

NOVEMBER 2025 REMEMBRANCE

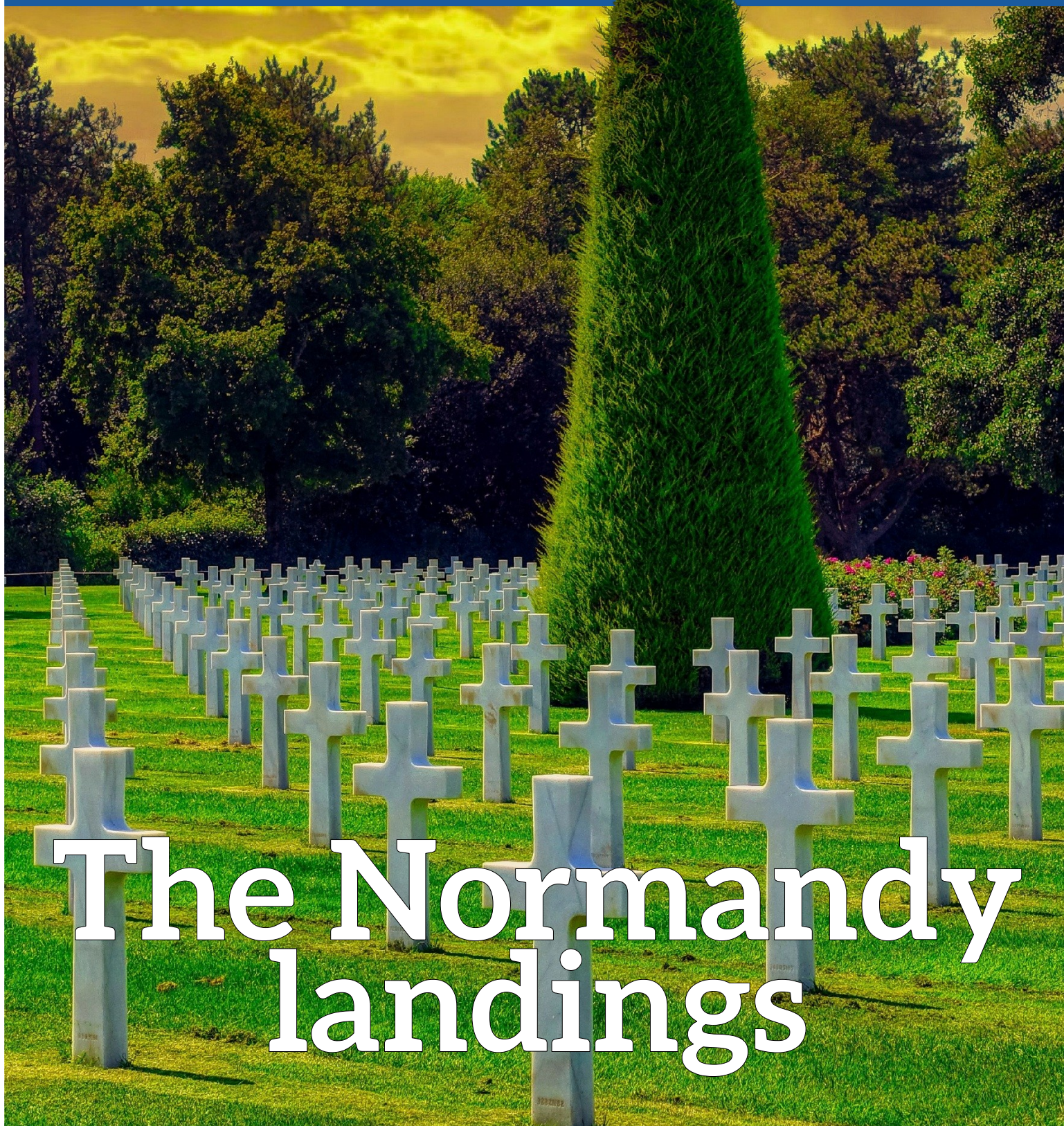
SPIRE




St James
Hampton Hill

HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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The Normandy landings

stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk or find us on    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



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: frtimmarwood@hotmail.com

How to get in touch with the church



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: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 0930-1230; and Tuesday and Thursday 1230-1530.

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

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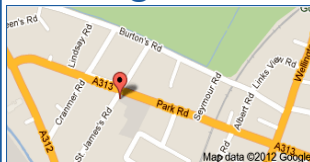


Thom Stanbury

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For all other church contacts please email or telephone the Church Office.

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

@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

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Rev Canon Julian Reindorp had passed away. Julian was a friend to so many people, taking a large number of funerals, covering when clergy were on holiday as well as supporting so much at St James's.

Whenever I hear something untoward in the news I think of how Julian would have responded. He wrote his *Opinion* column for 14 years. My obituary for Julian replaces it on page 7.

The centre-spread and cover this month also features remembrance. Ann Peterken visited Normandy last year and writes a moving account of her visit.

