

# Duchess of Cornwall visits St John's Angell Town



**Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, was in Angell Town on Thursday 7 February meeting local community groups at St John's Church and opening a new library at St John's CofE Primary School.**

The Duchess was welcomed to St John's Church by the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun and the Vicar, the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett, who introduced Her Royal Highness to members of local community groups. Representatives, from CHIPS, Progress Gardeners, Karibu Education Centre

and Big Local Impact, told The Duchess about the work they do to promote peace and reconciliation in the community.

The Bishop and Dr Mallett then accompanied Her Royal Highness the short distance to St John's CofE Primary School, where they watched a presentation in the school hall, before she cut a ribbon to open the School's new library, saw a commemorative plaque and helped to complete the mural on the library wall.

Commenting on the visit, Bishop Christopher said, "I was delighted that Her Royal Highness was able to spend some time in the church and school at St John's. They are doing such wonderful work in encouraging young people from many different backgrounds and we were

grateful to The Duchess for her encouragement and the time she spent with us".

The Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett said, "It was an honour to be able to host Her Royal Highness and to introduce her to some of the older members of our congregation, along with some of our youngest members at the school. She also met community leaders and spoke to them about their work with the church and the parish school to help strengthen connections and build cohesion in our diverse community".



Photos:

Top left - Her Royal Highness cuts the ribbon to open the new school library

Above - Her Royal Highness meets members of the church community

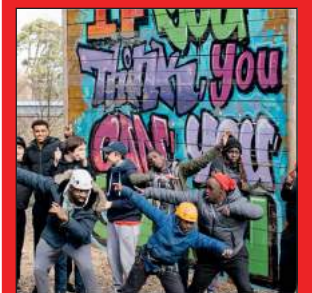
Below right: Bishop Christopher and her Royal Highness in conversation

Below: The Vicar of St John, Angell Town, the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett, introduces Her Royal Highness to representatives of local community projects

More photos are available on the Diocesan Flickr site at <https://www.flickr/s/a/HsmBN7z6vG>

Inside  
**THE BRIDGE**  
...this month

Bishop of  
Southwark's Lent  
call 2019 ...  
pages 8 & 9



Parish Profile -  
Christ Church,  
Peckham...  
page 11



**PLUS parish news  
and pilgrimages**



And  
**WHAT'S ON**  
Page 15

**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



### A time for prayer and reflection

It is hard to imagine that we could be facing a time of greater challenge and change here in our country.

As we go to press we do not know what the outcome of the events in Parliament and in the negotiations with the European Union (EU) will be and so we do not know whether we will actually cease to be members of the EU on the 29 March or not.

At this stage all most of us can do is pray for a good outcome for our country and for our brothers and sisters in the EU.

In our centrespread this month we also see how people are working for change for the better in our own Diocese and in projects around the world and in our Link Diocese in Zimbabwe.

It is so easy to feel powerless as we wonder what we can do to help to bring about positive change in our own lives and communities and in

other places where there is poverty and injustice.

During Lent one thing that we can do is to raise money for the Bishops Lent Call and certainly giving charitably to the church and other work is something that we should always consider as part of our response to all that God gives to us. But, it is important that we never underestimate the power and usefulness of prayer.

For in praying for people we can help to bring about positive change and also help people to know that they are loved and cared for by God.

Lent is a time for us to reflect individually and as communities on God's love for us and to give thanks for this especially on Easter Day.

It is a time too for us to review how we each live and to think about how we might live more lightly in our world that others might live more abundantly.

Wendy S Robins

Last month's View from the Bridge was written by Adeline Cole. Unfortunately due to a technical 'glitch' the name was omitted for which we apologise.

## The Revd James McKinney



The funeral of the Revd Jim McKinney took place on Friday 1 February in a packed Holy Trinity Church, Roehampton. The service was conducted by the Revd Ian Tattum and the Revd Daniel Eshun in the presence of Bishop Richard.

Jim McKinney, who died on 21 January, had been Vicar of Holy Trinity since 1996. He had previously served in Sheffield, Winchester and Carlisle Dioceses both in parishes and as a police service chaplain.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers Jim's wife, Sue, and their children, Ruth and Alex - and the people of the parish where he is greatly missed.



## Unlock shines a light in SW London

On Saturday 27 April 'Shining A Light', the 36th Unlock London Walk will take place in south west London. This year's 7+ mile walk covers Merton, Morden and Wimbledon.

As well as exploring local history and issues, the walkers will visit local churches who are all actively shining a light in the community.

For further details contact Unlock. Tel: 0114 2939060 Email: [office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk) website [www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)

## Abiding in Christ

A preached retreat for clergy will be held at Ascot Priory (11-13 June).

Abiding in Christ will explore some of the themes of the book Enfolded in Christ - the inner life of a priest. Addresses will focus on: Adoration and Solitude, Darkness and Perplexity, Eucharist and Calling.

Cost for a single en-suite room: £175. Other single rooms: £165.

For a booking form or if you have any questions, contact: [jff2209@yahoo.com](mailto:jff2209@yahoo.com)

## The Revd Ruth Scott

The Revd Ruth Scott has died aged 60 after a two year battle with cancer.

Ruth held various posts in the Kingston Area of the Diocese from 1992 to 2011 and was well known for her Pause for Thought segment on Radio 2. She had been diagnosed with lymphoma.

She died in Southampton General Hospital on Wednesday evening, with her husband and daughter present.



## THE BRIDGE

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

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

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.

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# 'Using your Church for Mission'



**On Saturday 2 February 48 delegates and eight speakers gathered in St George's Church in Westcombe Park for a training day on Using your Church for Mission.**

**Keri Dearmer writes**

I had encountered a perception that church buildings were somehow at odds with, or a hindrance to, the mission of the church so I decided to

partner with the Mission and Evangelism Team to prove that this is simply not the case.

We had an excellent keynote speech from the Venerable Moira Astin, who chairs the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, looking at the experience of not having a building and the link between the ancient and the contemporary in mission. This was followed by Jeremy Noles from AllChurches Trust who gave a run down of their grant programmes and some examples of what other groups have achieved.

Following the morning tea break, which also proved to

be an excellent networking opportunity, the Revd Tim Goode gave an inspiring talk showing how accessibility can help with mission aims. His talk was followed by lunch, after which I did a slot on Heritage Bingo to keep the post-lunch snoozing at bay.

We were lucky to have our Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) chair, Philip Fletcher introduce a section delivered by the DAC Secretary, the Revd Canon Stephen Roberts, on how the DAC balances mission and heritage considerations, which delegates found extremely valuable.

The second round of 're-caffeinating' prepared everyone for a motivational talk from the Revd Canon Rosemarie Mallett, primarily looking at how the Church Urban Fund can help churches to further their missional aims.

The day was brought to an upbeat close by the Diocesan Missioner, the Revd Canon Jay Colwill, with case studies on how various churches have used their buildings to advantage.

Despite the cold weather, the conference was very well reviewed by the delegates who found the day informative, interesting and inspiring.

**Keri Dearmer is Southwark Diocese Historic Churches Support Officer**

The Revd Canon Stephen Roberts 'facilitates' the break



# Garden is a 'special space'



On Wednesday 16 January, The Revd David Fisher, Priest in Charge of Carshalton All Saints, officially opened the new Spiritual Garden at All Saints C of E Primary School.

Headteacher Emma Hart-Dyke writes: It is a special space within our school, where children can come for a moment of quiet reflection, prayer or to listen to stories.

The Acer presented to the school on its 40th anniversary has been transplanted into the central flower bed. Sleepers give secure seating for the children and the plants round the edges will form a hedge to screen the road behind. The children are very excited about the garden and look forward to using it as a haven of peace at times in their busy school day.

# New group for Japanese Anglicans

**The Japanese fellowship group started in 2015 at St Hugh's Bermondsey recently set up a new group at St John, Blackheath**

**Minako Hall writes:**

During the past year, the activities of the Japanese Anglican Church (South East London) have grown. Whilst we still have our main meeting each month at St Hugh's, in November 2018 we started a new meeting at St John's Blackheath.

The aim of this *fresh expression* of Church is to proclaim the gospel to Japanese people living in South East London. We meet fortnightly on Thursdays, looking at the Japanese Bible together after a light supper.



We would welcome prayer for spiritual growth, for God's direction, for the leaders to be equipped as servants of

God and for reaching out to Japanese people who have not yet acknowledged Christ as their Lord.



# Pilgrimage to the OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

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# Historic event for Croydon University Hospital Trust

In St Barnabas Worship Centre at Croydon University Hospital on Tuesday 15 January, the Revd Andrew Dovey was licenced as the new Lead Chaplain and the Revd Lynbert Douglas was welcomed as the new Ecumenical Chaplain.

