

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.27 No.3
April 2022

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Parishes rally to show solidarity with Ukraine

Relief efforts for those affected by the war in Ukraine continued across the Diocese throughout March, with Bishop Christopher also joining other faith leaders in pledging support for Ukraine.

Staff and volunteers at St Mark's in Surbiton have been helping a local Ukrainian woman to coordinate a huge relief effort after she approached them asking to use the church space as a drop-off centre for aid.

Their major focus has been on sourcing items for neonatal care. So far, they have collected enough nappies, baby formula, baby bottles, and basic medicine to fill one lorry and five decommissioned ambulances, which have made it through to Ukraine and can now be used again for medical care.

"The gifts from the community have been streaming in," said the Revd Robert Stanier, Vicar at St Mark's. "We now have the church open for this from 9am to 7pm every day."

He added: "We also used one of the trees outside in the churchyard, on which people were able to put yellow and blue ribbons and say a prayer. There must be over 100 ribbons now, and I think it will steadily increase."

Over at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, the Revd Andy Dovey has led the collection of donations by hospital staff. "They have been flooding in," he said. "We are so proud of our staff who not only give wholeheartedly to our patients but



Decommissioned ambulance outside St Mark, Surbiton, before its journey to Ukraine.

also so generously to those in need. They are an example to us all."

The Revd Canon Andrew Cunningham and his team at St Matthew, Redhill are also collecting and coordinating aid.

Meanwhile, on 9 March, Bishop Christopher was one of more than a dozen London church leaders who met Faith Minister Kemi Badenoch at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London to show their solidarity and support for the Ukrainian people.

The meeting discussed the ways in which the Church could play a role in welcoming

Anglican Communion Primates visit Southwark Cathedral



© Anglican Communion News Service

Senior Archbishops, Presiding Bishops and Moderators from across the Anglican Communion gathered for Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on 29 March. The Primates had gathered in London for the Primates' Meeting which was held at Lambeth Palace.

newly arrived Ukrainian refugees. This was also the subject of an information event led by Nicola Thomas, Head of JPIC, on

24 March, about hosting under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, which was attended by around 35 people from across the UK.

Get involved

Individuals wishing to find out more about how the scheme works can watch the recording here: youtu.be/Ry4-K2jA4XE.

Clergy in the Diocese will also be able, where appropriate, to host people under the Homes

for Ukraine scheme. The first step, if you are considering this, is to speak to your Archdeacon, and there is more information available on the Refugees page of the Diocesan website: bit.ly/UkraineSouthwark

A view from The BRIDGE



“The joy of resurrection fills the universe.”

You would be forgiven for thinking that these words come from our Easter liturgies but in fact they are taken from the Eucharistic preface for All Souls' Day (2 November). As the Resurrection cannot be detached from the Cross, perhaps it is fitting that these prayers remind us that wherever we find ourselves, no matter our grief or trouble, “the joy of the resurrection fills the universe”.

That is important to hold on to in a year in which the unfolding suffering of the people of Ukraine brings us to the foot of the Cross as we prepare to sing with them, and all Christians of the Eastern Church, their great Paschal hymn: “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death”.

The Resurrection was an event of cosmic significance. As the Exsultet, that great hymn of the Western Church sung at the first Eucharist of Easter, says, “Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed” – but what a wonder is that redemption!

“O wonder of your humble care for us!” the great hymn continues, “O love, O charity beyond all telling... O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!”

The Son of God who joined the divine life fully to our human life in the Incarnation has gone through death and burst from the tomb because death – puny death – could not hold him who was Life itself. So the Resurrection is the moment in which we are recreated, and the universe along with us, as God's divine life floods the cosmos with its victory over death so that it might eventually

lose its “bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:21).

As a Diocese we have committed ourselves to improving our stewardship of creation. This is not an optional extra, not an addition to Church's mission. Rather, it is a core value and one of the Five Marks of Mission around which the Anglican Communion offers its missionary work: “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”. For just as the Resurrection has cosmic significance, so the Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for all creation. In the Incarnation, God assumed our human nature and in doing so embraced the world in all its created glory.

This Eastertide I invite you to consider again that creation is a gift entrusted to us by the One who made it. Remember the words of the Ash Wednesday collect, that God hates nothing that he has made. Remember, too, the words of the Easter collect, that “through the mighty resurrection of your Son” God has overcome “the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him”. All things! All things have been made new in Christ! As St Paul says, “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

May God bless you and those you love this Eastertide and may your hearts be filled with the joy of the Resurrection.

Bishop Christopher



NEWS IN BRIEF



The Queen's Jubilee: we need your photographs!

In order to help celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June, we are inviting people from across the Diocese to send in their photographs of parish visits and personal encounters with the Queen. These will be used as part of a slide show during the Jubilee celebration service at Southwark Cathedral, as well as for a special commemorative article in June's *Bridge* newspaper.

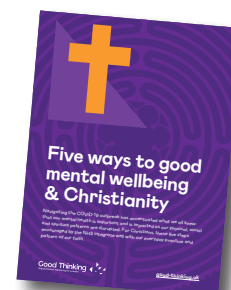
Please send the photographs to communications@southwark.anglican.org by Monday 9 May. **Please remember that these photos will be used in a service which will be available online, and will be reproduced in our Diocesan newspaper, so we ask that you consider this and the implications for safeguarding if you send in pictures of children, young people or vulnerable adults.**

Primate of Jerusalem and the Middle East to visit Croydon

On Saturday 7 May, Archbishop Michael Lewis will visit St Michael's in Croydon. Archbishop Michael is the Anglican Primate of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Based in Cyprus, his ministry includes oversight of parishes, clergy and people in the Holy Land, Iraq and the Gulf states. He will be giving a lecture about Christians in the Middle East, after which there will be Evensong & Benediction and a drinks reception. Doors open from 2.30pm. Please email stmandaa@outlook.com for more details or to notify St Michael's of your attendance.

Campaign for Christian well-being launches

A series of resources aimed at promoting health and well-being among different faith groups in the capital has launched, with members of the Diocese contributing to the section for Christians. As well as a booklet, you can also find advice and ideas for living a happier, healthier life online. Find out more here: www.good-thinking.uk/faith-and-belief-communities



Grants on offer for clergy and clergy spouses

If you are serving, retired or a widow/widower of a member of the clergy of the Church of England/Church in Wales and you are in hardship, the Frances Ashton charity will consider applications for grants to help out. Among other circumstances, they offer help with medical costs for yourself or care costs for elderly relatives. For an application form and guidance please email francesashton@hotmail.co.uk, or visit the website: www.francesashton.co.uk

Church Army releases report on online worship

Zoomed Out, a new report from Church Army, shows that online church meetings did not function as a wholesale substitute for face-to-face gatherings. The report is the product of a six-month research process involving more than 600 worshippers from the Church of England. The report details Anglican experiences of church during COVID-19 and explores how lessons from the pandemic can inform the church's practice moving forward. Read the full report here: <https://churcharmy.org/zoomedout>

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MAY edition is due to be published online on 1 May 2022. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **FRIDAY 22 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



Southwark Cathedral plays host to Bishop Jonathan's final service



Bishops past and present gathered at Southwark Cathedral on 8 March for the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark's final service as the Bishop of Croydon.

