



Vol.25 No.1 February 2020

We made it!

Parishes dig deep as PSF hits 99% of target

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Bible Study
Archdeacon Chris
Skilton ponders
Candlemas
See page 10



WHAT'S ON Community events, workshops, concerts See page 11



The new eco-project that keeps people coming back for more

The Ascension, Balham Hill launches its Parish Refill project to help cut down waste in the community.

The Ascension, Balham Hill is now dispensing laundry and household cleaning products alongside coffee and cake at its Parish Coffee concession.

Launched in December, the project allows parishioners and others from the community to cut down on unnecessary packaging by refilling their own bottles when shopping for laundry liquid, soap, washing up liquid, shampoo and more. They can bring their own receptacles or buy them from the café.

After some discussion, the organisers settled on products by Fill, a family-run business in Northamptonshire, and Faith in Nature, which has been developing natural, cruelty-free beauty products since 1974. Everything on sale is vegan, biodegradable and contains no dyes or harsh chemicals. The bottles themselves are made of aluminium and glass.

Karen Stewart of The Ascension said: "We launched Parish Refill at our Christmas Pop-up Fair and we were overwhelmed at the response. People loved the products and either bought our reusable glass and aluminium bottles or refilled their own."

She added: "We continue to be open daily, and are slowly building up a steady base of loyal customers. We are still so excited each and every time we see someone browsing the products and filling up."

Parish Coffee is open Monday-Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm, and Parish Refill can be accessed during these hours. See www.parishcoffee.org for more information







A happy customer shows off her purchases at Parish Refill, left; the refill stations, above.

Welcome to your new-look *Bridge...*

We very much hope you will like the look and feel of the new Bridge and want to read about what is happening in the Diocese and our parishes as we seek to be Walking, Welcoming and Growing, writes Director of Press and Communications, the Revd Canon Wendy Robins.

We will particularly be focusing on the work to encourage our lay people to live out their faith everyday and how they are doing that. The Bridge on the web will be more interactive and we hope to be able to tell you more about the stories in the new section when we renew the website.

Do please let us know what you think

at bridge@southwark.anglican.org and please also let us know of the exciting things that are happening in your parish or deanery. Alternatively, if you would like to become involved as our Honorary Editorial Adviser, please contact David Loft, Director of Human Resources, at david.loft@southwark.anglican.org





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A view from The BRIDGE



The year 1964 set me on the road to ordination – in a manner of speaking. It was the year at the age of nine that I discovered for the first time the Good News of Jesus Christ, at a beach mission on the Essex coast. The rest, with plenty of twists and turns along the way, is, as they say, 'history'.

1964 was also the year that Mark Gibbs and Ralph Morton wrote what at the time was a contentious, challenging and controversial book, God's Frozen People. It asserted that the Church had become too ministercentred; that the Christian layman (this was 1964!) had been frozen out of Church life and that clergy had been encouraged to become prima donnas, not the "leader of the orchestra" which was what was sorely needed.

You can see why this may not have gone down well! Was it the tone of the book? Its content? or simply that the Church wasn't ready for it? It certainly didn't become compulsory reading on theological college courses.

Yet 56 years later we are clearly in a different place in the life of the Church. Lay ministry blossoms and flourishes in a myriad of ways across Southwark. There are exciting and innovative ways that it is affirmed, nurtured and promoted – some of which are featured in this and future editions of *The Bridge*. Most significantly this is not happening to take the pressure off clergy or because we are running out of priests – but because it is good and right for the whole people of God to engage in ministry together.

I was grateful for the opportunities given to me as a young person and young adult to explore vocation, ministry and leadership through those who saw that ministry by the laity was possible. And why was I then ordained? Well, I would never have had the gifts and skills to be a decent layperson!

Chris Skilton

The 2020 Bishop's Lent Call launches in parishes

The resource packs for Bishop Christopher's 2020 Lent Call have now gone out to parishes. The projects supported are in Zimbabwe, the Holy Land, Kenya and in each of our Episcopal Areas. This year for the first time we also have in the pack a booklet of reflections by some of our ordinands.



This year, the packs were sent direct to PCC and DCC Secretaries rather than Incumbents, as more individual churches could be reached by this mailing. Please could Secretaries and Incumbents check that the packs have arrived safely.

The resources are also available online on the Diocesan website at https://southwark.anglican.org/lentcall

Ruth Martin, the Diocesan Secretary, writes...

PSF announcement — we've hit 99%

Thank you to all our parishes who have contributed generously to the Parish Support Fund in 2019. At the end of December we achieved a 99% collection rate and the 2019 pledge payments have exceeded the prior year's! This is a wonderful result in a challenging economic climate. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in supporting the mission and ministry of our Diocese.



Vision evenings: dates for the diary

To celebrate the Southwark Vision, please join the Archdeacons at one of our Vision events, where they will share good news stories from around the Diocese. More details to follow soon.

