

## Tidings of hope

Bishop Christopher shares his Easter message

See page 2



## Lenten journey

Lambeth North Deanery's eight-mile Passion Trail

See page 4



## Eternal beauty

Meet the priest photographing England's Cathedrals

See pages 6-7



# Parishes discover “beautiful sense of community” on Day of Reflection

**On Tuesday 23 March, along with churches up and down the country, Southwark parishes stopped at midday to mark the first anniversary of the first lockdown.**

This Day of Reflection was led by the charity Marie Curie and supported by the Church of England.

The Revd Liz Barnett, Curate at St Barnabas, Dulwich, was one of those who took part. The church was open during the day, and they also rang the bell and held a minute's silence. “It was a day with a quiet atmosphere about it, and you could sense that it was important for the people who came in just to spend some time,” she said.

Liz also noted that the people who came in were not necessarily those she had seen in church at other times. “I think this touched all kinds of people in different ways,” she said.

It was a similar experience for the Revd Sheridan James, Vicar of St Catherine, Hatcham. “All kinds of people showed up,” she said. “I would have said it was perhaps 20% church and 80% local community.”

About 50 people turned up at St Catherine's over the course of the 90 minutes it opened its doors. “At midday we invited people to gather for a minute's silence, which we began with 10 bell rings and ended with 100 bell rings just to remember all those who had died,” said Sheridan. Participants were then given yellow ribbons to tie to the church gate or community centre, and then they could go into the side chapel and light a candle.

“It had a beautiful sense of community drawing together and wanting to be close to each other,” said Sheridan. “Even



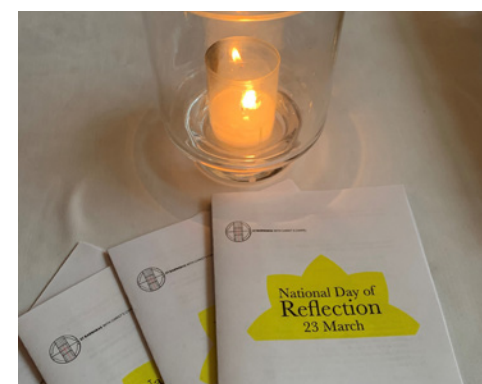
**Participants tied yellow ribbons to the church gate at St Catherine, Hatcham (above), while St Barnabas, Dulwich printed off prayer booklets (right).**

though we were still socially distancing there was something good about being in a similar space and just connecting to each other in this moment of national mourning.”

For the Revd Jonathan Haynes at St Mary, Putney, that sense of togetherness was

also important. “It was such a strange and horrible time when the churches were closed for public worship this time last year,” he said. “We've managed to go online, but when the Day of Reflection came we really wanted to mark it.”

They tied yellow ribbons around the



candlesticks and put yellow coverings on the altar. “We have some uplighters in the church as well so we went yellow for that. Anything we could turn yellow, we did,” Jonathan said.

At 11.45am, they held a short service, with a single bell tolling after the midday silence. About eight people came in all. “It was observed quietly,” Jonathan said, “but people were responsive.”

For the Revd Gill O'Neill, Vicar at St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich, it was also important to mark the occasion quietly, letting the weight of the event speak for itself.

“We kept the Day of Reflection here at St John's by ringing our church bell to mark the end of the moment of silence at noon,” she said, adding: “It was a simple offering to our neighbourhood; a dignified salute to our shared experience of loss. I hope it was a reminder of our church's enduring presence, as a witness to society's deepest pains and anxieties, and a sign of God's enduring love for all people.”

**Read more stories from the parishes on pages 4-5**



# A view from The BRIDGE



**One of the joys as we emerge from lockdown will be to open our homes and our hearts hospitably.**

Jesus loved to share food, even though his detractors criticised his joyful living. Perhaps it is no surprise, then, that, after the Resurrection, Jesus made himself known after the journey to Emmaus in the breaking of bread, and invited the disciples to a meal on the beach. After the privations of this last year, great joy is to be found in offering and receiving hospitality again.

Some will be cautious as we return to one another's company; some will want to remake old connections quickly. It is right that everyone goes at the right speed for them. But we cannot forget that hospitality is the heart of our faith.

In the story of the miraculous catch, the disciples had worked all night and not caught a single fish. But Jesus treats them gently. He knows their tiredness and the work they have done.

I am aware that for many this last year has been a long night of labour with no reward. We are still to get to land and haul our boats up, and we have nothing to bring to the market.

If this is how you feel, Jesus knows how things are, just as he knew how it was for the disciples. He knows if your inner resources are low, or if things are difficult in other ways, and he calls us very gently.

As we approach the shore that is the other side of lockdown, we need only trust that God will provide, just as Christ provided then – for God “is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3. 20).

Although the disciples did not know it, Jesus was on the shore before them. Not only could he tell them where to fish, he had his own supply ready to refresh and strengthen, for all things are Christ's. Even so, Jesus invites the disciples to bring some of the fish they have caught. Every person can offer something to make a meal special.

And, then, when the disciples have their labour rewarded and their hope restored, Jesus simply says, “Come and have breakfast”. In a moment of hospitality the disciples enjoyed the physical presence of Christ – and so, my dear friends, can we.

I wish you and yours a Happy and Blessed Easter.

**Bishop Christopher**

## Thy Kingdom Come 2021 prepares to launch

This year's Thy Kingdom Come festival of prayer will take place from 13-23 May, with a special emphasis on prayer for the persecuted church internationally, as well as for people locally who have not been able to access the community of faith during these times.

Packs will be sent to Incumbents and Assistant Clergy after Easter, for use in parishes. The materials are also downloadable from the Diocesan website at [southwark.anglican.org/tkc](https://southwark.anglican.org/tkc), where you will also find further ideas and prayer resources.



## Board of Education announces new Director and CEO

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education announced on 30 March that the Bishop of Southwark had appointed Roz Corder (above right) as the new Director of Education. At the same time, it announced that the Board of the Southwark Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust had appointed Marcus Cooper (below right) as its Chief Executive.



Both these posts are for a fixed term of two years, renewable for a further period. Marcus will also be continuing in post as Assistant Director of Education.



Bishop Christopher said: “The work of education across our Diocese is integral to our mission and ministry. Across our schools and colleges and in our universities, the Board and the MAT offer exemplary support to those working in many different contexts. I am very glad that Roz as Diocesan Director of Education will have Marcus as her colleague, and I know that under their leadership the Board and the MAT will continue to strive for excellence in all they do.”

Bishop Jonathan, Chair of the Board of Education, added: “Marcus and Roz have together been leading the work of the Board and of the MAT since the New Year. I am delighted that they are to exercise their evident gifts of leadership over a longer period, and have every confidence that the Board and the MAT will benefit greatly from their complementary gifts and abilities.”

You can read more about the work of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and the Multi-Academy Trust on pages 8 and 10.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### “It’s a big year for the environment” says Bishop Richard

On 15 March, Bishop Richard wrote to the Diocese in his capacity as lead Bishop for the environment, urging clergy and ministers to take part in the many initiatives happening during this year of the UN Climate Change Conference in November. Among these are Climate Sunday, Eco Church and the Fair Energy campaign.



