

## School bags

Good Shepherd,  
Carshalton helps out  
with home schooling  
See page 4



## Bright future

A four-page special  
on children, youth  
and family ministry  
See pages 6-9



## Award winners

Meet the people  
receiving Lancelot  
Andrewes medals  
See page 12



# Croydon chaplain shares message of hope at Synod

In a moving address to the General Synod on 27 February, hospital Chaplain Revd Andy Dovey shared how he and his colleagues were responding to the challenges of COVID-19.

Speaking as one of several people who had been asked to deliver "messages of hope" to Synod, Andy recalled how they were put under "extreme demand" when the hospital closed to visitors and faith leaders.

He spoke of one day in particular, when he was called to ITU to minister to three patients who were dying of COVID. "My visit started with a video Zoom call to the first member of the family so that they



**Bishop Jonathan and Andy Dovey in full PPE visiting patients in hospital.**

on Zoom listening and watching." After they said goodbye to the Imam, Andy recalled that the family stayed on the call for a further 20 minutes, then "decided they couldn't wait any longer as it was too agonising for them". At the family's request Andy stayed with him until he died 40 minutes later.

Andy, who is Lead Chaplain for Croydon Health Services, told General Synod: "This was a repeated occurrence within our hospital that was tipped as the third worst-hit hospital for COVID patients in the country."

He went on to describe how, in the early days of the vaccination roll-out, he linked with Faiths Together in Croydon and Churches Together in Croydon to identify people in the community who were over 80 years old "so that we could make sure they were on our register to get the vaccine as quickly as possible. I'm pleased

*"My humanity, suffering with those that pass away and the tears of the families, are the things that are part of our lives"*

could say their final goodbyes to their relative and listen to the final prayers that I gave. That was to one of our Jewish members of the community," he said.

In the next bed was a Muslim patient. "The family was desperate for him to have the final Muslim rites of prayers before he died. This was done with me holding an iPhone next to the patient's ears so that the Imam could recite the prayers over the phone to him with the family

## St Paul, Thornton Heath receives royal visit



**The Duchess of Cornwall (right) visits St Paul, Thornton Heath on 3 March to meet the people involved in the vaccination centre that has been set up there, including NHS staff, volunteers and representatives from the church.**

to say that we started with 50 people and by the time all the community had worked together to identify those people, I had got up to 50 to 100 people a day e-mailing me with details of people over 80." In the end about 1,500 people over 80 came to his Trust to have the first of the vaccines.

In concluding, Andy said, "God has called me to this and that's what sustains me more than anything. My humanity, suffering with those that pass away and the tears of the families, are the things that are part of

our lives. People see that agony in us and I think it brings them comfort. To be the very presence of God at the bedside as people pass by and people die, is just an unbelievable ministry that I think we can all be proud of."

**More about the Diocesan response to COVID can be found on page 5**

## A view from The BRIDGE



**Anyone who knows me well, will tell you that I love March! Not only is it my birthday month and Mothering Sunday, but it's a time when my favourite flowers, daffodils, are in full bloom smiling at the world in all their Spring glory. My terrace flower pots are currently bursting with them.**

March 2020 is also a month that none of us will ever forget because it is the month the nation went into full lockdown. The past year has been one of grief, loss, loneliness and fear for many. But it has also been a year when people across the Diocese have stepped in the gap and met the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities.

As you read this *Bridge* from the pages of our brand new website, you will see examples of this love in action. There is Hospital Chaplain, the Revd Andy Dovey, who spoke movingly at the General Synod recently about his daily experiences of sitting by the bedside of people from different faiths dying from COVID-19 and facilitating Zoom calls remotely for their families to say goodbye (see page 1).

The Revd Dr Sue Clarke came out of retirement to become a vaccinator and is featured vaccinating Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan (see page 5). And some of our churches have become vaccination centres and testing

centres. We feature two, St Barnabas, Southfields and St John, Waterloo within these pages (see page 5).

The focus of this month's *Bridge* is on the children and young people of the Diocese (see pages 6-9). The words of 1 Timothy 4:12 are mentioned in one of the articles and is the bedrock on which we place the importance of children and young people in the Diocese, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."

Be inspired as you read about the Woolwich Youth Forum, lockdown Sunday schools in Oxted, and the mentoring programme at Holy Trinity, Clapham and hear from members of St Michael, Betchworth's young church team, Riley and Parker, about their church responsibilities.

There are many more inspirational stories. Bishop Karwei has said, "Young people are not just tomorrow's church but today's church." The Children and Youth pages are packed full of examples of how they are becoming exactly that. Let us remember in prayer the children and young people of our Diocese as many return to school this month, their parents, teachers and all those who work in this crucial ministry.

**Sophia Jones**

### Join the Bishop's Lent Call

**The Bishop's Lent Call continues, with Bishop Christopher urging those in the Diocese to engage prayerfully with the materials. Find out more about the work being done by this year's projects, downloadable reflections, blogs and more at [southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/](https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/)**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lay Council discusses 'vision for lay ministry'

The Lay Council met on 4 February to discuss the Diocese's ongoing work to support lay leadership and ministry. Carrie Myers, Lay Ministry Officer for the Church of England, was the guest speaker for the evening.

She talked about the National Church's vision for lay ministry, describing this as "a church where lay ministries are recognised, valued and celebrated as God-given and where all ministers, lay and ordained, are confident in their calling as co-labourers in the Kingdom of God". The meeting then went on to discuss Southwark's ideas for putting this into practice.

### Jonathan Aitken talks truth at Christian Evidence event

Jonathan Aitken (right) was guest of honour on Tuesday 23 February at the first of a series of seminars by the Christian Evidence Society addressing the "Questions of our Times". The Revd Aitken, himself a former journalist before becoming a politician and, after his conviction for perjury, a prison chaplain, discussed the role of the press in combating fake news. He also talked about truth and personal integrity. Other seminars will tackle health, race, the environment and will culminate in the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, discussing prayer and spirituality.



Find more details and information on how to sign up at: [christianevidence.org/2021/01/23/new-webinar-series-tackles-questions-of-our-times/](https://christianevidence.org/2021/01/23/new-webinar-series-tackles-questions-of-our-times/)

### Living in Love and Faith invitation

The Diocese is inviting everyone to engage with the National Church's Living in Love and Faith project from Easter onwards, particularly through using the five-week LLF course for reflection. Bishop Jonathan said: "Some of you will be very well aware that the Church has been wrestling for years with questions about sexuality, gender and relationships. LLF comes out of those discussions, but the aim is to help the Church think about them more widely and deeply."

