

MARCH & APRIL 2018

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

YOUR FREE COPY



Happy Easter

A new day is dawning

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or find us on



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).

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

CURATE Rev Jacky Cammidge

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

Tel: 074 9677 0505

Email: curate@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



ASSISTANT PRIEST Canon Julian Reindorp

Julian was born in Durban, South Africa, and ordained in 1969. He has worked in parishes in East London, Chatham and Milton Keynes, and was Team Rector in Richmond until retirement in 2009. He continues to lead a busy life, often out and about on his trademark red scooter. Julian is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren.

Tel: 020 8614 6800

Email: julianreindorp@hotmail.co.uk

Other contacts...



CHURCH OFFICE Nick Bagge

The administrator deals with enquiries, and manages all church hall bookings.

Opening hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 0930-1230; and Tue, Thu 1230-1530.

Tel: 020 8941 6003

Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Address: Church Office, 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1DQ.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES Karen Roach

Tel: 074 7110 1487

Email: Karen.roach@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



CHURCHWARDEN Gwynneth Lloyd

Tel: 020 8943 0709

Email: gwyndy215@gmail.com



TREASURER Nick Harris

Tel: 020 8943 2025

Email: nicholasjkharris@gmail.com



ORGANIST / CHOIRMASTER Mark Blackwell

Tel: 077 6814 6879

Email: Mark@mhrconsultancy.co.uk

ALMA Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Ark Playgroup

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Bell Ringers

Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Brownies and Guides 0800 1 69 59 01

Charity Support Team

Dennis Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Children's Champion

Linda Webb 020 8783 1515

Church Cleaning Team

Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Churches Together Around Hampton

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Churchyard Records

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

CMS Mission Partner Link

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Deanery Synod Representatives

Clive Beaumont 020 8943 4336

Eco-Church Derek 020 8241 5904

Electoral Roll 020 8941 6003

Flower Arranging Team

Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Hall Bookings 020 8941 6003

PCC Secretary Nick Bagge 020 8941 6003

Planned Giving / Finance Team

Carol Bailey 020 8783 0633

Properties Team

Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Safeguarding Officer

Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

Scouts Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Shell Seekers Linda Webb 020 8783 1515

Social Team 020 8941 6003

St James's Hospitality / Parish Breakfast

Clare Ryan and Kirstie Craig 079 6413 1135

St James's Players

Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

Traidcraft Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

TWAM Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Visitors' Team

Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Welcome Team

Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

From the Editor

This year Easter is early, so this joint issue for March & April features all the Lent and Easter services on Page 3.

You will be most welcome at any of them. They cover not only the special days which we observe leading up to Easter Day, but also a wide range of activities for all ages.

The centrespread in this issue covers baptism and is the third and final piece by Derek Winterburn on the rites of passage — the special times in people's lives. Baptism is always a very happy occasion and also a very significant event in the life of the family.

Penny Sewell has researched stained glass windows and given us a beautiful selection from home and abroad which have inspired her.

We, of course, have some wonderful windows in our church and I particularly love the view of the West window from the sanctuary, which you only see when singing in the choir, officiating at the altar, or as you leave church.



We look forward to the wonder of springtime all around us and to worshipping together at the various services leading up to the joy of Easter Sunday.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn, Editor

Cover photo: the empty tomb heralds our Easter celebration

SPIRE The Spire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We make no charge for this magazine, but if you are a regular reader we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs to enable us to expand our outreach across the parish. Cheques should be made payable to the PCC of St James, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the church office.

STORIES FOR THE SPIRE

If you have a story idea or would like to make a comment, contact Janet Nunn, the editor.

Telephone: 020 8979 6325

Email: janunnhh@btinternet.com

E-SPIRE / WEBSITE

To receive the magazine by email, please contact Prill Hinckley.

Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

The Spire is available in church and shops. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Further information from Susan Horner, 5 St James's Avenue TW12 1HH.

Telephone: 020 8979 9380

Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

The May Spire is published on Fri 27 April.

Copy deadline: Tuesday 27 March.

PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge

Proofreaders Susan Horner and Dick Wilde

PUBLISHING

Printer Peter James Printing Limited

Telephone: 01932 244 665

Email: PJP123cards@aol.com

The Spire is printed on paper that is sourced from well-managed forests.



