

# "We did not think that it would happen again"

**On the afternoon of Friday 29 November the noise of helicopters overhead alerted everyone in the London Bridge area to the fact that something was going on and it soon became obvious that there had been an incident on London Bridge.**

**Wendy Robins writes:**

Gradually the news of the knife attack and of the death of two people - now named as Saskia Jones and Jack Merritt - became known. The victims were former students involved in a prisoner rehabilitation programme at Cambridge University.

When they were killed, they were at the Fishmongers Hall at the north end of the bridge,

taking part in an event for the University's Learning Together programme - which focuses on education within the criminal justice system.

Southwark Cathedral was locked down and then evacuated as the events unfolded and it was once again closed as the police cordoned off the area. The sense of shock and disbelief was palpable around the Cathedral, the Diocesan office and in the surrounding streets. As the Dean, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn said on Friday night, in the first of many interviews, "We did not think that it would happen again".

For many people the attack on London Bridge brought back memories of the terrible events in Borough Market and on London Bridge just two and a half years ago.

Once again Southwark Cathedral became a place of safety and of comfort for people as they first sought shelter and then came to services, in the re-opened Cathedral, to show

solidarity with the people in the London Bridge area and to seek comfort as they dealt with their confusion and fears.

In his sermon at the 9am and 11am Eucharists at the Cathedral, the Dean spoke of the heroism of those who sought to contain the attacker, of the resilience of the people of the wonderfully diverse area around the Cathedral and of our need, as a community, to show God's love to all around us - and to work together with those of other faiths and none to ensure that we stand against acts of terrorism and seek to bring peace. You can read the sermon in full at <http://bit.ly/2LgtLek>

Bishop Christopher wrote to all clergy, Readers, Deanery Lay Chairs and members of Diocesan Synod inviting them to pray for those affected by the attack and the memories it raised.

He circulated the prayer which had been sent out on social media by Church House, Westminster.

The Dean was interviewed over a dozen times for television, radio and print media and even by the Sydney Daily Herald!

He was able to speak of Advent as a season of hope, of God's love for all and the comfort that God has to offer.

As life around London Bridge returns to normal security is heightened and people will begin to return to the places that have once again been violated. Please continue to pray for all of those affected and for our city and nation that we may know God's peace.



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

Inside  
**THE BRIDGE**  
...this month

How some Southwark people will spend Christmas Day ... pages 6 & 7

Parish Profile  
Redhill, St John the Evangelist ... page 9

PLUS pages of news and photos from around the Diocese

**WHAT'S ON**  
Page 11

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

Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on

Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church

Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom

## Advent art at St John, East Dulwich

**St John's Church, East Dulwich welcomed Bishop Christopher on Advent Sunday to bless and dedicate their Advent exhibition.**

In addition to 'Our Lady of Calais' - an image of a refugee mother and child - the 'Southwark Trinity' by Meg Wroe and a portrait of a homeless artist called 'Blessed are the Poor' were also on display.



The Revd Raymond Baudon, Curate at St John's, said: "The works of art depict images of God that are not what we might normally expect, hence the title of the exhibition: 'What are you expecting?'."

"Hopefully they will make visitors stop and think again about what the image of God means to them."

After blessing the pictures Bishop Christopher led a moment of silence to remember and pray for those caught up in the London Bridge attacks.







# During this season of Advent

**As we journey through Advent and prepare for Christmas I hope that you will be able to find the time to consider what this season is really about.**

So many of us get caught up in writing Christmas Cards and making sure that we have the best possible gift for everyone and considering what we might want to eat on the day that we forget that Christmas is about preparing to welcome the Christ child into our world once again and renewing our commitment to sharing God's love with others.

So much is uncertain as I write this message as we do not know the outcome of the

General Election or when Brexit might happen and what these things mean for our well being as individuals and a nation. It is perhaps hard to look forward to 2020 with joyful anticipation.

Many are worried that they may not have jobs and even homes in the future. And of course with the very recent terrorist attack on London Bridge there is a deep awareness of many potential perils.

The Advent Collect speaks so powerfully: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility.

As we spend time reflecting on the Holy Scriptures during the days of Advent we reflect that the Holy Family had nowhere to stay as it became time for Mary to give birth and needed to flee to safety in Egypt soon after.

So during this season of Advent and especially as we prepare to vote in the Election (and it is so important that we participate fully in our democracy), let us think prayerfully and carefully about how we can ensure that those who live on the margins of our society are best cared for and supported.

As we move into 2020 the Bridge will take on a new look also this is the last edition which will be edited by Bryan Harris from Kent Christian Press who has been a faithful servant to the Diocese through his work on the Bridge.

I am sure that you will wish to join me in thanking him for all he has done and wish him well for the future. I will be awarding Bryan my Lancelot Andrewes medal in the New Year.

I wish you all a holy Advent and joyful Christmas and in the New Year Peace and Goodwill to all.

*Christopher Southwark*

## Peter Milligan

**The Revd Peter Milligan was Assistant Priest at St John, Angell Town.**

On the day of his unexpected death, at the age of 66, he had told the congregation that he would be there for them during the interregnum as the Vicar, The Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett, left to become the Archdeacon of Croydon.

Peter had been at St John's since 2006. He served his title at St Mary Putney from 2001- 2006 having been a Reader at Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting, where his wife is still a Reader. He was for many, many years a dedicated servant on the Diocesan Board of Finance, Fairer Shares Committee and the Communications and Resources Committee.

The Church was packed including three Bishops - the Bishop of Southwark who did the Commendation and the Blessing, the Bishop of Kingston, who broke his sabbatical to speak about Peter's ministry and the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, with whom Peter had trained on what was then SEITE.

Three tributes were given. Peter's brother recalled his ability with maths - the precursor to a career in statistics. He spoke of Peter's love for debating, reminding everyone that Peter had an opinion on everything and of the way Peter's time as a server in their church in Wapping helped to form his spirituality.

John Pantom, one of Peter's friends, spoke of his love of football, his generosity as a friend, his love for people and for the canal boat on which he and Jane, his wife had frequent holidays with friends. Chris Hawkins who also trained with Peter spoke



of his passion for social justice and his welcome for all.

The Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett preached speaking of how Peter valued everyone and connected with all people no matter what their background. She spoke of the way in which he was always alongside people in their journeys and how committed he was - always with her in church unless he was on holiday.

Peter Milligan served God with commitment, passion and a passion for the social justice. He was much loved as a husband, priest and person and will be much missed.

## Rosemarie Mallett to be the Archdeacon of Croydon

**The Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett is to be the next Archdeacon of Croydon. She will take up her new role in the spring.**

Rosemarie Mallett is currently Vicar of St John, Angell Town and Director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Department (JPIC) in the Diocese of Southwark.

Rosemarie trained for the ministry at South Eastern Institute for Theological Education (SEITE), (now known as St Augustine's College) and was ordained in 2004. After serving her curacy at Christ Church, Brixton she became Priest-in-Charge of St John, Angell Town in 2007 and Vicar in 2013. In 2013 she also became an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral. She has been a member of the General Synod of the Church of England since 2010.

Prior to ordination, Rosemarie obtained a PhD in Sociology and worked as a senior researcher and honorary lecturer and in the field of BAME Mental Health.

She said; "I am humbled and excited at taking up this new role and look forward to getting to know Croydon. I hope to be able to fully utilise my experience to support our parishes and people, and work to further the Diocesan vision of generosity, inclusion and mutual commitment as we journey and grow together in the love of Christ".

Bishop Christopher said; "Rosemarie will bring exceptional gifts and experience to the Croydon Archdeaconry.



Her work and commitment to the community in Angell Town has been transformational, particularly as a role model to young BAME people in Brixton. As the first Director of JPIC her work on community cohesion and combating youth violence is making a difference to the lives of many."

