

MARCH –APRIL 2016

the spire

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

FREE please take a copy



Happy Easter

Inside: Finding God in the mountain

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Our Church

Registered Charity No 1129286

Clergy



Vicar

Vacant

All enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings and funerals should go through the Parish Office.

Curate

The Revd Jacky Cammidge

Jacky, pictured right, was born in Abertillery, South Wales. She is a self-supporting minister, ordained in July 2015. During term time she runs one of two Hampton Hill nursery schools owned by her family.
Telephone: 074 9677 0505
curate@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Bell Ringing Susan Horner 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder

Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Brownies and Guides 0800 1 69 59 01

Charities and Links Committee

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Children's Champion

Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854

Church Cleaning Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Church Flowers Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Church Growth Working Group

Nick Harris 020 8943 2025

Churches Together Around Hampton

Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Deanery Synod Clive Beaumont 020 8943 4336

Electoral Roll Parish Office 020 8941 6003

Eco-Group Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563

Hall Bookings Parish Office 020 8941 6003

Hall Tea / Coffee Rotas Clare Ryan 079 6413 1135

Mission Partner Link Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Mozambique/Angola Link

Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Music and Worship Committee

Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

PCC Secretary Kirstie Craig 077 7588 2935

Planned Giving

Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709

Properties Committee

Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040

Safeguarding Officer Jane Newman 020 8979 6154

Scout Group Richard Moody 020 8286 6918

Servers Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Sidespersons Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

St James's Ark Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

St James's Hospitality / Parish Breakfast

Clare Ryan and Kirstie Craig 079 6413 1135

St James's Players Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

The Shell Seekers (Sunday School)

Term-time (except when there is an all-age service)
Stuart Richardson 020 8890 4854

Tools with a Mission Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Theatre Club Peter Hale 020 979 9287

Visitors' Group Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Weekly Pew Sheet Parish Office 020 8941 6003

From the Editor...

With Easter falling at the end of March this year we are having a double issue for March / April. Susan Horner has written the centrespread on her experiences of Easter in Germany last year with her family which makes very interesting reading.

My Favourite... this month features Rodney Taylor's 10 hidden gems of the City of London which I am sure many people will want to explore for themselves. I certainly shall as I am only familiar with two of them.

The article in *Young Spire* this month features our Shell Seekers and their special page on our revamped website which they are enjoying using. Do take a look at the new website as it is much improved and easier to use.

By the time this *Spire* appears we will be very close to interviewing candidates to be our new vicar. We hope to have some news about this in our next issue.

Details of all our Holy Week and Easter Services are on page seven and you will be very welcome at any of these services.

A Happy Easter to all our readers.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



thespire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James.

We make no charge for this magazine, but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs to enable us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to *The PCC of St James* and sent to *Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office*.

STORIES, FEATURES

If you have any ideas, or would like to write for the magazine, please contact the Editor, Janet Nunn.
Telephone: 020 8979 6325
Email: janunhh@btinternet.com

AROUND THE SPIRE

If you have any news, please contact Susan Horner:
Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Nick Bagge is listings editor. If you have an event to be considered for inclusion, contact him.
Email: Nickbagge1@aol.com

WEBSITE / SPIRE BY EMAIL / YOUNG SPIRE

Prill Hinckley is webmaster. If you would like to receive the magazine by email, please contact her. Prill also compiles the Young Spire page.
Email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

CIRCULATION

thespire is available free from church and other outlets. It is also delivered across the parish and posted further afield. Contact Susan Horner:
Telephone: 020 8979 9380
Email: smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk
Write to: 5 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1HH

NEXT ISSUE / COPY DEADLINE

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Come and worship with us!

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 6 March Mothering Sunday

Joshua 5.9-12; 2 Corinthians 5.16-end; Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32.

Sunday 13 March Lent 5

Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

Sunday 20 March Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Dramatic reading from Luke

Thursday 24 March Maundy Thursday

8pm Exodus 12.1-14; 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Friday 25 March Good Friday

10.30am Isaiah 52.13-end of 53
2pm Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9; Dramatic reading from John

Sunday 27 March Easter Day

6am Genesis 1.1-2. 4a
9.30am Acts 10.34-43;
1 Corinthians 15.19-26;
John 20.1-18

Sunday 3 April Easter 2

Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

Sunday 10 April Easter 3

Acts 9.1-6, 7-20; Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19

Sunday 17 April Easter 4 APCM

Acts 9.36-43; Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30

Sunday 24 April Easter 5

Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Mondays-Fridays (not Tues)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

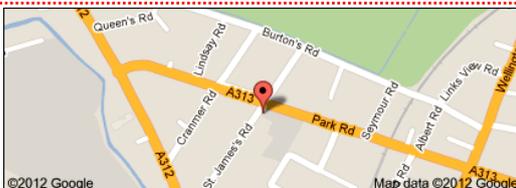


SUPPORT US!

