



The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.27 No.5
June 2022

Box office gold

**Dame Judi Dench and
Bishop Christopher
plant a tree for
the Jubilee**

See page 3



Royal society

**Seventy years
of HM the Queen
in Southwark
Diocese**

See pages 6-7



Climate change

**Surbiton schools
share big ideas for
a green future at
Eco Event**

See page 9



Science and faith go hand in hand as Southwark Cathedral does Messy Science

Saturday 14 May was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for the third Messy Cathedral event in Southwark, writes Keli Bolton, Mission Support Officer (Children & Young People with MAP).

Sometimes, the secular world can assume that science and faith sit on opposing sides. This event, centred around science, creation and climate justice, brought the two together in a way that meant both young and old could engage with the issues and encounter God through activities and celebration.

Churches from around the Diocese led activity tables encouraging people to think about how God's creation helps us to understand science, and vice versa, through craft, experiments, singing, Makaton signing and creative prayer.

The most impressive of the activities was a home-made volcano by Sonia and her children from Charlton Benefice, which drew in the crowds to watch the 'lava' flow down the side of the structure.

It was a wonderful privilege to have a number of young people involved at various times during the celebration and two helping to lead it: one leading the congregation (Benita, aged 9) and the other leading sung worship (Ruby, aged 14).

Benita said: "It was the time of my life, it was so much fun and exciting, and I hope to be doing this again soon."

Ruby added: "Thank you for inviting me to Messy Church. It was a pleasure and I absolutely loved it! Messy Church was such a wonderful event where I felt like everyone was included and had fun learning about God and science through engaging activities led by kind and amazing leaders. I loved being able to showcase my singing talent to people who were interested and who joined in, making me feel comfortable and confident enough to sing to them. I would definitely do it all over again!"



© Eve Milner

"Our young people are full of enthusiasm": take the next step in your own CYP ministry



There was a great vibe at the Cathedral from those gathered but we have noticed that things feel a little different, post-pandemic, with many Messy Churches finding getting back up and running a challenge. If you would like some support to think about restarting your Messy Church, or taking the next step along the journey, do contact David Cundill at david.cundill@southwark.anglican.org or Aike Kennett-Brown, head of Messy

Church at BRF. Aike wrote her own blog about the day that reminds us to expect the unexpected. Read it at: bit.ly/3yVFZmh.

Whilst it comes as no surprise to me that our young people are so full of enthusiasm, gifts, talents and a love of Jesus, I continue to be blown away when I see them running with opportunities to serve God and others. If you're not sure where your young

people could serve, why not ask them? You can find a handy toolkit which might be useful for your conversations here: bit.ly/3MKuu5p.

If you would like further support in your ministry with children, families and young people, please contact me at keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org or take a look at our website at: southwark.anglican.org/CYP

Keli Bolton

A view from The BRIDGE



Amidst the troubles of our world, this is such a wonderful time to give thanks. This issue of *The Bridge* especially gives us that opportunity.

As I write, communities up and down the country and across so many nations are preparing to celebrate with thanks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with each other, in song, prayer, party and cake! Many of us are giving thanks not only for our Queen, but for the Queen as the Head, the Supreme Governor, of the Church of England, for her steadfast, determined, visible Christian faith, in times of joy and times of sorrow.

As Head of the Church she models faith; we know that this includes private prayer as well as public worship, and the pictures in *The Bridge* (see pages 6-7) tell this so well for the Diocese and especially our mother church of the Diocese, the Cathedral, which she has visited several times.

In this issue we also give thanks for the gifts and service of our departing Chair of the Board of Finance, Alan Saunders (see page 12), for Bishop Richard as he prepares to retire in October (see page 8), and for our children, who filled the Cathedral for Messy Science (see page 1) and who remind us all that God's church is never-ending, whatever our trials and tribulations.

As I write, this is also the precious time between Ascension and Pentecost: exciting, mystical, spine-tingling and full of promise and hope. I find it so encouraging that in our holy places – my own church is 800 years old – praying to God for God's kingdom to come connects us with the prayers and thanks and

hopes of so many before us. And so we pray Thy Kingdom Come.

Soon we will celebrate the Deaconing of curates across the Diocese and our parishes and property team have been working hard to welcome them. This is a wonderful time to pray for them. But there is yet more. To celebrate and give thanks for lay ministry in our Diocese, the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, our Director for Discipleship and Lay Ministry, has worked with colleagues to make this wonderful time a Season for Lay Ministries (see page 10).

Since Bishop Christopher established the Lay Council in 2019, we have not only celebrated our existing lay ministries of Reader and SPA but also extended the range of authorised lay ministries, now offering for example Lay Pioneer and Children's and Family ministry.

In all of this we challenge ourselves on our pilgrim journeys as disciples, learning and yearning to discover yet more. What is God seeking of each of us, how can we show God's love in our lives, and might we respond by seeking to offer ourselves to train for lay ministry? There are a range of resources on our website to stimulate us to prayer for these ministries and to question ourselves. I feel myself greatly privileged to be a Lay Reader in the Diocese of Southwark and to serve God in this way.

As we pause to give thanks for our Queen in the 70th year of her reign, we remember that she will undoubtedly be thanking God, and in this we should all rejoice.

Ruth Martin



NEWS IN BRIEF

Bishop Godfrey retires from Masvingo Diocese

The Rt Revd Godfrey Taonezvi, the founding Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo, has retired. He stepped down from ministry at the end of March 2022. The Vicar General Friar Fungayi Nyandoro will administer pastoral care in the Diocese until another bishop is appointed.



Peter Tranchell Foundation offers £500 prize for composition

As part of a celebration of the centenary of the English composer, the Peter Tranchell Foundation is inviting composers to submit a composition for organ, inspired by some aspect of Peter Tranchell's life and works. The winner will receive £500 and a world première performance of their composition played by Francesca Massey at the Centenary Musical Soirée at St Paul, Knightsbridge, on 19 November 2022. Submitted works will be judged by a panel of four leading organists and composers for organ (to be revealed after the award is announced). The deadline for entries in the competition is 12 August. Full details are given here: peter-tranchell.uk/peter-tranchell-centenary-composition-competition

Howzat! Cricketers needed

The Diocesan cricket team is looking for more players to represent Southwark in the *Church Times* cup. Clergy, Readers and church or Diocesan staff are all eligible to play. Please contact Steve Coulson at vicar@stmarkskennington.org

Gladstone's Library increases clergy discount

Gladstone's Library in North Wales, the UK's finest residential, and only Prime Ministerial, library, is now offering students, clergy, and members of the Society of Authors a 40% discount on accommodation. This can be claimed via Reception. The Library also caters for group bookings (alternative discounts available) for those wishing to carry out Church-related meetings and business. Find out more at: www.gladstoneslibrary.org.

