

Bridge & Common

The magazine of the Parish of Putney

Farewell to Putney

July - August 2026

Eight years ago Helena and I arrived in Putney for me to take up the role of Team Rector and, in time, for Helena to secure a job as chaplain to Lady Margaret School and serve in the parish as a self-supporting minister. Our adult children were in university when / as we arrived and have since settled in work near their university cities.

First things first: Putney must be the most wonderful community in London; over and above the Thames, the rowing, the transport links, the parks and common, the fantastic parish primary and nearby secondary schools are men, women and children from all over the world, who are interesting, dynamic, open, engaged and a privilege to have time with. Thank you! In eight years of serving, how many vicars have two members of their congregation cross the Atlantic on a boat, one rowing and one sailing?!

The history of St Mary's reaching back to medieval times, coming to the fore of British life in the civil war and in hosting the Putney Debates, being one of the first churches to introduce children receiving communion, gaining a national reputation for Godly Play excellence and hosting the inaugural meeting launching Inclusive Church in 2003 is mesmerising to be part of. The rebuild after the terrible arson attack is nothing short of genius. The Brewer Building allows the church to contribute to social well being and the common good through building community, exercise, learning, arts and music.

And then alongside this, for 150 years, the parish has served the permanent Victorian population boom with All Saints' Church, rooted in the beauty of the William Morris and Burne Jones décor and windows and in the wonderful setting of Putney Common.

There have been challenging times. Covid in particular was bewildering and yet it was amazing to be part of a

a wonderful new partner to allow for hospitality on site and supports post service fellowship on a Sunday morning. Young musicians joining the choir bring an additional enrichment to the wonderful music offered by our music team and choir. Our PCC has voted to offer services for couples celebrating same sex covenanted relationships.



John & Helena

community where imagination, faith in God and belief in community let us quickly establish new ways to be connected, support each other and find ways to pray and be open to God's work of grace.

And there have been exciting new developments. Ministry with children and youth has substantially increased. Study space allows us to use our building well in the service of the wider community. Ground Coffee is

The Repair Café meets social need and challenges the throw away culture of our society. Monthly Taizé worship has begun. We have a wonderful 20s and 30s group. The home groups and seminar suppers have injected a substantial development for our fellowship and learning. Services with prayer for healing and wholeness have proved to be meeting clear pastoral need.

Thank you Putney. Thank you the Parish of Putney. Thank you St Mary's Church. Thank you to all of you who have enriched our lives, been a joy to serve amongst, have shared a journey of worshipping God and, in doing so, discovering the never-ending depths of God's grace, love and goodness.

The new Team Rector will inherit the most wonderful job in the Church of England and if he or she encounters a fraction of the work and grace of God though this truly wonderful community that we have, they will be truly blessed. As we move to Gloucester for a new call and a new season of ministry and service, you are and will remain in our prayers.

God Bless

Rev'd John Whittaker

Services & Contacts

Sunday services

St Mary's	Parish Eucharist	10.00am
	Caritas	6.00pm

Weekday services

Morning Prayer Mondays - Fridays
9.00 - 9.15am

Wednesday Lunchtime Eucharist
12.30 - 1.00pm

Upcoming events ~ St Mary's

Events/Concerts – please check our website regularly for church and community events and concerts at St Mary's.

Taize services: Next dates after summer pause: **18th Sep, 16th October**

Special Services

5th July: Rev'd Sharon presiding over first eucharist at St Mary's
13th September: Patronal Festival & Blessings of the Backpacks

Provisions for children

Sunday School:

All Age: 12th July

Governance

DCC dates: St Mary's DCC 16th September, 25th November.

