

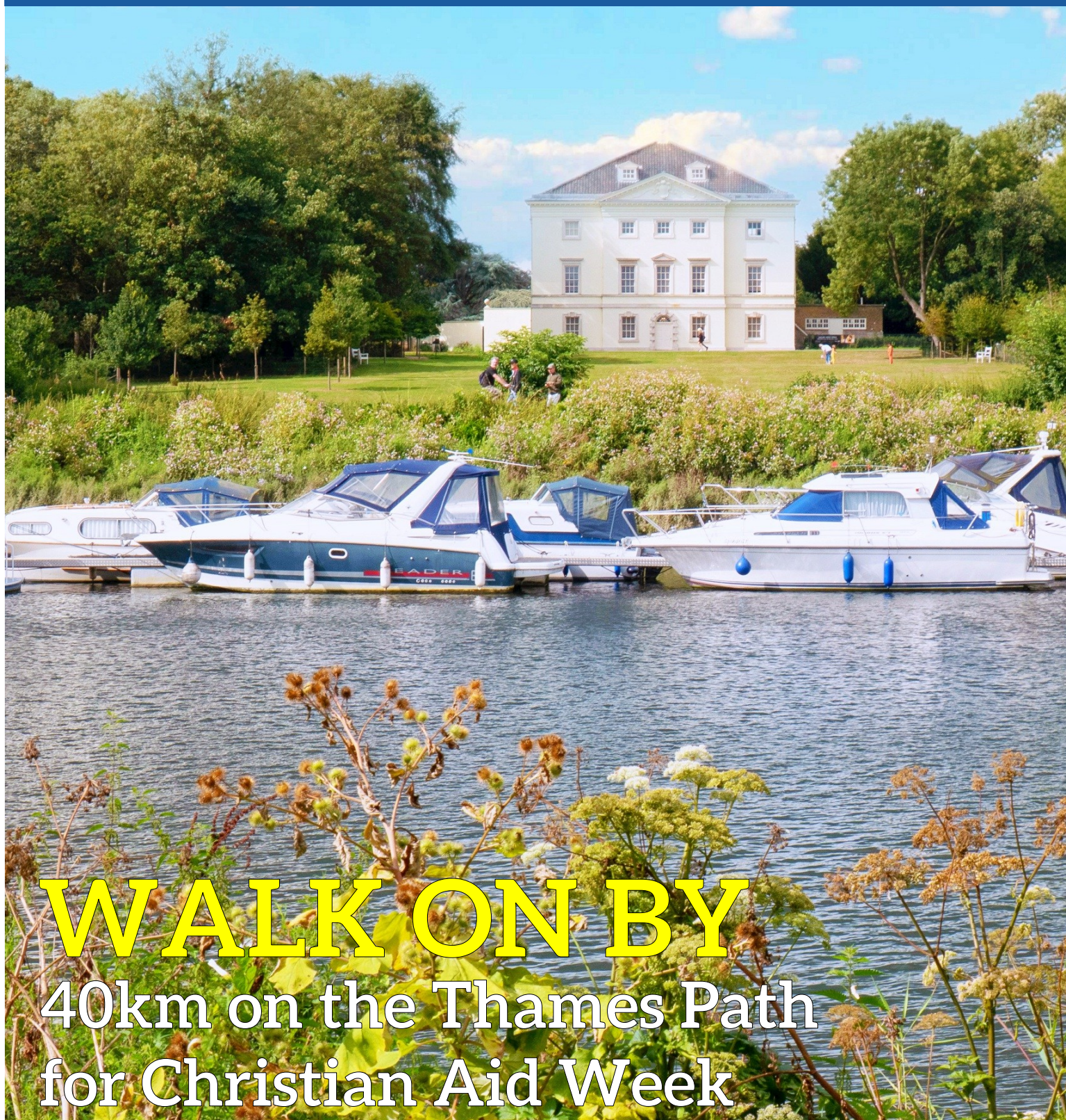
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025 THAMES

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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for Christian Aid Week

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

CLERGY



VICAR Rev Prebendary 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

ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

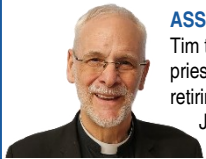
Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister, married to Alan, and has three children. During term-time she runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.

Tel: 079 5012 2294

Email: jackycammidge@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Supported by



ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Tim Marwood

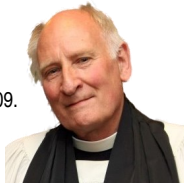
Tim taught in London primary schools for 36 years. He was ordained priest in 1996 and was parish priest at Petersham for 13 years, retiring in 2021. He is now a part-time hospital chaplain. Married to Jane, a former headteacher, Tim supports Harlequins RFC and England cricket.

