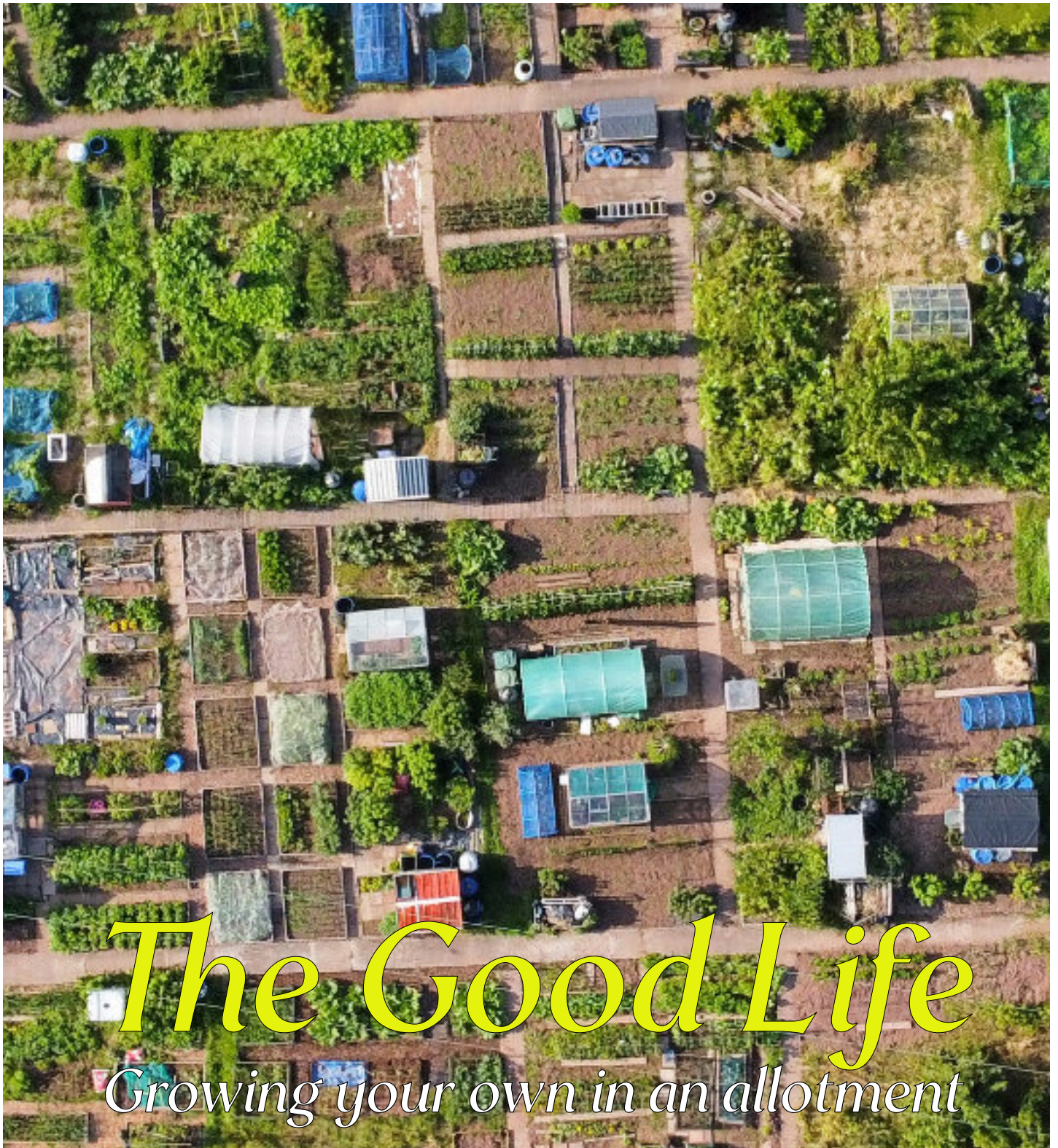


Spire

YOUR **FREE** COPY OF
HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE



The Good Life
Growing your own in an allotment

WHO'S WHO



Vicar Derek Winterburn
020 8241 5904
vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Derek was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He served in several London parishes before arriving here in 2016. He is married to Sandra, a teacher, and has two children. A keen photographer, he posts a picture daily. He can be contacted at any time other than Mondays, his day off.



