



Local heroes

Meet the St Mark's Academy, Mitcham graduates making a name for themselves
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Higher education

School, FE and HE chaplains share their experiences of ministry
See pages 6-7



War in Ukraine

How the Diocese is responding to the humanitarian crisis in Eastern Europe
See page 12



Well-wishers gather to pay tribute at Bishop Jonathan's farewell evensong

Clergy, dignitaries, parishioners and well-wishers from across the Croydon Episcopal Area and beyond attended a Farewell Evensong for the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, at Croydon Minster on 24 February.

The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Bishop, Priest-in-Charge, welcomed the congregation. The first reading came from Micah and was read by Indrani Balachandran, Lay Chair of Croydon South Deanery, while the second reading, from 2 Corinthians, was read by Ray Wheeler, Diocesan Warden of Readers. The Venerable Moira Astin and the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacons of Reigate and Croydon respectively, led the prayers.

In his sermon, Bishop Jonathan said: "The Church can live in hope because and insofar that it is durable, rooted and hospitable. If we have these things, we have no fear. These are qualities of healthy communities, whether or not God is the source."

He continued: "Community needs continually and consciously to be built to counter the erosion that contemporary society is inflicting on it.

"To those of you here today representing organisations... I want to remind you that power is given to you in order to give away... It's given to be shared, to create conditions and encourage the situation where people can make their own choices. Communities are built and rebuilt and sustained from the ground up, by the people who decide to use the power that they have."

In conclusion, he said: "Whatever I



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have been able to give, I have received. Whatever you have received from me, I have received from you."

Bishop Christopher led the thanks from colleagues and civil society leaders, saying: "Bishop Jonathan has modelled servant leadership and has been your faithful pastor and I give thanks to God for that." Meanwhile, the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin added: "Thank you because you do walk humbly with your God."

There were other tributes and thanks, too, including from the Mayor of Sutton, Councillor Trish Fivey, and Councillor Hamida Ali, leader of Croydon Council. Speaking of Bishop Jonathan's work with

and for refugees, Councillor Ali said: "On behalf of the people of Croydon, I want to give my deepest gratitude to Bishop Jonathan. His skilled but seemingly effortless ability to offer words when there are none... his passion for and advocacy for refugee communities."

Damien Luke, leader of Praise House Church; Sarah Smart, chief executive of Reedham Children's Trust; and Roz Corder and Colin Powell, current and former Directors of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education respectively, also paid tribute.

Ray Wheeler concluded the tributes by saying: "You have been kind, approachable

and supportive. You have always been there for all the laity... Thank you for the support and encouragement you have given us."

Movingly, Bishop Jonathan then handed over his crosier and Episcopal bishop's ring to Bishop Christopher, saying: "This is my last act as Bishop of Croydon." A plaque was then unveiled showing the names of previous Bishops of Croydon, Bishop Jonathan's being the most recent.

During the reception which followed, Bishop Jonathan was able to personally say his farewells and thanks to the many who had gathered. He also presented his PA, Nadina Bedlow, with flowers.

A view from The BRIDGE



Reflecting on and preparing for Lent in our families, churches and schools across the Diocese, it is sobering to recall where needs are so great at present, as Ukrainians join families from Hong Kong and our wider hurting world in leaving their homelands and searching for a safe place.

As Bishop Jonathan steps down as Bishop of Croydon (see page 1), we remember with thanks his role as lead Bishop on refugee matters. We also remember, of course, the role of Lunar House, in central Croydon, as it receives and administers to those seeking asylum.

It is also in that part of our Diocese that we have recently been able to make available a property to support the work of those seeking to combat modern-day slavery, providing some respite for those trafficked here who want to go back home.

As I write, I know that in our parishes a number of volunteers will be rallying to the call to provide practical help to refugees. They have already, for example, made people from Hong Kong welcome by celebrating the Chinese New Year.

It is a joy to share God's love for us with those who need to know the warmth of human connection at their most difficult times. What can we give, how can we mark Lent? Giving of ourselves fully in the service of Christ in our lives is something that the late Philip Fletcher did so authentically, and it is fitting for us to write about his significant contributions across the wider church in this issue (see page 3).

We also hear more about the Bishop's Lent Call from our Dean (see page

10), and we know that in our schools, and through the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (which Bishop Jonathan chaired until recently), children will be thinking of the Lent Call, and how we give to those less fortunate than ourselves because God wants and expects us to.

Lent calls us to a discipline of self-reflection as well as a season of generosity. An opportunity to feed our souls, and take time to ponder. We have some interesting books introduced in this issue (see our Lent round-up on page 10), to which I will add one that some might like to try: Dr Paula Gooder has recently written *Journalling the Psalms*. This way of reading scripture and reflecting appeals to me because, in a busy life, when there is space already provided on the page to scribble, doodle and ponder – all in a book from someone who is so accessible – it makes it much more likely that I will manage to do this!

Wishing you all a holy Lent.

Ruth Martin



NEWS IN BRIEF

New training from Power the Fight

A new comprehensive training course from anti-violence charity Power the Fight will be launched this spring and summer. The Enabling Course offers churches the opportunity to engage with a number of Power The Fight's training modules including: being a culturally competent organisation; youth groups and youth violence; and equipping parents and carers on youth violence issues. Find more information at www.powerthefight.org.uk/what-we-do/training. To register your interest please email laura@powerthefight.org.uk

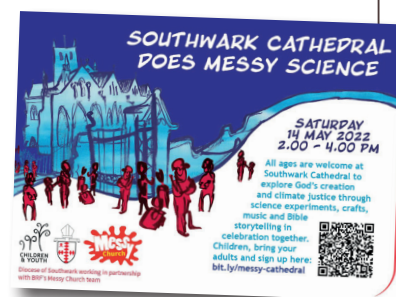
Director of Communications wins media award



Sophia Jones, Southwark's Director of Communications, has won a Wise Women award in recognition of her achievements in media. Now in its 17th year, the Wise Women Awards were founded by Pastor Marjorie Esomowei of Wisdom For Women International and Co-Pastor of Triumphant Church International to celebrate the great work that Christian women do in the Church and wider society. Winners are nominated by a member of the public. Sophia has won in the Christian Woman in Media Award category. The awards ceremony will take place later in March.

Prepare to get Messy at Southwark Cathedral

Booking has now opened for Southwark Cathedral does Messy Science on 14 May. Children and their adults are invited to join Bishop Richard and Dr Dave for crafts, science experiments, music and Bible storytelling to help us think about God's creation and climate justice. There will be activities for all ages, followed by a time of celebration.



2-4pm, 14 May, Southwark Cathedral. Please sign up at bit.ly/messy-cathedral to give the team an idea of numbers for activities and for COVID purposes.

Tell a different story

Join the Dioceses of London and Southwark for Storytelling in Ministry, a fun, interactive workshop about how to use storytelling to engage the whole church family playfully and effectively. This is open to all and for all, no matter your context.

7-9pm, Wednesday 16 March (hybrid workshop). Book here: bit.ly/3GcuLtO

Witness Without Walls

The Mission Team is staging an event, Witness Without Walls, to be facilitated by Director of Mission Jay Colwill and Lay Training Officer Peter Graystone. If your church has had particular impact in Christian witness, please let the Team know.



