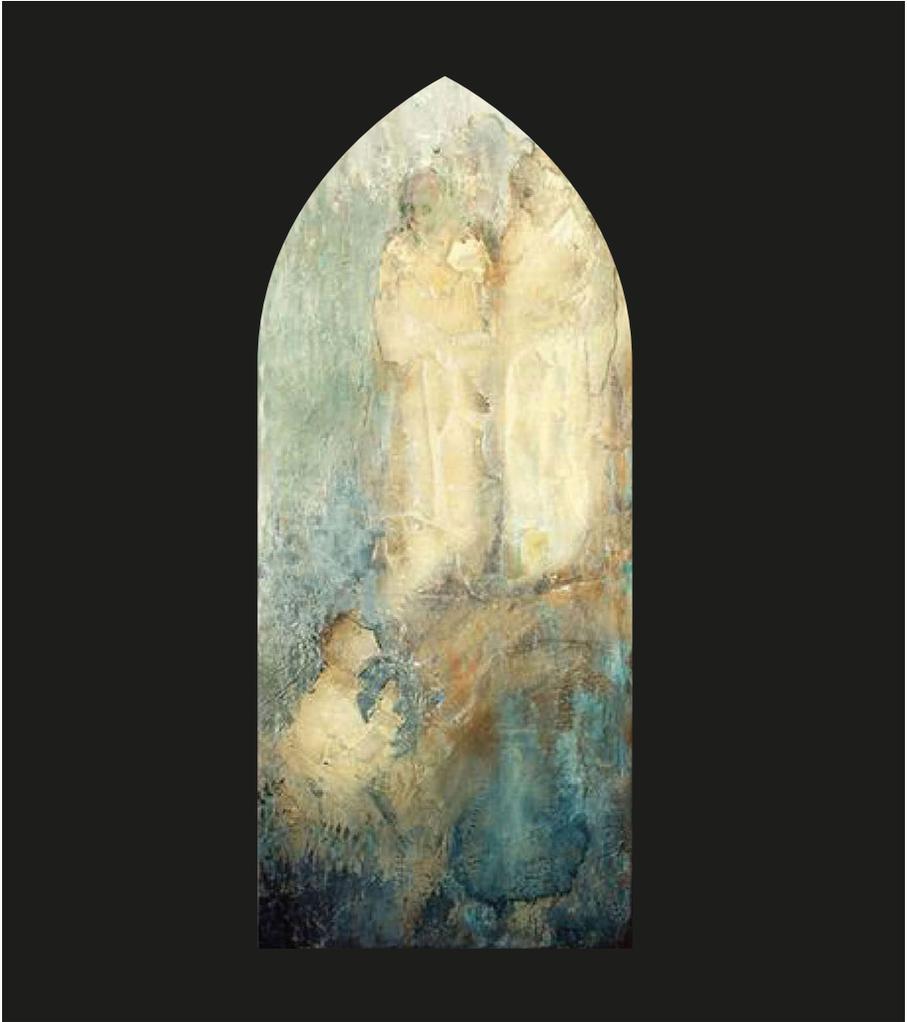


THE Kensington MAGAZINE

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How Our Local Churches Can Help at This Time

THE Kensington MAGAZINE

This edition was originally entitled 'Religious Cultures in Kensington'. However, since and even in the past few weeks, our world has changed beyond anything imaginable, we decided to re-title to something more appropriate for this precise time in our history, hence – 'How our local churches can help at this time'. We asked as many of our different denominations if they would like to contribute, as a means of getting out their message. In this way each of these religious institutions are able to help their own congregation at this time, as well as others who have not previously passed through their door. It has been felt for some time that 'Churches' needed to re-consider their approach to reaching out to both their existing and new audience. Now is the ideal time – and although physical distancing may be the order of the day, social media and TV is not distance-led and can provide a life-line, in many different forms. To all our readers and all your families, we wish you well and keep safe. Lucy

Front cover; The First Vision by J Kirk Richards

CONTENTS

Churches in W8	4
Blue Plaque Religious Leaders in W8	6
Faith & Perseverance: SMA bomb damage in War	8
How our Local Churches can help at this time	10-12
Kensington News	13-15
Today's Kensington Churches	18
Easter Plants	20
Get Well Spoon: Kulich, Easter Bread	21
Kensington Crossword	26
What's On Kensington & South Kensington	28-29
Small Box Advertisements	30

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#KensingtonMag



Lucy Elliott, Editor

(Hair by Toby of Hairspace, at Annie Russell)

Read by 34,500 residents and businesses each month. The magazine is also available at WholeFoods, Sainsbury's Local, Boots, RBKC Library, Boots, Virgin, Marks & Spencers, St Mary Abbots, St George's Church, St Philips Church, The Royal Garden Hotel, The Milestone Hotel, Peter Jones in Sloane Square and many other smaller outlets in W8.

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Churches in Kensington

By Guest Writer: Jenny Davis - Peccoud

As we approach this holiday season, local resident Jenny Davis-Peccoud explores Kensington's hidden churches.

While church-going in Great Britain in general is declining, attendance seems to be on the up. According to 2005 statistics (the latest I could find), over half the population planned to go church on Christmas, up from 33% in 2001. Kensington residents have no shortage of choice for where to celebrate over the holidays.

Let's start with the Church of England. The village grew up around St Mary Abbots, recorded in the Domesday Book. The medieval church was expanded in the 17th century to accommodate parishioners attracted by the new court in Kensington Palace. The current church was built in 1872, the spire added in 1879. Past worshippers have included Isaac Newton, William Wilberforce and Beatrix Potter. St Mary Abbots was the only parish church until the 19th century, when St Philip's was built on Earl's Court Road (1858). The third CoE church is St George The Martyr in Camden Hill, built in the "Eclectic Gothic" style with mixed designs and colours.

Of course Kensington's original churches would have been Catholic, and two continue that heritage. Our Lady of Victories on Kensington High Street was founded in 1794 by a French abbot fleeing the Terror. Its opening marked the first time in over 250 years that Catholic Mass was celebrated regularly in Kensington. For a time the church was the seat of the

Archbishop of Westminster. The Carmelites came to Kensington in 1862. The present-day church on Ken Church Street opened in 1960. A small community of Carmelites lives on site.

Kensington has a few other Christian groups, too. The Bethesda Baptist Church on Kensington Place was built in 1823. Today the congregation is extremely multi-cultural. The Essex Unitarians are found on Palace Gardens Terrace. Founded in 1774, their first church was built at the Kensington Gravel Pits (later The Mall) in 1874. The Order of the Cross, "an informal Christian Fellowship", is headquartered in De Vere Gardens. Finally the Church of Christ Scientist has two locations in the borough – Palace Gardens Terrace and Wrights Lane.

