

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.27 No.1
February 2022

Racial justice

Celebrating cultural diversity in the Diocese

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Place to call home

Bishop Christopher launches this year's Lent appeal

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Cathedral service

Andrew Nunn marks 10 years as Dean of Southwark

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“When we belong to the body of Christ, we all have a part to play”

St Francis, Horley welcomed a trio of new members into the Church on 23 February when the Revd Canon Les Wells led a service of baptism for three refugees who arrived in the UK last summer.

At the service, he preached on 1 Corinthians 12:27: “When we belong to the body of Christ the church, Christ is the head, we all have a part to play in the unity of the body in sharing the Good News of the gospel.” Afterwards, everyone enjoyed refreshments, including a baptismal cake that had been organised by members of the congregation.

“It’s good for their background in Christianity but it’s also good for their English. They want to learn, they want to know.”

Hossein, Hossein and Nima* began attending St Francis not long after they reached the UK, after Les visited the hotel where they were being housed. “They’d just opened up the hotel and were looking for clothes,” said Les. “I managed to get some and dropped them in, and I met a man called Amin.”

Amin was already a Christian and was looking to attend a church; Les told him where he was preaching that Sunday, and Amin turned up with Hossein. “Since then they’ve been regular attenders, they’ve been at every one. And Amin has gradually brought the other two along,” said Les. “He’s basically an evangelist!”

The men, who are all Persian, fled Iran at different times, one living in Germany



Members of St Francis, Horley organised a cake to celebrate the baptism.

for seven years and others escaping through Greece. “They’ve had their interest in Christ for a while,” said Les. However, in their country of origin they were not able to speak openly about their faith.

The language barrier has been difficult, but Les organised a translator, Gisoo, to help with the men’s baptism preparation. “Along with her and using the [translation] app, it was interesting to hear their stories,” he said.

Now they are baptised, the men have asked to continue their studies. Les said: “They asked if we could meet again, so

that’s something I’m going to try and keep going. It’s good for their background in Christianity but it’s also good for their English as well. They’re hungry: they want to learn, they want to know.”

**To protect the men’s identities, Christian names only have been used.*

Get involved

Find out more about how the Diocese of Southwark supports those working with refugees here: bit.ly/3ILck0K



South Godstone church leads defibrillator project

It was with great delight that the Revd Peter O’Connell and members of the congregation of St Stephen, South Godstone celebrated the installation of a defibrillator to the outside wall of the church, a parishioner writes.

The defibrillator project, commenced last October, demonstrates what can be achieved between church and community. Although the defibrillator had been donated to the church by the Carly Heart Trust, funds were needed for the installation of the cabinet and for fresh pads.

Villagers made donations at a coffee morning held in the church hall and, once the plea had gone out on Facebook, further contributions were received both from the Residents’ Association and private individuals. Jake Gowan, an electrician in the village, donated his time to fit it.

The Revd Peter O’Connell, pictured above with parishioners and the defibrillator in its new home, said: “The fitted defibrillator reflects the community spirit and generosity of the people of South Godstone. I hope the defibrillator never has to be used, but, because of the church-led campaign, everyone now knows where it can be found.”

A view from The BRIDGE



Welcome to the first edition of the Bridge for 2022. I hope your new year has started well.

A week before Christmas, I was rushing to a meeting at Southwark Cathedral. As I was walking past a young couple who were staring and pointing at the Cathedral, I heard the young man say: "No, churches scare me." From the conversation, I can only guess that the young lady was suggesting they go into the Cathedral to have a look around, but for some reason he was scared. I fought the urge to tell them both to go in and that they would love it and find a warm welcome.

Who knows why this young man was scared, but it got me thinking about how welcoming we are in our churches. What are we doing to make visitors and potential church members feel accepted? With Racial Justice Sunday on 13 February, this month's centre-spread (pages 6-7) focuses on celebrating the cultural diversity of our churches.

While researching this story, I interviewed Annisa Wong who came to the UK from Hong Kong a year ago. She shared that the reason she decided to go to Christ Church, Sutton was because the word "welcome" was written in her language on the website, among several other words for welcome. People from the Global Majority world are bringing their traditions and customs to our churches. That can only be a good thing.

It is heartening to read the front page about the baptisms of three Iranian refugees. Let us continue to pray for them, their families and all those who are finding refuge and making Southwark their home.

Home is the theme of the Bishop's Lent Call, which was recently launched (southwark.anglican.org/lentcall). Find out more on page 9 about the projects, both here in the Diocese and in our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem, which will receive the funds raised.

Christmas may already feel a long way behind us, but as this is our first edition back since then we have dedicated a page to "Christmas in our parishes" on page 4.

On Boxing Day, the news broke of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a man whose legacy of hope, justice, peace and reconciliation will live on for generations. He had long established links to the Diocese. See page 12 for more.

Congratulations to Tamiko Dooley on winning the BBC Radio 3 Carol of the Year competition (see page 5). Congratulations, too, to Jenny Sturtevant and John Stephens for each being awarded the Lancelot Andrewes medal. Find out more about their long service to the church on page 3.

I was also inspired to read about the very special letter that the children from Bishop John Robinson CofE School received. Find out who it was from on page 5.

On page 10, we celebrate the Very Revd Andrew Nunn's 10th anniversary as Dean of Southwark. We are also preparing to say farewell to Bishop Jonathan Clark after his 10 years in the Diocese as Bishop of Croydon. Details of his farewell services are on this page (see News in Brief, right).

I hope you will be blessed, encouraged and inspired as you read these pages.

Sophia Jones



NEWS IN BRIEF

Bishop Jonathan invites you to join his farewell service

As Bishop Jonathan's last day in post approaches, he would like to extend a warm invitation to his farewell evensong and reception to celebrate his ministry. The evensong will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 24 February at Croydon Minster, with his farewell reception following at 7.30pm at Croydon Minster Hall.



Please register for the service on Eventbrite here: bit.ly/3r5QsaD and for the reception here: bit.ly/3o3dBZp. Booking will close once capacity is reached so you are advised to register early. A Diocesan farewell evensong will also take place at Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday 8 March at 5.30pm (no booking necessary).

Bishop Christopher to lead autumn pilgrimage

Bishop Christopher is to lead a nine-day pilgrimage to Tur Abdin, Eastern Turkey, from 17-25 September 2022. Organised by McCabe Pilgrimages, this will explore the flourishing Syriac church and holy places of south-east Turkey. Pilgrims will share in the life of two monasteries, with their classical Syriac worship, and visit the ancient cliff-side Monastery of Mor Augin, which has now been reopened after decades of being abandoned. The cost is £2,195 per person sharing a twin/double room on a half-board basis; flights, tour guide, entrance fees to sights and all tips are included. Find more information and download a booking form here: bit.ly/3lStxW2

A call for volunteers for SDC2022

We are calling for volunteers to help in a variety of roles including registration, directing delegates around the event, helping with decorating and preparing the venue. Training and support will be provided; no special skills or experience are necessary. The Southwark Diocesan Conference 2022 takes place at Bacon's College, Rotherhithe on 1-3 September 2022. If you are interested, please e-mail: SDC2022@southwark.anglican.org

Mark Racial Justice Sunday with CTBI

To mark Racial Justice Sunday, which will take place on 13 February, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has created a resource to help Christians engage with the issue. The publication, *Racial Justice: What's it got to do with me?*, is divided into two parts, the first helping churches to plan an act of worship for RJS, and the second facilitating conversations arising from RJS. Read more here: southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/latest-news/racial-justice-whats-it-got-to-do-with-me



St Mary, Wimbledon to premiere seven new choral works

Seven new choral works are due to receive their debut at St Mary, Wimbledon on 10 April as part of the Palm Sunday service. Two years ago, the choir of St Mary's commissioned seven composers to contribute to a collection of new choral music on the subject of Christ's Seven Last Words from the Cross. Christ's short utterances have been combined with verses from the Psalms in a libretto put together by Sarah Colley. The works were originally due to be premiered in April 2020; two years into the pandemic the choir will now dedicate them to the memory of those lost to COVID-19. All are welcome.