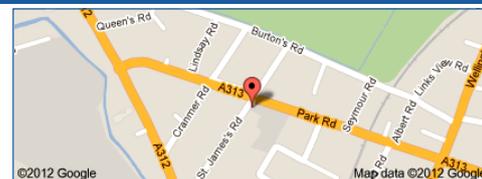
© St James's Church 2018. Unauthorised reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission from the editor. Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are accepted on the basis that the Spire does not accept liability for loss or damage to them. We cannot print anything subject to copyright. Views expressed in the Spire are not necessarily those of the PCC of St James.

Please recycle this magazine after use



Finding us

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



Clerical Capers



'At some point, between Verses 3 and 6, I'll signal for you to do an emergency stop.'

Easter has the best offer you'll ever get



There's been a recent TV programme called *A Vicar's Life*, pictured. It is a fascinating glimpse of four clergy in the Diocese of Hereford.

BBC Two have found four diverse and likeable people to portray rural ministry. What intrigues me is how the producers choose what to show. There is the 'managing decline' story and the 'quirky vicar pleasing the crowd' at the wedding story. We were led to think big-hearted Rev Matthew was being taken for a ride by a homeless lady, but rather wonderfully his kindness helped her turn the corner.

The programmes are sympathetic towards these clergy (not always the case on TV) but veer towards the parts of ministry most valued by a secular audience.

The church community

The most notable exception was the strand that told how Rev Ruth took communion weekly to her churchwarden, slowly slipping away in the hospice.

Then there was a wonderful moment when the camera moved from a still of a stained glass window with the narration, "Every day in England there are seven 'lonely funerals', when there are no mourners. Barbara may have lived alone, but as part of a church community her death is mourned by many", the camera panned down and we were at the back of the church full of friends at Barbara's funeral, with Ruth leading the prayers.

There are many aspects of a minister's life that can't be captured on camera and many of the ones that make good TV are incidental, so it was uplifting that this episode, nearer the heart of what we are about, was included.

Confusion about Jesus

It is clear that there was a great deal of confusion about what Jesus was doing in his last week. At each end of the week there were televisual moments: at the beginning (Palm Sunday) he was greeted as a prophet and at the end he was crucified under a sign that said *King of the Jews*. In other moments of drama he was accused of saying that he could destroy and rebuild the temple and he was condemned by the crowd as worse than notorious criminals.

We are familiar with the idea that there are highpoints in our history; Churchill talked about Britain's 'finest hour'. The Gospel of John talks about Jesus's 'hour' and seems to mean the sequence of events around Good Friday and Easter Sunday. These are at the heart of what Jesus was about.

What his last hour meant

What the crowd see, and what they say, are things only half understood. Jesus's clearest explanation of what his hour meant was acted out when he shared the bread and wine at Passover with his friends. In his elaboration of the customary meal he said:

What I am doing continues what God was doing in bringing freedom for his people, through Moses.

It is about the forgiveness of sin, my death is the price to be paid, it is to be received and shared, my death is not my end for I will share with you again.

(Compare Matthew 26:26-29)

And if we miss the emotional undercurrent John tells us: 'Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.'

The quiet voice of freedom

So if we are not distracted by the showpieces (the triumph of the entry into Jerusalem, the overturning of the money changers in the Temple, the verbal swordplay with the lawyers, and the tragic picture of the dying hero) we might hear Jesus's quiet loving offer of freedom from guilt and his invitation to share his victory over death, both unlocked by his sacrifice.

Come and celebrate with us

Our services throughout Holy Week track Jesus's last days. As we follow the events we will be paying attention to the deeper things. During this time there will be different ways in which we can make a response to God's love that we see so clearly in Christ. Come and celebrate with us.



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 0800-0830
Parish Communion 0930-1030
Together at Eleven 1100-1140
followed by crafts and refreshments
(4, 18 March; 22, 29 April)
Compline (during Lent) 2000-2020
Also Holy Week, Mon-Wed 26-28 March

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays)
Morning Prayer 0915-0940

Tuesdays

6, 20, 27 March; 17, 24 April
Holy Communion 0930-1015
13 March, 10 April
Holy Communion and Coffee 1000-1130
(2nd Tuesday of month)

Lent Course

Thursdays (hall) 1, 8, 15, 22 March 1930
Wednesdays (vicarage) 7, 14, 21 March 1530

Fairtrade Fortnight

Sunday 4 March 1030
Order your Fairtrade Easter Eggs

Connections

Tuesday 6 March 1100-1230
(1st Tuesday of month, but NOT in April)
with refreshments, games, crafts, exercises.