Date	Archdeaconries	V enue
Tuesday 17 March 7.30pm	Wandsworth	The Ascension, Balham Hill
Wednesday 18 March 7.30pm	Croydon	St John, Selsdon
Monday 23 March 7.30pm	Lewisham & Greenwich	St John, Deptford
Tuesday 24 March 7.30pm	Lambeth	St Andrew, South Wimbledon
Wednesday 25 March 7.30pm	Croydon	St Mildred, Addiscombe
Thursday 26 March 2.30pm	Wandsworth	St Mary, Putney
Monday 27 April 7.30pm	Reigate	Holy Trinity, Redhill
Tuesday 28 April 2pm	Croydon & Reigate	Christ Church, Purley
Tuesday 28 April 7.30pm	Southwark	All Saints, Peckham
Wednesday 29 April 7.30pm	Lambeth	St Paul, Brixton
Thursday 30 April 7.30pm	Reigate	St Mary, Oxted
Wednesday 6 May 7.30pm	Wandsworth	St Mark, Surbiton
Thursday 7 May 11.30am	Lewisham & Greenwich and Southwark	Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court
Monday 11 May 7.30pm	Lewisham & Greenwich	St Luke, Eltham Park
Monday 18 May 2.30pm	Lambeth	St Thomas, Telford Park

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MARCH edition is due to be printed on 27 February 2020 and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY**.

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited. All photographs submitted for publication are assumed to have the necessary permission for printing. So, please ensure that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so.

Forms for permission for the use of photographs of children and adults who may be vulnerable can be found at southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures





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Grant boosts plans for St John's Brigades

St John with St Andrew, Peckham celebrated a big leap forward in plans for its new Boys' and Girls' Brigade groups in December with a grant of £4,200 from the All Churches Trust Fund.

The Revd Emmanuel Adeloye, Vicar at St John, said the money would be used to buy musical instruments so the children could play at community events and Christian parades.

"In furthering our mission to actively





Bishop Christopher helped St Stephen, South Godstone to mark its 150th anniversary on 22 December — and conducted a baptism at the same time. "As we prepare to celebrate God's loving purposes fulfilled in the birth of the Christ child, it is wonderful to baptise Sophia at St Stephen's Church, Godstone," he said.

engage young ones in Peckham," said Emmanuel, "St John's has started The Boys and Girls Brigade Organisations.

"The purpose is to encourage boys and girls to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve Him."

Emmanuel is pictured above, centre, with Lieutenant Sharon and Rachel, the first recruited Girls' Brigade member.

Bishops join forces at the annual blessing of the River



On Sunday 12 January, after the Choral Eucharist, the congregation of Southwark Cathedral processed onto London Bridge for the annual blessing of the River Thames, meeting their counterparts from St Magnus the Martyr in the City at the point on the Bridge which marks the boundary of Southwark and London Dioceses.

The ceremony, which has taken place on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ for a number of years, started with a welcome to the assembled people from the Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn.

After a Psalm and readings, prayers for all those involved with the Thames and those whose lives had been lost in its waters were led by the Revd Philip Warner, Cardinal Pastor of St Magnus the Martyr.

The Blessing of the River followed, led jointly by the Rt Revd Jonathan Baker,

Bishop of Fulham, and the Rt Revd Peter Price (above), the former Bishop of Bath and Wells and Area Bishop of Kingston, who is an Assistant Bishop in Southwark Diocese.

During the blessing a cross was thrown into the river from the bridge as a sign of the two churches' prayer and concern for the River, for those who work on it and for all those to whom it is important. The short service finished with the Bishops sprinkling the people present with blessed water and a final blessing by the Bishop of Fulham.

'Tree of Hope' offers beacon of light in Kennington

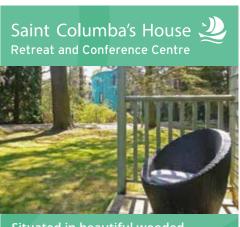
The 'Tree of Hope', an impressive London plane tree long established in front of St Anselm, Kennington Cross and newly festooned with hundreds of blue lights, was the centrepiece of a recent celebration which attracted a crowd of 200 local people.

Those who braved the cold, wet evening were rewarded with a glass of mulled wine and samosas from Kennington Tandoori as they watched an impressive performance by Archbishop Sumner Primary School's steel pan band.

The lights were ceremonially switched on by Richard Taylor OBE, father of the murdered schoolboy Damilola. He spoke movingly of the need for communities to work together in tackling youth violence for the benefit of all, a message that was echoed in the words of Heidi Alexander, Deputy Mayor of London for Transport, and the Revd Canon Angus Aagaard, who spoke subsequently.

The 'Tree of Hope', prominently situated on a busy junction, is intended as a real and metaphorical beacon of hope.





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Christmas may be gone, but it is not forgotten. These pages celebrate just some of the ways in which parishes shared the Good News of Christ's birth across the Diocese last December.

Festive gift brings joy to children's hospital

The Evelina London Children's Hospital received an unexpected gift on Christmas Day when it was handed a donation of money and toys from St Anselm, Kennington Cross and the Black Prince pub.

The Revd Mia Hilborn, Hospitaller and Chaplaincy Team Leader at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust, entrusted the money to the paediatric senior nurses to help patients and their families struggling at Christmas with immediate needs, such as food and transport.

"The nurses were really pleased, and Paediatric A&E were talking about using some immediately they heard about the donation," she said.

The chaplain also thanked the donors for the toys which, she said, would be given to children who had to come in for emergency treatment and appointments over the festive season.

Mia added: "The Evelina London Children's Hospital, in addition to being a local hospital, welcomes children and their families from far and wide, and being away from your usual sources of support at



Members of St Anselm's and the Guy's and St Thomas' chaplaincy team on Christmas Day 2019.

Christmas is really hard. These gifts will help children and their families know they are not struggling alone."

A feast among friends at St Mary, Mortlake

Fifty-five people who might either have been alone or unable to cook on Christmas Day attended a lunch at St Mary, Mortlake, run by volunteers.