Associate Priest Jacky Cammidge
079 5012 2294
jackycammidge@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

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 times Jacky runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.



Assistant Priest Tim Marwood
073 6928 0040
frtimmarwood@hotmail.com

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

Choir Director and Organist

Thom Stanbury
thom.stanbury@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Thom has been at St James's since 2019. He started his musical life in the church where he grew up in Staffordshire. He read music at Royal Holloway with organ as principle instrument. During the week he works in theatre production/management.

Church Office Nick Bagge

020 8941 6003
office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk
Nick deals with general enquiries and church and hall bookings. The office is open 0930-1230 Mon, Wed and Fri, and 1230-1530 Tue and Thu.



Parish Safeguarding Officer

Annalea Gratton
grattonannalea@gmail.com

Annalea is the first person to speak to if you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult. During the week she works as a teacher.



Churchwardens

Graham McHutcheon

Susan Horner



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smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

St James's Church, St James's Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ
Charity Registration Number 1129286.

From the Editor

Summer is here already and fingers crossed that this year we get some rain as well as sunshine to keep gardens and allotments looking good.

Our centre pages this issue feature local allotment holders. Bushy Park Allotments, running along the High Street to Hampton Pool, are well known, as are plots near Squire's Garden Centre, in Sixth Cross Road, and smaller ones in Hampton.

I have happy memories of helping my father on his allotment. We lived nearby, so most evenings after work he would go over to tend his plot and proudly bring home the produce. Mareetail was the blight of our plot and still gives me shivers if I see it!

In recent years I helped a friend on her Sixth Cross Road plot and regularly saw Gwynneth Lloyd tending her plot, arriving at church later with samples to share. Allotments are communal areas where long friendships are formed.

This issue also records the death of Pip Rowett, a longstanding member of the church. He and Anne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary only weeks before he died. Pip wrote in the Spire about the Isles of Scilly, where his father was vicar, and where the family have spent many holidays.

On the back page Derek tells us about his love of photography, a hobby which I share. His photos often feature in the magazine.

Best wishes,

Janet
Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Some of London's thriving allotments seen from the air.

The magazine is published six times a year. We don't charge for it, but if you enjoy reading it we hope you will help towards printing costs. It costs us £12 a year for six copies.

If you are able to make a larger donation we can distribute more copies across the parish. **Bank transfers** can be made to our CAF Bank account: 00032595, 40-52-40, or you can scan the QR code. Please use the reference *Spire* so that it gets to us.



Spire

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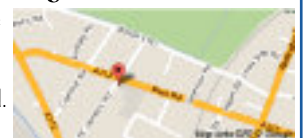
Clerical Capers



'Perhaps he heard about the changes to the PCC membership.'

Finding the church

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



next door. Parking is unrestricted. Buses stopping nearby include R70, R68 and 285.

Church and Hall Hire

The church and hall are available to hire for concerts, public meetings, regular classes, and parties or wakes. The church's AV system includes projector, large screen, a range of microphones, stage lighting and five cameras.

Support Us

The church does not receive grants towards running costs. To donate, go to:

<https://bit.ly/Give2StJas>





DEREK WINTERBURN

Saints alive! How we could owe our name to the local vicar!

There is a curious habit of naming buildings. For example, the cinemas of my childhood were the Embassy, the Commodore and the Odeon. I have no idea what was in the mind of the owners of the first two, other than perhaps to borrow some grandeur. Maybe most people recognise Odeon as the cinema chain's company's name.

However, there is some authenticity to the title - in Ancient Greece an Odeon was a 'singing place'. But that is a good fit compared to the Lyceum Theatre (home of the Lion King). That's another

Greek place, not of entertainment but a school of philosophy!