7.30pm-9pm, Monday 14 March, Zoom. Please contact mission@southwark.anglican.org to book your place and receive Zoom login details.

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MARCH edition is due to be published online on 1 April 2022. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **MONDAY 21 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



IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

“Our loss is great, as will be his reward.”

Colleagues and friends from across the Diocese pay tribute after the death of former DAC Chair and Diocesan Trustee Philip Fletcher.

The eldest of four children, Philip Fletcher was born on 2 May 1946. He attended Marlborough College and studied history at Trinity College, Oxford. Before starting university, he spent a few months in Bangladesh with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).

Philip served with distinction at National, Diocesan, and local church level. He was on the Diocese's Environmental and Eco Diocese working groups, the Diocesan Council of Trustees, and served with care and devotion as Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC). He chaired the Church of England Mission and Public Affairs



with equally devoted service as a Reader in Stockwell. As a Minister of the Word, he brought the acuteness of his mind, and the kindness of his heart to the parish and people of St Andrew and St Michael, Stockwell for more than 40 years. The National Church benefited greatly from his wisdom as Chair of the MPAC, as did Southwark by his meticulous chairing of the DAC. Many have commented with a sense of loss on his passing. Our loss is great, as will be his reward.”

The Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin said: “Philip Fletcher was a clear thinker and found it easy to grasp complex data as well as the strategic big picture. Soon after I became Diocesan Secretary, I realised I could no longer continue as a member of the governing body of Canterbury Christ Church University so Philip took my place there as the Archbishops’ Council representative and on its audit committee where he became Chair. He relished being involved in higher education and I know that he maintained these roles, together with his position in the DAC, for as long as he could throughout his illness. Philip will be greatly missed in so many ways and we pray that his huge contribution to so many will be a comfort to Margaret and Sarah.”

Between 1996 and 2000, Philip was the Receiver – or chief financial officer – for the Metropolitan Police. He was Director General of Ofwat from 2000 to 2006 and its Chair from 2006 to 2012.

As DAC Chair, a post he took up in February 2018, Philip’s vision was to help the DAC in its work of assisting PCCs to make church buildings fit for mission and worship in the 21st century.

Luke Tatam, Secretary to the DAC, said: “Philip’s personal kindness and his inspirational dedication to the DAC’s work will be greatly missed. Members of the committee appreciated his wise chairing of the committee in a diligent and thoughtful way, demonstrating his calm, insightful and even-handed leadership. He was exemplary in listening well to others.”

Philip served faithfully as a Reader in Stockwell Parish for more than 40 years, preaching and leading services in both St Andrew’s and St Michael’s churches every month, as well as being on several church committees locally. The Revd Erica

Philip Fletcher chairs the DAC event in December 2021 (right); celebrating his 40th anniversary of Reader licensing at St Michael, Stockwell in 2019 (below left).



Wooff said: “We are all immensely sad in Stockwell Parish that we will no longer see Philip cycling at top speed to St Michael’s church every week. He was a much loved and valued colleague and friend, who we will all sorely miss.”

Fellow General Synod member, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, said: “Philip was one of those people, in my experience, who could be generous, kind and enormously thoughtful whilst being clear and tough and having huge professional expertise. At every level of his involvement in the Church, Philip brought both his humanity and professionalism all imbued with his Christian faith and sense of vocation. As it says in the gospels, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’”

Director of Public Mission and Public Affairs, Dr Malcolm Brown, worked with Philip from 2010 to 2015. He said: “Philip was a first-rate Chair – always supportive of staff but also ready to challenge and guide, especially me as Director! He had acute antennae of the politics of our work, both in terms of the Government and the politics of the National Church, drawing on long experience in the Civil Service at a high level.”

Dr Brown continued: “Philip’s own position on most major Church issues was clear and yet he commanded respect from those who took other views because he was never tribal. In short, he was a good Anglican who knew that the church was

stronger for having members coming from different traditions who respected each other’s sincerity.”

Philip was passionate about environmental causes and served on the Church of England’s Environment Working Group (EWG). Nicola Thomas, Head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC), said: “Philip was a much-valued member of the Eco Diocese Working Group and the EWG, where he brought his rich experience and wisdom. His ability to represent a range of views and experiences was much appreciated by the Chair and members of these committees.”

Philip was a keen ornithologist and hill walker and also a great visitor of National Trust properties and ancient churches. Philip’s elder daughter, Helen, died in a horse-riding accident, aged 11, in August 1989. He is survived by his wife Margaret and their younger daughter Sarah, two grandchildren, his brother Colin and a sister, Gillian.

A service of thanksgiving will be held at St Michael’s Church, 56 Stockwell Park Road, SW9 0DA on Saturday 26 March 2022 at 12 noon followed by light refreshments in the hall. No flowers, please. Donations in memory of Philip may be given to: Christian Aid (www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Fletcher56) or to the National Trust (www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Fletcher57). No dress code.

“We are all immensely sad in Stockwell Parish that we will no longer see Philip cycling at top speed to St Michael’s each week.”

Council (MPAC) from 2010 to 2015. Philip was also a Reader.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, said: “Philip Fletcher was a distinguished public servant, and a member of a family equally distinguished by so many who have given faithful service to the Church. I extend heartfelt sympathy to Margaret and the family and I am glad that Philip was granted his wish of coming home and a peaceful end repeating the word Amen as Margaret read his favourite psalms.”

The Bishop added: “Philip combined a high-flying career in the Civil Service – he was the last Receiver of the Metropolitan District, and Chief Executive of Ofwat –



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

South Dulwich choir records new anthem for Queen's Jubilee



St Stephen's Music Director, Oliver Lallemand, conducts the choir as they record a new choral anthem to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

St Stephen, South Dulwich is a church known for its fine music; it is also blessed with wonderful acoustics, so we were delighted when our choir was asked to perform and record a new choral anthem by award-winning composer, Thomas Hewitt Jones.

In Our Service celebrates the life of the Queen, Patron of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) which recently announced its "Platinum Project", commemorating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

As members of the congregation gathered to participate in the recording, St Stephen's Music Director, Oliver Lallemand commented: "Thomas and I regularly work in tandem in the church, something I enjoy very much, and it was a real honour to be part of such a wonderful tribute and to know that our talented and enthusiastic choir would play such a key role in the celebrations."

At the start of the recording, Hugh Morris, Director of RSCM, said that the aim of the four-minute piece was to bring people together, through something which could be sung and enjoyed, not just by church choirs, but by everyone.

The piece reflects themes of service and dedication and, as Thomas explained, "when I was asked by RSCM to write a choral anthem to celebrate this incredibly important occasion, I knew it was vital to find a way of reflecting Her Majesty's selfless service, so my aim was to produce something new and inclusive, weighty enough to reflect the importance of the

occasion, yet accessible enough to be attractive to a wide range of people.

"It was important that it should stand the test of time and it became obvious that the place to start was with the Queen's own words, so I used as my inspiration quotes from some of her speeches and messages. I hope that the words, together with the uplifting music, will encourage people to come together to sing and to celebrate."