What is remarkable is that the volunteers return year after year, simply to give their time and energy to bring happiness to others. As one of them said: "I came last year and thoroughly enjoyed it."

The celebrations started with a fruit punch, followed by a Christmas dinner



of turkey and much more besides, ending with Christmas pudding, trifle and crackers.

The guests were entertained by a pianist, a magician, a pantomime, a quiz, a raffle and of course the Queen's Speech followed by tea and a visit from Father Christmas.

One of the guests wrote afterwards: "The event did really make the day for us. Please know that you could not have given us a better Christmas present!"

A festival of 'alternative' Christmas trees

Among the trees on display at St Michael, Betchworth in **December** was this knitted one. consisting of more than 60 baby blankets and 100 small comfort squares. When the tree is dismantled, the squares go to neonatal units, to help mothers bond with their premature babies mum keeps one next to her skin while the second goes into the incubator with her baby, swapping them at regular intervals. This means that the baby always has the smell and comfort of

mum nearby.



Behind the scenes at the Nativity



'Mary' (Delila) prepares for her big entrance at the St John, Walworth Nativity with the assistance of Vishni Velada Billson.

Vishni, who is Head of Participation at the Royal Court Theatre and formerly Associate Director at the Half Moon Theatre in Whitechapel, was helping pupils at St John's CoE Primary School to produce a Nativity to remember.

"I wanted to ensure there was something happening in every part of the church," said Vishni. "So we had characters gossiping about Mary's miraculous pregnancy in the pews, donkeys on roller-skates coming up the central aisle and a narrator in the pulpit."

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The volunteers prepare for early-morning rush hour on Day One.

Sharing Christmas cheer, and coffee, with weary commuters

The churches of All Saints, Kenley, St Barnabas, Purley and the Hayes once again served free refreshments to travellers at Kenley Railway Station in the week before Christmas, writes the Revd Elizabeth Goodridge, Assistant Priest.

For the sixth year running, volunteers from the three churches arrived on four consecutive mornings at 6.00am to set up their stall in the ticket hall.

Members of the churches brought items such as tables, freshly brewed filter coffee, a hot-water urn, speakers and an iPad, as well as plenty of breakfast snacks.

This year, as before, our volunteers served more than 500 people. Many of them, on seeing us once again, exclaimed, "I wondered if you'd be here this week!" We are now expected and anticipated, and people accept that we do not ask for any money, even if they cannot quite understand why.

We aim to be present in the community revealing Christ's love to the world. Over the years many have come to our Christmas services as a direct result, and we have married at least three couples!

For the past two years we have invited commuters to vote for their favourite Christmas carol, and many are keen to do so. Some go on to attend our Community Carols event, this year held in Kenley Memorial Hall, to which

'My highlight was the boy asking his mummy whether I was one of Santa's elves!'

about 70 people came to sing the Top 10. And this year's most popular Kenley carol? Silent Night.

Michael, a new volunteer this year having been a commuter for the past few years, said: "It was quite good fun, if cold! It got me out of bed. The highlight was finding out that people are interested in the church; the worst moment was when my toe went numb (the last time was on a glacier in Austria two years ago!)."

Lynn, who comes nearly every year to help, reflected: "My highlight was the boy asking his mummy whether I was one of Santa's elves! The worst was seeing some people still looking very sad."

The staff at the station and Southern Rail love us being there, as it is good for business. It truly feels as if we are being an incarnational presence in Kenley.

Stormzy's Christmas message



South London-born rapper Stormzy came to St Andrew, Surbiton in December to record *On Christmas Night* for the BBC, which featured the internationally acclaimed star reading the Nativity story from Luke's Gospel.

Tideway drops in to Cathedral Sing-In



Members of the Tideway team joined the Community Christmas Sing-In at Southwark Cathedral — hard hats and all — as they accompanied the Thursday Singers and others in a rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. In between songs, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral, 'interviewed' Jeremy Galpin, Legacy Lead for Tideway East, on the progress of London's 'Super Sewer'.

'St Nicholas' pays a visit to St Barnabas, Mitcham



Croydon Minster's starring role

Croydon Minster found itself in the spotlight on 24 December when its Midnight Mass service was broadcast to the nation on the BBC.



To read the Revd Dr Andrew Bishop's blog, see southwarkcofe.tumblr.com 6 | The BRIDGE February 2020 February 2020 The BRIDGE | 7



When your soul sings out, where is it calling you?

We are all called to ministry in different ways, writes the Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, and the Diocese's plans to expand and diversify lay ministry mean that more and more people should soon have the chance to follow the path that suits them best.

One of my favourite hymns is Take My Life by Frances Ridley Havergal. It begins, "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee," echoing, perhaps, those words from the 12th chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, "I appeal to you therefore...to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Paul then takes that picture of our bodies individually offered, to an image of the people of God as one whole body, with many parts, each of which is gifted and called to do something for the sake of the whole body. In other words, it's a picture where every member of the church has a part to play in the whole; every person is involved in ministry.

But sometimes when we talk about doing ministry, we end up making it sound like a burden. A few years ago, that hymn was given an update by the band U2. In Yahweh, a song which like Take My Life goes through parts of our lives and offers them to God, they sing, "Take this soul, and make it sing."

I love that idea. Because that's what it feels like when we respond to God's call. when we find that place where we are living and doing what God has created us for: our souls sing! Although that work can be challenging, deep inside we know we are in the right place.