For more information or assistance on any of these, please e-mail the Diocese's Environment Co-ordinator at [laura.baggaley@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:laura.baggaley@southwark.anglican.org)

You can read the letter in full at: [southwark.anglican.org/2021-a-big-year-for-the-environment-as-we-emerge-from-the-pandemic/](https://southwark.anglican.org/2021-a-big-year-for-the-environment-as-we-emerge-from-the-pandemic/)

### Living in Love and Faith

From Easter onwards, the Diocese as a whole will be engaging in the Living in Love and Faith project, in particular the LLF course, a five-session course for group reflection. Sign up at: [www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub)

The Bridge is produced & published by:

Press and Communications, The Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House,  
4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW

Tel: 020 7939 9400 E-mail: [bridge@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bridge@southwark.anglican.org)

#### The Editorial Team from Press and Communications:

##### Commissioning Editor:

Sophia Jones

Editor: Abigail Sanderson

##### Advertising and Distribution:

Susana Rojas

#### Editorial Group:

Ruth Martin

Jane Steen

Editorial Adviser (vacant)

Sophia Jones

## Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MARCH edition is due to be published online on 1 May 2021. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **FRIDAY 23 APRIL**.

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited. All photographs submitted for publication are assumed to have the necessary permission for printing. So, please ensure that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so.

Forms for permission for the use of photographs of children and adults who may be vulnerable can be found at [southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures](https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)

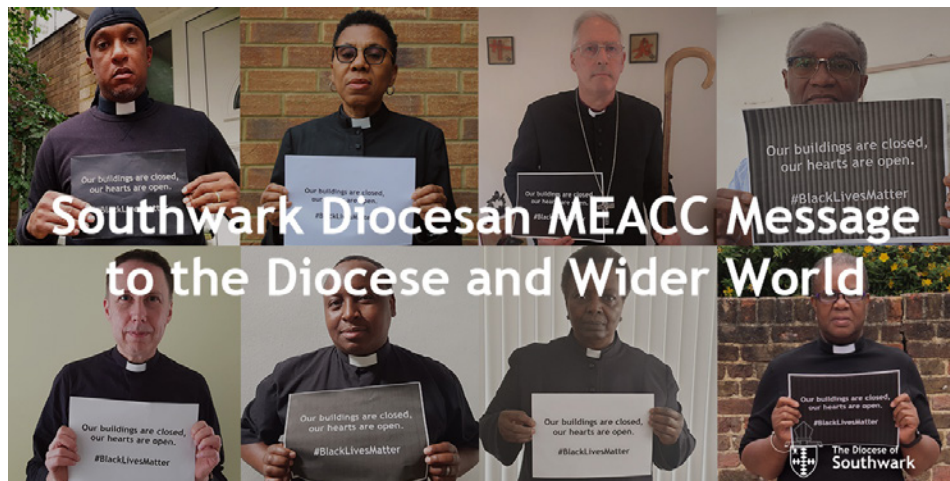




## IN FOCUS...

### News in Southwark

# Diocesan Synod unanimously approves Anti-Racism Charter



A message from Southwark Diocesan MEACC in June 2020 in response to the killing in the US of George Floyd.

**At Southwark Diocesan Synod on 13 March, members unanimously approved a Diocesan Anti-Racism Charter (ARC).**

The vote to approve the Charter came at the end of a discussion on the motion that “this Synod wholeheartedly endorses the Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter and its adoption throughout the Diocese”, led by The Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon and Diocesan Lead on Anti-Racism.

Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett said after the vote: “We now want the Charter to take forward our programme for future action. This action must be taken at all levels, working in partnership with our parishes, our schools, our young people, our Cathedral, our Area and Diocesan Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committees, to ensure that racism in any form is rooted out and diversity is truly our strength. This document should be our legacy to the next generation.”

Bishop Christopher added: “Our rich ethnic diversity in this Diocese is God’s gift and blessing which we celebrate. I am greatly encouraged that the Diocesan Synod voted unanimously to endorse the Anti-Racism Charter which we are committed to implementing fully. There is no place for racist attitudes and behaviours in this Diocese.”

The Charter states: “Being anti-racist is not the same as simply not being racist. It is not enough as a Diocese to not be racist, but it must actively counter, disrupt and oppose racial injustice. This isn’t an easy task; it takes introspection, as well as continued intentional action.”

A copy of the Anti-Racism charter can be downloaded from the Diocesan website [here: southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Southwark-Anti-Racism-Charter.pdf](https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Southwark-Anti-Racism-Charter.pdf)

**Read more about March’s Diocesan Synod on page 8**

## Last chance to get involved with the Bishop’s Lent Call

With the arrival of Easter, this year’s Bishop’s Lent Call is drawing to an end. However, you can still donate to the projects we are supporting this year, as well as read more about what volunteers in Southwark, Zimbabwe and Jerusalem are doing to help people overcome food insecurity.

Donate here: [southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/how-to-give/](https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/how-to-give/)



# Chaplain with “passion for justice and people” dies

Canon Hilary Johnson was a colleague of the Revd Canon Ian Ainsworth-Smith MBE who died suddenly on 9 March 2021, just a few weeks before his 80th birthday, after a full and active life.



Hilary writes: “Ian was ideally suited to the role of chaplain in St George’s Healthcare NHS Trust. His intelligence coupled with a pastoral heart, meant that he was welcomed by staff and patients at crisis moments in their lives.

“He served on the Research Ethics Committee, and Clinical Ethics Committee for many years. His book on dying, co-written with Peter Speck, called *Letting Go*, and his pioneering work with parents experiencing a miscarriage or stillbirth, meant he was in demand as a speaker on clergy study days around the country. Ian was delighted to be invited to become an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral.”

The Dean, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, added: “It was a privilege to know Ian. I had already benefited

from his book on bereavement before I came to the Diocese, using his wisdom in my own ministry as a parish priest. Ian and his wife Jean were regular attendees at College of Canons events at Southwark Cathedral.

“He was very much a ‘Southwark person’ through and through, embodying that passion for justice and for people, with a lively and imaginative mind and a real pastoral heart. So many owe him so much – and I hope that I said thank you to him whilst he was still alive.”

## Diocese appoints new Director of Finance

**The Diocese has announced that its new Director of Finance will be Mark Rhodes, who will succeed Anthony Demby when the latter retires in early June.**

After qualifying as an accountant with Deloitte, working in the field of forensic accounting, Mark (pictured right) has spent more than 20 years in the charitable sector, specialising in the creative industries. He worked at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, the Young Vic, and more recently Sadler’s Wells where he was Finance Director for 12 years.

Mark joins the Diocese on 1 June. He said of his appointment: “I am delighted to be joining the Diocese and look forward to working collaboratively with colleagues to help the Diocese to continue to serve existing church communities and build new ones. The opportunity to work in this diverse and outward-looking Diocese is something of an honour.”

The Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, said: “I am delighted that in Mark Rhodes we have such a worthy successor to Anthony Demby who has served the Diocese with distinction. Like Anthony, Mark is a man of faith and a practising Anglican and I am



very much looking forward to working with him as we build further resilience for our Diocesan finances and serve our parishes together. Mark has such an impressive expertise in charity finance.”

The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Alan Saunders, added: “I am very pleased to welcome Mark Rhodes to lead a team which has managed the finances of the Diocese very professionally and with a passion for collaboration with Archdeacons and parishes.”

Alan added: “Mark has much to offer. The years ahead will be challenging ones as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to ensure that ministry is resourced well in our parishes. I also wish to record my thanks to Anthony Demby as he anticipates a well-earned retirement.”