Bishop Jonathan added; "We very much look forward to Rosemarie becoming part of the Croydon team.

"In the Area, and especially in the Archdeaconry, we all look forward to working with her in shared mission and ministry".

The **FEBRUARY** edition is due to be printed on 23 January. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House (E-mail: [bridge@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bridge@southwark.anglican.org)) by **MONDAY 13 January**

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited. All photographs submitted for publication will assume to have the necessary permission for printing. So, please ensure that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so. Forms for permission for the use of photographs of children and adults who may be vulnerable can be found at [www.southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)

## THE BRIDGE

### Editorial Adviser (Volunteer)

An opportunity to apply your skills to help Press & Communications share God's Good News around the Diocese. From the next edition, the Bridge will have a fresh new look and as a result we are looking for a volunteer Editorial Adviser to help keep us in touch with what is happening across the parishes and suggest what we should be featuring in the paper. The person appointed will:

- liaise with Deanery Lay Champions to ascertain work happening in each Deanery so it can be featured in The Bridge
- meet regularly with the Editorial Team to discuss the content and focus of the paper
- read the finalised copy before printing to ensure stories are featured as agreed
- seek feedback about the paper from a wide variety of sources and feed this back to the Editorial meetings and to Press & Communications

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For more details or to apply please contact David Loft, Director of Human Resources ([david.loft@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:david.loft@southwark.anglican.org))

## Farewell to Chris Skilton

**The service of farewell for the Venerable Chris Skilton takes place at Emmanuel Church, South Croydon on Saturday 1 February at 6pm.**

Everyone is welcome. It is anticipated that the service will be quite informal and clergy are not required to robe. It will be followed by a reception in the church hall.

To make a donation towards a leaving present for Chris, please make cheques payable to "SLCF" writing "Skilton" on the back and send them to the Finance Department, Trinity House, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW. Electronic payment can be made using the following information:

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### Bishop Karowei joined church members at St John's Deptford in November to celebrate the 100th birthday of Melvina Ducasse.

A resident in Brockley and long term member of St John's Church, Melvina came to the UK from Jamaica in 1950s and worked in the Lewisham Hospital as an orderly on the Maternity Ward caring for many mothers and babies over the years. She is a faithful member of St John's and in former years actively took part in the women's fellowship and ministry. It was a joyful celebration singing her favourite hymns: "what a mighty God we serve" and "just a closer walk with thee".

The photo shows Melvina with the Pastoral Team members who regularly visit her at home - Jasmine Jones, Deborah Ugbechie & Elsie Famosa - Bishop Karowei and Ravensbourne Team Rector, Canon Peter Farley-Moore.



## Confirmed at the Cathedral

On Saturday 23 November - the Eve of Christ the King - Bishop Chjristopher confirmed 30 candidates and baptised and then confirmed two more in Southwark Cathedral. They came from the Cathedral congregation and a further ten parishes across the Diocese. The following day a further six people were confirmed by Bishop Karowei at St Margaret, Lee.

## Helping young people make choices

**On 2 October St Andrew's Church, Ham held an event to help young people make good choices around careers and further education.**

A variety of speakers included Professor Alison Baverstock from Kingston

University; the Revd Alice Pettit from St Andrew, Ham; Ursula Hodges, Head of Careers, and Dr Joan Rutherford, Consultant Psychiatrist.

Opportunities for voluntary work were offered, plus advice on university applications, subjects to choose depending on the young person's career path, and suggestions for maintaining and building personal resilience.



Photo; The Revd Alice Pettit and behind her (l-r), Joan Smith, Ursula Hodges and Alison Baverstock.

## Black History Month Spectacular!

**Pauline Russell writes:**

**I recently attended a wonderful concert in aid of Black History Month held at my parish church, St George the Martyr, Shirley.**

The event was organised by one of the church members, Andrea Cordery, who was an excellent 'Master of Ceremonies'. The evening was full of love, wonderful singing, delightful dancing, superb poetry, interesting talks and delectable African and Caribbean food and drink, including Rum Punch!

Performers included Croydon SDA Gospel

Choir; leading modern day Calypsonian Alexander D Great; Melissa James (photo right) and two children from the congregation - Tiffany (aged 12) and Annaliese (aged 4). Poetry was read by Marie Reynolds, founder of Hope Children's Home in Ghana.

This was the first concert at our church to mark Black History Month. Both the ethnic mix and age range of the audience was truly representative of Croydon Borough.

Andrea, her family and her team worked extremely hard to make the evening a real success. Generous sponsorship was provided by Croydon Council and an anonymous donor from the parish. I do hope another concert can be arranged for next year.



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# Growing Faith: Churches, Schools and Households

**Colin Powell**  
Diocesan Director  
of Education

**Growing Faith is a vision set by the House of Bishops to ensure a national commitment to achieve a significant culture change within the church so that every aspect of mission and ministry is seen through the lens of what it means to minister with children, young people and households.**

It will flow into the type of relationships encouraged between schools and churches, and how these are developed to resource and support households to grow in faith together.

This 'adventure' brings together work in all areas of church life, at both parish and Diocesan levels. This is not about implementing another

initiative. It's about reflecting a 'What we do?' and 'How we do it?' and seeking ways of taking this work further.

In Southwark we will be exploring ways of weaving it through each strand of our Diocesan Strategy. The questions we will be asking ourselves, at all levels, are:

? *What are the implications for children, young people and households?*

? *How are we hearing the voice of children and young people in our vision planning and decision making?*

Partnership and joined up thinking between churches, schools and households is crucial in this. The outworking of this will, of course, look different within each diocese and parish.

I am delighted that Bishop Christopher has invited me, as Diocesan Director of Education, to be the Growing Faith Champion for our Diocese. Over the next few months I will be talking with Department Heads, Archdeacons and Diocesan teams as to how we embrace

the Growing Faith agenda and how we can 'signpost' resources to support it.

I will be meeting, on a termly basis, with Champions from other Diocese to share ideas and develop strategies.

The Growing Faith Adventure wants to see:

- \* *every parish creating expressions of church where children, young people and households are actively involved, growing spiritually and have their voices heard*
- \* *Anglican parents recognising the importance of sharing faith with their children and actively engaging in this responsibility*
- \* *clergy and lay ministers who are confident in supporting households in sharing faith at home*
- \* *congregations which nurture and support the faith of children and young people*
- \* *churches which serve and are served by their local school communities, actively building strong relationships between*



*church, schools and households*

- \* *children and young people who are confident to share their faith with their peers and families.*

Through:

- \* *Spiritual encounters*
- \* *Connected Communities*
- \* *Imaginative practices*

I commend to you the 'Growing Faith' General Synod summary report (GSR121) for your consideration.

## Foodbanks face growing demand

**Mid-year statistics recently released by Trussell Trust have shown a 23% increased use of foodbanks across the country.**

In South London, issues with benefit changes, the five-week-wait for Universal Credit, low pay and the rising cost of living are just some of the reasons that people are being referred to foodbanks.

Across South London, churches have been supporting foodbanks for many years ensuring they can support those in crisis. It has been, and continues to be an amazing response to the need in our communities and a demonstration of people

living out God's call on our lives to respond to poverty.

Many foodbanks struggle with storage and lack the storage space to manage the amount of food they now need. So over the past year project managers of foodbanks across South London have worked together to secure funding to set up a warehouse space within St Margaret's Church, Streatham Hill.

The warehouse space was officially launched on 13 November and will ensure effective management and distribution of food to those who need it.