So what makes your soul sing? What is God calling you to?

We in Southwark are passionate about helping people respond to God's call. A big part of that is opening up more opportunities for lay ministry, as was recommended in the lay ministry

report Christ Centred, Outward Focused presented at Diocesan Synod in 2018.

I have been appointed to work in consultation with the new Lay Council on developing opportunities for lay ministry across the Diocese. Some of these you will already know about: Readers and SPAs have been part of our Diocesan life for many years. Some have been around for some time but are not as well known, such as Church Army Evangelists and members of religious orders. Some are developing, like Lay Pioneers (see right). And some we may not even have thought of yet!



Lay ministry includes all those other things that we do for, on behalf of and extending from the Church

But lay ministry isn't just about more formal licensed and commissioned roles. It includes all those other things that we do for, on behalf of and extending out from the Church, some of them more formal roles such as Churchwardens and Parish Safeguarding Officers; many less formal, like teaching Sunday school or visiting people at home or helping with a night shelter. We're interested in all that, and particularly in how we can help people to discern what ministries God is calling them to, equip them and

We anticipate that it will take us a year or so to build the foundations for a



While we are working on this, we'll be looking at what other Dioceses are doing, and paying attention to what's already happening here in our Diocese And we would love to hear from you!

What are the ministries that you are passionate about? What would you like an opportunity to explore? What do you need from us to help you with the things you are already doing? Do let me know on raewynne.whiteley@ southwark.anglican.org

But all this doesn't mean that we have put the process of vocational discernment on hold If you are wondering if God is calling you to a particular ministry, pray; talk with your vicar or chaplain; come to one of our Vocations Fairs (the next one is on 19 March in Lewisham); or spend a weekend in Wychcroft on our Lay Ministry vocations conference on 6-8 March. Information about these events and registration can be found at http:// southwarkvocations.eventbrite.com

And above all keep asking those questions. What is God calling me to? What makes my soul sing?

Raewynne is Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry



Developing Southwark's pioneering spirit

It has been a privilege to serve the

few years as they launch mission

initiatives and Fresh Expressions

of Church (fxCs), writes the Revd

Canon Will Cookson, Dean of Fresh

established (and many more on the way),

we have seen great interest from across

all traditions in experimenting with new

Churches and Café Churches to New

grafts, we have been working out how to

support this wide variety of initiatives.

What has been most exciting has been

watching churches and people become

more creative with their fxCs and take

For example, a couple of churches are

looking to launch new congregations

with a specific focus on the fifth Mark

wants to start a new congregation

that focuses on helping people with

of Mission (caring for creation); another

ADHD/autism to engage with worship;

focused on unchurched young people in

yet another is looking to start an fxC

a particularly deprived community.

more risks in reaching their communities.

With more than 100 fxCs already

Expressions.

parishes of the Diocese over the past

forms of worship and mission. From Messy A key element of pioneering and fxCs is that they tend to have high levels of lay Monastic Communities, church plants and leadership. This is understandable when you consider that lay people often know their area best, have good connections with the community and a passion to reach a community or group. We are therefore looking at how we can further

support people in this area.

One significant step forward was the commissioning last September of Southwark's first three Lay Pioneers, Minako Hall, Andrea Campanale and Jan Greaves (see above). Lay Pioneers sit alongside Lay Readers and SPAs as being authorised and trained to support the mission of the Church.

There are many in our churches who may well have this call. We therefore want to

encourage this vocation in the Diocese - and are hoping that we will have 100 pioneers (a mixture of lay and ordained)

Pioneers come in all shapes and sizes and can be involved in very different activities and mission. It is therefore necessary to tailor our support for them. Our regular bimonthly Pioneer Gatherings are an opportunity to share and swap notes and receive support and encouragement.

We also offer the Mission Shaped Ministry (MSM) course, which helps churches and individuals to see how they might approach pioneering and sustaining new ways of being Church. We run this course each year in a different part of the Diocese (this year in the Croydon Episcopal area) to make sure that a wide range of people and churches are able to access it.

Led by a variety of experienced practitioners, this course can really help you to tease out how you might approach mission and setting up an fxC in your context and with your resources (most fxCs are led by two to three people).

If you are interested in joining the MSM course or in discussing pioneering more generally, please contact will.cookson@southwark. anglican.org

Listening to people's lived experiences

One of the big things that some church members and leaders have discovered is that they know much less about what is going on in people's lives than they thought, and have shown much less interest than they realised. This Time Tomorrow aims to change this by helping us to discover what God is doing in people's everyday lives.

This Time Tomorrow is a brief interview slot during a service where an individual, who has already volunteered to speak, is asked a simple set of questions about where they spend their time during the week and then people try to use the answers to build a positive culture of curiosity about our lives as Christians outside the walls of our churches. The suggested questions are:

- where will they be this time tomorrow?
- what are the opportunities and challenges they face?
- how can the congregation pray for them?

This Time Tomorrow is about expanding our understanding of what we mean by 'Church' so it encompasses both the 'gathered' church and the 'sent' church.

Your This Time Tomorrow slot can also give you some useful stories for social media: many interviewees will prepare their responses ahead of time and so may have a photo of the place they will be. Of course, sometimes this is sensitive so do check it is ok to share. Some churches have tried variations such as Selfie of the Week, with people bringing along pictures of themselves in their Monday morning context.

