

# The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking  
Welcoming  
Growing**

Vol.27 No.9  
November 2022

## The Season of Creation

Capturing the beauty of the Earth

See pages 6–7



## Called to serve

Celebrating licensing and commissioning of lay ministries

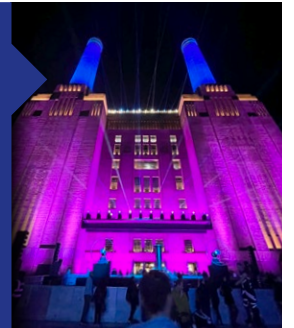
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## Battersea Power Station opens

Arts Ministry bring community together

See page 12



# Farewell Bishop Richard

**The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham retired as the Bishop of Kingston on Thursday 13 October. His final farewell service took place as part of Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral and fittingly, taken Bishop Richard's environmental concerns, the congregation sat under the Gaia installation (see pages 6–7).**

*"I am very grateful indeed that many of the wonderful people I have been privileged to serve with in the Diocese, the wider church and world are present here tonight, along with many of my dear family and friends who have journeyed with me, and sustained, encouraged and inspired me through all of this."*

Family and friends joined clergy and members of the parishes in Kingston, dignitaries and those with whom he had worked over the years, to bid farewell to Bishop Richard and his wife, Felicity, and gave thanks to God for his service within the Diocese and the wider church.

The Archdeacons of Kingston and Wandsworth read the lessons and just before the final blessing Bishop Christopher addressed the congregation. He thanked Bishop Richard for "the gracious way he served those entrusted in his care" and "assured Bishop Richard and Felicity of our love and care in the future". As the service drew to a close, The Rt Revd Cleophas Lunga, the Bishop of Matabeleland, with which the Kingston Episcopal Area is linked and which Bishop Richard has visited regularly, offered a blessing in Ndebele. Bishop Christopher said the final blessing.

Following the service Bishop Richard introduced a series of reflections from people that he had worked with throughout his time in the Diocese. The reflections were on Science, the Environment, the Holy Land, Inter Faith engagement and Education all areas of great interest for Bishop Richard and in which he has worked over the years. Music was provided by Lizzy Humphries who was accompanied by Simon Hogan and the reflections were summarised by The Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, led the closing prayer.

The evening at Southwark Cathedral was preceded by an Area farewell at All Saints, Kingston which had celebrated the Church's local ministry and reflected on Bishop Richard's journey of faith. New Testament Lessons were read by The Revd Wilma Roest who has served in Kingston for the whole of Bishop Richard's Episcopacy, representing the priests who had served during his time and The Revd Annie Wanjohi, representing the Petertide Deacons.

*"... and what better sign of your utter commitment to the Five Marks of Mission, to your delight in bringing science and religion more closely together and your conviction that we should be good stewards of this planet entrusted into our care by the Creator, than the truly amazing Gaia Exhibition... No-one was more pleased than Bishop Richard when Southwark was recently awarded Bronze Eco-Diocese Status and we assure you we shall press on for Silver and Gold."*

Bishop Christopher in his farewell address.

Continued on page 4 ►



**Kingston Episcopal Area team (L-R): The Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth; Romana Nelson; The Venerable Simon Gates, Archdeacon of Lambeth; Margaret Humphries; and Bishop Richard.**

## Faith in Maintenance – Church buildings training day

**Providing practical support and advice to volunteers routinely caring for places of worship and historic buildings within the Diocese.**

Duncan Gregory, Church Buildings Officer and Luke Tatam, Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches held a one-day training session called 'Faith in Maintenance' at St Leonard, Streatham for churchwardens and volunteers to understand their faith buildings and take practical actions to look after them. The training day, led by James Innerdale, Conservation Architect

and Historic Buildings Consultant for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, in partnership with the Diocese, aims to provide practical support and advice to volunteers in caring for their historic buildings. The course, which was held on Saturday 10 September, explains how traditional buildings were constructed, how they work and can decay and how to spot and tackle common problems.

As well as explaining how maintenance differs from repairs, the course also emphasises the value of carrying out regular checks and simple steps to keep



**James Innerdale led the training day.**

church buildings in good condition. A practical observation exercise looking at the outside of St Leonard with the help of Moyra, Churchwarden and Anna, Rector

allowed participants to put their newly acquired knowledge into practice, sharing learning from the course with each other.

After attending the training day, one participant said "I thought it was a very interesting day and pitched at the right pace. I particularly thought the practical element of walking the grounds of St Leonard's and discussing the defects was very useful."

Another said "It was good to meet a diverse range of people from the parishes. Their building maintenance problems are similar. We are not alone!"



# A view from The BRIDGE



**The hymn 'Abide with me' sung at football matches, funerals and during many Remembrance services includes the lines**

***Change and decay in all around I see O Thou who changest not, abide with me...***

This month's edition of *The Bridge* records some of that change that we have been going through as a Diocese, notably the retirement of The Rt Revd Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston, after twenty years in post. It is a huge moment of change for him and his wife Felicity and it was a privilege for me to be able to act as host and compère for the series of tributes made to him after his farewell Evensong in the Cathedral. It all happened under 'Gaia', the installation in the Cathedral of Luke Jerram's amazing model of the earth. Bishop Richard, with his passion for bringing science, religion and environmental concerns together, was in the perfect place to remind us of what he had reminded us of on so many occasions, that we cannot afford to waste the planet and that 'change and decay' will cost us the Earth.

At the same time as we celebrate Bishop Richard's ministry and remember the beauty of the Earth, as well as doing so many other things that you can read about in this edition, the national context

is challenging. Whatever our own personal politics and party allegiances, the instability that was created and the departure and arrival of another Prime Minister, has been an unsettling period in all our lives. Some of us will be paying the price of new, untested proposals, with rising prices in the shops, higher mortgage payments and the prospect of unaffordable energy costs.

Into all of this the Church speaks with the voice of the Gospel, that the needs of the poor are close to the heart of God, that the riches of this world compare as nothing with the 'glory yet to be revealed', and of the God who in the midst of all this change and decay, 'changes not'.

The promise that Jesus brings is of the 'abiding God', the God who chooses to enter into the turmoil of life as much as its joys, to tread on the good earth and with divine gentleness carry the weak and the lost to the fold of God's love.

That is at the heart of the 'Christ-centred, outward focused' life that we live in this Diocese, wherever we are, and through whatever this new month may hold.

**Andrew Nunn**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New editor for *The Bridge*

We welcome Vernia Mengot as Editor and Communications Manager. She joins the Diocese after working in NHS communications at her local hospital Trust.



### Call for a Review of the Placement of the British Embassy to Israel

After the recent news of plans to move the British Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Bishop Christopher has written a statement on the Call for a Review of the Placement of the British Embassy to Israel. Bishop Christopher said: "With my RC counterparts I have written urging His Majesty's Government to reassert the long-standing position that the British Embassy remains in Tel Aviv pending a negotiated settlement on the status of the Holy City. Heads of the Churches there plead that this is vital for the peace of Jerusalem."