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 11 March
1000 All Age Service f/b Holy Communion
1050 Traidcraft stall selling Easter Eggs

Palm Sunday 25 March

0930 Procession, followed by
dramatised Passion and
Holy Communion
1600 Stainer's Crucifixion



Maundy Thursday 29 March

2000 Holy Communion inc. washing of feet,
followed by the Watch

Good Friday 30 March

0930 An All Age Service, including crafts
and making the Easter Garden
1100 Open Air Service, High Street (see P4)
1400 An Hour at the Cross — meditative service

Easter Day 1 April

(no 0800 today)
0600 The Dawn Service, followed by breakfast
0930 Holy Communion, plus crafts
and an Easter Egg hunt for children

APCM

Sunday 29 April 1100 (see P4)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Will you help shape the future of our church?

ELECTIONS

EIGHTEEN months ago we appointed Derek as our new vicar. The Parochial Church Council asked him to help us grow; we particularly wanted to attract more young families. In that time he has introduced an 11am service, overseen the new church toilets and other improvements to the building.

On 29 April we hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the equivalent of a company's Annual General Meeting. As well as looking back on the past year, and approving the accounts, we need to appoint two

churchwardens (Gwynneth will be standing again) and five members of the PCC.

Help us run the church

Could one of them be you? If you have some time to spare, want to be more involved in church life, have ideas, and relish the challenges, we need you!

Nomination papers are in church and available from the church office. To be eligible, you need to be on the electoral roll — our 'members list'. There are forms for this too. It gives us an accurate headcount if you are included!

Eggs on a Sunday

BUY YOUR Easter Eggs from our Traidcraft stall on 4 or 11 March. The Real Easter Egg costs £3.99 and also includes a packet of chocolate buttons and a 24-page *Story of Easter*



Making Connections with our community



OUR NEW drop-in group *Connections* launched in mid-February, with various activities and exercise. The next session is on Tuesday 6 March 11am-12.30pm.

Nursery judged 'Outstanding'



HAMPTON HILL Nursery School, which uses our church hall during term-time, has been judged Outstanding in all areas by Ofsted following a recent inspection.

Jacky Cammidge, our curate, co-manages the nursery with her daughter Angharad and has increased the connection between church and school.

The Ofsted report said the managers 'are superb role models' and praised staff for their 'exemplary ability to

provide a nurturing and caring environment'. Jacky said they were thrilled that the inspection grading reflected the approach of the whole team in providing the best possible care for the children.

They expressed a huge thank you to staff and parents, past and present, for their ongoing support.

The nursery enjoys its close relationship with St James's Church. Before Christmas, it held its nativity play, above, in the church for the first time.

FEATURE: RITES OF PASSAGE — BAPTISM

Holy water

I love visiting the Holy Land and places we know from the Bible. However, one of the most depressing experiences is visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and trying to pray amidst the jostling crowd. Tourists take selfies in the place marked as the site of Jesus' crucifixion and then move onto the next photo-opportunity.

The building has to make all sorts of compromises to accommodate all-comers, but to me it seems so sad that a place universally recognised as significant is treated like any other.

The idea of sacredness has not been exclusively used of religious places and objects. Great works of art might be revered, and births and deaths are moments of great significance.

The Queen asked that some parts of the Coronation were not filmed because of their profound nature.

What is sacred in the world today?

I don't want to be precious about places or events we might call sacred, but the flow of our culture is to erode this sense of sacredness.

What really is sacred in the 21st century? You can book sleepovers in museums, galleries and cathedrals. Birth photography is a booming business. The thought that sex is a sacred thing is a mystery to many.

This is a curious way to start an article about Baptism or Christening! But similarly, we need to recognise that there is mismatch in the way many people now think about baptism.



DEREK WINTERBURN



Jacky baptises her granddaughter Felicity

The birth of a child is a cause for joy to be celebrated as a miracle of God's creation. We love to see babies in church every Sunday — however much noise they make! Holy Baptism is a sacred ceremony to welcome the child (or adult) into God's family. In the final feature about the rites of passage, we see how the sprinkling of some holy water is the start of what we hope will be a lifetime of faith.



The proud parents and godparents of Abigail Mhando, baptised in November 2017

for a 'rebirth'

Font that keeps it in the family



THE MAJORITY of baptisms at St James's use a portable font that was given to the church in memory of Vivienne Prentice. It has also been used a number of times for the baptism of one of her descendants. The picture above from July 2014 is of her great-great-grandson Max with parents Caitlyn and Rory, sister Amelia, grandparents Coryn and Ian, and great-grandparents Hal and Eila.