Read more from Bishop Jonathan here: [southwark.anglican.org/bishops-letter-february-2021/](https://southwark.anglican.org/bishops-letter-february-2021/)

Find further details on LLF and course materials here: [www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith)

### Archdeacon marks Racial Justice Sunday on radio show

The Venerable Rosemarie Mallett (right), Archdeacon of Croydon, appeared on BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme on 14 February to talk about Racial Justice Sunday. Presenter William Crawley talked to Rosemarie and CTBI's Pat White about why the day is important.



Rosemarie said: "It's about promoting and understanding what racial justice really means and how we can help that in our churches and in the wider community, it's giving thanks for our human diversity and it's also prayers, of course, but taking actions that truly make a difference."

The interview is available to listen again on BBC Sounds (it was first broadcast at 7.10am on Sunday 14 February)

*The Bridge* is produced & published by:

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

Tel: 020 7939 9400 E-mail: [bridge@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bridge@southwark.anglican.org)

#### The Editorial Team from Press and Communications:

##### Commissioning Editor:

Sophia Jones

Editor: Abigail Sanderson

##### Advertising and Distribution:

Susana Rojas

#### Editorial Group:

Ruth Martin

Jane Steen

Editorial Adviser (vacant)

Sophia Jones

### Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MARCH edition is due to be published online on 1 April 2021. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **MONDAY 22 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](https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)



# Trailblazer in women's ministry dies

**Ann Gurney, whose ministry in the Church of England spanned an astonishing 63 years, died on 18 February 2021 at the age of 93.**

Ann was among the 78 women who were first ordained into the priesthood in Southwark Diocese on 21 May 1994. She spent the next four years as an honorary curate at Holy Trinity, Eltham, and was then a holder of the Bishop's Permission to Officiate in Southwark until 2017.

Ann's ministry had begun 40 years before, however, when she was made Deaconess in 1954, a role of which she was extremely proud. She spent two years as a full-time Deaconess in St John Southend, Lewisham, before going into education – first at Berridge House and then as Principal of Gilmore House.

Bishop Christopher said: "I had a very high regard for Ann and last visited her to persuade her – rather against her better judgment – to participate in the *Here Am I* exhibition which I commissioned to mark the 25th anniversary of ordaining women in the Church of England to the priesthood. Having been made a deaconess 40 years earlier in 1954, two years before I was born, Ann bridged those two worlds and I remember her talking about her exasperation at what felt to her to be a second deaconing when Holy Orders were conferred upon her in 1987."

Nevertheless, she was happy when women were admitted to the priesthood. She told Jim Grover, the photographer behind the *Here Am I* exhibition: "I could hardly believe it when the vote [to admit women priests] went through at Synod...I felt such great relief that it had happened at last."

Anna Eltringham, Dean of Women's Ministry and one of the organisers of the *Here Am I* exhibition, said: "Ann and



**A portrait of Ann Gurney from the *Here Am I* exhibition.** © Jim Grover

her story is an inspiration. She was a trailblazer for women's ministry in the Church of England."

Anna added: "Throughout her whole life her sense of God's call was so grounded. 'There was no big vision. It just felt right. Like coming home', were the things she'd say. Her gentle faithfulness to God in her ministry is a great example and encouragement to all who sense a tentative or strong call to lay or ordained ministry, but in particular to women."

Ann's priest at Holy Trinity, Eltham, Brett Ward, agreed: "The light that sparkled in Ann's eyes was one of the subtle things about her priestly presence at Holy Trinity, Eltham that endeared her to everyone. The sparkle might morph into her warm smile and the laughter which made her great company. Or it might instead be the prelude to an insight from her penetrating mind and deep spirituality."

He added: "Ann was highly pastoral but by her own admission not remotely maternal. This carried appreciable irony, since it was as Mother Ann that so many at Holy Trinity connected with her. She understood people, and relating to her as Mother felt right: Ann's leadership held together both affection and gravitas."

# Diocese mourns loss of "warm and generous" priest

**The Revd Iain Clavering Young, Vicar of The Ascension, Lavender Hill and St Philip with St Bartholomew, Battersea, died in his sleep on 12 February 2021.**

Born in 1956, Iain trained at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. He served his title in Newcastle Diocese before moving, first, to London and then Southwark Dioceses. He served as Priest-in-Charge of his Battersea parish from 16 July 2009 and as Vicar from 7 March 2012.

Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, was a great friend of Iain's, having met him on his first day at Mirfield. Andrew recalled of their time in training together: "Iain was a larger than life character, physically large and with a personality to match. He seemed to know so much even before he arrived at the college and I have to admit that I was a bit in awe of him."

Andrew added: "Church was the air that Iain breathed. That may make him sound rather dry and boring but nothing could be further from the truth. Iain kept all of us amused throughout our time at the college. Whatever we were doing he would bring a touch of humour."

Iain's death sadly came before he was able to enjoy his retirement, as his Archdeacon, John Kiddle, noted, adding: "Fr Iain's ministry as parish priest filled the large space of The Ascension with a warm and generous welcome, a regular pattern of prayer and the worship of God."

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, said, "I am deeply saddened by the news of Fr Iain's death. He will be greatly missed. He served faithfully throughout his



years in ministry. I commend his family, friends and parish to our prayers."

The Bishop of Kingston, The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham, said, "Fr Iain was a thoughtful and dedicated parish priest. My sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and all the people of the parish of the Ascension, Lavender Hill."

Meanwhile, the Bishop of Fulham, The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, said, "Fr Iain Young was a wise and watchful pastor of his flock. He exercised his ministry with firmness, kindness, graciousness and an infectious sense of humour. While we are saddened by his death, we rejoice that Fr Iain is now 'at home,' as he put it, with the Lord whom he loved and served so faithfully. May he rest in peace."

The Bishop of Fulham will lead the funeral on 23 March at 12 noon. The service will not be streamed but people are invited to offer prayers at the appropriate time.

**Read more**



**More tributes can be found online at <https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/>**

# Report from the PCC Secretaries Conference

**The Diocese's second annual PCC Secretaries and Administrators Conference took place on 25 February, with more than 150 attendees.**

The agenda covered the changes to APCMs and Parishioners Meetings brought about by the pandemic, HR issues, the Parish Support Fund and more.

David Loft, the Diocese's Director of Human Resources and a speaker at the conference, said: "PCC Secretaries and Parish Administrators do so much valuable work, not always visible and often behind the scenes, to make sure that parish life runs smoothly and enabling ministry to take place. The conference is an important way to share information and provide clarity about aspects of their work. It's also a great opportunity to receive feedback about the ways that we can further support people."

