



# The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking  
Welcoming  
Growing**

Vol.26 No.9  
November 2021

## Class action

How Southwark pupils are combating climate change

See pages 6-7



## Meet the Synod

New members settle in for the next quinquennium

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## Domestic help

Mothers' Union takes action on gender-based violence

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# Southwark parishes keep vigil for COP26

**Some 360 pilgrims of all faiths from across the Diocese gathered in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 23 October for a vigil to mark the COP26 climate negotiations, writes Jack Edwards, Diocesan Environmental Officer.**

The vigil was a joint call to action by ecumenical group South Bank Churches and the Diocese. The Revd Canon Giles Goddard, Vicar of St John, Waterloo and one of the organisers, said: "We are gathered here today to pray for the COP26 conference, to pray for all the work which is going on around the world, to pray believing and knowing that God works mysteriously through our prayers."

Bishop Jonathan and Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett were among the pilgrims to arrive on Saturday afternoon, having led a group on foot from Croydon Minster. Others came from even further afield, with visitors walking

20 miles from St John, Hurst Green to join the event.

Despite a power cut lasting the entirety of the event — Giles joked that this was "prophetic, because this is what might happen to us if COP doesn't work" — the workshops and worship continued uninterrupted.

These included a CAFOD prayer station connecting people with case studies and videos of those around the globe currently living through climate collapse. There was also a very popular station from St Mary's Eco Church, based at Lambeth Palace, where people were encouraged to craft leaves, herbs, shells, and twigs into pieces of art inspired by God's love of Creation.

A Rocha and Christian Aid were also represented, with A Rocha encouraging churches to sign up for the Eco Church or Live Simply schemes to take practical steps to decarbonisation. Christian Aid's Letters for Creation initiative was very popular with families, and the



Pilgrims gather for an act of worship at the COP26 vigil.

letters they have written will be sent to COP negotiators.

Lastly, there was an opportunity to spend time in the Cathedral Yard, where Mike Mullins from St John, Waterloo encouraged us to relate to our trees, witnesses to centuries of Southwark life.

The afternoon ended in an act of worship led by the Revd Vanessa Elston, a curate at Battersea Fields, and accompanied by new wave jazz and soul singer Samantha Lindo. Prayers were led by congregants of St Leonard's Eco Church, Streatham, and the Rt Revd David Atkinson, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, gave a blessing.

Find out more



To find out more about the faith-based work around COP26, visit [makecopcount.org](https://makecopcount.org)

Watch a video of the COP26 Vigil liturgy here: [bit.ly/3jFnMRD](https://bit.ly/3jFnMRD)

## Diocesan Lay Council puts discipleship front and centre at meeting

**Members of the Lay Council were joined by the National Church's Programme Director for Setting God's People Free, Dr Nick Shepherd, at their meeting on 21 October.**

Nick opened the meeting with a discussion about Everyday Faith, and how we can build missional disciples in the Diocese, enabling them to grow their faith at home, as well as talk about it at work. He also stressed the importance

of encouraging lay people to see that the calling to be an office worker is as valid as one to be a Reader.

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education, followed with an update on how the Diocese is supporting discipleship, as well as plans for embedding the new lay ministries which were launched in September. Suggestions for how we can encourage people to grow in their faith included more sessions

like the popular Ground Floor Guides to the Bible, which ran in 2020.

Peter Graystone, Lay Training Officer, then gave his update: three Readers have entered training at St Augustine's this year, he said, as have, for the first time, three licensed Lay Pioneers.

Three Southwark Pastoral Assistants have also begun training this year and one licensed pastoral minister. In addition, 55 people have signed up for the Bishop's Certificate.



Read about CYP Affirmation Events on page 12



## A view from The BRIDGE



**I'm sure we can recall a certain teacher, or two, who made a positive impact on our lives. You may even be one yourself!**

I had a few growing up who I will never forget for their commitment, fun and wisdom. They made learning fun, but also didn't shy away from issues of social justice. I am pleased that my children also had wonderful teachers in their lives.

In October I had the privilege of interviewing staff at two of our schools. Their enthusiasm and passion were infectious. This issue's centre-spread is focused on the Diocese's schools and the positive environmental impact that they are making. I was inspired by their creativity and how they are expanding on the curriculum, making this important issue relevant to children's everyday lives and faith. During the interviews I heard the term "courageous advocacy" a few times. It's a phrase I have not heard of before, but I love it, especially as it is being used to describe what children and young people across our Diocese are doing when it comes to climate action and social justice. Read more about it on pages 6-7.

I was honoured to attend the celebration of the Eucharist to mark the beginning of the academic year. It was also to celebrate the service given to the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education by Colin Powell who was Diocesan Director of Education from 2014 to 2020. Again, it was wonderful to meet and see headteachers, school leaders, school chaplains and governors coming to worship together and give God thanks for our children, the schools and each other. It was a blessing to hear all the

well-earned tributes given to Colin. Read more on page 3.

I was also heartened to retweet posts from pilgrims making their way to the Cathedral for the COP26 Prayer Vigil and to publicise the many events taking place during this crucial climate conference. Read about the prayer vigil on the front page.

Earlier in October, I attended the Black History Month service and workshops at the Cathedral with my family. It was a beautiful service and the creativity of everyone that took part shone through. I was especially moved by the Revd Les Isaac's sermon reminding us all that the contribution of the Windrush Generation to this country has not been in vain. Read about it on page 9.

A highlight, and my busiest time of year when I was running Communications at Mothers' Union, was working on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. This is a global awareness-raising campaign calling for an end to gender-based violence and runs from 25 November to 10 December. Here you can read about what Mothers' Union in our Diocese is doing on page 10.

This edition of The Bridge is again packed full of news from across the Diocese. Find out what fellow parishioners have been doing on pages 4-5, including what llamas Tom, Dick and Harry were doing in church.

Finally, learn more on pages 8-9 about our newly elected General Synod representatives and the plans for Diocesan Synod as we begin a new triennium. Please remember to keep them in your prayers.

**Sophia Jones**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### St Mary's Eco Church launches pop-up for COP26

From Monday 1 to Saturday 6 November, St Mary's Eco Church will be creating a space for COP26 in London at St George the Martyr SE1 1JA. Take time out to pray at the various prayer stations, lament, reflect, contribute a vision of hope, and engage creatively. Each day has a different theme: for instance, bring an instrument on Monday.

See [www.stmarysecochurch.org](http://www.stmarysecochurch.org) for more information.

### Mission Team relaunches newsletter

The Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Team has relaunched its newsletter as "Mission in Word and Action", reflecting the fact that the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and Children and Young People teams are also an integral part of its work. The newsletter covers news, resources and upcoming events and comes out every six to eight weeks. If you would be interested in hearing more about the work of the team and the help they can provide, you can sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3BipTAY>

### Southwark Cathedral to audition for choristers

Would your son, nephew, brother or friend like to be a chorister? Southwark Cathedral is holding auditions for its boys' choir on Saturday 13 November. The auditions are open to boys aged 7-10 who enjoy singing and would be interested in joining the Cathedral choir. No prior choral experience is necessary — just a good musical ear and a willingness to learn.