Help in fundraising for a church capital project

EIG is staging a webinar to guide you step-by-step through the process of fundraising for your church's capital project. Whatever size project you are raising funds for, speakers will share their expertise to help make the process simpler and more successful. The webinar takes place on Thursday 16 June at 2pm-3.30pm. Find out more here: bit.ly/3MTpTOL

History of St Alphege, Southwark on sale



The Anglo-Catholic History Society's latest book is *The Community of Reparation to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the Church of St Alphege, Southwark*, by Michael Yelton, which tells the story of the Community's rise in members till the end of the Second World War before its gradual decline, and its close relationship with St Alphege in Lancaster Street. The book costs £12 including postage; order from 211 Hills Road, Cambridge (cheques made payable to the ACHS). Find an order form here: www.achs.org.uk/Documents/OrderForm-CR.pdf

The Bridge is produced & published by:

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

Tel: 020 7939 9400 Email: bridge@southwark.anglican.org

The Editorial Team from the Communications Department:

Commissioning Editor:

Sophia Jones

Editor: Abigail Sanderson

Advertising and Distribution:

Susana Rojas

Editorial Group:

Ruth Martin

Editorial Adviser (vacant)

Sophia Jones

Alastair Cutting

Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The JULY/AUGUST edition is due to be published online on 7 July 2022. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **MONDAY 27 JUNE**.

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

Acting royalty honours the Queen with tree-planting in Warlingham



Acting legend, Dame Judi Dench joined Bishop Christopher in planting a tree at All Saints, Warlingham as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee. Here, Bishop Christopher and the Revd Ruth Chapman reflect on the day.

Bishop Christopher writes...

It was a great joy to welcome as our special visitor to the Open Day at All Saints, Warlingham on 14 May, Dame Judi Dench. She very evidently loved walking through the churchyard on a glorious sun-drenched afternoon, sitting in the ancient parish church under the stunning medieval wall painting of St Christopher and also under the boughs of the 2,400-year-old yew tree, as well as looking at the fascinating displays and making the most of the opportunity to meet volunteers and members of the local community including many children and young people who had participated in the Bug Hunt.

We each planted healthy young English oak saplings in Reynard's Field, the new part of the churchyard which I consecrated in 2018. I said: "These two very healthy looking oak saplings have grown from acorns which contained within them all the necessary information for their growth into mature trees. What they now need, like all acorns which take root, is nurture, care, protection and nourishment in order for them to grow fully into what God intends them to be. I am confident that in this beautiful churchyard, these trees will continue to grow to maturity as they are cared for, nurtured, and nourished in these peaceful surroundings."

The trees are Warlingham's contribution to the Green Canopy – a veritable forest of trees planted in this nation and across the nations of the Commonwealth as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in honour

of Her Majesty's long reign. I also said the following prayer: *O God, the crown of the faithful, bless and sanctify your servant Elizabeth, upon whose head a crown was placed as a sign of royal majesty. Fill her day by day with your abundant grace and with all charitable virtues; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Ruth Chapman writes...

It was a beautiful sunny day and lots of people from the local community came. People from the church worked so hard all day to welcome everyone and the church was open so people could go in. There was information about our local parish news and about the churchyard, as well as a bug hunt that was organised for the children. Dame Judi went around and spoke to everyone who spoke to her. She was one of the most charming people I have ever had the privilege to meet.

Having such an amazing person come along and become part of the church's life and history carries on into the future. I don't know how long the trees will live for but hopefully a long time.

The Queen is the head of the Church in this country. She is the supreme governor and it is right that we as a Church mark that and honour that. Choosing an oak tree which will hopefully carry on into future generations of monarchy is really lovely.

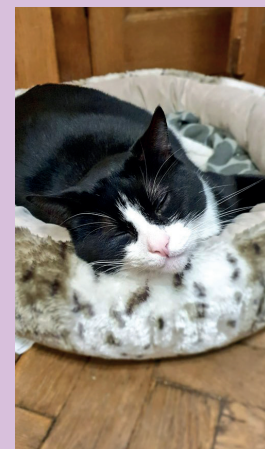
Read more about The Queen in Southwark on pages 6-7

Hodge the Cathedral cat becomes national media star

Hodge the Cat is already well-known to anyone visiting or working at Southwark Cathedral, and has even been known to appropriate the celebrant's chair during services. However, his fame has now spread further still, after he was featured as *The Sun's* Star of the Week on 10 May.

When asked about Hodge's importance to the Cathedral, Dean Andrew said: "He is a reminder to me of all those to whom, and for whom, we have a duty of care and a vocation to love."

Hodge was unavailable for comment.



Mothers' Union meet for festival service

The Mothers' Union Festival service at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 7 May opened with a procession of banners representing each branch in the Diocese (right), proudly led by the Diocesan banner.

In his sermon, Bishop Christopher encouraged members, who were meeting for the first time since the pandemic.

"These last years have increased the pressure on families significantly: caring for one another through restrictions of lockdown, work and school at home, a more extended and more intense time together than families would usually experience," he said. "There are pressures to come, to be sure. But, fortified by the riches of our faith and the joy of being able to renew relationships and friendships, we shall face them together with confidence."

The Bishop then commissioned the Diocesan President, Comfort Idowu-Fearon, and the Board of Trustees: Sally Steele, Susan Gibbin, Wendy Moss, Joyce Morrall, Penny Lohead, Roseline



Okiti, Ursula Hodges, Cathy Brown and Margaret Fitch.

In her presidential address, Comfort said: "We have lost two-and-a-half years to COVID. We have to do things differently. We can't continue to blame COVID as a reason why we can't do things. We can step out... As we come back we are beginning again. A fresh start. As trustees, we have been commissioned not because we know everything, but we are in surrender to the Lord as we trust him for a new beginning."

Deanery Lay Chairs gather in person after two-year break

The Deanery Lay Chairs met on 9 May at St George the Martyr, Southwark, gathering together in person for the first time since the pandemic.

After seeing St George's food bank in action as they passed by on their way to the Crypt, where the meeting took place, the attendees began with a Bible reading and prayer.

Ruth Martin then delivered an update on Synodical priorities for the new Triennium, after which there was a lively discussion about how best to promote and sustain church growth.

Director of Giving Gabby Parikh followed with an update on the Parish Support Fund, before Peter Graystone stepped up to present on the upcoming Season of Lay Ministries



(19 June to 10 July, see page 10 for further details).

