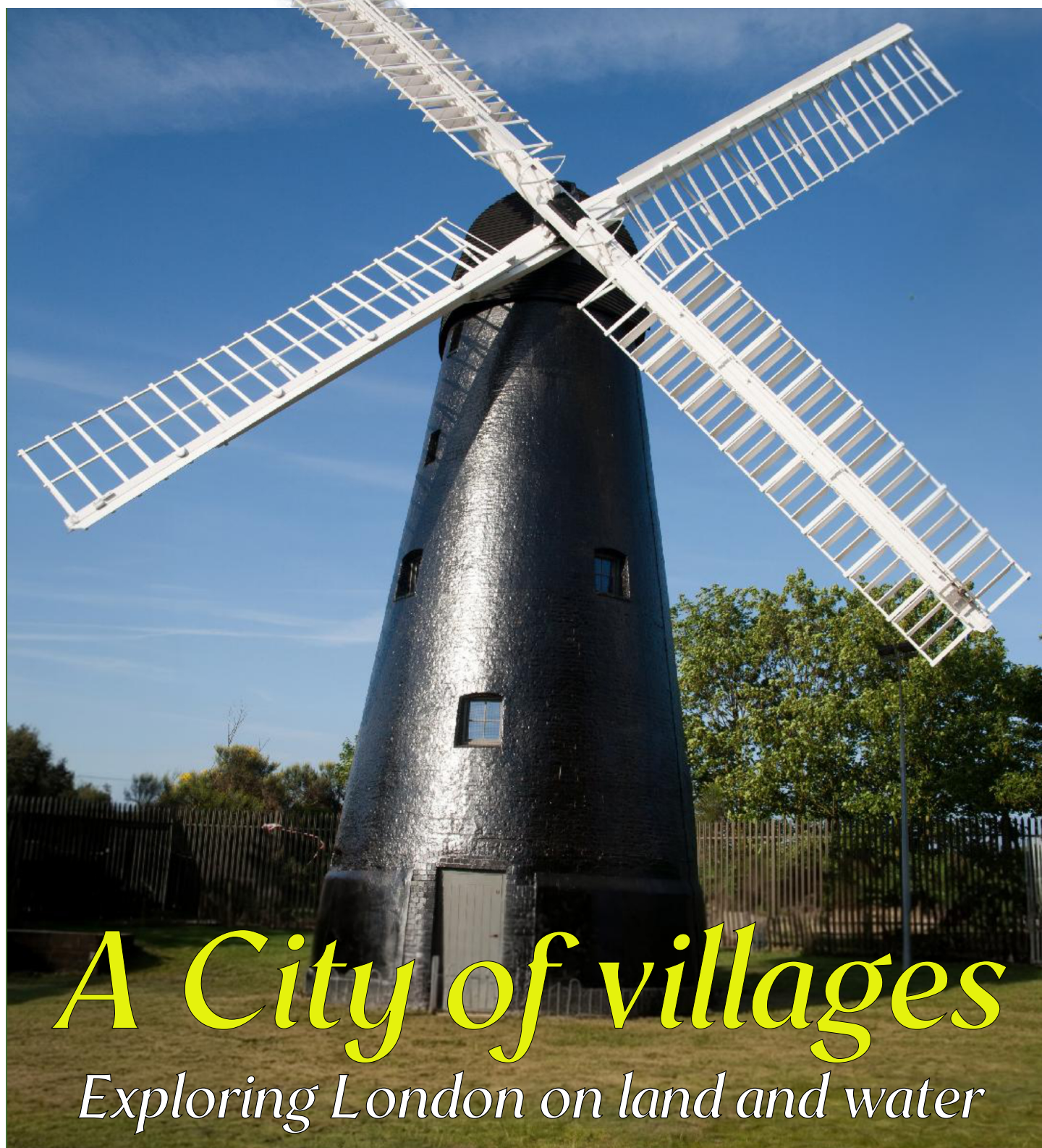


Spire

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



A City of villages

Exploring London on land and water

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.