Page 8 features volunteers at Hampton Heath, which surrounds the David Lloyd Centre.

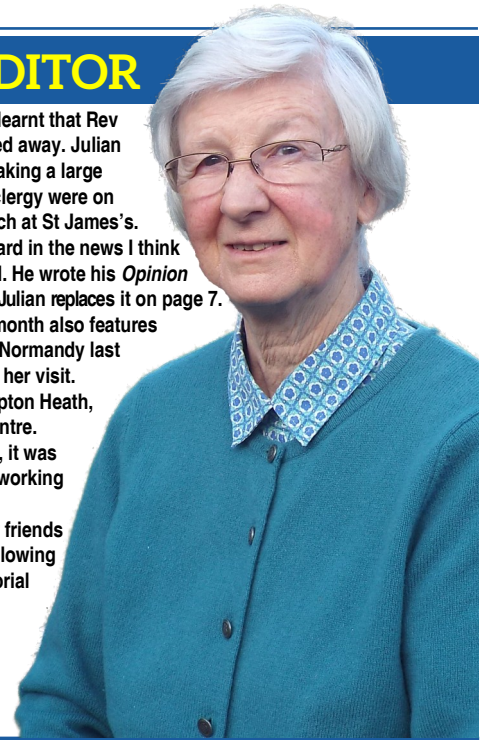
I walked round it during Covid. Then, it was rather unkempt, but now a team are working hard to improve it.

Our All Souls Service to remember friends and family is on 2 November. The following week we will gather at the War Memorial to honour those affected by war.

Best Wishes

Janet

Editor



Cover photo: At the going down of the sun: soldiers lie in a Normandy cemetery

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?

Bank transfers to: 40-52-40, 00032595, Ref Spire. Cheques payable to the PCC of St James's Church, Hampton Hill, and sent to the Spire Appeal c/o the Church Office (see below).

I cost £11.70 A YEAR



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SPIRE POSTAL ADDRESS

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CIRCULATION

The Spire is available in church and local shops, and is distributed across the parish by volunteers.

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PRODUCTION

Design Nick Bagge

Proof readers Catherine Gash, Susan Horner

PRINT

Peter James Printing Limited 075 1217 5044

email: PJP123cards@aol.com

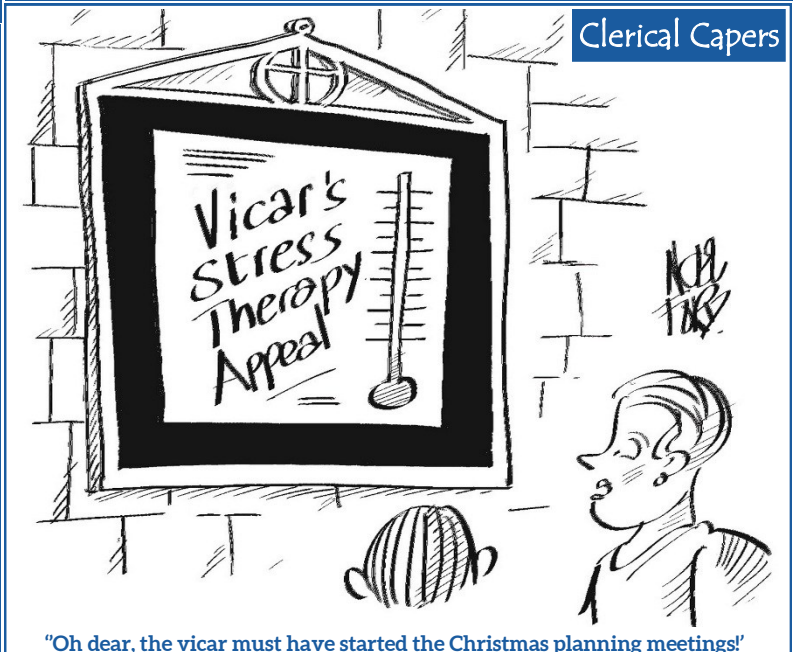
NEXT ISSUE / COPY DATE

The December/January issue is published on Fri 28 November. Copy by Tue 4 November.

