



CROSSBridges

Magazine for the Parishes of SS Philip and James, Whitton
with St Stephen's, Hounslow

No.5

August 2021



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INTERCESSIONS – AUGUST 2021

For daily prayer intentions, please see the [calenda](#) on the Ss Philip & James website.

- 1st Our parish Secretaries and Treasurers
- 8th Our intercessors and scripture readers
- 15th Our mothers and the work of mother church
- 22nd Our Parish Administrator
- 29th Christian Martyrs

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE

Dear Jesus

When we pray for Your help and blessing, we remember the words, "be still in the presence of the Lord". Fill us with the peace of mind and serenity which only You can give, and restore us once again. May we remain safe and content, knowing Your peace will continue to dwell in us.

By Terence Trimmer

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

From **19 July 2021** all services listed are in person with some being live-streamed in addition.

Sundays 9:30am - Eucharist at Ss Philip & James – Live-stream
Sundays 11:00am - Eucharist at St Stephen's
Tuesdays 9:30am - Holy Communion at St Stephen's - Live-stream
Thursdays 9:30am – Holy Communion at Ss Philip & James + Live stream

First Sunday in each month **All Age Service** at each church ie. 09:30am at SSPJ and 11:00am at SSH.

Live-streamed morning prayer will be suspended during the school holidays (from Monday 19th July) until September when we will reassess the demand.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/philipjameswhitton/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephenHounslow/>

Service Booklets for download or print are available at
www.whittonchurch.com/coronavirus

READINGS FOR AUGUST 2021

- 1st Trinity 9 (Proper 13)
[2 Samuel 11.26 – 12.13a](#); [Ephesians 4. 1-16](#); [John 6. 24-35](#)
- 8th Trinity 10 (Proper 14)
[2 Samuel 18. 5-9, 15, 31-33](#); [Ephesians 4. 25 – 5.2](#); [John 6. 35, 41-51](#)
- 15th Trinity 11 (Proper 15)
[1 Kings 2. 10-12, 3. 3-14](#); [Ephesians 5. 15-20](#); [John 6. 51-58](#)
- 22nd Trinity 12 (Proper 16)
[1 Kings 8. 22-30, 41-43](#); [Ephesians 6. 10-20](#); [John 6. 56-69](#)
- 29th Trinity 13 (Proper 17)
[Song of Solomon 2. 8-13](#); [James 1. 17-end](#); [Mark 7. 1-8, 14-15](#)

FR DAVID WRITES ...

Friends,

In summary - and from Monday 19th July 2021 and throughout August unless the regulations change:

1. **Social-distancing** will no longer be expected in our churches, and you no longer need to give your details at the door for services or other gathered events. You will no longer need to pre-book for services;
2. **Hand sanitiser** will remain at the doors, and ongoing use will be encouraged;
3. **Singing** will return to our services and **choir** activity will no longer be affected by restriction. The generic service booklet will remain in use with hymn sheets handed to you for each service.
4. **The Peace** will be exchanged in a non-contact way, as was the case before national restrictions were imposed. A fuller verbal greeting will be encouraged as an alternative, but I have opted for this approach for the reassurance of those who may still be concerned about personal physical contact;
5. **Holy Communion** will be administered on one-kind only, at our Altar rails (please remain standing), with the priest continuing to wear a face-mask;
6. **Refreshments** will be made available after services where there are volunteers to offer this provision. As I write I cannot commit to whether there will be volunteers in place by July 25th, only that it is possible to meet after services once again.
7. **Face-Masks** will be optional in our churches, but for now I will ask that those who would prefer to continue wearing masks sit in the pews towards the front of the church, and those who would prefer not to wear masks to utilise the pews towards the rear of the church. I will monitor the effectiveness of this in the weeks to come and reserve the right to make adjustments with little or no notice. There are a number of factors involved here that go beyond simply those of comfort, and I ask that you bear with me as I try and manage this for you all.
8. **First Sundays** of the month will see the 9:30/11am services revert to the All-Age format already familiar to the congregation of SsPJ. This will allow a service per month to be deliberately and unapologetically geared towards children and their

families, and will begin on Sunday 1st August, school summer-holiday notwithstanding. For those unfamiliar with the format, it does remain in larger part the same Eucharist Service that you are familiar with, but with some gentle adaptations;