Kensington is also home to two other branches of Christianity. St Mark's, on Allen Street, is a Coptic Orthodox Church, started in Egypt in 451. They offer an English mass and an English/Arabic mass on alternating weeks and celebrate Christmas on January 7th. Another ancient Christian community, some say the oldest, is the Armenian Apostolic Church whose Kensington home is on Iverna Gardens. Armenian Christmas is on January 6th.

Perhaps at this time, you'll find time for some inner reflection. You don't have to go far in Kensington.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in The Kensington Magazine December 2007

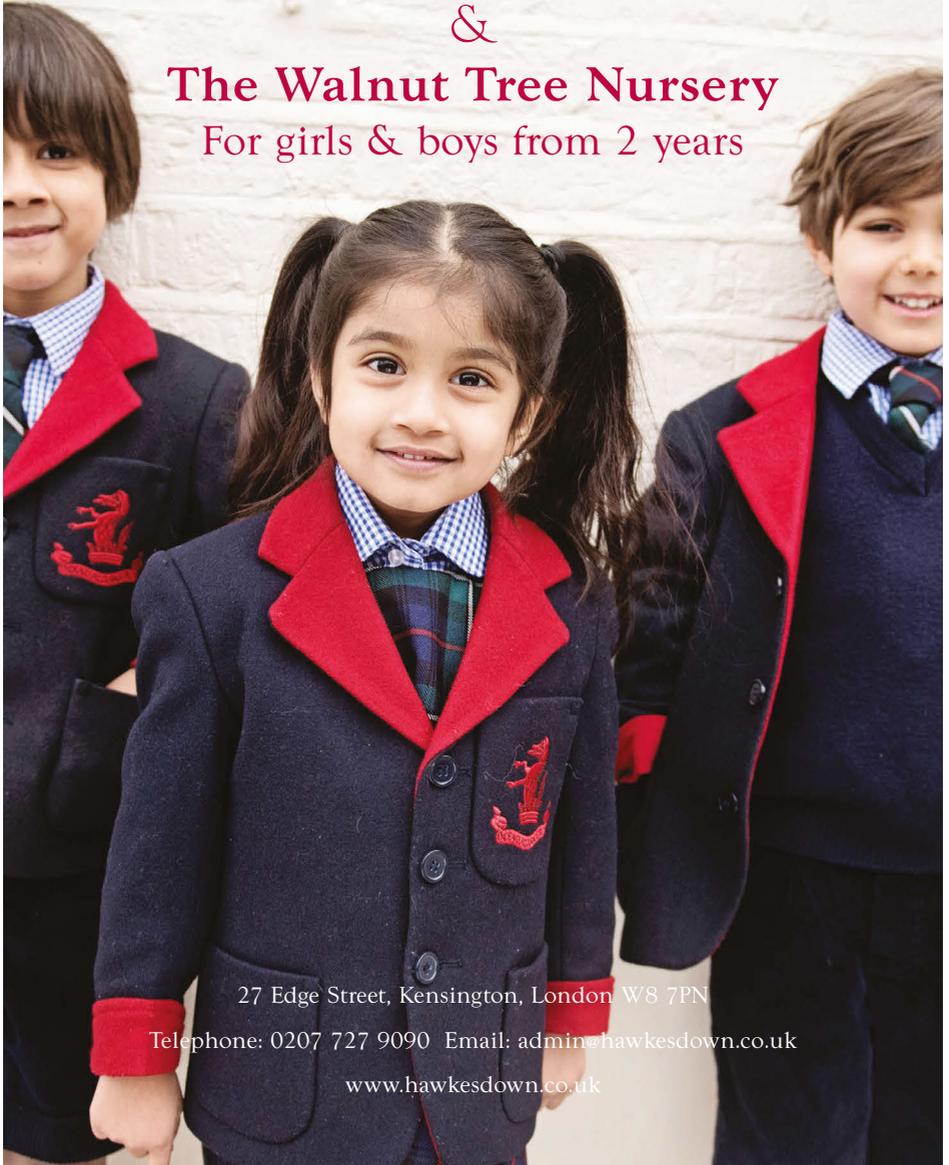


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Blue Plaque Religious Leaders in Kensington

By Sarah Goldsmith

From 1881 to 1890, Predendary Wilson Carlile lived at 34 Sheffield Terrace, and from 1907 – 1939, Evelyn Underhill lived at 50 Campden Hill Square. Both Carlile and Underhill underwent striking religious conversions, afterward devoting their lives to the poor during a time when there was little to no social safety net. Both figures, after their conversions, were drawn to an evangelical, and in Underhill's case, mystical, Christianity.

Wilson Carlile was born in 1847, the eldest of twelve children of London merchants. An unsuccessful businessman, Carlile underwent a religious conversion after the 1873 panic and following two decades-long economic depression. After graduating from seminary, Carlile was appointed curate at St. Mary Abbott's in 1881, focusing his energies on the borough's poor. After less than a year there, he created the Church Army in 1882, resigning his post at St. Mary's "to make war against sin and the devil." The first office was established in Kensington, but then moved to Oxford, as a free training school from working-class evangelists was founded, and finally Marylebone, as the Church Army worked in the Westminster slums amongst the poor. The Church Army, at its origins, fed and housed the urban poor, and later, worked on the battlefield during World War I. An evangelistic organization, it now operates in most parts of the Anglican Communion within the Anglican Church, and its aim is to work amongst and alongside the people and communities it is meant to serve. In 1906, Carlile, then widely known as the "Chief" was made Prebendary of St. Paul's



The blue plaque of Evelyn Bosworth in Campden Hill Square (www.blueplaques.net)

Cathedral, and throughout his life served as an inspiration to evangelists.

Evelyn Bosworth was born in Wolverhampton in 1875 and brought up in an agnostic household. In 1898, Evelyn went to Italy where the beginnings of a religious conversion took place. In 1904, she became a spiritualist and joined the Order of the Golden Dawn before progressing to mysticism. Although primarily drawn to Catholicism, her fiancé Hubert Moore steered her to join the Anglican Church instead, which she did prior to their marriage in 1907. After they married, they moved to Campden Hill Square, where she lived until 1939. At first a writer of satire and other non-religious works, Mrs. Moore underwent a religious crisis in 1919, and began to look after the poor of North Kensington and to write religious works focusing on mysticism and spirituality. In 1921, she became Oxford's first woman lecturer on religion. The name Underhill was a pseudonym, most likely used as neither her parents nor her husband shared her spiritual fervor.