In addition to the four Bishops in Southwark – Christopher, Richard, Karowei and Jonathan – another three joined the service: the Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell; the Rt Revd David Hamid, Bishop in Europe; and the Rt Revd Michael Igrave, Bishop of Lichfield.

The lessons were read by Diocesan Director of Education Roz Cordner and Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin, while Bishop Karowei and Bishop Richard led the prayers.

In his sermon, Bishop Jonathan spoke of new beginnings and how, despite “living in a time of emotional uncertainty”, people of faith had a real opportunity to shape lives and political policy by “speaking the language of the heart”.

He urged those present to adopt “three ways of living” that embodied

enduring values: to live in thankfulness; to practise generosity; and to practice vulnerability.

“Just as thankfulness opens the way for generosity,” he said, “so do both of them make vulnerability possible. Generosity begins the cycle of openness to others, desiring their good above our own. It is in that virtuous spiral that vulnerability can take its place, as the readiness to receive, making space to be helped, to receive the generosity of others.”

After the prayers, Bishop Christopher invited Jonathan and his wife, Alison, to step forward and kneel. He said: “Let us now entrust our brother and sister, Jonathan and Alison, into the hands of the Lord, as they leave our fellowship. As we give thanks for Bishop Jonathan’s faithful service to the Diocese over the past 10 years, may the Lord bless him and Alison in the next stage of their journey.”

The service was followed by drinks and speeches by, among others, the Revd Canon Michael Rawson, and Archdeacons Rosemarie Mallett and Moira Astin.

Readers’ relicensing service stresses “partnership in mission”



A Eucharist for the relicensing of Readers was held on 19 March at Southwark Cathedral. The theme of the Eucharist and the preceding Readers’ Conference was “Partnership in Mission”.

The Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow, was guest speaker at the conference as well as preaching at the service. Introducing him, Southwark Diocesan Warden of Readers, Raymond Wheeler, said: “He is the lead bishop for lay ministry in the Church of England and was one-time chair of the Central Readers’ Council so we thought he would be the best person to speak to us Readers about the developing role of lay ministry within the Church.”

The Rt Revd Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston, presided over the Eucharist that followed. The Bible readings came from Ephesians 4:1-16 and the Gospel reading was John 15:1-17. Prayers were led by Readers Gerry Daley and Lindsay Ould (see above).

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins welcomed the Readers to the Cathedral on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, saying: “Lay ministry is very important to our parishes. I know too how sacrificially Readers give of their time. Thank you for

all that you do and may God bless your continued ministry.” Bishop Richard also thanked the Readers for “all that you do for the Church in serving God’s world.”

In his sermon, Bishop Martyn spoke about the National Church vision and strategy, placing great emphasis on lay ministry and the possible funding for this for the first time.

He also spoke about how “our partnership with God is linked to our partnership with one another. No one does ministry alone,” he said, adding: “God gives to the Church certain people who are commissioned to equip the whole people of God for service, and to enable them to grow to maturity, the full stature of Christ. Ours is a ministry of enabling others – and whatever the particular form of our ministry (apostle, evangelist, pastor) it is intended to enable others to service.”

During the Renewal of Commitment, Bishop Richard asked the Readers a series of questions, one of which was, “will you as a Reader, continue, as far as in you lies, to promote peace and unity and to conduct yourself as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of his Church and for the spiritual welfare of all people?” to which they responded, “With God’s help, I will.”

Thy Kingdom Come prepares to launch

This year’s theme for Thy Kingdom Come is “**All God’s people**”, and we will be praying daily from 26 May to 5 June for the lives and ministry of those in this Diocese and beyond.

The Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Director of Mission and Canon Missioner, said: “We recognise that in our diversity of ethnicity, place and vocation, we are united under Jesus

Christ, the Servant King. Each parish, school or community will pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ with their own specific focus. This might be in response to national events, local needs or global concerns.”

A pack of prayer materials will be posted to parishes at the end of April, with further resources available online from May. Visit southwark.anglican.org/tkc for more details.

“All God’s people”: get ready for the Season of Lay Ministries

In order to celebrate those in lay ministry in our Diocese, Bishop Christopher has declared the four weeks from the 1st Sunday after Trinity (19 June) to the 4th Sunday after Trinity (10 July) **A Season of Lay Ministries**.

He said: “As God’s people we are all called to show God’s love to those around us in the way in which we live. Our discipleship leads us to acts of ministry and care for others. I hope that this Season of Lay Ministries will enable us all to focus on the mission, ministry and vocation of all God’s people.”

To help mark the occasion, a series of sermon outlines and prayers will be emailed to clergy and lay ministers in time for Vocations Sunday on 8 May, with other resources following nearer the time. Please do consider including them in your services.

Find more information at southwark.anglican.org/lay-ministries. If you would like further copies of our lay ministries leaflets, email communications@southwark.anglican.org



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

Holy Trinity, Roehampton honours one of its war heroes



From left: Fleur Anderson MP, Councillor Lucy Mowatt and Bill Richardson.

As the war in Ukraine entered its second week, Holy Trinity, Roehampton reflected on war and resistance to tyranny through a ceremony hallowed by tradition.

The oldest member of the church, Bill Richardson, served on a Lancaster bomber in the Second World War. After leaving the RAF he joined the London Branch of the Aircrew Association. The branch wound up some years ago, and its standard came into Bill's possession. On Sunday 6 March, the standard was laid up in the parish church.

The ceremony took place during the main Communion service, in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Lucy Mowatt, and the MP for Putney, Roehampton and Southfields, Fleur Anderson. Bill himself was there, with his family to the fourth generation. The standard was paraded to the Chancel steps by a detachment of 82 Squadron Air Cadets, some of them members of the church.

The congregation kept silence. Bill formally committed the standard to the Vicar "for safe keeping in this Holy Church forevermore". Preceded by a party of servers, two of them also Army cadets, the standard was taken to the Second World War memorial board in the South Aisle, and fixed in place opposite the British Legion standard above the First World War board.

The simple and solemn ceremony was followed by a bring and share lunch.

Fleur Anderson said afterwards: "It was such a pleasure to join the congregation

of Holy Trinity Church to honour the outstanding contribution of Bill Richardson. Hearing from Bill about his experiences as a 19-year-old serving in the RAF during the Second World War provided a unique perspective that I won't soon forget. Many of the young men who served with Bill lost their lives in service to our country, and it was an incredibly poignant moment to remember them together with Bill and his family."

Lucy Mowatt said: "It was a privilege to join the congregation at Holy Trinity, Roehampton to honour Bill Richardson and hear his stories of bravery when he served in bomber command during the Second World War. It was also a pleasure to meet Bill's extended family who had travelled far and wide to attend the special day."