## IN FOCUS...

### Lent and Holy Week

# Lambeth Passion trail explores “solidarity, love and hope”

**On Saturday 20 March a series of interactive art installations were set up along an eight-mile Passion Trail from Clapham to Waterloo that provoked reflection on the pain and loss suffered in the pandemic as well as providing preparation for Easter, writes Rebecca Chapman, PCC member of St Mark, Kennington.**

Created by 14 churches and schools in Lambeth North Deanery, the eight-mile, self-guided trail took participants round the deanery, through Brixton, Clapham, Stockwell, Oval, Vauxhall, Kennington, and Lambeth following the various Stations of the Cross.

Each station invited participants to reflect not only on a stage in Jesus’ journey to crucifixion but also on the experience of the pandemic as well as important issues such as racial injustice. At John the Divine, Kennington, a video was shown highlighting parallels between Jesus’ loss of dignity and those who face racism.

A carefully crafted clay statue of Jesus taking up his cross was created for the trail, and visitors to Christ Church,

Clapham were asked to write down what burdened them and place it into a bowl of flames. An Eden nature garden included the gift of a symbolic apple, before the trail crossed Clapham Common and passed the recently created memorial to Sarah Everard (for more on Sarah Everard, see page 5).

The Church of the Holy Spirit in Clapham provided an opportunity to reflect on Mary and the joys and pains of mothering, alongside an area for children to produce art. A piece of performance art was staged by St Matthew, Brixton at exactly midday, accompanied by the moving spiritual *Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen*. Face masks met the Shroud of Turin for the reflections at St John, Angell Town.

Students from St Gabriel’s College, Camberwell had created art reflecting on how human beings stumbled and fell in life. St Mark, Kennington incorporated a life-size pin art installation, with thoughts around a sculpture by Antony Gormley.

The removal of Christ from the cross, at St Anselm, Kennington, showed the agony of loss.



**Station 2: Jesus takes up his Cross, at Christ Church, Clapham.**

Churches had been hugely creative in the things that they had produced. The Revd Canon Giles Goddard, instigator of the trail, said he had particularly loved the station at Christ Church, Brixton, “where we could read the reflections every member had written on how COVID-19 had affected them, and then light a candle”.

Children there also hunted for angel wings in return for chocolate eggs, one of several family-friendly activities on the trail.

At the Twelfth Station at St Anne and

All Saints, Vauxhall, there was a powerful image of Jesus nailed to the cross, and the opportunity to write and pin up prayer flags. The stations were completed at St John, Waterloo with a service at 4.30pm.

The Area Dean of Lambeth North, the Revd Caroline Clarke, said the event had been planned in the “hope that the trail will give people an opportunity to explore the persistence of solidarity, love, and hope amid the darkness of injustice, pain, and despair of the last year.”

## Modern Day Parables tell the story of East Greenwich

**“It was late. The teacher looked at her tired and hungry crowd. With a smile on her face and a glint in her eye, she proclaimed: ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is like your favourite takeaway.’”**

So begins one of the eight Modern Day Parables created by Christ Church, East Greenwich and released for the past seven weeks as part of their Lent studies.

Tim Cave, a Reader at Christ Church, who wrote the Parable of the Local Takeaway as well as two others which he calls “Parables of the Parish”, said: “They’ve taken different formats. Like the parables themselves, they’re quite varied in the things that they’ve done.”



**Mukanke Ntalasha performs the Parable of the River Thames.**

Some, like Tim’s metaphor of the Kingdom of Heaven as “finger-licking good” are more light-hearted; others, such as the Revd John Philpott-Howard’s “The Friend who Disappeared” are darker, dealing with witnessing street crime — “really relevant but rather dark stuff,” Tim said.

The idea came from Paula Gooder’s new book *The Parables*, which they are studying at the same time. Each author is free to tackle their allocated parable as

they wish. “Whilst there are allusions to whatever the parable of the week is that we’re looking at, we’re not constrained by that. It’s whatever people feel that they want to write,” said Tim.

The resulting script is then either recorded or filmed and shown as part of Christ Church’s Sunday service, as well as in their weekly home groups. “We’ve enjoyed doing them, and it’s engaged the congregation in different ways,” said Tim.

## Once upon a time in St Anselm, Kennington...

**St Anselm, Kennington, is publishing a video bedtime story written and performed by a different child every evening during Lent, writes Chair of the Communications Committee Julie Minns.**



The young authors, all aged between three and 14 years old, have written their own tales of scary woodland walks, missing hats and friendly “Eggits” aimed at the grown-ups in their lives. Pictured is John, aged 6, telling his good night story.

The project, Night Night God Bless, is the brainchild of St Anselm’s Youth Minister Suzette Aagaard who had the idea shortly after the current lockdown began. “We are a warm and supportive community at St Anselm’s and not seeing each other in person every Sunday has really started to take its toll on many members of our congregation” she said. “As we are very blessed with wonderfully imaginative young people I thought it would be a lovely idea for the children to read a bedtime story to the adults as a way of lifting their spirits.”

Watch the stories here: [northlambethparish.org/bedtime-stories-1](http://northlambethparish.org/bedtime-stories-1)



Vicar hits the heights at St Matthew, Wimbledon

The Revd Dr Helen Orchard, Vicar of St Matthew, Wimbledon, recently blessed her church building from the giddy heights of its rooftop after major repairs to its roof.

The church had a quinquennial (five-yearly inspection of the church fabric) last November which recommended that the broken tiles on the roof needed replacing. “We didn’t want to have scaffolding all around the church, so we had asked for recommendations of other options and we were suggested this company called Wall Walkers. They are a rope access heritage company. They are all climbers who also have skills in building and repairing stonework,” said Helen.

The team discovered that along the top of the roof, the ridge packing tiles were coming loose. “The church is 63 years old, the mortar had dried out and there was a lot of wear and tear. Some of them were slipping down the roof and that is a real hazard to have a tile dropping from 65 feet,” she said.

Helen, who used to have a fear of heights, mastered it when she was Chaplain at Exeter College, Oxford. “We had a lot of high level work done inside and outside of the chapel and I was curious to see what was happening,” she said. “I got really used to going up and down the scaffolding.”



Helen Orchard on the church roof.

The project, which pinned every ridge packing tile in place using 900 pins and took three days, has come in under budget and early.

Helen went up on the rooftop on the last day of the project. “I was able to connect with the building, pray for the parish, see the parish from this angle. I prayed for a blessing on the parish and on those who have maintained the fabric of the building all these years and served in the church and on the workmen,” she said.

You can watch Helen blessing the church and the workmen at work at: [www.stmatthewswimbledon.org](http://www.stmatthewswimbledon.org)

Clapham churches remember Sarah Everard in their prayers

Churches in Clapham made arrangements on 12-16 March to mark the death of Sarah Everard, who had disappeared as she walked home on 3 March.

Sarah went missing after leaving a friend’s house near Clapham Common; her remains were found seven days later in Kent. A serving Metropolitan Police officer has been charged with her kidnap and murder.



Holy Trinity, Clapham — which is situated right on Clapham Common where Sarah was last seen — held a short service on the Friday to give people the chance to grieve and pray, with around 50 people turning up.

The Revd Jago Wynne, Rector of Holy Trinity, told the *Church Times*: “We didn’t want it to be seen to be in competition with the vigil when it was being planned, nor as an alternative to the vigil when it was officially cancelled — it was in addition, and was a chance for the whole community to pray.”

St Thomas with St Stephen, Telford Park, which is situated near to where it is believed Sarah was kidnapped, also opened to the local community to allow them to light candles and pray.

