

Dunk...splash... and ripple...

On Saturday 19 January, Southwark Cathedral was filled with sounds that might have been heard as John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan - as Southwark held a 'Messy Church' celebration of baptism. More than 200 adults and children came together for a morning exploring why Christians get baptised, with activities, music and bible story telling. The



event was organised in partnership with the Bible Reading Fellowship Messy Church Team.

Aike Kennett-Brown writes:

Dunk:

A big thank you to all the gifted leaders involved in Messy Churches, Diddy Disciples, Godly Play and children and family ministries from across the Diocese, who got fully

immersed in the event by leading activity tables, helping people understand something new about baptism through craft, science experiments, singing, Makaton signing and creative prayer.

Splash:

After an hour of activities, we gathered together to make a splash and celebrate three baptisms by full immersion (a first for Southwark Cathedral). Using baptism liturgy adapted by Lucy Moore for a Messy Church setting, Bishop Karowei and the team (a mix of clergy, lay, children and

young people) led the 200 strong congregation, who had travelled from near and far to be there (including a group of 8 Norwegians from Bergen Cathedral!).

Lucy Moore writes, 'What a powerful and moving occasion. It was so heart-warming to see the beautiful Cathedral full of the old and the young enjoying themselves together.'

The baptism of Kira, Cecilia and Andrea will stay in my memory as a morning where we all met God and celebrated an important day in the lives of these three young Christians.'

Ripple:

I wonder what the ripple effect of Southwark Splash might be? My prayer is that churches will be bold and make a dunk, splash, ripple in their local settings; that they will try new ways to welcome families on the fringe of church, baptising new believers and walking with them on their journey of discipleship, as we grow God's kingdom.

Need some support and ideas to start you off? Contact:

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Mission Support Officers (Children and Young People)
Diocese of Southwark

A taste of the day in pictures...



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

A view from THE BRIDGE

A Happy and Peaceful New Year

When we say Happy New Year, we just don't mean up to 6 January or the 12 days after Christmas. We mean a happy and peaceful year for the whole 365 days.

I am appalled at the number of young people and even pensioners that have been killed violently

in the past year and also at the beginning of this New Year.

Knives and guns have become the tools of the day. Let me say I applaud those who run clubs and training groups for young people, to keep them away from the gangs and the violence.

In my day we had church, school and private groups where the young people were supervised and trained, where they were not left to themselves or to their own devices. This still goes on of course, but could we do more?

We have now moved to an age where it seems we let our children and our young people decide what they should be involved in. Where parents don't have a say or even know where their children are.

The world has changed. Everyone wants to be in a job that will make them millionaires. They want to have the best trainers, phones and clothes. This insatiable and sometimes unrealistic and unfulfillable desire inevitably leads to fights and stabbings because of greed and jealousy.

Even today I remember my friends and young colleagues whom I grew up with in Church, Sunday School, School and College. We were not saints we had scrapes and fights but we were taught emotionally

how to be resilient and how to cope with these disagreements without resorting to extreme action.

These words resounded and echoed in our ears, for growing up we never thought of having knives or guns, our behaviour was governed by what we were taught.

*"Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God has made them so.
Let bears and lions, growl and fight,
For this tis their nature too.
But children should never let such angry passions rise,
Your hands were never made to tear each others' eyes."*

Maybe we have now moved to an age where we let our children decide what they should be? The

whole world has gone mad and everyone wants to be rich and measures themselves and their value via material possessions. Where Social Media, films, peer group opinion appear to govern their lives

What we need to know is what is in our children and young people's pockets & their bags before they leave home each day.

With discussion and loving involvement, children and young people who often are imitators of what they see and experience will learn to live differently. We parents, leaders and responsible adults should lead by example. We should be friends with our children not enemies, a quiet child may be harbouring a simple problem, where open discussion could help



instead of them going out and discussing this problem with someone else.

We should lead by example and guide our children rather than imposing standards we do not practice. We should love them and they will practice love not hate. *May we have less killings and more talking. And more than anything a peaceful year.*

Sue receives FCO award for tackling religious persecution

In December the Revd Sue Thomas received an award from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for her 'contribution to promoting freedom of religion' and 'tackling religious persecution.' She was nominated by Open Doors who support persecuted Christians.

She said: "It was a privilege to receive the certificate from Lord Ahmad (Minister of State). The awards ceremony was a 'first' and follows the FCO's Freedom of Religion or Belief Department giving 'Faith' a much higher profile. At the ceremony Bishop Jonathan's name was also mentioned along with the good work that Chris Philp MP has done in the House of Commons with regard to persecuted Christians".

For Sue, her involvement started at an Open Doors lunch at the Houses of Parliament before the launch of the World Watch Report 2017 where



(Above) Zoe Smith, Head of Advocacy at Open Doors, Sue Thomas and Henrietta Blythe CEO of Open Doors

with MPs and Peers she heard from Pastor Aminu from Yobe State in Northern Nigeria about living life under stress - so many parishioners buried that he'd lost count - the congregation down from 430 to 20. But he said, 'Nothing will stop me serving Jesus. I will not run because of Boko

Haram.' They heard about the top 50 countries, headed by North Korea, which are the worst for living life as a Christian - but meeting real people made the facts and figures come to life, said Sue. Six months later, at an Open Doors 'Meet your MP' event in the Central Lobby

she 'lobbied' Chris Philp MP about Iraq and Syria and about violence, imprisonments and killings and the withdrawal of rights from Christians in their communities.

That meeting led to a Westminster Hall debate of 25 MPs from all parties who unanimously agreed to hold a Back Bench Business debate in the main Chamber in 2019. Chris Philp also raised the matter at Prime Minister's Questions too.

Sue said: "We shudder at the cruelty in the Middle East, and random acts of terror around the world and think it beyond ourselves to do something about it, but we can. I tell who I can, whenever seems right and appropriate. It's about looking for opportunities, being intentional at those moments, then trusting God to do the rest.

The Revd Sue Thomas is Asst Priest, St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon

The Revd Jim McKinney

The Revd Jim McKinney, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Roehampton, died on 18 January.

Bishop Richard writes: Jim will be deeply missed at Holy Trinity and in the wider community. He was the longest standing member of Wandsworth Deanery, a valued colleague and a good friend to many. He worked across the Borough, gaining a lot of affection, and not a few awards, from the local community. He was chair of the Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network, playing a massive role in enabling that important work to thrive over the last 10 years. We give thanks to God for Jim, for his life and for his ministry, for his love, his commitment, for all that he did and for all that he was and is. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bishop Christopher has sent his deepest sympathy and prayers and asks you to remember Jim's wife, Sue, and their children, Ruth and Alex, in your thoughts and prayers.

The Revd Benny Hazlehurst

The Revd David John Benedict (Benny) Hazlehurst died at the Joseph Weld Hospice Dorchester on 26 December.

Benny Hazlehurst served his curacy at Plumstead St John (1991-98). He was Southwark Archdeaconry Estates Outreach Worker (1998-2002) and Vicar of Brixton Road Christ Church (2002 - 2005). He moved to Dorset to be Vicar of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne St Andrew and Dewlish (2005-2011) later serving as a Chaplain at Dorchester and Portland prisons and Diocesan Vocations Adviser before retiring last year.

THE BRIDGE

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The **MARCH** edition is due to be printed on **28 FEBRUARY** and in your parish from the following Sunday.

Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY**

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

Bishops visit prisons over Christmas

In the now traditional visits Southwark's Bishops spent time in the prisons in the Diocese over Christmas.

Bishop Christopher led Christmas services at HMP Brixton; Bishop Richard was at HMP Wandsworth and Bishop Jonathan at HMP High Down. Two of Southwark's Honorary Assistant Bishops also took services - Michael Doe at HMP Belmarsh and Dr David Atkinson at the Young Offender Institution Isis.

Bishop Christopher said: "It is good that, while we celebrate the joy of the coming of the Christ Child we also reflect on the loneliness of this time for those in prison and the mutual isolation for family and friends. It is harder perhaps for them on this day than on any other as no one is permitted to visit and they are in their cells for much of the day.

"We also remember with great gratitude the dedication of the staff who do great work in increasingly trying circumstances".



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'Innovative and fantastic' - Alternative Christmas Trees

On 1 and 2 December St Michael's Church, Betchworth, held its third Alternative Christmas Tree Festival

Pam Armitage writes

We thought after two years of people scratching their heads to come up with innovative ideas they might have run out of things to do. But oh no... the trees were all fantastic.

They included a beautiful tree from an old oak church pew (not one of ours!); a tree

made of pine cones and one from bread rolls of all shapes and sizes. There was a musical tree and one made from a recycled venetian blind and hand knitted poppies (below).

Trees were created by young people's groups including Sunday School, pupils at the school and the cubs, all were wonderful and I understand



that all the children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in making their trees. The lovely story book tree from the nursery was excellent, the cubs tree and the Owls class at the junior school, showed all the hard work the children had put in.