This Time Tomorrow has been found to be the single action with the greatest impact that a congregation can take at the start of a journey to better enable Everyday Faith, allowing church members to consider how they can gently share their faith with colleagues at work and those they spend time with in the week.

This simple practice is a reminder that all of us have an opportunity to affect the world around us, that ordinary Christians doing ordinary things is important

St James Bermondsey has experimented with This Time Tomorrow, with Joanne Colwill, right, a speech and language therapist, talking in church

to God. Within a congregation, This Time Tomorrow gives an opportunity to build deeper relationships. It gives people who didn't know the interviewee an easy way to start to talk to them, and perhaps to share similar challenges or pertinent insight or encouragement. Issues that are commonly thought to be off the agenda (work, futility, failure, success, daily relationships, our mission in our daily lives) are validated as legitimate topics for conversation and prayer.

As individuals, we may also find that the more we engage in This Time Tomorrow the broader our prayer life will become.

We all know, but sometimes overlook, that a lifetime is made up of thousands of ordinary moments in thousands of ordinary days. Yes, we have those unforgettable dates of significance: starting our first job, the birth of a child, to name just two. There are also days that are not so ordinary because they mark unforgettable pain. But most days



Some churches have tried 'Selfie of the Week', with people bringing along pictures of themselves in their Monday context

are simply lived out putting one foot in front of the other.

This Time Tomorrow can help remind us all that the giver of every ordinary moment in our everyday is the faithful God who is trustworthy for each step we take in our daily lives. It helps us learn to follow Jesus outside the four walls of our church buildings, seeking to be the church by following Jesus into the world, the 'sent' church for which we have reason to rejoice. This Time Tomorrow highlights to us the many ways people are following Jesus beyond the walls of the church in their everyday lives.

> Southwark's Everyday Faith webpage: https://southwark.anglican. org/everydayfaith/ or contact Ish Lennox, our Lay Leadership Adviser, at ish. lennox@southwark.

> > anglican.org

To find out more about This Time Tomorrow, and other small shifts which have been shown to make a big difference, check out the Diocese of



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Parishes are already preparing for the next major Church festival — here are three ways to get involved...

20th anniversary of the Gatton Passion

Gatton Community Theatre's open-air production of *The Passion* this summer will be a truly inclusive affair, with the theatre company inviting budding actors and stagehands to join them for this year's 20th anniversary staging.

The playwright, Anna Thompson, and director, Libby Egwuba, are currently working together to finalise the script for the new production, while Bishop Christopher has agreed to act as Patron.

Gatton Community Theatre (GCT) has been producing open-air promenade performances in the 250-acre Gatton Park, Reigate, since 2000, after the spark of an idea by the then Rector of Merstham and Gatton resulted in the formation of GCT and its first production of *The Passion* the following year. Other performances have included *Pippa's Progress*, a modern take on *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Now, GCT is inviting interested people to be part of the production either on stage or behind the scenes. Director Libby said: "We truly are an inclusive community theatre company and welcome everyone, adults and children aged eight-plus. Anyone who wants to take part will be included. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and commitment."

No formal auditions are required. Instead,



anyone interested in joining in is invited to come to drama workshops on Saturday 7 and/or Sunday 8 March at 3.00pm (finishing at about 5.00pm) in Gatton Hall, Gatton Park, Reigate, RH2 0TW.

Rehearsals begin after Easter on Wednesday and Thursday evenings with additional weekend afternoons from June onwards.

Performances will take place at 8.00pm from 16-19 July and from 22-25 July.

Tickets will be on sale from May via the GCT website: www.gattontheatre.org.uk

Measuring up for the Cathedral's Lent Art Installation 2020

Southwark Cathedral's Lent Art Installation is this year based on the medieval practice of 'Measuring to the Saints'.

This was the practice of measuring a person from head to toe with a length of string or thread, which they then sent to the nearest Cathedral or Abbey, where the monks would make a candle from it, light it and pray for your eternal soul.

To celebrate this act of connection and illumination, the artist Michelle Rumney is using the same medieval practice in her own artwork, which will be on display in the Cathedral from Ash Wednesday, 26 February, to Good Friday, 10 April.

"Millions of people come into our cathedrals and churches each year to light a candle for a loved one or for themselves," said the Dean, Andrew



Nunn. "The creation of candles to represent modern day 'pilgrims' at Southwark and this whole concept of 'Measuring to the Saint' makes real the pilgrim's journey of prayer."

Michelle Rumney will be giving a talk on Sunday 15 March after the Cathedral Choral Eucharist entitled 'Pilgrimage: finding each other again in the paradise of free souls'. There will also be a special pilgrimage evening on Friday 6 March with Gregorian plainsong.

Artwork for all at Kew Green

Artist Theo Hobson is planning a public artwork on Kew Green this Holy Week — and he is hoping for your help in making it happen.

"The project involves the participation of lots of worshippers in a public space, building a sculpture together of the Crown of Thorns on Kew Green," he said.

"I approached the Revd Nigel Worn of St Anne's Church because it is the ideal setting. Fortunately he was immediately supportive, and so were other members of the parish."

The idea is that different parishes create crosses from fallen tree branches, each with a short message carved on them. If you want to find out more or be part of the project, please contact theohobson@gmail.com

'Come and share' at St George Waddon

A new venture at St George, Waddon is inviting anyone who wishes to drop in on Tuesday mornings for coffee, conversation and a bacon sandwich.