The Bridge is produced & published by:

Press and Communications, The Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House,
4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW

Tel: 020 7939 9400 E-mail: bridge@southwark.anglican.org

The Editorial Team from Press and Communications:

Commissioning Editor:

Sophia Jones

Editor: Abigail Sanderson

Advertising and Distribution:

Susana Rojas

Editorial Group:

Ruth Martin

Editorial Adviser (vacant)

Sophia Jones

Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MARCH edition is due to be published online on 1 March 2022. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **MONDAY 21 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



IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

East Greenwich Rector to join Lambeth Palace strategic team

The Revd Margaret Cave (right), Team Rector of East Greenwich Team Ministry, is to join the Office of the Archbishops at Lambeth Palace in April, working with the Rt Revd Emma Ineson on strategic and governance changes within the National Church.

The move follows Margaret's placement at Lambeth Palace last year as part of the Strategic Leadership Development Programme, a five-year process of learning and discernment which prepares those selected for the programme to take on significant leadership roles. Margaret joined the programme in 2017 having been nominated by Bishop Christopher.

"SLDP is a learning community," she said. "It's a programme where we learn together, share experiences together, where we grow and develop by working together."

Now, Margaret is taking that learning to this new part-time role. "I'm looking forward to being able to honour the investment the Church of England has made in me," she said. "It's a really exciting opportunity."

She added: "There are massive challenges ahead, but I am always up for a challenge, and look forward to playing whatever small part I can in facing them."

Bishop Christopher said: "Margaret has worked tirelessly for the people of East Greenwich for many years, and I was delighted to nominate her for the Strategic Leadership Development Programme. I wish her every success



© Christ Church East Greenwich

in her new role, where I know that she will use her considerable talents for the benefit of the whole Church."

Margaret added: "It has been a privilege and an honour to have served in the parish of East Greenwich. It's been an absolute joy. I have loved this amazing parish and the wonderful people and I feel very sad to say goodbye to my joyfully diverse church family."

Margaret will remain part of the Southwark family and, in due course, will seek the Bishop's Permission to Officiate in the Diocese. She is hoping that, as an Ignatian spiritual director, the new role will allow her time to focus on this area of work and might give space to lead quiet days and retreats. She is also keen to play more tennis and go on longer walks with her dog.

Margaret's work on the SLDP included Going Upstream, a resource to help parishes to respond to the root causes of social inequality. You can find it at: www.goingupstream.org.uk

"Passionate" advocate and former Director of Welcare dies

We are sad to announce that Denise Mumford, Reader Emeritus at St Andrew, Earlsfield and a former Director of Welcare, died in January. She was in her mid-eighties.

The Revd Jonathan Brown, vicar of St Andrew's, said: "Denise contributed hugely to our ministry. She was passionate about social justice, keeping it high on our agenda, and she was the mainstay of three fundraising campaigns: one which raised £300,000 for conservation work to the church, one which allowed us to install a new heating system, and one which enabled us to turn a rather neglected churchyard into a much-loved community garden. She also raised funds to support the ministry of Bishop Cleophas in Matabeleland."

In addition to her Welcare role, Denise also served on *The Bridge* editorial board. The Revd Canon Wendy Robins, who was editor during this period, said: "Denise had a strong and determined faith which was well matched by her strong and determined passion for equality and justice. In all she did she held those with whom she worked to very high standards ensuring that God's preference for the poor was always in the forefront of our minds."

Denise's funeral will be held at St Andrew, Earlsfield in due course.

Altar server recognised for 60 years' service in Southwark

On Sunday 5 December, Bishop Christopher visited St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood to present John Stephens, Lay Chair of Croydon North Deanery, with the Lancelot Andrewes medal.

The medal was awarded for John's 60 years' service as an altar server in the Diocese of Southwark. "It's lovely to get a medal, I'm so proud," John said, although at the same time he joked that his "biggest achievement has been staying alive!"

John began serving at Christ Church, Streatham Hill as a schoolboy, before his family moved to St Michael and All Angels, Beckenham; a week after joining that church, he said, "I found myself carrying a candle — I'm not quite sure how that happened!"

He was there for 30 years, then moved to Upper Norwood with his wife and started serving at St John's. "The longest break, really, I've had from serving was an eight-week gap when we moved to St John's. Then of course we had the pandemic," said John.

Now that churches have reopened, John is looking to pass on his skills to the next generation, with St John's having recently recruited 11 junior servers. "For example, we'll have four children carrying candles and two adults who will shepherd them round, a bit like a sheepdog, really," he said, adding: "You've got to give kids something they want to do. They love dressing up and feeling part of a team. This time next year they might have grown out of it but if you don't try, it doesn't work."

John Stephens (far right) with the Revd John Pritchard and Bishop Christopher.



St Alban's Churchwarden awarded Lancelot Andrewes medal

Friends and fellow church members of St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood, gathered on 23 January to witness Jenny Sturtevant receiving a Lancelot Andrewes medal for her many acts of service in the church.

Jenny was nominated for the award for her contribution to the life of St Alban's, from organising youth trips to Carrotty Wood to acting as Churchwarden and, now, Treasurer in the parish, as well as acting as Administrator for St Michael, Croydon.

The Revd Sean Gilbert, Vicar of St Alban's, who presented Jenny with the medal in Bishop Christopher's absence, said: "When we shared the news about Jenny getting this award, everyone articulated how well-deserved it was."

He stressed in addition Jenny's pastoral work, saying: "Everyone feels comfortable coming to Jenny and seeking reassurance or prayers." For himself, he added: "All that I do here, I couldn't have done without Jenny. Whenever I've got a problem, or something to figure out, or even something to share, she's there alongside me."

Jenny was quick to say that she was



merely one of a team and that she had been "a bit taken aback" to be nominated, adding: "When I accepted it, I accepted it on behalf of St Alban's. It was also dedicated to my fellow Churchwarden, Barry Terry, who unfortunately died in November, who also helped me quite a lot to make sure all these plans actually happened."

Her biggest joy, she said, was the reaction of the children going on the trips. "Just the deep contentment on their faces as we leave, or the next day, when they say, 'I really enjoyed that'."

After the presentation, there was a small celebration in the back of the church with "a bit of fizz and some home-made cupcakes".



IN FOCUS...

Christmas in our parishes

Knitting together the local community in Betchworth

Every Christmas for the past five years, St Michael, Betchworth has produced an 8ft “knitted” Christmas tree, with the church community, the village and contacts from as far away as Scotland all contributing.

