

Southwark celebrates 25 years of women priests



Saturday May 25 saw Southwark Cathedral full of women and men for a day of celebration to mark 25 years of women's ordination to the priesthood.

But the day didn't just celebrate the past. It began with a Study Morning - Inspired for the Future' in which Paula Gooder spoke about 'Phoebe: on finding women's voices in history and today' and Esther Mombo spoke about 'Women's voices from Africa'.

Wendy Robins writes:

Paula (below) spoke about the invisibility of our foremothers in the faith and for the need for



their voices to be heard and for us all to find our own authentic voices.

Esther Mombo (above) spoke about the place of women in African society and of the need to balance their domestic life and chores with their priestly life. She reminded us that whilst it is good to celebrate the place of women today in the Church of England our celebration is not complete unless we remember those who are still waiting for it to be possible.

It was a great morning with two inspiring speakers giving us much to think about.

Following a chance for those present to ask questions of the speakers the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah

Some of the women ordained as priests in Southwark in 1994

Mullally (below), responded to what we had heard reminding those present that we have a responsibility to ensure that there are women in the Church in the future.

The day continued with the service of celebration for 25 years since the first women were ordained in Southwark Diocese. Bishop Sarah presided at the Eucharist, Bishop Christopher deaconed and the Archdeacon of Southwark, the Venerable Jane Steen preached. As the service began Bishop Sarah welcomed the former Bishop of Southwark, Bishop

Tom Butler, noting that he had ordained her both deacon and priest in Southwark Diocese. He was warmly applauded.

In her sermon Jane Steen (right) asked us all where we had been 25 years ago and spoke of the two words that had most struck her in the Gospel 'she turned' going on to say that some ways we who were there had all turned to God and to our vocation.

The service was a fitting culmination both to the day and to the week in which the 'Here Am I' exhibition had been launched.



Inside
THE BRIDGE
...this month



Here ARE we -
25 years on -
pages 6 & 7



The day we met
the Queen
- page 4



Christ Church,
Colliers Wood in
profile - page 9

PLUS pages of
news from around
the Diocese and

WHAT'S ON
Page 11

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

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

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

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

A view from THE BRIDGE

'How awesome it is to be in the Church at this time'

Two weeks ago, I was reading comments of joy and jubilation on Facebook, in response to the news that Shannon MacVean-Brown had been named Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Vermont, USA.

Someone said, 'how awesome it is to be in the Church at this time.' That's exactly how I felt during the joyous celebration at our Cathedral on Saturday, 25 May, in the presence of those women giving thanks for 25 years of their ordination to the sacred order of Priests.

They and those who follow, some of whom are Diocesan and suffragan bishops today, were indeed called to the priesthood for a time such as this.

What an honour and a privilege to be writing this editorial as I stand on the shoulders of those women priests - pioneers, those who didn't make it, those who gave up the struggle and those who are still struggling, those who are juggling roles of wife - mother - priest, or a combination thereof - Thank you!

While it was an honour to be at the Diocesan celebration, it was also a privilege to feel included in this fine circle. Now a Vicar, I was able to play host to my former Rural Dean of Tooting, as she came to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has done.

She was one of the 'early' priests who suggested that God may be calling me to ordained ministry. It was a real joy to travel with her from then to now, as she celebrated with her peers, 25 years of ordination to the sacred order of Priests.

As we complete the celebration by remembering and giving thanks for those who have gone before; as we rejoice with those present with us; and as we pray for those coming after us, we are reminded that God does not call us to a place where God's grace is not sufficient for us.

The Revd Canon Roxanne Hunte



Archdeacon of Croydon to retire in the New Year

The Archdeacon of Croydon, The Venerable Christopher Skilton, is to retire on Saturday 29 February 2020, shortly before his 65th birthday.

He has been Archdeacon of Croydon since 2013 and prior to that was Archdeacon of Lambeth from 2004.

Following a BA at Magdalene College, Oxford he trained for the ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and was ordained deacon in 1980 and priest in 1981.

Curacies in the Diocese of London and Salisbury followed and he was a Team Vicar at Great Baddow in Chelmsford Diocese (1988-1995) before coming to Southwark as Team Rector of Sanderstead.

Bishop Christopher said: "Chris Skilton has been a dedicated servant to the parishes in his Archdeaconry and previously in Lambeth. We will greatly miss his wisdom and good humour but we wish Chris and Barbara a long and happy retirement".

Bishop Jonathan added: "The Croydon Episcopal Area, and the Diocese as a whole, will be all the poorer as a result of Chris's retirement".



New Warden of Readers commissioned

On Thursday 2 May, during Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral, Bishop Christopher, commissioned Ray Wheeler as Diocesan Warden of Readers.

Ray Wheeler has been a Reader in the Diocese of Southwark since 1988.

He has served in the parish of Shirley, St George since 2002 and is the Croydon Area Warden of Readers.

He succeeds Nicole Burgum as Warden and it was Nicole, retiring from the post after two years, who presented him to the Bishop for commissioning during a service full of family, friends and fellow Readers.

After commissioning Ray, Bishop Christopher paid tribute to Nicole, telling the congregation that he had asked her to become Warden in the middle of the Sea of Galilee during a Diocesan Pilgrimage.

In gratitude for her service, he presented her with the Lancelot Andrewes medal for Godly Service and Zeal for the Gospel, which is in his personal gift.

Images from the service can be found on the Diocesan Flickr stream: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmAVXj9B>



Pictured with the Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn, is the new Dean of Bergen, the Very Revd Dr Gudmund Waaler.

Southwark Diocese is linked with the Diocese of Bergen in Norway and the Cathedral has strong links with the Cathedral there with regular visits between the Cathedrals taking place.

Dean Gudmund visited London 11 to 16 May and met the staff and congregation of the Cathedral and some of the staff from Trinity House.

THE BRIDGE

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The **JULY/AUGUST** edition is due to be printed on **11 JULY** and in your parish from the following Sunday.

Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 1 JULY**

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

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



Christ's School Richmond's Under 16 Basketball Team has won the Dynamik National Schools Basketball Championships for the third year in a row. Christ's School triumphed over 3,500 schools from across the country, including many specialist basketball academies. Head of PE at Christ's School, Tom Smith, said: "Our continued success with this team is a product of coach Mr Sedour's dedication and our strong relationship with Knights Basketball Academy".



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Celebrating and praying for Sierra Leone on the occasion of 58 years of independence - 58 people at Camberwell St Michael & All Angels & All Souls w Emmanuel including Sierra Leone members of the congregation.

Surrey Muslim communities 'horrified' by Sri Lankan atrocities



On Easter Sunday, three Christian churches in Sri Lanka were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings.

The following Sunday at St Dunstan's Church, Cheam, about half an hour before the 9.30am Family Service, a group of men and a young boy, came into the church and left some flowers and a card.

The flowers were placed at the foot of the Paschal Candle and the Revd Naomi Ngururi read out the card at the end of the service:

"We are horrified by the unjust murdering of innocent Christian worshippers in Sri Lanka. We offer our condolences to all Christians worldwide and to those in our

local community. May all the families of those who died be granted peace and may their pain be relieved by the Almighty-Aameeu.