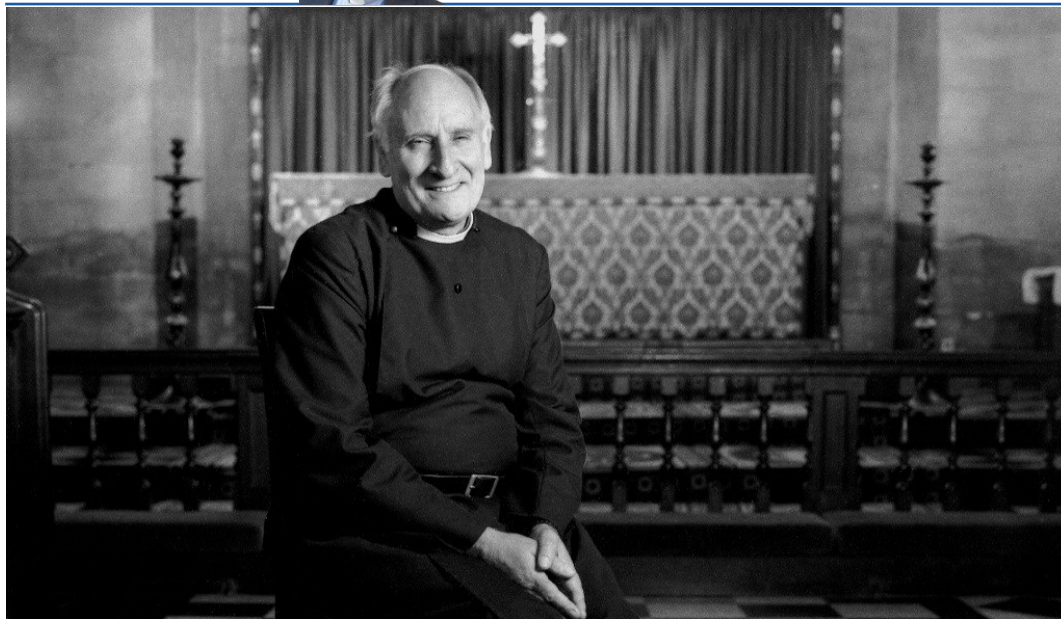
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St James's Church is a charity registered in England and Wales (1129286)

Printed on paper sourced from well-managed forests.



DEREK WINTERBURN



There are many ways that Julian Reindorp and I were different! But there was at least one aspect of our biographies that meant that difference was not a lasting problem. We had both been parts of Team Ministries. He had been the Team Rector in Richmond, and I had been a Team Vicar in Hackney. Different teams are set up in different ways, and can vary in the extent of mutual dependence between the various churches. Nevertheless, for congregations and especially for clergy, it takes effort to make the team thrive.

DARING TO BE DIFFERENT

More than one church

When we were in training (it might not be so true today) the ministry we were being prepared for was 'a vicar, with a junior curate, in one church.' However in a Team Ministry there might be a first among equals (team rector), other clergy of 'vicar status' (team vicars) and perhaps a trainee (curate).

Usually each church in the team would have a team rector/vicar, but that person would be expected to minister in the other churches too. For example in Hackney I was a team vicar with a responsibility for All Soul's Church, but once a month on Sunday morning I 'visited' one of the other churches.

I also chaired the youth project that was a joint work of the whole team. As a staff team we prayed together each day. There were other joint activities and services. Although this sounds very commendable, it does run across the grain of how we instinctively think of parishes.

United we stand

My point is this: working as part of a Team Ministry is a school of learning to be united on the big things and accept and even appreciate differences. One learns quickly that 'maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace' takes time and energy — and the self-discipline to let others 'have the last word'. Julian both loved people and he loved ideas.

As Julian did with many people, he liked to debate issues with me. He would send me articles; he lent me books to read. I would try to keep up with him and have something to offer in reply. And in the other direction he joined the courses we have had and he

listened to my *Time to Pray* Bible podcasts. I certainly learned from our exchanges and I think Julian at least understood why I thought what I did; I am not sure I ever persuaded him of anything!

Jesus taught us to be slow to take offence, to honour justice, and seek reconciliation. These are some of the values that Julian followed. The same as the Kingdom of God.

The Two Canons

Similarly Julian and Canon Tim Marwood jointly ran a group called *Hard Questions*.

Tim writes about being asked to be Julian's partner: 'I was pleased by the compliment, but apprehensive about the territory that we were to explore. I needn't have worried. Julian prepared his input meticulously and he was most concerned to ensure that everyone in the group felt that they could offer their opinions in a "safe place". In that context Julian (and Tim) demonstrated that people could agree to disagree.

We dream of a world full of peace and love. We turn to that hope afresh at Remembrance. But we would be deluded to think that we are doing something wrong if it is hard work to live in harmony.

Hollywood was built on the myth that once a couple fell in love it was 'happy

ever after'. But, after a moment's thought, we know that is not the whole story. The same is true for human history on the global scale; it is quite likely that there has never been a year without a major conflict

somewhere in the world. It is the work of great leaders to establish peace. Of course, some wars follow great injustices, or sheer unwillingness to reach agreement. So the Christian *Just War theory* sketches grounds for war — but only as the last resort.

But it need not be so. Julian and I were ready to work together because we were prepared to 'give and take' — a lesson I, at least, learned in a Team Ministry. That has to be the path to peace at home, at church and between nations.

Julian's values

Jesus taught very clearly about not being quick to take offence, to being slow to attribute bad intentions to other people, to honour justice and always be seeking reconciliation. These are some of the values that Julian preached and ordered his life around. These are the values of the Kingdom of God.