She added: "I'm delighted we were able to thank Bill with the Laying up of the Standard of the Aircrew Association, ably assisted by 82 Squadron Air Cadets. Thanking Bill for his service during the war had particular poignancy as we now find ourselves praying for all those caught up in the current conflict in Ukraine."

The Vicar, the Revd Joshua Rey, said: "We started planning this service months ago, to honour Bill and his comrades in the last war; we had no idea how contemporary it would be. How to respond to tyranny and aggression is a terrible question for Christians, but the need to face it squarely has not gone away. May the present generation inherit a full share of the fortitude shown by Bill and his contemporaries."

BRIT School partnership lights up St Mary, Beddington



On 25 and 26 February, more than 100 visitors attended a Light and Sound Show at St Mary's Church in Beddington Park, designed by students and staff from the BRIT School in Croydon.

The event was part of St Mary's ongoing National Lottery Heritage Fund project. The Venerable Moira Astin, who attended, said: "Partnerships like this are so important. It's amazing what we can create when we work together."

Left: Councillor Trish Fivey, Mayor of Sutton; Councillor Annie Moral, Deputy Mayor of Sutton; the Revd Andrew Fenby; the St Mary's NLHF Team; and BRIT School staff and students.

Wandsworth church hosts premiere of new Rutter work



© Phil McCarthy

Renowned composer John Rutter conducted the premiere of his new work, *A Prayer for Ukraine*, at St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth on 5 March.

The 300 singers who had signed up for the Singing Day had no idea before they arrived that they would be recording a world premiere of a new Rutter piece. Music Director Barry Holden said: "We were deeply moved. I hope we've done it justice and that churches, cathedrals and musicians around the world also embrace John Rutter's new work."

John Rutter said: "I had the opportunity to put it together at very short notice with this wonderful group of 300 people at a Singing Day in South London. The church's Music Director Barry Holden seemed thrilled with the idea. I hope it

speaks in terms which reach out to the Ukrainian people in their hour of need."

The attendees raised £2,600 on the day for the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine appeal.

The English translation of the Ukrainian words of the new piece are, "Good Lord protect the Ukraine. Give her strength, courage, faith and hope. Amen."

The Revd Philippa Boardman, Vicar of St Mary's, said: "We all feel helpless in the face of the terrible suffering of the people of Ukraine. But we can all offer our prayers. We thank John Rutter for the profound privilege of choosing 300 ordinary people like us, gathered in South London for a 'Singing Day', to sing his 'out-of-the-ordinary' anthem for the extraordinary people of Ukraine."

Surbiton primary’s spiritual garden sows seeds for future



St Andrew’s and St Mark’s Primary staff gather for the garden’s opening.

On Thursday 10 February, the children, staff and governors of St Andrew’s and St Mark’s (SASM) CoFE Junior School were brought together to celebrate the opening of a new Spiritual Garden.

Other members of the school community, such as the Board of Education’s Shaun Burns, were also invited.

This marked the launch of a new learning space, a place for reflection and a space for SASM staff and children to call their own.



“The children and adults created the mosaics with guidance from the gardeners, which was thoroughly enjoyable for all!”

Talks about the Spiritual Garden began in 2019 between the previous headteacher, Alison Vigurs, the previous RE lead, Emily Woodward, and another member of staff, Paul Cooney. Paul created an initial design at the end of 2019. Following this, in February 2020, the three members of staff met with Liquidambar, the gardening company that was to take on the project.

The gardeners were given a brief to create a functional garden that would: be accessible all year round to SASM’s

350-plus pupils and staff; have a spiritual influence to reflect the Christian ethos of the school; include specialist areas that could be used for education such as wildlife watching, nature investigation, sensory, pond dipping, seed sowing and propagation; and be sustainable for future generations.

Following meetings between the gardeners and governors, a final design was created that included a spiritual element, mosaics, a variety of plants in the garden, some of which are mentioned in the Bible, a pond, a pergola to allow for outside learning and a woodland area as part of sensory journey for the children to explore. This was then finalised in May 2021 and the journey of creating the Spiritual Garden began!

The final touches

In February 2022, the new headteacher Matthew Gates, new RE lead Rebekah Gnanayutham, Liquidambar gardeners and the governors of SASM were brought together with the SASM Faith Committee to add the final touches.

The Faith Committee, which involves two children from each class in the school, created an abstract design which they thought represented each of SASM’s 12 Christian values: Respect, Thankfulness, Service, Justice and Peace, Perseverance, Trust, Friendship, Generosity, Forgiveness, Compassion, Truthfulness and Courage.

Then, the children and adults turned the designs into mosaics – with guidance from the gardeners – which was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all!

The responsibility to ensure that the garden is cared for and preserved for future generations of SASM staff and pupils now lies with Matthew Gates and Rebekah Gnanayutham. They will be achieving this with the help of the SASM Faith Committee, who will assist in the watering, planting and maintaining of the garden under adult supervision.

Latin American Outreach at St John the Divine, Kennington



The new Latin American outreach project at St John the Divine Kennington (SJDK) involves much food, drink and dancing. “We’re still learning each others’ languages, but we all love a good party” says its Vicar, the Revd Canon Mark Williams.

During the pandemic, the parish recruited a Latin American outreach volunteer, Kristiam Herrera-Carrasco. Kristiam is a Spanish and Portuguese-speaking lawyer from Lima, Peru, who has been a friend of the parish since studying at University College London in 2017.

Kristiam started working at SJDK in September 2021, and on his first Sunday, two new families came to church – one from Brazil, and one from Ecuador. Since then, Kristiam has spent time getting to know them, and helping them to integrate with the parish’s life. They have responded with generosity and enthusiasm.

Six months on, the Latin community and its activities have grown exponentially. The church now has

bilingual mass booklets every Sunday. It also has monthly masses in Spanish and Portuguese with more than 80 people across both services.

In addition there are many integrated social events, multilingual Bible studies in Lent, and a Latin American knitting group every Friday. There is a weekly English class for the Latin American community, and a daily Spanish class for the clergy team. Latino students from the church’s two schools have joined the parish’s choirs, keyboard teaching scheme and youth club.

People of Latin American heritage who have engaged with the parish are a mixture of lapsed Roman Catholics (often for reasons of divorce or sexuality), and others who are unchurched. They have welcomed the openness and hospitality of the Church of England, which they have experienced as accessible and pastorally engaged.

Despite the language barrier, the Latin community is integrating with the existing congregation – bonding over food, drinks and worship – and showing that we are all one in Christ.

Ready, steady, bake at Barnes Primary School

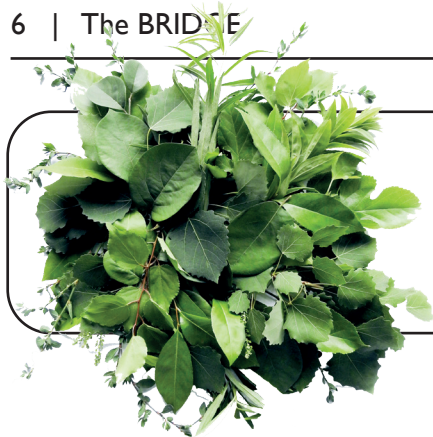
The Revd Stephen Stavrou, Vicar at St Michael, Barnes, enjoyed a treat this year when he was invited to judge the Barnes Primary Bake Off on 7 February.

