

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.25 No.2
March 2020

Streatham

Caring for the community after a terror attack

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Baptism and confirmation in the season of Lent

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WHAT'S ON

Community events, workshops, concerts

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Angelic photo wins £2,000 for St Stephen, Dulwich

Having taken the prize for the South East region, the photograph will now go forward to Ecclesiastical Insurance's Parish Pixels competition grand final.

"We were delighted to win the regional prize," said the Revd Canon Bernhard Schunemann, vicar at St Stephen's. "Although Dulwich is seen as an affluent area, in fact three-quarters of the people in our parish live on a council housing estate and we are the only urban priority area in the deanery. The money will be very useful in our community outreach."

The winner of the grand final will be announced later this year, and will net a further £5,000 in prize money. To help in the decision, Ecclesiastical is encouraging people to vote online for their favourite. "Vote early, vote often!" Bernhard pleaded.

(Voting is open now at <http://bit.ly/ParishPixels>; hover over the image you wish to vote for, and click on the 'vote' button that comes up in the top right-hand corner.)

Dream team

The photograph was taken by St Stephen's Director of Visual Communications Sarah Bucknall. She said: "I was stunned to have got this far in the competition. None of us had ever seen the sun lighting up the angels like this before – it was just the right time of year."

These intricately carved angels look down on the choir stalls at the back of the church, and are a hit with both church members and visitors, Bernhard said.

"They're very special and all very slightly different," he added, "so, when I have school classes in, I love pointing the children upwards to look at the angels and spot the differences."



The prize-winning photograph by church member Sarah Bucknall.



Southwark joins Cross of Nails community

During the Choral Eucharist on Sunday 26 January, Southwark Cathedral was welcomed into membership of the Community of the Cross of Nails network of churches and Christian organisations.

Inspired by the story of Coventry Cathedral, the Community shares a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. As a visible sign of its membership, the Cathedral was presented with its own cross of nails by the Dean of Coventry, the Very Revd John Witcombe.

After the service, Bishop Christopher said: "Southwark Cathedral sits beside London Bridge, the site of two recent terror attacks, so it is fitting that the Cathedral has joined the Community of the Cross of Nails, becoming part of a worldwide network working together for peace and reconciliation."

Cathedral Sub-Dean, Canon Michael Rawson, added: "Membership of the Community is very important to us as healing the wounds of terrorist attacks in our neighbourhood form an important part of our ministry as well as challenging youth violence and knife crime in our city."

A view from The BRIDGE



I once became lost in a wilderness in the days before mobile phones and satnavs. I was taking my daughter to visit a university friend in East London, took a wrong turning in the car after I had dropped her off, and ended up in a vast housing estate with no street signs.

I tried to speak to anyone walking by but they scurried on without looking. I tried different blocks but they all looked so similar and ended in bleak dead ends of graffiti. Suddenly I was surrounded, silently, by a group of teenage boys on bicycles, faces nearly covered by hoodies — so tightly surrounded that I could not move the car, not an inch. I felt vulnerable and lost.

I automatically muttered “I turn to Christ”, those wonderful words from our baptismal service that give me courage when I feel vulnerable. I wound down the window, said I had become lost and could they please show me the way. They formed up

in front and to the side of me and solemnly led me to the nearest exit, waved, then left as silently and suddenly as they had appeared. I was wrong to have assumed the worst in these young teenagers on a bleak estate.

During Lent we hope to find time to reflect on our fears and wilderness moments, our wrong turnings and how we learn from them, and from those who help us — especially the unlikely and the stranger. We hope to strengthen our faith and our faithfulness.

In our centre spread this month we can learn more about the links between Lent, baptism and confirmation. We give thanks for all those who will be baptised and confirmed in the coming weeks, and pray to encourage others to know in their hearts the assurances of our faith, “I turn to Christ”.

Ruth Martin

Southwark's Safeguarding Adviser announces move to sports charity

Kate Singleton (right), the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Safeguarding Adviser to Southwark Cathedral, is leaving the Diocese at the end of April after six years in role.

Kate has accepted an exciting new post in the fast-changing environment of safeguarding in sport. The Revd Canon Stephen Roberts, the Bishop of Southwark's Safeguarding Lead, said: “We are sad to see Kate go as she has been an excellent Safeguarding Adviser helping the Diocese of Southwark to continue to develop its safeguarding policies and practice.

“Her professionalism leaves us in a good position for the future and we are very grateful for this and would like to thank her for all that she has done.”

The process to appoint a new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is now underway.



USPG stained glass gives sign of hope to the world



Bishop Christopher blesses Vasantha Gnanados (left).

Bishop Christopher was a special guest at USPG's chapel on 5 February, where he led a service of blessing and dedication for USPG's stained glass windows.

The windows had been in storage since USPG moved into its new building a year ago. As he blessed the windows, the Bishop paid tribute to the four bishops commemorated on them: Samuel Ajayi Crowther from Nigeria, Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah from

India, Tsae-Seng Sing from China and Joseph Sakunoshin Motoda from Japan.

“These four bishops were surely signs of hope in the world,” Bishop Christopher said. “They are signs that for all we may be constrained and confined in our culture, the Gospel we have been given to proclaim does, time and again, shine forth in ways that make profound contact with God's people in every part of the world.”

Join the Southwark Vision celebrations

You are invited to join the Archdeacons at a Vision event near you from mid-March. Hear good news stories about Lay Pioneer ministry, the new Parish Giving Scheme and celebrate the Southwark Vision.

