

DEC 2020—JAN 2021 DOUBLE ISSUE

SPIRE

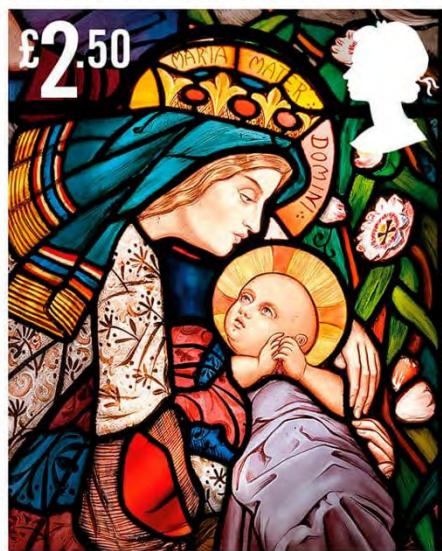


HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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YOUR FREE COPY

INSIDE CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELLED!



Wishing all our readers
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

WELCOME

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 Wednesdays (his day off).

Tel: 020 8241 5904

Email: 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.

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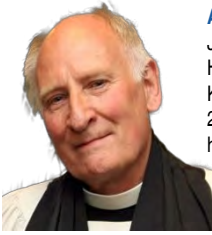


ASSISTANT PRIEST Canon Julian Reindorp

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.

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CHURCH OFFICE Church & hall bookings Nick Bagge

Nick is currently on furlough and only working for a few hours a week from home. You can still phone or email.

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@ Email Susan Horner:
smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk
— and start saving paper!

FROM THE EDITOR...

No-one could have predicted that 2020 would be such a difficult year. Despite that, we have continued to produce the magazine and, when it wasn't possible to print, we directed readers to the digital version.

We decided to delay publication of this Christmas and New Year double issue until there was some certainty about what followed the latest lockdown. Whether at home or in church, the message is loud and clear — Christmas is not cancelled! You will find details of services on page three.

The centrespread gives a snapshot of how we have coped as a church. We have all learnt new terms and ways of keeping in touch, but most people agree that the thing we most miss is actual contact with friends and family.

Hopefully Thom's favourite organ music choices will bring a bit of cheer. He and the choir have worked hard to include music and hymns in our streamed services.

On behalf of all the Spire Team we hope you will find joy and comfort over the festive season and that life will improve for all of us in 2021.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Some of this year's Royal Mail Christmas stamps © Royal Mail.

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.

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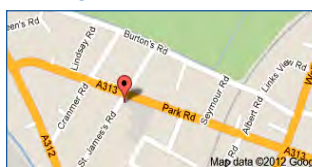
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Please recycle this magazine after use



Finding us



The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is 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

[f @stjames-hamptonhill](https://www.facebook.com/stjames-hamptonhill)

[@stjameshamphill](https://www.instagram.com/stjameshamphill)

[@stjameshamphill](https://www.youtube.com/stjameshamphill)

Clerical Capers



'Nice idea, Amelia, but I'm not sure that having the Angel of the Lord "Zooming" with the shepherds would have the same effect as being on stage!'

Reclaiming Christmas to celebrate birth of Jesus



DEREK WINTERBURN

A striking headline a few months ago was 'Christmas is cancelled'. Since then one widely agreed target amongst the politicians has been to not let that happen. Almost everything else has gone by the board: Easter, the summer holidays, Harvest and even Hallowe'en have all been subdued affairs.

Even though we are still under restrictions, the government is allowing a holiday break for Christmas (23-27 December)

Of course, Christmas is the goal for a great deal of commercial activity: present-buying and party-going. When the shops and the hospitality industry have had a tough year, it's obvious why we want the restrictions lifted before Christmas.

Another key element of Christmas that people don't want to miss out on is the family gathering. Now we are allowed some indoor mixing, although the limit of three households means some picking and choosing of who will be one's bubble.

The other major feature of Christmas that has had to be rethought this year is that schools usually come to St James's for their Christmas Carol Concerts and Services.