This was done in the context of the annual service of re-dedication of the Chaplaincy volunteers.

For the first time the Mayor of Croydon was present at the

Annual Re-Dedication Service. Cllr Bernadette Khan spoke warmly of the wonderful work that is undertaken by the Chaplaincy Team and how they are so appreciated in Croydon.

Bishop Jonathan licenced Andy Dovey and congratulated him on behalf of the Diocese. He was followed by Bishop Miller, Lynbert Douglas's Pentecostal Bishop from the Lewisham area who welcomed Lynbert into the Trust.

The Trust was represented by Mette Rogers, the Deputy Medical Director.

Both chaplains had family members present and they were joined by other local clergy, former patients and staff.

Following the Service, there was the opportunity to meet and chat over refreshments as a new era began in the life of Chaplaincy of Croydon University Hospital.

# A colourful blessing from the Bishop

**The Bishop of Kingston, the Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham, blessed the new Chapel's stained glass windows at St Martin's in-the-Fields High School for Girls, Tulse Hill, on Tuesday 22 January.**

The windows were designed and made by a group of students, working with South London based glass artist Jude Stark. The girls worked over the course of several months to design windows that reflected the school values of 'service, compassion, justice and perseverance'. They also incorporated the story of St Martin.

They then went to the studio and brought their designs to life in beautiful, multi coloured glass. The windows have been installed in the recently created school chapel to inspire all who worship and learn there.

At the service, held in the chapel and attended by students of all ages, Bishop

Richard spoke about how just as the coloured glass changes the light, God's love changes people and enables them to gain a new perspective, shining his love to others.

Bishop Richard is no stranger to school life. He was a physics teacher before he became a priest and is a leading voice in the field of research and debate on science and religion.

After the service he met some the school's science students and had a discussion time on the relationship between science and religion.

"As a Church of England school it is wonderful to be able to create a space for prayer at the heart of the school, and to have these special windows blessed by our bishop," said headteacher Beverley Stanislaus.



**Visible Signs**

**Celebrating the 25th anniversary of women's ordination**

The Diocese of Southwark

St Mary's, Tatsfield is holding a thrift sale of new, newly new and good condition second hand clothing, shoes and accessories on Saturday 27 April - The *Bishop's Lent Call* will be one of the beneficiaries

The venue is the WI Hall, Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield from 2pm till 5pm. The thrift sale is reliant on donations so if you are thinking of de-cluttering your wardrobe donations can be dropped off on the day.

**Inspired for the future: celebrating 25 years of women's ordination to the priesthood**

**Saturday 25 May 2019, 10am-1.30pm, Southwark Cathedral**

Register via EventBrite: [bit.ly/25YearsWomen](http://bit.ly/25YearsWomen)

**Jim Grover: 25th anniversary photographic exhibition**

**22 May-2 June, Oxo Gallery (open to all)**

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## Bridge Postbox



**Great Fun at the recent Messy Church Celebration of Baptism for little ones, but.....**

When will someone have the courage (or care) to commission or host an event at the cathedral for teenagers and young people of the Diocese?

Yes there's a vision but young people are the neglected group. They might be confirmed at the Cathedral but what next? Parish groups can be struggling or non-existent.

How does the Diocese welcome, value and engage with young people, tap into their cultural artistic and other interests, give them space to ask and explore their big questions, help them grow in faith?

Occasional, central

**Something to say?** Drop us a line - the postal & e-mail addresses are on page 2. Publication of a letter does not imply that it reflects the views of the Diocese and letters may be edited.

events could capture their imagination, inspire their journey, and support their leaders.

What about a youth eucharist, a creative space for self - expression and reflection, a film or drama event, a platform for asking and exploring big issues, concerts and gigs or open-mic events, or some combination of the above in the context of a tailored youth-focused worship service or activity event - and all involving food, of course!

The starting point might be to ask the teenagers and young people themselves.

**Sian Adams, parent and parishioner**

**Diocesan Missioner Canon Jay Colwill responds:**

*One example of engagement is within the Woolwich Episcopal Area: a youth forum with Bishop Karowei that encourages young people's voices to be heard on issues around welcome in the church; with many future possibilities.*

*We encourage these kinds of ongoing conversations across the Diocese and would love to connect with local people who share this passion too. The wider question to be considered is around how we co-create with our young people, who are ready and willing to share their ideas if we prepare a space to listen.*

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# A new building and a new Chaplain for St Gabriel's College

**Bishop Christopher dedicated and officially opened the new school building at St Gabriel's College on Monday 4 February and licensed the new chaplain, the Revd Sebastian Harries.**

He was joined by Bishop Tom Butler, former Bishop of

Southwark, whose son Nick is the school's Principal. Bishop Tom prayed for the school community, anointed the Head Boy and Head Girl, and then cut a red ribbon to mark the beginning of this new era.

As part of the dedication ceremony, Bishop Christopher sprinkled holy water and censed the building before unveiling a plaque to commemorate the event. Staff, students, and guests

of the school all gathered at the entrance of the school to witness the occasion

St Gabriel's is a C of E aided co-ed secondary school in the parish of St John the Divine, Kennington. For the past two years they've resided in temporary accommodation, but this day marked their official arrival in their splendid new home. So appropriately, the service began in St John the Divine Church, before everyone

processed to the school building just down the road.

The Revd Seb Harries said "It was quite a spectacle to see around 650 people processing down the street through clouds of incense, led by robed servers from school and the church. They were accompanied by drummers and a wind band from the school who trumpeted out 'O When the Saints Go Marching In' in jubilant fashion".

During the service in church, the chair of Governors, Ms Jane Bevis formally asked the Bishop to dedicate the school, and the Revd Mark Williams, Vicar of St John the Divine, presented Sebastian to be licensed.

The school choir led everyone in a rousing rendition of 'We are Marching in the light of God', and St Gabriel's students led prayers for the school in a number of different languages that reflect the diversity of the school community. Staff and students also affirmed the school values before the Bishop and made a



The Revd Sebastian Harries

promise that all of them will strive 'fulfil their unique, God given potential'.

There were smiles all round as the Bishop blessed everyone at the door of the building, and the whole school shouted "Alleluia!" in response.

Left: Bishop Tom wields the scissors watched by (l-r) the Revd Mark Williams; school head Nick Butler; Bishop Christopher; the Head Boy and Head Girl, the Revd Seb Harries and Chair of Governors Ms Jane Bevis



## 'Lost' Bach Passion to be performed at Kew church

On Friday 12 April at 7pm St Anne's Church Kew will stage an extraordinary event: the reconstruction of the lost Third version of Bach's St John Passion.

### The Revd Nigel Worn writes:

Four versions of the St John Passion were performed in Bach's lifetime but the Third Version is believed to have been performed only once in around 1730 - and not since.

The Third Version is characterised by interesting features which makes its reconstruction all the more important.

The opportunity to present the Passion story purely according to St John lends the work we thought we knew and loved, a completely different and new complexion.

Join us for the world premiere of this reconstruction of the Third Version of Bach's St John Passion. Tickets are available online at [www.saintanne-kew.org.uk](http://www.saintanne-kew.org.uk)

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# Remembering the Holocaust



*Sallie Eden, whose father was with the Liberating forces at Bergen-Belsen Camp, reflects on this year's Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). The theme was 'Torn From Home', encompassing thoughts on what makes a home, what it's like to flee from danger, life as a refugee, finding safety and security, and how we can all help.*

used to describe the killing of approximately six million Jews, people with disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and others were also part of the extermination programme.

HMD is now recognised as a day to mark all crimes against humanity. 2019 is significant because it marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Genocide in Cambodia.

Across the UK thousands of people took part in over 11,000 HMD activities. There were dozens of events across the Diocese, including special prayers in churches and wreath laying at memorials like those in the grounds of The Imperial War Museum (IWM), which has a Holocaust exhibition offering teachers and parents an opportunity to show children what happened and the lessons to be learned.

One of the most significant events took place in Lewisham,

bringing together civic, faith and political leaders. There were performances by local children, films, poetry, candle lighting and messages from refugees and survivors of Genocides.

But it's not just on HMD that victims are remembered; throughout the year work is carried out by groups which draw people together.

One such organisation is the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ), whose South East London branch is chaired by Revd Bernhard Schunemann. Its Secretary, Stephen Weil, is a member of Bromley Reform Synagogue where they mark the Holocaust (the Shoah in Hebrew) by reciting prayers of mourning and lighting candles.

Members of Stephen's family were transported to the Camps. He explained that "the first major Holocaust centre was opened outside Jerusalem and now all synagogues have memorials; initially, there may have been a feeling amongst

many non-Jews that it was better to move on, as there had been so much suffering in WW2.