Details of dates and venues can be found at: southwark.anglican.org/southwarkvision

Further information on this year's Parish Support Fund literature will be coming soon.



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The APRIL edition is due to be printed on 26 March 2020 and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 16 MARCH**.

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

Woolwich Area Study Day puts spotlight on disability inclusion

The Revd Peter Organ, vicar of St Michael, East Wickham, writes:



On 4 February, Woolwich Area clergy gathered at St Laurence, Catford, which provided warm hospitality as we attended a day themed around inclusion of those with disabilities entitled *Just As I Am*.

Our opening speaker was Fiona MacMillan (above), a trustee of Inclusive Church who runs conferences supporting and empowering Christians with disabilities. She gave the historical background of a Church that has seen those with disabilities as needing healing or, worse, exorcism. She asked us to reflect on the words of Psalm 139: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Fiona encouraged us to think of those with disabilities bringing gifts to the Church, not as victims but as liberators.

Kay Cutting, who works in a school for children with profound medical

needs, and Dr Mosun Dorgu, who is a consultant child psychiatrist, both gave valuable insights into how we can welcome and value the presence of those with disabilities in our churches, not because of what they might contribute but as fellow sisters and brothers made in God's image.

Kay shared Becky Tyler's sermon to Greenbelt in 2017, which is an example of how we can be ministered to by those with disabilities (find it on YouTube at bit.ly/BeckyTyler).

Then, at the end of the day, the entertaining double act of the Revds Tim Goode and Jonathan Macy outlined a means of enabling this in our congregations via a new initiative, *Wonderfully Made Church*. Details of this project, which aims to draw attention to and celebrate the vocations and ministries — both lay and ordained — of disabled people, will be released soon.



St Leonard, Streatham leads response to terror attack

St Leonard, Streatham found itself caught up in a terrorist incident just before 2pm on Sunday 2 February, when shots were fired only metres from the rectory.

The Revd Canon Anna Norman-Walker, Rector of St Leonard's, tore up her sermon for that day's Evensong and instead preached on the subject of finding light in the darkness. In the intervening hours, she had opened the church for prayer, and spent her time supporting police and emergency services attending the incident.

The next morning, Anna was joined by Bishop Christopher and more than 30 people from local churches as they gathered to pray that the community would respond with compassion "and a determination not to allow this incident to divide local people or instil fear".

On Thursday, the Bishop and the Rector attended an inter-faith breakfast at Streatham Mosque, where the Bishop offered words of peace for all faiths.

Later, on Saturday, community and choir members gathered in St Leonard's to learn songs for peace, before joining a vigil led by London Mayor Sadiq Khan.

Bishop Christopher, speaking in the House of Lords on 4 February, said: "The community response was very remarkable. The Rector of the parish was immediately out on the streets giving refreshments to the emergency services, the parish church was open for prayer."

He added: "I think this wider dimension is immensely important for the nation to be aware of."

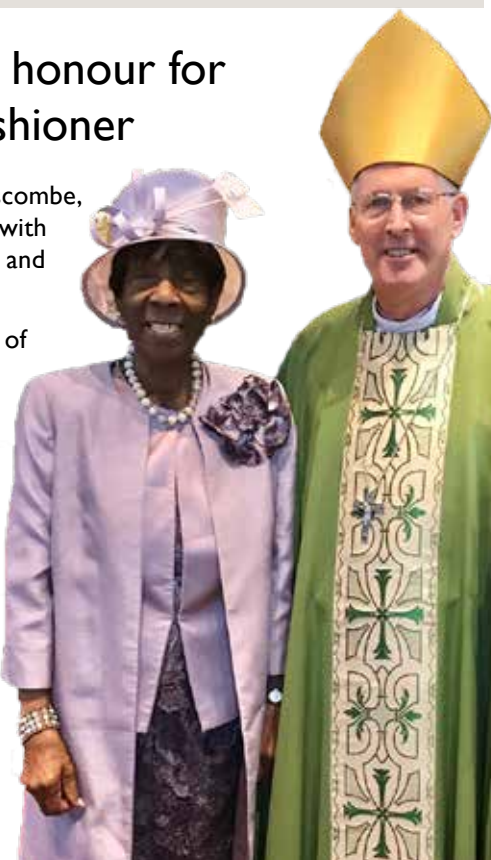
Lancelot Andrewes Medal honour for St Mary, Addiscombe parishioner

At a service on 16 February at St Mary, Addiscombe, Bishop Christopher presented Eileen Walkin with the Lancelot Andrewes Medal for Godly Zeal and Service to the Gospel.

In his sermon, he described Eileen as "a pillar of the church" since her arrival in the UK from Barbados in 1965, worshipping first at St Leonard, Streatham, and then at St Mary's.

After studying law, Eileen had a long and successful career in the Civil Service. However, it was her voluntary work in the community — as a school governor, and with refugees and the homeless — that Bishop Christopher particularly referenced.

"She has also been someone who is faithful in the little things that are of infinite value," said the Bishop, "always there to welcome, noticing when someone is new, making sure they know how to join in, and above all faithful and persistent in prayer."



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CHILDREN & YOUTH

Stories from the Diocese

“It’s Mossy Church, not Messy Church!”

Naomi Wellings of St James, Kidbrooke shares the rewards of taking church into the great outdoors, and mud’s teachable moments.



Mud, glorious mud: Mossy Church in action at St James, Kidbrooke.

and biscuits, topped off with a craft activity — all themed to our Bible story.

We’ve hunted down 99 sheep, huddled around a pretend campfire above Bethlehem, and made fireflies and candles to remember Jesus being the light in the darkness, around the time so many celebrate Halloween.