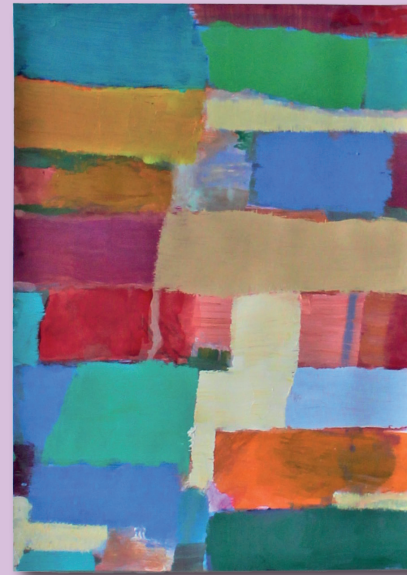
Speaking afterwards to some of those who attended, it was clear that *In Our Service* has achieved all Thomas aimed for: an expressive, joyful, and moving tribute.

The recording at St Stephen's is only part of this year's plans by the RSCM, whose President is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Each year they celebrate Music Sunday, marking the role of church music in worship. This year it falls on 12 June, the weekend after the Jubilee, and they are encouraging groups to share their performances on social media, using the hashtag #RSCMplatinum to create a record of coming together through music. More information and *In Our Service* music packs are available via the RSCM website.

The final word goes to the Revd Canon Bernhard Schunemann, Vicar of St Stephen's, who told me that "as a parish priest I treasure what a real asset the Queen is to the Church – her simple faith, communicated through her Christmas broadcasts and her actions, especially the way she expresses in such unpretentious terms her sincerely held Christian beliefs, are an example to us all and one I find I value more and more."

Sallie Eden

Raising money for Afghanistan through 100 days of art



Pictured above are two paintings by the Revd Alan Everett, Vicar at All Saints, West Dulwich. Alan's goal is to create 100 paintings – one a day for 100 days – as part of #The100DayProject, in order to raise money for Afghanaid. You can see all the paintings released so far on Alan's Instagram feed, [alaneverett.art](https://www.instagram.com/alaneverett.art).

Duchess of Cambridge drops in on Camberwell group



© Sylvie Pope, Citizens UK

St Michael and All Angels, Camberwell received a Royal visitor on 8 February when the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, dropped in on a MumSpace group hosted by the church.

MumSpace, which has bases across the Southwark and Newington Deanery, is a PACT (Parents and Children Together) initiative. Groups meet weekly and provide a safe, welcoming environment for mothers to meet and share their experiences and challenges. A health visitor also attends regularly who can signpost attendees on to other services if necessary.

During her visit, the Duchess met volunteers and mothers, and took part in a cooking workshop with the children.

Citizens UK set up PACT in 2014 to help alleviate the mental health problems and isolation that were affecting parents' ability to give their children the best start in life.

It is a collaboration between faith groups and Citizens UK and works closely with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust. The St Michael's MumSpace group has volunteers from Wyndham Road mosque.

Josephine Namusisi-Riley, PACT Lead, said: "We were so pleased to have had the Duchess of Cambridge visit our MumSpace group in Southwark. Parent-led projects like PACT are so essential to provide a space where parents can be empowered by one another to make important changes in their communities and feel like they aren't alone."



IN FOCUS...

News from our schools

St Mark's Academy celebrates as former pupils make waves

What do a BRIT Award winner and a social housing campaigner have in common? They both went to the same school, St Mark's CofE Academy in Mitcham.

Award-winning rapper and hip-hop artist, Santan Dave, whose real name is David Orobosa Omoregie, and campaigner Kwajo Tweneboia (both 23) are making waves in their respective fields.

Kwajo was described recently in a *Times* article as the "Marcus Rashford of terrible flats". In 2019 he was living in accommodation provided by Clarion Housing Association. "My family and I were living amongst mice, damp, mould, cockroaches and asbestos," he recalled. After complaining for almost two years and being ignored, Kwajo had had enough. "I knew my neighbours were living in similar conditions, so I began to knock on their



doors and enquire. I was horrified with the evidence of neglect that resulted from these conversations and visits to their properties," he said.

Kwajo worked with ITV News for two weeks to tell this story. "It ended up being the top story on national news, shaming the housing association into completing repairs. I learnt that this was happening across the country and was determined to continue helping others," he said. Since then, Kwajo has gone on to work across other estates resulting in people being rehoused, repairs being done and putting them in touch with legal representatives. He has presented a documentary for BBC News and currently presents the newspapers with Vanessa Feltz on BBC Radio London.

Kwajo is grateful to his old school for their constant support. "Throughout the



Rapper and hip-hop artist Santan Dave (right); Kwajo Tweneboia (inset left).
© Alamy

whole process staff have been incredibly supportive and have gone above and beyond to help me share my message," he said. "St Mark's being leaders in highlighting social issues, especially within their curriculum, is one thing I remember from being a student at the school. They truly reflect their core Love, Hope, and Trust."

Headteacher Hannah Fahey said: "It is our vision that the quality of education and curriculum at St Mark's empowers students to become thoughtful, informed citizens who will challenge and interrogate unjust ideologies and practices. Kwajo's actions remind us why this vision is so important and we are proud of him."

St Mark's will now award the Tweneboia Courageous Advocacy Award each year to a student who has supported a just cause within the local community.

Dave is a multi-award winner, most recently winning Artist of the Year at the BRIT Awards. In 2020, he won Album of the Year for *Psychodrama* and won again in 2021 for *We're All Alone in This Together*.

Ms Fahey said: "Dave was an exceptionally gifted young person who achieved some of the highest GCSE grades in his year. He had a natural talent for creative and persuasive writing, naturally excelling in his English and RE lessons. I will always remember him for having strength of character and a strong sense of social justice."

She added: "To say that the St Mark's community is proud is an understatement and we look forward to Dave sharing his legacy with pupils for many years into the future. We thank God for the gifts Dave is blessing the world with."

Protecting our children both on- and offline: primary schools in Southwark mark Safer Internet Day

Schools across the country marked Safer Internet Day on 8 February, including our own in the Diocese.

The School Council at All Saints' Church of England Primary School, Benhilton, produced a video highlighting the importance of staying safe online and respecting one another. This DigiSafe video, run by the National Grid for Learning, saw the pupils speaking about cyberbullying, phishing, catphishing, people being rude, coercion, not knowing who they are speaking to, peer pressure, and generally the everyday issues that all children are feeling.

Meanwhile, at St John's and St Clement's Primary School, the chief executive of Ofcom, Dame Melanie Dawes, visited the day before Safer Internet Day (see right). St John's co-headteacher Joseph Bell said: "It was exciting because she joined our collective worship and talked about her journey to become the head of Ofcom. She was then interviewed by the School Council about her role, her job and the problems that children face on the internet now."

The pupils asked Dame Melanie a variety of questions, including about



what Ofcom does. They also told her about the problems they faced on the internet. "They talked about some of the games they were on and how sometimes people talk to them on those games," said Joseph. "Dame Melanie revealed that Ofcom is looking at how they can bring different apps and games into their remit to make it safer for children."