A message from St George's Campden Hill, and St John the Baptist, Holland Road

It's rather sobering to reflect that church services continued throughout both world wars – and yet this week they have been suspended. It shows the unprecedented scale and seriousness of this global crisis.

During this time of 'spacial distancing', may every hand we don't shake become a phone call or an offer to help and support a neighbour. While lots of things have been cancelled by the coronavirus, let us ensure that love is not one of them.

Let us pray for all who are sick, as well as doctors, nurses, caregivers and all those working hard to combat the disease.

Do get in touch through our Parish Office if you would like a specific prayer.

020 3602 9873
office@hollandparkbenefice.org
www.hollandparkbenefice.org



Faith and Perseverance: St Mary Abbots Church's Wartime Damage and Restoration

By Nick Campailla

In January 1944 the Luftwaffe launched Operation Steinbock (Capricorn) targeting the South of England, principally Greater London, the last strategic air campaign over Britain by German bombers in WW2. Also referred to as the 'Baby Blitz', Steinbock lasted until May 1944 when the operation was abandoned. However, on the night of 14th March St Mary Abbots Church was hit by an incendiary bomb which destroyed the nave roof. Voluntary firewatchers made heroic efforts to prevent greater damage and apparently the local organist rushed round to play the organ in order to keep the water from filling the pipes. The Chapel and most of the South Aisle escaped destruction so services were maintained without a break, despite exposure to the elements.

What happened afterwards can be traced through the Vicar's letters in the Parish Magazine. At Christmas 1944 Rev'd Arthur Smith wrote that 'after nine months of a roofless and unheated church... a good beginning has been made with the temporary roof.' This work was completed by Easter 1945 but in January 1946 strong gales toppled the finial cross on the great West Gable which fell through the temporary roof severely damaging the interior of the wooden porch below, once again letting in wind and rain. Gradual improvements continued. Rev'd Smith noted that while 'the war damage grants from the Central Authority have been quite generous, there will be plenty of need for generous giving on the part of the faithful.' His replacement from 1948, Rev'd Stanley Eley, (later Bishop of Gibraltar), took up the narrative, recording piecemeal progress.

The services of ecclesiastical architect Romilly Craze were engaged and full restoration work began in April 1954 after the usual delays in obtaining requisite consents and agreements. Sir George Gilbert Scott's original roof with transverse diagonal ribs, varnished and dark in colour, was replaced by a simple barrel vault, canted in sections.

Even with all the other rebuilding required to get London back on its feet after the end of the War one might wonder why it took quite so long, but that is to look back from an era more typified by speed and instant gratification than one of 'make do and mend.' However, whilst the Parish Magazine went into overdrive with its monthly restoration bulletins during 1955, culminating with a Thanksgiving Service for the completed works in February 1956, the Kensington News issued a warning: 'we live in unstable, unpredictable times, and no sooner is the rail strike over than something else crops up. In Kensington, it is Black Magic... instead of praying to God, they pray to Lucifer and their "services" usually end in disgusting orgies.' The editorial found it hard to believe that such degradation could exist, but no harder to believe than the fact that 'our churches are empty on Sundays.'

Despite all the social changes that have since taken place, St Mary Abbots still towers over us, hopefully as a timeless and reassuring presence not just for the Anglican community but for all Kensington residents.

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How our local churches can help at this time

By Lucy Elliott

Spring time usually heralds the sense of renewal; spiritually, physically and horticulturally. With the bringing of the clocks forward, the spring blossom out, it would feel as though as weight is lifted off our shoulders. For those for whom Easter is special in the religious context this is an especially important time. But what of Spring 2020? Within a few weeks all our lives changed and not withstanding the physical separation of the seas, have become intertwined. We are a global entity and as such aspects such as disease, in the long-distant past would not have affected us. Today it is different. We carry a weight around our shoulders, a fear for our elderly relatives, anxiety about our children and fear again for those sick or pregnant. In cases like this, many turn to the Church for reassurance and guidance. Only now, Churches are closed. However the religious institutions in Kensington are working enormously hard and around the clock, to 'think out of the box' of strategies which will help their current congregation and anyone else who needs reassurance. Even with Churches 'reimagining themselves' themselves at this time, they will provide what they always have done; a voice calm, constancy and consistency. Here we invited them to let you know what their strategies are, to help you during this moment in our history.

St George's and St John's

Two churches a mile apart provide a refuge from the noise and rush of London: St George's beside Notting Hill and St John's near Shepherd's Bush. Together they form the United Benefice of Holland Park. We welcome everyone, of all faiths and

none. Like London at its best, we're proud to call ourselves inclusive. Sunday services are 10am at St George's and 6.30pm at St John's please see our website for other services and information regarding concerts and events. www.hollandparkbenefice.org, if you would like to be sent a weekly email regarding life at the Benefice and events please contact office@hollandparkbenefice.org

St Phillip's

St. Phillip's is a welcoming Anglican church on the corner of the Earls Court Road and Stratford Road in Kensington. As life changes daily as we journey together through the COVID-19 pandemic, even with the necessary closure of our building, St. Philip's continues to be a vibrant, if dispersed community, of all ages. Our worship has moved on-line and we will observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter in a different way this year, and continue, as far as possible, with our regular worship and outreach though in new and innovative ways. Join us on line at 10:30am on Sunday mornings, as well as other times during the week. We celebrate our relationship with our church of England primary school, SBS, especially in these challenging days. Our regular community offerings are having to change as of necessity so please visit our website www.specr.org for information and regular updates, as well as how to join us and "Come and See".

Christ Church

At Christ Church Kensington we are a group of people seeking to be true to our name. We are committed to the wonderful news

about Jesus Christ: that he is the God who made us, that he reveals God to us and in his death and resurrection he restores us to relationship with God. We are committed to love one another as a Church: we are a diverse group of people of many nations and all ages and we are members together of one family in Christ. Please join us at www.christchurchkensington.com for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services and at either our 11am traditional or 6pm contemporary services which continue to run on our website every week. We also have groups that continue to meet online to study the Bible, to pray and support one another and groups which explore the essentials of the Christian Faith. Please contact mark.harris@christchurchkensington.com if you would like more information. We are also committed to serving the people of Kensington in whatever way we can at all times and particularly during the profound change and challenges brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic. If you or someone you know needs help during this time, we would love to help. If you are needing to self-isolate at home, we can do food and pharmacy shopping for you and deliver to your door. Or we would be delighted to chat to you or pray with you by telephone. Please email care@christchurchkensington.com or contact us by telephone on 02079376667.