The knitted scarves tree (above) was great fun and produced some outstanding scarves most of which will be sent to Eastern Europe to keep the elderly, needy warm. 50 scarves were given to The Big Warm Up in London - they were thrilled with them as we were, to be helping people closer to home.

The tree that created the most interest (below) was not entered into the competition. It told the story of Isita Hamilton's journey with cancer and was created by her grandmother to honour the courage and tenacity of Isita and her family.



Bishop Richard preached at St John's, New Malden, on Advent Sunday and stayed afterwards to join the congregation at the monthly lunch, part of the parish's outreach programme.

Cheam Mothers' Union celebrates 100 years

On Sunday 9 December the Mothers' Union at St Dunstan, Cheam celebrated their Centenary with a special Family Mass

Sue Wass writes: It was a great pleasure to welcome Diocesan President, Cynthia Smith, Vice President Croydon Area, Norma McKnight, Sutton Deanery Leader, Janice Clarke and members of other branches in the Deanery. The colourful Mothers' Union banners looked magnificent as they were carried by members up the aisle of the church and placed by the altar.

The service was led by the Revd Derek Brice, formerly an Ordained Local Minister in the parish. During the service, the St Dunstan's banner was rededicated by Derek and all members renewed their vows. Gifts of a baptismal ewer and a lectionary, purchased with contributions from branch members, were presented to the church providing a lasting memorial of this important and happy occasion.

The church was full and it was a real joy to share our Centenary celebrations with the congregation members of Cheam Parish and their families. After the service, we enjoyed a glass of fizz and a delicious cake made and beautifully decorated by one of our members.



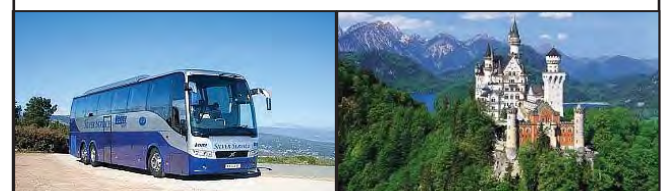
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Lent - 'an intentional wilderness experience'

The Revd Jonathan Coore, Rector, Southwark (Christ Church) writes:

As we approach Lent, many of us will be thinking about what to give up, which is, of course, traditional.

When I was at primary school, we were told, during Lent, to stop eating sweets, chocolate and other goodies and give the money saved to the poor.

It seemed sensible and reasonable but there was an inherent problem. I very, very rarely bought sweets as I was one of the 'poor' to whom I was supposed to donate and thereby saved no money in not buying them.

Any sweets in the house were as a result of generous adults. I felt guilty about this so rather than bootlegging these sweets for charitable purposes (said no-one, ever), I pinched some money from my mother's purse in order to keep up with those who seemed way more generous than I and not break the tradition!

I can laugh now but it wasn't really funny then. This particular Lenten tradition had become a tyrant pretty early on in my life. We have many traditions in Lent and some of them make sense but only if taken in a holistic spiritual context. If most of our Lent traditions are based on Jesus's experience in the wilderness then we should bear in mind that giving up some of our little comforts for six weeks doesn't quite do justice by comparison! Dare I say it but occasionally Lent produces somewhat wearying sanctimonious behaviour. Please don't tell me you have given up caffeine (no chance in my case) and go on at length as to why if I offer you a coffee. Just politely decline (more for me, yay!). It may help you but it does nothing for my spiritual journey if I feel that I'm being judged, especially in my own kitchen!

Researching this article led me to read about many different traditions around

the world and the vast majority have morphed into a focus on giving things up without really exploring the spiritual significance. Over the centuries (and it wasn't until the 2nd and 3rd that anything like codification took place) rules have been discussed and debated. Special regional dispensations were made with caveats and codicils put in place. I bet you didn't know that 17th century Roman Catholics in Canada, based on the writings of Thomas Aquinas, were given leave to eat beaver during Lent as beavers were classified as fish. The Archbishop of New Orleans in 2010 came to a similar conclusion when serving up alligator during Lent!

Divesting Lent of the spiritual and personal achieves little and possibly does damage. Fasting and abstinence during Lent appears to be just something that we do. But what of the spiritual transformation of Lent? The intention was and always has

been to give space and time to considering our own inner lives. Physical and material privation is a starting point rather than an end in and of itself. Lent is a time for those preparing for Baptism and Confirmation and for those already baptised and confirmed to be penitent. It is remarkable to think that this spiritual basis for Lent has shifted in and out of focus so much over the course of Christian history.

Jesus had a deeply intense personal experience in the wilderness. Introspection and temptation went beyond the physical to the very heart of his spiritual being. We tend to focus on his privations during this time and can easily ignore what he possessed. As well as a good knowledge and apposite command of scripture, Jesus also had time in abundance.

This piece is actually being written in the middle of January! The cat is still suffering from Christmas Tree withdrawal symptoms. The local supermarket has Easter eggs on display and surprisingly, no Valentine's Day merchandise yet. For some people in the UK, March

29th (Brexity Day) can't come soon enough, for some it's too soon and many wish it would not come at all. These are the coldest months of the year and there is a temptation to wish away the rump end of winter. Time, it seems, is both relative and elastic. Sometimes it wells up in heavy pools and sometimes disappears like sand through fingers.

With the season of Lent, we have a measured amount of time. It will still be subject to elasticity, relativity and personal perspective but it has a start a middle and an end – the building blocks for a coherent narrative.

Contemporarily, we can often feel time poor. There are, of course, many real and pressing demands on our time but we can also mismanage time. Time can become something of a tyrant and we are tempted to steal it from elsewhere either for ourselves or for others. It was in that wilderness time, freed from constraints, that Jesus explored something of who and what he was. Realistically, we find that difficult to do but we could introduce the idea of a

wilderness time into our day or night.

Imagine a few precious moments when you leave your mobile switched off in another room (on purpose) or the TV remains silent. Internet fasts are popular and useful for the maintenance of sanity and healthy relationships. Picture a point in the day when you empty your mind and focus on nothing at all except just being in that moment. It would be easy to focus on what has been given up and miss what a wilderness time gives. It will take discipline. There is nothing in the wilderness and we are not suited in modern life to having nothing. This is not 'me' time it's 'God' time'.

This Lent, perhaps having an intentional wilderness experience counterbalances the bustle and noise of our world. Take yourself into the Judean wilderness, hear the wind, feel the heat. Maybe do it when you are hungry or tired rather than full and inspired.

It is in the desert that the still small insistent voice can best be heard and where lasting transformation and renewal takes place.

Archbishop Idowu-Fearon to speak at Southwark BAME Vocations Conference

A very uplifting experience ... spiritual and reflective worship... encouraged to open our minds and respond to God's calling

These are some of the things that people have said about Southwark Diocesan BAME Vocations Conferences in the past - and there is one coming up again this Spring.

The Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley:

From March 15 to 17, we are holding a weekend for people from BAME backgrounds to explore a possible call to ordained ministry. Each and every one of us is called by God to represent Christ in and to

the world. But some of us have a particular call to leadership in the church, leading and ministering to the people of God as deacons and/or priests.

The call to ministry comes in many different ways. Some of us have been invited to explore it by clergy or other church leaders. Sometimes the suggestion comes from friends or family. And for some, it's something that has been niggling at us for some time.

This weekend is chance to take time out of your ordinary routine of work, family responsibilities, and so on, to reflect on how God is calling you.

You will learn about the sort of gifts and qualities that the Church of England is looking for in clergy and about the discernment process in the Diocese of Southwark.

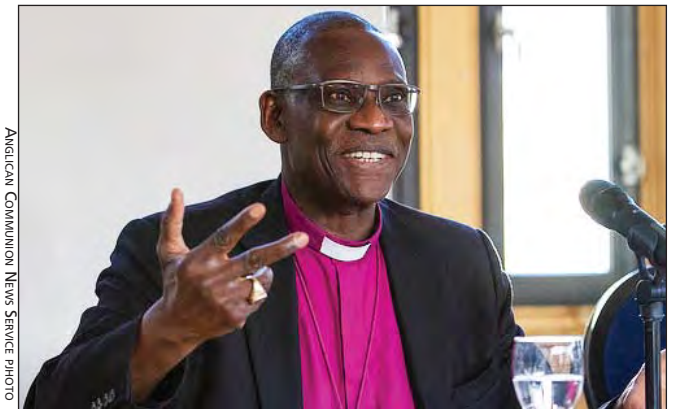
You will meet others from

different backgrounds who share your sense of call.

You will hear from clergy in our Diocese about their own calls and ministries. You will have time for worship and quiet reflection, and for one-to-one conversations with vocations advisors. And you will go home encouraged and inspired to continue your discernment.