9. **Live-streaming** will continue as part of the new 'normal', with specific arrangements being made on first Sundays (at SsPJ) given the expected increase of children present;
10. **Junior Church** will fully return during term-times and without restriction to their activities. Leaders will communicate specific details to families in due course. This also applies to our **Youth Group**.
11. **Social and fundraising activities** may resume, and we are pleased to announce that a first Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 31st July at Ss Philip & James (10am - 12pm).
12. **Pastoral and outreach** activities may resume or, in the case of the Bereavement Cafe, operate without restriction to numbers.

This list is not exhaustive and may yet require adaptation in the weeks to come. It remains as important to us all as it ever has to be mindful of the fears and vulnerabilities of our fellow parishioners as we emerge from such a period of restriction. As said previously, I am going to advocate a slow return to a new 'normal', and remain ever conscious that COVID is still at large among us. It has now been proven that our churches are 'COVID-safe' so I do encourage a return to the services in person if you feel able. As ever, if you feel unwell or have been told to self-isolate, please refrain from attending services or events even if you are on a rota and cannot give notice. We have you covered!

This is a time of joy tinged with uncertainty and we will need to give ourselves opportunity to acclimatise to the new reality unfolding around us. I, my brother clergy and sacred ministers are here for you if you feel afraid, or if you are unclear what is permitted or otherwise. National institutions have handed the responsibility to us to manage our affairs, so I simply ask that you act within your own good instincts. Anything beyond that we can work out together.

May God's richest blessings pour upon us all as we give thanks for our many freedoms even now.

With my love and prayers to you all,
Fr David

ONE YEAR, TWO PARISHES AND A PANDEMIC

MY YEAR AS AN INTERN

By Nathan Barrett

I can't believe that a year has nearly passed since I first arrived at the vicarage, with a bag full of pots and pans not expecting there to be any. But, to my surprise the house had been newly decorated and fully stocked with anything and everything that we could need for the year. Again, thanks to everyone who helped out with this endeavour be that time/effort, donations or through prayer.

I wasn't sure what to expect from this year, except that I would be getting to learn what a Vicar does in between the services on a Sunday. Although this year has been one interspersed with lockdowns, my thanks go to Fr David and Helen as I feel I've been able to learn a lot about the realities of Parish life, with its many PCC meetings... My experience has been one shaped by the flavour of the year, which unfortunately has been death. Having attended more funerals than I thought I ever would. This has been accompanied by lots of pastoral visits and thanks to Sue for allowing me to help out at the Bereavement café. This is something that I have gotten a real sense of growth and enjoyment out of, being able to be there to just listen to people's concerns.

I found the services around Holy Week to be some of the most spiritually engaging that I've ever attended, with them containing a real emphasis of detailing the highs to lows to highs that Jesus and the disciples experienced during that week. It left me feeling a greater appreciation for the importance of what Easter means for us as Christians, something that can sometimes get lost in the day to day of our lives. It has been nice to play a small role in delivering services by leading morning prayers and thanks to all those who have tuned in and found it to be spiritually worthwhile, it's been a pleasure.

I need to include a shout out to my Wednesday pilgrim group who I've had many an interesting conversation with, even if they weren't always about what we were meant to be discussing, and thanks to Peter for his leading of the group. Also thanks to Fr Vernon who took me along with him to see his ministry work at St. Paul's Cathedral and to Fr Chris who invited me to Waterloo station for the Armistice Day service, enabling me to see things priests do outside of a parish setting.