Read the statement pictured here: <https://bit.ly/3Di0rj5>

### New Chair of the DAC

Retired Judge, Nigel Seed KC, has been appointed as Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). He took up his post on 1 October and comes with substantive and extensive experience of Diocesan work in a number of dioceses as Deputy Chancellor and Chancellor for over 30 years. He had a distinguished legal career and was a Circuit Judge until his retirement in August. He fills the position of DAC Chair, which has been vacant since early Spring, following the death of Philip Fletcher. Nigel (pictured beside Bishop Christopher) was welcomed by Bishop Christopher; Bishop Rosemarie; the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin; Archdeacons and Luke Tatum, Secretary to the DAC at the DAC on 11 October. DAC Vice Chair Melvin Hughes was also thanked by Bishop Christopher for his highly valued contribution as interim chair.



### Together Southwark survey – share your views

*Together Southwark* invite you to take part in a survey as a pilot Community Listening Exercise to help targeted areas to better understand and respond to local needs within the Diocese. If you live in postcodes SE5, SE17, SE25, SW4, SW9, SW12, CR0 and CR7, please give five minutes of your time to complete the survey. Your responses will contribute to the identification of needs that are relevant to your area. Any question about this survey, please contact Together: [Southwark@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:Southwark@southwark.anglican.org) or [linda@theloomassociates.co.uk](mailto:linda@theloomassociates.co.uk).

You can access the survey by visiting: <https://bit.ly/3gqCZqT>

### Access Jamaica – the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA)

An initiative to facilitate express passport and citizenship processing services for London's Jamaican community was held at St Mary's, Lewisham where hundreds queued around the building for support with immigration and citizenship. Find out more on the PICA website at [www.pica.gov.jm](http://www.pica.gov.jm).

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### Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The DECEMBER edition is due to be published online on 9 December 2022. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **FRIDAY 18 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

# Greenwich Winter Night Shelter wins prestigious London Homelessness Award

*This month the team at local charity Greenwich Winter Night Shelter (GWNS) has been given an award for their commitment in providing emergency accommodation and support for the homeless in Greenwich.*

Shelter director, Katy Ridsdill-Smith, explained how the charity works towards breaking the cycle of homelessness, the benefits of opening a day centre earlier this year and what the award win means to the team of over 200 volunteers.

The winter night shelter has 13 bedrooms, accommodating around 35 people during the winter season. Katy said: "We are expecting demand for our services to increase considerably this winter with the energy crisis and current economic climate."

The team provide lots of support for people either experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness, which includes one-to-one casework and advocacy; and a pet friendly drop-in day centre where anyone who is homeless or vulnerably housed can

access support and facilities. All services are designed by guests through focus groups to work towards breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Though numbers are steadily increasing, GWNS day centre has capacity for around 30 people and has a current footfall of around 15 people. Since its launch, the team have focused the priority on providing a safe, warm space where people can access support and a sense of community but Katy shared how this does come with its challenges.

"We have been developing our services and now have a Housing Adviser, Welfare Benefits Adviser and Employability Coach who support our guests. While it feels the day centre is going from strength to strength, there are of course challenges. A lack of housing options makes it really difficult to support rough sleepers into finding the right form of accommodation for them and the wider economic situation is naturally making fundraising more difficult. We are also dependent on volunteers for our service and recruiting enough people is often a challenge", she said.

GWNS had previously operated as a traditional rotating night shelter but made



L-R: Georgia Sims, Katy Ridsdill-Smith and Noreen Drislane accept the award.

the move to a static night shelter (having acquired a building through the local council) and it now means they can offer single-room accommodation which grants people dignity, privacy and their own space during their time at the shelter.

"While the rotating model was a very effective and low-cost way of getting people off the streets, we always knew there were challenges with this model. Guests struggled to find and adapt to a new building every night of the week, they didn't have anywhere to store their belongings during the day and our female guests often felt uncomfortable in a male dominated space. We therefore used the period of upheaval caused by the pandemic to find a property", explained Katy.

On winning the award, Katy said: "It feels really special to be recognised alongside other innovative and bold charities

working towards the shared goal of reducing and preventing homelessness. In a busy service, we don't take enough time to take a step back and reflect on our achievements, so it was a great opportunity to pause and feel really proud of the work we do."

Over the next year GWNS, a previous Bishop's Lent Call project, plan to develop a hosting scheme to house people who have no recourse to public funding and will also be launching a women's support service one day of the week.

### More information

To find out more about GWNS visit: [www.gwns.org.uk](http://www.gwns.org.uk)

## Synergy Network lunch held at St Mark, Kennington

**The Synergy Network, of which the Diocese of Southwark is a founding partner, brings together churches and communities to work in partnership to tackle serious youth violence and on 5 October 2022 a networking lunch was held at St Mark, Kennington.**

The event, attended by around 40 guests, included Members of Parliament, the police, practitioners, youth workers, education leaders and church leaders, who heard from a range of speakers about how

faith groups across the UK are working together to take a stand and fight against serious youth violence.

Among the attendees were The Rt Revd Rob Gillion, Honorary Assistant Bishop and Bishop for the Arts and The Rt Revd Cleophas Lunga, Bishop of Matabeleland, who was visiting the Diocese.

The programme included guest speakers Fred Kratt, Faith and Communities Navigator for the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership and Revd Natasha Beckles from the Diocese of London.



**The Revd Jay Colwill.**

Guests watched a video called *Declaration of Hope* from the Faith Alliance during Kratt's presentation, as he spoke about the role faith communities

working in partnership play in preventing violence.

The Revd Natasha shared a powerful theological reflection on the Pieta (the image of the body of the crucified Christ in the arms of his mother Mary) and talked about the work taking place in London to create safer spaces for young people.

The Revd Jay Colwill, Diocesan Director of Mission says "Southwark Diocese, in partnership with The Synergy Network is a vital way in which parishes, schools and communities can respond in reducing serious youth

violence. Community groups and churches have so much to learn from one another and can play an important part in serving their communities as they provide care for families, young people and children who may be caught up in acts of violence."

### Find out more

Visit the Synergy Network website: [wearesynergy.org.uk](http://wearesynergy.org.uk)





## IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

# Black History Month across the Diocese



African and Caribbean evening at St Alban, South Norwood.

## Services and events to celebrate Black History Month in October took place across the Diocese.

On Saturday 15 October The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett led the dedication of the *Dr George Rice Community Garden* in Sutton, organised by SUTTONfx. Dr Rice was a celebrated and much respected African-American physician, who worked and practiced medicine for more than 50 years in Sutton in the early Twentieth Century. Four fruit trees, provided by Social Orchards (<https://bit.ly/3FEXhaV>) were planted by the VIPs with the help of Cubs and Beavers from 1st/16th Sutton Scout Group. The dedication was followed by a service at St Nicholas Church, Dr Rice's parish church.