We are privileged to have the Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon (right), Secretary

General of the Anglican Communion, as a keynote speaker. Formerly the Bishop of Kaduna Diocese and the Archbishop of the Province of Kaduna in the Church of Nigeria, he is a proponent of Christian-Muslim dialogue in Nigeria. The National Minority Ethnic Vocations Officer, Rosemarie Davidson-Gotobed will join us for the weekend, and Bishop Christopher and Bishop Karwei will be with us on Sunday.



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If you have been wondering whether God might be calling you to ordained ministry and would like to attend this conference, please contact the Diocesan Discipleship and Vocations Missioner, Raewynne Whiteley, at raewynne.whiteley@southwark.anglican.org or on 07426 903725.

"Light your Christingles..."

At St Luke, Eltham Park, volunteers, including Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, prepared 100 Christingles, when the church celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first Christingle held in aid of The Children's Society.

St Luke's Vicar, the Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong, said; "We are thrilled to have welcomed so many people to this special event. Every year Christingle is incredibly popular and we welcome people from across Eltham Park to celebrate together. It was a wonderful occasion to raise awareness of The Children's Society



and share the message and symbolism of Christingle."

During the service Rosemary Keogh received a certificate of recognition for over three decades of fundraising at St Luke's, organising collection boxes and Christingles and helping to raise over £12,000 for the Children's Society.

Rosemary was also praised for her dedication to the church, where she and husband the Revd Paul Keogh are long-standing members. Liz Oglesby-Elong, said; "She gives to the service and mission of the church in many different ways including keeping the issues of vulnerable children and young people alive".

Meanwhile in Tulse Hill...

Students and staff of St Martin in the Fields High School for Girls and guests from the Holy Trinity Tulse Hill Seniors lunch club gathered to celebrate Christingle.

The service was led by Esther Moorey, school chaplain, with readings and a presentation by the St Martin's Student Faith Committee. As well as singing favourite carols, some of the pupils talked about how each could 'Be God's Light' at Christmas, by taking time to care for others.

Head Teacher Beverley Stanislaus said: "The seniors loved it, they were overwhelmed in the way in which they were welcomed and supported by the girls.

"The smell of the oranges and the glow of the candles made the hall look and feel special for everyone who took part."



St Mary's school reaches out to the local community

Faith, Love and Community are at the heart of Christmas celebrations at St Mary's (Lewisham) C of E Primary School, and this year pupils and staff focused on further developing links with the local community.

The school choir shared the season of goodwill by joyfully singing Christmas Carols at several homes and centres for the elderly, as well as singing in the Lewisham Shopping Centre to raise money for St Christopher's Hospice.

Year Five children visited wards at Lewisham Hospital and sang carols for the elderly as part of an ongoing community project.

This year, the school invited residents from Bentley House to join the school Christmas lunch; They began in the newly opened Community Hub, where they enjoyed a performance of the Nativity story by Year Two children.



Then they joined the rest of the school in the hall where school prefects served the lunch and tended to the residents' every need. At the end of the meal the children led the guests in singing Christmas songs.

Caroline Masenko (SENCo) said: "This was truly a magical day, embraced by all, and proved that all ages can join together and enjoy each other's

company while enjoying a sense of love, care and community. In future, we hope to tap into the wisdom and experience that the elderly can offer while continuing to build connections and friendships between them and our school".

Community Hub

St Mary's new Community Hub was opened on 5 December at a special School Worship where their renewed School Vision was also blessed. The Community Hub will host a wide range of Family Learning and Community Support programmes.

The children and staff were joined by parents, school Governors and special guests, including the Young Mayor of Lewisham Adam Abdullah. The Revd Steve Hall and the Revd Steffan Mathias from St Mary's Church led the worship. Marcus Cooper, Diocesan Board of Education Primary Adviser officially opened the Community Hub (left) and it, together with the new School Vision, was blessed by the Revd Steve Hall.



The Magi arrive at the Parish Mass at St James Church, Merton on Epiphany morning. (EMC photo)



Beyond Chaplaincy

On Monday 14 January, 21 Church of England priests and lay leaders met at St Matthew's Church in Southwark to discuss together the future of their mission as Anglican pioneer leaders.

The Revd Dr Hugo Adán writes:

We all come from different countries such as Turkey, The Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Colombia, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Ethiopia, and we are all ministering with non-English speaking communities alongside English speaking ones.

Bishop Jonathan Clark and Fr Daniel Muñoz helped us to focus our conversations with

their very thoughtful talks. Anglican identity, inculturation and mission, were part of our reflections during the day while we were thinking whether the 'chaplaincy model' is the best one for our work.

The presentation of St Matthew's as the first fully bilingual parish resonated strongly with all the participants. Is not the chaplaincy model a way to perpetuate the idea of other cultures as "guests" within the Church of England? The answer is not easy and the Symposium didn't reach a final conclusion.

We were aware of the danger of becoming a ghetto but we all agreed too that our cultures and languages could be a gift for the Church, a way to enrich our parishes and dioceses and a celebration of our faith catholic (universal). We had time to pray together, to share and to learn from each other's experience and at the end

we expressed the two main concerns in which we want to keep reflecting during future events: visibility and diocesan pioneering strategies.

We need to be more visible as very few knew we were Anglicans, even within the Church of England.

We need to make an effort to gain visibility and to help our Church to acknowledge our presence more efficiently and we need to help our Dioceses to think of us and our ministry as strategic pioneering initiatives so we can assure the future of our communities within the Church of England.

For all of us was a very joyful occasion and a celebration of our identity and diversity as Anglicans.

The Revd Dr Hugo Adán Fernandez is Rector of Holy Trinity and Saint Matthew at the Elephant and founder of Misión Hispanica Anglicana



The Revd Richard Sewell was installed as an Honorary Canon at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 20 January.

Richard is currently Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem after a ministry spent almost entirely in Southwark. After a career at USPG (based in Southwark) he trained for ordination at SEITE; spent his curacy at Putney Team Ministry; was a Team Vicar in the Wimbledon Team and Team Rector of the Barnes Team before taking up his current post in October. His appointment as an Honorary Canon recognises his long service in Southwark and keeps live his strong connection with the Diocese and Cathedral.



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Written by
Bishop Nick Baines

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Bishop Christopher presented the Revd Canon Owen Beament MBE with the Lancelot Andrewes medal 'for Godly Service and Zeal for the Gospel' at a reception at Bishop's House just before Christmas. He has recently retired after 44 years as Vicar of All Saints, Hatcham Park (see the person profile in the December/January edition of the Bridge).

The Pan-London Churches



The Revd Canon Rosemarie Mallett writes:

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. (Matthew 5.9)

In London, there is a desire for churches to respond to the challenge of violence, particularly violence amongst the young.

But the scale of the problem can be daunting. During the past 12 months in the Diocese of Southwark alone, there have been nearly 4,000 knife crime offences, around 540 of which have caused injury to a young person under the age of 25. There are 26 CofE churches in 'hotspot' wards, whose congregations live and worship in areas of heightened violence according to the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime Statistics.

Churches are not agencies of law enforcement, and they do not have the resources or expertise to provide essential child and adolescent support or mental-health and trauma counselling. But they should be places of safety, belonging and thriving for the communities they serve.

A cause of persistent youth violence according to research is adverse childhood experiences. Whilst not being able to mitigate all such experiences, a parish church can provide a place of safety

and love, not only for teenagers but for babies, young children, adults and whole families.

Although many churches across London already engage in preventative, intervention and restorative projects that tackle the issues involved in youth violence, a conversation between Bishop Jonathan of Croydon and Bishop Rob of Edmonton was the catalyst for bringing churches from across London together to start to think about a joined up church response. After all, the pain of this issue does not lie in only one Diocese and neither will the response. And as Jesus taught, as brothers and sisters in Christ we are in unity through him in order for the world to know of God's great love, including his love for the young people, families and neighbourhoods involved in and affected by serious youth violence.

This cross Diocesan conversation developed into the **Pan London Churches Serious Violence Summit** held

on 13 November at Southwark Cathedral. The summit was a day conference attended by over 250 people mainly clergy and church leaders from the Dioceses of Southwark, London, Chelmsford and Rochester. There were also a number of church leaders from other denominations in attendance.

The day started with speeches from

- Sophie Linden, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime giving a London wide perspective from the Mayor's Office on serious youth violence.
- The Revd Les Isaac, Founder and CEO of Ascension Trust (and one of Southwark Cathedral's Ecumenical Canons), provided a church perspective and inspiration regarding what individuals and churches can do to make a real difference.
- Mike McKeaveney, former Assistant Director of the Southwark Diocesan Board

of Education, delivered newly commissioned and recently published research on expulsion levels in CofE schools within the Diocese of Southwark. This included information on the 'PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) to prison pipeline' spoken about by MPs such as David Lammy.