This was followed by a discussion of the Anti-Racism Charter and the need for more unconscious bias training, before the meeting ended with plans for the re-election of Deanery Synods in 2023.



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

Godstone vicar takes leap of faith for charity



The Revd Peter O'Connell (below), Rector at Godstone and Blindley Heath, went the extra two miles on 7 May when he took part in a sponsored skydive at Old Sarum in Wiltshire.

The 10,000ft tandem jump has raised more than £1,300 for Group B Streptococcus Support (GBSS), the leading UK charity on this issue.

Peter said: "In January this year there was a funeral at St Nicholas in Godstone. This is not unusual but what made this one stand out was that it was the funeral of a two-day-old girl, Eleanor. She was born healthy but contracted a Group B Streptococcus (GBS) infection during her birth and died of sepsis."

He added: "I had never heard of GBS before preparing for this funeral, and I suspect too few people know anything about it. What shocked me was not just that Eleanor died, but how cheaply the risk could have been assessed, and how easily it could have been managed."

GBS is the UK's most common cause of life-threatening infection in newborn babies and of meningitis in babies under the age of three months. On average in the UK, at least two babies a

day develop a GBS infection and one baby a week dies from their GBS infection.

The risks can be reduced by around 80% to 90% by giving women who carry GBS a dose of penicillin during childbirth. Yet at the moment the NHS does not routinely test for GBS, and many mothers are not aware of the risks. A test is available privately for around £25, but pregnant women will only get themselves tested if they are aware of the issue. GBSS campaigns to inform families and health professionals about the dangers of infection from GBS in order to save lives.

Peter said of his skydive: "It was basically an exercise in trust – I jumped strapped to the front of an experienced instructor and he had the parachute. We really went out the door so quickly that I didn't think about it – with a tandem jump you don't make the decision to leave the plane so there is no question of having the nerve to do it. The first three or four seconds felt like a bad fairground ride as we tumbled out of the plane but after that we fell in a stable position. The noise from the rushing wind was incredible until the parachute opened and then it was quiet and peaceful."

You can still sponsor the jump at: justgiving.com/fundraising/revpeteroconnell



St Matthew, Croydon marks 50 years with music festival

St Matthew, Croydon began its 50th anniversary celebrations with a week-long music festival running from 23-30 April.

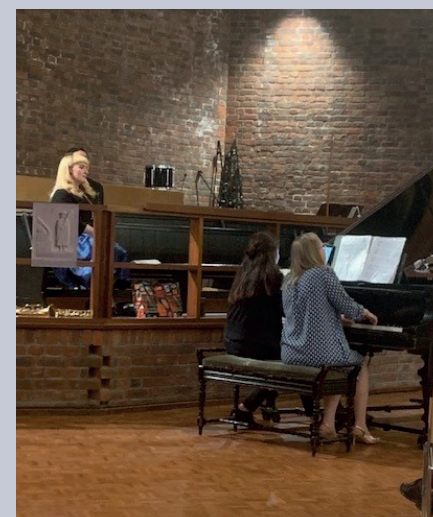
In all, more than 300 people attended the six concerts, which featured players from the BBC Symphony Orchestra, international musicians, the oldest established choir in Croydon, and more.

Jane Passfield, one of the festival organisers, said: "It was a really high calibre week and the feedback has been really good."

She added: "Our sole purpose was to bring the community together after a horrendous couple of years, and I think that's exactly what we did. It was just nice to have the church full of people again and everyone enjoying it – smiling, happy."

The festival opened with a celebration of English composers to mark St George's Day by international pianist and elite singer, Caroline Jaya-Ratnam, alongside the BBC Symphony Orchestra's leader, Stephen Bryant, and cellist, Mark Sheridan.

St Matthew's Director of Music, Michael Strange, performed later in the week with a string quartet, while organist Stephen Davies played Bach and Walton in a lunchtime concert.



Phoebe Tak Man Chow, organ scholar at St-Martin-in-the-Fields, performed twice, once in a solo organ recital and once as part of a duet ensemble.

Most popular of all was a concert by the Croydon Philharmonic Choir, which has been singing for more than 100 years. "That was our biggest turnout," said Jane. "We had more than 110 people at that concert."

The 50th anniversary celebrations continue on 11-12 June with a flower festival entitled *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, and a special service of celebration on 12 June led by the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds and formerly Bishop of Croydon from 2003-11, followed by a barbecue.

£14,000 grant removes Beddington church from at-risk list



St Mary, Beddington will receive a £10,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant will help fund urgent repairs to its tower, it was announced on 13 April.

The grant is part of a £584,000 funding payout from the National Churches Trust which will go towards safeguarding 64 different sites in England and Wales.

St Mary's has also been recommended for a £4,000 Wolfson Fabric Repair Grant from the Wolfson Foundation on the recommendation of the

National Churches Trust. Together, the two grants will help to remove the church from the Historic England Heritage at Risk register.

Newsreader Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said: "I'm delighted that St Mary the Virgin, Beddington, a church packed with history, is being helped with these grants. The funding will safeguard unique local heritage, including some amazing stained glass, and help to keep the church open and in use for the benefit of local people."

Ackroydon church offers message of peace with knife crime vigil

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
– Matthew 5:9

As followers of Jesus, we are called to bring peace wherever we go, including places where peace is in short supply, writes James Holloway, Community Outreach Pastor and Youth Assistant at St Michael, Southfields.

A South West London Fresh Expression called the Ackroydon Community Church noticed a recent uptick of knife crime and gang-related violence within the estate they serve. Local residents not only had an increased sense of fear for their safety, but were also disheartened by the message of hopelessness these acts of violence were conveying to young people in the area. What does it mean for the Church to be to be a peacemaker in contexts such as this?

The leaders of the Ackroydon Church believed that holding a gathered candlelit prayer vigil would be an important first step in spreading a message of not only peace, but also hope: hope that the violence and the increasing sense of darkness would be overcome by a determined community eager to spread messages of love and light.

Church members gathered on 10 May outside their local community hall to hold this vigil. This event was supported and attended by Angela Ireland, a recently re-elected councillor who serves in the area. It was also attended by Jennifer Beckford, who started the Nicholas Stewart Project (a charity empowering young people to be



contributing members of their community) after her son Nicholas was tragically killed as a result of knife crime.

Jennifer gave an incredibly moving speech about the effects that violence can have on families and communities. Her message, whilst containing elements of sadness, was ultimately one of hope: light can and will overcome darkness, love will overcome violence.