If you are interested in how you can support your local foodbank please go to <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

## Church Architecture awards ceremony

**Two Southwark churches have been shortlisted for architectural awards by the National Churches Trust.**

St Peter's Church Petersham was one of seven shortlisted for the Presidents' Award – awarded for the best new architecture: new buildings or new design in re-ordering, alteration, or extension.

The church's project provides much-needed meeting space, WC and catering facilities in a sensitive extension to the historic building.

St John the Baptist Church, Outwood was one of five shortlisted for the King of Prussia Gold Medal - awarded for innovative, high quality church conservation or repair work. Five years' research and trials, culminated in a project to apply a new render to the church's external walls, which has safeguarded the future of the building.

Speaking at the awards ceremony in October (where each shortlisted project received a certificate) Bob Allies, one of the judges, said: "What unites all the shortlisted schemes is the extraordinary level of care and creativity that has gone into them".

## Safeguarding Creation at Battersea Fields

**At a time of Climate Emergency, what spiritual and practical guidance do our faiths offer to those who practice them?**

For Creationtide, Vasantha Gnanadoss and Peter Wright, Wardens at All Saints Church at Battersea Fields, welcomed members of local faiths and community groups to explore this question.

10 September brought together Christian, Muslim,

Jewish and Buddhist views including common values about our moral obligations towards the natural world, and other human beings.

17 September shared examples of how these values can show themselves in practice, by contributing to reducing our carbon footprint in our local communities. Extinction Rebellion emphasised how direct action in organised mass protest is vital. Transition Town Tooting showed how to live more simply and

more locally. Climate Ed and Carbon Conversations focused on how education can foster engagement leading to personal change in priorities and actions. The Revd Canon Giles Goddard (St John, Waterloo) spoke about the Faith for the Climate Network. He also drew attention to Christian Climate Action, who share Extinction Rebellion's view that civil disobedience is important for mobilising public opinion.

Paula Walker, local councillor and Wandsworth

Council's lead on the Environment, shared progress on the Council's plan for reducing carbon emissions across all its activities. All Saints itself has registered to carry out an energy audit as part of the Church of England's Eco-church scheme.

The Revd Anand Asir, Associate Vicar at All Saints, summed up. He emphasized how essential it is to deepen our spiritual resources if we are to engage in personal and social changes to safeguard the future of our planet.

## 'Carrotty Wood Bake Off 2!'

**Last year young people from three Southwark parishes participated in the first 'Carrotty Wood Bake Off' - this October came the sequel.**

Last year, during their stay at the Kent outdoor activities centre they were decorating muffins to illustrate the Kingdom of Heaven. This year the contestants had to create a wedding cake.

Why? The young people of St. Alban's, South Norwood, St Michael's, Abbey Wood and St Augustine's, Bevedere had been looking at the meaning and implications of the story of the Wedding in Cana with the Revd Philip Barnes, the Bishop of Fulham's Missioner. This workshop took place on

the second of a three-day stay at Carrotty Wood during the October half term; the theme being 'Mary, Cause of our Joy'.

As well as attending a daily Mass (and baking), the young people and the leaders took

part in activities such as raft building, archery, abseiling and high ropes.

The activity was grant-aided by the Society of Mary and the Croydon Episcopal Area Mission Fund.



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# An alternative Ch

Most of us will spend Christmas Day with our families and friends. But there are some not be spending Christmas Day with their family because they are working or volunteering cheer to those who are in hospital or in prison or who are homeless. Members of the I talked to four people who are going to be spend at least part of their time this Christmas



## In hospitals

**Stanley Njoka greets us with a warm smile and a hug as we meet in the chapel at East Surrey Hospital.**

It is clear his warm infectious smile and ability to remember names has made him a huge hit with the staff at the hospital. We didn't see him with patients but can imagine his warmth has a good effect on them too. He has been at the hospital as Senior Chaplain for just ten months, having previously been at King's College Hospital.

Leaving the chapel, which is a shared space with those of the Muslim faith and in which those of all faiths and none are welcome, we head through the maze that is the hospital to his office which he says is in a portakabin (and it really is!).

We talk about his expectations of this his first Christmas at the hospital. He draws on 13 years experience as a hospital chaplain to explain what he expects and hopes for on what will, for him, be a full day of work.

Stanley will arrive at the hospital at 9am as usual and spend some time, as he describes it, 'wandering around the wards'. He will spend time with staff as well as patients as he is very aware that many of them are from overseas and will be missing family and a big traditional Christmas. The

service in the Chapel will be a Eucharist and will take place at 11am and he hopes for 20-25 people.

But he says, "My congregation is like a flowing river" and so he is never quite sure who will still be there as people are often released and he does not know that they are going to be so. This is especially true at Christmas when the hospital tries to allow people to go home even if it is only to spend the day with loved ones.

After the service he will visit the wards taking communion to those who would like to receive it but were unable to get to the Chapel; chatting to those who have no visitors either because they have no one to visit them or because of the lack of public transport.

He says that it is very special to be able to share time with people in hospital at Christmas and with the staff who are on the rota. He will stay in the hospital for as long as it takes and he hopes that he may be able to leave by 6pm.

This is the second Christmas that Stanley has been married and the first one when he will be properly working. His wife, Clare, also works in a hospital, she is a microbiologist at King's College Hospital where Stanley used to work (but not where they met).

So she understands how important it is that there is a Chaplain on duty at the hospital on Christmas Day. But it is hard as they are not yet sure quite what she will do on Christmas Day. She might spend it with friends but she

might be alone as her family is not in this country either. But, Christmas Day will still happen as Stanley and Clare will have their Christmas Day a day late on Boxing Day 26 December. Stanley thinks that it will be too late to try to do it on Christmas evening when he gets home.

He doesn't really know what to expect because in all the other years that he has been a hospital Chaplain he has not needed to think about leaving family behind as he has not worked properly on Christmas Day since getting married. Like so many others he and Clare need to work out the best way to have a good celebration of the birth of Christ but they are talking it through and no doubt will come to good arrangements.

As Stanley talks about his work and how much he loves being a hospital chaplain he takes us on a tour of the hospital. As he greets all the staff and jokes with them and asks them about their concerns it is really clear that this is his community and in part his family and that he wants to be with them. He cares about the welfare of the staff and the patients and their families. He speaks of dealing with the question of why people die on Christmas Day.

He says that the ministry of presence for the lonely patients and the relatives who are in pain is so important and it is clear that in offering this ministry Stanley enables so many to understand just a little more about God's love for them even at the times of deepest difficulty.

## In prisons

**Wendy Stephens combines her work as a Licensed Lay Minister (Pastoral) at All Saints, West Dulwich, with a ministry to the prisoners of HMP Wandsworth, assisting the full-time prison chaplain. Wendy is the first person in the Diocese to be licensed in this way.**

This year, she will be in the prison on Christmas Day, along with Bishop Christopher, where two back-to-back services will take place for the inmates. Wendy describes her role as "really just to be there amongst the guys, to give support, to talk to them and to be a face from the outside."

Wendy's Christmas is usually "a bit of a marathon" she says. "I do my work here, I have my role here at All Saints, West Dulwich with my pastoral ministry as a SPA - so looking after the children. We have our Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 4pm, which is a massive 400-odd affair, and then quite often I'd go to the midnight service at All Saints and then normally I'd then go on to the prison in the morning, do the prison service and then

go straight on to my parents on Christmas Day to join them - by which time I'm exhausted!"

This year, however, the services at Wandsworth take place in the afternoon, which has meant a change to Wendy's usual Christmas routine. "Normally I would go in to the prison and then go on to my family gathering afterwards; this year I'm having to go home on Boxing Day. So I will be on my own Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the evening, but not on my own during the day. But, it was a decision I made because I wanted to still go into the prison on Christmas Day."

