

Walking Welcoming Growing

Vol.25 No.4 May 2020

Church online

How parishes are responding to the Coronavirus crisis See pages 4-5, 11



Eco warriors

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Maundy Gifts

Stories from the people nominated in Southwark
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Sewing scrubs for the NHS at St Mary, Putney

Some 40 seamstresses from the parish have volunteered their talents to the Parish Action Team in a bid to counter nationwide shortages of protective clothing.

Leading the project is Rosie Taylor-Davies, an academic and former Head of the Commercial Studio at the Royal School of Needlework, who realised how desperately hospitals needed extra supplies of scrubs because of the experiences of her daughter, a doctor on a respiratory ward.

"I spent £1,500 on fabric in faith that somehow the funds for the project would come and that somehow the machinists would come and it would all work," said Rosie. Now she is seeking fabric and funding for more batches of clothing – at the time of going to press, she urgently needed a further 110 metres of cloth.

Rosie has taken over the church hall – which she can access through a side door, thereby keeping to social distancing rules – to lay out and cut the material, which she then bags up and distributes to the volunteers to make up.

The completed garments are then either picked up from volunteers' homes or dropped off at St Mary's, for their onward journey to the front line. Rosie is coordinating with the For the Love of Scrubs online group, to make sure their offering goes where it is most needed.

So far, St Mary's has provided scrubs for King's College Hospital maternity ward and paediatric A&E, and is now concentrating on St George's and the



Garments laid out ready for cutting, using hymn books to hold down the pattern edges (main image); a finished set of scrubs (inset).

Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Wandsworth.

"A lot of people we're using are older people, so my oldest machinist is in her eighties and my youngest is 15," Rosie said. "And it isn't just about making the scrubs, it's about the fact that people are sitting at home and feeling hopeless because they don't know how to help. So it's also about the journey and people having something really positive to do."

The team have set up a WhatsApp group to encourage this sense of community,

so that more experienced sewers can mentor others, and talk through problems with tricky necklines and so on.

Rosie added: "So why are we doing this? Because everybody is somebody's daughter, somebody's uncle, somebody's father. We might only be able to help one person at a time, but that's one more person helped."

If you would like to contribute to the project, with a donation of money for material, or a gift of thread or tape, please e-mail parish.action@parishofputney.co.uk



A marathon fundraising effort in Forest Hill

Local people in need in Lewisham received a boost on Sunday 26 April, when the Revd Edd Stock of Holy Trinity, Sydenham launched a fundraising effort for Lewisham Citizens' COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

Edd raised almost £8,000 by running a marathon on a treadmill at the same time as livestreaming his Sunday morning service on what would have been the day of the London Marathon.

The money will go towards helping Lewisham Citizens, an alliance of local education, faith, charity and community groups, provide services such as food parcels, household goods for those who have been rehoused or games to keep families occupied.

"This is the core of community organising – not 'charity', but all of us working together for the common good of all our community members," said Hannah Gretton, a member of Lewisham Citizens.

Marta Tildesley, a Family Support Worker at St Mary's CE Primary School, added: "It's hard to predict but it feels inevitable that the wave of need will grow – and this fund will enable us to respond quickly and responsively to families."

Donations can be made at justgiving.com/ fundraising/Lewisham-Citizens





A view from





Bishop Christopher described the Church as physically separate but spiritually gathered during a live-streamed Holy Communion.

Now, I realise how much is in that word "gathered". God's people have gathered all their energies and are using them in creative mission. The stories in this edition of *The Bridge* remind me of a river of ideas and possibilities, focused and newly embanked, to give fresh direction and shape to the Church's work.

Church without walls, telephone ministries beyond anything we'd have dreamed before Lent, skills in livestreaming, Skype-ing and Zooming: I feel that we always had it in us to do all this. The pressure of having to do it, and to do it all, all at once, has shown us that we can.

But in many articles, e-mails, conversations and WhatsApps, there are questions. How do black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) Anglicans feel in the context of a virus that seems to hit BAME particularly hard? What about those whose incomes have plummeted or disappeared? How are those who aren't digitally connected faring? What is distinctive about church on YouTube?

Biggest of all, what will it be like when this is over?

One of my favourite Bible verses is Hebrews 12:1: "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

Perseverance is not a much-lauded virtue in Western Christianity. But my suspicion is that the Coronavirus will persevere – and therefore, so must we. Perhaps we will always connect with one another electronically now; will that help the planet? We might continue online services; might the Gospel reach more people? How do we enable greater participation in streamed services; what else can technology do, or not do? Above all, how will we be the household of faith in our domestic settings?

Coronavirus will not push the Church out of the world, but the world will need an increasingly Christ-centred and outward-focused Church. I look forward to reading about our continuously recreated ministries in the pages of *The Bridge*.

Jane Steen

VE Day service to showcase Diocese's old family photos



A Diocesan Service for VE Day will be available on Diocesan and Cathedral social media platforms at 12 noon on Friday 8 May.

The Dean of Southwark, The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, will officiate and the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, will preach and lead an act of Recommitment to Peace.

We are inviting people from across the Diocese to send in wartime photographs either of those who were soldiers or of civilians as we remember those who lived through World War Two.

Alternatively, we invite photographs of people from across the Diocese holding up cards saying "Love" or "Peace" to symbolise our commitment to a peaceful future in which people care for each other.

Please send the photographs to communications@southwark. anglican.org by Tuesday 5 May.

Please remember that these photos will be used in the service which will be available online, so we ask that you consider this and the implications for safeguarding if you send in pictures of children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Date for the diary: activities for Ascension, Pentecost and Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come will be going ahead from 21-31 May, with a change of focus owing to the Coronavirus crisis.

"Lockdown restrictions may still be in force, so we are encouraging people to focus on prayer activities at home," said the Revd Jay Colwill, Canon Missioner. New materials aimed at an online audience are being e-mailed to clergy, lay ministers, Churchwardens and PCC Secretaries to help inspire and encourage. Please circulate these as widely as you can. They can also be found at southwark. anglican.org/tkc

In addition, the Venerable
John Kiddle, Archdeacon of
Wandsworth, will be writing
daily reflections on the Road
to Emmaus story. These will be
shared every day except Sundays,
from 4 May to Ascension Day, on
our social media channels and at:
southwark.anglican.org/prayer

The Bishop of Southwark is also encouraging people, who are not already doing so and where it is safe, to light a candle in their windows at 7.00pm every Sunday evening until Pentecost, as a symbol of Christ's light in our world at this dark time, and to say the Lord's Prayer.