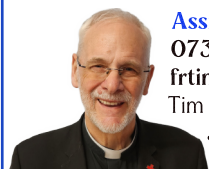
**Associate Priest Jacky Cammidge**

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

frrtimmarwood@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 was also a part-time hospital chaplain for many years. 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 McHutchon****Susan Horner**

mchutchon@gmail.com



smhorner5@yahoo.co.uk

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

From the Editor

Since our last issue we have had three special events to celebrate with our church family. The first was the baptism of Alaric and Rose. Alaric wore a robe passed down the family with his name embroidered on the hem along with all the others who had used it. What made Rose's baptism special was that it was performed by her grandmother, Jacky.

In June, Joy Beauchamp was ordained priest and I was at her first Eucharist at St Mary with St Alban, Teddington, where she is assistant curate. Many of us know Joy from her time at St James's. It was lovely to see the church packed for the occasion (see page 7). We wish Joy well for her future ministry.

The third occasion was Derek's 40th anniversary of his ministry which he has written about on page 3. His daughter-in-law made a splendid cake with pictures of the four churches he has served in.

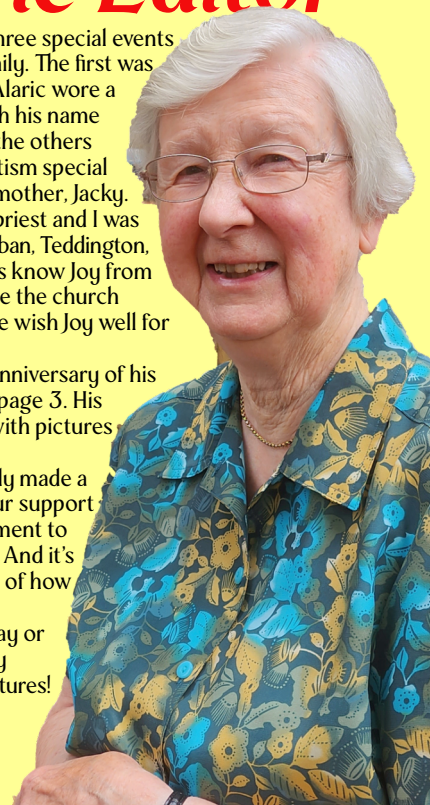
Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation to our annual *Spire* Appeal. Your support and good wishes are a great encouragement to the small team who produce each issue. And it's never too late to add to the total! Details of how to do that are below.

Whether you are going away on holiday or staying at home, we wish you all a happy summer with more manageable temperatures!

Best wishes,

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Brixton Windmill, built in 1816 and fully restored in 2010 ©ALAMY

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 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****Editor** Janet Nunn**Design** Nick Bagge**Subs** Catherine Gash, Susan Horner

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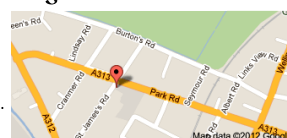
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'Thanks for doing the flowers, Audrey, and the candles, the cleaning, the cakes... You have to laugh, but, er, would you believe it, all six bellringers are also on holiday this week, and we wondered...'

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

I've spent 40 years building, but there was also one big demolition

I was told recently that on the day that I was ordained deacon – 29 June 1986 – nothing else happened of note in the world; no-one famous died, no great political crisis occurred, and so on. I remember that day with some affection as I moved (with my wife Sandra) from student life to

my curacy in inner-city Islington, supported by family and friends and many people from my 'title parish' of St Jude's nearby.

In 1985 the Church of England published *Faith in the City* – and there was a riot in nearby Tottenham. Islington then was rather different to its 21st century incarnation. Although the Canonbury end of the parish had been 'gentrified', Dalston, and the church, were at the other end, which was very mixed. The congregation was similarly diverse socially, and racially. The parish had a long history of children's and youth work. Notably Scripture Union ran a very large holiday club for children in the summer.