Wendy says she made this decision out of care for the people that she ministers to, and because of the difference it makes to not only their Christmas, but that of their loved ones too. "We probably sometimes forget - we get so wound up in our own celebrations of Christmas - that there are others who will be finding it hard at Christmas, even in our own congregations, and we don't know how many in our own congregations may have someone they know in prison."

She continues "I think it's very important for the guys, having the service on Christmas Day. Christmas is a difficult time because they're separated from family and their friends. I think that's why it's important to be able to offer that human contact, and they do come along to the services and really enjoy something different because

it makes the day special - they can mark it in some way with people."

The Christmas Day service at Wandsworth also gives the inmates a chance to get involved and take an active part in the service by processing the nativity figures and giving the readings.

Wendy admits that "it's not a service like you would necessarily be used to - they all clap and applaud and say 'good morning' - but it's very special, and a very different atmosphere. The chapel is one place where they often feel that they're not in a prison because it's somewhere different."

After six years of prison ministry, Wendy Stephens has had plenty of time to reflect - not just on the difference that she can make to someone else's Christmas, but also on the way she has been changed, and the new perspective that this ministry has given her.

"As a family we've always looked after those who were on their own at Christmas, so growing up we'd often have someone who was going to be on their own at Christmas for lunch, and as a child we didn't always like that but now I understand why, because I wouldn't want to be on my own either."

"Making the decision not to be with my family was difficult but I know they understood why I had to make it. I feel that I can offer being part of someone else's family - and it is a family - in prison, and that's what is important on Christmas Day."





# Christmas

people throughout the Diocese who will be working in order to bring some Christmas Press and Communications Team have Christmas Day volunteering or working.



## In night shelters

**Abiola Dada is a night shelter manager at Glass Door, a Homeless Charity that works in partnership with churches around West and South West London to provide emergency shelter to those in need.**

She will be helping Jesus Cares Crusaders Ministries during the morning on Christmas Day.

The morning plan, she says, is to prepare and prepack food to be distributed in the early afternoon to those who would not otherwise have Christmas dinner on December 25th.

"But that doesn't necessarily mean they're all homeless," she says "they may be alone at Christmas or, believe it or not in this day and age in London, they still may not be able to afford food".

Abiola will then join the Glass Door team at about four in the afternoon when she'll begin preparing for the evening's intake of guests, coordinating the volunteers and ensuring that things will be "safe and orderly" for those coming to stay on Christmas Day.

She'll finally head home at about 10pm, although she confesses she may well end up staying later; Abiola is clearly

passionate about what she does.

This is not the first time that Abiola has enjoyed a Glass Door Christmas. She explains that, despite the many potentially mixed emotions that can coincide with the festive season there's usually a jolly, "homely" atmosphere at the centres on Christmas Day.

"We have proper laid out Christmas tables, hats and presents for the guests", she says, "and you know that's not what anyone has asked the volunteers to provide, they just do it on their own, out of nice gestures".

For Abiola the purpose of Christmas is simple: to celebrate the birth of Christ. "I try to keep that at the background of what I'm doing on Christmas Day...It's not about the presents. It's not about the food. It's that this person who came to save the world, came in to being on this day".

She claims that she decided a long time ago, before spending her Christmas Days providing the Glass Door guests with a place to stay, that she did not want to take on the 'pressure' that comes with a commercialised Christmas and all its 'fineries'".

When asked about a usual Christmas Day for her and what it's like to spend Christmas away from her family, she joked and said that she has only allowed 'that madness' to happen at her house and had to cook dinner for a big group of people on Christmas Day twice in her adult life - apparently there's usually around fifteen mouths

to feed at her family Christmas! "I can do all the eating with my family on Boxing Day" she joked before adding "well, I let someone else do the cooking and I eat".

Her kids, the youngest of which is now in their 20s, are understanding about Abiola's wish to spend Christmas Day elsewhere, away from the family: "They don't resent me going out to work on Christmas Day because, even before I began working at Glass Door, I didn't want to buy into the commercial nature of Christmas. They understand that it's not just work".

We ended by asking Abiola if there was anything else she wanted to say about the charity.

She explained how Glass Door hosts the largest open-access network of emergency winter shelters in London, sheltering a total of 175 people a night, seven evenings a week for the five coldest months of the year.

Unlike many services of its kind, Glass Door is not borough specific meaning that it is able to cater for guests located anywhere in London provided a guest has the resources to travel to one of the Glass Door locations.

She notes how many other charities will close during the festive week but how most Glass Door workers choose to simply "carry on as normal" and continue with their usual working schedule at this time so as to provide as much stability for their guests as possible.

"I just think that Glass Door is amazing," she enthuses.

## In parishes

**One group of people that we can guarantee will be working on Christmas Day is the clergy of Southwark Diocese.**

We wanted to know how the clergy 'do' Christmas when they are working for some of the day, so we went to find out.

Patrick Eggleston has been Team Rector of Thamesmead, in the Woolwich Area, for just over five years. He married Ruby a few months ago and this will be their first Christmas together as a family. So, when the Bridge went to see them, the question was not just about how Christmas was different for him as a member of the clergy!

We asked Patrick how he 'did' Christmas and his first answer, whilst perfectly logical, was slightly unexpected - "It's just like an additional Sunday - but usually it's in the middle of the week".

He went on to explain that his team that normally set up on Sundays will come in to set up for the Christmas morning services but, as quite a few people are away at Christmas it often falls to the incumbent to do some of the tasks usually undertaken by team members.

On Christmas Day, Patrick will be in St Paul's Thamesmead, the main church

in the Team but often on Christmas Eve he'll call in on services at the other churches in the team - just to be with the people as they celebrate.

St Paul's has a predominantly West African congregation and often many of them are away for Christmas or have family commitments which mean they won't be in church on Christmas morning. It was interesting to hear that, whilst there would be a good number in attendance, for Patrick's congregation Christmas Day wouldn't be the biggest service of the Christmas season.

Those would be the Sundays either side of Christmas and New Year's Eve, when the church would be holding a 'Crossover' service where they can give thanks for the past year and look forward to the new one.

For Patrick, there has been an adjustment to the way things are usually done in order to fit the local need. It means that he works in a different way to a lot of his fellow clergy. For many of the clergy of the Diocese, once the services on Christmas Day are over, there is a bit of a lull until Epiphany on 6 January. In St Paul's Thamesmead, however, two of the biggest services of the year are still to come!

Once the services are over, Christmas Day starts to become more like everyone else for Patrick - he will probably call in on one or two parishioners who haven't been able to make it to the service on his way home. However, this year, even the

rest of the day will be different because this will be the first Christmas spent with his new wife, Ruby.

For Ruby, as well, things are going to be very different as she spends her first Christmas as a clergy spouse - possibly a lot more taxing than for Patrick.

She will be up very early on Christmas morning to start preparing the food as they will have guests for Christmas dinner and she will also go to the Christmas morning services and, as the Vicar's wife she will be expected to set an example on a day when everyone dresses up to go to church!

Last year before they married Patrick and Ruby ate out at a restaurant for Christmas Dinner, but this year will be the first opportunity for them to define what 'their' Christmas will be like.

With their guests they will be sitting down to dinner sometime around 2pm and the results of all Ruby's hard work will be there to see. There will be a combination of traditional British and traditional Ghanaian dishes, reflecting both Patrick and Ruby's heritages. There will, of course, be turkey and there will also, of course, be Ghanaian Jollof Rice!

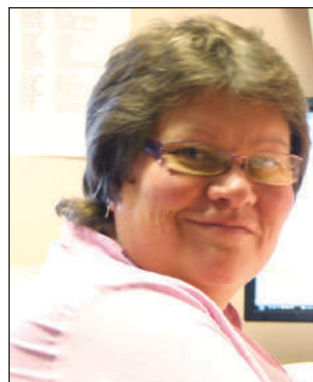
The most special thing about Christmas Day for Patrick and Ruby is obviously the fact that it's their first one together but Patrick also pointed out that it's a very family oriented day for him - but it just happens to be two different families...