St James Services Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8am

Parish Communion 9:30am

Livestreamed on Facebook

Together 3:30pm 9, 16, 30 Nov

Our shorter, all-age service, particularly good for young families

Messy Church 3:30pm 23 Nov

Tue-Fri (not Wed)

Morning Prayer 9am

Wednesdays

Midweek Communion 9:30am

Faith in the Afternoon 2pm 29 Oct; 12, 26 Nov

Mondays Not 27 Oct

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.

In Loving Memory

Sunday 2 November 3:30pm

A short service to remember family and loved one's who have died, particularly in the past year.

Charlie Dore

Saturday

8 November

7:30pm

Award-winning songwriter Charlie

Dore performs a genre-defying concert. Joined by longtime friend Julian Littman, the duo craft a fast-moving show. Tickets £15.

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

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 9 November 9:30am

The service moves to the churchyard at 11am for two minutes' silence and the laying of wreaths and poppies by groups and individuals.

Charity Quiz Night

Saturday 15 November 7pm

Bring your friends for a fun night.

Tickets £18, including pizza and pudding: <https://bit.ly/StJQuiz25>

Remembering Julian

Saturday 29 November, St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond 3pm

A memorial service to enable people from the wider community to celebrate Julian Reindorp's life.

Christingle

Sunday 7 December 10am

All Age service in aid of The Children's Society.

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



In October last year, the 80th anniversary of D-Day, I visited Normandy with American friends. As I had been to this area before, I knew the impact it would have on me, but 30 years had passed and it was time to return.

The first thing to say is that there are lots of sites and having your own transport is a big help. We did not have a car, but my friends had booked a personal guide and minibus for one day and we saw many places in a very relaxed manner.

There are five landing beach sectors, starting with Sword in the east and moving west through Juno, Gold and Omaha to Utah. In our limited time we only visited the Gold and Omaha sectors, but that was plenty to absorb in a day.

Arromanches

Our tour started at the viewpoint over Arromanches and part of the huge bay where the Mulberry Harbours were erected to facilitate the offloading of troops and supplies on 6 June, 1944. There were two of these temporary portable harbours, Mulberry A off Omaha Beach and Mulberry B off Gold Beach.

The viewpoint has sections of a Mulberry Harbour that give an excellent idea of what was involved in towing them across the English Channel. There is also a D-Day Garden that was installed in 2019 for the 75th anniversary, having been exhibited at Chelsea a few weeks earlier. At the heart of the design are four British soldiers making their way past the obstacles on Gold Beach.



The D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944 marked the beginning of the end of the Nazi occupation of Europe – but victory cost 14,000 lives. **Ann Peterken** returned and found it still has the impact to move her.



Driving on to Arromanches, we visited its excellent museum where the story of D-Day is portrayed vividly. When it opened in 1954, it was the first museum to commemorate the D-Day landings and is now in a new building.

We continued to the Longues-sur-Mer artillery battery, part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall coastal fortifications. Lying between the landing sectors of Gold and Omaha, the battery shelled Allied naval forces off both beaches. Seeing the four huge casemates (one pictured below) is chilling, knowing the damage they caused to the troops as they came ashore.



Although damaged by Allied shore bombardment, the battery was only captured and put out of action by British ground forces on 7 June 1944.

My American friends naturally wanted to visit an American cemetery, so our next stop was the magnificent cemetery near Colleville-sur-Mer, located on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach. There are over 9000 graves, including one for Theodore Roosevelt Jr. The startling white crosses and stars of David are

Walking along Omaha Beach in the sunshine was rather surreal. What I most felt was immense gratitude for the unfathomable bravery of so many young men on that hugely significant day in our recent history, their lives taken before they had hardly begun.

mesmerising and the whole site very beautiful and peaceful. I could well understand how special it must be to visit the grave of a family member or friend.

Cornish connection

By chance I had visited Trebah Gardens in Cornwall a few months earlier. The gardens lead down to a beach where the US 29th Infantry Division had embarked for the assault on Omaha. There are memorials and a military day of remembrance is held each year. The GIs from the camps had relaxed together in the Red Lion pub at nearby Mawnan Smith and I thought of them with sadness while driving through the village.



The stone monument at Omaha Beach with inscriptions in French and English is near to the shore, while behind it and closer to the water's edge is the dramatic steel sculpture called *Les Braves*. It was created by French artist Anilore Banon for the 60th anniversary of D-Day. A twin sculpture by Banon, *Les Braves II: At Water's Edge*, was dedicated in the grounds of The War Memorial Association in Michigan, USA, in May 2023.



Viewpoint Over Arromanches

Omaha completed our day's excursion and we returned to Caen. There are many more memorials, cemeteries, and museums. My only regret was not getting to the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur Mer, with its *Standing with Giants* installation. Another time.

Only the beginning

D-Day was of course just the start of the Battle of Normandy, which lasted almost three months until 30 August when German forces retreated east across the Seine.

Caen, with a population of 60,000, soon felt the impact of the invasion. An Allied bombing air raid on 6 June tried, unsuccessfully, to destroy the four bridges over the Orne River. Leaflets were dropped urging the population to leave, but 800 civilians were killed in the first 48 hours.

