

Forest Hill comes together to pray for peace in the community

On Tuesday 26 March, members of West Lewisham Deanery churches and Churches Together in Forest Hill stood together in prayer with local councillors and members of the public.

They were responding to the latest episode of serious youth violence in South London; in which a teenage boy had been stabbed on Dartmouth Road, the main road through their community. He is currently recovering in hospital.

The Revd Edd Stock, Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Sydenham and Forest Hill told The Bridge that there had been a need for a visible response to the incident to counteract the visibility of the attack itself.

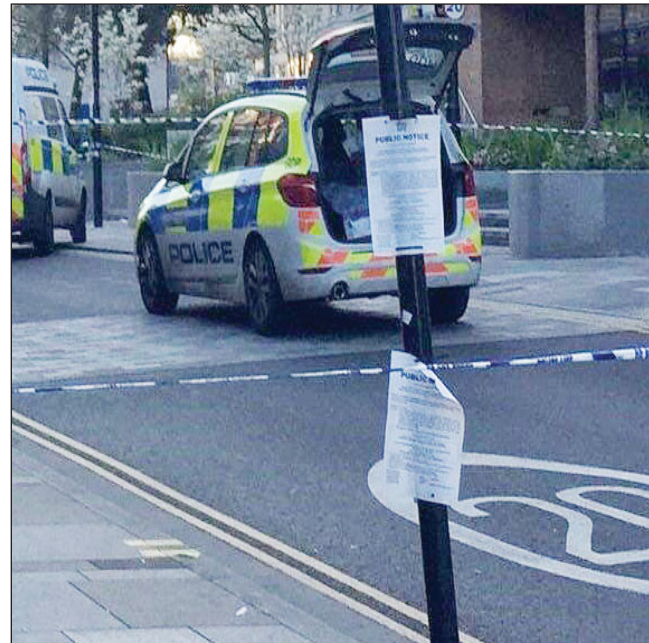
Many local people had witnessed the incident, including the pupils of Holy Trinity School and Edd had spent time in the school offering support and counselling to the staff and pupils. XLP, a London-based youth work charity, had worked with the pupils of the local Forest Hill Boys' School as the victim is a pupil there.

Edd said that they wanted to be a visible presence of restoration and reconciliation in the area and the local community had responded well to their efforts.

One member of a local Sydenham Mums group commented on social media "I was sorry to miss this. Thank you for doing this in our community".



With incidents like this happening more frequently, many Southwark churches are involved in work around youth violence in their communities. In November 2018 the Diocese hosted the Pan-London Churches Serious Violence Summit at Southwark Cathedral where people from all over the capital came together to hear about the work being done to combat youth violence and to share good practice.



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As we look forward to Easter morning...



In the middle of Lent I led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with 30 of our curates. It was a wonderful opportunity to 'Come and See' for ourselves the places associated with Jesus's birth, ministry, death and resurrection and I am grateful to St George's College Jerusalem and to Canon Richard Sewell, recently appointed Dean of the College, for devising a superb programme.

It is a very special blessing to walk down the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane during Lent and then later in the same day see the first century steps, which are almost certainly those used by Jesus on his way to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest, at St Peter in Gallicantu from

where he then carried his Cross. We are all pilgrims on a journey and together in the Diocese we will move into the last weeks of Lent culminating in Holy Week and Easter.

At Easter we bring to a close our Lenten disciplines and celebrate the Risen Lord and all that means for us today. Yet, as we look forward with eager anticipation to Easter morning, we must not forget our needy world.

Here, in this country, we are still grappling with what will happen with Brexit (although by the time you read our way forward may be more clear) and there has been the terrible cyclone in Zimbabwe and Mozambique which has made many people homeless and

destroyed property with considerable loss of life. When we hear regularly of people suffering because of natural disasters and conflict our hearts are heavy and we are moved to prayer.

On Easter morning our worship in every locality and community of faith across the Diocese will be infused with great joy.

Some will meet at sunrise and at the break of day I shall be baptising and confirming while presiding over the Easter ceremonies in the Cathedral.

Other congregations will meet later in the morning; but we shall all be giving thanks for our

Easter faith and celebrate that Christ is risen. And, as we do this, I hope that you will want to spend time praying for our country and for our world.

Pray especially for our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and particularly the Diocese of Manicaland which has been badly hit by the cyclone.

I pray, too, that you will want to discover afresh God's plan for your life. Ask God and ask yourself what you can do to be part of a change for good in your community, in our country and in our world.

I pray that you will have a blessed Holy Week and joyful Easter.

Christopher Southwark



Bishop Wilfred Wood the former Bishop of Croydon and his wife Ina sent greetings from their retirement 'Island in the Sun' when Judith Spencer-Gregson, a member of St Matthew's, Croydon congregation (on holiday in Barbados) visited them. Bishop Wilfred and Ina with their family were regular worshippers at St Matthew's Church.

New Warden of Readers



Bishop Christopher has appointed Ray Wheeler to be the next Warden of Readers in the Diocese. He succeeds Nicole Burgum (Lay Canon), who is retiring having been the warden for the last two years.

Ray Wheeler has been a Reader in Southwark since 1988. He served first at St Stephen's, Norbury & Thornton Heath and then at All Saints, Spring Park before moving to St George's, Shirley in 2002, where he still serves.

He is Croydon Area Warden, serves on the Southwark Diocesan Readers Board and from 2007 to 2014 he was Registrar of Readers.

He said, 'I feel very privileged to be asked to take on the role of Warden of Readers.'

"With the working out of the recommendations of the Lay Leadership & Lay Ministry Working Group, Reader ministry will be undergoing change as we begin to take on board other forms of lay ministries and as the proposed Lay Council is established.

"I want to support not only Readers through this change but Lay Ministry in general in whatever shape it will become within the next few years".

Bishop Christopher said, "I want to thank Nicole for her years of service as Warden of Readers and for all that she has done in this role.

"Ray Wheeler brings a wealth of experience to the role and I know he will be a worthy successor".

THE BRIDGE

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The **MAY** edition is due to be printed on **25 APRIL** and in your parish from the following Sunday.

Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 15 APRIL**

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited.

All photographs submitted for publication will assume 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 www.southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures

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Our link Dioceses need your help NOW

Cyclone Idai - one of the worst on record - has caused catastrophic damage in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, leaving more than 700 people dead and hundreds missing.

Wendy Robins writes

As you will know the Episcopal Areas in the Diocese and the Cathedral are linked with four of the five Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

This year's Lent Call is supporting the work of the Dioceses as we do every year.



Chimanimani and Chipinge districts of Manicaland have been hit by Cyclone Idai. 28 have lost their lives and approximately 500 households displaced. There is water where once there was dry land and houses.

You can see the Lent Call material at www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall and there is more information and videos on our Lent Call Blog which can be found at: <https://southwarklentcall.com/>

On the blog you will see a video, which is a bit shaky, but nonetheless worth watching, from the Diocese of Manicaland, where they have been badly affected by Cyclone Idai. The south eastern coast of Africa has been badly hit by this terrible disaster, especially in Mozambique.

The countries involved were not at all prepared for the terrible weather that they have faced as no one expected the cyclone to be so severe.

Rt Revd Erick Ruwona, Bishop of Manicaland, writes: "The effects of Cyclone Idai were devastating and resulted in loss of lives."

The Manicaland Link group has sent money out to the Diocese to help them feed people and keep them warm and safe - and to begin to rebuild.

Bishop Christopher has asked all our parishes to pray for Zimbabwe and the people elsewhere who have been affected by it.

Do please pray for our Link Dioceses who are now dealing with this tragic time as well as the difficult social, political and economic situation that they may know God's love and peace at this time.

Please consider also what you can give to the Bishop's Lent Call to ensure that we can also be a real practical help to the people of Zimbabwe.

Footfall – A Lenten Installation

The Retrochoir of the Cathedral was the venue for the Private View of 'Footfall' - Alison Clark's Lent Installation - on Tuesday 26 March.

The Dean of Southwark interviewed Alison about the inspiration behind 'Footfall' and the creative process which led to the striking 15-metre hanging, cascading

from the High Altar screen of the Cathedral on display throughout Lent.

A cathedral bears traces of lives lived over the centuries, worn into the stonework and trodden into the paved floors. It can become like a slow sculpture.

This footfall includes those of pilgrims and priests, visitors and regular worshippers. *Footfall* sets out to make these traces visible.



After the guests had inspected the work at close range and Alison (above) had talked in more detail about the way the artwork had actually been created from prints made onto printmaker's scrim (a finely woven lightweight fabric, mainly used for wiping ink from etchings) and then how the two-metre lengths had been stitched together with 60 metres of flax thread.

She joked that she had been asked if it could be pulled down to produce a big 'reveal' of the High Altar at the end of Lent but it required workers roped together at a great height and far too many health and safety considerations for that to happen!

Guests were then invited to see prints taken from the piece and more of Alison's work, on display in the Garry Weston Library, where Alison was presented with flowers by the Dean and guests were able to mingle and chat.

