

# Refreshing Church

**“Do you feel refreshed?” one grinning participant was asked as she left the Croydon Episcopal Area Lay Conference on 14 September “Not just refreshed. I feel excited about Church,” she replied.**

**Peter Graystone writes:**

Refreshing Church was the title of a magnificent day held at St Bede's School, Redhill, to encourage and equip lay people in the Croydon Area. It was offered as a treat for lay people – and clergy were only admitted if they were willing to act as stewards. This led to the sight of cheerful vicars in bright yellow jackets directing 260 people into the car park on a warm, sunny Saturday.

Undoubtedly so many people were eager to attend because of the theologian and writer Paula Gooder (below), who opened the day with a mind-expanding and very entertaining explanation of what it was like to be part of a church in the years immediately after Jesus' resurrection.

There were surprises, such as information about the size of churches in rich villas or poor tenements, as revealed by recent archaeology. There were encouragements, as she drew links between the practices of



Lay Pioneers - Minako Hall (Woolwich Area), Janet Greaves (Croydon Area), Andrea Campanale (Kingston Area) - with Bishop Jonathan, Bishop Christopher and Canon Will Cookson

the very first Christians and our (on the surface) different practices today. And there were challenges, because it clearly isn't the case that the first churches were perfect.

The middle of the day was taken up with workshops. With nearly twenty to choose from this led to some difficult

decisions. They ranged from help with leading intercessions to talking about faith with friends to an intriguing 'sideways look at the role of churchwarden'. There were sessions to help church members serve the youngest in their congregation and the oldest, as well as practical

advice on finance, PCCs and eco-churches.

The day climaxed with Bishop Christopher underlining the significance of lay people in the Southwark Vision with a highly amusing story about how the addition of simple ingredients turned a bowl of hot water into a

nourishing soup. He then turned the focus of the crowd outwards with the commissioning of three Lay Pioneers to lead the way the Good News of Jesus is taken beyond the walls of our churches – the first of what will be dozens of such appointments as the significance of lay leadership in our Diocese swells.

All through the day worship led by musicians from St Margaret's Church, Chipstead, was inspiring, a marketplace of stalls showcased all that is available to help churches in their mission, a prayer room provided a rich context in which to say, smell and even taste prayers, and there was excitement about the launch of the new webpage to foster discipleship: [www.southwark.anglican.org/everydayfaith](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/everydayfaith)

Something is stirring in Southwark Diocese. The Holy Spirit is refreshing us and leading us somewhere good and godly. It was thrilling to be present at a day which was part of that journey.



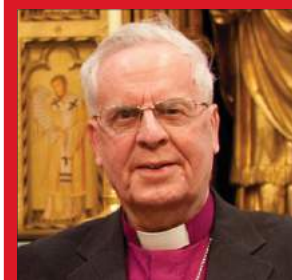
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with a Vision for growth

**Walking** with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on

**Welcoming** all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church

**Growing** in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom





# A view from THE BRIDGE

## The Southwark Vision

Proverbs 29.18a "Where there is no vision, the people perish...." (KJV).

It seems to me that this may be used as an encouragement to Parishes to come up with a Vision Statement. While the text does not really refer to the vision of the Incumbent and their people, it may be suggesting the need for the proclamation of the Word of God in such a manner as to discourage society from spiralling into moral chaos.

I'm not sure this is what the Diocesan Bishop had in mind when, two years ago, he launched the Southwark Vision but I hope that through his leadership, we are all encouraged to play our part in bringing God's Kingdom wherever we are as we seek to be a Diocese:

- Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on
- Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church
- Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom

This Vision is supported by the Diocesan family as we walk together in faith, supporting, encouraging and resourcing each other in our common task. Both clergy and laity have demonstrated their commitment to the vision in their varying roles as they pertain among others, to Vocations, Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns and women's ministry.

Vocations to ordained ministry have increased a hundredfold, far surpassing our original 50% target, with a third being from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. As part of its commitment to the Vision, this year the Diocese celebrates its annual Black History Month (BHM) Thanksgiving Day on 5th October at the Cathedral by focusing on

- BAME women and social justice
- BAME women in pastoral and lay leadership
- BAME women in ordained leadership

Women's ministries are doing well too, this year, not only have we celebrated the first BAME Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union (MU) but also the first BAME Worldwide President of the MU.

We are all encouraged to commit ourselves to the delivery this vision for ourselves and the whole people of God in this Diocese. The Centrespread this month tells us a little more about all that is happening and I know that you will find it encouraging too.

**The Revd Canon Roxanne Hunte**



# 'Rewriting The Story'

## - first National Estate Churches Network London Conference on 10 October

The National Estate Churches Network (NECN) 'supports people active in Christian ministry on social housing estates in England and Wales via networks of local groups, conferences, estate-specific resources and much more'.

'Its membership includes church and community leaders and workers, clergy, residents and others who live, work and serve God on housing estates. (Doing this) strengthens our local ministry and allows the voice of people from estates to be heard at a national level'.

Andy Delmege, a parish priest in Birmingham Diocese, is their lead voice, and they



have done excellent work in the Midlands and the North, especially through partnership initiatives *Leading Your Church Into Growth* (LYCIG) and *Jesus Shaped People* (JSP), both of which have run successfully in this Diocese.

Over the last couple of years though, it became increasingly clear that the context of London estates is often very different from places outside. So a specific conference for the capital was needed.

Representatives from London, Chelmsford and Southwark Dioceses (Nick

Walsh (Downham) and Jonathan Macy (Thamesmead)) began working on it, and on 10 October the first NECN London Conference will take place at St Thomas' (Kensal Rise). The title of the conference is: "Rewriting The Story", the idea being that many misunderstand or simply

do not know the specifics of estate ministry – often only seeing the lack of resources and challenging social issues. The true story, though, is one of seeing God work in amazing and surprising ways in unexpected places.

Besides times of networking, sharing stories and an open question and answer session, key-note speakers will be looking at the Grenfell Tower disaster, the pastoral and community fall out and how the local churches have addressed it.

Tickets are £10 and available through Eventbrite; <http://bit.ly/2knFEVA>

## Opportunities

To advertise a vacancy in The Bridge (in print and on-line) call 01474 854503 or email: [kcpress@btinternet.com](mailto:kcpress@btinternet.com)

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The Parish of South Beddington & Roundshaw are looking to appoint a children and families leader to encourage, disciple and equip children and young people in their faith journey, working with schools and the local community. The post will be initially for a 2 year fixed term.

If you have experience of working with young people in a church environment, can lead and encourage a team of volunteers and are creative and motivated.... then you may be the person for us.

The Parish of South Beddington & Roundshaw is in the south of Wallington, Surrey and is made up of St Paul's Church, Roundshaw and St Michael & All Angels Church, South Beddington. We have 4 primary schools and 1 grammar school within the parish and have a commitment to working with the local community. Both churches are within the Modern Catholic tradition of the Church of England and the person appointed would need to be committed to our ethos of welcoming everyone, whatever their age, background, sexuality or relationships status.