The Come and Share Café offers diners the chance to "share their troubles, have a laugh and spend time together," said Lynne Kerwood, DCC Secretary. "Young and old are welcome. It is a place where you can feel safe and know you will always receive a warm welcome."

The Come and Share Café builds on the work of St George's Tuesday Lunch Club, which has been established for approximately 15 months. The lunchtime diners are mostly aged over 50, and numbers average 14 to 18 guests per week—although they have been known to top 22.

A rota of cooks each provide a varied selection of two-course meals from week to week, at a cost of just £3. Lynne added: "Everyone who comes along enjoys the company, the friendship and the laughter, We offer good old-fashioned home-cooked meals with as much tea and coffee as you can drink.

"Many of our lunchtime guests live alone and meals for one can be very lonely. Our Lunch Club offers entertainment after lunch in the form of bingo, singing and exercises from Age UK — but not all at the same time!

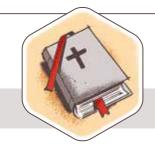
"Our regular attenders always leave us well fed and happy that they have met up with friends, left the house for a few hours and had a laugh."

A Computer Club is also open from 10am to 11am during café opening times.

The Come and Share Café opens every Tuesday during term time at 9.30am; the Tuesday Lunch Club starts serving food from 12.15pm. To book a place, please call 07856 365561



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BIBLE STUDY FEBRUARY

The Venerable Chris Skilton

Archdeacon of Croydon

'Candlemas', taking its cue from Simeon's affirmation of Christ as 'light of the world', was traditionally the day a church's candles for the year were blessed and people put lighted candles in their homes. It was also the mid-point between the shortest day and the spring equinox, marking the middle of winter. It is also the turning point as we end the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany and turn towards Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

These themes are to be borne in mind as we read and explore Luke 2: 22-38. Read the passage slowly two or three times (however familiar or unfamiliar it is) and try to picture the scene as Luke describes it - what do you notice? what draws your attention?

The Temple would not have been a quiet place but full of activity, noise and bustle: into this come Joseph and Mary, 40 days after the birth of their son to do what was required (verses 22-24, 39). It is an ordinary act in the most extraordinary time.

Where is God in the ordinary events of your life - and in what ways has he brought signs of life and light to them?

Simeon had been faithfully serving in the Temple for many a year and is described as one "looking forward to the consolation of Israel" (verse 25). He sought new hope and life for the nation he had loved and served through the temple. He holds the hope of the consolation of Israel - weighing perhaps about 5kg at this stage of his life securely and safely, gently and lovingly in ageing arms (verse 28). Waiting is not the same as idleness: attentive watching allows him to be present in body, mind and spirit to this moment in the Temple.

How do you understand the discipline of waiting for God and waiting on God reflect on or share experiences of this?

Simeon's first words are words of fulfilment - not just for him but for Israel: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" in the words of the carol. Yet the hope is not just for Israel but for all people (verse 32); there is a universal aspiration and conviction in Simeon's words stretching far beyond his arms, the Temple, Israel.

How in our lives do we express something of the hope which at the same time fulfils our needs and reaches out far beyond our own community and expectations?

It's difficult to know what Joseph and Mary might have expected to hear (if anything) about their child. They would certainly have been warmed (verse 33) by words of affirmation: but what of the discomforting words that Simeon speaks (we are told to Mary alone - why was that?)? The first set of words he speaks have become the text for a favourite evening canticle, the Nunc Dimittis;

the second set don't feature in church music so prominently! Candlemas truly is that hinge day between Christmas and Good Friday!

In what ways are all of Simeon's words (verses 29-35) good news to Israel and the wider world? What might be the downside of underplaying either set of words?

Whilst the Feast of Candlemas tends to focus on Simeon, Anna is a key presence as well. She is a woman of lifelong faith and devotion: her life has been described as one of "conscientious loitering in the environment of holiness". Anna's life has been hard, possibly a widow for 60 years and therefore one of the vulnerable

people on the edge of society (verses 36-7). She was a prophet who kept alive the reality that God has a word to speak to his people. What sustained and kept her through dark and difficult times?

What sustains you in the 'changing scenes' of your life; what keeps you open to the presence of God? This would be a good opportunity to compare notes with others, sharing different experiences and ways of keeping faith alive and fresh.

All God's people need equipping for service and ministry in the places he has called us to be. What we learn from Simeon and Anna points to some resources and opportunities for that.

The poet and retreat leader Ann Lewin has written a poem Candlemas Prayer; use it to draw your study and reflection prayerfully to a close

I left my candle burning. Lit from light Borrowed from another, it stood there Witness to Christ, Light of the world; Prayer that light would overcome darkness. As I left, another lit a candle from my light, Dispelling gloom with added strength. Who knows how many joined their light to those, Or drew fresh courage from their company; Who knows how many took a step, drawn by the Light of Christ from darkness to new life. Lord Christ, set me on fire. Burn from me all that dims your light, Kindle an answering flame in lives around; That darkness may be driven back, And glory stream into this world, Transforming it with love.

Amen



To listen to an audio version of this prayer, visit our website: southwark.anglican.org/news/dailyprayer

Diocese of Southwark **Parish Finance Officer** (part-time, 3 days per week) £24,014 (£39,627 pro rata)

We are looking for an experienced accountant to provide finance support and advice to our parishes.