Allied bombing turned much of the French countryside and the city of Caen into a wasteland. The German resistance was extremely fierce, and the Germans used the ruins to their advantage. They held on in Caen for over a month until on 19 July the front line finally moved away from the destroyed city.

Abbeys and museums in Caen have excellent information about the city's wartime experiences and the bravery of those who resisted the Nazi occupation.

Caen is a city steeped in history for other reasons, not least for having the grave of William the Conqueror in the Abbaye aux Hommes. A statue of William and his wife Matilda, both on horseback, stands in front of the castle that he had built around 1060 – a reminder of a much earlier invasion across the English Channel in a different direction.

D Day Garden Arromanches



Omaha Beach Les Braves



Around the Spire

A BEST-KEPT SECRET SARAH TAKES THE TOP JOB!

I WAS astonished when someone told me that the Bishop of London, Sarah Mulally, had been chosen as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Only four days before, I had received communion from her at a small gathering in the early morning at St Paul's Cathedral. An hour later a senior church leader there, who had spoken to her, assured the meeting that Bishop Sarah was **not** going anywhere soon. So I learned last week that Bishop Sarah can keep a secret!

The Pope was elected by 134 male cardinals in two days. 11,000 people were consulted over the archbishop's selection — including 1,200 children and young people — over the course of a year. We trust that God has guided the church to Bishop Sarah.

Media coverage has focussed on her being the first woman archbishop. Important though that might be, the position is much more than being a face at the top of an organisational chart. To be honest, being the archbishop is an awful job. Most people have very little idea of what the job entails, but an impartial observer would see that it is very hard work, and criticism flies at you from all directions.

Bishop Emma Ineson (Bishop of Kensington) describes Bishop Sarah as, 'a woman of profound compassion and



courage'. Bishop Emma has highlighted two important strengths.

I know that she experienced dyslexia as a burden (although it gave her strengths). She had the thankless task of guiding the church through the discussions about sexuality. I have heard her speak about receiving death threats. I have seen her work with honour with people who don't accept women bishops.

My prayer is that Bishop Sarah will be able to bring her gifts and skills to Lambeth Palace and offer the steady, patient leadership that we need. And that she will enjoy, and thrive in, the role — and know God's care and guidance.

Although the announcement of her appointment has been made, Bishop Sarah will continue her work in London until early 2026. There will be a farewell service on Saturday 17 January 2026 at 5pm, at St Paul's Cathedral, to which all are welcome, followed by her Installation at Canterbury Cathedral in March.

Derek Winterburn

NEW COLLECTOR GETS TOOLED UP

JANET NUNN was very pleased to hear that Twickenham resident Paul Leonard, is collecting for Tools with a Mission (TWAM). Janet was a volunteer collector for the charity for many years.

TWAM sends tools to several African countries that have links to churches here. Their website has many inspirational videos to watch.

The tools are checked and refurbished if necessary at their Ipswich depot before being sent abroad. They enable people to learn skills or start a small business and the money they earn helps them to look after their families and send their children to school. Simple tools literally change lives.



Paul

Tools in any sort of condition (manual or electric) are welcome, as are sewing machines and needlework supplies. Computer-operating systems need to be Windows 8 or above. Modern monitors are also welcome, as well as carpentry, car and garden tools.

To arrange a collection, get in touch with Paul, tel 078 2818 2352, or email paul.leonard.ed@btinternet.com. Paul is also looking for storage space. Do you know of any spare garage or lock-up which is available?

■ For more information about the charity go to: twam.uk

Odel Pass



HISTORY'S MOMENTS



Tim Marwood recalls singing this hymn at the 1980 FA Cup Final, as it is at many state occasions.

The three words which begin the hymn *Abide with me* are a reference to the story of two disciples encountering the risen Jesus, but not recognising him at first, on the road to Emmaus

— a village a day's journey from Jerusalem.

The disciples invite Jesus to supper: *Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent* (Luke 24: 29). Jesus reveals himself by his way of breaking bread at supper (a scene portrayed in the wonderful painting by Caravaggio *Supper at Emmaus*, which you can view at The National Gallery).

Clerical author

Henry Francis Lyte, the author of the words of the hymn, was born in 1793 near Kelso in Scotland. Lyte studied at Trinity College Dublin, where he won the prize for poetry three times. As a priest he served in Ireland before becoming perpetual curate at Lower Brixham, Devon, in 1823.

When Lyte visited Augustus le Hunte, who was dying, he noted that his old friend kept repeating 'abide with me'. The memory of that encounter came to Lyte as he himself was near to death in August 1847, when he wrote the words of the hymn just before he left England to convalesce in France. Lyte died from consumption on the 20 November.

Lyte gave the manuscript to his daughter when he left Brixham and she published the text in 1850. At first the hymn was sung to several tunes, including Lyte's own composition, but the editors of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* felt that the words deserved a better tune.

