

## 'Ashes-to-Go'



Hither Green

Southwark churches hit the pavements on Ash Wednesday offering 'Ashes-to-Go' to commuters, shoppers - and bus drivers!

Whilst across the Diocese last year's Palm Crosses were burnt and Lent was 'marked' (literally) in church services - in the more built-up parishes clergy and laity took ashes out to the streets in a Lenten outreach.

In West Lewisham, for example, Deanery churches teamed up to offer ashes at key locations - Forest Hill & Honor Oak stations, Sydenham High Street and the SavaCentre.

The Revd Edd Stock described it as 'a fab morning'... "A total of 55 people accepted ashing from the team and 170 prayer cards were given out explaining Ash Wednesday and Lent".



Greenwich



Croydon



Sydenham



Honor Oak



... and on a no.12 bus in Walworth

## A Lenten journey to the land of the 'living stones'

On Monday 19 February, 84 pilgrims travelled together from Heathrow to Tel Aviv where they were joined by one pilgrim who had already travelled. They are taking part in the 2018 Southwark Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Christopher and Dean Andrew.

They will visit sites of significance in the story of

Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection - and meet the people of the Holy Land, the 'living stones'. For all of them, this Pilgrimage offers the possibility of new insights into their faith story and a chance to see things from a different and ever changing viewpoint. It is often said that those who visit the Holy Land are never the same again.

Find out about where they went, what they saw - and their reflections at <https://southwarkpilgrimages.com>



Inside  
THE BRIDGE  
...this month



The Revd Ann Gurney awarded Lancelot Andrewes medal - page 2



Cloud of 'Doubt' - Cathedral Lent Installation - page 5



Celebrating lay leadership and lay ministry in Southwark Diocese - pages 6,7 & 8

PLUS  
parish news  
and pictures  
and

WHAT'S ON  
Page 11



## A view from THE BRIDGE

### Faith is simple and very complicated

Being Christian and being a Christian are not quite the same thing. Jesus said love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

So, Christianity for us subscribers should mean a conscious, careful way of treating other people, whoever they may be - and thus being inspired by the power of goodness that is God, which we are often not able to recognise or be sure about. Goodness can be so complicated, barely discernible. Faith too is simple and very complicated.

A really Christian deed is an action that all agree is unusually, morally good, and often not easily performed. This sense of what 'being Christian' and Christianity are about is in the language and all around us - shared even with the many people who feel themselves atheists. This usually means they cannot believe in the existence of God as the one eternal being in the life through which we so fleetingly pass, though God is no thing (as Rupert Shortt's book says).

Our creator's understanding of peace and love, the understanding we can find in our core being, was the life of Jesus who died and rose. The reality of that goodness and the nature of Jesus's gospel teaching continue to resonate. Everybody surely believes in the extraordinary power of goodness. So what sets church people and those who do not do church apart? Christians following Jesus have no monopoly in their call to discipleship.

The laity are the people, us. Clergy are called to service of all. We laity are called to think our faith, feel our mutual dependency, and try and recognise the hard truth of what loving neighbours means: our enemies, our friends. As people we are no better able to rise to the challenge than the Israelites were in Old Testament times. But now we have the model of Jesus and the saints.

Of course the good news is not all about activism. If we are gifted for leadership we will be called. We may serve what God wants in every day in every way if we are able and have the vision. But answering the call comes variously - also in silence and inaction.

Being able to pray, being able to follow, being able to understand are also part of a Christian's being able. Jesus spoke of lost sheep, rejoiced over, of flowers that did not spin cloth, of a widow whose little gift was greatest because it was all she had. We may take part or we may not. We are no army mobilised. The paths to answer any call are many and narrow. To be lost may be to find oneself.

Tom Sutcliffe



## Lancelot Andrewes Medal for 'invaluable part of the team'

The Revd Ann Gurney was presented with the Lancelot Andrewes medal by Bishop Christopher at a service in Holy Trinity Church, Eltham in December. The service also marked her 'retirement' after serving the parish as a priest for 24 years, working with three incumbents, all of whom found her 'an invaluable part of the team'.

In 1994 Ann Gurney was one of the first women to be ordained Priest in the Church of England. However, she had already served the Church for forty years having been made a Deaconess in 1954. In that time she served as a full time Deaconess in Lewisham, as Warden of Berridge House College of Education, as Principal of that same Gilmore House (in Clapham) where she herself had trained, and then as the Bishop of London's Adviser for Lay Ministry.

Following her Ordination, she joined Holy Trinity Parish Church. The Very Revd Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans, who was Vicar at the time, recalls "Bishop Roy phoned me up, and actually asked me, 'Would you like a present?' (meaning Ann). After that I always saw Ann as a gift of God, and I was not wrong! Her centred, focused, prayerful ministry was the perfect foil to the rather more neurotic (or chaotic) approach of both Father Graham Owen and me, so I felt we made a good team".

Tribute was also paid in a message from another former Vicar, now Bishop of Dunwich, the Rt Revd Mike Harrison, who wrote: "You have given fantastic service to Holy Trinity and indeed to the wider Church over the course of your ministry and it was a true blessing to have you as part of the ministry team. I have



lots of fond memories of you and your wisdom, and given how much I learned from you, I can only begin to imagine how your ministry has been a blessing to so many".

The Revd Brett Ward, Holy Trinity's current Vicar said, "I've never ceased to appreciate her contribution as an encouraging colleague and a wise - and forthright - sounding-board. Her presence has been a source of insight, clarity and good sense, and it will continue to be - this is not a eulogy! We've all consistently appreciated her thoughtful preaching, which is unfailingly insightful, well-constructed and sound (and always containing something of her sense of humour which is both quirky and self-deprecating). And beneath all of that, there is her warm and generous heart.

In his sermon at the service Bishop Christopher said, "Ann has served the Parish and Congregation of Holy Trinity for the better part of a quarter of a century, unfailingly humble and modest, steadfast and reliable. In the forty years after she was made Deaconess, Ann must, I feel sure, have looked forward in hope to the time when it would be possible for her to follow her calling to be a Priest. Yet that very looking forward may perhaps have added an urgency and depth to the way she used the time between.

"It was to honour just such service, faithfully rendered over many decades without thought of earthly reward, that I had the Lancelot Andrewes medal struck and so it was right and proper to confer it upon her".

## Professor Solomon Pratt

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St Mark's, Mitcham on 13 January for the life of Prof. Solomon Pratt who died on 28 December (days after his 97th birthday). His funeral took place a week later at Freetown Cathedral, Sierra Leone, where he was a Lay Canon.

The Revd Nigel Stone writes: "Although Solomon was born in the Gambia, his home was Sierra Leone. He served his country as a lawyer, politician and statesman including a brief period as Acting Prime Minister. He had been a Reader at St Marks since 1999 and



continued preaching until Summer 2017.

"Music was an important part of Solomon's life, as an organist, choirmaster and writer of Christmas Carols in Krio. He recently trained a new singing group at St Marks to sing anthems including at our Confirmation Service with Bishop Richard on St Mark's Day 2017".