This portable font has a wooden base which supports a copper font. The base is inscribed, *Let the children come to me. In memory of Vivienne Prentice, 1898-1995.*

The word font comes from the Latin word *fons*, meaning fountain, and is essentially a bowl for water. The original font at St James's, made of Portland stone, is a large octagonal bowl with outer columns decorated in marble. The octagon represents the resurrection and rebirth in Christian symbolism, because Christ rose from the grave eight days after his entry into Jerusalem. The eight sides became symbols of Christian baptism, the spiritual rebirth of a person.



Our font, left, has a brass plaque on the east side of the base which is inscribed, *In memory of Sir Henry George Ward GCMG father of Alice Ward, Governor of Madras, died August 2 1860.* It has an oak cover with a decorative cross.

Often fonts are decorated to draw out the meaning of aspects of Christian faith especially relevant to baptism. Four sides of St James's font have symbols for the four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Gospels contain the good news of Jesus which a baptised person has heard. The symbols are the four 'living creatures' (man, lion, ox and eagle) which surround God's throne (Ezekiel 1: 4-10 and Revelation 4.7) which became associated with the evangelists. Each of the symbols is depicted with wings following the biblical sources.

These symbols were developed as a way of helping people to remember the different Gospels and the perspectives that they took, especially at a time when many people could not read.



I am always pleased when someone asks for a Christening. After all, it is a positive decision; long gone are the days when a child had to be 'done.' Parents want to do the right thing for their baby, but often that simple good intention needs to be filled out.

We regularly call the service a Christening or perhaps a Baptism, but in fact it is properly called *Holy Baptism*; it is a sacred thing.

Why a Baptism is holy:

It is joining a new family. It is not hard to imagine the joy of parents who adopt a child. The Christening service says 'we are children of the same of heavenly Father, we welcome you.' They are being accepted into a new family. This is why there are no 'private Christenings', and we baptise in a main Sunday service - it is a joyful family occasion!

It is a turning to Christ. When an adult becomes a Christian and is baptised they say that the direction of their life has changed: 'I turn to Christ'. For children, this change of allegiance is made by the parents and godparent by the words *they* say on their behalf.

Other faiths recognise this change too; in some other cultures someone who is baptised can be shunned by their family or even killed.

It is marking a new life. The New Testament teaches that when a person has faith in Christ, baptism is a sign of a deep transformation inside that person — like starting again. It speaks of dying with Christ and rising with him, or being born again.

The church came to believe that the parents' faith extended to their children and so they could be baptised before they could speak for themselves.

It is just a beginning. Clearly no infant will understand the faith just by being baptised! The service sets out the challenge to parents and godparents that they have the 'prime responsibility' for the nurture of the child's faith.

There is no doubt the life of faith experienced as a normal part of family life is the best atmosphere in which to grow year by year through childhood into an adult faith.

But St James's has a role too — in supporting the parents (through teaching, sharing in worship and prayer, the example and encouragement of others etc.) as well as offering age-appropriate opportunities for children to experience the faith.

So baptism is a lot more than a simple service for new babies! It is a great occasion when an adult or a parent on behalf of their child comes into the family of God's people and takes the first step of an amazing journey with him.

Around the Spire

Meet the new Mrs Liz James

LIZ BUTLER, a former churchwarden of St James's, moved to Painswick, Gloucestershire, in December 2012 to be nearer to her daughter. She joined the church, a walking group and the history society and through these she met Hywel James.

Liz and Hywel were married on 17 February at St Mary's Church, Painswick, which they both attend and where they are also members of the PCC.

The ceremony, which included Nuptial Mass, was a wonderful family occasion. Liz's sons, Crispin and Toby, escorted her into church and her daughter Kirsten read the gospel. Hywel's son William was best man, son John read a prayer and daughter Charlotte was a witness. All 13 grandchildren were present with the four granddaughters (two of Liz's and two of Hywel's) acting as flower girls.

We send our congratulations and wish them every happiness in their marriage. Their address is Canton House, New Street, Painswick, Stroud, Gloucester, GL6 6XH.



TWAM's new workshop is all sewn up

OVER THE YEARS

Janet Nunn has collected a large number of sewing machines for the charity Tools with a Mission. These are a valuable resource as, when refurbished and combined with a sewing kit, they make excellent learning tools for people abroad and eventually the students are given their own machine to set up small businesses and earn a living.

