

JULY 2020

SAINT JAMES

# SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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*Santiago de Compostela*  
**PILGRIMS AT SEA**

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## 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](mailto:vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

### ASSOCIATE PRIEST 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, based in the church hall, with her family.

Tel: 079 5012 2294

Email: [curate@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto: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@outlook.com](mailto:julianreindorp@outlook.com)



### CHURCH OFFICE Church & hall bookings Nick Bagge

The office is currently closed during the covid-19 health crisis. All enquiries should be through the vicar.

Tel: 020 8941 6003

Email: [office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

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



### LICENSED LAY MINISTER Sylvie Collins-Mayo

Tel: 079 4022 0477  
Email: [sylviamayo296@gmail.com](mailto:sylviamayo296@gmail.com)



### CHURCHWARDEN Gwynneth Lloyd

Tel: 020 8943 0709  
Email: [gwynneth.lloyd@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:gwynneth.lloyd@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)



### CHOIR DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST Thom Stanbury

Email: [thom.stanbury@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:thom.stanbury@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

ALMA Laurence Sewell 020 8977 2844

Ark Playgroup Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Bell Ringers Susan Homer 020 8979 9380

Book of Remembrance Recorder  
Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Hampton Hill Brownies  
via 0800 1 69 59 01

Charity Support Team  
Dennis Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Children's Champion  
Lou Coaker 020 8979 2040

Church Cleaning Team  
Debbie Nunn 020 8979 3078

Church Flowers Team 020 8941 6003

Church Mission Society  
Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Churches Together Around Hampton  
Ann Peterken 020 8891 5862

Churchyard Records  
Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Church Mission Society  
Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434

Connections  
Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786

Deanery Synod  
Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345

Eco-Church Team  
Derek 020 8241 5904

Electoral Roll Recorder  
Nick 020 8941 6003

### FINANCE TEAM

Treasurer Dawn Miller 020 8941 6508

Assistant Treasurer / Planned Giving  
Carol Bailey 020 8783 0633

Chair Clive Beaumont 020 8943 4336

Gardening Club Ros Daly 020 8979 3687

Parish Visitors' Team  
Derek 020 8241 5904

PCC Secretary Nick 020 8941 6003

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

Youth Group  
[dani.robertson@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:dani.robertson@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

Social Team / Sunday Kitchen Team  
020 8941 6003

St James's Players  
Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528

TWAM Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Welcome Team  
Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

## Letter from the Editor

For a second month, the *Spire* will be *digital-only*. On 25 July we celebrate our patron saint, James. A couple of years ago Liz Wilmot walked part of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela, but there is also a nautical equivalent.

Kirstie Hird and her husband Neil sailed much of it in their yacht *L'escale* last year and you can read about it in our centre pages. Kirstie, and her children Megan and Will, were at St James's for many years, before she and Neil sold their house to sail around the world. You may recall previous *Spire* stories. At present they are in Valencia and spent several weeks in lockdown, only able to go shopping one at a time. By the time you read this they hope to be heading to the Balearic Islands.

Continuing on a watery theme, Jamie Mortimer chooses his favourite river journeys.

We do hope that by the August / September issue we will have been able to get a bit more normality back into our lives.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: The Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela, in northwest Spain

## 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](mailto:janunnhh@btinternet.com)

### E-SPIRE / WEBSITE

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

Email: [p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk)

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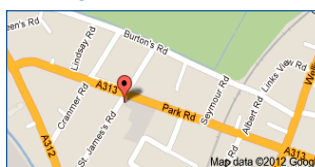
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### Finding us



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.

### Follow us

For the very latest news go to our website or follow us on social media:

[stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](http://stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

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## Clerical Capers



The Brown family reflected on how little they had been affected by the lockdown.

# What's in a name? Follow the Master



**DEREK  
WINTERBURN**

**W**e all want to be remembered when we are gone. Politicians (amongst others) worry about their 'legacy'. People often leave money in their will to a church or charity, with the expectation that there will be a plaque or something with their name on it, so that they will be remembered

Imagine the ignominy, though, of being remembered by the wrong name. When I am preparing to conduct a funeral I always try to check with the bereaved family that the name on the undertaker's sheet is how they want to call their loved one.