Find out more here: [www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk/about-us/news/would-your-son-like-to-be-a-chorister-at-southwark-cathedral](http://www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk/about-us/news/would-your-son-like-to-be-a-chorister-at-southwark-cathedral). To book an audition slot, e-mail Director of Music Ian Keatley at [ian.keatley@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:ian.keatley@southwark.anglican.org)



### Ridley Hall ordinands' plea for help from ordained women

Three ordinands at Ridley Hall have put out a call for photographs of ordained women for a creative art project. The completed artwork will be a collage of polaroid photographs celebrating women clergy and their ministry. If you are a woman in ministry and are willing to take part, they ask for a digital photograph of yourself; it can be in any setting, the only requirement is that you are alone and your face is clearly visible. They are also asking for the year of your ordination and where you trained. The collage will be displayed in Ridley Hall and the photograph and information will be used only for this purpose.

To send a photograph or to ask questions, please e-mail [rhartproject21@gmail.com](mailto:rhartproject21@gmail.com)

### Three big questions for the teenagers in your life

Dr Kara Powell from The Fuller Youth Institute will be speaking about her recent book, *Three Big Questions That Change Every Teenager*, on Tuesday 16 November at 7:30pm. This London-Southwark webinar is for anyone who has a heart for young people and wants to grow in listening well, addressing top stressors affecting teens and teaching young people that they are enough. Register here: [bit.ly/3nvF2Kb](https://bit.ly/3nvF2Kb)

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### Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The DECEMBER edition is due to be published online on 1 December 2021. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER**.

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](http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)





## IN FOCUS...

### News from the Diocese

# Former SDBE Director gets celebratory send-off at service



Colin Powell receives a blessing from Bishop Christopher at the SDBE service.

**Headteachers, school leaders, governors and Chaplains from across the Diocese gathered with staff from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) for a Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday 20 October.**

The service marked the beginning of the academic year and celebrated the work of Colin Powell, Diocesan Director of Education from 2014 to 2020, after two previous celebration services were postponed because of the pandemic.

In her welcome, the current Diocesan Director of Education, Roz Cordner, said: "Your commitment as members of school staff, school leaders, governors, chaplains and church leaders has been remarkable; your resilience and service has been

*"We give thanks for all that Colin Powell has done in showing us the path of wisdom, and we look forward in confidence"*

incredible and we are all so grateful for what you have given."

The first reading from Proverbs 8:1-11 was read by Dr Catharina Stibe-Hickson, Chair of the SDBE Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and a Board Member of the SDBE. The Gospel, from Mathew 13:44-53, was read by the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon and Chair of the Schools Committee.

The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, Chair of the Diocesan SDBE and member of the SDBE MAT, said: "Colin, as we – finally – get the chance to celebrate your time at the Board of

Education, we give thanks for all you have done in showing us the path of wisdom, and we look forward in confidence to the futures that lie ahead of us. We know that you will continue to learn and to share your wisdom with others; we commit ourselves to building on all that you have done with us and for us as we continue to seek God's wisdom for the future."

Bishop Jonathan then presented the new headteachers, chaplains and SDBE staff to Bishop Christopher. They promised to serve God in this Diocese and to be leaders across the Diocese, to celebrate its distinctive, diverse and inclusive places of education, to foster the flourishing of those within their care, to enable schools and chaplaincies to engage with the wider community and to promote God's Kingdom values of faith and love. Bishop Christopher gave each of them a Bible.

Tributes to Colin Powell came from Inigo Woolf, Chief Executive of the London Diocesan Board for Schools, on behalf of the Diocesan Director of Education, as well as from Julia Corby, Chair of Southwark Diocesan Headteachers Association, and Bishop Jonathan. He was also presented with gifts from SDBE staff.

In response, Colin thanked colleagues, the SDBE team, family and friends, saying: "I am just so proud of our schools and colleges. They are brilliant places where young people can flourish and are valued."

He concluded by saying: "My thanks and praise to God who has held my hand and touched my heart along the way."

**Read more about our schools on pages 6-7 and work with children and young people on page 12**

## An enriching and enlightening message of hope and harmony

*Clergy gathered online on Tuesday 19 October for a Study Morning themed around Jerusalem – the Holy City. The Revd Canon Francis Younis shares his impressions of the day.*

This was an excellent Bible Study Day. Both sessions were really very enriching and enlightening.

The Very Revd Canon Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem (above right), shared a wealth of personal experience and first-hand knowledge about the complexities of living and working in Jerusalem. He highlighted the challenges and opportunities of working as an Anglican priest in the Holy Land.

When asked whether people have any hope of living in peace and harmony, Richard commented that, "in spite of the pain, the misery and difficulties in their day-to-day life, the people feel that their hope is rooted in God, they believe that the world might have given up on them, but God has not given up on them." So they live in hope of living one day in peace and harmony alongside each other.

The second speaker, the Revd Dr Andrew Davison (below right), Starbridge Senior Lecturer in Theology and Natural Sciences, Fellow in Theology and Dean of Chapel, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, shared the theological reflection on the theme of



"Heavenly Jerusalem" as mentioned in Revelation 21.

Andrew stated that the Church here on Earth is called to lay the foundations of the Holy City (Heavenly City) through sharing the Good News, and work towards establishing justice, peace, harmony and reconciliation.

### Roehampton names new development after Southwark priest

**On 15 October, Bishop Christopher joined Sue McKinney and family at the opening of McKinney House (right), named after Sue's late husband and former Roehampton Vicar, the Revd Jim McKinney.**

The new housing development in Bessborough Road, Roehampton, contains 10 new council homes, as well as a secure communal garden with play equipment for children under five, a bike storage area and new homes for birds and bats.

Jim, who died in 2019, was a founding member of the Roehampton Forum and Partnership, which were created to bring local communities together and which operated for more than 20 years. He also chaired the Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network for 10 years. The council decided to name the development after him to celebrate his life and in recognition of the work he did for the local area.

Sue, a local councillor, said: "The naming of this stunning new block of council housing after my late husband is fantastic. Jim's 25-year mission and ministry in Roehampton was all



about bringing communities together – cross-party representatives, faith groups, local businesses and local residents – to work together for the residents of Roehampton with the Council."

Bishop Christopher said: "It was a real privilege to be in Roehampton for the official opening of McKinney House which will hallow the memory of Fr Jim McKinney, much loved and a passionate advocate for adequate social housing. Family, civic colleagues, parishioners and friends came together to give thanks for his life and ministry which was a blessing to so many, summed up by the Leader of Wandsworth Borough Council, Councillor Ravi Govinder CBE: 'Jim believed in us and we believed in him.'"





## IN FOCUS...

*News from our parishes*

# Voices of lament open window to unfamiliar world in West Dulwich

**“The thing that really came across to me was an overwhelming sense of sadness, a sort of anguish and a sense of longing.”**

That is what the Revd Alan Everett, Vicar of All Saints, West Dulwich, said about the exhibition of art by inmates of UK prisons which has been running in his church since Prisons Week began on 10 October.

All Saints has a history of engagement with the arts — two years ago they staged an exhibition of Stations from the Way of the Cross by voluntary organisation L’Arche, for example. As restrictions from the pandemic lifted, Alan was looking for new ways to exhibit community art; one of his congregation was closely connected with the prison arts charity Koestler Arts and Wendy Stephens, a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary in the parish, is chaplain at Wandsworth Prison, so prisoner art seemed a natural fit.