Investing in children

There was also a church school, on two sites – the juniors' playground was on the roof of the building! It was clear to me that the investment in children was valuable, but something needed to be provided for 'graduates' of the holiday club.

Sandra and I, together with some volunteers, launched a youth club for the estate youth. As well as staples like pool and table tennis (and tuck) we had a Nintendo – and *Super Mario* was the favourite game.

I would try to 'teach' for a few minutes, which was never easy; they were a rowdy lot. As well as weekly school assemblies, I would teach RE to a whole junior class, by myself – a tough gig.

Housing in Hackney

My next parish was in Hackney, Clapton Park. It was dominated by five tall tower blocks. A theme of my time there was housing redevelopment. The council was intent on upgrading the estates. Part of the arrangement was that the management of the estate was devolved to tenants. I took part in a long consultation to

'I have seen people come to believe, and grow in faith. I have encouraged people to lead and teach. I have laughed and cried with all kinds of people.'

set up an Estate Management Board. Eventually four of the towers were dramatically brought down in controlled explosions.

We were also hosts to young people volunteering for a year, some from overseas. Sandra and each volunteer set up a 'Carer and Toddler' club, *Small Fry*, that was a great contribution to the community.



The team of churches that we were part of managed a youth project, a housing project, and an advice centre. With that track record and my connections, All Souls' Church was asked to launch a money advice centre, in a shop front. The Church Urban Fund awarded us a grant to employ a debt counsellor.

From East to West

In 1996 we moved to St Mary's, Hampton. Bishop Richard Chartres deliberately sent me somewhere completely different to the inner city. We had two small children now and, as readers of the *Spire* know, TW12 is a lovely place to be, and

grow up. St Mary's was a parish with a more 'conventional'



ministry – which was quite a change. We ran a large fundraising campaign to restore the tower. As well as more liturgical services, we developed the monthly family service, and brought it back into the church from the hall. This was also when websites and social media arrived and it was exciting to be on the crest of the wave.

In my last five years in Hampton, we began an open youth club in the Oldfield School. A younger curate took the lead there (been there, done that!) But this gave us an entrée into conversations about the future of the school. In due course we mounted a bid for funding in the Free Schools initiative and were able to open St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

Rhythms of parish life

As I have written this, I have been drawn into talking about 'projects'. But for 40 years the weekly rhythms of worship have been rolling on. Then I have been privileged to know many people, often at significant moments of their lives.

I have visited and prayed for newborns and seniors in ICUs. I have celebrated baptisms and weddings. I have seen people come to believe, and grow in faith. I have encouraged people to lead and teach. I have laughed and cried with all kinds of people.

God has been good.

Exploring London is just the tonic



*Getting outside and discovering an unfamiliar place can seem daunting but for **Andrew Levick**, exploring undiscovered London is the perfect way to recharge his batteries and boost his feeling of wellbeing.*

I have lived in the Hampton area since 1990, and have explored London and its surroundings by walking, running, cycling, and kayaking. There is enormous variety in London with a mix of green spaces, historic buildings, museums, sporting arenas, tourist attractions, and diverse cultures — and that variety isn't just in the centre; it stretches all the way to the suburbs.

In many other European cities, like Athens or Madrid, you often find a beautiful historic core surrounded by miles of repetitive apartment blocks. London feels different because it grew by absorbing dozens of unique villages into one giant city.

Throughout my travels, I've discovered a few of these 'villages' that have become my personal favourites. These include Primrose Hill, where Paddington Bear lived in the film series with Hugh Bonneville, Peckham, Whitechapel, the City of London and Canary Wharf.

Books have been my guide

There are numerous guidebooks of London walks. Over the past year I have completed the 49 walks in the four volume *London's Hidden Walks* by Stephen Miller. The walks range from one to six miles in length, and the books describe in detail the various sights on the way.