### Who do we mean?

Which brings us to 'James'. James is a popular name in our New Testament — generally we say that there are three Jameses: James the son of Zebedee (James the Great, *our* James), James the son of Alphaeus (James the Less) and James the son of Joseph (Jesus's brother or James of Jerusalem). That all these men may have been related to Mary, Joseph or both complicates things further!

The problem is that the name 'James' does not occur in translations in many other languages or in the Greek original New Testament.

There we would read that Jesus recruited two men called Jacob, and his own brother was also called Jacob. (Jacob was a common boy's name — but Simon, Joseph, Judas, John and Jesus

were even more common!)

James is derived from one form of Jacob used in Late Latin: *Jacomus*. Most of us would read Jacob and James as different names. The seeds of confusion were first sown by John Wycliffe (in 1382) when he translated the Latin New Testament into English.

He used the near equivalent to the Greek word in front of him (*Ιακωβ*) for the Old Testament men called Jacob, but used James for contemporaries of Jesus.

Then when King James (!) authorized an English translation, it was inevitable that his own name would win the day.

### Swapping Jacob for James

Does this matter? Well in a sense we hope not - otherwise we will have to rename our church! But in another way it does.

### It is noteworthy that one of the most Jewish books of the New Testament is *The Book of Jacob (or James)*

Not knowing that James is Jacob means we miss out on some details. For example Jesus's brother is 'James' (Gal 1:19), but his grandfather is Jacob' (Matt 1:16) — yet presumably the grandson was named after the grandfather!

Further, the wider Jewish rootedness of Early Christianity is overlooked. The Patriarch Jacob was an important figure in the early stories of Israel (it is he who is given the name Israel to begin with!); whereas we would search the Jewish Bible for James in vain.

So it is noteworthy that one of the most Jewish books of the New Testament is 'The Book of Jacob' (or James) which is addressed 'to the twelve tribes in the dispersion'.

In our time we are acutely aware of the slow but steady flow of Christian thinking

and living away from its Semitic roots, often to its loss and Judaism's harm.

There is another twist in the tail concerning James's name. After Jesus's ascension and the coming of the Spirit, each apostle took a different path in carrying out Jesus's commission to go into the world to spread the Good News.

### Our first martyr

James did not get very far. Herod Agrippa persecuted the church and killed James (Acts 12: 2) in around AD44.

The site of the Armenian Cathedral in Jerusalem is said to mark the spot of his execution and retain the relic of his head. So he was the first apostle to be martyred. However there is a *legend* that tells how before his martyrdom James visited Spain, and that later his body was taken back there from Palestine to Compostela.

The relic became a magnet for pilgrims and the church dedicated to St James of Compostela gave its name to the city — Santiago de Compostela. Saint Jacob/James has now become Santiago!

Recently modern pilgrimage has grown enormously along the Camino de Santiago — many people may only know of Jacob, the son of Zebedee through the Spanish name of a footpath!

**B**eyond the muddle of his name (and the confusion about which James we mean), we remember our James annually in July.

As in the case of most saints and apostles we have too few details for a full biography.

Rather, we take our cue from his life of faith in Christ to reflect on how God has touched our lives, what we can give thanks for (even in this very disturbing year) and pray for courage that we will follow with James in the steps of the Master.



Services and events details are subject to change. Go to our website for the latest information.

## Sundays

Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am **LIVE**

Streaming on Facebook Live. You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch this.

Go to: [www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill](http://www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill) Look for the red **LIVE** box from just before 9:30.

The service will be uploaded to YouTube to view afterwards (find the link via our website), but there is an extra dimension to watching together (and commenting), and this is done better through Facebook.

Together at Eleven 11-11:30am **zoom**

Our All Age Service has transferred to the **together at eleven** Zoom platform for the

usual stories and songs. To enter you will need the link, available by emailing Derek:

[vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)

## Monday-Friday

Time to Pray  
each day



Would you like something that will help you focus on God and pray each day? Derek produces a 10-minute podcast for every weekday. Email him to join the mailing list.

## Tuesdays & Fridays

Personal Prayer in Church

10am-12pm

The church building is now open for individual visits on Tuesdays and Fridays. Visitors will need to book in advance and give their name and contact details. Timed bookings can be made via our website. If you are stuck, telephone Derek or email him: [vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)



## Tuesday & Fridays

Storytime 3-3:15pm **LIVE**



Fear not, Dani has left us with plenty of Bible stories, told in her fun and engaging way.

Go to: [www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill](http://www.facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill) Look for the red **LIVE** box from just before 3pm.