Tel: 073 6928 0040 Email: rtimmarwood@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT PRIEST Rev Canon Julian Reindorp

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

Tel: 020 8614 6800 Email: julianreindorp@outlook.com



How to get in touch

CHURCH OFFICE

Church & hall bookings, and all general inquiries

Nick Bagge

Nick deals with general enquiries as well as church and hall bookings. The office is open: Mon, Wed, Fri 0930-1230; Tue, Thu 1230-1530

Tel: 020 8941 6003 Email: office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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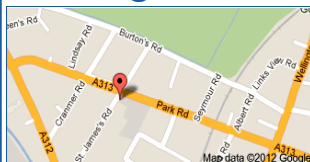
CHOIR DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST



Thom Stanbury

Email: thom.stanbury@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Finding us



We are on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is next to the church. There is unrestricted parking on nearby roads. Buses stopping nearby include the R70, R68, 111 and 285.

Follow us

For the latest news go to our website stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or follow us on social media:

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

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

Church and Hall Hire

The church and hall are available to hire. The church is used for concerts and public meetings. There is also a small meeting room to hire.

The church is equipped with a modern audio visual system, a projector and large screen, and a range of microphones. A five camera mixer desk can be used for livestreams or recordings. The church has extensive stage lighting.

The hall is available to hire for one-off parties or events, or for regular community classes. For all enquiries contact the Church Office (above)

Support us

The church is a charity registered in England and Wales (1129286). It does not receive grants to cover its running costs. Instead it generates money from supporters and by hiring the buildings.

Support our work:

<https://bit.ly/Give2StJas>



FROM THE EDITOR

The summer holidays are here again and the weather is either too hot or we have downpours! The latter happened on St James's day when lunch in the vicarage garden had to be changed to inside the church. Fortunately, this is not difficult with moveable benches and a kitchen on site, and a good time was had by all.

This past month has been full of celebrations. Joy, who has been with us for two years, was ordained deacon. Derek was present as was our previous vicar Peter Vannozzi, who is Assistant Director of Ordinands locally.

The very next day we celebrated Jacky's 10 years since her ordination with cake and bubbly.

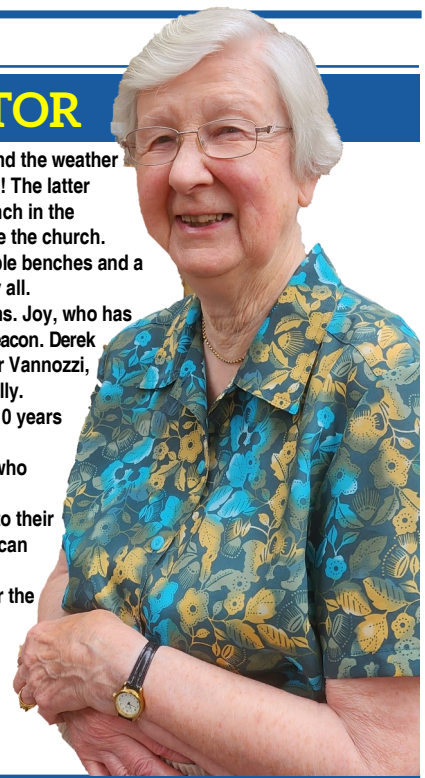
Well done to Liz Wilmot and Linda Webb who walked 40k each along the Thames Path to celebrate 80 years of Christian Aid. Thanks to their efforts we raised £2434 for the charity. You can read all about it in our centre pages.

I hope you are able to enjoy a holiday over the coming months.

Best Wishes

Janet

Editor



Cover photo: Marble Hill House as viewed by our walkers on the Thames Path.

SPIRE The magazine is published nine times a year. We don't charge for it, but, if you enjoy reading it, will you help towards printing costs?

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I cost £11.70 A YEAR



Yes, I'm free, but donations help me to go on being printed. Use the QR code (or see above) to 'buy' a subscription. *£1.30 a copy

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Janet Nunn contact via Church Office

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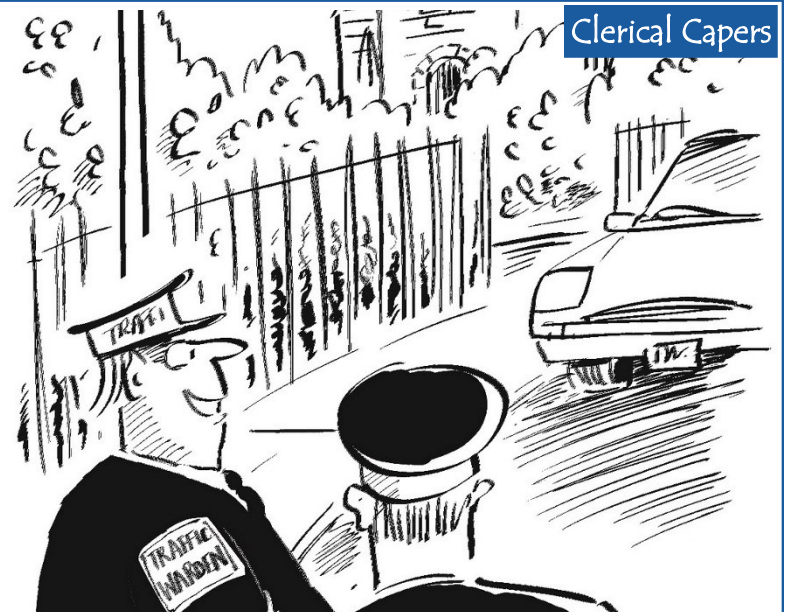
NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

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'We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to be a long one today.'



