

Southwark Cathedral hosts 'violent crimes summit'



The Revd Les Isaac and Mercia Perin



Over 250 people from churches across London gathered at Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday 13 November for a summit on the increasing violence in the capital.

Recognising that this is not an issue for London alone, those present sought to find ways of working to seek to halt the violence and killing.

During the event, the delegates heard about the administrative, church, youth, school and police viewpoints from guest speakers.

The Revd Les Isaac, CEO of Ascension Trust, called for an end to the killings in months, rather than the years it has been suggested it might take, and spoke of the need "to get out and understand what young people need and what can help them to move away from violence".

Mercia Perin, a former Mentor with XLP, got the biggest reaction of the day when she spoke from the



young person's viewpoint. She reminded people of the African proverb: 'It takes a village to raise a child' but went on to say "but if that child doesn't feel part of the village, they will burn it down to feel its warmth".

The speakers were followed by a series of workshops looking at how churches can be a part of the solution to this problem. As the day drew

to a close delegates heard feedback from the workshops, culminating in a declaration from the Bishops present who committed to working with each other, ecumenical partners, the wider community and young people to pilot new initiatives in three Boroughs across London, which will report back in a year's time.

The event ended with worship led by the Bishop of

London, the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, and the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark.

Reflecting on the event Bishop Jonathan said: "Those who were present committed themselves to working individually, with their congregations and, as churches across the whole of London, to make peacebuilding a major part of our life together".

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...this month



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Garages ADVENTure starts the build up to Christmas in Sanderstead

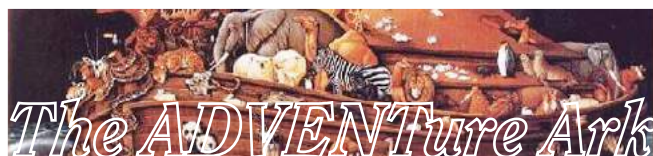


Over 200 people descended on Mike and Anne Fixter's drive on 1 December to launch this year's ADVENTure in Sanderstead - and to meet the reindeer.

Back by popular demand, each night of Advent (from 6-7pm) until Christmas Eve, a different garage or location in Sanderstead will

be open. The theme for 2018 is the ADVENTure Ark. A different animal will feature in the displays each night. Refreshments are available and each night the display will be different. An ADVENTure map can be downloaded from <https://bit.ly/2Pe5TqN>

The event is sponsored by Southwark Diocese, All Saints' Church Sanderstead and Churches Together in Sanderstead.



The Editorial Board and the Bridge team wish all our contributors, advertisers, distributors and readers a blessed Advent, a joyful Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year.





Discovering Christmas anew

When Christmas comes, year after year, when all the trappings are stripped away, the wonderful thing is to discover anew that we are celebrating the birth of the Christ child.

In the birth of a child parents and onlookers glimpse the miracle of creation. The truth about life, which at other times we may doubt, is so much more clear: that our very life itself is God's gift and blessing.

With the birth of Jesus Christ this is supremely so. In the Gospels we hear of shepherds leaving their sheep and wise men

journeying to the place where they can worship the new born king.

Seeing Christmas and Epiphany as a season of gifts starts with our thanksgiving for the gift of life itself - or as the General Thanksgiving puts it, thanks for 'our creation preservation and all the blessings of this life'.

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and in the famous Carol 'In the bleak mid-winter' the final verse encourages us to ask the question, 'What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I will bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him - give my heart.'

The Christian faith rests on our understanding that the birth

of Christ is the outpouring of God's love for us - God's great gift to us of his beloved Son who himself ultimately gives his life for us, opening the door for us to share in eternal life through him.

So in this season of gifts and the exchange of gifts let us remember not to neglect those things that come from the heart. And when we move into the new year, let us also remember the song of the angels, as witnessed by those shepherds tending their sheep, 'Peace on Earth and goodwill to all people'.

As we re-order our relations with the European Union may we find the language of peace and goodwill in our public discourse and engagement with this great issue of the day. Whatever our individual convictions, strong as they may be, we have an opportunity to show and above all to pray for courtesy and much needed respect in our dealings with our fellow countrymen and women.

With my prayers and good wishes for Peace and Joy and Goodwill this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Christopher Southwark

Southwark celebrates the life and work of former Provost, David Edwards OBE



Bishops, Deans, clergy, family and friends gathered in Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday 27 November to celebrate the life and work of the Very Revd Dr David Edwards OBE, Provost of the Cathedral from 1983 until his retirement in 1994.

David was a prolific writer and contributor to the Church Times and during his tenure as editor at SCM Press they published Bishop John Robinson's 'Honest to God'.

Tributes to his gifts as scholar, teacher, priest, pastor and friend were paid by Paul Handley, Editor of the Church Times, the Rt Revd Peter Price, former Bishop of Kingston (and Bath & Wells) and Baroness Perry of Southwark.

One of the more unusual tributes saw David's son Martin read a list of the 62 books that David had written or contributed to between the late 1950s and 2006.

The Dean of Southwark gave the sermon in which he talks of all of David's gifts,

emphasising his skills as a theologian. He ended with the words: "Loving God, we thank you for the wisdom and the insight that David brought to the church, for his courage in publishing and in preaching, his dedication to study, his ability to stretch minds and challenge complacencies. We thank you for his books, for his sermons, for his lectures and for all the ways in which he broadened, deepened and challenged our understanding and love of you".

Photos - (left) the congregation led by David Edwards' family and (right) Bishops Jonathan Clark and Peter Price with Dean Andrew Nunn



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Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 14 JANUARY**

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

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Celebrating 150 years of worship at St Mary, Addiscombe



People baptised or married at St Mary Magdalene w St Martin, Addiscombe returned to help the parish celebrate its 150th anniversary this year.

Penny Munden reports:

Our Vicar, the Revd Amanda Johnson, felt it would be good to celebrate 150 years of worship in three ways - baptism, weddings and Sunday worship - spread out through the year.

The first event was a Celebration of Weddings on 17 March and brought 30 couples

who had been married at St. Mary Magdalene over several decades. Two brides even came in their wedding dresses and the display of wedding photos went as far back as 1941.

July saw a Summer Fete followed next day by the Anniversary Celebration Service, incorporating our wide range of worship styles. We heard testimonies from long-standing church members and new members of the church family. We were joined by past members of our the ministry team, including previous vicar the Revd Richard Williams and his wife, Anna. A celebratory banner was made depicting the various ministries at our church, some of which are newer to reflect more contemporary ways of reaching our local community, such as

Café Creative, Café Matinee and the World Café.

We concluded our festivities with a Celebration of Baptism on 16 September. Our own vicar and her brother were among those who were baptised at St Mary's and we even had returnees from as far as Cornwall.

St Mary's, a short walk from the busy East Croydon Station, has rather unusual beginnings. In August 1866 theologian and former rabbi, Maxwell Ben Oliel, was invited to lead a group of evangelical residents of the new Victorian estate. They met in the gymnasium of a former East India Company college. The congregation grew, leading to the building of a church in Canning Road and services commenced in September 1868. However, it wasn't until July 1874 that the church was consecrated as an Anglican church with the name of St Mary Magdalene.

And don't worry...Amanda Johnson isn't strangling a baby (left) - it's a doll used in a staged 'baptism'.



Cleanki

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Some of the trees in St John's Church Old Coulsdon Festival of Christmas Trees held from 1 - 9 December.



Gold award for Acts 435 crowd funding website

This year Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill, Lambeth has helped over 60 people in need through the Acts 435 crowd-funding resource.

On Wednesday 7 November at Mercers' Hall in London, the York-based Acts 435 project was awarded 'Gold' as the best replicable project at the Christian Funders' Forum Awards.

The Awards showcased initiatives that have been at work in communities through the UK and demonstrate how faith groups contribute at least £3 billion worth of social and welfare support to the UK every year, helping 48 million people in the process.

Acts 435 is an online charity, launched by the Archbishop of York in 2010 that directly links those wanting to give with those needing their help.. Advocates from local churches identify a person who has a

genuine financial need, for a school uniform for example; this need is then posted onto Acts 435's crowd funding website where people can make donations to the needs listed.

Jenny Herrera, Executive Director of Acts 435, was accompanied to the Awards by church advocate, Aileen Garden, from Holy Trinity Church who said: "So many people have been blessed by small gifts received from

donors and it is a joy to see lives improved. Acts 435 really works! It is a simple process with minimum administration. Do join us!"

For further information visit <https://acts435.org.uk>

Photo: Jenny Herrera (centre) with Aileen Garden receives the gold award from Amanda Bindon, Co-Chief Executive of Cinnamon Network, sponsors of the award,



PILGRIMAGE TO THE OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

July 20-27th 2020

In 1633, when the small Bavarian village of Oberammergau was in the grip of the plague, its inhabitants vowed that if they were spared, they would stage a Passion Play every ten years. For hundreds of years since, despite dangers and threats, they have kept their vow. Today, pilgrims from all over the world are captivated by the Play. It is not only a testimony of religious faith but also an outstanding cultural event.

Travel by luxury coach from South London, visiting the fairy tale castles of Austria and Innsbruck, before seeing a performance of the Passion Play, and staying overnight in Oberammergau. Led by Canon Dr Sue Clarke Prices from £1,095 sharing, limited single rooms available.

Contact semclarke@btinternet.com or 07710 744006



Southwark Cathedral supports #RedWednesday persecuted church campaign

On Wednesday 28 November Southwark Cathedral tower was lit up red overnight as part of the #RedWednesday campaign run by Aid to the

Church in Need and Christian Solidarity Worldwide. The Cathedral was also the first stop for the campaign's 'Faith and Freedom' London bus.

This is the first time that Southwark Cathedral has taken part in the #RedWednesday initiative, which is now in its third year. The campaign

offers people a chance to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians and other faith minorities who suffer unjustly for their peacefully-held beliefs.



From Tooting to Ethiopia

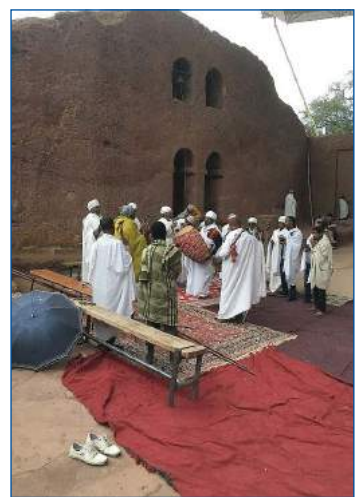


Members of the Upper Tooting United Benefice (Holy Trinity and St Augustine) spent an exhilarating 11 days on pilgrimage in Ethiopia.