- The more **volunteers**, the more we can do
- Support us by **regular giving**, it's easy to do
- Leave a **gift in your will**, a lasting legacy

Finding us

St James's Church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. There is ample parking in the road.



Easter takes away fear



The probable site of the Crucifixion: the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

In 1966 I made the first of many visits to the Holy Land. It was before the Six-Day War between Israel and the Arabs. Jerusalem was still divided between Israel and Jordan. As I crossed from one side to the other, it was almost like stepping back 2,000 years.

I was shocked by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the probable place of the Crucifixion. It was packed with people of different Christian traditions, jostling for position. It took me some time to realise why I was so shocked.

Then it hit me. I had sung the hymn *There is a Green Hill Far Away Outside a City Wall* so often that my imagination had lost touch with reality. I had almost expected a golf course as the place where the crucifixion happened. In fact Mrs C F Alexander, who wrote the hymn, was describing the hill outside the city where she lived in Derry, in Ireland.

Then I came to accept that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre represents many of the tensions of our world. Standing there early in the morning, I could pray so much more realistically for the world Christ came to save.

Do not be afraid

You may know that one of the simplest questions you can ask a person going through a crisis is, 'What is your worst fear?' As they put their fears into words, their inner fears begin to lose their threat and their power over that person.

'Do not be afraid.' is a constant refrain throughout the Scriptures, and Jesus surely would often have reflected on those words in Isaiah, 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine.'

I suspect it will be your experience, that when a person tries to reassure you about something, it makes all the difference if you sense the person is trustworthy, and is someone who has genuinely listened to your fears.

What enabled the disciples, a frightened and fearful group of men, many of whom had fled long before the crucifixion, to risk martyrdom later?

One answer is that the man they had known and trusted in life was the same person who mysteriously continued to help them face and overcome their fears for the rest of their lives. The man they had seen crucified, continued against all the odds to speak to them, the same words as before, 'Do not be afraid.'

Roll away your fears

I don't know what your worst fears are. I don't know what stones need to be rolled away in your lives, so that you may be set free from something that binds or engulfs you; what guilt or fear from the past you need to be freed from. Scripture and experience suggest that God is active in history and in our lives, rolling away the stones of guilt and fear, bringing new freedom, fresh courage, and new spirit day by day. Can we hear, will we hear Christ saying, 'Do not be afraid' to us, again and again, in our lives and in the lives of our society?

Back to work

After the disciples have experienced Christ's resurrection they are encouraged to go back to Galilee, to their working lives, as it is there that they will experience the risen Christ. John's Gospel records Jesus appearing both in Jerusalem and around the sea of Galilee, when the fishermen were back at work.

It was in their daily lives, both in Jerusalem, the capital city of their country, and in Galilee, that the disciples met and were met by the risen Christ, and whenever they met for a simple meal they heard again his words, 'Do this in memory of me.'

Our Holy Week worship in this parish is memorable in all sorts of ways. But it is in our daily lives where the risen Christ may be found. I always remember the words of a trade union friend: 'Do encourage people to see their working lives as a key focus for their discipleship. For that is where their faith will be tested and developed and where Christ is to be found and followed.'

I hope you and your family have a happy Easter.

Charity Box CMS

St James's has contributed to the work of Church Missionary Society for many years. Since 2010 our support has been to David and Shelley Stokes' work with the indigenous Wichi-speaking people in the Diocese of Northern Argentina. The couple lived and worked in a Wichi community in the 1990s and returned to work in Juarez in 2010 following David's ordination.

David is involved in training church leaders across 150 churches in the indigenous part of the diocese, scattered over three provinces. David worked with a group of Wichi leaders on



the revision of hymnbooks in the Wichi language, *Lhatenekhi*, and St James's Lent Appeal in 2014 raised £2100 for printing more copies.

Shelley works mainly with the women, helping with conferences and encouraging parenting groups. She has helped set up AMARE, a women's group affiliated with the Mothers' Union. It now has 750 members in 11 zones. The teaching for new members is

based on loving God and our neighbour, including forgiveness and reconciliation where there are relationship problems.

There are regular reports about them on the charities board.



Thought & Prayer

Taking time to talk to God

Prayers for Easter



Eastertide

By Steve Turner

Calvary is a rubbish tip close by,
not a green hill far away.

That is the stench of rotting dogs,
not the waft of holy oil.

The cross is stubbed and splintered,
not elegant and planed
as if in a Florentine fresco.