Both headteachers described the challenges that children face on the internet, with Joseph saying: "The biggest one is the access to other children even within their classes at unsupervised

times of the day." He added that it was not so much an internet issue as a problem with messaging services such as WhatsApp. "The children end up in very big groups which are hard to navigate and they say things which they might not say in the playground," he said, adding that bullying that happened online continued to affect the children offline.

Karen Stanley-Bristow, headteacher at All Saints, said that she had noticed that the pupils had become "extremely digitally literate in that they are well aware of the tactics that can be used

online – such as threat, something being too good to be true or bribery. They are able to discuss age limits and appropriate age limits on apps and they are able to help their parents."

Karen added: "Once they go up the school and get their own devices, we get reports from parents and screen shots from WhatsApp groups where we see the children actually putting that digital literacy into place in a conversation with their peers, saying: 'This isn't right. You shouldn't be talking like that, you shouldn't be sharing that photo, you haven't been given permission,' so they are very digitally aware."

Joseph reflected that the impact of Safer Internet Day, particularly this year with its focus on how to be kind and how to respect each other online, has been to open the children's eyes to thinking that they have to treat people online the same way as they would treat them if they met them in person.

Read more about what's happening in our schools on pages 6-7.



“I’m an encourager, a cheerleader, a listening ear.”

With nearly 30 chaplains operating in schools, colleges and universities across the Diocese, the Board of Education’s Fiona Foreman and Rachael Norman find out more about those exercising this vital ministry — and discover that “holy hanging around” is a key skill.

Southwark Diocese boasts 105 church schools educating 37,000 pupils. Of these, a third are found in our 14 secondary schools, nine of which have post-16 provision. In all our church secondary schools a chaplain can be found to serve both staff and students. Beyond this, there are nine further education (FE) colleges and 10 universities.

It would be safe to say that our Diocese is covered in educational establishments, many of which have a chaplaincy.

Chaplaincies come in different forms. They can be one person, lay or ordained, or a team from a number of faith traditions.

Across our secondary schools there is a network of exceptional school chaplains. With no one single model for school chaplaincy, our chaplains bring great richness to their roles owing to their different professional backgrounds, cultural heritage and ordination status. They embody the ethos of our schools; their presence reminds us that it is a Christian environment, animated by the Holy Spirit and guided by values.

The chaplains undertake missional, pedagogic and prophetic activities inclusive of all. The Revd Dominic Hubuck, who is chaplain at the Koinonia Federation, Greenwich, says: “I feel this role was made for me... I’m always thinking, how can I bring a faith ‘wow-moment’ into the lives of the people I serve? How can God be felt more in this place? I thank God for this role every day.”

Pedagogy and prophecy

Alex Shoderu, chaplain at St Cecilia’s Church of England Secondary School, Wandsworth, recently challenged students to reflect on the scripture Micah 6:8, “Love mercy, act justly, walk humbly”. During the “Act Justly” week, Alex gave each student a copy of Martin Luther King’s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. They read and explored its contents through presentations and discussions in mentor and collective worship times.

The role isn’t confined to the “9-5”. St Saviour’s and St Olave’s Church of England School, Bermondsey has taken a group to the Taizé community for many

years and hopes to again. Its chaplain, the Revd Imogen Vibert, says: “It is always an amazing experience. The students learn to worship in a way which is new for many of them... They get to meet other young people from all round the world and discuss life and faith with them.” One of her students adds: “Our inner beings were enlightened and I left feeling a lot lighter due to the continuous links with God.”

Last November, the Alleyn’s School Chaplaincy Team — the Revd Liz Lander and Assistant Chaplain Mrs Bailey-Smith — took 15 pupils to the regional heat final of the Prayer Book Society’s Cranmer Awards. This competition gives pupils the opportunity to read a passage of their choice from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The pupils read beautifully and winners Diana and Matilda will now progress to the national final!

Building bridges

The chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support to students and staff and build bridges between the school, church and wider community. Tom Rutter,

Chaplain at Christ’s School, Richmond, is chaplain to both Holy Trinity Primary, Richmond and Christ’s School.

He says: “I have found this plays a key role in facilitating a ‘bridge’ and link between church and local community... activities have included a Prayer Space for students in Years 7-9. Here [all] students have been invited to reflect and be challenged on issues such as human trafficking, modern-day slavery, refugees’ safety, climate change and global leadership. This has not only been a wonderful opportunity for churches to connect with young people who would not normally attend church but has also created the space for students to show courageous advocacy.”

For the Revd Jonathan Roberts at Ark All Saints Academy, Camberwell, the collaboration between the parish and school works well. He says: “In 2013 the rebuilt secondary school and parish church started a new chapter of education service and prayer in Camberwell... it [makes it] easy to share themes of Bible study and prayer; projects for Black Lives



Clockwise from far left: Alex Shoderu, chaplain at St Cecilia's Church of England Secondary School; Jo Lewis on her rounds at London Southbank University; the Revd Ann Clarke at Goldsmiths, University of London; the Revd Imogen Vibert and girls of St Saviour's and St Olave's Church of England School, Bermondsey; the Revd Dominic Hubbuck at the Koinonia Federation, Greenwich; the Revd Sebastian Harries in St Gabriel's College, Camberwell's new chapel.

Matter; and the church building each day for school morning prayer, parish morning prayer and community projects like MumSpace. School staff and young people have easy access to a church."

Esther Moorey, chaplain at St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls, Tulse Hill says of her role: "Being the school chaplain is a joy and a privilege. My job looks different every day. I am an encourager, a cheerleader, a listening ear; I look for the good in every student. A favourite part of the school calendar is our annual Prayer Space during Lent and each class has an opportunity to explore creative ways to engage in prayer. It's a chance to step off the timetable and into a place where we can listen to God, pray for the world [and] reflect on our relationships with God and one another."

Saint Gabriel's College, Camberwell has a brand-new chapel at the heart of the school, funded by St John the Divine, Camberwell. The chaplain, Revd Sebastian Harries, calls the chapel "a spiritual refuge where students and staff come for times of prayer, worship, and contemplation". During December, he created a "reverse advent calendar" which involved collecting food items to donate to the local food bank. Students then helped Sebastian deliver the donations to Brixton and Norwood food banks having first given thanks and blessed the food.

Going further

Yet what happens if the public operation of chaplains has to go online as it did during the pandemic? The answer: the work continues. School remained a place where staff and students felt cared for

physically and spiritually. But what of the FE and HE sectors?

The King's College Guy's campus, home to the Chaplaincy Hub, is a place of pastoral care for all students and staff. The Revd Jim Craig has served here for more than five years and works alongside the Anglican chaplaincy assistant and Catholic chaplain. Jim is one of two Anglican chaplains at King's College in the Diocese, another close chaplain colleague being a Lutheran minister and one of 12 King's College chaplains north and south of the Thames.