One mum, Silvia Kolu, who brings her girls aged five and three, started coming along to one of our Sunday services after becoming comfortable at the Mossy sessions. She says: “As a family we are keen on unstructured play, so we take every opportunity to get the kids outside and create contact with nature. There is no better way to share the word of God with small children. Mossy Church in fact nourishes the soul, the combination of nature with stories from the Gospels, music, crafts and interaction with the community makes it unique.”

We’ve lost track of the number of times we have had to explain it, but Mossy Church is Mossy. Mossy Church involves mud, climbing trees and getting wet and, at the same time, remembering who made the mud, the trees and the rainwater!

Ask any parent, and they’ll tell you that “Forest School” is a big draw these days, and it feels only natural to make the connection between the created and the Creator. We meet monthly in the back of the church grounds, which have been made into a Forest School-style play space for use by a local nursery during the week. We welcome young families to our worshipping community who wouldn’t necessarily want to come into our building, but are extremely comfortable enjoying our outdoors.

We get around 20 children aged six and under for an hour-long session, involving free play in the beautiful woodland surroundings, a Bible story, song accompanied by ukulele, hot chocolate

Southwark Diocesan Servers’ Festival 2020

Plenty of young servers were among the 170 or so people who arrived at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 25 January for the Southwark Diocesan Servers’ Festival 2020.

As well as a Eucharist, at which Bishop Christopher presided and the Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby preached, there were workshops on being a thurifer, the meaning of the Eucharist, how to carry the cross in procession and intercessions, as well as a treasure hunt (right).



In the hot seat: design prize for Southwark pupil



A student from St Saviour’s & St Olave’s School in Southwark has received first prize in a competition to have a chair of their design made into a real piece of furniture by bespoke designer Tom Faulkner.

Anne-Elizabeth Sowah (left, with Faulkner), a Product Design student, was announced as the winner of the ‘Take a Seat’ competition at a private viewing at Bell House in Dulwich in February.

Anne-Elizabeth’s chair was inspired by her favourite design movement, Art Deco. She said of the piece: “My inspiration comes from the Ziggurat shape, often found in Art Deco architecture.”

The ‘Take a Seat’ project was developed in collaboration with the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership and featured entries from 11 students across five schools within the partnership.

Southwark hosts its first Youth Forum



We had our first Youth Forum meeting on 18 January, writes Voke Didimako (above), aged 17, from St Mary, Peckham.

We met young people from other churches in Southwark before brief introductions and an icebreaker activity, where we built famous London landmarks.

We were split into two groups to do this: Team Shard and Team Canary Wharf. Within these two groups we discussed the two most popular topics within the young community: issues/bullying at school and mental health.

Using what we learned from the presentation skills videos and winners of

the Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge, we recorded our presentations.

The mental health group shared some of their personal experiences dealing with mental health issues and their coping mechanisms, as well as addressing what more the Church could do to support its young people.

The issues/bullying at school group performed a drama piece set in a classroom that included breaks to highlight what goes on in school, with surprising statistics to validate their point.

Doing this helped us to build our confidence and learn new and valuable skill sets for addressing young people’s needs within the church community.

Croydon Prayer Space prompts deep thought

The Minster Nursery and Infant School in Croydon held its third annual Community Prayer Space Project in February and it was the most successful yet, writes Assistant Headteacher Kerry van der Berg.

Working alongside The Minster Junior School, we created a Community Prayer Space that allowed children, young people and family members, of all faiths and none, to explore spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. We focused on current local, national and global areas for reflection.

Some examples included: What are our worries as an individual? What impact do natural disasters have on people's lives and the country/ community? What challenges do children face locally and around the world? What items would be most important to you if you had to leave your home in five minutes? Which fruit of the spirit have you shown?

In addition to the reflection areas in our schools, we created three areas for reflection within the Minster Church in Croydon. These focused on the importance of nature, water



Pupils reflect on veganism at a Prayer Space station.

and our hopes for those who are homeless.

A visit by the infant and junior schools' faith groups to these areas at Croydon Minster was a huge success, thanks to the support and determination of our volunteers both in and out of school.

We were also fortunate to have visits from the Revd Dr Andrew Bishop, Incumbent at Croydon Minster; the children at Krishna Avanti primary school; and a morning spent with Alison Clark, Bishop Jonathan's wife. Our thanks go to everyone involved in the whole project.



IN FOCUS...
Other news

Southwark colleagues make a splash at General Synod



© Keith Blundy/Aegies Associates

General Synod met at Church House Westminster from 10 to 12 February and members of Synod from the Diocese of Southwark were active as usual.

Among other contributions, the Revd Andrew Moughtin Mumby's (Rector of St Peter, Walworth) Private Members' Motion on the Windrush Commitment and Legacy, in which the Revd Canon Rosemarie Mallett spoke, was carried *nem. con.*

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, proposed an amendment

in the carbon emissions debate which set a target of net zero carbon for 2030. A number of other Southwark members also spoke in the debate.

The Revd Canon Giles Goddard was part of the discussion which took place on the floor of Synod as a member of the Living in Love and Faith Steering group, and the Dean of Southwark also helped to steer the legislative business around the Draft Cathedral Measure revision stage through Synod.

St Michael, Blackheath to launch youth choir festival



When Sarah Burnard decided to found St Michael's Young Choir Festival in Blackheath Park, south-east London, she decided on a new approach. "Our special focus", she said, "is on getting young children involved in music for the first time. All our singers are in Years 3 to 6, and we have one competition just for newly formed choirs, with others for more experienced groups.