Imagine that helmet a mask.
Imagine that sandal a boot.
Imagine that spear a gun.

Imagine this crowd
not contorting itself in grief
but holding up its phones
to share Easter with the world;
proving it was there
by watching it on screen.

What happens next
will amaze you

How Amazing is Your Love

O Lord, How amazing is your love,
A love that overcomes, endures and redeems.

How astounding is your life,
A life that sustains, heals and creates.

How awesome is your hope,
A hope that promises, restores and inspires.

How absorbing is your truth,
A truth that releases, changes and rebuilds.

How we worship you, as we remember the moment
when your love conquered.

When out of the cave of sorrow Jesus arose to
release forgiveness to the world.

And each time we encounter this resurrection day
we are again lifted to an eternal place.

Our sin, brokenness and darkness fall away and
your light and peace flood our lives.

How we thank you for this incredible celebration
we call Easter. Amen.

Praise to You

By Gregory of Nazianzus (389)

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;
today I am glorified with him.

Yesterday I was dead with Christ;
today I am sharing in his resurrection.

Yesterday I was buried with him;
today I am waking with him from the sleep of death.



Local and National stories

A big screen heads improvements

A BIG SCREEN is being installed at St James's as part of a package of church improvements planned to enhance church use and worship. The work will also include an upgrade of the sound system, parts of which are now obsolete, and a new induction loop for anyone with a hearing aid.

This is the first project to come out of the Church Growth Working Group, set up to make the church more popular.

The screen can be used to show films, the words of hymns or for a sermon. A camera is also being installed, making it possible to webcast services or concerts. The work, which required a faculty, the equivalent of planning permission, should begin after Easter.



Annual Meeting and PCC elections

ON SUNDAY 17 April St James's Church will hold its Annual Church Meeting. Four members of the Parochial Church Council — Alan Cammidge, Kirstie Craig, Lorraine Glover and Linda Orkney — will be retiring after three years in post. The hunt is on for their replacements. If you are interested in helping to run the church and would like a say in its future development, talk to one of the churchwardens or a current PCC member for more information. You will need to complete a nomination paper, copies of which can be found in church.

A new vicar for St James's?

INTERVIEWS for a new vicar of St James's take place on Wednesday 2 March. Listen in church or check the website for further news. We hope to have an interview with our new vicar in a future issue of *The Spire*.

£1.8m facelift for the High Street

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

to Hampton Hill's High Street have begun as part of the local council's Uplift programme. It follows a consultation earlier this year involving over 400 residents and businesses and an open evening at the Hampton Hill Playhouse, organised by the borough council and the Hampton Hill Traders' Association. You can still have your say on the plans. A public consultation runs until 21 March and there is a drop-in exhibition at Hampton Hill Junior School on Saturday 5 March, from 10am-4pm. For more information go to lovehamptonhill.com.



The £1.8m investment includes new pelican crossings, new pavements and road resurfacing, street furniture, such as benches, and a new community space near to the main junction. All pavements on both sides of the High Street will be replaced with York stone. Some trees will be replaced and some parking restrictions will be lifted.

Work began in February and is scheduled to continue until February 2017. There will be some disruption to traffic, including where buses stop.

The power of prayer at St James's

A NUMBER OF our congregation have asked for time to pray together. For the next three months, Julian Reindorp will lead prayer at various times in the Upper Room, beginning at 11.15am on Sunday 13 March. Other dates include: Tuesday 29 March at 7.30pm, Tuesday 19 April at 7.30pm, Sunday 1 May at 11.15am and Sunday 29 May at 11.15am.



Caves that shine



Susan Horner reports on how a vast underground network of caves in the German town of Erlangen, once used for the brewing of beer, is now transformed each Easter into a powerful depiction of the Stations of the Cross.

Last Easter, Michael and I visited our son Matthew, his wife Marina and their son Mark in Erlangen, Germany, 12 miles north of Nürnberg. In the north of Erlangen there is a wooded hill with 14 miles of caves which were used as cellars by the old breweries.

Before the advent of the electric refrigerator, these were considered to be the largest 'refrigerator' in southern Germany and Erlangen thus became one of the largest exporters of beer.

There is still a huge beer festival on the Berg (hill) for 12 days every year, starting on the Thursday before Pentecost, which attracts a million visitors annually. With over 11 000 seats, it is one of the biggest open-air beer gardens in Europe.

Stations of the Cross

However, each Good Friday since 2007, the Berg has been the scene of a very different event. Matthew and Marina's local evangelical church uses some of the caves for a depiction of the Stations of the Cross. The route is lit by candles, and at each Station there is the relevant Biblical text, often a *comment* (shown in italics below) and also something to touch, hear, see, smell or do to relate it to modern life.