The Vicar there, the Revd Sue Cooke, said: “There was a big cordon in that area on the Tuesday. I went out and took hot drinks to the police and spoke to local residents, and there was just such

a sense of shock that this could happen right on their doorstep.”

She added: “I think people need a way to process what’s going on in the world, and grief in COVID-19 times is so unnatural, because normally in grief we gather with people and that’s what we can’t do. And so we did at least provide a focal point.”

The Revd Canon Jonathan Boardman, meanwhile, lit candles to mark the 21.30 Vigil hour on Saturday (above). Jonathan, who is Vicar of St Paul, Clapham, and Priest-in-Charge of St Peter, Clapham, had been contacted before Sarah’s body was discovered by her partner’s father to help spread the word of her disappearance locally.

“Sarah’s family and friends were incredibly efficient and determined to look for evidence in the hope of locating her,” he told the *Church Times*, adding: “She and they were in our public prayers by Sunday 7 March.”

St Alfege, Greenwich says “Kia ora” to new vicar



Simon Winn with wife Lizzi, Bishop Christopher and Alastair Cutting.

The Revd Simon Winn was instituted as Vicar of St Alfege, Greenwich by Bishop Christopher and inducted by Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich, Alastair Cutting, on Tuesday 23 March under pandemic conditions.

Other representatives of the local community sent online greetings including Pieter van der Merwe, Deputy Lieutenant, Cllr Linda Bird, Mayor of Greenwich, and Professor Jane Harrington of the University of Greenwich. Simon was commended by the Revd Dr Digby Wilkinson, Diocese

of Wellington, New Zealand where Simon and his family spent nine years.

Alastair said in his sermon: “Kia ora, Simon; Haere mai, Haere mai, Haere mai! Here you are, in Greenwich — where time begins! May you find aroha (love), here, May you share aroha (love) here.”

Simon thanked St Alfege for the warm welcome received by his wife, Lizzi, and himself. He said: “I am so looking forward to the opportunities and adventures that lie ahead for us all. May we enjoy discerning together where God’s Holy Spirit is leading us.”

Our Lady welcomes passers-by at St James, Merton



St James, Merton brought its Walsingham statue from inside to the pathway on busy Martin Way as a welcome to passers-by that the chapel is now open daily with all proper precautions. People going past will be able to see Our Lady, as well as prayers posted concerning COVID-19. “We want this outdoor display to be a glimpse of hope and shared concern for the community,” said the Revd Jim Rosenthal, Vicar of St James.





## IN FOCUS... Cathedrals

# “I wanted to capture their transcendence”

*The Revd Len Abrams, Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church, South Nutfield, began taking photographs of England's cathedrals as a personal journey of rediscovery; now he hopes a book of his images will help others too.*

Len Abrams began the project almost by accident some 10 years ago. He had been working as a civil engineer for the World Bank in Washington DC but decided to take early retirement and spent about 18 months working as a photographer.

“The World Bank environment was pretty pressured, and when I came back from Washington I just needed to find something completely different to do and photography helped with that,” he says. “To some extent it was part of a sort of personal journey of rediscovery and something to almost immerse myself into, to capture the cathedrals and to put it together.”

There was a practical reason, too: Len had spent most of his life in Africa; he was born in Kenya and grew up in South Africa. His career as an engineer specialising in water development saw him travelling around 26 countries in Africa, before taking on the World Bank job. When he and his wife, Karen, came to England, they wanted to get to know it better. “It was an amazing way of seeing England. It was not only the cathedrals alone but the communities in which they stand,” he says.

During this period, Len revisited an earlier sense of vocation which he had put on hold for 25 years. “I felt the calling to be a priest fairly early on in the early 1980s and actually went through the selection process and to theological college, but then just really wasn't sure about my calling so I withdrew,” Len says.

He adds: “When I did the photography work I decided to explore again the issue of the priesthood and went through a similar process again and trained in Southwark at SEITE as it was then, and was deaconed in 2014. So it's been a long process.”

After being ordained as a self-supporting minister in Southwark, Len continued to photograph cathedrals and also continued his work as a civil engineer — some of which was in Zimbabwe. “A fair amount of the work I've done over the years has been in Zimbabwe, which gives me the opportunity to travel there fairly often,” he says.

With most cathedrals not allowing photography for commercial purposes, Len realised that this was a perfect opportunity to fundraise for the Croydon Central Zimbabwe Link Committee. “One of the ways around the thing of staying honest to the undertaking not to use the images for commercial gain was to publish something but to use the proceeds for something like Zimbabwe and that just seemed to fit really well,” says Len.

The result is a glossy book filled with Len's photographs of every cathedral in England, the proceeds from which will



go towards supporting education and health projects in Central Zimbabwe. As Len says, “We say to people, you're donating £25 and you get a book with that!”

Bishop Christopher is a staunch supporter of the project. He says: “Len Abrams has combined his skills as a photographer with his passionate love of cathedrals as sacred spaces and has produced this wonderful work with its stunning pictures.

“*Cathedrals of Light and Life* is a sheer joy to access either online or from the Cathedral bookshop. Len is contributing all the profit from his book to support our Central Zimbabwe Link Diocese so I encourage readers to make appropriate purchases.”

### How to buy

**Cathedrals of Light and Life** can be bought online via <https://seasonimages.com/cathedralbook/> and in the Southwark Cathedral shop when restrictions permit.

**It costs £24.90 and all proceeds will go to supporting education and health projects in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe.**





Clockwise from top left: Gloucester Cathedral; Peterborough Cathedral crossing; section from Southwark Cathedral's Great Screen and Altar Piece; the nave at Canterbury Cathedral; Wells Cathedral crossing. Main image on page 6: reflection in the font at Salisbury Cathedral.





## IN FOCUS...

*News from the Diocese*

# March's Diocesan Synod casts historic vote



**Southwark Diocesan Synod members met on Zoom on Saturday 13 March, their third remote Zoom meeting since the**

**pandemic began a little over a year ago, writes Sophia Jones, Director of Communications.**

Bishop Christopher asked those present to “call to mind the tragic, appalling death of Sarah Everard who was very much in our thoughts and prayers today.” (*Read more about parishes’ response to this on page 5.*)

Bishop Christopher welcomed members to Synod and invited the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Chair of the House of Clergy, to lead the opening prayers. During the announcements and notices, the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, announced that the new Diocesan website had gone live.

In his Presidential Address, Bishop Christopher said that “the cost of facing isolation, suffering and grief has taken its toll in different ways, with many feeling their usual well is running dry”.

He went on to explain how “there is only one source of living water – the Lord God,” and that “if the well we usually rely on has run rather dry this last year, it is not because there is no water. We need only to discover one of the other wells that the Lord has graciously prepared.” (*Read Bishop Christopher’s full address at: [bit.ly/AddressMar21](https://bit.ly/AddressMar21)*)

Ruth Martin and Anthony Demby, the Director of Finance, gave a brief and positive update on Diocesan finances. Despite the many challenges parishes faced as a result of the pandemic and lockdown, the Parish Support Fund collection rate up to February 2021 was 96.5%, compared with 96.6% last year. They both expressed gratitude to the parishes for their continued generosity.

Bishop Jonathan and the Revd Canon Wendy Robins gave a presentation on the Living in Love and Faith consultations focusing on what it was, where it had come from, where it was going and principles for loving together well.