“It happens every year with a different theme,” he said. “This year it was based on the Sparks Book Awards and children were invited to a bake a cake reflecting the books on that list.”

The baking was organised into year groups, with awards for best tasting, best looking, most innovative and a special mention. The certificates were then awarded in assembly afterwards.

“I’ve enjoyed helping to judge it for a few years now,” he added.





CARE FOR CREATION

Building a sustainable future together

With Easter and the arrival of spring comes a renewed focus on the natural world. Here, Diocesan Environment Officer Jack Edwards shares ideas and inspiration for how churches can join in.

As we reach the end of the Lenten season we are reminded of the rhythms of life, death and resurrection that shape the life of the Church, the natural world and our lives as Christians. This winter has been hard, and with the upcoming rises in energy costs the spring promises greater hardship for many. Yet this season also promises new life, an opportunity to change our ways, to take up new challenges and follow the missional call of the resurrected Christ.

This winter it has been impossible to avoid the growing shadow of rising fuel prices, a topic we have been hearing about since last autumn. With the war in Ukraine and the resulting sanctions on Russian business energy prices will only increase still further. Fortunately, spring brings with it warmer weather and buys time over the coming months to start preparing ways to reduce our energy consumption.

In a recent blog (southwark.anglican.org/five-energy-saving-tips-for-churches), the Diocesan Environment Team put forward

five steps to reduce energy usage in a church building. Some steps are easy to complete and can be introduced straight away, others may require some thought and consultation.

The easiest suggestion is to take a moment to review your “energy hygiene”: how good are we at turning things off? Or only having them on when absolutely needed? You may think you already do this or are pretty good but it is very easy to slide into bad habits without realising.

One longer-term step you could take is to commission an energy audit of the church building. This lets you figure out where you are using up most of your heat and energy, and what steps can be taken to reduce waste and the larger ways you can transition from your current systems to more efficient ones.

There are some DIY audit guides available online but you may be able to contact Parish Buying (www.parishbuying.org.uk) to direct you to a firm. At certain points in the year Parish

Making a statement of intent at St John, Waterloo



The Revd Canon Giles Goddard shows off the new solar panels at St John, Waterloo. The Grade II* listed building has been undergoing a £5.2m restoration which will make it one of London's most sustainable historic buildings when it reopens in the summer, with 80 solar panels and air-sourced heat pumps generating enough energy to power the equivalent of 7.6 households. Giles said: “Making St John's sustainable isn't just about energy saving, it's about helping fulfil our commitment to being here for all who need us now and over the century ahead.”

Buying also offers discounted energy audits and it is hoped that these will be offered again towards the end of this year.

Many of these suggestions are also applicable to our homes: making sure that everything is turned off at the plug, turning off radiators in unused rooms, and so on, are all ways to reduce our energy footprint, cutting our bills and helping the planet.

It is also important to recognise that, come the raise in the energy price cap

next month, the rate of fuel poverty in the Diocese will rocket. There are numerous organisations from the local council to the Citizens Advice service who may be able to assist with advice or voucher schemes, and as a church you might wish to find out where you can signpost people who need help in your local area.

Make it count

And now to turn from the chill of winter to the rebirth that comes with the spring! This is the time when our churchyards

“Floods are destroying people's homes and crops”: how the climate crisis is affecting our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe

During Zimbabwe's rainy season in 2021/2022, there were heavy rains, hailstorms, flash floods and lightning. When tropical storm Ana hit southern Africa in January 2022, it caused flash floods in eastern Zimbabwe. More than 50 schools and 812 households were affected. Our link Dioceses in Manicaland and Masvingo were severely affected. Mozambique, Malawi and Madagascar were also hit.

Zimbabwe is prone to droughts, which have become more recurrent over the last two decades. It is also prone to other climatic shocks,

including tropical storms and cyclones. As a result of this and the deteriorating economic environment, the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO) estimates that almost seven million people in Zimbabwe are in need of humanitarian assistance and 41,000 people remain internally displaced in camps and host communities, putting them at risk of mistreatment, gender-based violence, early/child marriage, exploitation and social exclusion.

ECHO states: “The situation has led to increasing humanitarian



needs, profoundly affecting vulnerable households across the country. In 2021, 3.4 million people in rural areas and 2.4 million people in urban areas faced high levels of acute food insecurity.”

Bishop Christopher has visited Zimbabwe regularly. He says: “Over the years it has become

noticeable that the rains are less reliable and boreholes are not working as well because the water table has dropped and so they are not deep enough to reach the water.”

In Masvingo, there were good rains at the beginning of the growing season this year and people were hopeful but now there is fear that there will be hunger because the second rains did not come and the crops are failing.

Bishop Ignatius of Central Zimbabwe reports: “The Diocese is becoming

overwhelmed by responses to disasters that are becoming a common phenomenon. Floods are destroying people's homes, fields, crops and livestock. In the event of no floods we are experiencing droughts resulting in starvation of many people.”

Bishop Erick of Manicaland reports that people have been living in tents since the cyclones in 2019 and 2021. He says: “This has resulted in the spread of infections, girls being forced into early marriages for survival, and children suffering from malnutrition as a result of food shortages.”

and gardens start to come back to life. From 4-12 June the Church of England National Environment team and partner organisations are encouraging everyone to take part in a “Churches Count on Nature” initiative (bit.ly/3wEKRuU). Closer to the time we will share tools and resources to help you survey what nature is present in your churchyard.

Now is the time to start encouraging all the plants and creatures that we want to be counting in June. Do you have space to plant some wildflowers to attract pollinators? Could you put up a bird feeder or box? Could you create an artificial pond out of some buckets? All of these ideas, and many more, can be found on the resources page of the Eco Church website of A Rocha (ecochurch.arocha.org.uk).

Many of you may be thinking, “Our church doesn’t have any space like that! All we have is a car park.” In urban spaces, even a pot of flowers or a small bug hotel can provide food for bees and birds that would otherwise be flying over a concrete desert, as well as creating a small connection between your community and the rhythms of nature.

Eco Church

Observing the changes to the natural world as it wakes from its winter slumber is the perfect opportunity to start thinking about how we as a Church can start to take more action towards reducing our consumption and increasing our awareness of the environmental issues of the day.

At Diocesan Synod on 12 March (see *Diocesan Synod report*, page 9), the Environment Team, led by Bishop Richard, gave an update on our progress towards achieving a Bronze Eco Diocese award. Over the last year the number of churches across the Diocese who are pursuing Eco Church awards has gone from 19% to 39% – well over a third of churches with that number increasing all the time.

Bishop Richard issued a challenge to the assembled Synod representatives, saying that it was no longer good enough to ask why we should be taking steps to care for creation; we should now be asking ourselves why not!