However, Eichmann's trial in 1961 heightened international awareness, leading to the realisation that the Holocaust was of a different magnitude and worse than anything that had gone before. The impact and memories were not going to go away."

"More recently, an increasing number of films, documentaries and books about the Holocaust have led to people from around the world wanting to visit the Camps, especially Auschwitz, to see for themselves the scale of the catastrophe and to pay tribute to the victims. Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam has also become a memorial, particularly resonating with children."

Perhaps therefore, it's fitting to look to the younger generation for a first-hand view.



Photo: The Soviet War Memorial and the Holocaust Memorial Tree adjacent to the Imperial War Museum in Southwark. It is also the site of HMD commemorations

Helen, the 15-year-old daughter of a priest in the Diocese visited Auschwitz with her family when she was nine years old.

"I remember hearing my parents expressing concern that it might be too shocking for me. My brothers were older, so it was a different experience.

"They read the material as we toured the site, whereas I mostly looked at photos and at the site itself. I still remember my shock and disbelief at the scale of it, the scratches on the walls and the piles of human hair."

"The Holocaust wasn't covered at school then, but I think now there's more understanding of what happened. Coming from a German family, I was able to talk to my grandparents about it and I do think it's important that children understand what went on."

As Helen Hayes, MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, said on the subject recently it is "only through education we can stop hatred taking hold and say never again".

**For more details please go to [hmd.org.uk](http://hmd.org.uk)**

**HMD was created in 2000 at a meeting of government representatives from around the world. 27 January was chosen as it marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi Death Camps.**

Although the term Holocaust is most frequently

## A Day of Prayer for Mothers

**The Revd Funke Ogbede (Chair KMEACC) writes:**

**Kingston Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (KMEACC) are organising A Day of Prayer for Mothers on 30 March 2019 at St Matthew's Church, Brixton.**

The programme will start at 11am and, with a short break, will finish at 3.30 pm.

This is a unique opportunity for us to show our support and empathy for all those who mother or care for young, and who are suffering grief due to the loss or the trauma caused by violence amongst our children and young people.

It is also an appropriate

time, just before Mothering Sunday, to come together in solidarity and hold up all the mothers who are suffering, in both our public and private prayers.

You are warmly invited to join us in praying for mothers as they cope with the aftermath of the spate of violent crimes in London.

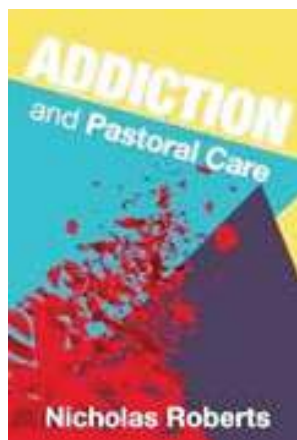
Canon Andrew Wilson reviews:

## Addiction and Pastoral Care

**By Nicholas Roberts - Canterbury Press ISBN-13: 9781848259744 £14.95**

Given the increasing incidence of addiction in society, and the likelihood that in times of fewer support systems clergy and pastoral workers will be sought out by families and individuals caught up in the cycles of addiction, Nicholas Roberts, who has had direct experience of the issues as a parish priest, and chaplain, and counselling consultant, sets out clear guidelines on the nature of addiction to alcohol and illicit drugs, and offers a theological and psychological rationale for an effective and compassionate pastoral support.

What commends this book is its insistence on a humane and person focused



approach to the support of addicted people. He cites Fr Ken Leech's earlier work in this area, which refuses to see people as 'clients', but reaffirms their equality and dignity.

Taking into account the genetic and social factors that may increase the potential for addiction, Roberts sets out the main categories of drugs and their effects, and then explores the view that the power of an addictive substance can alter brain function so that any thought of 'choice' or 'control' becomes almost impossible. In these circumstances



Roberts believes we would be wrong to ask what people are seeking to recover *from*, looking negatively at the destructive nature of their life-style, but to engage positively with them to seek out what they want to live *for*.

He looks at length to various religious approaches to the subject in three contemporary writers, including their reflections on the writings of St Paul, St Augustine and others on the struggle in all of us to live life fully, but not to excess. When do we become unduly 'attached' to false idols and desires?

Finally Roberts assesses the part the Christian community can play in a person's recovery, and the support of those who care for them.

Realistically what we can offer is limited, and may involve us in 'risk', but Roberts echoes the advice of Richard Osmer's "four phases of pastoral care" looking at what may be going on for the addicted person and those around them, the causes of this situation, a view of what might help, and then what can be done pragmatically in the way of support.

Nicholas Roberts has given pastors a timely and highly informative handbook for anyone looking to increase their understanding of addiction, but it also explores the spiritual, theological and psychological issues we need to address if we are to be a Church that cares in deed and awareness for those who struggle to be free.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**St John the Baptist (Church of England) Bromley Road, Catford SE6 2RP seeks to appoint a Director of Music £8,000 pa - 10 hours per week**

We are a thriving multi-cultural church with a modern catholic tradition seeking a Director of Music to start in March 2019

or as soon as possible after that date.

For a Job Description and details of how to apply please email the Revd Dr Martin Thomas on [fathermartinthomas@gmail.com](mailto:fathermartinthomas@gmail.com)

Closing date for applications Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bletchingley, Surrey

We are looking for an **enthusiastic musician** to direct our "small, ambitious and very accomplished" choir which we hope to grow.

- Friendly village congregation and lovely old building.
- One service on Sunday, one rehearsal weekly and occasional evening services for festivals.
- £7,000 pa or pro rata. Would consider job share if two or more suitable candidates are interested.
- Location - South East just outside M25.

For more information

<https://www.bletchingleyparishchurch.org.uk/jobdescriptionfororganistanddirectorofmusic.htm>

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



# Lent...a time to con

Lent is the time when Christian people throughout the world are called to reflect on the way in which they live, say sorry to God about those things in their lives that are not as God would have them and seek to amend their ways.

It is a time in which we look at how we might change our lives for the better for the future. Today, many people here, give up something for Lent or maybe take something on. What do you do?

Throughout the world there are Lenten traditions which the churches adopt. Here in Southwark you will find Lenten lunches in some of our churches where people are given a lunch of soup and bread or something similar for a donation of what they might usually have spent on lunch and the money will go to a charity. There are also Lent groups – some ecumenical – in which people get together once a week to study the Bible and some commit to this as one of their Lenten disciplines. Or there are a huge number of Lent books for individuals and groups to study and reflect upon.

In a tradition that dates back over 20 years each Lent the Bishops in the Diocese of Southwark send out a Lent Call pack to every church and school. They take on different ways of raising money for the projects. Our schools are particularly active in raising money for the various projects often coming up with innovative ways to raise money. They bring what they have raised to the Bishop personally each year in the Lent Call service in Southwark Cathedral.

As the children in our schools and those in our parishes consider the Lent Call projects, the Bishops hope that people will reflect on what they are reading and use this as one of the ways to reflect on their lives and help this as part of the way in which they shine God's light into their lives and see how this might lead them to seek God's help in changing their perspectives and lives.

## This year the Bishop's Lent Call theme is 'I came that they m

### Week 1 - The work of the Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka

*In the New Testament we hear the story of Jesus curing the ten lepers and the one who came back to say thank you (Luke 17: 11-19). Today leprosy is curable but it still carries a terrible stigma and people are afraid to show that they are affected. The Leprosy Mission is seeking to bring about a change in attitude in Sri Lanka and to help to ensure that people are more able to receive treatment earlier. Please pray for their work in the first week of Lent.*

#### Changing attitudes

Sri Lanka has one of the highest rates of leprosy in the world, with 1,877 new cases diagnosed last year. The Leprosy Mission is helping leprosy-affected people to form a National Association able to advise the government; supporting affected people and reducing stigma towards



those affected. It is raising awareness nationally through local churches and supporting initiatives in the poorer Northern Province to improve the lives of people in leprosy-affected communities.

The Leprosy Mission has supported the training of 785 church leaders, who make their congregations and communities aware of the signs and symptoms, as swift treatment can prevent terrible disabilities and complications.

Church ministers have also mobilised leaders from the other faith communities to raise awareness leading to nationwide initiatives and fostering peace - bringing

together ethnic groups previously at war and religious faiths currently engaged in real conflict.

#### Improving affected communities

Between July 1983 and May 2009, Sri Lanka was torn apart by civil conflict. Health care provision was severely disrupted and the poorest suffered the most - people affected by leprosy and disability. Very few new cases were diagnosed and thousands went without desperately needed treatment.

The Northern Province of Sri Lanka is still recovering from the devastating effects of the

war and natural disasters such as the 2004 tsunami, which increased the poverty and vulnerability of already fragile communities. Leprosy-affected families are among the worst affected owing to their low resilience and poor nutrition.