Sunset's new theme

In 1861 it is said that William Henry Monk, organist of St Matthias Stoke Newington, and one of the committee compiling the new hymn book, composed the tune *Eventide* in 10 minutes after a walk with his wife as the sun set.

Abide with me has been sung to the tune on countless occasions ever since. It is a

hymn where the words 'I' 'me' and 'my' are repeated, giving the text a very personal tone, and yet when sung at funerals or national gatherings the words allow a sense of a shared experience of trial and loss.

Football's theme tune

It will forever be associated with the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium, but the tradition began by accident at the first final held at Wembley Stadium in 1923, between Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United. The start was delayed by the crowd spilling onto the pitch. While police cleared the pitch a choir sang the hymn and the crowd joined in. When the King, George V, attended in 1927 he asked for the hymn to be sung, and it has been ever since.

I attended the 1980 final between West Ham and Arsenal. My abiding memory of the match is not the only goal, a rare Brooking header which gave West Ham a 1-0 victory, but being part of a vast choir singing Lyte's hymn.

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

REGISTERS

SEPTEMBER

INTERMENT OF ASHES

18 Alan James (Jim) Jewell, 82,
Hampton Hill



WEDDING BLUES?



Richard Melville found that St James's was concerned about fewer church weddings taking place.

Each year, fewer couples get married in church. That's partly because it's easier to have the wedding and party at the same venue. But a delve in the archives shows that the this was already an issue in 2000.

Dear Friends,

'In 1990 we had 30 weddings at St James's. In 2000 we had 11. Some 40-50% of all marriages in England and Wales end in divorce within



Rev Brian Leathard

15 years — one of the highest rates in the EU. And fewer people are getting married at all.

The Church says: *Marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh.* And in the vows, that marriage is: *for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death us do part.*

Marriage is more than a legal contract, but a reflection of the covenant between God and humankind. This points beyond itself to the permanent love and fidelity God has made to humanity. Every expression of love points to the love of God.

However, we have all seen marriages where the partners are destroying each other and where divorce is the least worst outcome. The Church accepts this. Indeed some 10% of marriages involve a divorced partner. Are we flying in the face of Jesus' commands? I think not. While some believe marriage is right and divorce and remarriage is always wrong, I disagree. In every relationship there is success and failure. The Church's duty is surely not to condemn but to assure people of forgiveness and acceptance in Christ.

The words which return to me repeatedly are, *Wherever love and charity abound, there God is present.* That alone is our Christian calling.

In faith, Brian

Baptismal Party

Some 50 people gathered for the annual party held for recently baptised children, their parents and godparents. Many searched the register to find their names while others had questions. Tea and cake were much enjoyed!

Gift Aid scheme launched

The annual stewardship campaign had something new to say: *Make Gordon Pay!* This was a reference to the then Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who had introduced the Gift Aid scheme. This replaced covenants with a simpler, more flexible way for St James's to reclaim the tax on gifts. In 2000 it cost £75,000, or £200 a day, to run the parish.

Millennium Bazaar

China and glass, crafts, dried flower baskets, candles and pot pourri, toys, plants, cakes, homemade preserves, and a tombola were on sale, along with the promise of coffee and lunch.

Around the Spire

Susannah Nettleton's fourth child, William, was born. Three parishioners were being confirmed, and three, Betty Redman, Margaret Bramall and Rose Frier, were recovering from cataract operations.

In the news 25 years ago...

■ **4 Nov** Widespread and unusually high river levels caused flooding across parts of England, including York, Ripon, and Tadcaster.

The extensive rainfall made it the wettest October since 1903.

■ **7 Nov** An attempted robbery of the De Beers diamond exhibition inside the Millennium Dome was thwarted by the police.

The thieves used a JCB digger to smash into the building, but the diamonds had been replaced with fakes, and undercover police were waiting to make arrests

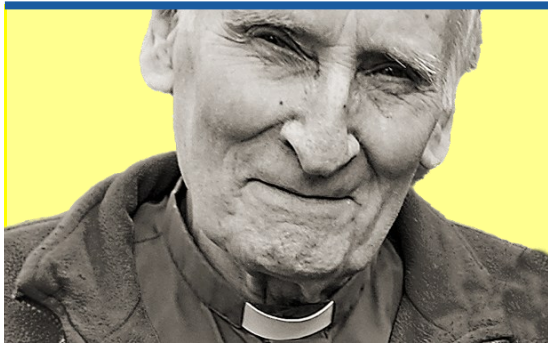
■ **7 Nov** George W Bush and Al Gore were too close to call in the presidential election. The result was decided by the Supreme Court

in Bush's favour following a controversial recount in Florida.

■ **27 Nov** Ten-year-old Nigerian schoolboy Damilola Taylor was killed in London in one of the UK's most high-profile killings. Two brothers, aged 12 and 13 at the time, were convicted of manslaughter in 2006.