Office

Admin - St Mary's

Church Operations Director ~ St Mary's
Clare Harbin
Clare.harbin@parishofputney.co.uk
Direct tel: 020 4636 9887
Main office: 020 8788 4414
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm
For booking enquiries
bookings@parishofputney.co.uk

Admin - All Saints'

Suzane Saldanha
admin.allsaints@parishofputney.co.uk
020 8785 3951

Weddings & Baptisms

Antonia Wainman
weddings.baptisms@parishofputney.co.uk
020 4629 8730 (Tuesday & Thursday only)

Parish Groups



20s & 30s Social Group:

There will be a pause of formal events for July & August. For further dates please see St Mary's website news or email Clare.Harbin@parishofputney.co.uk

Youth group

13th September, 27th September

Camino Group (Year 8+)

Wednesday evenings term time. For further dates please see St Mary's website news or email millie.rokni@parishofputney.co.uk

Sunday services

All Saints'	Said Eucharist (Order Two)	8.30am
	Parish Eucharist	10.30am

Weekday services

Morning Prayer Mon-Fri 9.15 am
Evening Prayer Mon, Tue 5.00 pm
Wed 4.30 pm

Special Eucharists

19th July 10.00 am
Joint Farewell Service for John & Helena at St Mary's Church
6th September 10.30 am
Parish Eucharist All Together
(with blessing of backpacks)

Evening Choral Services

20th September 6.00 pm

Tunes at noon

13th September (more info to come)

**Tiny Saints - every Wednesday (term-time) at 10am.*

**Open Church visits will continue until November, every first Saturday of the month from 10am-2pm.*

Clergy

Rev'd John Whittaker

Team Rector (until 19th July)

St Mary's Church
john.whittaker@parishofputney.co.uk
020 4629 8731

Rev'd Dr Daniel Trott

Team Vicar (and interim Team Rector from 19th July)

All Saints' Church
daniel.trott@parishofputney.co.uk
020 8785 3951

Rev'd Helena Whittaker

Associate Priest (until 19th July)

helena.whittaker@parishofputney.co.uk

Rev'd Kieron Rowley

Associate Priest & Director of YMIC Southwark

Kieron.Rowley@parishofputney.co.uk
07572 748131

Rev'd Sharon Hunt

Sharon.Hunt@parishofputney.co.uk
07985 674 616.

Millie Rokni

Parish Assistant

Millie.rokni@parishofputney.co.uk
07887 355 212

The Church Mouse

The Church Mouse is here to make sure you never miss an important service, concert or picnic again. Simply sign up to our parish email list and the Church Mouse will tell you about all the things that are going on that week. Sign up at: stmarys.parishofputney.com or allsaints.parishofputney.com
Follow us on Twitter: @stmarysputney @allsaintsputney @putneypriest or on Instagram @putneypilgrim

How an interregnum works

Following John (and Helena) Whittaker's farewell on 19th July, the Parish of Putney moves into an interregnum. The Church of England takes appointment processes slowly and thoroughly, as can be gauged from the fact that, while it took seventeen days for the Roman Catholic church to appoint Pope Leo XIV after the death of Pope Francis, there was a gap of 326 days between the resignation of Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury and the appointment of his successor, Sarah Mullally.

The Archdeacon of Wandsworth, the Ven Bridget Shepherd, came to the APCM in May to explain the steps that we will need to take and to answer questions.

Why does it take so long?

Mainly in order to allow a period of discernment of the needs of the Parish for, perhaps, the next ten years. The Archdeacon explained that, particularly when a popular incumbent moves on, it can be tempting to try to find a 'lookalike' – someone with very similar skills and character. However much has changed in the eight years that John has been in Putney and the next stage of Parish life may need a different type of ministry to the one that he's exercised.



The Venerable Bridget Shepherd, Archdeacon of Wandsworth, will be supporting the Parish during the interregnum.

Who is involved?

There are three 'stakeholders' – the Parish (acting through the Parochial Church Council), the Diocese of Southwark (acting mainly through the Archdeacon) and the Patron, the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral.

The PCC will appoint two Parish representatives to act on its behalf.

Why does Worcester Cathedral get involved?