Church of Christ, Scientist

Kensington's two Churches of Christ, Scientist - one in Wrights Lane, the other in Palace Gardens Terrace - are part of a Christian denomination based on the teachings of Christ Jesus. Their pastoral mission of love embraces people of all walks

of life through prayer-based healing and a sense of spiritual peace flowing, as it does, from the clear understanding that God's vast love naturally redeems and transforms human lives. The churches' Sunday services - now online due to the Government's new social gathering restrictions - are simple and are designed to give a warm, healing welcome and a comforting sense of spiritual family. The services include hymns, a solo, and readings from the Bible and the textbook of Christian Science, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by church founder Mary Baker Eddy. The churches also hold Wednesday evening testimony meetings where members of the congregation hear specially selected readings dealing with issues of the day and can speak of their own experience of God's healing presence. Those seeking healing and comfort can contact a Christian Science practitioner through christianscience.com. The Kensington churches also operate Reading Rooms, which during normal times are open throughout the week. They offer a quiet area where anyone is welcome to come and pray and find out about Christian Science. Distribution boxes at the front of each church offer passers-by free Christian Science magazines containing inspiring articles and accounts of healing. Further information about both churches and their online facilities can be accessed at Firstlondon.org and Secondchurchlondon.org.

Ecumenism in Kensington and Notting Hill

When Mothering Sunday public services in our churches were cancelled because of COVID-19, leaders of the mainline denominations, issued a call to prayer. Archbishop Justin, asked Christians to light

candles of hope in our windows at 7pm that evening. Many of us in Kensington did so. There is a rich variety of churches across the Royal Borough. We work ecumenically as two bodies: Kensington Council of Churches (KCC), now chaired by Mgr James Curry, elected July 2019, has an Executive drawn from the Roman Catholic, Church of England, Armenian, Coptic, Russian, and Ethiopian Orthodox Churches. Other members include CofE Christian residences, Lee Abbey Students Centre and the Pathfinder Fellowship; and RC Religious Orders. In North Kensington, Churches Together in Notting Hill (CTiNH) is chaired by Sr Brenda Dorrian NDC, elected in 2019, with member churches including CofE, RC, Methodist, Serbian Orthodox and Salvation Army. We share, principally, the Unity Service each January, this year hosted by St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church in Allen

Street, led by Archbishop Angaelos, with an address by Mother Emma Dinwiddy Smith, the new Vicar of St Mary Abbots; it was good to welcome Rev Sally Massey Thomas, new Minister at Kensington URC. We share, too, a Lent Study Course, co-ordinated by Canon William Taylor, CofE Ecumenical Adviser for the Bishop of Kensington. Sessions are hosted by churches of different denomination from those leading – sadly, this year cancelled after only two of taken place. KCC and CTiNH, and their Churches are invited to the Kensington & Chelsea Faith Communities Partnership at the Town Hall, meeting topics including Hate Crime, Community Resilience, Church Security and COVID-19 (virtual), the last two being meetings of the London Boroughs Faiths Network. For more info. contact: ChrisLuxton@specr.org (KCC) And: vennfrederica@gmail.com (CTiNH)

KENSINGTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

With Churches Together in Notting Hill



The Swanwick Declaration, 1987

**Lord God, we thank You
 for calling us into the company of those
 who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will.
 May Your Spirit guide and strengthen us
 In mission and service to your world:
 For we are strangers no longer
 But pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
 Amen**

The Revd Preb Patrick Tuft (left) following a KCC Ecumenical Talk in October 2019, hosted by Mgr James Curry, KCC Chairman, at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church: "Newman from an Anglican Perspective"- celebrating the Canonisation by Pope Francis, of the former Church of England Victorian priest and poet.

Corona in Kensington

During this strange time, pockets of ingenious community spirit has come to light; individuals going the extra mile to help others who are elderly and unable to get out. Our hope is that these pages might help you and alert you to various initiatives being undertaken in W:

[James Chiavarini](#) and [Daisy Yorke](#) have got together to form Community Immunity - a wonderful initiative to help keep those isolated fit and healthy with appropriate food boxes being delivered locally. Please see page 24 for more information.

[London Nursery Schools](#) is providing a SAFE SCHOOL from the 23rd March 2020 for key worker and vulnerable children aged between one and five, Monday to Friday 8am - 4:30pm. If you need support at this time please contact the school: office@LNS.education or 07557004702 we are accepting food bank donations for the Dalgarno Trust between 8am and 4:30pm.

[Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#) is playing a central role in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak across our communities. In response to this, hospital charity CW+ has launched the COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund to help staff provide the best possible care for these patients. The fund is designed to accelerate and increase intensive care bed capacity and provide support for frontline staff at a time of unprecedented demand on our services. The CW+ COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund will support our hospitals

in three key areas: New Equipment, New Technology and Support for Frontline Staff. The charity is now appealing to our community of friends, benefactors and partners to support this new fund to ensure staff across Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust are best equipped and prepared to provide vital care to our patients and all those in our community affected by the COVID-19 virus. To support the fund, please visit www.cwplus.org.uk CWPLUS Registered Charity No.1169897

As the Covid-19 pandemic dominates everyone's thoughts, the Kensington + Chelsea Foundation have launched an appeal. The impact on local projects and partners is significant and growing. Fundraising income has been lost through cancellation of events, and group activities have been replaced with more expensive one to one services such as home visits. 5 distribution centres have been set up across the borough for food donations and essential supplies, which will be sent out as care packages to those in most need. There is also concern about the safety of individuals and families who are isolating in households which are difficult and potentially violent, and the requirement to adapt or create services to minimise their risk. This appeal will support local partners to meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in our community and longer-term, as they rebuild services. Thanks to the incredible generosity of Julia and Hans Rausing, every penny donated to the appeal will be matched*, doubling the value of your gift. Please make a donation to the community response efforts here

100% of money raised will be spent on local projects + partners delivering services to those affected by Covid-19.

* up to £50k in total

The [Kensington & Chelsea Foundation](#) are desperately looking for volunteers for two areas of their work:

(a) To ensure we reach the most vulnerable and isolated in our community, we need volunteers for a range of tasks from delivery supplies, to making welfare phonecalls to people who are isolated. Please register at the Volunteer Centre (link below) to ensure they can carry out safeguarding checks and allocate tasks as needed.