The vast majority of churches in the Church of England are dedicated to one or more people - such as St James. Across Europe, although the most common dedications in the first millennium were to Mary or Peter, frequently a church might be associated with a founder, martyr or local holy person - especially if the building contained their relics.

In England in the 13th century, the church authorities began to require parishes to identify their patron saint and keep a patronal festival. There are areas of countryside where church dedications have kept alive the memory of people forgotten elsewhere (e.g. St Beza in St Bees, St Mawes in Cornwall or St Etheldreda at Ely).

Saints lost appeal

After the English Reformation the naming of churches after saints became less popular. Old dedications were forgotten and were instead known by the parish

location (e.g. St Mary's Hampton was known alternatively as Hampton Church).

In fact, it was quite hard to create new parishes; an act of parliament was required. This changed in the 19th century as the government recognised the dramatic growth in cities, and pumped money into church building. This matched a rise in church attendance too, whether as a result of the Evangelical Revival or the Oxford Movement.

Church growth

There were 2,438 Anglican churches built between 1851 and 1865 and many existing ones were refurbished or extended. As a result of the change of mood, churches were given dedications once again. However, there was a greater range of names, especially among churches that did not want a saint as a patron, including Christ Church, St Saviour, Emmanuel, Good Shepherd, Christ the King.

This was the period in which the vicar at St Mary's Hampton became concerned for the relatively new arrivals in 'New Hampton.' Land that

had been retained after the enclosures for income was donated and a simple church was erected at the cost of £1300 in 1863. The church was to be built out and up for the next 30 years.

Why James?

The dedication was to St James. I am not aware of any record about why James was chosen. Of all the names used in the Church of England this is the ninth most popular, so not an odd choice, but definitely a choice.

Although there are a number of people called James in the New Testament, we know that ours is 'St James the Great'. The son of Zebedee and a fisherman, he was present at the Transfiguration - as seen in the church windows. It was this James that caused Santiago de Compostela to become a major site of pilgrimage - as hinted in the opus sectile 'mosaic' by the organ.

If I were to go out on a limb, I'd say the most likely reason is that

the name of the church was suggested by the vicar of St Mary's, who was the prime mover for the new church - Rev James Burrows!

Our saint's day

So, every year we celebrate our dedication, and our patron saint, James. His day is marked rather arbitrarily on 25 July. It was once supposed he was martyred on this day - but who can say, and the Orthodox church keeps it on 13 May. This provides us with the latitude to transfer the date to the first Sunday in July!

On that day we will be pleased to welcome Rev Mike Starkey, a former Hampton Deanery incumbent, to preach at the 11am service. The celebrations will continue with a garden party (weather permitting!).

The previous day we will throw open our doors to the community, to come and look around and even go up into the tower to see the panorama of Hampton Hill and beyond. You are most welcome.

TOP CHURCH NAMES

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mary | 2. All Saints |
| 3. Peter | 4. Michael |
| 5. Andrew | 6. Paul |
| 7. Holy Trinity | 8. John the Baptist |
| 9. James | 10. Nicholas |

Source: Church of England

The most likely reason for our church's name is that it was suggested by the vicar of St Mary's... Rev JAMES Burrows!



Growth Jon Holloway on his allotment

Allotments have long been a cherished part of British life, providing city dwellers and countryside residents alike with a patch of earth to call their own. For many, these small plots offer a sanctuary from the bustle of daily life, a place to cultivate not just vegetables and flowers but also friendships, skills, and a sense of community. I've been talking to three fellow parishioners who each have their own unique stories to tell about their experiences of allotment gardening in the UK.

How Allotments work

As Bryan Basdell explains, 'The history of allotments goes back many centuries, originally being an allotment of land that was used to grow an important source of food and/or raise livestock.

'Over the centuries, use of an allotment has changed and they are sometimes used to provide garden space alongside growing, with some allotments now featuring BBQs, tables and chairs, and children's swings.'