God's presence was felt by those who attended. Whilst this vigil didn't change the circumstances of the area overnight, the Ackroydon Community Church believes this was an important first step – a first step which would lead towards a community daring to hope for a better future for them and their loved ones.

St Francis' oldest member marks 103rd birthday



St Francis of Assisi, West Wickham's oldest member, Joyce Town celebrating her 103rd birthday on 16 May with a cake supplied by her care home. Photo courtesy of Joyce's daughter, Gillian, & Sunrise, her care home in Purley.

Unlocking the true meaning of Easter at Holy Trinity, Redhill



Like many other churches, we have tried to think of creative ways to re-engage with people as we emerge from the pandemic, and it was out of this that two new initiatives came to life, writes the Revd Sarah Alexander, Associate Vicar at Holy Trinity, Redhill.

The first was a photography competition. We gave out 10 Bible verses telling the Easter story, and asked people to take a photograph of something local that reminded them of the passage. We had some very creative entries, from keen photographers as well as beginners, with adults and children joining in.

All the photos were displayed in church, with the winning ones framed and used alongside flower displays to tell the Easter story.

The second initiative was our Easter Escape Room, based on the true account of the first Easter, focusing on the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Cross and the Resurrection.

Teams were given half an hour in the room to find the clues and solve four puzzles which gave them four scrolls which helped them to work out the exit code: John 8:36, "if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed."

We were so encouraged that 86 adults and children went through the Easter Escape Room, had great fun, won a chocolate egg, but more than that experienced the truth at the heart of Easter in a new and creative way.

As ever, it was a busy weekend but wonderful to proclaim the salvation of God through Jesus in two new ways!

Bermondsey church honours local victims of violence

St Katharine with St Bartholomew Church in Bermondsey held a service of remembrance for the four victims of a stabbing at Delaford Road, Bermondsey on Sunday 1 May, writes the Revd Egerton Gbonda, Vicar in the parish.

Delaford Road lies within the parish boundary and, in the wake of the tragic incident in which a family of four were stabbed in the early hours of Monday 25 April, we held a service of remembrance in the parish church.

Prior to that, Susan Kessebeh – the church's pastoral action team leader and volunteer at the community food bank opposite the church – encouraged service users at the food bank to express their condolences on sympathy cards on 29 April.



On 1 May, worshippers also shared commiserations by writing sympathy messages, and four members of the congregation of similar ages to the victims lit memorial candles. It was a solemn service in which one of the worshippers said, "I felt like crying". The condolence cards will be sent to the bereaved families.



The Queen in Southwark: 70 years of royal history

The Queen has been a frequent visitor to Southwark since taking the throne in 1952. As the nation prepares to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee with events up and down the country, we share some Diocesan memories from across the years.



Clockwise from top left: taking leave of the clergy after the Maundy service at Southwark Cathedral in 1955 © Alamy; the Queen and Prince Philip greet well-wishers in Southwark during the Silver Jubilee in 1977 © Homer Sykes/Alamy; meeting staff and students at St Saviour's and St Olave's secondary school in 2003 © Kirsty Wigglesworth/Alamy; meeting the Chief of the Mohegans at the unveiling of the Mohegan Memorial in Southwark Cathedral's churchyard in 2006; at the opening of the Millennium Bridge in 2000; lighting a beacon on the Thames on Millennium Eve after attending a service at Southwark Cathedral © Reuters/Alamy; delivering 2006's Christmas broadcast to the nation from Southwark © Anwar Hussein/Alamy.

“Meeting the Queen was a moment of tremendous privilege”: Andrew Nunn recalls welcoming Her Majesty to Southwark



I have had the privilege of meeting Her Majesty The Queen on three occasions since being at the Cathedral, writes the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark.

The first was so exciting. It was the eve of the millennium. Her Majesty came to the Cathedral with the Duke of Edinburgh on their way to the Millennium Dome (now the O2) at Greenwich. It was to be a simple service of prayers and music that I was responsible for putting together.

As the time approached for her arrival we stood in the churchyard, lined up, Canons, Dean and Bishops. The world’s media were there, lights, camera and then action as the cheer went up and the royal couple came down the steps. It was amazing – and a shock to see just how petite Her Majesty is and with the most lovely and engaging smile.

The second occasion was when she came for the unveiling of the Mohegan Memorial in the churchyard. The Chief of the Mohegans was present with other members of his tribe from Connecticut, adorned with turkey feathers and traditional clothing. In the Cathedral one monarch encountered another; history was made and to the surprise and shock of everyone the Chief went on one knee before The Queen. With great humility Her Majesty received his greetings in a most moving way.

I was Dean when Her Majesty (pictured left, with Dean Andrew and Bishop Christopher) next came. It was after her Diamond Jubilee and the purpose was to see the window we had installed in the Cathedral to celebrate the event. The Queen and Prince Phillip arrived having been up the Shard. Firmly back on the ground they were on great form.

The Queen met Doorkins, the Cathedral cat, and that image went around the world. But what moved me most was standing next to this diminutive figure as we entered the nave, singing the National Anthem, and realising for the first time in my life that I was singing this prayer about the person alongside me. It was a moment of tremendous privilege.



Pictured above: The Revd Canon Dr Jim Rosenthal, Priest-in-Charge of Christ the King, Salfords, is shown meeting the Queen during a Garden Party in 2008 for the Lambeth Conference Bishops and Staff © Killough Photo. Pictured right: Florence, a long time member of the congregation of St James, Merton, presents a posy to the Queen at a Buckingham Palace garden party in about 2017. Serving as a WAAF driver during the Second World War, Florence presented the posy on behalf of the Lest We Forget Association.



Get involved

Liturgical resources for the Jubilee can be found on the National Church website at: bit.ly/38PXQjT

A national Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul’s Cathedral will be broadcast on BBC1 on 3 June from 9.15am.

Southwark Cathedral will host a special Choral Evensong celebrating the Platinum Jubilee at 3pm on 5 June.

Hope Together has also created resources for churches wishing to mark the Jubilee. Find out more at: theplatinumjubilee.com



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Refugee Week

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”

As Christians, we are called on to support those on the margins, but this can be easier said than done. To mark Refugee Week on 20-26 June, we share advice for parishes wanting to help.

“Take it one step at a time,” says the Revd Rachael Gledhill, Assistant Curate at St Barnabas, Dulwich. “If you ask any of us where this project will be in 12 months’ time, I don’t think we know, really.”