## Thursdays

Virtual Coffee Morning 10:30am **zoom**

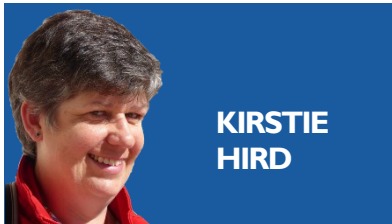
Would you like to pop in (virtually) for a coffee and chat with others?

To enter you will need the link.

Email: [vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk)



# My pilgrimage under



**KIRSTIE HIRD**



**S**ince becoming full-time cruising sailors in July 2016, we have completed an almost-circumnavigation of the UK mainland, and visited each of the countries that dip their toes in the Baltic Sea, apart from Russia.

During our travels in Northern Europe, I discovered an unexpected number of references to the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, from which I learned that there are routes all over Europe that lead to the various starting points of the Camino itself.

We visited the Düsseldorf Boat Show in January 2018 and collected information about a new way of 'doing' the Camino, by sailing boat.

We left Cornwall at the end of May 2019 to follow a route south, along the Western fringes of Europe, via France, Spain and Portugal towards the Mediterranean, and it began to feel as if I was being drawn into a personal journey in the name of the patron saint of the church where I had felt most at home, St James's in Hampton Hill.

The 'official' voyage, known as *Sail the Way*, visits 23 ports, beginning at La Rochelle in mid-Western France, crossing the South-eastern corner of the Bay of Biscay, and following the Northern coast of Spain, around the corner to A Coruña and down the Rias towards the Portuguese border.

**I did it my way...**

As you can see from the map above, we stopped in only a few of the designated harbours, and found many others of our own to enjoy. You can also see that Santiago itself is not on the coast, but inland at least 40km (about 25 miles), depending on where you start from.

To qualify for the Compostela, the official certificate of pilgrimage

**The Camino de Santiago is a network of ancient pilgrim routes across Europe leading to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain, where Saint James is said to be buried. Less well-known is the route by water, but one which Kirstie Hird felt drawn into taking on by sailing boat.**

(*peregrinación* in Spanish), the rules for sailors are that at least 100 nautical miles (M) must be completed, and in keeping with the spirit of the Way, the final 10km to the cathedral must be on foot.

We didn't obtain a certificate, for although our log records 685m and 18 stops, we didn't collect the stamps of evidence along the way, and we cycled from the marina in A Coruña to the train station, to

enjoy a leisurely ride on the Spanish rail network directly to the city of Santiago de Compostela.

Here, we followed an interesting self-guided walk among the attractive narrow streets of the old city, finishing at the Plaza do Obradoiro, the square at the west front of the cathedral, where we enjoyed witnessing the relief and elation of pilgrims celebrating their success at completing their Camino.

**Towers of scaffolding**

I would be disingenuous of me not to mention our experience of the cathedral itself, and dishonest to say other than that it was a disappointment.

I had expected hordes of tourists, but I was not prepared for almost the entire interior to be cloaked in plastic and hidden behind towers of scaffolding.

Of course such buildings require restoration and maintenance, but it was sad to find it on such a huge scale, instead of being planned in sections so that the remainder could be appreciated.

In fact, such was the disruption, the daily pilgrims' mass was relocated to a different building altogether – which must have been something of an anti-climax, at least for some.

Instead, we spent time in the *Museo de las Peregrinaciones y de Santiago*, the Museum of Pilgrimage and Saint James, which was established in 1951 and today is housed in a building previously belonging, somewhat ironically, to the bank of Spain.

We found it very interesting and the information and exhibits well

presented. Visitors begin in a room dedicated to 'Pilgrimage as a Universal Phenomenon', showing a variety of types of pilgrimage within different cultures and religions across the world.

Pilgrims through the ages are obviously the main feature, and the final section acknowledges the huge impact of, and income generated by, the vast numbers of visitors to the city.



**What pilgrims wore: a page from a 16th century illustrated book**

As a sailor, I was fascinated by the metaphor of the Camino as a reflection on Earth of the path of the Milky Way in the night sky, towards the end of the earth: *Finis Terrae* or *Finisterre*, of which there are at least three along this stretch of the Atlantic Ocean, claimed by each of France, Spain and Portugal. For some pilgrims, the



**Some of the many signs for pilgrims**

# sail to Spain



The cathedral at Santiago de Compostela - journey's end for pilgrims taking St James's Way

one known as Fisterra, some 80km (50 miles) west of Santiago in Galicia, is the true end or goal of the Camino.