We feel that this is such a worthwhile project which brings the church community and the village together. In the past we have knitted squares for blankets which went out to Syria; scarves and hats which went to charities for the homeless in the UK; and cot blankets and comfort squares for premature baby units in hospitals.

This year we have been helping to provide desperately needed puppets and worry monsters for therapists and social workers all over the country to use with young children (and even teenagers) who have suffered neglect or mental and physical abuse.

The organisation behind this is the Knit for Nowt charitable knitting scheme (www.knitfornowt.org). The main organiser, Clare, distributes the contributions to therapists and social workers who request specific items. Unfortunately, Clare has had to close the waiting list and she now has more than 200 therapists desperate for all kinds of knitted toys, so our contribution is going to be so very welcome.

Worry monsters

The worry monsters are used by children who have suffered various types of trauma, enabling them to write about their worries, fears and sometimes feelings of anger, and then place the written worry in the worry monster’s mouth so that he/she can eat them! We are told that this is extremely effective.

Hand puppets

The dog puppets are also used by therapists, as children can find it much easier to talk to a puppet than to an adult and will often reveal things when they feel unthreatened.



Twiddle muffs

This was our other project this year. These twiddle muffs are given to elderly patients with Alzheimer’s disease or other types of brain damage so that they have something for their hands and fingers to fiddle with, rather like worry beads are used in other countries. The muffs have various different textures and various items sewn on to them both inside and outside for the patient to feel, which helps to relieve anxiety. These muffs are going to local old people’s homes in Betchworth.

Ros Rokison and Pam Armitage

Animal magic: St Barnabas, Dulwich’s Christmas pageant



All photos © Andrew Gould



On Christmas Eve, Bishop Christopher joined worshippers at St Barnabas, Dulwich for a Christmas pageant and procession that involved two real camels, two donkeys, a brass quintet and 30 robed choristers.

Despite the threatening rain, upwards of 2,000 people attended, which saw the procession make its way from the Village centre to Calton Avenue. The procession was supported financially by London Borough of Southwark’s car-free day funding, which helped pay for the road closure and professional marshalls.

The Revd John Watson said: “To be able to host an event like this which speaks about the light and hope we have in Christ at a time when headlines spoke of anxiety and fear, was a real privilege. This pageant, alongside our Fun Day in September which saw 700 people attend, offered a real and tangible sign that the Church is here, right in the middle of the community, doing what it does best – being a visible witness to the daring claim that Jesus is amongst us.”

Saint Nicholas spreads some joy in Salfords

Each year, St Nicholas – “the real one” – visits Christ the King, Salfords, to spread generosity and joy as the patron saint of children, and at the same time collects gifts that have been donated by parishioners. This year was no exception, with the saint also dropping into St Nicholas, Charlwood and St John, Redhill. Pictured right: the Revd Canon Dr James Rosenthal presenting a member of Stripey Stork charity with a carload of more than 100 presents, all new, from the St Nicholas celebration.



Parishioner wins national carol competition

Tamiko Dooley, a parishioner at St Mark, Surbiton, was scrolling through her phone on her way home from a night out last year, when she came across a BBC Radio 3 competition to write a Christmas carol.

“I’ve always wanted to write a Christmas song,” she said. “As I read through the lyrics, a melody came into my head. I quickly tried to annotate it on my phone and then I sang it to myself from the train station back to my house. As soon as I got home, around midnight, I went to the piano and quietly started playing and singing it.”

Laughing, she added: “I apologised to my husband, because it was probably a bit noisy around midnight!”

The competition required contestants to set the words of a Christina Rossetti poem, *Love Came Down at Christmas*, to music. Out of about 1,000 initial entries, which were whittled down by a panel of experts, listeners were asked to vote for one of six shortlisted songs – and on 22 December, Tamiko (pictured right) was announced as the winner.

“I was so grateful to BBC Radio 3 for having the opportunity,” Tamiko said. “The idea that people listened to the carol and liked it, and took the time to vote, it was just kind of mind-blowing – really, really special.”

Tamiko has been attending St Mark’s for about a year, when it has been possible around lockdown restrictions. “My son has really developed an interest in Bible stories and church,” she said. “If he can’t



go, he wants to do a church service at home. So we have to light candles and I’ll read a Bible story, and have the all-important biscuit and squash at the end!”

Tamiko has already had some interest from St Mark’s, as well as her son’s school, about performing her song once the copyright has been finalised. “I would love people to sing this at Christmas,” she said. “I would love to hear it sung live.”

In the meantime, Tamiko will keep playing music whenever she can. “Playing the piano always brings me back to myself. It grounds me,” she said. It is a passion she has had since childhood – and now it has also brought her national recognition.

Listen to Tamiko’s winning carol here: bbc.in/3g635ft

Royal assent:Thamesmead primary gets letter from Queen



Our letter from the Queen was certainly very exciting, writes Matthew Harries, Headteacher of Bishop John Robinson CofE Primary School.

We have been working with pupils in school over the past year and a half to understand the importance of having a voice, being part of the UK’s democratic system and, more importantly, using our voice for the benefit of others.

We had asked for a photograph of Her Majesty to display in school, along with a message to encourage us all to follow our vision: to be the best we can, join in learning, play and prayer and to remember God’s word.

We received a response from Buckingham Palace, with a personal message thanking our school for our letter, for the difference we are making to our community and heartfelt thanks for our prayers and kindness. Her Majesty’s photograph is displayed in our school foyer.

We are proud to be a Church of England school and, as head of the church, we are proud to regularly pray for our Queen and the Royal Family. In our letter to her, we shared how we are so grateful for her openness about her own personal faith, the strength it brings her and the importance of spending time listening to God.

Although exciting in itself, this has also spurred us on to write to other important leaders – a number of our children met with Abena Oppong-Asare (MP for Erith and Thamesmead) to talk about the Parliamentary process, how items can be raised and discussed in Parliament, and how global leaders can effect change around the world.

Our Leading Lights group has since begun to plan our “Freedom Week” in February, to learn and share more about anti-slavery, anti-trafficking and the plight of those whose voice is not heard. Our letter from Her Majesty has given us a greater sense of confidence to go and change the world.

“A place of peace”: the story behind All Saints, West Dulwich’s hand-carved standing stones

When the team at All Saints, West Dulwich decided to commission a stone memorial for Russell Vernon, whose bequest had allowed them to create the church’s memorial garden, they wanted to go beyond a simple plaque.

They decided to commission stone carver Thomas Sargeant to create a series of four lettered sculptures, each inscribed with the text of a John Donne prayer. These standing stones have now been dedicated, and the hope is that they will draw people into the garden and encourage them to use it as a place of reflection.

For Thomas, the commission was inspirational. “I kind of fell for All Saints on my first visit there,” he said, “It has that modern influence, it feels contemporary. It inspired me to be a bit more playful and creative in the aesthetic overall, hence the more



contemporary letter forms and quite graphic carving.”

According to Thomas, the limestone upright on the church’s exterior (pictured above) is deliberately echoed

in the proportions of the stones. “I want it to be a place of peace that people can spend time in,” he said.

Despite his young age – Thomas is 34 – this is far from his first commission. His father was also a stone carver and Thomas grew up around the craft. “I probably inhaled quite a lot of dust in my early years. It was literally in the blood, that’s how I think of it,” he joked.