Brian A Jackson

It is a maxim of modern life that 'things are not just black or white'. Adults often look back at opinions that they might have had, or comments younger people might make, and say 'life is not like that, it's more complicated'. Yet nevertheless it can be convenient to simplify, even if we know that there is more to be said. So we talk about the political left and right, the Western World and the East, and even as I have done, the young and the old.

I read a remarkable either/or statement recently: 'What's worse is these rules are written as if people were good but stupid... but laws must be written to control people who act as if they are evil and cunning'.

The journalist, writing as a non-Christian about the assisted dying bill, sets out two possible views of human nature. He sides with Thomas Hobbes who believed that one had to expect that other people are a threat, and so we need a government to subdue us.

Rousseau's unconventional

The other way of thinking is typified by John-Jacques Rousseau. He believed that civilisation had corrupted people, and that a good government would free people to overthrow convention and so be 'authentic' and true to their true nature.

Rousseau has many followers today. Professor Chris Flemming writes: 'It has been my experience in teaching philosophy and social theory over many years that where Plato can come across as unbearably strange, Descartes as either glib or insane, large parts of Rousseau will often strike students as mere common sense... His ideas reflect many of our own deepest commitments and patterns of thought. They are as close to us as the clichés heard on reality television shows and the bromides on offer in certain kinds of self-help books. They are the common coin of much political rhetoric.'

Self-discovery

I set this article up with the maxim 'things are not just black or white'. That gives us room to say that both Rousseau and Hobbes each have something of importance to say. It is self-evidently true that Rousseau's optimism definitely informs the spirit of our age. It is common for people to talk about discovering who they are.

HOPEFUL REALISTS

Steve Jobs said: 'Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma... have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.'

BUT, and there is a big but... Hobbes reminds us that people (and that includes us) are not always good at choosing the right path.

communication might make just 2% difference. It argues that there needs to be much stronger government involvement, making the sustainable choices more attractive.

'The reality is that we want Net Zero and want to live sustainably (as polls show), but don't always want the personal inconvenience, effort or cost that come with it. That's the behavioural rub.'

It is great to be told that we have enormous potential, and can achieve anything we set our minds to, but reality is not so simple. We make stupid mistakes, we take quick or easy options, we don't think ahead very much, and we follow the crowd.

Climate Change

This is most definitely the case in the response to Climate Change. Much of the pitch to the public has been an appeal to our better nature, to pass on the news and encourage us to change our ways. But to small effect.

Carbon emissions in the United Kingdom have fallen by 47% since 1990. But this reduction is largely attributed to achievements such as the near-complete phase-out of coal power plants. That is to say, largely without the involvement of the public. Now it is down to us.

The research organisation Behavioural Insights Team suggests that better

Good at being selfish

Christians believe that people are good, but often make selfish choices. Looking at the data on this issue, Science agrees. But this is an unpalatable truth. It does not go down well with the voting public. It is great to be told that we have enormous potential, that we can achieve anything we set our minds to, but reality is not so clear cut. We make stupid mistakes, we take quick or easy options, we don't think ahead very much, and we follow the crowd.

If we are adults, we should know better. Whatever the issue, 'Plan for the worst AND hope for the best.'

St James Services Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Livestreamed on Facebook

Together 3:30pm

Our shorter, all-age service, takes a break during the school holidays, returning on 7 Sep

Tue-Fri (not Wed)
Morning Prayer 9am

Wednesday
Midweek Communion 9:30am

Mondays Reopens 15 Sep

Ark Playgroup 10am-12pm

Our popular playgroup for under 5s and carers includes crafts, music and play.

Tuesdays

Connections Café 10:30am-12:30pm

Join us for coffee, cake and conversation.



A Pocket Opera

Saturday 20 September 7:30pm

Carmen Co's show brings all the drama of *Carmen* to the church, as it recounts the gypsy's story. Tickets £20.

Book: <https://bit.ly/StJCarmen>



Charlie Dore

Saturday
8 November
7:30pm
Award-winning songwriter

Charlie Dore is heading to Hampton Hill to perform a genre-defying collection of music that delights in reinvention.

Known for writing songs for Tina Turner, George Harrison and Celine Dion, to name but three, Charlie still thrives on live performance. Joined by longtime friend Julian Littman, the duo craft an intimate, fast-moving show filled with music and storytelling, perhaps explaining why her music continues to captivate new audiences.

Tickets £15.

Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJCharlie>





Eyewitnesses Liz and Linda at Hammersmith on their journey from Putney to Walton on Thames.

BEST FEET FORWARD



For 80 years, Christian Aid has been providing humanitarian relief and long-term support for poor communities worldwide. The charity was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. **Linda Webb** found time to ponder on a fundraising walk with Liz Wilmot.