Footfall by Alison Clark is the ninth Lenten art installation at Southwark Cathedral. It is displayed at the High Altar until 19 April, Good Friday. Alison Clark was Artist in Residence in 2018, over the period of the First Anniversary of the attacks on London Bridge.



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Ascension, Balham launches new community hub café

Parish Coffee - a new community hub cafe - has just launched at the Ascension, Balham Hill.

Over 150 people from the local community celebrated at the launch party on the evening of 1 March. Prosecco and puddings were served and the Vicar, the Revd Marcus Gibbs (pictured left with Cafe Manager Laura

Thornborough), shared the vision for the cafe. "In London, a city of no space, Parish Coffee aims to provide a homely space in Clapham South filled not just with the aroma of coffee, but the aroma of Christ. "The cafe is not embarrassed about being both - a great community hub coffee shop and place of prayer. "In fact the spiritual is baked into the DNA of the hub coffee shop - they work in harmony - that's what makes it special. Some days it is parents and toddlers using the community space, other days it's students from the 6th form college, other days it's older folk. "Midday prayer is offered to all - called '12 at 12', it's 12 minutes of prayer at midday. "Come and join us any time 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday at Parish Coffee and we will have your latte and a bite to eat ready!"

In Richard Burbage's footsteps

Residents from Burbage Road, Dulwich, took part in a walk on 13 March from Shoreditch to Southwark to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of Richard Burbage, Shakespeare's actor and friend.

The Burbage Walk started at St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, where old English flowers and herbs, were placed at the actors' memorial, before setting off in the footsteps of Burbage and his company, as they carried their wooden theatre across the river to rebuild it as the first Globe Theatre.

En route to today's Globe, they paused at the Cathedral where the Dean, Andrew Nunn, welcomed them and took them

to the garlanded Shakespeare memorial, introducing him as the most famous resident of the parish of St Saviour's, now Southwark Cathedral.

The stained glass window above the memorial depicting characters from Shakespeare's plays, proved to be an appropriate backdrop for a flash mob performance by actors from the Secret Theatre playing Richard III, Hamlet and Macbeth, all roles written by Shakespeare for Richard Burbage to deliver.

'Footfall' - the Cathedral's Lent installation by former artist-in-residence Alison Clark - was a fitting witness as the Burbage Road residents, walking in his footsteps, trod softly through the aisles on their journey of remembrance and respect.

Actor Pip Torrens reads the words Shakespeare created for Burbage



On Friday 8 March St Alban the Martyr Cheam welcomed Bishop Christopher as 'Guest of Honour' at the 15th Anniversary of its 'Drop-In'!

Bishop Christopher 'tickles the ivories'

The Revd Derek Brice, who founded the Drop-In, led a short Act of Worship and Thanks.

Derek's PA Linda Thearle said: "Everything was going fine until the final hymn - Jerusalem - where a technical problem with the music.

"Bishop Christopher came to the rescue and so ably played the piano for us - what a talented gentleman he is!"

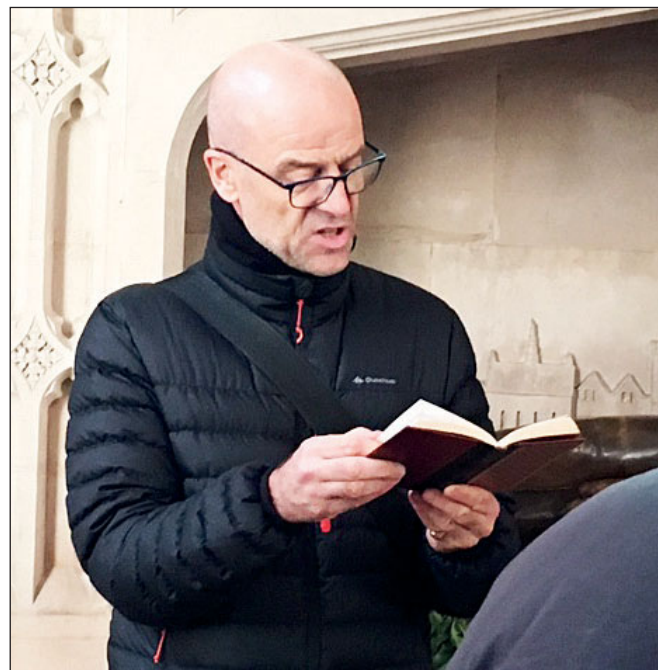
After presentations to the Bishop and the Derek Brice (right), a hot buffet was served during which the Bishop circulated and, said Linda, managed to speak to almost all of the 60 parishioners present.



100 attend WEA Lay Day



Canon Jay Colwill was the keynote speaker at the 3rd Woolwich Episcopal Area Lay Conference - on the theme 'Hearts of Fire with a Vision for Growth' - held at the Ark All Saints Academy in Camberwell on Saturday 2 February. 11 workshops and a market place were also on offer. 100 lay delegates from across the Area were welcomed by the Venerable Alastair Cutting and the closing Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Karowei.



Croydon marks Holocaust Memorial Day

Every year since 2001 the Borough of Croydon has held a Holocaust Memorial Day event - organised by Croydon SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) and members of the Council. This year's event took place on 28 January at the Town Hall.

The Revd Canon Roxanne Hunte reports:

As usual it started with a candle lighting ceremony with the Mayor reading the Croydon pledge. A very powerful speech, written by

the Jewish representative of Faiths Together in Croydon, reminded everyone of the number of genocides that had occurred since The Holocaust and how we must not be complacent as there are many people still being displaced across the world and that this year's theme - 'Torn from Home' - also marks 25 years since the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

A speech from the Leader of the Council mentioned that there had been an article in the paper over the weekend which said one in 20 people didn't believe The Holocaust had happened. This is quite shocking but as we have been holding the memorial event in Croydon for 18 years and as this is something that is taught in both History and Religious Education lessons in Croydon schools, it is hoped that this statistic is not true of Croydon citizens.



The Mayor of Croydon signs the memorial book

Following the ceremony two schools, Riddlesdown Collegiate and Oasis Coulsdon, presented thoughts on The

Holocaust and on the 25th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide.

A film had been made of an

interview with a member of the Croydon Synagogue, who at the age of 6 was taken from a small village in the mountains of Czechoslovakia to the infamous camp at Auschwitz where the rest of his family died. After being moved to several different camps he was finally rescued by the Russians and brought to this country.

This moving account was followed by a speaker from the Rwanda, Chantel Uwamahoro, who spoke about her experiences in 1994 and the efforts still being made to bring justice to the people who suffered during the 100 days of terror.

Pupils in Croydon schools had been invited to write an essay on this year's theme 'Torn from Home', this was organised by Croydon SACRE and the winner Emily May Taylor from Oasis Coulsdon and the runner up, Jake Dennis from Whitgift School, were

given certificates and read their essays out. The RE teacher from the winning school was also presented with a set of Jewish artefacts to enhance their lessons.

A couple of sixth form pupils, Stephanie Cateaux and Louis Springate, from Harris Academy South Norwood gave their very profound thoughts on the Lessons from the Holocaust project which introduces pupils to a survivor and takes them to visit Auschwitz.

Finally, a string quartet from Whitgift school played the theme tune from Schindler's list. The whole event was compered by Cllr Ali and the considerable audience was given refreshments provided by the Mayor.

Further information on The Holocaust including interviews with survivors can be found at www.HMD.org.uk

Southwark Diocese responds to the attacks on Christchurch mosques

On Saturday 16 March Bishop Christopher and Dean Andrew led prayers in Southwark Cathedral for those affected by the attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, two days earlier.

The following day, Sunday, a group from the Diocese walked from the Cathedral to Harper Road Mosque to offer support and friendship at the planned 'Tea and Tour' event.

In a letter to parishes, Bishop Christopher wrote: "On behalf of the whole Diocese of Southwark and my episcopal team we condemn, in the strongest possible terms, any violence based on someone's race or religious beliefs and we stand in solidarity with our friends in the Muslim communities in Southwark Diocese, knowing they will share in the grief that so many feel today.

"These attacks will cause great anxiety in their communities, as they do across the whole community, and we support them by standing together firmly for the rule of law and the dignity of all people. The Christian community stands together with all people of goodwill to oppose those who wish harm to others so that we can bring

light to our troubled world and continue to commit ourselves to work together for the common good."

Dean Andrew has written the following prayer for the dead and injured in Christchurch:



*God, all holy, all loving,
hear the cry of your people in
Christchurch,
those caught up in the
horrors,
those witnessing the effects of
so much hate,
those who hear the news from
far away.
From north and south,
from east and west,*

*draw your peoples into a
closer union,
that we may challenge hatred
with love,
the fear of the other with
friendship
and all evil with your
goodness,
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.*



Join Christians around the world to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Christians from around South London and East Surrey will be joining in prayer and outreach events between 30 May and 9 June 2019.

The global ecumenical prayer movement, initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York has established itself within the church calendar.

In 2019, once again, Southwark Diocese is providing a range of resources to support parishes, schools and communities in this ten days of prayer.

These have been designed to help your church, school and deaneries participate in this initiative once again this year. The resources in the pack have been developed for

individuals and for groups, using different prayer formats and creative ideas to encourage prayer in various locations.