"We aim to help schools who would love to bring music into their children's lives but are prevented by lack of budget. So, unusually for a choir festival, we have no entry fee. Music is one of God's great gifts and we think that getting it into young lives is very important; it may stay with them for ever."

St Michael's Young Choir Festival is on 13 June; entries close on 31 March.
E-mail sarah@rosepeach.co.uk or call 07538 239310 for more details.

Bishop Richard presents new vicar to St Andrew, Ham

The congregation of St Andrew, Ham warmly welcomed Bishop Richard to the parish on 19 January, as he presented the Revd Alice Pettit to them as their parish priest.

During the service, Alice was presented to the Bishop by John Dewhurst, Kingston Deanery's Lay Chair, on behalf of King's College Cambridge, the Patron of St Andrew's parish. In his sermon, Bishop Richard spoke movingly of the new decade being a time of reflection.

The solemn procession to the door of the Church was led by churchwardens Margaret and Richard. The photograph shows the moment that Bishop Richard placed Alice's hand on the door with the words, "I induct you into the real, actual and corporal possession of this church and benefice." Alice then rang the bell to show she had taken possession of St Andrew's.

The parish's thanks go to Bishop Richard for the service and it continues to extend a warm welcome to Alice, her husband James and their family.





DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Baptism and Confirmation

A time to rejoice and celebrate new beginnings

Easter is traditionally associated with baptism and confirmation. As we enter the season of Lent, Peter Graystone of the Diocesan Discipleship & Ministry team celebrates that connection, below, while people from around the Diocese share their stories of joining the Church family, right


Easter lies ahead. The days are growing longer. (Our word “Lent” comes from the Old English word meaning lengthen.) From the very first, Christians regarded Easter as a very special day and prepared for it carefully. For two centuries after Jesus they didn’t eat or drink at all between Good Friday and dawn on Easter Sunday. One of the reasons they prepared with such seriousness was that Easter Sunday was the day when, with solemnity as well as rejoicing, new Christians were baptised. They emerged from the waters with new life, just as Jesus had emerged from death with the promise of eternity.

As years went by, the teaching new Christians received before their baptism became more organised and the time of preparation grew longer. In the fourth century an international council of Christian leaders in present-day Turkey established it as 40 days plus Sundays – our season of Lent. Christians showed their

solidarity with those who were preparing for baptism by praying for them and fasting.

By the sixth century more people were being baptised as infants than as adults. The significance of confirmation grew, so that adults could affirm the words said on their behalf when they were too young to remember. Lent developed during the years that followed into a period of focused prayer, repentance for failings, and reflection on what is truly important in life.

The connection between Lent and baptism has loosened over the centuries. It’s a shame. Let’s return to standing alongside those who are about to be baptised or confirmed with a dedicated time of prayer, and care about what we eat and drink. And then, on Easter Sunday, let us renew our baptism vows with great rejoicing, knowing that two billion Christians worldwide share the faith we have in the risen Jesus.




LET US PRAY...

Here are three things you can do during the coming weeks to revive the ancient connection between Lent and baptism:

- Drink more water. As you pour the first glassful of the day say grace, thanking God for water and for your own baptism.
- Every time you go into your church, make a point of looking at the font. Silently say a prayer for everyone whose baptism has been significant for you, especially if you are a godparent.
- Pray for all those in Southwark Diocese who will be baptised or confirmed this year. On the right is a prayer to help you:

*God of the waters,
we pray for all who are preparing
to be baptised and confirmed.
May the vows which they make
become the faith by which they live;
may the fellowship we share
hold them firm in love and hope;
may the life of the risen Jesus
lead them onward into joy.
And so together may we know
your blessing
and be a blessing to others.
Amen.*

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



A view from the Diocesan Confirmation Service



Candidates from 15 parishes gathered at Southwark Cathedral on 1 February for one of the Diocese’s three annual confirmation services.

The Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth and an Assistant Bishop in Southwark Diocese, led the service, confirming 40 men, women and children from across all three Episcopal Areas. (Of these, two were also baptised, and two were received into the Communion of the Church of England.)

Paul Ukah, who worships at West Thamesmead Community Church, was one of the candidates, alongside

his wife, Grace. “To be honest with you, I thought it was going to be like a little thing,” he says. “But when I was coming into Southwark Cathedral – it was the first time I’d been there – it was massive. The environment of the church is like heaven. They designed it to feel like you’re in heaven!”

Paul came to confirmation after feeling a calling towards the Church Army. Having attended an open day, he was filling in an application form when he noticed that Church Army applicants had to be confirmed. He consulted his vicar, the Revd Patrick Eggleston, who enrolled him in classes and entered him for the Diocesan service. Paul then asked his wife, Grace, to join him,

Scenes from the Diocesan Confirmation Service (clockwise from top): all the candidates line up; during the service; the Rt Revd Tim Thornton lays hands on those being confirmed.

so the pair of them could be confirmed at the same time.

It was a day Paul says he will always remember. “It was awesome,” he says. “I’ve never seen something like that.” He was particularly moved by the words of the bishop. “He said God has given us a light and a hope and a light to move on and spread the Gospel to people. And when the bishop laid his hand on my head, I felt the Holy Spirit in me, like something coming upon me and moving me, making me get strong in faith.”

Now, he says, he is ready to go out again and evangelise, to spread the Word of God. “It really encouraged me that I should be doing that more.”