Liz and I were looking for a challenge to mark the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid. The number 80 was the focus, and we decided to walk 80km between us. Liz suggested a section of the Thames Path from Putney Bridge to Walton Bridge, which due to the bends in the Thames would be the right distance.



Day 1

We set off on a sunny morning in April from Putney, walking past the bollard that marks the start of the University Boat Race. On the other side of the river we saw Craven Cottage, the home of Fulham Football Club.

We walked on and passed under Hammersmith bridge, now open only to pedestrians and cyclists. The bank near Kew has fallen in, so we made a detour over Kew Bridge and through Brentford, which is undergoing re-development.

We reached Syon Park, the home of the Duke of Northumberland, with the famous lion on the roof, where we stopped for a well-deserved break in the garden centre.

We re-joined our walk, through Richmond and into Twickenham, passing Marble Hill, on the far bank, and Ham House.

The famous Eel Pie Island is just beyond Ham House. This was named after a dish that was enjoyed by Henry VIII.

Legend has it that the king was being rowed up the Thames on the royal barge, and while passing the island he was overcome by hunger. So he supposedly ordered that the barge was stopped while a servant fetched him an eel pie, pictured above.

It was later served in the hotel which also hosted concerts much later in the 1960s for

the likes of the Rolling Stones.

We carried on to Teddington Lock and it was very tempting to stop here and get the bus home. Liz was very encouraging at this point, so we carried on and made it to Kingston!

Day 2

We started where we had stopped the day before at Kingston Bridge. The Thames Path changes here to the right-hand bank. It was another lovely day for walking, and it was great to see so many rowers out practising on the river.

We walked the big loop of the Thames around Home Park, Hampton Court, and past the Palace.



Here, you cross the bridge to rejoin the path on the left-hand side. We passed Hurst Park where we stopped for morning coffee at the East Molesey Cricket Club.

Carrying on past Sunbury Lock, we reached our destination at Walton Bridge. Opened in 2013, it is the first Thames road bridge which is on both banks upstream of Greater London.

This was my first time walking the Thames

Path and also walking such a long distance, and Liz has inspired me to continue with the rest of it. In total it runs for 298km from its source in the Cotswolds to Woolwich, just a few miles from the sea.

Statistics

Day 1 26.75km or 37,000 steps.

Day 2 17.80km or 25,000 steps.



Pause for thought at Barnes Railway Bridge

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



Liz Wilmot looks back at 80 years of pioneering work by the UK charity

FOR 80 years, Christian Aid has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while tackling injustice and championing people's rights and highlighting suffering and climate change.

During the Second World War, British and Irish churches founded the Christian Reconstruction in Europe (CRE) as a united effort to raise funds for the rebuilding of Europe when the war ended.

On May 13, 1945 — the first Sunday following Victory in Europe Day — CRE called on the British people to express their thanksgiving for victory and peace in an act of charity and friendship for the continent.

Over £80,000 (£3 million in today's money) was raised in that first appeal to begin their work of refugee relief and resettlement provided through partner churches in the regions of Europe devastated by war.

During the next decade the focus of their work shifted towards worldwide development issues. In 1957 the first *Christian Aid Week* was held to encourage public awareness and support. £26,000 was raised throughout Britain and it became an annual event, supported by St James's.

Name change

In 1964 the agency changed its name to Christian Aid to identify with this success.

Throughout the 1950s they continued helping refugees in mainland Europe as well as those from Palestine, Korea and China, and supported the establishment of the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) to enable young people to make a difference, and offered help to churches in countries moving from colonialism to independence, to meet the needs of poor people.

In the 1960s the *Freedom from Hunger Campaign* focused aid on increasing food production in the poorest regions of Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and the Caribbean. The charity created the Disasters Emergency



Refugees Helped by the charity

Committee (DEC) so that development agencies were seen to work together in times of humanitarian crisis.

Tackling global poverty

By the 1970s the organisation was funding over 100 development projects in 40 countries and it established the World Development Movement to address the issues of poverty. Major projects included responding to drought in India, and famine in East Pakistan and the Sudan.

Christian Aid helped to rebuild communities after wars in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and following the overthrow of dictatorships in Uganda and Nicaragua.

A global recession in the 1980s increased poverty worldwide and Christian Aid began to campaign on issues of global justice. It helped to form the Southern Africa Coalition to end Apartheid and provided famine-stricken Ethiopia with emergency supplies.

In the 1990s projects included emergency appeals for the crises in Rwanda, Montserrat, Sierra Leone and the former Yugoslavia; highlighting the problems of child prostitution in South East Asia and child labour in Pakistan, and campaigning for fair trade and an end to Third World debt.

In the 2000s they campaigned to Make Poverty History and reached more than 500,000 people with food, shelter and healthcare after the Asian Tsunami.

Model template

Today, Christian Aid funds 700 local organisations in over 70 countries. Christian Aid has no representatives overseas, or projects of its own. It works entirely through local structures, mainly churches or voluntary organisations, and relies on regional screening of projects by experts.