I feel blessed to say that I am able to carry on for another year learning from and contributing towards our parishes as I continue on my discernment process. I look forward to doing more community events and being able to meet more individuals from both parishes rather than the 20 or so lovely people I've met thus far. Thank you all for a great year and see you in September, once I'm back from my jollies!



A LASTING LEGACY FOR OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY

As mentioned last month, our BenchMark fund raising project is now underway in both parishes. Our target is sufficient funds, around £2,100, to provide 3 benches to be placed in our church grounds to provide lasting recognition of what the pandemic has meant to us all. If we exceed our target, that will just mean that we have some extra funds available to improve the landscaping around the benches and make it as attractive as possible for people to come and sit and contemplate.

If you would like to donate to this great initiative either:

- Text SSPJSSH give to 07380 307800
- If you are registered on the electoral role make an online donation via ChurchSuite - <https://sspjssh.churchsuite.com/donate/>
- Send a cheque made payable to St Philip & St James Church (write BenchMark on the back of the cheque)
- Give cash in an envelope marked 'BenchMark' in the offertory tray at any service;

We've received an initial donation of £50 since launching our campaign. We look forward to you helping to swell this to meet our target!

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Did you know ...

- 30 years ago, on 6th August 1991, that the first website (info.cern.ch) went live. The web's inventor, Tim Berners Lee, also posted a description of the World Wide Web project on the alt.hypertext newsgroup, and provided a link to download the first web browser, which could only run on NeXT workstations.
- 60 years ago, on 13th August 1961, that East Germany sealed off the border between East and West Berlin to prevent the exodus of refugees to the West. Initially barbed wire fences were erected; construction of the Berlin Wall began on 15th August. The border reopened in 1989.
- 80 years ago, on 15th August 1941, that the German spy Josef Jakobs became the last person to be executed at the Tower of London. (He had parachuted into Britain during WWII.)

GARDENERS' PHILOSOPHY IS IT OK TO LEAVE WEEDS IN THE GARDEN?

There is a distinct movement at the moment to allow weeds to grow in our gardens. It is said even by gardening experts that they are only plants in the wrong place, that pollinators often appreciate them, so should we welcome all plant life into our gardens, allowing nature to take its course, and to stop resisting their inevitable invasion into our well-tilled borders?

I guess it depends on how tidy a gardener you are. Some only despair when things start getting really bad, others hate even one to sully their outdoor haven. But there are plenty of garden-worthy flowers you could plant that pollinators really like – scabious, salvias, fuchsias, lavender, the simpler roses and heleniums are just a few that spring to mind and there are of course many many more. A programme on tv a while back studied amounts of wildlife in the gardens of one street. The very wildest, unkempt garden actually didn't have the most wildlife, it was the one that had a mix of cultivated plants that pollinators valued, other creatures liked perhaps for shelter, wilder parts like log piles or unmown grass areas, which would of course include weeds, and a large pond.

I think it's a movement designed – like many movements in the current times – to make us feel less guilty about being imperfect, especially when we are following hobbies like gardening, which is often as unpredictable as the weather. Hobbies are supposed to be pleasurable and comforting when we have time for them so this is a way of saying there's no need to stress yourself out and spend your every waking spare moment on something that's really quite hard to control.

And maybe there's the rub, the time it takes to keep weeds at bay can be considerable especially in a wet spring/summer as it has been this year. And once you allow weeds like celandine or dandelions to flower, the inevitable seeds that follow are blown around and soon you will have quite a lot more. If nothing else my one piece of advice if you have a lot of weeds is to take the flowers off unless you want their numbers to increase pretty quickly. Of course, some say pollinators like the flowers. Hoverflies (and some bees) like dandelions and celandine; solitary bees love alkanet, the prickly-leaved plant with small blue flowers on long stems. And it's almost impossible to pluck the flowers off that have gone over before they release their seeds. Weeds are good at both flowering and releasing seed at the same time.