TWAM has recently opened a refurbishment workshop solely for sewing machines at Ringwood, Hampshire, where machines we collect will be worked on before sending abroad. If you have any sewing machines, or other tools, that you would like to donate please telephone Janet Nunn on 020 8979 6325.



Good Friday service in our High Street

CHURCHES Together Around Hampton is holding an open air service at 11am on Good Friday near Clarence House Preparatory School, in Hampton Hill High Street.

Quizzers out in force again

OUR QUIZ NIGHT

was a resounding success on 10 February. Some 40 people from the wider community battled it out in teams of six. The winning team, seen in the foreground, took home a case of prosecco. The quiz night also included a hot two-course meal and nibbles. The £275 profit will go to the Lent Appeal. Our thanks go to Clive and Ria Beaumont for organising it so well.





Epiphany Party

Following the Christmas festivities, our children from both Shell Seekers and the *Together at Eleven* service celebrated Epiphany with a party on 13 January.



KAREN ROACH

We adapted this tradition by crowning the finder as a wise person. Although our party began with three wise people, by the end and following our decorating of crowns craft session, we were all crowned wise people.

At Shell Seekers and *Together at Eleven*, children experience the love of God through the sharing of the gospel and encouraging each other as a community.

We have been praying about things we want to see God doing in our lives this year as a group, a community and for those who are marginalised.

I'm busy building community links

As the Children & Families' Work Leader, I have been busy building community links in and around Hampton Hill, looking at ways we

Apart from games like *Follow the Star*, revealing the message that 'Wise Men came from the East – A child is born,' we had a great story telling session by Derek, delicious food and some craft activities.

An addition to our celebration were three *king cakes* (Galette de rois) – a French pastry with scrumptious almond filling.



can support the work in surrounding schools, churches, playgroups and other charities that seek to reach out to those who are isolated. It is only by working in partnership with each other that we can bring hope through actions to those around us.

We will be following the example of Jesus, who brings healing, restores hope, and includes the outsider by bringing them into community.

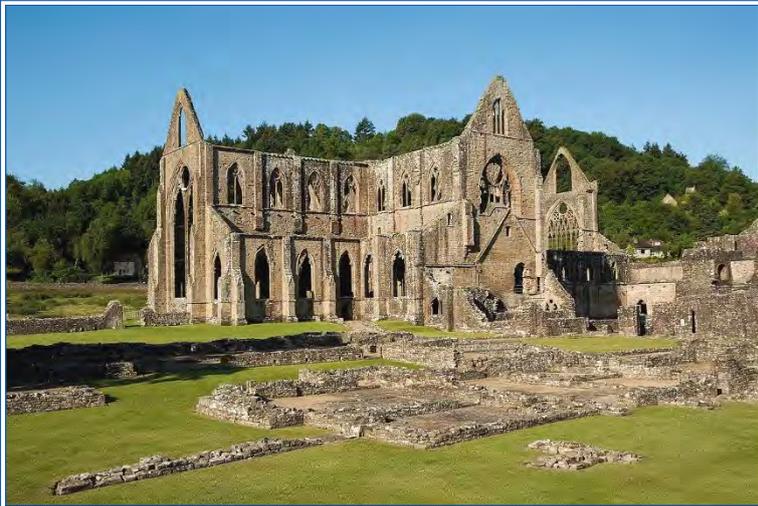
Feel free to drop in on one Sunday either to Shell Seekers in the hall during our 9.30am service or to our *Together at Eleven* family service. We have a great team of people who would be happy to welcome you.

First there were three: from crafting we all became wise people

This is a popular custom in France where you are given a slice of this delicious cake with a souvenir hidden inside. Traditionally this was a baby Jesus and the person who found this in their slice became king or queen for the day.



Our prayers: Shell Seekers asked God to help them and the community in 2018



Driving down the picturesque Wye valley along the Welsh border you come upon the magnificent monastic ruins of Tintern Abbey.



LAURENCE SEWELL

My parents took me on this journey in the late 1950s and the images of the well-preserved medieval ruins have stayed with me to this day. Whilst it never attained the significance or wealth of Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire (which we looked at earlier in this series), Tintern Abbey was the second Cistercian foundation in Britain (and the first in Wales). It was established in 1131, following the earlier setting up of Waverly Abbey near Farnham in 1128, and is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Founding of the Abbey and early years

The Abbey was founded by Walter de Clare, the lord of Chepstow, one of the powerful Clare family related to the Bishop of Winchester, who was responsible for introducing the Cistercian monks from France to both Waverly and Tintern.