Ideally you will be a qualified accountant, or with significant relevant experience. Experience of being a parish or charity treasurer would be an ideal background, but not essential.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Anthony Demby, Director of Finance, at anthony. demby@southwark.anglican.org

Further information can be obtained through https://southwark.anglican.org/ about-us/vacancies

Closing date: 16 February 2020

Lecture by the Rt Revd Peter Selby to discuss threat to liberalism

As the Bishop prepares for his talk on the Revd Vigo Demant's book 'The Religious Prospect', he shares why the theologian's views are as vital today as they were 80 years ago.

When national leaders around the world speak of "the end of Western liberalism", as many have, the question of what resources Christians might have to deploy in a dangerous world becomes pressing.

In 1939, in a far more dangerous world than ours, Vigo Demant, Vicar of St John the Divine, Richmond, wrote a robust account of the distinctive contribution Christians have to make.



'I find the message of 'The Religious Prospect' more and more important'

I was introduced to The Religious Prospect as a research student and find its message more and more important. I also believe that the welcome interest in the Social Teaching of the [Roman] Catholic Church should bear fruit in a renewed interest among Christians of all confessions in their own tradition of social teaching.

To mark the passage of 80 years since The Religious Prospect and in the parish where Demant wrote it, I hope to awaken interest specifically in the social teaching that it presents.

'Liberal Values under Threat? A lecture by Peter Selby', chaired by the Bishop of Southwark, is on Wednesday 5 February at 7.30pm, at St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond. Suggested donation of £5. Call 020 8940 0362 for information

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for MARCH ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY**



Ongoing

- † **BEDDINGTON** Quiet @ St Mary's, 3rd Thursday each month I lam-2pm. Including labyrinth.
- * BOROUGH St George the Martyr Community Café and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm-4.30pm.
- † 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-Ipm first Wednesday.
- † ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm.

February

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY

CATERHAM — 'Munch with Music':
 Andrew Chadney organ recital. St John's
 Church. 12.45pm-1.30pm. Free.

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY

■ FAST DULWICH — 'Come and Sing', an afternoon learning to sing

Organ Recitals at Christ's Chapel Dulwich

Free, except where indicated. Sundays @ 7.45pm

 16 February Marilyn Harper
 8 March Michael Overbury
 10 May Ben Bloor; tickets £6/£4

12 July Ghislaine Reece-Trapp13 September Marcus Wibberley

Piergiovanni

Domenighini
8 November Hannah Parry

11 October

spirituals led by the JAGS Choral Society, 2pm-4pm, culminating in a free concert 4.15pm-5pm. No experience necessary. Details at www.comeandsing. jagschoralsociety.com

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

 □ ROTHERHITHE — Musica Antica Rotherhithe perform Falvetti's II Diluvio Universale at Holy Trinity Church. 7.30pm.Tickets £15 (under-18s £2), proceeds go to charity Operation Noah.

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY

* KINGSTON UPON THAMES —
'Understanding Islam: the Basics', oneday course by Dr Chris Hewer at the

day course by Dr Chris Hewer at the Guildhall. 9.30am-4.30pm. Details from dianamills@phonecoop.coop.

March

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

 CATERHAM — 'Munch with Music': Musicians from Trinity Laban. St John's Church. 12.45pm-1.30pm. Free.

SATURDAY 7 MARCH

 □ TADWORTH — 'Music for Everyone', a concert by the band of the Surrey Yeomanry at the Church of the Good Shepherd. 7.30pm. Tickets: £12 (accompanied children under 16 free).

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

- * TADWORTH Model Railway Exhibition, Church of the Good Shepherd. I Oam-5pm. Adults £6, seniors £5, under-16s £3.
- * SANDERSTEAD HILL Art exhibition and sale by local artists at United Reformed Church Hall. 10am-4pm. Free (20% of art sales go to the Children's Society's work with disadvantaged children).
- * WATERLOO 'Rethinking Mission: Rediscovering the Gospel in "Christian" Nations', USPG day conference at St John's. 10am-4pm. £10, including lunch. Details at www.uspg.org.uk/ rethinkingmission2020

April

FRIDAY 3 APRIL

SOUTHWARK — '100 Years of
Note: City Chorus Sings Mozart
Coronation Mass and Handel's Zadok
the Priest'. Southwark Cathedral.
7.30pm. Tickets £20 (£10 concessions).
http://www.londoncitychorus.com/
tickets/4591211526

In Memory of Damilola Taylor – a Celebration of Young Lives

Southwark Cathedral, Friday 27 November 2020. Ham.

Save the date - details to follow.

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group meetings

Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, London SWIP IEP. Third Wednesday of each month, 4pm-5pm. Free.

19 February

Zionist and Jewish speakers from Stand on how we can help the Israel/Palestine situation.

18 March

Revd Alan Gadd on his interfaith work.

15 April

Speaker from Aid to the Church in Need on the persecution of Christians and other faiths.

20 May

Revd Hannah Neale on 'God's rainbow Church, symbol of oneness in Christ?'

17 June

Jeremy Rodell of the British Humanist Association.

16 September

Speaker from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

18 November

Father Tiziano, former missionary in Malawi.



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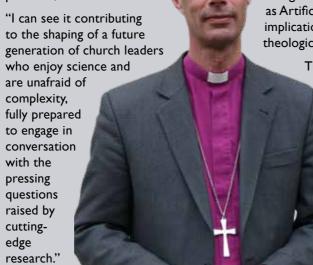
Please call for details ~
0116 272 0500



Science and faith project receives £3.4m grant for ministry training

A major grant from the Templeton Religion Trust could enable up to half of all people training for ordained ministry to benefit from sessions discussing cutting-edge science and what it means for society.