The A Rocha Eco Church awards scheme is a clear, step-by-step process that helps you look at five sections of parish life: Building; Land; Community and Global Engagement; Lifestyle; and Worship and Teaching. Each section comes with resources and case studies showing how others have worked through challenges. By filling out a questionnaire you can assess what stage you currently are at and clearly see where you can take steps to improve.

The questionnaire is extremely user-friendly. The A Rocha website has an online “app” which enables multiple individuals from the same church to register and update answers. This means a PCC could nominate a different person to fill in each section, or a team of “Eco Reps” could take it in turns to update the survey. The

“Playing our part in tackling humanity’s biggest challenge”: Christ Church, West Wimbledon



The first meeting of our small Eco Church Group was three years ago and we’re thrilled that we’ve just achieved a Silver Award.

Highlights have been our annual Creationtide Display of pictures, artwork and objects contributed by the congregation. Establishing a prayer link with the team at A Rocha Kenya. Involving children and young people in their groups with making our communal Christmas card, making insect hotels, growing sunflowers and taking part in the Churches Count on Nature and RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch surveys. Organising a speaker event in the lead-up to COP26 and hearing from Tearfund, Sustainable Merton

and Young Christian Climate Network. Our Lenten Fasts for Creation with Bible verses and ideas for each week.

We worked hard through major renovations of our church hall to include actions that would reduce our carbon footprint. We’ve improved our land with wildflower beds, bee and butterfly-friendly planting, boxes for birds and bats and new spaces for recreation and contemplation. We’ve written many articles in our church publications and website.

The biggest challenges have been to keep focus and energy on Eco Church during the COVID-19 pandemic and

calculating our carbon footprint for a comparison before and after our hall renovations. We’ll be using the Church of England Energy Footprint Tool and 360° Carbon from now on.

And our main achievement? That all these activities to demonstrate our care for God’s Earth and all Creation are no longer just Eco Church – but simply church. As our Vicar, the Revd Michael Burns, says: “It’s good to play our part in tackling the biggest challenge humanity faces – the climate crisis.”

**Lucy Christie,
Team Leader for
Eco Church**

◀ Continued from page 7

survey is very comprehensive, but don't be put off by the length! Enjoy a cup of tea while you fill it in, and if you don't have the answer to hand, simply put "don't know" or "need to find out" and carry on.

Myth-busting

There are several commonly held myths around the Eco Church scheme, most notably that it will cost a lot of money. However, the scheme itself is free to use, and many of the changes required for the Bronze and Silver awards are not big budget items. Indeed, you may never need to install a heat pump or solar panels, depending on how you use your church.

We also often hear that "our church is listed so we can't do the scheme", yet any church can take part. You could prioritise incorporating care for creation in your preaching and care for the churchyard while the building section takes longer. Listed status holds no one back. Another myth is that "it will take years to do", but again this is not necessarily the case. You might be pleasantly surprised to discover that you are already at Bronze or Silver award level for some of the categories.

Across the Diocese this spring we will see the hardship of energy injustice in the form of fuel poverty. We will see the beauty of the natural world waking up around us. Let us take the opportunity of this season to wake up ourselves. To see the world around and let it inspire us to act, to pursue the Eco Church scheme and if we can help those in our communities who need support.

Find your footprint



The 2022 Energy Footprint Tool is now open. This provides key information on the church's progress towards carbon net zero because it allows each parish to find out how much CO2 they emit. It lets parishes see their own carbon footprint, and allows the Diocese to target resources where they would be most beneficial. As we approach the 2030 national carbon reduction target it enables the church nationally to plot our progress towards net zero. The tool can be found here: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>

Before you start you will need to know a figure for the amount of energy you used in 2021. This covers all sources (electricity, gas, oil) for churches and other buildings such as church halls. The figures can be found on your annual bills, and can either be as kWh used and/or cost (£). You will also be asked for optional information such as the estimated size of the building, number of people attending and the estimated number of hours a week the church is open.

Don't forget to click "Submit" once you have finished. The last date for entering data is 31 July 2022.

"If we can make it to net zero, I'm hopeful that others can too": St Mark, Reigate

When Sophia Oliver, a member of the Sustainability Committee at St Mark, Reigate, heard about the Archbishop of Canterbury's ambitious targets for carbon net zero, she thought, "we'd better get cracking".

Since then, the committee has overseen the installation of 70 solar panels on the hall roof in March and introduced monthly "Green Sundays", when the service takes place in the hall rather than the church to save energy.

"The carbon footprint of our electricity is something like six tonnes a year. The solar panels will reduce that by nearly five tonnes," Sophia says. "If we make a few savings on our electricity as well – we're in the process of replacing our light bulbs with LEDs which makes a big difference – I think we will generate no carbon through our electricity within a year or so."

PCC Treasurer Melanie Crighton adds: "The congregation have been inspired by what we've achieved. We're now looking at using electric heaters powered by our solar panels to heat smaller gatherings in the church. That could take another 10% off our carbon footprint."

Solar panels are a significant investment – the ones at St Mark's cost around £25,000 – but savings can be made through collective purchase schemes. Sophia approached a local firm that was offering a collective purchase scheme through the local authority and reduced the cost of the installation at St Mark's



to around half market price. Now, she is working on setting up a similar scheme for other churches in the area.

She already has the agreement of Home Smart Energy, which did the installation for St Mark's; now she just needs some churches to express an interest. "When enough people are interested, we'll run a meeting so that people can ask questions," she says.

Of course, carbon saving doesn't have to involve infrastructure changes. St Mark's saves half a tonne of carbon each month by moving its Sunday service from the church to the hall. "We looked at prices for heat pumps and things like that," says Sophia, "but actually the simple thing is just to turn off the heating as much as you can. So we thought, let's try it."

Green Sundays are now a treasured part of the church calendar, with even those who weren't sure about the move now feeling positive. "I wasn't sure about it

but I thought we needed to do it for the carbon saving," says Sophia. "But I've really enjoyed the services. You feel this real connection with the community, you're much closer together. I find it much easier to focus. And lots of people have said the same to me."

The Revd Martin Colton, Vicar at St Mark's (pictured above leading the Green Sunday service with the Revd Reginald Grant), says: "The measures we've taken will bring our carbon emissions down by 20% this year. We've got a long way to go but I'm delighted that we've made a strong start."

He adds: "The 2030 net zero target can seem daunting but I'm optimistic that St Mark's is going to make it – and if we can then I'm hopeful that many others can too."

If you are interested in hearing more about the collective scheme for solar panels, email communications@southwark.anglican.org

Bedding in a Bronze Eco Church Award at St Edward, Mottingham

St Edward, Mottingham received an Eco Church Bronze award in 2019. The award reflected changes the parish had already implemented following a buildings-only environmental audit in 2015; recycling and turning off lights and heat were already part of the fabric of life. A lot of the parish don't own cars, and some have electric vehicles, so the travel-related carbon footprint was relatively low.