The group visited the ancient churches of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tawehedo Church, and met with clergy and people as they learned more about the deep history and faith of this ancient community.

Highlights included the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela and a chance to join the very early morning liturgy (right), the painted churches of Gondar and Lake Tana, celebrating the

Eucharist in the Simien mountains (at 3200 metres) and a visit to the deacon school near Bahir Dar.



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50
YEARS
1968-2018

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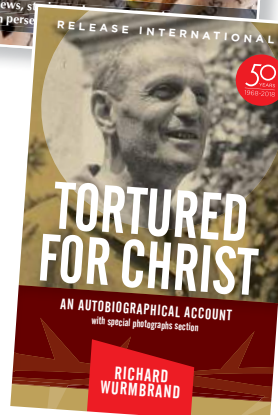
Richard Wurmbbrand spent 14 years in prisons in communist Romania, three in solitary confinement. Tortured for Christ is the remarkable story of how he survived and inspired us to support persecuted Christians around the world.

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BRIDGE 2018-12

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
Voice 50
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1968-2018



Wendy S Robins DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

The Southwark Diocesan Synod took place on Saturday 7 November at St Mark, Kennington. Members of the Synod, especially those who were new to Synod this triennial (three years of meetings) were welcomed by Bishop Jonathan who was in the Chair as Bishop Christopher was on sabbatical. The prayers to begin Synod were led by the Venerable Chris Skilton, Archdeacon of Croydon.

There were 14 formal apologies. The health and safety notices and welcome to the church were given by the Vicar, the Revd Canon Steve Coulson and notices were given by the Diocesan Secretary. She noted that the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett and Adrian Greenwood has been elected as the Chairs of Synod unopposed.

The Presidential Address was given by The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham, the Bishop of Kingston, who offered some reflections on the broad

mission of the Church in the current context. He thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on Diocesan Synod and said: "Let us pray that in all our service we may be guided, empowered and directed by God's Holy Spirit".

A full text of his address can be found at <https://bit.ly/2AOGFPF>

Following the Presidential Address Bishop Jonathan handed the chair to Adrian Greenwood.

He described the next three years as an exciting time in the Diocese. He summarised the role of the DCT, Bishops Council and the Board of Finance (DBF) and the proposals for elections for available places. Lotwina Farodoye, Vice Chair of the DBF and Nicholas Burt, Chair of Policy & Finance Sub-Committee were co-opted to the Synod. Nicholas Burton, Philip Fletcher, Michael Hartley and Andrew McMurtrie were elected to the DCT.

Vision and Objectives

The Diocesan Secretary, Deputy Diocesan Secretary and the Director of Press and Communications, gave a presentation detailing the progress made on the 2018 Annual Objectives, the Strategic Objectives, and the Annual Objectives for 2019.

Canon Stephen Roberts gave a quick review of the annual objectives that had been set confirming that a balanced budget had been achieved at the end of the year. He ran through the rest of the initiatives which were in progress, highlighting projects like Nine Elms, the provision of mission grants and maintaining services to parishes. Wendy Robins said that the Southwark Vision objectives had been designed to work towards 'a fruitful future'.

The 2019 annual objectives provided the context for the budget presentation from Alan



Lent Call recipients with Bishop Karowei

Saunders, Chair of the DBF. He said that Ruth Martin and colleagues had transformed the Diocesan finances over the past two years. Expenditure had been frozen and costs had been controlled by cutting back on property spending. Projected income was down for 2019 but had countered by limiting costs. Parishes had continued to be very generous and it was remarkable that within the last two years 99% of pledges had been given. Some 90% of parishes have indicated that they will increase or match their pledge for 2019.

After a number of questions, some very detailed, the total budget expenditure of £24.5m based on total budgeted income of £24.6m was agreed overwhelmingly.

SDBE elections

Synod members were advised of elected members of the Diocesan Board Of Education following a nomination process. Following the meeting a competitive election had been held for two clergy members for Lewisham & Greenwich, and Southwark. The Revd Ariadne van den Hof (Lewisham & Greenwich) and the Revd Dr Sharon Moughtin-Mumby (Southwark) were elected.

Fit For Purpose Implementation Review

The Diocesan Secretary gave a presentation on the feedback received from the independent

consultant who reviewed the implementation of the *Fit for Purpose Report*.

The Review showed that in the three years since the Report, designed to streamline the structures of the Diocese, a lot of work had been done by a lot of people. A former member of the trustees, Anne Deering, would be facilitating further training for trustees. A Handbook of Governance is being produced by the Diocesan Secretary. Synod members were asked to provide feedback in groups and the Diocesan Council of Trustees will further discuss the subject at its residential meeting in February.

Eco Church Presentation

The Diocesan Environment Officer, Sue Mallinson, introduced herself and the Area Environmental Officers: the Revd Dr Catherine Shelley and the Revd Dr Tim Astin. They stressed the important role that churches served in positive environmental practices, and urged parishes to become more mindful of what could be achieved with even small changes.

Susan Mallinson said: "It's about putting into practice our concern in the way we live. These things are present in the five marks of mission". She outlined A Rocha's Eco Church work in the UK saying that there were more than 35 eco churches in the Diocese.

Bishop Richard thanked Sue and team saying that this was "...a massive issue of our time ...and integral to our understanding of Christian faith. God so loved the world and his creation. Southwark has done some great work but still has a long way to go.

Further information on Eco Churches can be found at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>.

Conclusion

Formal questions then taken and answered on the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Department, Electoral Rolls, Deaneries Advisory Group and the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Groups and the Parish Giving Scheme.

The meeting then ended with the Eucharist, during which Bishop Karowei presented the cheques to the projects being supported by the 2018 Bishop's Lent Call.

Representatives from the Areas & Cathedral received cheques for their Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe; Rosemary Nutt of McCabe Pilgrimages for the Holy Land projects; and representatives of Bede House, Croydon Association for Pastoral Care in Mental Health and The Spires Centre were presented with cheques to help enable their ongoing work within the Diocese.

Following the Synod the Houses of Clergy (for DCT hustings) and Laity (for DCT nominations) met separately.

Time capsule marks the launch of Reignite 2021!

On 15 November St John's Church, Waterloo buried a time capsule marking the launch of ReIGNITE 2021 - a fund-raising campaign to renovate this 200-year-old London landmark.

The time capsule was buried in the church's forecourt to the accompaniment of sparklers and live music, drinks and canapes.

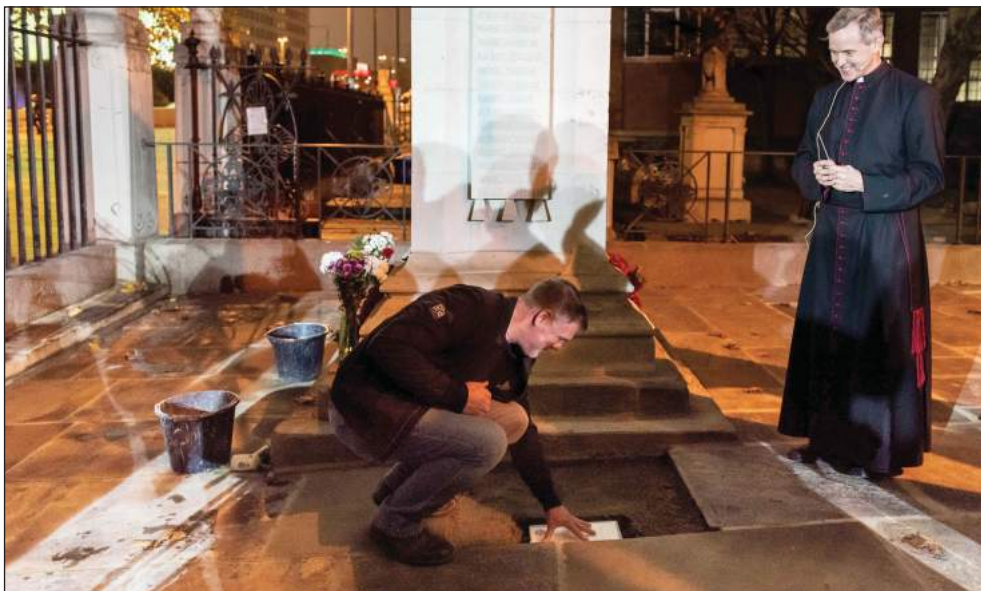
Home to Southbank

Sinfonia orchestra and other arts start-ups, and provider for centuries to the homeless and vulnerable, St John's is now in need of renovation, with a crumbling crypt, fading facilities and ancient toilets. The church was last renovated for the Festival of Britain in 1951.

"Our ambition is to renovate St John's once again for 2021, which will be the 70th

anniversary of the Festival of Britain," said Canon Giles Goddard, vicar of St John's. "St John's has helped so many Londoners over the centuries. Now it needs a helping hand, to make it fit for future generations".

Photo: Marcus Blackwell, the site foreman plants the capsule watched by Canon Giles Goddard.



Southwark Splash

A Messy celebration of Baptism

Saturday 19 January 2019 10:30 - 12:30

Join us in Southwark Cathedral as we explore why Christians get baptised or christened, through craft and science activities, music and Bible story-telling. Activities for all ages, culminating in a time of celebration and maybe even a baptism. Children - bring your adults!

Free, but please register at www.southwark.anglican.org/cypmm/messy-celebration

If you wish to be baptised at this event, please speak to your Messy Church leader, who can get in touch via the web address.

'Lest we forget...'

South Circular traffic brought to a halt for Act of Remembrance



The busy A205, South Circular Road, came to a standstill on Remembrance Sunday as St Mildred's Church, Lee, held an Act of Remembrance, two-minute silence and Commitment to Peace on the highway.

The Revd Daphne Clifton said: "We were grateful to drivers for their patience, as the 200 strong congregation stood in silence in the carriageway".

The location was opposite the War Memorial that was erected in 1921, with the names of 76 local men who gave their lives in the war.