From the local Muslim Community".

Parishioner Wendy Jordan writes: "We were all so moved by this message and their kindness and generosity of spirit. We have no idea exactly where they came from as the group left after a few minutes".

And at Carshalton

Flowers and a card were also received at All Saints, Carshalton from their local Muslim Community centre. PCC Secretary Marion Williams writes: "We have a good relationship with our brothers and sisters of other faiths in the parish, and were very moved to receive their condolences at this very sad time".



Thy Kingdom Come

- pray that people may come to know the risen Christ



On Ascension Day a giant sculpture of praying hands was unveiled in the nave of Southwark Cathedral. It marked the start of the eleven days of prayer, between Ascension and Pentecost, praying 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

The Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Director of Mission and Canon Missioner, writes...

Now in its fourth year, 'Thy Kingdom Come' echoes the very first Ascension Day when the first disciples gathered with Mary, and devoted themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition.

Here in Southwark Diocese, we are praying that the Spirit would inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks.

It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. Prayer stations have been established in community areas and schools, churches have opened their doors and created interactive prayer spaces; prayer walks and outdoor services have been held to witness to the risen Christ in the 'public square'.

Pentecost 2019

'Thy Kingdom Come' has grown into a global prayer



'Searching for God, Almighty Hands', a 3-metre Praying Hands construction in beaten lead by acclaimed sculptor Nic Fiddian-Green

movement. Yet, it is also a local prayer movement. We want to honour and recognise this 'grassroots' momentum and so I am delighted that this year deaneries and episcopal areas have established Pentecost celebrations in many parts of the Diocese.

While some services have already taken place there are still a number on Sunday 9 June itself:

CROYDON AREA

Redhill at 3.30pm

Ecumenical Pentecost celebration service at Memorial Park, Redhill

Oxted at 4pm

Pentecost café style service at Oxted, St Mary the Virgin

Purley at 4pm

Churches Together in Purley and Kenley service at St Barnabas Church

Carshalton at 6pm

Pentecost Praise service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches

Croydon at 6.30pm

A Pentecost Sunday Evening Service at Emmanuel Church (Normanton Road)

KINGSTON AREA

celebration will be held at All Saints, Tooting at 6pm

WOOLWICH AREA

service is to take place at All Saints, Peckham at 6pm with a time of prayer between 3-5pm.

Refreshments will be served after most services.



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Members of churches in Southwark Diocese were among the recipients of the 2019 Royal Maundy - here four of them reflect on the day...

The Revd Lisa Wright

In January I received a letter from Buckingham Palace saying my name had been submitted by Bishop Christopher to receive Maundy Money at St Georges Chapel Windsor. Violent excitement in the family who took over the travel arrangements and what I was to wear - especially A HAT!

My husband Martin was my companion and four family members watched in the Chapel Precincts as the Queen's procession came out after the service. The weather was perfect. Many guides showered us with with care - 186 old ladies and gentlemen, all in our best - and settled us in the Chapel, magnificent with golden candlesticks and spring flowers. Grand music played as the processions entered. Choirs, clergy. Beefeaters, wandsmen, children with nosegays, and the Queen in a primrose yellow outfit. She came down the aisles, smiling at each one of us, presenting the red and white purses

Afterwards, coaches took us to the State apartments for refreshments and a chance to meet the other recipients.

Martin and I will never forget the day. We are so grateful for the opportunity.

** Lisa Wright is among the women ordained as priest in 1994 (second from right) in our front page photo.*

Bertram Dixon

The service was very enjoyable. I was able to sing along with the hymns as they were well

known to me. It was an honour to be nominated by the Diocese of Southwark due to my long service in the church.

I was one of the recipients given Maundy coins to mark the Queen's 93rd birthday. The coins were distributed in two separate purses. One contained the nominal allowance given in the past for the royal gown. The other contained coins made up of silver pennies, two pences, three pences and four pences which added up to the value of the Queen's age.

It was a pleasant occasion and a privilege to meet the Queen.

Lloyd Booker

On the day the letter dropped through my letter box, and I saw the postmark Buckingham Palace, I was perplexed, as I did not know what to expect.

As I read that I was recommended to be a recipient of the Maundy Gifts, at the Royal Maundy Service. I was so elated that I shared the good news with my son and my great niece. She couldn't believe it at first. But, I invited her to be my companion for the day. We travelled up on the Wednesday, so as to be fresh, early, and ready for the occasion. The atmosphere was grand, so much pomp and pageantry, and the chapel resounded to the wonderful singing.

I had a front row seat right across from Her Majesty and Princess Eugenie. It was very nice, to be personally receiving a gift from the Queen. My great niece was more excited than I was. However I felt

that innermost joy, which words alone cannot adequately describe. After the service we were invited to a Luncheon reception at Windsor Castle.

** Lloyd Booker is President/ Pastoral Minister of the London Caribbean Catholic Chaplaincy*

Doris Woodeson

I have been going to St James Clapham since I was 15 and taught and ran the Sunday School for 60 years till I was 80. I was thrilled to get a letter from Buckingham Palace to say that I was to receive the Maundy money.

From my seat, I saw the procession come in followed by the Queen and Princess Eugenie.

After the second lesson we received our purses, which contained a £5 coin marking 200 years of Queen Victoria, a 50p Sherlock Holmes in the Red purse and in the White one, was the Maundy money adding up to 93p, to make up the Queens age of 93.

It was wonderful to see the Queen up close, to accept the purse and curtsy. It was a lovely and memorable day.

Two other Southwark recipients, Nicky Nicholls and Richard Holroyd, have reflected on their experience on the Hearts on Fire blog - <https://southwarkcofe.tumblr.com>



Above (left) The Revd Lisa Wright and husband Martin and (right) Bertram Dixon
Below (left) Doris Wooderson and (right) Lloyd Booker and great niece



Throughout June Southwark Cathedral's herb garden will host artist Angela Wright's installation, 'Garden Cocoon Space' improvised from branches & twigs, as part of the London Festival of Architecture! Angela says the 'Garden Cocoon Space' is "an art-installation which encloses objects that will facilitate discussion of the experience of memory. For me it will be a return to childhood when the garden shed housed a wind-up record player and in the distinctive smell of wood and sunshine I shared special children's conversations". Image: David Carr Smith



On the evening of Friday 3 May St Barnabas, Sutton New Town was filled with over 200 people when the local community celebrated the opening evening of an exhibition of work by young Sutton artists. The "New Life" Exhibition ran throughout May displaying work by children and young adults in full-time education.

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40 years a Reader

On Palm Sunday, Immanuel & St Andrew, Streatham Common, took the opportunity to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Licensing as a Reader of David Gray.

The Warden of Readers, Ray Wheeler together with the

Vicar, the Revd Sr Elizabeth Shearcroft CA presented David with a certificate by way of 'thank you' for David's many years service at Immanuel.