1960s The charity used pop music to reach new supporters



Around the Spire

CELEBRATING JOY IS ORDAINED DEACON

ON Saturday 28 June, the hottest day of the month, Joy Beauchamp was ordained deacon. It was the culmination of three years' study, and some of our congregation met in the hall to watch the livestream over tea and cake.

In the centuries-old ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral,

Bishop Sarah used the words which express the office Joy now holds: 'Deacons are called to work with the bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom.'

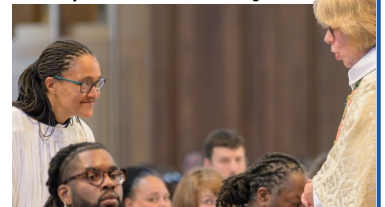
'They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love.'

St James's was lucky to share two years of Joy's time as an ordinand.



Relief Joy, front left, with Kensington colleagues

She is now working full time as a curate at St Mary with St Alban, Teddington.



JACKY'S 10 YEARS OF MINISTRY

JUNE also marked the tenth anniversary since Jacky Cammidge was ordained deacon.

We celebrated this milestone after the service on 29 June with cake and

prosecco. Derek also presented Jacky with flowers and a collection from the congregation.

We were delighted to welcome back Rev Debbie Oades and husband



Celebration Derek, Jacky and Debbie

Robert. It was Debbie, curate at St James's from 2008-2011, who encouraged Jacky, over a cup of coffee and a chat, to answer her calling and seek ordination.

NEW PREBENDARY AT ST PAUL'S

JULIE Gittoes, curate at St James's from 2003-2006, and now vicar of St Mary's, Hendon, will be installed as a Prebendary at St Paul's Cathedral in September in recognition of her outreach, support and mentoring, and contributions to the Faith and Order Commission.

A SON IS BORN

CONGRATULATIONS to Nafas and Anoush Lagevardi, pictured, on the birth of their son, Alaric Sam, who arrived most appropriately on Father's Day.

Alaric made his first appearance in church at just under a week old, when we were delighted to welcome him into the church family.





Coronation Elizabeth II's service featured the hymn and fanfare

SINGING AS ONE!



Tim Marwood recalls the perils of the unrehearsed community singing of a coronation favourite from June 1953

The hymn *All people that on earth do dwell* is thought to be the earliest written in English still in use in UK churches. The words are based on Psalm 100 which begins *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*

The author of the first four verses is William Kethe, a Scottish clergyman who became a follower of John Calvin. In 1560 he went to Geneva to work on the English translation of the Bible. Calvin believed that the congregation should sing the psalms in their own language during services. This contrasted at the time with Roman Catholics, whose texts were sung in Latin by the clergy only. Until recently most churches in the Free Church of Scotland followed the strict Calvinist tradition of singing psalms unaccompanied by instruments.

Geneva Psalter

The tune *Old Hundredth* associated with this hymn is one of the best-known hymn tunes. The composer is thought to be Louis Bourgeois (1510-61). The Frenchman was tasked with providing music for the metrical psalms known as the *Geneva Psalter*.

As you might expect with such a long history, the words have been amended over the years. The fifth verse owes its origins to the Methodist church. A misprint resulted in the third line of the second verse being sung as 'We are his flock, he doth us feed' for almost 300 years before it was corrected to 'We are his folk, he doth us feed' in 1904.

Bach, Britten, Mendelssohn and Parry are just a few of the composers who have adapted the tune or used it in other works. The *Old Hundredth* tune was used for the first demonstration of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.

Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote a wonderful brass fanfare to precede the hymn at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey in 1953. It is a stirring work and made a favourable impression.

At my school

Not long afterwards the headmaster of the school that I attended selected the Vaughan Williams fanfare and hymn to open a service marking the opening of a new school building. Preparations were meticulous. The school was scoured for brass players. Jazz players, Cadet bandsmen and Salvationists, augmented the school orchestra. The choir, including myself, rehearsed until it was perfect.

Fortunately, it was filmed, because on the big day the one group who hadn't rehearsed, the parents, started singing the hymn several bars too soon — disaster! It sounded terrible, the parents singing one line, the pupils singing another, the headmaster about to combust. The presiding bishop had the presence of mind to raise his staff and all music ceased.

'Let's start again,' he proposed. Take Two went perfectly, with the bishop waving his staff to bring the parents in at the right moment.

*All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.*

*The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*O enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.*

*For why? the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.*

*To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.*



TRAIN STRAIN!

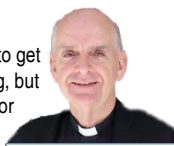


Richard Melville discovers that train journeys in 2000 were no faster than in 1900. Elsewhere, Harry Potter was gripping the young.

Brian Leathard recounts the challenges of travelling into London by public transport for a meeting. As if proof were needed he found the statistics. The average speed of a journey in London in 1900 was 11 mph. A century later and the speed was the same!

Dear Friends,

I was recently trying to get to Pimlico for a meeting, but you could be forgiven for thinking I had been trying to get to Patagonia.