“There’s a sense of wonder”: watching your child be baptised

The Revd Dr Robert Tobin, vicar at St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham, had his baby daughter Romilly baptised in February. He and his wife, Dr Olivia Horsfall Turner, felt strongly that this was something they wanted as soon as possible. “Baptism isn’t something that needs to be waited for. Rather, it’s a gift from God,” he says.

Although Robert has been ordained for 12 years, he did not baptise Romilly himself. “If you’re a priest with a family, you’re wearing different hats, and I wanted to do this as her parent. So I sat in the pew next to my wife and the godparents,” he says.

Watching Romilly be baptised and thinking about the true meaning of this sacrament was emotional for everyone, as Robert explains: “There’s a sense of wonder, that somebody’s life is being transformed. A sense of hope for her future, a recognition that we take part in these things because we need redeeming, and that she is now part of the body of the Church and whatever happens in her future she will always have that. I find that very moving.”



Taking the next step: from Sunday school to confirmation

Hannah McTrusty, who worships at St Michael and All Angels in Barnes, is currently supporting her daughter Eliza (below), aged 11, through confirmation classes. It’s a big step, but it’s one that she thinks Eliza is ready for: “Eliza attends Sunday school, so it’s obviously something



that comes up. And one of her friends was confirmed last year so she saw the service,” says Hannah. “I was happy for her if she felt that it was the right time to make the decision. She’s old enough now to know.”

Eliza is a few classes in and will be confirmed later in the year. Some weeks the

candidates have a Sunday afternoon session; other times their preparation involves taking part in the main service – by doing the readings, for example.

There’s an emphasis, too, on confirmation as joining a community. One of the classes takes the form of pizza and a sleepover in the church with the previous two years’ candidates (“Eliza is very excited,” says Hannah). Another class invites the current candidates and their families to St Paul’s Cathedral for evensong. “There are things that are just for her,” says Hannah, “but also things that include other people from previous years as well as family members and other people around her.”

In fact, it is this community aspect which Hannah believes will have the most profound effect on her daughter in years to come, particularly as she moves up to secondary school in September and through her teenage years. “As a parent, I think it’s great – being part of this group in which you’re well established will give her other adults in her life who can help with guidance – whether that be to do with Christian morals or just in general having other adults she can trust – if she can’t talk to me.”

“I just can’t put it into words”: joining the Church as an adult

In his own words, Aaron Coldham is not a “goody-goody”. Yet getting baptised and confirmed as an adult has been a transforming experience for him.

When he was younger, his grandmother often asked him along to church but he never went. Getting baptised, he says, “is something I wanted to do for my nan – not so much for myself but because it would make her proud”.

So Aaron joined a Pilgrim course and was baptised and confirmed at Southwark Cathedral last Easter, at the dawn service (Aaron is pictured far right, after the service, with his family, Bishop Christopher and Sub Dean the Revd Canon Michael Rawson). “It was an amazing thing to do,” he says. “I can’t really explain it in words. It was a really beautiful thing with the sun coming up outside. I wouldn’t have wanted it anywhere else.”

These days, Aaron is in church most Sundays at St Hugh, Bermondsey. “It gives you a sense of what’s right and wrong and a feeling of love and peace,” he says. “When I go to church, I walk out and feel revitalised and ready for the week. I just feel I’m doing the right



thing for myself and my kids and my life.” Aaron says that the Revd David Adamson, the curate at St Hugh’s, often asks him to sum up the experience of his confirmation for others, and he always says the same thing: “It was pukka. A really pukka experience. I’m glad I’ve done it.”

The Christian Aid logo, featuring the word "christian" in a smaller font above the word "aid" in a larger, bold font, both in white on a red background.

christian
aid

A top-down view of a white mug filled with brown coffee on a red and white checkered tablecloth. To the left, a bowl contains sliced bananas and whole strawberries.

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IN FOCUS...

Epiphany

Burstow Church looks to the stars at Epiphany

St Bartholomew, Burstow honoured its former Rector and one-time Astronomer Royal John Flamsteed with a special Epiphany service in January, marking 300 years since his death on 31 December 1719.

The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, preached and celebrated and Claire Coutinho, the new MP for East Surrey, was present.

The joint choir of the Windmill United Benefice sang a new anthem composed for the occasion by the Burstow organist, Roger Hind, on words from St Matthew's Gospel: "We have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him." The same words appear on the east window of the church which was installed in memory of Flamsteed.

At the end of the service, a wreath in the shape of a star was laid in the chancel where John Flamsteed was buried.

Flamsteed was appointed in 1675 by Charles II as the first Astronomer Royal; he was also Rector of St Bartholomew from 1684 until his death. Flamsteed's work as Astronomer Royal took up most of his time and he spent much more of the year in Greenwich, where he worked at the Observatory, than he did in Burstow. But he visited Burstow on major festivals, such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas, the rest of the time paying a curate to take the services at Burstow and to look after the pastoral needs of the parish.

This was not unusual for clergy at the time, the Archdeacon noted. Because the Church was the leading provider of scientific education, and theology was



considered the queen of sciences, there were many priest-scientists – and she considered herself one of their successors, she said. The Archdeacon also emphasised that she had never seen any conflict between theology and science, the study of science serving only to emphasise the wonder of God's creation.

Flamsteed was buried in the chancel of Burstow Church on 12 January 1720 but no memorial or tablet marked the spot until 1975, when an official Royal Observatory memorial was placed in the church to mark the observatory's tercentenary.

An Epiphany blessing in black and white



Maple Cottage in the parish of St James, Merton, received a traditional Epiphanytide blessing this year, when the Revd Mark Budden marked the outside with blessed chalk (above).