For those into architecture, I recommend *London's Architectural Walks* by Jim Watson, with walks ranging from 1.5 to 3.75 miles.

For churches, there is *The Visitor's Guide to City of London Churches*

by Tony Tucker. The best time to visit the City churches is during the week when they are open for the local City workers.

I have spent a few days exploring them. You can walk from one church to another in minutes as they are concentrated in a small area around St Paul's and the City.

This way and that way

I have also completed the Capital Ring, the Wandle Path, and some of the long London Loop. The Capital



Abbey Road
Beatles fans



Kayak Taking to the water gave me a new perspective



Phoenix Garden Tranquility close to Oxford Street

Ring is 78 miles and the London Loop is 150 miles, and they link the various green spaces together.

The London Loop passes through Bushy Park and Hampton Hill and The Capital Ring goes through Richmond Park.

On my walks, I've discovered many gems I never would have seen otherwise. I've listed some of my top picks below.

Churches

The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mayfair has a very ornate altarpiece designed by Pugin.

Holy Sepulchre Church in the City of London is known as the Musicians' church, with a memorial to Sir Henry Wood, the founder of the BBC Proms.

Museums

The Museum of Brands, in Ladbrooke Grove, includes a time tunnel, showing how consumer products have evolved since Victorian times. The Young V&A in Bethnal Green has a collection of toys from yesteryear, including chemistry sets and Meccano.

Tourist attractions

The London Eye gives a great view of much of central London, including the Houses of Parliament, the River Thames, and the Royal Parks.

The Sea Life aquarium nearby has an immersive walk-through tunnel, filled with 750,000 litres of tropical seawater, surrounding you with the wonders of the deep. There are plenty of sharks and, in a separate area, some penguins.



London Eye
From a kayak

Small green spaces

The Phoenix Garden is a pleasant green retreat from the stresses of Oxford Street, while the Culpeper Community Garden, Islington, is an oasis of pathways, ponds, and plants.

Large parks

Dulwich Park has pretty lakes and a winding perimeter walking and cycling path, while Burgess Park was created from an industrial area heavily damaged by World War Two bombing. It has a BMX track,

a lime kiln, and the pretty Chumleigh Gardens.

Art Galleries

Newport Street Gallery, Lambeth, is a modern art gallery that has a collection of work by Damien Hirst, and a café made to look like a pharmacy. The Wallace Collection has a fantastic collection of armour.

Best views

22 Bishopsgate, a skyscraper in the City, is London's highest viewing platform and is free to visit.

The Royal Observatory terrace in Greenwich has great views of Canary Wharf.

London villages

Bonington Square in Vauxhall is a vibrant, lushly planted community cooperative that evolved from a 1980s squatter settlement into a bohemian residential oasis.

Primrose Hill is a posh area with boutique shops and colourful Regency and Victorian terrace houses, including the film location for Paddington Bear's house.

Diverse culture

Brick Lane is famous for the Jamme Masjid building that has been a chapel, synagogue and now a mosque reflecting London's diverse immigrant history.

Peckham, famous for the BBC comedy *Only Fools and Horses*, has been gentrified in recent years, but it still has a gritty, urban feel. Peckham Levels is a multistorey car park that has been repurposed into a cultural centre with a great rooftop view of London.

Sports

Queen Elizabeth Country Park, created on the site of the 2012 London Olympics, is evolving into a nice green space, while Herne Hill

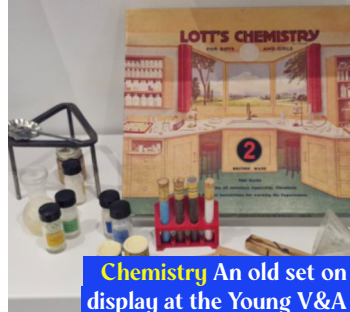


Bear essentials Paddington's house (in blue) in Primrose Hill

Velodrome, hidden behind houses, dates from 1890 and has a good café.