## "I'm sure my experience is not unusual": a PCC Secretary's impressions

**When I first took over as PCC Secretary some 15 years ago, I was given the impression that it just meant taking the minutes, and only gradually came to realise how much more is involved, writes Alison Huneke, PCC Secretary of South Beddington and Roundshaw, Wallington (right).**

I'm sure my experience is not unusual, which probably explains why more than 150 people took part in the second of what we hope will be an annual conference for PCC Secretaries and Parish Administrators.



The packed agenda included short updates on accounts and finance, the Parish Support Fund, parish statistics and the new and much more user-friendly Southwark Diocesan website.

The main discussions, however, centred on the impact of Covid on HR issues and the forthcoming APCMs and Parishioners' Meetings. Many parishes would be holding consecutive meetings on the same day, meaning that in some cases people would be elected to and stand down from the same position only minutes later!

The conference concluded with a short service of Compline, led by Bishop Christopher and in which I had the honour of saying the responses. Hopefully by next year we'll be largely "back to normal" and able to meet in person.





## IN FOCUS...

*News from our parishes*

# Holy Trinity, Clapham shares daily message of hope and community



**At Holy Trinity Clapham, as we went into the first lockdown in March 2020, we decided to start meeting daily on Zoom to pray and read the Bible together, writes Ros Williams, an ordinand at Holy Trinity, Clapham.**

We named this meeting HTC Daily. We meet for 20 minutes each weekday morning, a Bible passage is read, there is a short talk on the passage and then we pray.

We have read through the book of Acts together and are now reading Matthew's

*"The last 10 months of bereavement, loneliness and lack of work would be so much worse without HTC Daily"*

Gospel. We pray for the world, the Church, the NHS, education, the sick, the anxious, the Government, persecuted Christians, for children and young people, the elderly, the homeless and ourselves. Prayer points are put up on the screen and everyone is encouraged to unmute and pray.

There has been such a strong desire in the church community to meet together and see each other each day as well as to turn to God in prayer. In the initial lockdown we were well over 100 people

every day gathering on Zoom. As people have gone back to school and work we still have a regular group of 40-50 people meeting every day. Bishop Christopher recently joined us for our 200th edition of HTC Daily.

The Bible thought and prayer points are also recorded and released that day so that those who cannot join live can catch up via the HTC Daily podcast available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and SoundCloud.

One person in the church commented that they "totally love the freedom to come together united in Jesus in One spirit regardless of social background, race or level of spirituality – so beautiful". Another said, "The last 10 months of bereavement, loneliness and lack of work would be so much worse if I couldn't join HTC Daily on Zoom every weekday."

HTC Daily is also a great opportunity for people across the church community to contribute by giving a short talk. More than 25 different people have done this – not just the clergy and staff team.

We couldn't have imagined a daily prayer meeting of this size before lockdown and yet amidst all the challenges of the pandemic we have been able to grow together spiritually and in community. HTC Daily on Zoom is here to stay; it started in the pandemic but will continue long after restrictions have ended.

## Ascension, Balham Hill helps to wrap up London



Ascension, Balham Hill helped to keep the capital warm this winter by joining the Wrap Up London campaign.

"We've continued to look for the means of engaging and blessing our neighbourhood," said Sue Manning. "We mobilised to support Wrap Up London in

November and December and were grateful to collect about 600 coats."

Wrap Up London is Hands On London's annual coat collection campaign. The coats are given to homeless, elderly and refugee charities across the city. Nearly 21,000 were collected in 2020.

## Christ Church, South Nutfield enjoys double celebration

Joe Austin, a long-serving member of the congregation at Christ Church, South Nutfield, was confirmed by Bishop Jonathan on Sunday 6 December.

"We were very pleased that the Bishop agreed to confirm Joe Austin as he missed out on his confirmation this time last year," said Jackie Fenn, Parish Administrator.

"Joe (pictured right, with Bishop Jonathan) has been a member of Christ Church for many years. He has sung with the choir, learned to ring the bells and read one of the



Bible readings at our Christmas Day service."

The Revd Len Abrams was formally licensed as Priest-in-Charge of the parish at the same service.

## Carshalton Beeches parish takes on home schooling



The team at Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches delivered 50 home learning packs for children at Muschamp Primary School on 10 February (see above).



Packed full of pens, pencils, books and activities, the bags went some way towards helping struggling parents keep children entertained as lockdown continued.



# St Barnabas, Southfields joins vaccination drive

**St Barnabas church in Southfields has been a vaccination centre since 21 December last year, writes the Revd Ian Tattum, Vicar at St Barnabas, Southfields.**

I was approached by Dr Laura Quinton, who is my own GP, but also the clinical director of the local primary care network, towards the end of November. Her initial enquiry was about using the church itself as it was a more accessible and spacious local space than any others which had been suggested.

Within a few days she had visited with an entire team of medical specialists and pharmacists to check the suitability of the site, and much was made not only of the facilities here but the beauty and serenity of our buildings.

With the latest lockdown we had to close our halls to community use and up until now they have been where all the vaccinations have been administered, with an upstairs room being used for storage, plus the church itself on occasion for people to sit and recover after their injection.

I have felt very involved, as many deliveries for the hub come to the vicarage or church, and many people not sure of where to go also come seeking directions. It has been a brilliant community effort, with local volunteers working to help everything go smoothly, and I have been very moved and inspired by witnessing the church become a place for healing whilst it has not been possible to offer formal worship.



Bishop Richard visits the temporary vaccination centre at St Barnabas.

## Retired Southwark priest vaccinates Mayor of London

**The Revd Dr Sue Clarke, a retired Vicar of St Paul, Furzedown and holder of the Bishop’s Permission to Officiate in the Diocese, came face to face with a famous patient on 19 February.**

Sue, who is a retired consultant who previously worked at Guy’s Hospital, has been volunteering as a vaccinator for the past several months. She has vaccinated all kinds of people, from front-line

workers in their 30s to people in their 90s.

She said, “It has been a great joy and privilege to vaccinate members of the local community, including parishioners, over the past six weeks.”

She added: “London’s mayor, Sadiq Khan, choosing to share his vaccination experience publicly will hopefully encourage those who feel worried and anxious to take



up the offer when they receive the invitation to attend.”

Sadiq Khan said after his jab: “Love that, as Mayor of Islamic faith, I received my COVID-19 vaccine at a local church, from Revd Dr Sue Clarke, who came out of retirement to volunteer as a vaccinator. This is London: our diversity is our strength.”