### What women wore

I was interested to find that women are specifically recorded in the history of the Camino, namely by an artist of the 16th century who created a book of illustrations of the styles of dress of female pilgrims he encountered in his travels.

As we continued our voyage south, I was to find further references to the Camino. In Bayona I saw a restaurant offering respite for the weary pilgrim — the poster, pictured



below, shows a route from Portugal. And in Gibraltar I spotted a wall tile, unfortunately defaced by a sticker, but you can just make out the arrow around the edges,

pointing the way ahead.

Since Santiago completed the Trinity of great Christian pilgrimages in the 9th century, following Jerusalem and Rome, most pilgrims have followed the Camino on foot.

### The disciples' way

We made our own way, by sea, following if not the route, at least the mode of travel of the disciples Theodore and Athanasius,

who, according to legend, brought the body of Saint James the Apostle in a stone boat, some 3000 miles from the Eastern Mediterranean to its final resting place in Southwestern Galicia in Northwest Spain.

You can follow my travels at: <http://lescale.me/>



'The way' from Gibraltar

# Around the Spire

## Saying goodbye under lockdown

**SAYING GOODBYE** is never easy, particularly when the couple in question, Dani and Scott Robertson, wanted to stay 'with all our hearts'.

But, as Dani said, 'It has become clear that our next adventure will be in the United States. We will miss our English friends, but will be back for a visit as soon as we can!'

Dani had been our Children's and Families' Worker for 18 months, quickly settling into the challenge. We gained enormously from her enthusiasm and passion for children. Dani excelled at providing craft and stories, and running our youth group, as well as successfully launching Messy Church.

Scott preached with his unique

casual, spiritual and thoughtful style, and led one of our study groups.

They came to London to enable Scott to study for a PhD in the New Testament at St Mary's University, Twickenham. They had hoped to remain here, but covid-19 ended Scott's chances of a job, and it was too costly for them to stay in London without one.

Now back home, they will initially be living with Scott's mother in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Dani wants to continue working with children, while Scott hopes to get a job teaching at a local school.

They thanked everyone who gave so generously to their farewell fund, which totalled £2000. It will help them to rebuild their lives in the US.



Dani and Scott in Ocean Springs, reunited with their dog, Jackson

## Preparations to resume public worship

**AS WE WENT** to print there was no clear timetable for opening the church for public worship, or guidance about what restrictions there might be, but it was clear that for us it won't be before August. We will celebrate **St James's Day** online on Sunday 26 July, with the hope of our usual festival weekend in September. We plan to continue to stream live our 9:30 service even after we return to church.

## New archbishop's online first

**BISHOP STEPHEN** Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York at 11am on 9 July in a service broadcast entirely via the internet for the first time, due to coronavirus.

The former Bishop of Chelmsford, said: 'This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin, but we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives.'

He said he hoped that the service, to be broadcast on the Church of England website, might attract non-worshippers. His enthronement service will follow at a later date.

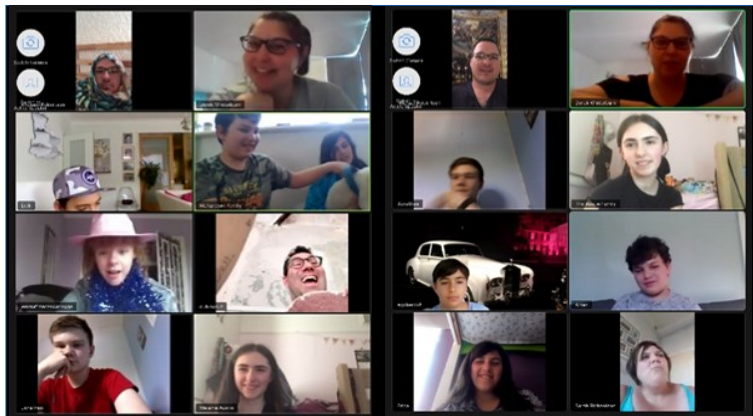


Justin Welby, left, with Stephen Cottrell

**Julie Gittos**, pictured below, who was curate at St James's from 2003-6, and is now vicar of St Mary's and Christ Church, Hendon, has been also appointed Area Dean of West Barnet, and Acting Area Dean of Central Barnet.