There are rules that govern the size and allocation of an allotment, and the amount that should be used to cultivate food, but what you

grow, where you plant it and cultivate it, is mostly up to you.

Setting up

Due to the cumbersome process of obtaining an allotment, they can lie idle for months, which is not ideal as the spaces can become overrun with grass, brambles and bindweed, an issue I came up against when my wife Linda and I took over an allotment in 2023.

It was quite daunting at first, and it took us several long days just to clear it, but we were rewarded with the discovery of a shed, the remains of a gazebo and a

climbing frame that we were able to adapt into a makeshift greenhouse. With demand for allotments at its highest since World War Two, green spaces have become ever more precious. For the lucky 250,000, the benefits go beyond growing food and flowers. They are spaces for wellbeing, biodiversity and physical activity. But with an average five-year wait and growing demands for more housing, Jon Holloway spoke to three fellow allotment holders about why their little patches of suburban green land are so important.

climbing frame that we were able to adapt into a makeshift greenhouse.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

I have particularly enjoyed the ethos that exists in the allotment community. I'm amazed at what gets thrown away during a house renovation. I've spent many happy times digging through skips for offcuts of wood (don't forget to ask permission) and putting them to good use - from a simple carrot box to a covered seating area.

A wander around any allotment will also show that function carries a lot more weight than form, useful for those who, like me, love to get hands-on and build things, but can't always guarantee a perfect finish!

Dawn Miller, whose allotment is on the same site as mine, has got a greenhouse upgrade planned, using some now redundant window frames, a project we'll do together.



Rough with the smooth

Even with the best planning, years of experience and in-depth knowledge, it's never plain sailing. Poor weather, persistent weeds, and hungry birds, mice, slugs and snails can make progress slow and frustrating.

Christopher Parker has been working an allotment for decades, and suggests 'one has to be phlegmatic about failure'. But in spite of this, 'There is nothing more satisfying than a patch of neatly turned, well-weeded, brown earth before the green shoots appear of what one hopes will be bumper crops of potatoes, garlic, onions, broad beans, runner beans, tomatoes, Jerusalem artichokes and sweetcorn – but only if you can get it before the parakeets!'

Bryan also points out that whilst he will have the occasional 'failure', when a new crop brings little or no produce, in all his years of planting and growing he's never had a total failure. In fact, some years he has had to deal with a glut.



Work Bryan Basdell begins work on his allotment

Food, glorious food

Undoubtedly one of the most exciting allotment activities is harvesting produce and putting it to good use.

A highlight for Bryan is biting into a tomato picked fresh from the vine, with flavour incomparable to its supermarket equivalent, or sampling strawberries as close as possible to the Wimbledon tennis fortnight.

Dawn is a proficient jam maker, putting her fruits and chillis to good use every year in whatever shape or size jar she can lay her hands on.

As a relatively new allotmentee, I am still experimenting with younger

plants and smaller crops, but an inherited fig tree has resulted in some great chutney, and I've found some interesting pumpkin recipes.

Hidden benefits

On top of the nourishment, the cultivating and tending of an allotment can bring enormous health benefits, both physical and mental. As

'Our allotments are more than a patch of soil: they are sources of pleasure, pride and friendship.'



Tomatoes Tasting the difference

Christopher makes clear, a dose of fresh air is never a bad thing, and the effort needed to dig and plant, with the seemingly endless need to turn compost, not only brings the knowledge that a job has been well done, but the

resulting awakening of a few muscles allows for a special satisfaction.

All four of us also recognise a tremendous benefit from the opportunity to sometimes simply escape.

For Dawn, who juggles a busy family and working life, the allotment brings the chance to relax into some more menial tasks that free up the mind to wander undisturbed.

A sense of community

As well as a chance to connect with nature, the allotment experience also enables other relationships to grow and friendships to blossom. You very rarely get to choose your allotment neighbours, so straightaway you have half a dozen new people to get to know.