- Mércia Perin, an XLP mentor, providing a young persons perspective of growing up in the inner city and
- Leroy Logan, retired Metropolitan Police Superintendent, giving a valuable contribution on how police and churches can work together.

These speakers gave a good rounded view of the issues. The attendees then chose two out of the three workshops:

Workshop 1: How can churches support those affected by Serious Youth Violence? (Facilitated by

London Churches Social Action with the Ascension Trust and the Area Dean of Hackney)

Workshop 2: How can churches be welcoming places for young people involved in or at risk of serious youth violence? (Facilitated by *Power the Fight*)

Workshop 3: How can a church be active in its community to prevent serious youth violence? (Facilitated by *XLP*)

After a food break there was a feedback session (see below). The Bishops present- Bishop Sarah Mullally (London), Bishop Jonathan Clark (Croydon), Bishop Karowei Dorgu (Woolwich), Bishop Peter Hill (Barking) and Bishop Rob Wickham (Edmonton) committed to continuing to work in unity across the Dioceses on this subject and to support a specific project in their own episcopal areas. The day closed with Bishop Sarah giving the blessing.

A prayer for the victims of knife crime written by Dean Andrew Nunn, prayed by Bishop Karowei at the start of the Summit.

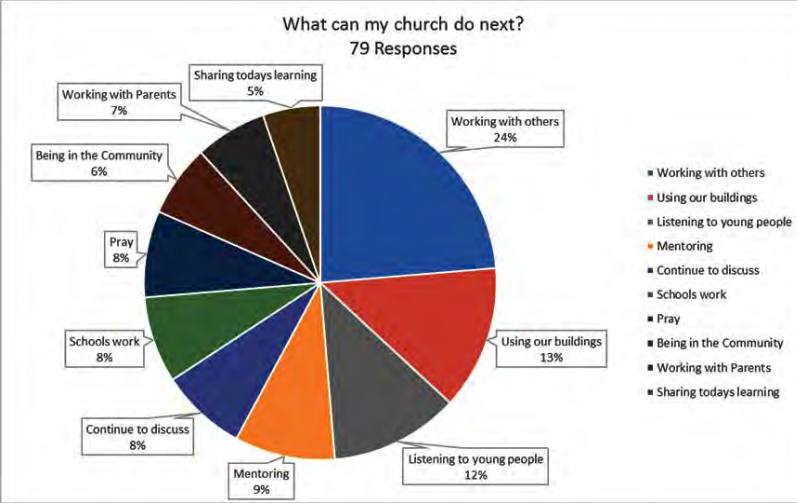
Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more." (Jeremiah 31.15-17)

Compassionate God, Hear our cries, Dry our tears, Heal our pain, And give us determination To work for an end to the violence That takes our young people from us. Give peace to our communities, Peace in our cities Peace to those bereaved And your everlasting peace To those who have died. Amen.

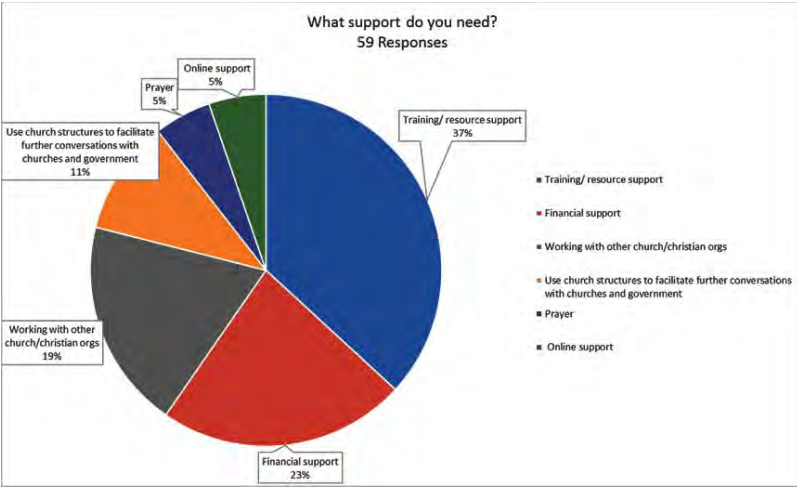
Feedback...

The aim of the day was to ask two major questions in response to all that we heard:

Question 1: 'What can my church do?'



Question 2: 'What can the wider Church [church structures] do? What support do you need?'



Commitment made by the Bishops present:

- To work with each other, with ecumenical partners, the wider community and young people to have a commissioned project in one borough per diocese represented which will report back in the next 12 months.
- To share our learning from this session with our diocesan senior leadership teams.
- To work alongside our Church schools particularly around the issue of transition and exclusion.

What next?

Across all the Dioceses involved in this event, going into 2019 there is a focus on continuing the listening process and starting to invest time and effort into practical solutions.

The commitment of Bishops across London to work together signifies a real step forward in the way Anglican churches in London are viewing this subject.



Bishop Rob Wickham (Edmonton in the Diocese of London) said: "The fact that 250 people came from across London, and from as far away as Manchester, speaks volumes about the strength of feeling within the church concerning the levels of violent crime in our cities.

"It was deeply humbling to hear the stories of the delegates, which were varied and very moving. It was also excellent to be reminded of the need for collaboration in our ministry. No one group holds the key to tackling this issue, yet collectively, we are able to do much in response.

"It's a fascinating reflection in that this summit was one of the unique occasions that the Dioceses of London worked

together, as the need is so great. Faced with a reality, it demands us to move out of our comfort or Diocesan identity zones and demonstrate that we are all one in Christ, who came that we might have life in all of its fullness".

In Chelmsford Diocese, the Waltham Forest Commission on Civil Societies Response to Youth Violence met after the summit and will meet again in February.

The Bishop of Barking, the Rt Revd Peter Hill, has been engaged in this listening exercise with the view to look at collaboratively identifying where churches are in a good position to support positive outcomes for young people and ensuring strong partnership working across civil society.



Bishop Peter said: "Our focus on Waltham Forest has arisen out of the tragic deaths of five young people in the Borough in the past year.

"Our partnership working now includes schools, Leyton 6th Form College, youth mentor providers, local councillors, senior police, an officer of the GLA and other faith groups

Serious Violence Summit

An Ecumenical perspective

Canon Steven Saxby, London Churches Social Action

The brutal murder of Jo Cox MP reminded us of the importance of her words: "We have more in common than divides us."

Those words were not far from my mind at the Serious Youth Violence summit in Southwark Cathedral. As we called to mind the cruel tragedy of other lives, mostly young people, killed in vicious assaults, there was nevertheless a sense a hope throughout the Summit that together we can make a difference and bring change.

It is strangely rare for the four Church of England

Dioceses covering London to come together and consider action on a social issue. Let's hope it is a sign of more co-operation to come on matters where we can learn from one another, even hold each other to account on how we are making an impact on the communities we serve across the capital.

Although principally an Anglican event, there was also a strong Ecumenical component to the day and it was by striking the main examples of action on the issues were ones where Anglican Christians are working together with others to affect change: XLP, a brilliant non-denominational youth charity where young people are helping to turn around their lives and those of



their peers; Street Pastors, well known for bringing together Christians of many different traditions to provide support to young people on the streets and in schools; and Citizens UK where Christians of all flavours work together with people of other faiths and none to organise on issues of mutual concern.

Let's hope 2019 brings us more opportunities to co-operate for the common good; there is no doubt, as the Summit showed, that we are better together.



We asked Amy Stott, for her thoughts on the Summit. Amy is Curate at Ascension Church in Custom House, East London in the Diocese of Chelmsford and Director of Newham Youth for Christ:

What did you enjoy most about the Summit?

I enjoyed hearing a shared commitment as Christians to join in with finding a solution.

It was great to have people share from lots of different perspectives and to hear first hand about things people are doing. I was encouraged by the questions that ran throughout

A participant's reflection

the day which prompted people to think specifically and individually about what their church and what they as an individual could do.

It's so easy to have big picture conversations about knife crime solutions and then leave it to someone else 'to fix' whilst absolving ourselves from stepping into the gap where we are. I thought the question 'what will your church do as well as what we as Dioceses can do' was great!

What would you like to see in 2019 from London Churches in response to Serious Youth Violence?

In response to the Summit I'd like to hear stories about how individual churches, attendees, Dioceses have put actual practical responses in place.

It's so easy to go to events like this one and talk about knife crime and solutions and then do nothing practically with it. There's been a lot of talk about knife crime solutions- it would be good to hear of new projects starting

up, of an increase in time given to mentor young people, of church buildings being used to run youth events or host youth meetings, of money gifted to the organisations working on the front line with young people, of an increase in the number of young people being mentored and supported.

I'd love us as churches across London to stand in the gap with young people together with a joined up approach, deeply committed to seeing each and every young person supported to thrive whatever their circumstances in life.