There are obvious problems about accommodating large numbers safely, but it is encouraging that the schools are finding ways to capture something of their usual visits by recording in the church, for watching at home with their parents.

Our church celebrations will have to be different too. Although the government has recognised the value of public worship, social distancing will still be needed. We cannot simply 'squash' people in and we are finding ways to mark the season in ways that ensure people's safety as well lifts everyone's spirits.

The Church of England has created a campaign 'Comfort and Joy' with a picture of a church *and* a house (see P5) - a reminder that whether someone comes to the building, or stays at home, we will be celebrating Christmas together.

It has been the vogue to attribute the invention of Christmas as we know it to Charles Dickens, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Certainly many of the incidental customs date to their period. Of course, it is self-evident that Christians have celebrated it longer than that!

However, the Church did not always mark the birth of Christ with a special day. As far as we know for perhaps 300 years Christians rejoiced that God 'became flesh' without having a particular time or customs. That was not a latter-day invention — our Carol services are full of ancient readings telling the story of Mary and Joseph and their baby.

The readings (as well as the carols) explore the amazing truth that God was in Christ in a unique and complete way. God came to be with us, to teach us how to live, and then ultimately to die and rise to demonstrate his love and victory over sin and death.

Perhaps in 2020 we have an opportunity to return to the heart of it all: to temper the busyness, to bear in mind those who can't be together, to have a heart for the poor and to thank God that we are not alone for Christ was born in Bethlehem.



A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens



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

Sundays

Parish Communion 9:30am  
Join us in church or online.

Together at 11 11:15am  zoom

Our shorter, All-Age Service continues online. The link is sent out weekly by emailing Derek: vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Monday-Friday

(but not Thursdays, and not from 28 Dec-1 Jan)

Morning Prayer 9am 
No booking necessary.

Thursdays

3, 10, 17 Dec; 7, 14, 21, 28 Jan

Holy Communion 9.30am 
No booking necessary.

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 20 Dec 4pm & 6pm

Join us in church to share a service, mixing live and recorded elements on our big screen, or watch it online at 4pm or at a time to suit you.

The Longest Night

Monday 21 Dec 6pm 

A quieter, reflective service for those who might find Christmas emotionally overwhelming.

Children's Carol Service

Thursday 24 Dec 3pm 

We can't hold our usual services this year, but we have created a fun, online event. Email nativity@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk for a free pack. Watch at 3pm or at a time to suit you.



Christmas Night Communion


Thursday 24 Dec 11.30pm  
Join us to celebrate Christmas night.


Christmas Day

Friday 25 Dec

Holy Communion (said) 8am 

Family Communion 9:30am  
Start this special day in church as we celebrate the arrival of Christmas.

KEY
 **IN CHURCH:** **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** There's a link on our website and in the weekly e-flyer. Or email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk. You must wear a face covering.

 **LIVESTREAM:** The service is live on Facebook. You don't need an account. Go to: facebook.com/StJamesHamptonHill Look for the red **LIVE** box or watch later.

Christmas isn't cancelled



NICK BAGGE



Reading newspapers or watching television news you could be forgiven for thinking that Scrooge had cancelled Christmas! True, our lives have changed considerably since March, and we are only just (hopefully) coming out of another period of lockdown to tackle Covid-19, but we have come a long way since those dark days of spring.

Like many churches, we have increasingly turned to the internet to stay in touch with our congregation — and in doing so we have reached way beyond our community. At times of national crisis many people instinctively turn to religion, even if not regular churchgoers, and so it is that more than 200 people watch our Sunday services on either Facebook or YouTube.

At the time of writing we have been able to welcome people back to church, albeit in reduced numbers to allow for social distancing. So, a new normal. That's not to say there haven't been challenges, or won't be new ones, but we are inching our way towards being able to offer much of what we would call church life.

Taking the Church of England's Christmas theme of *Comfort and Joy*, we thought it would be worth looking back at how we got through 2020.

One of my friends is the singer Alistair Griffin (he has performed at St James's three times). He was inspired in lockdown to write and record a new album. One of the tracks includes the words, *All we are is people, all we have is hope*.