Leo Holder, a 6th Form student at Colfe's School played the Last Post and Reveille, which was poignant as one of the fallen named on the memorial had attended



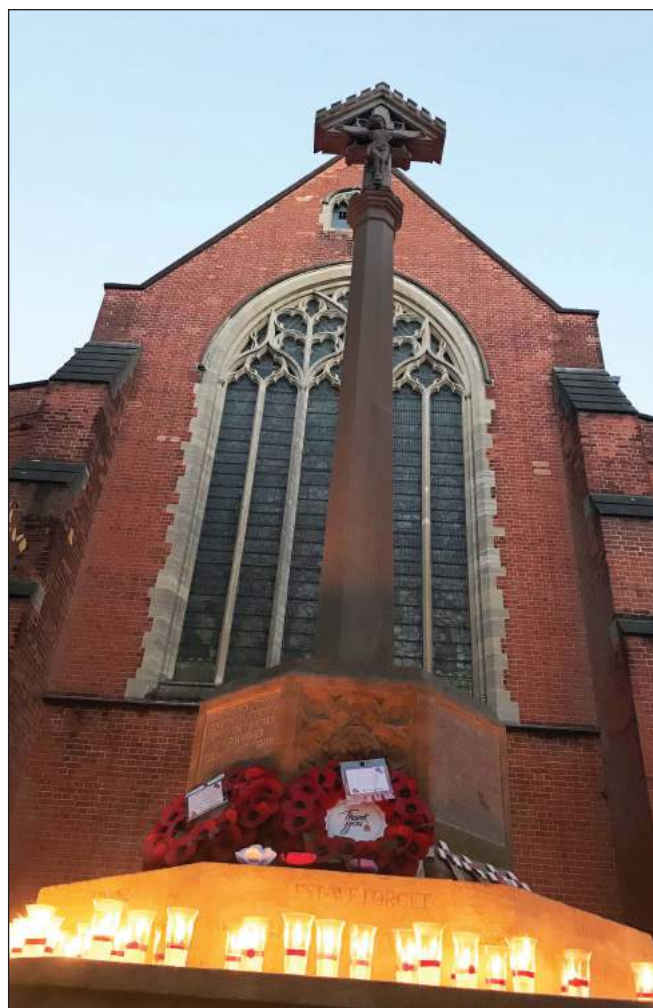
Colfe's School in 1911. Before the two-minute silence, the congregation sang 'Amazing Grace'. There were many guests, including the Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs, Scouts and ex-service personnel who attended, and the wreaths were laid by Brenda Eaves and Lemuel Ifediora, who are at either end of the age spectrum in the St. Mildred's congregation.

Inside the church, where an all age remembrance service was held, a poppy installation (left) was created by Louise Wayman, who had made individual poppies, with each person named on the memorial written on the stem of a poppy.

(Above) The congregation spilled out onto the A205 (Below) Trumpeter Leo Holder with Brenda Eaves, who laid the first wreath.



A time for Remembrance and Rededication



On Remembrance Sunday afternoon over 150 people attended St Paul's Church, Wimbledon Park, for a special service of commemoration marking the Centenary of the First World War Armistice.

The service was led by the Bishop of Kingston, Bishop Richard, and amongst those attending were the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Piers McCausland, the Rt Hon Justine Greening, the local MP and local councillors.

The service was followed by the rededication of the restored Wimbledon Park War Memorial which stands in the grounds of the Church.

Wreaths were laid by Celia Gilbert of Inner Park Road Residents' Association on behalf of the local community, Ahmad Ahsan, Chair of the Southfields Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Elders' Association and Peter Carpenter for the Wandsworth Labour Group.

Cllr Malcolm Grimston read out the names of the 35 men

of the parish who lost their lives in the First World War, and for each name a small wooden cross was laid on the memorial. Each member of the congregation then placed a lighted candle on the memorial. Attending the event to honour individuals named on the War Memorial were

Prof. Neil Greenham, Clare College Cambridge and Mr Gerald Hughes.

The restoration of the Memorial included recarving all 35 names and adding a new inscription to remember those who lost their lives in later conflicts. The work was funded by a public appeal which

resulted in some very generous donations. The project also received grants from the War Memorials Trust and Wandsworth Borough Council.

Biographical details of most of the men named on the Memorial are included in a booklet and are on display in St Paul's Church.



Remembrance Sunday in the Cathedral

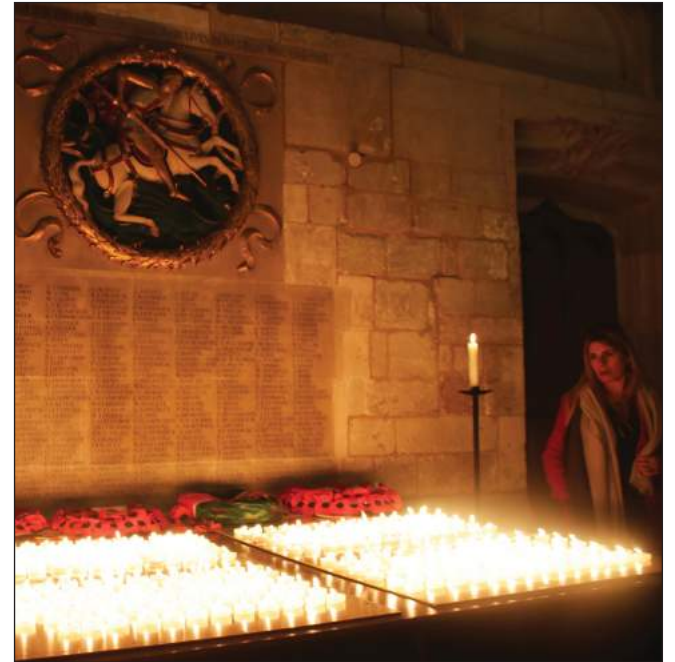


On Remembrance Sunday, Southwark Cathedral marked the Centenary of the end of the WWI with three services reflecting different aspects of remembrance.

At 10.55am, representatives of the Royal British Legion, the Armed Forces, Police and Southwark Council attended a Service of Remembrance (left) with two minutes silence, at which they laid wreaths. The preacher and president at the Eucharist was Bishop Christopher. At 3pm there was an ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer for Peace. The combined choirs of Southwark's

Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals provided the music, the preacher was Canon Richard Hearn, Dean of St George's (RC) Cathedral and Bishop Christopher gave the blessing. Also present was the Archbishop of the Coptic Church in the United Kingdom, His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, who is an Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral.

The day closed with a Service of Light at 6pm where those from the Parish of St Saviour's who gave their lives fighting for peace were remembered by name and by the lighting of candles (right) at the Sir Ninian Comper First World War Memorial in the retrochoir of the Cathedral where the service was held.



The 'Men of Raynes Park' remembered

Extra chairs had to be brought in to St Saviour's Church on 27 October to accommodate nearly 230 people who attended the launch of the Men of Raynes Park, 1914-18 exhibition.

Guests included the Mayor of Merton, Cllr Mary Curtin, who formally opened the exhibition, and local MP, Stephen Hammond.

Priest in Charge, the Revd Peter Kelley explained how the church was working with the community to conserve the 1914-18 War Memorial and to make the 97 names on it readable once more. Conservation work is estimated to cost up to £30,000 and despite likely grants a substantial amount will still need to be raised.

As the congregation sang 1918 hymn *I Vow to Thee My Country*, members of the 13th Wimbledon Scout Group presented 97 crosses, each bearing the name of one of the men listed on the memorial.



These were planted in trays of earth before being moved into the exhibition space in the Lady Chapel.

A talk was given on the most famous serviceman named on the memorial, Wing Commander Frank Brock (of Brock's fireworks company). St Saviour's Explorer scouts built a 15 foot high lookout tower and pitched an old bell tent in the grounds of the church to evoke a WWI camp. The 2nd Raynes Park Guides wore original uniforms from the WWI period.

The granddaughter of the sculptor who created the unique memorial, Thomas Mewburn Crook, gave a moving

account of his life's works and achievements and the Head of Merton Council's Heritage unit, Sarah Gould, contrasted life in Raynes Park today with what it was like during WWI. This was complemented by the Scouts performing two specially written mini dramas. The launch event finished with a poem, entitled 'The Men of Raynes Park', written by the event organiser, Peter Hutton and read by two Explorers. The exhibition was open until Remembrance Sunday. Picture shows (l-r): Peter Hutton, Stephen Hammond MP, the Mayor and the Revd Peter Kelley with cub scouts Isla Coups and George Edmondson.

From Flanders Fields to Southfields....

The skirl of Scottish bagpipes could be heard far and wide on Friday 9 November, when St Michael's CofE Primary School, their friends and families and the Southfields community including The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, congregated for a special Remembrance Service at St Michael's Church.

Piper Jamie Kelly led in the children of Year 6 who went on to perform poignant vignettes ranging from the Christmas Truce in the Trenches, Women In Action and 100 Years of the RAF to the story of a local VC winner, 2nd Lt Reginald Haine.

Every aspect of WWI seemed to have been considered and included, with the Commonwealth element of the British Forces represented by a boy wearing an authentic Indian turban and the School Poetry Group reciting a poem



respecting the life of a German Soldier.

The service featured readers from across the community including the Area Dean, the Revd Ian Tattum of St Barnabas Church, military parents from the school, the Chair of Governors, Gaby McWhinnie and Headteacher Ann-Marie Grant.

One of the most moving elements of the morning was when the 15 St Michael's School pupils who are children of serving members of the Armed Forces processed up the aisle hand in hand, to the tune of *I Vow To Thee My Country*, as photos of them with their military parents were relayed on the big screens.

They then planted wooden poppies in a life size 'Tommy' figure that dominated the stage.

The piper led the congregation out to the church field where every child planted a poppy with a prayer on it to the haunting sound of the lone piper.

Guests at the service remarked on the poignancy of the very moving service, with children as young as four treating the event with the respect and solemnity it deserved.

Colin Powell, Director of the Diocesan Board of Education declared it to be a 'truly moving and thought provoking morning'.

Throughout the week the school was visited by members of the Chelsea Hospital and other military veterans.

The school's stunning artwork was on display for friends and family to view. Some of the pieces were loaned to the Southwark Diocesan offices where they were used as the visual focus for their own Staff Eucharist.