They live below the poverty line in isolated communities with no access to health care services or clean, safe water supplies.

The Leprosy Mission's project aims to help these communities by bringing a safe, reliable water source to isolated families.

It also aims to provide tools and seeds for farming to

improve nutrition and provide families with an income; to give free, nutritious meals to patients being treated for leprosy and its complications, and to address stigma and discrimination by raising awareness of how treatable leprosy is, thus helping to break down barriers that tear communities apart and exclude those most in need of support.

They will also fund improved case detection services, so that people can be cured early and spared the devastating effects of leprosy, as well as showing the inclusive love of Jesus to those whom the world has rejected.



### Week 2 - Urban Mission Training at Carlile College, Nairobi

*Here Church Army Africa are helping to try to deal with increasing urbanisation of the country and the challenges that this brings.*

*They are hoping to change the situation of some who find themselves in impoverished situations because of the way in which society is changing*

*around them. Please spend the second week of Lent praying for the work of Church Army Africa and especially the work in Nairobi*

#### Carlile College, Nairobi

Carlile College was started by Church Army Africa in 1958 with a group of eight students and to date has trained more than 1,000 students in its Mission programmes. In the mid-1990s the College took over the running of an Accounts class which has expanded into the School of Information Technology, Business and Social Studies with more than 1,000 students.

Carlile College offers a unique programme specifically



equipping pastors and evangelists for mission in the city. Part of the course is taught in the college's Tafakari Centre in Kibera, one of Africa's largest slums or informal settlements. Here students acquire knowledge and practical skills which enable them to have a transforming impact on urban communities and particularly in contexts of urban poverty.

#### Urban Mission Training

Urban Mission Training was founded in 2003 as a response to the challenge of equipping the church for mission in the growing cities of Africa. It is a place for training and community transformation

with a particular focus on slums or informal settlements. Much of what is taught in the Urban Mission Training programme has been taken to the informal settlements of Nairobi through the work of the Centre for Urban Mission which works with churches to transform informal settlements through a number of programmes:

- The Samaritan Strategy introduces pastors in slum churches to integral mission.
- The Kibera Kiambiu Project works with local churches to support the most needy households in Kibera and Kiambiu.

- The Christian Economic Empowerment Programme helps churches by training them in economic skills and linking them to micro-finance organisations.
- The Children's Ministry Programme helps churches in informal settlements to evangelise, disciple, pastorally care for and nurture children.
- The Youth Development Programme establishes homework clubs in the churches around which activities are run.

#### The Target

Urban Mission Training targets church leaders who have a passion for urban transformation and have churches in the urban informal settlements in Kenya and outside the country, but who cannot raise fees for theological training. The cost of training a pastor for slum ministry is roughly £1,100 per year. The two-year programme is accredited by St Paul's University, Nairobi. Supporting the 2019 Bishop's Lent Call will help provide resources for this vision of training, empowering pastors and evangelists in the informal settlements, thus enabling people to have more abundant life.



# "I came that they may have life, and



# Consider change

*might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10b).*

## Week 3 - Projects in the Diocese

*It is not simply in other parts of the world that there are those who struggle with life and need help and protection.*

*Here in the Diocese of Southwark the churches are working together with local organisations to change people's situations. Please pray for the work of the three charities which are being supported within the Diocese this year in the third week of Lent*

### Croydon Episcopal Area - Sutton Women's Centre

Sutton Women's Centre was established in 1985 by local women to provide a safe space for all women in the borough of Sutton regardless of age, race, religion, sexuality or political affiliation.

The atmosphere of the centre and its reputation reflect the quality of its qualified and caring staff.

There are currently 35 weekly volunteers providing



counselling, support, administration work, creche, cleaning etc.

The Centre is a member of the Sutton Domestic Violence Forum and works closely with Victim Support, the Sutton Domestic Violence One Stop Shop and Social and Children's Services.

It currently offers the services including a 12-week course educating women about domestic abuse; Counselling for victims of domestic/sexual abuse; English as a Second Language; Toddler Group/ Parenting Courses and a Weekly drop-in.

### Kingston Episcopal Area - Christian CARE

In Lent 1967 Christians from Churches Together in Merton Park found themselves challenged by God to put their faith into practice. So, in small ways, they started befriending families in need in the local community. Now, 52 years later, the movement



has become a unique charity serving those living in poverty in the London Borough of Merton. Sharing their varied skills and experiences,

60 volunteers from 18 different churches come together, through five inter-related projects, to touch the lives of many families - in 2018 numbers rose dramatically to 175 families.

It is staffed entirely by volunteers, so that as much of their funding as possible goes to charitable endeavours.

### Woolwich Episcopal Area - The Salmon Youth Centre

The Salmon Youth Centre has been reaching out to young people in inner city London for more than 100 years, inspiring them to reach their potential and contribute positively to the community in which they live.

The Centre's doors are open to young people, from all backgrounds, between the ages of six and 25 years old and it welcomes around 500 young people every week.

Generic and specialised youth work is available across 35 weekly sessions, including adventure, arts, dance, drama,

music and sports. The Centre also has a number of targeted initiatives which include an Apprenticeship Scheme and mentoring and disability befriending schemes.

Long-term relationships are built with young people through regular social interaction.

Your support for the Bishop's Lent Call will enable the Diocese to make grants to our nominated local projects which can help them continue to make a difference to the lives of people in their communities who are in need of help, support and guidance.

It helps people to find more abundant life



## Weeks 4 & 5 - Projects in Zimbabwe

*You will have seen in the media that the situation in Zimbabwe is not good at the moment. There have been huge price rises in the cost of bread, concrete, petrol and the currency has just been changed again. On 25 February the Zimbabwean government introduced a new currency called RTGS Dollars. The people in the churches in Zimbabwe remain full of hope in God's ability to bring change and justice to their country. We have so much that we can learn from them about relying on God for everything. Please pray for this vibrant and beautiful country and its people at this time during the fourth week of Easter and Holy Week. (see also an interview with the new Bishop of Central Zimbabwe on P10)*

Each of the four Dioceses with which the Diocese of Southwark is linked has plans for income-generating projects.

The Diocese of Central Zimbabwe is linked with the Croydon Episcopal Area and money is regularly sent to support the Diocesan budget.



The Rt Revd Ignatius Makumbe has ambitious plans to secure its future including establishing a gold processing plant; a dairy project at St Patrick's farm and an upmarket secondary school in the urban area of the Diocese. All will provide employment and income for the Diocese:

The Diocese of Masvingo is linked with Southwark Cathedral. It has a proposal for a greenhouse project at Daramombe Mission Farm to enhance food security and the livelihoods of the local community and generate income for the Diocese.

The Diocese of Manicaland is linked with the Woolwich Episcopal Area and it too has plans for income- and food-generating initiatives. The

economic situation has reduced what people can give to support the church. So, the Diocese is engaging in agribusiness to enable sustainable development and food security. They hope

to do this, in part, through a piggery project which the Lent Call can help support.

The Diocese of Matabeleland is linked with the Kingston Episcopal Area and it too has a capital project which it hopes will help make the Diocese more financially secure and provide evangelistic opportunities. It hopes to run a bookshop and Resource Centre near the Cathedral in Bulawayo.

Throughout Zimbabwe the people of the Anglican churches and the population in general are working hard to survive under challenging and ever-changing circumstances. As well as seeking to build sustainable businesses to



provide work for people and to provide food there is much to do to sustain the churches themselves and the missions.

The school and medical provision associated with the missions and local schools also needs to be properly resourced. And, in addition, the Dioceses need to find money, through churchwardens, to pay the clergy and keep the churches running. Finding the money can be a daunting task.

It is hard to see how abundance of material life is to happen in Zimbabwe at present but we can help the Dioceses through our prayers and our giving. Despite the difficulties which they are encountering our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe continue to live as people who know that God's

love is real and to follow and trust in him for all that they do. We can learn much from their perseverance and faith in the future.

**As we move through Lent into Holy Week and take time to reflect and be with God and offer the work of the Bishop's Lent Call projects to God as you offer you live for God to use each day to share God's Good news with all.**

**and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b)**



# “Recovery is very simple and very possible because we trust in God”

**Wendy Robins interviews Bishop Ignatios, Bishop of Central Zimbabwe**

Bishop Ignatios had just attended the training for new Bishops from across the Anglican Communion in Canterbury when I met him on Thursday 15 February. He was wrapped in a thick coat against the cold but had clearly had a good visit so far.

He was spending some days in the Diocese of Southwark visiting parishes in the Croydon Area to which his Diocese is linked. He had just come from Nutfield School (see right) and later in the day was going with Bishop Jonathan to Lambeth Palace for a reception.