But for Christians that is not the entire picture. We have faith —

Because of Covid-19, for most people this Christmas will be like no other. We are all having to change the way we live, but that doesn't mean life is without hope. As we gear up to offer our Christmas services, albeit in modified form, we look at the challenges overcome to celebrate Christ's birth.

something much stronger. While it doesn't promise us an easy ride, we know that God loves us.

For as Paul said: 'Love... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.' (1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

Lockdown, go online...

When Boris Johnson addressed the nation on 23 March, it marked

the start of lockdown. At a stroke the church building was closed (initially, even to the clergy), making it impossible for churches to continue collective worship.

Here at St James's, Derek used technical knowledge and some hardware bought on the



internet to produce a weekly online service, above, and a green screen

meant he could magically 'transport himself' to the Holy Land.

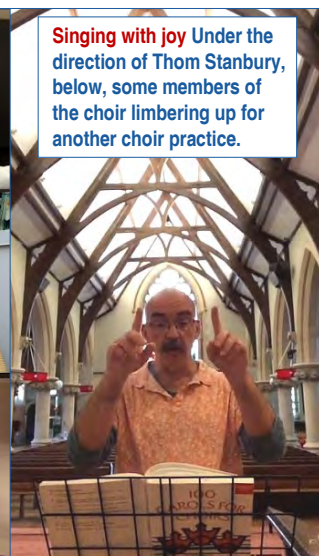
Singing, but no singing...

For many people, singing is an essential part of the Sunday morning service. However, experts concluded, at least at the start of the pandemic, that it could also spread the virus.

Choir Director and Organist Thom Stanbury continued holding weekly choir practice, but remotely on Zoom (see below). To provide music for the streamed services he sent out mp4s of the music and encouraged members to record themselves singing the hymns, communion service and anthems. With skill and technical wizardry he



Singing with joy Under the direction of Thom Stanbury, below, some members of the choir limbering up for another choir practice.



— just different

Comfort and Joy



combined their voices to create a pleasing harmony. When restrictions were relaxed some choir members returned to rehearse in church. Thom summed up the whole experience more succinctly: Joy to the musicians, singing at home or in person together at hybrid choir practice; joy to the organist, knitting music and images together to make psalms and carols; joy of familiar words and tunes, sung in new ways; and joy to the wide world, the at-home congregation singing *Gloria in excelsis* for us all.

We went on giving...

We are immensely grateful that so many of the congregation have maintained their giving to St James's during this difficult year. Church income has declined, especially general collections, due to the lockdown and the limits on numbers attending church. We lost some church and hall rental income. But we were able to reduce expenses, notably church and hall running costs, and we furloughed our Parish Administrator. Sadly we had to say goodbye to Dani, our Children and Families' Worker, when she returned to America in the summer, but she has continued to run Zoom meetings for our youth group. We look forward to the revival of Church activities in 2021 and trust that the PCC is doing its best to produce a balanced budget.

We looked beyond our walls...

Despite Covid-19 the church has carried on giving to its main charities. There were some large personal donations, and money for new charities, including the Beirut appeal. Whilst the total amount raised for charity was down, our Harvest appeal for The Upper Room was way up on last year, both in money and food. The Lent Appeal was also up because of a cancelled social event. In these difficult times it is good to know we can look outwards, confident that we are making a real difference.

Deadlines were met...

The Spire continued to publish throughout the lockdown and beyond. The team met via Zoom for monthly meetings and continued to produce issues, though initially these were only available digitally. The team's joy was in going back to paper copies from October and distributing them again across the parish. The annual appeal, where we ask readers to help towards printing costs, has been delayed until 2021.

Our 'membership list'...

The church's Electoral Roll is the closest thing to a membership list. To be eligible to go on the list you need to have attended services for six months. Once on the roll you can stand for the PCC and vote at the annual

meeting. The total has remained stable for another year.

Schools out...

The pandemic has meant that schools, including Jack & Jill, Carlisle Infants, Hampton Hill Juniors, and LEH Juniors and Seniors have been unable to visit the church as part of their curriculum since March. Sadly, their Christmas productions won't be performed in church either, though some came to record parts. We haven't been able to run *Christmas Experience* either, but Derek recorded videos for schools for their Harvest and Christmas assemblies.