Nearly £1200 - proceeds from the Art Exhibition, and the retiring collection at the church service - was donated to 'Walking With The Wounded', a charity that supports vulnerable veterans.



On Friday 9 November St George the Martyr hosted 300 children, parents and other supporters for A Concert for Peace. The concert took place underneath an array of peace pledges designed in earlier school workshops. Children sang old and newly composed songs, and read out poems they had composed exploring the experience of local figures during World War I.

The event ended with the church bellringers ringing a quarter peal in honour of a former bellringer, Christopher Hughes, who died in the war.

Greenwich comes to life again with Advent Windows

Greenwich Town Centre has once again come to life in December with a live Advent calendar featuring 24 unique window displays.

The project, under the direction of St Alfege Church, celebrates its 12th year with the theme of *Field of Dreams*.

A new 'window' is revealed on each day of Advent in different parts of the town centre - featuring models, sculpture, collages and multimedia installations. Walking around all the Advent windows will take around three hours.

Locations are as diverse as the Cutty Sark, Greenwich

railway station, local schools, pubs, businesses and homes. On the final day a life-sized nativity scene will be presented at St Alfege Church. The windows will remain on display until 2 January 2019.

For details and maps to www.adventwindows.com or follow the project on Twitter or Instagram at @adventwindows. Or you can visit the Tourist Information Centre, St Alfege Church or West Greenwich Library.

Photos from the first three days: Above - one of the windows at James Wolfe Primary School - 'Dreams for the Future' featuring the Christmas dreams of the children Below - (left) 'Christmas Dreams' - Karen Woolven Flowers, Royal Hill. (right) 'Are You Listening?' Bells adorn the windows of 213 Greenwich High Road



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2019

The Bishop's Lent Call material for 2019 is being prepared and will be mailed to all parishes in January ready for Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 6 March.

This year's projects will include two weeks on our Link Diocese in Zimbabwe. As you will know the situation there is very difficult and so as well as prayers for our partners we will be raising money through the Lent Call to help to support projects which will provide an income for the Dioceses as well as help with education, food

security and healthcare.

There will be one week on the work of the Leprosy mission in Northern Sri Lanka and the Church Army Carlisle College in Nairobi. Projects in the Diocese include the Sutton Women's Centre (below), the Salmon Centre and an initiative around knife crime. There will be more information in future editions of the Bridge.

Please support the Bishop's Lent Call through prayer and financial giving as part of your Lenten discipline as we seek together to help those who have asked for our prayer and support.

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CofE all-through single-site school is Greenwich's first

On Wednesday 14 November 2018, a special Eucharist service took place and a time capsule was laid to mark the first phase of the Royal Borough of Greenwich's first all-through single site school - St Mary Magdalene CofE School.

The service led by the Revd Margaret Cave was the first opportunity for both primary and secondary students to come together in worship in their new building. Both primary and secondary choirs sang and the Student Faith team led the prayers.

Throughout the special morning to mark Phase 1 of the development, students were on hand to welcome Southwark Diocesan Director of Education, Colin Powell, as well as Greenwich Council leader, Cllr Danny Thorpe who helped bury the time capsule.



Enclosed in the capsule were interesting artefacts which record their own little bit of history: a school tie, planner, a *Mr Men* book, a lego brick, class photos and a £5 note.

The school is located on the Greenwich Peninsula and features environmentally

friendly technology. Although students have already moved into the new building, Phase 2 of the development (which includes external sports facilities) will be completed in June 2019. Once full, St Mary Magdalene School will provide over 1,600 places in a nursery, two form entry primary phase, a sixth form entry secondary school phase and 300 sixth form places. The school's high quality sports facilities will be available for community use and include a running track, external all weather sports pitch and four court indoor sports hall.

Claire Harrison and Victoria Wainwright, Federation Executive Co-Headteachers of the Koinonia Federation said: "Today has been the first opportunity for our primary and secondary students to come together as a family to worship and mark our move into our permanent new school building. We are also commemorating this special day by burying a time capsule containing artefacts for future generations to understand the history of our school's collaboration and expansion".

St Stephen's Church - looking back... looking forward

On 25 November St Stephen's South Dulwich celebrated 150 years since its foundation.

It was celebrated with a festive service showcasing a new Mass setting (*Missa Simplex Orbis Factor*) by Nicholas Ansdell-Evans and a sermon on the past, present and future impact of the church on its neighbourhood.

There was lecture by Dr Jan Piggott on its architect Charles Barry Jr as well as an art competition and displays on the 150 years of history of the church (below).

A new member of the congregation, Hannah Watson, wrote:

"As St Stephen's celebrates its 150th anniversary, I'm celebrating my first – it's been about a year since I moved into the area and joined the congregation.

"I remember very clearly that my first impression of the



church itself was a surprise. I'd come from a cavernous, rather forbidding dark brick building in Walthamstow.

"At St Stephen's the plaster angels supporting ceilings covered in riotous flowers and deep blue starry panels gave me the feeling of light and air, warmth and colour – not always what you associate with churches. While I have started to get some feeling for

the history of the church – complete with congregations stoic in the face of the Battle of Britain raging around their harvest festival.

"No doubt there is much more for me to uncover, but that feeling of light and warmth has been reflected in the way I have been welcomed to St Stephen's, and I'm looking forward to more years to come".



Changing lives through the Parish Support Fund

Thank you for your continued generosity to the Parish Support Fund.

Ruth Martin, Diocesan Secretary writes:

This money, which you and your parish give, enables us to fund the mission and ministry of our parishes across South London and East Surrey and to share God's Good News with our communities.

It is very encouraging that in our third year of paying pledges the pledge collection rate remains high around 99% - this is a wonderful result.

This has enabled us to resource our Southwark Vision and as a result there are many exciting projects taking place across the Diocese, in our parishes, schools and wider communities.

For the fourth year parishes have generously increased their pledges. At the moment we have matched last year's total of over £16.35m and still have a few more pledges to be confirmed.

Over 90% of parishes have increased or matched their 2018 pledges which is particularly encouraging at a time when many are worried about the future. Please give thanks for God's blessings to us and share this news of people's generosity within your congregations.

Once again, parishes will receive information on the PSF in the spring and there is plenty of support available to help parishes with the process of agreeing their pledge.

So do ask via your Archdeacon or their PA if you would like help with this, or contact Gabby Parikh, Head of Giving, (gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org) for any stewardship queries.

Welcoming Church Clapham

A safe, sacred space of welcome and reflection particularly for those who have felt excluded
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www.welcomingchurchclapham.com

On Christmas night



Actually, carols pre-date Christianity. They were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around 22 December.

The word 'carol' actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived.

Early Christians took over the pagan solstice celebrations for Christmas and gave people Christian songs to sing instead of pagan ones. In 129 AD, a Roman Bishop said that a song called 'Angel's Hymn' should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Another famous early Christmas Hymn was written in 760, by Comas of Jerusalem, for the Greek Orthodox Church.

Soon after this many composers all over Europe started to write 'Christmas carols'.

However, not many people liked them as they were all written and sung in Latin, a language that the normal people couldn't understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether.

This was changed by St. Francis of Assisi when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy. The people in the plays sang songs or 'canticles' that told the story during the

plays. Sometimes, the choruses of these new carols were in Latin; but normally they were all in a language that the people watching the play could understand and join in! The new carols spread to France, Spain, Germany and other European countries.

The earliest carol, like this, was written in 1410. Sadly only a very small fragment of it still exists.

The carol was about Mary and Jesus meeting different people in Bethlehem. Most Carols from this time and the Elizabethan period are untrue stories, very loosely based on the Christmas story, about the holy family and were seen as entertaining rather than religious songs.

They were usually sung in homes rather than in churches! Traveling singers or minstrels started singing these carols and

the words were changed for the local people wherever they were traveling. One carol that changed like this is 'I Saw Three Ships'.

When Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans came to power in England in 1647, the celebration of Christmas and singing carols was stopped. However, the carols survived as people still sang them in secret.

Carols remained mainly unsung until Victorian times, when two men called William Sandys and Davis Gilbert collected lots of old Christmas music from villages in England.

Before carol singing in public became popular, there were sometimes official carol singers called 'Waits'. These were bands of people led by important local leaders (such as council leaders) who had the only power in the towns and villages to take money from the public (if others did this, they were sometimes charged as beggars!).

They were called 'Waits' because they only sang on Christmas Eve. This was sometimes known as 'watchnight' or 'waitnight' because of the shepherds who were watching their sheep

when the angels appeared to them, when the Christmas celebrations began.

Also, at this time, many orchestras and choirs were being set up in the cities of England and people wanted Christmas songs to sing, so carols once again became popular.

Many new carols, such as 'Good King Wenceslas', were also written in the Victorian period. However almost all the well-known carols were not sung in church until the second half of the 19th century.

Singing carols in church was instituted on Christmas Eve 1878 in Truro Cathedral, Cornwall. Two years later, Edward White Benson, at that time Bishop of Truro but later Archbishop of Canterbury, formalised the service with Nine Lessons for use on Christmas Eve - the service which is still used (with a few 'tweaks') in churches across the country today.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928 and, except for 1930, has been broadcast every Christmas since.



One of the ways in which I engage with the things of faith is through the beauty of architecture, the inspiration that art brings, the depth that poetry and prose can bring. 'Angels voices ever ringing' for me delights in 'craft men's art' and that needs celebrating. The artist, whatever their medium, can be a channel of grace.'

The Dean,
the Very Revd
Andrew Nunn



The importance of the Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" reaches to many levels. The

singing of this hymn reminds me of my many visits to Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and the Anglican Communion Crib Museum that was in the heart of the commercial streets. It also brings sadness in my heart with the struggle Christian folk endure in that holy place and at such a holy time.

Whereas many carols stress the lullaby scenario, I feel my favourite carol speaks more like a creed of belief and I rejoice it names sin in its reality as well. When the worshipper sings this beloved carol I can wager that the Christmas experience, often dulled by sameness, can be transformed. Our prayer must be as the hymn offers, that "the dear Christ enters in."

Canon Jim Rosenthal, St James Merton



My favourite carol is 'Joy to the world' which, despite having words by an English writer, I'd never heard sung in church until I spent Christmas in New York about 20 years ago.