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The JUNE edition is due to be published online on 1 June 2020. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S Robins by e-mail by **MONDAY 18 MAY**.

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





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Tributes paid to a curate with "inner light"

The Revd Deepthi Wickremasinghe, 57, curate at St Christopher's Walworth, died on Thursday 2 April after a short cancer-related illness.

Deepthi was ordained Deacon at Southwark Cathedral in June 2019. She was a Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and in February she became its Chaplain. Before ordination Deepthi worshipped at St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich for 30 years.

Deepthi's Sri Lankan and British heritage meant that she had a strong belief in the need for the CofE's clergy to reflect the ethnic diversity of the wider population, to enable clergy to understand people from different backgrounds and the challenges they may face.

Deepthi's funeral took place on Tuesday 28 April. Bishop Christopher led the service and in his address he said: "Deepthi was a person of great serenity and profound patience: she had an inner light which shone upon those around her, not to dazzle them, but to light their way, to comfort and to guide."



Her daughter, Naomi, said of her: "She had time for us always. Even when she was working three jobs, she still found time to look after any and everyone else that needed looking after... She was a wonderful granny to Elspeth; sometimes the two of them seemed more like naughty buddies than granny and granddaughter."

A memorial service was broadcast later in the day on Facebook for those who were not able to attend because of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was led by the Venerable Jane Steen, Archdeacon of Southwark, with the Revd Jonathan Sedgwick and the Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby.

A recording of the service can be found on YouTube here: bit.ly/DeepthiService

We give thanks for Deepthi's life and ministry. Please remember her family and all who mourn in your prayers.

St Peter, Norbiton mourns death of vicar of 27 years

The Revd Peter Holmes, 65, Vicar of St Peter, Norbiton, died on Saturday 25 April.

He had been in hospital for three weeks and on a ventilator as a result of COVID-19. His final text message to his family was: "Love each other, love God, run for Jesus. Whichever way this goes, I love you all."

Peter had been Vicar of Norbiton since 1993 and was to retire later this year. He was a passionately committed voice for the most vulnerable in the community, particularly those experiencing homelessness.

A founder of the Joel Community Project, a permanent night shelter for single homeless people, he helped set up Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness; the Great Feast – a weekly hot meal and fellowship for homeless people – and the Vintage Banquet, a weekly meal and place to connect for Seniors.

Bishop Christopher said: "Peter Holmes was a faithful servant of God, who ministered with great dedication for 27 years.



A wonderful pastor and leader, he had a care for all, especially those among the least fortunate in our society. His life and service showed a love for Jesus that is an inspiration to us all."

Bishop Richard added: "Peter was a tremendous person and servant of Christ and his Church. His long ministry at St Peter embraced all with God's love and included a particular care for the homeless and vulnerable. He will be greatly missed."

We give thanks for Peter's life and ministry. Please remember his family and all who mourn him in your prayers. The funeral will take place on Friday 15 May.

Update from our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe

We have heard from our friends and colleagues in our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe, where the situation is very concerning as the country tries to deal with the Coronavirus crisis.

Although there have yet to be many reported cases of, or deaths from, the virus there, the lockdown restrictions are proving very hard for a country which was already suffering as a result of food shortages and economic difficulties.

The infrastructure in Zimbabwe was already badly affected by the economic situation, with shortages of food and erratic water and electricity supplies. Many are now unable to make any sort of living as they were involved in the

informal economy, selling their produce at places such as roadside stalls, and this cannot now happen.

People have lost their jobs and schools are closed, which means that many young people have lost their only source of food which was through school feeding programmes.

The Bishops are not sure how they can pay their clergy or what the future will hold but the people in the churches in Zimbabwe have a strong faith that God will be with them in whatever happens.

The Link Groups have sent money to help and you can still donate to Zimbabwe and the other Bishop's Lent Call projects at southwark.anglican.org/lentcall/how-to-give

Board of Education wins approval to build new Kingston secondary

The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, on 6 April approved the Diocese of Southwark's application to open a secondary school in Kingston Borough.

The school will provide 180 places per year for children aged 11 to 16 and is expected to open for its first Year 7 cohort in 2023.

Kingston Council has worked with the Diocese to ensure the balance of available

places meets the needs of the community: two-thirds of the places per year will be available to any applicants and a third will be available to children of practising Anglicans or other faiths.

Subject to full feasibility and formal committee approval in due course, the Council will lease part of the Kingsmeadow site for the school. That location will enable the school principally to serve future cohorts of children living in Kingston, Norbiton and New Malden. The Department for Education will pay for 90% of the capital costs of building the new school and the Council will pay 10%.

Colin Powell (left), Director of Education for the Diocese of Southwark, said: "The Diocesan Board of Education is delighted that the proposal for a new Church of England Secondary School for Kingston has progressed to the next stage.

"This school will add to the quality of educational provision in the borough and offer further parental choice."

He added: "My Board, and the 10 primary schools we maintain in the borough, acknowledge the

support and strong mutual working relationship they have with Kingston Local Authority."



How Emmanuel, Croydon is building a Church without walls

As soon as the lockdown was announced, Emmanuel, Croydon sprang into action. The Revd Ben Jones immediately set up a 15-strong team, who decided on a plan of action to minister to the most vulnerable in the parish, as well as maintain the church community.

"We set up seven 'work streams': pastoral care, community, discipleship, prayer and worship, children, youth and admin," said Ben. Each of these has a leader and a deputy, in case of illness, and the tech team provides support throughout.

Coordinating the church's pastoral care and prayer ministry is Carol Trower (right), a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA) at Emmanuel for the past 20 years.

She said: "The SPAs and pastoral team have contacted all 106 members who were identified as being in the Government's vulnerable groups and know exactly what external support each person has, whether they are being supported by family, charity groups or carers, and in three cases made contact with family far away for reassurance."

The church has set up a pastoral support line, which people can ring if they are in need of food, medicine or

prayer. The team has also assigned a link contact to each vulnerable person in the congregation to call them proactively, "just to check they are OK, and to action what they come up with," said Carol.

Each volunteer has their own remit. Those over 70, like Carol, coordinate and perform their ministry over the telephone;



"It's brought in people who don't normally watch services at all, and people round the world have been sending in e-mails"



younger people are able to go out and about delivering shopping and medicines.

"The pastoral and community teams have now been in touch with well over 350 people," said Ben. "In addition, we are seeking to help our church members to shine the light of Christ in their own communities."

Part of that involves keeping people connected, which is the job of the discipleship and worship teams. In addition to streaming Sunday services on YouTube, Emmanuel continues to run its Home Groups via Zoom, and has even started a virtual Alpha course on Zoom – and may have to run a second one to keep up with demand

There have been online toddler singalongs, a Messy Church held over Zoom and virtual tea parties.