He had had a busy time but was full of energy and it was a good opportunity to get first hand information about the situation in Zimbabwe. He spoke of the political and economic situation. Political uncertainty is widespread and as a result, he said, the big cities were quite active as people took to the streets to protest about the increase in the price of fuel. He said that the response from the



government and the Army was not helpful especially as people were injured.

The President was out of the country when this happened and so, he said, it is not easy to know whether the reaction would have been different if he had been there.

The difficulties facing Zimbabwe at present are of course, he says, affecting people. They have started to see shortages of fuel as well as rising prices and the shelves of shops are empty. Traders are arguing about the currency as Zimbabwe is not really producing and so there has to be a great deal of importing. However the Zimbabwe Bond was - when we spoke - the only legal currency in Zimbabwe. But in order to buy goods

to stock their shelves it is necessary to for produce to be bought from overseas. The Zimbabwean Bond cannot be used outside the country and so the traders need the South African Rand, the Dollar or the Botswanan Pula to be able to buy the produce needed. These are not easily available which makes stocking shelves very difficult.

It's true, of course, that by making these laws the government is trying to protect Zimbabwean workers but as Bishop Ignatios put it 'it is the egg and hen situation'. A vicious circle which ends up adversely affecting the people of Zimbabwe who have no way of getting what they need.

He went on to explain that the shut down and the strikes were called by the trade unions because their argument is that they needed to be paid in foreign currencies and that they had not received increments to which they were entitled. However, the complaints were about the increase in the price of fuel which was over 150% because once fuel goes up it touches everything.

The reaction to the way in which the government reacted



On Thursday 14 February, Bishop Ignatios visited Nutfield Church (C of E) Primary School, which has firm links with Zimbabwe. The Bishop joined the children and staff for morning Collective Worship. He received gifts from the children, including a mosaic depicting the Holy Trinity and a CD of worship music which the children had recorded. He asked the children to pray for the country and government of Zimbabwe, and for the young people, that they would grow up to make good choices. He also blessed the children and staff. The Bishop was taken on a tour of the school visiting each classroom and meeting children and staff.

to the protests has only helped to widen the trust gap between the political leaders and the people which can only be closed by dialogue. The main call from the churches is for such a dialogue and the church is influential. Bishop Ignatios says that the Anglican church is part of the Zimbabwean Council of Churches which has always initiated successful dialogues with the government. He spoke of the efforts that are being made for the churches to meet with both President Mnangagwa and the leader of the opposition Nelson Chamisa. This has not yet worked so far.

I asked him how he thought Zimbabwe would recover and Bishop Ignatios smiled broadly and said "Recovery is very simple and very possible

because we trust in God". It seemed to me a quite remarkable statement, even from someone from a people whom I knew to be very resilient.

Bishop Ignatios went on to say that when there had last been a shortage it only took a week to fill the shelves.

He said "That was a miracle. God is alive and I do not know whether Zimbabwe will recover in our lifetime or in the lifetime of the next generation but we maintain our faith as we know that things will be OK at the right time".

He said, "I urge people to keep their faith strong because sometimes we cannot really explain how we are succeeding but slowly we are just learning to trust in God no matter how bad things are". He went on,

"Wait until you are weak. It is hard to make someone who thinks they have everything understand the love of God. Only when you have tried everything then your faith in God will be really alive. God has his own time in which to teach people and I think that sometimes things happen to teach us something".

He went on, "When Moses was called by God he saw the burning bush but the bush was not consumed - and that's Zimbabwe. I know that people who are not in Zimbabwe cannot imagine how we survive. Where you have strong faith you really see the hand of God where other people do not see it.

We see how God has brought us this far and that helps our faith".

## Southwark Vision: Making it Happen!

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

The first of the 'Southwark Vision: making it happen' evenings was held at St Mary, Welling on Monday 11 February.

During the evening, the Diocesan Warden of Readers Nicole Burgum (Lay Canon) spoke about her work as a Reader and the importance of lay ministry.

She can be seen (right) talking to the Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich, the Venerable Alastair Cutting.

The Revd Liz Newman from the Charlton United Benefice then talked about their Mission Action Plan. Those who had gathered for the event also had time to discuss how the Southwark Vision is working in their parishes and deaneries and to ask questions of the Archdeacon.



Evenings have also been held in St Peter, Walworth; St Stephen, South Godstone and The Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches.

The remaining dates are listed in the panel (right) Do come.

| Date/time                     | Archdeaconry         | Venue   |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Thursday 7 March<br>7.30pm    | Lewisham & Greenwich | The Good Shepherd, Lee<br>Handen Road SE12 8NR          |
| Monday 11 March<br>7.30pm     | Lambeth              | St Mark, Kennington<br>Kennington Park Road SE11 4PW    |
| Tuesday 12 March<br>7.30pm    | Wandsworth           | Holy Trinity, Richmond<br>Sheen Park TW9 1UP            |
| Wednesday 13 March<br>7.30pm  | Croydon              | St Mary of Nazareth, West Wickham<br>The Avenue BR4 0DX |
| Monday 18 March<br>7.30pm     | Lambeth              | St Saviour, Raynes Park<br>Grand Drive SW20 9DL         |
| Tuesday 19 March<br>7.30pm    | Wandsworth           | St Paul, Kingston Hill<br>Queens Road KT2 6SE           |
| Wednesday 20 March<br>12 noon | Croydon              | Holy Saviour, Croydon<br>Cameron Road CR0 2SR           |
| Thursday 21 March<br>7.30pm   | Reigate              | Holy Trinity, Redhill<br>Carlton Road RH1 2BS           |
| Monday 25 March<br>7.30pm     | Lambeth              | Christ Church, Gipsy Hill<br>Gipsy Hill SE19 1DP        |
| Tuesday 26 March<br>7.30pm    | Lewisham & Greenwich | St John, Deptford<br>Lewisham Way SE8 4DL               |
| Wednesday 27 March<br>7.30pm  | Wandsworth           | St Peter, Battersea<br>23 Plough Road SW11 2DE          |
| Thursday 28 March<br>7.30pm   | Southwark            | St Faith, North Dulwich<br>Red Post Hill SE24 9JQ       |

If you would like more details about the evenings please contact your Archdeacon's PA at your local area office:

Croydon Area Office: 020 8256 9630.  
Kingston Area Office: 020 8545 2440.  
Woolwich Area Office: 020 7939 9400.



# Bryan Harris's

# PARISH PROFILE

**Sunday morning at Christ Church, Peckham, is more like a party than a church service. The Vicar, the Revd Hugh Balfour, described it as 'pioneering Pentecostal Anglicanism' – but to me it was meeting a church family of 'genuinely happy clappers'!**

From the outside Christ Church looks like a typical Victorian parish church. Built beside the busy Old Kent Road, architect Bassett Keeling's 'wayward and original approach' to the Gothic style has survived 150 years including repairs and remodelling after WW2 bomb damage.

But inside it looks anything but typical. Gone are the pews, the traditional woodwork, screens etc. In its place is an open flexible area with its axis turned 90°, comfortable seats in a semi-circle, bright walls and large artworks.

That structured informality is reflected in the worship style. People started arriving half an hour before the worship began, more were still arriving an hour into it! Coffee pots were on the go throughout and people just helped themselves, as and when. The congregation grew from 20 or so at the start to over 90 at the end – a mixed group of all ages and ethnicity but with a majority of African origin.

The Family Service began with a welcome from Lena, one of Christ Church's lay leaders and 15 minutes of worship



songs, all enthusiastically sung. A succession of people gave poignant testimonies on what God had been doing in their lives. That led into 'Family Time' – where a quiz, with prizes and penalties introduced the theme for the day 'those who have will be given more'. Notices were followed by more enthusiastic singing and then an expository sermon by Hugh on the 'spiritual compound interest' of living a Christian life. That led into more singing – including a conga round the church to 'We are marching in the light of God' – followed by silence as everyone prepared for and shared an Agape meal.

There was an infectious joy in every element of the worship – including frequent spontaneous applause. The service was to be followed by a bring and share lunch but even those not staying showed a great reluctance to leave in an atmosphere more reminiscent of a family party.

Hugh Balfour, together with his wife Helen, has been at Christ Church initially as Priest in Charge and then Vicar for almost 32 years – and says that he is 'sort of on my fifth

congregation'. It's an area where people move in, stay a while and then move on often looking for somewhere 'better for the children' or something more affordable. It is largely a low income area with extensive social housing and an increasingly expensive private sector.

"As a result our lay leadership changes regularly – including some who have moved onto ministry of one form or another. Today we are more multi-racial than at any time in the church's history and this is reflected in our current leadership team which combines vision and strategic direction with hands on involvement in everything from the worship team to Sunday school to our weekday groups and outreach", said Hugh. "And the ever-changing population makes it vital that we make people welcome and provide worship that engages and satisfies".