What are you going to do?

Newham Youth for Christ are looking to begin a project in partnership with other Christian youth organisations in Newham in schools in the term ahead. We have a school lined up in which to pilot the project. We are also looking as a charity and also as a church around what we do in the after school slot when knife crime statistics show young people are most at risk, this 3-6pm time was highlighted during workshops at the Summit.

as well as local churches. Supported by our Citizens UK Community Organiser we are intent on devising a strategic partnership response which emphasises several themes arising from our listening campaign, which also arose from the Summit, with a strong emphasis on mentoring'.

Similar conversations are happening in the Diocese of London. Bishop Rob Wickham said: "In London Diocese, several conversations are now taking place. The Diocesan Synod will be undertaking a major debate on this issue in February, arising from localised Deanery conversations as communities respond at the grass roots.

"This will be enabling the voices and stories of those affected by this issue to be told across the whole Diocese, at synod and in other places where the Bishops, Archdeacons and others will be present."

Bishop Karowei, the Bishop of Woolwich, said: "In Southwark Diocese, we are a diverse community of people of different races, social class, status and creed.

"As the African proverb says, 'It takes a whole village to raise a child'.

"In view of the issues at stake, we've got to be intentional about resourcing children and youth work, engagement of our youth, mentoring and reducing exclusion levels".

Issues

Issues highlighted at the summit include;

- working with schools, local authorities and diocesan boards of education to examine exclusion rates, pupil referral units and other alternative provision;
- looking at adverse childhood experiences and how churches can support whole families;
- putting resources into church youth ministries as well as working with external youth work providers such as Redthread and XLP with a focus on mentoring.

There are a handful of programmes already in the pipeline as a result of this summit as well as partnerships being established with specialist organisations (see resource box for details of organisations).

Projects

A day of prayer for mothers is being held on 30 March 11-3pm at St Matthew's Church, Brixton, being organised by Kingston MEAC (Minority Ethnic Anglican Concern).

For details contact the Chair, the Revd Olufunke Ogbede, on fundunni@aol.com.

An outdoors resource event for young people is planned for the summer and youth training is being provided by a number of local charities at St John's Church, Peckham called Faith in the Community, which amongst other things will provide essential first aid training to young people.

The course has already started and runs for 6 weeks between January and February.

For details on any future training courses contact gwenton.crvingsons@mail.com.

Challenges

The summit challenged attendees to see how these seemingly overwhelming problems in society can be tackled within communities, by everyone, if we focus on what we can do rather than what we can't do.

Bishop Rob said of this challenge: "We were challenged about the provision of after school activities, responding to the fact that particularly vulnerable children are being groomed at certain school gates, into roles and responsibilities which are connected to the localised illegal drug economy.

"It was striking to hear that a significant time of day with regards to violent crime of this nature is between 3.30pm and 6.30pm, a time when many churches could respond with hospitality and love, learning from the highly effective collaborative approaches of churches around food banks and night shelters".

Resources

XLP

www.xlp.org.uk
E-mail: info@xlp.org.uk

XLP is about creating positive futures for young people growing up on deprived inner city estates, struggling daily with issues such as family breakdown, poverty, unemployment and educational failure, and living in areas that experience high levels of anti-social behaviour, criminality and gang activity.

Every year XLP helps thousands of them recognise their full potential. We believe positive, consistent relationships can restore a young person's trust in people, nurture the belief that things can change and encourage them to set positive goals and work hard to achieve

Power the Fight

www.powerthefight.org.uk
E-mail: hello@powerthefight.org.uk

Power The Fight is a charity that will be launched in early 2019 and aims to equip faith and community groups in being part of the solution to the youth violence issue in the UK.

Ascension Trust

www.ascensiontrust.org.uk
E-mail: info@ascensiontrust.org.uk

Ascension Trust is working to meet the practical needs of communities: at a strategic level through weapons bins in UK cities or through training for young girls in Ghana or through street pastors who are part of safety partnerships in the night-time economy.

Synergy Network (Part of Ascension Trust)

www.ascensiontrust.org.uk/synergy-network/

A network of individuals and organisations that work to tackle serious violence amongst young people.

A wide network of organisations that 'buy into' the concept of collaboration and partnership to increase awareness of others engaged in similar work; to share expertise and knowledge and to improve effectiveness by working to shared strengths.

Citizens

www.citizensuk/south_london
South London Citizens is part of CitizensUK - Europe's largest and most diverse alliance of civil society institutions working together for the common good.

Word4Wepons

www.word4weapons.co.uk
Word 4 Weapons is the UK's Leading Weapons Surrender Charity - "Collecting Knives and Saving Lives". Tens of thousands of knives, guns and other weapons have been voluntarily surrendered in W4W Knife Bins, with your support W4W will continue to collect much more and save many lives. W4W is an award winning, faith based organisation founded in 2007 by Michael Smith, who in 2016 received an MBE for his work with Word 4 Weapons.

Crying Sons

www.cryingsons.org
Crying Sons is a national charity that supports groups to work with hard to reach young people. In Peckham they have joined with local organisations and churches to produce training for young people in first aid and gang awareness.





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National Real Easter Egg Hunt

This year there is a chance to reach out to the wider community by taking part in the National Real Easter Egg Hunt using our Sharing Box. See www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Bryan Harris's

PARISH PROFILE

St Peter & St Paul, Battersea



The opening of a new church building is always good news. But that of St Peter's Church Centre, Battersea, in November is specially significant, as it marks another step forward for a lively and active church, committed to "Loving God, being family, bringing hope in Battersea and beyond" – but which less than 20 years ago seemed doomed to closure.

The remarkable renaissance is a tribute to a church family who refused to give up and (to misquote the Beatles) 'a little help from their friends'.

When the first St Peter's church, founded in 1875, was destroyed by fire in 1970, the church family held together. A 'temporary' church and community centre was built and church life continued. Then came change – to both the area and its population – and by the late 1990s a shrinking but dedicated church family were once again resisting (seemingly inevitable) closure.

This time help came from the neighbouring St Mark's Church, Battersea Rise. St Peter's was added to the 'cure' of St Mark's Vicar, the Revd Paul Perkin who sent in a small group to support the 'faithful remnant' and start the process of rebirth. In 2007 a further group of 19 adults from St Mark's, led by the (then) curate, the Revd Patrick Malone, joined them.

Over time their number was added to by local residents and others – so that by 2012 the 'phoenix' parish was able to come out from under St Mark's



The Revd Patrick Malone

wing and stand alone, with Patrick as Priest in Charge.

By then the 'temporary' building was no longer fit for purpose and so the church family moved into the local library and then the church's community centre on the neighbouring Winstanley Estate.

In the recent annual report Patrick commented that, whilst the Centre was 'somewhat hidden, out of sight and hard to find' (and too small for the growing numbers), it had helped to 'push us out into the community ... a missional church that goes out, reaches out beyond its walls and confines to tell others and show them that Jesus is alive and in the business of bringing hope and transformation'.

In January 2014 the decision was taken to demolish the 'temporary' building and to enter into an agreement in which the land was leased to a developer to build an apartment block. In return St

Peter's got a new church and community centre, a vicarage and three of the flats (and a share in future income). The result is a big, bright and bold building on three floors, with a hall, rooms and offices on the ground floor, a worship space on the first floor and more rooms above that – a springboard for the church's vision, mission and ministry which is already attracting new people every week.

To carry that forward, St Peter's has an impressive staff team. Led by Patrick Malone, there are two full time and four part time staff handling the different aspects of management, ministry and mission.

The staff team are backed by an equally impressive PCC structure with sub groups responsible for oversight – and participation – in every aspect of the church's activities from finance and the new building to prayer and even staff welfare.

Central to St Peter's vision is 'belonging' – and so everyone is encouraged to join one of the six Community Groups which meet weekly for Bible-study, worship, prayer and sharing (and food) and are the vehicle for growing discipleship and community engagement.

There is a busy seven day programme – starting at 10.30am every Sunday with the 'Sunday celebration' – worship songs, Biblical teaching, testimony and lots of prayer, plus Holy Communion fortnightly. There are age-related groups for children and they all finish around 12.15pm for tea and coffee, a lot of chatting – and more prayer.

Every other Sunday evening there is 'Waiting Room' – a quieter mix of worship, prayer and listening to God.

Community Groups meet Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in people's homes across the parish. Wednesday morning sees church members out on the streets talking to people and offering prayer and on Thursday evening a prayer meeting is followed by sharing freshly-baked pastries.



Throughout the year there are also times of 24 hour prayer. There is a regular weekly women's group and ad-hoc gatherings for men and women throughout the year.

A Parenting Course was started recently working with Kids Matters – and there is now an Alpha2 Group who met on an Alpha Course and decided to stay and study together.

For younger people, as well as the children's Sunday groups, there's a weekly lunchtime cooking club for under 5s with their parents or carers – where the recipes include fun and Bible stories.