Over the years David has used his skills as a former BT Engineer as Immanuel's 'IT Consultant' as well as PCC Treasurer, a ministry in its own right. As Ray pointed out, over the 40 years Immanuel Church has seen incumbents come and go - but David (with Marion Gray, also a Reader) has provided continuity of ministry and pastoral care.

First Deanery Leadership Teams commissioned

The Revd Kathryn Percival

Eight years after Bishop Christopher was charged with 'breathing new life into Deaneries,' with much vision and hard work from the Deaneries Advisory Group, Deaneries are becoming strengthened and renewed.

One of the Group's recommendations was that each deanery should have a Deanery Leadership Team. They would consist of the Area Dean, (and Assistant where there is one) Deanery Lay Chair, and other people, both lay and ordained, elected for their particular skills and strengths.

This Team will carry out the familiar work of organising Deanery Synods. But its remit has been much extended, to encompass the whole mission of the Deanery in supporting churches' ministry by planning events, enabling information



sharing, providing training, encouraging networking, and firing the imagination.

Our new life embraces a culture of risk taking, of boldness, and of stepping out in faith, in response to the challenges and opportunities of the contexts in which we all minister. Crucially, we are being invited to discern where the Spirit is working, and

move away from a 'one-size fits all' model, to a shape which suits our particular situations.

The first two of these Deanery Leadership Teams - for the Deaneries of Reigate and Tandridge - were commissioned by the Venerable Moira Astin, the Archdeacon of Reigate, in her Visitation Service at St. Mary's Church, Reigate, on 15 May.

Many others are to follow soon. We are grateful for the support of Canon Duncan Swan, the Deaneries Development Advisor, who has been a refreshingly plain-speaking and encouraging presence throughout this process.

And now, time for a deep breath and some Pentecost courage!

Congratulations Joyce... 100 not out



Congratulations to Joyce Town from St Francis of Assisi, West Wickham, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 16 May. Joyce 'made the headlines' earlier in the year when she was confirmed by Bishop Jonathan at the age of 99!

Could your church use some new kneelers?

Christ Church, Gipsy Hill have a number of hand-stitched prayer kneeling cushions, which are on offer to other churches in Southwark Diocese free of charge.



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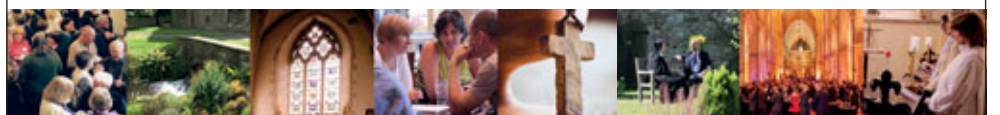
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Here ARE we - 25 ye

I remember 21 May 1994 as a brilliantly sunny day; one filled with a great many happy people who had come together to celebrate the ordination of 78 women in three services at Southwark Cathedral. It felt as if something absolutely wonderful and historic was happening and I think it really was!

Wendy S Robins

The Cathedral was full to bursting for the three services: the women from the Croydon Area were ordained at 10.30am, those from the Kingston Area at 3pm, and from the Woolwich Area at 7.30pm.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Roy Williamson and his three Area Bishops, the Rt Revd Wilfred Wood (Croydon), the Rt Revd Martin Wharton (Kingston), and the Rt Revd Peter Hall (Woolwich) worked tirelessly throughout the day to ordain the women. Bishop Roy

also crossed the Thames to the Diocese of London to ordain their women deacons as priests.

It was an extraordinarily joyful day and the second such day that I had attended in less than a month having been at the ordination of the first women priests in the Diocese of Norwich towards the end of April. I was a Chelmsford 1993 deacon and would be priested myself, rather remarkably, in the church in which my parents had married and I had been baptised, just over a month later and the woman whom I had gone to see ordained priest in Norwich was one of those who laid hands on me on that day – that was just so exciting!

The women in Southwark had been waiting for varying amounts of time. One since 1939, another since 1953 and ten only for a year.

It was such a huge privilege to help Elsie Baker (below) up to the altar. She had waited the longest and had long ago retired but Bishop Roy had promised her that he would ordain her priest. It was such a wonderful moment when, finally, Bishop Roy and the other Bishops and priests laid hands on her.

Those of us who were present

The 132 page catalogue of the 'Here Am I' photographic exhibition is available for sale from the Press & Communications Department at Trinity House, priced £10 including postage and packing. E-mail communications@southwark.anglican.org or telephone Abigail Sanderson on 020 7939 9414 if you are interested.

listened to the protests of the one person who had come to object and I will always remember the resounding 'yes' when the Bishop asked the congregation if it was their will that these women should be ordained. It was brilliant.

And on Saturday 25 May 2019 many of those who had been ordained on that great day were there to celebrate and to remember. They gathered for the study morning and service and some of them ate lunch together afterwards. Rather greyer of hair and older of frame but still grateful and joyful to have been able to serve God as priests for all these years.

● The Revd Canon Wendy S Robins is Diocesan Director of Press and Communications and Assistant Priest & Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral

Andrew Nunn, The Dean of Southwark, has written on his Living God blog about his experience of that day. Find it here: <https://southwarklivinggod.wordpress.com/>

"It was such a huge privilege to help Elsie Baker..."



The Revd Anna Eltringham, reflects on 'Here Am I', a photographic exhibition to celebrate 25 years since women's ordination to the priesthood

The original idea for the photo exhibition sought to celebrate the priestly ministry of women by following the story of a female priest in

An incredible jo

Southwark Diocese as a companion piece to the beautiful and well-received photo-story of the Revd Kit Gunasekera, a parish priest in Clapham. Of Things Not Seen had been the work of the photographer Jim Grover and exhibited at gallery@oxo in Oxo Tower Wharf on London's South Bank in 2016.

Bishop Christopher was very keen to commission Jim for this project but Jim had much more ambitious plans. For the 25-year anniversary of women's ordination to the priesthood in 2019, he wouldn't document the life and ministry of just one woman in word and image but 12! The Bishop thought it was a wonderful idea and so this incredible journey began.

The 12 women covered a wide variety of characteristics we were keen to feature. They spanned the length and

breadth of the Diocese and the 25 years since 1994. They were varied in age, background and circumstance as well as context, including urban and rural parish ministry; hospital and prison chaplaincy; and ministry as an Archdeacon.

During the project's 12 months and more than 175 photo-shoots, certain questions arose. "Now women can be bishops, surely there is no longer a need to distinguish or focus on the role of women in ministry?" In my view while women remain underrepresented proportionally in the Church we must continue to promote, celebrate and pioneer the new diversity and perspectives that they bring to the benefit of all. It does, I would think, take more than 25 years to transform structures which were based on a single gender model of priesthood for

Below - Jim Grover with some of the women featured in 'Here Am I'



and some of t



A journey through women's ministry

1887 Isabella Gilmore is made a deaconess, a ministry which is open to women who cannot, at this stage, be ordained. A training house for the Order of Deaconesses is developed on Clapham Common North Side, later known as Gilmore House, from where Isabella trains head deaconesses for seven other Dioceses before her death in 1923.