C, M and B are the initials of the Magi; the letters also stand for "Christus mansionem benedict" or "May Christ bless this house".



GET INVOLVED...

Explore your vocation at St Luke, Eltham

St Luke, Eltham will explore discipleship and calling with its Lent sermon series, *Life is for Giving*, with guest preachers each week exploring a different facet of vocation. There will also be four weeks of Lent classes based around Andy Rider's *Life is for Giving: a Toolkit for Exploring Your Calling*.

"This is the first time St Luke's has welcomed such a series and we are looking forward to embracing something new this Lent in our preparations for celebrating the Easter feast," said St Luke's incumbent, the Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong.

For more details, e-mail vicar@saintlukes-eltham.org.uk or call 020 8850 3030

Support local composers in Wimbledon

The choir of St Mary, Wimbledon has commissioned seven local composers to contribute to a collection of new choral music on the subject of Christ's Seven Last Words from the Cross, writes choir director Max Barley.

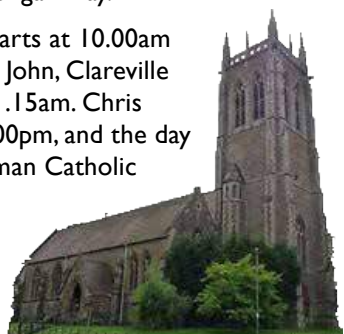
The choral pieces, by Owain Park, David Bednall, Oliver Tarney, Ruth Byrchmore, Ken Burton, Esther Bersweden and Andrew Lenon, will provide new music for the Palm Sunday liturgy at St Mary, Wimbledon, at 6:30pm on 5 April. The service will consist of the choral music, readings and congregational singing.

Play the organ in Caterham

Four churches in Caterham will be inviting people to "have a go" at playing the organ on Saturday 18 April as part of National Organ Day.

The event at the United Reformed Church venue starts at 10.00am with the distinguished organist Barry Williams. At St John, Clareville Road, John Woodhouse will play a short recital at 11.15am. Chris Buck welcomes you to St Mary, Caterham Hill at 1.00pm, and the day concludes with William Higgins at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church from 2.15pm.

If you would like to play please bring music and register on Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/Caterham-Organ>



The Diocese of Southwark Sessional Holiday Hub Co-ordinators

Hours: 12 to 16 hours per week
Job type: fixed term for the duration of each project (projects are scheduled for school holidays)
Hourly rate: £15 per hour, pro-rata equivalent to £27,300 per annum
Location: across the London Borough of Lambeth

We are seeking to recruit motivated and passionate Sessional Staff, who share our aim of providing quality support to children and their families during school holidays.

As a Sessional Holiday Hubs Co-ordinator, your role will be to work with churches and grass-roots groups supported by Together Southwark. You will assist them in planning and organising holiday hubs in Lambeth for children and young people from families who often cannot afford costly play schemes or time away. The hubs will offer a healthy free lunch, coupled with recreational and educational activities to give the children positive experiences in the school holidays of 2020.

For an application and job description, including person specification, please e-mail kumbi.maponga@southwark.anglican.org

Successful applicants will need to provide 'right to work in the UK' documentation, undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and provide two satisfactory references prior to commencing employment.

Closing date: Sunday 15 March 2020.

Applications sent beyond this time will not be considered.

Interviews will take place the week commencing 23 March 2020.

Please send your application and supporting documents via e-mail to kumbi.maponga@southwark.anglican.org

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for APRIL ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 16 MARCH**

Ongoing

- † **BEDDINGTON** – Quiet @ St Mary's, 3rd Thursday each month 11am-2pm. Including labyrinth.
- * **BOROUGH** – St George the Martyr Community Café and TimeBank, every Thursday 2pm-4.30pm.
- † **HACKBRIDGE** – Taizé at All Saints at 7pm. First Sunday every month.
- * **WADDON** – St George, Community Café and Time to Share. Tuesday (Term time) 9.30am-11.30am. Lunch 12.15pm. Community Breakfast 1st Saturday 10am-12noon.
- * **WARLINGHAM** – Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday.
- † **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm.

March

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

- ♫ **CATERHAM** – 'Munch with Music': Musicians from Trinity Laban. St John, Caterham Valley. 12.45pm-1.30pm. Free.

THURSDAY 5 MARCH

- ♫ **REDHILL** – Lunchtime concert: violin recital with Emmanuel Bach. St Matthew, Redhill. 1.10pm-2.00pm. Free.
- * **RICHMOND** – Bishop Stephen Cottrell will talk about his book *Christ in the Wilderness*, exploring paintings by Stanley Spencer. St Matthias, Richmond. 7.00pm. Free.

SATURDAY 7 MARCH

- ♫ **TADWORTH** – 'Music for Everyone', a concert by the band of the Surrey Yeomanry at the Church

Music at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

www.sjun.org.uk

Saturday Coffee Concerts, 11.30am

- 7 March Jinah Shim, piano.
- 4 April Emma Tring, soprano, Robin Martin, violin, & Anyssa Neumann, piano.

Organ Concerts, 7.30pm

- 26 March Richard Sutton (St John, Upper Norwood).
- 16 April Ian Shaw (London).

of the Good Shepherd. 7.30pm. Tickets: £12 (accompanied children under 16 free).

- * **SHIRLEY** – Cinema @ St John the Evangelist. *Dumbo* at 2.30pm; *Judy* at 7.30pm. Tickets: £5 (children £3), available online or on the door. <https://www.stjohnsshirley.org.uk/cinema>

SUNDAY 8 MARCH

- ♫ **DULWICH** – Organ recital by Michael Overbury. Christ's Chapel, Dulwich. 7.45pm. Free.