Just over two months ago, Rachael and a team of volunteers from St Barnabas started helping to match people wanting to escape Ukraine with households wanting to host them in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Now, St Barnabas is a hub for some 100 Ukrainian refugees. Volunteers provide ESOL classes; university, college and school workshops; and a youth group. “We have choristers who are from Ukraine, we have Ukrainians at the toddler group, we’ve also been placing all the primary and secondary school age children, which has been an enormous task,” says Rachael.

The workload is huge, but rewarding. “We definitely felt called to do it as a church,” says Rachael. “We always say we’re sad they had to leave Ukraine but we’re glad God brought them safely to us. It’s shown us as a church and community what we can do. And it makes us think how we can and must do this again in the future.”

Their next step is to approach external partners for sponsorship and other assistance. In particular, Rachael says they are thinking about providing trauma workshops.

Nicola Thomas, Head of JPIC, agrees that contacting outside agencies is a good first step. “Your local council will have more information about the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in your local area,” she says. “It’s worth contacting them if you are considering setting something up. Many councils have a refugee co-ordinator or similar who can help.”

Being clear about what you are providing and who you are hoping to help is also vital. Although the terms “refugee” and “asylum seeker” are often used interchangeably, they are not the same. An asylum seeker is someone who has arrived in a country and asked for asylum;

Get involved: Refugee Week events



The Diocese of Southwark will be hosting a reception on 20 June from 6-8pm which will share stories of welcome by churches and parishes across London supporting refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. Register here: bit.ly/3N6fgaX

Resources supporting the Stories of Welcome event – including videos, a PDF booklet and an infographic – are available on the Diocesan website at: bit.ly/RefugeeSouthwark

There will also be two follow-up lunchtime information sessions after Refugee Week:

- An Introduction to Community Sponsorship with RESET, Wednesday 6 July, 1-2pm, Zoom
- An Introduction to Hosting with Housing Justice, Wednesday 13 July, 1-2pm, Zoom.

Email jpicadmin@southwark.anglican.org to sign up.

CTBI will be launching *Sanctuary: The Hospitality of Host, Guest and Stranger*, written by Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal and Dr Jayme R Reaves, on Thursday 9 June at 7pm as a Zoom webinar. Register here: bit.ly/3wWGGdQ

until their status is determined, they do not have the same rights in the UK as a refugee or British citizen.

According to Nicola, “asylum seekers often live in cramped accommodation, many in hotels where they cannot cook for themselves”. Offering a space for people to meet others from a similar culture and prepare food together is something that parishes might therefore consider doing.

Helping newly arrived asylum seekers and refugees to navigate the school system is also a key way to provide support. This can be, as with St Barnabas, assisting families in finding school places, or it could be help with homework and reading.

School trips, old friends and new colleagues: a Bishop’s life



Bishop Richard (above left) and three of his predecessors as Bishop of Kingston met at the new Kingston Episcopal Area Hub in Wimbledon on Monday 23 May for a reunion before Bishop Richard retires in October. After Midday Prayer, Bishop Peter Price (second left, 1997-2001), Bishop Peter Selby (second right, 1984-1992) and Bishop Martin Wharton (right, 1992-1997) enjoyed lunch together in a local pub.

Later the same day, Bishop Richard took part in two Q&A sessions hosted by the School Chaplain, Alex Shoderu, at St Cecilia’s Church of England School in Southfields. Year 9 students asked about a wide range of topics relating to interfaith issues, the relationship between science and religion, and the place of worship in schools as well as the role of bishops. A tour of the school with the Headteacher, Renata Joseph, also gave the Bishop the opportunity to see the many developments since he and other members of Kingston Episcopal Area Office were based there more than 12 years ago.



Meanwhile, in a service in the chapel at St Thomas’ Hospital on 25 April, Bishop Richard licensed the Revd Sarah Farrow (far left) as Chaplain to St Thomas’ & Waterloo Campuses and Vice Dean of King’s College London, and presented a Public Preacher’s Licence to the Revd Dr Ellen Clark-King (near left), Dean of King’s College London. They were welcomed by representatives from the King’s College London Chaplaincy team, the Spiritual Health Care team at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, and the King’s student community.

Read more



Find more information on the Refugees page of the Diocesan website: bit.ly/RefugeeSouthwark

Parishes who want to know more about how to welcome migrants should also consider signing up to Welcome Churches (welcomechurches.org), which provides advice and training on how to support refugees, asylum seekers and other new arrivals in your community.

While not every parish will have the resources to provide assistance with benefits and legal advice, most will be able to source toys, toiletries and other small items, and all will be able to show fellowship and hospitality.

But whatever parishes choose to do, it must be sustainable; there are no quick fixes. “When we first placed those children in school, it was all very much as though they were going to go home in September,” says Rachael. “And then a few weeks on, everyone thought, ‘OK, they might be here for a year’. And now we’re at the point where actually some of these people will never go home because the destruction is so great.”



IN FOCUS...

News from our schools

Pupils go on eco-journey at Surbiton schools event



A local school group presents its eco-idea to the assembled panellists.

St Matthew's Church, Surbiton warmly welcomed five local schools as part of their eco-school event which was held on Thursday 12 May, writes Jen Houghton, Ordinand at St Andrew, Ham.

Primary and secondary schools presented their eco-journeys to one another and to panellists representing Government, the local council and the Church of England. The young people shared their passion for green issues and the eco-ideas they had implemented at their school to inspire one another.

They also posed questions for the panellists who included local MP, Sir

"It was inspiring for us all to hear the young people's commitment to our planet."

Ed Davey; Councillor Alison Holt; Biodiversity Officer from Kingston Council, Elliot Newton; and Jack Edwards, Environmental Officer for Southwark Diocese.

There were so many good ideas and so much enthusiasm and drive from the young people. The best eco-idea, as voted for by the students attending, was put forward by The Hollyfield School who had put a plant in each classroom and teacher's office. Hollyfield asked for donations from the school and local community and had been overwhelmed by all the plants received from parents and local businesses.

Other innovative ideas included running

an energy-free day, recycling crisp packets and holding a clothes swap.

Joe Dowthwaite, who teaches at Tolworth Girls' School and leads the eco-group, attended with his students. He thanked the church for running such an important event and said: "Our girls had a great time and are now absolutely brimming with ideas for future eco-initiatives".

Jack Edwards reminded those attending that everything from God is a blessing so shouldn't be wasted, which was a simple but very accessible idea for the young people to take away. He also encouraged attendees to see all creation, as St Augustine did, through 'eyes of love'.