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## Senior church leaders gather in South London

**Senior church leaders gathered at Southwark Cathedral on 23 January to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. They met at the invitation of Churches Together in South London (CTSL).**

Bishop Christopher invited the leaders to share plans for 2018 and many common areas emerged, including CTSL's upcoming Forum on 22 March at Livability in North Greenwich, which will take forward initiatives to tackle knife crime in the capital.

CTSL's, Claire Crowley said, "It is a powerful witness to fellowship between denominations to see this large group of Christian leaders

joining together to pray, reflect, discuss and eat together at a time when unity and partnership, is crucial for our city and world".

Photo (left-right):

Bishop Paul Hendricks, *Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark*.

Revd Phil Barnard, *Baptist Association Team Leader*,

Archimandrite Christodoulos Persopoulos, *Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camberwell*

Archbishop Angaelos, *Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London*

Claire Crowley

Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle, *Chair Methodist London District*

Bishop Dr Donnett Thomas

*Power of the Living Word Ministries International (PLWMI)*

Bishop Moses Owusu-Sekyer, *Apostolic Pastoral Congress*

Fred Ashmore, *London Quakers*

Bishop Christopher  
Revd Alison Trethewy  
*PLWMI Bishop's Chaplain*,  
Roger and Faith Forster,  
*Ichthus Christian Fellowship*  
Revd Nicola Furley-Smith,  
*United Reformed Church Moderator, Southern Synod*.

CTSL represents over 50 local ecumenical networks across 10 London boroughs south of the River Thames, and is one of 49 intermediary bodies around the country for Churches Together in England.

You can find your nearest local network on [www.ctslondon.org.uk](http://www.ctslondon.org.uk)

## Students ask; 'What makes a good city?'



On a cold and rainy day at the end of January, a group of 26 Year 8 students met up with a team from the Diocese at the News UK building, near London Bridge.

### Laura Tuhou writes

The students, from three C of E schools – St Martin-in-the-Fields, Tulse Hill; St Mary Magdalene, Greenwich Peninsula; and St Saviour's and St Olave's, Elephant & Castle – are taking part in this year's Diocesan schools initiative,

*Battersea to the Barrier*, which focuses on the question, 'What makes a good city?'

At News UK we attended a learning session about fake news, and why it's important for reporters to check their facts and sources. The students also got some hands-on experience investigating and reporting local news - they were tasked with writing and presenting a 90-second bulletin about top stories they'd researched using newspapers and their mobile phones.

Following a very windswept dash across the road and a break for lunch, we were treated to a guided tour of Southwark Cathedral with the Dean and his colleagues. Several learning stations had been set up to demonstrate how real life events, at or near the Cathedral, have been translated into news media. Topics included the sinking of the *Marchioness*; still-visible bomb damage to the building

from the Blitz; and the 2017 attack on Borough Market and London Bridge. The students learned that it's important to keep telling our city's stories, because they help us to learn from the past and build resilience for the future.

The visit to Southwark Cathedral and News UK was the third in a series of six events throughout the school year, each with a different theme. Previous days included visits to Battersea Power Station (looking at real estate development), St John's Waterloo and the Southbank Centre (learning about art in the digital age and community-building through theatre arts). The next trip will be on 12 March, for a visit to City Hall to learn about governing a city and the role of democracy.

Laura Tuhou is Research Assistant (Strategic Projects), Southwark Diocese

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E-mail: [admin@lpcharities.co.uk](mailto:admin@lpcharities.co.uk)

All responses to this consultation must be received by no later than 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.



Merton Priory Team Ministry prepared for Lent with a Pancakes and Quiz Party at Christ Church, Colliers Wood. The party was organised by Bruce and Karen Warman from Christ Church congregation. Bruce spent all day making pancakes and Karen set the quiz. Members from all three churches joined in. "It was a great way to begin Lent in the parish", said the Revd Alison Judge, Christ Church's Team Vicar. Picture shows Team Rector Chris Palmer with the winning team, 'The Geeks', mainly members of Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon.

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# Cloud of 'Doubt' - Southwark Cathedral's Lent Installation

**Since 2012, Lent in Southwark Cathedral has been accompanied by art installations which aim to make visitors to the Cathedral think and reflect.**

This year, internationally renowned artist Susie MacMurray is displaying a new work, 'Doubt', until Good Friday, 30 March. This new site specific installation is created in direct response to the Cathedral and its lofty spaces - and fills the volume

of air above the high altar sanctuary like a dark cloud.

Doubt was conceived through the connections of the weight of darkness and uncertainty suspended from above, and stems from a conversation Susie had with a soldier who had served in Afghanistan who spoke about feeling a dark weight hovering behind his neck all the time he was in the war zone.

A former classical musician, Susie retrained as an artist and now has an international exhibition profile, showing regularly in the USA and Europe as well as in the UK.

The Dean, Andrew Nunn, said: "Clouds feature a great deal in scripture and in the Christian tradition. Popular imagination might expect faith to be lived out in bright, clear sunshine, but from that moment when Moses climbed the holy mountain, shrouded in cloud, and experienced the presence of God, it has been a familiar experience and theme.

"The Gospel writers described a similar event in the Transfiguration of Jesus and as Jesus died on the cross the clouds brought night into day and the onlookers were plunged into darkness.

"The mediaeval mystical tradition in this country did not shy away from the cloud which can exist in the world of faith.

"In 'The Cloud of Unknowing', a 14th century book written anonymously, the writer says, *'Beat with a sharp dart of longing love upon this cloud of unknowing which is between you and your God.'*

"Susie MacMurray's installation draws us into this apophatic tradition. We recognise our doubts and sense the darkness but beat both *'with a sharp dart of longing love.'*"



## 'All Change' on the DAC

**Bishop Christopher and other guests joined members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee at a special lunch before**

**its February meeting to welcome Philip Fletcher as the new DAC Chair.**

Presentations were made to Paul Parkinson, who has

chaired the DAC for the past five years, and to the Revd Canon Dr John Thewlis, who has been an adviser for 26 years. Warm tributes were paid to them both.

Left to right are:

New Chair of the DAC, Philip Fletcher

Former Chair of the DAC, Paul Parkinson

The Revd Canon Dr John Thewlis, retiring as DAC Adviser after 26 years and (far left)

Bishop Christopher and the Chancellor of the Diocese, Philip Petchey



## St John's marks 25th anniversary of restoration

St John's, Dormansland, marked the 25th Anniversary of the restoration of the church following a devastating fire, with a weekend of celebrations on 27-28 January 2018.

It included an exhibition of pictures, artefacts and reminiscences from the fire and restoration, a concert centred on the church's new organ (installed following the fire), and a Service of Thanksgiving.

The fire took place on 26 October 1990, destroying the original pipe organ, stained glass windows and chancel roof, leaving it open to the elements. Firemen knocked a hole in the nave roof to prevent further damage.

The restoration project included replacing what was lost, casting a new floor slab, fitting a damp course, constructing a dais, installing a new organ and vestry, and conserving water-damaged fabrics and documents.