That's due to Henry VIII! Following the dissolution of the monasteries, he granted the advowson (the right to appoint the rector) and the rectory manor of Putney to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral in 1542. He may have been influenced by Nicholas West, a native of Putney who rose to become the Bishop of Ely, who was a prominent diplomat and churchman with close ties to both the Crown and the church structure of that era.

What are the main steps?

- The PCC draws up a Parish Profile (September/October).
- The post is advertised in the Church Times, on the Church of England website and across the Diocese of Southwark, probably for a month (November).
- The stakeholders meet to review the applications that have been received and a short list (of no more than four) is drawn up (in December).
- The clergy on the short list are invited to visit the Parish, to tour the area and to meet as wide a range of people as possible, including church school heads, ward councillors

and representatives of local organisations – as well as a cross-section of the congregations of both churches (in January).

- Formal interviews are held by the stakeholder panel, which will include the candidates preaching a short sermon and making a presentation in response to the Parish Profile (January / February).
- The final choice will be made by the panel by mutual consent. The wishes of the Parish will not be over-ridden by the Diocese and the Dean of Worcester (February).
- Data Barring Service checks will then have to be done and once they've been completed the decision will be announced (all being well, by February).
- The chosen candidate is likely to have to give three months' notice to terminate his/her current post. Depending on their personal circumstances, particularly if they have school-age children, they may not wish to move to Putney until the summer holidays next year.
- So we can expect a new Rector to be in post sometime between Easter and September 2027.

What is the Parish Profile?

The Profile is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the Parish and of what we're looking for in a new Rector, so it's a form of prospectus. The Archdeacon recommended that we divide up responsibility for drafting the Profile, that the process should be led by the laity and that it should include identifying what we see as the primary task for a new incumbent, explain the Parish's relationship with YMIC, spell out the need for experience of managing a full team of clergy and lay staff and volunteers and that the incumbent should be an enabler and convenor rather than a micro-manager. The Archdeacon and the Patron will review the draft Profile before it's published.

What happens in the meantime?

Life in the Parish, and particularly at St Mary's, will continue as normal. The Revd Daniel Trott will become interim Team Rector, the Revd Sharon Hunt, who was priested on 4th July, will take on much of John Whittaker's role, supported by the Revd Kieron Rowley, as far as his YMIC commitments allow.

An interregnum is not a period of reduced activity or of avoiding making decisions until we know what the new Rector wants to do. It is a time for lay members of the church to step up, to ensure that the Parish is firing on all cylinders when the new Rector arrives!

Parish News

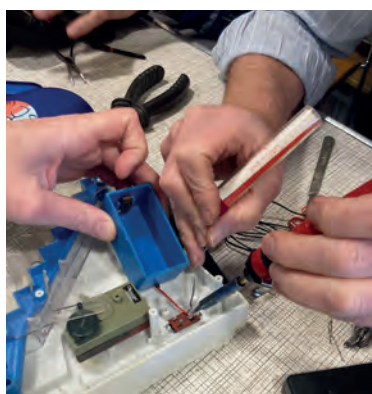


Events & Concerts

Dover House Singers Concert 18 July
Farewell Eucharist for John and Helena 19 July
Connect with Craft 13th July, 3rd & 17th August, 7th September. All 12-2pm.

The Repair Café ~ Part 1: Interview with Charlie Lindsell, Founder

Charlie Lindsell is a campaigner for a 'Circular Economy'. In soul terms, he wants a Hindu model – where we design for repairability - no more one-way trips to Heaven/Landfill. He supports the RESTART initiative which was welcomed in Parliament. And he's running our Repair Café every 2nd Saturday 10am-12pm. So if you're feeling guilty about buying goods with no repair options, it's time to join his band wagon. With 200 million tonnes of waste a year generated in the UK alone, who can object. I collared him during the latest café, a heaving, jolly hubbub of hopefulness and helpfulness. The team come up constantly asking for one unrecognizable tool after another and he's got them all. There's a queue.