As there are limitless ways of doing things, there's an instant opportunity to learn and share knowledge, hints and tips, and to swap plants and seedlings. Some allotments will also develop a more formal social scene, with coffee mornings, plant sales, maintenance days and BBQs.

Enduring appeal

For all four of us, our allotments represent more than just a patch of soil; they are sources of pleasure, pride and friendship.

Our experiences reflect the enduring appeal of allotment gardening in the UK – a tradition that continues to thrive, offering both challenges and countless rewards to those willing to dig in.



Pressure A demand for more housing can put allotments at risk



Broken world

Holding out hope for peace in our time

This hymn is based on a prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan religious order, however scholars suggest that Jacopo do Toddi (a Franciscan brother) may have written this version of the prayer. First published in French in 1912, these words are prayed in countless languages worldwide.

Franciscan prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The words and music for the version of the hymn that is best



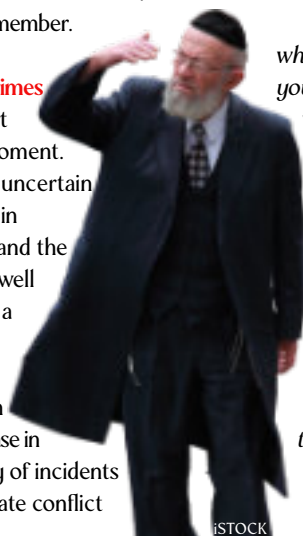
Tim Marwood

known in this country, were written in 1967 by Sebastian Temple, pen name of the composer Sebastian von Tempelhoff (1928-1997), a South African-born Catholic.

Temple was resident in the US for many years and wrote the song for the church in Los Angeles of the Third Order of Franciscans, of which he was a member.

Religious hate crimes

Peace is in short supply at the moment. We live in very uncertain times with wars in Ukraine, Sudan and the Middle East, as well as campaigns of a covert nature worldwide. There has been a worrying increase in our own country of incidents designed to create conflict



based on religious and ethnic difference. Praying for peace seems so important currently. It is a time for people of faith to assert the 'Golden Rule' shared by so many religions and philosophies: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.* I encourage you to pray for peace using this prayer, spoken silently in your heart or sung aloud joyfully. It doesn't matter who the author of this prayer was, it's the thought that counts!

Make me a channel of your peace

Make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred let me bring your love; where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console as to understand as to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace, where there's despair in life, let me bring hope; where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console to be understood as to understand to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving to all that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

World Peace Prayer

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth; lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust; lead me from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

This prayer was first used in England by Mother Teresa of Calcutta at a service in St James's Church, Piccadilly, in July 1981. The prayer has its origins in the traditions of many faiths, and the World Peace Prayer Society has encouraged its use at 12 noon each day throughout the world.

There is a recording on the internet of a beautiful meditative setting of this prayer by English composer Margaret Rizza, performed by the music group she founded at St Thomas's Church, Sevenoaks. Listen, and let peace fill your heart...

REGISTERS

MARCH
Baptisms

- 1 Sophia Elizabeth Gracie Fereday, Frimley
- 1 Chester Benjamin Fitchett, Hampton
- 22 Leo Sherlock Peterhans, Hampton Hill

Funeral

- 14 Desmond Albert Palmer, 60, Teddington



APRIL
Baptism

- 12 Harriet May Reid, Hampton Hill
- Interment of Ashes**
- 11 Stephen Frederick Harvey Kennewell, 80, Hampton Hill

Family Matters Support for children affected by domestic abuse or those with special needs.
WELCARE



FOR MANY years now we have given to two local charities out of church funds and we are proud to continue this tradition.



Bishop Wand

The Church of England secondary school, based in Sunbury, is committed to helping every student reach their potential, gain confidence and compassion, ready to make a positive impact on the world. Moya Ratnayake, the School Chaplain, said our annual gift would go towards her work and buy study materials for the Christian Union, and an after-school group for vulnerable students, pocket crosses for Year 11s, and books for Year 13s as they prepare to leave the school.

