

NOVEMBER 2023 REMEMBRANCE

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



We will
REMEMBER
them

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

November is a reflective month of the year when we mark All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day. On Remembrance Sunday, on 12 November, the nation pays tribute to all those who served or lost their lives in wars. I have recently visited the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, which was a very moving experience.

This edition focuses on various aspects of care. Julian Reindorp, in his leader, reminds us of the value and importance of care homes, while Tim Marwood, in the centre-spread, gives us an insight into the importance of hospital chaplains. I am sure you will find it an eye-opener.

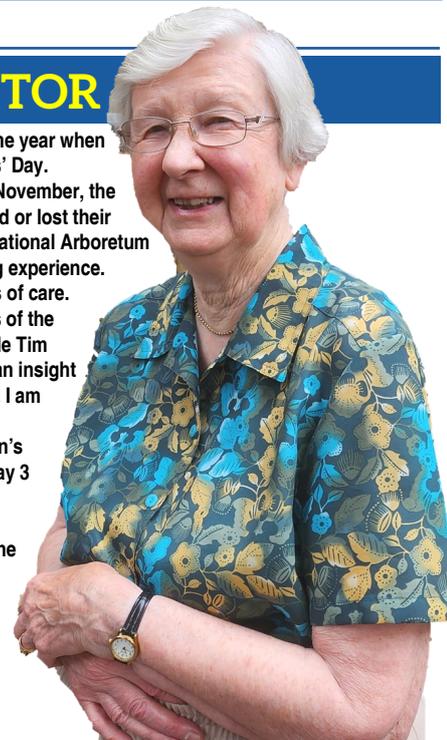
We also feature the work of The Children's Society. Our Christingle Service on Sunday 3 December supports the charity.

A warm welcome to our new Ordinand, Joy Beauchamp, who will be with us as she trains for ordination. She tells us about herself on page 6.

Best Wishes

Janet

Editor



Cover photo: The Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday after the parade © Alamy

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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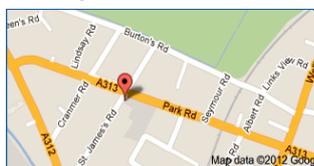
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Finding us



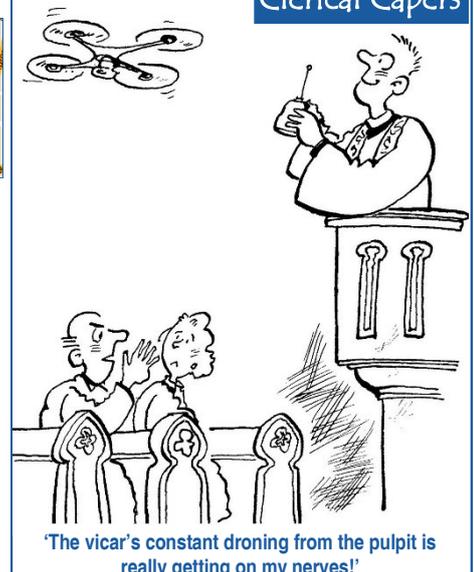
The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is between the church and vicarage. There is ample unrestricted parking. Buses stopping nearby include the R68, R70 and 285.

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Clerical Capers



'The vicar's constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!'

Bringing out the best for carer and the cared



JULIAN REINDORP

and they are largely dependent on others, and in one friend's case almost entirely dependent on others. Has anything prepared them for this experience, this last short or long lap of our lives?

What strikes me again and again is that we have been brought up on the parable of the Good Samaritan who cares for the wounded, robbed Jew who he finds on his way to Jericho. And, of course, it is the surprising outsider and foreigner who cares for the insider who has been ignored by other passing religious Jews.

But as we come to realise increasingly, we may be the wounded Jew who needs care, and is dependent on others. Has anything in our personality and experience prepared us for this?

I was surprised to read of a discussion between two public (i.e. very expensive private) school headmasters at their annual conference. One turned to the other and said, 'Our aim is prepare our boys for life'; the other, the head of a famous Roman Catholic school, replied, 'Our aim is to prepare our boys for death'. This story came back to me recently as two friends asked me in their different ways what was the point of their lives now?