The ongoing change is about to escalate further. Today, despite three large Council estates, only about half of the parish is inhabited, with a population around 5.5k. However Christ Church is within the Old Kent Road regeneration area where over the next 20 years or so some 20,000 new homes will be built. Many of the industrial and commercial 'brown field' sites are to be cleared and developed – including relocating some retail areas – and 11.5k new homes will be built with half a mile of Christ Church. As a result Hugh Balfour with his PCC and leadership team are busy laying the foundations for the welcome and support which the growing community will need - foundations which will make a major contribution to the very different ministry of their successors.

"The hope is to reinstate the 'High Street' feel of the Old Kent Road and to try to rebuild the community through a mix of housing including affordable and social rent. They hope to start this year but the scheme

is reliant on the planned Bakerloo line extension – which is still waiting for government funding to be secured.

"So in my time here (Hugh is in his 60s) there will probably not be much change – but we are working closely with the Council and developers to keep the Church ahead of the game; to be ready to be involved in delivering a welcome to new residents and to reinforce the Church's role at the heart of the local community."

Meanwhile today's community is not being neglected with Alpha courses; a monthly men's breakfast; a weekly prayer group; a relationships course and other regular and occasional activities.

But when Hugh first arrived in 1986 it was very different – a 'pretty discouraged' congregation with about 15 active members and little relationship to the local community. It took time to address the problems but the influx of a group of young professionals in the 90s not only helped Hugh breathe life back into the church but also put in both time and money to make the building fit for purpose. "Sadly many of them have moved on, but we continue to be blessed with some very high calibre people" said Hugh.

Hugh's own personal experiences have greatly shaped the Christ Church of today. In the mid-90s he was



"renewed by experiencing the Toronto Blessing at Holy Trinity, Brompton where, when someone was praying, I found myself on the floor shaking like a leaf!" He said that he still has a very physical reaction to the presence of the Spirit even in quiet moments of prayer.

That experience started to move Christ Church significantly towards a more charismatic experience. Loss of hearing of a family member led Hugh to bringing a significant healing ministry into Christ Church's panoply. Part of that is expressed in Healing on the Streets – the fortnightly session outside the nearby Aldi store offering prayer to shoppers and passers by.

Today Christ Church has three emphases inspired by Matthew 10:7-8 – 'Proclaim the message' – Alpha course and expository preaching 'Heal the sick' – Prayer for healing on the streets, in groups and in worship 'Drive out demons' – 'Sozo' – an inner healing and deliverance ministry led by Hugh's wife Helen.

The reason for Sozo is interesting. "Over the last 20 years," said Hugh, "a significant number of people have made a Christian commitment and then crashed and burned – often people with problems – and we didn't have the tools to help. Sozo helps people establish a spiritual and emotional connection to the Trinity."

Christ Church has an ethos of 'every member ministry' with lay people taking the lead in every aspect of worship including half a dozen people preaching regularly and others leading services. As Hugh Balfour said it's very un-Anglican – including every Sunday an 'open mic'

testimony time (which has also encouraged people to arrive on time); the inter-active Family Time linked to the main teaching and involving the children; prayer happens 'as and when' during the service and the (exuberant) singing where a 'popular' song will be repeated over and again.

Hugh said "We are trying to pioneer Pentecostal Anglicanism, partly reflecting the cultural background of the church family – but also providing an encounter with God that is more than just cerebral".

"Life is hard for many in the parish and seeing people giving sacrificially, praising God and praying for others, is very moving", said Hugh.

Of course there are challenges. Time is an issue for many people – particularly shift workers – so mid-week groups struggle for numbers and the Sunday congregation will vary week by week. Finance is also a struggle. But there is a culture of 'God will provide' and evidence that he does. People give generously but have limited incomes.

"Somehow God bridges the gap between costs and income and we've never had a year which ended in deficit" said Hugh. "Along the way, we've had some remarkable provisions. For example, when the Free School next door needed to use our hall, the government paid for it to be decorated and carpeted".

Hands up, I admit that charismatic worship is not my personal style so I went in with some trepidation. I met a warm, friendly worshipping family of genuinely happy clappers and came out feeling I'd been part of something really special. Thank you Christ Church.





# Diocesan cricket team at 'crossroads'

Now is the time when cricket fixtures begin to be pencilled into diaries but in Southwark the Diocesan cricket team is at a crossroads.

## The Revd Robert Stainer writes:

We've had our ups and downs but last season we were at rather a low, in that it was actually pretty difficult to put out a team. Often players were willing, but their

hamstrings were weak, - or it was shoulders, knees, and all the usual. Then one of our best players (Richard Sewell) landed a job in Jerusalem and seems unwilling to travel back for matches this year.

Those of us who have been playing for a while would definitely still like to put out a team, but we need some fresh players.

All are welcome, but we do need some who actually play cricket to some level.

By this, I suppose these would be indicators:

- Can swing or seam a ball
- Can play a square cut
- Knows where to go if the captain asks them to field at cover point.

We always play with some people who would say "no" to all of those statements, but to be viable, even competitive, we need over half a team who'll say "yes" to at least two of them.

One other option for us is to play a combined team with another Diocese. But the best answer is for someone to hear this call, and make themselves known. Glory awaits!

All the following categories of people "count" for Church Times Cup matches: clergy, readers, youth workers, parish administrators, diocesan staff, NSMs, SSMs, archdeacons, Bishops...

Contact Robert Stanier on robertstanier@btinternet.com or Steve Coulson vicar@stmarkskennington.org



On Tuesday 26 February during Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral, Sheran Harper was commissioned as the Worldwide President of Mothers' Union by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby.

During the service, which was attended by the High Commissioner and the Bishop of Guyana, he also commissioned MU's new Board of Trustees.

The readings were given by Bev Jullien, MU's CEO and Bishop Christopher, and the sermon was preached by Archbishop Justin.

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



## Mothers' Union – 'Communicating English'

### Cynthia Smith writes:

When women in the home speak English the whole family benefits. In Southwark we have so many women (many are mothers) from all over the world who are struggling to speak English. These women lack confidence and find it very difficult to carry out everyday tasks.

Recently one of our faithful MU Members (a retired

teacher) died and left us a substantial amount of money to serve families in Southwark. After much prayer and considered discussion with others we have decided to offer a 'start up pack' for women to teach women English within friendship groups.

We have visited groups who are already doing this and we know how much this is valued. Learning together with friends helps to build a stronger and untied community. We are, therefore, offering the cost of

training for one facilitator, for a resource pack and for refreshments. Hopefully this package will encourage parishes to start up a group. For more information and an application form please contact our Secretary Anne Love at Mothers' Union, Trinity House or by email: anne.love@southwark.anglican.org We look forward to hearing from you.

**Cynthia Smith is Action and Outreach Coordinator for MU Southwark**



Christ's School in Richmond recently took delivery of a top of the range, Yamaha grand piano for use by pupils and in concerts at the school. The £12,000 to buy the piano was raised through donations from parents, friends, former pupils, the Parent Staff Association, Thomson Reuters and local resident Sir Tim Rice.



## Visit ushers new era for relations with Korean Church

On Monday 11 February Bishop Richard and the Revd Katie Thomas, Priest in Charge of St James, Malden, welcomed a delegation of clergy from South Korea, headed by Archbishop Moses, for a visit which has strengthened the ties between Korea and the Diocese of Southwark.

The Revd Katie Thomas said "We have almost 20,000 Koreans living in the New Malden area so when I was appointed Priest in Charge I was determined to understand their culture and a little of the language. Using the time between my posts, I booked a holiday to Seoul and fell in love with the people and the city - it is an amazing place.

"I see making connections with our Korean neighbours as an important part of my ministry. I've loved working with Canon Mark Williams on the Korean Mission Partnership at a Diocesan level. It is therefore a very special

honour to have been asked to become the Bishop of Seoul's Commissary in this work".

The Rt Revd Peter Lee, Bishop of Seoul, said "I am very excited to have Revd Katie Thomas as the Commissary of Seoul working with the Korean Mission Partnership. This important position has been vacant for a long time and now we expect a more positive way forward in deepening our mission relationship between the Church of Korea and Church of England. This appointment happened during the visit to St James parish, and in the presence of the Bishop of Kingston".

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# 'In the footsteps of the Holy Family'

**Bishop Christopher joined an ecumenical group on a pilgrimage to Egypt from 27 January to 1 February.**

**Richard Austen reports:**

The pilgrimage was led by Archbishop Angaelos, the Coptic Archbishop of London and an Ecumenical Canon of Southwark Cathedral.