Further resources are available centrally from the official Thy Kingdom Come website at <https://thykingdomcome.global>.

The Bishops and Archdeacons of the Diocese will be seeking to make time during these nine days to engage with parishes and deaneries, taking opportunities for both private and corporate prayer.

The celebrations culminate in Pentecost across the Diocese on Sunday 9 June.

Information about those taking place in your episcopal area will be coming to you through the area offices and in the May edition of The Bridge. Do please support them.



The Revd James McKinney (1952-2019)



from the the opposite direction, clutching a carrier bag. A few minutes later I realised that this was Jim, on his way to St Paul's Wimbledon Park, where he believed the meeting to be.

It was on the return walk to Roehampton Vicarage that our friendship properly began. I found Jim to be a genuinely humble man, brimming with ideas and kindness, and with a confident expansive faith which found delight in life's complexity and expression in loving social action. Over the years to come I eventually ceased to be surprised when coming across a community-based organisation that was chaired by Jim!

Among the most moving elements in his funeral held on 1 February were the testimonies from so many people beyond the walls of the Church who had felt that he had revealed to them the meaning of Christianity.

Jim was born on 14 July in 1952 and grew up in Kenya. Studying Mathematics at Exeter University he worked as a computer programmer before being ordained in 1978. He began his ministry in Yorkshire and before moving to Roehampton in 1996, had alternated responsibility for various parishes in the north of England, with periods of chaplaincy. He was the

Industrial Chaplain of Sheffield (1984 to 1987), Chaplain to Bramshill Police Staff College (1987- 92) and chaplain to the Cumbria Constabulary (1993-1996). At Bramshill he had taught Ethics, Counselling and Management Development for senior officers and at the same time he founded and became the first co-ordinator for, the National Association of Police chaplains.

This rich background in parish ministry and chaplaincy provided Jim with appropriate experience for ministry in Roehampton, where much of his work has involved advocacy for vulnerable groups in society and bringing disparate parts of the community together. Jim was very skilful at keeping people with different religious, social and political outlooks talking to each other. He was chair of the Roehampton Forum for many years.

One of the examples of this that I saw at first hand was his work with Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network (WCEN) which he chaired from its inception in 2001 - an organisation dedicated to developing health and social services which are inspired by the vulnerable groups most affected.

Official agencies are invited to partner and resource local initiatives rather than just decide what local needs are. Leaders of Mosques and Black Churches have trained in Systemic Family Therapy, the South Asian Community have organised healthy eating workshops, and groups representing young members of the BME community are exploring pathways into mental health provision.



At Jim's funeral WCEN's Director, Malik Gul, told how when the organisation was struggling financially in its early days and desperately needed office equipment Jim personally under-wrote the costs. He describes Jim as an ally and encourager who made sure things happened.

Jim was married to Sue, who is a Senior Lecturer in Science Education at the University of Roehampton, where Jim himself was in the final year of a PHD, and they had two children, Ruth and Alex.

They are a family who clearly relish each other's company and always enjoy the exchange of ideas and the sharing of laughter. Sue is a Labour Councillor in Roehampton and Jim was also very active in the party he believed most fulfilled his passion for fairness and social justice.

At his funeral Ruth said this about Jim, revealing even more of his hinterland and confirming his inspirational qualities.

"Dad was a fountain of knowledge - great on a quiz team and a hoarder of Great Courses Lectures and books (as everybody who has been to the

Vicarage will know). He was an avid fan of documentaries, and in the few days before his death he was very pleased that he had finally worked out how to record programmes on Sky - Time Team, WW2 Air Crash investigation, a series on the Spanish Civil War and the history of Stonehenge. Dad influenced me in so many ways - from love of Spike Milligan to folk music, theology to flags of the world to name just a fraction, and I am eternally grateful".

I too am grateful for a friend and colleague who was good company, a source of personal encouragement and wisdom, and who could discuss the latest scientific theories as readily as he could preach an enlivening sermon. Jim proclaimed the Gospel in word and deed and restored the heartbeat to the words 'service', 'enable' and 'collaborate', which are too often robbed of their true meaning.

To the very end Jim could surprise. After his death his family discovered a complete manuscript of a novel called Dark Air, along with some positive comments from a potential publisher!

The Revd Ian Tattum writes:

It took me a while to get to know Jim. When I first arrived in Wandsworth Deanery to serve in St Barnabas, Southfields, thirteen years ago, I immediately noticed his personal warmth but he was at first quite a distant figure, doing dynamic things in Roehampton and Wandsworth, with the Council and various

community groups about which I knew little. He was Borough Dean at the time as well as Vicar of Holy Trinity Roehampton.

Things began to change the day that our Chapter Meeting was due to be in his Vicarage. Being committed to walking whenever practical I decided to walk across Putney Heath to the meeting. Half way there I noticed in the distance a bearded man, approaching

Workshops - May & June 2019

Trinity House
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Monday 13 May and Monday 20 May - £30 for 2 sessions
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Monday 3 June - £15
The Fifth Gospel: Isaiah's good news
Dr Robin Plant

Quoted over 400 times in the New Testament, Isaiah is sometimes called 'the fifth Gospel'. We hear snippets from it at Christmas and Easter, and echo it in our hymns. But what is the book as a whole about?

In this workshop we will focus on its stunning vision of God, and its passion for justice and faithfulness in society.

Malling Abbey
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Wednesday 22 May - £15
Faith and fashion: Is fashion a divine blessing? Revd Liz Resch

'And the Lord God made garments of skins... And clothed them.' Genesis 3 v21

Western society can be consumed with a desire for more, particularly when it comes to clothes. How does our Christian faith interface with the world of fashion? Join us as we ask can fashion be a divine blessing? How might believers live in a culture of fast fashion, consuming and throwing away more than we'd like to contemplate? What of creativity, colour and expression?

Come along as we share, explore and learn together, as we fashion our response to the world we live in today.

To book your place on a workshop, please contact office@staugustinescollege.ac.uk or ring 01732 252 656

Chaplain to the Queen visits St James Hatcham Primary School

"I never thought I'd meet someone who knows the Queen and all the government!" said Jacob (Year 6) when Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Queen and to the Speaker of the House of Commons, visited St James Hatcham School in New Cross in January.

She talked to the children about her early life in Montego Bay, Jamaica and her own school days. She also spoke of her vocation and spent time answering all the children's questions about her life and work. She told them (amongst many other things) how at first she thought it was a joke when she was invited to Windsor Castle; how MPs occasionally behave better when she is in the House of Commons; and



of being one of the clergy at Harry and Megan's wedding.

"Prebendary Rose was so interesting and so funny, she is the most inspiring person I have ever met", said Tosin, aged 11.

Headteacher, Sonia McFarlane said that: "Her effortless ability to connect with all people masks a strength of character, tenacity

and courageousness rarely seen in leaders today. Her frankness about the obstacles she has faced was much appreciated and engaged our children as young as five.

"We are completely in awe of her but also see her as a special member of our St James family and hope that she will find time in her busy schedule to visit us again."



Comfort Idowu-Fearon is really quite a small person, especially in comparison with her husband, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon who is quite a tall man! But, she is big in heart and energy.

This is the third time that Comfort has lived in England. She came first she said, many years ago, in order to marry Archbishop Josiah. He was a student at Durham at St John's College where he was studying theology.

Comfort worked as a nurse whilst Josiah was studying and continued to do this when he went on to study in Birmingham. He was able to do this through a scholarship from the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion. Comfort was here for five years in total – a year before they were married and then a further four whilst Archbishop Josiah completed his studies.

After Archbishop Josiah completed his studies they returned to Nigeria where Bishop Josiah eventually became a Bishop of the Diocese of Sokoto. He was then elected Bishop and then, eventually, Archbishop of Kaduna. The area is in the north of Nigeria and is a rural area in which less than 5% of the population are Christians.

As is traditional in much, if not all of Africa, the wife of the Bishop is the President of the Mothers' Union and the wives of the vicars also lead the Mothers' Union in the parishes. So, Comfort has been much involved in the Mothers' Union for a very long time.

The MU in Nigeria, as in other parts of Africa, is very committed to working in the communities to help people

with income generation as well making sure that there are classes for mothers and many other initiatives.

Whilst Comfort was working with the MU in Kaduna she was also continuing to nurse and so it was no surprise that she told me that she finds life rather quiet here in London.

Eventually Comfort returned to England and worked as an A&E nurse for around thirteen years in order to ensure her children's education. She travelled back and forth to Nigeria during this time and continued her MU work, with some of the vicar's wives helping in her absence.

Just at the point when she had been beginning to think whether it was time to stop living in two places at once

Wendy Robins meets the new Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union President

Comfort Idowu-Fearon

and return home tragedy struck when her second son, who was studying medicine at Bristol University, contracted meningitis and died.

Following the funeral she says that she just knew that it was time to go home and be with family and friends rather than by herself. There is, she said, 'no place like home'. So she went back to Nigeria and worked there with the MU again, being very much involved in the Diocesan Health Committee.