Christmas is coming...

As we went to press, we were due to come out of the second national lockdown, but even if this is extended, or there are greater restrictions placed on gatherings, Christmas is *not* cancelled. We will be streaming a range of services over the Christmas period. There are details on page three, and look out for the latest *You're Invited* leaflet being distributed in the parish.

Where do we go now...

Of course, there is more to church life than the services. The church family is supported and enriched through social events, outreach, including home visits, and groups. It is not possible at this stage to say when the popular Ark playgroup will return. We have to be guided by government advice, but will keep it under review. Similarly, Messy Church cannot operate safely at present, but we hope to connect online and resume in 2021. We are more hopeful about restarting our monthly social group *Connections* at some stage, and the Pop-up Cinema put on a socially-distanced performance of the film *Harriet* in October.

Although we can't predict the future, the vaccines promise us a way out of the virus, and we will remain a beacon of hope for Hampton Hill and beyond.



Pop-up cinema returned in October with a socially-distanced performance. This picture was taken before Covid-19.

Around the Spire

New faces at local churches

TWO NEW vicars have been appointed to local churches.

Debs Wignall is the new vicar of St Richard's, Hanworth. The service of Collation with Bishop Graham Tomlin, Archdeacon Richard Frank and Area Dean Tim Garrett took place virtually on Monday 9 November and she was welcomed by members of the church and local community.

Debs comes to Hanworth from Holy Trinity, Aldershot, where she had been curate for the past three years. She is married to Danny and they have two adult sons. Debs says that she is both thankful and excited to be called to serve at St Richard's.

Donna Williams is currently completing the second half of her curacy at All Souls, St Margarets, and will take up her post as vicar of All Saints, Hampton, in mid-February. She previously worked at St John's,



Donna Williams, left, and Debs Wignall

Hampton Wick, as Children's Pastor.

Donna has been involved in church leadership for many years and has a passion for children growing in their faith, befriending the elderly and encouraging ex-offenders to realise that Jesus can transform their lives.

Prior to ordination she had a corporate role in a software company, working in three different countries. She loves to canoe and also to pick up boxing gloves and attack a punch-bag!

Dr Scott will see you now!

SCOTT ROBERTSON has now passed his viva exam, the final part of his doctorate studies, and been awarded his Ph D degree. His thesis was on *Titus and Crete: Possible Identities from Reading the Letter to Titus in the Light of Crete*. Scott was a very active member of our congregation, preaching, leading study groups and helping with the young people, while studying for three years at St Mary's University. He and his wife Dani are now back in the United States and living in Florida, where Dani is Director of Family Faith Formation at Christ the King Episcopal Church, Santa Rosa Beach. Scott is working at a local school, where he says his greatest challenge is getting the students to call him *Doctor Robertson!*



Nativity-themed stamps



OUR COVER picture features this year's Christmas stamps, issued by the Royal Mail.

They show nativity scenes from six stained-glass windows in churches in Norfolk, Leicestershire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and West and North Yorkshire.

All feature the infant Jesus being cradled by the Virgin Mary.

Royal Mail's head of stamp strategy, Philip Parker, said: 'Our beautiful Christmas stamps feature the Nativity, as told through artistry of different styles of stained-glass windows.'

Looking to the heavens



PRILL HINCKLEY

When the church was first built in 1863 it was a simple rectangular building with a nave, chancel and small vestry room.

To celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 it was decided to complete the church by building the tower and spire. It was seen as important as an expression of loyalty to the Queen and as a landmark to put Hampton Hill on the map. This article is about the tower and the next magazine issue will have an article about the spire.

On 20 June 20 1887, local clergy and gentry, led by the choir chanting Psalm 84, *'Oh how amiable are thy dwellings'*, processed to a platform on the site of the tower. The pink granite foundation stone, at the base of the southern wall, was laid by the vicar's only son, Edward. One each of every coin in the country, from a farthing to a guinea, was placed behind this stone.