# Our time together Zooms!



**DANI ROBERTSON**

They share stories of what has happened in their family or neighbourhood or what they've heard on the news.

**Playing the game...**

One of their favourite parts of our Zoom youth group is of course games! We've played hours of scavenger hunt (I love it when they show us pictures of them as babies), charades, Pictionary, heads and tails, high-low price game, and so many more.

During one game, they were given five minutes to transform themselves into a superhero using things around them. They had to come up with a name and a superpower. It was hilariously brilliant to say the least.

They particularly love the game where I show them an item and tell them a fake price, then they have to guess if the real price is higher or lower.

Well, their fun came when they got to lecture me on spending too much money ordering American brown gravy! One of the young people even pulled up the Tesco website and screen-shared with the group the many options for cheaper brown gravy. I learn so much from them through their laughing and lecturing.

**Restoring my hope for humanity**

Perhaps my favourite part of our time together is the time we spend thinking about who we can pray for, then praying together. To hear such genuine concern come out of their mouths and hearts for their community, families, church, and the world will restore one's hope for humanity.

They've requested prayers for family members, including distant cousins, members of our St James's family who may be feeling lonely, and even world leaders. There were also a few requests for prayers about a furry friend's paw or sore nose, which we happily prayed for.

Many times they are happy for me to voice our prayers together but every once in a while a young person musters up the courage to pray aloud for the group. Seeing them grow spiritually in ministering to each other and talking to God is my greatest joy.

As the world continues mostly locked down, the youth group at St James's will still be on Zoom — chatting, laughing, and praying together weekly.

■ The great news is that although Dani and Scott are now back in the US, Dani will continue to host the youth group's Zoom sessions from across the ocean. Thankfully Mississippi is only six hours behind London, so Dani gets to have a lie-in!

**T**he youth group at St James's Church hasn't let lockdown slow us down at all! We've continued to meet weekly using Zoom. Our time is spent fellowshiping with one

another, chatting about the struggles of life, playing games, and finally praying together. It is so important for young people to have the consistency of seeing each others' faces each week during a time when they find themselves cut off from friends, teachers, the larger church community and more.

Seeing each other's expressions allows us all to sympathise in a way that cannot be done by audio alone.

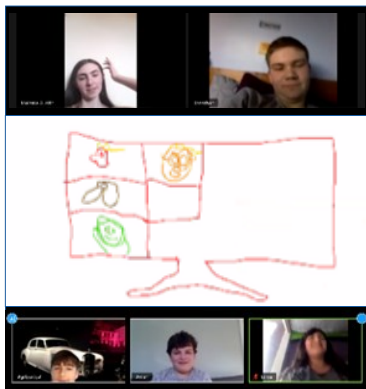
**It's okay to be sad...**

Romans 12:15 says to 'Be happy with those who are happy and be sad with those who are sad.' The young people have certainly put this in to practice as they have laughed endlessly together and shown deep concern for each other's struggles with lockdown or those who have known someone affected by covid-19.

They have openly shared concerns for the ill around them, their families, their church family and many other things that have weighed heavy on their hearts over the past weeks.

They have shown such a resilience in accepting the changing world around them, while still being honest with the emotions it has evoked.

Some of them have a desire to go back to school, while others are perfectly content at home for the time being.



# Supply chains that feed us



**LAURENCE SEWELL**

the world. Bringing it onshore isn't always feasible nor the solution for practical and competitiveness reasons, whether it be coffee, car parts, or personal protection equipment.

It also involves a network of actors — farmers, miners, processors, businesses etc. — at each stage of what we call the supply chain process. We have often seen that the poorest and most disadvantaged are exploited in these relationships, frequently so that we as consumers can benefit from cheaper products. But the answer is not to abandon these relationships, but to further strengthen them and put them on a more equal footing.

**I** am writing this just as the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic is being gradually lifted. I hope by the time you are reading this, our lives will be returning in some small respects to a more familiar pattern.

However, I could not have imagined when I started writing these articles 18 months ago about the origins of what we buy that talk of ensuring the provision of essential supplies of food, goods and health requirements would become such an everyday topic.

We have come to take the open system of global trade and outsourcing our needs to other providers for granted, often in the name of efficiency and lowest costs; but fears for securing our food supplies or obtaining personal protection equipment in these uncertain times have come to dominate our headlines and news broadcasts.

