating to look the information up on the photocopied sheets, trying to decipher some of the writing!

The next grave on my list is that of Frederick William Paines. If you turn right from the church path towards St James's Avenue, the grave is on the left-hand corner. It is a pink granite base with, sadly, the cross lying in the grass.

I started my research thinking this was probably the funeral directors in Hampton Hill as the name matched. However, the funeral directors are Paine, spelt without an 's', and their ancestor is buried in Kingston Cemetery. This was confirmed by the local office.

High Street butchers

On further investigation the grave in our churchyard is for a local butcher whose business was established at 133 High Street in 1818. By 1880 there were four butchers in the High Street, but it was reduced to two in 1891.

133 High Street remained a butcher's until 1978, trading as Beales, then T Prudames, before becoming Pickwick's Wine Bar and then the restaurants Monsieur Max and, now, Piazza Firenze (opposite Health on the Hill).

Frederick died on 30 April 1928. The gravestone in our churchyard also includes other members of the family. There are two sons: Edwin, who died on 2 August 1941, aged 29, and another son called Frederick William who died on 2 July 1966, aged 66.



ROBSON'S Zach and Norma celebrate their 10 years



CELEBRATE Erica, front right, in the crowd



ERICA RICHARDSON

I took part in a few onsite activities, including survival lessons, visiting information hubs about the various countries represented. I also took the shuttle bus round the site — which took an hour!

Decision to leave the camp

Our evenings included cooking, washing, partying and hosting guests from other places. Despite the intense heat, a typhoon warning, and issues around accommodation, we had a good time, but we agreed with the UK Scouts decision to move us all into hotels.

My unit returned to Seoul on 6 August, and the UK contingent and Korean government laid on activities for us, including visiting a museum to learn about how the UK helped in the Korean War. We also went up the 236 metre-high N Seoul Tower for great views, and to the Olympic Park to watch the musical *Fly High, Taekwon*. I remember getting lost in an interactive maze; joining in a Scottish Cèilidh and visiting a Buddhist temple where we asked a monk questions.

The Korean organisers managed to book the World Cup stadium so that all the Scouts could gather for the closing ceremony, during which the jamboree flag was passed to Poland, who are hosting in 2027.

We still had a few days in Seoul. We visited the Gangnam statue, made stamps and pottery at a museum, and had a day at a water park. We visited the Demilitarised Zone, on the border with North Korea, and tied our peace ribbons.

With all the sightseeing we did need a rest so went to an animal café and enjoyed a unit trip to a Korean BBQ and karaoke session.

On 17 August we packed our bags for our return journey. We were greeted with a round of applause from the unit's family and friends. Even though I had an amazing time, the joy to be home was overwhelming.

Some life lessons

The jamboree has taught us all a lot about resilience, moving with change and dealing with different people. Even when I found it hard, I took every minute in. As a unit we grew, and I now have friendships I would not have built without the jamboree.

I am looking forward to our reunion camp in December, but guarantee that will not be the last time I see some people from my unit.

I was lucky enough to gain a place at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. The jamboree happens every four years and is the largest gathering of teenagers aged between 14 and 18. More than 40,000 scouts attended, with the UK sending 4,500 — the largest number of participants and adults.

The UK had just under 90 units. Mine, Unit 36, was one of two from Greater London Southwest, known as *The Flatcap Falcons*.

Fundraising—a big thank you!

There's more to the jamboree than going to the camp, and each of us had to raise £3000. I raised money selling DIY cookie jars and holding cake sales, as well as taking part in some Richmond district events. I would like to thank everyone who supported me.

In preparation we took part in training camps to help us bond and prepare. These included ice-breakers, cooking, discussing what to pack, and a Korean BBQ.

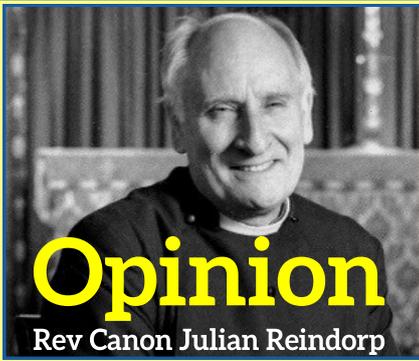
On the 29 July my unit met at Heathrow terminal four for our flight. We landed in Kuala Lumpur 13 hours later for a stopover before a six-hour flight to Seoul. We headed straight to a traditional palace. The unit had rented Hang Boks and went to explore the grounds and watch a guard change. That evening we checked into our hotel for the first two nights and enjoyed a barbecue.

Opening ceremony

On 2 August we drove to Saemangeum and the jamboree site. That evening the opening ceremony was attended by the Korean president and first lady, Bear Grylls, the UK's Chief Scout, and Korean performing art groups.