US Archives



Julian Reindorp 1944-2025

It was the evening service on Christmas Eve in 2009 when Julian first came to St James's. He had retired in November from St Mary Magdalene Richmond, where he was Team Rector, and moved to Hampton Hill. Since then the familiar sight of a red scooter parked outside the church would mean that Julian was either taking the service, preaching, singing in the choir, leading a group or just being a member of the congregation.

For 16 years Julian has been such a familiar face, twinkling eyes and lovely smile for each and everyone as well as a very good listener, which has made it even harder to come to terms with his sudden death.

Julian was born in Durban, South Africa, and was ordained in 1969. His previous parishes were in Poplar, where he was ordained deacon by Rev Trevor Huddleston; Chatham, Milton Keynes and Richmond (for 17 years). In retirement here in Hampton Hill, he was as busy as ever. Julian was also a family man. He was married to Louise, had a large family and was fascinated by the younger children growing up today, so different from his childhood.

Julian started writing his column for the *Spire* in February 2011 and had never missed an issue in nearly 14 years. He was always the first person to send in his copy. He was also involved in selecting the cover photo and gave us very positive feedback to make sure we were getting the correct message to our readers. Every month, as soon as it was published, Julian would send us an email saying how much he enjoyed the magazine that month. We shall certainly miss his column and also his care for the whole team. In the August/September 2021 issue, he wrote about his 50 years in the ministry. All these can be found on the St James's website.

In 2013 Julian wanted to lead another pilgrimage to the Holy Land and he asked the then Vicar, Rev Peter Vannozi, to go with him. Peter didn't want to go, but Julian persuaded him and it turned out to be one of the best decisions Peter had ever made. Several church members went and have fond memories of a special trip.

Many years ago Julian ran a group on Saturday mornings called *Faith at Work*. Julian had such a way with him that people found it hard to say no! I know from doing one of those talks how undecided I was, but in the end it helped me a lot to put things in perspective and many church members agree. We learnt a lot about each other.

Since his retirement Julian had not only been involved in the services and life of St James's, but helped out other local clergy in so many ways and enjoyed visiting different churches. He told me not long ago that since retiring in 2009 he had conducted over 400 funerals, which included visits beforehand, the service, follow-ups, and remembering anniversaries, even after many years. He has touched a great many lives in this way and was an amazing encouragement to everyone he met.

Julian was a remarkable man and we will all remember him with so much affection. It has been a privilege to have known and worked with him. Not only has it been a great loss to our church, which he told Derek not long ago he felt was his 'home', but it has also been a very hard time for all his family and friends. There will be a Thanksgiving Service on 29 November at 3pm at St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond, to which all are welcome.

Janet Nunn

A young Julian, left, with his family



CHARITIES WE SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



DANGERS ARE REAL



The Children's Society has had to change to keep pace with technology and the dangers it poses. But, as **David Hetling** reports, its core values are unchanged: keeping young people safe and heard.

Al is a hot topic right now. Like social media, there is no doubting its power, the opportunities it creates and the doors it opens. But likewise, there is much talk also of the dangers that AI presents, adding to the long-standing narrative on the negative impacts of social media, especially on the young.

The Children's Society, a charity supported by St James's for decades, includes technology among many areas that it monitors in its work advocating for the empowerment and protection of young people.

Recently, the charity took a closer look at AI, chatbots (human-like conversational assistants often used in customer services scenarios) and the algorithms that sit behind them, to assess the benefits and dangers to children.

Concerns around privacy

As well as the potential for AI platforms and chatbots to expose young people to inappropriate content or harmful attitudes, there is concern that an over-reliance on such tools for support or company can cause them to withdraw from real-world social relationships, or avoid seeking help from trusted adults when they need it. Children may also unwittingly share personal information without a proper understanding of how it will be used.

There has also been a backlash against multiple social media platforms for their impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Bullying, inappropriate influencers, toxic masculinity, unrealistic body image perceptions and gender stereotyping are all criticisms regularly highlighted, with providers consistently rebuked for failing to do enough to protect the young.

Add to this the practical concern about the amount of screen-time spent by young people, and the physiological

and psychological effects of technology on attentiveness, stress levels and sleep, and the negative impression can seem overwhelming.

Let's not forget the positives

Nevertheless, research also shows that moderated use of technology platforms can yield positive benefits too. Young people report a greater sense of community, enhanced friendships, exposure to positive trends and improved creativity as well as heightened political awareness, increased activism and broader interests through connections made via these platforms.

Protection from the more harmful or undesirable aspects of AI and social media demands a combined effort from the technology providers, the carers, families and friends of platform users and from young people themselves in their use of the digital wellbeing tools available on these platforms.

Information and support

If you would like to find out more about The Children's Society, or become a regular donor in support of their broad range of work to support young people, please contact Nicky or David Hetling via the Church Office (see page 2).



EVENTS AT ST JAMES'S Book tickets at: friendsofstjames.org.uk

YOUR LAST CHANCE!