Lockdowns and sealed borders have disrupted or threaten to upset commercial activities that we have become used to. In these circumstances, it has perhaps become natural to think of our own local needs as paramount and further politicise the negative aspects of globalisation, thinking that national measures can give us more security.

Instead, I would argue that we need to have a more holistic viewpoint and further diversify our supply chains to help those countries and peoples less fortunate than ourselves, and at the same time still benefit us.

**Dangers of domesticating supply chains**

In all the produce and commodities we have looked at over the past months, we have seen that there are many steps in getting a product to market and the consumer, from its original state in many different corners of

Taking a purely national perspective, or a 'beggar my neighbour' attitude, does not make our needs and supplies more resilient; it limits our choices and forfeits practical economies of scale, and threatens livelihoods of those least able to manage.

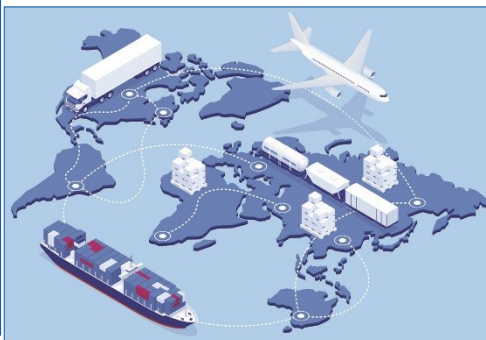
Look, for instance, at many of the UK fashion brands that cancelled orders as we entered lockdown in March, breaking long-held contracts with overseas suppliers and devastating the lives of workers in poor countries (see: [traidcraftexchange.org/fast-fashion-crisis](https://traidcraftexchange.org/fast-fashion-crisis)).

**Improving supply chains together**

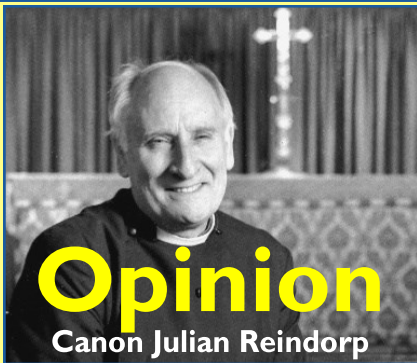
This global pandemic has brought home to us the inter-connectedness of the world and that we need to work together to address the world's problems, not least in finding a vaccine to covid-19, and the equally important concerns of managing climate change.

There are examples of where global cooperation and supply chain networks have been working even in these fraught times. Think back to our panic buying of foodstuffs just a few months ago, and yet the resilience of food supply chains has ensured a balanced diet appears on our dinner plates each evening.

This has been thanks to the working relations between farmers and buyers throughout the world, food processors,



shipping agents and retailers. We have seen in the past that protectionism in this sector benefits no one. Better that open trading networks and a growing emphasis on more equitable relationships between different actors in the supply chain keeps us, and increasingly more of the world's population, well fed. So whilst localism is important, let us not forget to think and act globally.



# Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

## OUR NIGHTINGALE NHS

With our very high number of deaths due to Covid-19, and with the benefit of hindsight, the government have come in for heavy criticism. But whatever the final verdict on their response to the pandemic, the response of the NHS will surely never be forgotten.

It is best illustrated by the China-like speed with which the number of Nightingale Hospitals were constructed and staffed. The NHS was not overrun by the number of covid-19 patients. The risks that all those on the front line took, sometimes with insufficient equipment, and all those who died caring, will long be remembered.

The Armed Services, particularly the Army, with their clear chain of command, also played an ever more important part in our national response.

## 'WHATEVER IT TAKES'

Whatever our view on some recent three-word slogans (*Get Brexit Done* is likely to take many years), the Chancellor of the Exchequer's motto, *Whatever it takes*, backed by the Bank of England, was a dramatic and effective response to the financial challenges of the covid-19 crisis, illustrated by an amusing moment in the House of Commons on Jeremy Corbyn's last day at the Despatch Box. He offered to lend the Government minister a copy of Labour's December 2019 manifesto, 'In case there was anything left in it that the Government had not already enacted!'

The orthodoxies of 10 years of austerity were swept away in a determined effort to save the British economy. How far the poorest groups in our society have actually been protected is debatable. The ever-growing use of food banks is a reminder that, as so often, the poorest suffer most in any crisis.