St Matthew's also invited representatives from nearby environmental groups to encourage local networking. Following the event, Rob Eyre-Brook, Chair of Friends of Fishponds Park, said: "Congratulations on a superbly organised and inspiring event. The passion and perceptiveness of the contributions from the students and panellists alike was really impressive."

St Matthew's was awarded an Eco Church Silver Award from A Rocha last year and, as part of their commitment to this, the Eco-Church team were inspired to engage with young people in the local area. Team Rector, the Revd Helen Hancock commented: "It was inspiring for us all to hear the young people's commitment to our planet. We are so grateful to everyone who took part."

The church hopes that the connections made and ideas shared at the event will lead to greater care of God's good world.

St Mark's Academy lives up to transformational motto

St Mark's secondary academy in Mitcham has been recognised for its exceptional climate for learning by the Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT).

"Climate for learning" is one of 12 categories that make up the SSAT's Leading Edge Framework for Exceptional Education; St Mark's is now also hoping to achieve "leading for moral purpose" and "quality assurance". Only one school in England has been recognised in all 12 categories.

"It just seemed like a great way to collaborate with other schools and also gain that recognition that we believe we absolutely deserve here at St Mark's," said Principal Hannah Fahey. "Over the next two years we're going to apply for each strand and hopefully be transforming in it, which is something only very few schools in the country are able to showcase."

Schools looking to gain official recognition in one of the categories must submit evidence that they meet the criteria. They are then paired with another school which reviews the documentation and also does a mini-review in person. The report for St Mark's described student behaviour, teacher relationship and teaching practice as exceptional.



All this is possible, Hannah believes, because of the school's clarity of vision. "We really think about what it is that lies beneath everything we do here at St Mark's," she said. "What our students deserve in life, our Christian ethos and our values have underpinned that."

Hannah herself knows how St Mark's can change a person, having arrived 14 years ago at the school as a newly qualified teacher before becoming its principal. "Transformation is quite literally what happened to me," she said. "I want everyone to feel the same transformational experience, whether that's continuing professional development, going to university or internal progression."

St Alfege with St Peter's Primary celebrates 50th anniversary

Students and staff past and present celebrated 50 years since St Peter's Infant School in Greenwich became St Alfege with St Peter's Primary with a week of activities culminating in a special service on 24 April.

The name change in 1972 reflected the close connection between the school and St Alfege Church, which continues to this day. As a result, headteacher Amanda Wilson noted, they wanted to "officially mark" the anniversary.

"We go there for our services and some of our RE lessons take place there," she said. "I think it is really important for the children to have more of an awareness of where that link has come from and why our school is called what it's called."

As part of the celebrations, the pupils were shown pictures of how their school building has changed over the years. They also worked with an organisation called Arty Party to create an artwork featuring self-portraits of every child from Years 1 to 6 (above right). This was unveiled by St Alfege's former Vicar, the Revd Chris Moody, on 24 April, and it is hoped that it will remain a permanent installation.



Chris also led the special service, which was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Greenwich, Councillor Leo Fletcher; and Greenwich's Head of Children's Services, Tracy Russell, and Head of School Improvement, Matthew West. The school's former executive headteacher, Matthew Bulpitt, was another guest.

The service included a blessing for the school, prayers from the pupils, and a screening of a video set to the song *Smile* by Kirk Franklin which teachers recorded in lockdown so that students could sing along from their homes.

The day ended with a community event for pupils and parents.



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Season of Lay Ministries

We are all called to share God's Good News – let's celebrate that

There are so many stories of the work that our parishes do in the community. Many of them are quite extraordinary, as people band together to achieve remarkable things, writes the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education.

All over the Diocese our churches are involved in helping those whose housing is insecure through various night shelters, or working in local food banks to assist people in their communities struggling with cost of living increases.

It might be that members of various congregations are working with or housing refugees. Or they may be helping their churches to think about how best to work towards becoming an Eco Church. Others will be washing the altar linen and making coffee or helping to lead the church's work with children, young people or the elderly.

That is why the Season of Lay Ministries, which runs from 19 June to 10 July this year, is so important. During this time, Bishop Christopher is hoping that all of our parishes will take this opportunity to celebrate the work that their members

do as part of their discipleship. For some, this will be about celebrating the work that happens in the parish to make sure that everyone feels welcomed, that hospitality is provided and that services run smoothly. Then there is all the work that is happening in the wider community that can be celebrated too.

It is also a time to encourage others to consider whether they have gifts and skills which can be used more formally in God's service. The Diocese offers a whole range of lay ministries which people

Season of Lay Ministries

The Season of Lay Ministries runs from the 1st Sunday after Trinity (19 June) to the 4th Sunday after Trinity (10 July).

Find sermon outlines, videos, prayers and more at southwark.anglican.org/lay-ministries, where you will also find more information about exploring vocations to lay ministry.



Volunteers at the Croydon Refugee Day Centre serve a festive meal.

can explore as they consider what God is calling them to do for the Christian community in their area.

We hope that people will want to find out more about these affirmed, commissioned and licensed lay ministries. They include our traditional ministries such as Readers and SPAs (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries) and Church Army evangelists. Then there are new ministries with children, young people and families and as commissioned and licensed Lay Pioneers as well as licensed pastoral workers.

Affirmed ministries are recognised, trained and affirmed in the parish and it is important for us all to think about the tasks that are undertaken as part of our lives of faith and service and affirm them where appropriate.

Then there are Diocesan-recognised commissioned ministries which can be transferred from parish to parish. These ministers are selected and trained by the Diocese. Licensed ministries, which are

recognised nationally, are also selected and trained by the Diocese.

We are all called, as God's people, to bring the Good News of God to the people around us and to build up the Christian community of which we are a part. So many people are already involved in lots of different activities as they take part in all that the church has to offer and work to show God's love to others in the church community and outside it.

It would be wonderful if we could encourage more and more people to see the work that they do as part of their calling and perhaps even consider training for one of our lay ministries. Could there be something that God is calling you to do? Will you accept the opportunity to explore that call?

In this Season of Lay Ministries let's celebrate all that we do together as God's people so that we can bring God's love to all those around us.



LET US PRAY...

JUNE

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

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

I have so many memories of royal celebrations – and I'm sure you do as well. The Silver Jubilee was, I suppose, the first one that really became a big event. That was in 1977, so I was 20 and have clear memories of the street party and the event that took place at our local tennis club. Then the Golden Jubilee in 2002, a really lovely day. By then I was in the Diocese of Southwark and able to enjoy a 'right royal event' in London, with the Mall all decorated and not just having to watch it on the TV.