The Diocese also had a farm which had a Conference and Retreat Centre as part of it and Comfort was Acting Manager of the Centre. She was really busy running a gift shop to ensure an income during this period but it came to an end in August 2016 when Archbishop Josiah became the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion Office and so Comfort began her third time living in England.

Lambeth Palace

They now live in a house in the grounds of Lambeth Palace. As we walked across the grounds, past the beautifully flowering magnolia, she spoke of the peace at Lambeth Palace away from the busy-ness of London and the world.

It was obvious that she appreciated this but obvious too that she missed 'getting up every morning and wondering about how much she had to do today'.

Comfort says that her

passion is to care for and work with clergy wives. She says, that she realises that she is very privileged as a Bishop's wife having the opportunity to travel and to learn about other places and societies. Many of the clergy wives are not equipped to lead their local MUs and she wants to train and enable them to help their communities to grow and to find sustainability.

Commissioning

Comfort has not been idle since she has been here as she has been doing voluntary work in the local area and now life is about to get busier, as on Saturday 16 March she was commissioned by Bishop Christopher as the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union President.

She is really rather familiar with this role but not in England and she admits that the Mothers' Union here is rather different.

She has been involved in the Diocesan Mothers' Union for a couple of years now as the Action and Outreach Co-ordinator and so has some sense of the way in which they work and what they do.

I asked Comfort about her hopes for her time as MU President here in Southwark and she spoke of the fact that the MU does so much in secret that she hopes to be able to help to be made more known.

She spoke of the work that the MU does with refugees and of a new project which



is beginning within the Diocese with the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Department called 'English for women by women' in which it is hoped that parishes across the Diocese will get involved in helping refugee women to learn English.

She talked about the work that the MU is already doing with refugee women in Croydon; of work on parenting and of the work that they used to do more in prisons. Visiting regulations have made it harder for MU members to get in and so they are looking at what they can do for prisoners' families and last year, they held a fun fair for them at Lambeth Palace.

Making change

Comfort spoke of having learned not to be afraid to make change and so she has begun to talk to the Trustees a little about how they work together and why they do what they do.

She is enthusiastic when she talks about the MU and encouraging younger people to become a part of it. She knows of the work that happens with the MU in Africa and how this energises and empowers women and the vibrancy of the organization and her presentation at the Mothers' Union Service on 'Walking in his steps' (see P16) was inspiring and challenging.

But it is not only the work in which Comfort is involved. She is working with Sarah

Synder, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Adviser on Reconciliation and Caroline Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury's wife, on a programme which has come to be known as 'Women on the Frontline'. They travel to countries by invitation to train and equip Archbishops' and Bishops' wives.

Last year they visited Burundi and the Solomon Isles and Southern Sudan. This year they are thinking of going to the Middle East, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They stay between three and seven days and invite some ecumenical women too. They seek to train women in reconciliation and other skills, enabling them to think about how to fundraise and work together for the good of their communities. It sounds as if it is exciting work.

Comfort told me 'Clergy wives have always been my passion. I have seen privileged I am - how educated - and sharing that and training clergy wives has always been a focus for me'.

Share God's love

It's easy to see how Comfort was the 'Mama' of Archbishop Josiah's Diocese and Province and how she simply wants to share God's love with all around her. Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union is very lucky to have her and the next three years promise to be exciting times. Watch out for the stories.

Archbishop Josiah, Comfort and Bishop Christopher at Comfort's commissioning



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The Revd Jonathan Coore writes

It may come as a surprise to some people but I don't have a personal trainer. Whilst I am reasonably fit and active, I was put off sport by people using phrases such as 'feel the burn' and 'no pain no gain'. Besides, Lycra has never been my thing.

Unfortunately when contemplating music and the Easter narrative I find myself using the latter cliché.

We cannot just begin Easter with Easter Sunday otherwise the resurrection becomes a narrative divorced from all that preceded it. In order to have the resurrection experience, it is also necessary to have that sense of desolation.

As a musician, this is all to the good because some of the most wonderful music has been composed for Passiontide.

So, as we journey, musically, through Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday let us embrace all the emotion of Passiontide and Easter bringing us into the story and the story into our time.

Miserere Mei

It was Holy Week 1770 and a youth aged 14, heard a piece of music sung by the choir of the Sistine Chapel.

It so captivated him that it said he wrote it down from

Alleluia... Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord... An up
loved... How deep the Father's Love for us... I
most... Christ's...
Dance... Love's...
Green Blade Rises... O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go... O s

memory after hearing it twice at the most.

This particular detail is disputed but one cannot argue that anyone hearing Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere Mei*, a setting of Psalm 51, for the first time would be stunned.

The chapel closely guarded the work, it was forbidden to perform it outside of the Vatican and no copies of the music were available.

The youth was Mozart (1756 - 1791) and he had been in Italy not primarily for religious or spiritual purposes.

He was roughly halfway through a tour of Europe with his father when he was invited to become a member of the prestigious Accademia Filarmonica di Bologna. The Mozarts went to the Sistine Chapel and were clearly taken by surprise, to say the least, by what they heard.

Although not specifically written for Maundy Thursday (it was written for the Wednesday of Holy Week and Good Friday), Allegri's *Miserere* is now regularly performed then and also on Good Friday.

It speaks of King David's abject horror and sorrow for what he had done when confronted with his acts of adultery and murder.

One can also imagine the sense of isolation from God and from himself as the full weight of his actions bore down on him.

Imagine Judas or Peter as they too realised what they had done and said.



Johann Sebastian Bach

'Superstar'

When Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice wrote *Jesus Christ Superstar* exactly two hundred years after Mozart's brazen breach of copyright, one can underestimate his bravery.

It was a musical, for a start, and it was about Jesus. It could have flopped but it was very popular in the mainstream and remains so.

Amongst many of its songs is the one entitled *Gethsemane*. It captures the raw passion and anguish of Jesus in the garden. Some criticised it for the anger and scepticism Jesus shows toward God but taken as a complete song it is a journey. It serves to remind us of the humanity of Christ and for me at least, is a sobering reminder of the obedience

it took for Jesus to subject himself not only to God's will but also to the cruel will of those around him. The original film version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* is well worth watching and this particular scene is immensely powerful.

Bach's Passion heard in Bosnia

On Good Friday 2003, I had partly forgotten that it was indeed Good Friday because my mind was focused on what was going on around me. I was in Mostar, Bosnia.

I decided to switch on the TV for company more than anything else. On the television was a mainstream German channel and I noticed that the programme was scheduled to last three hours. I had no idea that German TV broadcasts a Bach Passion in its entirety on Good Friday. It was simply glorious and I will never forget the experience.

A wall's width outside my room was the devastation and aftermath of war and inside was a close encounter with the divine. I was transfixed.

Bach is often thought to have written settings of the passion from all four gospels. Two authenticated versions (St Matthew and St John) are regularly performed to this day and attempts have been made to reconstruct the St Mark. There is dispute over what exists of the St Luke but it is generally accepted as not being the work of JS Bach (1685 - 1750).

It is incredible to think that after Bach's death, these

mighty and deeply spiritual works were forgotten and all but lost.

I had almost lost Good Friday in my distraction and it is easy for us to lose sight of the importance of the Holy Week and Easter experience.

To reflect on moment of Jesus' death and what it achieved for human kind has been an unending fascination for writers, painters, composers and other artists for centuries. There is no definitive example but Bach comes pretty close in the St John Passion with the deeply moving aria *Es ist Vollbracht (It is Finished)*.

Whether it is to your musical taste or not, there is something sublime here. One final piece that I listen to on Good Friday and can be heard in so many churches is *Crucifixus* by Antonio Lotti. It is a setting of part of the creed and is full of tension and beauty.

Scored for unaccompanied choir it is one of those pieces that many musicians wish they had written. I have already used the word sublime but I am going to permit myself to use it again. Sublime and something to be experienced at least once.

Singing the Easter story

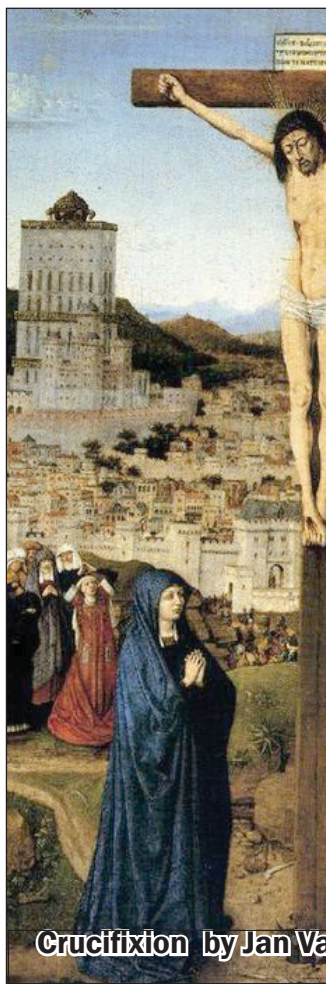
So much for music that we can listen to but we also, of course, sing the Easter story. Again, we can experience the full joy of Easter by journeying through the sorrow. *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* and *My Song is Love Unknown*. The

former was written by Isaac Watts in 1707. The hymn is a meditation on the cross as if Watts had placed himself on Golgotha to observe and participate in the horrific events. In 1757, George Whitefield began the practice of omitting the fourth verse (a practice so common now that many hymnals omit it completely) which *begins His dying Crimson, like a Robe*.