The older, almost 90, has lost a chunk of her memory, but she still recognises me and can ask devastating questions. She lives in a care home and I try to see her frequently as her only relative lives a couple of hours away. The other is over 80 and he is recovering from a heart attack.

Both have led very fulfilling lives in public spheres, both have contributed hugely to their church communities. As always when asked difficult questions about life, death and suffering, I try to avoid any immediate answer and to find out what they are really asking and what they are feeling.

The Good Samaritan

Part of the challenge for them, as for millions of others, is that they have led independent lives, found fulfilment in their careers, but now so much of that is gone



The wounded Jew

I have always been moved by the woman in a hospice dying of motor neurone disease. When asked how she coped, especially as she would have chosen to have been the Good Samaritan, she replied, 'It is hard: It would be unbearable were it not for my belief that the wounded man and the Samaritan are inseparable. It was the helplessness of the one that brought out the best in the other and linked them together'. This is easy to write, but can we receive it, live it?

Another incident in the life of Jesus has hit me afresh recently. It is after Jesus' resurrection and the disciples' experience of meeting him by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus says to his closest friend, John, a fisherman, 'When you were younger you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.'

Carers are our Good Samaritans

I am privileged to take many funerals, and again and again the family want to thank the carers for looking after their loved one. They are the Good Samaritans and so often they come from other, more caring cultures. As I always say in thanking them, 'One day we will all be in your hands!'

How I long for our society to value all our carers, young and old, for they are our Good Samaritans — many of us will be wounded Jews and in their caring, committed hands.

St James Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Livestreamed on Facebook.

Together 3:30pm (not 26 Nov)

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

Messy Church 3:30pm 26 Nov

Remembrance

Sunday 12 November

Act of Remembrance 11am

After 9:30 Parish Communion, the congregation will make their way to the War Memorial for a short service, including the sounding of The Last Post and observing the two minutes' silence.



Mon-Fri

Morning Prayer (not Wed) 9am

Holy Communion (Wed) 9:30am

Ark Playgroup

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:

- 1 Nov *Our small planet: what price survival?*
- 15 Nov *Changing gender: what are our views?*
- 29 Nov *Relationships: whose should we bless?*

Book of Revelation 7:30-9pm

Join Derek and Jacky fortnightly to better understand John's work, thought to have been written around AD 95.

Dates: 8, 22 Nov; 6, 20 Dec

Protecting spiritual



TIM MARWOOD

When I was growing up, my mother used to talk about the years when she had trained as a nurse at the old Charing Cross Hospital. She had subsequently become a Ward Sister in a hospital treating servicemen recovering from injuries sustained in the Second World War. Later it was no surprise when my only sister undertook nurse training and spent almost 40 years in the profession, fulfilling a number of senior roles, including Director of Nursing. It was with a sense of 'coming home' that part of my training for the priesthood took place in the Chaplaincy Department of the 'new' Charing Cross Hospital.

Visiting in-patient parishioners

In my previous role as a parish priest (before I retired and came to live at Hampton Hill) I used to visit my parishioners when they became in-patients at Kingston Hospital. I was made a welcome visitor by the Church of England clergy that were members of the hospital Chaplaincy, several of whom I had known for many years.

I supported the hospital chaplains by volunteering to act as an on-call chaplain during their leave. In this way I learnt a great deal from the chaplains that I was able to use for the benefit of my own congregation.

In retirement at Hampton Hill I have been working part-time as an on-call hospital chaplain at Kingston



Calm voice Chaplains help patients and staff manage complex decisions

A hospital can be a frightening place for patients. Studies show that chaplains improve the patient experience and help prevent burnout in staff. They can also be a go-between for patients and doctors, speaking for the patient, explaining what's going on. Chaplains are there to offer comfort and guidance to people experiencing the toughest of trials and, as Tim Marwood explains, they are an invaluable resource to hospital staff.