Station 1: Jesus is condemned. A table and two chairs represented an interview situation. *Refugees are often hidden away or not given a fair hearing.*

Station 2: Jesus picks up the cross. There was a crown of thorns like a burning bush. *Do I want to live in comfort or am I willing to expose myself to pain?*



Transformed: Erlangen's beer festival in June

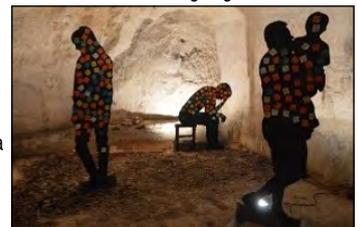
Station 3: Jesus falls for the first time. Here you could listen to the German equivalent of *The X Factor* on headphones. *We sometimes make fun of people for public entertainment.*

Station 4: Jesus sees his mother. There was an excerpt from the film *The Passion of Christ*, showing Mary seeing Jesus suffer and recalling how she would run to help him when he stumbled as a small child. *The pain you feel for a loved one can be as great as your own pain.*

Station 5: Simon helps Jesus to carry the cross. Here there were large pieces of wood for visitors to carry a short distance through the cave.

Station 6: Veronica passes Jesus a cloth to wipe his face. *There are people on the edge of society with whom we avoid eye-contact or pretend they do not exist.* At this station there were large figures of people.

Visitors were invited to write the name of a person who was anxious



or in pain and attach it to one of the figures, letting their hand stroke it for a moment and saying a prayer.

Station 7: Jesus falls for the second time. There was a short film showing phrases such as: The opposite of remembering is not forgetting, the opposite of love is not hate, the opposite of hope is not despair, the opposite of all these is apathy.

a light for Easter



The network of tunnels is carefully lit for maximum impact

Station 8: Jesus said to the women, 'Do not weep for me, weep for yourselves and your children.' There was a film of a drop of water falling into a puddle. *Pain and sadness have consequences and often become a spiral of retribution; how many generations does it take for the wounds of civil war to heal?*

Station 9: Jesus falls for the third time. There was a rotating light and a line on the ground showing where a victim of violence lies. *Trauma can cause lifelong scars.*

Station 10: Jesus is stripped of his clothes. *For soldiers, clothes of victims were a prize. Think about clothes made in poor conditions. There were clothes hanging up and visitors were invited to take a piece of paper from the pockets, read it and keep it. The paper asked visitors to consider how clothes are made and to buy fairly-traded goods.*



Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross. There was a bare cross and a basket of large, heavy nails. Visitors were asked to take a nail in their hands and feel the cold, heavy metal, and to reflect that if Jesus could forgive all who tortured him, then he can also forgive all, including me.

A fountain of colourful eggs helps mark Easter in Germany



Station 12: Jesus dies on the cross. This was represented by a torn curtain. *The holy and normal are separated? The pain of the world flows into God's heart and the love of God flows into the world. We are in front of a barrier that has stopped being one. Go carefully through the torn curtain. Where would you expect God to be? Take time to think about it.*

Station 13: Jesus is taken from the cross. *Joseph made sure Jesus had a place to lie and later the women came.*

Today, victims of catastrophe are recovered and buried carefully, making it possible for relatives to pay



their respects and giving a fixed place for their sorrow.

There were pots of frankincense and myrrh, into which visitors were invited to put their fingers and smell the scent.

Station 14: Jesus is placed in the grave. There were quotations from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, W H Auden and others, together with Romans 8, 38-39: 'I am convinced that neither death nor life... can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Last year over 1800 people visited the Stations of the Cross in the Erlangen caves. It is impressive that they all go round in silence, stopping to experience the sights and sounds and to think about their meaning for today. The darkness, with just candlelight, makes it an ideal setting.

In Germany, shops are closed on Good Friday, and Easter Saturday is also kept as a quiet day, with no public festivities permitted. Easter Sunday is celebrated with dawn and morning services, similar to those in England. All the children hunt for Easter eggs. Many people give small Easter eggs to children.

One neighbour left eggs daily next to the Easter display in her garden for Mark to find whenever he passed. He was also given eggs in the shops, by strangers and even by the ticket inspector on the bus!

One German tradition not seen here is displays of beautifully decorated eggs in shops and gardens everywhere. The Osterhase (Easter hare) is also much in evidence. We saw fountains, one of which is pictured left, lavishly decorated with coloured eggs.



Gift of love on Mothering Sunday



OUR ANNUAL Mothering Sunday service at 9.30am on **March 6** will, as ever, be a chance to give thanks to all mothers, whether there in person or in our hearts. We hope to see as many families as possible at this celebration of our 'mother church'.