For more information visit our website  
<http://www.stmichaelandstpaulwallington.org.uk/>  
To request an a job description, contact the Parish Administrator, Mrs Julia Goldsmith 07765 182042  
e: [sbrparish@gmail.com](mailto:sbrparish@gmail.com)

**Deadline for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

There is an occupational requirement that this role be filled by a communicant Christian.

## Changes coming for PCCs

**The rules for PCCs are changing from 1 January 2020.**

In response, the Education Sub-committee of the Ecclesiastical Law Society is organising a series of training events around the country on the theme of good governance in parochial ministry.

The day will look at, the new rules, the Churchwardens Measure and what it means to be a charity trustee.

The first will be held on 15 November at Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9DF (behind Southwark

Cathedral) from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

The events are open to open to all clergy, churchwardens, registrars, diocesan staff etc.

The cost is £25.00 for ELS members: £30.00 for non-members (lunch included). Booking and information: <https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/education/>



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**For information about training courses to become a spiritual director contact Biddy Taylor (above)**

**Membership Secretary**  
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The **NOVEMBER** edition is due to be printed on **31 OCTOBER** and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 21 OCTOBER**

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited.

All photographs submitted for publication will assume 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 [www.southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)

# THE BRIDGE

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# Bermondsey church celebrates 150 years

**St Anne's Bermondsey celebrated its 150th anniversary over the weekend of 7 and 8 September.**

**Canon Gary Jenkins writes:**

They flocked to St Anne's Churchyard on the Saturday for a wonderful community celebration (below). It was great to see so many people

there, to meet so many people we knew, to get to meet new people, and to see everyone having such a great time".

Everything was free (apart from the ice creams) so the whole event was a lovely expression of the generous giving of God.

On Sunday morning as we arrived for the United Service of Thanksgiving we were serenaded by the Dockland Ringers (below centre), who usually ring the bells at St James, who came to ring at

St Anne's on a mobile bell rig which they - and some young visitors - also played at Saturday's Community Fun Day.

We were joined by a clutch of past vicars, including (right), l-r Stewart Hartley, Stan Catton, Henry Whyte (and Gary of course).

Then we joined together for a service full of joy and praise, giving thanks to God for the origins of St Anne's in what today would be called a bold piece of pioneer evangelism,

hearing from the children of the church what they valued about St Anne's and from two more senior members, Mavis and Jackie, who shared their memories.

Bishop Graham Kings led us in an Act of Rededication at the end, as we set out on our next 150 years

(Below right) Graham and Mavis (St Anne's churchwardens), cutting the 150 cake made by Sarah (centre), part of the bring and share lunch after the service.



## All Churches Trust helps fund summer holiday meals

**Grant aid from All Churches Trust has helped St Edward the Confessor, Mottingham provide extra meals for families who might otherwise have struggled over the summer school holiday.**

Throughout the year the parish provides a cooked brunch on Thursday morning and a three course lunch on a Friday, for a small charge.

With funding from the All Churches Trust Mission Fund the church was able to offer the meals free and an extra meal on Monday lunchtimes.

Games and activities were provided so that families could keep the children entertained

if they arrived early or wanted to stay after the meal.

The meals were advertised via local schools and 27 children and parents attended between 22 July to 23 August. On occasion over 50 meals were served. All the families who attended are led by single parents, although on occasions other adults, including aunts and grandparents attended to help. They are also families

who have had problems including overcrowded accommodation. So having a bit more space to play in was also a welcome change.

The project also brought together 14 volunteers from the church and the wider community, to set up the tables, prepare, serve and clear away the food.

The Vicar, the Revd Dr Catherine Shelley said:

"Overall the project was a good opportunity to build community and develop the church's mission through service to the community, giving a real life example of feeding the (not quite) 5,000".

St Mildred's Church Addiscombe website has been shortlisted in the "Most Engaging Small Church website" category in the Premier Digital Awards 2019. The judges are still working their way through the final stage of the judging process ready for the Awards Ceremony on Saturday 12 November. Congratulations and good luck St Mildred's.



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# N.Lambeth parishioners take the road to the Isles

That so many people express enthusiasm for a parish trip might be justifiably considered a very good thing. A complicating factor, though, is the small matter of how to transport 38 people on a 33 seater aircraft from mainland Scotland to Kirkwall, the largest town on Orkney.

**Suzette Aagaard writes:**

In fact this hurdle proved far from insurmountable and the epic road and sea route we were obliged to take to accommodate our number only added to the sense of adventure as a good chunk of the members of North Lambeth Parish set forth from Kennington in the dead of a scorching hot night in July.

What turned out to be a very fancy coach carried parishioners, including 19 sleepy children, on the 11 hour journey to Aberdeen. After a swift turnaround we boarded a very impressive Northlink ferry and, seven hours later, arrived in Kirkwall. A night in youth hostels restored energy to the group, whose ages ranged from six to just shy of 60. The last leg was a mere 90 minutes on the ferry from Kirkwall to Westray, one of the more northerly Orkney Isles.

A number of those in the group had already visited the island on an earlier trip and valiantly attempted to explain



to others what they might expect. They clearly failed to do it justice as the response from parishioners was magical. At the first opportunity hardy souls threw themselves into the bracing sea, much to the amusement of the local seal community. Everyone delighted in taking a cliff top walk to visit the very considerable puffin colonies (some of the children even managed to get within a metre of the birds). There was a dance exchange: young people from Lambeth patiently explained the moves involved in the 'Candy' and then very gamely took part in a ceilidh.

One of the most memorable evenings saw all of us either brandishing flaming torches or fearsome looking weapons and processing onto the beach with a Viking Jarl Squad from Shetland where we hurled the torches onto a boat as it was ceremonially set alight (right).