Hospital, covering two nights a week. This means that I may be phoned and asked to visit a patient at any time from 4pm to 8am the

following morning. The role has given me opportunities to develop my skills as a priest.

The Chaplaincy team is a very

broad team in that we include colleagues from a wide range of faith perspectives, which brings opportunities for learning from each

other. We receive regular training by in-house medics. Recently, nurses who manage patients with dementia provided an excellent presentation. I am really looking forward to the next session on this topic.

Chaplains get first insight

Our country is a constantly changing community and hospital chaplains often meet challenges before they are manifest in parish ministry, which is very stimulating.

Under the inspirational leadership of the current Head of Department, who is an Anglican priest, the Chaplaincy has become the Pastoral and Spiritual Support Team and is a fully integrated component of patient care in the hospital.

Kingston Hospital's website describes our work in these words: 'Being in hospital can be a time of anxiety for you and those close to you. At such times, you may ask questions about your life and what really matters. Having someone with whom to explore these issues, or to assist in providing an extra dimension of support during treatment, can help you and your family.'

Patient access 24/7

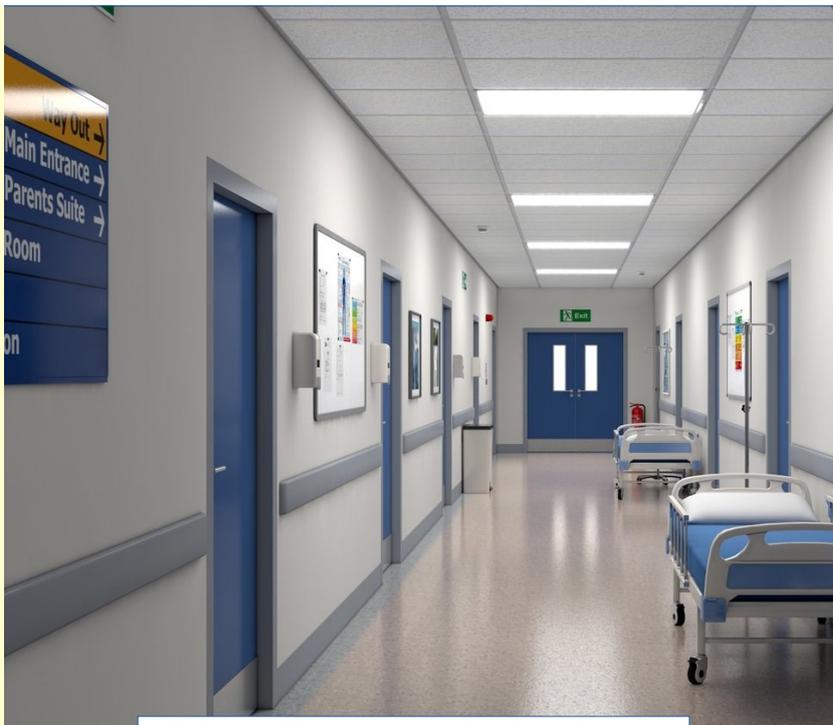
Whatever your culture, beliefs, life philosophy, race, gender or sexual orientation, the Pastoral and Spiritual Support Team is there for you. We respond to anyone who asks, respecting each individual person's beliefs and views, and are available 24/7 to provide:

- A confidential listening ear and companionship;



Rev Sekai Katsande Hospital Chaplain

I have been a hospital chaplain for more than three years across two hospitals. I enjoy my role as it is very different from my community role as a priest. In the hospital the work is patient-led and identifying a patient's spiritual needs and offering the appropriate pastoral, spiritual or religious care is paramount. On many occasions I find myself offering support to people who would not normally come through the church doors. Often, all that they need is a human presence and to know that someone cares. I also get experience of working as part of the multi-disciplinary team offering holistic care to the patients. I regard my role as a chaplain not as work but rather as a calling or ministry and I find it fulfilling.