1959 A motion is carried in the House of Laity of the Church Assembly asking the Convocations to consider a change to Canon E6, which relates to Readers, to make it

apply equally to men and women.

1962 The Church Assembly votes for the ordination of women to be studied.

1966 The resulting report, Women and Holy Orders, is published.

1966-75 Ongoing discussion and consultation in the Church.

1969 A canon law permitting women to be licensed as Readers is given royal assent. Rosamund Essex, a Church Times columnist, becomes the first woman Reader in the Church of England. Another 43 women are licensed as Readers between October 1969 and December 1970.

1970 After 83 years Gilmore House is closed, as women's training is beginning to be integrated with that of men in mixed theological colleges.

1975 Synod (the successor to the Church Assembly) resolves that "there are no fundamental objections to the ordination of women to the priesthood" but decides not to proceed with legislation given the range of views.

1985 Synod approves legislation to allow women to become deacons.

1987 The first women deacons are ordained.

1992 Synod approves legislation to allow women to become priests putting in place provisions for those who cannot accept this. 441 clergy subsequently resign from ecclesiastical service and receive financial compensation.

1994 On 12 March, Angela Berners-Wilson becomes the first woman to be ordained into the priesthood, in a group of 32 women, in Bristol Cathedral. On 21 May, 78 women are ordained in Southwark Cathedral, including three in the 'Here Am I' exhibition: Ann Gurney, Rosemary Shaw and Mary Seller.

Later in the year, the Revd Patricia Vowles becomes the first female incumbent in Southwark's history, taking over as vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Camberwell.

1996 The Revd Helen Cunliffe is appointed Canon Pastor at Southwark Cathedral, responsible for the Cathedral's parish activity.

2000 Synod agrees to study the possibility of women becoming bishops.

2004 The resulting report, Women Bishops in the Church of England (the so-called 'Rochester Report') is published.

2005 Synod votes to set in motion the removal of obstacles to women bishops.

2008 Synod votes to draw up legislation for women to become bishops.

2012 The first vote on enabling women to become bishops takes place in Synod. The House of Bishops and the House of Clergy exceed the required two-thirds threshold in favour but the House of Laity fails by six votes to reach the threshold. The vote is not carried.

2014 The second vote on enabling women to become bishops is carried, opening up all orders of ministry to women. The 'Five Guiding Principles' are introduced, which

Years on Journey

hundreds of years! Second, as the photos emerged, some wondered if stereotypes of women in ministry were being presented. Would the same sort of photos have been taken if the priest had been male?

This led into all sorts of questions and musings about what constitutes "a typical priest", which may also be a stereotype. New ways of living out priesthood, in response to a God who calls each by name, are constantly being explored and reimagined as the diversity of those being ordained increases in all kinds of ways.

At the end of the day, the 'Here Am I' exhibition was one particular angle and glimpse into the Church's wonderful, diverse ministry at large through the whole people of God. My hope and prayer is that those who visited had their hearts and minds



touched and challenged by God's free and Holy Spirit as together we celebrated and received the inclusive, all-accepting welcome and love of God through Jesus.

With deep gratitude to the 12 wonderful participants; Jim Grover, photographer; Bishop Christopher; Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin; the Diocesan Communications Team and the working group for the 25 Year Celebrations.

● The Revd Anna Eltringham, is Diocesan Dean of Women's Ministry.

the many visitors to the exhibition



include the concept of 'Mutual Flourishing', stating the Church's commitment to gender equality whilst simultaneously embracing those who are unable to accept this.

2015 Libby Lane is consecrated as the Bishop of Stockport, becoming the Church of England's first female bishop.

All new ordinands are required to assent to the 'Five Guiding Principles'.

2017 There are around 6,000 women in ordained ministry, some 30% of all ordained ministers in the Church of England.

The Rt Revd Philip North, who does not support women's

ordination, withdraws from his appointment as Bishop of Sheffield.

2018 The Rt Revd Sarah Mullally is appointed Bishop of London, one of the five most senior Bishop positions in the Church of England.

2019 This year marks the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood, and the 50th anniversary of the licensing of women as Readers.

There are 18 women bishops (out of a total of 114).

Some 4% of parishes continue to utilise provisions allowing them to opt out of having a woman presiding at Communion, or as their vicar or incumbent.

This is our story... Reflections of three of the priests featured in 'Here Am I'



PHOTO: JIM GROVER

Ann Gurney, Holy Trinity, Eltham

"At the end of the war, in September 1945, I went to Gilmore House," Ann says. "I can't say there was any 'great moment'; I just suddenly knew this was what I had to do."

"I remember clambering up the steps at the front door despite the unnerving presence of the senior sacristan, one of the existing students, handing out green veils for chapel to new arrivals. We were about

a dozen in number. The Head Deaconess exuded charm in her blue, ankle-length dress and white muslin bonnet tied with a large bow under the chin. Deaconesses then were regarded as rather antiquated.

"One was made a Deaconess for life, admitted with the laying on of hands by the Bishop and given a New Testament and a Deaconess's Cross. I thought it a pity the cross was on a chain: it felt too much like the

past...I would have preferred a lapel badge. I felt valued as a Deaconess...and parishioners seemed to accept the role and what we did.

"I can remember very vividly being ordained a Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral...even though I thought I was one already! It seemed to be muddled thinking of the Church of England to say: 'Yes you are a Deaconess...and now you've got to be ordained again as a Deacon'...so they obviously didn't think it was the same thing at all! Prior to the service I handed back my Deaconess New Testament saying, 'Give me that again, I don't want another one!'

"As far as I could see...once women had been ordained Deacons, they could, in time, become a Bishop. In my mind the ministry of the church was Bishop...Priest...Deacon and a Deacon went on almost automatically to become a Priest...and that's what I really expected to happen. "It didn't, of course...not for a long, long time. I wasn't one

of those who was fighting for women's priesthood...I was very concerned that it endangered the whole position of women's ministry...it would arouse so much opposition in some quarters. I could hardly believe it when the vote went through at Synod...I felt such great relief that it had happened at last.

"At the time I thought...I am retired...it's ridiculous, really...but there could be situations in which parishes will be glad to have additional people who don't cost anything. And so I thought if there was a need...which there was, here in Eltham...then it was right to go ahead. And so I was ordained a priest.

"Then I reached 90 and I said, 'That's it!' By then I couldn't really stand at all...when people invited me to receptions I couldn't stand around...I couldn't preach...I couldn't stand around the altar.

"What lies at the core of my faith? 'I have called you by name, you are mine.' It's just that."

Dorothy Penniecooke, The Ascension, Balham Hill

Dorothy is one of the 'Windrush Generation'. She was born in St Elizabeth, Jamaica, in 1945 and came to Tooting in England in 1965 to join her husband, whom she had married in Jamaica the year before.