MONDAY 9 MARCH – SATURDAY 21 MARCH

- * **CLAPHAM** – 'Hope: an Exhibition'. Photography exhibition by local residents. St James, Park Hill. Daily. 11.00am-7.00pm. Free. www.stjamesclapham.org.uk

THURSDAY 12 MARCH

- ♫ **REDHILL** – Lunchtime concert: the Renaissance Recorder Group. St Matthew, Redhill. 1.10pm-2.00pm. Free.

SATURDAY 14 MARCH

- ♫ **WATERLOO** – The Ionian Singers perform Jonathan Harvey's *I Love the Lord*. St John, Waterloo. 7.30pm. Tickets £23; £18 unreserved; £5 child.



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WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH

- ♫ **SOUTHBANK** — Lewisham Choral Society, His Majestys Sackbuts and Cornetts plus seven soloists sing Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London. 7.30pm. From £16. Tickets from www.southbankcentre.co.uk

THURSDAY 19 MARCH

- ♫ **REDHILL** — Lunchtime concert: River City Saxes. St Matthew, Redhill. 1.10pm-2.00pm. Free.

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

- ♫ **CLAPHAM** — Concert of Hope with Garth Hewitt. St James Church, Clapham. 7.30pm. Free. <http://www.garthhewitt.org>

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

- ♫ **MERTON** — 'I Was Glad': English Sacred Music by the Morden Park Choral Society. St John, Merton. 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (concessions £5). Includes a glass of wine or soft drink.
- * **SANDERSTEAD HILL** — Art exhibition and sale by local artists at United Reformed Church Hall. 10am-4pm. Free (20% of art sales go to the Children's Society's work with disadvantaged children).
- ♫ **ADDINGTON** — 'Come and Sing' Choral Day in aid of

Lunchtime Recitals at Croydon Minster

Free, but donations gratefully received. Fridays @ 1.10pm

| | |
|----------|---|
| 6 March | Arthur di Francesco, piano, & Vanessa Hristova, viola |
| 13 March | Yiyi Su, piano |
| 27 March | Vincenzo Loisi, piano |
| 3 April | Mei Fujisato, violin |

Music at St John, East Dulwich

Choral Evensong on Sundays @ 5.00pm

8 March, 19 July, 11 October

Organ Recitals on Saturdays @ 11.00am

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 9 May | Marcus Wibberley (Beckenham). |
| 18 July | Michael Szostak (Poland). |
| 19 Sept | Paul Gobey (Rotherhithe). |

Company of Servers, Southwark and London Chapter: 2020 events

21 March, 10.00am
Lenten Retreat led by the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Southwark Cathedral

Parkinson's UK and Jessie's Fund at St Mary, the Blessed Virgin. Registration 10.30am. Rehearsals from 11.00am. Concert at 5.30pm. Tickets £5. Register by e-mailing occasionalvoiceschoir@gmail.com

- * **WATERLOO** — 'Rethinking Mission: Rediscovering the Gospel in "Christian" Nations', USPG day conference at St John's. 10am-4pm. £10, including lunch. Details at www.uspg.org.uk/rethinkingmission2020
- * **TADWORTH** — Model Railway Exhibition, Church of the Good Shepherd. 10am-5pm. Adults £6, seniors £5, under-16s £3.

THURSDAY 26 MARCH

- ♫ **REDHILL** — Lunchtime lecture on Sir Edward Elgar. Lecturer and pianist: Michael Barlow. St Matthew, Redhill. 1.10pm-2.00pm. Free.

SATURDAY 28 MARCH

- ♫ **CROYDON** — Croydon Bach Choir's 60th anniversary concert: J S Bach's St John Passion with the Leipzig Ensemble. St Mildred's Church, 30 Bingham Road, CR0 7EB. 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (children £5).

SUNDAY 29 MARCH

- ♫ **OXTED** — Oxted & Limpsfield Choral Society's Come and Sing concert. Stainer's *Crucifixion*, Bruckner's *Locus*

Iste, Stravinsky's *Ave Maria*, Sweelinck's *Laudate Dominum*. United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted RH8 0AA. Singer registration 2.30pm, rehearsal 3.00pm-6.00pm. Concert 7.00pm. Tickets £10 (call 01959 577749).

April**WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL**

- ♫ **CATERHAM** — 'Munch with Music': Alfred and Salamanda Saxophone Quartet. St John, Caterham Valley. 12.45pm-1.30pm. Free.

FRIDAY 3 APRIL

- ♫ **SOUTHWARK** — '100 Years of Note: City Chorus Sings Mozart Coronation Mass and Handel's *Zadok the Priest*'. Southwark Cathedral. 7.30pm. Tickets £20 (£10 concessions). <http://bit.ly/LondonCityChorus>

SATURDAY 4 APRIL

- * **SHIRLEY** — Cinema @ St John the Evangelist. *Frozen II* at 2.30pm. Tickets: £5 (children £3). www.stjohnsshirley.org.uk/cinema
- ♫ **DORMANSLAND** — The Art of Guitar: Virtuoso Classics by Mark Jennings. St John, Dormansland. Tickets £12. Call 01342 870681. <http://markjenningsmusic.com>