'Your gift,' she said, 'helps us to do the work of our school vision and Bible verse: *Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*'

(1 Thessalonians 5: 11).

Welcare

Welcare is a Christian charity working in London with families

Dennis Wilmot

Positive action at home and school

who have children up to the age of 13, providing practical and emotional help, and one-to-one family support. In the Richmond area the charity supports families living with the legacy of domestic abuse or those with special needs.

The charity works to improve parenting skills, family relationships and create a more secure home, improve emotional health and wellbeing, and build social networks. Recently two boys, aged seven

and 12, were referred to Welcare after they were removed from their mother, who had addiction issues. Welcare worked with the grandmother to support the children emotionally. Practical help with sleeping also helped, and brought about large improvements at home and at school.

Welcare works with many partners in the borough, including Achieving for Children, Ruils, and Skylarks.

NEWS

Pip Rowett, a joyful man, with music in his heart

PIP ROWETT, 87, whose funeral was held at St James's on 12 May, was one of five brothers. Born in Canada in 1938, he was educated at a prep school on the Isle of Wight, followed by Charterhouse in Godalming and finally at Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge, reading history.

He married Anne in 1966, and lived a happy family life in Twickenham, together with their four children. He worked for a computer company, spending three years in Czechoslovakia with Anne and his growing family. Their holidays were enjoyed on the Isles of Scilly.

He and Anne started attending St James's 35 years ago, becoming involved in church life soon after. He was on the PCC, was a member of the Deanery Synod for 25 years, and together with Anne spent 25 years on the Sunday coffee rota. Pip, of course, was a loyal member of the church choir. With their obvious love of singing, it was no surprise that they joined other local choirs, including being

founder members of Concordia Voices. Pip's other great love was stamp collecting, enjoying the buying and selling and improving his large personal collection.

In February, they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with the family, just weeks before he passed away on Good Friday, with Anne by his side.

Prill Hinckley



WHAT'S ON

Services Sundays

Holy Communion (Said) 8am

Parish Communion 9.30am

7, 14, 21, 28 June; 12, 19, 26 July
Streamed on our Facebook page

Together 3.30pm

7, 14, 21 June; 12, 19 July

Our shorter, all age service, particularly for young families

Messy Church 3.30pm

28 June

Songs, stories, crafts and food!

Tue, Thu, Fri

Morning Prayer 9am

Wednesdays

Midweek Communion 9.30am

Groups Mondays

Ark Playgroup 10am-12noon

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 June; 6, 13 July

Fridays

Connections Café 10.30am-12.30pm

5, 12, 19, 26 June; 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 July

Events

Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band

Sunday 28 June 3pm

A summer concert of favourites.

Tickets £15 (£12.50 in advance).

Judy Morrison 078 5402 2426

Summer Celebration

Saturday 4 July 2-5pm

Our festival weekend begins with an open day. Learn about nature, including deer and bees. Stalls, children's crafts, nature trail, art.

Climb the tower - find all the local landmarks. Try bellringing.

Book now to guarantee places.

Go to: <https://bit.ly/StJTower>

Full information on our website

St James's Day

Sunday 5 July 11am

Our patronal service with guest speaker Rev Mike Starkey, a freelance writer, broadcaster and former London vicar, followed by a barbecue lunch in the vicarage garden (weather permitting).

St James Entertains presents

Fire and Rain & American Pie

Friday 11 September 7.30pm

A band, led by TV's Paul Wheeler, plays a string of timeless songs from James Taylor, Carole King, Simon & Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, Don Mclean, Crosby, Stills, Nash, Bread, The Byrds and Carly Simon.

Tickets:

£35 (VIP); £25 (standard)

Book at:

<https://bit.ly/StJPie>



Capturing our changing world in a few clicks

There have never been so many photographers. It is said that approximately 1.96 trillion photos will be taken in 2026, with the vast majority captured by smartphones. But even professionals will take many more photographs than they would have done a generation ago.