The Cistercian monks who lived at Tintern Abbey followed the Rule of St Benedict and the *Carta Caritatis* (or Charter of Charity) that laid out their basic principles of obedience, poverty, chastity, silence, prayer, and work.

With this austere way of life, the Cistercians were one of the most successful orders in the 12th and 13th centuries. At Tintern, part of this success was due to the endowments of fertile land along the Wye valley and in parts of neighbouring Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire which were utilised as agricultural 'granges' supplying produce and services to the Abbey.

Remains of the great church

Little remains of the early church buildings apart from foundations. What we see today are the remains of the great church built in the decorated gothic style between 1269 and its consecration in 1301.

This comprised a simple cruciform plan, with an aisled nave, transepts each with two chapels, and a square-ended aisled chancel. The building work was undertaken through the generous support of Roger Bigod, 5th Earl of Norfolk, the then lord of Chepstow.

In recognition of his generosity the Abbey put his coat of arms in the glass of its east window. This structure stands today much as

it did then, apart from the obvious lack of a roof, window glass and internal walls. Although not nearly as long as the great Cistercian abbey churches at Fountains and Rievaulx, its completeness makes it impressive.

What happened post-Reformation?

In common with other monastic establishments, Tintern's prestige and wealth and adherence to the authority of Rome led to its dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII after the Reformation.

In September 1536 the Abbot surrendered Tintern Abbey and all its estates to the King's visitors and so ended 400 years of monastic life. Valuables from the Abbey were sent to the royal Treasury and the buildings were granted to the then lord of Chepstow, Henry



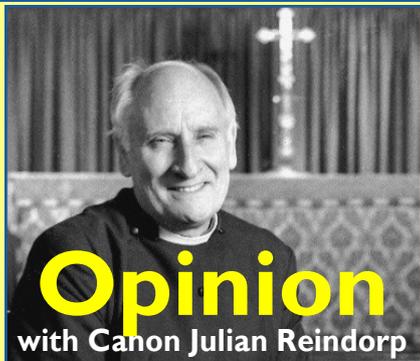
Somerset, 2nd Earl of Worcester. The lead was stripped from the roof and the Abbey became a source of building stone for other properties in the area. The site fell into ruin and neglect.

Only in the mid-18th century when it became fashionable for artists and writers in the romantic tradition to visit 'wilder' parts of the country was Tintern really re-discovered.

Famous poet and artist visited

Amongst its most famous visitors were Wordsworth and the painter Turner, one of whose pictures of the Abbey ruins can be seen in the Tate gallery in London.

Tintern is now a Grade 1 listed monument managed by the Welsh Government's historic environment service, CADW. It attracts visitors who come to the Wye valley to admire both the setting and beauty of this outstanding monument to past religious glories.



Opinion
with Canon Julian Reindorp

GRENFELL TOWER NOW

It is nine months since the Grenfell Tower fire. The Prime Minister's first response was to suggest people would be rehoused in three weeks. In fact, it may take more than a year, partly because people have been given a choice rather than being forced into homes which often happens when you are on the housing list. The tower's scarred remains will be there for at least another year as a reminder of what went wrong, and could so easily go wrong again, when safety requirements are not taken seriously enough. Seventy-one died and many other people's lives have been disfigured forever.

Two depressing developments have emerged. The council advertised 28 posts to spread the message about its work – public relations? And the 15 voluntary, complementary therapists who had been supporting the residents for seven months had their jobs ended at very short notice in January.

The council said they would be restricting future sessions to four per person. The volunteers tried to tailor sessions to each individual survivor with no time limit. The physical death of the tower may take place next year, but the resurrection in the survivors' lives may be a lifetime's work.

SOCIAL HOUSING CRISIS

Two phrases we hear all too rarely: social housing and care homes. The good news is that in 2016-7, 184,000 homes were completed, the highest since the crash of 2007-8 (though the Government target was 300,000 a year). Of these, only 5,380 were for 'social rent', and 24,350 for 'affordable rent', which is up to 80% of local market rent. This in a country where nearly 40% rent homes, and 4.5 million people are on council housing waiting lists.