<https://www.voluntarywork.org.uk/volunteering/volunteer-registration/>

(b) Give Food and Supplies

Our local Food Banks are under huge strain and this will only grow when schools are closed and more family members are fed at home. Many families who are isolating cannot leave home to go shopping and delivery bookings are unavailable. Please click on the link below to see the foods and other items most urgently needed and where you can take them.

<https://www.kcsc.org.uk/news/age-uk-food-bank-essentials>

RBKC Coronavirus Updates

For all the latest on Coronavirus advice and also disruption to RBKC council services, or additional support from the council is available their website .

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-covid-19/>

RBKC have contacted trade and business support organisations across London and the UK to bring you as much funding and business advice as we can find, and we will also be updating you on services from the Council's own teams. We are here and supporting you and the local economy. <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-advice-businesses-and-self-employed>

For businesses: Please do not hesitate applying for the grants HM Government promised for affected businesses, when they become available. Be aware that grants can be deducted from insurance payouts.

RESIDENTS URGED TO BEWARE OF CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Fraudsters are taking advantage of the coronavirus with scams claiming to offer tax rebates and health advice. Kensington and Chelsea Council is urging residents to be vigilant and report scams they encounter. Businesses are being asked to make pricing clear and not to inflate prices on goods in high demand. Residents in Kensington and Chelsea are being reminded to be vigilant against fraudsters looking to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Trading Standards officers are aware of several scams currently circulating which claim to provide information or advice related to the pandemic or claiming to have charitable aims. Some bogus online suppliers have been offering products in high demand such as hand sanitiser without delivering the goods. Trading Standards officers are

Kensington News III

aware of price inflation and unclear price marking within some businesses.

If you live in the Campden Ward and have concerns about anything relating to Covid-19, you can email one of your Ward Councillors, Catherine Faulks, who is here to help you: catherinefaulks@btinternet.com. Also if you would like to speak to your Ward Councillor, but do not know who this is, please go to:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/yourcouncillor/postcodesearch.asp>

General News

A two-year project will help Kensington and Chelsea businesses get into the supply chain for trade work by connecting them with big developers and property owners keen to procure locally. The RBKC Supply Chain project is open to suppliers across property and construction related trades, from plumbers and carpenters to architects and interior designers and is run by Kensington and Chelsea Council in partnership with London procurement experts MTW Consultants. Along with introducing local suppliers to buyers, the programme provides support for suppliers including guidance on how to maximise their potential and networking opportunities. Find out how you can get involved at RBKCSupplyChain.co.uk.

With respect to TFL's new proposals for the CS10 cycle lane along Holland Park Avenue and Notting Hill Gate local groups made up of the residents associations along the route including the Kensington Society have launched a dedicated website

<https://sos10.co.uk/> which not only informs you of all relevant information, it also provides updates.

Enterprising students from The Rhythm Studio and St Charles Catholic High School were delighted to attend the Big Idea Challenge 2020 Bootcamp, where they developed and pitched their original business ideas. The event was held at NatWest's headquarters in the City of London, in March. The annual Big Idea Challenge is organised by Accelerator, London Metropolitan University's business incubator. The competition runs in partnership with NatWest and the Prince's Trust, and works closely with school and college students across London to raise awareness and interest in an entrepreneurial career for young people.

A personal message from Lucy:

As Harold Wilson famously once said "A week is a long time in politics". True to say, it is an enormous length of time during the corona virus, especially as each day brings new challenges to us all. The Kensington Magazine will continue to run for as long as is possible; although we are hugely reliant on our printers and distribution agents. The good news is, even if a hard copy magazine is not available, our website will be kept as much as up to date as possible. If you feel some of the information contained in this edition is out of date, please bear in mind the ten day time lag from copy deadline to distribution. A week in publishing can be even longer than in politics! To all our readers, we wish you well, Lucy



As we journey together through the COVID-19 pandemic, even with the necessary closure of our church building, St Philip's continues to be an active, if dispersed, community.

Our worship has moved on-line and we will observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter in a different way this year.



Please visit our website www.specr.org
for information and updates, how to join in and
“Come and See”.

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we will be saved, in quietness and confidence will be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Philip's Church, Earls Court Road, W8 6QH

Vicar: The Reverend Philippa Turner vicarstphilips@specr.org 07483147164
parishoffice@specr.org www.specr.org

Easter

Christ Church Kensington

Good Friday | 10 April, 11AM

A recorded service of readings & reflections

Easter Sunday | 12 April, 11AM and 6PM

Recorded services celebrating Easter together

Broadcasting all services online via the website

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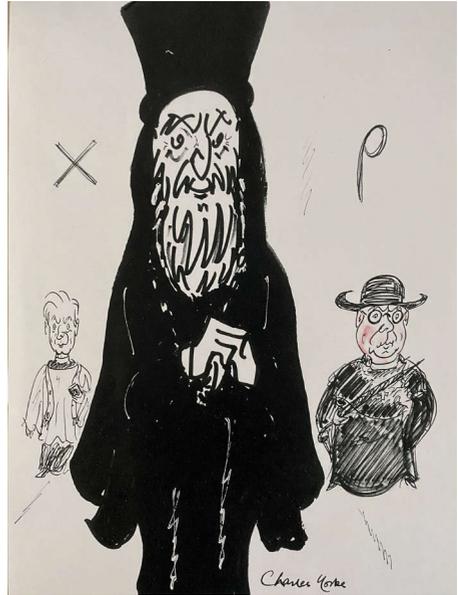
christchurchkensington.com

Today's Kensington Churches

By Maria Perry with illustration by Charles Yorke

Historically the Parish Church of Kensington is Saint Mary Abbots. There has been a church on this site for over a thousand years. In the Vestry there hangs a list of all the Vicars since 1242. Most have been men, but the present incumbent is the Rev. Emma Dinwoody-Smith, who became the Vicar last September, though she was preceded by Rev Jenny Welsh, who acted as Associate Vicar after the retirement of the Rev Gillean Craig. It is sometimes said jestingly that SMA is 'so High Anglican' that it might almost be Roman Catholic, but next door is St Mary Abbots School, which is indubitably Church of England. Statues of two children above the porch indicate it was once a 'poor school'. This is no longer the case. In recent times, Prime Minister David Cameron was regularly seen among other well-heeled parents, delivering or collecting his offspring there.