A replacement pipe organ was considered prohibitively expensive, and exceeded the insurance cover. However, thanks to the expertise of church member and organist Richard Williams, the restoration team were put in touch with Ernest Copeman Hart, who built 'the Rolls-Royce of electronic organs' at vastly cheaper cost.

The anniversary concert, entitled 'The Power and Pizzazz of the Organ', was led by internationally renowned organist and bass baritone Laurence Williams, a former organist and choir master at St John's, supported by his father Richard Williams and a chorus of professional singers and musicians (photo below).



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# Celebrating lay leaders lay ministry in Southw

**How is God calling us to live as disciples in the whole of our lives? That is the question being asked by a new advisory group set up to explore how best the Diocese can support and encourage those in the Church who are not ordained.**

One of Bishop Christopher's key priorities, as set out in Strategy for Ministry, is to empower the laity at every level of Diocesan life, and the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group (LL&LMAG) is central to taking this work forward.

"This is about culture change," says group chair Anne Deering.

"We're talking about a huge shift in focus, from inside the 'gathered' church to out in the world in the 'sent' church, in our Monday-to-Saturday lives. And this change needs to be embedded in everything we do."

The first stage of that shift is well under way. Since the end of last year, the LL&LMAG has been working with 20 pilot parishes to assess where the Diocese already stands in terms of lay leadership and lay ministry, gathering good news stories and information on what is currently working well.

The hope of the LL&LMAG is to find ways to show that people's service in the "sent" church is just as valuable as more church-based activities.

In the words of the Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, Director of Vocations and another member of the advisory group, "the aim is to re-energise the whole people of God in the Diocese, to make them realise that they are called, that they are valued, and that they have a life of discipleship".

## Whole-life discipleship

But living as a disciple of Jesus – at work, at the school gates, in the community – takes confidence. Part of the advisory group's work is to discover the best ways of supporting people in living out their faith on the front line. It will report on this to Diocesan Synod in July, with a view to trialling various ideas and recommendations.

Sharing best practice is already emerging as a theme. **Adam West**, one of the lay champions working on the project, whose church, Holy Trinity and St Matthias in Tulse Hill, runs many community projects including his own men's group, believes that communication is key.

He describes how a member of his congregation set up a group for people who were socially excluded: "It started small and it's been going for five or six years now. But it does need encouragement. I guess that's what having the pilot parishes is about: finding out how we got to where we are, and how we can help others to do that. And I'm sure there are things happening in other churches that we could learn from as well."

He also stresses the need for lay people to be given the freedom to step up to leadership roles because, "actually, that's what we're called to. We're called to do the stuff Jesus would do if he were here in physical form. It's what Christian worship should be about, doing those things that need doing."

## Out in the world

Hundreds of people in the Diocese are already getting on with just that. Over at Guy's and St Thomas', for example, scores of chaplains and pastoral assistants offer support to the 15,000-plus staff, as well as thousands of the patients who



Croydon Refugee Day Centre



pass through the hospital's doors each year. **Rosy Skinner**, at 81, is the longest serving chaplain there, having started in the mid-1990s alongside one full-time chaplain and one other volunteer.

These days, she visits patients in a rehabilitation centre in Brixton, most of whom are elderly people who have had falls or strokes. She offers to pray with them if they wish, or just keeps them company, and sometimes finds herself comforting friends and relatives who can be distressed by the changes in their loved ones.

Rosy is trained as a Reader and preaches at Holy Trinity

Clapham once a term but says that she feels more called to minister from the pews than the pulpit. "I find that lay leadership is really important to me, because my father was a priest, my brother was a priest. I just feel that I can do far more being a part of the congregation and talking to people. I've always wanted to do ministry out in the world."

In a hotel in South Croydon, meanwhile, **Rosie Edser** spends every Wednesday running a school for between nine and 10 refugee children under the umbrella of the Croydon Refugee Day Centre. The hotel is one of two in the area where



Andrea Campanale & Sacred Space

recent arrivals are housed while they wait to hear the outcome of their asylum applications.

The difficulty at first was finding somewhere to hold it. The families were struggling to get their hands on the three things they needed to travel: buggies, warm coats and Oystercards. But Rosie worked on her relationship with the hotel manager and had a breakthrough. "They decided to let us meet there in the hotel itself. There's no communal space that we can hire, but on their good will we can go in the dining room."

Now the group meets to do maths and English, and to play games and do jigsaws. "They love jigsaws," says Rosie. "I had an 18-year-old Eritrean boy the other day who said, 'Please, please can I do this Thomas the Tank Engine jigsaw,' just because he was intrigued – he'd never met one before."

Rosie and her fellow volunteers provide a service that is badly needed but, she says, they get just as much out of it. "Sometimes they hear a siren and they immediately flinch and start cringing, thinking that there's about to be shooting. And it's kind of a privilege to go, 'Welcome to England, you're safe.' Most of the time you're



the first friendly face they've seen since they arrived."

Work on the fringes of the church can come in many forms. **Andrea Campanale** is lay pioneer leader of the Sacred Space community in Kingston, a core community of about 12 people who seek to find new ways of being Good News in the community.

Sacred Space have set up stalls at Kingston University freshers' fairs, helping students to think about their wellbeing in terms of body, mind and spirit. They visit steam punk fairs several times a year, where they seek to build relationships and offer to pray with people. They also attend New Age fairs, which is where Andrea's calling began, when she first became aware of an interest



## Jean Grima and Lotwina Farodoye: Springfield Job Club

Now in its second quarter, the Springfield Job Club has already helped two people into employment and provided fellowship for dozens more on the Roundshaw estate in Sutton.

Led by Jean and Lotwina, the job club is a Christians

Against Poverty project, one of the organisation's 156 such clubs across the UK. CAP provided the training and Jean made the contacts, persuading the landlord at the Roundshaw estate to give Springfield free use of its community hall once a week.

Lotwina says: "I had always wanted to set up a job club, so when a year ago Jean mentioned this CAP job club that she wanted to start my heart just rejoiced."

The format is simple: each week, Jean or Lotwina tutor on a different subject, such

as CV writing or interview skills, and then everyone sits down to a meal. Jean says: "I think that's one of the unique selling points of CAP: we offer friendship and emotional support as well as helping people with various skills."

Lotwina adds: "Some of the people who come to job club, they're so broken in terms of their self-esteem that it's heart-breaking. Just having a chat, having a meal and people to befriend them, can really uplift their spirits."

And it seems to work. One of the previous participants,

who had suffered abuse and was trying to put her life back together again, said: "Thank you for bringing joy and laughter and nice company into my life."

And it is not just the job club participants who are empowered. Springfield is "an enabling church", says Lotwina. She and Jean were encouraged to take their idea and run with it. "This is all lay-led," adds Jean. "We don't have any clergy input at all except for their encouragement and support. It's the Springfield way."





# Ship and ark Diocese

in spirituality that was in the culture and felt that this might be a way of engaging people in conversations about Christianity.