"It's brought people closer together," said Carol. "It's brought in people who don't normally watch services at all, and people round the world have been sending

e-mails into the office saying how much they're appreciating what's been done. It is quite extraordinary."

In a small number of cases, people are not able to access the technology required, but even then an alternative has been found, and they receive either a DVD of the services or a paper transcript through the post.

"We are all having to learn and adapt, and to be gracious with ourselves and others as we inevitably make mistakes," said Ben.

"Nonetheless, I am incredibly proud to be part of a church that has risen to the occasion so spectacularly and has found ways to minister God's love, joy, peace and hope to a community that so desperately needs it."

Carol echoed his words, saying that it has been a privilege to be part of this journey. "I can't wait to see how God will use his Church without Walls in South Croydon," she added.



The COVID-19 pandemic means that around the world many people are experiencing, often for the first time, a sense of isolation with the knock-on effects for both their physical and mental health, writes the Revd David Vyvyan, Incumbent of St Saviour, Brockley Park.

For many others, though, this is not a new experience. Social isolation has long been a huge problem for those who are fully or partially housebound by physical or mental health issues. One initiative that has been working hard to respond to this isolation is Linking Lives Crofton Park (LLCP). With the current restrictions, its co-ordinator and volunteers have been having to find new ways to do this.



LLCP, one of more than 30 franchises of Christian charity Linking Lives UK, was set up in 2016 by St Saviour's, Brockley Rise and has become a key part of its mission and service to the community.

Thanks largely to the enthusiasm of the Project Co-ordinator, Alma Jenner, it grew quickly to be one of the largest

branches of Linking Lives. We now have around 50 trained volunteer befrienders visiting some 50 socially isolated people in and around the Crofton Park area, with the support of our neighbouring parish of St Hilda's.

The friends we visit are typically long-term residents of the area of all nationalities, faiths and of no faith. The befrienders are mostly young professional people, many new to the area, who have left parents and grandparents in other parts of Britain or other parts of the world.

Before the Coronavirus outbreak, visits were usually weekly for about an hour or so, with some of the most isolated being visited by more than one volunteer. Befrienders have now had to switch

to the telephone to ensure that their befriendees are well.

Where needed and possible, they are collecting prescriptions and shopping for their friends and often leaving extra treats. Cards and letters of encouragement have also been posted.

About 80% of the friends we visit are housebound, and their lives have been enriched by their younger visitors giving them a glimpse of the world outside, as with Marie and Alice (left).

Similarly, the befrienders' lives have also been enriched, during this pandemic, by the stories of loss and fortitude experienced in the long lives of their friends which brings some perspective in these days of uncertainty.

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A journey from exile into hope

The Revd Sharon Moughtin-Mumby reveals the origins of Diddy Disciples, and why that means it's going from strength to strength during lockdown.

Holy Week and Easter 2020 will be an experience most of us will remember for its strangeness and unexpected moments of joy. Like many, my three children, Joy, Anastasia and Zoe, and I gathered around a live-stream of our usual pattern of worship the week before Palm Sunday and took a tentative step into the world of virtual worship. Like most live-streamers, we learned a lot.

As I sat in our family room in a circle with my children for our Diddy Disciples worship, one of the things I was most aware of was how familiar it felt to our first exile from worship-as-I-knew-it when Joy, Anastasia, and Zoe were aged three, three and two, and church felt impossible; when we found ourselves in a downstairs room in church – just the four of us – and tried to pray together.

The sense of loss and being cut off from the altar and our worshipping community was so resonant: how do we sing our song in this land that has suddenly become strange?

Our first experience of exile helped. That time, we took months to find new ways of worshipping together, to stop lamenting and see that not only was God present with us, but that these new ways of worshipping might not be second best;



they might even have something new and life-giving to offer.

Thankfully, we were also used to trial and error. My words as we ended our livestream were, "I'm never doing that again!" But after travelling down a few cul-desacs, we found a way for this new season. Unexpectedly, this has taken the form of audio prayers and Bible storytelling led by me, Joy, Anastasia, and Zoe, who are now (at 11, 11, and 10) fellow-leaders.

"The prompter in the wings"

One of the main reasons this audio form resonated most for us, I think, is that it means those tuning in become the storytellers, which is key to Diddy Disciples. Kierkegaard wrote: "People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage and they are the critics, blaming or praising the preacher. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; the preacher is merely the prompter standing in the wings."

Providing audio instead of video means that our aim is not to become great storytellers for families to watch, but instead to create great storytellers who are adept at entering into Bible stories for themselves. So, on Palm Sunday, we launched www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome.

This included simple, sustainable prayers, stories for strange times, the livestreaming of Compline, and daily Holy Week and Easter storytelling.

By Good Friday, our website traffic had increased by more than 1,000%. But what was most striking was that people were asking whether these resources could continue not only beyond Holy Week and Easter, but also beyond lockdown.

They will. As in our first experience of exile, we have found that being forced to use our imaginations has helped us to see new ways of worshipping that will not only sustain us during this time of exile from our churches, but will continue to be part of our worshipping life into the future.

We're excited to be part of the new Church of England initiative that will continue beyond lockdown resourcing schools, churches, and families to nurture #faithathome. And one day, we'll release the out-takes!

diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome

East Dulwich church shelters the homeless



Guests of the Robes Project at St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich found their stay at the church extended when the Coronavirus crisis threatened to leave them with nowhere to go in March.

Before the crisis, the plan was for 20 guests to stay at St John's each Saturday night until April, but with concern growing over the spread of the virus, they found their visit lasting from Saturday 21 March through to the following Thursday.

"This change required a rapid mobilisation of additional volunteers and posed a challenge sourcing food to provide additional breakfasts, lunches and dinners," said Julie Whitney, Churchwarden at St John's and Robes volunteer.

It also required a strict cleaning schedule, in order to keep both guests and volunteers safe.

The difficulties were overcome, however, and the atmosphere during the week was, said Julie, "one of calm, compassion and fellowship".

On Thursday night, having kept the guests safe and well, the team at St John's were able to see them off to secure accommodation in hotels.

Southwark's hospital chaplains make national headlines

While our churches have been closed, our clergy have remained hard at work during the crisis – none more so than NHS chaplains the Revd Mia Hilborn and the Revd Andy Dovey.

Mia is Hospitaller & Chaplaincy Team Leader at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and has ministered during her fair share of crises, including the Westminster Bridge terrorist attack in 2017. The Coronavirus crisis, however, is different.