They decided to time the exhibition around Prisons Week in October, and invited the Revd Tim Clapton, chaplain at Wandsworth Prison before Wendy, to preach. “He talked about the experience of prisoners and the role of lament,” said Alan. “He described the process of them arriving in prison and being strip-searched and that their feeling very often is one of despair.”

The resulting pictures have been a surprise to Alan, and to others. “The pieces are very reflective, and I think the response has been a reflective one,” he said, “people might have been looking for some really big statement pieces, but I don’t think there are any.”

It is related, Alan thinks, to our unrealistic expectations of prisons and prisoners. “It’s made me reflect on how we tend to characterise people who end up in prisons



**Tree of Forgiveness, HM Prison Inverness, 2013.**

as out of control and actually a lot of the stories are intensely sad ones,” he said.

In its own way, he believes, the exhibition is a way of engaging with prisoners as they really are, rather than as we expect them to be: it is “the beginning of a process, not an end point”. He added: “It provides a window — only a small one but I’m hoping it might get bigger.”

There are plans to revisit prisoner art next year, which marks Koestler Arts’ 60th anniversary, and Alan is hoping to showcase more community art next year. “We’ve got a wonderful space for it, and if it’s here to witness it feels to me... that one of the things churches should be doing is giving a voice to those who are most disadvantaged and excluded.”

*The All Saints exhibition continues until 14 November; the church is open every weekday from 2.00-4.00pm. Koestler Arts is staging a major exhibition, The I and the We, at the Southbank Centre until 5 December (details at [koestlerarts.org.uk/exhibitions/annual-uk-exhibition/the-i-and-the-we](http://koestlerarts.org.uk/exhibitions/annual-uk-exhibition/the-i-and-the-we))*

## St John the Evangelist, Redhill marks Anti-Slavery Day



© Mike Genge

Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus marked Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October by illuminating St John the Evangelist, Redhill in red to highlight the plight of slavery victims. It is estimated that, by county, Surrey has the third highest number of victims of slavery in the country and the Social Justice Focus group in Reigate has been active in seeking to draw attention to the issue. See [bit.ly/3bdB1nW](https://bit.ly/3bdB1nW) for more information.

## North Lambeth Parish gets a taste of Country Life

Llamas from Vauxhall City Farm called Tom, Dick and Harry joined the congregation at St Anselm, Kennington on 8 October for the Kennington Country Life service, attended mainly by non-churchgoers.

They were also surrounded by a range of scarecrows, all with a bread theme, submitted by local businesses, organisations, schools and nurseries.

During a baking demonstration, the Kennington locals had some great ideas for the baker about what ingredients should be included in the “bread of life”: love, compassion, kindness and peace. Scripture readings from the children, along with prayers of



thankfulness and hope, gave the guests a simple invitation to know God as their “bread of life”. The service ended with a tea party for 50 children — with some very delicious bread rolls.

## “We know music can be a great healer”: Southwark schools play for south-east London community at Dragon Connects event

**More than 130 children from three Southwark schools joined young musicians and music students for a day of concerts on 15 October.**

The “Dragon Connects” event, which was organised by charity Water City Music, began at St George the Martyr, Southwark, before moving on to local care homes and day centres.

The violinist and Musical Director of Water City Music, Michael Bochmann, said the main aim was to bring the different generations together following



a year and a half of restrictions and lockdowns. “So many people in the Southwark community — both young and elderly — have suffered terribly during this period,” he said. “We want to do all we can to help, and we know music can be a great healer and can bring people together.”

The three schools taking part were Goodrich Community Primary School, East Dulwich; St Jude’s CofE Primary School, in Elephant & Castle; and Peter Hills CofE Primary School, Rotherhithe.

The Rector of St George’s, the Revd Canon Jonathan Sedgwick, said: “The look of excitement and joy on the faces of children as they performed and listened to music — and the joy they give to audiences — is something we have missed badly during the pandemic.”

He added: “That joy is so important to our well-being as individuals and a community so it is just fantastic that so many children and professionals have come together to make music for the people of SE1.”



# “Supplies never ran out, bringing to life parables of feeding the 5,000”

*St Edward, Mottingham is an active member of Transforming Bromley Borough. As the food bank network wins a London Faith and Belief Community Award for its work during the pandemic, the Revd Dr Catherine Shelley, Vicar of St Edward’s, shares their story.*

Transforming Bromley Borough (TBB) is a network of churches – Anglican, Roman Catholic and a range of free churches – which has been working together for a few years, largely around the issue of homelessness.

They support the local night shelter, Latch, which is a charity that places young people who are homeless, and a thriving CAP debt advice service. St Edward, Mottingham joined the network in 2018 to work on the issues of poor housing, rent arrears and sofa-surfing homelessness which affects a lot of families in the parish.

At the start of the pandemic, a few TBB members who ran small-scale food services, in addition to their housing work, were wondering how they could sustain their food provision given the shortages in supermarkets and uncertainty about the future.

St Edward’s used to give out around 10 food parcels per week in 2019. When lockdown came, a decision was taken to continue to provide what we could and wait to see what happened; if supplies ran out that could be addressed when the time came. Supplies never ran out, bringing to life the parables of the feeding of the 5,000 and the widow of Zarephath in startling ways.



The Revd Dr Catherine Shelley with Mottingham food bank supplies.

One of the important factors was the TBB food partnership which sprang up within weeks of the first lockdown. The partnership enabled the network of smaller food banks to take advantage of Fareshare supplies of fresh food which continue to be delivered weekly on a Thursday to Hope Church in Orpington.

At the height of the pandemic, Mottingham food bank at St Edward’s was distributing food to 200 families per week, from a database of nearly 600. Numbers have now subsided to 90-100 per week although they are creeping up again.

COVID emergency funding from the Government and London Community Fund enabled Mottingham food bank to take on a part-time administrator who has added massively to the operation and is now supporting further developments such as growing our own vegetables to supply the food bank from land around the church.

However, the most important value of the TBB partnership is the friendships that have developed, including through online prayer meetings and the practical support and sharing of expertise that has grown.

More established food bank providers, such as the Trussell Trust food bank in Bromley and Living Well in Penge, were willing to share their experience and tips, while Mottingham has assisted others to develop through free legal advice on gaining charitable status.

The network is now sustained by a Board of key members, representing the varied sizes and geographical range of members across Bromley Borough.

The effectiveness of the network, its collaborative approach and the speed with which it developed has been remarkable. As a result, the network was recognised by Bromley Borough as a key part of its food strategy for the pandemic and a nomination for the London-wide Faith and Belief awards.

## Bishop Christopher blesses new school chapel



On 18 October, Bishop Christopher dedicated the new school chapel at St Gabriel’s College at a thanksgiving service. It was the school’s largest in-person event since the pandemic began, with VIP guests including local MP Florence Eshalomi.

## Cathedral recognised for its work during COVID



Southwark Cathedral hosted Southwark Council’s Covid Civic Awards on Monday 4 October, picking up an award itself for its pastoral work during the pandemic.

The Cathedral was one of 24 organisations to be recognised for their contribution to the local community during COVID. In addition, two Young Person Awards were made, as well as the Mayor’s Discretionary Award. Seven Honorary Alderpersons were installed at the same service.