Patient care This encompasses both medical and pastoral

care in NHS



Around the Spire



Pat Reed-Boswell
Chaplaincy Volunteer

I joined the Chaplaincy team in 2018 and, barring lockdown, I have spent Thursday mornings sitting at the bedside of patients young and old to provide comforting words and a friendly presence during the long and sometimes lonely days on a busy hospital ward.

It is tremendously rewarding. Every patient has a story to tell, concerns to share, hopes for the future and, in some cases, a need for specific support when facing life-threatening conditions.

I picture myself in their place, knowing how much that support might mean to me one day.

A smile, a friendly face, reassuring words are 'just what the doctor ordered!'

- Someone with whom you can explore life and spiritual issues;
- Support to follow your own faith traditions through rites, prayers or sacraments; and
- Contact with local communities and faith leaders.

Volunteers make a valuable contribution to the work of many departments in Kingston Hospital and the Pastoral and Spiritual Support Team is no exception. The wisdom and commitment that the volunteers bring to the work of the department is considerable. To volunteer, phone 020 8934 2549 or email: khft.volunteering@nhs.net.

Contact before going to hospital

When I hear that friends are going into hospital, I encourage them to make contact with the Chaplaincy Team. At Kingston Hospital this early contact enables

Danny Patel

a patient's view

I live in Hampton Hill and run Taps News, a newsagents and confectionery shop in the High Street.

I was admitted to hospital recently and I found the hospital chaplains very helpful.

I think that the visits by chaplains are beneficial to the general health of patients, especially those who do not have anyone to visit them in hospital.

It is important that the spiritual care of patients remains part of the NHS service.

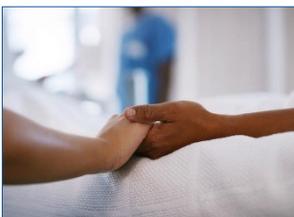


Decisions Chaplains will be there during the tough moments

the chaplains to meet patients at the start of their stay and then visit and support them. You can phone 020 8546 7711 or email: khft.chaplaincygeneral@nhs.net.

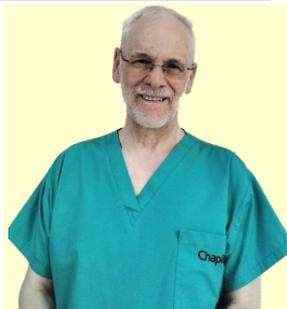
The Hospital Chapel and the Multi-Faith Prayer Rooms are located on level 4 of Esher Wing and are open 24 hours a day.

A prayer for those who are ill



Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*From the website of
St Buryan Church, Diocese of Truro*



Rev Tim Marwood
Hospital Chaplain

My role is to be on call on two nights a week to attend the hospital when needed. Very often the reason for the call to the hospital is to visit a patient who is seriously ill or dying.

Witnessing the quality of care given by the staff to patients in these situations is humbling.

It is a privilege to be part of a Chaplaincy Team providing spiritual and pastoral care from many faith perspectives to a diverse community of patients and staff.



Brenda Oliver 1930-2023

Death of local hero after life of service



BRENDA OLIVER, who has died in Essex at the age of 93, was well-known during her time in Hampton Hill. She was born in Dudley and married there in 1952. She and her husband, Ray, moved to Hampton Hill in 1957 when he became head gardener at Laurel Dene and she was a care worker, later becoming a matron at several homes for the elderly for Ealing Council.

Brenda had become a Guide as a child and continued in the movement throughout her life, starting Hampton Hill Brownies and running it for many years. She was also very involved with St James's Church and the local community.

After her husband took early retirement they moved to Clacton where she continued her church, Guiding and community work, becoming churchwarden, a school governor, deputy chair of a local council forum, and running many groups, as a result of which she was awarded 'local hero' status and invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Brenda's husband and two of their four children predeceased her and, as her health started to fail, she lived with her son John for the last five years of her life. She leaves two sons, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Susan Horner

Youth club's golden couple

CONGRATULATIONS to John and Debbie Nunn, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 29 September with a family lunch.

They were married at St Mary's, Mortlake, where they had met at a youth club. They began married life in Clapham, moving to Hampton in 1975.