...the Church family and, this year, a family of his own.



**Whatever you are doing on Christmas Day please spare a thought - and a prayer - for those who will be 'on duty' on Christmas Day.**





# Wendy S Robins

## DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

### The Diocesan Synod took place at St John, Waterloo, on Saturday 16 November.

Mia Hilborn, Hospitaller and Chaplaincy Team Leader at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital led the opening prayers, after which Bishop Christopher gave thanks for the work of hospital chaplaincies in the Diocese.

Notices and announcements followed, including a correction to the Minutes, reflecting that the Revd David Ruddick had asked a supplementary question.

Ruth Martin, the Diocesan Secretary, announced that Rebecca Chapman and Theo Shaw had been elected to fill the vacancies on General Synod and are also on Diocesan Synod. She also announced

**PCC Secretaries & Parish Administrators Conference**

Saturday 22 February 10.30 to 14.30 St John's Church, 73 Waterloo Rd, Lambeth, SE1 8TY

Keynote speaker plus a range of topics, including the revised Church Representation Rules, an opportunity to discuss how we can most effectively communicate with you and support you in your roles, and HR issues.

Further information will be sent to all PCC Secretaries, Incumbents and Parish Administrators.

that the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallet is to become Archdeacon of Croydon, succeeding The Venerable Chris Skilton for whom this would be the last Diocesan Synod. Joseph Goswell was congratulated on succeeding Chris Elliott on the Diocesan Council of Trustees.

### Presidential address

In Bishop Christopher's Presidential Address which followed, he introduced the Safeguarding Past Cases Review 2, explaining that he would be writing to parishes about it in Advent. He spoke about the environment, noting that it is 'plain that our climate is not in good health' and saying that the Eco Diocese project will sharpen our intention. He noted that for Lent next year he will be recommending resources to take us deeper into this.

The Bishop remembered Bishop Roy Williamson, a former Bishop of Southwark who had died recently, saying that we can honour him by replicating the way he loved people. He also remembered The Revd Peter Milligan who had recently died.

He then went on to commend the Venerable Chris Skilton, who retires on 29 February after 25 years with the Diocese. He said that the Diocese had been greatly blessed by both Chris and Barbara his wife and wished them a joyful retirement. The Synod stood to applaud Chris. The full address can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2sD88i2>

### Pioneering Ministry

Next, the Revd Canon Will Cookson, Dean of Fresh Expressions and Director of Pioneering Ministries gave a

presentation on Pioneering Ministry and Growth. He spoke of the variety of fresh Expressions in the Diocese but also said that we should not in any way undervalue what happens more 'usually' in church. He defined three different sorts of pioneer ministers: 'replicators', 'adaptors' and 'innovators', noted the creation of the new department and looked forward to meeting the key goal of having 100 pioneers by 2025. There was then a period of discussion where small groups talked about the question of pioneers in Synod members parishes.

### Giving Strategy

Gabby Parikh then gave a presentation on the Diocese's Giving Strategy. She spoke of the Parish Support Fund noting that payments have increased each year since 2015 with an increase of over £0.55m and that the amount given by contributors outside the largest 20 has grown by nearly 7%.

She noted that in 2019 pledges increased to £16.4m which was another annual increase, but that the collection rate has dipped to 98.5% as of October 2019.

This, she commented, was disappointing for Southwark but a collection rate that would be welcomed by other Dioceses operating similar schemes. She also talked about pledges for 2020, noting that even though the Diocese is waiting for pledges from some of its largest churches, there is still an increase of 0.1% in the total pledged.

We need, she said to talk about encouraging generosity in parishes which will be



Lent Call 2019 recipients

encouraged by the trialling and introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme in 2020. She also highlighted the importance of contactless giving as we look for ways to engage with those who do not any longer carry cash. Small group discussions followed on 'What aspect(s) of the giving strategy could be helpful for my parish and deanery to encourage generous giving?'

The Diocesan Secretary then reviewed the work of 2019, presented the annual objectives for 2020 and spoke of the way forward with the Southwark Vision.

Alan Saunders, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, presented the budget for 2020. He encouraged the Synod to pass the budget which allowed for a small deficit within 1% of breaking even. Noting that we are a financially resilient Diocese and that we are planning a cost rise of just 1% for 2020 which includes a stipend rise of 1% and a 1% rise in staff salaries. Following a debate in which 11 people spoke the Diocesan Secretary and Director of Finance and the Chair of the Board of Finance responded to the points raised and the budget was put to Synod. It was overwhelmingly passed with one vote against and no abstentions.

### Eucharist

During the Eucharist Ish Lennox, the Lay Leadership Development Advisor introduced 'This Time Tomorrow' to Synod, where several members of Synod spoke of what they will be

doing on Monday morning, The Bishop distributed the Lent Call cheques to the four Zimbabwe Link Committees, the Leprosy Mission, Carlile College, The Salmon Centre, Sutton Women's Centre and Christian CARE, Merton.

### Elections

After the Eucharist and lunch Adrian Greenwood, Chair of the House of Laity spoke about Elections process including Deanery Synod elections. This led to a debate about the levels of representation per congregation on Deanery Synods.

Following this the motion was put which approved the scheme whereby the number of lay members on Deanery Synod are calculated, which largely left the numbers as they have been, and this was passed.

Stephen Roberts spoke about the Vacancy in See Committee

## Projects for Lent Call 2020

**Week 1**  
L'Arche, Bethlehem

**Week 2**  
The Kaduna Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations

**Week 3**  
Diocesan Projects:  
Croydon – SparkFish  
Kingston – The Nicholas Stewart Project  
Woolwich – Superkidz

**Week 4**  
Zimbabwe – Projects in Central Zimbabwe and Matabeleland

**Week 5**  
Zimbabwe – Projects in Masvingo and Manicaland

The material will be in the parishes in early January.

and announced that the Venerable Dr Jane Steen had been elected as Chair of the Committee.

There were no questions following the presentation and so the Synod finished with questions on Health & Safety provision, Electoral Roll numbers, allocation of seats for the laity on Deanery Synods and progress on the Lay Chairs & Area Deans handbook. There were no supplementaries.

One of the small group 'break out' sessions



## Youth Pilgrims visit the Holy Land



### Twenty young pilgrims from across the Diocese, led by Bishop Jonathan, visited the Holy Land in October.

#### The Revd Patrick Eggleston reports:

The pilgrims had responded to an invitation from Bishop Karwei - and this was their first visit to Israel.

Following an EasyJet flight from Luton to Tel Aviv, the pilgrimage began with a day in Jerusalem, walking the way of the Cross and descending the Mount of Olives via the Palm Sunday route. This was followed by a day in Bethlehem which included a very moving

visit to the School of Joy, a school for children with learning difficulties in Beit Sahour.

The third day took in a visit to Jericho, the renewal of baptismal promises at the River Jordan (photo left) and then a dip in the Dead Sea before a long drive north to Nazareth.

The following day began with an inspiring visit to Christ School, the Anglican church school in Nazareth (and defeat in an impromptu volley-ball match!) before heading to Galilee for a tour of the sites and a boat ride on the lake.

The final day saw the by now weary pilgrims return to Tel Aviv by way of Caesarea Maritima on the

Mediterranean coast before boarding their return flight to Luton.

Constance Bugden, one of the pilgrims said "My time in the Holy Land was an amazing experience. As a spiritual journey, I found it incredibly fulfilling and reached a new level of understanding my faith. I particularly enjoyed walking the Stations of the Cross and felt a growing closeness with Jesus and God on each step of the journey.