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, said: “We were delighted to have been honoured as a community by the Mayor. As Jesus said in one of his parables, ‘We have done only what we ought to have done!’ (Luke 17.10). But being recognised as a community that serves its parish, neighbourhood and Diocese is truly humbling.”

Pictured above: Cathedral Wardens Daniel Chumbley and Linda Hutchinson receiving the award from the Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Barrie Hargrove.

## St John, Waterloo’s Garden blooms as it is voted Churchyard of the Year

The churchyard garden at St John, Waterloo has won a Gold Award in the 2021 London in Bloom competition and been voted Churchyard of the Year.

St John’s community gardener, Viv Williamson (pictured right, with Noah from Roots and Shoots), is helped by a team of volunteers including students from Roots and Shoots College in Kennington, which has been providing environmental education to young Londoners since 1982.

“This award is testament to the dedication and warm-spirited teamwork of our volunteers,” she said. “Some of our volunteers came every day during the lockdowns to keep the garden



looking good. For many people during the pandemic it was a much-needed escape from life indoors.”

The garden is open all year round and in May and June hosts sculpture shows, jazz afternoons and tea parties during

Waterloo Festival, run by St John’s. As well as providing much-needed green space in the highly urban area around Waterloo Station, it contains a Garden of Remembrance, and its own apiary.

The Revd Canon Giles Goddard, Vicar of St John’s, said: “Our churchyard garden sits at the heart of our work and life at St John’s. During this past year, it has inspired us to share our love of gardening with the residents of local hostels. We now have partnerships with several South London hostels where we’ll be teaching basic horticulture skills and providing the opportunity for people with challenging lives to experience the pleasure of working outdoors with others.”





## EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

# Facing the future of climate change in our schools

*As COP26 gets underway in Glasgow, Director of Communications Sophia Jones talks to teachers in Southwark about how they are putting care for Creation at the heart of the curriculum.*

COP26 is now upon us and the Diocese of Southwark's schools are playing their part in combating climate change. The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) supports 105 schools and academies, colleges and universities across the Diocese. That's 37,000 young people.

The SDBE is committed to working with its schools on an ambitious programme of building renewal and heat decarbonisation, in support of the Church of England's net zero by 2030 target. "The SDBE is totally committed to encouraging and supporting our Church of England schools throughout the Diocese to treasure God's creation and both think about, and

cars idling outside school, little did they know the positive impact they would have on their environment.

"A year ago we made the street outside our school residents only in partnership with Croydon Council," explains Year 6 teacher Charlotte Lawrence. "We were concerned about the amount of idling happening outside. There was dodgy parking from parents on the pavement, blocking access for prams and wheelchairs. So we got in contact with the Council who came and monitored the street and told us pollution is at really high levels."

Croydon Council also came during the holidays and found a significant drop in pollution levels.

In response, "Keep Off" signs were painted on the road and parents were encouraged to turn off their engines. "We put up lots of signs and we had children, our Eco Warriors, outside with clipboards writing down registrations. Letters to the parents included lists of number plates of people idling outside our school and parking illegally. It worked and there definitely was a change. Then Croydon Council came back to us and said 'actually, we are going to make it residents only,'" recalls Charlotte.

"It is so much better and has made such a difference to the environment outside our school. We have had lots of really positive feedback about it as well."

### Positive action

Christ Church has recycling points across the school. They recycle all their food and whiteboard pens. The Eco Warriors are responsible for litter picking. They have also started collecting crisp packets, in partnership with their link church, Christ Church, for a charity that turns them into blankets for the homeless.

Charlotte explains that they link climate change and the environment to Creation and the importance of caring for God's environment. She says: "We did a project two years ago where every child in the school planted a hedge around the border



*"Nowhere in the geography curriculum does it say you have to talk about climate change. I think it's so wrong"*

act upon, our individual and collective responsibility to be good stewards of the world," says Paul Forrest, SDBE Buildings and Capital Programmes Manager, echoed by Shaun Burns, Primary Religious Education, Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Adviser at the SDBE.

"Our schools are encouraged to have an environmental dimension in all aspects of their life, informing the way that they tread upon the Earth. This includes working with their parish church to become an Eco Church, environmental themes explored across the curriculum, working towards achieving various awards including our new SDBE Eco Award, and being courageous advocates with environmental consciousness, not least in combating climate change," they continue.

When the pupils at Christ Church CofE Primary School, Purley started monitoring

of the school. I linked it to the Diocesan environmental policy. There was some lovely scripture in there that I took out and presented to each class about why we were doing it and looking after Creation which is a gift to us all. It fits in with our ethos and our values as a school. The hedges are now growing. Each child has their own one that they planted. After half-term we are going to do the same thing but with spring bulbs."

Charlotte finds it frustrating that there is no obligation within the National Curriculum to teach about climate change. Because of this, she has implemented an entire topic around it with her Year 4 children linked to Harvest.

"It is talked about in the PHSE curriculum but nowhere in the geography curriculum does it mention that you have to talk about climate change," she says. "I think it is so wrong. I always say to my pupils, 'you





Clockwise from main: pupils at Christ Church CofE Primary tend to the school garden; the “keep off” signs that helped to lessen pollution outside the school; pupil Ezekiel speaks at the opening day for the new eco-friendly wing at St Cecelia’s CofE School in Wandsworth; Headteacher Renata Joseph, Director of Children’s Services, Ana Popovici, Leader of Wandsworth Council, Councillor Ravi Govindia, and Archdeacon John Kiddle attend the St Cecilia’s event.



Christian values and they are really good at applying them to everyday life,” she says.

**Empowering pupils**

In 2019, Ewa Bednarek, Religious Studies Curriculum Leader at St Cecelia’s CofE School in Wandsworth, noticed that pupils were missing school to go to climate change demonstrations. “I thought it was great that they were feeling they needed to do something but I was worried that they felt they had to miss school and that they felt the schools were not doing enough to accommodate their need to speak about the environment and to do something meaningful,” she says.

Ewa organised an Earth Day event which has been postponed until April next year. “My general impression was that young people feel separated. Maybe they don’t feel that they can make a meaningful change and on their own they can’t do anything. So this day was about empowering them,” she says.

Together with the Earth Day event, Ewa and her colleagues introduced a specific unit of work on the environment to be taught at key stage 4 as part of the curriculum in different subjects.

However, she says, they also wanted to be more intentional with the way they teach the environment at key stage 3. “We designed a unit focusing on what religions are doing already. We looked at case studies and focused on empowering young people to make a difference, highlighting the fact that there was so much already being done,” says Ewa.

“Pupils started saying, ‘We want things to change but we don’t know how and on our own we can’t do anything. We are just young people and no one will listen to us.’ For this we used the Understanding Christianity resource, which was a great

starting point to introduce ideas from the Bible which were really helpful. I am really looking forward to expanding the unit and making it even better.”

The Archdeacon of Wandsworth, the Venerable John Kiddle, recently blessed and dedicated a new wing at the school. It provides a state-of-the-art teaching block, housing a much-needed science laboratory and classrooms.

“It has an energy rating of A, whereas the main building has a rating of D. This is because it is built to better standards and is well insulated. Every room has a heat recovery ventilation system turning over the air every hour. It’s 75% efficient, so if the air goes out at 20 degrees it will come in at 14 degrees in the winter, which means you are only heating six degrees instead of 20 degrees. That saves energy,” says Dave Cobb, the school’s Business Manager.