They soon became part of St James's congregation and involved in church life. Debbie has been heavily involved with young families. She was a visitor, and set up the Ark playgroup and helped to run it for many years. John and Debbie continued their celebrations with a holiday in Malta. They have two children, Geoffrey and Suzanne, and four grandchildren.



Next chapter in our lives

THE ROBERTSONS started their European adventure as a family of three in August, moving to Germany for Scott to take a position as Junior Fellow at the Beyond Canon research centre at the University of Regensburg.

They moved into a beautiful one bedroom flat in the Old City overlooking the Danube, and have been immersing themselves in Bavarian culture. Most days, Scott goes to work at the university, researching to write a book on the *Acts of Titus*, while Dani and Thekla have adventures at the playground or just lots of playtime at home. Dani, who was our Children & Families' Worker from 2018-20, said they planned to bring Thekla to meet all their friends at St James's sometime next year.



We do remember them



CROSSES War graves receive a cross each year



JANET NUNN

When you mention the words 'war graves' two things come to mind: war memorials such as the one in our churchyard, which contain the names of local people who died in the first and second world wars, and the small white gravestones seen as far as the eye can see in cemeteries around the world. These quite small gravestones also appear in churchyards individually all over the country, and ours is no exception.

Canadian war graves

The most recognisable ones are the 12 Canadian graves cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the centre of the churchyard, but there are also eight stones dotted around the churchyard. There are also 10 family graves which mention people who died during the wars. Each November we place a small wooden cross with a poppy on each grave. The gravestones are distinctive because of their size and colour. They are very simple and contain the badge of the regiment, their service number and position, the date of death and sometimes their age. Many of the names on the individual graves also appear on our War Memorial. Some of the graves have a later date than during the war which means that they died as a result of being wounded in battle.



All the Canadian graves have the Maple leaf as their symbol, left, and until a few years ago we had a maple tree near the graves the leaves of which went red in the autumn. Sadly, the tree died a few years ago and can't be replaced.

One war grave that always resonates with me is H A Manning, pictured, (under the big copper beech). He died in 1947 at the age of 29 as a result of his wounds and he promised his wife she would be buried with him. The family went to live in Australia. When his wife died, after a lot of official paperwork it was possible for her cremated remains to be returned and they were interred with her husband by Rev Peter Vannozzi in 2008.



Your challenge is to see how many of the individual war graves you can find in our churchyard. Some of them are well hidden!

Westminster Abbey

I would also recommend, if you haven't already seen it, a visit to Westminster Abbey from 9 November to see the Field of Remembrance laid out by regiment, with wooden crosses bearing the names of all those who died in the world wars. It is usually opened by a member of the Royal Family on the Thursday. It is a very sobering sight.



ABBEY The Field of Remembrance

Family, faith and ladybirds!



WELCOME Joy Beauchamp, joining St James's



JOY BEAUCHAMP

I have heard so much about the warm, welcoming, vibrant church community at St James's that I am very excited to be joining you! I am currently entering my second of three years of training for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. I will be with you for at least the next academic year, maybe longer.

Family matters

I have been married to Richard for 16 years, have two wonderful boys, aged 11 and 14, and we live in Twickenham. I am one of six children — four girls and two boys — raised by the most wonderful parents. Sadly, my Mum died in 2017 and my Dad in April this year. We are a close and colourful family, some biologically related to each other, some not. Dad was a priest, and for most of my formative years he was vicar of a parish in Shepherd's Bush.

Working life

I am something of a chameleon. I started in genetics research, then moved into psychology. After time as a youth worker, I gravitated into educational access, before getting involved in inclusion, diversity and equality more generally. I later qualified as an accountant and moved into the city as a management consultant, before taking redundancy to spend time with my boys and with my Mum, who developed dementia. I think my most significant achievements to date are accompanying my parents through the challenges of old age, and muddling through the joys and challenges of parenting!