## THE IMMIGRATION BILL

Immigration was clearly a major factor in the 2016 Referendum — an extreme picture was of Turkey joining the European Union and thousands of Turks flooding through Europe to the UK. None of this has happened and immigration from the EU, over which we had no control, is now below 40,000 each year, people clearly wary of coming to Britain. Meanwhile immigration from the rest of the world, over which we have long had control, has steadily risen.

The new Immigration Bill was drawn up against a very different background with suggested income levels of over £25,000. This left many of us clapping on a Thursday night for people on the front line of our national crisis who may not be able to remain in this country: care workers not even paid the real living wage of £10.75 an hour in London where 59% of all our care workers are migrants.

## NO TWO-STATE SOLUTION?

A declaration signed by all the major Christian leaders in the Holy Land has warned that Israel's planned annexation of West Bank land will sabotage hopes for peace. Israel's parliament has sworn in a new government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, now on trial for corruption. Its agenda includes a possible declaration of sovereignty over Jewish settlements, and the Jordan Valley in the West Bank.

As Bishop Declan Lang, the lead Roman Catholic bishop from this country has said, this would destroy any hope of a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine. How will the British government, who first proposed a two-state solution in 1937, respond to this huge illegal land grab?

## WORKING FROM HOME

On Ascension Day I managed five online meetings via Zoom. The four from St James's went like clockwork. As for the fifth, from All Saints, Fulham, everything that could go wrong did go wrong, apart from a completely blank screen! The sermon from a friend staggered along with interruptions. But I liked his Twitter quote, 'Ascension is when Jesus started working from home.'

# Good news does not always grab headlines



ANN PETERKEN

St James's continues to support the London Churches Refugee Fund (LCRF), a charity that gives small grants to organisations assisting destitute refugees and asylum-seekers in Greater London.

These are the people least likely to have public sympathy and they often struggle to stay alive without the help of friends and faith groups. Organisations that offer support do so with little public awareness and limited resources; they achieve miracles with gifts in kind and volunteer help, but some essential items do need cash.

In 2019, virtually every penny of the LCRF's income of £34,000 went straight out as grants, supporting the work of some 31 organisations, such as the Croydon Refugee Day Centre, and the Haringey Migrant Support Centre.

The small grants (max £800) enable them to buy travel and phone cards for their clients, to make one-off emergency payments or to help them with education.

The Croydon Refugee Day Centre tells of a family of Coptic Christians, with a son of 12 and twin girls of nine, who had been living in a single room and 'were going stir-crazy'. When a volunteer brought them to the centre, the boy ran to the art table, one of the twins ran to a doll's house and the other joined in a game. Their mother asked if she could help in the kitchen, while their father went for a walk — a loving family, who simply needed a break from each other.

The centre used its LCRF grant to pay for their fares, enabling them to visit three times before being dispersed to Essex.



Supporting refugees may not attract headlines, but it is vital work

The demands on LCRF always outstrip its resources. It has no staff and all its activities are carried out by the trustees and other volunteers. At their annual meeting in January, the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, helped to shine a light on its hugely important work.

Please keep the charity in your prayers and do visit their website to see if there are other ways you might be able to help: [help4refugees.co.uk](http://help4refugees.co.uk)

## Goodie bags for carers



ONE OF THE positive things to come out of this pandemic is a new-found sense of community and a greater appreciation of our frontline workers, including care home staff. Tina English, of the charity Embracing Age, wrote to churches, including St James's, asking if they would raise money to buy goodie bags for staff in care homes across the borough. In all, £2,475 was raised, and 900 bags were distributed, including to the delighted staff at Laurel Dene Care Home, Hampton Hill, pictured above. Each bag contained hand cream, lip balm, chocolate, biscuits, and a scented candle.

## REGISTERS

MAY

### FUNERALS

- 4 Margaret Taylor, 91, Hampton
- 7 Daphne Robey, 94, Hampton Hill
- 11 Teresa Boluda, 96, Teddington



# The world is your oyster



**JAMIE MORTIMER**

**E**veryone loves a river-boat trip. You can sit back on deck in a comfortable chair, drink in hand, and watch the world go by. And then, when the boat moors, you can visit the local sites with little additional travelling. What better way to spend a holiday and see the world?