'In the footsteps of the Holy Family' visited several sites in and around Cairo, Alexandria and the Nile Delta, where ancient tradition holds that the Holy Family rested during their flight from Herod after the birth of Jesus. We had an Audience with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II and met a wide range of Coptic Christians. This was a very moving week for all of us. We were all struck by the resilience and determination of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt.

Christianity in Egypt goes back to the first century, when St Mark founded the church in Alexandria. Coptic Christians make up about 15% of the population of Egypt and 80% of the Christian population of

the Middle East. The Church is alive and going through renewal as it rises out of persecution. It has a vital role to play in building bridges in Egyptian society. Although there have been several attacks on churches in recent years by extremists in which both Christians and Muslims were killed, the Christians in Egypt realise that the vast majority of Muslims are their friends and do not support terrorism.

We were struck by the love for one another displayed in

the Church, the living out of the Christian message daily and the dynamic faith of a people who know they will have suffering in the future.

We were also touched by the genuine affection openly displayed to the Clergy and Bishops, particularly by young people. Coptic Orthodox Christians show a deep faith and hope in the face of adversity. They are truly a light shining out in the darkness.

This week was also a wonderful ecumenical

experience with such a diverse group brought together by our solidarity with our persecuted sisters and brothers. The group included representatives of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches, the Church of Scotland and representatives of the Awareness Foundation, Premier Christian Radio, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Aid to the Church in Need, the Conservative Middle East Council and Christians in Government.

The hope is that this will be the start of future collaboration between our Churches on the issue of religious freedom.

**Richard Austen is a Reader at Kew United Benefice.**



## Caterham's Lego churches build momentum



In June 2018, St Mary's and St Lawrence's churches in Caterham launched a Lego building project to help them raise funds for urgent repair works. The initiative involves building a model of both churches in Lego, selling each brick for £1.

The finished model is expected to take 5 years to complete, or until £50,000 is raised to cover repair and maintenance costs including fixing St Mary's church spire and installing a flushing toilet at St Lawrence's.

To increase awareness and engage the local community, the model is to go on tour to local schools and events such as the Caterham Festival and Caterham Street Party.

Hilary Clark, Churchwarden and Lego fundraiser at St Mary's, explained: "The Lego build is coming on really well and we are confident that the tour will help us achieve our target that much quicker."

Andy Parr, who is also backing the project, adds: "I've supported this exciting project from the start."

"I'm sure St Mary's and St Lawrence's will achieve their goal if we all pull together, like the Caterham community always does."

For further information, visit [www.stmary-caterham.org.uk](http://www.stmary-caterham.org.uk)

Photo Andy Parr and Hilary Clark and the model outside St Mary's Church, Caterham



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# Let us pray

## March

It hardly seems possible that it is a quarter of a century, 25 years, since women were first ordained to the priesthood.

I well remember the Southwark ordinations that took place in the cathedral in May 1994 a few months after the first ordinations that took place in March. Two of my friends were being ordained, one for the Woolwich area and another for Kingston.

So I came to two of the services and shared in the excitement of the day.

Now all three orders of ministry are open to all God's people and women and men together are living out the particular vocations

that God gives to the whole church to be deacons, priests and bishops.

Whilst some of our brothers and sisters are still unable to accept this development in the ministry of the church for the vast majority of people it has become the way church is, it has become ordinary, and that is the way it should be.

However, this 'silver' anniversary is also a good opportunity to give thanks for what ordained women have brought to the life of the church.

If your priest happens to be a woman don't forget to celebrate with her this month.

And whoever your priest is and whatever your attitude to who should be ordained, use this month to recognise the contribution our ordained clergy make to the life of the church.

Lord Jesus Christ, great High Priest, we thank you that you call us to share in your priesthood. As we break bread, share the word, bless and forgive may we never forget that it is you who call us and your Spirit which empowers us. 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



Bishops on the move in Amritsar during the recent Pilgrimage to North India. Bishop Christopher was part of a group of Southwark clergy and laity who spent two weeks visiting the Church of North India in February. Please watch out for a Hearts on Fire blog - <http://southwarkcofe.tumblr.com>

## Croydon MEACC celebrates young people

Croydon Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (MEACC) showcased the gifts and talents of young people on Saturday, 22 September 2018. The event was held at Archbishop Tenison's CoE High School and around 90 people attended the day, half of which were young people.

Bishop Christopher and the the Archdeacons of Croydon and Reigate took part. Bishop Christopher playing the steel

pans joined in with the young players on a musical piece.

Other dignitaries included Croydon deputy Mayor, Humayun Kabir and Young People's Mayor, William Awomoyi. Young people from local schools and colleges showed their talents, with music renditions including their own compositions. They also displayed their photography skills.

Stalls included Girl Guides promotion, children books, healthy food and young people's clothing. There were educational workshops on the 'history and development of steelpan playing' and 'mentoring'. Mrs Eileen Walkin also gave a presentation on, 'Croydon, our community'.

The 2019 Talent Showcase will be held at the same venue, on 21 September (10am-4pm).



Croydon Young People's Mayor, William Awomoyi and Emylss Akpa, Junior Secretary from West Croydon Methodist Church at a Croydon MEACC celebration of young people

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# WHAT'S ON

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

## Ongoing

- \* **BEDDINGTON** - Quiet @St Mary's - 3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm. Various tools for quiet including labyrinth
- \* **BOROUGH** - St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm to 4.30 pm. Meet people, get advice, help one another
- \* **ELTHAM** - Sing with an orchestra. 3pm last Sunday

each month (not Aug or Dec.) Eltham Pk Methodist Church

- † **HACKBRIDGE** - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month
- \* **WARLINGHAM** - Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday
- † **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington - Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm

## March

**Lunchtime Recitals at Croydon Minster:**  
Fridays at 1.10pm.  
Bring a packed lunch.  
Free entry - donations to Minster Funds.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aida Duo (Alis An, piano & Inês Delgado, violin)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Students from Croydon High School
- 15<sup>th</sup> Juhee Yang (Violin) & Maria Tarasewicz (Piano)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Hugh Beckwith, (Tenor) & Heather Easting (Piano)
- 29<sup>th</sup> Trinity School Pianists

### Saturday 2 March

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Coffee Concert at St John's - 11am Coffee and cakes, 11.30am Dunn family strings and clarinet. Free admission.

### Wednesday 6 March

- ♫ **CATERHAM** - Munch with Music at St John's Church. HyunJeong Hwang (piano) - music by Bach, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. Tea/Coffee from 12:15; Performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Admission Free - Donations welcome

### Thursday 7 March

- ☛ **SOUTHFIELDS** - The Bible Society Presents: The Greatest Story Ever Toured 7.30-10 pm at St Barnabas Church, with Paul Kerensa (comedian/scriptwriter), Andrew Ollerton (creator of The Bible Course) and live music with Susie Lopez. Tickets £5 from 01793 418222.

**Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill** - admission free, donations invited  
Every Thursday at 1.10 pm  
7<sup>th</sup> Recital - Hannah Hever (Clarinet)  
14<sup>th</sup> Recital - Simon Watterton (Piano)  
21<sup>st</sup> Chalumeaux Clarinet Quartet  
28<sup>th</sup> Chamber Music Recital - Members of the Dunn Family

### Saturday 9 March

- ☛ **WEST DULWICH** - The People's Song - Three Key Traditions - Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland London Regional Day at All Saints Church, 10.30am - 4.30pm ending with a Festival of Hymns. Admission £10. Just turn up. Bring lunch, drinks available

### Sunday 10 March

- ♫ **BARNES** - Glorious Bach! at St Michael & All Angels Church. Bach's setting of The Magnificat and other works - The English Chamber Singers and the choir of St Michael's. Part of the 7th annual Barnes Music Festival

### Saturday 13 March

**SOUTHFIELDS** - Putney Choral Society, with full orchestra and professional soloists, will perform Haydn Harmoniemesse and Rossini Stabat Mater. at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, Tickets: £15 (to include refreshments & programme)

### Saturday 16 March

- ✱ **SANDERSTEAD** - Exhibition and Sale of Pictures by Local Artists in support of the Children's Society 10am - 4.30pm. United Reformed Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill. Original works at affordable prices. Home made cakes, tea and coffee, raffle.