Members were invited to join break-out rooms to discuss the following:

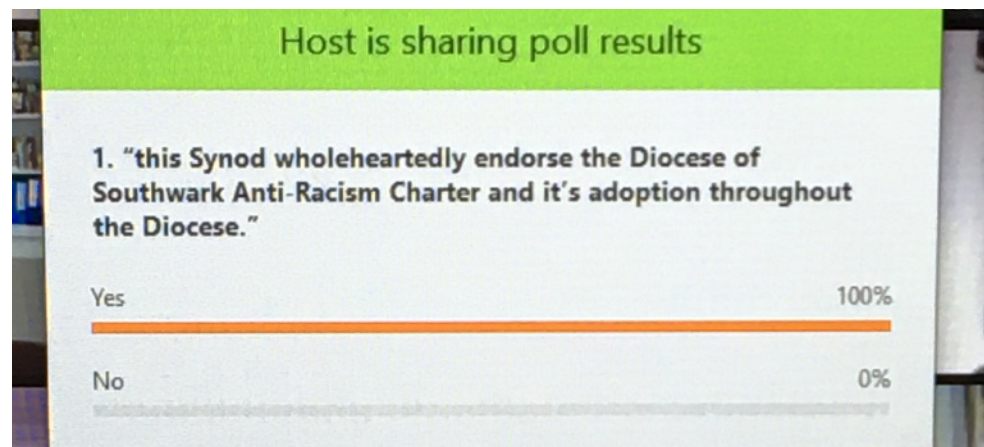
- how might I get involved myself, and help others to do so?
- how can we help each other across the Diocese to engage in this process showing love for one another and in good faith?

From Easter onwards, the Diocese as a whole will be engaging in the Living in Love and Faith Project, in particular the LLF course, a five-session course for group reflection.

### Tackling racism head-on

In a historic, unanimous vote, Synod members approved the Diocese’s Anti-Racism Charter after a discussion led by Archdeacon Rosemarie. They were also presented with a video from the Diocese’s Youth Forum, where young people talked about racism in the Church.

One young person said: “I think maybe because racism exists in the real world, sometimes I think people think that



because we’re all Christians and we’re all meant to be nice that it won’t translate at all into Church. And I think maybe it’s realising that actually sometimes prejudices will still occur in churches and if we don’t think that can happen then we never really address it.”

Members were invited to join break-out rooms to discuss the following:

- does the Church have a blind spot when it comes to race?
- have you discussed racial injustice issues in your church?
- how do you promote racial equality and inclusion in your church?

After the discussions, Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett moved that: “this Synod wholeheartedly endorse the Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter and its adoption throughout the Diocese.”

An electronic vote was taken which demonstrated unanimous support for the motion. (*Read more about the Anti-Racism Charter on page 3.*)

Nicola Thomas, Head of the department of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC), and Laura Baggaley, the Environment Administration Coordinator, gave a brief presentation on the Government and General Synod’s targets on Zero Carbon Emissions, and the links to Eco Church and the importance of the Fifth Mark of Mission.

Members were then invited to join break-out rooms to discuss the following:

- what can parishes and deaneries do now?
- what are the main challenges?
- what is needed to help overcome those challenges?

Adrian Greenwood, Chair of the House of Laity, introduced the Constitution and Standing Orders for Diocesan Synod, which had been updated in line with the Church Representation Rules 2020. Following discussion and debate, Adrian formally moved that the Proposals to update the Constitution and Standing Orders of Diocesan Synod in time for the start of the new triennium, effective from 1 August 2021. An electronic vote was taken and the motion received unanimous support.

### Pioneering activity

The Revd Canon Will Cookson, Dean of Fresh Expressions, introduced a proposal to include representation of Bishop’s Mission Orders (BMOs) to Deanery Synod. The paper included three such BMOs for members to note.

Bishop Jonathan moved that: “this Synod welcomes this Scheme to give Bishop Mission Orders representation on Deanery Synods and (a) asks the Bishop and others to implement this scheme and (b) that the enclosed three BMOs are noted for Deanery Synod representation.”

An electronic vote was taken with overwhelming support for the motion (91 in favour, 3 abstentions).

I was invited to share my reflection and pray on “This Time Tomorrow”, which we do at each Synod. The Synod ended with midday prayer at which Bishop Christopher commissioned the Revd Susie Williams as Faith in the Countryside Officer. “Southwark is more than inner-urban, it is also countryside,” he said.

It was a lively Synod meeting with much to reflect on.

## “We’ve been blown away by their generosity”: Southwark MAT receives donation of laptops for pupils without devices

**Dozens of pupils in the 10 schools making up the Southwark Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) have benefited from a donation of laptops by charity Business2Schools.**

The donation of 180 laptops was made in February, during the latest lockdown. They were then distributed on 23 February by MAT staff to pupils without access to devices of their own.

Mark Burnett, Chief Operating

Officer of the MAT, said: “We could not believe it when 180 laptops, stacked on three pallets, were dropped at my home for my team and I to distribute to our schools. None of them were over a year old and were ready for immediate use.”

The donation came about after the MAT forged a relationship with Business2Schools in 2020, a charity that formed early in lockdown to work with commercial organisations,



retailers and businesses to recycle office furniture as opposed to it going to landfill.

Mark said: “We thought this was a brilliant cause and reached out to them — after all, schools always need new furniture, funding is tight to buy it themselves, and as an Eco-Diocese we want to recycle and not landfill.”

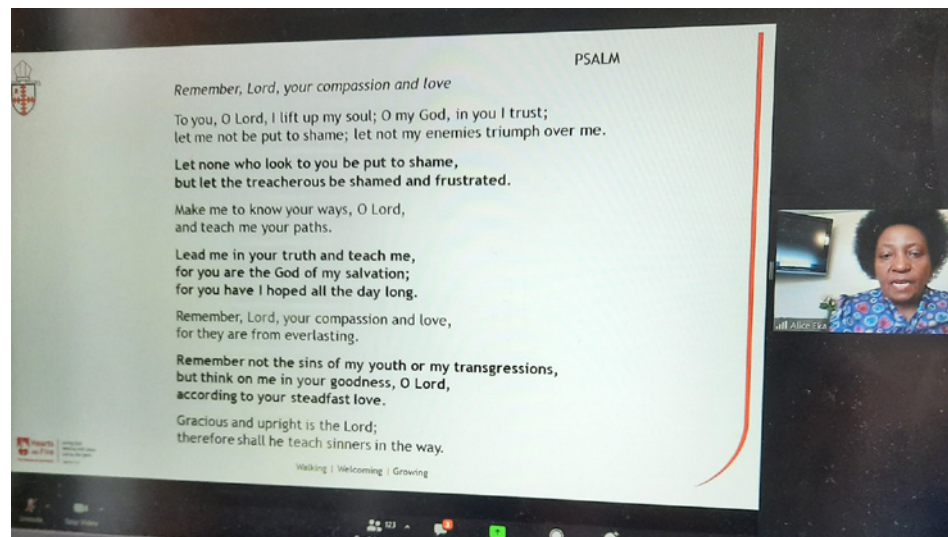
In total, with further donations from Business2Schools and

bids to the Department for Education, the MAT has received more than 800 devices for its 10 schools.

Mark said: “We have been blown away by the generosity shown by our commercial partners during the pandemic and thank them that, as a result, all children who did not have access to a computer at home now do and can continue to flourish equally, regardless of background or context.”