I think it's recently been voted the most popular Christmas hymn in the US and I'm happy to say seems to be sung much more frequently in U.K. churches nowadays.

Why do I like it? The music is absolutely joyful (unlike some carols) and it's instantly recognisable.

Sallie Eden, St Stephen, Dulwich



For many years a Christmas traditions was the Mummers' play - although the 'plot' seldom had much to do with Christmas!

Traditionally they were performed by all-male troupes of actors. The principal characters are a hero, usually St George, his opponent (usually known as the Turkish Knight or The Slasher), and a quack Doctor who comes to restore St George to life. Other characters can include Old Father Christmas, the Fool and Beelzebub or Little Devil Doubt (who demands money from the audience).

The plays were sometimes performed in the street but more usually in houses and inns. Although the main season for mumming was

around Christmas, some parts of England had plays performed around All Souls' Day (known as Souling or soul-caking) or Easter (Pace-egging or Peace-egging) and on Plough Monday (the first Monday after Epiphany).

Mummers can be traced back at least to 1296, when the festivities for the marriage of Edward I's daughter at Christmas included "mummers of the court".

However, mumming became an excuse for men and women to swap clothes, put on masks and go around neighbours houses, singing, dancing or putting plays with silly plots - often combined with committing crimes. It became so bad that Henry VIII passed a law that anyone caught mumming wearing a mask would be jailed for three months!

Mumming had its heyday at the end of the 19th century. Traditional

mummers groups (known as "sides") virtually disappeared with the onset of WWI. However in the second half of the 20th century many groups were revived, mostly by folk music and dance enthusiasts.

Although mummers plays had been around since the Middle Ages, no scripts or details survived and today's plays are based on 'scripts' from the 18th century.

The revived plays are once again being taken around pubs - including some which have been specially rewritten for Christmas performances. Since 2014 the Mummers have given up the traditional practice of 'black-facing' - and today the 'begging' is normally for charity rather than for the mummers themselves.

Photo: Mummers Play with Father Christmas from the New Forest Commoner.



all Christians sing...



My favourite Christmas Carol is 'In the Bleak Midwinter' with the Harold Darke arrangement.

I love it because the last verse sums up for me the core of being a Christian - giving God your heart, your love just as God gave us his love through the incarnation.

It has to be the Darke version because of his significance to my family - my Dad was one of his choral scholars and Harold always treated him very well even giving him his bus fare home after a rehearsal.

**Nicole Burgum, Warden of Readers
St Andrew the Apostle, Catford**



My favourite?
'The darkness
turns to dawn';
words by Timothy
Dudley-Smith,
music by Norman
Warren.

For 50 weeks of the year, many churches delight in the latest modern songs, then revert at Christmas to an almost exclusive 18th-19th century diet!

But the 20th century is so rich in Christmas material; this is one of the best, rooted in Scripture, beautifully crafted, with a haunting (but not difficult) tune, SAIGON. Author and composer have strong Southwark connections; and here is so much more than sentiment over a baby.



**The Revd
Christopher Idle,
Herne Hill**

Xaver Gruber, for the Christmas service at St Nicholas church in Oberndorf.

It is said that Fr Mohr wanted a carol for the children of the village to sing at the midnight Christmas Eve service. And that the organ broke and so the children sang it without accompaniment.

It was translated into English in 1863 by John Freeman



The carol that is most poignant to me is 'Once in Royal David's city', every time I hear it, it takes me back to my childhood and 3pm on Christmas Eve, my Mum would be in the kitchen making mince pies and Carols from Kings would be playing on the radio. My Mum is no longer alive, so the emotion that is stirred by hearing the carol is more poignant as a result.

It is a beautiful carol in its own right and hearing the lone chorister at the beginning of the service of nine lessons and carols from Kings on Christmas Eve heralds for me the beginning of Christmas and hits at the heart of what Christmas is actually about, the birth of Christ.

Sarah Garrett, St Mary Magdalene, Richmond

lyrics with different Bible characters being on the ships. The most common lyrics used today are about Mary and Jesus traveling to Bethlehem.

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, the "father of English hymnody", composed "Joy to the World", which has become a popular Christmas carol even though it is widely believed that Watts did not write it to be sung only at Christmas.

Good King Wenceslas

This carol was written in Victorian Britain by John Mason Neale to a traditional folk tune. The story is about the King (or Duke) of Bohemia over 1000 years ago, seeing peasants, on Boxing Day, from his castle and taking food and wood to them. The (probably fictitious) story was written by a Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda in 1847. He wrote many 'manuscripts' that tried to prove that Czech literature was much older and more developed than it really was. In the 19th Century JM Neale put the translated words to the tune of a 13th century spring carol 'Tempus Adest Floridum'

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley wrote texts for at least three Christmas carols, of which the best known was originally entitled "Hark! How All the Welkin Rings", later edited to "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing".

Silent Night

The words of Silent Night were written by Fr Joseph Mohr in Mariapfarr, Austria, in 1816 and the music was added in 1818, by his school teacher friend Franz



Carol singing at Tooting station



My all-time favourite carol is 'Silent Night'. The music captures the atmosphere of the nativity scene and the words are well chosen for Christian worship.

The carol is composed for children and is expressed with joy and wonder. I like the soft and gentle tone of the piece.

Silent Night conveys the spirit of Christmas and really recreates the heart of the Holy Family



**Elizabeth
Tittensor, Kew**

Young and was sung during the Christmas Truce in WWI in December 1914 as it was a song that soldiers on both sides knew!

The 12 Days of Christmas

Of all the Christmas carols we sing today, none presents more of a challenge than 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. What are we to make of this astounding list of Christmas gifts?

One interpretation places its origin in the 16th century. The list of gifts given by the author's 'true love' is suggested to be a secret code for the Roman Catholics, whose religion had



My favourite carol? I would nominate 'Remember, O thou Man'. Why? Because you don't hear it very often, so it's not at all hackneyed.

More significantly though, the words and melody are so redolent of a bygone age when everybody's life revolved around the Christian religion.

Singing or hearing this carol reminds you that you are a continuing part of this age old tradition.



**Alison Huneke
St Michael a& All
Angels, South
Beddington
& Lay Chair,
Sutton Deanery**

to be practised in secret after the Reformation, to share their beliefs.

So the 'true love' becomes God himself and the partridge in a pear tree is Jesus on the cross. The 'two turtle doves' are the old and new testaments, 'three French hens' are the Trinity, 'four calling birds' are the four Gospels, all the way through to 'twelve drummers drumming' - the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed. However the suggested meanings for

the gifts apply equally to all Christian denominations. And historians now generally agree that the carol evolved as a festive memory game with forfeits for forgetting a line or losing your place - and the alleged 'Catholic' code was a later connotation!

But if you were a Tudor child, wouldn't you much rather recite this than your catechism?

**On the first day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me...**



Day 1 - A 'partridge in a pear tree' - Jesus on the cross



Day 2 - 'Two turtle doves' - the Old and New Testaments



Day 3 'Three French hens' - the Trinity



Day 4 'Four calling birds' - the Gospels



Day 5 'Five gold rings' - the first 5 books of the Bible



Day 6 'Six geese a-laying' - the six days of creation



Day 7 'Seven swan a swimming' - the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Day 8 'Eight maids a milking' - the Beatitudes



Day 9 'Nine ladies dancing' - the nine muses from Greek Mythology.



Day 10 'Ten lords a-leaping' - the Ten Commandments



Day 11 'Eleven pipers piping' - the eleven faithful disciples.



Day 12 'Twelve drummers drumming' - the Apostles Creed

Owen blows the whistle for 'full-time' - after 44 years in the same parish

When the Revd Canon Owen Beament MBE was first installed as Vicar of All Saints, Hatcham Park, Harold Wilson was Prime Minister, Abba were reigning Eurovision Song Contest champions and Lord Lucan's disappearance was headline news.

Abigail Sanderson writes:

This December he is – reluctantly – retiring from the same parish after 44 years of service.

"I think it's time for someone younger and more energetic than me to take over," Owen says. "I'm getting a bit long in the tooth now".

Deaconed in 1964, Owen has spent his entire Church of England career in Southwark Diocese, the vast majority of it at All Saints.

He was curate at St Paul, Deptford from 1964-1968, moving to St Chrystosom and St Jude from 1969-1973, then St Peter, Vauxhall from 1973-1974, before settling in New Cross in 1974, from where he resolutely refused to move.

"I've had two traumatic experiences in my life," he jokes. "One was when Michael Marshall (then Bishop of Woolwich) tried to move me, and the second was when Ronald Bowlby (Bishop of

Southwark from 1980-1991) tried to move me".

Local hero

So synonymous with New Cross has Owen become that in 2001 he was appointed MBE for services to the community – a task, he says, that has been helped by the people who live there.

"Perhaps one of the reasons I've been very much against moving is that, if you're friendly, everywhere in this parish opens its doors to you. It was my ambition as soon as I came here to make sure that the church was present in every aspect of this parish. We've held our PCC meetings in public houses, we do our carol singing around all the local pubs, too".

One of All Saints' initiatives with which Owen is most pleased is the Community Centre, which hosts hundreds of activities every week, from a daily nursery to Zumba and table tennis. "It really is the biggest and busiest community hub for a long, long way around," he says.

Winds of change

There have, of course, been many changes in New Cross since 1974, although according to Owen one of the biggest happened a little before that, when the Surrey Docks shut down in 1970.

"That affected the whole area and a lot of people moved out," he says. Margaret Thatcher's Right to Buy scheme and the subsequent housing price boom has also had a profound effect, forcing "an awful lot of



this community" out into Kent.

At the same time, the area has become popular with students enrolled at Goldsmiths, University of London, and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. It has also, says Owen, become "very, very multinational".

"At All Saints on an average Sunday morning there will be at least 15 different nationalities, and the local primary school where I'm a governor has kids speaking 46 different first languages".

The gentrification that has boosted other areas of London has largely passed Owen's parish by.

"It happened in Deptford because Deptford is near the Docklands Light Railway," he says, "but here, in one big housing estate a little while ago, they had to hand the houses over to a housing corporation because they couldn't sell them".