Dean Andrew interviewed five members of the congregation during Black History

Month at Southwark Cathedral's Sunday Night Prayers. Lovette Marah, Augustus Boothe, Toyin Tukasi, Bukky Omisakin and Pauline Allard, talked about their lives and experiences of living in the United Kingdom. Watch here: <https://bit.ly/3fvspyf>

Holy Trinity Clapham have dedicated a page on their website (<https://bit.ly/3SPRHVP>) responding to racial injustice and providing resources and interviews from UKME church members.

Giving thanks for their Black History Month Service, St Hugh, Bermondsey shared on Twitter the following: "We give thanks that we are a community of many nations, languages and cultures."

On 23 October, St Alban, South Norwood celebrated with an African and Caribbean evening. Their Twitter page said: "Lots of food, laughter, dancing and money raised for our new lights. We heard testimonies from those who organise our Foodbank, Alpha, and a speech from Revd Sean Gilbert on the Diocese of Southwark *Anti-Racism Charter*. We are all one in Christ."



Bishop Rosemarie plants a tree in the Rice Community Garden.

## More information

Find out more about the *Racial Justice Committee* (formerly the *Minority Ethnic Anglican Concern Committee*) here: <https://bit.ly/3zEUIqG>

Download our *Anti-Racism Charter* pack here: <https://bit.ly/3DPwSpo>

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## Farewell Bishop Richard

Musicians from All Saints provided the music and the two Archdeacons of the Area, Simon Gates and John Kiddle, thanked Bishop Richard on behalf of the Area for his wisdom, support and commitment. Bishop Cleophas spoke of his Diocese's gratitude for the Link between Matabeleland and the Kingston Area and he was pleased to accept Bishop Richard's gift of a crozier and a cope.

Bishop Richard thanked the Area Team (pictured on page 1) and the service was brought to a rousing end with the addition of The Revd Richard Taylor's trumpet playing during the final hymn.

The celebration drew to a close with drinks and canapés.



Top row (L-R), All Saints, Kingston: Revd Richard Taylor plays trumpet for the final hymn; Bishop Richard with Bishop Cleophas, Bishop of Matabeleland. Cathedral © Eve Milner (clockwise from left): Bishop Richard with family members; Muslim leader Shaykh Ibrahim Mogr; Bishop Christopher and congregation gather in the Nave.



## 30 years of the Lugandan Congregation

A Eucharist was held on 22 October at St John, Waterloo to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Lugandan Congregation.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ were joined by Revd Godfrey Kaziro and the Lugandan community, and were welcomed by Revd Canon Giles Goddard, Vicar of the newly refurbished St John's. In his Sermon, Bishop Christopher

described the Lugandan Congregation as "trailblazers" as the first *Bishop's Mission Order* in the Diocese.

The two readings taken from Genesis 47. 1-6 and Philippians 3. 12-17 explored the themes of arrival and purpose, a theme that resounds the blessing to the Church and to the nation that Lugandan speakers have brought through their wisdom and skills to the Diocese.



Bishop Christopher gives special thanks to team of leaders.



## Little church by the railway celebrates 170th anniversary

Last month, St Mark, South Norwood celebrated the 170th anniversary of its dedication. Here is a look back on its history and how the congregation celebrated the momentous occasion.



**The Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley, vicar of St Mark, South Norwood.**

On Thursday 13 October in 1852, St Mark was dedicated as the Parish Church of South Norwood – in the Diocese of Canterbury under the tenure of Archbishop John Bird Sumner (1848–1862).

The parish now in its own right, and no longer the daughter church of All Saints, Upper Norwood

joined the Diocese of Southwark in 1985 when 32 parishes of the Croydon Episcopal Area were added to complete the Diocese (created in 1905 from part of the Diocese of Rochester, covering the whole of the county of London south of the Thames and the Parliamentary divisions of East and Mid Surrey) as it exists now.

As the congregation grew, it soon became necessary for another place to host the new congregants, and the decision was made to build Holy Innocents which later became a South Norwood Parish Church, in its own right and was dedicated in 1895.

On 1 December 2018, in accordance with the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, St Mark and Holy Innocents were united again, under the new title of the United Benefice of South Norwood, Holy Innocents and South Norwood, St Mark.

To mark the 170th anniversary, a Dedication Festival Mass was held on Sunday 16 October at the Church with the President and Preacher, The Most Revd Josiah Idowu-Fearon, former Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. Archbishop Josiah was accompanied by his wife Comfort, with whom the parish celebrated, as she is the first UKME Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union President.

Commemorating the occasion, a special anniversary edition of the parish magazine was produced, which includes the history, mission and work of St Mark's formerly referred to as 'the little church by the railway' and celebration items on display in the church were available to purchase by the congregation.

## St Francis, Monks Hill 60th anniversary

**St Francis celebrated 60 years on 9 October, where more than 100 people attended the service and lunch. The congregation were joined by Bishop Rosemarie who presided and Peter Graystone who preached.**



The Revd Peter Wyatt, Minister-in-Charge said: "We heard testimonies, saw pictures from years ago and praised God for his faithfulness over the years. In the early 2000s, closure was considered, but St Francis is now in good health with a growing community impact, in terms of our Food Stop shop, Place of Welcome and youth work all hosted in our brand-new community hub – the *Light House*."

Sharing his gratitude for the growth of the church, Revd Peter went on to say: "We also owe a great deal to our former ministers – represented by Revd Bryan Wells and Revd Sarah Fenby, who laboured tirelessly since 1962 in the Monks Hill community, making St Francis what it is today. Although we have struggled many times, God has always provided – even if it is at the last minute! We were also pleased to welcome many old friends and as well as our local MP Sarah Jones and local councillors. Here's to 60 more years!"

## Kidbrooke churches bid farewell...

Last month, after four decades of ministry within the Diocese, St James, Kidbrooke, Bishops, friends and local community leaders came together for a weekend of emotional goodbyes, as one of South East London's most respected and loved clergy held his final service before retiring.

Revd Canon Kim Hitch and his wife Beryl, have left St James' Church after 30 years dedicated ministry; their farewell weekend saw more than 300 gather at a series of events, culminating in a service during which Bishop Karowei, blessed them, commissioning them in their future ministry outside of Church life.

Speaking at the Saturday Afternoon Tea, Bishop Christopher described how Revd Kim was one of the most consistently cheerful members of the clergy and praised his dedicated service and inspiration to many in their ministry. The Mayor of Greenwich, Leo Fletcher, spoke of his service to the community, in making possible the first Community Land Trust development in the Borough, through his work with Greenwich Citizens. It was a theme throughout the weekend, as people shared how Revd Kim lived out his sermons through active community involvement, whether as school governor, vocations advisor, leading Greenwich Winter Night Shelter (see page 3), or as an affordable housing campaigner (Chair of Greenwich Citizens Housing).

Throughout the weekend, whether people came to eat scones, "twist the night away" under miles of sparkly lights and drink cocktails



or come to Revd Kim's final farewell service and lunch, it was clear how many have been and will continue to be touched by his ministry.

The PCC produced and gifted to those present an anthology of some of Revd Kim's sermons, fore-worded by former Bishop of Woolwich, now Bishop of Lichfield, The Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave. In it he wrote of Revd Kim's "authentic voice as pastor as well as preacher". In his final sermon to a packed St James', Revd Kim continued in just this way to urge listeners to try to fully absorb what it means to be blessed and loved by God.