For older 'youngsters' every other Sunday morning there's a group for 10-16 year olds with #questioneverything as its unofficial tagline!

There's a Friday evening youth club for 11-18s where Bible-study and discussion is followed by pizza and anything from Play Station to ping pong! There is also a group of young people who meet on Monday evenings for indoor climbing!

Currently on Tuesdays St Peter's is hosting a night shelter, as part of Glass Doors Wandsworth. Around 15 guests also get a hot evening meal, a bed for the night and a cooked breakfast in the morning – and are helped to find work, housing and more.

If that sounds like a busy parish... it is. And with membership currently at around 100, how do they manage it? I asked Operations manager, Sarah Lewney.

"We place a real value on participation," she said. "Almost every church member serves in one way or another. The staff team is here mainly to enable everyone to find and practice their ministry – and people respond wonderfully"

Is finance an issue – a comparatively big staff team, St Peter's Centre on the Winstanley Estate and now the new building?

"We are very blessed" said Sarah. "Our members are generous in their giving, some quite sacrificially and of course we are benefiting from the investments of our predecessors. For example, our part of the cost of building the St Peter's (community) Centre was funded by the sale of the parish's other church, St Paul's. It already produces a valuable income, which of course can grow now we no longer need to reserve space for church use. And of course, we owe this new church to those whose investment in the land for the previous building facilitated the development agreement".

It is a very diverse congregation too – ethnicity, age (toddlers to nonagenarians) and social class reflecting the local community. There are many new people, some new to 'Church' entirely and they worship alongside others whose membership of St Peter's dates back to the more traditional (Anglo-Catholic) days of the 1990s. In and around the parish is everything from executive

homes to social housing including some areas within the 'top' 5% for deprivation and suffering from gang violence and anti-social behaviour. On the other hand several areas are being redeveloped – and whilst many local residents are long standing residents there is a lot of fear and suspicion generated by 'change'. Whilst the majority of St Peter's congregation are local, some have kept their ties to the church despite moving away.

Patrick Malone said that there were a few (not unexpected) setbacks when they moved out of the 'temporary' church in 2014; "we lost a few people and we were less 'visible' – initially in the library and then in the St Peter's Centre. But since the new church opened in November we've grown in numbers by at least 10%. And there are new faces every week.

"It's exciting to have this new foundation from which to reach out to new people, in new ways. Being visible on a major road helps; as does having an eye-catching building. But most important is the effort and enthusiasm of St Peter's people".

He believed that the new church and centre would put a fresh impetus into St Peter's mission and ministry to the local area – which certainly seems to need their message of 'hope and transformation' – and will "provide a firm footing for our vision of *Loving God, being family, bringing hope in Battersea and beyond*".

St Peter's people - on the streets sharing conversation and prayer; in the kitchen preparing for an Open Doors evening and the first All-age Christingle in the new Church





Bishop Christopher at the UNRWA Camp and School in Jenin

Bishops engage with Christians in the Holy Land

Bishop Christopher recently returned from the Holy Land where he participated in the 2019 Holy Land Coordination, chaired by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton, The Rt Revd Declan Lang. This year's pastoral visit had a particular focus on Christians living in the State of Israel.

The 14 Roman Catholic Bishops from three continents, along with Bishop Christopher from the Church of England, visited a number of projects in

Israel and Palestine and saw the vital contribution made by Christians "especially through schools, hospitals, involvement in public life and attempting to build bridges between different faiths".

Commenting after the visit, Bishop Christopher said: "For the fifth consecutive year I have had the privilege of taking part in the Holy Land Coordination and, once again, it has provided a valuable opportunity to engage with

Christians in the Holy Land. It is particularly fitting that, as we returned, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began and I pray that the wider church will continue to stand in solidarity and continue to work for a just peace. It is as important that we are mindful of the challenges faced by Christians in the Holy Land and worldwide, and that we continue to seek opportunities to bear witness to the hope that lies at the heart of our faith".

Zimbabwe UPDATE

The Diocese of Southwark has Links with four of the five Dioceses in Zimbabwe and we support them through getting to know each other and about each other's lives, prayer, and through financial support too.

Once again this year our Bishop's Lent Call will support projects in Zimbabwe. This is especially important at present as, as you will have seen in the newspapers and on the TV news, the situation in Zimbabwe is really very worrying with violence and unrest on the streets. We are hearing of food shortages, of price rises on fuel and on all goods - and that the Zimbabwean Bond is losing value against the US Dollar.

Bishop Christopher has written to the Bishops of our four Link Dioceses. Central Zimbabwe, Manicaland, Masvingo and Matabeleland and to the new Bishop in the Diocese of Harare (which is linked with Rochester Diocese.

In his email he spoke of the 'very difficult time in the life of our two nations', assuring them of his prayers and concern together with those of his episcopal colleagues and the wider Diocese for the churches and people of Zimbabwe.

He asked them to let him know how we can best be supportive and said how distressed he is about the violence which has been dealt out to those protesting.

He commended the Dean's prayer for their use. The prayer is on the Diocesan website but

is reproduced below). He also asked them to pray for us as we move towards Brexit. Right is the Archbishop of York's prayer for your use.

A prayer for the people of Zimbabwe

May there be ... no cry of distress in our streets. (Ps 144.15)

Loving God, strong and merciful, we hear the cry of our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe and we place them into your hands.

May the hungry be fed, the sorrowful consoled, the injured healed, the hopeless encouraged and the dead have new life in you.

May justice flow like a river and may your peace rest upon them. Amen.

God of eternal love and power, save our Parliamentary Democracy; Protect the High Court of Parliament and all its members from partiality and prejudice;

That they may walk humbly the path of kindness, justice and mercy.

Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common good.

The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their own strength.

Therefore we pray earnestly, Father, send them help from your Holy Place, and be their tower of strength.

Lord, graciously hear us. Amen.

Please pray for our nation and for the peoples of Zimbabwe at this time.

The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2019

The Bishop's Lent Call material for 2019 will be mailed to all parishes this month and is on the website www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall

This year's projects will include two weeks on our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe 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 Africa's Carlisle College in Nairobi. Projects in the Diocese include the Sutton Women's Centre, The Salmon Centre and Christian CARE, Merton.

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.

Workshops - February & March 2019

Trinity House 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Monday 25 February and Monday 4 March -
£30 for 2 sessions
Kick-start Preaching
Rev'd Ellen Eames

Have you been preaching for a while and would like a refresher? Is your training in preaching a distant memory - or perhaps you were never really taught preaching in the first place? Kick-start Preaching is a two-session course for preachers who want to revisit some basics and re-commit themselves to the ministry of preaching. We will cover key areas of homiletics including biblical exegesis, sermon structures, and delivery, and explore some new resources to support your sermon inspiration.

Monday 11 March and Monday 18 March -
£30 for 2 sessions
Praying into Scripture: a Practical Guide to Ignatian Prayer and Imagination
Rev'd Susanne Carlsson

During this short course you will be introduced to the practise of one of the richest traditions of Christian prayer meditation. The Ignatian approach is especially compelling because of the way we are invited to bring our imaginations into the life of prayer. Susanne will help you discover new ways to listen to God's leading in your prayer, for the good of your Christian practice in the business of life.

Monday 25 March - £15
The Gloomy Prophet? Jeremiah for Today
Dr Robin Plant

Jeremiah is a chaotic book for chaotic times, climaxing in the destruction of Jerusalem and deportation of its people. But out of this trauma came some of the Bible's most profound insights, including the suffering of God and the gift of a new covenant. Join us to discover more, and how Jeremiah even foreshadows Jesus himself.



Malling Abbey 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Wednesday 13 March and Wednesday 20 March -
£30 for 2 sessions
How do I make decisions with God?
Decision-making in the Ignatian tradition.
Rev'd Susanne Carlsson

This workshop will look at how to make decisions through prayer drawing on the insights from Ignatius of Loyola and his Spiritual Exercises. The day will involve both theoretical input and practical reflection on our own decision-making.

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



Welcome back Bishop Peter

Bishop Christopher commissioned the Rt Revd Peter Price, the former Bishop of Bath and Wells as an Assistant Bishop at a reception at Bishop's House just before Christmas.

He and his wife, Dee, have recently moved back into Southwark Diocese. He had formerly been the Vicar of St Mary Addiscombe, and Canon Residentiary and Chancellor of Southwark Cathedral before becoming General Secretary of USPG (which was also situated in the Diocese). He became Bishop of Kingston in 1997 and Bishop of Bath and Wells in 2002.



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'Utterly dedicated and steadfast' and 'a great person to be around'

Penny Lohead, a familiar figure at Bishop's House, and more recently in Trinity House, who has been one of the Bishop's PAs for the last 14 years retired at Christmas.