We had the great good fortune to be on Westray as the guests of Revd Iain MacDonald,

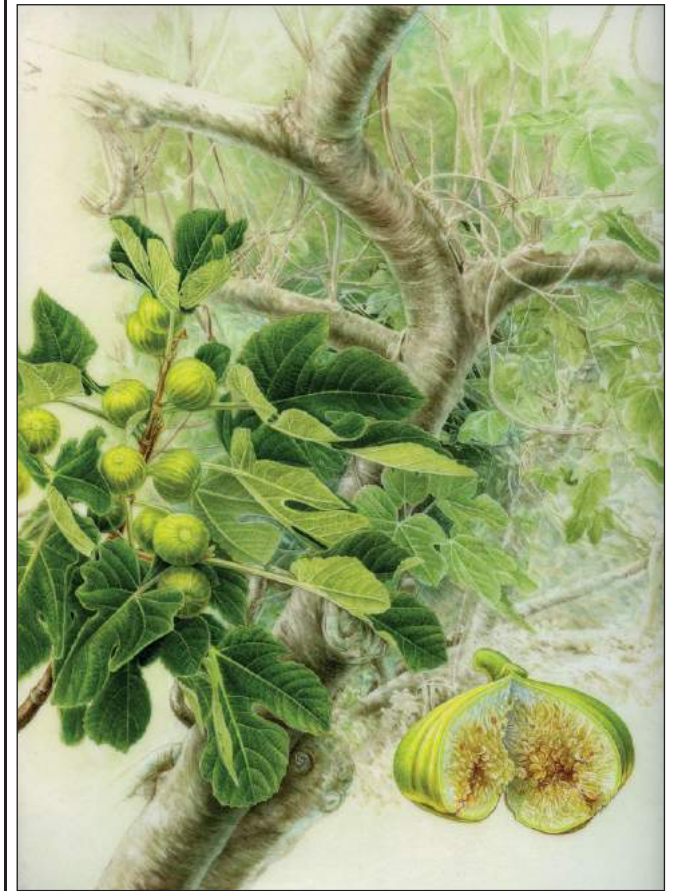
for 26 years Minister on Westray and the adjacent Papa Westray. The people of the island showed the most extraordinary and humbling hospitality. They delighted in opening up their kirk and homes to us and offering truly

delicious meals and baking.

We left the island feeling we had really made the most of our brief stay and wondering how on earth we could match the experience for forthcoming visits to Kennington by Westray islanders.



# Rotherhithe artist shows water colour in Sunday Times exhibition



Artist and Illustrator Sandra Doyle, of Holy Trinity Rotherhithe, had her painting 'Cardinal Pole's White Fig - *Ficus carica* 'White Marseilles' exhibited in the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition exhibition at the Mall Galleries from 17-22 September.

The exhibition then tours to Town Hall Arts, Trowbridge 5 October - 9 November and Guildford House Gallery 16 November - 2 January 2020. The tree which grows in the garden of Lambeth Palace is reported to have been brought to the Palace by the last Roman Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Reginald Pole, in 1556.

# Philip Fletcher celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Reader

A service of celebration on 4 August at St Michael's with St Andrew, Stockwell, marked the 40th Anniversary of the Licensing of Philip Fletcher CBE as a Reader in 1979.

The Warden of Readers, Ray Wheeler, was invited to preach and later presented Philip with a certificate and a gift from the Diocesan Association of Readers.

Ray said that prior to his licensing Philip's incumbent wrote to the Diocese saying that Philip had "considerable ability and good sense".

Philip had certainly illustrated these gifts over the years not just at St Michael's but in service to the Diocese (presently Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee), his work for the National Church and as a senior civil

servant culminating in his role as Director-General then Chair of OFWAT. Philip is also on the governing council of Canterbury Christ Church University.

All at St Michael's would testify that Philip has indeed shown considerable ability and

good sense over the last 40 years!

Below: l to r: Susan Wheeler, Margaret Fletcher (PTO Licensed Lay Worker), Philip Fletcher, Ray Wheeler and the Revd Erica Wooff (Vicar of St Michael & St Andrew)



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# 54 people receive the Bishop's Certificate

On Saturday 21 September, 54 people representing churches across the Diocese from Rotherhithe to Horley and from Thamesmead to Putney, who had completed the 2018–19 'Growing in Faith and Life' course, were awarded the Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship by Bishop Christopher at a special service in Southwark Cathedral. Members of the various study groups gave the readings and led prayers and Bishop Christopher preached.

Peter Graystone, Diocesan Lay Training Officer reflected that he was struck by the great diversity of this year's group. He said "The thing that sticks with me from the service is the laughter and the cheering when people's names were read out. It was a VERY joyful service".



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# Board of Education starts the new academic year with Cathedral service

On Monday 23 September the Cathedral hosted a service to celebrate the start of the new academic year for newly appointed headteachers, chaplains and Board of Education staff members and to bless the work of the governors and the whole school community.

The Bishop of Croydon, Chair of the Board of Education, presided and the Bishop of Southwark preached. During the service Bishop

Christopher presented Bibles to 14 people who have joined the Diocese as new Headteachers, Chaplains and members of Board staff.

Bishop's Certificates for Church School Governance (for schools successfully completing 9 modules of study in the preceding academic year) were presented to eight schools and will be sent to the three that couldn't attend.

At this point Doorkins, the Cathedral cat, made her customary appearance.

The Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett collected a certificate on behalf of St John's C of E Primary School, Angell Town.

She said it was dedicated to Glen Mehn, who had been part of the team of governors taking the course. Sadly he had died

earlier this year, and one of his last worries was that he wasn't able to help the board complete the course.

In his sermon Bishop Christopher said "I am immensely proud of the schools within the Diocesan family, especially the calibre and commitment to the Diocese of our Headteachers and Senior Leadership in our Schools.

"Our schools and our wider commitment to Further and Higher Education are one of the most powerful ways we make good the promise of the Church of England to be truly the Church of England, by offering an education that draws on the values and inspiration in the Christian tradition, to the community as a whole".



## It's Anti-slavery Day on Friday 18 October

The Clewer Initiative has developed resources, including prayer and church materials. The main prayer (right) and other resources are available from [www.theclewerinitiative.org/letstalk](http://www.theclewerinitiative.org/letstalk)

#LETSTALK  
#WESEEYOU

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### A PRAYER TO END MODERN SLAVERY

Lord, you are a God who sets the captives free.  
Your Spirit searches restlessly for those in despair, that they may find the life you are calling them to.  
We pray for those who are being trafficked and callously put to work in our region.  
On the cross, you were powerless and subject to the cruelty of others.  
Look with mercy on those who suffer this way.  
May we, who are blinded by the shallow distractions of daily life, feel the fear of the cornered and be roused to action.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Bishop Simon Burton-Jones, Bishop of Tonbridge



# Walworth school-children take part in Action Against Climate Change March

**Children from St Peter's CofE Primary School in Walworth took to the streets on Friday 20 September.**

They joined the millions of people from Sydney to New Delhi, Nairobi to New York, who walked out of school and work in the latest protests against the climate crisis. The global day of action, calling for a reduction in emissions, was held in the run-up to a UN summit in New York.

Mrs Anne-Marie Bahlol, Headteacher, said: "We are very proud of St Peter's children peacefully and joyously marching the streets of Walworth to get their message about climate change across to the local community. We are pleased that many families joined in the march to support their children. Many local residents stopped to comment favourably on the pupils' march. One member of the public remarked 'how good it is that the whole school is recognising such an important global issue'.