Interviewed by the *Church Times*, Mia said: "We obviously have a lot of major incidents here and they're terrible, but they're generally quick. This is like a chronic incident. It's long-term; so it's needing different skills."

She later told the BBC: "Every day



is relentless," before going on to pay tribute to the staff working at the Trust.

With fears of infection preventing many chaplains from being at the bedsides of the sick, even wearing PPE, the focus of hospital minstry has shifted more towards providing support and care for NHS staff, whether that means praying with them or even doing their shopping.

Andy, senior chaplain at Croydon University Hospital, has also been working as best he can around the restrictions, and his team have had to come up with creative responses.

One of these is to work with nursing teams to create memory boxes of patients' possessions for families who have lost a loved one and not been able to visit them (left).

Andy told the *Church Times* that providing God's grace in all situations, regardless of the risk, was "the calling that Christ gave [chaplains] and our Christian responsibility".

Read more about the work of our hospital, prison and care home chaplains in next month's issue of The Bridge, available online from 1 June at southwark.anglican.org/news/the-bridge/2020/

Helpful links



Together Southwark has put together a food access resource document encompassing the assistance available in South London and East Surrey. Find it at southwark.anglican.org/coronavirus/food-access/

Find advice on getting online at southwark.anglican.org/ churchonline

Find the latest advice from the Coronavirus Task Group at southwark.anglican.org/ coronavirus

Find more on new ways of being Church on page 11



The pandemic and the planet – what next?

As pollution levels fall and wildlife returns the lockdown is offering us the chance to see a different kind of world. In this Care for Creation special, Ian Christie shares his hopes for the future, Bishop Richard writes on theology and the environment, and, on pages 8 and 9, we share stories and ideas for how you can get involved.

What a difference a year makes. And then what a difference a month makes.

2019 saw extraordinary developments in climate policy. After decades of evidence and warnings from scientists about global heating, it was easy by the end of 2018 to feel that governments, business and citizens would never face up to the climate crisis.

But as 2019 dawned, the climate strikes led by the schoolgirl Greta Thunberg sparked dramatic change. Campaigns to raise the profile of climate threats were beginning to succeed in raising the profile of climate threats. Finally, urgent warnings from scientists, and the implications of the evidence of extreme weather worldwide – such as the bushfires in Australia – were sinking in.

By the end of 2019, governments, councils and companies were declaring a climate emergency. The UK Government set a target of 2050 for net zero carbon emissions; others went further. In February 2020, the Church of England's General Synod voted to aim to achieve net zero by 2030. No wonder 2019 has been called the Climate Spring.

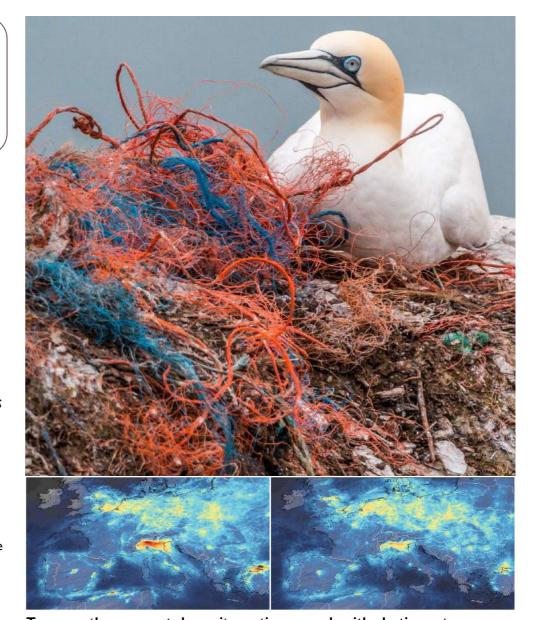
Then came March 2020. The COVID-19 outbreak in China was not contained. The world realised it faced a pandemic. In a few weeks our world was transformed. Economies and social life have been suspended to stop COVID-19.

Reconnecting with nature

One of the silver linings has been a reconnecting with nature. Many people are lucky enough to have parks and wild places nearby, with birdsong wonderfully audible as traffic diminishes. Many are entranced by wildlife venturing into towns. Those suffering from air pollution have a respite. City air has become cleaner and clearer, with perhaps life-saving benefits for millions. Greenhouse gas emissions have fallen as industries close.

However, this is not cause for celebration. It highlights how incompatible business-as-usual economies are with climate action, restoration of nature, and public health.

To keep the environmental benefits we've glimpsed, and to avoid climate disaster, we need rapid greening of energy, food and transport. We need strong policies to protect wildlife and habitats, and to prevent the exploitation of ecosystems



Top: a northern gannet shares its nesting grounds with plastic waste; bottom: images show nitrogen dioxide emissions dropping over Italy between January (below left) and February (below right) during the Coronavirus crisis © contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2020), processed by the European Space Agency CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO.

that expose us to more unfamiliar viruses. But the pandemic shock to jobs, firms and communities piles on pressure to restart business as usual.

Many argue that in a deep recession we cannot afford to push ambitious policies for climate and biodiversity; or even that we need to weaken environmental regulations as we rebuild. Against that, many business leaders join environmentalists in arguing that we need to "build back better", ensuring that recovery plans are aligned with the green ambitions declared in 2019.

The stakes are very high. We need a recovery strategy that works for people

and planet, and that does not postpone radical action on the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

The Church of England has set a great example in policy to care for God's Creation and achieve a "just transition" to a new clean and green economy. It needs to add its voice to those calling for the post-pandemic recovery to be based on the ambitions and values of the 2019 Climate Spring, creating an economy in harmony with God's Good Earth.

Ian Christie is a member of the Southwark Diocesan Environmental Advisory Group and a senior lecturer in social science of sustainable development at the University of Surrey

"This is a social justice issue": how the Church of England declared a climate emergency

In February 2020, the Church of England General Synod passed a motion recognising the climate emergency as a crisis for God's Creation. The motion called on all parts of the Church, including parishes, Bishop's Mission Orders, educational institutions, Dioceses, Cathedrals, and National Church Institutions, to reduce emissions year-on-year, aiming for a target of net zero by 2030 at the latest.

How will this affect Southwark? The climate emergency exists here as it does everywhere. Action must be taken on every level; the motion requires all parts of the Church of England to ramp up efforts to reduce emissions, and this means all of us. Each Diocesan Synod will be required to address progress towards net zero emissions every three years, beginning in 2022. It is a big challenge.