Our time at the jamboree site was for just three days, but we spent our time wisely. We met scouts from across the world, in particular Dutch, Danish and American scouts. I traded a spare scarf for a Swedish one, and a collection of English badges with people from various





Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

ISRAEL & APARTHEID

Jewish journalist Benjamin Pogrund grew up in South Africa before moving to Israel. In 2001 he represented the Israeli government, defending its record against claims that Israel was now an apartheid state. 'Now', he writes, 'accusation is becoming fact...the government misuses millions of shekels for settlers. It abuses its own laws. Settlers kill Palestinians, destroy houses and cars. The courts seldom intervene. Soldiers stand by and watch. We deny Palestinians any hope of freedom or normal lives. We believe our own propaganda that a few million people will meekly accept perpetual inferiority and oppression. The government is driving Israel deeper and deeper into inhuman, cruel behaviour beyond any defence. I don't have to be religious to know that this is a shameful betrayal of Jewish morality and history.' Many of us will recognise this from our visits to the Holy Land.

EFFECT OF ASYLUM LAWS

Since the Illegal Migration Bill became law in July, the Home Office must now expel people who arrive in the UK without the Home Secretary's permission without considering any claim for asylum. This blanket disqualification of people's claims, regardless of the strength of their case, breaches the 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention of Human Rights (Amnesty: Human Rights Organization, Autumn 2023). As Amnesty's chief executive Sacha Deshmukh points out, 'If the policy and ambition underlying this law had held sway in the sixties, Suella Braverman would not now be Home Secretary and I wouldn't be Amnesty's International CEO... both our families would have been excluded (their families are from Indian heritage backgrounds).

YOUR NEWS SOURCE IS?

During Lockdown I began watching Sky News as I felt the BBC was being subtly pressured by the government. But nearly half of people get their information from social media. A 2023 survey by Woburn partners found that 58% of over 65s, and 44% of the 55-64 year olds, used TV for news, compared with 32% of 18-24-year olds, and 13% of 25-34-year-olds. At the same time the British Social Attitudes Survey said people who trusted the government to put the needs of the nation first always or most of the time fell from 38% in 1986 to 15% in 2019.

FIVE MORE LEAN YEARS

As I write, the Sunday Old Testament reading is about Joseph revealing himself to his brothers who have come to Egypt for food. They think they had sold their arrogant younger brother to slave traders some 20 years before. Despite all their fears, Joseph, now Prime Minister, welcomes them and their families to Egypt. He wants there are five more years of famine to come. I also read a report from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research suggesting we have five more years of low or no growth. Manifesto writing for any political party next year will be challenging!

A1 FOR HOMEWORK

According to one study the majority of secondary school teachers believe students are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) apps to do their homework. They are regularly receiving written work by AI, and 10% of them can't tell the difference between work completed by their pupils and AI programs. Nearly half of all teachers would like to see the whole process better regulated. Two-thirds of students believe they get better grades using AI!

AI FOR CLERGY!

As I explained recently at St James's when Jacky and I led worship, the congregation needed to appreciate us otherwise in the future we might simply send our 'Avatars' to take services, hopefully with a sermon actually written by one of us!

Brighter future for lucky ones



LESLEY MORTIMER

In July we heard news of St Luke's Hospital, in Milo, southwest Tanzania, and its local community, from returning medics Drs Adrian and Hilary Murray. St James's has supported Milo in a variety of ways for almost 50 years.

While Adrian worked in the hospital's obstetrics and gynaecology department, Hilary taught in the local primary school. Government primary and secondary education is free in Tanzania, although only primary level is compulsory.

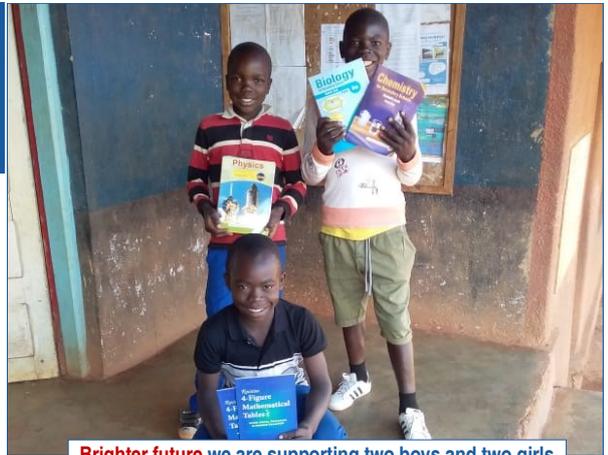
The standard of state secondary schools is often very poor, especially in rural areas, and so families have to pay for good secondary education. This is generally beyond the means of Milo's local population who are mostly subsistence farmers.

Hilary suggested that church members might be interested in joining a sponsorship scheme which would enable some of the brightest children to attend private, usually faith, secondary schools.

Four children sponsored

Five parishioners rose to the challenge and two girls and two boys are now in their first year of secondary education in Catholic boarding schools, their fees fully funded.

All secondary schools in rural areas are boarding because of distance, but also so that families can't take the children out to work in the fields during the day and at weekends when they should be studying!