"St Peter's Primary and Early years have been learning about climate change and its effect on the world. Key Stage 2 have been listening to Greta Thunberg's speech and giving their own views about climate change. The school has also been focusing on Education for Global Citizenship and this has been embedded in our

teaching and learning. The School Council are going to be our champion for change and once elected, will be thinking about what part St Peter's can play in our local community to ensure we do our bit to make our community a better and safer place in which we can all live in harmony with nature. We are taking part to show how seriously we take, as a whole school the global climate crisis which we face today. Children are often much more able to make decisions at face-value, rather than we adults who seem to love debating, and questioning and leaving real change for tomorrow".

The Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby, Rector of St Peter's commented: "For Christian people, as a Christian School, and equally for other people of faith, the whole of creation is a gift from God: the earth and all the animals and plants, as well as every single human being.

"In the Bible God asks humans to look after the earth well, and when God makes a promise to the people and the animals it shows that God cares about the whole of creation. As Greta Thunberg has said, 'Our house is on fire', as Pope Francis has said, the earth is 'our common home' and is facing a 'climate emergency'. And so if we are going to love our neighbours as ourselves, that means making a change

in the way we live: reducing emissions, reducing what we consume from the earth, and living more simply so that we harm the earth less.

"Otherwise, we are not showing love for our neighbours who live in parts of the world affected by rising sea-levels and temperatures; we are not showing love to our neighbours who are children today, or even those who will be born a generation from now, who will live with the results of the damage we are doing to our amazing planet with its delicate eco-system.

"If we want to respect and love God and our neighbour, we must respect and love the earth, our common home".



## Celebrate Black History Month

### At the Cathedral:

On Saturday 5 October, the Diocese of Southwark will celebrate Black History Month with a Service of Thanksgiving and an afternoon of workshops at Southwark Cathedral. The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, will preside at the Eucharist and Comfort Idowu-Fearon, President of Southwark Diocese Mothers' Union, will be the keynote speaker.

The workshops will follow the theme of the event, 'From

Generation to Generation: celebrating Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women in ministry', and will cover the topics of women and social justice, women in pastoral and lay leadership and women in ordained leadership. Book online at: [southwarkbhm2019.eventbrite.com](http://southwarkbhm2019.eventbrite.com)

The Bishop says: "Black History Month offers all of us the chance to showcase the talents and creative skills of people from BAME communities in the Diocese, as we continue to live out our Vision of being a Church that welcomes all and embraces diversity."

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

From Generation to Generation: Celebrating BAME women in ministry

5 October 2019, 10.30am-3.00pm  
Southwark Cathedral  
London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

An afternoon of workshops will follow a service of thanksgiving. The Bishop of Southwark will preside at the Eucharist and Mrs Comfort Idowu-Fearon, President of the Diocesan Mothers' Union, will preach.

Register at: [southwarkbhm2019.eventbrite.com](http://southwarkbhm2019.eventbrite.com)

Walking | Welcoming | Growing

### At Beddington...

St Mary, Beddington will be celebrating 'Black History Mondays' this October. The programme includes two films, a talk by Marc Wadsworth entitled 'Justice 4 Windrush' and 'Tutti Fruitti', a celebration of black, LGBT people in popular music. Food will be served and any proceeds will go to church funds.

**BLACK HISTORY MONDAYS**

**OCTOBER 2019**

October 7 6.30 pm  
Film: *Gone Too Far*

October 14 6.30 pm  
Justice 4 Windrush  
Speaker: Marc Wadsworth

October 21 6.30 pm  
Film: *Bessie*

October 28 6.30 pm  
Tutti Fruitti  
A celebration of Black LGBT People in popular music

For more on Black History Month in the Diocese, visit [www.southwark.anglican.org/blackhistorymonth](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/blackhistorymonth)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT**

19TH OCTOBER

6-8 PM

Admission: £5

St George's Church, Blazin' Way, Croydon (CR9 1JL)

### At Shirley

St George the Martyr, Shirley, will celebrate Black History Month with an evening of music, poetry art exhibitions and free food and drinks on Saturday 19 October.

Event organiser Andrea Cordery said "We want to bring the celebration of African and West Indian culture in a language we can all understand - music and art!".

It will be 'all-ticket via Eventbrite: <http://bit.ly/2ksSx0G>

## An Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



**3-10 March 2020**

led by Bishop Christopher Chessun and Bishop Paul Hendricks

Cost £1,745 sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. Single room supplement.

Details from the Pilgrimage Administrator  
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,  
Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW  
Tel: 020 7939 9428

Email: [pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org)



# Putting the Southwark Vision at

**The Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin has been in post since January 2015. Since that time she has overseen many changes in the way in which the diocesan structures operate, as the staff team seeks to support and serve the mission of God in the parishes, deaneries and communities of the Diocese. She is now working with colleagues and the Bishop's senior staff team to ensure we are also focused on the delivery of Southwark Vision for the next few years.**

## She writes:

It is a huge privilege to serve the Diocese of Southwark as Diocesan Secretary. It is such a different context compared to my work in the City prior to coming here and each day, whatever the day might bring, I give heartfelt thanks for the wonderful opportunity I have to serve my Diocese. I hope that I can bring my experience of working in a secular environment and being a committed Christian together, as I seek to help lead and enable the further flourishing of Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry work with my colleagues, following the Report presented to Diocesan Synod in July 2018. It is one of the very important developments in the Diocese currently underway under the leadership of Bishop Christopher.

Trying to use to the full the gifts and talents that God has given me, recognising the grace of faith and of worshipping in community, is a joy I am sure you share. I am a Reader in the Diocese and this together with other roles past and present that so many of you share, such as school governorship, Street Pastor, trustee of charities etc, enable me to remember we are Christians in the public square, first and foremost, every day, Monday to Sunday. It is this that enriches my work as your Diocesan Secretary and I am delighted to share with you some of the initiatives and challenges we face. The work of enabling Lay Leadership and Ministry is only one of the exciting initiatives that we are undertaking in the Diocese

As part of the national Renewal & Reform programme, the Church Commissioners have been making major grants available to Dioceses for specific projects with a clear vision that will make a significant difference to their mission or financial strength. We are really pleased to have been awarded two such grants.

In 2016, the Diocese was awarded a grant of £950,000 to develop Fresh Expressions of Church (fxC) throughout the Diocese and to grow the Church in new development areas, in particular the Nine Elms development on the South Bank in the Vauxhall/Battersea area where there is significant regeneration and new housing.

The work on fxCs is being led by the Revd Canon Will Cookson and we are seeing an increase in the number and type of fxCs across our Diocese, and in all traditions of church – contact Will for information on fxC grants which are available now. In Nine Elms, through the work of the Dean of Emerging Communities, the Revd Leighton Carr,

and our new Pioneer Minister in the Arts, the Revd Betsy Blatchley, we have been able to build strong links with the local and emerging community as well as develop an Arts Ministry – and look out for the Advent Windows in this area later in the year!