The Roman Catholic Church is however vigorously represented in the Royal Borough by Our Lady of Victories at 235a Kensington High Street, where Monsignor James Curry is the Parish Priest and by the Carmelite Priory on the bend of Kensington Church Street, where Father Christopher Clark, ODC has been the innovative 'new' Parish Priest for three years. There is also the Pauline Bookshop with its huge stock of devotional literature and in Kensington Square, two orders of nuns, Maria Assumpta and the Adoratrices, flourish. Recently Heythrop University (a great Catholic learning centre) closed down, which means the House of the Assumption nuns on the South side of the Square is now the Headquarters of the Assumption Order. Their beautiful Chapel is open for public worship on Sundays. On the opposite side of the Square are the



Adoratrices, whose Superior is the much-loved Sister Anstey. Their Chapel is private. They run a hostel for students who are studying for degree courses.

When Lucy suggested this topic, I expected to write of the beauties of these buildings and the glories of their rituals. Since then the Corona Virus has struck like a biblical plague and it seems more practical to advise readers to check their own Church's website.

Parishoners are asked to pray for those who have Corona Virus, or who have already lost loved ones. The Anglicans are taking similar precautions and also communicants at the beautiful Orthodox Church in Moscow Road. I hope this information is helpful to those who are not yet aware of it.

God bless all our Readers.

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Easter Plants

By Benedict Bull

Right now, the Soulangiana and Sprengeri, Stellata and Kobus magnolias are in flower in the borough gardens. They often flower before and during the Easter Holidays. And while the daffodils and snowdrops have been and gone here the magnolias continue and provide the offering flowers over Easter each year. Daffodils are sometimes called Lenten lilies because their yellow flowers ornament lent and then fade out just before Easter.

Do you know the Pasch flower? In the modern Linnaean system, it is called *Pulsatilla vulgaris*. It very well used in European gardening but less so here, and rather rare in the wild in the UK. And it flowers very reliably still now in London from April through to May, like purple lanterns with a golden cone core, bobbing on a sea of grey green fronds. They can be bought UK grown in 6cm plugs or from the continent in 6 to 9s, as well as in 1 or 2 litre pots for planting out into more competition in an instant border.

The name Pasch flower almost certainly comes from is spring flowering coinciding with the four-day Pasch of Old England from Maundy Thursday to Holy Sunday. Pasch flowers produce gorgeous purple flowers with a contrasting sunny yellow centre above silky hair grey green ferny leaves. Growing to a height of 20-30cm, this hardy, dwarf perennial is ideal for planting in the border, rockeries and containers. They need good sun and well-drained soil to flourish. Dead head if you have the time to prolong flowering.

The wider Christian journey of the Resurrection is embodied by all growth vegetative and flowering, as the new life emerges out of the cold ground. The great miracle of Spring is somewhat numbed in its clarity with our fridge lorry of Dutch cut flowers parking on Holland Park Avenue as disgorging its glasshouse wares several times a week creating a meta season of availability. They sell stemmed gladioli of every form imaginable but not primroses. For them where better than a Kentish hedgerow bank?

Primroses are also associated with Easter; these first roses feature clearly in offerings of flowers in Mediaeval painted and embroidered depictions at Easter. The primroses adorn English banks and hedgerows all through March and April. And while primroses are historically allied with Easter, now with our modern floricultural systems under glass, the churches procure Madonna lilies in great numbers. These white lilies hail from the Mediterranean and traditionally bloom in Summer but they can be brought forward from the subtropical floriculturists.

The Madonna lilies no longer come from San Remo and their hot houses on the Ligurian coast, but where exactly they are grown now, I do not know. I do know that they are more popular and more available in the commercial floriculture than the English Primrose and the Pasch flower, however. For me however in the borough the magnolias are the Easter flowers par excellence.

GET WELL SPOON



April

Kulich, Easter Bread

All Europe has a version of Easter breads, here we have hot cross buns, the French have brioche de paques, the Germans have osterbrot, the Portuguese have folar da pascoa and the Russians and other Orthodox countries have Kulich. After Lent, it is time to feast with the luxury ingredients of milk, eggs and sugar.

For the bread:

450g strong white bread flour
½ tsp salt
1½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp cinnamon
50g butter
50g caster sugar
14g fast-action dried yeast (2 packets)
210ml milk, slightly warm
1 egg, beaten
100g mixed dried fruit
25g mixed citrus peel

For the icing:

100g icing sugar
½ lemon, juice only

To decorate:

toasted almonds and sprinkles.

The breads are traditionally tall and thin, so the best way of baking is in tin cans. You will need 6 washed tin cans, lined with buttered baking paper about an inch taller than the can.

Preheat oven to 240C/ gas mark 8.

Sieve the flour, salt, and spices into a large mixing bowl. Rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre of the mixture and add the sugar, yeast, beaten egg and tepid milk and mix to form a soft pliable dough. Turn out onto a floured work surface. Carefully work the dried fruit and peel into the dough until well combined.



Knead lightly for 5 minutes until smooth and elastic. Shape dough into a ball, and place in a buttered mixing bowl. Cover with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place to prove for 1 hour. Turn out the proved dough back onto the floured work surface, knock back, shape into a ball and return to the bowl, covered, to prove for a further 30 minutes. Place the dough onto the floured work surface and divide into 6 equal pieces. Roll each into a ball, then into a long cylinder shape and put into the buttered tins. Cover with a tea towel and set aside to rise for 25 - 30 minutes. Once the buns have risen, place tins onto a baking sheet and bake for 25 to 35 minutes, until pale golden brown.

Add the lemon juice to the icing sugar, spoon by spoon, until you have a thick runny icing to cover the buns. Decorate with icing, nuts and sprinkles.

"Knife, Fork, Get Well Spoon" is available at Wholefoods in Kensington or at www.Waterstones.com

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Working together to support Campden, Pembridge and Holland Wards

Hi there, neighbour. Are you unable to leave your home because of Covid 19/ Coronavirus? We're here for you.

We are a group of local residents who would like to support the community and ensure that nobody is left isolated or without support.

We don't ask for anything in return, we just believe in helping each other in a time of difficulty.

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If you would like to speak to us, or want to ask for help, please email kcmutualaidzone3@gmail.com or **leave a voice message on 020 8144 2774** and let's see how we can help. We will return your call within 24 hours.

We will not enter your home. We wash our hands and use hand gel.

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GIVE SUPPORT

If you would like to support the community by volunteering or donating food, please join the WhatsApp group that is being used to coordinate support <http://tiny.cc/kczone3>

If you need medical advice, use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service at 111.nhs.uk/covid-19, or if you have no internet access, call **NHS 111** from your phone. In a medical emergency, dial 999.

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Dear friend of Il Pizzicotto.

We are rapidly extending our community assistance project to now provide immunity-boosting food deliveries at cost price to all.

Alongside Daisy York, (3 years of nutritionist training), each morning we will be going to New Covent Garden food markets to source and buy the highest quality immune-boosting foods. We then return to Il Portico and begin putting together boxes of both fresh produce and cooked meals from our chef Eduardo for free delivery in the local area.