Thomas was apprenticed 10 years ago and now has his own workshop near Ditchling in East Sussex. He hopes to encourage other young people to consider stone carving as a career. “We all have ideas about what a memorial is,” he said, “but there isn’t a set way to carve one. You can be quite creative.”

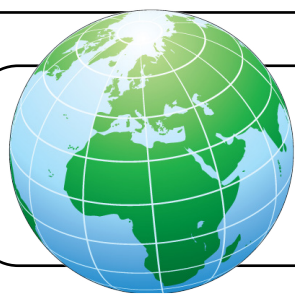
He added: “I was fortunate enough to know that this peculiar vocation still existed as a job. So now I’m a champion of the work.”

www.thomassargeant.com

Prayers in Horley to end gender-based violence



From 25 November to 10 December, Mothers’ Union members worldwide pray for the end of gender-based violence during the “No More I in 3 Campaign”. Horley Parish Mothers’ Union gathered in the freezing cold and rain in the Town Centre and handed out more than 130 leaflets to shoppers to raise awareness in the local community.



RACIAL JUSTICE

Celebrating cultural diversity in our churches

As the Diocese gets ready to mark Racial Justice Sunday on 13 February, Communications Director Sophia Jones finds all four corners of the globe represented in our parishes.

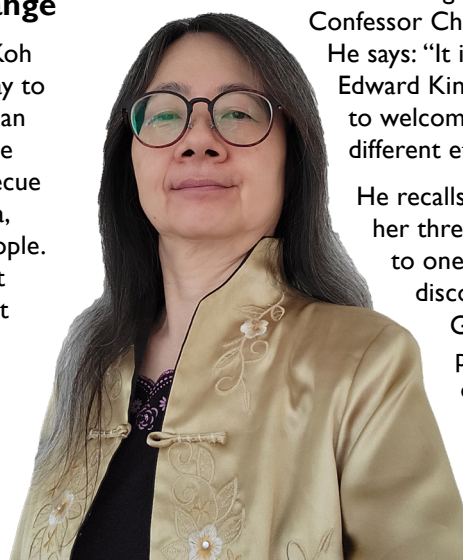
The entire world can be found in the Diocese of Southwark. Our streets are vibrant, colourful and diverse. Walk down any high street and you will hear a variety of languages and shops bursting with fruit and vegetables from across the four corners of the globe. We are spoiled for choice with the variety of restaurants and takeaways, from Jamaican to Ethiopian, Indian and Portuguese.

Many churches in the Diocese both reflect this cultural diversity and celebrate it. The Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, says: "Identity is important to everyone, and recognising cultural diversity is now better understood not as a way of dividing people, but as a way of celebrating all that they bring to our communities and our churches."

She adds: "When I was a parish priest we celebrated the cultural diversity of our entire congregation by marking the independence or Saints' days of the countries from which they had originated or which formed part of their cultural heritage. These of course included St Patrick's Day for the Irish, St David's Day for the Welsh, St Andrew's for the Scots and St George's for the English, as well as all the days marked by various countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia that many members had migrated from."

Cultural exchange

The Revd Yunghee Koh uses food as one way to share her own Korean culture. Last year, she held a Korean barbecue at St Luke, Battersea, attended by 150 people. "When people don't know anything about your culture or background, it's hard to approach you if you are from other countries," she says. "The way you get to



know each other is to share your culture. It is important that we train people and that we shouldn't have racism. But how do we get to that point? It is when you know people more, when I have a Korean barbecue and talk a lot about my culture in my sermons and people realise that we are all human beings."

Another idea, she believes, is for people from different countries to invite representatives from their embassies to give talks at church events.

Yunghee adds: "Sometimes we focus too much on our obstacles and do not see much about our individual beauties. If we only see difficulties, we only feel that everything is wrong; but if we try to see good things we see so many beautiful things in our lives. Someone said that 'when you learn skiing and if you only try to avoid trees and not to hit them you would definitely hit the trees because what you are seeing is only trees. But if you focus on the paths and try to follow them you wouldn't see the trees but only paths'. I think, in our case, racism is the trees and our paths are people's realisation and understanding that each one of are unique, precious and special in the eyes of God."

Hymn to diversity

The Revd Dhanaraj Premraj (Prem) is Priest-in-Charge at St Edward King and Confessor Church in New Addington. He says: "It is always a great joy at St Edward King and Confessor Church to welcome Christian people from different ethnicities and languages."

He recalls meeting a mother and her three children who had come to one of the services and, on discovering that she was from Ghana, he sang a traditional popular Ghanaian song of praise, *Da Nasae, Da Nasae*. "She could not

Annisa Wong (left), a member of Christ Church, Sutton.



believe what was happening and she and her children were so happy. Singing songs from other languages gives people great joy and they feel affirmed and welcomed," he says.

The church sings a hymn from a different part of the world in its Black History Month service. "This helps us helps us to celebrate our cultural diversity," said Prem. At the parish barbeque, meanwhile, there is impromptu Indian stick dancing. "Quite a lot of people join in, even those who do not have a clue about stick dance. Revd Deborah [Premraj, Assistant Priest at St Edward's] gives a quick demo and there is instant dancing. It then brings joy and happiness."

People from different ethnicities bring their traditional food to the barbeque as well as other celebrations at the church, meaning that others get to experience food from different cultures.

"Christian faith is a wonder because it is the same Lord and same faith but each culture has received the gospel in a particular way and express their faith in worship, music and mission in different ways," says Prem. "It is a great joy that in our Southwark Diocese we have Christian people from such a wide range of cultures

and ethnicities. We praise God for our cultural diversity and we grow together in faith."

Keeping watch

Celebrating the life of a deceased loved one during the Caribbean tradition of Nine Nights is common in the Diocese. The last Nine Night the Revd Nilanka (Kit) Gunersekera from St James, Clapham attended was in 2019, "Nine Nights take place for members of our church who have passed away. All the Nine Nights have been at the house of the person," he says. "We had a space for people to share memories of the person who had died, we sang hymns, prayer. The house was packed. This was on the ninth night."

Nine Night has roots in African religious tradition and is an extended wake that lasts several days. Friends and family of the deceased gather together to condole with the family and to reminisce, pray, sing hymns, eat and drink. Dominoes is often played. On the ninth night, usually the night before the funeral, more formal prayers and worship take place. According to tradition, it is the night that the spirit of the departed leaves this earth.

St James' congregation includes people



Clockwise from left: prayers at a Nine Night celebration to commemorate the passing of Bev, a 1962 Jamaican migrant, in her home in Clapham, South London © Jim Grover; the Revd Yunghee Koh and friends Sunhee Kim and Sunhee Lawes making Kimbab for a Korean barbeque; the Revd Deborah Premraj leads parishioners in Indian dancing at St Edward, New Addington.



from Trinidad, Jamaica, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Germany to name a few. The Watch Night service, which takes place on New Year’s Eve, is another tradition popular in West Africa and the Caribbean that has been brought to our churches. They are popular at St James, but due to COVID have taken place online.

Around Pentecost, the church hosts the “All Nations” service. “We think about the calling of the nations and how we are brought together,” says Kit. “Suresh, from Trinidad, organises it. He decorates the church with flags from the different nations. People bring dishes that they have cooked like curry goat, Sri Lankan chicken and various dishes from different countries.”