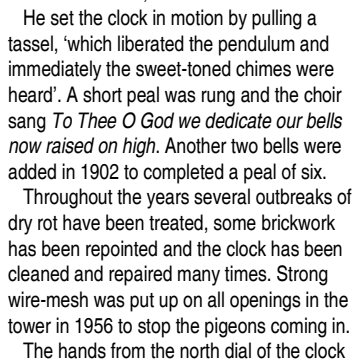
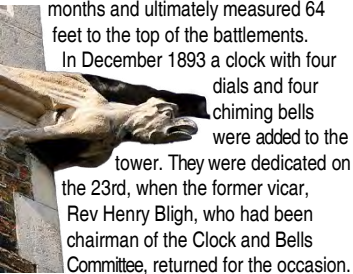
After a short ceremony the rest of the day was spent in 'general rejoicings' in the vicarage grounds. The well-proportioned tower, made of mellow stock brick with stone dressings, grew during the next few months and ultimately measured 64 feet to the top of the battlements.

In December 1893 a clock with four dials and four chiming bells were added to the tower. They were dedicated on the 23rd, when the former vicar, Rev Henry Bligh, who had been chairman of the Clock and Bells Committee, returned for the occasion.

He set the clock in motion by pulling a tassel, 'which liberated the pendulum and immediately the sweet-toned chimes were heard'. A short peal was rung and the choir sang *To Thee O God we dedicate our bells now raised on high*. Another two bells were added in 1902 to complete a peal of six.

Throughout the years several outbreaks of dry rot have been treated, some brickwork has been repointed and the clock has been cleaned and repaired many times. Strong wire-mesh was put up on all openings in the tower in 1956 to stop the pigeons coming in.

The hands from the north dial of the clock



The 2017 restoration

were stolen in 1974 but were later returned, left on the church doorstep in a brown paper parcel one night. However the wrenching away of the hands damaged the intricate drive-mechanism of the clock. When it was repaired the winding mechanism was converted from manual to electric operation. While the scaffolding was up the clock was repainted and regilded.

In 2017 the same clockmakers carried out a major restoration. Work included cleaning and shot blasting the copper-backed cast iron faces back to base metal, replacing the back and repainting them and applying gold leaf.

A major upgrade of lighting in the tower and spire took place in 2019. Fire alarms were fitted in the bell tower and a rope handrail was added in the spiral staircase to improve safety.

Buy fairly, make a difference



LAURENCE SEWELL

This month sees the conclusion of the series about the origins of what we buy. We have looked at a range of commodities over the past two years from everyday foodstuffs (tea, coffee, nuts, and bananas, etc.) to forestry products and minerals that we all consume.

I hope the stories have raised awareness around the fairness of the way these products are produced, marketed and traded as they proceed along the 'supply chain' to us as consumers. Our purchasing behaviour, especially buying fair trade items, can influence global companies and supermarket chains in their purchasing.

Trade in its simplest form should benefit everyone involved, improving livelihoods and offering equality of profit for the effort expended. However, too often we have seen that global trade doesn't work this way; the poor and disadvantaged — farmers, workers, women and children — are exploited and trapped in poverty, whilst the corporate titans and the influential take disproportionate profits from trading arrangements.

So what can be done to improve the way trade works and what are the steps required towards achieving trade justice?

Challenging the way global trade works

Arguments and campaigns for trade justice are often traced back to the efforts of labour unions for workers' rights, and environmentalists in reducing depletion of our natural resources. In particular, non-government organisations (NGOs), consumer groups and certain trade bodies have been influential over the years in highlighting the iniquities of the system and calling for government action and reform of the way global institutions (such as the World Trade Organisation) perpetuate unfair trade policies.



One of these organisations many of us are familiar with is Traidcraft, the Christian response to fair trade founded in 1979. It is a unique institution addressing different aspects of the trade issue: a public limited company called Traidcraft plc selling fairly traded products, with which St James's was associated; and the development charity, Traidcraft Exchange (TX) that works with poor producers in Africa and Asia, helping people to transform their lives through harnessing the positive side of trade, and offering them hope for a better future.