Read more about Sue’s work here: [bit.ly/SueClarke](https://bit.ly/SueClarke)

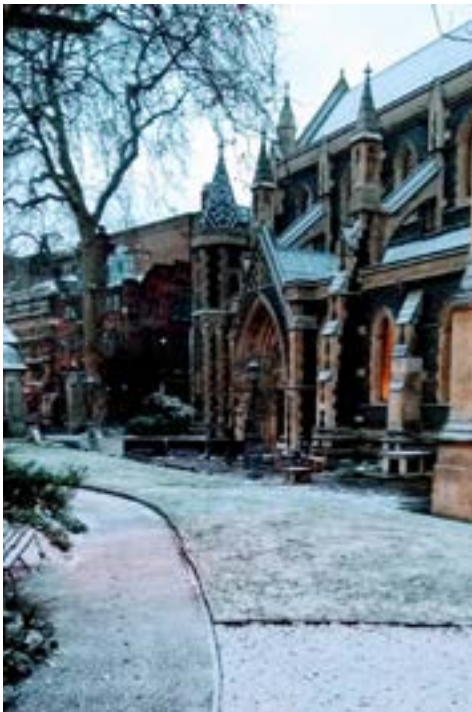
## St John, Waterloo sets itself up as testing centre



St John, Waterloo has set itself up as a rapid testing centre for COVID, Monday to Friday for two-and-a-half hours each morning. Rapid testing centres are aimed at reducing the spread of infection in the community by allowing people with no symptoms to check quickly if they are infectious. St John’s is one of five Asymptomatic Test Sites in Lambeth. The parish has also set up a project for the young and vulnerable suffering from the pandemic, Waterloo Well.

Read more about the initiative here: [stjohnswaterloo.org/waterloo-well](https://stjohnswaterloo.org/waterloo-well)

# Snow falls on the Diocese



While the South East of England did not get the same kind of snowfall as elsewhere in the UK during February’s cold snap, there was enough to create a crisp, wintry scene in parishes across the Diocese. Above left: a fox on its early-morning rounds has left footprints in the snow outside Southwark Cathedral; above right: St Peter, Limpsfield looks picturesque blanketed in snow.





## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

# Giving our children their best chance to grow in faith

*Children, youth and family ministry is vital for the Church to thrive; over the next four pages, we celebrate those in our Diocese who are helping to build a bright future, writes Aike Kennett-Brown*

Our vision in the Diocese of Southwark is to see children and young people with hearts on fire for Jesus, growing in faith with the confidence to share it; contributing to the life of the Church and its mission at every level, whether church is meeting in person or online.

The whole church has a role to play: walking alongside children and young people by supporting households to grow in faith together and through walking alongside schools; welcoming and hearing the voices of all children and young people, whatever their background or ability; and growing Fresh Expressions of Church where children and young people are actively involved, as we seek to grow God's kingdom both numerically and spiritually.

The 2020-21 pandemic has dramatically changed the ways in which we gather as Church, and constant changes have greatly impacted those involved in children, youth and family (CYF) ministry – leaders, children, young people and parents.

Whilst it is tempting to focus on the reduction in engagement by many families, young people and volunteers, we wanted to celebrate the unstinting efforts, creativity and resilience of CYF leaders (both salaried and volunteer), clergy, and young people of Southwark Diocese who have ensured that CYF ministry has remained active in a variety of contexts and settings. We hope that you are encouraged and inspired by the stories from across our Diocese featured over the following four pages, and we would love to hear from you if you have a story of your own to share.

Looking ahead, in order to retain and welcome unchurched younger generations within our churches, we all need to listen

to families and young people regarding their spiritual needs during the pandemic and beyond.

If we are humble enough to hear the issues that break the hearts of our children and young people and work in collaboration with them, their households and schools, we have the opportunity to demonstrate that children and young people are genuinely welcomed, valued and supported within the faith community.

To support parish ministry in this area, the CYP Team will shortly publish a

Welcoming Children and Young People toolkit. Downloadable from the Diocesan website, it provides a framework to enable churches to begin, re-start or re-imagine their welcome and inclusion of

children and young people across the life of the congregation. More details can be found below.

*“We wanted to celebrate the unstinting efforts, creativity and resilience of those involved in this ministry”*

### Get in touch

**Mission Support Officers Aike Kennett-Brown and Keli Bolton are here to support you. E-mail them at [aike.kennett-brown@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:aike.kennett-brown@southwark.anglican.org) or [keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org)**

**Sign up for our fortnightly newsletters at: [bit.ly/3mL80TU](https://bit.ly/3mL80TU)**

**Check out the Children and Youth web pages at [southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/mission/children-youth/](https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/mission/children-youth/)**

**Find our new Welcoming Children Toolkit here: [bit.ly/CYPToolkit](https://bit.ly/CYPToolkit)**

### Including children in worship



**Members of St Michael, Betchworth's young church team in action.**

*One way in which children and young people can feel valued and included is by being given meaningful roles within the worship service both when meeting in person and online. The Revd Anna Moore, Rector at St Michael, Betchworth, as well as Riley and Parker, share their experiences.*

At St Michael's Betchworth we hold a monthly all-age service and encourage the children to take on roles within the service. This gives them a sense of belonging and they become participants rather than spectators.

It also brings engagement and a deeper understanding of Church traditions and what it feels like to be a valued member of the church community. Roles include serving at the altar; reading scripture; intercessions; sides person/welcomers; and bringing the offertory, plus any other arising tasks.

During lockdown, the children have been pre-recording the readings and attending our Zoom worship so that their voices are still heard.

Here is what brothers Riley and Parker had to say:

**“I really enjoy being part of the Church community. I'm a member of the family choir, which is really fun. It's nice to learn new hymns and sing in front of everyone. When we are at church it always feels friendly and inviting. Revd**

**Anna makes it fun and interesting, I always learn new things. I also get to help and do some jobs before and during the service. It's nice to be included. My favourite job is a sides person. I read regularly during the family services, which has given me much more confidence because I'm quite shy. I have really missed being able to go to church during the coronavirus pandemic and I'm looking forward to things being normal again.”**

*Riley (aged 10)*

**“I like going to church with my family. I like to listen to Revd Anna, she tells really nice stories. Everyone is very kind at church. I like to be helpful and do jobs for Anna like the collection or tidy the hymn books away after the service. Sometimes I get to have a biscuit at the end of church. We have all missed church; my Mum says we can go back really soon.”**

*Parker (aged six)*



“Young people are not just tomorrow’s Church but today’s Church”: Hearing the voices of young people



Members of the Woolwich Youth Forum gather for a meeting before the pandemic.