Changes to the building included more efficient heating, reducing use; switching to fully renewable or offset fuel; secondary glazing; and repairing and insulating the flat roofs. The environmental impact of these works made raising grants much easier.

Since we got the award, COVID-19 has intervened. Having an NHS vaccination centre on site was not environmentally beneficial. Besides the plastic waste, many NHS staff work in buildings that are used 24/7, so heating and lights do not get turned off! Post-pandemic use of the buildings has increased and new hall



users need to be educated in recycling and conserving energy.

Building work is ongoing to re-order the church and further reduce our environmental impact and maintenance bills through longer-lasting LED and adding insulation wherever possible. We have explored installing solar panels but were told our electricity usage is too

low, making solar panels non-viable. We are still exploring but rejoicing in the low usage, despite the buildings hosting several activities each day.

Restoring the side path to the church after 40 years, planting hedging, developing a fully accessible community garden, growing veg for the food bank and reclaiming strips of land for flowers have all brought obvious environmental improvements and raised community awareness.

Once the building works are completed and we can evaluate the new systems properly we will re-do the Eco-Church audit and hope that we will soon be in a position to apply for the Silver Award. Whilst the building works have required major fundraising, behavioural changes like turning off lights, enhancing the grounds and recycling are all low cost or save money and have raised far more awareness in the community. And gardening and growing are also deeply spiritual fun.

The Revd Dr Catherine Shelley, Vicar



IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

Diocesan Synod sets out plans for next three years

It was a day for new beginnings at Diocesan Synod on Saturday 12 March, with members meeting in person for the first time since the pandemic at a new venue, St Peter's in Battersea.

Chair of the House of Laity, Adrian Greenwood, opened proceedings by remembering Philip Fletcher, the former DAC Chair, as well as Sir William Fittall, a Reader at St Mark, Battersea, both of whom had recently died. He also passed on apologies for Bishop Christopher, who was in hospital unable to attend.

After some routine business conducted by Registrar Jon Baldwin regarding the Vacancies in See Committee Regulation, Bishop Richard gave the Presidential Address.

Taking as his theme the phrase "Proclaim the Gospel afresh in each generation", the Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston, said: "It is in following that way of the self-giving love of God that we find hope and life even in the most difficult and challenging of situations. And it is that which underpins all our work in the Synod."

Touching on the hardships of the pandemic, the suffering in Ukraine, and the ongoing climate crisis, Bishop Richard urged his listeners to put the Gospel at the heart of their thinking as they responded to the challenges ahead – not just as it related to humankind but to all creation. He added: "Every one of us is called by God to use our gifts to help proclaim the Gospel afresh in this generation. Your contribution as members of the Synod is absolutely vital."

Care for Creation

Bishop Richard remained on stage to introduce the next piece of formal business, a report on the environment work taking place in the Diocese, saying: "There is no doubt in my mind how urgent and vital these matters are."

Diocesan Environment Officer Jack Edwards discussed Southwark's goal of achieving carbon net zero by 2035 and revealed that we were ready to apply for a Bronze Eco Diocese Award. Nicola Thomas, head of JPIC, added that the Eco Church scheme was working extremely well with 39% of churches in the Diocese registered or awarded.

Questions were asked on solar panels; the challenges of adapting listed buildings; incentivising congregations to go green; and why there was a delay in disinvesting from fossil fuels. Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin stressed that discussion on this last point was under way and that comments would be passed on to the Investment Committee.

Triennium priorities

Ruth then introduced the Synodical Triennium Priorities of:

- connection and communication
- rebuilding parish finances post-pandemic
- the environment
- clergy well-being
- implementing the Anti-Racism Charter
- further development of Deaneries and lay ministries

before inviting attendees to split into groups to discuss each of these topics.

Feedback was lively, particularly on the subject of well-being, with several people



Bishop Richard (far right) prepares to speak at Diocesan Synod. © Eve Milner

stressing that help should also be given to lay ministers and church officers.

Financial update

Financial Director Mark Rhodes gave an update on Diocesan finances, stressing that the generosity of parishes in contributing to a 97.6% collection rate for the Parish Support Fund meant we were on track for a balanced budget in 2023. Ruth Martin acknowledged the demands of the pandemic on income and growth. It was noted that worship counted as such whether it was online or in person.

Living in Love and Faith

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins updated Synod on Living in Love and Faith now that the project was wrapping up. Others had told her how it had been a positive experience, she said. Comments were raised about the sensitivity of the subject, but all were thankful that the Church was talking openly about this.

This Time Tomorrow

Adrian Greenwood followed with an update on General Synod, before Sola Oyeleye, a Reader at St Paul's in Brixton, spoke on the subject of This Time Tomorrow. She would be giving her sermon to her mother's friends, she said, joking that she would be receiving plenty of "feedback". She mentioned that, like many, she was mentally, physically and spiritually exhausted, but that grace

and the support of her community surrounded her.

Eucharist and commissioning

Bishop Karwei led a lively Eucharist, sending prayers for Bishop Christopher and saying how good it was to see everyone in 3D at last, adding that they "look so much younger!"

During the service, on Bishop Christopher's behalf, Bishop Karwei commissioned the Revd Jonathan Macy as the new Bishop's Adviser for Disability, blessing him in the role and inviting a round of applause. The outgoing adviser, the Revd Tim Goode, was also thanked.

Board of Education

The final item of business was introduced by Roz Cordner, Diocesan Director for Education, who discussed plans under the SDBE Measure to streamline the Board. A motion for the working group to begin discussions prior to formal submission at the July 2022 Synod was passed unanimously.

A second motion from Archdeacon of Croydon and Chair of the House of Clergy, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, to approve two new SDBE Board members also passed unanimously.

The event ended with formal questions on JPIC, ordinands, funeral fees and low-carbon vicarages, followed by prayers and thanks led by Rosemarie Mallett.

Southwark Diocese announces three new Resourcing Churches to boost mission and ministry

Bishop Christopher announced in March that three churches in the Diocese of Southwark will become Resourcing Churches to help the Diocese's parishes grow and flourish.

The three churches that will join Holy Trinity, Clapham as Resourcing Churches are:

- St John the Divine, Kennington

- St Matthew, Elephant and Castle
- St Peter, Brockley.

These particular churches have seen significant growth in recent years and have a desire and ability to help other parishes.

A Resourcing Church is one that is prepared to help another parish by gifting people and resources. This might be through targeted support, a graft or through starting a new



congregation and is agreed with the Bishops and Archdeacons working with the parishes.

Bishop Christopher said: "In a wonderfully diverse Diocese such as Southwark, we need different ways to help foster and grow the mission and ministry of the Church. I have been encouraged to see many excellent examples of parishes – which are always our bedrock – working to reach their communities and

to support one another in mission and ministry across the Diocese."

He added: "Resourcing Churches are just one example of the many ways that parishes support and encourage one another in mutual flourishing. I am, therefore, pleased to announce three new Resourcing Churches in the Diocese to help us fulfil Southwark Vision – Christ-centred and outward-focused."