There is an air source heat pump on the roof which extracts warmth from the air, even in winter, and constantly preheats the water system which is used to heat the rooms.

The school has also installed bird and bat boxes and bug hotels. “We are creating a green corridor at the back and we have planted more than 100 trees in the last two years,” Dave says. “Most of them are very small but we also plant two 6ft mature trees each year and we will continue every year. We have 45 mature trees on the school site.”

St Cecelia’s refectory and catering contractors plan to reach Net Zero by 2030. They have been promoting banning single-use plastic. “They are looking at where they source food, packaging and plastic recycling and we are looking at food recycling as well,” says Dave.

**Get involved...**

**The Kingston, Croydon and Woolwich Episcopal area youth forums, organised by the Diocesan Children and Young People (CYP) team, were given the opportunity to share their views on climate issues at Diocesan Synod this summer. Watch here: southwark.anglican.org/8737-2**

Also this summer, the Young Christian Climate Network passed through our Diocese on its pilgrimage to Glasgow in time for COP26. One of the organisers wrote about her experience for *The Bridge* — read it here: [bit.ly/2ZvqOR0](https://bit.ly/2ZvqOR0).

**St Mary’s Eco Church is reaching out to children and families at this time of crisis and will be doing a series of craft and prayer days during COP26 at St George the Martyr in Southwark. See [www.stmarysecochurch.org](https://www.stmarysecochurch.org) for more details.**

The We Are Tearfund (WAT@ COP26) youth event will take place on Friday 5 November at 7.30pm. Join online with your youth group to stand with our global neighbours and say it’s not fair that those contributing the least are impacted the most. Sign up here: [bit.ly/314ZVEp](https://bit.ly/314ZVEp)

are the future. You are the ones that are going to have to deal with this’ and they get really excited about it.”

Charlotte has seen a positive change in the children, who enjoy discussing ways in which they can make a difference. “I’ve definitely seen a change. In the media as well it is far more prolific and particularly at the moment with the [COP26] climate change conference coming up. The children already have experience of our





## IN FOCUS...

*Governance and Synod*

# The selfless service at the heart of our Diocese

*As the General and Diocesan Synods begin new terms, Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin talks about the importance of their work in shaping, and achieving, our missional goals.*



**In addition to the other Southwark representatives elected to General Synod in October (see box, right), Bishop Karowei (above left) was elected to Synod representing Southern Suffragans, while Andrew Nunn (above right) was re-elected by the southern Deans of England Cathedrals.**



Governance is a framework of authority and accountability, shaping direction and holding to account those who lead and direct and implement. For the Church of England, our governance is principally through our Synods. We have General Synod, which is national across the CofE; Diocesan Synods; and, more locally, Deanery Synods. In addition, at local parish level we have our PCCs, also really vital in exercising good governance and decision-making in our parishes.

One of the major functions of our Synods (Deanery, Diocesan and General) is to pass legislation. In the case of General Synod, this will be signed off by the Queen – the Church of England is governed by Canon Law, and, as the Established Church, the laws it passes are as much the law of the land as civil law is. Synods will also agree budgets and debate public and social issues.

In 2021, we have held elections for all the Synods. At the heart of our governance is ensuring opportunities for participation for people willing to give up time to represent others. After an unparalleled high number of candidates, we have seven clergy representatives and seven members of the laity (see box, above right). In addition, Dean Andrew Nunn has been elected to represent Cathedral Deans, and Bishop Karowei to represent Suffragan Bishops in the Province of Canterbury.

Bishop Christopher said: “I am delighted that there has been such strong support for the General Synod from across the Diocese. This has been reflected in the many people who put themselves forward for election and I am grateful to everyone

who did, including those who were not successful on this occasion.”

General Synod members are elected for five years, and we congratulate them all.

At Diocesan level, meanwhile, I am delighted that, besides a large number returning to Synod, we have many new members: 59% of the House of Clergy and 44% of the House of Laity were elected for the first time. As with the last elections, this amounts to 50% turnover.

Diocesan Synod members are elected for three years, a triennium, and we look forward to welcoming all of them to the first meeting of the Diocesan Synod in this triennium on 20 November. We have already held training events in preparation (see box, below right).

What will be the issues that we will be bringing to Synod, and which will be shaping our direction as a Diocese? Sustaining our parishes well through our finances continues to be a major priority and will be occupying much of the time of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, which includes our formal Charitable and Company Board and has three-quarters of its membership elected by Synod.

The challenges facing our schools, the carbon net zero targets established by General Synod, and the implementation of our Diocesan Anti-racism Charter are also major items we will be bringing to Synod.

I hope that you will be able to participate fully across the Diocese through your representatives on Synod, who will be feeding back to you.

## Southwark's newly elected General Synod representatives: Proctors in Convocation



### The Revd Carol Bates

A curate at St Michael, East Wickham, Carol grew up in the Borough of Lewisham and has been actively involved in ministry since her early teens. She is a member of the Woolwich Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (WMEACC) and Communications Secretary of the national Anglican Minority Ethnic Network (AMEN).

### The Revd Canon Simon Butler

Simon has been Vicar at St Mary, Battersea since 2011 and an honorary Canon at Southwark Cathedral since 2006. He is an experienced hand at General Synod, having been first elected in 2015, and hopes to be an honest voice on behalf of Southwark clergy speaking truth to power. One of his special interests is clergy well-being, particularly post-pandemic.



### The Revd Mae Christie

Born and brought up in Louisiana, USA, Mae came to the UK to study at Westcott House in 2011, and has remained here ever since, drawn to serve in the parish system. She has been Vicar of All Saints, Tooting since 2017. As well as her ministry and serving as an Area Director of Ordinands and a primary school governor, Mae is mother to nine-month-old Walker.

### The Venerable Alastair Cutting

Alastair has been Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich since 2013. Before coming to Southwark he was twice elected to General Synod in Chichester Diocese and is full of praise for the sometimes complex work it does. He hopes to use his platform to focus, among other things, on clergy well-being, our global Anglican partnerships and growing the Church.



### The Revd Canon Tim Goode

Rector of St Margaret, Lee and Diocesan Disability Adviser, Tim has been a vocal member of the General Synod since 2015, speaking on a wide range of issues including inclusion, DAC legislation and the Archbishops' Housing Commission. He is a Trustee of the Churches Conservation Trust and represents the House of Clergy on Archbishops' Council.

### The Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby

Rector of St Peter, Walworth, Andrew has been a General Synod member since 2018, securing a private members' motion on the Windrush Generation which was passed unanimously. He hopes to continue speaking out about racial justice and making Synod and the Church more representative of the whole body of Christ.



### The Revd Jago Wynne

Jago has been at Holy Trinity, Clapham since 2012, first as Associate Rector and then Rector; he is also Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Clapham Park. As the leader of a resourcing church and with experience of sending out church plants, Jago's passion is for church growth through mission and an increase in theologically trained ordained leaders.