**“Young people are not just tomorrow’s church but are today’s Church and equal stakeholders as us. God has no grandchildren, but children. (John 1:12).”**

These are the words of Bishop Karowei, who has hosted a youth forum for the Woolwich Episcopal Area since November 2018.

This sentiment was echoed by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell in November 2020, who said that, as the National Church of England sought to “grow younger and more diverse” over the coming decade, listening to the voices of young people and encouraging them to be part of the Church’s vision and strategy would be key at parish, Episcopal Area and Diocesan level.

The Woolwich Youth Forum does just that, by allowing the concerns of young people within our churches to be heard by senior clergy and held together in prayer.

Churches are invited to select up to

three young people aged 13-plus to attend, along with an adult supporter. During the pandemic, the youth forum moved onto Zoom, discussing topics such as life in lockdown and racism.

In November, their discussion on what helped them grow in faith in church, school and at home was recorded and edited by the young people and included in the Growing Faith presentation at December’s Diocesan Synod. Their film has been used at national Growing Faith gatherings, and can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/WV3-q7QcPKVM>

The Revd Chidi Mbandue, Synod member for St Andrew, Croydon, said: “It was very good to hear the voice of our future at the Synod. I look forward to when the face of the Synod will reflect that future, even if it means changing something on our current system to not only encourage their direct participation and representation but affirmative action that will allow them to be present in every Diocesan Synod.”

The good news is that young people will

now have the opportunity to comment on issues raised at Diocesan Synod going forward. The Woolwich Youth Forum and the newly formed forum for the Croydon Episcopal Area will now meet three weeks ahead of Diocesan Synod to debate upcoming topics. Discussions are also under way to start a youth forum in the Kingston Episcopal Area.

Here is Chisom’s experience of attending the Woolwich Youth Forum:

**“My name is Chisom and I am a youth ambassador for my church since Autumn 2019.**

**At the Woolwich Youth Forum we talk about things that are relevant to both the Church and us as youths, for example, Black Lives Matter.**

**We discussed how the Church could help support this movement. We came up with ideas like holding an international event in summer, singing more diverse songs in church, making the sermon more relatable for young people.**

**I feel like the sermon one is really relevant, as it is our goal to invite more youths to church, as they are the future of the Church. So far at church the sermons are adult oriented. As a young person, I feel so bored and left out during that period. I believe if this [changes], a lot of young people will like to join Church.**

**Being a youth ambassador brings so much opportunity. You get to make new friends; you get to speak up for what you think is right.”**

Chisom (aged 17),  
Christ Church, East Greenwich

Find out more

E-mail [keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org) for details on how young people from your church can get involved in a Youth Forum.



# Adventures in faith in school and church



The national initiative known as **Growing Faith** has encouraged the schools of the **Koinonia Federation** to consider how the faith, ethos and vision of the school might be shared in the community with the support of the local church, writes the **Revd Dominic Hubbuck**, **Assistant Priest for the East Greenwich Team Ministry and School Chaplain for the Koinonia Federation**.

Recorded worship supported by local clergy and church leaders offers spiritual input for students, teachers and families. Newsletters that encourage parents to reflect on their own faith with their

children run alongside the readings and reflections that schools deliver to their classes.

The school YouTube channel contains staff and clergy sharing stories, lessons, songs and resources for personal reflection. Lockdown gave people opportunities to cook, read, play and share their talents on camera for students and parents to enjoy and try.

The Charlton Deanery Schools Project, led by local churches, shared its Christmas Journey with schools which is normally a face-to-face immersive experience for Year 2 children: visiting churches, exploring the Nativity story and reflecting on Jesus'



**Left: the Christmas Journey; right: Dominic Hubbuck and Koinonia pupils.**

birth. This year it was filmed with subtitles and BSL translation added and given to more than 20 local schools with a bag of visual aids and reflective questions.

"Children loved the storytelling" and "the bag of sensory and visual aids were perfect, so good we shared them with other classes" sum up comments received by the deanery team. More than 1,500 schoolchildren were engaged.

There are many ways in which churches,

schools and communities can benefit one another to share faith, hope and love. Schools: contact your churches to see what they could do to bring joy into your doors (if only virtually at this stage). Churches: see what your schools would love (even if it is only your prayers and the occasional cake!). Communities: consider what hope and joy your school and church could bring if everyone worked together for peace and love.

## Building confidence in Reigate school assemblies

**Charles Merritt, children's worker at St Mary, Reigate writes...**

In September I was asked by the local primary school to help a group of Year 6 children by encouraging and guiding them through the process of putting together an assembly that would lead others closer to God as well as growing them as individuals.



**Charles Merritt (top row, centre) in a Zoom planning session with the children.**

Our first group of children were given the topic "forgiveness" – not an easy subject and one that many adults would struggle with, but they were fully engaged and brought some incredible ideas to the table. The headteacher, Frances Davis, and I were keen that everything came from the children and was said in their own words, based on what they had learned. The children did a tremendous job producing a fun and thoughtful assembly which included a vibrant retelling of Jonah and the Whale acted by themselves and edited by one of the students.

I was invited back to lead another group of Year 6 children on the theme of "Confidence" which will happen next week. I have been so impressed with the students who have provided intelligent answers to difficult questions and have stepped up to produce high quality content. It seems fitting that this term's theme is confidence as they have all seemed to grow in this area.

Mrs Davis said: "It has been so good seeing the children grow in confidence as they have worked with each other and with Charles and I on their collective worship based on our school value of 'confidence'. It is a real privilege working with the children as they have thought, discussed, decided and helped each other to present an amazing assembly for everyone in our school community to watch."

## Re-imagining ministry with families during the pandemic



**During lockdown the Oxted Team Ministry has come together much more and shares its weekly worship online, writes the Revd Canon Anna Eltringham, Team Rector.**

The Team, which comprises four churches, started "Five Minute Sunday School" as a way to connect with children and families. We have found that our families aren't keen on lots of screen time, but have enjoyed joining in online events when they are fun and short.

Each "Five Minute Sunday School" has a lesson and activity, usually based on the reading from the Sunday Service

which is pre-recorded and shared via YouTube with our community.

Initially these were recorded by adults, often clergy and Sunday School leaders, but we are increasingly seeing families and the children themselves putting together a lesson and activity for their peers.

Michelle, who created a "Five Minute Sunday School" with her daughters (see above), said: "We were really pleased to be asked to produce a video and fortunate enough to have a great story to act out when Jesus turned water into wine. The girls really enjoyed sorting out their parts and acting out the scenes."