TX does this firstly, by supporting poor and vulnerable people to get a better deal from trade, such as working with small-scale farmers, producers and workers in Kenya and Bangladesh to build collective voice and power by organising themselves into effective representative organisations, and providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to exert more power and influence within their trading relationships.

Secondly, it mobilises Traidcraft supporters in effective campaigns to transform the way trade works. For example (as we have noted in previous articles) the *Who picked my tea?* campaign (www.traidcraft.org.uk/tea) successfully urged UK tea companies to publish lists from whom they were buying in Assam, India. It exposed the exploitation of workers, especially women on the estates and in the tea factories. Another example is the recent condemnation of UK fashion brands in breaking contracts with overseas suppliers, devastating the lives of workers in poor countries (traidcraftexchange.org/fast-fashion-crisis).

Thirdly, its policy and advocacy work with governments, businesses and international institutions promotes fairer trading rules and business practices around the world, as a means through which to tackle the underlying causes of poverty and injustice.

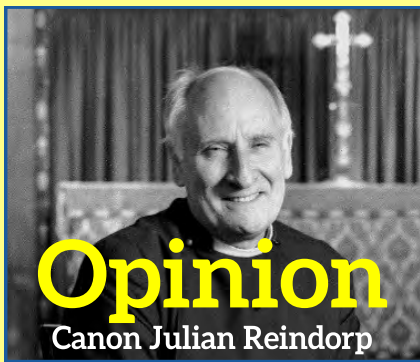
Your power as a consumer

As well as the organisational efforts to make real change in trading relations, we consumers need to do our research. We have real power to move markets and behaviour of the major brands.

The items we buy, especially in ensuring that they are fair trade certified wherever possible, can help in reducing poverty, encouraging environmentally-friendly production methods and safeguarding humane working conditions.

I hope these articles have contributed to your know-how and interest in responsible consumption.

Challenge to protect children despite virus



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

'O LITTLE TOWN OF...'

Ever since 2006 when I first saw the 26-foot-high 'security wall' surrounding the Palestinian city where Jesus was born, I have found it difficult to sing one of my favourite carols, 'O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie...'

This wall, 440 miles in length, separates the 700,000 Jewish settlers from the Palestinians in the West Bank area of the river Jordan — originally planned to be the basis of a separate Palestinian state. Each day more settler homes are being built on Palestinian land, described by the United Nations as a 'flagrant violation of international law'.

People from Bethlehem who work in or want to visit East Jerusalem, seven miles away, rise well before dawn to get through the various checkpoints. Meanwhile small, but deeply committed, communities of Jews work for peace and justice for the Palestinians, among them Jewish Voices for Justice, and Rabbis for Peace.

And at the heart of Bethlehem amidst the growing poverty all around it, is the Holy Family Hospital. Its motto is: *There is always a place at the Inn for everyone, whatever their race.*

DESTITUTION IN THE UK

Dame Louise Casey, who has worked in Whitehall for 20 years and been used by both major parties to tackle homelessness, said recently the UK faces a period of destitution in which 'families can't put shoes on children's feet... with people in Liverpool going into prostitution to feed their children'.

Since then the Government have extended the furlough scheme until March. Under pressure from footballer Marcus Rashford and hundreds of councils and local firms they will now pay for those on free school meals during the holidays and half-term till Easter.

Echoing a theme of Theresa May when she became Prime Minister, Casey said, 'There's the sense coming from Downing Street and from Westminster that people will make do — but they weren't coping before Covid-19.'

TEST TRACK & TRACE COST

In the week we learnt that US management consultants were being paid more than £6000 a day, and 1,100 from Deloitte were paid £2000 a day to help with our test and trace system, the cost of each Covid test was estimated at over £100. Allison Pearson, a *Daily Telegraph* columnist, commented, 'To be fair to Baroness Harding, the poor woman has only been given £12.6 billion to come up with a workable NHS tracking system!'

'With that amount, you could have paid every single elderly and vulnerable person in the UK £60,000 to shield themselves in the Bahamas and used the change to recompense students for their non-existent university experience.'