A lot of weeds are wind-pollinated so once the seed heads form and release it's hard to stop them coming up fairly far and wide. Even worse these same weeds I just mentioned have tap roots, making them fairly hard to dig out completely (especially

dandelions). The tap roots pull them down very firmly into the ground like an anchor and you really have to loosen the soil with a big fork before having a hope of releasing them. I've seen alkanet roots which are nearly half a metre long!



Weeds are often known by common names rather than latin names. Many have several common names. The wild form of geum, *Geum urbanum* is also known as Wood Avens, herb bennet, colewort and St. Benedict's herb. It has a bird's nest of a root system which is hard to get out. You have to use at least a hand fork to remove it and sometimes large ones need a large fork. And if it's been allowed to flower its tiny hooked seeds will easily attach themselves to your gloves, clothes, on animal fur - anywhere it can.

Of course, some weeds are edible, the aforementioned dandelion leaf can be used in tea as can nettle leaves if you're really keen. Chickweed can be used in salads and the leaves of wood avens which I just mentioned can be used in salads or stews when young. Herbalists will also use wood avens medicinally for treating diarrhoea, heart disease and ulcers, and there are many medicinal uses for other weeds.

Perhaps, when it comes down to it, it's more about room. Many of us have small gardens and can't afford to have certain types of weed choking our other plants, or we want that space they're taking for more decorative plants. I don't think there's anything wrong with that. The problem with weeds is that they are often too successful and giving them house room is often asking for trouble down the line.

So don't feel guilty about taking them out – but don't beat yourself up about it if you can't get to them all. They are probably beneficial to something! Just be sure to put something in their place that pollinators – and that includes flies, wasps and butterflies – will like to visit. Many garden centres feature plants with helpful bee symbols on their labels, to show that they're a good choice for attracting pollinators. They don't appear on all plants that pollinators like though so it could be a good idea to look online for some ideas as well where you can see what they will look like once settled in. They aren't always in flower in the garden centres nor are they usually full size.

Angela Sharp

OUTSIDE THE BACK DOOR AUGUST BRINGS ...

*August brings the sheaves of corn,
Then the harvest home is borne.*

When I first glanced at this month's verse from Sara Coleridge's *The Garden Year* I was tempted to start talking about harvesting fruit and other produce from around the garden, but then I looked ahead. I need to save that for September!

Our garden isn't full of sheaves of corn and probably never has been. Prior to the houses being built here in the early 1950s, there were market gardens and, going even further back, it is likely that the land belonged to one of the local ecclesiastical establishments – hence we're called 'Priory Gardens'. Even then I doubt that the monks or whoever were harvesting sheaves of corn here – more likely fruit and veg.

So for my 'sheaves of corn' I'm going to turn my attention to our grasses, many of which are currently in full 'flower' and billowing golden around the pond and in the border. When the fashion for grasses first began, I wasn't an immediate convert. I thought that grasses were rather boring and that this was a bit of a fad, especially as garden designers and make-over programmes seemed obsessed with the peculiar black grass *Ophiopogon* which I still don't like. I think that it was probably the old grass borders at RHS Wisley that began to change my mind. I imagine that it was an exceptionally well-timed visit one autumn that meant we saw the grasses in their full glory.

We grow a lot of *Stipa Tenuissima* in our garden, not all of it deliberately! *Stipa Tenuissima* self-seeds extremely readily and we find it popping up all over the place. Little tiny strands of plants can soon become a substantial clump. It's also known as 'pony tails' but in our household it should be known as 'cats tails'. On more than one occasion I've glanced down the garden and wondered what Bryggen, our ginger cat, is up to, only to realise that it's a giant waving *Stipa* and not his tail! (He does have an exceptionally bushy, grand tail!)

Two years ago I made room for one of my favourite grasses. It's another *stipa*, *Stipa Gigantea*. With a name like that, I'm sure you can appreciate why I said 'make room' for it! This is the golden oat grass which looks fabulous against a brilliant blue sky. Last year I was really disappointed that it only had one flower head but this year it has rewarded me with a few dozen. It really has looked spectacular and I've learnt that it also has small yellow flowers that dangle like earrings.