Repairers at work

useful, serviceable items in skips around Putney. Salvage became a compulsive hobby.

What does your home look like?!

(He's shocked by my impudence, tongue-tied) Do you still have a wife. Can you open your front door. (I follow up helpfully.) No it's not like that. If anything, my wife is the home-hoarder. (He says confidentially)

Oh. So where's your stash kept?

Ah well, that's the question! I have the allotment and a cellar in the church arch under the bridge; my Aladdin's Cave. I insist you can find things. (I get Press access to the arch, storing spare tools and building materials. I am pleased to confirm Charlie is an Orderly Hoarder).

When and how did you start Repair Café Putney?

In 2022, together with Mike Trussell. Following local adverts, we were given lots of unwanted tools by locals and have built a great team. Rev'd John Whittaker offered to host our café, in exchange for giving us storage space for tools and helping with Church maintenance. Clients make a voluntary donation to the Church, totalling around £200 per session. You can watch the item being repaired so you can have a go yourself next time it goes wrong. Thus the spirit spreads. We get a huge kick out of bringing happiness all round.

What items can you repair?

Electrical appliances such as toasters, kettles, vacuum cleaners and radios; computer equipment, clothing,

sharpening bladed items, bric-a-brac, small furniture, and – on request – bicycles and clocks.

Is there a bit of Bible you would like to share?

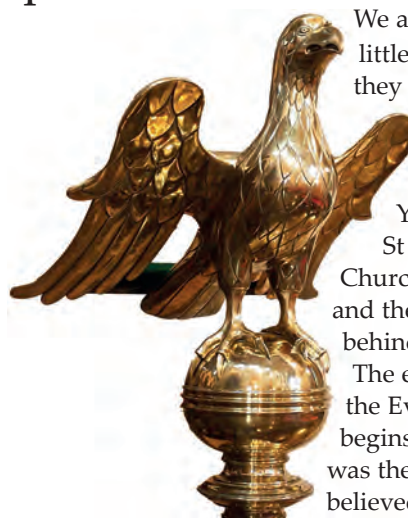
I have chosen the theme of humility, which includes respect for our fragile planet. **Matthew 5:5**, where Jesus states in the Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.'

See: therestartproject.org

Watch out for 'Repair Café – Part 2' next episode, where we meet his Trusty Team.

Madeleine Neave

You've seen Putney's green parakeets. Now meet the eagles.



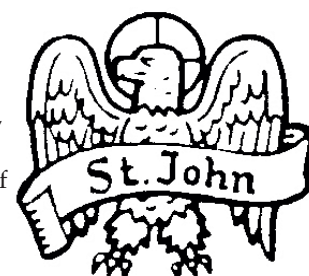
We all see those cheeky little green parakeets as they whizz around Putney. But did you know that Putney has two resident stately eagles? You can find them at St Mary's and All Saints' Churches. They are lecterns and there's quite a story behind them.

The eagle represents St. John the Evangelist, whose Gospel begins 'In the beginning was the Word'. The eagle was believed to be the highest-flying bird. Their out-stretched

wings symbolised the Gospel reaching all corners of the world. Eagle lecterns first appeared in Italy in the 13th century. They were made of stone. Later, brass and wooden designs spread across Europe. They are abundant in the Church of England thanks to Henry VIII. In September 1538, Henry issued a royal proclamation, through his chief minister Thomas Cromwell, ordering that an English Bible 'of the largest and greatest volume' be placed in every parish church in England. These Bibles required large stands to support them. Brass and wooden eagles were a popular feature of church design by then so they did the job perfectly.

However, during the 1640s, many were destroyed by Puritans who associated the eagles with idolatry. On the night of June 6, 1973, an arson attack gutted much of St Mary's Church. Richard Holman and others rescued the eagle lectern by hauling it out of the church. Thank you Richard. So, when you see the eagle lecterns at St Mary's and All Saints', you're looking at winged pieces of history.