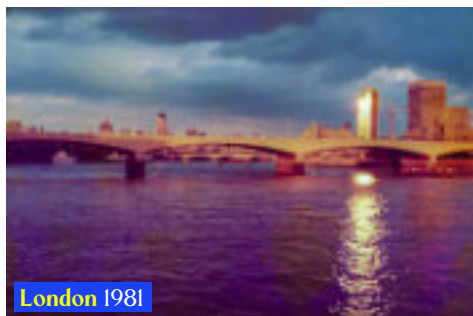
Sunrise On Sinai

A single photographer might capture 800 to 1,000 images in a single day for a wedding photography shoot. (I now have 240,000 photos on my computer's hard drive!) So to call oneself a photographer or to say one has a hobby that's photography is almost like saying my hobby is breathing. It's nothing special. But still, it is something that is important to me.

First proper camera

I had an Instamatic camera when I was a teenager, but my first 'real camera' was an Olympus Trip given to me on my 21st birthday. This was a natty compact camera with a metal body. Rather wonderfully, its battery was powered by sunshine. This became my companion on many a journey through my university days at Bristol and at Oxford.

When I bought rolls of film of 24 or 36 exposures, every shot counted (and cost



London 1981

money). I've been through several other cameras since then - moving to digital in 2003. It is possible to spend a small fortune on kit. Presently I use a camera that is ten years old, and two lenses that I found on eBay.

As the cameraphone revolution shows, equipment is only a small part of good photography. People often say 'the best camera is the one you have with you'. There are moments to take quick snaps, but there is something special about looking around for the photograph to take. Here are a few highlights.

Thames Sunset 1981

This is a photo I took on my first reel of film on the Olympus Trip. I remember being amazed at the sharpness and colour of the print compared to my previous camera. I took just a few photos on a day trip to London; this one is from Westminster Bridge looking towards the City. The grey tower on the right of the photo was London Weekend Television - now demolished!

Mother and Child

There was a time before digital photography when there was some prestige in developing your own pictures.



This was something I learned how to do at university, and when we had a spare room in the vicarage I bought a second-hand enlarger at Jessops (remember them?). Here is my wife, Sandra, with our first son, John.

When our second son, Mark, arrived, the darkroom was surrendered! (Now everything can be done on a computer.)

Sunrise on Sinai

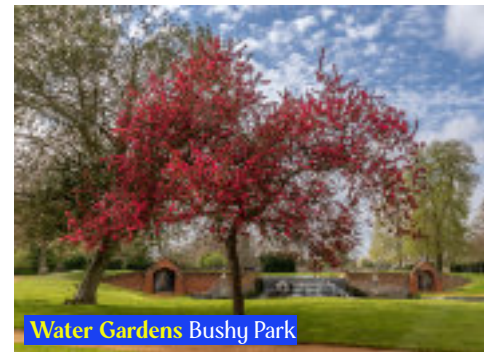
In 2013 I spent six weeks in Israel. Photographically this was a golden opportunity to range more widely to places that I had not visited before on pilgrimages. I built up a library of images - some of which have been used in magazines and books.

However, the most dramatic experience was lugging two cameras up Sinai in the darkness to catch the sunrise.

Our group was just part of a small crowd at the summit. But by walking a little further on we were able to witness a glorious vista.

Bushy Park

When I returned home I went on a photographic holiday in the Lakes. There we were challenged to post a photo each day to the Blipfoto website, which I have done ever since (13 years now and nearly 5,000 shots).



Water Gardens Bushy Park

Thankfully we live within reach of many interesting places; Bushy Park being only a small distance away. Here is a very recent photo of a cherry tree in blossom in the Water Gardens.

Thames Sunset 2026

Returning to where I started: how London has changed in 45 years!



London 2026

My daily photographs

You can find my Photo Journal at:
<https://www.blipfoto.com/DNWinterburn>
 and many more at:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dnwinterburn/>