**To listen to Revd Kim's final sermon via the church website visit: [www.stjameskidbrooke.org/](http://www.stjameskidbrooke.org/)**

**St Nicholas, Kidbrooke also bid farewell to their Vicar, Revd Tim Linkens who served the parish for two decades as he starts a new post as Chaplain to the Humber Ports in Hull.**

Jacky Franklin, PCC Secretary shared a message on behalf of the PCC, churchwardens and congregation saying "Our little church of St Nicholas, Kidbrooke, has been blessed to have at its helm, for the past twenty years, our amazing Vicar, Tim Linkens. He and his lovely wife and family arrived here in March 2003. We have been privileged to welcome them and to enjoy and appreciate their company ever since. Tim proved himself to be not only a caring vicar but also a spiritual guide, a proactive leader in the community, and a dear friend to all."



A final service was held on 4 September, where nearly 200 people filled the church, and the congregation were joined by Revd Tim and his family for lunch.

The message went on to say "There were some beautiful tributes, lovely singing, and plenty of tears.

"Despite feeling bereft and immensely sad that we had to say goodbye, we are very thankful that God sent Tim to us two decades ago. He has done so much for our church and for the local community and will be greatly missed.

"We wish him well in his new work and life in Hull, and we thank him, and his family, from the bottom of our hearts."





## IN FOCUS...

### The Season of Creation

# For the beauty of the Earth

We look back on the Season of Creation where many Churches choose this time of year to hold special services, celebrate Harvest Festival and other events to give thanks for God's gift of creation.

Harvest is a time to gather what we have, a time to thank God for all he has given us, and a time to reflect on what he is calling us to create. Across the Diocese churches come together and celebrate all of God's creations – during special services and with local traditions such as bringing church gifts, fresh produce and food stuffs to donate to charitable causes.

As well as traditions to share God's gifts, The Season of Creation or Creationtide is also a time to reflect on the beauty of the earth and how as God's children we are called to look after the earth, and everything around us.

*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.* Genesis 1.3

The installation of Luke Jerram's spectacular and hugely popular artwork, *Gaia*, at Southwark Cathedral last month allows us to reflect on the nature of our world. Featuring detailed imagery

of the earth's surface compiled by the Visible Earth series at NASA, the artwork, measures seven metres in diameter and provides the opportunity to see our planet floating in three-dimensions. A specially made surround sound composition by BAFTA award-winning Composer, Dan Jones, is played alongside the sculpture.

*In Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible – all things have been created through him and for him.* Colossians 1.16

Seeing the sculpture revolving above the Nave in the Cathedral provides a stark reminder of our duty to care for the planet and events exploring our relationship with the planet, climate change and overall the Church of England's journey to being Net Zero Carbon took place throughout month.

See adjacent page for a closer look at how Parishes; Christ Church, Brixton, St George, Forest Hill and St Matthew, Redhill celebrated Harvest Festival through vibrant services, gift giving, working with schools and making small changes to help take care of the earth.



**The Church of England's fifth mark of mission:**  
*"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth".*

## Harvest Choral Evensong Canticle composed in D performed for the first time at St Augustine of Canterbury, Honor Oak Park

Last month, St Augustine of Canterbury, Honor Oak Park opened its doors to welcome a congregation for Choral Evensong and for the first time the evening service was composed in D.

Evensong arose as the medieval period ended and the music composed by Revd Dr Michael Brooks, Associate Minister; consisted of plainchant, organum and simplicity, historically prominent in the music of that period. Having composed during the COVID pandemic, Revd Michael wanted the music of the canticles to portray joy in the face of adversity, as was the context in which the words were first spoken.

Andrew Campling MA (Oxon), MMus who helped to revise the first draft and is the director of the London Docklands Singers who joined St Augustine's choir said: "This setting of the Preces, Responses and Canticles for Evensong is a splendid addition to the repertoire. The setting is accessible to both singer and congregation with due consideration given to the meaning and emotional content of the words. It was an honour to direct the first public performance of Michael's setting and I felt that the choir sang the music with real sensitivity and great enjoyment."

The service was conducted by the Priest-in-Charge, Revd Canon Colin Boswell who said "The special Evensong we held

for Harvest was a real joy. We had a very large congregation, and we were all delighted to hear for the first time the *Preces, Responses, Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* which were composed by Revd Michael Brooks. They were beautiful and congratulations and thanks are due to Michael for sharing these with us".

If you would like to explore using this setting in a Choral Evensong please email Revd Michael Brooks, Associate Minister, St Augustine of Canterbury, Honor Oak Park at: [michael@mybroadbandmail.com](mailto:michael@mybroadbandmail.com)





Luke Jerram's spectacular artwork, Gaia, installed in Southwark Cathedral.

## Christ Church, Brixton Road

Christ Church Brixton Road celebrated a joyful week of Harvest. Curate, Fr Steve and Fr Miguel visited Reay Primary School for an assembly, reflecting on saying thank you, and Christ Church Primary School children led a vibrant service in multiple languages in the church, celebrating the school's diversity.

Fr Steve says "Both schools made substantial contributions to our Food Cupboard and we are very thankful."

Christ Church concluded their week of festivities with a Sunday Eucharist followed by their first bring and share lunch since the pandemic, joining with one another to grow and develop friendships.



Harvest display of gifts from Reay Primary School and Christ Church Primary School.

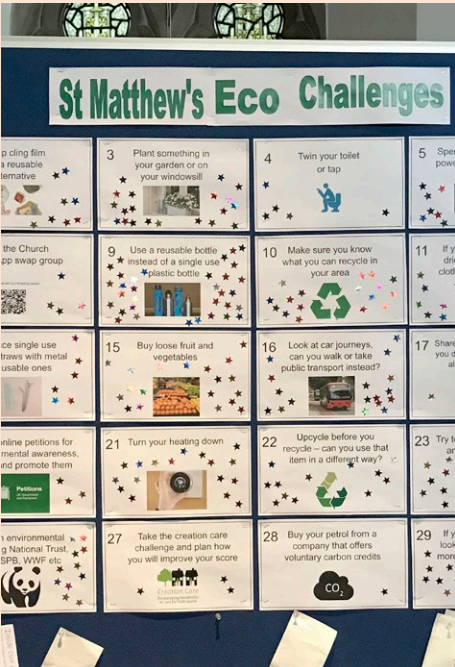
## St Matthew, Redhill

In the final week of the four-week season of Creationtide, St Matthew's spent time focusing on their responsibility to the earth, using the theme, 'many small things can make a big difference'.

During the Harvest Festival Service, churchgoers made prayer leaves to reflect on ways they could each do more to care for the earth. Donations of tinned and packet goods were given to St Matthew's Foodbank, and donations of fresh produce were auctioned after the service, with the proceeds given to charity Welcare.

Leading up to Harvest Festival and inspired to explore ways that everyone can look after the planet, a 'challenges board' was created and people were encouraged to complete as many eco-challenges as possible to make those small changes.