**Orinoco, Venezuela**



The Orinoco is truly one of the world's great rivers. It runs for over 1300 miles through Venezuela. Our boat trip was memorable for the wonderful variety of water birds we saw. And also for the swim we had. The boat drifted down the middle of the river (well away from piranhas and crocodiles), perhaps a mile or so from either shore, while we floated alongside. We must have been carried a couple of miles by the current in the short time we were in the water.

**Douro, Iberia**



The Douro flows across northern Spain and Portugal, entering the Atlantic at Porto. The Portuguese section, which we visited, is incredibly beautiful. The river flows through a deep valley. The valley walls are covered in vineyards, many of them growing grapes for the production of port wine. This is the oldest designated wine area in the world (1756). We followed every stage of the making of port, whether ruby, strong, white or rosé, and tasted how well it complemented tawny cheese and caramel- or chocolate-flavoured desserts.

**Brahmaputra, Asia**



The Brahmaputra rises in Tibet and flows across Assam in northern India before entering the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh. It is up to 12 miles wide and is

subject to catastrophic floods each spring. Houses in local villages have to be built on stilts to stand above the flood-water. A highlight for us was a visit to Majuli Island, where a number of Vaishnavite monasteries can be found. Far from living a life of prayer and contemplation, the monks sing, dance and play music in the Sattriya tradition, pictured. See them on YouTube!



**Danube, Central and Eastern Europe**

The Danube runs for over 1700 miles across Europe from Germany to the Black Sea, passing four capital cities and many fine monasteries, castles and other historical buildings.



We particularly enjoyed cruising through Budapest at night, with the lights focussing on treasures such as the Parliament building, St Stephen's Basilica and the magnificent chain-linked bridge, above, designed by English architect William Tierney Clark, responsible for the similar bridge at Marlow on Thames.

**Ganges, India**



The Ganges is the holiest river of India, flowing across the north of the country from west to east. Varanasi, situated on the river, is India's holiest city. It is famous for its ghats, or stone steps leading down to the river, from which pilgrims engage in ritualistic bathing. A number of the ghats are reserved for cremations. We watched in the evening as Hindu priests conducted a spectacular worship of fire on the riverbank, pictured, dedicated to Hindu gods such as Shiva, Ganga, Surya (the sun) and Agni (fire).

**The Saône and Rhône, France**

The Saône rises in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France and flows into the Rhône at Lyon. The Rhône then flows due south before entering the Mediterranean near Arles. We started our river trip in the Burgundy wine area. Besides the wine-tasting we also visited the papal palace at Avignon, and the famous St Benezet Bridge, started in 1177 and partially destroyed by flooding in the 17th century. According to the music hall song, *Sur le Pont d'Avignon* is where everyone dances. And so did we.



**Nile, Africa**

The Nile is regarded by many as the longest river in the world, with a length of over 4000 miles. It runs through 11 countries. Our cruise was in Egypt and involved visiting all the famous historical sites. But my overriding recollection is just how

important the river appeared to be for the country's economic and social life. Nearly 95% of Egyptians live within a few miles of it. The river provides fresh water and is an important means of transport. As seen above, it is a narrow corridor of green running through desert.



**Rhine, Europe**



The Rhine runs from Switzerland northwards through Germany to the Netherlands and the North Sea. It is famous for the beautiful Rhine gorge between Mainz and Koblenz. One stop we made was at Cologne, to visit the cathedral, built to house the relics of the Three Kings, acquired from Milan in 1164. Their shrine is located behind the main altar. The supposed bones of the kings are contained in a magnificent golden reliquary, pictured, in the shape of a basilican church. A wonderful and unexpected treasure.

**Gambia, West Africa**



The Gambia River rises in Guinea and runs west through The Gambia, the smallest African mainland country, and into the Atlantic. We have had numerous boat trips on the river, generally looking for birds. We have stayed, on occasion, on a houseboat in one of the creeks, and I recollect a crocodile sunning itself only yards away, and a puff adder swimming by. I also recall the frightening experience of being invaded by a gang of baboons. Not for the faint-hearted.

**Seine, France**

We cruised down the Seine from Paris to the English Channel. One unexpected pleasure was Rouen cathedral. Work started in the 12th century and has continued ever since. Once the tallest building in the world, Monet painted numerous pictures of the west front. The cathedral has a tomb containing the heart of Richard the Lionheart, reminding us that for a long period large parts of France were under English control.