Homegrown inspiration

The most significant people in my faith journey have been my parents and my husband. In different ways, both my parents modelled a life of Christian service in which there is huge joy and fulfilment. My parents achieved a balance between prayer and action that I found hugely inspiring and had a massive impact on how I live out my faith. My husband is a powerful enabler and encourager; a person with integrity who says that though I may be scared, if something is important I should get on and do it anyway.

My journey in faith

As I have got older, God's unconditional love has flowed into a deep desire to share the Gospel and to use my life in service to Christ. Deacons are called to be 'agents of God's purposes of love'. I can imagine no more exciting a call!

During training I have realised that the most surprising things are possible with God's help! Each of us is precious in the sight of God and has gifts to offer. The journey in faith includes learning to accept and love the whole of who we are. Sometimes it's the bits we don't like that inspire others.

Originally, I was drawn to the idea of hospital chaplaincy, but now the joy of being in a parish has taken precedence. Perhaps I can find a role that allows time for both.

My vision for the Church

I want the Church to be a place that makes tangible the reality of God, where God's love is truly at the centre of everything we say and do; a place where no one feels excluded. It also does not begin and end at the church doors, but permeates into our whole lives. It is inviting, engaging, thought-provoking and fun, yet providing precious space for quietness and respite from a busy world. It is outward facing, rooted in and connected to its communities, with particular care for the poor, outcast, and vulnerable. And ministry is the work of the whole Church, not just those ordained.

Unfulfilled ambitions

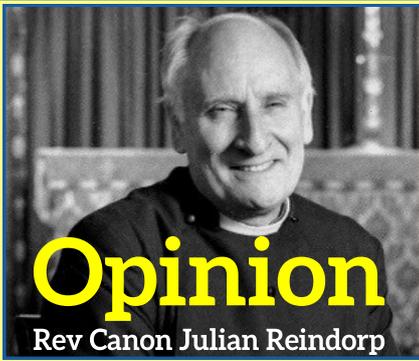
I'd love to spend time immersed in another culture learning the language. I particularly love French and Spanish. I also harbour a long-cherished desire to be able to perform Rossini's *Cat Duet* in public!

Taking time out

I have always loved walking and mountain climbing, but my mobility is still improving following a serious road traffic accident in 2004 and I content myself with less physical pursuits! After a busy day, I love story time with my boys. At the moment we are reading Harry Potter. I also love quiet time in the woods or by the river, playing my flute, singing, or one-to-one time with family or close friends.

One surprising fact about myself

I am co-author of a published scientific article on male-killers in ladybirds. If you want to know more, come and talk to me!



Opinion

Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

HS2 & INHERITANCE TAX

There is surely something wrong with the values of any political party that considers cancelling HS2 beyond Birmingham, advocates the eventual abolition of Inheritance Tax and then uses the slogan 'Levelling up'.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, captured this frustration when he said: 'Why does the North have to suffer when there are cuts and not the South?'

We now know that London and the South East recovered quicker from Covid than other parts of the country. We also know that Inheritance Tax affects about 4% of the population, most of whom live in the South, and those couples who own their homes have an allowance of up to £1 million.

TEDDINGTON BOY ESCAPES

When Daniel Khalife escaped from Wandsworth Prison in September by clinging to the underneath of a food delivery lorry, even a Home Office official described it as like a scene from the TV programme *Porridge*. But it briefly focused national attention on the condition of our prisons.

Charlie Parker, Chief Inspector of Prisons, felt that Wandsworth ideally should be closed. He said that men were 'largely locked up for up to 22 hours a day, missing out on the education, training or behaviour courses which might make them less likely to offend'.

Some 80% of criminals who receive cautions or convictions are reoffenders and 46% of ex-prisoners reoffend within a year of leaving prison. Reoffending costs taxpayers £18 billion a year.

OVER CROWDING

Of the 140 prisons across the UK, 35 were built like Wandsworth in the 19th Century. Built for 900 prisoners, it currently holds 1600, mostly in cells designed for one, but now 'doubled-up' with a bunk bed. Tony Blair's slogan 'tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime' meant that the prison population went from about 40,000 to 80,000 prisoners between 1997 and 2010.