Fortunately, help is at hand. The

Church has recently launched an easyto-use Energy Footprint Tool, which will enable churches to check their carbon emissions and thereby track reductions. The tool operates through the existing Online Parish Returns System: bit.ly/EnergyFootprint

A Rocha's Eco Church scheme (see page 9) is another excellent tool for churches to reduce emissions, and there are also many suggestions on the Diocesan

website's environment page, including ideas for "Eco Actions in a Time of COVID-19" (see southwark.anglican.org/help/jpic/environment).

As the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, said at Synod: "This is a social justice issue, which affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely. If the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order."

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Your Gospel is too small – why the environment and climate change are central for Christian faith in the 21st century

The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham

Bishop of Kingston

The global Coronavirus pandemic has taken over our lives very quickly. It has led to immediate and dramatic action by governments and in all areas of life across the world. There was no way we could ignore what was happening.

The contrast with the climate change/ environment crisis is very stark. This is arguably enormously more challenging and potentially catastrophic, but getting sustained and effective action on climate change and the environment has been very slow to get going.

Part of the reason for this is explored in a book by George Marshall written in 2014, entitled Don't even think about it — why our brains are wired to ignore climate change. Before the Coronavirus crisis took hold there were some encouraging signs that momentum was building in our response to the climate change/environmental crisis. As we move through our response to Coronavirus



There is growing awareness that climate change is one of the biggest issues of our time

it will be vital that we do not lose sight of the much larger challenge of the environment/climate change.

For Christians, our response to both these crises should be embedded in our Christian understanding of God, the world and our place in it, and especially in the Gospel of God's saving love for all Creation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There is a growing and deepening awareness, and massive scientific evidence, that the environment and climate change is one of the biggest issues of our time. For Christians, our response to this is not simply a moral one but it springs out of our whole understanding of how we see our place in the universe – our relatedness to God, the world, each other, and all of God's Creation.

It is central to the primary themes of the Gospel – Creation, redemption, salvation, and the resurrection order. As such, it needs to be properly expressed in worship, which both expresses our Christian faith and shapes our hearts and minds and the way we live. Looking at the central elements of the Gospel through the lens of the environment and all God's Creation can deepen and enlarge our understanding of the Good News of God's love in Christ.

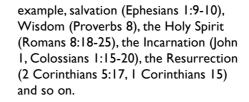
In the early 1970s I was greatly influenced by three seminal books: Only One Earth – the Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet (1972) by Barbara Ward and Rene Dubois, Small is Beautiful – Economics as if People Mattered (1974) by EF Schumacher, and Enough is Enough (1975) by John V Taylor with a theme on simple living.

The global population was then about four billion; now it is well over seven billion and heading towards nine billion by the mid-21st century. In addition, we are faced with huge inequalities of wealth, massive loss of biodiversity, and global warming, with potentially catastrophic effects. In short, as has been well expressed in Pope Francis's Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, we are in great need of a radical reappraisal of our culture of consumption, inner ecological conversion, and significant changes in our lifestyles.

In church life there have been some important developments, such as the establishment of a Church of England national environment working group on which I sit, and the crucial Eco Church and Eco Diocese programme run by A Rocha (see pages 8 and 9). Liturgically, some very good material has been produced, especially for the Creationtide season, which runs from I September to 4 October, embracing themes from Franciscan spirituality and the Harvest Festival season. This is a good start, but it needs to go far deeper.

The Bible translator JB Phillips wrote a book entitled *Your God is Too Small* (1952) which captured his experience of a deepened understanding of God, which came from his translation work. In a similar way, if we learn to look at the themes of the Gospel through the lens of the whole created order, then our theological understanding can deepen.

Many central theological themes embrace all God's Creation – for



Out of these theological building blocks, we can develop a vision of the Gospel which takes us beyond a narrow anthropocentrism to all God's Creation. Another way of expressing this is to develop a theological language which thoroughly intertwines the five Anglican Marks of Mission rather than seeing them as separate.

As a Diocese we are committed to the journey of being an Eco Diocese. This is not simply about institutional reconfiguration, important as that is, but it also operates at a much deeper level of how we understand and live the Good News of God's salvation in the 21st century.

As we emerge from the Coronavirus crisis, we need to be careful that our hard-wired brains do not govern our response to the environment/climate change crisis, but we are truly led by the deep truths of the Gospel of God's salvation for all Creation.



LET US PRAY...

Across the world, life has been turned around by the COVID-19 pandemic, writes Sue Mallinson, Diocesan Environment Officer.

Many know enforced social isolation; doing it together yet living apart. We have had time to think, to walk, to consider what we value, what changes we should keep – ways to work for a greener future.

Lord,

We give thanks for quiet skies and orchestras of birdsong;

for clear skies without pollution, new leaves and flowers, busy birds and buzzing bees;

for kindness, love in action, for NHS workers, carers, teachers, all who show the way.

We have learned that life can be changed.

Help us to find ways to care for and renew what has been broken in your creation, and to work for a greener future.

Amen.

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





Turning to technology to appreciate nature

Since the lockdown, technology and nature have been going hand in hand in Charlton Benefice (St Luke's and St Thomas').

A congregation member, Liz Buck, has set up a WhatsApp group, Thom's Times Eco, to encourage members to share their appreciation for the natural world.

The Revd Liz Newman, Rector in Charlton, said: "Thom's Times Eco is a WhatsApp for continuous praise, glorifying in God's Creation. It helps families to engage with the natural world, whatever their circumstances, and has a number of older members as well."

Contributors post their own seasonal photos, nature experiences from their outdoor exercise walks and diaries of

what they're growing (including cress and indoor seed planting).

Liz added: "We often have a theme: posting pictures of birds visiting gardens and open spaces, window box gardening, batwatching, sky-watching, Easter celebrations and seasonal changes in our environment."

Access to an outdoor space is not required; members can get just as much out of the group whether they have a garden, a window box or nothing at all.

One user said: "As a single mummy living in a basement flat with my two boys, Thom's Time Eco has been such a welcome distraction at this confusing and uncertain time. It's making us look and listen closer to nature and the world around us, even if we only have a tiny outside space."



One of the Easter gardens created by Thom's Times Eco members

Another member added: "We have always enjoyed our balcony, and tried to grow different things. Thom's Times Eco has given us an opportunity to appreciate it even more and share our space with others. It has brought people and nature closer together."

The hope is that this small group will have big effects, boosting morale when people are spending so much time indoors, and building a sense of community. The idea, too, is to make sure the effects last into the future. Liz Buck said: "We aim to bring the natural world inside lockdown and encourage people to look out.