Jim is a self-confessed extrovert. When lockdown began, the daily interactions he enjoyed were replaced with the now all-too-familiar two-dimensional interactions on screen. Although mindfulness sessions continued and were attended by a good number of students nationally and internationally, the interactions were far from satisfactory. Jim wasn't alone and despite COVID measures lifting he believes that staff and students continue to feel isolated. "It feels like we're starting from scratch as a chaplaincy hub here at Guy's," he says. "There are definitely big challenges ahead."

Other chaplains tell of similar experiences in the communities they serve. Yet despite the limitations, Jim and all chaplains in HE and FE colleges continue to fulfil their vocation and calling. The Revd Dr Jenny Morgans is Anglican Chaplain on the King's Denmark Hill Campus where postgraduate students are in the majority. Jenny is typical in the way she seeks opportunities to raise the profile of chaplaincy: speaking at induction days, inviting staff to Eucharist, extending hospitality with open access

to the chaplaincy rooms and kitchen; and serving on the King's College Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Animal Welfare Ethics Committees. Jenny is clear that she is a chaplain to all.

A servant to all

This sense of serving the whole community is replicated across all chaplaincies, including that of King's Waterloo and St Thomas' campus where the Revd Sarah Farrow is a Lutheran minister, Vice Dean and in her first year at King's having moved from Mansfield College, Oxford. She says that the Waterloo and St Thomas' chaplaincy is "unapologetically a chaplaincy... grounded in faith" where all can receive a welcome and spiritual support. Sarah is also plugged into national and international chaplaincy networks through the Churches Higher Education Liaison Group.

Jo Lewis, an ordinand at St George the Martyr, Borough, works part-time as chaplain to London Southbank University (LSBU). She has been welcomed warmly by LSBU's Student Services and looks for opportunities to support staff and students. Jo believes that "loving others is to demonstrate faith" and so meets and encourages the Staff Christian Fellowship, supports the use of university rooms for Islamic prayer and is highly skilled at what she calls "holy hanging around", valuing the incidental conversations as much as the formal events.

Just four miles up the road, Goldsmiths, University of London is where the Revd Ann Clarke jointly leads the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy alongside Mohammed, the Muslim chaplain. When talking to Ann you

gain a strong sense of her calling to serve both staff and students.

Goldsmiths is a world-renowned university, drawing students from all over the globe. Yet, sadly, much like other universities, Goldsmiths is facing financial challenges. As Ann walks the corridors of the Richard Hoggart Building, she shares in general terms how this is having an impact on the university structures. Impartiality is key, knowing that to serve both staff and students it is important to be the person who listens to all without judgement.

Of the nine further education (FE) colleges in the Diocese, none has a Christian foundation yet three have a chaplaincy. The Revd Claudette Douglas has the challenging task of covering all four of London South East Colleges' sites which she does with enthusiasm and panache. Ordained a Pentecostal minister 20 years ago, she is also chaplain at SOAS University of London.

Claudette is grateful that she has the freedom to develop all sorts of projects in and out of the college. Given the local nature of the students, she works on community engagement. Pre-COVID she created and continues to maintain alliances with local churches, has seen a Peace Garden established in Erith, connected with food banks and has developed work on student well-being. What drives her? She sees her role as "standing amongst those where Jesus would have stood".

Read more about what's happening in our schools on page 5.



IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

Food, fuel and friendship: the essential ingredients

St Peter, Norbiton has launched a new Community Café on the Cambridge Road Estate in Kingston. We talk to Vicar Hugo Foxwood about the origins of the project – and what's next.



Volunteers from the Community Café share a joke with the Revd Hugo Foxwood (second from left).

"We wanted it to be about connection and relationship," said the Revd Hugo Foxwood of the newly launched Archway Community Café in the Cambridge Road Estate in Kingston.

The Café, which meets once a week every Wednesday, was set up by a team from St Peter, Norbiton in December in partnership with a local pastor and social entrepreneur, Paul Pickhaver. It offers free food and fuel bank vouchers to those in need, as well as a warm welcome.

Hugo, who is Vicar at St Peter's, said: "Paul has already set up half a dozen food banks in Kingston. Part of his vision was that he wanted to move beyond a focus just on food and adopt a more relational approach."

The Cambridge Road Estate is one of Kingston's most deprived areas, and the cost of living crisis has already left many residents struggling. The surge in fuel prices will only make matters worse.

The Café, which is staffed entirely by volunteers, offers fuel bank vouchers for people on pre-paid meters, as well as housing assistance and debt counselling.

Equally important, however, is the sense of community it provides. "We typically have about 10 people coming in, but what's encouraging is that people are coming again and they're beginning to bring their friends," Hugo said.

These relationships are also beginning to extend outside the Café, too. Two guests have joined an Alpha course at St Peter's, and one of them is now attending regularly on Sundays. "We were able to help her with a housing problem," Hugo said. "The next Sunday, she walked into our church saying, 'I'm going to attend here every week'."

St Peter's is already rooted in the local community – the team used to run Messy Church in the space they are now using for the Café. "We're building on some of those relationships," said Hugo. But he stresses that it is also about showing God's kingdom and forging new connections. "We're confident that it's going to grow," he said.

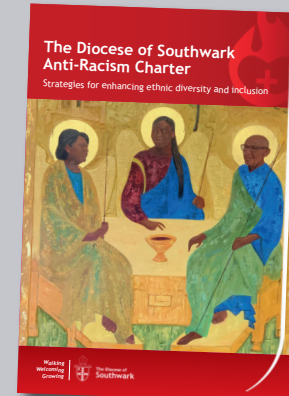
Get involved

Together Southwark is supporting the GLA and NHS England-funded Warmer Homes Programme. This new service aims to address fuel poverty by offering advice, energy-saving installations and grants to improve heating. Find more information at: bit.ly/warmer-homes. Refer someone onward for help at: bit.ly/warmhreferral

"Think of a world without sin": Croydon MEACC invites special guests to talk about anti-racism

Think of a world without any issues! Think of a world without any sin...

In January we met on Zoom to have the first Croydon Episcopal Area MEACC (Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee) meeting of 2022, writes the Revd John Pritchard, Vicar of St John, Upper Norwood. OK, the title isn't particularly catchy or inspiring, but please read on...



in, and forms an integral part of, all structures and processes within the Church of England, and that the concerns of minority ethnic Anglicans are addressed. For Southwark Diocese, this is the responsibility of the whole people of God in each of its Episcopal Areas including Kingston and Woolwich.

The Revd Cordella Dawson (Assistant Curate at St Luke, Woodside) and I co-chaired the meeting. We had presentations from the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett (Archdeacon of Croydon) on the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter; Josephine Copeland (Headteacher of All Saints School Beulah Hill) on her role as Primary Adviser in the Diocese to establish the Anti-Racism Charter in schools; and the Revd Sam Dennis (Vicar of St Luke, Woodside) on some of the practical steps he is taking in his parish to implement the Charter.

What emerged clearly from the meeting was that to implement the Charter fully, enthusing ourselves to become an anti-racist church of people, we needed to engage intentionally, not just accidentally in promoting the Charter and therefore Southwark's commitment to being an anti-racist Diocese.

The role of MEACC is to ensure that equality of opportunity is fully reflected

The invitation through this article is for you and members of your Deanery, your PCCs and your congregations to be in touch with your Episcopal Area MEACC groups and join in this movement with us.