We are getting excited about our concert with award-winning singer-songwriter Charlie Dore — and tickets are going fast. Joined by longtime friend Julian Littman, the duo have crafted an intimate, fast-paced show filled with instrument-swapping, storytelling and razor-sharp humour. Find out why her music captivates audiences.



Saturday 8 November
7:30pm. Tickets £15.
Book at:
<https://bit.ly/StJCharlie>



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



TAKE yourself back to Covid times when, in trying to avoid the busy paths of Bushy Park and bottlenecks at the pedestrian gates, Paul and I followed the London Loop way-markers and discovered a patch of ground opposite Sainsbury's and adjoining the David Lloyd golf course. This was a beautifully peaceful space which for 25 years had been little used, undervalued and certainly unloved.

A little while later, my brother Mark joined a newly-formed group that had been set up by local landscape architect Art Gelling to start looking after the space. He invited me to join him in his litter-picking efforts, and in 2021 this group transformed into Hampton Heath Friends.

The group was set up to protect and enhance this neglected five-hectare public green space on the borders of Hampton Hill, an area that had long been blighted by rubbish and fly-tipping.

Now, its recovery is well underway, returning to its origins as part of Hounslow Heath, as a balanced, species-rich mosaic of wildflowers, grassland, scrub and woodland.

2022—the first big clean-up

The hard work began in early 2022 and by the end of the year, volunteers had removed 250 sacks of rubbish, plus larger dumped items and waste, cleared paths and ditches, managed spreading scrub, and coppiced trees around the densely shaded pond, all to enhance wildlife and public enjoyment.

The record-breaking heat of the summer took its toll on the environment, with the grassland, scrub and even mature trees suffering from the drought. The site was also prone to fire — and on the August Bank Holiday weekend, arson left one quarter of the grassland and scrub burnt to the ground.

But from adversity springs biodiversity, and autumn rains brought a rapid natural recovery, and previously unrecorded, rare and threatened plants and fungi emerged from the ashes.

2023—the second big clean-up

In early 2023 we tackled the more remote parts of the site and began preparing a habitat plan and funding bids with the aim of delivering a series of projects to enhance the Heath's natural environment, starting with entrance signs (to provide a new, clear, local identity), and including new ponds, natural seating, grassland management, wildlife surveying and monitoring, nest-boxes, and footpath improvements.

With support from Crane Valley Partnership, Richmond Borough and David Lloyd, there are always new projects.

Wildlife is being monitored with well over 670 different



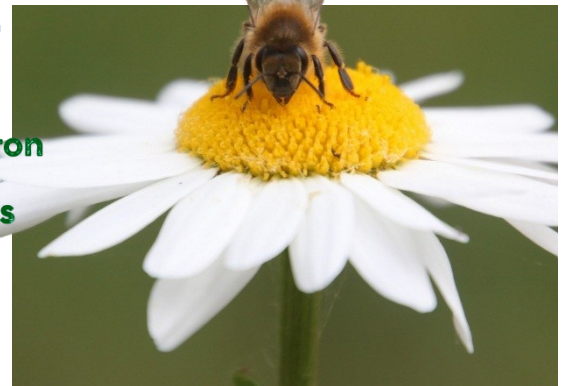
Siblings Carol and Mark on litter-picking duty

RECLAIMED NATURE MOVING IN

An area abandoned by nature is being cleared of rubbish and cared for by a group of volunteers, determined to create a haven for flora and fauna and a place to unwind. **Carol Fitchett** needed little encouragement to join them.



**Hampton
Heath
Friends**



Natural beauty Flora and fauna are increasing

species recorded so far, even going as far as bat-detecting and observing species under UV light when dark.

The restoration programme is enabling the conditions to support greater diversity and even the re-establishment of heathland, making Hampton Heath an attractive, natural green space to walk or just linger in (and, hopefully, soon sit) and take in the surroundings.

Come and join us!

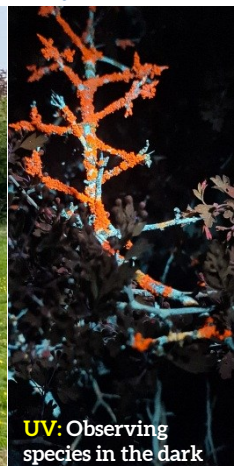
If you want to get involved, we meet most Saturday mornings from 10am outside the entrance foyer of David Lloyd's and have a supply of protective gloves, litter-pickers,

rubbish bags and tools. There is never any pressure: do as much or as little as you want, as often as you wish. It's a great and rewarding way to get out and about in the fresh air, to improve your local environment, to meet people and enjoy a well-deserved complimentary hot or cold beverage at midday in David Lloyd's at the end of a rewarding morning's work.

■ If you would like to receive a free weekly update on our activity and our local wildlife, then get in touch. You can email hamptonheathfriends@outlook.com, or visit the Friends' website: www.hamptonheath.org



Saturday Gang Volunteers getting stuck in with maintenance work



UV: Observing species in the dark