Paul Donnelly



The sign of St John the Evangelist

Connect with Craft: here's how

Sitting crocheting at a Lay Reader training day the discussion and questions about what activities and groups we as Lay Readers could help with inspired me to find out more about setting up a Craft Group within the church. After discussions with Daniel and putting out some feelers through the Church Mouse, Connect with Craft started in May 2025.



'Painting stones' project

Since then, Connect with Craft has met fortnightly on Monday lunchtimes at All Saints' in the William Morris room. We have a strong base of consistent members and have grown across the year. We have undertaken a wide variety of crafts; knitting, crochet, painting, colouring, sewing and quilting.

We have had lessons on watercolour painting and quilting hexagons and participated in a broader 'Jesus Rocks' painting stones project.



Mini woollen hats for Sloe Gin bottles

We made small craft items to contribute to the All Saints' School Christmas Fayre, including mini woollen hats for the All Saints' Sloe Gin bottles, created an Easter Wreath for All Saints' Church and made Easter cards, bookmarks, bunting, lavender bags, wooden wreaths and origami flowers. We share ideas for crafting, undertake both individual and shared projects, sit, chat, drink tea, and support each other.

We are very proud that Connect with Craft is being socially prescribed by Putney Medical Practice and we have already welcomed a visitor through this channel.

Connect with Craft is a joy and a privilege, and we are excited for the year ahead. New crafters are always welcome and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who might like to give us a demonstration of something new.

Our summer dates are 13th July, 3rd and 17th August, 7th September 2026, all 12-2pm.

eve.bradshaw@parishofputney.co.uk

Eve Bradshaw

An update from St Mary's baby and toddler playgroup.

Four years ago Rev'd John asked me to lead the St Mary's Baby and Toddler Play Group and it has been a real privilege. In many ways, it feels like coming full circle, as I first attended the group myself with my own children over 23 years ago. Back then it was a wonderful place to meet other parents and carers and I am delighted to help provide that same opportunity for families today.



The Baby & Toddler Play Group in action

Each week, we welcome babies, toddlers, parents, grand-parents and carers for a morning of fun, friendship and play. The group is ever expanding and currently has around 20 families attending - each with one or 2 children in tow! We have a variety of toys and activities available, along with bible themed craft sessions that encourage creativity and help little ones develop new skills. It is always lovely to see children growing in confidence, making friends and enjoying themselves in a safe and welcoming environment.



'Mousey' entertains his guests

One of the highlights of every session is Song Time. The children especially look forward to seeing 'Mousey', our church mouse puppet, who makes a special appearance as we sing together. There are always plenty of smiles, actions and enthusiastic voices!

St Mary's Stay & Play is about much more than

toys and activities; it is about building community and supporting young families. I am grateful to everyone who helps make it such a happy and welcoming part of church life. Special thanks to Millie for her insightful prayers and Alison for endless coffees and refreshments!

Come and find out for yourself as we meet in the Lancaster Room, St Mary's Church on Tuesday mornings between 10-11am during term time. No need to book - just turn up and we look forward to welcoming you.

Helen Daniels

Top SIAMS marks for St Mary's School!

St Mary's School was visited by an inspector from the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) on 8 June 2026 to conduct their mandatory inspection. These typically happen every five years and focus on evaluating how well a school is delivering a theologically rooted vision. These inspections pay particular attention to the quality of the school's religious education, collective worship, and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.



St Mary's School

We are delighted to share that the school received the highest possible SIAMS rating of 'J1', meaning the school is living up to its Church foundation and enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

The inspector identified that a Christian vision is understood and lived out by the whole school community, with spirituality permeating the curriculum, collective worship, relationships and daily experiences. The school governors would like to thank the staff and pupils for their wonderful engagement with the inspector, especially as this visit came less than three weeks after an Ofsted inspection.

Pupils from nursery to Year 6 were able to confidently and articulately reflect on Christian values and biblical narratives. The inspector was particularly impressed with how strongly the pupils demonstrated a belief in fairness and equality, with one explaining to the inspector that 'being fair is allowing all to thrive'.