Hatcham Park remains a poor parish with complex needs, he says. "It's still not a rich community round here



and there are a lot of kids, for example, who don't have all that much going for them. So we run children's holiday schemes, which is fun, and do an awful lot of work with refugees and homeless people".

A game of two halves

Owen may be retiring from All Saints but he will be keeping his other job, as chaplain of Millwall Football Club, a position he has held since the early 1990s – although his involvement with the club dates back far longer than that.

"In the 1960s, there were so many priests I was seconded one day a week to John Evelyn School as a sports teacher. The second Thursday there, I took the kids down to Deptford Park, and there were adults playing on one of the two pitches allocated to the school. It didn't take me long to realise that they were the Millwall players training".

Owen and the Millwall manager, Benny Fenton, took one pitch each. "And then he said something absolutely fatal. He said, 'Any time you want a ticket, just pop in the office and see me.' And that was the beginning".

In 1991, Owen was officially appointed chaplain – "They phoned me up, but I was away on holiday, so they just wrote me a letter saying, 'well, we've appointed you anyhow'". Since then, he has been going down

to the training ground a couple of times a week and attending every home game. A lot of his involvement is with the fans – for example, interring ashes in Millwall's garden of remembrance, or holding an annual carol service during a match.

There are occasional special events, too, such as leading a memorial service for Millwall's longest-serving player Barry Kitchener, who died fairly suddenly on Holy Saturday in 2012: "We had a congregation of about 6,000 for that". But for the most part, "it's a question of being quietly available".

Living in community

Whether he is ministering on the pitch or to the pews, for Owen the most important part of his role is meeting people where they are.

"I've always, always been much better about what goes on outside the church than what goes on inside it," he says. "I've always told everybody that the most important moment in the mass is when you walk through the doors at the back of the church".

And what he has walked out into for more than four decades is a place that he has been proud to call home.

"Looking back on it, I suppose it must have been God, really. I can see that everything in my life has pointed me towards being here. And I wouldn't swap it for a minute".

St Barnabas Dulwich celebrates William McVicker's 30 years as Director of Music

St Barnabas, Dulwich recently celebrated 30 years of service to the parish by its Director of Music, William McVicker.

The anniversary was marked by a presentation and prayers at the church's Harvest Thanksgiving service in October, and a party for current and former members of the congregation and the church's 70-strong choir.

Dr McVicker is only the fourth organist of St Barnabas since the parish was created in 1890 and has served alongside four vicars since he was appointed in 1988 by the Revd Richard Lewis.

St Barnabas Choir of adults and children, boys and girls aged between seven and 70 all sing together, with a wide repertoire from worship songs and traditional Anglican anthems, to contemporary works, some of which have been commissioned for the choir.

Highlights of Dr McVicker's three decades as Director of Music at St Barnabas have included a large-scale community performance of Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde in 1999; a revival of Richard Dawre's cantata *The Lion of Judah* in 2017; numerous CD recordings and radio broadcasts; and four international choir tours, to Italy and Germany.

The Revd John Watson, current Vicar of St Barnabas, said: "Over three decades William has welcomed hundreds of young children and teenagers into the choir, many of whom continued to sing at St Barnabas every week throughout their time at junior and senior schools.

"Some have gone on to choral or organ scholarships at cathedrals or Oxbridge colleges or to study music at university.

"Former choristers are now forging careers as music teachers or professional performers and one is an ordained priest; a former organ scholar is now assistant organist of Ripon Cathedral. All have learnt what music is to worship through the

experience and leadership of William.

"But for every former chorister who goes on to study music, there are many more whose understanding and appreciation of music has been enriched for ever by their experience of being part of St Barnabas Choir. And over these 30 years St Barnabas has been soaked in the words and prayers of the music that William has so wonderfully led".

Right - Bishop Karowei and the Vicar of St Barnabas Dulwich, the Revd John Watson congratulate William McVicker on his 30 years of service to St Barnabas.



PHOTO: CATHY MYERS



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Tom Sutcliffe reviews

A Most Unladylike Occupation

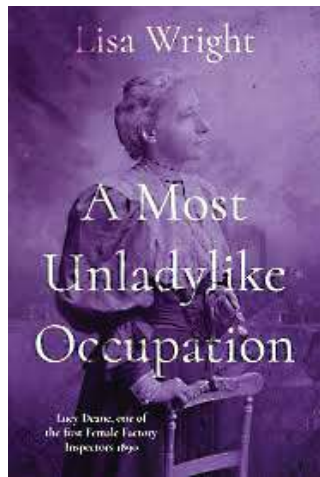
by Lisa Wright

Paperback

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In various parts of the world and in a wide range of different ways, women were until recently invariably defined as inferior to men.



In China, for instance, female children were routinely until the 20th century known simply by the number that reflected the order in which they had been born. Their feet if they were well-to-do were bound so that walking was difficult and painful for them. In India wives were routinely burnt alive on their husband's funeral pyres (a practice called suttee). In Islam (according to the increasingly popular Salafist sect) women must not go out from their homes except with the permission of a male relative or husband and must not reveal their hair or even their faces for all and sundry to see.

The fact that Christian initiation and baptism has always made no distinction

between the genders, rather than being limited as in Judaism to the male rite of circumcision, is one of the earliest steps in history towards treating men and women as equal in the eyes of God and therefore implicitly needing to be absolutely equal in all our minds.

But 2000 years after the Resurrection women still have some way to go. Enabling women to be ordained as priests and bishops in some parts of the Anglican Communion is part of a story that also includes the subject of Lisa Wright's new book entitled *A Most Unladylike Occupation* - which is the story of women being appointed in 1893 by the Home Secretary Herbert Asquith (subsequently Liberal prime minister) to inspect and report on the conditions being endured by women workers in their jobs - which hitherto had been the preserve of men inspectors. This happened a century before the Women Priests Measure - as a result of which the book's author Lisa was in the very first batch of women priests to be ordained, being already a deacon (her father was a vicar in the East

End - and she has written wonderfully about that too).

It is possible for men to feel that "Me Too" has gone a bit far - to the point where normal relations between the genders can be awkward. But the slightest study of rape trials reveals that "No" is a word some men find very hard to hear. So this process of discovering what real and proper equality between the genders means has certainly not yet concluded.

Lucy Deane, the heroine of Lisa's wonderfully readable new book, was the cousin of Lisa's husband Martin Wright's grandmother - and the book was made possible because Lucy did what she was told when at 28 she became one of the first ever female factory inspectors in the United Kingdom.

Miss Eliza Orme, the first woman lawyer in British history, advised her to immediately write up extensive notes on everyone she met and everything she did and everywhere she travelled - including her detailed opinions about what had happened and descriptions of those she encountered.



A trunk containing the resulting mountain of diaries and papers ended up in Lisa and Martin's basement 50 years ago. And thanks to the hoarding usual in Lisa's and Martin's families (and fortunate disobedience of the widely observed second world war instruction to clear out attics so that incendiaries would not have such ready matter to burn) this crucial piece of history, which took 18 months to transcribe and further years to write up, is now published. Factory inspection by "difficult women" was a vital step in an ongoing process of shared social responsibility for standards of life and work.

Ecology has blossomed because of this pioneering awareness so that we suddenly

notice what the use of plastic bags and containers is actually doing to a world where human population has dangerously exploded.

We can much better understand what good health really requires and means. As Pope wrote in 1711 "A little learning is a dangerous thing; drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring: there shallow draughts intoxicate the brain, and drinking largely sobers us again".

Much that we count on as sensible and necessary needed really difficult challenging work by pioneers. Lucy Deane played a vital role which, thanks to Lisa's crisply written and beautifully lit-up tale, we can all now read about and fully appreciate.

'The Power of Love' - Bishop Michael Curry book launched at Southwark Cathedral

On Monday 29 October Southwark Cathedral was packed for the launch of Bishop Michael Curry's latest book of collected sermons 'The Power of Love'.

In an exciting collaboration between Southwark Cathedral and Greenbelt, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church spoke as part of the launch of his book of collected sermons, *The Power of Love*.

At the launch, Bishop Michael, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA, was welcomed to the Cathedral by the Sub Dean, the Revd Canon Michael Rawson.

He was introduced by Greenbelt trustee, the Revd Kate Bottley (below), and in conversation with Cole Morton, he spoke about his experience of preaching at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in



May, about the opportunities this opened up for spreading the gospel in new forums, and of his message of the power of love as the only force capable of transforming a troubled world.

He referred to his work with other progressive Christian leaders in the US to reclaim Jesus's teaching as a force for good in the world, and of the journey of the Episcopal Church to celebrating same-sex marriages, guided by love.

He was welcomed to the Diocese by Bishop Christopher, who said that he was delighted that Bishop Michael's new book contained the sermon that

he had delivered at the Royal Wedding. Bishop Christopher said that "the refrains in the sermon, which so endeared him to so many in this country,

is one by which we aspire to live in Southwark Diocese". "When love is the way, we will forge a rich unity in diversity," he said.



Right - Bishop Michael Curry with Canon Michael Rawson and Bishop Christopher

Faith & Belief Community Awards 2018

Londoners working to serve their communities and bring people from different backgrounds together were recognised at the London Faith & Belief Community Awards on Tuesday 27 November.

40 projects run by individuals and organisations, inspired by their faiths or beliefs to make a difference, were given awards for their work in areas ranging from inspiring youth and wellbeing to interfaith relations and inclusion.

The Awards are an initiative of the Faith & Belief Forum, supported by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith. Each winning project is given £500 to further its work.

The award ceremony at the Royal Society of Medicine brought together organisations and individuals from across London.

Among them were eight recipients supported by

churches in Southwark Diocese.

They were:

- **Health & Wellbeing Category**
Robes Winter Night Shelter
MySpace Project, Southwark Diocesan Welfare
- **Interfaith Relations Category**
St John's Waterloo - Faith for the Climate Network
- **Improving Access to Services Category**
St Margaret's Church, Lee - The ESOL and Friendship Project
East Greenwich Legal Advice Clinic
- **Peace & Reconciliation Category**
Southwark Peace Garden
- **Certificate for Recognised Projects**
Church of the Good Shepherd with St Peter, Lee - Helping Hands Food Bank
St Mary's Therapeutic Garden, Lewisham



Going forward in 'Peace and Reconciliation'

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



"It was a joy and privilege, as Diocesan President, to attend a Ceremony for the 'Presentation of the Cross of Nails' in the Chapel at Mary Sumner House on 12 November," writes Cynthia Smith.