## “With God's strength, we seek to implement Southwark

**New and returning Diocesan Synod members had the chance to brush up on their knowledge at four training events set up by the Diocese as they started their three-year terms of office.**

Kingston's session took place on 28 September at St Mary, Putney; Croydon's on 6 October at St Mary Magdalene with St Martin, Addiscombe; there was a general Zoom session on

8 October; and Woolwich's event also took place on Zoom on 23 October.

Head of Giving, Gabby Parikh spoke about the Parish Support Fund, and Deputy Diocesan Secretary, Jackie Pontin discussed the five strategic objectives for 2021-2023, and how the Diocese helps parishes with data. Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin went through themes and priorities for the new triennium.



Southwark’s newly elected General Synod representatives:  
House of Laity

Helen Ainsworth

Helen worships at St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green, where she lives with her husband and two daughters. She has worked for the Bank of England for 25 years and hopes to bring her financial experience to bear on her new role in Synod. Helen is a passionate advocate for the parish system, inclusive church, and change in response to the climate emergency.



Rebecca Chapman

Rebecca combines her work as a part-time Communications Director with looking after her three primary-age sons. She worships at St Mark, Kennington, where she also serves on the PCC, and has been a member of General Synod since 2018. One of her priorities is to improve inclusion for those with disabilities and mental health challenges.



Adrian Greenwood

Adrian has been an active member of General Synod since 2000. He is a Reader at St James, Bermondsey, where he also spent his working life in a housing association in Tower Hamlets. He is passionate about empowering lay people in the Church, and currently serves as Vice Chair of Southwark’s new Lay Council, and as Lay Chair of Diocesan Synod.



Carl Hughes

A Churchwarden and PCC member at All Saints with Holy Trinity, Wandsworth, Carl has already served one term on General Synod. His 32 years’ experience as an accountant in the City has led Archbishop Justin to invite him to provide financial advice around the upcoming Lambeth Conference. He is also a member of the Church of England Evangelical Council.



Matthew Parkes

Matthew is a Reader in training at St Augustine’s College of Theology. He worships at St John the Evangelist, Redhill and is stepfather to two teenagers. He is also a Living in Love and Faith leader. He stood for election on a platform of inclusion and equality, and also backs moves to support stipendiary ministry and reduce the administrative burden on clergy.



Paul Waddell

Having left banking to retrain as an anaesthetic assistant, Paul spent the pandemic on the front line in a London hospital. At home, he is married with a one-year-old daughter and worships at Emmanuel, Croydon. Among other priorities, he hopes to speak up for children and young people and also to consider environmentalism from a Christian perspective.



Rosemary Wilson

Rosemary has spent her life working on the margins of society, first as a social worker and liaison officer for a local charity, and then as her parents’ main carer for many years. She joined St Nicholas, Tooting in 2008 and has been active particularly in working with vulnerable women. She sees her role in Synod as speaking up for those outside the mainstream.



Vision’’: Diocesan Synod training for the new triennium

Adrian Greenwood, a Reader at St James and St Anne, Bermondsey and Chair of the House in Laity in Diocesan Synod, also helped to lead the training. He said, “It was a pleasure to take part in the four induction sessions for the new Diocesan Synod, and to meet some of those newly elected. We focused on the framework provided by Southwark Vision and explained the financial challenges ahead, which we hope to meet through the Parish Support Fund.”

He added: “We hope to continue this level of involvement and participation throughout the life of the new Synod as, with God’s strength, we seek to implement Southwark Vision over the next three years.”

Diocesan Synod members began their terms on 1 August. They will be welcomed at the first Synod of the triennium on 20 November, a report on which will appear in December’s edition of The Bridge.



IN FOCUS...  
Black History Month

BHM service sees launch  
of Anti-Racism Charter



Bishop Karowei presides (right); the Revd Les Isaac preaches (below).

© Eve Milner

The Black History Month service at Southwark Cathedral, on Saturday 2 October, was the setting for the official launch of the Diocese of Southwark’s Anti-Racism Charter (ARC).

Speaking to a full cathedral, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, explained the Charter’s importance and why it is not a document to be read and then placed on a shelf. “The intentionality of this Diocese and the Church of England is now! You have to hold us to account to make sure that we, together with you, make this a living document,” she said.

The Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, presided over the service and the Revd Les Isaac, Chief Executive of Ascension Trust and Founder of Street Pastors, preached. He said: “We have been planting and building and sometimes we have been thinking, has it been worth it? I want to say, it has. You have helped to make this country what it is today.”

The service, which included a Bible reading in Shona, was full of creativity with music during Communion from singer-songwriter HURU, poetry from Adukeh and drumming from 17-year-old Samuel Johnson.

This year’s BHM theme was Business, Science and the Arts, reflected in the three workshops after the service. Adassa Mwangi, who attended the arts workshop run by Adukeh, said: “As a proud Black woman who is also a Christian, listening to Adukeh speak to us about being creative and artistic whilst using those very gifts to

glorify God was encouraging and gave me the motivation to continue to use my gifts to serve God.”

Bishop Karowei and his wife, Dr Mosun Dorgu, led the science workshop. Medical doctors, including trainee GP Dr Tomi Ashaye, shared their experience. She said, “You are going to be in the minority in the workforce. You will stand out whether you



“We have been planting and building and sometimes we have been thinking, has it been worth it? I want to say, it has.”

like it or not. Make sure you have a strong community around you.”

Foluke Akinlose MBE, Founder and Director of the Precious Awards, answered questions and shared her experiences in the business seminar. She stressed: “The future is bright for UKME-owned businesses with plenty of opportunities for all to progress.”

You can find out more about the three seminars here: southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/blogs



# How 16 Days of Activism will help Mothers' Union combat gender-based violence

**Mothers' Union is worldwide, writes Liz Pullen, Former Diocesan President. Its members are committed to expressing their faith through campaigning for policies which strengthen family life and enabling communities through practical support. Everything they do is underpinned by prayer.**

Mothers' Union is part of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and was present when the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were established. The third MDG aims to "promote gender equality and empower women", of which the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence is a part.

This annual campaign runs from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November until International Human Rights Day and the anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December. Mothers' Union members, including its male members, take part in the 16 Days of Activism campaign to raise awareness of the horrifying prevalence of gender-based violence: an average of one in three women and girls suffer violence and abuse during their lifetime, perpetrated by members of their family, their community or even of their church.

The greatest worldwide threat is abuse to individuals, families and communities, carried out against women and girls because of their gender. In 80 countries Mothers' Union has been at the forefront of campaigning for legislation preventing gender-based violence by tackling root causes such as harmful norms

and attitudes about gender. Mothers' Union calls for all forms of violence against women and girls to be outlawed everywhere.

Mothers' Union around the world works in practical ways to empower women in their communities and to meet the needs of those affected by domestic abuse.

## Worldwide action

Mothers' Union in Burundi has run the Literacy and Financial Education Programme since 2000. This seeks to empower disadvantaged people through literacy, numeracy, reproductive health education, education on poverty alleviation and micro-credit schemes. Mothers' Union-trained local facilitators show participants how to build businesses and savings and credit schemes.

## Mothers' Union members in Southwark have for years responded in practical ways to the survivors of abuse.

The outcome has been astonishing. There are now 923 accredited groups with 5,833 male and 16,063 female members accredited, and 36,000 people are in savings schemes. Participants have been given the skills and confidence to utilise the resources they already have at their disposal. In so doing, women's economic rights and independence have been successfully promoted, together with equal access and gender equality. A further benefit is a better awareness of HIV/AIDS, a reduction in



Mothers' Union members in Burundi.

infant and maternal mortality and an improvement in maternal health.