Being outside the mainstream can sometimes be challenging, but whether you are in a more traditional or a fresh expression of church,

Andrea says, "we're all on the same side and we want the same thing".

## A new use of church

Traditional churches are also being used in a new way around the Diocese, revitalising the space between services.

One such project, the Home Community Café, is run by **Meg Fry** in St Andrew's Earlsfield.

Meg conceived the idea about three years ago and was looking for a retail unit that would be big enough to run a going concern but couldn't find one cheap enough.

Eventually, she was approached to use St Andrew's. Initially she was uncertain – "I wanted the café to be open to everyone in the community, and I wondered if it being in a church might put people off" – but soon she began to see the huge benefits and the café opened four months ago.

"I thought, what would it look like to put the space right at the heart of the community? Churches are often the biggest structures in our communities, but they can be underutilised."

Now, the café runs six days a week and is popular with mums, older people and anyone needing a chat.

Home is already putting on a number of events designed to draw in the local community, from a subsidised craft club for children to "Beer and Carols" at Christmas. There is also a "pay-it-forward" supper club, where the cost of your dinner goes towards a free meal for a refugee or someone using a food bank.



"It's been a baptism of fire," says Meg. "I've lost about two stone. But the benefits of what you get from this as an individual and a group are just fantastic."

Her work in the community is key for **Caroline Levitt**, too.

One of the Diocese's 50 employed children's and youth workers, she works part-time at St Mark's, Kennington. Much of her work is outward-facing, such as encouraging children at the local church school to come up with prayer ideas – one of the most recent was to give out prayer party bags at the school fair.

"We put out a sweet, a memory verse and a small toy and we suggested a way of thinking about that toy and that sweet in relation to a prayer based on the verse."

She feels that St Mark's place at the heart of the community further helps to boost the church's popularity among parents – sometimes up to 35 or 40 children attend Sunday services.

"There's a farmer's market that happens in our churchyard every Saturday, so we run Messy Church partly within that. When the weather's warm we do something outside, and the vicar always stands outside whether it's cold or not, and then people are invited in off the back of that."

"I think there's something quite community-like about the way we work. We have a Christians Against Poverty ministry and we work the local food bank and we run a Robes project. There's a sense of familiarity, perhaps."

Over in Woolwich, meanwhile, volunteers from Christ Church Greenwich staff the Winter Night Shelter one night a week. **Charles Medhurst**, now 92 and a lifelong member of Christ Church, has been volunteering there for several years. "We get to the church at about 6pm and we inflate all the mattresses and put duvet covers on the duvets, which is a job in itself. We set out the chairs so they've all got a little cubicle, and during the evening they're served dinner, and anybody who wants a shower can go and have one."

The volunteers work in shifts – 6pm to 10pm, overnight and from 6am, when they cook breakfast. Over the three months they build up relationships with the people staying, who tend to come regularly unless they are rehoused.

When he's not at the night shelter, Charles lends a hand wherever he's needed. "I've been doing the flower arranging for many years because nobody else was doing it. Most of the jobs I do are like that. Until last year I ran the FairTrade stall too."



## John Goddard: Merton Street Pastors

John has been coordinating the work of Merton Street Pastors since 2010, looking after the volunteers and patrolling the streets of Mitcham, Wimbledon and Morden alongside them on Friday nights from 10pm to 3am.

The aim of Street Pastors is to care, to listen and to help, he says. "We often find it's not about what we're trying to say, it's about listening to that person and asking how their life is going and finding out what their situation is and then helping if we can."

That help can take all kinds of forms – it may be offering to pray for someone, giving out details of homeless drop-in services to people sleeping rough, or helping a drunk reveller to get home.

"It might be that we talk to someone for a long time about a problem," says John. "Or it might be that we find ladies walking barefoot at the end of the night and give them flip-flops – sometimes we're called the flip-flop angels."

The one thing to remember, he says, is that God is at work through this. "One of our teams got chatting to a lady in Morden and she sent me a message later saying she had been positively impacted by it, and she was going to bed with peace in her heart and a smile on her face."

"She'd shared some of her troubles with the team and

they were able to spend time with her and minister to her and make a difference to her that night."

John's journey into Street Pastors wasn't straightforward. He tried to explore his vocation within the Church of England but wasn't recommended to train as a priest at a Bishop's Advisory Panel. However, he says, "I still felt God pushing me, or asking me, to walk in the direction of ministry in some form."

He continued writing computer programs for a living, but a year later he got the role with Street Pastors.

"I really feel a calling to help the church work in unity and to transform the community,"

John says. "It's really easy to see God's hand at work in drawing me out of the computer world."

## Leadership in action

**Karen Waple**, from Christ Church South Nutfield and another lay champion, has also experienced the positive benefits

of taking on new challenges. She has worked with children's groups, been on the PCC and is now the pastoral team coordinator. But one of her biggest tests is getting up to

preach. "People say, 'Oh, you sound really confident.' Well, no, I'm not at all. I am very nervous," she says, "but it's a good thing to get involved in. It makes you feel part of the community."

Plus, she says, it has inspired others: "A couple of people have said to me when I've led a service, 'Well, if you can do it I can do it.'"

Clearly, leadership doesn't necessarily look the way you expect it to, as **Busola Ade Ojo** of St John's Deptford discovered when she took part in the Whole Life Worship series.

St John's has a very active congregation – the church's mission statement is "everyone a worshipper, everyone a minister and everyone a missionary". Even so, Busola and her fellow students found it eye-opening when the leader of the training put up photographs of the people with a role at St John's and asked whether or not they saw them as ministers too.

"It just gave us a greater understanding of what worshipping God is," she says. "We don't see the people that work in the church as ministers normally, you just think it's the reverend who is. But every single person who plays a part in that church is a minister."

**CONTINUES OVERLEAF**

Home Community Cafe at St Andrew's Church, Earlsfield





# Celebrating lay leadership and lay ministry in Southwark Diocese... *continued*

The discipleship course, Fruitfulness on the Frontline, gave **Lis Vernon**, of St Paul's Kingston, a renewed sense of how her faith could support her in the workplace. She is part of the directorate for student services at Kingston University, and her job is to support students with money and debt issues.

At the time the university was going through far-reaching changes in the organisational structure and morale was very low. Lis was feeling drained, until one of the sessions really struck a chord: "One of the things that struck me was the reference to the tree planted by the river from Psalm 1. It didn't wither but it bore fruit, while God's people produced only sour grapes. I was reminded that being fruitful was all about abiding in the vine, and I wondered how I could bear fruit in my

workplace." Fruitfulness on the Frontline gave Lis a practical place to start living out her faith in the workplace.

For **Ruth Ruse**, also at St Paul's, it came as she was deciding what to do in her retirement. She now works with one of the church's four mother-toddler groups and is also involved with the church school, reading one-to-one with children and accompanying the Year 6s on visits to a school for severely disabled pupils.