The governors would also like to particularly thank those parents in the school community who submitted written responses or met with the inspector to discuss their perspective. The close partnership between the school, church and local diocese was rightly praised by SIAMS.

The inspection did identify some areas in which the school could go further, including strengthening its reviewing and assessment processes and further developing pupils' understanding of justice and responsibility. These areas will now be carefully considered. The governors would like to end by thanking the wider parish for their unwavering support to the school and the wholesome welcome given by the church community to all the children when they attend for services. We continue to truly believe that our community is strengthened by the wonderful partnership between parish and school.

Philip Pyke

Sharon's ordination 4th July 2026

A sea of robed clergy, a magnificent church (All Saints' Kingston) where, apparently, 'England began', having served as the coronation site for seven Saxon kings between AD 902 and 979. And there we were, gathered to celebrate the ordination of seven ordinands.



Sharon's ordination at Kingston

Sharon looked resplendent, radiant and full of quiet anticipation. Bishop Martin led the service with warmth and grace, and it was especially fitting that he invited Barnabas Palfrey, a layman and a tutor at St Augustine's College, to deliver a sermon that was heartfelt, joyful and deeply moving.

One of the most poignant moments came as the ordinands prostrated themselves before the altar in an act of humility and devotion before being ordained. There was hardly a dry eye in the church. Watching the newly ordained priests receive their stoles, draped over both shoulders as a symbol of their ministry, was a powerful reminder of the significance of the vows they had just made.

I feel truly blessed and honoured to have witnessed such a momentous occasion and the beginning of an exciting new chapter in Sharon's life. May God bless her as she embarks on this wonderful calling.

Samantha Smith

Good news from Gail's!

St Mary's receives bread and pastries not sold from the Putney Gail's at 5.30pm on each Saturday afternoon, thanks to The Scrubbery. These will be available at St Mary's church on the Sunday morning. As a way of a thank you, if you'd like to donate to the foodbank please download the QR code. We are looking for 3-4 volunteers to take responsibility for a month's collections every 3-4 months, being at Gail's on Saturdays at 5.30pm and carrying the donated breads to St Mary's ready for Sunday morning. If interested, please let Paige know on welchpn@gmail.com

GAIL's

Parish Governance & Finance

The Parish of Putney is a Team Ministry, made up of two equal churches, St Mary's and All Saints'. Each church is governed by a District Church Council and has a significant degree of autonomy in relation to the conduct of services, the upkeep of the church building and also the management of its finances. St Mary's held an Annual General Meeting for members of its congregation on 19th April and the All Saints' AGM was on 10th May. The Annual Reports for those meetings can be viewed on the Parish website.



In law, the Parish is a single registered charity which is governed by a Parochial Church Council

(PCC), made up of representatives from both churches, so in addition to the AGMs we held an Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 20th May. The APCM doesn't repeat the agendas of the AGMs but deals with matters such as the election of Parish Churchwardens and PCC members, presentation of the electoral roll, and reports on Parish charities and the finances of the Parish as a whole.

At this year's meeting, Sarah Thomas (All Saints') and Karen Todd (St Mary's) were re-elected as Parish Wardens and retiring PCC members were thanked for their contributions to the life of the Parish.

Richard Holman, Parish Treasurer, reported on an encouraging financial outcome in 2025. The accounts (which are still subject to independent examination) show a surplus for the year, before legacies and the revaluation of investments, of £68,000 on unrestricted funds – a £7,000 improvement on 2024. Total income rose by £13K, with significant increases in rent from investment property and in church lettings being partly offset by lower grants and one-off donations. Regular giving by members of the two churches, including Gift Aid tax recoveries, fell by £5,000 (1.4%) to £362,000.