Along with bringing up her three sons, Dorothy worked in a variety of finance roles over 40 years. In parallel, she pursued ministry as a self-supporting, part-time minister, leading to her ordination in 2001.

Dorothy lives just around the corner from the Church of the Ascension in south Clapham, her church of 50 years. Now 73, she continues to minister to her local community: at the Church of the Ascension and other churches in the Deanery,

and also in Minnie Kidd House, a local NHS care home, where she is Honorary Chaplain.

Dorothy says: "I started visiting Minnie Kidd in 2001. A few years later a lady came there and one evening I went to her room and asked, 'Can I come in?' She said, 'I don't want to see you because I don't believe in God.' I didn't say anything...I just stood there for a while...and left. I went back the following Sunday...and she asked me, 'Why do you come and see me because I told you I don't believe in God?' And I said, 'Yes, I know that...you told me that...but Jesus loves me and I want to share that love with you.'

After a few weeks of visiting she told me her story. She was brought up as a Roman Catholic...went to live in America when she was young...lived life to the full...even joining the Mormon Church.



PHOTO: JIM GROVER

As she told me her story, she said, 'God will never forgive me because I wasn't good.' I said, 'None of us is good...all of us have got some faults...but God is a forgiving God and he loves us all. And that's why I am here today and why I keep coming to you.' She was in the home for more than a year...I went to see her on each visit.

One Sunday evening she said to me: "Thank you so much for all your prayers...I am now at peace with myself." The following week she died. That's where I get my greatest fulfilment. Being alongside people when they are struggling...helping them know that they too are a child of God."

Rosemary Shaw, Senior Chaplain, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust

This year marks 24 years of hospital chaplaincy for Rosemary at Guy's (where she was born), St Thomas's, King's College and Maudsley Hospitals in South London. As a hospital chaplain she is an employee of the NHS. There are some 320 Church of England chaplains serving hospitals and hospices, of which 44% are women.

Rosemary's journey to hospital chaplaincy began with teaching, followed by five years as an officer in the Salvation Army, where her Christian faith grew and she discovered her calling to ministry, and then four years as a social worker.

After the birth of her son, Rosemary trained as a Reader in the Church of England, which ultimately led to her being

among the first group of women to be ordained in Southwark Diocese in 1994, entering priesthood at the age of 50.

She retired in 2016 but continues to offer part-time chaplaincy support at King's; she also visits parishioners in their homes.

"I remember a woman, who I almost encountered by accident in hospital, with motor neurone disease, an awful disease," Rosemary says. "Her husband was in prison. She saw me give Communion in the ward and said, 'Can I have some of that?'...and I thought it was a bit late starting confirmation lessons so I said, 'Yes, you can.'

The last time I saw her was in outpatients...and I don't know what made me do it...but I had taken my Communion set in with me that day. She could hardly speak then and asked me to give her Communion, in outpatients of all places. And



PHOTO: JIM GROVER

she wanted me to open her blouse...and deep down in the crevice was the little wooden cross I'd given her in hospital. She had lost all her ability to use her hands and everything and she said, 'I want you to do one more thing for me', and I said, 'What's that?'... 'I want you to conduct my funeral.'

I just knew that was going

to be the last time I spoke with her...and a few weeks later she died. Some months later I was in the children's ward and this lady, a grandmother, was sitting there and she said, 'You are the lady who did Carol's funeral, aren't you? I was her carer and I always had to put that cross there for her every day.'"



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PARISH PROFILE

Christ Church, Colliers Wood

Christ Church, Colliers Wood is one of three churches which together form the Merton Priory Team.

Formed ten years ago as one parish when the three original parishes merged, it has a population of 33,000, a wide diversity of social and ethnic groups and a mix of private owner-occupied, private rented and social housing. The Merton Priory Team is one where each church has preserved its individuality whilst applying the principle of 'doing it together' whenever possible. The result is that each offers a wider variety of worship opportunities, church activities and community involvement than it could alone – shared across the three locations and supported by all three congregations.

The Ministry Team consists of two full time staff, the Team Rector (currently vacant) and a Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, plus two part time clergy, the Revd Belemo Alagao and the Revd Canon Duncan Swan (Diocesan Deaneries Development Adviser), Reader Nick Mayhew-Smith and SPA Joy Lyons. Whilst all the team can serve across all three churches, Alison Judge's focus is Christ Church and St John the Divine, Merton whilst the Team Rector - until recently the Revd Chris Palmer, now Canon Chancellor at Exeter Cathedral – mainly looks after the team's largest church, Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon. The new Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is due to be instituted in September. Meanwhile Alison Judge has been holding the reins – and says she is "looking forward to Mark's arrival!"

The eastern third of the Team's area is Colliers Wood - a bustling south west London suburb with a multi-cultural community becoming younger and more affluent. Christ Church built in 1874 is probably one of the oldest buildings in Colliers Wood and,

set in a churchyard, has the feel of a village church. When it was built 145 years ago it was probably surrounded by green fields but today it looks out onto a busy circulatory system, between a traditional shopping centre and a newer retail park. As a result many people rush by, seeing it but not noticing it – and making the church more visible and visibly open is underway through the Mission Action Plan and as they work towards the 150th anniversary celebrations in 2024.

Like the other two churches in the team, Christ Church is in the liberal Catholic tradition with at its heart, the Sunday morning Eucharist. At Christ Church it's at 11.15am, enabling Alison (or in the case of the Sunday I visited, Duncan Swan and Nick Mayhew-Smith) to also be at St John's service at 9.30am – it's Common Worship with a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary songs. There is an organ but no longer a choir. The congregation, usually around 60 but up to 200 on high days and holidays, is very mixed both in age and cultural background.

On the first Sunday of each month there's also a BCP Communion at 8am and the 11.15 service is 'all-age' - on other Sundays there is a 'Diddy Disciples' Sunday Club

for children in the Church Hall. Evening Prayer is said at Christ Church from Tuesday to Friday and on Wednesday evening there is a Meditation Group. On Saturday, Morning Prayer is said at 9am followed by Communion.

One of the principles of Team Ministry seems to be 'don't do alone what can be better done together' - and the Merton Priory Team exemplifies this.

All three churches in the team get together each Sunday at Holy Trinity for an evening service – and at St John's and Holy Trinity's mid-week services – and at least three times a year they all meet for Team Services. Bible Study, based at Holy Trinity is open to all three churches; Messy Church for the Team is at St John's; Communion and Confirmation preparation is done at Christ Church and St John's and this year's Lent Course, for example, was repeated in the three churches at different times to increase accessibility; Christ Church runs a winter shelter; St John's currently hosts a FoodBank (which all three support); Christ Church's meditation and toddler groups welcome people from across the team as does Holy Trinity's monthly 'coffee and chat'. There are two



church schools – both within Holy Trinity's area – but both Christ Church and St John's nominate and support pupils.

Administratively there is one PCC for the three churches which has overall strategic powers but each church has a District Council with delegated powers to manage 'day-to-day' matters. Each church prepares its own budget, which then forms part of the team budget – where the PCC manages 'team-spending' and each church manages its own allocation. There is one parish office (and administrator) based at Holy Trinity – but servicing all three churches, who share the cost.