# Reimagining youth work during the pandemic



**Holy Trinity Clapham's (HTC) mentoring programme started three years ago, writes Josh Moxon, Children and Youth Minister.**

We set the programme up when it became clear that some of our young people would benefit from additional 1:1s to support their mental health, help them with challenging school or home situations, or to ask some of the bigger questions about life and faith.

When COVID-19 hit last March, we had to adapt and change the shape of our youth work. We noticed that those who were in mentoring relationships were the most likely to access online provision. Mentoring has been able to continue owing to 1:1 outdoor pre-arranged detached youth work being allowed, and we have set up more new mentoring pairs than in any previous years as young people cry out for connections.

David, one of our mentors, said: "It has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Not only do you get to make a significant investment in the faith of a young person, but your faith is stretched and grown as you live out what it means to disciple others."

Steph, another mentor, added: "As someone who drifted from my faith (and came back), I can see first-hand the positive difference that having the support of a youth mentor would make in a young person's walk with Jesus."



Tristan, aged 17, who is one of the young people being mentored, said: "I've been given a space where I can be challenged and encouraged in my own journey with the Holy Spirit. It has allowed me to explore the more difficult questions of faith in a place I feel totally secure. I feel as though I always have someone to open up to and help me look at the world through the lens of God and the Bible."

We find that wisdom and guidance goes in both directions between mentors and mentees. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

*If you would like more information please e-mail [youthmentoring@holytrinityclapham.org](mailto:youthmentoring@holytrinityclapham.org)*

## Young people lead the way in social action: The Big Sleep Out

*Many young people want to make a difference to their community. Churches have the opportunity to support and encourage this. In November 2020, children and young people from St John, Blackheath expressed a heart for the homeless in London. Kira Bogan, aged 13, writes...*

I wanted to participate in the Big Sleepout so I could experience what it was like to sleep rough – especially in the colder weather. It was also a great way to fundraise for London City Mission's Webber Street and join in with others from my church youth group.

It was comforting to know that there were other people joining in for the same great cause. Before we went out we listened to all the work Webber Street does and it really encouraged me. My mum and I wrapped up in as many layers as possible and got some cardboard boxes and sleeping bags (see right). We put a blue tarp over us for warmth and to stay dry.

It started off fine. I kept looking at the sky and staring at one star in particular, thinking how crazy it is that God placed it there individually and I eventually fell asleep. Unfortunately,



I woke up early in the morning and it was much colder. I began thinking about all the people sleeping on the streets and how they go through this every night. I finally went back to sleep and when I woke up in the morning there was a feeling of accomplishment knowing we'd helped Webber Street improve so many lives.

St John's Youth raised £1,630. It costs £1,200 per day to run Webber Street.

## Young people lead the way in social action: food bank volunteering

**When lockdown began, I was at home studying for my A-levels and received a call from Craig, who had set up a food distribution centre in response to the lockdown, called the "Dons Local Action Group", writes Morgen Brits of St Mark, Wimbledon.**

We started off with very little but wanted to help those who needed support.

Volunteers stood outside a store with a table and some decorations to collect food donations. By summer we had more than 25 stalls and also started collecting furniture to distribute to those in need.

By the autumn we had sent out close to 50,000 food parcels to clients who were unable to get a supermarket slot online or who were self-isolating. We then moved into a huge warehouse space owned by infrastructure maintenance organisation Cappagh and which we named "mega-hub". God's generosity shone out for me because the huge space was offered for free.

Myself and two other people run the day-to-day operations, and I quickly learned new skills such as logistics, marketing, administration, managing volunteers and how important one tin of baked beans can be to someone.

I took a food parcel to one gentleman's



**Morgen in the "mega-hub".**

house and he said: "This parcel of food is my lifeline, lad. You don't know how much this kindness means to me." I left his doorstep, asking God to keep showing me what I could do to help.

To date we have distributed more than 150,000 food parcels in south-west London and Surrey, fed staff at our local NHS hospital, and shared our food in bulk with other groups who cook for the homeless, as well as other organisations.

Jesus teaches us that every life is important, and no one should be living in food poverty. That's what takes me back to volunteering at the Dons Local Action Group every single day.





## DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

*Mental health and well-being*

# A retreat from the world in your own home

**Finding ways to keep a dispersed student community together online has had unexpected consequences for the students and staff of St Augustine's College of Theology.**

As a non-residential college with teaching bases in Kent and London, finding innovative ways to keep their staff and student community connected has always been high on the agenda, so when the first lockdown hit in March 2020 it wasn't long before teaching and worship moved online.

What has come as a surprise is how far-reaching their online community has become as a result.

One of the first innovations was a series of online retreats, which began as a way to turn lockdown into a positive experience. The initial sessions, conceived by tutor Chris Chapman (pictured above right), focused on exploring ways to meet God whilst physically disconnected from our worshipping communities.

They proved so popular that the programme was quickly expanded, and continued through 2020 even after lockdown was lifted. Now the online retreat series has more than 1,500 members from all over the world, and an expanded programme continues through 2021.

The Revd John Beauchamp, Vicar of St Stephen, Canonbury, said: "Amongst all the online material that the pandemic has seen emerge, the St Augustine's online retreats stand out as providing a rich resource for contemplation and reflection. Easy to access, simple to use, yet creating space within which listeners embark on a journey into scripture and prayer that is challenging and enriching. As a blind person who often finds resources inaccessible and difficult to use, the St Augustine's retreats have been one of the best things I discovered in 2020."

The college has also embraced the challenge of online worship, with twice



daily live services through its Facebook page. Initially the challenge was taken up mostly by students (who also run many of the services themselves), but there is a growing, and strong, congregation of people who have found the college's page and chosen to become part of their extended family.

Clary, a second-year independent student from Canterbury Diocese, said: "I have a household of online workers teaching, accounting and learning, and as we are open plan I hear a huge mix of vocabulary and stress when the broadband goes down. Being involved in the worship both in my own parish and St Augustine's has been a very calming experience. Online services have been such an opening. I expect they will remain with us for a long time to come."

The Revd Dr Alan Gregory, Principal of St Augustine's College of Theology,

said: "We have been amazed and hugely encouraged by the enthusiasm with which our students have grasped the challenges presented by lockdown."

He added: "With each dealing with their own individual circumstances – in many cases combining study with the additional pressures of home-schooling and home-working – they have also taken the opportunity to gather together and support each other online. And we feel blessed to be able to offer so many around the world the chance to join with our community in worship and reflection."