# Nurturing mustard seeds at Woolwich Area Lay Conference



On a chilly Saturday morning in early March, many of us thanked God that a global pandemic and the wonders of technology saved us from braving the elements and public transport to attend the Woolwich Area Lay Conference on “Everyday Faith”, writes Penny Molyneux, a Reader at St James & St Anne, Bermondsey.

Around 130 lay people from parishes all over the Episcopal Area logged in for a challenging and enjoyable three-and-a-

*“Mark Greene inspired us to think about what it means to be told to ‘Go in peace to love and serve the Lord’”*

half hours. Bishop Christopher led our opening worship and at first it seemed there was a jinx on the screen-sharing, but just in time a combination of expert and divine assistance enabled us all (muted to avoid a cacophony) to join in with the Psalm — “let not my enemies triumph over me” seemed very apt.

After five minutes in random break-out groups giving us the chance to meet and greet some other participants, Adrian Greenwood introduced our guest speaker, Mark Greene of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, author of *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*.

Mark inspired us to think deeply about what it means to be told at the end of

Sunday services, “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”.

Using an Old Testament story (2 Kings 5:1-19), Mark showed how one unnamed captured foreign young slave girl had such faith in God that she dared to suggest that her master’s leprosy could be cured by a prophet in Israel. Against all the odds, that is just what happened. She was a prime example that God can work anywhere through anyone, and that every mustard seed can lead to fruitfulness even if we never see the fruit.

Mark then reminded us that most of Jesus’ teaching, healings and miracles took place in the midst of ordinary people’s everyday life. That is where we are called to be fruitful – showing God’s love in action.

The hardest thing was choosing two workshops from a wealth of topics including God in the Workplace, Being a Grandparent, Ministry on an Estate, Growing Faith with Teenagers, Black Lives Matter, God in the Everyday, Generous Living, Caring for the Environment, and many more.

After a brief plenary we had time to reflect and share what we had gained from the day (for example, “the encouragement that small things really matter” and “God releases our potential and works through us anywhere”).

Finally, Bishop Karowei voiced our thanks to the organising team before leading worship, prayers and a closing blessing.

## Read more

More stories from the day can be found on the Diocesan website. Alice Ruhindi, who led the grandparenting workshop, shares her experiences, while Ivan Ibano discusses leading the Black Lives Matter workshop. Find them here: [southwark.anglican.org/reflections-from-the-woolwich-area-lay-conference](https://southwark.anglican.org/reflections-from-the-woolwich-area-lay-conference)

## St Augustine’s wins grant to teach “Faith in Science”

St Augustine’s College of Theology has been awarded a major grant to launch new “Faith in Science” courses exploring relationships between religion and science, writes Senior Administrator Rebecca Young.

Along with eight other UK theological colleges, St Augustine’s successfully bid for the grant under the “Science for Seminaries” programme, run by research project Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS).

The nine colleges have each received sums of up to £60,000 to enable them to incorporate science into their curriculum, and to host wider-reaching activities which explore how science engages with theology.

This grant will enable the College to add “Faith in Science” across key modules for the next academic year (beginning September 2021), encouraging its students to explore questions, issues, and implications arising from the relationships between Christian faith and science.

As well as exploring ideas in the classroom, the college’s students



will be encouraged to consider how science might influence their practice in ministry – for example by finding ways to reduce their carbon footprint – and to examine relationships between faith and science through discussion with people who have education or careers in science. Along with their own study, students will have the opportunity to do a school placement.

The Revd Dr Alan Gregory (above), College Principal, said: “Ever since my granddaughter came home from school announcing, ‘I don’t believe in God; I believe in science’, I’ve looked eagerly for a project like this. In preaching the gospel, ordained and lay ministers cannot afford to ignore the formative power of the sciences in our culture.”

## Autumn ‘Taster’ in Theology



Studying theology gets under the skin: our Christian faith gains in energy and insight. Theology is a way to renew our faith and enliven our discipleship as we make connections between knowing God and living our daily lives.

If this excites you but jumping straight into a full-length academic program feels a leap too far, why not try a ‘taster term’? You’ll take a single module at a very reasonable price, learn a great deal and discover if you want to venture further.

A vital part of our vision at St Augustine’s is to make theological study available and accessible to all, whatever their background or level of formal education. For the special price of just £150.00 you can try out a term’s worth of undergraduate level study. If, like many of our ‘taster’ students, you pass your assignments and find your appetite for theology well and truly whetted, you can transfer on to our full undergraduate programme. What’s more, your taster module will count towards your certificate, diploma or degree.

### Find out more

<https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/courses/exploring-theology/>

### View our latest prospectus

<https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/st-augustines-prospectus-2021-2022/>

If you’d prefer to chat, contact Rebecca Young:  
Email: [r.young@staugustinescollege.ac.uk](mailto:r.young@staugustinescollege.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01732 252 656



ST AUGUSTINE'S  
COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

Transforming formation

Malling Abbey 52 Swan Street West Malling Kent ME19 6JX  
Trinity House 4 Chapel Court Borough High Street SE1 1HW

[www.staugustinescollege.ac.uk](http://www.staugustinescollege.ac.uk)





## IN FOCUS...

*News from the Diocese*



# “Our school is alive once again and we are grateful”

**Our schools have ensured a warm welcome back to their pupils and everyone is delighted to be able to experience life together again as part of their school family, writes Roz Corder, newly appointed Director of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education.**

All schools have been teaching throughout all three lockdowns and the reopening of our buildings on 8 March marked the beginning of a new phase of celebration, joy and excitement.

Our schools were given resources to use

for collective worship as they reopened. Although most schools have managed to stream collective worship regularly online since last March, all were happy to have a partial return to school-based worship.

It is also important to mention that, as well as recognising the resilience shown by many, our schools have spent a huge amount of time ensuring that pupils, families and staff who have struggled during lockdown have also been recognised and cared for.

To the right are some of the quotes sent to the SDBE from teachers and pupils about their return to the classroom...



### Pupils say....

*“I was excited and over the moon to see all my friends after a very long time. I think online school was a great experience but it’s not the same as seeing your friends and teachers at school.”*

*“It’s better than just seeing each other once a week on Zoom.”*

*“When I first found out that I was going back to school, I felt anxious and started to overthink some things such as: what if I have forgotten some things in maths? And what if I’m behind everyone in almost everything? I felt this way because I hadn’t been at school for such a long time.”*

*“During the time that I spent at home, I personally felt lonely as I couldn’t express my feelings to my friends in person.”*

*“I thought it would be way harder at school, but it was like normal.”*



### Teachers say....

*“It’s been a period of hope with community at its core, focusing on stories of resilience, extraordinary acts of adaptation, fortitude and learning new skills.”*

*“Such a relief to be back in the classroom, learning together; sharing and feeling a sense of common purpose.”*

*“I am so happy to be back! I am tired but I can see how happy the children are.”*

*“We are passionate about celebrating the new skills and systems that have enhanced our community during lockdown and focusing on stories of heroism, resilience, dedication and fortitude. Our school is alive once again and we are grateful for that.”*

*“It’s wonderful to have the children back in the classroom and being ‘live’!”*

## “The most important thing is ill-health prevention”: Kingston MEACC boosts sickle cell awareness with special online event

**On Sunday 7 March, the Kingston Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (KMEACC) held a sickle cell disease awareness-raising event.**

The Revd Olufunke Ogbede, the event organiser, said: “Sickle cell is predominantly a Black and Asian disease. Many people are unaware of this fact and the effect it has on families of those living with it. The presentation is primarily for education and to create awareness.”