Whatever your ethnicity, you are invited to share in the discussions on issues of racial justice and to engage with us in pragmatic ways in order to embed the Anti-Racism Charter in our parishes and ensure also that the values of the Kingdom of God are present in the outworking and practice of his church.

If you are in the Croydon Episcopal Area, please be in touch with Cordella or myself for the dates of future meetings. And please, if you have the heart and desire to bring God's Kingdom to bear fruit in our discipleship and parishes, join us in this movement, download the Anti-Racism Charter or invite us to preach and let us proceed with confidence.

Find more information on anti-racism and download the Anti-Racism Charter Pack: southwark.anglican.org/antiracism

Third annual PCC Secretaries' Conference goes online

More than 130 participants gathered online for the third annual PCC Secretaries' Conference on Wednesday 9 February to share advice and support on issues from APCMs to property leases.

Bishop Christopher, who could not be present because he was attending General Synod, opened proceedings with a video message. "PCC secretaries and those who serve with you as members of PCCs and parish support staff make a vital contribution to the health of our parishes," he said, adding: "I thank you for all you give and all you are giving. May God bless you richly this evening in all your conversations."

The Venerable Simon Gates (right), Archdeacon of Lambeth, then delivered a presentation and took questions on the upcoming Archdeacons' inspections.



He was followed by Joseph Reed, legal adviser to the Diocese of Southwark in property matters, who talked about the role of the Diocese as Custodian Trustee; David Loft, Director of HR, who spoke about safer recruitment; Gabby Parikh, Head of Giving, who gave a presentation on the Parish Support Fund; and Deputy Diocesan Secretary Jackie Pontin, who discussed data.

After each presentation there was the opportunity to ask questions, and the evening ended with Compline.

“Come and join the best gang in town”

Teenagers from across the Woolwich Episcopal Area gathered together at the Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey on Saturday 26 February for fun, pizza and fellowship.

This was the fourth Youth Forum for Tyra, from St Giles, Camberwell. “I like interacting with young people from other churches. I’m looking forward to the discussions and activities,” said the 17-year-old.

Oswald, 12, and his friend Daniel, 15, both from St Paul, Lorrimore Square, paused their table football game to explain why they had come. Oswald said: “I’ve come with Daniel, my sister Emmanuella and my mum Anastasia, who is a Churchwarden at our church. I’m really looking forward to playing football.” Daniel said he was looking forward to meeting everyone and having fun.

In his welcome, the Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, said: “The idea of having a Youth Forum is to give you a voice in the Diocese so you can speak for yourselves and not have us speaking for you. God has got a plan for your lives. We are all part of the same family. This is your gang. This is the best gang in town. In this place we look out for each other without any strings attached. Jesus calls us to be the same members of the same family, with love. I beg you, do not join any other gang except the Jesus gang.”



Bishop Karowei’s welcome (left); young people take street art lessons from artist Mondri Malekina (right).

The young people then spent the rest of the afternoon taking part in their chosen activities: football, street art, run by street artist and teacher Mondri Malekina from Legal Wall Scene, and songwriting, run by worship leader and singer-songwriter, Noel Robinson.

Ebun Faturoti, Youth Leader with East Greenwich Team Ministry, said: “I am quite new in the role and we have had quite a few young people involved with the Youth Forum already. We are now bringing some new faces. As the Bishop said, it is key that the young people have their own voice to speak into any issues or concerns that they have in their own lives.”



Ruby, 14, from St John, Larcom Street, took part in the worship workshop which was led by singer-songwriter and worship leader, Noel Robinson. She and the others who took part led worship, singing the song they had written in the workshop. “The workshop was really inclusive and no one’s ideas were shut down. I was nervous at first, but our ideas came together nicely,” she said.

Karen Saunders is a Pioneer Evangelist at William Temple Church, Abbey Wood and runs Transform Youth Mission (TYM). She said: “I’ve brought different groups of kids before. Young people can have a voice, network and meet each other.”

Ethan, 15 and Leah, 13 came with Karen. They are both Young Leaders at TYM, which means helping to set up and pack away. They also keep the peace if arguments break out.

Leah took part in the street art and said it was a lot of fun. Ethan added: “It’s my first time and I’ve enjoyed it because there’s different people to meet and make friends with. I did football. Even though I got an elbow to the ribs, it was still worth it.”

The afternoon ended with worship and prayers. The young people wrote their thanks, needs and concerns on Post-it notes. Top of the list were prayers for Ukraine, COVID-19 and exams.

“We want to give people a leg up”: Bishop Jonathan commissions two new Pioneer Evangelists for the St Helier Estate

Rachel Marlow and Hayley Humphreys were commissioned by the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, on 1 February as Pioneer Evangelists of Bishop Andrew and St Peter’s and the North Sutton Centre for Mission on the St Helier Estate.

The church has partnered with the Diocese and the Church Army, which runs 30 Centres of Mission across the country, of which St Helier is one of the newest. The North Sutton Centre of Mission will be launched in May.

“We feel passionately called to the local area. I was born in St Helier Hospital and I went to high school in the parish,” said Hayley.

Speaking of the commissioning service, Rachel said: “It was a wonderful celebration. We were so glad to have that. The Bishop came to commission us and so did a representative of the Church Army, and Archdeacon Moira [Astin] was also there. It was such a special opportunity to make our promises before God of what we will be



From left: the Revd Tracy Marlow, Rachel Marlow, Bishop Jonathan and Hayley Humphreys after the commissioning.

doing of reaching out into the community with God’s help and seeking to help others and to spread the Gospel to the community.”

Tracy Marlow, Lead Evangelist for the North Sutton Centre of Mission and

Vicar of Bishop Andrews and St Peter’s, said: “In recent years, and especially through the pandemic, the church has experienced decline. Both churches are in prime locations, in the middle of the estate. The vision is to have both

the church buildings to be opened as cafés with a purpose to empower the local community. This isn’t going to be an ordinary café but one that signposts people. We will open a youth centre for younger teens. We want to make Christ known in this community. We want to represent Christ to the community.”

The team plan to first listen to the community and find out what their needs are.

Hayley recalled praying with a lady from the estate who had been furloughed and then made redundant. “She was starting again and getting her CV together. There’s a lot of digital poverty on the estate. She prayed and said it would be so good if there was a job club or something that can help people with their CVs and we got this picture of giving someone a leg up. You know, when you cup your hands together and you get a little bit higher. So with this picture we thought that all we are going to do in our outreach and connecting with the community is hopefully going to help people get a leg up to their next place that they need to be,” she said.



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Travelling through Lent

Supporting each other through dark days



Lent is always a time of prayer and reflection, this year more than ever with Ukraine at war and the effects of the pandemic still being felt across the world.

The Bishop's Lenten message focuses on his Lent Call, which this year asks parishes to pray for and support those who have been dispossessed (watch the full video at southwark.anglican.org/lentcall). We have also created a series of Lent Call Reflections focusing on the theme of home and homelessness from a biblical perspective. These have already been emailed to clergy and lay ministers, and further copies can be downloaded from: southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/resources

Below, meanwhile, you will find a round-up of other Lenten reflections for use during the coming six weeks, including a book by the Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn.