To address the issue of gender-based violence (GBV) in Solomon Island, Mothers' Union leaders in the Keava region have been trained in book-keeping and given the knowledge and skills to address the issues of GBV. Women are also encouraged to turn to the Church when facing the challenges of domestic violence. The training strengthens their spiritual being, and rebuilds their self-esteem and confidence.

Meanwhile, Mothers' Union in Temotu in Solomon Island joined the SAFENET network, which sees government, churches, Family Support Centre, Oxfam, World Vision and other organisations and individuals helping to improve services and support for survivors of GBV by ensuring that all service providers are well coordinated in their responses.

## Domestic violence

In the UK, as well as specific campaigning and holding prayer vigils during the 16 days, Mothers' Union is active throughout the year raising awareness of the plight of survivors of domestic violence, writing to MPs and senior clergy, as well as helping in practical ways to alleviate survivors' stress.

The UK Government frequently consults Mothers' Union regarding specific bills, including the Domestic Abuse Bill which came into law on 30 April 2021.

## Practical help

Mothers' Union members in Southwark have for years responded in practical ways to the needs of survivors of abuse. They have donated underwear, toiletries, school uniform, bed linen, toys, make-up and food vouchers to local refuges. They have galvanised their churches into making similar collections, and also into collecting starter packs such as cleaning materials and cooking utensils. Before the pandemic, members of one branch taught cookery to the residents of their local refuge.

It is now evident that the incidence of domestic violence has rocketed during the pandemic, which is why the 16 Days of Activism are more important than ever, and why Southwark Diocese Mothers' Union is staging an online event for those interested in action against GBV. If you would like to know more about the issues, join us in learning how to say "NO MORE 1 IN 3" in the free Zoom session on Thursday 25 November, 7.30-9.00pm.

To book a place, e-mail [ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org)



## LET US PRAY... NOVEMBER

**The Very Revd Andrew Nunn**

Dean of Southwark

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

"I forgot." It's a terrible thing when you realise that you have forgotten something – a birthday, an appointment, that someone has had something serious happen to them, and you forgot. "Sorry, I forgot." It's a terrible thing, but it can't always be helped. There is so much to remember, some people have better memories for names and faces and dates than others – and let's be honest, we

get more forgetful as the years roll on and some of us get to a point where all memory fails us in the most tragic circumstances.

That is why, in November, we remember together. It is so much easier when together we sing "Remember, remember..." whether that is round a bonfire or in church remembering our dead, remembering the saints, or



See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

(Isaiah 49.15b-16a)

Jesus shows his hands to his friends and there are the marks of the nails, inscribed on the palms. Our names are there, your name is there and the nail means, love. We may forget but we have an unforgetful God. The truth is you are always on God's mind, and even if the day should come when you forget God, the divine palms are there, and you will not be forgotten.

at a war memorial remembering those who died in conflict, or simply watching the leaves falling from the trees and remembering the year that is passing.

The prophet Isaiah compares God to a mother with a child and then says: *Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.*

**Unforgetful God,  
as we remember so much,  
together  
may we know and believe  
that you will never forget us.  
Amen.**



# WHAT'S ON

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



## November

### WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

- \* **ONLINE** — Leading from Within — Self-Compassion and Resilience. An online talk by the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller for women in ministry in Southwark Diocese. 12noon-2.00pm. Zoom. Free. [bit.ly/LLLGroSchMiller](https://bit.ly/LLLGroSchMiller)
- \* **ONLINE** — Making Room at the Inn. A CMEACC roundtable discussion on how the Church can welcome and support people arriving from Hong Kong. 10.00am-4.00pm. Zoom. Free. To register visit: [bit.ly/3oqsoxZ](https://bit.ly/3oqsoxZ)

### TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER

- \* **ONLINE** — Making a Good Funding Application, an online workshop by the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services (CCVS) to provide guidance and tips to help consolidate or develop the skills and knowledge to put together good funding applications. 12noon. Tickets £40 for non-members of CCVS. Book here: [www.cambridgecvcs.org.uk/training-events/view/298](https://www.cambridgecvcs.org.uk/training-events/view/298)

### SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER

- ♫ **CROYDON** — The Croydon Bach Choir performs Brahms' Ein deutsches

Requiem and Geistliches Lied. St Matthew's Church, Chichester Road, CR0 5NQ. 7.30pm. £15 (children half price). <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir>

- \* **REIGATE** — St Nicholas (the Real One) will visit Christ the King, Salfords as he begins his UK charity tour at 12noon. Bring a gift for a child in need. RSVP all ages: 07742 856149; [Christusrex9@gmail.com](mailto:Christusrex9@gmail.com); [www.stnicholascenter.org](http://www.stnicholascenter.org)

### SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER

- ♫ **STREATHAM** — Lunchtime organ recital by Director of Music James Furniss-Roe. St Peter's, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, SW16 2SD. 11.50am. <https://stpeters-streatham.org>

## December

### SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

- \* **KENNINGTON** — Synergy Network Thanksgiving Service at St Mark's, Kennington. 4.00-5.30pm. Free but please register at: [bit.ly/SynergyXmas](https://bit.ly/SynergyXmas)

E-mail [bridge@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bridge@southwark.anglican.org) with your events.

## Diocese admits and licenses four new Lay Readers



© Eve Milner

From left: Penny Molyneux; Caroline Ogden; Brenda Juntunen; Philip Burgess; Bishop Christopher; Gary Carpenter; Darren Latty; Ray Wheeler; and Peter Graystone.

### Four Lay Readers were licensed and admitted at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 10 October.

Gary Carpenter, All Saints with Holy Trinity, Wandsworth, and Darren Latty, St Michael, East Wickham were licensed. Philip Burgess, from Sutton Team Ministry, and Brenda Juntunen, from St Mary Magdalene, Reigate, were welcomed and admitted.

Ray Wheeler, Diocesan Warden of Readers, who was preaching, referenced a recent Great Western Railway television advert in talking about the Readers' retreat weekend, which had a theme of journeying and travel. "We've been exploring the theme of the journey," he said, "what it means to set out on a journey – short or long, in company with others or alone. We explored Abraham's journey as he set out in faith in response to God's call, not knowing where that would lead."

Ray added: "Becoming a Reader is itself challenging and life-changing, as any authorised ministry is. Like Abraham, you need to be open to the way that God calls. In some sense you are not your own any more. You

are part of the ministry team of your church – seen as a leader and you will have responsibilities... But you are not alone. You have the support of the Reader community, the Lay Ministry team at Trinity House, your congregation, and above all God is there at your side."

Peter Graystone, the Diocesan Lay Training Officer, presented the candidates for admission to Bishop Christopher, on behalf of St Augustine's College of Theology. They made their promises to the Bishop to promote unity, peace and love in the Church and in the world, especially among those they serve.

For the licensing, the new Readers put on their blue scarves, before Jon Baldwin, the Diocesan Registrar, handed each of them their licence and Bishop Christopher authorised them to exercise the office of Reader in this Diocese. The two incoming Readers were welcomed and presented to Bishop Christopher by Ray Wheeler.

All the other Readers present stood and renewed their commitment to this ministry.