Not surprisingly there is a single Mission Action Plan for the Team - prepared by representatives of the three parishes at an Away-Day at Roehampton College where MAPs for the Team and for the three individual churches were produced. In Christ Church's case the MAP aim is to 'open up Christ Church as a centre

of welcome and hospitality for our community'. Alison Judge told me "We already have a number of community events taking place in the church – concerts and so on – but we want to encourage people to use the church even more and that means improving our 'offer'". And so the plans being considered for 2024 include a 'makeover' to improve the facilities and high on the list are toilets and a kitchen - at present anyone needing the 'loo' has to go into the adjacent church hall.

In fact, I was told that whilst the other two churches in the Team had major refurbishments done in the 1970s, other than essential maintenance Christ Church has had no work done since the repairs to WW2 bomb damage some 70 years ago! So the 2024 plan is also a matter of redressing the balance!

It also means looking at ways to make Christ Church more noticeable. Set back from the road in a green space, it is easy to 'miss' – despite its steeple being visible for miles.

That could prove to be one of the harder aims to achieve, but the aim is to build on the substantial public interface which already exists.

For example, Colliers Wood Arts Festival and Colliers Wood Chorus regularly use the church for events; local environmental activists have created a community garden in the churchyard which draws in volunteers and visitors alike; the church hall is to be let full-time to a local nursery, which also will bring more people.

And events like the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party and Quiz, the Summer Fayre and a Candlelit Christmas Market and a Community Carol Service all serve to remind

people that Christ Church is 'open'. 'Open' and welcoming...

One of the things I had been told was that Christ Church was a friendly place. The Gospel message of the day was Jesus's instruction to 'love one another' - and they clearly do. Christ Church is a member of 'Inclusive Church' - and if that includes making sure that any 'newcomer' is welcome and included, they certainly managed it as far as I was concerned.

Finally, bearing in mind this is the Merton Priory Team, it would be remiss not to mention the Augustinian Merton Priory founded in 1114.

For many years it was an important centre of learning and diplomacy, with students like Thomas Becket, later Archbishop of Canterbury, and Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College Oxford, and with frequent Royal visitors (even a coronation!). It was demolished in 1538, following King Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries and most of the masonry reused at the king's Nonsuch Palace.

Today, in St John's Church's district, the site is occupied by a Sainsbury's supermarket. However last October an ecumenical service, organised by Nick Mayhew-Smith and Alison Judge, celebrated the opening of a Visitor Centre displaying the life of the priory from its founding to the present day, in the subterranean remains of the Priory Chapter House.

And on 23 June 2019 Merton Priory Team is planning a service there to celebrate the team's 10th Birthday - maintaining the links between Merton's historic past and the 21st century Merton Priory community.



(Below left) The Revd Alison Judge, (above) Canon Duncan Swan celebrates the Eucharist and (below right) the Christ Church family.



Let us pray

June

There has always been something of an appetite for dystopian novels, those stories which describe a hellish view of the future or of society, the very

opposite of the utopia which is described in the Book of Revelation.

Perhaps the most famous novel of the modern era to do this was published 70 years ago this month.

'1984' described a frightening world. Winston Smith, the hero of George Orwell's novel, resists the power of the state with frightening consequences.

In the book we read the mantra of the state

*"War is peace.
Freedom is slavery.
Ignorance is strength."*

This is what The Party promotes as Doublethink. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount overturns conventional wisdom, particularly in the Beatitudes, but in a way which speaks of a better, blessed tomorrow.

Orwell though describes a future that is frightening and, in many ways, demonic.

We are blessed in that we live in a free and open society. We can express our views, speak our mind, vote as our conscience

demands. But we also know that we are constantly under surveillance, that our privacy has its limits and that many freedoms are now sacrificed to provide security.

How we juggle the concept of freedom and its limits is something that we, as Christians, have to take seriously, because we are

always looking to a better place, a utopian vision, true freedom and liberating, life-giving truth.

God of freedom and truth, may we help to build a society that reflects the values of the kingdom, your heaven on earth Amen.



The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

Please follow me on Twitter as I offer a prayer each morning so that you can join me in Morning Prayer. Go to @deansouthwark



The Revd Martin Thomas ran the London Marathon on 26 April for Dementia Revolution. He is Team Rector of the Catford (Southend) and Downham Team Ministry.

South Africa honours "The Church's Secret Agent"

A one-time Southwark Vicar who ran an underground refugee 'train' that enabled South Africans to flee their country during the Apartheid years, has been honoured by South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa for his contribution to the country's liberation.

At a ceremony in Pretoria, President Ramaphosa conferred on the retired Archbishop of Central Africa, the Most Revd Walter Khotso Makhulu, the "Order of the Companions of OR Tambo",

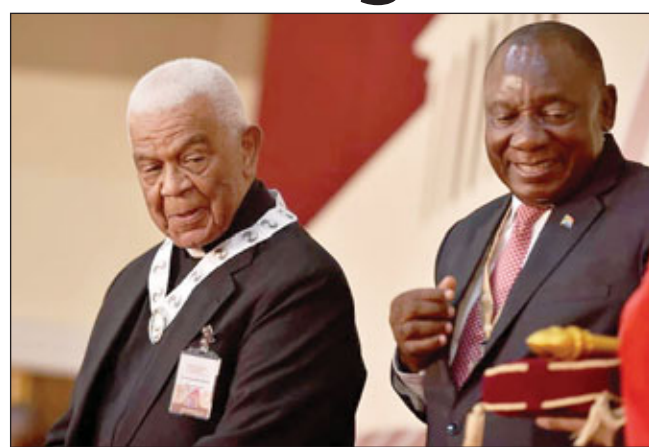
Archbishop Makhulu was brought up in Soweto and trained at St Peter's Seminary in Johannesburg before the seminary was expelled under apartheid laws. After serving a parish in Soweto, he moved to Botswana, where in the early 1960s he gave refuge, food and clothing to young activists

fleeing South Africa and Namibia, raising money to buy a house in which to accommodate them.

After further training at the Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham, he served as a priest in London, where he met and married Rosemary, an English church worker. Prevented from living in South Africa by its race laws, the Makhulus stayed in the UK - where he was Vicar of Battersea St Philip w St Bartholomew in Southwark Diocese (1968-1975).

He then spent four years in Geneva responsible for African refugees at the World Council of Churches. In 1979 he was consecrated Bishop of Botswana and later became Archbishop of Central Africa.

In Botswana he continued his ministry to South African refugees. And for more than a decade from 1980, he clandestinely channelled



hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Norwegian government and churches to political organisations and grassroots initiatives within South Africa. For this work, the Norwegians called him "the Church's Secret Agent". He now lives in retirement in Putney.

He is a past president of the World Council of Churches and All Africa Conference of Churches, a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, and a recipient of France's Ordre des Palmes Académiques and Botswana's Presidential Order of Honour.