A special present will be given to all the women attending the family-led service, so invite your extended family to join you. A warm welcome awaits everyone.

Women's World Day of Prayer

EVERY YEAR, on the first Friday in March, a global wave of prayer rolls out around the world. About 170 countries take part, using the same service translated into more than 60 languages. It binds women together throughout the world in the love of Christ. This year, the service has been prepared by the women of Cuba. Although written by women, the service is for everyone, so please join us on Friday 4 March at the Hampton Methodist Church in Percy Road. There are two services, at 1.30pm and 7.30pm.

This Lent, support the persecuted



PLEASE SUPPORT the Diocese of London's appeal for persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria this Lent. There is a threat to the very survival of the Christian population in these most ancient homelands of our faith. Please put your donation in a blue Gift Aid envelope, write *Lent Appeal* on it, and bring it to church by 27 March, Easter Sunday. If you aren't a taxpayer, just hand in your donation in an envelope marked *Lent Appeal*.

A granddaughter for our curate

JUST AS WE WERE going to press, we heard of the arrival of a daughter, Felicity Rose, for Amy and Elliot Blazewicz on 15 February. Congratulations to them and to grandparents Jacky and Alan Cammidge.

Grow or die: the call to prayer

OUR PLANS TO grow the church could not come at a better time. The latest Church of England statistics show a continuing decline in weekly attendances. Just under one million people attend services, including 150,000 children.

The statistics also show that 2.4 million attended a Church of England service at Christmas in 2014 and 1.3 million people at Easter. As a whole the figures represent a continuing trend which has shown a 12% decrease in attendance over the past decade.

The story is not one of inevitable decline as some dioceses increased their attendance. The Book of Common Prayer has attracted younger people.

Christingle boxes shine brightly

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who returned a filled Christingle collecting box. The total sum collected was an impressive £233.

Don't forget the time this Easter!

EASTER SUNDAY also marks the start of British Summer Time. Our clock, now back in full working order, will strike the correct hour, but will yours?

Be sure to advance your alarm clock by one hour — especially if you are planning to see the sun rise and celebrate at the Easter liturgy service at 6am, to be followed by breakfast.





Young Spire with Prill Hinckley

Going live on the web!

David Hetling reports on Shell Seekers' web pages



I hope you have seen St James's shiny new website by now. Launched on Advent Sunday last year, it has taken the best of what we had before and combined it with some new content to create a web presence of which we can all be proud.

The Shell Seekers were given the opportunity to create pages for the Young St. James's section when the website was redesigned and so we took the chance to raise our profile and publish some new areas!

Our pages now include:

- **Shell Seekers News** – the latest updates from Shell Seekers, including details of our own events and our weekly schedule for each term.
- **Local Events** – activities and events taking place in the area that might be of interest to our children and their families.
- **Shell Seekers Charities** – some examples of the many charities that we support, helping them through regular fundraising activities and supporting them through our prayers.
- **Shell Seekers Prayer** – written by the Shell Seekers themselves, our prayer covers some of the areas that we think are most important to remember when talking to God.
- **Gallery** – some of the photos taken during our activities and events as well as examples of our arts and crafts.



Helpful

Links – links to other websites and resources that are topical or might be of interest to children on their journey with God.

You can visit our pages on the St. James's website at stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk/young-sj/our-sunday-school/

We hope you like them and, if there's anything else that you would like to see on our pages, please speak to any of the Shell Seekers leaders!



Our Sunday School, The Shell Seekers, meets in the hall from 9.25am during school terms, except for one Sunday in most months when there is an all-age service in church. We welcome new members. Come along for a trial visit and see just how much fun it can be.

A-Z OF



Sacred Places

with Laurence Sewell



BABYLON

Babylon today, left, is in ruins, but this is how the city might have looked, right

Babylon was the most significant city of ancient Mesopotamia. It was situated on the Euphrates River, about 50 miles south of modern Baghdad.

It was originally founded during the period of the Akkadian empire c. 2300 BC. It became a city state in 1894 BC as part of the Amorite Dynasty and a century later was the largest city in the world with a population exceeding 200,000, known for its impressive buildings, and with a reputation as a great seat of learning and culture.



Babylon as seen from Google Earth

A city in turmoil

It was destroyed and rebuilt by the Assyrians, becoming the capital of the Neo-Babylonian empire from 609 BC until 539 BC when it was finally overrun and destroyed by the Medes and the Persians. The remains of the city are in present-day Hillah, Babil Governorate in modern day Iraq, comprising a large mound of broken mud-brick buildings and debris.