POPE BACKS GAY UNIONS

When Pope Francis was Archbishop of Buenos Aires he endorsed same-sex civil partnerships. Now as Pope he has called for these partnerships to be protected by law. 'Homosexual people have the right to be in a family... they are children of God,' he said while being interviewed for *Francesco*, a feature-length documentary.

'What we have to have is a civil union law; that way they are legally covered.' The film looks at issues important to Francis, including the environment, poverty, inequality and discrimination.

The documentary also features Juan Carlos Cruz, the Chilean survivor of clergy sexual abuse, whom Francis initially discredited in 2018. Cruz says that Francis assured him that 'God made you this way and he loves you'.

THREE WISE WOMEN

I was reminded by my three daughters of a Christmas card stating, 'If the wise men had been women, they would have asked for directions, they would have arrived on time, helped to deliver the baby Jesus, brought practical gifts, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and there would be peace on earth.'



DAVID HETLING

Like most charities, The Children's Society has had a very challenging year. Not only has there been a reduction in opportunities for fundraising, but the very nature of the work they perform has been restricted by Covid-19, local and national lockdowns and the ongoing necessity for social distancing.

The concern is that this leaves vulnerable young people feeling more isolated than ever — however, there is an irony that this remoteness is perhaps appreciated more now by a wider audience which has also been subject to a level of separation from others that is both alien and unprecedented.

This was certainly a parallel identified by some young people when they were able to attend a Children's Society meeting just before the first national lockdown in the Spring.

The response from The Children's Society has been creative and their tenacity in reaching isolated youngsters has continued across everything they have done. In addition to delivering virtual support to young people who have needed their services more than ever, they have also created virtual challenge events with thousands of new supporters raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for children.

An emergency appeal this year also had greater reach and support than hoped for, generating millions of pounds that continue to go towards supporting young people in this most difficult of times. The charity is gearing up for the first digital Christingle in its 50-year history; determined to ensure that it shines a much-needed light for us all this year.

At St James's, it has not been possible to collect boxes from our generous group of regular givers until recently.



This year, why not organise your own sponsored danceathon!

We also anticipate a reduction in the total simply because the use of cash has reduced this year, leaving fewer opportunities to fill boxes with loose change that usually generates such a pleasing total.

Christingle will be very different this year too, with a national event online. The Children's Society will be the focus of our service on **Sunday 13 December**, when the charity's Diocesan President, Dave Farris, will speak to us. Dave visited us two years ago and presented a very insightful talk on the charity's work.

The easiest way to support the charity is to donate online at: childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate. Your contribution can be a one-off donation or a regular commitment. Other ways of support include signing up to campaigns and amplifying the voice of the charity with government agencies, councils and health service providers.

Read us digitally too!



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Paper copies will, of course, still be available for those who have no online access or who prefer to read it this way.

REGISTERS

OCTOBER

WEDDING

18 Anthony Johnson & Eileen Small, Hampton

FUNERALS

5 Susan Ann Dutch, 61, Teddington

16 Dorothy Margaret Hamilton Paton, 93, Richmond



No stopping me now!



THOM STANBURY

This list changes over time. I'm drawn to music which carries itself along, and I think you should always make a case (in performance) for why a particular piece should be played at a particular time, on a particular instrument, and in a particular venue. The acoustic has nearly as much to do with the sound of an instrument as the 'stops', which are what we call each of the individual voices of the organ.

Bach: Prelude & Fugue in D major BWV 532

First up – and the beginning of my playlist called 'Stirring Music' which I use to encourage myself to do, say, some bit of admin that I really don't want to – is Bach. If I have a favourite key, and I do, then this prelude and fugue in D major has it all. A fanfare opening that goes off like a rocket, and a saucy fugue in which you suspect a twinkle in Bach's eye. If you're looking for a recording then my favourite is by Marie-Claire Alain.