The Diocese has been fortunate to have a strong team putting together the bids for the Church Commissioners' Strategic Development Funding (SDF) in a very professional and granular way, and in 2019 we were delighted to be awarded a second grant, this time of more than £3 million, for six specific projects in places identified across the Diocese where there is a clear opportunity for growth and where lessons learned can be replicated to good effect across the Diocese and the wider church. These projects, which show diverse approaches in both intervention, church tradition and expected outcomes whilst ensuring appropriate monitoring and oversight, are in St Matthew's at the Elephant, North Lambeth, Deptford Deanery, East Greenwich, Summerstown and Horley.

Collaborative team working is at the heart of how we are trying to serve the Diocese through these projects. The implementation and coordination of this work is being led by Jackie Pontin, another Reader in the Diocese who is our Director of Strategic and Operational projects. She works very closely with Archdeacon Simon Gates, our Canon Missioner, Jay Colwill, and our Dean of Fresh Expressions, Will Cookson, as well as all the Archdeacons who in turn work so closely with our parish and deanery project teams.

In order to ensure the success of these exciting new initiatives, the Diocese is making a significant financial contribution of its own. However, in order for this to be possible, we are reliant upon parishes to continue giving generously through the Parish Support Fund. This will finance the core mission and ministry of the Diocese, so that we are free to use the SDF, and the money we raise through the newly developed Southwark Vision Development Fund, including legacies, for SDF projects.

Some think, I know, that money is a difficult subject for the Church but it is only when we are properly funded that we can do the work to which God has called us and the Church.

So, I am absolutely sure that we should not be afraid to talk about money and why we, as a Diocese and each of our churches, need it in order to help to fund the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

I hope that these pages in the Bridge will encourage you, both, to explore more about what the Diocese is doing and to become involved.

**There is so much to celebrate in the work of the parishes of the Diocese of Southwark as laity and clergy work together to share the Good News of God in Christ.**

Throughout the year, here in The Bridge and on our Hearts on Fire blog (<https://southwarkcofe.tumblr.com>) we tell stories of the things that are happening in parishes to help to make Jesus known to those in the local community. We have featured stories about food banks and work with refugees and the homeless. The parishes offer clubs for the elderly and for the young, therapeutic gardens and so much more, showing how the people who are part of the Anglican churches in Southwark Diocese are playing their part in caring for our locality and its people.

Then, once a year, we offer a snapshot of the workings of the central structure of the Diocese of our Bishops, Archdeacons, and the work of our officers. This is through the Annual Report and Annual Review which together showcase the work that the various Departments and groups do to take forward Bishop Christopher's Vision for the Diocese and the Objectives that we hope to meet in the year.

So, in this edition of The Bridge we hope to bring you a snapshot of the work that happens in and through the Diocesan and Area offices to underpin and resource many of the exciting initiatives that are happening in the parishes.

## Far sighted vision

You will know of the Southwark Vision 2017-2025 but, just to remind you, the Diocese of Southwark is committed to these strategic objectives:

- to grow our average weekly attendance by 5% by 2025 partly through having each church develop a high-quality Mission Action Plan (MAP) which includes a course for evangelism and discipleship
- by 2025, to increase the number of worshipping communities with a primary focus on areas of population growth, through investment in Fresh Expressions of Church (fxC) in the areas where the data suggests that existing congregations are increasingly unrepresentative of the resident community and therefore unlikely to be successful in reaching them without intentional intervention
- to grow a financial resource base that allows investment in growth for the future, including an annual financial surplus, working financial reserves



equivalent to six months' operating costs by 2020, and 1% of Diocesan turnover annually dedicated to major Diocesan ministry and mission projects, rising to 2% by 2020

- to grow the number of ordained and lay vocations by 50% by 2020 by enabling and discerning ordained ministers; by expanding opportunities for licensed and commissioned lay leadership; by affirming and growing other forms of lay ministry (for example, worship leaders, families & youth leaders, and spiritual directors); to offer relevant and enriching training, and to create networks of support and celebration which reflect the diversity of the Diocese and our commitment to evangelism and discipleship; and to deliver fully integrated and pioneering church growth and fxCs
- by 2025, to grow leadership and representation that reflects the rich diversity of our Diocese, especially focusing where the data suggests that groups are currently under-represented through ethnicity, age (especially 18-40s), educational opportunities, material well-being and tradition.





# At the heart of everything we do



PHOTOS: Clockwise from top left: the licensing of the new Hispanic Mission; Bishop Christopher commissions our first three Lay Pioneer Ministers; St John the Evangelist's meadow garden team; below: how the Parish Support Fund supports ministry

## Making progress

These objectives are works in progress but we are already making strides to ensure that we are well on target for achieving our objectives by 2025. Did you know, for instance, that the number of ordained vocations has already met the targets set? That is a remarkable achievement in such a short time.

Work is beginning and moving apace to make sure that we reach the target of an increase in lay vocations by 50% by 2020. As Ruth Martin mentions, the Diocese is putting a great deal of emphasis on enabling our lay people to flourish in their roles every day, no matter what they do when they are not in church.

We want to help people to have a greater understanding of their role as the 'sent church' during the week, which is why we have launched our EveryDay Faith web pages. We have also appointed Ish Lennox as our Lay Leadership Development Adviser.

Our first three Lay Pioneer Missioners were commissioned on Saturday 15 September (one for each Episcopal Area) (See P1), and the new Deanery Leadership Teams will each have a Lay Champion.

It is exciting to see what is happening with this in the Diocese and we are working to ensure that our communications highlight this important strand of our objectives.

## Parish Support Fund

Much of the money that comes into the Diocese arrives via the Parish Support Fund (PSF). We moved to this method of collecting money from the parishes in 2015-16 and the scheme has been a huge success, with the amount pledged to the Diocese rising each year.

This money pays for so much of the work of the Diocese, and it means that there can be a clergy person in every parish. We share the way in which these costs are

worked out each year in the PSF information booklet.

In many Dioceses, generosity-based schemes such as the PSF do well in their first year but then the amounts pledged, and the amounts paid, begin to drop. We are so pleased that the parishes and people of the Diocese of Southwark have been and continue to be generous.

In 2018 every single parish and benefice in the Diocese contributed to the costs of the Diocese through the PSF. That's a brilliant achievement.

Such commitment to the work of the Diocese means that we can continue to support work in our poorest parishes, as well as invest in Diocesan initiatives that help people in our parishes to serve their communities.

But we do face challenges.

The pledges that have come in from the parishes for 2020 so far amount to £14.6 million, which is slightly less

than the pledges for 2019 at the same time.

However, some 92% of the parishes have pledged the same as, or more than, they did in 2019. That is a 2% increase and there are many stories of generosity, with 35 parishes – more than 10% – increasing their 2020 pledge over the previous year by more than 5%. Some parishes, though, have felt the need to reduce their pledges. Just 8% have done this but this means that our average increase for 2020 is now only 0.8%.