## Drinking deep from the wells of salvation at the Diocesan Spirituality Day

The invitation to the 2021 Diocesan Spirituality Day on 9 October encouraged us to "draw water with joy from the wells of salvation", writes Peter Graystone, Lay Training Officer. And we did. Oh yes we did!

It's a quotation from Isaiah 12:3, and it threaded its way through a beautiful October morning in the cathedral. First of all the Revd Sue Thomas led our praise, reminding us that no matter what circumstances we have endured over the past months, we are loved by a good and gracious God.

Our reflections began in a dry and dusty place, as the Venerable Justine Allain Chapman, who is the Archdeacon



of Boston, described her experience of the desert and the way she encountered God there. Her message (like her book *The Resilient Disciple*) was that in the goodness of God our adversities can make us stronger, wiser and more loving.

The magnificent oboe player Amy Roberts responded to that with a solo, which echoed around the cathedral and led us into a deep and meditative silence.

Nick Mayhew Smith followed this with a very entertaining talk about the place of holy wells in Christian history, which have been not only a practical but also a spiritual blessing to God's people. He also revealed that in Southwark Cathedral that very day we were on the site of an ancient well.

Bishop Christopher closed our day by inspiring to take joy in our salvation. Was it rousing? Well, when the organ struck up *Joy to the World* in response we nearly raised the roof!

## THE PASSION PLAY IN OBERAMMERGAU

18-24 July 2022



Travel by luxury coach from Furzedown visiting the fairy-tale castles of Austria and Innsbruck, before seeing a performance of the Passion Play, staying overnight in Oberammergau and then driving home.

Prices from £1,095 sharing, double/twin rooms only.

Led by the Revd Sue Clarke

E-mail [semclarke@btinternet.com](mailto:semclarke@btinternet.com) or call 07710 744006.

Please indicate interest as soon as possible!







## IN FOCUS...

*Children and young people*

# Helping those who help our children and young people

**This autumn, our Area Bishops, Archdeacons and the Diocesan CYP Team have been hosting Episcopal Area affirmation events to encourage, thank and bless those in our churches who have been journeying alongside children, young people and their families, writes Aike Kennett-Brown, Mission Support Officer (Children and Young People).**

On 28 September, the Woolwich Episcopal Area met on Zoom with Bishop Karowei and Archdeacon Alastair Cutting, with each participant receiving a welcome pack of treats through the post. In Kingston, 32 people met Archdeacons Simon Gates and John Kiddle for supper at St Mark, Battersea Rise on 5 October, with 11 also joining via Zoom.

Croydon's event is coming soon: it will take place on Saturday 27 November from 2.00-4.00pm. Book your place at [bit.ly/3Ei0aKB](https://bit.ly/3Ei0aKB) for either online or afternoon tea with Bishop Jonathan and Archdeacons Moira Astin and Rosemarie Mallett.

The affirmation events are an opportunity to acknowledge that during the COVID-19 pandemic, our mission and ministry with children and young people (CYP) dramatically changed. Some children and youth leaders learnt new skills overnight, switching to livestreaming and Zoom sessions; some delivered craft activities in a bag; and others had to press pause.

We discussed and prayed about the ongoing challenges but also gave thanks for the good news stories of innovation and adaption.

Wild Church at Church of the Good Shepherd, Lee, which gathers in the church grounds, has not only been a COVID-secure way to meet, but has encouraged new families to explore the care of Creation. The children's choir at St Leonard, Streatham, meanwhile, has



grown engagement with new unchurched children and they now lead worship once a month, thanks to the persistence of the choir leader who continued singing lessons over Zoom when lockdown started.

Bubble Church, a short 9.30am service that began with families socially distanced in their bubbles, has resulted in a wave of christenings at The Ascension, Balham. Elsewhere, Word on the Street, an outreach project from the Furzedown Youth Centre, has seen youth workers engage with more than 300 sixth-form students in the local park during September. And at St Paul, Streatham they have developed a weekly youth café.

Finally, we heard from Sam, who started off as a youth intern at St Stephen and St Thomas, Telford Park, after his A-levels were cancelled. He has enjoyed his year so much, he's enrolled on a youth ministry course with Ridley Hall.

The CYP team were able to introduce the Welcoming Children and Young People toolkit series, a resource developed to enable churches to assess and reimagine their CYP ministry in this new season. They also shared news of a new children's ministry course being offered by the Diocese from January 2022 (see below). Our time together concluded with worship and prayer.

## Big questions and "people bingo" at the Croydon Youth Forum

**On Saturday 25 September the members of the Croydon Youth Forum had the pleasure of being invited to Bishop Jonathan's BBQ in his beautiful back garden.**

The motive of this BBQ was to enable us, as the Croydon Youth Forum, to finally meet in person, after many Zoom calls due to the current COVID climate.

When we arrived, there was an icebreaker game of "people bingo" in which we had to go around the table to find someone who had experienced/completed the item in each box on their bingo card. For example, one box said "Plays an instrument" so you would then need to find someone who plays that instrument and place their name in the box. The only rule was that you were not allowed to use the same person's name more than three times.

After enjoying the wonderful spread catered for us, we got into the meeting. The topic being discussed at this meeting was the LGBTQ+ community in the Church. We were given some questions, which we discussed in groups. One of the questions was "What do you think might be the issues that LGBTQ+ people face in church?" and the majority of the groups answered homophobia and stigma. When it comes to sensitive topics like the LGBTQ+ community,



race and so on, you have to be respectful of people's opinions and not make anyone feel judged. I feel we did this well at the meeting and we were therefore able to have very interesting, mature discussions.

After the group discussions we came together at the end to share what our groups had brought up and evaluate it. It was interesting to hear what other groups had spoken about and to also hear Bishop Jonathan's views. We then ended in prayer.

We look forward to the next meeting to see what we can do to be more inclusive in the church.

**Paige Gravesande  
(18 years),  
St Stephen's Church,  
Norbury & Thornton Heath**

## Lewisham primary schools run a "mile for Myanmar"



**On Monday 4 October, the Executive Director of Education from the Church of England Education Office, Andy Wolfe, and his friend Nick Thorley, from charity CordUK, visited three schools in Southwark to run a sponsored mile in each.**

The sponsored runs took place at St George's CofE Primary; Christ Church CofE Primary; and St Leonard's CofE Primary, all of them part of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Multi-Academy Trust. At each school, Andy and Nick first led

collective worship before lacing up their running shoes to complete the "Monday Mile for Myanmar" alongside pupils in order to raise money for CordUK. The charity helps community groups and organisations in Myanmar work for a just and peaceful future.

While a mile may not sound a long distance for experienced runners, Andy had run the London Marathon – also in support of CordUK – only the day before. In addition, he and Nick ran between each of the Lewisham schools, a total of another 4.5 miles.

## Are you being called to ministry?



**Are you called to ministry with children, young people or families? Our online information evening on Wednesday 17 November at 7.30pm will explore the new commissioned and licensed pathways into children's, youth and family ministry which are on offer in Southwark Diocese with the Aurora Children's Ministry Course, beginning in January 2022. Book here to find out more: [bit.ly/3nsur2M](https://bit.ly/3nsur2M)**

**To find out more about the other new licensed, commissioned and affirmed lay ministries offered by the Diocese, visit our website: [southwark.anglican.org/layministries](https://southwark.anglican.org/layministries)**