Welcome party

From 31 January, the UK Government opened a new route for people in Hong Kong with a British National Overseas (BNO) passport to come to the UK. Annisa Wong is a member of Christ Church, Sutton, and was one of the first to arrive on this scheme.

An Anglican since childhood, she has worked in cross-cultural ministry for 35

years. Most recently, she taught Mission for eight years in the seminary in Hong Kong. She started going to Christ Church after discovering that it was the parish nearest to her – but had also been moved by seeing the word “welcome” spelled out in her mother tongue on its website.

Team Vicar, the Revd Phil Brooks, explained: “We are in regular contact with the whole congregation and I asked them if you speak any language as your mother tongue that isn’t English please e-mail me the word for ‘welcome’. We made a collage of that on the website and it is now on our banner outside the church as well. The authenticity about it is that every language on that is spoken by someone in the church. We have used that for our welcome banners as well. There are 14 languages. It is very much having a go at being a more internationally welcoming church rather than we are already at that level. We have been growing in that.”

The church signed up to Hong Kong Ready Churches where people moving to the UK from Hong Kong can find a church in the UK and receive a warm welcome.

Annisa works closely with the church leadership in outreach and pastoral care for some of the Hong Kongers. She has

converted the existing service booklet into parallel English and Cantonese. Phil says: “Even if the Cantonese language folk are speaking it in English, they can see in Cantonese what they are actually saying and vice versa.”

Of the different nationalities, the Hong Kongers are now by far the largest. “At our junior church some mornings, there are more children where Cantonese is their first language,” says Phil. The church has offered a place where they can have fellowship in the form of a Sunday morning Bible study in Cantonese after the service, led by Annisa.

The Hong Kong families at Christ Church as keen to integrate and have chosen to attend Christ Church. Annisa says: “I ask families why they chose [us] and they say it’s because they want to integrate, because their children will use English more than Cantonese.”

At the time of writing, Annisa was looking forward to the Chinese New Year on 1 February. She says: “Usually a week before we clean the house, buy new clothes, and buy flowers to decorate the home.” She will be celebrating it with a friend from church whose father-in-law is a cook. He will be making Chinese cake.

During Christ Church’s Patronal service on the Feast of Christ The King, Annisa helped organise an international lunch for the congregation, which includes people from Zambia, Nigeria, Slovakia, Ethiopia, Malaysia and South Africa. Phil says: “There were lots of different foods and nationalities. We want to be doing more of this kind of hospitality in the future.”

Get involved...

Find out how you can become a Hong Kong ready church here: southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/latest-news/could-you-be-a-hong-kong-ready-church

Read the Diocese of Southwark’s Anti-Racism Charter here: southwark.anglican.org/anti-racism-charter

Find out more about Racial Justice Sunday here: southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/latest-news/racial-justice-whats-it-got-to-do-with-me



IN FOCUS...

Children and young people

Helping to bridge the divide between “them” and “us”

Nurturing relationships between young and old is hard at the best of times and has been doubly so in lockdown. But there may be a solution, as Joanna Cox of SAGE reveals here.

“We are the body of Christ”, we say. Yet in reality many of us will realise that often we don’t think about “we” or talk about “us”. Some people in our congregations are all too often thought of as “them” – especially the children (some may think “they” make a noise) or the older people (perhaps “they” are seen as wanting nothing to change).

How can the generations be integrated and connected so that we are all the body of Christ, with its different parts all contributing to the whole body? How can we be a Church where together “young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the name of the Lord”? (Psalm 148)

The webinar, Connecting the Generations was held with these questions in mind. Connections across generations started with a planning group representing both young and old. The Children and Young People Team (CYP) were joined by SAGE (Southwark and AGEing), a Diocesan working group which Bishop Christopher has asked to look at how churches can address “pastoral, spiritual, missional and ethical issues” that affect the ageing population.

Research done at Liverpool Hope University has highlighted the key importance of relationship building in enabling an intergenerational church. They found that often churches create programmes but don’t put the same level of intent into building up relationships.



Lockdown made much intergenerational contact especially difficult – in families and in churches. The webinar looked at ways in which parishes can once again plan consciously to encourage interaction and connections across generations.

Examples came from churches across Southwark Diocese, and (six pairs of) grandparents shared ways in which they were planning positive ways to relate to their grandchildren in order to nurture their faith.

The webinar also recognised that both young and old can sometimes become

“Prioritising our love for Jesus”: a weekend in youth ministry



In November last year, the Diocesan Children and Young People (CYP) Team were able to support St Thomas with St Stephen to send their youth worker and youth intern to the National Youth Ministry Weekend (NYMW), which is run by Youthscape each year to equip those working with young people.

Sam Baker (above left) said: “We had an amazing time at the NYMW. It was a fantastic opportunity to surround ourselves with people with the same calling and passions that we have and learn from one

another. We learned so much from the seminars on subjects such as building volunteer capacity, schools work, and talking to young people about sex.”

He added: “Not only did we gain a lot of practical tips from the seminars, we also massively enjoyed the two main gatherings each day – all about prioritising our love for Jesus above all else. Thank you again for supporting me financially in attending.”

You can apply for funding for your own CYP ministry project, activity or training using the application form here: bit.ly/3fYdHgc

marginalised within a church community – and webinar participants were struck by the way in which a “ladder of participation” model illustrated parallel challenges for both groups.

Establishing opportunities for activities and ministries in the local church to involve young and old people together can be an important way in which participation and relationships can be strengthened, discipleship nurtured and the Body of Christ built up.

We are often reminded that the Church is intergenerational. But the key message of the webinar was that this will not happen automatically. We need to be intentional and ensure that we plan ways to encourage conversations and enable relationships between young and old to develop.

We pray that in our parishes intergenerational opportunities will then grow into intergenerational communities.



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



WAKEHAM CHORISTERSHIPS

Applications are invited from boys whose **tenth** birthday falls between **1 September 2021** and **31 August 2022**

Under the scheme, run jointly by St Olave's Grammar School and The Duchy of Lancaster, boys commence at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy in September 2022 and in Year 7 at St Olave's Grammar School in September 2023

- Singing in a Chapel Royal Choir
- Musical training at the highest standard
- Admission to one of the country's best state schools

Further details are available to download via www.saintolaves.net

The closing date for applications is Friday, 25 March 2022

Get involved: upcoming events

A fresh look at ministry among older people

9 February, 10.30am-12noon, Zoom
A SAGE webinar on how we can best respond to having an ageing population. E-mail: ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org to book.