"And as well as helping us notice and appreciate God's Creation we're developing home-grown expertise in reporting on the unique natural world under lockdown: videos, sound recording, gardening expertise and nature photography."

Writing from the heart: Southwark young people submit Letters for Creation to National Church event

Children and young people are being invited to contribute to an exhibition called Letters For Creation, which is a collaborative event organised by the Church of England and Christian Aid.

The exhibition focuses on the question, "what does caring for God's Creation mean to you?" and the "letters" can be in any form – a written letter, a poem, a song, a poster, a photograph, a video, or anything else that sparks imagination.

From Southwark, Laura, aged II, of All Saints, West Dulwich Junior Choir has written a beautiful poem (far right), and Mina, aged II, of St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham, submitted two nature collage photographs (near right).

Letters For Creation was originally conceived to accompany two landmark environmental events in 2020 – the Lambeth Conference and the United Nations Climate Conference – and the exhibition will still be going ahead.

Young people are encouraged to produce their "letters" as part of Christian Aid week, which is going ahead in adapted form this year from 10-16 May. The deadline for entries is 22 May, and further information can be found at bit.ly/LettersForCreation





Nature collages by Mina, aged 11, of St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham.

'Creation' by Laura, aged II (right),
All Saints, West Dulwich
Junior Choir

An acorn was planted, nestled into the soil,

It split right in half, a small shoot began to coil.

As it wrestled its way towards the sunlight,
Pale leaves would sprout off it, from the left and right.
Slowly it grew up and strengthened its stem,
The leaves were much darker and larger by then.

As it grew and it grew, getting taller and taller, The world below seemed so much smaller and smaller,

But the tree noticed something was gradually changing, The air was often dark, and the sky was raging.

People in the town which the tree was quite near, Left some litter and plastic strewn everywhere.

But the children around there noticed the tree,

The oak, now mighty in its size, thought worriedly, "if this new bad change goes on, what will become of me?"

And collected all of the litter that they could see.

"So, perhaps," thought the tree, as they tidied the ground,

"To change the world, you don't need to be big or loud."

"all you need is to do what you can,"

"Think of all the great things you can do in your lifespan!"

The world as we know it, is a wondrous creation,

So let's do our part to save it with our dedication!

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Transforming a wasteland into a community orchard

"There has always been discussion about what to do with that patch of ground," said the Revd Cécile Schnyder, Priest-in-Charge at St Clement with St Peter, Dulwich.

The patch of ground in question is glebe land next to the church, owned by the Diocese but having fallen into disuse.

Cécile said: "It was awkward for the Diocese because this glebe land can only be reached through church land. When I arrived two and a half years ago, we made the decision to see it as a resource and not a problem. We wanted to do something with it that could give back to the community."

The decision was made to create a sensory orchard."We are fairly built up; we have social housing, a women's shelter, an asylum seeker hostel," said Cécile. "We just tried to do something that the community could use."

She added: "Our sensory orchard will be fully accessible for people with sight loss and those using a wheelchair. It will also be pushchair friendly. It will have trees and plants to touch and smell, a wild meadow and plenty of benches to sit on. It will have a water feature and plenty of things to explore."



Plans have been drawn up ready to

The project was almost ready to go before the country went into lockdown, with grants in place from Southwark Council and Veolia, and £3,000 in mission money from the Diocese.

Sadly the project has had to be put on hold, but Cécile hopes to get it back up and running as soon as it is safe to do so. "We hope we can put it back out to tender as soon as we get back, knowing that we will not be able to do all we wanted to do because labour and materials will be more expensive."

One day, says Cécile, this patch of ground will "hopefully become a place where people can meet and God can be encountered".

go for the Sensory Orchard.

Eco Church is a free scheme, run by the charity A Rocha, which provides a way for churches to measure their current environmental activity and to discover ideas for doing more. The charity is continuing to operate through the COVID-19 crisis and this could be an ideal moment take stock of where you are as a church and to think about the road ahead.

GET INVOLVED...

So what is Eco Church – and how do you sign up?

The key tool provided by the scheme is a questionnaire, which can be found on the A Rocha website and covers five important areas:

- worship and teaching
- buildings
- land
- community and global engagement

Multiple individuals from the same church can register on the A Rocha website and update the questionnaire. This means a PCC could nominate a different person to fill in each section, or a team of "Eco Reps" could take it in turns to update the survey. This kind of eco work can be undertaken in our own homes during COVID-19 restrictions.

The survey is very comprehensive, but don't be put off by the length! Enjoy a cup of tea while you fill it in, and if you don't have the answer to hand, simply put "don't know" or "need to find out". Very quickly, you will have a sense of where your church is at, and you might be pleasantly surprised to discover you are already at Bronze or Silver Award level for some of the categories.

The other good news is that it only takes a few simple actions to improve your eco rating. It is immensely satisfying to return to the website, add an action (for example, planting bee and butterfly-friendly flowers, switching to green energy or switching to Fairtrade tea and coffee) and see the scale slide upwards!

The survey is a live tool, rather than a one-off task, and provides a brilliant practical framework for action. With regular engagement, step by step we can all move towards greater care for and connection with God's Creation.

As the recent A Rocha newsletter says: "We know that the climate and wider environmental crises haven't gone away. A recent report in The Guardian cites scientific evidence that polar ice loss is tracking the worst-case climate scenario as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

> "We need a concerted effort of a size and scale beyond what we're seeing on COVID-19 - and more of us taking action locally and globally - to avoid the worst case."

Find the questionnaire at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Green dreams at St John, Waterloo

The clergy and parishioners at St John, Waterloo are so passionate about the environment that together they have raised £250,000 to help ensure that their church will be ready to go carbon neutral well before the 2030 deadline set by the Church of England.

The money will be used as part of a wider £5 million refurbishment of St John's. It will go towards making the Crypt, where many of the church's activities take place, carbon positive through the use of air-source heat pumps and high quality insulation, and adding photovoltaic panels to the roof. The rest of the church will follow suit later.

The Revd Giles Goddard, vicar at St John's, said: "We have a responsibility to care for Creation. There's something very fundamental about making sure that we speak of love and the Gospel of love, and in order to have a place where human beings can flourish you also have to have a flourishing environment."

He added: "It's worth noting that it's not cheap to do this. But the congregation is very committed to it."

Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill nominated for green building award

An innovative straw bale church project in Tulse Hill has received national recognition with nominations in both the National Building and Construction Awards 2020 and the Constructing Excellence SECBE Awards 2020. The nominations are for excellence in sustainability and community engagement.