As this is a non-profit venture, the boxes are being sold at cost price and payment can be taken at the doorstep with our mobile card terminal, or if you prefer, over the telephone. We estimate the boxes will be cheaper or the same price as Waitrose.

Examples of products in the box include

Wholegrain and handmade pasta from Il Portico kitchen

Bone broths and chicken soup

Leafy green and root vegetables soups and stews

Cereal, nut, and multi-seed loaves

Organic venison casseroles, and ragu

Omega 3 rich mackerel pate

A selection of fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables, with detailed instructions of why each item is particularly fortifying and how best to cook and enjoy it.

Deliveries are scheduled Monday to Saturday in the afternoon. The boxes are standard and have been put together to ensure that you give your immune system the best possible chance in fighting this terrible virus.

We must learn the lesson of Italy and avoid overloading the healthcare system at all costs. Better diet = better immunity = less sickness = less pressure on the healthcare system = quicker we can all get back to normal.

This is our war effort. As you know my family has run Il Portico for over 53 years now, and I want to make sure that everyone has enough nutrient-dense whole foods to give their bodies the best chance of winning this war.

For all orders, please email communityimmunityw8@gmail.com with your name, address and telephone number and someone will be in touch to arrange your first delivery.

Stay safe and God bless you all, James Chiavarini

A Free Public Talk by Melanie Wahlberg

Christian Science Practitioner and Lecturer

Christian Science is a world-wide Christian faith based on the Bible, especially the teachings and healing works of Jesus Christ. The Church of Christ, Scientist, was founded by Mary Baker Eddy in Boston, USA, in 1879, to reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing – the healing which was such a vital part of early Christianity.

NEVER ALONE

How spiritual ideas work in us

Tuesday 28th April 7pm
8 Wrights Lane, W8 6TA

ALL ARE WELCOME



Wahlberg will present a talk about God as all Spirit, divine Love, infinite Mind, showing the connection between knowing God in this way, prayer, and reliable healing. Her points are based on Christ Jesus' examples of healing in the Bible, as well as Mary Baker Eddy's book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which offers a practical explanation of spiritual healing today based on Christ Jesus' life and teachings.

**If restrictions are still in place the
talk will be broadcast online**

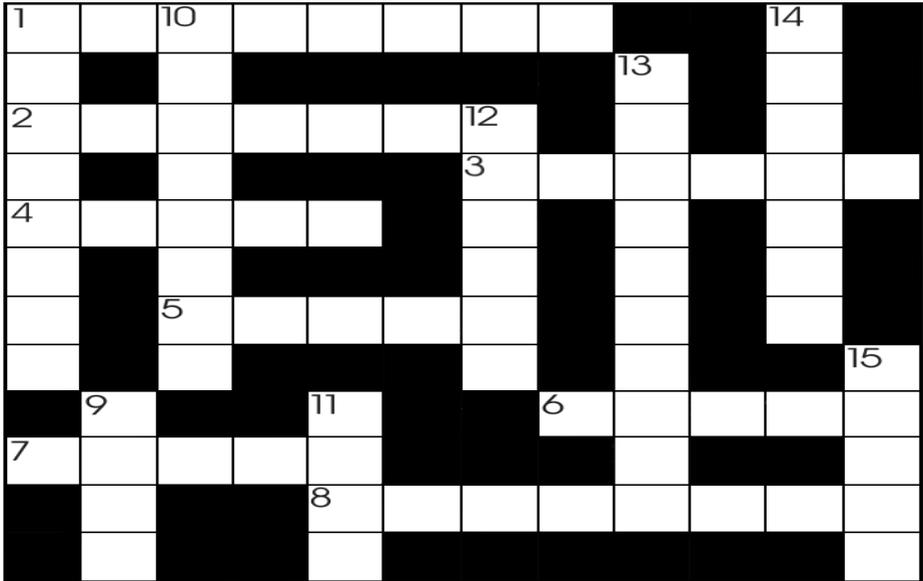
www.firstlondon.org

This talk will also be live-streamed at www.spirituality4.me/livestream

The Kensington Crossword

By Dave Saunders

Pit your wits against our Kensington-centric crossword. (Answers on page 27)



Across

- 1) _____ Bakery, Scandinavian cakes and coffee chain at Unit 6, Kensington Arcade, W8 (8)
- 2) _____ Arms, historical pub which was located at 30 Hornton Street, W8 (7)
- 3) _____ Beevor, military historian born in Kensington in 1946 (6)
- 4) _____ Jane, luxury furniture chain which used to have a store at 130 Kensington High St (5)
- 5) Yashin _____, Japanese restaurant at 1A Argyll Road, W8 (5)
- 6) Captain Francis _____, designer of the Royal Albert Hall (5)
- 7) Claude _____, author born at 4 Holland Park in 1865; died in 1917 (5)
- 8) The _____ Arms, traditional alehouse at 15 Selwood Terrace, SW7 (8)

Down

- 1) Carl _____, Scottish actor for Doctor Who and Alan Partridge, who died in Kensington in 1998 (4)
- 9) _____ Ink, publishers located at 1 Alma Terrace, Kensington W8 (4)
- 10) Casa _____, Spanish charcuterie located at 7-9 Exhibition Road, SW7 (8)
- 11) The _____ and Tails, pub at 10 Fairholt St, SW7 that closed in 2016 (4)
- 12) _____ by Rifat Ozbek, home goods store at 8 Holland St which closed in 2019 (6)
- 13) _____ Gardens, residential road running between Stanford Rd & Victoria Rd, W8 (10)
- 14) _____ Passage, residential alley situated between Victoria Rd & De Vere Gardens, W8 (7)
- 15) _____ Vibes, flower shop at 27 Holland St, W8 (5)

Christian Science at Notting Hill Gate

Join us for virtual Services

Wed: 7:30 pm

Sun: 11 am

Details can be found on our Facebook page, 'Christian Science at Notting Hill Gate'. These services offer deep spiritual insights which address world situations and personal difficulties giving the listener a sense of peace, comfort and uplift.

Due to the current situation the Christian Science Reading Room is now closed. Please check the Facebook page for updates when restrictions are lifted. Calls to the church office voicemail will be monitored. Phone 020 7229 2682

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Kensington & South Ken Cultural Quarters: What's On I

It will not be of any surprise to our readers, that this section has vastly changed to our usual approach. We have worked in collaboration with our friends at 'Discover South Kensington' to bring to you ideas about how to keep busy during this time - suitable for individuals, couples or families.