Southwark priest earns Lambeth Award for 50 years' service



The Revd Barry Nichols (right) meets Pope Francis.

Not many priests can say that their ministry has involved theological discussions with a member of The Beatles, but for the Revd Barry Nichols, a self-supporting minister in the Diocese of Southwark for 50 years, it was all in a day's work.

"I was the band's financial adviser for 13 years from the 1970s," Barry says. "I've had some interesting conversations with people like John Lennon and Paul McCartney. I had theological conversations quite a lot with George Harrison, who of course was a follower of Hinduism. When we got bored of meetings, we'd go and talk in the corridor."

As a self-supporting minister who worked as a partner at accountancy firm Ernst & Young for 30 years, Barry was

"I had theological conversations quite a lot with George Harrison, who was a follower of Hinduism."

eminently qualified to talk about both theology and finance.

In addition to his commercial work, he put his accountancy skills to use in the service of the Church, for which he was recently awarded the Langton Award by the Archbishop of Canterbury in this year's Lambeth Awards.

The citation praises Barry's "outstanding and exemplary dedication and service" over many years, which have taken him from the Ministry Division to Rome and beyond.

As Vice Chair of what is now the Finance Panel of the Ministry Division from 1977 to 2002, Barry helped to oversee a review of ministerial education. He also had oversight of college finances. "I've grilled quite a

few of the Bishops of the Church of England about the budget for their colleges," he jokes.

From 1990 to 2015, Barry also oversaw the finances of the Anglican Centre in Rome. "It's the base for the representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Vatican," he says. "But it can be a very lonely job, being based in Rome, you're there with just a small staff. So I've had the privilege of acting as a mentor to the various bishops in post as centre director over the years."

In addition to that, Barry was one of the team that put together the Anglican Communion Fund in 1997, for which he continues to act as Treasurer. It started with a small pool of donors giving around £100,000 a year; now, says Barry, "it raises about half a million a year in order to serve the Anglican Communion in places of crisis".

There have been smaller but no less impactful projects, too. Barry was on the staff at St Mark, Surbiton from 1969 to 1992, when a parishioner confided her concerns about how her son, who had cerebral palsy, would cope in later life without his parents to look after him. "That developed into us agreeing to buy their home, knock it down and develop a residential home for people with cerebral palsy," Barry says.

Out of that project came links with Enhanceable, a charity that offers skills development for people with physical disabilities, for which Barry acted as both Chairman and Treasurer, and which still operates in Surbiton now.

"Life has been very full," Barry says, adding that now he has retired to Chichester he is "trying hard to slow down". However, for Barry, aged 82, this is all relative. He still works a day a week for the Anglican Communion Fund, and takes services in a local parish around once a month. "I'm not involved in parish administration, though," he says, laughing. "I had 50 years of that!"

Utterly brilliant: Timmy Mallett cycles off from Southwark



Timmy Mallett received a blessing from the Dean on 17 March when he set off on a round-Britain charity cycle ride from Southwark Cathedral. The former children's television presenter is hoping to cycle 4,000 miles around the coast of Britain painting a picture every day. Follow his adventures on Twitter @TimmyMallett



LET US PRAY...

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

(follow @deansouthwark to see the Dean's daily morning prayers on Twitter)

It might be just my memory as I get older but it seemed to me that we watched a great deal of comedy on the television when we were children. Some of the series that we enjoyed would not be shown on the television nowadays – far too insensitive of areas of life that we are now much more aware of, or attitudes that we no longer promote – but the very best were great then and great now. Saturday evenings with *Morecambe and Wise* or *The Two Ronnies* had us all laughing.

April begins with a celebration of the fool. April Fools' Day is the opportunity for us all to play practical jokes on one another. But in the past the Fool was much more than a comedian, more than someone who was good at making you laugh. Shakespeare's fools are much more about speaking truth to power in a way that others were unable to do, pricking the bubble of pomposity, using humour to highlight what was wrong.

St Paul speaks about God's foolishness in his First Letter to the Corinthians where he writes: "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength" (1 Corinthians 1:25).

He was really writing about what we might call the scandal of the Cross. As we approach the events of Holy Week, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, which we celebrate this month, we can easily forget how outrageous, how foolish all of this must have seemed to those who first heard it preached to them – like the people in Corinth. Why would anyone believe in



a God who was prepared to die for humanity? Where is the wisdom in a God who would risk all for those who had strayed from the path of goodness, truth and life?

But what we see is that in Jesus, God embraces foolishness and wisdom, weakness and strength, speaks love to hate, conquers death with life, fills darkness with light. God challenges our wisdom with such foolish truth that it brings joy to the whole world.

**Jesus, you reveal to us God's power and wisdom;
as we look to your cross
may we find the life that defeats death,
the light that shines in darkness,
the hope that challenges despair
and the joy that brings a smile
to the whole of creation.
Amen.**

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for MAY ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 22 APRIL**



April

SATURDAY 9 APRIL

* **BATTERSEA** — *The Passion of Christ* with cast and helpers made up of adults and children from the local area. Suitable for all ages. St Luke's Church, Thurleigh Road, SW12 8TT. 4pm-5.30pm. Free entry. No need to book. Refreshments will be served. Contact: parishoffice@stlukeschurch.org.uk

♪ **STREATHAM** — Come and Sing Event: Stainer's Crucifixion. If you would like to sing, please email music@stpeters-streatham.org, stating your voice part. St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Road, SW16 2SD. 2.45pm Rehearsal, 7.30pm Concert. Singers' fee is £15, audience attends for free.

THURSDAY 21 APRIL

* **ONLINE** — Getting Ready for the Great Big Green Week 2022: a Church of England net zero webinar. Find out how your church can get involved this year. Event takes place from 12noon-1pm. Book here: bit.ly/3LYwjLT

SATURDAY 23 APRIL

* **LAMBETH & SOUTHWARK** — Unlock is holding its annual sponsored 'Stay at Home' walk on 23 April in the Lambeth, Southwark and City of London area. Further details can be obtained from 01709 380318, by emailing office@unlock-urban.org.uk or at www.unlock-urban.org.uk

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

* **GREENWICH** — As part of the Heart of Greenwich Place and People Project, you are invited to join a tour of the hidden spaces of St Alfege, Greenwich. St Alfege, Greenwich, SE10 9BJ. 11.45am-12.45pm. £6.84. The tour is repeated on 14 and 28 May. Book here: bit.ly/3uvy4bu

* **STOCKWELL** — An exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the unveiling of Stockwell War Memorial on 3 May 1922, including the reminiscences of the local stonemason who built the Memorial. St Michael's Church, Stockwell, SW9 0DA. 30 April to 7 May. More details here: bit.ly/3DcPLQY

May

SATURDAY 7 MAY

* **ZOOM** — Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus's spring webinar looks at what happens next for victims of modern-day slavery. Speakers include DCI Kerry Loveless of Surrey Police, Bishop Alastair Redfern, Chair of the Clewer Initiative and Archdeacon Moira Astin. 10am-12noon. Free. Book here: bit.ly/3DibJ5h

TUESDAY 17 MAY

* **BERMONDSEY** — The Revd Richard Carter, Associate Minister for Mission at St Martin-in-the-Fields, leads this event talking about his book *The City is My Monastery*, and its principles – silence, service, scripture, sacrament, sharing, Sabbath and staying. St Hugh's Church, Bermondsey, SE1 3PT. Free but numbers are limited. Email Spidir's Sally Lowe on sallylowe1943@gmail.com to book a place.