Brighter future we are supporting two boys and two girls

By our standards, life at boarding school is very basic – food is simple, students are expected to help clean the school and work in the school gardens and there are long days of lessons, all in English. Hilary reports that the children we sponsor are highly motivated. If they achieve their potential and secure good qualifications and jobs, the culture is such that they will then support their extended families and communities.

One girl, a typical student, is an orphan who lives with her grandmother in Milo. She was consistently at the top of the class in primary school, and at the time told Hilary that she wanted to be an airline pilot!

Adrian and Hilary are returning to Milo in September for three months. We look forward to hearing from them about the progress of our sponsored students when they meet up in December.

More sponsors welcomed

The students will, of course, need help to access further/higher education in the future, so if anyone wishes to contribute to the Sponsorship Fund, please get in contact with me.



Achievers The two girls supported

Paul Fuller – a local hero



PAUL FULLER and his Guide Dog, Bolt, were a familiar sight around Hampton Hill. He died in August, aged 59, and his funeral was held in church. Paul had choroideremia, a hereditary eye condition that leads to blindness between the ages of 30 and 70, but he never let it hold him back. Much of his career was spent in the broadcast media, 27 years at Sky. He took early retirement and later joined the charity Scope. Paul and Bolt also featured in a TV advert for the Guide Dogs. We send our condolences to his wife Jacqui and their family.

REGISTERS

JULY

WEDDING

29 Daniel Steven Tutt and Lauren Natalie Keppel

FUNERALS

4 Mary Tavendale, 76, Teddington

7 Joan Audrey Sayers, 95, Hampton Hill

AUGUST

FUNERAL

25 Paul Neil Fuller, 59, Hampton Hill

INTERMENT OF ASHES

26 Anne Beryl Duncton Wood, 92, Hampton Hill





SIMPLE PLEASURES

The things we do when we take time out

My family and other animals!



Nicky Hetling

FAMILY

We have quite a large family and enjoy spending time with them. Our children have children of their own, so we get lots of opportunities to celebrate special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries as well as Christmas and Easter. We like to give our grandchildren lots of different experiences, taking them on outings and visiting new places – even bringing them to church on occasions. They are all into different things, so spending time with them is as much an education for us as it is for them!

PETS

Our pets are family too and David has indulged me in creating quite a menagerie! Top dogs are our three Cocker Spaniels, Honey, mother to Treacle and Ebony.



We also have a tortoise, two guinea pigs and a hamster. They all bring something different to our lives. I daren't go into our local garden centre because it has a nice pet department and there is always a small animal looking at me like it knows what a soft touch I am! I also took the opportunity during the Covid lockdowns to learn how to groom our dogs. They now benefit from regular pamper sessions.

HOLIDAYS AT HOME

Our dogs are a great excuse to see different parts of our beautiful country. They have been as far north as the Isle of Skye and as far south as Cornwall – they are very well travelled, although locations have to be carefully selected for their proximity to beaches! They are also partial to a nice pub garden, so we do our best to accommodate their needs in that respect too!



HOLIDAYS FURTHER AFIELD

Having grown-up children has granted us the freedom to take some more adventurous holidays in recent years. We have been fortunate enough to visit many unforgettable places – our favourites are East Africa, Egypt and South Africa, but we love spending time in Europe as well.



Travelling to exotic places has given me close encounters with my favourite animal, elephants, and we have even visited pachyderm friends adopted through Kenya's Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. We also enjoy the variety of cultures that travel opens up for us – and we like to make the most of the local food and wine.



BAKING

I took up baking as a way to switch off from my busy job, at that time with an IT company in Sunbury. My favourite bakes are cookies, cupcakes, muffins and cheesecakes and I pick up new ideas with an annual trip to London's Cake and Bake Show. Our grandchildren love to bake with me too, although we don't often get to enjoy the fruits of their labours because they are very quick to take them home with them!



HISTORIC HOMES

Taking our children out and about when they were working on school projects gave us the opportunity to visit lots of historic places all over Britain. We get to visit these places ourselves now – and also do it all over again with the grandchildren. We are so fortunate to have so many incredible sights near to home and we have most recently

visited the Tower of London, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, right, and Hampton Court Palace.

GARDENING

We have a nice garden that keeps us busy at weekends – there is something to do all year round and we are pleased with how we have put our own mark on it since moving into our house 10 years ago. We also grow some of our own fruits and vegetables which is very satisfying – it always tastes better when you have grown it yourself! Working in the garden is nothing without the enjoyment that comes from spending time in it afterwards! We also draw inspiration from some of the gardens we have visited at stately homes and, most recently, RHS Wisley.



WORKING AT TEARFUND

I made a career change two years ago, giving up corporate life in favour of a new opportunity at the Teddington-based charity. I had followed Tearfund for some years and was drawn to a new role there supporting the wonderful donors who give so generously to empower people all round the world. I am truly blessed to be able to live out my faith in this way and am very proud of the incredible projects that are supported by Tearfund, some of them in places close to my heart that I have visited over the years.