Babylon and the Bible

There are many references to Babylon in the Bible. It features in the story of the *Tower of Babel* in Genesis, chapter 11, when God caused the people to speak in different languages so they would not be able to complete their great tower to the heavens.

We have the beautiful Psalm 137: *'By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion...'* This is a hymn expressing the lamentations of the Jewish people in exile following the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem in 586 BC.

Babylon also appears prominently in the books of Daniel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah, and, most notably, the Book of

Revelation; where in chapter 17 Babylon is described in its religious context and the spirit of false worship, and in chapter 18 as a political and economic system and where the Apostle hints at the city of the future.

The Hanging Gardens

Babylon is also known for its Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, although no definitive archaeological evidence has been found in Babylon.

Originally thought to have been built by King Nebuchadnezzar around 600 BC, the gardens are believed to have been a remarkable feat of engineering: a semi-circular multi-tiered artificial hill some 25m high and 120m across, containing all manner of trees, shrubs, and vines, irrigated by an aqueduct system. Within the garden itself water was raised mechanically by large bronze screw-pumps.

Paradoxically, research during the past 20 years from Oxford University's Oriental Institute place these famed gardens not in Babylon, but in Nineveh 300 miles to the north and built by the great Assyrian ruler Sennacherib, and not, as historians originally thought, by King Nebuchadnezzar.

Not forgetting Boney M

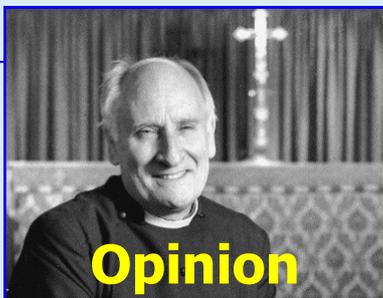
Or, more irreverently, perhaps, when Babylon is mentioned, those of us of a certain age think of Boney M's hit song *By the Rivers of Babylon*, which made the charts in 1978 and is one of the top ten all-time best-selling singles in the UK. It was actually a Jamaican Rastafarian song which took its lyrics from the Bible, and first appeared on the film *The Harder They Come* in 1972.

For whatever reason we recall Babylon, it has a fascinating history and an allure down the ages.



What's On

with Nick Bagge



Opinion

with Canon Julian Reindorp

NO GAY SPLIT

Many people thought the Anglican Communion worldwide would split at the recent meeting of the 38 archbishops at Canterbury in January over the issue of gay marriage.

Under Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, they agreed to stay together for the next three years, provided the American Episcopal Church, who have supported gay marriages, are excluded from all discussions during this time. As one commentator said, only in the Anglican church would being barred from committees be seen as a punishment!

Sooner or later all churches will need to recognise that human beings cannot simply be categorised as male or female. They might also be gay and straight, bisexual and transgendered. Our intimate relationships surely need to be inspired by the key features of Christ's ministry — healing forgiveness, acceptance and growth — regardless of gender or sex.

HUNGRY to SCHOOL

Almost four out of five teachers in England and Wales see pupils arriving at school without having had breakfast, with many having nothing to eat until lunchtime. Nearly 20% of teachers said they had brought in food for children and 8% had given pupils money for food.

WALLS of KINDNESS

With the addition of a few hooks and a splash of paint, walls across Iran are being reinvented as part of an outdoor charity initiative in which strangers leave goods they no longer want for those who need them. The message above the hooks reads *Walls of Kindness*.

HOMELESSNESS

Last night about 7,500 people will have slept rough in London alone, up 55% on five years ago. The charity SPEAR (Single Persons Accommodation in Richmond) say the life expectancy of a rough sleeper is 47.

A recent survey suggested that 30% of people felt they might become homeless if they lost their partner. It is widely agreed we need to be building at least twice the number of homes that are being built. And while 84% of people wanted to own their own home, ownership has fallen in the past five years to 63%. We need to focus on the needs of the third of people who will never be able to afford their own homes.

THIS IS LONDON

In 40 years the percentage of white British in London has fallen from 86% to 45%. Some 600,000 of those in London are here illegally. (Both Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson have argued for an amnesty for these people.) The number of Africans would fill a city the size of Sheffield and 57% of births are to migrant mothers. A gun is fired on average every six hours; 96% of prostitutes are migrants, as are 60% of London's carers.

CASH TO LEARN ENGLISH

Recently the Prime Minister announced that some immigrants, particularly Muslim women, need to learn English. This was part of the programme to combat the rising threat of Jihadism. David Cameron said £20 million would be set aside for this programme. Unfortunately in the first five years as PM he has cut the budget for ESOL – English for Speakers of Other Languages, by £400 million.

MP LANDLORDS

Some 196 MPs supplement their income through renting out their properties, an increase of 25% in the past five years.