Bach: Chorale-prelude on In dir ist Freude BWV 615

I'm writing this as my thoughts turn to the New Year, so my next piece is by Bach too. He wrote hundreds of chorale-preludes, with a seemingly limitless variety of treatments of humble hymn tunes. Most are associated with particular times and seasons. *In dir ist Freude* (In thee is joy), is a vigorous joyful setting for New Year's Day, with a rumbustious pedal figure. There's a fun recording of it on YouTube, by Ulf Norberg – the organist is using one of those on-the-edge-of-vulgar stops you suspect he might be doing for a dare.



Vierne: Carillon de Westminster

I'm partial to some lush French Romanticism when I can get it. Louis Vierne makes this list twice. This *Carillon* is, basically, an eight-minute crescendo using the chimes from the Palace of Westminster as its theme (slightly shifted around – the 'three-quarter' comes before the 'half-hour' as you'll hear), and



is dedicated to 'Father' Henry Willis, the organ-builder who was working in England while Cavaille-Coll was building organs for Notre-Dame, Saint-Sulpice and others across

France. Truth to tell, it sounds better on a Cavaille-Coll. Check out Olivier Latry, the *titulaire* of Notre-Dame and a great recitalist (he played a solo Prom last year), in this work.

Thalben-Ball: Elegy



The flowering of English Cathedral music started at the turn of the twentieth century. George Thalben-Ball, like Vierne, was a great improviser, and his *Elegy* was, we understand, improvised by him to fill the time in a live radio broadcast. It has a plangent melody that I find just heartbreaking. I used it at St James's on Remembrance Sunday.

Strauss: Hochzeitspreludium

I'm permitting myself in this list, a few arrangements of music originally done for other forces. Before we get to a full orchestral transcription, a wedding prelude, written by Richard Strauss for his son's wedding and composed originally for two harmoniums. An organ arrangement has been made, and it's like catnip for an opera-lover. It uses thematic material from his opera *Der Rosenkavalier*, including the melody from the great Trio, and the entrance music from the second Act, and I tend to play it (without being asked), before weddings – a tacit gift from a hopeless romantic.



Oldroyd: Liturgical Improvisation No. 1



I came across this work when the library of a late colleague was given to me. This little meditation takes as its text the first half of verse 2 of the 84th Psalm, and is very useful before a service. I think it's a near-perfect miniature. At a couple of points (mercifully, briefly), the player must play simultaneously all three manuals (the keyboards), and the pedals.

Mendelssohn: Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream



All right, the arrangement. Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* is, I think, one of the best ways to conclude a marriage ceremony

(apart from all the others): but the *Overture* from the same suite is really terrific too. Thomas Trotter, Organist of the City of Birmingham for decades now, has really championed orchestral arrangements. This, and various other treats, including Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, are on his album *The Ride of the Valkyries*. (Yes, that's on there too.)

Handel: Organ Concerto no. 13 in F major



You might have been wondering where Handel was. He's here! This concerto is also known as *The Cuckoo* and *The Nightingale*. There's a definite cuckoo in the first movement; I'm not sure I recognise the nightingale yet. Maybe I need to work on my trills. I got to perform the whole piece with an orchestra a long time ago, and it remains one of the most satisfying musical experiences of my life.

Howells: Psalm-prelude Set 2 No 2



Herbert Howells, composer of the hymn-tune *Michael* ('All my hope on God is founded'), was a remarkable figure in 20th century organ and choral music, with a unique 'voice' as a composer. (His setting of the canticles for Evensong written for Gloucester Cathedral has one of the best *Glorias* in the literature.) Among a mass of other works, he wrote two suites of psalm-preludes. Like the Oldroyd elsewhere in this list, he uses Biblical texts, rather than musical material, as inspiration for these. Set 2, No 2 sets the text 'And the meek shall inherit the earth'.

Vierne: Symphony No 1 in D

We finish on a glorious high, and back in the key of D major. My tenth choice is the finale of Vierne's First Symphony, written for organ and giving a palpable sense of the quasi-symphonic resources available to the modern organist. The piece feels almost unstoppable, rolling and rolling along with a great sense of movement, which carries the melody and all before it. There's a great recording on YouTube by Daniel Cook – and played on the Father Willis organ at Salisbury Cathedral. It starts *fortississimo* and ends *fortississimo* and I make no apology for that.