To find out more about the Lent Call projects, and to donate, visit: southwark.anglican.org/lentcall



LET US PRAY...

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

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

*Is this a fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?*

It was the 17th-century priest-poet, Robert Herrick, who began his poem *To keep a true Lent* with those words and those questions. All these centuries later the questions are as appropriate as ever. What does it mean to keep a true Lent? Is it all about giving things up, the fat, the fish that Herrick goes on to name? Or is there something else?

As Bishop Jonathan retires as Bishop of Croydon, some of you will no doubt remember one of his predecessors, the much loved and respected Bishop Wilfred Wood. Bishop Wilfred was the Bishop when I arrived in the Diocese all those years ago to serve as Chaplain to Bishop Roy. At the Bishop's Staff Meeting in September the Lent Call would always be on the agenda. That was when we had to decide which worthy causes would be included in the Call to the Diocese the following year. Bishop Wilfred always made the same intervention in the debate. "We have to remember why we are doing this," he would say, "because alms-giving is a vital part of our Lenten discipline." I was taking the notes, so I always dutifully wrote down what he said.

The Bishop's Lent Call, which is now underway as Lent begins, is an important part of our corporate life in Southwark. It is part of the discipline of this season that we share in together. This year's good causes, like every year's, focus our minds on what is happening in communities



in the Diocese as well as overseas. However, whether the issues are ones facing communities in Zimbabwe, Lebanon or down the road in the Diocese, our response is the same.

Herrick turns his poem on this point:

*No; 'tis a fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat,
And meat,
Unto the hungry soul.*

Hungry, homeless, seeking solace, seeking shelter; the needs are the same now as then. It was true then, it is true now. Whatever the needs of our sisters and brothers, wherever they are, the call to sacrificial giving is part of how we keep this season. We are as open-handed with others as God is with us.

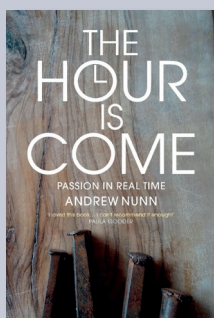
**Generous God, whose Son
opened wide his arms on the
cross, may we give as you give,
from love, for love. Amen.**

A round up of some of the best Lent resources available elsewhere

The Hour is Come: the Passion in Real Time

southwarkcathedralshop.org; £12.99

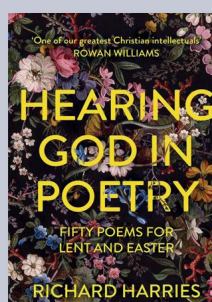
Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, has created a timeline to take us through the last two weeks of Jesus' earthly life, through his passion, death and to his resurrection. He provides meditations and prayers to help us enter into the reality of these and bring their power into our own daily lives.



Hearing God in Poetry: Fifty Poems for Lent and Easter

bit.ly/3vtSovX; £9.99

In this book, the Rt Revd Lord Richard Harries of Pentregarth, Assistant Bishop, reflects on how some of our best-loved poems communicate a sense of God's presence. There are six poems for every week from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, and 10 poems for Easter, each with a short reflection drawing out their spiritual insights.



Church Army Lent resources

churcharmy.org/lent

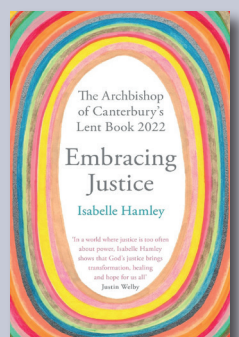
These resources have been designed to give you, your small group and your church space and time each day throughout Lent to listen to God, reflect on the Bible, and see how and where you can listen to his leading in your actions and attitudes. Each pack contains 40 Action Cards, Character Cards, and Reflection Cards and Marks of Mission Cards.



Embracing Justice: the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book

thebigchurchread.co.uk/product/embracing-justice; £8.99

Written by Isabelle Hamley, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book uses Scripture as a jumping off point to consider over six sessions how churches, communities and individual Christians can seek and practise justice in a fractured world.





Please send details of your next events for APRIL ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 21 MARCH**

March

SATURDAY 5 MARCH

* **SYDENHAM** — “Bread and Stones”, a Quiet Day in preparation for Lent led by the Revd Canon Colin Boswell. St Philip the Apostle, Coombe Road, SE26 6QW. 10.30am-3pm. Email karen.hydel@btinternet.com if you are interested in attending.

TUESDAY 8 MARCH

* **ONLINE** — Questions of our Times: Will a Robot Steal My Job? A webinar from the Christian Evidence Society led by Dr Mary Ellen Foster, Senior Lecturer in the School of Computing Science at the University of Glasgow. 8pm-9pm. Free but please register at: bit.ly/3vavdH0

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

* **CANTERBURY** — 80th Anniversary Conference of William Temple’s *Christianity and Social Order*. The conference will seek to examine a series of new themes and issues in relation to Temple’s influential 1942 work and explore its lasting influence. Canterbury Lodge, Canterbury Cathedral. 9.30am-5.30pm. £60. Book here: bit.ly/3KJGUdd

TUESDAY 15 MARCH

* **ONLINE** — Questions of our Times: Are We Here By Accident? A webinar from the Christian Evidence Society led by Dr Barbara Drossel, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the Technical University of Darmstadt. 8pm-9pm. Free but please register at: bit.ly/3p9Svjn

SATURDAY 19 MARCH

♪ **STREATHAM** — Opus XVI Chamber Choir – A celebration of Jewish music. From sacred to sensual: Music by Felix Mendelssohn, Salamone de Rossi, Cecilia McDowall, Ohad Stolarz and Eric Whitacre. St Peter’s Church, Leigham Court Road, SW16 2SD. 7.30pm. Tickets: £15, concessions £10. Call 020 7733 0518 or buy at the door.

TUESDAY 22 MARCH

* **ONLINE** — Questions of our Times: Are We Alone in the Universe? A webinar from the Christian Evidence Society led by Dr Jennifer Wiseman, a leading astronomer and astrophysicist. 8pm-9pm. Free but please register at: bit.ly/3p6Stli

SATURDAY 26 MARCH

* **SHEFFIELD** — Church Army Discovery Day. If you have a heart to see people reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ, come and discover how you can train as a Church Army Evangelist. Wilson Carlile Centre, Sheffield, S3 7RZ. 10am-3pm. Free. Book here: churcharmy.org/product/discoverydaymarch22

MONDAY 28 MARCH

♪ **SOUTHWARK** — Northern Ireland International Organ Competition. Sean Rafferty introduces a gala recital to celebrate 10 years of the competition. Southwark Cathedral. 7.30pm. £5-£10. Book tickets here: bit.ly/33HrJR5

April

SATURDAY 9 APRIL

* **BATTERSEA** — *The Passion of Christ* with cast and helpers made up of adults and children from the local area. Suitable for all ages. St Luke’s Church, Thurleigh Road, SW12 8TT. 4pm-5.30pm. Free entry. No need to book. Refreshments will be served. Contact: parishoffice@stlukeschurch.org.uk

♪ **STREATHAM** — Come and Sing Event: Stainer’s Crucifixion. If you would like to sing, please email music@stpeters-streatham.org, stating your voice part. St Peter’s Church, Leigham Court Road, SW16 2SD. 2.45pm Rehearsal, 7.30pm Concert. Singers’ fee is £15, audience attends for free.