I love the way that grasses also always have a colloquial name – pony tails (*Stipa*

tenuissima), oat grass (*Stipa gigantea*), switch grass (*Panicum*), zebra grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), cloud grass (*Agrostis*) and quaking grass (*Briza*) are the ones that we grow and I know about but there are many more.

My most recent acquisition is a *Briza* which has bell-shaped dangling seed heads which, as its colloquial name suggests, quake in the wind. It's only a hardy annual but experts suggest that it will self-seed and so I will have my fingers crossed for next year. I might even try to save some seed and sow it myself if I can work out when to do that.



Cloud grass

My cloud grass was grown from seed, from a free packet sent by a small nursery along with some other plants. Having not grown it before, I didn't like to take a chance on following the packet instructions and scattering it where it was due to grow. Instead I only scattered a small number and am very grateful that I did. Nothing came up! So the following spring I scattered some over a small pot and to my amazement they germinated. I teased them out of the pot and planted them into the border where a

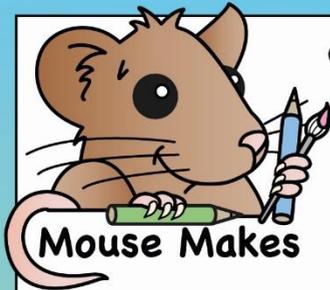
couple survived and went on to flower beautifully. I sowed the remainder this spring and have a few small plants dotted around so fingers crossed for this year too. However, they are small and fiddly so I'm not sure that I'll be ordering more seed or collecting it for next year but let's see.

Less of a do-er has been our zebra grass, *Miscanthus sinensis*, which has now occupied several sites in our garden and struggled in nearly all of them. Could this year be different? The strappy leaves are certainly taller than previous years so may be all the rain we've had has an effect? It would be lovely if it did finally take off as it is rather fun – not many plants are stripey!

Possibly my favourite grass is our *Panicum* by the pond. With its red-edged leaves and beautiful dark red, almost black flowers / seed heads in the autumn it seems perfectly suited to the lower light of September and October, and I've taken numerous photos of it over the years, still trying to get the perfect shot that sums it up. It is always a bit of a last blast of summer. It will then stay with us, providing some structure in the garden during winter, until we cut it back in early spring and start the whole cycle again.

Elizabeth Malone

Read an illustrated version of this article at <https://outsidethebackdoor.wordpress.com>



IN THE BEGINNING ...



What did God create in the beginning?

___ V ___
and ___ H



What was the first thing God said on the first day?

"Let there be ___ G ___"

What did God separate on the second day to create heaven?

___ T ___

How many great lights did God create in the heavens?

What grew on the dry land?

___ N ___ and ___ E ___



READ Genesis 1:31

What did God create to fly above the earth?

___ D ___

What did God make after all the creatures?

___ A ___

Find the answers to the questions in the word search then find all these words too:

- CREATION
- ONE
- DARK
- DAY
- NIGHT
- EVENING
- MORNING
- SEA
- VEGETATION
- LAND
- SEEDS
- FRUIT
- THREE
- SEASONS
- YEARS
- FOUR
- SKY
- FISH
- FIVE
- CREATURES
- CATTLE
- ANIMALS
- GROUND
- HUMANS
- WOMAN
- FRUITFUL
- MULTIPLY
- FOOD
- SIX
- GOD
- SAW
- GOOD



BOOK REVIEW

PLANET PROTECTORS – 52 WAYS TO LOOK AFTER GOD’S WORLD

By Paul Kerensa and Ruth Valerio, SPCK, £6.91

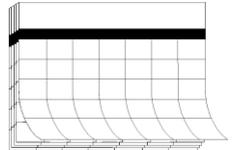
This is a good book for summer reading. It is a fun, fact-filled book for 7-to-9-year-olds that offers 52 ‘empowering’ ways to become Planet Protectors that look after God’s world.