It is not certain what his objection was but Whitfield was good at causing and indeed welcomed, controversy (he advocated a biblical and spiritual justification for slavery).

Whitefield was credited as a hymn writer in his own right but along with his self-appointed editing of the great Isaac Watts, he also felt the need to bring Charles Wesley into line resulting in the perpetration of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. I'm sure he meant well.

When I Survey is one of those hymns that we sing that would perhaps benefit from us standing in front of a painting of the crucifixion and with a copy of the words for us to take a full part in



Crucifixion by Jan Van Eyck

Once only once and once for all... Take up thy cross, the Saviour said...

Thank you for the cross... The day of resurrection... The head that once was

...room did our Lord prepare... Christ the Lord is Risen Today... God so
 danced in the morning... I know that my Redeemer lives... It is nothing
 of terrors... I like a mo... the... of The
 the... Meet... and majesty... the... Now the
 sacred head sore wounded... On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross...

the unfolding story.

Similarly, Samuel Crossman's *My Song is Love Unknown* (1664) is reflective and meditative and compares the treatment of Christ on Good Friday with the life that he had led up to that point. Crossman explores the fickle nature of humanity.

In it he asks the simple and disturbing question why? Disturbing because it reflects what humanity is capable of doing in the face of unconditional love.

*Why, what hath my Lord done?
 What makes this rage and spite?*

*He made the lame to run,
 He gave the blind their sight,
 Sweet injuries!
 Yet they at these
 Themselves displease,
 and 'gainst Him rise.*

Questions with which we still struggle in a world of seemingly unending division, spite and violence.

So, we come to Easter itself. Having, in a former post, had to choose hundreds of hymns for scores of services, my heart slightly sunk when Easter loomed. Just how many different



in Eyck (1390-1441)



ways could we sing the resurrection narrative over a season of seven weeks from a limited supply of accessible hymns?

It was easy to be lazy and slip in a few hymns from Pentecost and some which were more suitable for Ascension. So I did.

Exultet

Holy Saturday is something of a feast of music. Traditionally, the service begins with a lone voice singing the *Exultet*, the Easter Proclamation, ideally out of the darkness.

The text used today is one that has survived amongst variations and it is thought to have been introduced to the church in the 5th century. It is sobering to think that to proclaim that first Easter publicly was life threatening and we now meet in freedom and security.

The original goes on for quite a while (as did the service) but it was designed as a bold statement of why the church was gathered and what was being celebrated.

Easter is not Easter, of course, without *Thine be the Glory!* Which continues this theme of boldness. When looking for a tune for his lyrics, Edmond Budry (1854 - 1932), a Swiss writer, turned to the music of Handel (1685 - 1759).

Handel was living in London and had written the tune for the premiere of *Joshua* planned for 1748 but liked it so much that he put it in *Judas Maccabeus* in 1747. It is triumphal, undoubtedly, and sung on Holy Saturday as the final hymn can be very powerful indeed.

We also sing *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (which, in the wrong key, takes us into

the upper stratosphere and possibly necessitates a visit to A&E).

The original 14th century text had eleven verses. It was cut down to three in 1749 by John Arnold to contain a more concise story. The original however, focused on different aspects and viewpoints of the resurrection.

This modern contraction of the hymn is something of a shame because of the opportunity to really study the mystery of the resurrection.

Obviously, I am not suggesting that by Easter 3 we should all be singing *Jesus Christ was Risen the Week Before Last* (although *Jesus Christ's Still Risen Today* does scan) but it would make more of Easter.

My favourite hymn as a child was *Alleluia Sing to Jesus*.

This is one of those general-purpose hymns that is suitable for any celebration of the Eucharist and at any point in the Easter season. It is most often sung to the mighty Welsh tune *Hyfrodol*.

The hymn draws us into the narrative of Christ and the work of the cross at several points... *Alleluia, not as orphans are left in sorrow now.. or Earth's redeemer plead for me* being but two.

Go Down Moses

Mention must be made of gospel music and spirituals. Most express the hope of our own resurrection through our present sufferings and

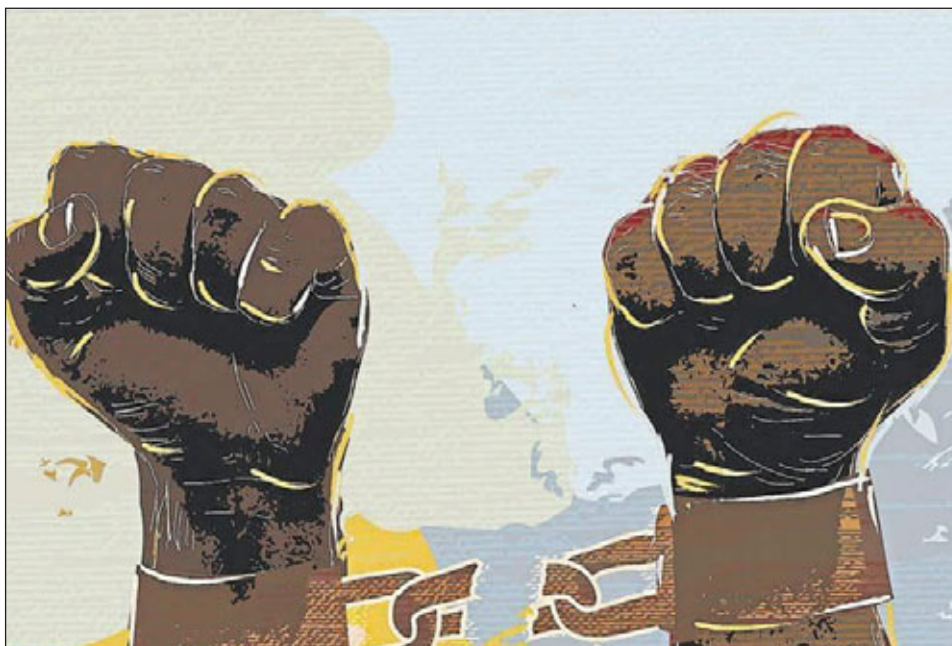


trials.

During the Passiontide and Easter season these can be poignant.

Many of the great African American hymn writers include aspects of the Exodus narrative which is traditionally read during the Easter Vigil.

Go Down Moses is one of the best known examples but there are so many more.
*When Israel was in Egypt's land,
 Let my people go;
 Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
 Let my people go.
 Go down, Moses,
 'Way doen in Egypt's land.
 Tell ole Pharaoh,
 Let my people go.*



This longing for a saviour is part of the narrative and themes of liberation are not the product of wishful thinking. The point of bringing in the story of the liberation of the Israelites is to show that God made a promise and kept it.

Through oppression and enslavement the hope that deliverance will come once again and for a final time is part of our Easter expression.
*Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
 Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
 Oh don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
 That promis'd land where all is peace?
 Deep river, my home is over Jordan,*

Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

Share the depths and heights

Every piece of music to which I have alluded in this article can be found on YouTube for your own personal devotions or perhaps if other commitments mean that Holy Week is difficult to get fully engaged. You may be in a church or Christian Community that lacks the resources for live music.

One of the most memorable Good Fridays at my own church was when we opened with a prayer, sat down and listened to the whole of Bach's *St John Passion* ending with the Lord's Prayer and a blessing. It was a transformative experience for everyone whether they attended the whole thing or dipped in and out.

Music not only has the power to move us deeply, it can bring together the various theological and emotional strands of the Passion and Easter stories. It is so easy to become inured to what we do year on year.

There is nothing wrong with new ways to tell the narrative but some of our established music is always worth revisiting or even discovering for the first time. Whatever your musical taste prepare to share in the depths and heights that make this season so special.

The Revd Jonathan

hill... Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son... This joyful Easter-Tide...

s crowned with thorns... The strife is o'er the battle done... There is a green

Three hundred voices make 'a joyful noise'!



Every note was on point at the 'Come and Sing with John Rutter Day' held at St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common last month.

The Internationally acclaimed composer and conductor led choral singing enthusiasts through an amazing day of music making with a workshop that included music by Faure, Handel and of course the maestro himself.

Priest in Charge, the Revd Philippa Boardman MBE said; "300 singers from Tooting

Deanery, the wider Diocese and as far afield as Dudley and Newcastle joined their voices to make 'a joyful noise unto the Lord'.

"The singing of Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus' nearly took the roof off our Victorian church building. Truly a little taste of heaven".

The event was enthusiastically supported by the congregation with over 50 working hard at everything from welcoming singers, giving out scores, serving teas and cakes to shifting chairs and cleaning loos!

Enthusiasm was all that the singers needed to bring

to the party as the day was open to all ages and abilities. Seasoned choir devotees supported absolute beginners, encouraging them to push onward and upwards!

"Music at St Mary Magdalene is on a roll and our plans keep getting bigger!" said Music Director Barry Holden.