NEW

Easter at St James's

Sunday 6 March Mothering Sunday

9.30am All-age service, with a free gift for every woman

Sunday 20 March

4pm Stainer's Crucifixion (see separate entry below)

Monday 21 March-Wednesday 23 March Holy Week

8pm Compline (night prayer)

Thursday 24 March Maundy Thursday

8pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, followed by Watch of Prayer

Friday 25 March Good Friday

10.30am All-age Worship, followed by hot cross buns

2pm Liturgy of Good Friday

Sunday 27 March Easter Day

6am Easter Liturgy, followed by breakfast

9.30am Parish Communion

Lent Course 2016: Faith for Today

Thursdays 3-17 March, 7.15pm, Fitz Wygram Church Hall

This year's Lent Course continues with the Revd Rachel Carnegie, and Rashid Laher, an advisor to mosques in London, and Miriam Kramer, chair of the European Union for Progressive Judaism, both pictured. Pick up a leaflet in church for further information.



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4 March, 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Hampton Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton TW12 2JT

The service has been written by the women of Cuba and the theme is *Receive children, receive me*, which reflects St Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 verses 13-16. This is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

Cantanti Camerati

Friday 4 March, 7.30pm, and Saturday 5 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, *Just a Song at Twilight*, Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Park, Teddington TW11 9PS

Join Cantanti Camerati for a special celebration of 40 years of this series, with guest conductor Geoffrey Bowyer, the founder of these concerts. The theme is *My Fair Lady*: an appreciation of female beauty and virtue in song. Tickets £15 from 0333 1212 300 or langdondowncentre.org.uk.

Thames Philharmonia

Saturday 5 March, 7.30pm, *Tchaikovsky*, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

Prize-winning young violinist Elvina Sung-Eun Ah is back. Tickets £12 (concessions £8), or £24 family ticket. Box Office 020 8977 7558 or landmarkartscentre.org.

Registers for January



Funerals

8 Michael William Horner, 74, Hampton Hill

25 Ronald Albert Bristow, 74, Hampton

29 Marjorie Gwendolyn Dunnachie, 91, Hampton Hill

Traidcraft Stall: Fairtrade Fortnight/Easter

Sunday 6 March, 10.30-11.30am, Fitz Wygram Church Hall

The stall will have lots of edibles, a selection of craft items and Easter Eggs. The first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter will again be on sale for £3.99. Inside is a beautifully illustrated Easter story in the shape of a cross, a milk chocolate egg (125g) and a Fairtrade milk chocolate bar (25g). A donation is made from each sale.



Teddington Choral Society

Saturday 12 March, 7.30pm, *The Creation*, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

Franz Joseph Haydn's magnificent oratorio is performed in English under new Musical Director, Sam Evans, as part of the Richmond Music and Drama Festival, with professional soloists and orchestra. Tickets £13 in advance or £15 on the door. Box Office 020 8977 7558 or landmarkartscentre.org.

Concordia Voices

Saturday, 19 March, 7.30pm, *A German Requiem*, St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA

Following their acclaimed concert in last October's festival, Concordia Voices offer a rare opportunity to hear Brahms' beautiful German Requiem in the version scored by the composer himself, for piano duet accompaniment. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) via richmond.gov.uk/musicanddrama or by email: secretary@concordiavoices.org.

NEW

Stainer's Crucifixion

Palm Sunday, 20 March, 4pm, St James's Church

This is a scratch performance and anyone interested in singing is invited to come along at 2.30pm for a rehearsal. You do not need to know the work well beforehand. If you are interested in singing please contact Mark Blackwell 077 6814 6879 or email mark@mhrconsultancy.co.uk for further information. There is no charge for singing or coming to listen to the performance at 4pm, but there will be a collection in aid of a local charity.

NEW

The Middlesex Yeomanry Band

Sunday 24 April, 2.30pm, *Voices of Spring*, YMCA White House, 45 The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN

The Middlesex Yeomanry (Duke of Cambridge's Hussars) Band presents popular concert favourites,



joined by Chelsea Pensioners. Tickets £10 (including refreshments and programme). Children are free. Contact judy.morrison1@btinternet.com or telephone 020 8941 1227.

Vicar's View



The new vicar decided to ring the bell once for each year she intended to stay



London's history in one square mile

The City of London has a vivid history going back thousands of years. Within the Square Mile there are numerous well known places.

St Paul's, the Tower, the Monument, the Bank and the Royal Exchange, the Wren churches, the Guildhall and the Mansion House, Livery Halls and the markets are familiar to most. But, in many ways more interesting, there is another philanthropic side to the City which is less visible.