Woolwich Youth Forum
26 February, 1.30-4.00pm, Salmon Centre, Old Jamaica Road
Pizza, music, street art, football! All

young people aged 13-plus in the Woolwich Episcopal Area are welcome. Follow this link for permission forms and to book: bit.ly/3H9OZWa

Southwark Cathedral does Messy Science

14 May, 2.00-4.00pm

This event offers a variety of activities, including science experiments, crafts and an opportunity to worship together. Book at: messy-science.Eventbrite.co.uk



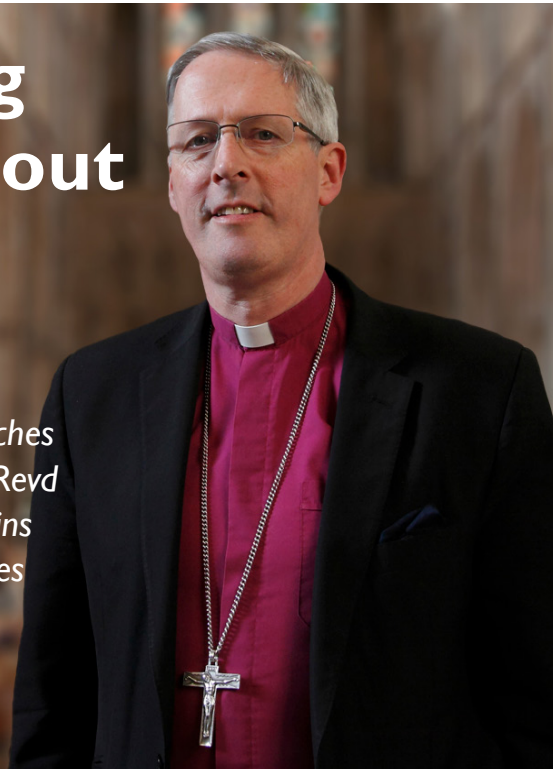


DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Bishop's Lent Call

Supporting those without a place to call home

As Bishop Christopher launches his Lent Call for 2022, the Revd Canon Wendy Robins explains why this year's theme centres around "home", and shares details of the projects your donations will support.



"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" (Isaiah 32:18).

Each year the Bishop of Southwark issues a Lent Call to the Diocese. Through this, Bishop Christopher urges the people and congregations of the Diocese to keep a prayerful and holy Lent, drawing closer to God as we prepare for the joy of Easter.

This year the theme for the Lent Call is from Isaiah 32: 18. The projects featured relate to home and homelessness and ask what makes people feel secure and at home. It is a great tragedy that so many people here in our Diocese and across the world do not have a safe and secure place to call home. Many of our churches in Southwark work with those who are homeless and the churches in our Link Dioceses are involved in similar work.

As a result, we hope to pray for and raise money for projects here in the Diocese and in our Link Dioceses which seek to help those looking for a place to call home.

The first week of the Lent Call features

projects from the four Dioceses with which we are linked in Zimbabwe. In Central Zimbabwe we are asked to help to build extra housing for workers at Harben Gardens where there is an agricultural project to help to feed the hungry in the Diocese and teach farming skills. In Masvingo, the Mothers' Union at the Cathedral offers a soup kitchen for those who are homeless or cannot afford food. In Manicaland they are still struggling to house those affected by Hurricane Idai, and in Matabeleland they want to build a Centre of Transformation at St Augustine, Hippo in the Northern part of the Diocese which will have a clinic, a nutritional garden and a boarding school. They are also hoping to re-establish some of their market gardening projects. We hope to be able to help fund some of this work.

Week Two features the work of Nightwatch, Croydon and Renewed Hope, Redhill in the Croydon Episcopal Area. Then in Week Three we are looking at the work of Glass Door in the Kingston Area, and Week Four features the Woolwich Episcopal Area's work

"We were blown away!" A thank you from last year's projects

Last year's Lent Call focused on food poverty, with an amazing £66,781 raised to help projects in Southwark and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem provide food and other assistance for those in need. Here, some of those projects share how they will be using the funds.

LewCAS

With the organisation spending £1,000 a month on provisions for asylum seekers, the Lent Call donation has been a significant boost. "We were thrilled," said Marion Parsons, Chair of LewCAS. "If it had been £350 we would have been delighted but £3,500 was way beyond our expectations!" They are currently supporting 40 families a week with food boxes and now have sufficient funds for the next three-and-a-half months.

St Matthew, Redhill food bank

"The food bank began 10 years ago with two cupboards at the back of the church," said the Revd Canon Andrew Cunningham, Vicar of St Matthew's. "But the work has grown enormously." The £3,500 donation will go towards the ongoing provision of two Portakabins in the car park for food storage.

Even with substantial food donations, the cost of running the food bank is £1,800 per week so the money will be very welcome. "It was an enormous encouragement to our whole team, to know that the wider church was supporting the work we do in this way," Andrew said.

Norwood and Brixton Foodbank

"We were blown away by it," said organiser Elizabeth Maytom of the £3,500 donation. "It has really enabled us to provide some significant support." The money will be used to help resource a member of the food bank's signposting team. "He is helping to ensure that people can access the fuel poverty vouchers and pay their fuel bills this winter," Elizabeth said.

Lunchbox Library

Thanks to the £3,500 donation from the Lent Call, Together Southwark will be able to fund the Lunchbox Library scheme for the rest of the year, according to Development Officer Nelly Misenga, providing a hot meal and activities for families during the school holidays. "It feels like proof that people believe in what we are doing," Nelly said. "It's beyond recognition – it's feeling supported."

through the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter and Robes.

Week Five focuses on the work of All Saints, Beirut, in the Diocese of Jerusalem, with which we signed a Diocesan Link Covenant in January 2021. Here the money raised will help to feed 100 families, just a small number of those displaced by ongoing humanitarian crises.

The Project Sheets for these are already online (find them at southwark.anglican.org/lentcall). We are releasing the materials in stages this year and so in February we will add pages of fundraising ideas, as well as worship and project materials for our schools.

Finally, in March we will release the Lenten Reflections booklet which will focus on the Sunday readings for Lent and the project we are focusing on each week. During Lent, we will be encouraging people to use this material in their Sunday

pew sheets, services and Lent Groups. We hope that you will use these materials with your parish and that together you will find new understandings of what it means to feel at home and secure.

In addition, we hope that the encouraging response to the Bishop's Lent Call in 2021, when we raised £66,781, will be matched and even bettered this year. Everyone has the right to a home and to feel secure in where they live, and Bishop Christopher very much hopes that we will all be generous in our response to the projects featured in his Lent Call in 2020. Find more information on how to donate at southwark.anglican.org/lentcall

Do look out for the material as it comes out online. Follow our social media feeds (@SouthwarkCofE on Twitter and SouthwarkCofE on Facebook) to hear when new items are published and to watch videos about the Lent Call.

Southwark Cathedral holds service to mark National Day of Hope celebrating the legacy of Damilola Taylor

The second annual UK Day of Hope in memory of Damilola Taylor was marked by a commemorative service at Southwark Cathedral on 7 December.

Launched last year by the Hope Collective as a focal point for

the 20th anniversary legacy campaign of the Damilola Taylor Trust, the Day of Hope is an opportunity to remember him each year on his birthday. He would have been 32. The event has been endorsed by the Government as a day of youth empowerment.



Damilola's father, Richard Taylor OBE, said: "Today is about love. Today is about compassion and hope." The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said, "We must all pull together if we are to give our young people the moral and material support to enable them to flourish."

The service featured music from Heather Small; The Gospel Choir; Jermain Jackman, winner of *The Voice UK*; and a poem from Fope Jegede.

Bishop Christopher closed the service with a blessing, saying, "We are united in the sense of holding on to hope."

“They saw how significant it was that the Cathedral was there, in the middle of it all”

As the Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, celebrates 10 eventful years at the Cathedral, he shares his highs and lows — and reveals why Southwark is the grit in the oyster.

“It’s amazing how 10 years go so quickly,” Andrew says. “It’s been an incredible period for a number of reasons. In some ways it feels like forever, as time does, and then for some reason it feels like yesterday that I was made Dean.”