With Harvest as the culmination of the challenges, there was something for everyone to participate.



The challenges board (left); and Harvest prayer leaves made in the Church hang from the pulpit.

## Forest Hill Team

The Forest Hill Team celebrated Harvest at St George's, where children created their own worlds based on Luke Jerram's Gaia.



# Southwark Diocesan Head Teachers' Association (SDHTA) Conference held in Canterbury

The Southwark Diocesan Head Teachers' Association (SDHTA) annual residential Conference 2022-23 was held on 7 October in Canterbury.

This year's theme *Though We Are Many, We Are One Body*, focused on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and delegates from the diverse family of schools within the Diocese explored EDI as a key priority in education, reflecting on shared knowledge and wisdom. On the first day of the three-day conference, attendees joined workshops delivered by Elizabeth Olulari and Bola-Alysia Ayonrinde from the Church of England Education Office.

Keynote speakers included Bishop Christopher, Roz Cordner, Director of Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, Viv Grant, Director of Integrity Coaching, Education Commentator and School



Bishop Christopher with Dr Leroy Logan.

Leader Well-being Advocate and Dr Leroy Logan MBE, former police superintendent and Chair of the Black Police Association as part of the programme.

Izzy Rickards, Headteacher of Holy Trinity Primary School, Wimbledon, and Committee Member and Secretary of the SDHTA said: "We all left inspired, challenged and motivated to implement what we had learnt in our schools, and to consider what thing we could do that would make a difference. The SDHTA Committee will review the feedback from the conference and consider the next steps for us as leaders to address issues that go against equality. The late

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said: 'We need to stop pulling people out of the river, we need to ask why they are falling in.' This is the challenge we are faced with.'

To conclude the conference, Bishop Christopher described the event as "very successful" and an opportunity "to express appreciation for inspirational leadership."

"Though We Are Many, We Are One Body." 1 Corinthians 12





## IN FOCUS...

### Coming together in Croydon

# Crocus Garden opens to comfort grieving families at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust

**Since before COVID, Revd Andy Dovey, Head of Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, had seen an opportunity to reach out to families who had suffered from a miscarriage, neo natal or stillbirth.**

Following three years of donation requests by The Chaplaincy Team and fundraising, the sum of £15,000 was raised to create the 'Crocus Garden'.

In this article Revd Andy talks about why the crocus was chosen as a symbol and name for the garden, shares his reflections on the opening and the significance of comfort to families.

He said: "The reason we chose the crocus as our symbol for the garden was simple. Croydon's name derives originally from the Anglo-Saxon *croh*, meaning "crocus", as it was a centre for the cultivation of the saffron crocus. The crocus is also a sign of new life and can be recognised by people of all faiths and beliefs."

After discussions with the estates and facilities department at the hospital, some unused land by the chaplaincy office was designated to be used as a crocus garden and on Saturday 1 October, the land

was cleared in readiness. Croydon Scouting Group – The Explorers, a contractor and a team of volunteers were all on hand at different stages of the big build.

On 8 October 2022 the Chaplaincy Team held their annual Butterfly Service to remember all the babies no longer with us, after which the Crocus Garden was officially opened. Councillor Maddie Henson formally cut the ribbon and opened the garden, and it was blessed by Bishop Rosemarie.

*The crocus is a sign of new life and can be recognised by people of all faiths and beliefs.*

All the families who attended the service were invited to plant the first of the crocus bulbs and to celebrate the opening light refreshments were served in the garden.

Expressing his amazement on how successful the opening was Revd Andy said: "I was pleased to have received some positive comments the

next day by families that were present."

Elizabeth, one of the volunteers who helped to create the garden shared feedback with Revd Andy upon working as part of the team: "It felt a privilege to be part of your team at the Butterfly Service yesterday – well done for all your hard work in putting together a vital aid in the grief process".

A family attending the opening also said: "My husband and I would like to thank you for arranging the beautiful memorial service last Sunday. It was lovely to remember our baby Hope and to plant a crocus bulb in your beautiful new garden. More memories to add to her memory box".

Revd Andy completed his master's degree in 2019 and submitted a dissertation titled 'Twinkle, Twinkle little star how I wonder what I am' with his research exploring how different faiths recognise when after conception we believe that a baby is formed and what care should be provided to the parents. He says: "This is when I understood the importance to recognise that every faith and belief is different, but the common factor is that a baby



**Top & right: volunteers dig in. Left: Councillor Maddie Henson formally cuts the ribbon.**

becomes their child from the moment that they recognise that they have a growing child within them. This could be any time from confirmation of the pregnancy to when the child is actually born."

Bishop Rosemarie said: "Everyone who attended left feeling enthused about coming together to work in this way. We have a wide spectrum of Croydon churches, so it's important to get together as an ecumenical group to find out what is being done. But it is also more than

just fact finding as the meeting provided significant opportunities for collaborative working for the common good. Good food, good company, good outcome."

Following the opening, Revd Andy and the team are offering families the opportunity to plant a crocus bulb if ever they suffer a baby loss in the hope that seeing the crocuses grow each year, they will find comfort in the garden and treasure the memories they hold of their loved one.

## 'In It Together breakfast'

**Croydon church communities come together to launch new initiative.**

Organised by the Croydon Churches Forum (CCF) leaders' an 'In it Together breakfast' was held to launch a new initiative to provide an online directory, which aims to signpost and support people within the community to access help or information.

The breakfast event which took place on 8 October was an opportunity to discover what churches in the borough are doing in their communities and collate information for the new directory.

Held at New Life Croydon, CCF invited Church leaders and those in their congregations who head up their community ministries, along with representatives of parachurch organisations, to join discussions, listen to each other and plan ways to work together in mission.

On attending the event, Pastor Bola Thomas, from His Grace Evangelical Outreach, said: "It was a very good morning – informative and collaborative. There was a sense of connection and belonging. It was really great to hear what other churches are doing. The set up was good, the food was good, it finished

on time and there was a lot of energy in the room. There were opportunities for networking, several people asked for my

number and we've already been in touch."

More than 40 people attended the breakfast and were joined

by Bishop Rosemarie who said: "Everyone who attended left feeling enthused about coming together to work in this way. We have a wide spectrum of Croydon churches, so it's important to get together as an Ecumenical group to find out what is being done. But it is also more than just fact finding as the meeting provided significant opportunities for collaborative working for the common good. Good food, good company, good outcome."

**Find out more about Croydon Churches Forum at [croydonchurch.org.uk](http://croydonchurch.org.uk)**



**Attendees, enthused about collaborative working for the common good.**





## DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Pastoral ministry

# Admission, Licensing and Commissioning of Lay Ministers service held at Southwark Cathedral

On Sunday 9 October the Admission, Licensing and Commissioning of Lay Ministers took place at Southwark Cathedral.

A single service for Lay Ministry – a first in Southwark Diocesan history – saw 10 Lay Readers admitted and licensed as well as two Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs) being commissioned.