"There's a strapline from Fruitfulness on the Frontline, 'Make a difference wherever you are'," says Ruth. "I think for me that was the particular challenge: I don't just have to be sharing the Gospel in a more specific way. I can be a Christian and show my faith in all sorts of ways, and that's what I'm trying to do in the context in which I volunteer."

## Building on ministry

In addition to discipleship and leadership, lay ministry is also under the spotlight, with the Diocese planning to significantly increase and diversify the current range of licensed and commissioned ministries on offer, and to affirm and celebrate the variety of ministries that are already in existence.

It's about continuing to value the Readers, SPAs and Church Army evangelists that the Diocese already has and extending that recognition to others, showing that everyone's work for the Kingdom is equally important, whether they are clergy or youth workers, street pastors or pioneers.

In the words of the Diocesan Director of Vocations, "We want to work out the best way of discerning and enabling lay ministries to flourish so that everyone can fulfil their God-given potential and calling, and become the person they were created to be."

One of this invisible army of volunteers is **Rosemary Hill**, Reader at St John with St Andrew, Peckham. She has been a mainstay of the Church for 20 years, operating as PCC Secretary, running an ecumenical discussion group and more.

It stems from her family history of service, she says: "My father was a churchwarden and local councillor and would bend over backwards to make things right for other people. And we would joke that whenever anyone had trouble in our village, my mother would take Marigolds (rubber gloves) and go and cook, clean or look after."

Even so, it took her years to find her vocation as a Reader: "I'm a bit like Jonah. I ran away from it for donkeys' years." It wasn't until she had left her job in adult education and joined the Children's Society that she realised where God might be leading her. "You can almost see that I fell into it, really. I think I fell in the water and I got thrown up by the whale."

Since being licensed, Rosemary has valued the ongoing support of her vicar and a mentoring scheme she took part in several years ago. "I think that is very useful," she says, "having someone to go to perhaps every 18 months, to say, 'Well, this is what I'm doing. What more can I do, or what less can I do?' Because I think that's one of the issues – actually knowing when to do less, so you can try to empower others to take over the roles you've been doing."

Children and families worker **Rachel Gardner** (right) also values the external support she gets. She is employed by St Peter's Woodmansterne and is part of the Reigate Deanery



## Captain Nicholas Lebey: Thamesmead youth work

Nicholas was commissioned as a Church Army evangelist in 2013 and is now in full-time ministry as a pioneer youth evangelist in Thamesmead. With his team of 12 volunteers, he runs several youth groups a week, each with different themes.

Friday night is an activity-based youth club with a "God slot" to share a thought for the day or testimony on coming to faith. They have also recently launched Tuesday Chill, a youth café and prayer room, "so it will have a bit of social and spiritual dimension," says Nicholas.

In addition, they have a family and youth church, and hold youth church away weekends in West Sussex



and a summer camp at Soul Survivor.

The work isn't always easy. Thamesmead is a poor area with problems of social deprivation, poverty and drug-dealing. "We've seen [problems] increase in terms of the young people being led into the drugs thing," says Nicholas. "And we've also seen a number of young people dropping out of mainstream education." He'd like to do more for young people aged 18-plus, but time and money are both tight.

But there are positives, too – for example, the dedication of his volunteers: "Some of them come on Friday night straight from work to the youth club to volunteer before going home, so that's a huge, huge commitment on their part," says Nicholas. He has watched them grow in

confidence, like the woman who began as the treasurer but was eventually persuaded to volunteer on Friday night "and has been there ever since. She realised that with a bit of encouragement and support she can do it."

And, of course, there is the joy when young people in his charge come to God. Last summer, three young people came to faith. "I asked the team vicar, Jonathan Macy, to baptise them and it was a lovely service because their families were there. It was a wonderful service."

Photo: Bishop Christopher, with Nick and some of the young people at an event celebrating the 50th Anniversary of William Temple Church building – the building used for the Sunday night youth Church.

## Cath Mitchenall and Pauline Simpson: Open Door drop-in centre

Four years ago, Cath, Pauline and the other members of the Christ Church Gipsy Hill Community Action Group canvassed the local community to find the areas of greatest need. Social isolation, debt and financial difficulties topped the list, and so the Open Door drop-in centre was born.

The centre opens every Tuesday, offering tea, coffee, companionship and a meal. In addition, a trained member of the congregation can provide benefits advice and help people with appeals and form-filling.

The majority of the regulars are single men over 50, says Cath.

"We've found that there are a lot of single guys out there who are just a bit socially excluded, perhaps with mental health or substance abuse problems, quite lonely and a bit lost."

Open Door offers them a space to chat, to play table tennis and sometimes to pray – "we build up relationships with people," says Cath, "so you tell if someone's got something that's particularly troubling them, and there have been opportunities to pray with people."

Primarily, though, it's a place to give practical help, and, as Pauline says, "It meets a need within the community, and is clearly something that's valued by the people who come."



children and youth group set up by Diocesan consultant Hugh Ridsdill-Smith. "I think it has been a really helpful network," she says. "People say they value talking about what's working well or the challenges they're facing, and chatting it through with others who are going through similar things."

Like Rosemary, Rachel took

a while to find her vocation, and applied for the role only at the fourth time of asking. "I just woke up and I felt like God was saying, 'if they haven't found anyone, actually you're meant to be doing this.'"

The hope of the advisory group is that, ultimately, everyone in the Diocese will be able to find how they are called,

whether that is in a traditional lay role or forging a new path in the community.

As Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin concludes: "Minute by minute, day by day, we are all called to what it means to be a Christian, which isn't always easy. Lay leadership is not about who does what in church, it's about whole-life discipleship."

**The Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group will report to the Diocesan Synod in July.**

**If you have been inspired by any of these stories to take part in the consultation or volunteer to undertake a pilot study, or if you simply want to share your views, contact the advisory group through Charles Hudson-Beddows, Assistant Secretary to the Diocesan Synod, at [charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:charles.hudson-beddows@southwark.anglican.org)**





# Lay Champions reception

Lay Champions from all pilot parishes were invited to a recent reception at Bishop's House as a 'thank you' for their involvement in the project and an opportunity for Lay Champions from different parishes to get to know each other.

The event was also an ideal opportunity to hear what practical activities are taking place across the churches of the Diocese as well as to share ideas for future actions.

In his address, Bishop Christopher highlighted the importance of the lay champions, and praised the 'fantastic lay leadership in all our communities' - noting that our work needs to be 'led by the spirit' and that 'Christ is the one who calls'.



# St Augustine's College celebrates its students

Southwark Cathedral provided the backdrop for St Augustine's College of Theology's Celebration of Awards. In his sermon, the Very Revd

Andrew Nunn quoted Paul's second letter to Timothy, 'I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and your

mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.' 'We know nothing about these women, save their names and the part they played in

making Christ known; that faithfulness enduring in Timothy and in those he, in turn, inspired. A humble witness that doesn't seek acclaim for itself but for the working of God's love'. This was the ministry the Dean prayed the students would emulate.