1 CLEARY GARDENS Huggin Hill EC4

Cleary Gardens in Huggin Hill, just off Queen Victoria Street, sets the scene. The gardens were established after World War Two on the bomb-site of a house. On three tiers, they reveal strata of all of City's history.



At the lowest level near the Thames are the remains of a Roman spring-water bathhouse, in use from 80 AD until the third century.



Above these, as we climb the tiers, are medieval remains, relics of the Great Fire, Victorian artefacts, utilities and drains, and parts of our modern City's infrastructure.

In the Middle Ages, vintners grew vines and traded from here – a tradition that has been revived in its Loire Valley Wines Legacy Garden with vines, herbs and aromatic plants.

2 THE LONDON STONE 111 Cannon Street EC4



The London Stone, now located in Cannon Street, has had many roles. It was originally thought to mark the centre of Roman London. It is a block of limestone, part of a much larger original, moved several times. It was mentioned often in the 12th and 13th centuries. Archaeological digs in the 20th century have suggested that the stone might have been part of the gate of a Roman *pretorium* on the



Cannon Street station site. The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers used it on which to break up sub-standard spectacles!

3 LONDINIUM AMPHITHEATRE Guildhall Yard EC2



Londinium was a thriving Roman capital city, established in 43 AD, with all things to make life comfortable and entertaining. The amphitheatre under the present Guildhall was built in 1st century of wood to seat 7,000 people. It was refurbished in the 2nd century and rediscovered in 1985. It can now be seen in part under Guildhall via the Art Gallery. Some of its boundary is marked in the paving at street level.



4 LONDON WALL Tower Hill EC2



London Wall is a street named after the original Roman city wall. Many fragments remain, especially near the Museum of London, modified by every generation since which built on to them.

Those modifications right through to the 20th century are visible.

5 TEMPLE OF MITHRAS Queen Victoria Street EC3

The Temple to Mithras is not where it used to be. It was moved from Walbrook to Temple Court because a huge office block was being built on the site. Work briefly stopped and 400,000 people queued to see the temple. It was built in 240-250 AD for those here protecting the outposts of the



Roman Empire. Like all Mithraea, it was built largely underground as Mithras' cave had been when he slaughtered the mythical bull and released powers of life and creativity. It has the form used in early Christian churches with an apse, nave and side aisles.

6 THE GREAT WARDROBE Wardrobe Place EC4

As is often the case, there is relatively less to find from when the Romans left until the Norman conquest. The City's prosperity and influence declined, but life continued. Even from then until the Tudor period there are some 'secrets' visible in the City now.

Fast forward to the 14th century. Baynard's Castle, long since gone, was a Royal palace used by Edward III, who moved his state robes from the Tower of London to the Great Wardrobe nearby. The Wardrobe was lost in the Great Fire, but Wardrobe Place remains as a delightful Georgian courtyard just off Carter Lane. The church of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe is a reminder of what had been.



7 APOTHECARIES' HALL Black Friars Lane EC4

Apothecaries' Hall stands on the site of the original Guesthouse of the Dominican Priory of Blackfriars. The monastery went in the dissolution and the site was sold to Lord Cobham. In 1632 the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, founded in 1617, bought what had been the guesthouse, known then as Cobham House, as their first Hall. The Hall was burnt down in the Great Fire. It was rebuilt on the same foundations and reopened in 1672. It is the oldest in the City ... and the most beautiful!



8 THE GOLDEN BOY Cock Lane, Smithfield EC1

The Monument commemorates where the Great Fire started in Pudding Lane, as is well known, but where it finally burnt out is much less so. The Golden Boy of Pye Corner on the junction of Cock Lane and Giltspur Street commemorates the site and reminds us that the Fire was perhaps caused 'by the sin of gluttony'.



9 DRINKING FOUNTAINS Newgate and Blackfriars EC1



London's first drinking fountain, above left, is just south of Cock Lane by the church of St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, the largest church in the City, opposite the Viaduct public house. The water used from the New River was seen by St Sepulchre's as an 'antidote to beer'.

A second important drinking fountain, above right, dedicated to Temperance, is at the north end of Blackfriars Bridge.

10 POSTMAN'S PARK St Martin's Le Grand EC1



Finally, to rest our feet, we return to a park. This time to Postman's Park, just north of the General Post Office, near Little Britain. Founded in 1880, this is a delicious haven of peace, with tall plane trees, flowers and quiet. But it also contains a splendid memorial established by George Frederic Watts to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1900 to those Londoners who died in acts of fatal heroism. An emotional experience, contrasting the park's tranquility with the selflessness of so many. The tales recorded are deeply moving, tragic and timeless.