*“Christ calls us to minister in his name and, according to our gifts, to be instruments of his love in the world.”*

At the beginning of the service, which also commended retiring readers, Bishop Christopher greeted the congregation in his introduction saying: “Christ calls us to minister in his name and, according to our gifts, to be instruments of his love in the world.”

Readings were taken from the book of Isaiah 50.4–10, read by Penny Seabrook, retiring Archdeaconry SPA for Croydon and the second from John 15.12–17 read by Sally Munns, Reader at St John, West Wickam. A sermon was given by Dr Nick Shepherd FRSA, Senior Vision and Strategy Consultant for the Church of England, and Reader at The Good Shepherd with St Peter, Lee.



The Candidates for admission were invited to stand to be presented to the Bishop by Jenny Corcoran, Tutor for Lay Education, St Augustine's College of Theology. For licensing, Readers put on their blue scarves and for commissioning, SPAs were then handed their badges of office and Certificate. Prayers were said before the final hymn – *O Jesus, I have promised*, with intercessions led by Hugh Dunlop, Reader at Holy Trinity, Richmond and Heather Smith, retiring Archdeaconry SPA for Southwark.

*The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.* Isaiah 50

After the service the congregation were invited to join with family and friends of the 12 licensed and commissioned lay ministers to enjoy refreshments.



**Clockwise from main: the Lay Readers and SPAs being commissioned; Bishop Christopher and the anointment of hands; friends and family watch with pride.**

Readers are called to serve the Church of God and to work together with clergy and ministers, and lay ministers are called to help the whole Church to participate to God's mission to the world.

In this issue of *The Bridge*, Reader Julia Cernoch shares her journey to leading the public to worship and we hear from SPA's Diana Sackey and Sandie Avenell, channelling the love of God to the world as they share their experience in pastoral ministry.



### Exploring your call



You can find out more about pastoral ministry, including Readers and SPAs here: <https://bit.ly/3gcD9Sx>.

Listen to one of the first SPAs here: <https://bit.ly/3Mla1IK>.

## Julia Cernoch

Having spent the first two years of training and study at St Augustine's College of Theology, Julia describes her experience to be licensed as a Reader as “intense” covering topics which included biblical studies, Church history, spirituality and discipleship, doctrine and worship, completing three modules along with six written assignments per year.

Julia said: “For our first year, everything was on Zoom. We made up for the lack of personal contact by meeting informally every Friday night (again on Zoom) just to chat. I think the 10 of us all felt deeply blessed to



Julia Cernoch with Christian Okoh.

be part of such a strong group training together.

For me it was humbling to see this group of men and women, so diverse in age, churchmanship and educational background, and all already busy with family, work and serving in their local church, yet willing to answer the call of God and submit to the demands of training.

“The biggest challenge for all of us was probably finding enough time to fit everything in; the demands of jobs and existing ministry rotas didn't suddenly melt away just because we were now training.”



*“The sense of relief that we'd all made it through, in spite of COVID, was palpable.”*

Sharing her biggest highlights Julia said: “The first highlight would have to be when classes restarted at Trinity House in September 2021, and we finally got to meet in person. Another would be the six-week placement which we undertook in a parish different from our

own. The final highlight would have to be our pre-licensing retreat at Wychcroft and the service itself.”

Reflecting on the service, Julia describes it as “joy-filled” and said: “The sense of relief that we'd all made it through, in spite of COVID, was palpable; the fact that so many were allowed to meet in one place to celebrate felt like the icing on the cake. It was extraordinary.”

Continued on page 10



◀ Continued from page 9

## Sandie Avenell

Sandie felt called to explore the idea of training as a SPA but was unsure about completing the Bishop's Certificate having not carried out academic studies for some time. After completing her assignments, she was compelled to move forward to the practical side of training.

She said: "I attended a vocations day and after discussing it with friends who thought it was what God was calling me to do, I decided to explore further. I had concerns about the first year, the Bishop's Certificate, for it had been a long time since I had done any academic studies and the idea of the assignments was daunting. However, I did manage to complete them and looked forward to the more practical side of training."

Like Julia, COVID delayed Sandie's journey and she explains how she felt more confident starting her second year – thoroughly enjoying the sessions. Sandie said: "The once a month sessions on reflective practice were my highlight."



*"The once-a-month sessions on reflective practice were my highlight."*



**Sandie Avenell with Lay Training Officer, Peter Graystone.**

The service joining Readers and SPAs to be licensed and commissioned together was a first at the Cathedral and Sandie shares her reflections saying "It was great to see the Cathedral so full. The climax for me was having my hands anointed by Bishop Christopher."

"Although this service was grand and I enjoyed it, this was followed by a shorter liturgy in my parish church, St Saviour, Brockley Rise, which being slightly less informal, and surrounded by the people who had encourage me and a congregation that prayed for me, made it feel, in a way, more real."

Moving forward in her ministry, Sandie continues to work with the housebound and elderly of the congregation at St Saviour's and in the community, she's taken lead on ministry of welcome at the church and will also volunteer in the Chaplaincy team at Lewisham Hospital.

## Diana Sackey

Diana shares how she juggled home life, work and training to become a SPA as she said: "It had become increasingly difficult to keep ignoring the call from the altar, the yearn for opportunities to show the love of God to others and of course the still small voice that would never leave me alone over the years, so, I knew it was time to obey the call to join in the harvest."

On training Diana said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my training which was a mixture of both classroom and practical workshops. The training afforded me an invaluable exposure to the type of work on the ground and an opportunity to learn from seasoned men and women from diverse professional and religious backgrounds. I was afforded the opportunity to reflect on the mission ahead in a safe and structured environment."



"The challenge for me embarking on this journey was how I was going to juggle home, work and training as a full-time working married mother with



*"I thoroughly enjoyed my training... it afforded me an invaluable exposure to the type of work on the ground and an opportunity to learn."*

caring responsibility of a 16-year-old with special needs. In reading a book dedicated to working mums, I was reminded about the ever-present help of God (Exodus 14: 13-14) to stand firm and see the deliverance of the Lord, I just needed to be still! And so, I did – through a few extra respite care arrangements for my daughter to accommodate my study times, requesting extensions on submitting assignments and encouragement from my fellow trainees and family, God saw me through, usually through a quiet voice reminding me that His strength is indeed sufficient for me (2 Corinthians 12: 9-10)."

Describing the Reader and SPA retreat at Wychcroft as the highlight she said: "It was a very enriching experience and the right booster needed just before commissioning to go forth and work I thoroughly enjoyed my training which was a mixture of both classroom and practical workshops. The training afforded me an invaluable exposure to the type of work on the ground and an opportunity to learn in the vineyard, knowing that I am not alone, I have the master gardener of all, a charge to keep and a God to glorify!"



## LET US PRAY... NOVEMBER

**The Very Revd Andrew Nunn**

*Dean of Southwark*

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

As November begins the installation of Gaia, the model of the Earth that has been in the Cathedral for most of October, comes to an end. It has been an amazing experience. Thousands of people have come into the Cathedral and have been stunned by the beauty that they see before them. We talk of awe and wonder, and on the faces of those standing looking at the earth slowly turning, young and old, has testified to those reactions. God's creation is so good and yet so fragile.