During the service, students - lay readers, independent students, ordinands and curates - were presented by the Revd Dr Simon Stocks and given certificates by the Revd Dr Alan Gregory, Principal of St Augustine's.

If you are interested in theological study, St Augustine's offers courses from Certificate level up to Master's Degree at Southwark and West Malling. There are also short courses and workshops, open to everyone. Details are available from 01732 252656 [www.staugustinescollege.ac.uk](http://www.staugustinescollege.ac.uk).



# Sue Atkinson to run her 10th Marathon

Sue Atkinson, Bishop David's wife, will be running her tenth marathon on 22 April - in London.

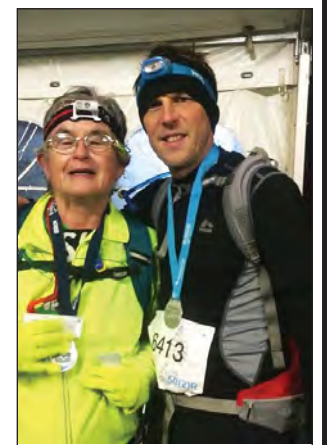
She has taken part in the London Marathon before several times, and also Edinburgh and North Kent.

Two years ago Sue 'celebrated' her 70th birthday by running the 100k (63 miles) Thames Path Challenge, from Putney Bridge to Henley on Thames to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Care.

She was joined by her son-in-law for the second half (photo right).

She has run for various charities including Christian Aid, but most of her sponsorship has been for NSPCC. Sue has a passionate concern for ChildLine - the phone service set up by Dame Esther Rantzen to help and support abused children.

If you would like to support Sue in what is likely to be her last marathon (given the punishment she has been giving her knees!), please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sue-atkinson3>





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Inside this specially crafted edition you will find a simple guide to Easter, an olive wood holding cross keyring from the Holy Land, an orange milk chocolate bar (80g), and a luxury milk chocolate egg (200g). 35% cocoa - Palm Oil free.





## March

Last month I mentioned the biggest commemoration of this

year and one that we have been keeping as a nation and as a Diocese for the last four years, the centenary of the end of the First World War.

But in March 1918 the war was not over and battles were still being fought. The month of March saw what are known as the Spring Offensives and the German army making some significant gains.

It must have seemed as if all was being lost as far as the Allies were concerned.

But in fact this was the beginning of the end and things would change.

Back in 1650 the writer, Thomas Fuller, said 'It is always darkest just before the Day dawneth.' That is the inspiration behind the title of the recently released film about a later wartime leader, Winston Churchill, 'The Darkest Hour'.

It could be true in war-torn France, it could be true for Churchill, it can be true for us – 'It is always darkest before the dawn'.

Perhaps it was for Jesus, it certainly was for the disciples and as we remember the events of Holy Week at the end of this month we go through the darkness with them.

That is why the church has always gathered in Vigil on Easter morning, before the dawn breaks, in that darkest moment, to see the light victorious over the darkness.

When life is at its darkest remember the dawn is just below the horizon.

**Jesus, dawn into our darkness, illuminate our lives with light, hope and peace, with life that never ends and which the darkness cannot overcome. Amen.**



The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

Please follow me on Twitter as I offer a prayer each morning so that you can join me in Morning Prayer. Go to @deansouthwark

# Bach as he wrote it...

Bach's St Matthew Passion, first performed in Leipzig on Good Friday 1727, remains one of the most monumental and inspiring musical works of all time. Yet for many years after Bach's death, it was neglected, until Felix Mendelssohn resurrected it in 1828.

## Martin Neary writes

I first fell under the spell of the *St Matthew Passion* when, in my teenage years, I



was overwhelmed on hearing it at the Royal Festival Hall. Twenty years later, in 1978 at Winchester Cathedral, I directed the first complete performance in the UK using baroque instruments.

The specialist players helped recreate the sounds for which Bach was composing.

These are the sounds we shall be hearing at St Michael and All Angels on Sunday, 11 March, when, as part of the Barnes Music Festival, the English Chamber Singers and the St Michael's Choir will be accompanied by period instrumentalists in what may well be the first such performance in Barnes.

The Ripieno choir, which sings the first and last chorales of part 1, will be the exceptional Tiffin Boys' Choir.

Bach's Passions, however, are not only about the music; a Passion is also a ritual. In the *St Matthew Passion* the chorus of Choir 1 represents the disciples, Choir 2 the wider company of believers and the

two choirs together the crowd.

In the course of the unfolding drama there are in the arias, moments of sublime contemplation, provided by the soloists and instrumentalists; there is also the essential element of audience participation, through the singing of the chorales, many of which have become familiar to English congregations.

The outstanding team of soloists will be led by tenor Robert Murray as the Evangelist, with Laurence Williams as Jesus, Colette Boushell (soprano), Elspeth Marrow (contralto), Magnus Walker (tenor) and Michael Ronan (bass), who also sings the part of Pilate.

The performance begins at 6.00 pm. At 7.15 pm there will be an interval of 45 minutes, for which you are invited to bring simple picnics; the bar in the Community Centre will also be open. Tickets are £40, £30 reserved and £20, £15 unreserved from [barnesmusicfestival.com](http://barnesmusicfestival.com)

# New Chair for USPG

**John Neilson, Secretary of Imperial College London, will be the next Chair of the Trustees of USPG; United Society Partners in the Gospel.**

He will succeed Canon Chris Chivers, Principal of Westcott House Cambridge, whose six year term will finish in July.

Commenting on his appointment John said: "I am excited to be asked to lead the USPG Trustees at such an important time to be improving partnerships across the worldwide Anglican community. I would like to pay tribute to the outstanding service which Chris Chivers has given to USPG over many years."

John Neilson studied mathematics at Corpus Christi College Cambridge. He then worked in Whitehall for over thirty years. Six years ago he became Secretary of Imperial College London.

John worships at St Mary's Church, Wimbledon. After being churchwarden of the Parish of Wimbledon, he has just completed a ten year term on the Audit Committee of the Archbishops' Council.



## APOLOGY

The special 'senior' run Christmas Fayre in Streatham publicised in last month's Bridge is a Mission Action Planning project by Streatham parishes. It is not connected with Project for Seniors and Life-long Ministry (PSALM), which might have been suggested by the description of the author, St Leonard's churchwarden Ann Morisy as PSALM Development Officer (a separate role).



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# Governing Body Clerking

**Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Multi-Academy Trust (SDBE MAT) are looking at different ways to support its schools.**

One of the ways being considered is by offering a governor clerking service to all Academies within the Trust.

Mark Burnett, Chief Operating Officer said, "School governors

are extremely important to us and we want to work closer with our schools' governing bodies, support them in driving standards and share best practice across our family of schools.

"It will also provide a means to ensure compliance, share important information quickly and allow us to hear all the great success stories happening across the Trust.

"We would really like to hear from anybody who has clerking experience and who would be interested in working with the Trust to deliver a clerking service for our schools.