The prison population has risen by 5,000 since January. The courts are clogged up, and black defendants spend 70% longer in prison awaiting trial and sentencing than their white counterparts. Staff shortages are severe, one in seven officers leave the prison service every year. There have been 10 Justice Secretaries since 2010. It is a grim picture. As Dostoyevsky said, 'Society should be judged not by how it treats its outstanding citizens, but by how it treats its criminals.'

HOW DIPLOMACY WORKS!

Gordon Brown, at the 2009 G20 conference about the banking crisis, was, in President Obama's words, 'The man with the plan'. (The Brookings Institute said, 'It will be seen as the most successful summit in history'.)

The French were notorious for ignoring protocol and getting President Sarkozy to speak first at the press conferences, rather than the host, Gordon Brown. As the summit came to an end a British diplomat slipped out of the hall and unplugged the sound system of the French briefing room. As the diplomat said to a friend, 'One advantage of hosting is that you know where the sockets are!'

WISE WORDS

Kim Darroch, British Ambassador to the US from 2016-2019, was leaving for his first summit. He asked a Foreign Office sage for his advice. He barked: 'It's simple. If you see food, eat it. If you see a bathroom, use it. If you see a convoy leaving, join it. It may be your only chance.' Darroch suggests that in our present world situation

Young people voice worries



DAVID HETLING

The Children's Society, long supported by St James's, has recently released its annual Good Childhood Report. It is an eye-opening survey that sheds light on the issues that cause

most anxiety among young people in the UK.

Most stark is the awareness among children of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on them and their families; this issue is affecting both their physical and mental wellbeing and it was identified by them and their parents or carers as a top concern for the future.

Other significant findings include:

- An encouraging 74% of children and young people feel positive about their future, but only 38% feel positive about our country, and only 36% about the rest of the world.

- Behind rising prices, the issues that trouble young people most are the environment, crime and the risk of new illnesses or pandemics.

- Less than half of young people (47%) feel safe when they are out in their local area at night, with a larger proportion of girls feeling unsafe.

Social Security for children

In keeping with one of The Children's Society's core objectives of lobbying local and national government for positive change, the report also makes some important recommendations. These include renewing investment in social security for children, creating support for young people at the highest levels in Government by



Cost of living crisis Affecting physical and mental health

creating the post of Minister for Children and expanding mental health provision, particularly through support for girls unhappy with their appearance, backed-up by urgent research into this issue.

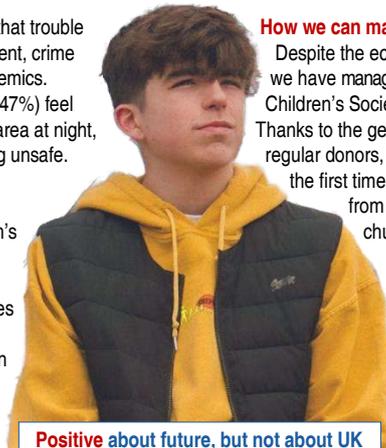
You can read more about the Good Childhood Report at: childrenssociety.org.uk/good-childhood.

How we can make a difference

Despite the economic concerns that impact us all, we have managed to increase our giving to The Children's Society over the past year.

Thanks to the generosity of our boxholders and regular donors, our donations topped £1,000 for the first time — with an amazing £840 of this from new direct debit pledges from church members. Thanks to you all.

- If you would like to become a regular donor to The Children's Society please contact me by emailing: dhetling@yahoo.co.uk.



Positive about future, but not about UK



Arran confirmed by bishop



ARRAN, one of our original Shell Seekers, pictured fifth from left, was among 12 candidates from four local churches to be confirmed by the Bishop of Kensington, Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, at All Saints, Hampton. And the children had a surprise for her. 'It's the first time,' she said, 'I've ever been prayed for in a fire hoop!'