One of the premises that underpins the PSF is that parishes should, where possible, aspire to become self-financing.

In order for the many exciting plans that have been developed as a result of the Southwark Vision to reach fruition, every parish will need to be as generous as they can be, and some parishes will need to begin to take this aspiration more seriously.

## What ministry costs

	2020 Indicative Costs
Stipend, NI and pension	£40,200
Ministry housing	£8,800
Training and other ministry support	£15,500
• Diocesan and national training	
• Curates' stipends	
• Wider support for our parishes	£16,700
• Contributions to the National Church	
• Episcopal Area Teams	
• Parish support, HR, DAC and Governance	
• Board of Education and Welfare	
• Communications	
• Safeguarding	
• Public Policy and MEAC	
<b>Total ministry cost</b>	<b>£81,200</b>





# Putting the Southwark Vision at the heart of everything we do

**The money raised through the PSF enables the central administration of the Diocese to provide a range of services which benefit the parishes.**

For example, we have been able to increase resourcing for the Safeguarding Team over the past few years, so that there is now a full-time Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser who works with two full-time Assistant Safeguarding Advisers, a full-time Administrator and a part-time Training Administrator. Between them in 2018 they dealt with 392 new referrals, an increase of 9% on the previous year. They also delivered safeguarding training to more than 1,758 individuals across the Diocese. Sadly the need to resource this area of work is likely to increase in coming years as the Diocese continues to deal with non-recent allegations, but it is so important that our churches are safe places for all who want to be part of the Church of England in South London and East Surrey.

The Human Resources Director, David Loft, offers direct help and advice to parishes in regard to employees and employment issues, while the Pastoral Department and the Diocesan Advisory Committee work together with parishes to ensure that what they do within their church buildings falls within the Church of England's rules. This is known as the Faculty System.

The Press and Communications Team is there to share the good news of the work of the parishes, and to offer help with websites and social media. It is also ready to help when parishes find themselves dealing with news that is not so good that might hit the press. In addition, it maintains the Diocesan website's password-protected sections with resources for church officers and the clergy.

With the newly launched Parish Information Review we are moving to an online system of data sharing, which will ultimately cut costs and ensure that parishes get the information they need. And our GDPR training sessions have been both useful and popular.

The Ministry and Discipleship Team Department offers learning opportunities for clergy and laity to ensure that they are ready for the roles that they each have in sharing the Good News and helping congregations to grow. In the next few years we hope that there will be opportunities for some education to be available through interactive courses on the website, too. Recently this Team has started taking the lead in Lay Ministry as the Diocese prepares to launch the Lay Council, and will be



Clockwise from top left: 'Refugee: A Christmas Story' at the Battersea Power Station; the new vicarage at St Philip's Norbury; Peckham Pantry launch; Southwark Splash in the Cathedral



exploring new opportunities to affirm, commission and licence lay ministry. The Vocations Team, meanwhile, continues to grow vocations to ordained ministry and its work with BAME candidates has grown markedly in recent years.

## Mission focused

Our Mission and Evangelism Team led by the Canon Missioner, The Rev Canon Jay Colwill continues to reach out to parishes with training and bespoke courses and leads on our Deaneries development work.. The Children & Youth team are working hard to create a supportive network for children's, families and youth workers across the Diocese, while the Canon Missioner, himself, is extremely active assisting and enabling Mission Action Planning advice.

The Department for Justice,

Peace and Integrity of Creation, too, provides training, as well as raising awareness both within and outside the Diocese on vital subjects such as the environment, knife crime, refugees and Black History Month. It also supports the work of Together Southwark. Combatting knife crime and developing work towards becoming an Eco Diocese are two priorities.

One of the most important pieces of work is that of the Property Department, which seeks to provide the highest possible standard of accommodation for our clergy, who tell us that their vicarages being in good condition is crucial to their well-being. (Clergy well-being is another focus of the Diocese at this time.)

We are not now simply housing our stipendiary clergy (that is, clergy who are paid for the work

that they do in the parishes) but also a small number of self-supporting ministers and House for Duty clergy, as well as an increasing number of curates. In total, we house 308 clergy. We will also soon be housing some of our lay workers too, as part of plans to encourage more fxC and the way in which we grow Christian communities both in number and depth of faith.

## Building a future

We are seeking to make sure that the buildings we own are used in new and creative ways, and committed to ensuring that there are houses for curates in parishes where they are needed. The Diocese has also made a commitment to having pioneer curacies, so that we can train and appoint clergy to lead new Christian communities that may well not have a traditional church base. This is a really exciting new

development and it is important that we have housing for them where they need to be.

There is so much going on in Southwark Diocese and so much is planned which will take the Diocese forward in exciting new ways. The Diocese of Southwark wants to be a Diocese that is:

- Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on
- Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being Church
- Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom.

As Ruth Martin says, "We want Southwark Diocese to be a vibrant place as we all seek to take forward Bishop Christopher's Vision. I am so pleased to see the ways in which we are already beginning to meet our objectives and to grow and develop new ministries and ways of being Church.

"I hope that you will want to join with me and all those who work across the Diocese in praying for and giving to the work of mission and ministry in the Diocese of Southwark. Could I also please take this opportunity to thank our clergy, staff colleagues and above all the thousands of volunteers who work tirelessly for the Kingdom of God across our Diocese".

## Vision in action: staff values and purpose in the Diocese of Southwark

The people who work across the Diocese, the Bishops and Archdeacons and those in Trinity House and the Area Offices, work to a set of values and a staff purpose which helps to shape all they do.

This is to serve, support, lead and enable the mission of God as it is worked out in the parishes,



deaneries and communities of the Diocese of Southwark.

The staff values are:

- effective stewardship of resources
- collaborative team working
- respect for all
- transparent accountability.

All the staff have a printed copy of the purpose and values on their desks or in their work area.



# It shouldn't work, but I would do it all again

**Wendy Robins writes:**

**Interviewing Peter Wright a couple of months after he had finished his final term as Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, and a couple of weeks after he played there at the 11am Sunday service for the last time, it was amazing to see how relaxed he looked.**

Peter had loved being at the Cathedral but he knew it was time to retire and was ready for it. As he said to me he is retiring from his role at the Cathedral but not from music or from playing the organ, giving recitals, conducting and some teaching. In fact he had just come back from some concerts in Germany.

Peter Wright came to Southwark Cathedral at the age of 35 from being Assistant Organist at Guildford Cathedral. He stayed 30 years – a testament to how much he enjoyed the role! Like Southwark Cathedral, Guildford Cathedral had not had a Choir School and so Peter had learned early on

how to manage a choir when the boys – which it was when he arrived in March 1989 – could not come in for practice before breakfast and where the success of the choir relies at least in part on the willingness of the choristers families to be supportive and to be involved in transportation and all the things that are involved in a choir that is not 'in residence' around the corner. Peter says, 'you have to learn to be more flexible in everything including the repertoire'.