At a farewell dinner at Bishop's House the Bishop spoke of Penny as utterly dedicated and steadfast thanking her for all that she had contributed to the life

of his office and for all her help and support. Bishop Christopher said that when he had become Diocesan Bishop in 2011 he was handed over by Maggie Elkin, (his PA as Bishop of Woolwich), to a new support team and that Penny has been the one continuity in that team.

He expressed his heartfelt appreciation for all that Penny had done and spoke of the importance in her life of her family and especially of her beloved grandson, Noah, whom the Bishop said he had watched grow up in the last few years.

He spoke too of her ministry as a Reader in Horley and within the Mothers' Union. Bishop Christopher said that, during his time as Bishop, Penny had worked with a number of Chaplains and offered them the opportunity to say a few words.

The Revd Joshua Rey, Bishop Christopher's current Chaplain, said: "You may know the Joni Mitchell song, 'you don't know what you've got until it has gone'. Well, I do know what we have and I am sure that we will find other things".

He went on to say that he had learned an enormous amount from Penny and he knows that the job that she does has become more and more complex and Penny has grown into these processes and become an authority on them.

"In the last 14 years Penny has learned the mindset to bring order out of chaos and she has done this task, which is fundamentally part of God's work exceptionally well".

More than that he wanted to thank her for being a great person to be around.

A former Chaplain, the Venerable Mark Steadman, then spoke. He said that Penny

had been a 'huge support' who had great wisdom and had helped to dramatically overhaul the filing system when he was there and kept this process going.

"Penny has a commitment to, and a passion for, the church and for the Diocese and this has found its home in the Bishop's office," he said.

He too had learned a huge amount from her and is incredibly grateful.

Bishop Christopher concluded by saying that because of Penny's steadfastness for the gospel he always knew that things would get done.

In giving thanks for her safe, constructive and purposeful work he wished her a long, happy, healthy and fun retirement in which her ministry will continue and grow.

Penny thanked the Bishop and said that this role had been part of her vocation and one that she would miss.

As well as a personal gift from Bishop Christopher and one from his senior staff, Penny also received a gift from the staff at Trinity House at their final all-staff briefing before Christmas.

At the meeting at Trinity House Bishop Christopher once again paid tribute to Penny and then presented her with a Lancelot Andrewes medal.



Grandson Noah helps Penny unwrap one of her presents



Christ's School in top 2% for sports

Christ's School Richmond has again, been recognised for its sporting success.

For the first time, Christ's has been named amongst the top 100 state schools in the country for sport – and in the top 2% of schools nationally – by School Sport Magazine. Christ's is the only school in Richmond and one of only a handful of London schools to have achieved this accolade.

Tom Smith, Head of PE at Christ's School, said "It is testament to the hard work of our sports staff who ensure

that we offer high quality provision across a wide variety of sports and, the dedication of our students who participate in sport at every level."

Headteacher Helen Dixon added "It is an outstanding achievement and one we are incredibly proud of, especially given the size of our School, the number of sports staff and current budget constraints."

The rankings are based on over 20 different sports and more than 120 different competitions nationally.



**ST FAITH'S
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St Faith's Community Centre is seeking a bright, enthusiastic, well-organised and multi-skilled individual to be Team Leader.

We are looking for someone to provide effective management and development of the Centre as a Community base. You will need to be able to improve processes, delegate and problem solve. A great communicator, you will be skilled at IT, with the ability to set up and maintain a funding programme including applications for grants. And you will be keen to engage with user groups, understand their requirements and see they are given excellent service. This is a great opportunity to increase the benefits the Centre can provide for local groups and individuals of all ages and abilities.

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(18 hours per week - £12,168 per annum
+ £4.50 per hour when 'on call')

Duties include general maintenance and upkeep of the Community Centre, cleaning and repairs, opening and closing of premises, responsibility for out of hours security, liaison with supervisor and management committee. Must be punctual and dependable and able to work both as part of a team and on own initiative.

All posts benefit from pension contribution and 20 days annual leave plus bank holidays.

For job descriptions & application forms contact: Susan Height, St. Faith's Centre, Red Post Hill, SE24 9JQ or e-mail: office@stfaithschurch.org

Closing date for all posts: 8th February 2019.

Interviews will take place on 21st February.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Church of All Saints, Tooting
allsaintstooting.org.uk

&

**The Church of St Mary and
St John the Divine, Balham**
stmarybalham.org.uk

Joint Parish Administrator

We are seeking a joint Parish Administrator with good communication skills to maintain an efficient parish office in each of our churches, to manage lettings, produce parish publications, and provide general secretarial support to the Vicars.

All Saints' and St Mary's are lively and friendly parish churches situated in the adjacent neighbourhoods of Balham and Tooting in south-west London. Each is readily accessible by public transportation. Both are inclusive, diverse, and modern churches in the liberal catholic tradition, seeking to enrich our respective communities through worship and service.

The post is part-time (24 hours per week) at £11/hr. As Administrator, you must maintain regular office hours in both locations, but there is some flexibility in establishing the pattern of work. You must be able to act on your own initiative, have good IT skills, an eye for detail, and be comfortable working alongside volunteers. An understanding of how a parish church works would be an advantage.

For further particulars, please contact the Vicar of St Mary's, the Revd Dr Robert Tobin, at vicar@stmarybalham.org.uk, or on 020 8673 1188.

Applications by email (including a covering letter explaining your interest in the post, your C.V., and two reference contacts) must be sent to Fr Robert by Friday, 1 March 2019. Appropriate candidates will be invited to attend for interview.

In line with diocesan policy, enhanced DBS disclosure is required.

To advertise your vacancy in The Bridge (in print and on-line)
call 01474 854503 or e-mail: kcpress@btinternet.com



February

We are all very conscious of the effect of climate change and the consequences that the way we live has for the future of our planet.

The pictures that we see of plastic waste and the

melting of glaciers is truly frightening and the influence that programmes like 'Blue Planet II' had last year were very important in making us realise just how serious things are getting.

It is 205 years this year that the last Frost Fair happened on the Thames. The fair began on the 1st February 1814 and, as with other such fairs, the people of London ventured on to the frozen river for fun and games.

As you walk along the river now, on the north edge of the Diocese, it is hard to imagine

that something like that was even possible.

Richard Kindersley, a Southwark resident, penned these lines at the beginning of the 19th century

*Behold the liquid Thames now frozen o'er
That lately Ships of mighty Burthen bore
The Watermen for want of Rowing Boats
Make use of Booths to get their Pence & Groat
Here you may see Beef Roasted on the Spit
And for your Money you may taste a bit.*

You can read them on the memorial to the Frost Fairs that is in the passageway under Southwark Bridge.

But an 18th century writer had slightly loftier thoughts about it all:

*Behold the Power of a God!
Which locks,
In close Confinement, under pond'rous Rocks
Of dreadful Ice and Snow, our famous Thames;*

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

Whose matchless Glory all the World proclaims.

The power of God versus the power of humankind, one so creative, the other at times so destructive but also so inventive.

**Creator God,
may I be a good steward
of your good earth.
Amen.**



Postbag

Owen Beamont - my 'hero-priest'

I was delighted to read the excellent article covering the ministry of Fr Owen Beamont at All Saints, New Cross (if you can put a gallon into a pint pot!).

I went to him as a seminarian 37 years ago and even then walking anywhere in the parish took ages as everyone wanted to speak to 'Fav'.

Like many others who learned the skills of parish priesting from Owen he is my hero-priest.

I wish him a long and happy retirement, if it's possible for the words Owen and retirement to go together!

Ad multos annos.

Edward Lewis
Chaplain to HM The Queen
& Vicar of St Mary's Kenton

London Faith and Belief Community Awards - an omission



In the recent edition of the Bridge you noted the London Faith and Belief Community Awards including a number of organisations which received honourable mentions but omitted Lewisham Churches for Asylum Seekers (LewCAS) which did in fact receive one of the £500 awards.

LewCAS was started by Jill Hall, wife of the then Bishop of Woolwich, and operates from St John's, Deptford, providing weekly food and help to destitute asylum seekers and refugees.

We have active support and volunteers from many Anglican parishes throughout Lewisham. As it is an ecumenical body we also receive support from Baptist, Quaker and Roman Catholic congregations.

Stella Jeffrey
Chair, LewCAS.

Apologies we missed you off our list.
Belated congratulations.

ReIGNITE 2021 appeal receives a major boost

ReIGNITE 2021 - the campaign to renovate St John's Church Waterloo - received a major boost on 14 December when the Good Growth Fund confirmed St John's grant for £760,000. taking the committed funding to £2.3 million.

"This is fabulous news," said Canon Giles Goddard, Vicar of St John's. "It brings us closer to our goal of making this much-loved building a landmark place for Londoners, providing creative and heritage projects, skills and education training, with a renovated crypt, disabled access, and new facilities throughout."