"Our regular Sunday choir has nearly tripled in size over the past year and John Rutter's visit made for a 'cloud nine' day for choral singers.

"Almost nothing generates healthy endorphins for mind and body quite like singing in a group."

Come and celebrate Welcare's 125 years

This year Welcare will celebrate its 125th Anniversary, with a special Service of Thanksgiving in Southwark Cathedral.

Welcare was founded by the Bishop of Rochester, Randall Davidson and his wife in 1894 in response to the desperate need of those we would now call single, homeless young girls and women. Throughout the decades, Welcare has worked closely with local churches and developed its services

to reflect the changing needs of local communities. They now work throughout south London and East Surrey with children and families who struggle to face major challenges of poverty, domestic abuse and mental and physical ill health, offering a range of group work programmes and individual support.

Welcare will host a Service of Thanksgiving in Southwark Cathedral at 11am on Saturday 15 June, to celebrate work with families over the years,

and to look forward to a bright and positive future. Welcare's President, Bishop Christopher, will officiate and preach.

Volunteers, staff, and young people will contribute to the service through specially chosen readings and hymns. All are welcome and refreshments will be available after the service.

For more information please see Welcare's website: <https://welcare.org/news/welcares-125th-anniversary/> or contact Diane Taylor at info@welcare.org

Southwark curates make pilgrimage to the Holy Land

From 20 to 27 March a group of 30 curates from Southwark parishes took part in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, as part of their in-service training.

They were led by Bishop Christopher and members of the Diocesan senior staff. They were hosted by Canon Richard Sewell now Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem.

Their itinerary included visits to the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, pool of Bethesda. In Nazareth they took part in the Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation at the Basilica of the Annunciation. In Bethlehem they saw the separation wall and visited the beautifully restored Church of the Nativity.

They prayed at the tomb in the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem after making the way of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa. They celebrated the Eucharist by a cave in Shepherds' Fields, on the Mount of the Beatitudes and on the Shore of the Sea of Galilee.

We hope that these photos give a flavour of their visit.



BAME Vocations Weekend

Twenty people from across the Diocese took part in the BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) vocations weekend at Wychcroft in March.



The 15 women and five men, aged between 22 and 55 came from African, Latin American, Caribbean and South Asian backgrounds. Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon (above), Secretary General of the Anglican Communion gave the keynote address on Friday

evening: "Ordained ministry in the Church of England: A global perspective" and at Morning Prayer spoke on Isaiah 6 and the call to respond to God's call

Rosemarie Davidson-Gotobed, National Minority Ethnic Vocations Officer for

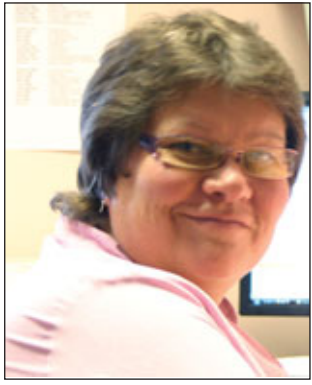
the Church of England, was with us for the whole weekend - led a session on "Encouraging Vocation" where participants reflected on their hopes and fears as they explore God's call to them, and explored scripture and prayer as means of support

Bishops Christopher, Karowei and Jonathan also participated in the weekend with Bishops Karowai and Jonathan also joining a panel of vocations team members talking about their own vocational stories

Practical sessions on the discernment process in Southwark, criteria for ordained ministry, training and support

Members of the vocations team provided leadership and opportunity for individual conversations





Wendy S Robins

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

The Diocesan Synod met at St Mark, Kennington on Saturday 9 March.

Bishop Christopher thanked the Revd Canon Stephen Coulson for hosting us once again and especially Rebecca Coulson for the hospitality that the church provides. He presented her with a bouquet of flowers. He said that Steve and Rebecca recently visited the Kingston Area Link Diocese of Matabeleland with Colin Powell, Diocesan Director of Education. Steve has taken over as the Chair of the Link.

Welcomes and announcements

During his welcome, Steve Coulson brought greetings from Bishop Cleophas who, he said, had been pleased to welcome the Southwark visitors, as it made them feel less isolated at this difficult time. Bishop Cleophas and the parishes had welcomed them and were determined not to let standards of hospitality drop - and Steve remarked on the 'steely resilient' Christian faith in Zimbabwe.

Bishop Christopher welcomed those at their first meeting and said that Ray Wheeler (recently announced as Warden of Readers designate) would lead the prayers. He said that he would commission the Revd Rob Kenyon as Faith in the Countryside Officer for the Diocese during the Eucharist and that Bishop Graeme Kings had become the Diocesan World Mission Adviser. Ruth Martin spoke of the 25th anniversary of Welcare and the anniversary service on 15 June and asked everyone to continue to support them.

Bishop Jonathan then spoke about vacancies on the Board of Education and encouraged members of Synod to think about this. Information can be found on the Board of Education's website.

Presidential address

In his Presidential address Bishop Christopher noted that Synod was meeting at the beginning of Lent and said how good it was to be setting out on the Lenten journey towards the Cross together. He commended the Lenten discipline of listening, because it is, in large part, through good listening that our unity is forged.

He talked about the recent letter sent by the Bishops of the Diocese to clergy encouraging churches and congregations to pray for unity and for our peoples and the peoples of



Europe, whatever our personal views about Brexit.

His full address can be found here <https://bit.ly/2U26xhS>.

Southwark Vision

The Director of Press and Communications spoke about the Southwark Vision evenings happening throughout the Diocese in March - enabling parishes to hear more about the way in which the money pledged through the Parish Support Fund underpins the work of mission and ministry in the Diocese.

MAPs

The Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Diocesan Missioner, spoke about Mission Action Plans (MAPs). He told Synod that 66% of parishes had MAPs, 21% of which are known to be up-to-date. Noting that 34% do not have a MAP, he thought that there had been a recent slip in the initial energy and enthusiasm. He encouraged everyone to review their plans and to contact the Mission Team for help with making one for the first time if necessary. He said that 'growth' is not simply numbers but in spiritual depth and community impact and the mission team wants to work with parishes to spread the good news about what you are doing.

Deanery Leadership

The Revd Canon Duncan Swan, the Deanery Development Adviser, gave an update on Deanery Leadership Teams. The first seven Teams are about to be commissioned and he hoped that up to five more



Teams will be commissioned in September. He noted that the Area Dean's Handbook is nearly complete and that the Lay Chair's Handbook will follow.

He said that Bishop Christopher had made it clear that mission activities in Deaneries should not be constrained by synodical structures and processes, but that "we should all look to create space for the Holy Spirit to stir us with imagination and creativity towards the task of mission in our areas".

Fresh expressions

The Revd Canon Will Cookson, Dean of Fresh Expressions, gave an explanation of fresh expressions and spoke about the growth of fresh expressions in the Diocese. He told Synod that when he had taken up his role in 2016 there were 39 and now there are nearly 100. He spoke of growing a 'platform' to see how parishes can best be helped. E-learning groups are being grown for those working on estates, working with people with disabilities and for Catholic parishes, to see how we can best resource people. These are led by practitioners with experience of this kind of work. He said 'This work is very good news for the Diocese as it complements what is happening in our parishes'. He also commended 'bridge' work where there are activities which encourage people into existing Sunday services.

Lay Leadership & Ministry

The Archdeacon of Southwark, The Venerable Dr Jane Steen, spoke about the next steps on Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry. An Implementation Group, established as a result of the report which Synod accepted, will deal with lay ministry and leadership and the outworking, in Southwark, of the national initiative 'Setting God's People Free'.

There will be a new Committee which brings together the diversity of the work of all lay ministries in the Diocese and it is hoped that this will be up and running in the autumn. A person has been appointed to the three-year fixed term relating to lay ministry and they will start in March. A review of the courses offered by the Diocese will be undertaken and it is hoped that the Area Pentecost Services will celebrate lay ministry.

Seven people spoke in the time for questions and comments and during this Bishop Richard spoke briefly about Southwark becoming an Eco-Diocese. He said that



this would give the Diocese a direction of travel on environmental matters. He hopes to bring a motion to Diocesan Synod later this year.

Knife crime

Chris Elliot then proposed a Reigate Deanery motion on Knife Crime. Speaking of the terrible damage knife crime can do to so many people's life he urged Southwark Diocese to get on with taking action. The motion was slightly amended with his agreement and following the amendment, sixteen people spoke in the debate. Chris Elliot responded, and the motion was overwhelmingly passed:

This Synod encourages each church therefore:

- a) to support those who have been bereaved and those who are emotionally vulnerable as a result of gun and knife crime
- b) to recognise that our response to violent crime in our communities is a public health issue and that children involved, as perpetrators and victims, require a safeguarding and trauma informed response. Trauma affects the whole community and demands a whole community response. We look to churches to build relationships with external as well as other church

organisations to offer this response

- c) to work with the police and others in providing pastoral care for those targeted as vulnerable through County Lines, through strategic intervention work across our parochial networks.