Expenses, at £565,000, were £6,000 up overall on the previous year. Additional costs included the provision of accommodation for the curate (from June) and the appointment of a Parish Assistant (from September). The main cost reduction, of £24,000, related to our contribution to parishes in the diocese that are struggling financially, although we still paid £81,000. Fortunately, neither church required substantial maintenance work during the year and there was a small reduction in utility charges.

The Parish holds several restricted funds (monies that can only be used for specified purposes). They relate to maintenance and development, to welfare, to music at All Saints' and to a children's charity in Zimbabwe. The main change in these funds during 2025 was an

increase of £103,000 in the money raised for a new pipe organ at All Saints', taking the total to £133,000 by the end of 2025.

A summary of the unrestricted fund accounts is below: '

	2025	2024
Income	£000	£000
Regular Giving and Gift Aid recoveries	362	367
Grants & One-off donations	62	83
Investment income (net of expenses)	96	58
Church lettings	92	70
Fees and other income	21	42
	633	620
Expenses		
Clergy pay, housing, support & expenses	172	146
Diocesan services	33	34
Support for other parishes	81	105
Lay staff (music, property mgmt and administration)	107	94
Music, teaching and ministry	38	41
Church maintenance, utilities, insurance and cleaning	72	80
Administration, governance and other expenses	62	59
	565	559
Net income	68	61
Legacies	3	117
Net surplus for the year	71	178

A summary of the accounts



Wedding congratulations!



Millie & Osman



Luke & Alicia

We send our very best wishes to two members of the Parish staff who celebrated their weddings recently.

Millie Brunton, Parish Assistant since September 2025 and now also a part time member of the Youth Mission in Communion (YMIC) team based at St Mary's, married Osman Rokni at All Saints' Church, Putney Common.

Luke Carson, who has helped to develop youth work in the Parish since 2023 and who helped to launch YMIC before moving on to a new role outside the Parish earlier this year, married Alicia at All Saints' Fulham.

David Jenkins: a theologian for today.



David Jenkins 1925 - 2016

For me David Jenkins was one of the few theologians with whom I felt a rapport. He spoke of a faith which made sense, was relevant and engaged the real world.

In the 1980's David Jenkins was a well-known controversial figure who upset church traditionalists as well as Prime Ministers and those in authority. Not that long

ago I was in the vestry of a church with a number of younger clergy and I mentioned that I was writing about Jenkins. I received blank looks. How short are public memories! So I felt it was right to remind people of Jenkins's work and even more of his way of doing theology, both of which I think are important to recover in our time.

He gave an interview on the Credo programme on LWT in 1984. In it he seemed to be denying the Resurrection - 'a conjuring trick with bones'. What he actually said was that it was more than a conjuring trick with bones but he remained the theologian/bishop who had dismissed the

Resurrection, and it's certainly true that he had difficulty with the historicity of the miracles. He was a keen amateur scientist, his reading being the New Scientist and Scientific American, and he felt very passionately that theology and science should work together and be mutually enlightening. Miracles didn't seem to fit with this.

When Bishop of Durham, the first major issue was the 1984 miners' strike. With a diocese full of pit villages, Jenkins tried his hand at being a mediator between the NCB and the NUM. His involvement was curtailed when he described Ian McGregor, the NCB Chair, as an 'elderly imported American' when in fact he was Canadian. Jenkins was equally scathing about Arthur Scargill, but this went largely unreported. It was not Jenkins's finest moment, but it had its reward at his funeral when the erstwhile miners of the Durham coalfields turned up with their banners at the cathedral in homage to him.

Jenkins's conviction was first that any worthwhile theology must be intelligible, and secondly, that to be Gospel, it had to engage with social justice. This needs to be heard again today. Theology and the church it serves, can and should provide a vision of how things might be together with a prophetic challenge to those who knowingly or unknowingly are perpetuating injustice or are simply passing by on the other side.

Richard Truss

The Pattern of God: David Jenkins's Theology in Church and Public Space by Richard Truss, is published by Sacristy Press (www.sacristy.co.uk)

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