For an informal chat about this opportunity, please e-mail: [mark.burnett@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:mark.burnett@southwark.anglican.org)

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[www.csmv.co.uk](http://www.csmv.co.uk)





# WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for **APRIL ONWARDS** to Trinity House  
**BY MONDAY 12 MARCH**

## Ongoing

- \* **BEDDINGTON** - Quiet @St Mary's - 3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm. Various tools for quiet including labyrinth
- \* **BOROUGH** - St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm to 4.30 pm. Meet people, get advice, help one another
- \* **ELTHAM** - Sing with an orchestra. Hymns, light classics, popular standards 3pm last Sunday each month (not Aug or Dec.) Eltham Pk Methodist Ch.

- † **HACKBRIDGE** - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month
- \* **KEW** - Homemade cakes and teas 3-5pm on Sundays at St Anne's Church.  
**Suspended - until May (building works)**
- \* **WARLINGHAM** - Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday
- † **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington - Shona Mass, Second Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm

## March

### Thinking about the Christian Faith:

#### Lent talks in the South Croydon Benefice

- Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm at St Augustine's Church. Admission free; tea and coffee served from 7pm
- 1 March; What worship means to me - The Very Revd Andrew Nunn
- 8 March; Why I share Good News - Bishop Karowei
- 15 March; Why I read the Bible - The Venerable Chris Skilton
- 22 March; Why I pray - Bishop Christopher

#### Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill

- Thursdays at 1.10 pm
- 1 Recital - Theresa Yu (Piano)
- 8 Recital - Hannah Hever (Carinet) w Javier Morillas (Viola) & Tereza Stachova (Piano)
- 15 River City Saxes - "Four Centuries for Four Saxes"
- 22 Chalumeaux Clarinet Quartet

#### Friday 2 March

- † **NEW CROSS** - Women's World Day of Prayer Service 7.30pm, St James' Church. 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' - service from Suriname

#### Lunchtime Concerts at Croydon Minster

- Fridays at 1.10pm
- 2 Michelle Candotti (Piano)
- 9 Alexa Campiglia (Cello), Ezgi Sarikciog (Violin), Daniel Ruizhur (Piano)
- 16 Students from Whitgift School
- 23 Monasterium - new young professional vocal ensemble
- Free event - donations requested.

#### Saturday 3 March

- ♫ **CROYDON** - Come and Sing Handel's Four Coronation Anthems. Choral workshop and informal evening performance at St Matthew's Church with the Croydon Bach Choir. 10am until 6pm. Pre-registration and payment is essential at <http://www.croydonbachchoir.org/events/>

#### Tuesday 6 March

- ♫ **KEW** - 'Climate Change and A Faithful Christian Response' a conversation between Bp David Atkinson & Fr Nicholas King, SJ (Churches Together in Kew event) at The Barn Church, Atwood Avenue. 7.45pm - 9.15pm

#### Wednesday 7 March

- ♫ **CATERHAM** - Munch with Music at St John's Church, Caterham Valley. Trinity Laban Chamber Musicians (Piano, Violin and 'Cello). Admission Free - Donations welcome. Tea/Coffee from 12:15. performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Bring your own 'Munch'

#### Saturday 10 March

- ♫ **REIGATE** - 'Musical Reflections' by the Reigate and Redhill Choral Society. 7.30pm at St Mary's Church

#### Sunday 11 March

- ♫ **DULWICH** - Organ Recital by Richard Hobson at Christ's Chapel, Dulwich College - 7.45pm. Admission free
- ♫ **DULWICH** - Concordia Chamber Choir Spring Concert - 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Lovelace Road. Poulenc's Gloria & 4 Motets and works by Debussy, Messiaen & Stravinsky. Tickets £12 at the door, or £11 in advance from [www.concordiachamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.concordiachamberchoir.co.uk). (Concs available)

- ♫ **BARNES** - Bach's St Matthew Passion at St Michael's Church at 6 pm. The English Chamber Singers, soloists and the St Michael's Choir will be accompanied by period instrumentalists. At 7.15 there will be a 45 minute interval (bring simple picnic). Tickets: £40, £30 reserved, £20, £15 unreserved from the [barnesmusicfestival.com](http://barnesmusicfestival.com)

#### Wed 14 March

- ♫ **ST PANCRAS** - 'Will you still need me, will you still feed me - when I'm 84?' Lecture by Ven Chris Skilton (Archdeacon of Croydon), and discussion on re-imagining the churches' provision for older members. 5 pm at St Pancras Church, Euston Road. Details from Ann at [psalm@stpancraschurch.org](mailto:psalm@stpancraschurch.org)

#### Saturday 17 March

- ♫ **BIRMINGHAM** - USPG Conference - Rethinking Mission: Living in a Religiously Diverse World 9.30am - 3pm, Birmingham Cathedral. £10 (concs £5) inc. lunch. Registration: <http://bit.ly/2FWAts3>

- ♫ **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - Verdi Requiem sung by Eltham Choral Society, West Barnes Singers and Wimbledon Youth Choir with orchestra and soloists. 7.30pm. Tickets: £20, £15, £12 & £10. From [www.elthamchoral.org.uk](http://www.elthamchoral.org.uk), [www.westbarnessingers.co.uk](http://www.westbarnessingers.co.uk) or on the door.

- ♫ **NEW CROSS** - Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius presented by Lewisham Choral Society. 7:30 pm in Goldsmiths Great Hall. Info from [www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk)

- \* **SANDERSTEAD** - Exhibition and Sale of Pictures by Local Artists in aid of the Children's Society. 10am - 4.30pm URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill. 20% of all profits go towards the Society. Cakes and preserves, tea and coffee and raffle

#### Sunday 18 March

- ♫ **DORMANSLAND** - the A to Z of Musical Theatre 6.30pm at St John's Church. Sam and Naomi Hiller, with friends, perform a feast of showstoppers. Tickets £15 from Wendy Rose 01342 870681 or Myra Keats 01342 835820



## #LIVELENT LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

#LiveLent - Let Your Light Shine takes you on a six week discipleship journey through the Gospel of John, exploring what it means to be a witness.

For each day there is a short reading, a pause for reflection and prayer, and an idea for a simple action that will enable the light of Jesus to shine through our everyday lives.

- You can receive the daily reflections by texting Lent to 88802 or following #LiveLent on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, where they are posted daily.
- A 112p full-colour printed book #LiveLent: Let Your Light Shine is available from Church House Publishing ([www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/live-lent](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/live-lent)) at £2.99

[www.churchofengland.org/lent](http://www.churchofengland.org/lent)

- † **EAST DULWICH** - Sung Evensong, led by the Choir, at St John's Church, 6.00pm followed by a short organ recital by Andrew Chadney, (St Stephen's, Norbury). All welcome.
- ♫ **OXTED** - Fauré "Requiem" performed by Oxted and Limpsfield Choral Society, 7pm at Oxted URC

#### Wednesday 21 March

- ♫ **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group 4 to 5 pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. Discussion of Amoris laetitia - Pope Francis's encyclical on the family

#### Friday 23 March & Sunday 25 March

- ♫ **WATERLOO** - Verdi's Luisa Miller sung by Midsummer Opera soloists, chorus and orchestra at St John's Church. Friday at 7pm and Sunday at 5pm. Tickets: Friday £27 & £25 (concs); Sunday £27. Children £10. Advanced booking 020 7652 0070 or [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

#### Saturday 24 March

- ♫ **CROYDON** - Croydon Bach Choir Spring Concert at St Mary Magdalene Church, 7.30pm. Dvorák's Mass in D and Gounod's St Cecilia Mass. Tickets £12 (children £5) from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir)

#### Monday 26 March

- \* **BALHAM** - 'The Devils Passion' a play by Justin Butcher, at St Mary & St John Church 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (£10 for u/18s, f/t students & unwaged) from Brown Paper Tickets; 0800 411 8881.