More information on retreats can be found here: [staugustinescollege.ac.uk/category/latest-news/virtual-retreat/](http://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/category/latest-news/virtual-retreat/)

More information about daily online worship can be found on Facebook here: [www.facebook.com/StAugustinesCollegeofTheology](https://www.facebook.com/StAugustinesCollegeofTheology)

## Croydon clergy enjoy day of Rest and Refreshment

*Croydon Episcopal Area held a Clergy Rest and Refreshment Day on 25 February. One of the attendees, the Revd Catherine Tucker of Holy Saviour, Croydon, writes...*

A very enjoyable as well as meaningful Croydon Episcopal Area Rest and Refreshment day started and ended with all of us together in one Zoom space with very moving talks by the Rt Revd Peter Price (right) encouraging us in this "strange lockdown period" to be especially thoughtful and forgiving to one another.



I then attended the morning Bible study group, *What does God say about rest?*, led by the Revd Mark Francis of St John the Divine, Felbridge, where we discussed how 2 Chronicles 20: 5-17 relates to our current situation and especially how it is God who leads us.

In the afternoon I attended the Sleep in Theology and Practice Group led by the Revd Canon Dr Andrew Bishop of Croydon Minster who brought out the importance of sleep, and its role in scripture, as a "positive activity" by referring to a very well-chosen series of paintings/pictures of biblical scenes.

Other breakout sessions during the day included a mending circle led by artist Dr Alison Clark; an exploration of jazz, soul, blues and gospel tunes led by Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett; silent prayer led by the Revd Deborah Forman; and an art session with Archdeacon Moira Astin.

## South London listens in Mental Health Summit

**On 1 March, South London Citizens, in partnership with the South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust, gathered more than 100 community leaders in South West London online, writes Rory Morgan of Citizens UK.**



The purpose of the event was to understand and act on the well-being repercussions of the past 12 challenging months. The event was chaired by Merton community leader and chaplain at Wimbledon College, the Revd James Potter. Attendees also heard from local MP Fleur Anderson (above) and representatives from South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust, while Richard Taylor, Vicar of St Barnabas, Wandsworth, led a listening exercise in one of the breakout rooms.

The discussions in the 11 other breakout rooms identified numerous mental health pressures and challenges. We heard from parents feeling the strain of working from home and facilitating home learning for their children; the increased pressure

on unpaid carers with their support networks now fractured; the isolation of the elderly; and much more.

Ann Beasley, Chair of the Trust, closed by discussing the next steps in the South London Listens project. So far, South London Citizens has asked more than 5,000 South Londoners to talk about what has been affecting their well-being.

As we now move into the next phase – finding solutions to the problems raised – the sustained leadership of communities across South London remains crucial. After all, as we often say at Citizens UK, those closest to the pain are often those closest to the solution.

To find out more please e-mail [rory.morgan@citizensuk.org](mailto:rory.morgan@citizensuk.org)



# WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for APRIL ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 22 MARCH**



## March

### TUESDAY 9 MARCH

\* **ONLINE** — From Biology to Theology: How viruses challenge our perception of good and evil. Virologist Dr Mirjam Schilling leads this seminar, one in a series about science and faith from the Faraday Institute. 1.00-2.00pm. Free. No need to book; click this link at the appropriate time: [faraday.cam.ac.uk/events/seminars/](https://faraday.cam.ac.uk/events/seminars/)

\* **ONLINE** — Questions of our Times - Race: Which lives matter? A Christian Evidence webinar led by the Revd Joel Edwards CBE, Director of Advocacy at Christian Solidarity Worldwide. 8.00pm. Free. Register here: [bit.ly/3rtvDmj](https://bit.ly/3rtvDmj)

### THURSDAY 11 MARCH

\* **ONLINE** — Church of England Net Zero Carbon Webinars: The Effective Management of Lighting. This webinar, one in a series from the National Church, will cover all forms of church lighting. 4.00-5.00pm. Free. Register here: [bit.ly/39QeBJA](https://bit.ly/39QeBJA)

### TUESDAY 16 MARCH

\* **ONLINE** — Questions of our Times - the Environment: Can the future ever be green? A Christian Evidence webinar with Mike Hulme, Professor of Human Geography at Cambridge University. 8.00pm. Free. Register here: [bit.ly/3cNNWPA](https://bit.ly/3cNNWPA)

\* **ONLINE** — Church of England Net Zero Carbon Webinars: To replace or not replace? This webinar, one in a series from the National Church, discusses what to expect when replacing a church's heat and lighting. Led by chartered building services engineer Susan Logan from EcoTeric. 12.00-1.00pm. Free. Register here: [bit.ly/3q7ljil](https://bit.ly/3q7ljil)

### SATURDAY 20 MARCH

\* **ONLINE** — Life as a Franciscan Sister or Brother: could it be for me? A morning to explore Franciscan community life in the Church of England. 9.30am-1.00pm. Free. Booking essential by 18 March by e-mailing [noviceguardianscf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:noviceguardianscf@franciscans.org.uk)

### TUESDAY 23 MARCH

\* **ONLINE** — Questions of our Times - Prayer and Spirituality: Is God really listening? Former Archbishop of Canterbury the Revd Dr Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth leads this Christian Evidence webinar, the last in the series. 8.00pm. Free. Register here: [bit.ly/3tAoT8k](https://bit.ly/3tAoT8k)

### THURSDAY 25 MARCH

\* **ONLINE** — All Sisters and Brothers: Sustaining Hope with Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP is the keynote speaker at this London Churches Refugee Fund and *Church Times* event. 6.00-7.30pm. Free. Register here: [www.churchtimes.co.uk/all-sisters-and-brothers](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/all-sisters-and-brothers)

## April

### SATURDAY 24 APRIL

\* **ONLINE** — Modern Slavery webinar from the Reigate Archdeaconry, which aims to raise awareness of this issue in the Surrey area. Speakers include Carolyn Thom of Their Voice, and Chief Superintendent Clive Davies and DC Bex Davies of Surrey Police. 9.30am-11.45am. Free. <https://rasjfmmodernslavery.eventbrite.co.uk>

\* **LAMBETH & SOUTHWARK** — Unlock is holding its annual sponsored 'Stay at Home' walk on 24 April in the Lambeth, Southwark and City of London area. Further details can be obtained from 01709 380318, by e-mailing [office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk) or at [www.unlock-urban.org.uk](https://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)

### WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL

\* **ONLINE** — A webinar from The Children's Society about the risks young people face from exploitation. Speakers include The Revd Mike Todd (Church Engagement Manager — Regional) and The Rt Revd Sarah Bullock, Bishop of Shrewsbury. 11.00am-12.00pm. Tickets are free but registration is essential via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CTruZEUMTRGqRLffN5zycw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CTruZEUMTRGqRLffN5zycw)

## Cathedral welcomes new Canon Chancellor to its ranks

**The Revd Canon Wendy Robins was installed as Canon Chancellor of Southwark Cathedral on 13 December 2020.**

Previously the Diocese's Director of Press and Communications, Wendy became the Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education on 16 November, a role which comes together with the Cathedral position.