The Good Growth Fund is London Mayor Sadiq Khan's £70 million regeneration programme to support growth and community development in London.

Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, said: "This is a great example of a project which aims to give Londoners of all backgrounds the opportunity to be actively involved in shaping how their city develops. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this project has in the future."

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.

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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:

St Mary's Convent, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9AU

Tel: 01235 763141

Email: guestwing@csmv.co.uk

www.csmv.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for **MARCH ONWARDS** to Trinity House
BY MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY

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

Sunday 3 February

- ♫ **DULWICH** - Concert with the Tamino Orchestra 7.30pm in St Stephen's Church, Strauss 'Metamorphosen', Handel, Tavener, Ansdell-Evans

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 16 February

- * **HORLEY** - Horley Team Parish invite the Zimbabwean community to an afternoon with Bishop Ignatius Makumbe of Central Zimbabwe at St Francis' Church, Balcombe Road 2.00-4.45pm Retiring collection for St John's Church, Gwehava Gokwe Telephone: 01293 782218 RSVP by 6 February

Friday 22 February

- ♫ **KINGSTON** - 'Understanding Islam' a one day course on 'the basics' with Dr Chris Hewer at The Guildhall. 09.30 to 16.30. The course is free but donations are welcome to help cover costs. If interested contact Diana Mills 020 8948 3276 or dianamills31@gmail.com

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. 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

Southwark Vision: Making it Happen!

The Archdeacons of the Diocese invite you to join them this spring at one of their events exploring 'Southwark Vision: Making it happen!'

All are welcome, so please bring a group from your parish and hear local people tell some of the exciting stories of life and growth in the Deaneries. We will also discuss the Diocesan Vision and some of the strategic seeds that have been and are being planted.

As Archdeacon John Kiddle has written: "We want to come together locally to celebrate the growth that God is giving and the generous investment of love, prayer, time, imagination and money, which has made this possible". So do come, whether to share your vision, to listen to others' stories, to ask your questions or give thanks to God.

The venues in each Archdeaconry, dates and times are listed right.

If you are not able to attend your local meeting you are very welcome at any of the other meetings. Refreshments will be available from half an hour before each meeting. The evening meetings will conclude by 9pm.

Bishop Christopher is hoping to attend some of the events.

If you would like more details about the evenings please contact your Archdeacon's PA at your local area office: Croydon Area Office: 020 8256 9630. Kingston Area Office: 020 8545 2440. Woolwich Area Office: 020 7939 9400.

Date/time	Archdeaconry	Venue
Monday 11 Feb 7.30pm	Lewisham & Greenwich	St Mary the Virgin, Welling Shoulder of Mutton Green DA16 3NR
Wednesday 13 Feb 7.30pm	Southwark	St Peter, Walworth Liverpool Grove SE17 2HH
Friday 15 Feb 11am	Reigate	St Stephen, South Godstone Station Road RH9 8EU
Thursday 21 Feb 7.30pm	Croydon	The Good Shepherd Church Centre, Queen Mary's Avenue, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 4NP
Thursday 7 March 7.30pm	Lewisham & Greenwich	The Good Shepherd, Lee Handen Road SE12 8NR
Monday 11 March 7.30pm	Lambeth	St Mark, Kennington Kennington Park Road SE11 4PW
Tuesday 12 March 7.30pm	Wandsworth	Holy Trinity, Richmond Sheen Park TW9 1UP
Wednesday 13 March 7.30pm	Croydon	St Mary of Nazareth, West Wickham The Avenue BR4 0DX
Monday 18 March 7.30pm	Lambeth	St Saviour, Raynes Park Grand Drive SW20 9DL
Tuesday 19 March 7.30pm	Wandsworth	St Paul, Kingston Hill Queens Road KT2 6SE
Wednesday 20 March 12 noon	Croydon	Holy Saviour, Croydon Cameron Road CR0 2SR
Thursday 21 March 7.30pm	Reigate	Holy Trinity, Redhill Carlton Road RH1 2BS
Monday 25 March 7.30pm	Lambeth	Christ Church, Gipsy Hill Gipsy Hill SE19 1DP
Tuesday 26 March 7.30pm	Lewisham & Greenwich	St John, Deptford Lewisham Way SE8 4DL
Wednesday 27 March 7.30pm	Wandsworth	St Peter, Battersea 23 Plough Road SW11 2DE
Thursday 28 March 7.30pm	Southwark	St Faith, North Dulwich Red Post Hill SE24 9JQ

Saturday 9 March

- ♫ **WEST DULWICH** - The People's Song - Three Key Traditions - Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland London Regional Day at All Saints Church, 10.30am - 4.30pm. The Revd Dr Janet Wootton (the Centenary of Billy Graham's birth); The Revd Dr Gordon Giles (the English Hymnal tradition); John Ainslie (Catholic Hymnody since the 2nd Vatican Council) and Nicholas Markwell ('How great thou art') ending with a Festival of Hymns.

Admission £10. Book via John Webber - 020 8650 9164 or maggieandjohn1@gmail.com or just turn up. Drinks available; bring your own lunch

Saturday 16 March

- * **SANDERSTEAD** - Exhibition and Sale of Pictures by Local Artists in support of the Children's Society 10.00am - 4.30pm. United Reformed Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill.

Original paintings and drawings at affordable prices. Homemade cakes and preserves stall, tea and coffee, and raffle

Sunday 17 March

- † **TANDRIDGE** - Choral Evensong BCP at St. Peter's Church 6.30pm - with Reigate St Mary's Choir School. Refreshments from 5.30pm
- * **CLAPHAM** - Welcoming Church - at Church of the Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue 6:30pm - refreshments afterwards. See advertisement page 5

Thursday 21 March

- ♫ **BLACKHEATH** - "Is Christianity Hate Speech - How should Christians navigate speaking about their faith in a shifting culture?" 7:45pm for 8pm, at St John's Church. Speaker: Prof. Tom Simpson Assoc Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy (University of Oxford) - former RM Commando, Christian and defender of free speech

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Two congregations meet to bless London's river



On Sunday 13 January the congregations of Southwark Cathedral and St Magnus the Martyr in the City, processed onto London Bridge for the annual blessing of the River Thames.

The ceremony, held on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ for a number of years, took place at the point on the Bridge which marks the boundary of Southwark and London Dioceses. This year it was filmed by ITN for use in a forthcoming documentary series about London's River.

The ceremony started with a welcome from the Rector of St Magnus the Martyr, the Revd Philip Warner. The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, then said prayers for all those involved with the Thames and the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth and an Assistant Bishop in Southwark Diocese,

led the Blessing of the Thames. He wore a cope made by artist Sarah Wilson from recycled plastic collected from the river.

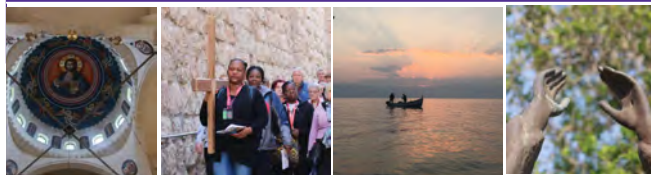
During the blessing a cross is thrown into the river from the bridge as a sign of the two churches' prayer and concern for the Thames, for those who work on it and for all those to whom it is important.

Historic note:

The first stone bridge across the Thames was opened in 1209. Since then the care has been shared between the Priory of St Mary Overie (now the Cathedral) and the parish church of St Magnus the Martyr in Lower Thames Street. The Blessing of the River was instituted by St Magnus the Martyr in 2004 and Southwark Cathedral has been a part of it since 2009.

Images from the Blessing of the River can be found on Flickr at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm8gEoS4>

An Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



3-10 March 2020

led by Bishop Christopher Chessun and Bishop Paul Hendricks

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

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

Email: pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org



Solar panels help to value God's creation

The roof of South Dulwich, St Stephen's Church hall is now covered in solar panels. The cost was

covered by a generous individual donation and a grant from Southwark Council's 'Cleaner-Greener-

Safer' scheme. The installation was handled by Chelsfield Solar - all they need now is sunshine!

St Stephen's Vicar, the Revd Canon Bernhard Schunemann, said "Even though the sunny side of St Stephen's and its lean-to hall was out of public view, it took many months to obtain all the right faculties and local authority planning permissions".

The panels were blessed and commissioned on a cold Monday morning in December in the presence of the local MP Helen Hayes, Cllr Andy Simmonds and representatives from every school and nursery in the parish.

Canon Schunemann added: "Having solar panels is the culmination of a lot of hard and collaborative work.

"Unfortunately during the planning process the government changed its feed-in tariff regulations - so now it will probably take over 20 years for the investment to pay off!

"However this is still an important way to show how much we value God's creation".

And of course, you don't need sun for solar panels to work, just light!



Walking | Welcoming | Growing