This is all at a time when the giant construction firm Bovis admitted to moving thousands of people into homes that were unfinished; where Shelter reported that almost half of new-build buyers had major problems with construction, fixtures and fittings; and the chairman of the housebuilder Persimmon (a company given a substantial boost by George Osborne's 'help to buy' scheme), resigned when it was revealed he was to receive a bonus of £110 million and the top 150 executives were to share £150 million in bonuses.

Britain is now reckoned to have the smallest number of new build homes in Europe. Without a huge increase in social housing, homelessness, welfare budgets, family breakdowns and mental health issues will all grow.

CARE HOMES

We hear daily about the needs of the NHS in the Brexit debate, but very rarely about care homes. We have some good ones in this area. The staff come from all over the world, yet their wages are not much above the minimum wage. I mentioned this to an Australian who said their care homes were reliant on people from round the world. Is this another example of how we rarely tackle the needs of the poor and the old, and assume that carers will still come to the UK post-Brexit?

PRAYER POLL

The British Social Attitudes survey revealed that just over half the UK population has no religion (15% describe themselves as Anglican). But another survey, Com Res, revealed that half of all adults pray in some form. One in 5 'non-believers' said they prayed at least once a month. The most common reasons cited were praying for help in a crisis (55%), belief in God (39%), and belief that prayer makes a difference (32%).

I am reminded of an army general friend talking about prayer, 'There are no atheists on a landing craft!' So often in conversation people are wary of calling themselves religious, but want to be open to the spiritual.

Helping two very different projects

Each Lent, St James's makes a point of identifying ministries or charities to support by giving and prayer. Often members 'give up something for Lent' and any money saved is donated to the good cause.

This year we have picked two contrasting partners.

Welcare

Although we live in an affluent area, not everyone enjoys a comfortable income, good housing or a happy family life.

The poverty rate in Richmond is the lowest in London, but still four children out of a class of 30 live in poverty. When life is hard it can be difficult for parents to cope, and for children to flourish.

Growing out of the social action of London churches over 100 years, Welcare invests in families in crisis and need. The SW London (Richmond and Kingston) centres operate from East Sheen and Southfields. They both offer visits from a Family Support Worker, a parenting course, and help with mental health, domestic abuse and substance misuse. Across the whole organisation last year, 417 children and 238 families were given intensive support, and a further 916 children and families received help.

David and Shelley Stokes (Church Mission Society)

St James's has supported David and Shelley for a number of years. Since 2010 they have been based in Juárez in remote North Argentina and in that time their role has developed from being 'missionary leaders' to training and enabling Argentians to lead within the Anglican church.

David works with the ordained ministers and produces written materials in Wichi (the predominant native language). Shelley works with the Mothers' Union (called AMARE). They both visited St James's in the autumn. We



Shelley Stokes in remote and challenging Northern Argentina

were impressed by their commitment to the church in Argentina, working with so few resources and in difficult conditions. They will serve for three more years before retirement.

■ If you would like to give to these projects please put some money or a cheque in a Blue envelope and mark it **Lent Appeal**. Don't forget to sign the Gift Aid declaration.

■ The Charities and Links group will now be known as Charity Support and be chaired by Dennis Wilmot.



Welcare supports families in our area of London

COMING SOON

In Memory of Rodney Taylor

Concordia Voices
Saturday 10 March 1930
St Mary's Church,
Church Street,
Twickenham TW1 3NJ

Concordia are dedicating this concert, *Songs from Earth to Heaven*, to the memory of Rodney Taylor, long associated with both St James's and this choir. They hope to attract a big audience to discover the music of its former conductor, William Petter, who also died from cancer. The choir will be performing his *St Magnus Mass*.

Conducted by Jack Apperley and accompanied by Paul Ayres, the concert also includes Pulenc's *Gloria*, *I Was Glad*, by Parry and Tippett's *Spirituals*.

Tickets cost £12 from ticketsource.co.uk/concordiavoices, or £14 on the door.

For more information go to concordiavoices.org.



REGISTERS

JANUARY

BAPTISMS

28 James Thomas Culmesi Cook, Sunbury on Thames

FUNERALS

- 3 Max Harry Edward Baldwin, 31, Hampton
- 5 Elsie Violet Wise, 103, Whitton
- 11 Thomas William Collins, 93, Hampton Hill
- 23 Ruby Mary Farr, 88, Eastbourne

INTERMENT OF ASHES

7 Edna Jean Wilson, 94, Gillingham, Dorset



Windows to the soul

When visiting churches and cathedrals on my travels in England and overseas I have always been fascinated by their stained glass windows. They create the atmosphere of the building and when the light shines through them they are so beautiful with their rich colours and pictorial art. I have chosen ten of my favourites, based either on their art or the stories they depict.