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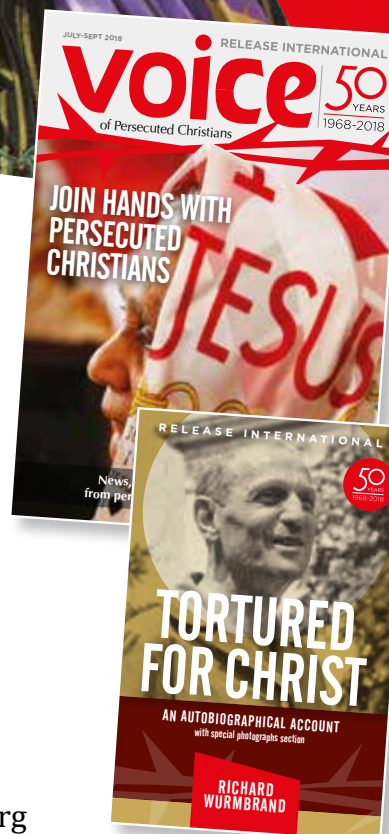
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Voice
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'He has meant so much to so many': Diocese gathers to honour departing Archdeacon Chris Skilton

The main body of Emmanuel, Croydon was filled with people from all over the Diocese whose lives had been touched by the work and person of the Venerable Chris Skilton, whose retirement they had come to celebrate, writes *Director of Press & Communications Wendy S Robins.*

Chris and his wife Barbara, a Reader in the Diocese, were clearly much loved as was shown by all those who had come to be with them as they prepared to move to the South Coast to begin a well-deserved retirement together.

The service was led by Bishop Jonathan with Bishops Christopher and Richard both present. The music was led by the worship group from Emmanuel and there was a good mixture of more traditional hymns and worship songs. Somehow the eclectic nature of the service summed up Chris' ministry really well. The service offered something for everyone, and this reflected the way Chris had managed to do the same throughout his 25 years in Southwark.



The famous farewell cake (above); Chris Skilton and wife Barbara with Bishop Christopher at the service honouring Chris' 25 years in the Diocese of Southwark (right).

He had been supremely capable of spanning the many different traditions of those in the Diocese, offering his gentle wisdom, presence and good humour to all. Nadina Bedlow, the Bishop's PA in Croydon, gave one of the readings and Barbara Skilton read the Gospel. Susan Wheeler, the Archdeacons' PA, and the Venerable Moira Astin, Chris's fellow Archdeacon in the Croydon Area, led the intercessions.



Chris preached a sermon which embodied his intellect, breath of knowledge, talent for self-deprecation and sense of humour. The service took place on Saturday 1 February or, as Chris said, the Eve of Candlemas for some, which also happened to be the night after Britain left the European Union. He chose to begin by commenting that, one way or another, those present were all "remainers" and he was a "leaver", going on to suggest that we needed to "Get Chrexit done!"

This and a joke about ageing which followed set the tone for a sermon which drew on the Candlemas reading featuring Simeon and Anna and Jesus in the Temple. Chris said that Rembrandt had been fascinated by this story all his life and showed us one of the artist's paintings of Simeon and Anna, urging us to ask the question "What hope do we hold in our hands?"

Chris came to the Diocese in 1995 as Team Rector of Sanderstead, having served previously in the Dioceses of London, Salisbury and Chelmsford. He became Archdeacon of Lambeth in 2004 and moved to the Archdeaconry of Croydon in 2013.

During the service there were tributes from various people who had worked with Chris. They began with me, as I was able to speak of Chris' time as Chair of the Communications and Resources Committee and as a member, and then Chair, of the Editorial Board of *The Bridge*.

Bishop Richard talked about Chris' time in the Kingston Area; the Venerable Simon Gates, who followed Chris as Archdeacon of Lambeth, also spoke. Moira Astin sang her tribute and Bishop Jonathan talked about Chris joining the Croydon Area at a time when many of those at the Area

office, including him, were very new. He said how good it was to have someone around who could quietly and calmly help everyone know exactly what to do and when to do it!

Bishop Jonathan gave Chris a gift from the Area team which provided a good deal of amusement as it was pretty much impossible to open, but eventually turned out to be a print of *The Long Leg*, the Edward Hopper picture which Chris had a version of on his office wall in Croydon.

Words from Bishop Christopher to both Barbara and Chris followed, as well as the presentation of a gift from the Diocese. Bishop Christopher spoke of Barbara's ministry, both as a Reader and as a Director of Music, and once again emphasised how much Chris has meant to so many.

'Chris showed us Rembrandt's painting of Simeon and Anna, urging us to ask, "What hope do we hold in our hands?"'

As the service ended, everyone queued up to have a few words with Barbara and Chris as they made their way to the Church Hall where a magnificent buffet was laid out, complete with one of the biggest and most imaginative cakes that I have ever seen. I am told it was of St John, Upper Norwood and it seemed a great shame to cut it!

All in all, it was a fitting send-off for a much loved and respected Archdeacon. We wish Chris and Barbara a long and well-deserved happy retirement.

A Festival of Hope

St James Church, Clapham
Monday 9th - Sunday 22nd March 2020

**We warmly invite you to
two free events:**

An exhibition of images of 'Hope',
created by our local community

A concert featuring gospel-singer
Garth Hewitt

Details and timings of all events:
www.stjamesclapham.org.uk

St James Church, Park Hill, SW4 9PB

*This event is part of Clapham Park churches'
'Hope 2020' programme.*

Details: www.claphamparkhope.org



The full version of Chris Skilton's sermon can be found at:
southwark.anglican.org/information/resources/sermons

Photos from the service can be seen on Flickr at:
<http://bit.ly/SkiltonFarewell>