"Renewing my Baptismal vows at the River Jordan was another emotional moment and I felt a sense of peace and wholeness – it truly was a beautiful and moving ceremony."

I think we could all say 'Amen' to that.



*Bryan Harris's*

# PARISH PROFILE

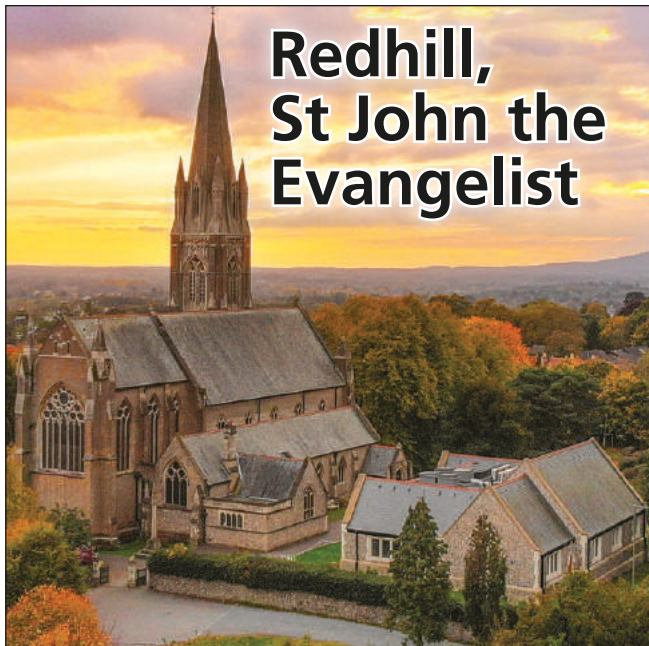
**The Revd John Kronenberg is clearly delighted with St John's new Community Centre – and justifiably so.**

Built at a cost of over £2million, it manages to combine an exterior compatible with the Victorian St John's Church, whilst offering facilities equal to any modern hotel or conference centre. It's the result of a 20 year dream for the parish and, for John, fulfils the promise he made when he became the Vicar that it would become a Community Hub to serve the area.

Technically St John's is a suburb of Redhill but it feels more like a separate village. Straddling the A23 London Road, it's a diverse area with substantial detached houses, smaller terraced homes and houses in multiple occupation. It is also a diverse community as evidenced by the presence of a local mosque. Standing tall at its centre, St John the Evangelist Church is a Grade II\* listed building. Built originally in 1842-3 and extended in 1867, it was remodelled entirely in 1889-90 by John Loughborough Pearson - probably best known as the architect of Truro Cathedral. It has his characteristic stone-vaulted chancel and transverse arches across the nave - and a tall steeple which can be seen for miles around.

Appropriately the new Community Centre also had more than one architect – the first to design a sympathetic building suitable to sit beside Pearson's 'cathedral' and a second to fit it out in 21st Century style with a suite of rooms on several levels to serve both church and community.

The centre which was opened



**Redhill,  
St John the  
Evangelist**



officially by Bishop Christopher and Bishop Jonathan in July boasts a kitchen and main hall, a performance space, music rehearsal room, a youth den, a prayer space and parish office and several meeting rooms as well as all the usual ancillary areas. Inclusivity is a key driver for St John's and had a big impact on the layout and facilities provided.

John Kronenberg said at the time: "A lot of hard work has gone into making sure this building came to fruition, from conceiving the idea 20

years ago, to gaining planning permission and fundraising and not least in the last six months to finish the fit out inside so that it can be used to carry out our mission by having a wonderful space for our community work".

The church has developed a strong business plan, aimed at generating sufficient income to meet present and future maintenance costs (and service the £500k mortgage) while at the same time enabling the church to offer low cost space to meet community needs – including self-help and recovery groups. The business plan also covers use of the church building and many activities take place across both church and centre, especially those connected with music. St John's has a well deserved local reputation for the quality of its music and now also provides weekly rehearsal space in the church for several large, local music groups – among them local charity "The Include Choir".

It already has a packed diary - from a day nursery every weekday to dance and fitness groups (in the 'sprung floor' basement studio); from a music school and art classes to a slimmers' group. In September a weekly after school drop-in was launched to meet the need for a safe and supportive place for local teenagers and of course over the winter the centre will host the local Winter Night Shelter run by the Renewed Hope Trust – with a shower room and clothes washing facilities built in! And on the Sunday I visited St John's there was a baptism during the Family Communion service and afterwards the baptism party had hired the Centre for a celebration. A number of activities have transferred up from the church's other hall, the smaller

Meadvale Hall, which is now even more available for lower cost community lettings.

John Kronenberg described St John's as having 'central and inclusive churchmanship' perhaps reflecting the eclectic congregation which while mainly local, includes people from Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist and other church backgrounds.

"You could describe our worship style as 'encompassing both central and liberal Catholic'. We have a liberal theology and social attitudes which we would regard as generous and loving". Sunday worship begins with an 8am BCP Holy Communion each week; there's a traditional 10.30 Parish Communion on the first, third (and fifth) Sundays with a non-Eucharistic multi-media Family Service on the second Sunday which is balanced by a 5.30pm Parish Communion; and a multi-media All-Age Communion on the fourth Sunday balanced by a 5.30pm BCP Evensong.

There's been significant increased use of multi-media facilities, although on the Sunday I visited with a visiting priest (Revd Eileen Stangan) officiating and a large baptism party, the service was on a printed sheet with traditional hymns from the book. On the 1st, 3rd (and 5th) Sundays during the Parish Communion there are three age-related children's groups and a creche; on the 2nd & 4th Sundays (Family Service & All-Age Communion) the children stay in church. Incidentally there's also TOTs a baby and toddler group, which runs in the Centre every Tuesday during term time and 'Aftaz' a church youth group for 15 -18 year olds.

Music is an important part of the life and worship of St John's with robed junior and adult choirs, an Instrumental Group and St John's Songmen and Songbirds who meet 'just for the fun of singing' but also sing occasionally contribute to services. For accompaniment there is a splendid 'Father' Willis organ (rebuilt and updated in 1968), a grand piano and a keyboard. The new centre has rehearsal facilities used by church and other music makers - and the church's flexible layout and acoustics make it a 'go to' venue for concerts. The church also has fine peal of eight bells which is rung for services and by visiting groups.

John Kronenberg said "St John's is a very pastoral church where church members really do try to look after each other and their neighbour.



But perhaps we have not yet fulfilled our potential when it comes to community integration, outreach and mission – and that's where we hope the new community hub will come into its own.

"The more that people get to use the centre the more they will come into contact with church people and start to build relationships with them on many different levels, overcoming some of the misconceptions people can have about church and Christianity.

"We believe that the Trinity models for us how human community can be, and part of our mission is to generate that kind of community, not only within the congregation, but also to facilitate it within the wider community of which we are a part".

With Christmas just around the corner St John's is a very busy place – with special 'open' events including a range of Christmas Concerts by community partners and charities, the usual schools carol services and hand delivered invitations to every home in the parish to celebrate Christ's birth over the Christmas season.

John Kronenberg added "We are blessed that people have a lot of good will towards St John's and do regard it as being in some way at the heart of their community. Our hope and our prayer is that as a Community Hub we can now fulfil that role in an even more active and dynamic way - witnessing to the transforming power of God's love".

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THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY**



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CHORISTERSHIPS**



Applications are invited from boys whose **tenth** birthday falls between **01.09.2019** and **31.08.2020**

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Further details are available to download via [www.saintolaves.net](http://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, 24 January 2020**





# Let us pray

## December...

It was December 1939, it was Christmas and we were at war. The King and the members of the Royal Family were at Sandringham.