Find out more from the Revd Richard Dormandy's Hearts on Fire blog at bit.ly/HeartsOnFireStraw



Hope for the Future - join the campaign

The COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference, originally due to take place in Glasgow in November, may have been postponed until 2021 but there is no pause in preparations. At the charity Hope for the Future, Church Outreach Officer, Rachel Mander is working as hard as ever.

The charity is asking churches to use their voices as a community to call for meaningful action on the environment. The goal is for all 650 MPs to hear from churches in their constituencies, encouraging the UK government to make COP26

Hope for the Future offers one-to-one support to help people start conversations with their MPs, including advice on the best way to hold a conversation (currently by phone or video link). The team can also suggest appropriate questions and action points. Please get in touch with Rachel if you would like to know more: rachel.mander@hftf.org.uk

Hope for the Future also has resources suitable for use with small groups on the topics of Being the Church in the time of Coronavirus and Covenant and Climate Through the Lens of Haggai. Please e-mail Rachel, at the address above, for these resources.

Find Creationtide and other resources

Inspiration for parishes and individuals on becoming greener, involving their young people, raising awareness and more can be found at southwark.anglican. org/help/jpic/environment

The National Church has created a number of resources to help churches and individuals mark Creationtide. Find them at bit.ly/CofECreationtide





This Easter was a strange one for all of us, without the chance to meet and celebrate. But our parishes still managed to make it a time of celebration and fellowship, together while apart.

Sustaining the community of the faithful online

One of the many events disrupted by the lockdown was the Chrism Eucharist. The Revd Lisa Bewick, self-supporting minister at St John, Waterloo, shares her thoughts.

At last year's Chrism Eucharist, I renewed my ordination vows as a deacon in a full Cathedral. During this year's Chrism Eucharist, I renewed my priestly ordination vows for the first time, not in a full Cathedral but at my dining table, with two screens in front of me.

On one was the service, streamed from Bishop's House; on the other, friends and colleagues with whom I shared that time. As we renewed vows together – something that I found really powerful –



words used at priests' ordinations seemed particularly poignant, "With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful" and I was reminded that this still-new priest trying to work out what that means in these strange times isn't alone in that.

Global Church: "Christ is Risen in dozens of languages"

"Today's highlight for All Saints, Peckham's online Easter service was the live chat," wrote St Mellitus Director Dr Hannah Steele. "Christ is Risen in dozens of languages. Such a joy to be part of a multicultural joyful church family!"

Pictured right is a screenshot of the Revd Jonathan Mortimer leading the online service, taken by Hannah.



A Palm procession all the way from New Zealand to London



Participants in the online Palm Sunday service at St Augustine and Holy Trinity, Tooting were asked to send in their photo (with cross) in advance, writes the Revd Dr Andrew Davey.

The delays in postal services meant we had to wait until Wednesday in Holy Week for the full picture. The collage that emerged included one member "stuck" in New Zealand, and congregational friends from Mid-Wales and New Jersey.

Palm Sunday goes on at All Saints, Carshalton



Palm Sunday was still a joyful occasion at All Saints, Carshalton, with two of the congregation's youngsters, Chidera and Chibuzor. creating their own Palm **Sunday crosses** to mark the day from inside their own home.

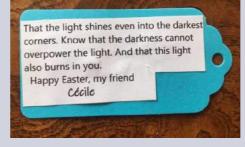
Light in the darkness: sharing recycled Paschal Candles in the parish of St Clement with St Peter

Each member of the St Clement with St Peter, Dulwich congregation received a recycled Paschal candle this year.

The Revd Cécile Schnyder said: "As I locked up the church four weeks ago, I collected things from the building I might use. I'm not sure why, but I collected all our old Paschal candles. On Palm Sunday I melted them all down and filled 85 glass jars of various sizes with wax and made one for each household."

Cécile then divided the candles up into groups. Where the households are too far away, she is keeping the





Dear
This candle is made from our old Paschal candles in church. I've melted the wax and made new candles so that each of us can have an Easter Candle at home this year.

Remember that Christ is your light.

candles until they can all meet in person again. To deliver the others, she enlisted the help of families with young people who were struggling with their mental health or engagement.

Each of these families received a basket of candles, then the young people delivered one candle on each of their daily exercise walks, leaving them outside people's houses in line with Government social distancing guidelines.

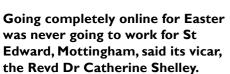
"The young people did an amazing job," said Cécile. "I'm very proud of them!"

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How an Easter garden bore fruit in Mottingham





"We're fairly low-tech in Mottingham," she said. "A third of my PCC don't have e-mail or access to any form of IT."

As a result, she wanted to make sure that the parish marked Easter in a way that everyone could enjoy, while still upholding social distancing rules.

"We took the Easter Garden and the banners outside the church," said Catherine. "Most of them have even survived the deterioration in weather that followed Easter Sunday! The banners on



the tower (see above, right) were made by previous generations of St Ed's Sunday school, and the banners on the doors (see above, left) were made last year by Castlecombe Primary School, one of our local community primary schools."

The parish's traditional Easter garden also survived, in a slightly different form.

Of course, St Edward's also provided online services, streamed via Facebook, for those in the parish who were online – with one creature in particular becoming something of an internet star.

"My cat now has a Facebook following, as people seem to love his interruptions of Communion," added Catherine.

All change in Oxted as the Team Churches go online



A plea for volunteers in the early days of the Coronavirus crisis to support those who were vulnerable and self-isolating has developed into our "Love Your Neighbour" buddy system, writes Kelly van den Berg of the Oxted Team Ministry.

This buddy system provides people who are self-isolating with a friend to help them with jobs such as shopping. A large number of amazing volunteers from our churches are involved, as well as from the wider community.

As with other churches during this crisis, we have found new ways of being Church. Each Sunday we hold a weekly Oxted Team Video Service on YouTube, premiered at 9.30am so that as many of our congregation as possible can gather together at the same time. There is also a "Five Minute Sunday School" for families before the main service.

St Mary's and St Peter's home groups

are continuing courtesy of Zoom, while St Mary's also held its first Café Church service via Zoom last weekend. Our choir even used the app to perform Psalm 22 together during Holy Week, a very moving moment.

During Holy Week we held night prayer services on YouTube and a virtual Easter bonnet parade, while also ensuring that no one was left out by delivering Palm Crosses, Easter bunnies and Holy Week reflections to those who do not have internet access.

Church members can join St John's weekly Faith and Life series on Facebook, to share their thoughts about the current situation and their faith. And we continue to try new ways to interact with our congregations, including our first Virtual Church Quiz in May!