Entering November we arrive at a period of remembrance, saints and the departed, Guy Fawkes and the fallen of our wars. The falling leaves remind us of spring and summer now a distant memory. However, I hope that we will also be remembering what we saw in the nave of our Cathedral and not just forget the fragile beauty that was displayed before us.

The purpose of Luke Jerram's work was to stimulate us into action, to make us think about how we can live differently, he didn't want us just to come in, be



impressed and then walk out unchanged. The purpose of all our remembering in November is so that we don't forget – don't forget the amazing witness of our sisters and brothers who we call saints, don't forget the ones we have loved who have been taken from us by death, don't forget the challenge to democracy and our way of life that was at the heart of the Gunpowder plot, don't forget all those

who gave themselves during the wars that shattered the lives both those in the Armed Forces and civilians back at home. We know that if we forget any of this then the future is much poorer and more dangerous. Into all of this we add the need to remember the earth, its beauty and its fragility. Remember, remember.

**God of all our remembering, may the past speak to our present and change our future.  
Amen.**



# WHAT'S ON

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

## November

### SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER

♫ **STREATHAM** — Evening concert, Streatham Choral perform Mendelssohn (Fanny) – Gartenlieder; Schumann (Clara) – Lieder; Brahms – Ein deutsches Requiem; Conductor Calum Fraser. St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD. 7:30pm. Programme details: [www.stpeters-streatham.org](http://www.stpeters-streatham.org). Tickets: [www.streathamchoral.com/](http://www.streathamchoral.com/)

### MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER

\* **SOUTHWARK** — Join The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark as he launches his latest book *Bethlehem Bound*, with Dr Paula Gooder. 7pm at Southwark Cathedral, London SE1 9DA. Free. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3Willkl>

### 15 & 22 NOVEMBER

🕊 **ONLINE** — Carbon Literacy Training, in collaboration with the Diocese of London. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new and wanting to learn more of the basics of reducing our carbon footprint, or you have decades of experience. It's a great opportunity for those on Eco-Church teams who want to learn more, or for churches who are thinking about how they might reach *Net Zero Carbon*. 7.30–9.30pm. Zoom. Free. Further details or to register: <https://bit.ly/3TU7VyN>

### THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER

🕊 **ONLINE** — Churches Together in South London (CTSL) *Big Gathering*: The Church as transformation centre in South London. This gathering will be chaired by CTSL Chair, The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, Bishop of Woolwich. How can local churches bring change to their communities in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis? Speakers include Tearfund Chief Executive, Nigel Harris, and Ruth Valerio, Tearfund Director of Global Advocacy and Influencing. Resources on church and community transformation will be shared. 7pm. Zoom. Event details from Claire Crowley: [claire@ctslondon.org.uk](mailto:claire@ctslondon.org.uk)

### ♫ Croydon Minster

**Lunchtime Recitals, 40 minutes of music on Fridays at 1.10pm.**

11 November: George Inscow, Organ.

18 November: Trinity Guitar Quartet.

25 November: Kosta Popovic, Cello; Ami-Louise, Johnsson, Viola.

2 December: Laine Theatre Arts Choir

*Croydon Minster, Church Street, Croydon CR0 1RN. Details: [croydonminster.org](http://croydonminster.org). Bring a Packed Lunch. Free Entry – Donations to Minster Funds.*

### THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER

🕊 **ONLINE** — The Southwark Diocesan Evangelical Union invite you to participate in 'A Christian Response To Modern Day Slavery', with Alianore Smith, Church & Theology Manager for International Justice Mission UK. Through storytelling, statistics, and biblical reflection, we will consider together the problem of slavery and violence globally, the work of IM to combat the issue, and our call as Christians to respond. 7.30–9pm. Zoom. Free. Register: <https://bit.ly/3VJsrn3>

### SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

♫ **STREATHAM** — Evening concert, Opus XVI Chamber Choir – German Sacred Music – James Dixon, Musical Director, Charlie Warren, Organ. St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD. 7.30pm. Tickets £15 or £10, unwaged and under 16s free. Details: [www.stpeters-streatham.org](http://www.stpeters-streatham.org).

### SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

\* **SALFORDS** — A visit from St Nicholas, the real one, with the St Nicholas Society's special programmes. Other places where the Saint will appear include St John, Redhill; and St Nicholas, Charlwood (Dec 3). Charities will be announced soon; please bring new gifts for children in need. Contact Revd Jim Rosenthal 07742 856 149. 12 noon at Christ the King, Honeycrock Lane, Salfords, Surrey RH1 5DF.

### FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

\* **SOUTHWARK** — The Cathedral is hosting the annual sponsored *SleepOut* for the Robes Homeless Charity. Robes offers support, advice, housing and food to about 30 guests over the winter. Sign up to sleep out under the stars in the Cathedral Churchyard. Teams and families are welcome. Or, come along for the evening of celebrity entertainment and make a donation to support this worthwhile charity. Details about registering and fundraising here: <https://robes.org.uk/sleepout-robes>

### SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER

\* **SOUTHWARK** — Modern Slavery: Right Here, Right Now. You can stop it! Find out how and what we can all do to stop modern slavery thriving. Come to Southwark Cathedral, 10am–1pm. Free. For more information and to sign up, visit: <https://bit.ly/3Ustr2AD>

### MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER

🕊 **ONLINE** — Our *Eco Church* and *Net Zero Carbon* monthly drop in Zoom meetings continue at 1–1.45pm on the last Monday of every month. An informal opportunity for you to meet with Jack Edwards, Diocesan Environmental Officer, and ask environmental questions or share news from your community. Free. More details: <https://bit.ly/3DtvR64>

### WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER

\* **SOUTHWARK** — Managing difficult conversations. An evening designed to help those with a pastoral role in church, those who need to address issues of potential conflict, and those who need to tell a member of their congregation something they don't want to hear. Michael Brockett, a Pastoral Minister in the South Croydon Benefice, leads a practical and sensitive workshop. 6.30–8.30pm. Free. Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW. To book, email: [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

## December

### SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

♫ **PETERSHAM** — *The Petersham Messiah*. Advent charity concert of excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*, with Sam Laughton and the Elysian Singers and Players. In aid of the Vineyard Community Centre. Tickets £15, online from: <https://bit.ly/3gsMXrO> – ask for a receipt as this will be your ticket to bring along (on screen or paper). To make a larger donation, or purchase a concessionary ticket email: [events.stpeterspetersham@gmail.com](mailto:events.stpeterspetersham@gmail.com). Depending on sales, tickets may be available on the night. 6pm at St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Petersham TW10 7AB.

### SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

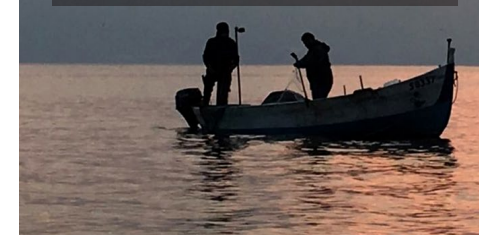
♫ **PUTNEY** — Putney Choral Society's Winter Concert 'Before the Close of Day' with their new Music Director Jamie Powe. Tickets £20 to include programme, refreshments, wine or soft drink; online from: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/putney-choral-society/t-ongokm>, or at the door (card payment only). 7pm at St Paul's Church, Augustus Road, Southfields, SW19 6EW.