#### Friday 30 March

- † **BETCHWORTH** - Good Friday Readings and Music for Passiontide 8pm at St Michael's Church

#### Saturday 31 March

- \* **SELSDON** - Messy Easter Session from 10am-12noon at St John's Church Hall. Inc light snack for the children

## April

#### Wednesday 18 April

- ♫ **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group 4 to 5 pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. - Dr Helen Costigane (Heythrop College)

#### Thursday 19 April

- ♫ **CHELSEA** - Getting ready for the Spirit: Making the most of liturgy from Ascension to Pentecost, including the opportunities of "Thy Kingdom Come". PRAXIS day 10.30am - 3.30pm at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street W3. The cost £20; £15 for affiliate members. No charge for ordinands, readers or others in training. Details from: [http://www.praxisworship.org.uk/praxis\\_south.html](http://www.praxisworship.org.uk/praxis_south.html)

#### Saturday 21 April

- ♫ **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - St Andrew's Cathedral School from Sydney in concert at 2pm to celebrate ANZAC Day.
- ♫ **REIGATE** - Organ concert at St Mary's Church at 7.30 pm to celebrate the restoration of the Norman and Beard organ. Free but please book via [www.stmaryreigate.org](http://www.stmaryreigate.org)

### Triduum Services at St Michael's Croydon

#### Maundy Thursday

8pm Mass of the Last Supper and Vigil at the Altar of Repose until Midnight

#### Good Friday

1.30pm The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death

#### Holy Saturday

8.30pm The Easter Vigil

*The Principal Celebrant and Preacher at these services will be the Bishop of Fulham.*

*The Vicar will be in Church to hear confessions at 11am on Monday and Wednesday in Holy Week and on Good Friday*

**St Michael & All Angels**  
**Poplar Walk, Croydon, CR0 1UA**  
[www.stmichaelscroydon.com](http://www.stmichaelscroydon.com)





# CofE issues Lent Plastic Challenge

**The Church of England has issued a Lent challenge to churches and congregations to give up single-use plastics – to reduce the actions which damage God's Creation.**

'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'

*The Anglican Communion Fifth Mark of Mission.*

Over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced since the 1950s. That's enough plastic to cover every inch of

the UK ankle-deep more than ten times over. Just 9% was recycled. A lot ends up in the sea... where by 2050 we could have more plastic than fish (by weight).

The 'Lent Plastic Challenge' has daily suggestions on how to cut down your use of single-use plastics – go to [http://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/plastic\\_free\\_lent.pdf](http://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/plastic_free_lent.pdf)

## Make your voice heard

- Share your journey with others on the Plastic-Less Lent Facebook Group
- Share what you are doing with friends, family and community
- Ask your MP what they are doing to tackle single use plastics
- Join the UN Clean Seas campaign & Greenpeace Plastic Pledge
- Find out your own plastic footprint
- Call on supermarkets for a Plastic Free Aisle

## Bishop to lead two Autumn pilgrimages

Bishop Christopher will lead a nine-day pilgrimage to Armenia on behalf of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association from 24 September to 2 October. He will be joined by Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of Armenian Churches in the United Kingdom.

Highlights of the tour will include Echmiadzin, the spiritual centre of the nation, Sevan, one of the world's largest fresh-water mountain lakes, and the capital

Yerevan. The group will visit monuments from the earliest days of Christianity and from the Middle Ages.

The cost is £1,345 per person (full board) sharing twin-bedded accommodation and including entrance fees and gratuities. Single rooms are available at an extra charge. For information contact the Revd Andrei Petrine, 38 Claremont Road, Basildon SS15 5PZ. Tel : 07723 026925 or e-mail: [pater@me.com](mailto:pater@me.com)

Then from 8 – 12 October Bishop Christopher will lead a pilgrimage reflecting on the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It begins in Berlin at his parent's home and takes in key sites associated with the plot to overthrow Hitler. They will visit the Jewish Memorial to the Holocaust, and Flossenbug where Bonhoeffer was executed.

Details can be had from the Revd Charles Bradshaw, 39 Mill Lane, Hurst Green RH8 9DF.

## The Parish Support Fund and Southwark Vision - 2018 meetings

There's still time to join in one of the meetings about the Parish Support Fund

- to share and celebrate the good news stories from around the Diocese;
- to become more familiar with our Diocesan aims and objectives for the coming years



Date/time	Archdeaconry	Venue
<b>Thurs 1 March</b>	<b>Reigate</b> (11 for 11.30am – 1pm)	St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green, Church Way, RH8 9EA
<b>Mon 5 March</b>	<b>Croydon</b> (10 for 10.30am – 12)	Croydon Area Office, St Matthew's House, 100 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1PJ
<b>Tues 6 March</b>	<b>Southwark</b> (7 for 7.30pm – 9pm)	All Saints, Peckham, Blenheim Grove, Peckham, SE15 4QS
<b>Thurs 8 March</b>	<b>Wandsworth</b> (7 for 7.30pm – 9pm)	St Mark, Battersea Rise, Battersea Rise, SW11 1EJ
<b>Mon 12 March</b>	<b>Lewisham &amp; Greenwich</b> (7 for 7.30pm – 9pm)	St James, Kidbrooke, Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3 0DU

If you can't attend the meeting in your Archdeaconry, you will be welcome on any of the other dates. All meetings will follow a similar pattern, being one and a half hours long with refreshments beforehand.

To give us some idea of numbers, it would be helpful if you could let us know if you are attending by email to [psf@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:psf@southwark.anglican.org) or by phone to the Parish Giving Communications Officer, Gabby Parikh on 020 7939 9438.



## Thy Kingdom Come

10-20 May 2018

Join the global call to prayer this Pentecost



Log on to [southwark.anglican.org/tkc](http://southwark.anglican.org/tkc) to:

- Download free resources
- Order free copies of prayer postcards and prayers for workers by 26 March 2018
- Apply for prayer grants of up to £100
- Find out what's happening in the Diocese

**Hearts on Fire**  
with a Vision for growth



The Diocese of Southwark

## The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2018



During the weeks of Lent we will bring you more information about and from the people and places in Southwark, the Holy Land and Zimbabwe for whom we are raising money this year.

<https://southwarklentcall.com>