Wendy (pictured right with her family) said: "There are many exciting developments in the Diocese at present and I am especially pleased to have been invited to be part of the Ministry and Training Department working with colleagues exploring ways of encouraging discipleship and new lay ministries."

She added: "It is good, too, to be able to work with clergy from around the Diocese as we explore ordained



ministry today and how best we can all work together to grow God's kingdom here in Southwark. Having been part of Southwark Cathedral for a long time, it is a real privilege to join the Chapter and become more fully involved."

## New Precentor installed at Southwark Cathedral

**The Revd Canon Andrew Zihni was installed as Canon Precentor of Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 31 January.**

Previously Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Andrew was welcomed in his new ministry by Bishop Christopher as friends and family watched online, before the Dean, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, led Andrew Zihni to the stall assigned to each new Canon Precentor. Andrew



Zihni then led the Cathedral in prayers, before Andrew Nunn started a round of applause.

## Archdeacon offers support in cladding crisis

**Alastair Cutting, Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich, joined Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer on 1 February to visit residents affected by the cladding scandal in Royal Artillery Quays in Woolwich.**

The tower block in which the residents live has cladding which was deemed unsafe after the Grenfell tragedy in 2017. They are now facing enormous surplus charges.

Alastair said after the meeting: "It is unjust that residents are left holding the bills for security, insurance and restoration just because building regulations in past times permitted developers to install cladding that we now know is dangerous."

The visit came shortly before Bishop Christopher joined the campaign calling for leaseholders to be protected from unjust costs. Steve



Day, a member of the Royal Artillery Quays residents' campaign group, said: "It was a bold and brave call from the Church."

The amendment to the Fire Safety Bill which would have protected leaseholders from the costs of remedial work was rejected by MPs on 24 February. The campaign will now move into a new phase.

The Church of England's Housing Commission has also released a new report, *Coming Home*, addressing a range of injustices surrounding housing.



# Bishop Christopher awards 11 Lancelot Andrewes medals for “faithful service” during the pandemic

In February, Bishop Christopher (right) announced that he would be awarding 11 Lancelot Andrewes medals to people nominated in recognition of all they have offered during this pandemic.

Bishop Christopher said: “This medal, which is my personal gift, was struck to recognise faithful and committed service to God and his people across the Diocese.” Lancelot Andrewes medals were first awarded in 2017; since then, about 50 have been given.



## Tori: St Augustine, Honor Oak Park

Tori's mother said: “My husband and I write this on behalf of our daughter, Tori, as she is unable to read and write.

Tori turned 30 years of age in early February. The e-mail informing her that she was to receive the Lancelot Andrewes Medal for her services to others during the pandemic was, to quote Tori, ‘the BEST birthday present ever!!!!’ She is so proud.

As parents, despite all her difficulties, we could not be more proud and we are honoured that her huge efforts have been recognised in this way. Tori is very much looking forward to receiving her medal when lockdown restrictions are lifted.



## Revd Andrew Cunningham: St Matthew, Redhill



Andrew said: “I don’t quite know what to say. I’m quite taken aback! Please pass on my thanks.”

## Revd Ben Jones: Emmanuel, Croydon

Ben said: “Well, this came as quite a shock! I am very confident I don’t deserve this medal personally, but am honoured to receive it on behalf of many at Emmanuel who have done sterling work throughout the pandemic. Thank you for the recognition and for the encouragement it brings.”



## Lorraine Thomas: Immanuel, Streatham

Lorraine said: “I cannot tell you what it means to have received this nomination. This is the proudest I have been in a long while... No words, as I serve God and responded to his calling in the absence of our Priest-in-Charge during the pandemic. Quite honestly, I had no idea the impact this

mini podcast would have on Immanuel and the wider community. It somehow pulled us together stronger in a way I had not seen before... I am praising God and accept this medal not just for me but for Immanuel, as without their contributions and talents there would be no podcast.”



## Revd Edd Stock: Holy Trinity, Sydenham & Forest Hill



Edd said: “I feel very honoured for being nominated for the medal.”

## Elizabeth Maytom: Christ Church, Gipsy Hill



Elizabeth said: “The award came as a total surprise. I was asked to go in to be part of a live Facebook streamed service and then Archdeacon Simon Gates was there to present the medal. It was very overwhelming but a real honour to the whole food bank staff and volunteers to be recognised for all our work.”

## Richard Holroyd: St Peter & St Paul, Lindfield

Richard said: “It was a lovely surprise to hear I had been awarded the Lancelot Andrewes medal. Like so many Churchwardens in a vacancy, the last year has presented additional challenges to keep the parishioners positively informed, cared for and spiritually nourished, and at the same time to seek a new Vicar. I feel blessed that my efforts have been recognised.”



## Meg Fry: St Andrew, Earlsfield

Meg said: “I am deeply touched and honoured to receive this medal. This has been such a difficult time, and yet there are so many amazing people working hard to care for their communities. It really does feel like a privilege to be able to do what we are doing at the Home Community Café, and I know that I speak for my whole team when I say this.”



## Pat Dockree: St Edward, Mottingham



Pat said: “It’s a privilege to have my work for the church acknowledged and I’m grateful to accept the medal.”

## Hadas Hagos: Battersea Fields

Hadas said: “I see this award as a reflection of my community and how people pull together for a good vision. I really am a very small spark in the middle of it all, which is why I was shocked when I heard this award is given to me. Waste Not Want Not Battersea is about being good stewards of God’s resources on earth and is driven by our faith together.”





**Chair: Biddy Taylor**  
E: [biddytaylor.spidirchair@gmail.com](mailto:biddytaylor.spidirchair@gmail.com)  
020 7622 4912

**For information about training courses to become a spiritual director, contact Jacky Sutcliffe:**  
E: [spidircourse@gmail.com](mailto:spidircourse@gmail.com)  
07870 744257

**Finding a spiritual director**  
Please go to our website,  
[www.spidir.org.uk](http://www.spidir.org.uk),  
or contact Biddy Taylor (above)