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2023

27 February – 6 March

Led by Bishop Christopher, the Bishop of Southwark, with Bishop Paul Hendricks, Assistant Bishop in the Archdiocese, as well as Andrew Nunn, the Dean of Southwark, and Michael Branch, the new Dean of St George's Cathedral.

For more details watch this video: <https://bit.ly/3rrLZyo>, or see our website: [bit.ly/3Kp6vbr](http://bit.ly/3Kp6vbr) Email queries: [pilgrimage23@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:pilgrimage23@southwark.anglican.org)







## IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

# Battersea Power Station opens after 40 years

After more than 40 years of being derelict and closed, the iconic Battersea Power Station (BPS) re-opened on 14 October as part of one of the largest redevelopment areas in Europe.

The Power Station, in Nine Elms – on the banks of the Thames, has been stunningly restored to create a new town centre; home to a shopping district, food hall and entertainment complex; as well as being the new UK headquarters for Apple. In addition, it's now home to a new High Street – *Electric Boulevard* – which links the Power Station to the newly opened tube station.

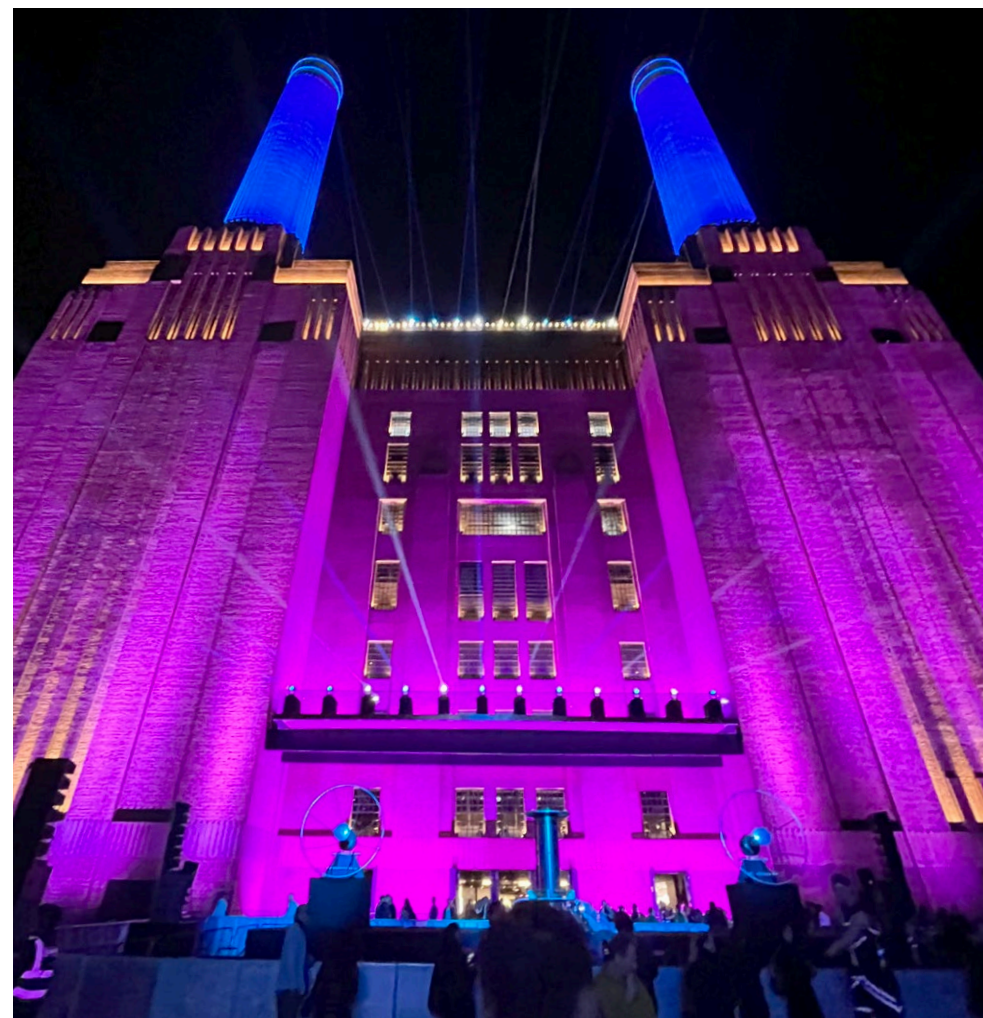


*“We are excited about the opportunities for building real community in this vibrant and diverse area and being a loving Christian presence in the heart of it.”*

The Archdeacons of Wandsworth and Lambeth joined Revd Betsy Blatchley, Southwark's Pioneer Minister for the Arts in Nine Elms, who leads a *Fresh Expression of Church* and the Vicar of Battersea Fields, Revd Leighton Carr at the VIP launch ahead of the public opening. The event brought together members of the local community, those who have worked on the BPS development and dignitaries such as the King and Queen of Malaysia, representing the Malaysian shareholders who have funded much of the redevelopment.

Entertainment from the Battersea Power Station Community Choir was provided and there was an amazing aerial and light circus show for spectators.

Revd Betsy and Revd Leighton also joined the fun at the public opening, which saw the Mayor of London and Battersea MP, Marsha de Cordova, join local residents to launch a cascade of streamers from the roof of the building, as the choir sang, and the doors opened for the first time.



Members of *Nine Elms Arts Ministry's* arts prayer community also visited during the opening weekend to prayer walk through the shopping centre and along the high street.

With up to 25,000 people potentially moving into the area over a ten-year period, but no new faith spaces, the Diocese of Southwark with Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance funding, have been working on innovative ways

to explore what it looks like to be a Christian presence in this diverse emerging area, particularly as luxury flats sit alongside some of the most under-resourced estates in the Borough.

The role of Pioneer Minister in the Arts was created to help reach out to new and existing residents through arts-based events and worship and over the past four years *Nine Elms Arts Ministry* has brought the community together through large scale events such as the *Nine Elms Advent Calendar*. (This event was featured in *Time Out's* top 10 things to do at Christmas.) Plus smaller workshops and classes focusing on arts and well-being through their *Creative Soul* programme.

On the re-opening Revd Betsy said: “As Battersea Power Station re-opens and the new town centre develops around it, we are excited about the opportunities for building real community in this vibrant and diverse area and being a loving Christian presence in the heart of it. The arts are a powerful way of enabling people to experience the love of God and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with businesses, churches, community groups and residents to nurture the soul of this amazing place”.



Top & left: 'Tripping the light fantastic'. Right: Revd Betsy and Revd Leighton.

### Find out more



You can find out more about the arts ministry and upcoming events at:

[www.nineelmsartsministry.org/](http://www.nineelmsartsministry.org/)