### Sunday 17 March

- † **TANDRIDGE** - Choral Evensong BCP at St. Peter's Church 6.30pm - with Reigate St Mary's Choir School. Refreshments from 5.30pm
- \* **CLAPHAM** - Welcoming Church - at Church of the Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue 6:30pm - refreshments afterwards. See advertisement page 5
- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - London Mozart Players at St John's at 4pm. Saint-Saens 'Carnival of the Animals' and Prokofiev 'Peter & the Wolf'. Book via eventbrite or www.londonmozartplayers.com

### Tuesday 19 March

- ♫ **BARNES** - Lunchtime recital by Dr Martin Neary on the restored pipe organ at St Michael & All Angels Church. Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in G minor and the Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor,

## An American Celebration of Music at Southwark Cathedral

(all at 3.30pm)

### Thursday 21 March

**Newsome Chorus, Florida** - choral pieces, Spirituals and International folk songs

### Monday 25 March

**Durham School of the Arts Choir, North Carolina.** Sacred music, folk songs and spirituals

### Friday 29 March

**Minooka Community High School Choirs, Illinois.** Music for all tastes

### Tuesday 2 April

**Youth Performing Arts Choir & String Ensemble, Kentucky.** Music from both sides of the Atlantic  
Unreserved seating. Just turn up. Free admission with a retiring collection to Southwark Cathedral

### Thursday 21 March

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

### Friday 22 March

- ♫ **SOUTHWARK** - Lewisham Choral Society Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm. Mozart Mass in C Minor, Schumann Piano Concerto and Brahms. Details and tickets - www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk

### Saturday 23 March

- ♫ **NORTH DULWICH** - Chamber Music Concert at St Faith's - 7 pm. Supporting St Vincent's Music School for blind and disabled children in Haiti. Admission free, collection to be taken
- ✱ **SOUTH CROYDON** - Day Centre for the Elderly Spring Sale in their hall at the rear of St Peter's Hall, Ledbury Road 10am to 1pm. Bargains, bacon butties, tea and coffee.
- ♫ **COLLIERS WOOD** - Morden Park Choral Society Concert 7.30 pm at St John the Divine Church. Further information from Mr Maylin 07392 489024
- ♫ **LEE** - Blackheath Choir Easter Concert - 7.30pm at St Margaret's Church. Haydn: Stabat Mater & Hasse: Miserere in C. Tickets: In advance: £13 On the door: £16 Text to: 07921 295430 or email: tickets@blackheathchoir.org.uk

- ✱ **NORBURY** - MEACC Quiet Day following 10am Eucharist at St Stephen's Church

### Sunday 24 March

- † **EAST DULWICH** - Choral Evensong at St John's Church at 5pm.

### Friday 29 and Sunday 31 March

- ✱ **WATERLOO** - Midsummer Opera presents 'Andrea Chenier' at St John's Church on Friday 7pm & Sunday 5pm. With soloists, Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Tickets in advance £24 Tel: 020 7652 0070 and online; www.midsummeropera.org.uk On the door £28

### Saturday 30 March

- ♫ **REIGATE** - Spring Classics - Reigate & Redhill Choral Society at St Mary's Church. 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (£10 u/21s) from www.rccs.org.uk
- ♫ **CHEAM** - Sutton Symphony Orchestra concert 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Northey Avenue. Inc Tchaikovsky Symphony No 4. Tickets £10 from Sue White 020 8644 4053
- ♫ **CROYDON** - Choral and Classical Masterpieces with Croydon Philharmonic Choir 7.30pm at St Mary Magdalene Church. Mozart Coronation Mass; Haydn Te Deum; Vivaldi Concerto for 2 Trumpets Tickets £12 (£6 u/16s). from tickets@croydonphilharmonic.org or pay on the door.
- ♫ **UPPER TOOTING** - Songs on a spring evening. Cassical and cabaret pops from Handel to Lehrer at St Augustine's Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 on the door in aid of the Jeel al-Amal School and Boys Home, Bethany, Palestine
- † **BRIXTON** - Day of Prayer for Mothers (organised by Kingston Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee) at St Matthew's Church (11am - 3.30 pm with a short break).

### Sunday 31 March

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - St Bartholomew's Orchestra Spring Concert at St John's 7.30pm. Details from 020 8771 6686. www.sjun.org.uk

## April

### Wednesday 3 April

- ♫ **CATERHAM** - Munch with Music at St John's Church Alfred and Salamanda Saxophone Quartet. Tea/Coffee from 12:15; Performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Admission Free - Donations welcome

### Saturday 6 April

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Coffee Concert at St John's - 11am Coffee and cakes, 11.30am Saxophone Quartet. Free admission
- ♫ **WIMBLEDON** - 'The Spirit of Venice' - Wimbledon Chamber Choir concert at St Matthew's Church, West Wimbledon, including sackbuts and theorbo. Tickets £12 / £9. Further information from Sue White 020 8644 4053

### Saturday 6 April

- ♫ **CROYDON** - Spring Concert - Croydon Bach Choir-Elgar's, The Kingdom. 7:30 pm at St Matthew's Church. Tickets £12 (child £5) from http://www.croydonbachchoir.org/

### Saturday 13 April

- ♫ **WEST WICKHAM** - London Concert Chorus & guest soloists at St Francis of Assisi. Popular songs in Four-part harmony. 7.30 pm. £10 at the door (inc refreshments)

### Sunday 14 April

- † **KENLEY** - St Mark's Passion for Palm Sunday, with music by Charles Wood. All Saints Church 6.30pm

### Saturday 27 April

- ✱ **MERTON** - Unlock annual sponsored walk in the Merton, Morden & Wimbledon area. Further details can be obtained from 0114 2939060; Email: office@unlock-urban.org.uk or on website www.unlock-urban.org.uk

## CATERHAM ST LAWRENCE Guided Tours

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  - Sunday 5 May - 3pm
  - Monday 6 May - 3pm
  - Sunday 12 May - 3pm
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## May

### Saturday 4 May

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Coffee Concert at St John's - 11am Coffee and cakes, 11.30am Susan Anderson - mezzo-soprano. Free admission

### Sunday 12 May

- ♫ **EAST DULWICH** - Music by the Green 1:30 - 4:30 pm at St John's Church - an afternoon of music by choirs and musicians from the local area and beyond. Light refreshments, craft activity and face-painting. Everyone welcome. Admission is free.

### Thursday 16 May

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



# Oxted Rector is consecrated Bishop of Ramsbury



**The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Paul Rumsey, previously Rector of Oxted Team Ministry, was ordained and consecrated as Bishop of Ramsbury by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Southwark Cathedral on 25 January.**

He will have responsibility for the Wiltshire parishes (in the Diocese of Salisbury) but will share in ministry and mission across the Diocese and will chair the new Mission and Ministry Council.

Bishop Andrew is married to Rebecca, who was born in Marlborough where the couple are now living. They have three children: Grace (17), Jonah (15) and Talitha (12).

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam said: "We are glad to welcome Andrew Rumsey as he arrives among us. We hope that he, Rebecca and their children will quickly feel at home here."

Bishop Christopher said, "He will lead the people of Ramsbury with wisdom and humour. My prayers go with him and his family".

Bishop Jonathan added, "Andrew will be much missed in the Croydon Area."



Above: Bishop Andrew with his family and Bishops Nicholas Holtam (Salisbury) and Karen Gorham (Sherborne)

Below: (l-r) Bishop Jonathan, Bishop Andrew, Archbishop Justin, Bishop Christopher and Bishop Nicholas



## You're never too old!

Joyce Town from St Francis, West Wickham who will be 100 in May, was confirmed by Bishop Jonathan at the Croydon Addington Deanery Confirmation Service on 3 February at St Mary of Nazareth Church.

There were nine candidates in all - seven others from the United Benefice of St Francis & St Mary and one from St John the Divine, Selsdon.

Above: Joyce with Bishop Jonathan & the Revd Hazel O'Sullivan, Priest in Charge at St Francis & St Mary, West Wickham.

## 'Next year in Jerusalem'

**The Very Revd Andrew Nunn writes:**

**On any pilgrimage we learn almost as much from those with whom we journey as from the place to which we travel.**

So we are delighted that in 2020 there is the opportunity to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land being jointly organised by the Diocese of Southwark



and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark.

The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Paul Hendricks of the Roman Catholic Diocese and Bishop Christopher, supported by the deans of the two cathedrals, Andrew Nunn and Richard Hearn.

As with any pilgrimage to the land of Jesus we will be visiting all of the principal sites we know through the gospels. However, what will make this pilgrimage unique will be the opportunity to worship together, to understand a little more about our particular

traditions but also to realise how much we have in common.

We will be staying in hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias and benefitting from local guides as well as the wisdom our bishops will bring.

Places are, of course, limited and so you are encouraged to book early to be part of this very special group.

**The brochure and booking form can be obtained from the Pilgrimage Administrator (details in the panel right).**

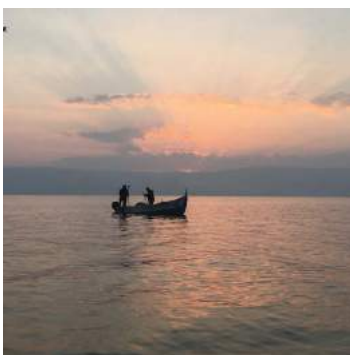
## An Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



**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](mailto:pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org)



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