Andrew was installed as Dean on 21 January 2012, after just over 12 years as, first, Sub Dean and then Acting Dean. The London Olympics were just around the corner and it was a time of great optimism. “It began really positively,” Andrew says, “with all the people coming and the opportunities that represented.”

Yet, despite the many joys, it was a tragedy that showed the real power of the Cathedral to help the community, when the area around London Bridge was rocked by a terrorist attack in

“I haven’t got as many followers as Hodge the Cat, but nearly 6,000 people every day receive my little one-sentence prayer”

2017. “It was the way in which the local community held together and all of a sudden they saw how significant it was that the Cathedral was there in the middle of it all providing some continuity and certainty,” Andrew says.

The Cathedral has also been a reassuring presence to many during the pandemic, and Andrew is proud of how it has responded. “The way in which we went online from Day 1 has been a real highlight, because we discovered what we could do, we discovered that other people wanted to join us,” he says.

It is all a far cry from the job he took before ordination, spending a year as a door-to-door rent collector for the council. “It set me up for being a vicar like nothing else. Going into somebody’s house, drinking a cup of tea, having a conversation about how they were feeling,” he says. “Although the arrears on my rounds shot up because I was far too compassionate!”

Moving from Ripon to Southwark when he came down in 1995 to be



Clockwise from top: Dean Andrew with Bishop Christopher at his installation in 2012; on pilgrimage to Zimbabwe in 2019; guiding the Queen through her official visit to Southwark Cathedral in 2013.

Chaplain to Bishop Roy Williamson was also something of a shock to the system — “a bit like Dorothy walking out of the house into a Technicolor world,” Andrew jokes. Yet, he says, working in this Diocese has been “life- and faith-changing”.

He adds: “I know that sometimes the Church of England looks upon us [in Southwark] and thinks we’re just being difficult. Actually, we’re being prophetic. I think that’s the important thing that we all in this Diocese have to remember — that we have a particular vocation.” It is, he says, “only when you’ve got a bit of grit in an oyster that you create a pearl, isn’t it?”

Being Dean often means taking on high-profile duties — the opening of the Shard and the News UK building, standing alongside Mayors of London,

meeting the Queen. For a man who had always thought of himself as a second-in-command, it has been a journey of self-discovery. “You don’t always know what your skills and potential are until they begin to be tested,” Andrew says.

Yet there is still time for moments of quiet reflection, coming into a “beautiful building in an amazing setting” every day and sharing a prayer on Twitter.

“I haven’t got as many followers as Hodge the Cat,” Andrew says, “but nearly 6,000 people every day receive that one-sentence prayer. That’s been a highlight, to be honest, because it feels like those people are all praying with me. They may like the prayer, they may not, but they’re still there.”

LET US PRAY...

FEBRUARY

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

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

Like many of you, I suspect, I distinctly remember the Silver Jubilee celebrations. It was 1977, I was 20 and it was the first time I had really seen street parties and community celebrations as took place that year. The shops were full of commemorative mugs and teapots — I still have one. We had special stamps and loads of other commemorative items. There was a Silver Jubilee Walkway opened in London with signposts pointing us in the right direction and much pomp and circumstance. Twenty-five years — it seemed an age, such a long period of time to be reigning.

This year, though, we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, 70 years on the throne. I will be 65, don’t feel a day older and am just as excited. But now I realise just what a contribution Her Majesty has made to all of our lives and to the life of the global community.

The truth is that most of us have never known another monarch on our throne. The only image we have for modern constitutional monarchy is provided for us by our Queen. What stands out for me, however, is highlighted each year as we watch the Queen’s Speech on Christmas Day. Increasingly she speaks openly and powerfully of her faith, and she serves us out of that faith.

In a quiet way, at the request of Her Majesty, we begin the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 6 February, the 70th anniversary of her Accession. The Book of Common Prayer provides a prayer for us to pray, and so I invite you to join me as we pray for the one who prays for us:

O God, who providest for thy people by thy power, and rulest over them in love: Vouchsafe so to bless thy Servant our Queen, that under her this nation may be wisely governed, and thy Church may serve thee in all godly quietness; and grant that she being devoted to thee with her whole heart, and persevering in good works unto the end, may, by thy guidance, come to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for MARCH ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY**



February

SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY

- 🎵 **DULWICH** – The Ionian Singers and Timothy Salter are joined by violinist Eulalie Charland in a concert of music from Germany, Austria, America & England. St Faith’s Church, 62 Red Post Hill, Dulwich, London SE24 9JQ. 7.30pm. £15 (free for under-16s and full-time students). Tickets in advance from bit.ly/32Z2Pel or info@ioniansingers.co.uk
- * **BATTERSEA** – Solemn Mass of Requiem for Fr Iain Young (former Vicar of The Ascension). Music: Victoria Requiem (a6, 1605) sung by the Iken Scholars. Preacher: Fr Luke Demetri of St Michael’s, Croydon. The Ascension, Lavender Hill SW11 5RD. 12noon.

THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY

- * **PIMLICO** – National Estate Churches Network London Regional Conference 2022. The focus of the day will be on exhausted clergy and laity finding well-being post-COVID. St James the Less Church, Pimlico, SW1V 2PS. 10.00am-4.00pm. £11.37. bit.ly/32Ks2tt

- FRIDAY 25 & SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY**
- * **SUTTON** – Light and Sound Show: Illuminating the Heritage of St Mary’s Church, Beddington. Discover more about the building, and its art and artefacts, through an exciting display created in collaboration with students and staff from the BRIT School Production Arts Department. Entry is in half-hour slots from 5.30-8.00pm. Book via Eventbrite: bit.ly/3qYXkXi

March

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

- * **CANTERBURY** – 80th Anniversary Conference of William Temple’s *Christianity and Social Order*. The conference will seek to examine a series of new themes and issues in relation to Temple’s influential 1942 work and explore its lasting influence. Canterbury Lodge, Canterbury Cathedral. 9.30am-5.30pm. £60. Book here: bit.ly/3KJGUdd

If you wish to include details of your upcoming events, please e-mail bridge@southwark.anglican.org

Live and learn! Diocesan Discipleship & Ministry team launch new events programme for spring term

Every term the Discipleship and Ministry Team announces a new programme of events and activities to enrich the lives of churchgoers in Southwark Diocese. And the programme for the start of 2022 is a cracker, writes Peter Graystone.



We are launching a new series of Ground Floor Guides. These are short, sharp, one-hour events which introduce a subject that every churchgoer has heard of, and most people feel they want to know a bit more about. They don’t require any previous knowledge, and they will give you just enough information to make you eager to find out more. They take place during weekday evenings on Zoom, so you can enjoy them from your favourite chair.

This term we have Ground Floor Guides on the Reformation (1 February), Revelation (7 March), St Benedict (23 March), and Proverbs (4 April). Information about how to book these and all our other events is given at the end of this article. You can book for one that interests you, or for all of them.

We would also like to announce a new series called Praying With.... This is a series of events focused on enlivening our spirituality. They sometimes introduce a person from the 2,000 years of Christian history whose life of prayer has inspired others to open themselves to God. Sometimes they take a part of the Bible and use that as a way into prayer. Sometimes they look at prayerful movements from the past or present and explore the inspiration to be found there.