Rev Brian Leathard

It took me 35 minutes in a car to get to Twickenham, where I parked, bought a Travelcard and waited on the platform. But trains were running 45 minutes late because of a broken rail at Waterloo. I was about to board a train on the Wimbledon loop when it was announced that due to an incident there were no trains beyond Raynes Park.

What now, a bus perhaps? Then, out of nowhere a train crept in, bound for Richmond. Hurrah! We crammed into a four carriage train, only to be told on arrival at Richmond that there was no District Line service. Aaagh!

Help came in the shape of the North London Line, which arches from Richmond to North Woolwich. One change at West Hampstead onto the Tube and, 2 hrs and 40 minutes late, I was at my meeting — just as it ended.

A verse from Exodus came to mind about the Egyptians forlornly trying to catch up with the escaping Israelites: 'Their wheels were clogged and they lumbered heavily along.'

The chair of my missed meeting used a comment by that wise priest, Harry Williams: 'It belongs to the Christian life to travel expectantly, not to arrive prematurely'. - but then again, he didn't live in London!

In faith, Brian

On the farm

Katherine Bailey writes about a visit to a farm in a minibus driven by Brian. 'It was a very hot day. I went with my mum and little sister and it was quite a long journey.'

'When we got there we bought some food to feed the animals. My favourite animals were the chipmunks which we loved holding.

'We also saw newly-born baby goats. There was a wonderful playground and we all specially liked the trampolines. Me and Jenny played on the old tractors and jumped in the hay barn and milked a pretend cow.'

Street Party

A very successful street party was held in St James's Avenue. The children had a bouncy castle and competitions for welly-throwing, fancy dress and decorated bicycles. After a pantomime by the Globe Players, there was a barbecue. Dancing continued until midnight.

Potty about Potter

Jennifer Greville-Giddings was gripped by Harry Potter. 'Some adults don't approve of the books,' she said, 'because they are about wizards and witches. They have obviously never read them! Children can tell the difference between fantasy and real life. My mum loves these books too and we had to live on convenience foods for a few days because she couldn't put the new book down!'

In the news 25 years ago...

4 Aug The Queen Mother celebrated her 100th birthday with a lunch at the Guildhall, at which George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, accidentally attempted to drink her glass of wine. 'That's mine!' she said, causing widespread amusement.

15 Sep The Summer Olympics opened in Sydney. It was only the second time that the games had been hosted in the southern hemisphere, the first being in Melbourne in 1956. The US won the most medals with 93, while Australia came in 4th with 58.

20 Sep The Real IRA attacked the M16 building using a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. No one was hurt, and the damage was minor.



Allan Warren



DOD



Adrian Pngstone

REGISTERS

JUNE

FUNERALS

5 Daniel Michael Nolan, 58, Hampton



5 Sylvia Hubbard, 91, Sunbury-on-Thames

OPINION

Canon Julian Reindorp



Swearing is good?

The late President Richard Nixon formulated the 'madmen theory'. Adversaries might back down if they believed the US President was truly crazy. Saying publicly of Israel and Iraq, two of the most belligerent nations on earth, 'they don't know what the f*** they are doing' and not

only getting away with it, but forcing them to pause their tit-for-tat bombing of each other, is proof, say Trump supporters, that the theory works. The question is, will Iran's rulers be even more convinced that only nuclear weapons can guarantee their sovereignty? Their ambassador argues for their sovereignty as a nation, but how does he justify using every device, including arming surrounding countries, to deny the same sovereignty to Israel?

Support needed for work

One obvious answer to the rising cost of the Benefit Bill is to enable more people to find work. What is so rarely emphasised is that people not only need help to get work, but also need support once they are in work. Trying to support a family member with learning difficulties, first trying to find work, and then helping him to stay in work was an exhausting experience. Would each day he missed cost him his job? How would he cope with the stress of the ensuing interview? First it was called a 'disciplinary', then under pressure they changed it to 'a return-to-work interview', but the stress was the same.

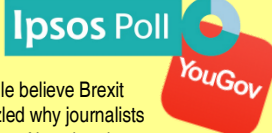


The glass preciptice

Talking to the CEO of a women's charity, I commented that half the 12 water companies had had women in charge. I asked if this was because men were not keen to take on the most difficult jobs in industry? Yes, she said, 'it's called the glass preciptice'. Looking at the published salaries of the CEOs — not all publish them — the lowest by far was

Sarah Venning, pictured, earning £210,000 (representing 10% of the highest paid), the boss of Northern Ireland Water. And this water company has not been privatised! The question remains, will any government be able to put in the capital needed to tackle modernising of the crumbling infrastructure?

Our priorities



Recent opinion polls suggest an ever-growing number of people believe Brexit was the wrong choice. I am puzzled why journalists don't point this out to Nigel Farage. Also, that three quarters of people believe the climate crisis is real and want bold action, and many want Britain to get closer to the EU. There is also enormous support (80%) for a wealth tax, not least to tackle child poverty. Support for Ukraine remains strong along with more on defence spending. Immigration remains a big issue for people, but well behind the cost of living and the NHS. What remains a key challenge is the small boats arriving across the channel so regularly, the cost of asylum seekers in hotels, and supporting communities where they are placed.