Music

There can't be a more well known zebra crossing than the one near the Abbey Road Studios made famous in the 60s by the Beatles. The shop sells everything Beatles and much more. Denmark Street, aka 'British Tin Pan Alley' is the place to go if you want to buy a musical instrument.



Chemistry An old set on display at the Young V&A

Getting around

All these walks and places are easily accessible by public transport and London is also great to explore by bicycle. The London Olympics spurred the creation of decent cycle lanes, and London is now much

better and safer than pre-2012 for riders.

See the parks on wheels

Outside peak time, overground trains allow cycles. I recommend 'ticking off' the parks north and south of the river over two days of cycling.

Parks to explore include Victoria, Clissold, Burgess, Brockwell, Dulwich, Crystal Palace, and Hampstead Heath.

Jog past the sights

For the more energetic still, there are many opportunities for running. I like to think of the London Marathon as a four-hour jogging tour of the sights of London with crowds cheering you on.

There are easier options, though, including the numerous Parkruns, all free of charge and just 5km long.



Fashion World's End, selling Vivienne Westwood clothes

However you choose to see it, I thoroughly recommend spending some down time discovering London. It's just what the doctor ordered...



Time Tunnel The Museum of Brands

Or on water

My preferred way to see London is by kayak down the River Thames between Westminster Bridge and Tower Bridge. It's a spectacular and surreal experience. You sit low in a kayak looking up at the massive buildings and see people jostling along the paths above you – but you feel detached from it all.

I recommend kayaking from Putney to Greenwich and back using the powerful



The London Marathon me running in 2009



Finding the joy

Take a moment to enjoy simple pleasures

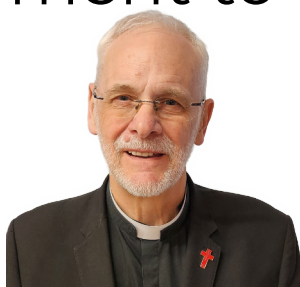
The song *Give me oil in my lamp* became popular in schools in this country during the 1970s as No 43 in the *Come and Praise* hymn book published by the BBC to accompany the School Assembly radio broadcasts.

The song is thought to have originated in the churches of the West Indies and was a hit in 1964 in Jamaica for the singer Eric 'Monty' Morris; it was also a track on the *Ballad of Easy Rider* album recorded in 1969 by The Byrds.

Being ready

Give me oil in my lamp is a reference to the parable about readiness in the Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 25) and the requests for *joy, love and peace* are three of the nine qualities of Christian living listed in St Paul's letter to the Galatians (5: 22-23).

The hymn is often known as *Sing Hosanna* after the chorus. The



Tim Marwood

catchy tune has been 'borrowed' to accompany football songs and TV adverts.

When I was a primary school teacher, I knew that this song was the favourite of many children and would guarantee a positive start to assembly on any day.

Give me joy in my heart is probably the most memorable line in the whole song and it came to mind when I was watching a TV programme by Marie Kondo, the Japanese expert on organisation. Kondo's system for decluttering and organising possessions is based on the theory that you keep only what 'sparks joy'.

Decluttering a life

When you reach the age when you are downsizing to spare your executors as much trouble as possible, articles on subjects such as the Swedish tradition of 'death cleaning' become of interest.

I have the irritating ability to fall asleep the moment my head hits the pillow; however, I have developed a strategy for those rare occasions when I lie awake wondering how, what or where... I make a mental list of the 10 items that I would take with me to a care home when the time comes.

It works wonderfully – I have never reached the tenth choice!

Café conversation

St James's runs *Connections Café* on Friday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30pm. It's free, friendly and open to anyone who would like to drop in for coffee, cake and a chat. Recently I asked those attending the question, 'What gives you joy?'

The responses were many and varied, very few mentioned possessions, most described finding joy in relationships, places and the natural world.