Online services are available via St John's YouTube channel: bit.ly/StJohnHurstGreen

Redhill primary school staff support local families

The school and church community of St Matthew, Redhill have been working to support local families during lockdown.

St Matthew's CE Primary School has remained open, including throughout what would have been the school Easter holidays, to provide daily care and activities for children of key workers and other vulnerable pupils.



In addition, weekly food boxes are provided for families of pupils eligible for free school meals. Headteacher, Janet Lightfoot said: "Seeing the children and their parents in person, even from a distance, is much more reassuring than speaking to them on the phone. The best thing is the lovely appreciative conversations with our families and smiles from the children!"

St Matthew's school staff are also supporting the Revd Canon Andrew Cunnington and the team from the church with food delivery tasks for Redhill Foodbank.

St Mildred, Addiscombe sing out during lockdown



The Coronavirus crisis hasn't slowed down the choir at St Mildred's, with singers joining together remotely in an Easter performance of Samuel Sebastian Wesley's *Lead me, Lord* (above).

Director of music, Richard Mander, said: "This amazing project has involved each chorister recording their part individually at home, to an accompaniment and conducting video provided by me. Then they sent back their recordings, and I have added them together to form the choir."

See the full video at: stmildredschurch.org.uk/our-church/remote-worship/#virtual-choir

The day we didn't meet the Queen: 2020's Maundy Gift recipients share their stories

For the six people nominated in Southwark Diocese to receive Maundy money in 2020, this Maundy Thursday was unlike anything they could have imagined.

At the Queen's traditional Maundy Gift ceremony, the Monarch, or one of her representatives, rewards those who have been nominated for their Christian service with two leather purses, one of specially minted Maundy coins and another of £5.50 in ordinary coinage.

This year, because of the Coronavirus crisis, the ceremony was cancelled for the first time since 1952.

Instead of a trip to Windsor Castle to meet the Queen in person, the nominees received their purses in the post, along with a personal letter expressing her regret that she could not distribute the gift personally.

It was a disappointment, as Southwark's six nominees share in their stories, right. Nevertheless, they were proud to have been recognised in a tradition that dates back in one form or another to the I3th century, when the Royal Family washed the feet of the poor and gave them money and gifts to emulate Jesus' washing the feet of his Disciples.

The Southwark nominees this year were: the Revd Canon Owen Beament; Peggy Brown-Denny of St John the Divine, Kennington; Rolf Christophersen of the Norwegian Seamen's Church; Bryan Harris, former publisher of *The Bridge*; Gerie Knights, a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary at All Saints, Sanderstead; and Jackie McLoughlin, former Head of Adult Education in Croydon.

Gerie Knights and Bryan Harris share more about their experience on the Hearts on Fire blog: southwarkcofe.tumblr.com/

Bryan Harris

Bryan's contribution to the Diocese has been to produce and publish 237 editions of *The Bridge*, from its pilot edition in 1996 until the end of 2019.

In November 2019, Bryan was invited to attend the Royal Maundy Service at St George's

Chapel, Windsor. By March, however, it began to look unlikely that the event would go ahead. Instead, he received his purses through the post in Holy Week.

"Obviously it was disappointing not to have our day at court but we have the purses and the letters as a permanent reminder of the day we should have met the Queen. Having said that, I must admit that I was slightly relieved as the last time I met Her Majesty I was totally overwhelmed and lost for words!"



Peggy Brown-Denny

Peggy is a long-standing member of the congregation of St John the Divine, Kennington, where she has for many years held



a weekly group for the elderly and led activities for young people. "I was so honoured to be nominated and thought of in that way," Peggy said. "I was overcome with joy and humility."

She was, of course, disappointed at the cancellation of the service: "It would have been a privilege to meet the Queen." But, she added, "keeping safe and adhering to Government directives is the most important thing at the moment."

Rolf Christophersen

Born in Bromley, Kent in 1921, Rolf has been attending the Norwegian Seamen's Church nearly all his life. He was even present in 1927 when the current church was opened, when he carried the Norwegian flag leading the procession into the church.

An RAF veteran of World War Two, Rolf has served on the church's board of trustees for nearly 50 years.

Rolf said: "I was honoured to be included in the list of Maundy Money recipients. We were naturally disappointed that the visit to Windsor had to be cancelled although it was perfectly understandable under the circumstances. I received a very nice letter from the Queen, together with the Maundy coins, for which I was most grateful."

Jackie McLoughlin

Jackie has a long track record of voluntary work, for which she received an MBE in 2002. A former social worker, she retrained in adult



education, ending her career as Head of Adult Education in Croydon.

She was Secretary of the National Board of Catholic Women from 2012-15, and also spearheaded a successful bid by the Catholic community in Sutton to qualify for the Home Office Community Sponsorship Programme. This resulted in a Syrian family being resettled in 2018 and has inspired other faith communities to emulate the approach.



Chair: Biddy Taylor

E: biddytaylor.spidirchair @gmail.com 020 7622 4912

For information about training courses to become a spiritual director, contact Jacky Sutcliffe: E: spidircourse@gmail.com 07870 744257

Finding a spiritual director

Please go to our website, www.spidir.org.uk, or contact Biddy Taylor (above)

Owen Beament

"On receiving the invitation I felt humbled and privileged," said Owen. "I felt privileged to have been asked to share this occasion with Her Majesty. I have always been full of gratitude for the way in which the Queen is open about sharing her faith."

Owen has recently retired after serving in the Diocese of Southwark for 54 years, 44 of those as parish priest of All Saints, Hatcham Park. A symbol of continuity during a time of great change in this deprived area of inner London, Owen also built up a thriving ministry as a highly valued chaplain to Millwall FC.

He realised early on that he would not be going to Windsor, adding: "Was I disappointed? Not really. It would have been so special to have been there but it had become obviously impossible. I have learned that in this life there are things we cannot change and I have always asked God to help me to recognise them and accept them. The Maundy purses have been sent to me and will be a special family heirloom."



When Gerie, Diocesan SPA and a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary in the Diocese for many years, received an official-looking letter in November 2019, she thought it was an invitation to the opening of a new retirement home in her area. However, she soon realised it was, in fact, notification



that she had been nominated for this year's Maundy Gift.

"I felt surprised, flattered, privileged, grateful, unworthy, humble and guilty (a lot of self-examination kicked in!)," Gerie said.

When the service was cancelled, Gerie was disappointed — "I was so looking forward to seeing our Queen face to face". Nevertheless, she feels hugely privileged to have been chosen. "The coins and the Queen's letter will always remind me of this very unusual time when great sacrifices are being made by so many for the good of all."