What a result!

As I write the Headingley Test Match against India has just finished. Despite five centuries being scored by Indian batsmen, we won on the fifth day, with the tenth highest run chase in cricket history — 371. Are these signs of a real Indian Summer?

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT THE UPPER ROOM



Volunteers A vast workforce enables the charity to feed 160 people every day

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Our support for the charity helps them feed hungry people — and the numbers are growing. But, as **Dennis Wilmot** reports, the charity's ambition goes way beyond just satisfying their hunger.

It's a sad fact that the numbers of people going without food is on the increase. St James's has supported The Upper Room at Harvest time for many years. In the early days the West London charity served 50 to 60 hot meals a day to homeless and needy people,

but Peter Charalambides, its new Chief Executive, pictured, told me, that figure is now 160 meals — 40,000 in 2024.

From day one Peter was struck by what his team of over 100 volunteers, three chefs, and trustees, achieve. All had been so generous with their time, advice, kindness and support.



Food poverty

The passion for the mission is also evident in the strong community goodwill which is most apparent when looking at the needs first hand — from those rough sleeping, to individuals facing food poverty, representing a motivating reminder of how vital the work is, especially as the numbers of rough sleepers continues to rise.

The Upper Room is about more than just providing food though. Casework sessions have been augmented by visits from Citizens Advice, Glass Door, Turning Point, the Rough sleepers' mental health service, plus a dental nurse, mobile health unit and NHS opticians.

Also available in-house is the Jobs Club and Benefits Surgery. A key highlight has been the successful *Corporate Cook-in Days* which have helped raise over £10,000 and also strengthened connections with local businesses, which play an important part in fundraising.

Another local partnership is with Chiswick House, which supplies top-quality vegetables from its kitchen garden, and

Gail's bakery, which donates bread and cakes.

Christmas 2024 saw 120 guests receive a three-course meal, prepared and provided by Nando's. The Upper Room is open to collaborating with other community projects, focused on addressing larger systemic issues, such as the critical shortage of night shelter availability in the local area.

Driving up employability

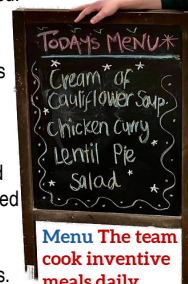
The *UR4DRIVING* programme is an award-winning project which aids people with convictions avoid re-offending by helping them gain a driving licence, which dramatically improves their self-confidence and employment chances. Last year it helped over 100 applicants, with 56 passing their theory test and 38 the practical test itself.

Applicants are expected to complete 80 hours of voluntary work, thereby giving back to the community which also creates a sense of belonging in the community.

The Upper Room continues to grow both in the volume of its good work and the diversity of its charitable programmes. St James's is proud to be involved.

Harvest

We will, as usual, be collecting food this harvest, and all cash raised will support their other programmes.



Menu The team cook inventive meals daily.



FRIENDS OF ST JAMES

MUSIC DOUBLE DOSE

Take your pick from two musical highlights this autumn. We are delighted to have singer-

songwriter Charlie Dore performing a selection of songs. **Saturday 8 November 7:30pm. Tickets £15.**

Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJCharlie>

We are also bringing the music of *Carmen* to St James's, creating a nightclub

feel in church for the gypsy woman's classic tale. **Saturday 20 September 7:30pm. Tickets £20.**