My favourite was the description of the joy in watching a family of long-tailed tits playing in the water of a birdbath in the garden.

Perhaps you could step away from the sometimes relentless pace of living and take a moment to find what it is that gives you joy?

Give me oil in my lamp

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Keep me burning till the break of day.

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna.
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King!*

Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.
Keep me singing till the break of day.

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.
Keep me serving till the break of day.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Keep me resting till the break of day.

REGISTERS

MAY

Funerals

12 William St Lawrence Quiller (Pip) Rowett, 87, Twickenham
19 David Sorby Straw, 90, Hampton Hill

Interment of Ashes

23 Mary Thurley, 91, Hampton Hill



JUNE

Baptisms

14 Rose Moon Blazewicz, Hampton Hill
14 Alaric Sam Lagevardi, Hampton Hill

Interment of Ashes

11 Antony Francis Gerald Scanlan, 92, Hampton Hill



Good food Healthy meals are just part of the charity's work
UPPER ROOM

The hunger to transform lives

The Upper Room provides a warm and welcoming environment from which hot meals are served every weekday afternoon. Anyone can access this service with no questions asked, all year round.

The charity sees between 60 and 100 people each day, and they can either sit inside or take their food away. In 2025 over 35,000 meals were served. The Upper Room also provides toiletries, clothing and bedding, and assists those in crisis.

Passion to meet needs

The charity is held in high regard by those using it most – from rough sleepers to people in



Dennis Wilmot

food poverty. This is a motivating reminder of how vital the work is, especially as the numbers of rough sleepers rises.

The charity has been working since 1990 with the homeless, ex-offenders and other socially-disadvantaged people, providing a welcoming environment which is respectful and safe, touching the lives of thousands of people.

All this good work is provided by a wonderful team of over 100 volunteers with an unswerving passion.

More than hot food

The Upper Room is about more than just providing food. In 2025 there were 648 one-to-one cases, many offering help with accommodation, health checks, employment and addiction.

UR4Driving, an award-winning project, helps people with convictions gain a driving licence, which dramatically improves their employment chances. In return they are asked to complete 80 hours of unpaid work as a way of giving back to the community.

WHAT'S ON

Services Sundays

Holy Communion (Said) **8am**

Parish Communion **9.30am**

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug; 6, 13, 20, 27 Sep

Streamed on our Facebook page

Together **3.30pm**

13 Sep

Our shorter, all age service, particularly for young families

Messy Church **3.30pm**

20 Sep

Songs, stories, crafts and food!

Pets Service **3.30pm**

27 Sep

If you have a friendly and under control pet, bring it to church.

Tue, Thu, Fri

Morning Prayer **9am**

Wednesdays

Midweek Communion **9.30am**

Harvest Festival

All Age Service **11am**

Sunday **4 Oct**

Our shorter, all age service, will be collecting food, clothes and cash for The Upper Room (see page 7)

In Loving Memory **3pm**

Saturday **31 Oct**

Annual service to remember friends and family who have died.

Groups

Mondays

Ark Playgroup **10am-12noon**

7, 14, 21, 28 Sep; 3, 12, 19 Oct

Fridays

Connections Café **10.30am-12.30pm**

7, 14, 21, 28 Aug; 4, 11, 18, 25 Sep

Events

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:

£30 (VIP); **£21** (standard)

Book at:

<https://bit.ly/StJPie>



St James Entertains presents

Fidelio Hot Club Jazz

Friday **30 October 7.30pm**

Following their sell-out show in 2025, the boys are back in town! Fusing traditional gypsy jazz with classical music, they take their inspiration from Stephane Grappelli.

Tickets:

£35 (VIP); **£25** (standard)

Book at:

<https://bit.ly/StJHot>



NEWS

Outpouring of joy at ordination



ST JAMES'S had 'a hand' in Rev Joy Beauchamp's ordination to the priesthood in June. Joy spent two years with us during her training and Derek was delighted to be invited to be part of the laying on of hands at St John the Baptist, Holland Road on Saturday 13 June, pictured left.