Unfortunately, but as you will be aware, most of our cultural and educational institutions in Kensington and South Kensington are currently closed to the public. However they are still open online with lots of things to see and do from home. Throughout this period we'll be sharing our top tips for exploring London's arts and science district from where ever you are. (on-line). From behind-the-scenes tours and virtual visits to brilliant blogs and games - we have all you need for great days in!

General ideas

Whilst the magnolias look wonderful in our streets, the streets of Brunswick Gardens and Palace Gardens Terrace look spectacular at about 19 - 22 April with magnificent tree lined cherry blossom. Well worth a walk there.

Both Holland Park (particular mention of the Kyoto Garden here for blossom) and Kensington Gardens remain open (at the time of writing) - essential for walks and keeping fit. You could even take a picnic - or a boat for children to float on the Round Pond (keeping your distance from others please). (www.royalparks.org.uk). The Royal Parks remain open for you to enjoy as places of relaxation, to spend time with nature or to exercise in these difficult times. The

playgrounds are following the government advice about social distancing.

During this difficult time and looking at the positive side, self isolation can give you the opportunity to clear out cupboards, rooms; a chance to read books you have never had the time for before; knit or quilt; make clothes or soft furnishings; carpentry, garden (perfect time for sowing seeds); engage in the art of actually speaking to people - pick up that phone, and speak to one person a day at least; follow pilates or yoga classes on TV; listen to podcasts; acquise to that inner you that has always wanted to write, fact or fiction, or poems; meditate; listen to Classic FM ("calm, soothing music");

Whilst ITV and BBC will be providing more educational programmes, for all ages, we did a quick search, and found these which give a taster (these are relevant to primary school children): Maths Challenge; Shakespears Animated Tales; Science Clips Investigate; Let's Write a Story; Just So Darwin and many others which we are sure will both teach children, as well as keep them well entertained.

And finally, some suggestions for the family: learn a new language on line (this could be good for the whole family!); play card and board games; learn to cook - a lot of food freshly prepared can be put into the freezer and then defrozed, and eaten at a later date.

Kensington Cultural Quarter: What's On II

Cultural inspiration/entertainment

Please do check out these websites - they are excellently presented and provide lots of information:

Japan House London - Stories

Japan House London invite you to explore the stories about Japanese cultures, including Japanese wine, a Bonsai guide, sake and more. (www.japanhouselondon.uk)

'Secrets of the Museum' The V&A

Take an intimate look behind the scenes at the V&A in a 6-part series with BBC Two.. Made with BBC Arts and Blast! Films, Secrets of the Museum explores some of the most fascinating objects and the curators, conservators, tech experts and teams who look after them. (www.bbc.co.uk)

Google Arts & Culture: The Natural History Museum

Explore a story of natural history discovery in an interactive experience, Making Natural History, Dive into the museum's 80 million specimens, encounter a prehistoric marine reptile in virtual reality, discover pioneering Museum research, navigate the galleries in 360 degrees & take a tour of exhibits tackling natural history themes. (www.artsandculture.google.com)

Royal Albert Hall - Time Machine Online

Take a journey through time and explore the Royal Albert Hall's rich history. (www.royalalberthall.com)

Google Arts & Culture: The Science Museum

Striving to be the best place in the world for people to enjoy science, the Science Museum's world-class collection forms an enduring record of scientific, technological and medical achievements from across the globe. Explore the museum's exhibitions and online collections. (www.artsandculture.google.com)

Science Museum - Kitchen Science Booklet

Follow step-by-step instructions for science activities and experiments that are safe and easy to do in the classroom or at home. (www.learning-resources.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

South Kensington Online

Whilst the cultural and educational venues in South Kensington physically close their doors in the face of the Coronavirus, there are plenty of online tours and resources that are available meantime. Here is a sample of some of them. (www.discoversouthken.com)

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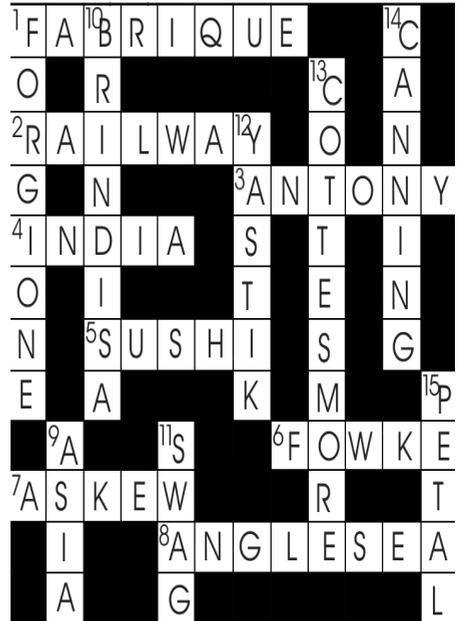


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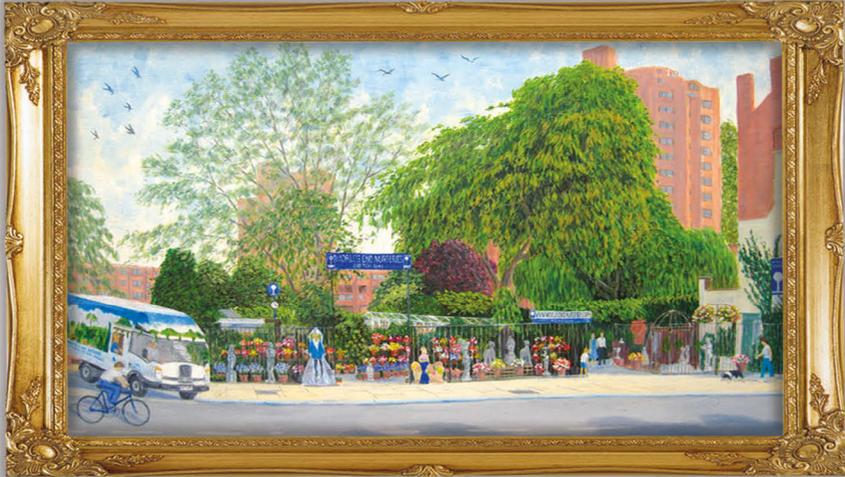
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Trailfinders’ entire 1,000+ strong team continue to work flat out to enable rescheduling of travel plans. We are presently concentrating on supporting clients who are still abroad and those who are due to depart in March and April. Shortly we will tackle May departures onwards and will automatically be in touch with those affected directly.

We have been heartened by your understanding during these challenging times and thank you for your patience.



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