July

4-6 JULY

* **OXFORD** — *Descent of the Dove* is the largest theological conference being held in the Church of England in 2022. Speakers include Lewis Ayres, Richard Conrad and Rowan Williams. Pusey House, Oxford. Monday 4 July to Wednesday 6 July. Tickets from £36. Find out more and book here: bit.ly/3wyB7m0

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

Thank you!

Board of Education Director confirmed in post



Following a Board meeting of the SDBE on 24 March, Bishop Christopher announced that he was able to confirm the appointment of Roz Corder (left) as Director of Education. Bishop Christopher said: "I very much look forward to continuing to support the work that Roz, along with the SDBE team, has so ably begun through the new Triennium."

Gala organ recital proves to be a "salve and essential glory"

Music devotees gathered at Southwark Cathedral on 28 March for a Reception and Gala Performance celebrating 10 years of the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition (NIIOC).

Organisers had gathered together nine of the 10 previous winners, with only one unable to attend on the night because of COVID. Each chose their own music, showcasing pieces with which they felt a particular affinity.

The result was a concert full of variety, with more traditional pieces by Bach and Mendelssohn balanced by Nishimura's dramatic *Vision in Flames*, and Abba's *Dancing Queen* rescored for organ.

Richard Gowers (winner in 2013) played *Where the Birds Sing*, a piece specially composed for NIIOC and The Commission for Victims and



© Frances Marshall

Survivors for Northern Ireland by Grace-Evangeline Mason. The piece was dedicated to all those affected by the Troubles.

Radio host Sean Rafferty presented each organist, interviewing them by turn. Having described them at the start as "bright sparks to gladden your heart", he ended the evening by saying: "Music is a salve and an essential glory. Thank God we have it."

The concert will be repeated on 6 April at Belfast Cathedral.

Southwark Cathedral licenses new Succentor



Bishop Christopher licensed the Revd Thomas Sharp (above, second from left) as Succentor of Southwark Cathedral on 6 March. Thomas will also act as Minister-in-Charge at St Hugh, Bermondsey. "I've had such a warm welcome," he said. "I'm very excited to get stuck in."



IN FOCUS...

Diocesan people

“Students had to adapt to a new way of life”

University life should be a time for exploration but COVID-19 changed all that. Here, London South Bank University student Emma Fullalove reflects on her peers’ pandemic experience.

I started university in 2019, the year before life as we knew it changed. University was this beautifully overwhelming experience and the seven months I was able to stay at London South Bank were some of the most influential moments in my life so far.

However, those euphoric feelings of independence and exploration were stunted in early March 2020 when national lockdowns were enforced. With life moving online, the university encouraged us to leave the capital for the safety of home. And in a time of such uncertainty and fear, being in a familiar place felt like the best thing to do.

With less than two months left before graduation, I have started reflecting on how the pandemic has influenced myself and everyone else at university during the past two years.

For most students, the initial change to online learning was dramatic and is still taking time to get used to. It is a method that was not just new to students but also the staff.

Morgan Fotheringham is a third-year student at London South Bank University who, like me, has had nearly her whole university experience throughout COVID-19, witnessing the “good, the bad

and the ugly” in the capital. She was in her first year when the pandemic first hit.

She told me: “I don’t think I have been able to make as many friends as I maybe could have if lockdowns hadn’t occurred. But I also know that it has been something that every student has been through and so in that way it has given me a sense of camaraderie.”

Throughout the past two years, some students have stayed at university during all three lockdowns and witnessed all the different regulations that have come and gone. Amber Van Eijk, an international student who lives in Barcelona, found that each set of new rules meant that ever more complex choices had to be made. She made the hard decision for each lockdown to return to Spain and rely solely on online learning for her whole second year at university. “Only

“With less than two months left before graduation, I am reflecting on how the pandemic has influenced everyone at university”



Emma Fullalove (below) studied at London South Bank during the pandemic.

having one full year at university, which annoyingly is my last one, has had a massive effect on me as a person,” Amber said. “The distanced learning has 100% distracted me from my work and I think my grades have been massively impacted because of that.”

She added: “I think from not being in London or at university surrounded by friends and opportunities to meet new people, I have also noticed that I have become a lot more introverted, being almost scared to interact with new people.”

Yet throughout it all, there have been people to help. Jo Lewis, an ordinand at St George the Martyr, Borough, works part-time as chaplain at London South Bank.

She said: “During the pandemic we found it challenging to provide the chaplaincies to universities because throughout it all

people were furloughed or moved to other positions, but also as there was no face-to-face teaching, we struggled to find ways to reach out to students.”

However, they did not let that stop them from trying and were able to support students in ways they may not have tried before. For example, the student mental health and well-being team would refer students to the chaplains for direct phone support, who would then take the time to listen to them and pray for and alongside them on the phone. This gave students the chance to talk to people daily if they needed to at a time when many people were disconnecting.

Over Christmas, Jo added, “we delivered Christmas meals to all students staying in LSBU halls”. This ensured that students who were away from home were well-fed, warm and loved.

There is no doubt that everyone, everywhere has had their lives changed by the pandemic. But students have had to adapt to a new way of life and education whilst still figuring out what they want to be, what careers they want to go into yet at the same time trying to make and maintain new friendships.

“It feels like a good time to be handing on to other people”: the Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley bids farewell to Southwark

The Diocese’s Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry, the Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, will be heading back to her native Australia in July, to take up a post as Warden of Wollaston Theological College in the Diocese of Perth, Western Australia.

The move comes after four years in Southwark helping people to discern their vocation to both ordained and lay ministries. “I’m passionate about helping people to explore what God is calling them to,” Raewynne said, “not just in formal ministry roles but what it means to live out your life in response to God’s call as a disciple.”



One of Raewynne’s proudest achievements during her time in Southwark was the launch of a series of new lay ministries in September last year, which allow people to serve God as Evangelists, Children & Youth Workers, in Pastoral roles and more.

Now, with the new lay ministries bedding in, it is time for a fresh challenge. “The developmental, strategic work is done and it feels like a good time to be handing on the implementation to other people,” Raewynne said.

The move to Wollaston will allow Raewynne to continue the

teaching that she loves. The college is in a time of transition, having recently become a college of the University of Divinity which means it can now teach theology degrees, including doctorates. Raewynne’s hope is that, as Warden, she can lead Wollaston in establishing itself as a full theological college training both ordinands and lay people.

“I am looking forward to drawing on the great experience I have had in Southwark, along with my academic interest in practical theology, as we work to develop both lay and ordained ministry in the Diocese of Perth.”