Of the many interesting things that Peter talked about I was particularly struck by what he said about treating the choristers as professionals from the very outset. He says that it really doesn't help them to tell them that something is good when it is not. Honesty helps them to learn and to grow in their roles and Peter went on to say that his greatest joy and a source of enormous satisfaction has been to watch how the choristers grow and develop.

For many of the boys their time as a chorister has literally turned around their lives teaching them discipline, team work, time management, life skills whilst giving them a community to which to belong.

Being a chorister is incredibly demanding, especially when there is no choir school, as there are

increasing demands on young people's time today. Peter has been a chorister himself, indeed he was Head Chorister at Highgate School and then went on to be the organist at a local URC church between the ages of 15 & 17. At 17 he became Organist at St Michael's, Highgate where there were 24 boy choristers - the head chorister being only three years younger than he. He said that he learned his craft of choir training there by trial and error. He had a wonderful piano teacher locally before studying at the Royal College of Music and then going on to Cambridge as an Organ Scholar. He had been told, he said, that if he wanted to get on as a cathedral musician this was the best way. That was true then but not today.

Peter is a twin and as seems to be the case with many identical twins they are quite different and Peter's twin did not get swept up in the music that they heard at the time; people like Billy Cotton and Russ Conway! It seems that Peter knew from very early on that it was a musical career that he wanted to pursue.

The advent of the Girls' Choir at Southwark Cathedral meant that, apart from anything else, the number of sung services per week could increase. Peter talked about



working out who should take on the development of the girls' choir and said that he realised that it was better that the choirs had consistent daily training from the same person rather than the conductors chopping and changing and thus the Assistant Organist at the Cathedral, Stephen Disley, took on and developed the Girls' Choir which has been a wonderful addition to the Cathedral's music.

Asked what he has been most disappointed by he responds that it is when people let him down but it was always so gratifying when a chorister found skills he did not know he had.

Some boys come without being able to find their 'head voice' but with careful training this can be corrected.

Music, Peter says, is an integral part of worship but

it needs to be liturgically appropriate and so he hopes that in future the tradition of sacred choral music will continue to be taught because of its beauty and because it provides people with so much that will help them in their adult lives.

Peter hopes, and I agree, that the boys and girls at Southwark Cathedral will keep going for many years to come.

## You are invited to 'sleep out' to help rough-sleepers'

Once again Southwark Cathedral is hosting the Robes SleepOut - on Friday 29 November, when a very diverse group of people will bed down for the night raising money to offer warm beds to South London's homeless.

Everyone is welcome to sign up via the Robes website. Just ask your friends and family to sponsor you. They can do this via JustGiving where you can see their contributions (named

or anonymous) on line. If it's easier to collect cash, then do that instead!

There are 1,000 volunteers working with 33 churches involved in the Robes Project which runs from January to April. Many volunteers raise money individually throughout the year and there are also fund raising events. The SleepOut is the event where the most is raised on one evening (£88,734 in 2018).

The evening starts with entertainment always with a surprise celebrity so you can come along and buy a ticket if you don't feel sleeping out is for you.

There's also an auction where you can bid for unique prizes and events. Following all that there's a short service in the Cathedral and participants then bed down for the night.

The next morning there's an opportunity for morning worship followed by a very welcome breakfast! It's immensely rewarding so why not come and join in!

When you're homeless you lack more than just a home; you're without everything a home provides.

That's why Robes offers the chance to live somewhere while the guests have the space to get back on their feet.

**If you would like to sign up visit <https://robes.org.uk/sleepout2019>**



## Autumn 2019 Workshops

**Malling Abbey**  
10:30am - 3:30pm

Saturday 02 November - £30.00

**Theology on the Ground**

Rev'd Dr Catherine Shelley & Rev'd Anne Bennett

This seminar provides a chance to consider the impact of context on the shape and possibilities for mission and ministry. Using theological tools from Anglican and Methodist traditions, liberation theology and feminist theology it will provide a chance to share and compare experiences, developing both practical knowledge and theological thinking.

Saturday 02 November - £30.00

**Jesus' Living Letters**

Will Cookson

Will is Dean of Fresh Expressions and Director of Pioneering Ministry in the diocese of Southwark, familiar with some of the most imaginative and vibrant mission initiatives in England. He will lead this workshop on nurturing ourselves and others into a confident and hopeful discipleship, faithful to Jesus' call to mission. Whether the business of mission terrifies or thrills you, you can take courage in Paul's assurance that, in this joyful enterprise, we "are all letters from Christ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2 Cor. 3.3.



**Trinity House**  
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Monday 4 November - £15.00

**Making Sense of the Moral Teaching in the New Testament**

Rev'd Dr Stephen Laird

A look at some tricky and challenging passages in the Gospel tradition and the Epistles.

There will be a special focus on Matthew's Gospel (the lectionary gospel for 2020), as well as a range of passages related to current debates about marriage and gender issues. New Testament ethical teaching will be assessed in its First Century context. There will be debate and discussion, when we will relate our insights to issues in the Church today.

**ALSO at Malling Abbey**

6:30pm - 9:00pm

Wednesday 27 November - £15.00

To book your place on a workshop, please contact [office@staugustinescollege.ac.uk](mailto:office@staugustinescollege.ac.uk) or ring 01732 252 656



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# 'What are you expecting?'

## All Churches Trust supports East Dulwich Advent programme

St John the Evangelist Church East Dulwich has been awarded £3,000 from the All Churches Trust Mission Fund towards an exhibition and events programme planned for December.

The Revd Raymond Baudon says: "The exhibition is called 'What are you expecting?'.

The poster (right) depicts the central image of the exhibition – the picture 'Refugee mother and child' also known as 'Our Lady of Calais'.

"It was painted in situ in St Paul's Cathedral and is a massive 2.3m x 2.3m. It will hang in the centre of the St John's sanctuary and will form the backdrop to services during Advent and Christmas.

"Alongside this picture the Southwark Tryptich (on loan from the Diocese) will be displayed together with a picture called 'Blessed are the poor' by ID Campbell, artist-in-residence at St George's Tron church in Glasgow. ID Campbell has done a lot



## WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING?

### Exhibition and Events

For all ages exploring the meaning of Advent

SJ  
ED

1 DECEMBER TO 30 DECEMBER 2019  
ST JOHN'S EAST DULWICH | 62A EAST DULWICH RD  
WWW.STJOHNSEASTDULWICH.ORG | @STDULWICH

of work with refugees and so along with the other two paintings there is a strong theme of exploring migration and refugees' experiences as well as how we as a church community can respond".

Alongside the exhibition, a programme of events are planned to reach out to local schools and to other people in the community.