This Synod therefore calls upon "all Dioceses, working with the Mission and Public Affairs Council, to develop strategies to facilitate engagement and resources:"

- a) through support for our schools, especially within urban environments. We recognise the issue of excluded young people being at higher risk of involvement in serious youth violence, and we seek to support the reduction of exclusions in our schools. In addition, we recognise the role that church youth workers and other ministers play, we seek to prioritise services which support children and young people at risk
- b) by ensuring that the Diocesan website contains information concerning the occurrence of violent crime in the Diocese; online signposting for support and counselling for those affected; pointers as to how to respond if such violent crime takes place within the

parish or deanery worked in conjunction with the police

- c) through providing training for clergy and lay leaders on understanding risk factors and identifying signs of vulnerability to county lines involvement including safeguarding responses within parishes.

And finally...

Questions concerning Parish Pledges, the process of dissolving a Deanery Synod Standing Committee, Estates Evangelism and encouraging Youth Evangelism were answered. Bishop Christopher then presided at the Eucharist during which he commissioned The Revd Robert Kenyon as the Faith in the Countryside Officer.



Servers visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea

On Saturday 9 March, a group from the Southwark and London Chapter of the Company of Servers visited the Royal Hospital, Chelsea at the invitation of its Chaplain, the Revd Steven Brookes.

The visit began in the modern Ecumenical (Anglican/Roman Catholic) Chapel located in the Thatcher Infirmary, refurbished in 2008. The Chaplain gave a presentation on the foundation of the Hospital in 1682 by King Charles II, its history and its operation on military lines as a place of retirement for approximately 300 ex-service

personnel (including women since 2009).

It was good to learn that Steven's vocation began as an altar server at his family's parish church and that he has always valued the ministry of servers throughout his time as a parish priest, navy chaplain and at the Hospital where he has been the Chaplain since 2013.

The group walked through the Courts of the Hospital to the Wren Chapel which was completed in 1687. The Chapel is dominated by the captivating Resurrection by Sebastiano Ricci above the sanctuary arch.

Mass was celebrated in the Chapel and seven members of the serving team of Holy Trinity, Sloane Square were admitted as Companions - one of whom is a Chelsea Pensioner!

Members of the Chapter continued their fellowship after Mass with lunch in the Hospital's café.

All active servers in the Dioceses of London and Southwark are welcome to join the Company and the Chapter's forthcoming events.

Further details are available on the Company of Servers website: www.companyofservers.org

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April

Between 500,000 and a million Rwandans were killed in the genocide which occurred in that country 25 years ago this month.

The fact that no one can agree a more definite number shows something of the horror that was unleashed in a 100 day period of killing.

Over the years we have been privileged in the Diocese to host at the Cathedral a number of memorial services for the victims of this atrocity.

As we have remembered those who died we have been conscious that the scourge of genocide is an evil which has to be named and confronted.

During a Cathedral pilgrimage to Armenia we stood at the genocide memorial in the capital Yerevan conscious that our own nation has not yet named the killing of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 as an act of genocide.

Whilst the international community refuses to name what happened as an attempt to destroy a people, real healing cannot take place. We like to think that we learn the lessons of the past, but clearly we don't. The Bible records the destruction of the

Midianites by the Israelites in the 2nd millennium BC. Numbers 31 recounts that an army of Israelites killed every Midianite man but captured the women and children as plunder.

Nearly four millennia later the Jews would suffer their own genocide in the Holocaust. It makes you want to weep and certainly should make us pray.

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

Lord,
forgive us the sin that sets nation against nation, people against people, neighbour against neighbour.
May we learn to live in peace and learn too, the lessons of the past.
Amen.



300 people share the Vision

The Southwark Vision: Making it happen evenings have almost all taken place now. The final evening, which will give anyone who was unable to attend previously a chance to participate, will take place on Thursday 13 June at St Leonard's Streatham. The time will be announced in due course.

The evenings have given an opportunity to learn more about The Southwark Vision, its genesis and how it is being implemented across the Diocese. There was also a chance to learn more about the ways in which contributions which parishes make to the work of the Diocese through the Parish Support Fund underpin mission and ministry in the Diocese.

Each evening was slightly different as each Archdeacon chose the way that they wanted to present the Vision and to tell stories of the work that is happening across their Archdeacons.

In Lewisham and Greenwich, Archdeacon Alastair asked clergy from different parishes to speak about Mission Action Planning and how the plans which their churches have developed have helped them to go out into their communities and help others to engage with the church and the Good News. At each of them lay



(Left) Archdeacon Alastair talks to Reader Crystal Callow from Catford, St Andrew and (right) a small group session at Holy Trinity Redhill



people shared examples of lay leadership: two Readers and a Church Army captain. It was really good to hear about the involvement of many lay volunteers in projects but also to learn more about the Diocese's plans to encourage lay vocations and to recognise more fully the fact that most people spend a majority of their time with their families and in their places of work and that they live out their Christian calling there. Theo Shaw and Siroil Davies spoke at St Peter's Walworth, in the Southwark Archdeaconry, about the impact of their 'Jesus-Shaped People' project and the way in which this has grown their youth work in numbers and enthusiasm as well as inspiring their leaders!

Bishop Christopher attended the evenings in Raynes Park and North Dulwich. In Raynes Park, the Revd Betsy Blatchley, Pioneer Minister in the Arts in the North Lambeth Team, spoke about her work on the Nine Elms Development at Battersea.

This and other work related to developments along the riverfront from 'Battersea to the Barrier' are funded by the Church Commissioners Strategic Development Fund, match funded by the Diocese.

Participants also heard about the Southwark Diocesan Development Fund and how it is hoped that this new fund will help to fund mission and other projects and help with the matched funding for the Strategic Bids.

Nearly 300 people took part in the events and will now share the information gained with the people in their parishes. They were also told that information packs will be in the parishes in April and reminded that their parish's pledges need to be sent to their Archdeacons by 30 June.

Please contact Gabby Parikh if you need further information on gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org or 020 7939 9400.

Visible signs

Celebrating 25 years of women's ordination to the priesthood

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HERE AM I

22 May to
2 June 2019

An exhibition of photography by Jim Grover, commissioned by the Bishop of Southwark

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Opening Times: 11.00am-6.00pm
Admission: Free
W: www.here-am-i.com

gallery@oxo is owned and managed by Coin Street Community Builders: www.coinstreet.org

INSPIRED FOR THE FUTURE

25 May 2019

A study morning of reflection and conversation with Dr Paula Gooder and Professor Esther Mombo will be followed by a special Eucharist.

- President at the Eucharist: The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally DBE
- Preacher: the Venerable Dr Jane Steen
- Plus: the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Southwark Cathedral, London SE1 9DA
Study morning: 10.00am-12.00pm
Eucharist: 12.15pm-1.30pm
Admission: Free
Register via EventBrite: bit.ly/25YearsWomen



Walking | Welcoming | Growing

A quiet corner in South Wimbledon

In a small corner to the south of All Saints' Church, South Wimbledon there is a garden.

A few years ago it was overgrown and largely unused, but thanks to the efforts of members of the congregation it was restored and turned it into a place for quiet reflection and a small outdoor space that could be used by all.

It was recently incorporated into The Quiet Garden Movement and on Wednesday 20 March the garden was blessed and dedicated by the Bishop of Kingston.

The short service began in church and then moved into the garden where the Bishop – assisted by pupils from All Saints' School – planted an apple tree and some autumn flowering bulbs, before

blessing the garden and sprinkling it with Holy Water.

Churchwarden Chris Maurice writes: "The garden is now open every Friday morning and whenever there is a service in church.

"If you just want somewhere to sit and enjoy the spring sunshine, somewhere to pray,

somewhere to think, somewhere to read or somewhere for quiet reflection then our Quiet Garden is the ideal place and you are most welcome there".

Photo: Bishop Richard, the Revd Christopher Noke (Priest-in-Charge), Roger Stanley (Churchwarden) with class representatives



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WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for **MAY ONWARDS** to Trinity House
BY MONDAY 15 APRIL

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. 3pm last Sunday

each month (not Aug or Dec.) Eltham Pk Methodist Church

- † **HACKBRIDGE** - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month
- * **WARLINGHAM** - Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday
- † **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington - Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm

April

Lunchtime Concerts at St Matthew's Church, Redhill
Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 4th Recital - Paul Gregory (Guitar) & Yoko Ono (Piano)
- 11th Recital - Emmanuel Bach (Violin) & Jenny Stern (Piano)
- 25th Piano Duet Recital - Kyle Nash-Baker and Raymond Wui Yiu

Tuesday 2 April

- ♫ **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - An American Celebration of Music - Youth Performing Arts Choir & String Ensemble,

Kentucky. 3.30pm. Music from both sides of the Atlantic. Free admission with a retiring collection

Wednesday 3 April

- ♫ **CATERHAM** - Munch with Music at St John's Church Alfred and Salamanda Saxophone Quartet. Tea/Coffee from 12:15; Performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Admission Free - Donations welcome

Saturday 6 April

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Coffee Concert at St John's - 11am Coffee and cakes, 11.30am Saxophone Quartet. Free admission

MERCY in MOTION
An evening of stories and song with the Bishop of Woolwich and Dr Mosun.
With performances by Lou Fellingham.
www.mercyships.org.uk/tour

Bishop Karowei and Dr Mosun share inspiring stories from their recent trip to the Africa Mercy- the world's largest charity-run hospital ship.