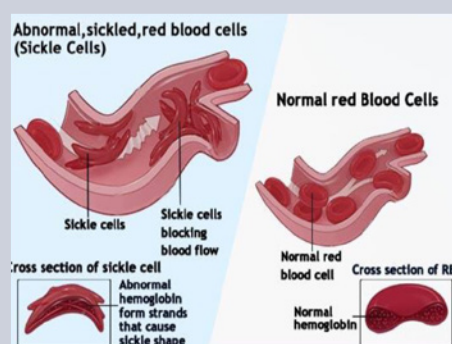
Dr Lola Oni, Specialist Nurse Consultant, Service Director and Lecturer for the Brent Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Centre, which is part of London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, explained that sickle cell disease is an inherited condition of the blood which is passed from one generation to the next in parents’ genes. While predominant in people of African, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Asian and Middle Eastern origins, she said, “sickle cell does not look at colour, but at origin”.

The pain of a sickle cell crisis can range from mild to extremely severe. People with the disease are supported in a number of ways, including through education and awareness. “The most important thing is ill-health prevention and how to look after themselves. They need to come to the clinic to be monitored and take pain relief when they’re not well,” Dr Oni said.

People’s attitude, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean, to sickle cell disease is often varied, and stigma can be a problem, Dr Oni explained.

After a break to ask questions, Dr Kofi A Anie MBE talked about the psychological impact of sickle cell disease on the patient and family.

He explained how some people may remain in denial for years. He stressed that the wider community and churches have a role to play, saying: “It’s not about just praying with them, but also getting them to accept that they need to deal with some of the practical day-to-day issues as well.”



These issues can be severe. Repeated hospital admissions and treatments can be very difficult for families to deal with. The frequent pain episodes and extreme fatigue associated with sickle cell disease can also lead to absenteeism from school and work. Dr Anie added: “Unfortunately, children with sickle cell at school are also the ones who will have difficulty when it comes to educational achievement.”

Reia DaCosta, 27, talked about living with sickle cell. Growing up, her family never made her feel any different, although she was not allowed to do

certain activities such as swimming, in case she got an infection.

However, Reia’s life changed after she had her daughter at 19. “I went from being someone living with sickle cell to a mother also living with sickle cell. This put a weight on my shoulders,” she said. The stress of her corporate job had also been a problem, she added: “I was sick quite a lot. Stress is a big trigger. If you get stressed your body says ‘pain’. You have to try your hardest to stay calm.”

While in hospital, she and some other young women, created a support group. Reia said: “Growing up with sickle cell, you don’t get to see many people because in the African Caribbean community nobody wants to admit that their child has sickle so you deal with it alone.”

There are now 40 people in the group. “I believe that support is the main factor of anyone having sickle cell,” said Reia. “Even if you know someone with it, a text or a call that extra support goes a long way.”



# WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for MAY ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 23 APRIL**



## April

### TUESDAY 13 APRIL

- \* **ONLINE** — Church of England Net Carbon Zero Seminars. Various dates from April into October beginning with today's session on lighting. 12.00-1.00pm. Free. Find more details and register here: [www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon)

### TUESDAY 20 APRIL

- \* **ONLINE** — The Most Revd and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell in conversation with the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, about his new book, *Dear England: Finding Hope, Taking Heart and Changing the World*. 7.00pm. £5. Book here: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dear-england-an-online-event-with-stephen-cottrell-tickets-145884459345](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dear-england-an-online-event-with-stephen-cottrell-tickets-145884459345)

### WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL

- \* **ONLINE** — Leaders who Lunch and Learn. Rachel Turner, author of *Parenting Children for a Life of Faith*, will be the guest speaker at the first of a new series of Zoom lunches aimed at women in ministry in Southwark. 12.00-2.00pm. Free. Register at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leaders-who-lunch-and-learn-motherhood-and-ministry-tickets-142527420351](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leaders-who-lunch-and-learn-motherhood-and-ministry-tickets-142527420351)

### SATURDAY 24 APRIL

- \* **ONLINE** — Modern Slavery webinar from the Reigate Archdeaconry, which aims to raise awareness of this issue in the Surrey area. Speakers include Carolyn Thom of Their Voice, and Chief Superintendent Clive Davies and DC Bex Davies of Surrey Police. 9.30am-11.45am. Free. Register at: <https://rasjmodernslavery.eventbrite.co.uk>
- \* **LAMBETH & SOUTHWARK** — Unlock is holding its annual sponsored 'Stay at Home' walk on 24 April in the Lambeth, Southwark and City of London area. Further details can be obtained from 01709 380318, by e-mailing [office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk) or at [www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)

### TUESDAY 27 APRIL

- \* **ONLINE** — Together Southwark, in partnership with Cooperation Town, is looking for new ways to tackle food poverty with a community food co-op model. This seminar will introduce the model and answer questions about ways in which churches could get involved and the support that is available for participating groups. Both clergy and lay leaders are welcome. 10.30am-12.00noon, Zoom, free. To book your place, register on Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/3kjzRV0>

### WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL

- \* **ONLINE** — A webinar from The Children's Society about the risks young people face from exploitation. Speakers include The Revd Mike Todd (Church Engagement Manager — Regional) and The Rt Revd Sarah Bullock, Bishop of Shrewsbury. 11.00am-12.00pm. Tickets are free but registration is essential via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CTruZEUMTRGqRLffN5zycw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CTruZEUMTRGqRLffN5zycw)
- \* **ONLINE** — The Big Church Leaders' Breakfast. An online event at which Emma Revie, chief executive of the Trussell Trust, will discuss the Trust's work to build a hunger-free future. Includes time for prayer and reflection, networking, a live Q&A and input from church leaders and food bank teams. 8.10am. Free. Register at: [trusselltrust.org/big-breakfast](http://trusselltrust.org/big-breakfast)

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We want the What's On page to reflect what's happening across Southwark, but we need to hear from you.

If you have an event taking place, either online or in person, please e-mail [bridge@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bridge@southwark.anglican.org)

Thank you!

## Woolwich MEACC rap urges people to "Get the jab!"



Members of the Woolwich Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (WMEACC) recently released a rap video encouraging the UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) community, who are the most hesitant to take the COVID-19 vaccine, to "Get the Jab!"

"We did the video as it is a good way of getting information across to people and using social media can reach greater numbers," said the Revd Carol Bates.

She continued: "At our MEACC meeting, we had previously discussed how there seemed to be a large number of UKMEs reluctant to have the COVID-19 vaccine."

While figures show an improvement in uptake in the UKME population, it is still disproportionately lower than in the white population.

Carol recalled that at the meeting the Revd Timon Singh read the words

of a poem he had written about the vaccination. "I suggested a group of us could make it into a rap and get it out to people in a fun way. As religious leaders in our communities, our voices might be of some influence," she said.

Joining Carol are Revd Timon Singh, Revd Bisi Akano-Adesoye, Revd Stanley Njoka, Revd Sandra Schloss and Revd Herbert Aparanga. They hope it will encourage more UKMEs, especially from the African, Caribbean and Mixed groups, to have the vaccine.

While Carol recognises that they are in no way professional rappers and they will not be giving up their day jobs, she said: "We wanted a creative and engaging way of getting the message out that the vaccine is safe."

When Carol showed the video to her 16-year-old son, she said, "he laughed so much but said, 'Mum, you can't rap but it's funny and it gets the message across. Well done you.'"