I suppose my clearest memories, however, are of the Diamond Jubilee,

back in 2012. A new window had been commissioned for the Cathedral and we held a lovely service whilst outside the rain poured down relentlessly. To be honest we thought that would be it, that we wouldn't see another milestone like that. But here we are, celebrating with Her Majesty her Platinum Jubilee, a real moment in history given that no other British monarch has ever reigned for as long.

So many memories, so much to give thanks for, and so much to celebrate. In many ways this chance to down tools and have a street party, a celebration



in the church grounds or the vicarage back garden, on the village green, or in the local park, is just what we needed. But the merrymaking will be tinged with some sadness. The last few years and current times have been some of the most challenging, for all of us. However, we will have the opportunity to make new memories and especially for our children and those newly arrived in our communities, those who have never seen us letting our hair down and having

a good time. As it says in the Book of Ecclesiastes, there's "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3.4).

Enjoy the moment, make good memories and give thanks for all that the Queen has given to us.

**Gracious God, we give you thanks
for the reign of your servant
Elizabeth our Queen,
and for the example of loving
and faithful service
which she has shown among us.
Help us to follow her example of
dedication
and to commit our lives to you
and to one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Read more about the Queen and Southwark on pages 6-7.



Please send details of your next events for JULY ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 24 JUNE**

June

SATURDAY 4 JUNE

* **MITCHAM** — St Barnabas, Mitcham will be hosting a Platinum Jubilee Street Party with face painting, bouncy castle, children’s activities, BBQ, cake sale and more. 12pm-3pm. Entry is free and all are welcome. For more information, email stbarnabasmitcham@gmail.com.

SUNDAY 5 JUNE

♪ **CATERHAM VALLEY** — Music to honour the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. As part of an ongoing programme of music to celebrate the Jubilee, St John the Evangelist, Caterham Valley will perform a special RSCM anthem composed by Thomas Hewitt-Jones. 10am. St John the Evangelist, Clareville Road, Caterham Valley. For more information, email johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com.

SATURDAY 11 JUNE

* **CLAPHAM** — St Paul’s Eco Summer Fair. The churchyard and community garden will be packed with cake, bottle and Pimm’s stalls; games; BBQ and Caribbean food. 12noon-4pm. £2 (adults), £1 (seniors), free (under 16s). Rectory Grove, SW4 0DZ, stpaulsfair@hotmail.com.

MONDAY 13 JUNE

* **SOUTHWARK** — SPIDIR AGM and Study Day. Guest speakers the Very Revd Andrew Nunn and the Revd Canon Thomas Sharp. Donations invited. 10am-3pm. Garry Weston Library, Southwark Cathedral. To reserve a place, email: sallylowe1943@gmail.com

FRIDAY 17 JUNE

♪ **SOUTHWARK** — 100 Years of Note: London City Chorus Centenary Concert, celebrating 100 years (plus 2) with Mozart’s *Coronation Mass*, Handel’s *Zadok the Priest* and other works. Doors open at 6.45pm; concert begins 7.30pm; festive refreshments at interval. Southwark Cathedral. Tickets £10/£20 on the door or from www.londoncitychorus.com.

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

* **BROCKHAM** — Brockham Open Gardens 2022, featuring more than 10 beautiful gardens, plant and craft stalls and children’s fun competition. £7 (under-12s free). No dogs in the gardens. 2pm-6pm. Enquiries to: sallymholland22@gmail.com

St Mary, Farleigh: Compline by Candlelight 2022 Sundays @ 8pm		
June		
5 June:	Elizabeth Lanyon <i>(The Making of a Monarch: the history and significance of the Coronation)</i>	
12 June:	Rosemary Moore <i>(Father Peter de Smet, missionary to Native Americans)</i>	
19 June:	The Revd Catherine Dowland-Pillinger <i>(John Dalton, physicist, introducer of atomic theory)</i>	
26 June:	Canon Simon Jones <i>(Fr Gabriel Hebert SSM, monk interested in the Liturgical Movement)</i>	
July		
3 July:	The Venerable Moira Astin <i>(Pelagius, British monk, theologian, heretic)</i>	
10 July:	Canon Ruth Martin <i>(George Herbert, poet, orator, priest)</i>	
17 July:	The Revd Tim Pike <i>(John Paul II, Polish Pope, defender against Communism)</i>	
24 July:	Bishop David Atkinson <i>(Arthur Peacocke, priest and scientist)</i>	
31 July:	The Revd Colonel Peter Hewlett-Smith <i>(St Teresa of Avila, Spanish nun, mystic writer, Doctor of the Church)</i>	

All Saints Arts Festival, Brudenell Road, Tooting SW17 8DQ Book via www.wandsworthfringe.com		
11 June	Fuzion Four: Jazz concert	2.15pm-3.30pm
14 June	Wonder of Nature: Baroque recital	7.30pm-8.30pm
16 June	Lost Souls Poetry: Open mike poetry	6.30pm-9pm
17 June	Duelling Organs Extravaganza: Organ recital	7pm-8.15pm
18 June	Singingforsane: Singing for mental health	10am-12noon
18 June	Eco Community Concert – celebrating diversity	6pm-8pm
20 June	Richmond & Wandsworth LGBT Equality & Ally group Poetry	7.30pm-9.30pm
23 June	Stop the World, I want to get off: one-woman poetry show	7.30pm-9pm
24 June	Summer Sounds: Wandsworth Music Key Stage 1 concert	11am-3pm
24 June	GiantFolk – A FolkJazz Evening: Contemporary folk concert	8pm-10pm
25 June	Senior Street Sextet: Jazz concert	7pm-9pm
26 June	The Beautiful World of Holiness: Musical Meditation on the Psalms	3pm-5pm
29 June	Summer Sounds: Wandsworth Music Key Stage 1 concert	11am-3pm

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

♪ **STREATHAM** — Lunchtime Organ Recital by James Furniss-Roe, Director of Music at St Peter’s, who will play St Peter’s four-manual William Hill & Son organ. 11.50am. Free entry with a retiring collection. St Peter, Streatham. Leigham Court Road SW16 2RJ.

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

* **CROYDON** — Kintsugi Hope tour. Bouncing Forwards: Notes on Resilience, Courage and Change. Patrick Regan OBE discusses themes from his latest book in a relaxed, chat-show style event. 6pm. Christ Church, Purley. Book at christchurchpurley.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE

♪ **CATERHAM VALLEY** — “Munch with Music”. Jane Faulkner (violin) with Esther Cavett (piano). 12:45pm-1:30pm. Tea/coffee etc provided from 12.15pm; you may bring your own “munch”. Free admission – donations welcome. St John’s Church, Clareville Road, Caterham Valley.