THURSDAY 21 APRIL

* **ONLINE** — Getting Ready for the Great Big Green Week 2022: a Church of England net zero webinar. Find out how your church can get involved this year. Event takes place from 12noon-1pm. Book here: bit.ly/3LYwjLT

SATURDAY 23 APRIL

* **LAMBETH & SOUTHWARK** — Unlock is holding its annual sponsored ‘Stay at Home’ walk on 23 April in the Lambeth, Southwark and City of London area. Further details can be obtained from 01709 380318, by emailing office@unlock-urban.org.uk or at www.unlock-urban.org.uk

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

The Diocese of Southwark
Generous Giving and Digital Fundraising Adviser/Generous Giving and Legacy Fundraising Adviser
Two exciting part-time roles (0.5 FTE each)

Are you excited by God’s generosity, his love and provision in our lives? Would you enjoy inspiring people and churches to resource their mission? Are you interested in church or charity fundraising and looking for a new challenge? Could you help parishes explore new forms of digital giving or seize the significant opportunity of legacy fundraising?

We are seeking candidates with the enthusiasm and creativity to engage with people across our diverse Diocese and help them reflect upon gratitude, generosity and giving. You will work with the Director of Giving and many colleagues:

- to promote and continue to develop a culture of generosity, encourage increased personal and congregational giving
- shape your focus area of digital or legacy fundraising
- support congregations to grow the Kingdom of God through the Southwark Vision.

These are exciting opportunities, part-funded by the Church of England Giving Adviser Fund for a period of three-and-a-half years. They could be combined as one full-time role. This post is subject to a basic DBS disclosure.

Closing date: Monday 21 March 2022. Interviews will take place on 30/31 March 2022.

For further information and to apply for this job, visit the Church of England Pathways job site at: bit.ly/3HdVpTw

St John the Evangelist, Shirley

Interim Director of Music

We seek an enthusiastic and gifted church musician with the skills, musical ability, vision and enthusiasm to work with us to develop the role of music in the life of our church and community, encouraging both traditional Anglican and contemporary forms of music and leading a well-established mixed-ability adult choir.

Applicants should be a competent keyboard player and proficient in the use of modern technology. In return, we offer an attractive package which includes access to our very fine Frobenius two-manual organ.

This is a fixed term six-month position but with the potential to extend.

For further details of the role and to apply, visit: www.stjohnsshirley.org.uk/2022/02/23/interim-director-of-music

Closing date for applications is 14 March 2022.



IN FOCUS...

War in Ukraine

Bishop Christopher calls for action, not rhetoric over Ukrainian refugees

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, on Monday 28 February called on the UK Government to lift the significant visa restrictions in place for those fleeing war in Ukraine.

"The Prime Minister's words over the weekend about generous provision for refugees fleeing Ukraine will remain rhetoric unless matched by immediate changes in Government policy to lift significant visa restrictions," he said.

The rules as they stood on 28 February made it illegal for Ukrainian nationals to fly to the UK without a visa, preventing many of those seeking sanctuary to apply legally for asylum. Moreover, while Ukrainian nationals settled in the UK were able to bring their "immediate family members" to join them, this route was available only to spouses, unmarried partners of at least two years, parents

or their children if one was under 18, or adult relatives who were also carers.

Describing Russia's actions as "a shocking act of aggression", the Bishop added: "Our first responsibility is to respond with compassion and help to those who need it. A temporary waiver would be an effective means of showing our support for the people of Ukraine."

Meanwhile, parishes across the Diocese prayed for the people of Ukraine. Among others, Sunday Club at All Saints, Carshalton placed prayer candles around a map of Ukraine in the Lady Chapel; five churches from in and around Lee gathered at the Good Shepherd to pray and light candles; and the Croydon Health Services NHS Trust chaplaincy team led a united prayer service for Christian, Sikh, Hindu and Muslim members.

Read more about the Diocesan response to the war in Ukraine at: bit.ly/3K6kL7t



Clockwise from above: Ukrainian refugees arrive by train in Poland on 24 February © Alamy; the altar is prepared for Croydon Health Services' united prayer service; candles for Ukraine at All Saints, Carshalton.



"The joy was palpable": sharing fellowship and boosting well-being at the National Estates Churches Network conference

NECN (National Estates Churches Network) is an interdenominational organisation which does exactly what it says on the tin – we network estate churches nationally, writes the Revd Jonathan Macy, Team Vicar in Thamesmead Team Ministry.

Although primarily Anglican, we also have Baptist, Methodist and other brothers and sisters in our fold who all work in the poorest and most deprived parts of the country.

The purpose of the conference, which took place on 24 February, was simple. While everybody in ministry has had a difficult time over the past couple of years, the sets of circumstances that many estate churches found themselves in was often trickier. Generally, they do not have large, let alone paid, ministry teams; they usually lack both people and financial resources; and they often have a far higher percentage of both congregation and parishioners struggling to keep their heads above water as the norm. Thus, much of the weight of COVID ministry fell on fewer sets of shoulders with fewer resources.

As an estate vicar I knew what I needed, and as I discussed with others in NECN



it became clear that I was no different from other ministers. We needed to attend to our well-being.

For lay and ordained alike it has been tough. Operating outside our comfort zones with little opportunity to plan ahead and stabilise is difficult enough. But when friends, family and congregation are becoming ill, incapacitated and even, sadly, dying, the cumulative toll can become too much.

And yet COVID will not end with a holiday, but with the need for us to get up and get going again with energy

and vision and joy – to have Christ set before us and for us to set him before others. So our conference focused on well-being, and this year Southwark expertise featured highly.

In the morning we had Southwark's Revd Canon Simon Butler, who has been working nationally for the Church for well-being. His two sessions showed insight, experience and empathy – many people were blessed by hearing about "Self-care in a world needing care" and then "Confidence and fortitude: building resilience and spiritual strength".

The NECN National Director, Sara Barron, her PA, Sarah Martell, plus Sarah's husband Peter, provided a cooked lunch for everyone so that people could sit and chat with each other (left). Eating and sharing together is such a good and natural thing for Christians to do. The fellowship was tangible.

In the afternoon we had three breakout groups:

- Southwark's Revd Steph Nadarajah spoke on the value of spiritual direction.
- Lucie Walsh, also from Southwark, spoke for the Clergy Families Network around how to protect families from the pressure of ministry.
- Ben Cahill-Nicholls spoke on the help available from the Clergy Support Trust.

For many, this was the first face-to-face conference for two years. The joy and positivity that emanated from everybody was palpable and evident. The smiles on the faces of people as they left said more than any quote that I can bring.

Jonathan Macy was appointed Diocesan Disabilities Adviser in February; his commissioning will take place at Diocesan Synod on 12 March – read more in April's edition of The Bridge.