However, the emphasis is not just on learning, but on praying together

in varied and uplifting ways. We will meet not just with a teacher, but with Father, Son and Spirit, in contemplation, intercession and worship. This term you can pray with the Psalms (28 February) or Julian of Norwich (15 March). And for those who find that great art leads them into prayer, there is a special evening on the Christian art of Edward Burne-Jones (above, 28 March).

Alongside these new series, there are sessions by SAGE (Southwark and Ageing) to help those whose ministry is mainly among older people, as well as events with an environmental theme and evenings devoted to helping us in our evangelism and mission. All are open to both lay people and clergy.

There are several ways to find out more. The easiest is to sign up to the monthly newsletter Discipleship News, where you will get the information first and fastest, as well as prayers, news and entertainment. E-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org with the words Subscribe Discipleship News in the subject line.

If you would like a printed edition of the programme, send your name and postal address to the same place. You can also find details of all our events on the website at www.southwark.anglican.org, in the News and Events section (click on What’s On).

Making waves: Southwark Cathedral joins annual Blessing of the River ceremony

Archbishop Josiah Atkins Idowu-Fearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Consultative Council, joined the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, as well as worshippers from Southwark Cathedral and St Magnus the Martyr in London Diocese, on 9 January for the annual Blessing of the River ceremony.

This yearly event, which takes place on the first Sunday after Epiphany, sees clergy and congregations from both parishes, which sit either side of the River Thames, meet in the middle of London Bridge to offer prayers for those who use the bridge and the river, and those who have died. The service



culminates in a wooden cross being thrown into the waters.

Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, said: “After a year when we were unable to be on London Bridge for the annual ceremony of the Blessing of the River, it was wonderful to be back. There seemed to be a bigger crowd than ever, led by Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon and Bishop Jonathan.”

He added: “One of the lovely features this year was that the bells at both the Cathedral and at the church of St Magnus the Martyr rang out, echoing and responding across the river. In the bright sunshine of a winter’s day the river looked at its best and it felt as though God was moving with blessing over the waters.”

St Paul’s, Herne Hill Director of Music



Our parish is seeking to recruit a Director of Music to oversee music worship. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of the broad spectrum of sacred music and be able to communicate with, and inspire, people of all ages. They will be able to play the organ and lead an enthusiastic SATB choir, and be a Christian in sympathy with our Parish Aim: “In God’s strength, to bring Jesus to the centre of our lives and to the heart of our community.”

Pay: £8,100 per annum
Hours: 45 per month
Location: St Paul’s, Herne Hill, SE24 9LY

To apply and find out more please visit www.hernehillparish.org.uk/vacancies



IN FOCUS...

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Southwark mourns “a man of words and action” as Desmond Tutu dies

When news broke on 26 December of the death of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, there was a massive outpouring of tributes from across the world. Presidents, royalty, clergy, politicians and ordinary people all had something to contribute about how this legend of a man had impacted not only on the world, but on their own lives.

Bishop Christopher said: “I was saddened to hear of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and extend sympathy to his family and all who grieve his loss in South Africa and beyond. I give thanks for his life and joyful Christian faith as well as for his close associations with the Diocese of Southwark.”

He added: “[Archbishop Tutu] was fearless in naming all injustice wherever it is found, particularly in helping to liberate South Africa from apartheid oppression and for the contribution he made in chairing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I pray his lifelong championing of truth and justice will continue to impact on Anglican identity and witness with renewed vigour following his death.”

Southwark connections

The Diocese of Southwark has had a long relationship with Archbishop Tutu and his family, beginning with his curacy at St Mary, Bletchingley in 1965.

The Revd Sr Phaedra Pamphilon-Green said: “He lived in Clerk’s House and has remained a much loved presence here.

After his time as curate at St Mary’s he stayed in touch with parishioners and came back to visit us on numerous occasions. He continued to be an inspiration to people in Bletchingley, especially as his work and ministry developed and grew. The parish is very proud that he was a curate here.”

When Phaedra was installed Rector of St Mary’s in June 2017, Archbishop Tutu wrote to her. In his letter he said: “Heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Rector of a wonderful parish with some of the world’s most generous people. Please give them our warmest greetings and tell them we remember fondly our one year as their part-time curate. My family and I were really overwhelmed with kindness. We came from three years in an upstairs flat in London with four lively children, to the luxury of a double-storied Clerk’s House and an extensive garden. We were pampered and spoiled.”

During his years working at the Theological Education Fund in Bromley, Archbishop Tutu was honorary Curate at St Augustine’s Church, Grove Park between 1971 and 1975. The Revd Gavin Berriman said: “He was much loved here and lived locally. He came to St Augustine’s whenever he was here. Anyone who was here then, remembers him with love. He returned in 2008 to bless the church wall that was rebuilt.”

Friend of the Cathedral

Archbishop Tutu was a much-loved friend of Southwark Cathedral and has a room



Clockwise from top: Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu greets Bishop Christopher at his 80th birthday party; a portrait commemorates Archbishop Tutu’s connection to St Mary, Bletchingley; preaching a sermon at St Augustine, Grove Park.

named after him. The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, said: “The community at Southwark Cathedral is deeply saddened to hear of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Nevertheless, we carry with us wonderful memories of him at the Cathedral and have a continuing witness to his life and ministry in our Tutu Room. We particularly remember a sermon he preached in the Cathedral in which he said to us, ‘There is nothing you can do to make God love you less; there is nothing you can do to make God love you more.’ He truly was an inspirational and God-filled man who always walked closely with Jesus. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said: “Archbishop Tutu was a prophet and priest, a man of words and action, one who embodied the hope and joy that were the foundations of his life. He was a man of extraordinary personal courage and bravery; when the police burst into Capetown Cathedral, he defied them by dancing down the aisle. He was a man of enormous vision: seeing the possibilities for building the Rainbow Nation long before anyone else, except perhaps President Mandela.”

A recording of Archbishop Tutu’s funeral is available here: bit.ly/3AwKbe

“Together at last”: representatives from across the capital gather for the Mayor of London’s carol service

The first verse of *Once in Royal David City* sung by Launderer Chanter, a student from Southwark Cathedral Girls’ Choir, opened the Mayor of London’s Christmas Carol service at Southwark Cathedral on 13 December.

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, greeted worshippers saying: “The message of this Christmas at Southwark Cathedral is ‘Together at last’, said more in

hope than in certainty because we all know that nothing is certain any longer, that nothing can be taken for granted.”

The readings were by people from across London representing civil society organisations, NHS London, the Greater London Authority and London Assembly. Gospel Choir, The Spirituals performed reimagined versions of well-known carols.

In his sermon, Bishop Christopher said: “What is so telling about the Christmas



story is that God does not protect himself from the pressures and risks and perils of human life.” He concluded: “May our hearts go out this Christmas to those around us,

particularly the frail, those who cannot resource themselves, the migrant and all who suffer violence. If we dare to soften our hearts, we shall find ourselves – for we share a common heart, and a common life – and then we shall truly be together – at last.”

Bishop Christopher led the congregation in the pledging of the Southwark Diocese Faith and Community Declaration, which was followed by an address by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan (pictured left, with

Bishop Christopher). The Mayor said: “This year, more than ever, your contribution to our city’s welfare and well-being has been truly invaluable. So I want to say a heartfelt thank you as Mayor. Thank you for putting your Christian values into practice. Thank you for not walking on the other side of the road. And thank you during these dark days for being a source of light and inspiration to us all.”

Bishop Christopher ended the service with a blessing.