Several members of St James's went to her 'First Mass' at her curacy church, St Mary with St Alban, Teddington, a week later.

BASED on a novel by Melvyn Bragg with a score from Howard Goodall, *The Hired Man* has been described as one of the finest British musicals of the past 50 years. Later this year it will be performed in St James's Church. Soaring choral and folk melodies

Bragg musical at St James's

weave the stirring tale of passion, loss, betrayal and the everyday struggle to survive.

The Lucky Penny Theatre company chose the church as it provides the perfect in-the-round stage.

The show runs from Wednesday 4-Saturday 7 November. Goodall will also be leading a masterclass in choral singing on 5 September.

For tickets to both events, go to: luckypennytheatre.org



How my love of gardens spans the generations

Growing up in Surbiton, one of my earliest memories is of my garden. As a young child, I planted conkers in the sand pit and expected them to grow into trees in just weeks! My other strong memory is the amazing smell of the lilac tree in the spring.



I also recollect my grandmother's garden, just up the road. I used to put the tea leaves around the rose bushes for her and I waited in anticipation for the roses to bloom. My favourite was called *Peace*, and, of course, roses feature in many of the gardens I am writing about.

An early favourite

As a young person, I was lucky enough to visit many different places with my family. A favourite was to see the azaleas at the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park. It was great fun exploring the streams in the garden and finding Still Pond, with all its reflections of the bold colour when the azaleas were at their height.

We revisited the Plantation in 1990 with my parents along with Derek carrying our elder son on his back! We have been back regularly ever since.

Watching developments

Being members of the RHS has allowed us to visit Wisley Garden regularly. Seeing new areas being developed is very encouraging and I love the vegetable garden at Hilltop. Counting the variety of plants, seeing how the gardeners grow the different crops, and then often being able to buy the produce at 'The Hut' is a delight.

The Exotic Garden always has surprises in the summer, with lush planting providing lots of shade. The new Oudolf Landscape is a great improvement on the previous flower borders and as you walk down the slope you can appreciate a wide range of perennial plants including a favourite, echinacea. In the winter, the reflections of the Cornus in the lake on a sunny day can't be beaten.

ventured into The Children's Garden, which is zoned into Earth, Air, Sun and Water, or discovered the log trail, or pizza at the Family Kitchen!

Hampton Court Palace

Living in Hampton Hill, how can I not mention the gardens at Hampton Court Palace. One year the dahlia display was particularly spectacular in the Privy Garden, and I discovered that there are more than



Wisley Lush planting

Kew on our doorstep

How fortunate we are to live close to Kew Gardens, and membership has allowed us to visit monthly over a period of years. Watching the Temperate House being renovated and reopening was eye-opening. Then going around the balcony, looking down at the planting, gave an added perspective.

An annual highlight at Kew is the cherry blossom with the tulips in bloom underneath, near to the Temperate House. I also love the amazing lilies in the Waterlily House, watching the seasons change crossing the lake, and the early blossoms in the newly planted Winter Garden.

It has also been a joy to share Kew with our grandchildren, and see their pleasure being outside in nature. Without them I wouldn't have

50,000 cultivars of dahlia! Then there are the auriculas in their 'theatre', and the tulip festival, with such a range of varieties on display.

As a child, I remember visiting The Wilderness to see the daffodils. Of course, this is still a draw for many, along with the dramatic laburnum walk near the Lion Gate.

Joys at home

However, lilac is still one of my favourite fragrances, and in the Vicarage garden we are lucky enough to have a lilac tree, which gives me great pleasure every springtime when I smell the blossom.

I am very grateful for my early experiences of visiting gardens, and hope that I can continue to introduce future generations to their joys.



Cherry blossom Kew Gardens



Temperate House Kew Gardens