Book at: <https://bit.ly/StJCarmen>

Book at: friendsofstjames.org.uk



Duo The genre-defying duo of Charlie Dore and Julian Littman

GIVING BACK

What it means to be one of the UK's 15m volunteers

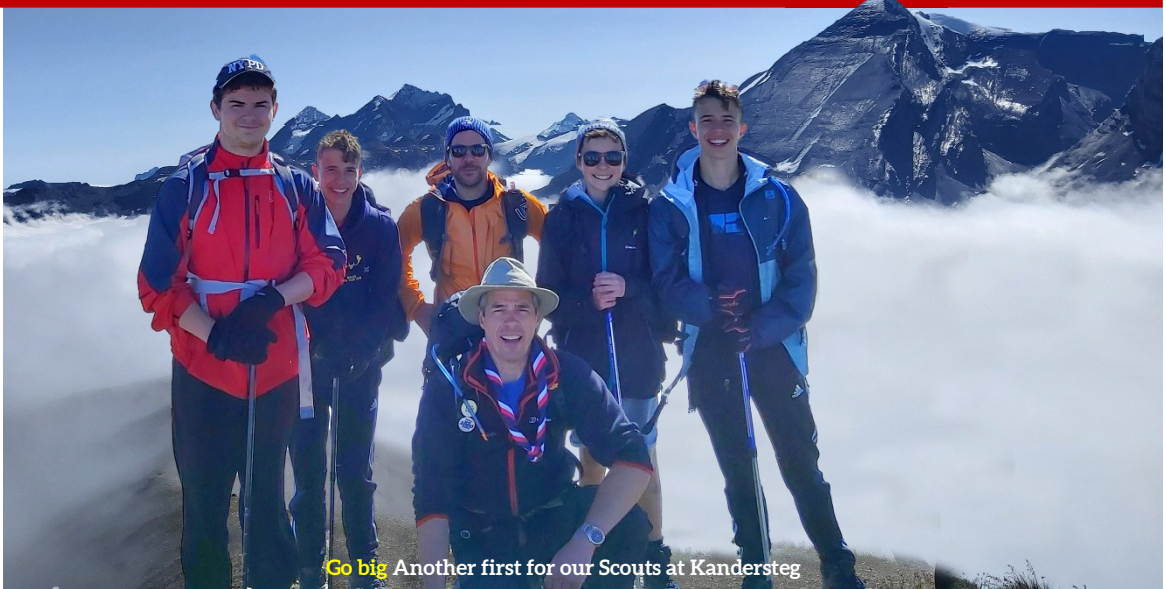


'SO, WHEN will my son start Beavers? He's already turned six,' I said. 'Oh, just take him on Friday.' came the reply from John, the Group Scout Leader. I took Kris along, not understanding how fateful that would be as, shortly after this, the Beaver Leader left. I like to think that this was just a coincidence.

John called all the parents in to say that either one of us took on the role, or he'd close it. How hard could it be, I thought, as I agreed to a job-share with another parent.

And so in early 1994, my Scouting career began as Beaver Leader with 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group. *Lion King* was all the rage then, so we became Simba and Nala.

I had been a Cub for a short time in the 1960s, but with no Scout Troop to follow on, my time was short. With no experience other than being a parent, I ran Beavers with Nala for two years. Then it was just me for another one — and it was immense fun. Six to eight-year-olds have not a bad bone in their body and we played, we sang and we crafted our way through... until I spotted that Scouts seemed to be doing more interesting things.



Go big Another first for our Scouts at Kandersteg

MY LIFECHANGING DECISION

Rising to the challenge

Once again, I jumped in with no experience. Guided by Greg, the outgoing Scout Leader, John, the Group Scout Leader, and Rich Moody, then Venture Scout Leader, I took on the challenge. I nearly sank without trace at my first Easter Camp when it snowed heavily on the first night. Somehow I stayed as Scout Leader for the next 14 years, finally standing down to become the group's Shooting Skills Instructor and Quartermaster in 2011.

After a few years off, I gave in to Rich's pleas and took on the Assistant Group Scout Leader's role. Then, as Covid struck, and Rich became a father, I took over the running of the group. I had just retired from a 20-year role as a People Manager in BT to become... an unpaid people manager.

Where it all began

Scouting was started by Lord Baden-Powell with his experimental camp on Brownsea Island, Dorset in 1907, and is now the world's largest youth movement, with 50 million members worldwide. Every week in the UK over 100,000 adult volunteers help half a million people aged 4-25 develop skills for life. Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers. Yes, we go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing, but we also hang out with our friends — having fun, playing games, working in a team and taking on new challenges.

My role is mainly people management, ensuring that everyone

When his son's Beaver group was in crisis, Paul Fitchett answered the call and it changed the whole course of his life. He looks back on the adventures and triumphs he never expected to experience, and asks, 'Will you follow me?'

is qualified and trained, so we can offer adventurous activities in a safe if challenging environment. Recruitment is a big part too, not to mention the admin that includes ensuring that we have appropriate leaders working with our young people.

I also organise camps, activities and events for the group, and then have the joy of attending them too, such as the trip to Kandersteg in Switzerland we do every four years. This year we're taking 35 Scouts and Explorers. Fundraising is part of the role too, as are meetings. And to think that when I retired I was worried I wouldn't have anything to do!

Watching young people succeed

So why do I do it? The stock answer is to



Teamwork Supporting each other

help develop tomorrow's adults by empowering young people, building character, and instilling values like self-reliance, responsibility, and leadership. Or revelling in the many adventures I never imagined I would do in places I never thought I'd see.

The simplest answer, though, is to see young people succeed and that's best demonstrated by our trip to Kandersteg in 2015 where, led by a mountain guide, we did a two-day hike up the 3293m-high Hockenhorn. One of our party was not a natural walker and struggled. She became increasingly worried about the climb, but her fellow patrol members agreed that 'we either all do it, or none of us do'. This gave her the courage to carry on.

You will never see anything better in your life than the look on someone's face when they achieve something they didn't think they could do. I still get shivers down my spine some ten years later, when I look at the photos we took at the top.

Volunteers are always welcome

We are always looking for new volunteers and the training requirements have been much simplified. We no longer have 'leaders' as such, but section leadership teams. You're never too old to volunteer either. My newest recruit is 82!

I will be stepping back in the autumn to more of a support role, so we're looking for someone to join our team of Rich and Clive as our Lead Volunteers. If you'd like to know more, come for a chat, or give me a call on 020 8979 2799, email GSL@3hscouts.org.uk, or visit www.3hscouts.org/join.

You never know, you could start writing your own story.



Heroes What an achievement I witnessed in Kandersteg