OPPORTUNITIES



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Do you know a family or an individual that needs a holiday?

Southwark MU 'Away From It All' (AFIA) is a holiday scheme funded by members and other donations to

help people who wouldn't otherwise be able to have a holiday.

The scheme is open to anyone who is experiencing stress in their family life.

Holidays are normally booked at a holiday camp for families but can be at a small guest house for individuals depending on their needs. Individuals can apply for

themselves or for their family but applications will need to be supported by someone in church ministry, a health professional, social worker, head teacher or similar.

For an application form, please contact either Pat Fisher tel: 020 8289 8348 or Sally Steele tel: 07749 714946 or email afia.southwarkmu@gmail.com

On 1 May Bishop Christopher attended the launch of Peckham Pantry, a joint initiative between St Luke's Church, Pecan and Your Local Pantry.

The project aims to help local people reduce shopping bills, to provide advice and support, to operate a Credit Union savings scheme and to create opportunities to be more active in their community. Speaking at the launch, the Bishop praised the project saying: "Communities flourish when people have a sense of belonging."

"Anybody who comes here and benefits from the opportunity to buy good food at an affordable rate and perhaps receives advice and encouragement at the same time, does so as an equal participant in this community."



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



WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events
for **JULY ONWARDS** to Trinity House
BY MONDAY 1 JULY

Ongoing

- * **BEDDINGTON** - Quiet @St Mary's - 3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm. Various tools for quiet including labyrinth
- * **BOROUGH** - St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm to 4.30 pm.
- * **CATERHAM** Guided Tours of St Lawrence, Church Sundays 7 July, 4 August and 1 Sept at 6pm. £3 (children free)
- † **HACKBRIDGE** - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month

- * **TATSFIELD** - Teas served every Sunday 3 - 5 p.m. at St Mary's Church
- * **WADDON** - St George - Community Café and Time to Share. Tuesday (Term time) 9.30am - 11.30am. Lunch 12.15pm. Community Breakfast 1st Saturday 10am - 12noon.
- * **WARLINGHAM** - Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday
- † **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington - Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm

June

Compline by Candlelight
St Mary's Church, Farleigh
8.00 pm
"More people of Faith"
2nd St Hild of Whitby (Abbess, teacher)
- Ven. Moira Astin
9th Sts Cyril and Methodius (9th century missionaries)
- Revd Tim Pike
16th Bishop Jeremy Taylor (Chaplain to Charles 1)
- Revd Philip Kennedy
23rd Farleigh Voices
30th Elizabeth Fry (Prison & social reformer and philanthropist) - Rebecca Pope

Wednesday 5 June

- ♫ **CATERHAM** - Munch with Music at St John's Church - Natalie Molloy (piano) & Tereza Stachová (piano). Tea/Coffee 12:15 - 12:45. Performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Free Admission - Donations welcome

Lunchtime Concerts
at St Matthew's Church, Redhill
Thursdays at 1.10pm
6th Lecture: 'Gerald Finzi' - Michael Barlow with John Avis (Baritone) & Edmund Crutchfield (Clarinet)
13th Recital - Claire Dunn (Clarinet) & Daniel King-Smith (Piano)
20th Recital - Zoe Eborn (Violin) & Jeremy Weaver (Piano)
27th Chamber Music Recital - String Quartet

Lunchtime Recitals at Croydon Minster.
Fridays at 1.10pm.
Free entry, donations appreciated.
7th Elizaveta Saul (Violin) & Ana Manastireanu, (Piano)
21st Tom Little (Organ)
28th Liam Connery (Tenor)

Saturday 8 June

- * **WIMBLEDON** - Inter-faith peace Walk. Contact John Woodhouse 0790 8888 586 (by text) or woodhousesopten@btinternet.com for details. All welcome
- * **CLAPHAM** - St Paul's Church Summer Fair. 12 - 4pm. Cakes plants, local honey, pottery, bric-a-brac, toys & books, refreshments music, bouncy castle and kids entertainer. Entry conation: Adults £2 Seniors £1 (inc. free raffle ticket).

Sunday 9 June

- * **THORNTON HEATH** - 'Celebrating Diversity' - Croydon MEACC Act of Worship at St Jude & St Aidan Church 3pm - 4.30 pm, followed by refreshments. (please feel free to wear your international/cultural attire).

Thursday 13 June

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Organ Concert at St Johns - 7.30pm. Simon Earl. Retiring collection and refreshments.

Figaro at St Paul's Clapham

Tom Sutcliffe writes:

Operas used to be associated with "carnival-time" - to cheer everyone up at a low point of the year, just before Lent got really serious.

These days enjoying yourself seems to be much more to do with summer, since Glyndebourne started a craze for picnics and opera out in the country at some grand house. These days country house opera is also at Alresford in Hampshire, West Horsley in Surrey, the Wormsley Estate in Oxfordshire and Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

where the theatre was once a chicken shed!

But for lucky Southwark Diocese, there's no need to travel far. St Paul's, Clapham has fostered St Paul's Opera for seven years now - staging masterpieces by Mozart, Puccini and Offenbach. The St Paul's gardens beside the church are one of the parish's secret treasures. BYO picnics go well with performances by stars who are on the edge of serious professional careers.

This year it's *The Marriage of Figaro* sung in Italian (with English surtitles), one of the greatest operas ever written, - following *Don Giovanni* in 2015 and *Così fan tutte* last year (all the sublime Da Ponte Mozarts). The two *Figaro* performances are on July 5th and 6th at 7pm, and an extra performance on Thursday 4th gives a chance to shine to the vital understudies who stand ready in case a main-cast member falls ill.

Director of the "Upstairs-Downstairs"-type staging is Anthony Baker, a top-rate international opera designer and director who also happens himself to be a fully-capable opera-singer. Rare indeed. Last summer he stood in once in Clapham's *Così* as Don Alfonso because of illness. This year's performers include graduates from London's many music colleges as well as a Count and Countess who were in the Britten-Pears Young Artists programme at Snape (Fiona Hymns and Jack Lawrence-Jones).

Tony Baker tells me "The musical level is going up and up. Singing core rep pieces in the original Italian attracts very good singers, mostly at conservatoire, some several years into the business professionally, and wanting to add these roles to their rep." Of course *droit de seigneur* was a thing of the past in the 1930s. But Tony

feels class privilege will still underpin Figaro's relationship with the Count, as well as the Count's sense of entitlement to his servant Susanna. "It makes the characters more immediately recognisable for our audience. Thanks to the popularity of Downton Abbey most people understand that world."

Sponsors include online business ComparethePlatform, estate agent Sheraton Law, and Cubitt Design & Construction. And last November St Paul's Opera won a £500 grant from Skipton Building Society's Grassroots Giving (for community funding).