Tuesday 14 May:
Christ Church, East Greenwich

Wednesday 15 May:
St Paul's, Thamesmead

Thursday 16 May:
St Barnabas, Dulwich

7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm)

Tickets £7 (£5 before 15 April)
On the Door £10

Book tickets online at www.mercyships.org.uk/tour or phone 01825 769000

- ♫ **WIMBLEDON** - 'The Spirit of Venice' - Wimbledon Chamber Choir concert at St Matthew's Church, West Wimbledon, including sackbuts and theorbo. Tickets £12 / £9. Further information from Sue White 020 8644 4053

Saturday 6 April

- ♫ **CROYDON** - Spring Concert - Croydon Bach Choir-Elgar's, The Kingdom. 7:30 pm at St Matthew's Church. Tickets £12 (child £5) from <http://www.croydonbachchoir.org/>

Saturday 13 April

- ♫ **WEST WICKHAM** - London Concert Chorus & guest soloists at St Francis of Assisi. Popular songs in Four-part harmony. 7.30 pm. £10 at the door (inc refreshments)
- ♫ **BERMONDSEY** - Brahms: 'A German Requiem', 7pm at St James' Church - Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Choral Society with Chamber Orchestra and Soloists. Admission free, Donations welcome.

- CATERHAM ST LAWRENCE Guided Tours**
 - Sunday 14 April – 3pm
 - Sunday 28 April – 3pm
 - Sunday 5 May – 3pm
 - Monday 6 May – 3pm
 - Sunday 12 May – 3pm
- Adults: £3 Children: free
All proceeds towards the upkeep of the Church

Sunday 14 April

- † **KENLEY** - St Mark's Passion for Palm Sunday, with music by Charles Wood. All Saints Church 6.30pm

Saturday 27 April

- * **MERTON** - Unlock annual sponsored walk in the Merton, Morden & Wimbledon area. Details from 0114 2939060; Email: office@unlock-urban.org.uk or on website www.unlock-urban.org.uk

LET THERE BE LIGHT
A film directed by and starring Kevin Sorbo. A celebrated atheist goes through a near-death experience in a car crash and comes to faith. Coming to a cinema near you this EASTER

Saturday 27 April

- ♫ **SLOANE SQUARE** - Dulwich Choral Society celebrates its 75th anniversary at Cadogan Hall, performing Mendelssohn's Elijah. 7.30pm with City of London Sinfonia and Neal Davies, (baritone). Conductor Aidan Oliver. Tickets: www.cadoganhall.com

May

Lunchtime Concerts at St Matthew's Church, Redhill
Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 2nd Recital - Peter Robertson (Flute) & David Way (Violin & Viola)
- 9th Chamber Music Recital - The Alma Ensemble
- 16th Chamber Music Recital - Angela Jones (Mezzo Soprano), George Mitchell (Violin) & Ann Slater (Piano)
- 23rd River City Saxes
- 30th Recital - Gemma Emson-Jukes (Flute)

Saturday 4 May

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Coffee Concert at St John's - 11am Coffee and cakes, 11.30am Susan Anderson - mezzo-soprano. Free admission

Compline by Candlelight
St Mary's Church, Farleigh
8.00 pm
"More people of Faith"

- 5th Samuel Bernard (Priest barred during Civil War; buried in St Mary's) - Elizabeth Lanyon
- 12th Thomas Merton (Anglican monk, writer, mystic, theologian) - Revd Martin Hayward
- 19th Michael Green (Priest, theologian, writer) - Revd James Ashton
- 26th Nate Saint and fellow missionaries (Jungle pilot in Ecuador, mid-century martyr) - Heather Harris

Saturday 11 May

- ♫ **DORMANSLAND** - 'Music In Maytime' at St John's Church, 7.00 pm - Marianne Goodale (Soprano) & Jonathan Hodgson (Piano) - music from Debussy to Cole Porter. Tickets £10 (u/16s free) from 01342 870681. Light refreshments during the interval. Proceeds to Church funds
- ♫ **EAST DULWICH** - Organ recital at St John's Church 11am - Andrew Chadney (St. Stephen's, Norbury and Thornton Heath. Music by Buxtehude, Frank Bridge and Percy Fletcher All welcome; tea and coffee after; retiring collection.

Sunday 12 May

- ♫ **EAST DULWICH** - Music by the Green 1.30 - 4.30 pm at St John's Church - music by choirs and musicians from the local area and beyond. Refreshments, craft activity and face-painting. All welcome. Admission free.

Thursday 16 May

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Organ Concert at St John's - 7.30pm. Max Smith. Free admission, retiring collection and refreshments.

Saturday 18 May

- ♫ **CROYDON** - Come and Sing Bach's St John Passion at St Matthew's Church. Croydon Bach Choir workshop and informal performance 10am - 5.30pm. Cost - £20 (students free) info & tickets from www.croydonbachchoir.org/ Bring lunch.
- ♫ **OUTWOOD** - 150th. Anniversary Concert at St John the Baptist Church 7.30pm. - Mozart's Requiem and Elgar's Scenes from the Bavarian Highlands. £12 (£6 u/16) e-mail nickandjose@btinternet.com or pay on door

Pentecost services different this year

This year the Diocese is trying something a little different for Pentecost and our Diocesan Pentecost celebrations will be in the Areas.

The Croydon Area is planning to have one service in each Deanery and details will be circulated as soon as they are finalised.

The Kingston Area planning team are meeting soon to think about the service and will write to all the parishes in the Episcopal Area after they have met.

The Woolwich Area service is to take place at All Saints, Peckham. There will be a time of prayer between 3-5pm and the service will begin at 6pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. The Bishop of Woolwich has already written to all the parishes about this.

We will have more details in the next edition of the Bridge - so 'watch this space'...

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Southwark MU opens a new chapter at Festival Service

The new Diocesan Mothers' Union (MU) President and Board of Trustees were commissioned at the annual Festival Service in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 16 March.

Prior to the service a band from St Jude with St Aidan, Thornton Heath played and they helped to create a carnival atmosphere as people greeted each other as they arrived and filled the Cathedral.

The Cathedral was full of colour as many members



next three years and I urge you to join me". She then welcomed Trish Heywood as a special guest, whom she said had been her mentor on the journey that she has travelled.

She ended with a quote from Mary Sumner; "Together we can strengthen one another when we are weak and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength".

After the service, the band from St Jude with St Aidan played again as photographs were taken.

Wendy Robins interviews Comfort Idowu-Fearon - page 5



wore their MU uniforms from different parts of the world.

The first reading was read by Ada Wilson-Jones, the Cathedral and St Hugh's MU Branch Leader, the Gospel was read by the Revd Esther Foss, the MU Diocesan Chaplain, and Bishop Christopher preached.

He welcomed Comfort Idowu-Fearon as the new Diocesan President and spoke

of the many good things that the MU does saying that they very much 'walk the walk' rather than 'talk the talk'.

The Bishop then commissioned Comfort as President and Comfort then presented the Trustees to the Bishop, who were then also commissioned. The MU Choir, accompanied by Peter Wright, then sang Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer.

The theme of the service was 'Listen, Observe, Act – in step with God' and the new President made a presentation on 'Walking in his steps'. She said that the MU must not only be called to make cakes and biscuits.

"We must make a new noise...you are God's building and there are lists of vacant posts to fill. I have anchored God's call in my life for the



'Next year in Jerusalem'

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn writes:

On any pilgrimage we learn almost as much from those with whom we journey as from the place to which we travel.

So we are delighted that in 2020 there is the opportunity to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land being jointly organised by the Diocese of Southwark



and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark.

The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Paul Hendricks of the Roman Catholic Diocese and Bishop Christopher, supported by the deans of the two cathedrals, Andrew Nunn and Richard Hearn.

As with any pilgrimage to the land of Jesus we will be visiting all of the principal sites we know through the gospels. However, what will make this pilgrimage unique will be the opportunity to worship together, to understand a little more about our particular

traditions but also to realise how much we have in common.

We will be staying in hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias and benefitting from local guides as well as the wisdom our bishops will bring.

Places are, of course, limited and so you are encouraged to book early to be part of this very special group.

The brochure and booking form can be obtained from the Pilgrimage Administrator (details in the panel right).

An Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



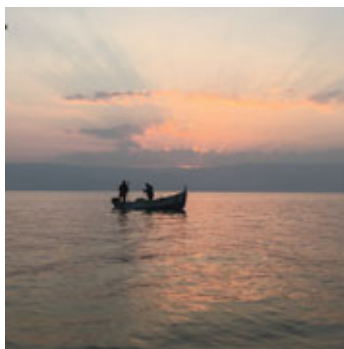
3-10 March 2020

led by Bishop Christopher Chessun and Bishop Paul Hendricks

Cost £1,745 sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. Single room supplement.

Details from the Pilgrimage Administrator
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,
Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW
Tel: 020 7939 9428

Email: pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org



Walking | Welcoming | Growing