The book is a blend of interesting facts, Christian theology and practical tips on how to help the environment by living sustainably. The ideas for looking after the world include cycling more, choosing fair-trade, taking shorter showers, and recycling. Children will love taking up a different challenge each week.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

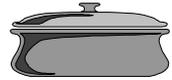
Saturday 31st July: **Coffee Morning** at Ss Philip & James
10.00am – 12.00pm. All welcome.

Sunday 1st August: **Bereavement Café** at Ss Philip & James
2.00pm – 4.00pm



COOKERY CORNER

EDAMAME SALAD



The salad below is so simple, and takes so little time and effort, and can help run down the store cupboard and fridge quickly.

Ingredients:

- * 200g frozen edamame, covered with boiling water for ten or so minutes, then drained
- * 1 stick celery cut into slices
- * 1/2 green pepper cut into small dice
- * 1 small carrot cut into small dice (feel free to grate!)
- * 2 spring onions sliced
- * 1 finely minced garlic clove
- * 1/2 inch freshly grated ginger

Dressing

- * 2 tbs olive oil
- * 1 tbs sesame oil
- * 1 tsp soy sauce
- * 1 tsp sriracha (feel free to half this for a less punchy dressing)
- * 1 tbs rice wine vinegar
- * 1 tsp maple syrup
- * large pinch of garlic granules
- * pinch of dried ginger

Optional toppings

- * 1 tsp sesame seeds
- * 1 finely sliced spring onion
- * 1 small handful of torn coriander leaves

Method:

Simply place all the salad ingredients into a bowl, then stir well.

Mix the dressing ingredients together, then pour over the salad. Leave to marinate in the fridge for 20 – 30 minutes in the fridge before serving. Decorate with any of the suggested toppings, or even all three!

Genna Martinez

BIRDSEARCH

This month's wordsearch contains the names of 37 types of bird. The 4 unused letters form the type of bird which brought back to the ark an olive leaf to signify the end of the flood. Solution next month.

John Barnes

E W A C A M C S W A N Y M
T O R R A P O G R E B E A
I L L I B N R O H U N R T
K L P A R T R I D G E P N
E A L T J N S G D A K S A
S W O L A A E K O H C O B
T S V L Y R R R U S I N A
R P E U I O M T A A H I V
E A R G T M V I U V C U O
L R A S C R O W G R E G C
W R E N R O B I N A K N E
O O K C U C E G A N N E T
S W I F T N A S A E H P Y

SOLUTION TO POETS WORDSEARCH

AMIS, BETJEMAN, BINYON, BRECHT, BRONTE, BROWNING, BURNS, BYRON, CHAUCER, CHESTERTON, CONGREVE, COWPER, DE LA MARE, ELIOT, GRAY, HERRICK, HOOD, HOPKINS, KEATS, LARKIN, LEAR, LEE, MASEFIELD, MILTON, NASH, POE, POUND, ROSSETTI, SHAKESPEARE, SMITH, SPARK, WORDSWOPRTH. The 10 unused letters formed LONGFELLOW.

John Barnes

SS PHILIP & JAMES CHURCH

The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Whitton

Hounslow Road, Whitton, Twickenham, TW2 7DY

with

St Stephen Hounslow

Know God's Love and Believe

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Email: office@whittonchurch.com

Please contact the office for all hall, general enquiries and to arrange a Wedding, Baptism or Funeral.

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs. Angela Bowman 020 8893 4918

Keep in touch:



Websites: <https://www.whittonchurch.com/>

<http://www.saintstephenhounslow.church/>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephenHounslow/>

<https://www.facebook.com/philipjameswhitton/>

CROSSBridges Deadline

The edition of CROSSBridges will be the September 2021 issue. Items for inclusion should be emailed to the editor – elizabethmalone@blueyonder.co.uk by **Friday 21st August 2021**. Thank you!