REGISTERS

SEPTEMBER

FUNERAL

8 Anthony James, 85, Richmond





SIMPLE PLEASURES

The things we do when we take time out

Culture in all its glories



Kim Lan Yap

FLORAL INTRIGUE



Flowers that make a statement and fire up imagination — be it their colour, size or mystery of their provenance, there is something that adds to the sheer pleasure of this wonderful creation of nature if it has its own

little secret, a story to tell. Take Blacky, my fuchsia that bears double flowers with dark pink sepals and frilly purple petals so dark they are virtually black. Who would dare these days to name any flower by that name, however dark the blooms look! And yet Blacky has stood the test of time and political correctness; retained its original name — every spring coming to life to give the most simple of pleasures with its statement flowers dancing proudly to their dark heritage.

MAHJONG



The Chinese tile-based game of skill, strategy, calculation and a little bit of chance dates from 19th century China. Adaptability, the ability to change course as each tile/card is drawn — simulating life itself and the resilience needed to react to each of life's card as it is dealt to us — it is a truly engrossing game as each of the four players pursues the quest to go 'mahjong' with the requisite number of suits/sets. For me, the drama of winning is recorded in the tally of points, but in the Chinese world of gambling and mahjong dens, many a gaming addict has lost a pretty sum!

BITTERSWEET POETRY

Words of poetry that express my innermost feelings and draw out the most raw emotions is perhaps more an escape than a pleasure. It serves to re-calibrate after those thoughts have been verbalised and written down — as evidence those feelings existed but since being committed to poem have given the poet the simple pleasure of relief and a new equilibrium. (At the time of writing I don't plan to publish an anthology of my bittersweet pleasure.)



FOOD OF MY ANCESTORS

My Malaysian Chinese culinary roots have enriched the pleasure of eating with (amongst many favourites) the laziest but most enjoyable of cuisines where guests cook their own dinner. The hostess just provides the dinner table, the electric 'hotpot' and the prepared raw ingredients — thin slices of meat, prawns and all manner of seafood (New Zealand green shell mussels a favourite), vegetables and noodles, ready for guests to drop into the steaming water.



BOOKS



Books that reveal intriguing snippets of history are such a treat. I came across *Kings of Shanghai* by Jonathan Kaufman. And who should these Kings be? I had not been aware of the significance and extent of Jewish influence first in India, then Shanghai and finally Hong Kong through the prominent Sassoon family from Baghdad and the Jewish Kadoorie family.

Crossing cultural and religious boundaries, Horace Kadoorie even became an expert on pig farming in order to help Chinese refugees fleeing from the Communist mainland into Hong Kong. Grateful farmers coined the saying, 'The Kadoories know all about pigs — except the taste!'

ARCHITECTURE

My pleasure in history extends to buildings and the lives of the people adding colour to them. Chartwell, pictured, is where Winston Churchill would stand and gaze at



butterflies circling the buddleia that his wife, Clementine, had thoughtfully planted to give him relief from political intrigue. Waddesdon Manor has a room charting the Rothschild's involvement in the forming of the state of Israel after World War Two. Or there is Leeds Castle, dubbed the Lady's Castle because of its makeover funded by the heiress of the New York Tram Company who turned it into a family home.

MUSIC / PERFORMING

Isn't it wonderful that the only qualification for finding pleasure in music is simply that one enjoys it — never mind how badly you do it! And so by such fortuitous criteria, I not only enjoy piano concerts and choral works, but I dabble in playing the piano and singing in choirs with much enjoyment and moderate competence.



The theatre and musicals are a treat, whether watching or performing. A favourite monologue (*The Wedding List*) is where I (fed up of years of attending other people's weddings and buying them wedding presents) decided it was my turn to receive wedding presents, and so during the performance I went about plotting my Wedding List for my imaginary wedding!

EXERCISE

Daily exercise is an absolute pleasure — one of, or a combination of, walking, jogging, Fight Klub (half box/half kick), Body Combat (aerobics cum martial arts), weighted Hula Hoop (love it) and spin cycle. Then there is the occasional simple pleasure offered up by nature, like climbing Mount Snowdon in gusty wind, rain and storm (much against the protest of the local guides!)