● Doors open 5.30pm. **I** with the performance starting at 7.00pm. Advance tickets 6 & 7 July are £27.50 (On the door £30) Tickets for 4 July are £12.50 - from www.stpaulsoperafigaro.eventbrite.co.uk

Saturday 15 June

- † **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate 125 years of Welcare at 11am. Hear stories of children and families whose lives have been transformed by the support of Welcare volunteers, donors and staff. All welcome. Refreshments
- ♫ **BEDDINGTON** - South East London Orchestra at St Mary's Church, 7.30pm. Guest Soloist: James Risdon, (Recorder) Tickets (inc. refreshments): Adults £8, Concs £7, Students/children free. Tel: 020 8669 3220 or 020 8688 5204 or at the door. Proceeds to Croydon Vision & Church funds.
- ♫ **WEST DULWICH** - Concordia Chamber Choir Summer Concert at All Saints Church, 7.30pm. Inc. works by Jongen, Roth and Holst. Tickets £14 at the door or £13 in advance (concs. half price) from www.concordiachamberchoir.co.uk.

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE
* **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group meets at Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace SW1P, 4 to 5 p.m. Speaker - Jeremy Rodell - British Humanist Association

Wednesday 19 June

- * **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group meets at Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace SW1P, 4 to 5 p.m. Speaker - Jeremy Rodell - British Humanist Association

Saturday 22 June

- ♫ **SHIRLEY** - Utopians Unlimited at St John's Church 7.30pm - in aid of Spire Appeal. Gilbert & Sullivan favourites inc, costumed performance of Trial by Jury. Tickets £10 from 07712 006218 or on the door.

- ♫ **CROYDON MINSTER** - Martin How, composer & initiator of the RSCM Chorister Training Scheme reflects on his memorable musical and general influences. 4pm. Retiring collection.

- * **BROCKHAM** - Open Gardens - in aid of Christ Church. At least 10 gardens open. BBQ, coffee/tea and cakes in hall, children's activities, plants. Entry £7 U/12's free. (No dogs except guide dogs). Programmes from Gazebo outside the Church on the day

- * **LAMBETH PALACE GARDENS** - North Lambeth Parish Fete - 12.30-4.30pm. Music, Morris Dancers, food, BBQ, Dog Show, Bouncy Castle, Tug of War and entertainment. Tickets: £4, Concs £2.50, Children £1.50, Family Ticket £8.

Sunday 23 June

- ♫ **BETCHWORTH** - Organ Concert at St Michael's Church. 4pm Anne Page (International Concert Organist). Tickets £12, inc, glass of wine/soft drink, from 01737 843498 or on the door.

Wednesday 26 June

- * **PIMLICO** - Company of Servers Summer Festival at St Saviour's Church, 18.30 Evensong & Benediction. Preacher - Bishop of Croydon. Light supper & drinks

Saturday 29 June

- ♫ **CARSHALTON** - Sutton Symphony Orchestra 7.30pm at All Saints Church. 'Music from the Movies'. Tickets £10 - 020 8644 4053

- ♫ **CROYDON** - Croydon Bach Choir Summer Concert at St Mildred's Church 7.30 pm. Vaughan Williams and Faure Tickets - £12.00 - Children £5 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir

- * **REIGATE** - Annual Box Opening & Coffee Morning in St Mark's Church Hall 10am - 12 noon. Cakes, plants, bric-a-brac, books, stationery, Admission £1
- ♫ **CATERHAM** - A Gilbert and Sullivan Evening in St Lawrence's Church. Performed by Utopians Unlimited at 7.30 pm. Tickets £12 from 01883 341534. All proceeds to upkeep of this ancient church.

July/August

Lunchtime Concerts
at St Matthew's Church, Redhill

Thursdays at 1.10pm
4th Recital - Alionor Trio
11th Bassoon Recital - Daniel Emson-Jukes
18th Reigate Winds quintet
25th Grand Finale & Annual Party: 'Dixieland Stompers' Dave Skinner & friends

Friday 5 July

- ♫ **CROYDON** - Lunchtime Recital at Croydon Minster. 1.10pm. Alis An (piano) Free entry, donations appreciated.

Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July

- ♫ **CLAPHAM** - St Paul's Opera presents The Marriage of Figaro at St Paul's Church (SEE TOP OF THIS PAGE)

Saturday 6 July

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Coffee Concert at St John's - 11am Nicholas Bucknall - clarinet with piano and viola. Free
- ♫ **MERTON** - Morden Park Choral Society Concert 7.30pm at St John the Divine
- ♫ **SHIRLEY** - 'Music from the '20s to the present' at St John's Church, 7pm with local duo Graham (bass guitarist/singer) and Jamie (singer/pianist). £7 on the door.
- ♫ **ELTHAM PARK** - Summer Sizzle - music from stage and screen with the Greenwich Youth Band, 7.30pm at St Luke's Church. Tickets £10 and £8 on the door.
- ♫ **VAUXHALL** - The Ionian Singers present an evening of music across a continent from Russia to England at St Peter's Church 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (concs £8) from 020 8693 1051, 07950 143916 or on the dor

Sunday 7 July

- † **FARLEIGH** - Compline by Candlelight at St Mary's Church 8.00 pm "More people of Faith" - St Ignatius of Loyola - Judith Brooks

Thursday 11 July

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Organ Concert at St John's - 7.30pm. Joe Mathews. Free admission, retiring collection, refreshments.

Friday 12 July

- * **NORTH GREENWICH** - The Happiness Course at Livability, 10am-4pm, £100. For details visit livability.org.uk/events

Schools bring Lent Call gifts to the Cathedral

Every year pupils from Diocesan schools gather at Southwark Cathedral to share in a service of thanksgiving for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call.

This year the service took place on Thursday 23 May and young people from all over the Diocese came to share their stories of how they had raised money for the Lent Call and to present the gifts to the Bishop of Southwark.

Children from St Peter's School Walworth performed a short dance routine and prayers were led by pupils from St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls.

Bishop Christopher talked to the assembled young people about how the money they had raised (some £4,240) would be put to good use supporting various projects both at home and abroad.

The service ended with a blessing from the Bishop and after the service a number of schools took the opportunity to get a photo with him!

Photos of the service are available at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmDRMk3C>



An Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



3-10 March 2020

led by Bishop Christopher Chessun and Bishop Paul Hendricks

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

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

Email: pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org

SDCAS needs your help

The Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers and Refugees is on a drive to find local donors and volunteers.

The day centre is one of south London's only remaining options for vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees in the area, including families, young children, and victims of torture seeking refuge in the UK.

The day centre particularly needs volunteers to help at its Thursday session, which takes place at St Mary's Newington in Kennington during the day.

SDCAS provides asylum seekers and refugees with a holistic service at their day centres, which includes advice and advocacy - including legal advice - hot meals, English classes, storytelling and art sessions, counselling, and the opportunity to connect socially with people.

To find out more about volunteering, visit Sdcas.org.uk.



A calligrapher paints the words "THE LEAVES OF THE TREE ARE FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATION" around the 'Tree of Healing' in Southwark Cathedral churchyard. The tree will be the focus for an act of remembrance on Monday 3 June during a special service of Choral Evensong at 5.30, marking the 2nd anniversary of the London Bridge terrorist attack.

Walking | Welcoming | Growing