SATURDAY 25 JUNE

* **LAMBETH** — North Lambeth Parish Fete. There will be a dog show, food and drink, children’s races plus live music and entertainment. 12-5pm. Lambeth Palace Gardens. More information here: northlambethparish.org/fete2022

SUNDAY 26 JUNE

* **WEST DULWICH** — Two-course mezze fundraising lunch in aid of the Spafford Children’s Center in Jerusalem which cares for disadvantaged and vulnerable children. 12.30pm. Eucharist begins at 10am. Adults £20. Children aged 6-15 £5. Under-fives free. All Saints Church, Lovelace Road, West Dulwich SE21 8JY. Tickets from www.jumblebee.co.uk/SpaffordLunchJune2022

July

SATURDAY 2 JULY

♪ **STREATHAM** — Streatham Choral Centenary Concert, performing pieces by composers with a local connection: Todd, Bax and Coleridge-Taylor. 7.30pm-9.30pm. £10. St Peter, Streatham. Leigham Court Road SW16 2RJ. Find more information and tickets at: bit.ly/3yRr8ta

15-17 JULY

* **ROEHAMPTON** — CHRISM Summer Conference: Telling our stories of MSE. Offers the chance to reflect on changing practices in secular ministry. £195 (members and spouses); £210 (non-members). The Kairos Centre, Roehampton, London SW15 4JA. Find more information here: bit.ly/3N1RHzz

SATURDAY 16 JULY

♪ **SOUTHFIELDS** — Come and Sing Choral Evensong. Singers of all ages and experience levels welcome. 3-7.30pm. Suggested donation of £20 includes scores, refreshments and a glass of wine. St Barnabas Church, 146 Lavenham Road, SW18 5EP. Email Rebecca at stbarnabasperformathon@gmail.com.

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



IN FOCUS...

Comings and goings

New Dean of Clergy Well-being appointed

The Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, Director of Vocations and Diocesan Director of Ordinands, has been appointed Dean of Clergy Well-being, it was announced on 11 May.

Leanne will take up her new role in June, after the Pentecost ordinations.

Ministerial well-being is one of the Diocese's top priorities for the new Triennium, and Leanne's new role will provide support and guidance for clergy, as well as signposting for therapeutic interventions where appropriate.

Promoting the importance of mental health and well-being has been a priority for Leanne throughout her career. Before training for ordination, she worked as a Review Group Coordinator for the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group, and subsequently as a university chaplain and honorary mental health chaplain at Littlemore hospital in Oxford. In addition to being a priest, she is also a professionally qualified and registered Jungian psychotherapist.

Leanne said of her new role: "I am delighted to have this opportunity for a new chapter in my ministry. My work as DDO has given me invaluable insight into the breadth of the Church of England and the care needed to nurture vocations from all traditions and contexts to ordained ministry; this role feels like an organic development based on my



The Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, the new Dean of Clergy Well-being.

experience and passions, and a natural outworking of my own priestly vocation."

She added: "The chance to combine my psychotherapeutic training with this newly created role is an exciting one, and I am looking forward to supporting the clergy of the Diocese in their ongoing ministries."

Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin said: "I welcome this new role as providing dedicated expertise in an area where we know that the Diocese needs to provide some front-line support."

Bishop Christopher added: "Leanne has been an outstanding DDO. I am delighted that she will be taking up this crucial new role in the Diocese."

Bridge editor to depart Diocese in June

Bridge Editor and Campaigns Co-ordinator, Abigail Sanderson is to leave the Diocese this month. Abigail joined the Trinity House team six years ago and has been responsible for rebranding the newspaper, as well as producing the Annual Report and other resources and publications that support the ministry of the Diocese.



Bishop Christopher said: "Abigail has been a valued staff member, producing a wide range of extremely high quality publications for campaigns like the Bishop's Lent Call, Thy Kingdom Come, the Anti-Racism Charter pack and of course our flagship Diocesan newspaper, *The Bridge*. She has updated our branding and brought an extremely high level of professionalism and expertise to the role. She will be missed and leaves with the assurances of my prayers and good wishes."

Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin added: "Abigail has made a distinctive contribution through her design, editing and writing, for example with the Annual Report and Accounts in recent years which draws praise from across the Diocese and beyond. She combined so well her professional skills in editing and writing with her formidable planning ability, enabling us to meet deadlines throughout the pandemic and we will all miss her but we wish her well."

Archdeacon of Southwark and Cathedral Canons installed



Bishop Christopher presided over a "joyful" service at Southwark Cathedral on 15 May when the Venerable Jonathan Sedgwick was installed as Archdeacon of Southwark. At the same service, Children's Society chief executive Mark Russell was installed as a Lay Canon and the Revd Canon Mark Williams, Vicar of St John the Divine, Kennington, as an Honorary Canon.

In his sermon, Bishop Christopher said: "Fr Mark, Mark and Jonathan, you have been faithful to Christ in your different ministries and callings, devoted to Christ's service by serving his world. This is what we mark today in bestowing these dignities on you."

"What is marked out for you, however, as Canons of this Cathedral, the Mother Church of this large Diocese, is a renewed emphasis on gentleness and kindness, proclaiming the length and breadth and depth of God's love with intellectual integrity."

Pictured above, from left: Mark Russell, Jonathan Sedgwick, Bishop Christopher, Mark Williams, and Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark.

Alan Saunders resigns as Chair of Diocesan Board of Finance

Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), Alan Saunders will be stepping down in July.

At a meeting of the Diocesan Council of Trustees in May, Bishop Christopher expressed his thanks and appreciation. He said: "I always knew that Alan would be with us for a season, and at my request he graciously extended his term by a year to collaborate with our Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin and her team to help steer the Diocesan finances through the pandemic."

He added: "Alan will leave us with a refreshed investment portfolio, stronger cash reserves, fewer loans and all in all a healthy financial position despite the difficulties we have faced, enabling us to be more resilient as we face the future. As Chair of the charity, we have valued his wisdom in staffing matters, legal issues and much more besides. Alan goes with our deep appreciation and I am delighted that he has accepted my nomination to continue to chair our Investment Committee."



Alan will be replaced by Sir David Beamish, who is currently Deputy Chair of the DBF.

Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin said: "It has been a privilege to work with Alan, whose clarity of thinking and skills in asking challenging questions whilst also being so supportive to staff, have modelled so well the Chair of a trustee body like the DBF. Under his leadership, the DBF has become more resilient in dealing with any further economic uncertainties and on behalf of the staff I thank him also for his compassion and care for us all."