The £3.4m grant is going to support the work of the Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS) project, which is co-led by Bishop Richard. "This project has transformative potential," he said.



Theological colleges will be encouraged to bid for funds to help integrate discussion of topics such as Artificial Intelligence and their implications for faith into existing theological studies.

The funds will also go towards expanding the Scientists in Congregations scheme, awarding grants for local science and faith projects in churches and cathedrals.

The grant secures the future of ECLAS, launched in 2015, for a further three years.

(yc

Youth Outreach Worker Furzedown Youth Centre

Affiliated to St James, West Streatham, St Alban's, Streatham Park, St Paul's, Furzedown and Mitcham Lane Baptist Church in London SW16 & SW17

We seek an enthusiastic, experienced Christian Youth Outreach Worker to pioneer an exciting new project to develop and expand work among unchurched young people.

Salary: £30,000 per annum.

Contract: two-year fixed term with possible extension.

Application pack and further details available from the Revd Canon Geoff Vevers: g.vevers@pobroadband.co.uk

Closing date: 5pm on Saturday 29 February 2020 12 | The BRIDGE February 2020

"They want me to go to Southwark, and I'm going": Bishop Ronnie Bowlby remembered

Bishop Ronnie Bowlby's son, daughter and granddaughter joined the many friends and former colleagues celebrating the life of the seventh Bishop of Southwark in Southwark Cathedral on Friday 10 January.

They had gathered for a Requiem Eucharist to celebrate the life of the Bishop who died on 21 December, aged 93. The former Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Peter Selby, who had been appointed Bishop of Kingston by Bishop Ronnie, preached the sermon. The lesson was read by the Revd Dr Andrew Bishop, Vicar of Croydon Minster, where Bishop Ronnie served as Vicar during the 1960s when it was still known as St John's (see right).

The final blessing was pronounced by Bishop Christopher.

Bishop Ronnie came to Southwark as Bishop in 1980, moving from Newcastle, and during his period as Bishop he was one of the joint authors of the *Faith in the City* report, appointed Wilfred Wood as Bishop of Croydon and



Bishop Ronnie Bowlby (above); the Rt Revd Peter Selby preaching the sermon at the Requiem Mass (right).

introduced a motion at General Synod proposing the ordination of women, three major events in the life of the Church of England.

In his sermon, Bishop Peter returned often to the words said by Bishop Ronnie when breaking the news of his impending move from Newcastle: "They want me to go to Southwark, and I'm going." He used this as an example of how when you hear the call, whatever it is, sometimes the only answer is "I'm going".



Memories from Croydon Minster and St George, Waddon

Members of the congregation of Croydon Minster and the Revd Dr Andrew Bishop, Priest-in-Charge, attended Bishop Ronnie's Requiem at the Cathedral.

After the service, many happy memories of his ministry in Croydon, and the impact it had, were shared.

Ruth commented:"Ronnie Bowlby was a deeply spiritual man whom it was a privilege to have known. He set me off on the contemplative path which has informed my life."

Elaine said: "I have such happy memories of Ronnie as Vicar of Croydon, especially the Passion Play that marked our 100th anniversary of the consecration of the church, which brought the church, schools and community together".

Ronnie was Vicar for the centenary of the consecration of the present church (2020 is the 150th anniversary).

Susan also remembers just how much Ronnie cherished the congregation at St George, Waddon too, bringing together the whole parish.

The congregation at Croydon Minster and St George, Waddon have been praying in thanksgiving for Ronnie's ministry and for his family in their loss. May he rest in peace.

Christ Church South Nutfield bids farewell to Alison Way



Christ Church in South Nutfield was the scene of much joy and sadness on Sunday 19 January, as the parishioners said their farewells to the Revd Alison Way after nearly six years of ministry.

A lively family service on the theme of A New Purpose, based around the image of flying a kite, was followed by the giving of gifts, prayer for Alison's life journey, and refreshments, including a beautiful cake made by one of the congregation.

Alison has been the vicar of Christ Church since 2014. During that time, she has been instrumental in initiatives to bring in many more families with Rise and Shine services, children's activities in church, and recently a youth group. She has also greatly encouraged the work of the church's Home groups, Alpha



groups, Early Morning prayers and the Environment group (recently awarded Silver Eco-church status). Alison has also given Christ Church, South Nutfield greater outreach into the community through a midweek Sunflower Café; and regular services at a local home for people with complex needs and in the communal area of housing for senior citizens.

Alison will be installed as the Rector of Wincanton and Pen Selwood in Somerset in February. She will be much missed in South Nutfield. But her parishioners send her there with every blessing.

'The resilience, depth of faith and strong hope is inspiring'

Bishop Christopher during his visit to the Holy Land in January, where he accompanied an international group of Roman Catholic Bishops on their annual pastoral visit to the region as part of the Holy Land Coordination.



"Our visit to Gaza, East Jerusalem and Ramallah in the West Bank has brought home to me the worsening conditions under which communities in Palestine find themselves living and this is underlined in the Communiqué," said Bishop Christopher. "However, the resilience, depth of faith and strong hope for a better tomorrow among the people and Christian communities with which we engaged has been inspiring and deeply moving."

The full text can be read at: http://www.cbcew.org.uk/we-must-not-ignore-the-voice-of-people-in-the-holy-land