From there, surrounded by those he loved, His Majesty continued the tradition of addressing the Empire with a Christmas message.

What he did that year, as he spoke of his own prayers for peace, was to quote from a poem by Minnie Louise

Haskins which had been given to him by Princess Elizabeth. *I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'*

It was the right words at the right time. And the King concluded his speech with these words

*"May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all."*

No one at that time could have anticipated that the war would last so long, that we would witness the atrocity of the Holocaust and the first use of nuclear weapons, that this war would lead us into a modern and frightening world.

But the King's instincts and his prayer were correct then and now.

None of us knows with certainty what the future holds but what we do know is that in a stable over two thousand years ago a baby was born 'for us and for our salvation' and that angels filled the sky with their song 'Peace on earth and goodwill to all'. Have a very happy Christmas.

**May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all. Amen.**

## ... and January

It says in the Book of Proverbs *'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'* (Proverbs 29.18)

This will be a year of vision, for this is 2020 and we know, when we sit in the opticians chair having our eyes tested that we hope for that 20:20

perfect vision. With that kind of vision we are able to see near and far. But too often vision seems all about the far-off, big plans, something on the horizon or beyond.

When we have that kind of vision, really long distance, we can literally overlook what is immediately in front of us.

The Church needs vision, we need to have a clear sense of direction, goals, plans, all those things but not at the expense of what is nearest and dearest to us.

People perish without the big picture and without the attention to the smallest detail.

Jesus did both so well – he spoke of the kingdom of God, visionary stuff, but he didn't fail to notice the woman in the crowd who touched the hem of his garment.

He saw both and equally clearly.

As we make our resolutions for 2020 perhaps we should pray that we will be clear sighted and not miss anything, not be so distracted by the big stuff that we fail to notice what is under our noses.

The prayer of St Richard of Chichester gives us a sense of real vision and this particular version of his prayer does this so well.

**Day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray:  
to see thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
follow thee more nearly,  
day by day. 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*

## Christ's School hosts Environmental Film Premiere

**In November Christ's School in Richmond hosted the UK Student Premiere of the film '2040'.**

Following the screening, in Christ's School Drama Hall, the Australian Director Damon Gameau took questions from the audience and explained why he thinks approaching the challenges of climate change with a positive attitude is vital.

Mr Gameau describes the film as a visual letter to his

young daughter about how the world can be in 2040 when she will be 25 years old.

It looks at numerous initiatives and technologies which are available now and if embraced can ensure the longevity of the Earth and quality of life for generations to come.

Christ's Headteacher, Mrs Helen Dixon, said "Today's event has been a wonderful opportunity for our students to see that we can all take action to change things for the better".

## Reigate Forum for Change

**The Revd Canon Andrew Cunningham writes:**

**The police were closing in on the drugs ring.**

They knew where the handover was due to take place and they lay in wait ready to ambush the perpetrators, but when the moment arrived, out of the shadows stepped not a powerful baron, or one of his henchmen, but a fifteen year old girl trembling from head to foot, and with a package in her hand.

Through this powerful illustration and many other insights, those attending the Social Justice Forum organised by the Reigate Archdeaconry on 20 November, were able to learn more about the reality of modern-day slavery and its links with County Lines.

We began to see ever more clearly how those who are most vulnerable find themselves drawn into such operations against their will.

85 delegates drawn from local churches and many voluntary and statutory agencies met together to hear from those in the front line of prevention and to work out how we might all respond in a joined-up way to this growing call for help.

Keynote speakers included Gavin Stephens – Chief Constable of Surrey Police – together with representatives of the Clewer initiative and Crimestoppers UK and concluding remarks were given by Bishop Jonathan.

A Social Justice Committee has been formed from across the Archdeaconry to take forward the impetus gained from this day.



## Daily Mile

St Paul's C of E Primary School, Hook has won the 2019 Active Kingston Daily Mile School Award. The Daily Mile gets children out of the classroom for fifteen minutes every day to run or jog at their own pace, with their classmates, improving fitness and concentration.

The award was presented at the Guildhall on 11 November. Head Teacher, Emily Evans said "We recently worked with Kingston Council to create a video to promote the scheme to other schools <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2HByfCDZ0>

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## SAGE

Southwark Spirituality and Age Working Group

## Listening to older people - and taking them seriously

**Old age would be fine, if it wasn't for all the other things that come with it,' said an older member of our church.**

**Ann Wright**

There are many issues to face as we grow older, amongst which are increasing frailty, vulnerability and dependence on others. These bring both practical and emotional impacts, as well as pastoral and theological implications for our churches.

We have all heard stories of older people being deliberately targeted by scammers, who see them as particularly trusting and therefore vulnerable to exploitation.

The debate around Brexit revealed a whole range of beliefs and ideas, including forms of vulnerability that have previously been overlooked and what truthfulness actually means and where it can be found.

How do these issues of trust and truth affect the mission and witness of the churches?

Do we take our relationship with older people in the congregation and community seriously enough for them to feel that they have a place and a role to play? And how and where do we hear their voices and stories?

The next SAGE meeting will explore these issues and provide new perspectives on vulnerability and dependence in old age.

As with all SAGE events, there will also be opportunities for sharing experience and gaining new ideas for reflection and practice.

It will be led by Dr Anne Richards, who convenes the ecumenical Mission Advisory Theology Group, and is the Church of England's National Adviser on new religious movements and alternative spiritualities. She has a wealth of experience in reflecting theologically on issues of our time which are shaped by stories of lived experience – and a gift for sharing her knowledge in ways that are easy to understand and also provide material for deeper thought and reflection on how theology can shape practice.

The workshop will be held at Trinity House from 10.15 to 1pm on Thursday 6 February 2020. To book a place, email [ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org)



# WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for  
**FEBRUARY ONWARDS** to Trinity House  
**BY MONDAY 13 JANUARY**

## Ongoing

\* **BEDDINGTON** - Quiet @St Mary's - 3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm. Including labyrinth

\* **BOROUGH** - St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm-4.30 pm.

† **HACKBRIDGE** - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month

\* **WADDON** - St George - Community Café and Time to Share. Tuesday (Term time) 9.30am - 11.30am. Lunch 12.15pm. Community Breakfast 1st Saturday 10am - 12noon.

\* **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

### Thursday 12 December

♫ **REDHILL** - Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's Church. Martin Cooper (Organ). 1.10pm. Admission free, donations welcome

† **REIGATE** - Choral Evensong with the RGS Godfrey Searle Choir at St Mary's Church, 5pm.

♫ **BELLINGHAM** - Lewisham Music's annual Christmas concert 7pm at St Dunstan's Church. Collection towards Lewisham Music funds.

### Saturday 14 December

♫ **WIMBLEDON** - Wimbledon Chamber Choir concert, 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church. Tickets £12/£10.

♫ **MERTON** - Christmas Concert - Morden Park Choral Society at St Johns Church, High Path SW19 @ 6.00pm

♫ **BATTERSEA** - Recital at St Luke's Church 7.30pm - Tasmin Little (Violin) and Piers Lane (Piano). Music by Brahms, Cesar Franck and Delius. Tickets £24 (concs £20) from www.slms.org.uk

♫ **EAST DULWICH** - Carols by the Green at St John's Church 11am - 1pm. Refreshments and Christmas crafts.

♫ **CATERHAM** - Light classics and music from the movies with Syrinx (Julie Groves and Claire Overbury on flutes) at St John the Evangelist Church, 7.30pm. £15 adults, £13 concs, £6 (16 & under) at the door.

### Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 December

☆ **OUTWOOD** - Festive Firs 2019 at St John the Baptist Church. Decorated Xmas trees and Father Christmas in his grotto.