Watch the video at [bit.ly/JabRap1](http://bit.ly/JabRap1) and please share.

## Canon Keith Riglin to be Bishop of Argyll & the Isles

The Revd Canon Dr Keith Riglin, Chaplain at King's College London and former holder of the Bishop's Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Southwark, has been elected as the next Bishop of Argyll and The Isles. He will be consecrated in St John's Cathedral, Oban on Saturday 1 May. He has been an Honorary Canon at St John's Cathedral since March last year.

The election was the first ever online episcopal election. Canon Riglin was chosen from a shortlist of three to fill the vacancy left by the Rt Revd Kevin Pearson, who moved to the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway last year.

Canon Riglin said of his election: "I am delighted and deeply touched to be elected as Bishop.



This is such an important time for our communities and churches. I'm humbled by the confidence placed in me, and look forward to all that God may do."



# “It was a complete surprise and a huge honour”: meet Southwark’s 2021 Maundy Gift recipients

*For the second year running, The Queen will be distributing Maundy Purses via the Royal Mail rather than in person; however, the honour remains the same. Below, Southwark’s six nominees share their feelings on hearing about their award from the Palace.*

## Ray Wheeler

“It was a normal day in lockdown when the postman pushed a pile of letters through our letterbox,” Ray said. “Thumbing through the letters I noticed an envelope with the postmark franked Buckingham Palace. What was this all about? Was I about to receive a knighthood or was I about to be incarcerated and taken to Tower Hill through Traitors’ Gate?! Imagine my surprise when I read the contents of the letter from the Lord High Almoner informing me that my name had been submitted by Bishop Christopher to be one of this year’s recipients of the Maundy Gifts.”

Ray has served as a Reader in the Diocese of Southwark for more than 30 years, working with a variety of different incumbents. He has always been prepared to take on whatever job needed doing, however unglamorous, and to do it with meticulous thoroughness. He has served the wider Reader community across the Diocese, and has brought to his current role as Warden of Readers the same dedication and pastoral instinct that he shows in his parish ministry.

He said: “This was a complete surprise and a huge honour and I feel immensely proud. More than that I accept the Maundy Gift on behalf of the all Readers in the Diocese for all their ministry in their respective parishes.”



## Eileen Walkin

Eileen was born in Barbados and moved to the UK in 1965 to further her education in law. She worked in the Civil Service and for the Crown Agents, receiving several awards for community work; she is also a Fellow of the British Commonwealth.

Eileen said: “I opened the envelope and read the Royal Maundy letter to my husband Newton. I could not believe what I read: that I was to be honoured with the Maundy Gift from Her Majesty The Queen for my ‘exemplary Christian service within the community’. Here I am, in my twilight years, recognised for community work over 55 years.”

Over the years Eileen has served her local church as a member of the PCC and on Deanery Synod. She has been a school governor, a special needs teacher and a hospital visitor, and has also volunteered with homelessness projects, with refugees, and with those who have suffered brain injury.

She added: “I give thanks to God. I carried out the ‘mandatum’ instructions in Matthew 22:37-39. As Jesus said: ‘Love the Lord...Love your neighbour...’ I give thanks to Newton for his spiritual support and congratulations to me, and to Bishop Christopher for his generosity in submitting my name.”

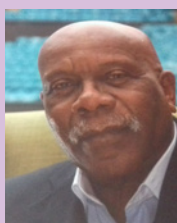


## Tony Sandiford

When the letter came through Tony’s door, he wasn’t sure it was real at first. He said: “It wasn’t expected, so when I heard of it I was surprised. At first I thought it was a bit of a hoax, because I didn’t know who the letter was from, but then I realised what it was. I’m overjoyed, thrilled that it’s happened. You know, you go about your daily work not looking for any such reward, and when it comes you’re just thankful. I’m thankful that somebody thought I was deserving of it.”

Tony came to the UK from the island of Barbados in 1964. Like many West Indians at that time he started to work for the London Transport Board, and also spent a couple of years in the Civil Service. In the early 1970s, Tony joined the Metropolitan Police, starting out as a beat officer before moving to work in CID, where he stayed for the next 30 years until retirement.

In his private time he served on committees that focused on bringing together diverse ethnic groups to serve the needs of the local community. He was the first chair of the Ethnic Minority Centre in the London Borough of Merton. He also co-founded WIFFA (West Indian Families and Friends) which is one of the best known Caribbean groups in the London Caribbean community.



## Evelyn Holdsworth

Evelyn said: “The history of the Maundy Money is powerful, linking so directly with the Last Supper and Christ’s telling us to ‘Love one another’. I have been very blessed to have a career which I loved and which enabled me to work so closely with wonderful schools, children and families for many years. It is a great honour to me to have that career, which gave me so much happiness, appreciated in this way.”

Evelyn has had a long and distinguished career in education. Qualifying in 1974, she served as a class teacher and Deputy Head before becoming headteacher, and then executive headteacher of St William of York Primary School, Lewisham. After a year as principal of Bexley Business Academy, Evelyn became the Senior Leadership Advisor for Southwark Local Authority. At the same time she was co-headteacher of Pilgrims’ Way Primary School (Southwark) and then, also held concurrently with her role at the LA, co-headteacher of John Donne School (Peckham). In addition, Evelyn has also served as chief executive of Communitas Education Trust.

She added: “I’m aware that the usual services will not be happening this year but I will enjoy sharing the gift with my family, friends and colleagues – virtually at any rate!”



## Trot Lavelle

Trot was licensed as a Reader in 2001 and became Sub-Warden of Readers in 2006. In the period prior to 2014, she was appointed acting Warden of Readers — the first lay person to hold this office. Trot has been a member of the Parish of St Stephen, Dulwich since the 1980s where her preaching and pastoral ministry is highly valued by the congregation and her ministerial colleagues.

Trot said: “Receiving an envelope from Buckingham Palace was sensational, then opening it and reading that I was invited to be a recipient of the Maundy Money was stunning! The pandemic has thrown up so many challenges. Over the last year we’ve learned of heartbreaking accounts of illness, isolation, loneliness, alongside carefully supervised and socially distanced church services and Christian celebrations.”

She added: “The teachings of Jesus Christ offer us all the opportunity to inspire, renew and reflect our individual purpose in life. As a Reader in Southwark for 20 years I have been privileged to enjoy many enriching occasions sharing the Christian Spirit of prayerful wisdom and inspiration among people and places. *Nisi Dominus Frustra* was my school motto – without God all is in vain.”



## George Martin

George has offered many years of devoted service to the Robes Project, a charity helping homeless men and women in South London. He retired this year as Chair of Trustees, having been involved with the project since its inception in 2006.

George said: “I was honoured to be advised that I was one of the recipients of the Royal Maundy Money and sad that there is to be no service for this to be given to me by The Queen. This honour must relate to the more than 13 years I spent in developing and promoting the Robes Project which has brought together more than 31 churches in Southwark and Lambeth and shown the human face of the church in offering a helping hand out of homelessness. I am proud that Robes has become the most successful ecumenical project in the Diocese.”

Each year the Robes Project provides accommodation, food and welfare for 100 homeless people and helps to move them into permanent accommodation and more settled lives. Last year, 28 churches took part, with more than 1,000 volunteers caring for guests. In November 2011, George initiated the first fundraising “SleepOut” in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral. This has become a major annual fundraising initiative which has raised more than £900,000 in total.