"During the service our World Wide President Lynne Tembey received the cross from Revd Canon Sarah Hills, who oversees the Cross of Nails Reconciliation ministry team, based at Coventry Cathedral (photo right).

"The cross was then passed around congregation. It now stands on the altar in the chapel and all Mothers' Union members are now included in

the Community of the Cross of Nails.

"The Community is a network of Churches and Christian organisations who, inspired by the story of Coventry Cathedral, share a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. This they do through seeking to heal the wounds of history, learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity and building a culture of peace."

"At a reception after the ceremony I was able to thank Lynne Tembey for her inspiring, loving leadership over the past six years. It also gave me an opportunity to welcome and congratulate our World Wide President-Elect Sheran Harper who is from Guyana and the first WWP

from outside the UK which for our 4 million members worldwide is very exciting. Sheran already has a fondness for Southwark as, when visiting London, she has stayed with one of our members.

"As I come to the end of an exciting three years as Diocesan President I am delighted to be handing over to Comfort Fearon who has experience of leadership in Nigeria. This is another first and important for the wonderfully diverse membership in our Diocese.

Mothers' Union continues to serve families in a variety of ways, in our Diocese and far beyond, and we give thanks for the support of all our Bishops and clergy and pray that we will continue to work closely together.



We will be holding vigils and services throughout the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' and praying for all those so badly affected by the violence on our streets. We continue to fund holidays and 'days out' for those in need of a break. Our 'Tea at 3' at Evelina hospital supporting parents and guardians of sick children continues every week. We intend to launch an initiative in 2019 to fund a resource and the training of facilitators for 'Women to teach English to Women'.

"We know it already happens successfully in pockets in the Diocese but it needs all of us to be involved. When a woman/mother speaks English it makes an enormous difference to the family and also community. Please pray with us that this will come to fruition and help families throughout the Diocese.

"I want to thank everyone who has prayed, encouraged and supported me. May God guide, equip and bless Sheran, Comfort and all those taking up leadership roles. May God bless and guide us all, in whatever ministry He has called us to, and let us give Him all the praise and thank him for the privilege of serving Him.

The 'Tea at 3' team at the Evelina Children's Hospital is celebrating six years of service

Every Wednesday at 3pm in the parents' room of the Neonatal Unit of the Evelina London Children's Hospital members of Southwark Diocese MU set out a table with plates of homemade cakes and biscuits.

Parents with tiny or very sick babies on the unit can drop by for tea and cake. They will always find a friendly face and a listening ear from the 'Tea at 3' team. Sometimes a mum

will chat happily about good news of her baby's progress. Sometimes a dad wants to share sad news.

'Tea at 3' began in October 2012 with eight MU members led by Hilary Richardson, supported by the hospital chaplaincy team. It was held once a month. Now the team has 20 volunteers working on a rota and known by parents as 'the nice ladies with the cakes'.

Six years of 'Tea at 3' was marked at a Thanksgiving Service for Volunteers held in the chapel of St Thomas' Hospital led by Rev Mia Hilborn, Hospitalier and Head of Chaplaincy.



'Lift High the Cross'

As the restoration work to the West End of St Stephen's Church came to an end in October a new Martyr's Cross was blessed and raised up above Lewisham.

The project has taken two years to complete and the congregation hope the new cross will be a sign of God's redeeming love to all who see it as they pass through the Lewisham Station area.



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Signed _____ **Date** _____

Please return your form to: Church Homeless Trust, Can Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road, London N1 6AH



Five (and 15 young people) go to Carroty Wood..

During the October Half Term five adults and 15 young people made their way to Carroty Wood in Tonbridge, Kent.

Carroty Wood is part of Rock UK, a Christian organisation that encourages young people to discover capabilities they didn't know they had through outdoor adventures such as abseiling and raft building. And this is exactly what the young

people from St Alban's, South Norwood, St Augustine's, Belvedere and St Michael's, Abbey Wood did. They abseiled (some doing it Spiderman style), built rafts and tested them on the open water, practised their archery skills or swung on high ropes. They also took part in daily worship.

A very practical and creative afternoon workshop that explored the essence of The Eucharist saw the young people taking part in their own Carroty Wood Bake Off;

the challenge was to decorate a muffin to show their idea of The Kingdom of Heaven. One or two of the 'bakers' even received a 'Paul Hollywood handshake'! They also carved a religious symbol into pumpkins which were then lit following the traditional Carroty Wood camp fire.

Grants from the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and the Croydon Episcopal Area Mission Fund sponsored the event.

Vicki and Geoff share Railway Adventures

Edward Gormley writes:

On the evening of Thursday 25 October, Vicki Pipe and Geoff Marshall

presented 'The Railway Adventures 2018' at Southwark Cathedral.

Vicki and Geoff are YouTube transport experts and survivors of a crowd-funded trip to visit all the stations in the UK. They gave a talk on their

first publication *The Railway Adventures: Places, Trains, People and Stations*.

Vicki and Geoff signed a copy of the book - the most exciting book I have bought in 2018!

The railways are one of our finest engineering legacies - a web of routes connecting people to each other and to a vast network of world-class attractions. It is also the best route to enjoying the landscape of Great Britain.

I had previously met Vicki and Geoff on the roof of the Cathedral bell-tower in August whilst I was bell-ringing! Vicki and Geoff had made a film called 'Inside Southwark Cathedral ... And Up On Its Roof'. The film can be seen on www.londonist.com and www.youtube.com

Edward Gormley (centre in the photo, with Vicki and Geoff) is a volunteer at Southwark Cathedral



Legacy launches new Diocesan Fund

Gillian Morley's legacy launches the new Southwark Vision Development Fund as her "positive impact" lives on.

Ruth Martin writes:

This autumn the Diocese was delighted to receive a legacy of £166,000 from Gillian Morley. At her funeral her godson, Francis gave thanks "for the positive impact that she had on so many lives, for her faithful service to Jesus and for the wonderful gift of eternal life she has now received". Her gift to the new Southwark Vision Development Fund (SVDF) will ensure that her positive impact on the church in the Diocese of Southwark will continue for years to come. The SVDF will provide further resources for the Southwark Vision, focussing on growth, mission and evangelism, so that our churches can transform lives and make a bigger impact in our Diocesan communities.

Gillian Morley began her training for work in the Church of England at the College of Grey Ladies in Lewisham in the 1940s. She was a Deaconess at St Saviour's, Hither Green for 12 years from 1970, as well as being a Samaritan volunteer.

The Revd Michael Goss, who was incumbent at St Swithun's at the time, wrote "We worked together in ministering in a large local hospital which had been an old fever hospital" and at church "Gillian helped with children's work and services.



Photo: Gillian and the Revd Michael Goss are pictured on a parish visit to the Holy Land

"She took funerals – once the detail for the undertaker said "Buddhist C/E"; Gillian was not amused. She got on with parish visiting. Her smile and greetings were warm and heartfelt. "In 1985 I led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land which Gillian came on and thoroughly enjoyed – perhaps this ignited her interest in frequent cruises in retirement".

Two areas we have been focussing upon for additional funding from the SVDF are Fresh Expressions and our work in Emerging Communities, reaching people who do not normally come to our churches. To help launch this fund Gabby Parikh will be expanding her role and, as Head of Giving, engaging with donors and encouraging donations. If you are interested in supporting this work please contact her at Gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org.

We are very grateful for Gillian's generous donation, but please consider whether you have made provision for your loved ones by making a will. Everyone knows it's a good idea to make a will but for many of us, it's one of those things we never quite get around to doing, and there's always a reason for putting it off.

By making a will you choose what happens, take care of the children and protect your property, maybe reduce your inheritance tax bill and include a charitable gift, perhaps to your local church or the Diocese.

Our churches exist due to the faithful and generous legacies of Christians like Gillian, in their service and generosity; how might your gift help meet the needs of future generations?



St Nicholas visited St James Merton for a charity fair to help Faith in Action homeless charity in the Wimbledon area. Singers from Joseph Hood School sang carols. (Thalia photo)



December

**A new world
- and the
first election
involving women**

My Grandma, rather than talking about Christmas presents would talk of Christmas boxes. I suppose that, as a Victorian, she had grown up with a different language and this idea, reflected in name Boxing Day for the day after Christmas, the Feast of St Stephen, that employees were given a box containing a gift, a bonus and perhaps some left over food from the festivities. The box became the present that we know and exchange.

But December 1918, 100 years ago, was the occasion for another Christmas Box and one long awaited.

During the year and during the ongoing war, the British Government finally decided to give votes to women, at first not all women, that would come ten years later, but some of the women.

Then, immediately after the war had ended, there was a General Election and women could, for the first time, both stand for election and put their vote into the ballot box alongside the men.

Several women stood for election in that first vote although only one was elected, Constance Markievicz, who stood as a Sinn Féin candidate and so,

though elected, never took her seat. The following year Nancy Astor was elected and she did sit on those famous green benches in parliament. But change had come.

As is sometimes said about some presents 'It's the gift that keeps on giving' and that Christmas box has paved the way to so much greater gender equality and the journey we are still on to ever greater

inclusion of all people.

And the gift we celebrate this Christmas the gift of Jesus, who was born for all, is just such a gift, that transforms lives, day in, day out, the God who keeps on giving.

**God, you gift yourselves to us this Christmas.
May we treasure every gift and take nothing for granted.
Amen.**



The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark
*Please follow me on Twitter as I offer a prayer each morning so that you can join me in Morning Prayer.
Go to @deansouthwark*



I need your twigs!



I am writing to ask you whether you would like to participate in a project of mine.

In June 2019 at the time of the London Architecture Festival, I have been invited to make a large construction in the Herb Garden at Southwark Cathedral which will involve using hundreds of twigs. I have had the pleasure of making installations inside the Cathedral but this will be my first venture outside.

During the next few months I am hoping to collect twigs within the parish and if you

Postbag

would like to either help me by collecting them or allow me to gather twigs in your garden, I would be very grateful.

I need the twigs to measure approximately between 1 and 2 metres long. I will use them to weave the walls and roof of the construction I am naming 'Memory Hub'.