Saturday 11am - 5pm.  
Sunday 2pm - 5pm.  
Entrance £2.50.  
Children free. Festive refreshments

### Sunday 15 December

♫ **PLUMSTEAD** - "Christmas Crackers" - charity concert in support of Welcare. 5pm at All Saints, Shooters Hill. Greenwich Concert Band with guest vocalists Nigel Garrard, and the Belles. Tickets £10 (£5 children) <https://tinyurl.com/ChristmasCrackers4Welcare> or at the door (subject to availability). Interval refreshments.

### Thursday 19 December

♫ **STREATHAM** - Christmas Concert at St Peter's Church, 8pm, with Aeolus X (wind ensemble), soloists and members of the St Peter's Church Choir - Free entry with a retiring collection in aid of the Church Organ fund

### Friday 20 December

† **KEW** - Messiah at St Anne's Church, 7pm - visit [www.saintanne-kew.org.uk](http://www.saintanne-kew.org.uk) for details

### Saturday 21 December

♫ **MERTON** - Morden Park Choral Society Concert 7.30 pm at St John the Divine Church.

♫ **LEWISHAM** - Christmas Concert - Lewisham Choral Society' at St Mary's Church 7.30pm. Details and tickets from [lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk)

♫ **HONOR OAK** - Handel's Messiah at St Augustine's Church. 7.00pm. Tickets £10, concs £8 (u/16s free) from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/augustine1treehill>

### Saturday 29 December

♫ **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - Free Recital 12.30pm. The Queensbury High School Madrigal Singers

## Next year

### Monday 6 - Thursday 30 January

☆ **WESTMINSTER** - Journeys In Hope - art exhibition at the London Jesuit Centre Mount Street. Charity auction on 30 January 6.30pm. Details from [johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com](mailto:johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com) or text: 07908 888586

**Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill**  
Free, donations invited  
Thursdays @ 1.10pm  
9<sup>th</sup> "Welcome in the New Year"! Graham Walker - (Bagpipes) Maureen Galea (Organ/Piano)  
16<sup>th</sup> Piano Recital Kyle Nash Baker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Piano Recital Patricia Romero  
30<sup>th</sup> Alionor Trio: Ioana Voicu-Arnautoui (Violin) Alan Thomas (Cello) Norman MacSween (Piano)

### Sunday 12 January

♫ **DULWICH** - Organ Recital at Christ's Chapel 7.45pm. Irene Wolstenholme. Admission Free

### Saturday 25 January

♫ **DEPTFORD** - St Paul's Organ Recital: 1pm to 1.45pm. Emma Gibbins (Newport Cathedral)

### Saturday 1 February

☆ **PIMLICO** - Company of Servers - Southwark & London Chapter AGM at St Saviour's Church, from 10 am including a presentation on "The Theatricality of Liturgy" by the Revd Sam Cross, Vicar of St Thomas, Kensal Town. [www.companyofservers.org](http://www.companyofservers.org)

# I WILL NOT ABANDON THEM!

## WILL YOU JOIN HANDS WITH PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS?

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*Richard Wurmbrand 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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☐ book or ☐ film.

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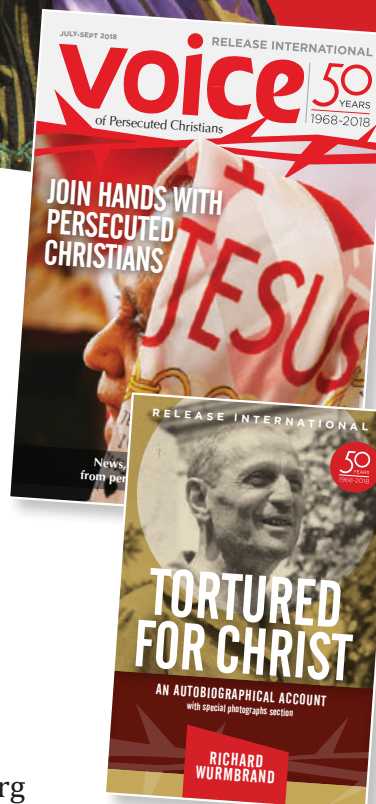
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**Voice**  
of Persecuted Christians



# 'Cat in the Hat' helps launch Nine Elms Advent Calendar

**It might have been a cold evening on Advent Sunday in the shadow of Battersea Power Station but a large crowd gathered outside the Turbine Theatre for the launch of the Nine Elms Advent Calendar.**

They were warmed by mulled wine, mince pies and the antics of Dr Seuss's beloved character, the Cat in the Hat, star of the theatre's Christmas show.

Starting with the 'Bleak Midwinter' themed window at the Turbine Theatre, and continuing every day until Christmas Eve, a new location across Nine Elms will unveil a Christmas Carol themed window with a special opening event. The final event will be a 'Crib and Carols' service at St George, Battersea but you can walk the trail of windows until Sunday 5 January.

Details of the trail and more about the Nine Elms Arts Ministry, which has organised the Advent Calendar can be found at [www.nineelmsartsministry.org](http://www.nineelmsartsministry.org)



Cat in the Hat with the Revd Betsy Blatchley, Pioneer Minister in the Arts in Nine Elms (Battersea Fields United Benefice)

## Meanwhile in Greenwich...

Every year St Alfege Church runs an "Advent Windows" event when the town centre is brought alive by 24 shops, homes, schools and pubs use their imagination and artistry to produce a living Advent Calendar. For details see <http://adventwindows.com/>

## And in Oxted

The Oxted Adventure sees the garages of Oxted once again receiving a festive makeover in this popular initiative from St. Mary's Church. Each night between 6 and 7pm a different garage will be open, displaying its own unique take on this year's theme, 'Journeys'. For details see <http://oxtedadvent.weebly.com/>

## London Mayor visits the Peckham Pantry...

On the 6 November London Mayor Sadiq Khan visited the Peckham Pantry Project and St Luke's Community Cafe - joint projects of St Luke's Church and the Pecan Centre.



Peckham was one of the pilot sites for the implementation of Universal Credit, and St Luke's was one of the first churches to respond and to support the many individuals and families left with insufficient money for food, heating and lighting.

The Pantry project enables local people to receive over £15 of food for £4.50 every Wednesday through a shop in St Luke's Church Hall.

The Community Cafe gives people a place to meet and relax, to have fresh soup and other food made by members of St Luke's Church - and if needed to seek some support for any issues they may have, both social and spiritual.

The combined projects now support over 150 participants and make a significant contribution to the reduction of food poverty in North Peckham whilst promoting human dignity.

For more information see: <https://www.pecan.org.uk/peckham-pantry>,

## ...and Reigate Mayor visits St Matthew's, Redhill Foodbank

**The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Keith Foreman, visited the St Matthew's Foodbank in Redhill on Wednesday 30 October.**

Last month, the foodbank was awarded the Mayor's Volunteer Team Award.

Now in its 7th year, the foodbank's usage continues to grow and grow. Some 36 volunteers help to give out food and essentials to those in need in the area.

In 2018, the Foodbank handed out over £46,000 of food and utilities, up from over £38,500 in 2017, and fed nearly 3,000 people.

The Mayor said: "It is sad that even in this day, there's still genuine food poverty on our doorstep."

"The St Matthew's foodbank does such a brilliant job responding to those in need



and this award recognises their hard work."

The Revd Canon Andrew Cunnington, St Matthew's Vicar, said: "Usage of the foodbank continues to reach record levels with £46,000 of food and utilities handed out

to families and individuals last year.

"Apparent delays in benefit payments continue to be a problem with families struggling to feed themselves and partly why so many are reliant on our foodbank."

# Walking | Welcoming | Growing