PENNY SEWELL

The Great East Window, Lincoln Cathedral

Lincoln cathedral is said to hold the second most important collection of early 13th Century stained glass, with 140 unique stained glass windows. I found the famous North Rose Window stunning, but the magnificent Great East window, pictured, the largest 13th century stained glass window in the world, is even more captivating.



North Nave Window, St Vitus Cathedral, Prague



From the outside this is a massive dark, Gothic building but inside it truly comes alive. I wished I had binoculars to see the windows in more detail. This powerful window was designed by Mucha and was installed in the north nave in 1931. The design in such striking colours, portrays St Wenceslas with the saints who spread Christianity among the Slavs.

St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, London



This window reveals the fascinating story of Rahere, who from being a court jester to Henry 1 became a Prior. He had earlier become very ill while on a pilgrimage to Rome and prayed for his life to be spared, saying that if he recovered he would set up a hospital for the poor in London. He did survive and in 1123 after having a vision of St. Bartholomew he established his hospital, parts of which even survive to this day. It is the oldest church in London. Now a parish church with a thriving congregation, it also attracts tourists from around the world.

St Nicholas Church, Moreton, Dorset



The windows in this small church are not stained glass, but are remarkable and unique because they are engraved. Sir Laurence Whistler designed and engraved 13 windows with striking scenes from the Bible, landscapes, stars, candles and much more. These were completed over a period of 30 years from 1955 onwards and are not to be missed! The original windows had been destroyed when a bomb hit the church during the Second World War.

Sainte-Chappelle, Ile De La Cite, Paris

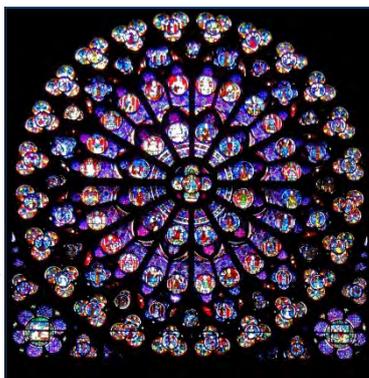
This Gothic chapel was consecrated in 1248 and is tiny. The chapel consists almost entirely of stained glass windows which are absolutely amazing, with 15 huge panels, each 15 metres high depicting 1,113 scenes from the Bible. The chapel suffered considerable destruction during the



French Revolution but nearly two thirds of the windows are authentic. The latest restoration of the glass, completed in 2015, took seven years and cost £8.7 million.

North Rose Window, Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris

Notre Dame's stained glass windows are an important and beautiful example of 13th century Gothic art, especially the set of three rose windows. The blueness and intricacy of the design of the North



Rose, pictured above, in particular is impressive. Some of the stained glass is original, but much has been added over the centuries during successive restorations, especially after being damaged during the French Revolution and later in the Second World War.

Great South Window, Canterbury Cathedral

Whilst there are just so many to choose from here with 1,200 square metres of stained glass, the most striking for me is the Great South Window. This is one of the largest in the building which during my visit had just been restored, so it was magnificent to see it. This project has been a considerable challenge, costing £2.5 million.



Basilica of Santa Croce, Florence, Italy

Out of the 48 churches in Florence, this one stands out as the most memorable with its magnificent window, the *Coronation of the Virgin*, which together with the sight of the altar and crucifix, consecrated in 1442, will remain with me forever.



Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, London

This is a contemporary light sculpture in Westminster Hall unveiled in June 2017 called 'New Dawn', designed by Mary Branson. It marks the first step in the battle for women's right to vote, unveiled 150 years to the day since the first petition for women's vote in the House of Commons was presented. It is not strictly a stained glass window but a fascinating modern light sculpture depicting scrolls of law with changing coloured lights on a cycle linked to the tide of the Thames. It is well worth a visit.



St James's Church, Hampton Hill

It is easy to take for granted what one sees on a regular basis and this is certainly the case with the stained glass windows at St. James's. The church is so richly endowed with beautiful windows depicting parables and the story of the birth of Jesus. For me the most striking image is this one of the transfiguration. They are of such a high quality when looked at in detail. There is a wealth of information on the church website which I recommend to anyone.