'Memory Hub' will be a two-tiered event relating to the Festival theme 'Boundaries' and Reminiscence for those suffering loss of memory.

The interior of the Hub will take the form of a private meeting place where people can sit and talk about the memorable objects within.

The twigs will be stored in the Cathedral's garden ready for use next year.

Many thanks,

Angela Wright

(M) 07947189076

E-mail: angelawright@artinst.entadsl.com

Something to say?

Drop us a line - the postal & e-mail addresses are on page 2. Publication of a letter does not imply that it reflects the views of the Diocese and letters may be edited.

Holocaust Memorial Day Sunday 27 January 2019



27 January 2019 is the day for everyone to remember the six million Jews

murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions of people killed under Nazi persecution, and in the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Anglicans cannot ignore the Holocaust. The reality that less than 100 years ago 6 million Jews were murdered by people who were mostly baptised Christians living in European Christian societies, has an unavoidable impact on our response to Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD).

Recent events have shown us that antisemitism is still with us in Europe and further afield.

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) has produced a free downloadable resource to help churches & other Christian groups offer prayers and observe acts of commemoration on Holocaust Memorial Day. Other resources for any group to use are available on the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HDMT) website.

Ideas for marking HMD on or near 27 January:

- use a prayer or reflection from the CCJ resource during your regular services on 27 January (<http://www.ccj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/HMD-Resource-2019-1.pdf>)
- Preach on HMD on Sunday 27 January
- Research and attend HMD events taking place local to you – many will be on the HDMT interactive map (<https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/activities/>)
- Plan your own commemorative event in Church, chaplaincy or school making use of the CCJ resources above or the



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1

free resources on the HMD Trust website: (<https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/>)

On HMD we also remember subsequent genocides. The past reminds us to continue to work for justice and peace in our present. We are called to witness in the world as we find it and there is still a need to combat antisemitism and other prejudices today.

'Torn from home' is the theme for the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day. It calls on us as Anglicans to help make the world today a home for everyone.

Let The Bridge know how you get on.

Siriol Davies

Inter Faith Adviser in the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Department, Diocese of Southwark



ST OLAVE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY



**WAKEHAM
CHORISTERSHIPS**



Applications are invited from boys whose **tenth** birthday falls between **01.09.2018** and **31.08.2019**

Under the scheme, run jointly by St Olave's Grammar School and The Duchy of Lancaster, boys commence at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy in September 2019 and in Year 7 at St Olave's Grammar School in September 2020

Further details are available to download via www.saintolaves.net or from Admissions, St Olave's, Goddington Lane, Orpington, Kent, BR6 9SH
Tel: 01689 820101

The closing date for applications is Friday, 25 January 2019

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WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for
FEBRUARY ONWARDS to Trinity House
BY MONDAY 14 JANUARY

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

December



Saturday 1 to Monday 24 December



SANDERSTEAD - All Saints' Church ADVENTure Garage Displays 6-7 p.m. Each night a different garage or location in Sanderstead will be open. The theme for 2018 is the ADVENTure Ark. Refreshments. Download the ADVENTure map: www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 December



SELSDON - White Christmas Weekend at St John's Church. White Christmas display and activities. Concert on Sunday with Christmas songs, mulled punch and mince pies.

Thursday 13 December

♫ **REDHILL** - Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's 1.10 pm: admission free, donations invited: Judith Wolpe (Violin) with Maiko Mori (Piano)

† **SOUTHWARK** - Carol Service St George's (RC) Cathedral 7.30pm

Saturday 15 December

♫ **SOUTHWARK** - Organ Concert by Norman Harper at St George's Cathedral 11am

♫ **MERTON** - Christmas Carols' sung by Merton Park Choral Society 6.00pm at St John the Divine church

♫ **WIMBLEDON** - Wimbledon Chamber Choir concert at St Matthew's Church, West Wimbledon. Programme includes Britten Ceremony of Carols Tickets £10 / £8 Further information from Sue White 020 8644 4053

♫ **LEWISHAM** - Holst, 'Christmas Day,' plus a sparkling selection of festive music for choir and audience presented by Lewisham Choral Society. 7.30pm at St Mary's Church. For programme details and tickets please go to www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk

Sunday 16 December

† **MERTON** - Visit from Santa Lucia at St James's Church during Sung Mass (9.30 am)

Monday 17 December

♫ **CROYDON** - Christmas Cheer Concert 7.30pm at St Matthews Church

Tuesday 18 December,

♫ **ROTHERHITHE** - Concert of Music and Readings for Advent by the Choir of Claire College, Cambridge at St Mary's Church. 7.30pm (doors open 5.30pm). Tickets £10 (Students/unwaged £5) from gwengreen@bedehouse.org, 020 7237 3881 - or at the door. Retiring collection to support Bede House's charitable work in the local community

Thursday 20 December

♫ **REDHILL** - Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's 1.10 pm: A Cornucopia of Festive Music; Martin Cooper (Organ)



Southwark Cathedral precincts hosted a Christmas Market from Friday 30 November to Sunday 2 December. Organised by the Friends in aid of the upkeep of the Cathedral, it attracted hundreds of people who browsed the various stalls and enjoyed seasonal refreshments and music.

♫ **STREATHAM** - St Peter's Church Youth and Adult Choirs - with wind group Aeolus X, will sing a programme of music for Christmas at 7pm Entrance free with a retiring collection

January

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill - admission free, donations invited Every Thursday at 1.10 pm

10th Recital - Martin Hearne (Oboe)

17th Recital - Raymond Wui Yiu (Piano)

24th Susi Asli and Zoe Eborn (Violin & Viola Duo)

31st South London Saxophone Quartet

Welcoming Church Clapham

A safe, sacred space of welcome and reflection particularly for those who have felt excluded
Sundays, 6:30pm - refreshments afterwards

20 January: St Paul's Clapham, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX
17 February: Church of the Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9JU

17 March: Church of the Holy Spirit,
19 May: Church of the Holy Spirit, www.welcomingchurchclapham.com

February

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill - admission free, donations invited Every Thursday at 1.10 pm

7th Recital: "Klavier Art" - Corina Raducanu & Eugen Dumitrescu (Piano Duo)

14th Recital - Grace Dunn ('Cello)

21st "Faranel" - Michael Withers, Ruth & David Force

28th Recital - Claire Dillon (Violin) w Christine Hawkshaw (Piano)

Saturday 23 February

* **MERTON** - An introduction to meditation at St John the Divine Church, 10am to 3pm. Led by Alison Judge and Mandy Vasey. Cost £10. To book or for more information, call 020 7939 9475.

March

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill - admission free, donations invited Every Thursday at 1.10 pm

7th Recital - Hannah Hever (Clarinet)

14th Recital - Simon Watterton (Piano)

21st Chalumeaux Clarinet Quartet

28th Chamber Music Recital - Members of the Dunn Family

Saturday 30 March

♫ **REIGATE** - Spring Classics - Reigate & Redhill Choral Society at St Mary's Church. 7.30pm. Tickets in advance £15 (£10 u/21s) from www.rrcs.org.uk

April

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill - admission free, donations invited Every Thursday at 1.10 pm

4th Duo Recital - Paul Gregory (Guitar) & Yoko Ono (Piano)

11th Recital - Emmanuel Bach (Violin) w Jenny Stern (Piano)

25th Recital - Kyle Nash-Baker & Raymond Wui Yiu (Piano Duo)



Exclusive Doorkins Christmas cards and baubles!

For the past five years acclaimed feline artist Celia Pike has kindly painted a Doorkins Magnificat Christmas card to sell in the Cathedral Shop and this year's design is possibly the best yet! Titled 'A Purr-fect Christmas at Southwark Cathedral' Doorkins is framed by a garland of holly and features different aspects of her life at the Cathedral, including a decoration depicting the Dean! The card is priced at £2.50.

A new item available this year is the Doorkins Christmas bauble, limited to just 100 numbered copies and designed and hand-painted by artist Gemma Eve, this charming decoration is a must for any fan of the Cathedral's famous feline. For every bauble that sells, Doorkins will donate £2 to Catcuddles Sanctuary based in Greenwich who do such great work rehoming unwanted cats in SE London.

The bauble is priced at £22 and comes in a gift bag.



ST. MARY'S CONVENT WANTAGE

St Mary's Convent offers a variety of facilities and flexible accommodation for Group Quiet Days and Group Retreats. Also, Conference facilities and private stays. Everyone is welcome at the Eucharist and Daily office in St Mary Magdalene's Chapel.

For further details please contact:

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Bishop of Croydon sleeps rough for homeless charity

On 30 November, the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark joined 150 people to sleep rough overnight in Southwark Cathedral churchyard to raise £73,000 for the Robes Project winter night shelters.

The participants were from across the Diocese of Southwark. Before sleeping rough under the stars, more than £2,000 was raised at a gala auction before a night of great music. The evening started with the oboe playing of the Revd Rachel Young, (Cathedral Succentor) who performed Gabriel's Oboe, from the film *The Mission*.

Then the audience had an operatic treat with five arias and some informal tunes sung by Dominic Felix, who when not singing professional

opera, helps to run the homeless shelter at St Philips Camberwell.

The night ended with a set by the acclaimed Bermondsey folk singer, Cuning Folk.

At the dawn Eucharist after the Sleepout, Bishop Jonathan said: "It was a great honour to join all involved raising essential funds for the Robes Project, which is a vital way to get people out of sleeping rough."

Funds are still being collected via the website at www.robres.org.uk



Above - The Dean with a cricket bat signed by the England Cricket squad - one of the prizes auctioned at the sleepout and Nicky Nicholls, formerly homeless artist helped by Robes, jamming with Bermondsey folk singer, Cuning Folk.
Right - some of the sleepers settled down for the night



70 affirm their faith in Jesus Christ

A total of 70 candidates, mainly adults, from 22 parishes took part in the Diocesan Confirmation Service on Saturday 24 November, the Eve of Christ the King, at Southwark Cathedral.

The Bishop of Woolwich, The Right Reverend Dr Karwei Dorgu preached, baptised, confirmed and presided at the Eucharist.

68 of the candidates were confirmed, including eight who were first baptised - two further candidates were received into the Church of England. The candidates came from all three Episcopal Areas and included several from the same families.