Raymond Baudon continued "The purpose of the exhibition and the events is to draw people in to St John's and to grapple with the questions of how we respond to migrants and refugee.

"On a theological level it raises the question of what we expect when we are looking for God at work in the world.

"Do we expect to see Christ reflected in the face of a refugee or in a homeless person?"

Bishop Christopher will bless and dedicate the exhibition on 1 December. The programme runs from 1 to 30 December at St John the Evangelist, Goose Green, London SE21.

# Inter faith Walk in Peckham

The annual Southwark Inter-faith Walk took place on Sunday 15 September.

Walkers started off at midday from Peckham's Coplestone Church and Community Centre with a short talk about the Church of England and United Reform Church.

Then a short walk up Rye Lane took them to the Baptist Chapel and talks from

the Christian and Humanist traditions.

Then at The Peckham Peace Wall in Peckham High Street (below) the walkers reflected on Peckham's community spirit and the last stop was at New Peckham Mosque in Copburg Road, where a talk on the Muslim tradition and the history of the building was followed by a barbecue to round off the day. The Walk celebrated how much the different faiths have in common.



## ALSO AVAILABLE



### Host of Angels Decs

Each box contains six solid chocolate angel decorations, a 'colour in' Christmas story activity poster and a Christmas story sticker set. RRP £3.99.

### Joy to the World - Sharing Box

Suitable for Christingles, Messy Church, crib services and other Christmassy get-togethers. Contains 30 gold foiled milk chocolate angels and 30 Christmas story-activity posters. Great for kids and a treat for adults as well. RRP £30



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## Bryan Harris's

# PARISH PROFILE

### West Norwood, St Luke

**"We're a family". Eleanor (in her eighties) told me when I asked her what makes St Luke's so special.**

Other comments I got were 'warm', 'welcoming', 'inclusive' and 'all you'd ever want a church to be' – and I can attest to the 'warm and welcoming', even after the Vicar, Donald Davis had told everyone what I was there for!

For this month's profile we've moved just a couple of miles, from South to West Norwood, but we've crossed from Woolwich to Kingston Episcopal Areas and from Anglo Catholicism to a charismatic evangelical church.

St Luke's Church was built in 1825 one of Lambeth's four 'Waterloo Churches' funded to mark the end of the Napoleonic wars. At that time a rural area with a few villas and cottages, West Norwood grew to a suburban mix of £3 million homes just off the High Street, houses divided into flats and social housing estates.

The church is unusual in that it is on a north-south axis instead of the usual east-west, thanks to a planning requirement to keep it 100ft away from a nearby pub! Originally it had box pews and galleries and sat 1,412 people. But in 1873 the interior was reordered, removing the galleries and creating a chancel at the south end. A century later (1976) the chancel was divided off from the nave to create a two storey hall. Nevertheless the remaining worship area is still substantial.

The unique 1827 Vulliamy church clock is the earliest example of a flatbed turret clock movement in England. In May 2017 it was restored and returned to full working order



funded by donations and crowd funding.

St Luke's has been an evangelical church back beyond 'living memory' and part of the charismatic movement since its 'arrival' in the 1970s. Its church family today includes around 30 different nationalities from as far apart as Eastern Europe and the Caribbean, which pretty much reflects West Norwood's multi-cultural population.

The Revd Donald Davis (below left) has been the Vicar since 2008. Originally from Edinburgh, Donald served on the Royal Navy (including in Ark Royal and in nuclear submarines) before training for ministry. Soft-spoken he leads worship with a light hand and seemingly permanent smile. Sunday worship is listed for 10.30 - but on the day I visited it started 15 minutes or so late. "We tend to wait until a good number are here" said Donald.

Most churches have a 'clicker' to count the numbers – not St Luke's. St Luke's has Valerie who knows everyone's name and writes them into a 'register'. At 10.30 she had a dozen names, by 11 o'clock it was nearly 60 adults and a dozen or so children who went out to their own groups. A late start? No problem, people hugged, chatted and listened to the music group rehearsing.

Two Sundays each month the service will include Holy Communion but when I visited it was a stripped down Common Worship Service of the Word - which began with, and was punctuated by, worship songs. Preaching and prayer are the primary focus with Donald's 'Word' being peppered with 'audience participation'... "I am a child of God, you are a child of God, turn to your neighbour and tell them" – and practically everyone did! The single reading said 'raise your hands in prayer'... "Go on" said Donald, he raised his hands and everyone followed. As a visitor you sense their enthusiasm – its almost tangible.

Not surprisingly exchanging the peace took a while as everyone wanted to greet everyone else and after the service, no-one seemed to want to leave.

On Sunday an afternoon service is also held at The British Home (for adults with disabilities) where church members join with residents in the Chapel. An outdoor baptism service (full-immersion!) is held on Pentecost Sunday for older children and adults (below)



and Thanksgiving, Naming & Dedication is offered for babies and younger children on one Sunday morning a month.

The church is also one of the venues for the West Norwood Feast - a street market with food, crafts, produce and performances from local artists on the first Sunday of each month, from

April to December. It is closely linked with St Luke's School. Children regularly attend services and events at the church and church members are involved as governors and parents.

"The love of Jesus is at the heart of all we do, sharing it and showing it in word and deed" said Donald. And this is played out in many ways.

Fellowship groups are run during the week, some at homes and some in church - talking about faith and sharing experiences. All members of the church are encouraged to join one. They include a Tuesday evening discipleship group and on Wednesday evening, a street witness fellowship who take to the streets talking to people, offering prayer and practical help. The word has got around about the Wednesday group so that it now draws people from all over (including from overseas) to learn from St Luke's experience – and to be trained to go out, knocking on doors, as far away as Sri Lanka!

"Our programme encourages everyone to gather in the fellowship groups" said Donald. "And people from here go out to other parishes all over the world, and start 'gatherings' there".

Concern for those in need includes dedicating nearly a quarter of St Luke's Church to the Norwood & Brixton Foodbank which opens two days a week, with church members and people from other churches collecting donations of food and distributing them – plus offering practical advice and help, and tea and cakes!

It is also one of the Robes Project winter shelter venues. "It's very good for us" said Donald. "Helps us to relate to people and to involve people from the churches and the community." And several people who have come to St Luke's for a night's shelter have subsequently joined the church.

The Foodbank occupies a corner of the church



Donald is the only priest at St Luke's, but he has 'a wealth of support' from a parish Ministry Team including a parish administrator, and from a Baptist Missionary Team who looked at a number of local Anglican and Baptist churches before choosing St Luke's – and now live in the parish's curates house.

Everything in the garden seemed so 'rosy' that I hesitated in asking Donald - what are the challenges?

Donald said; "There is not much of a gang culture locally but there are problems with drugs and drink including among the ex-offenders in local hostels. Many of them gather in the gardens in front of the church and the debris (and drinkers) often spread onto the steps of the church".

"The Grade II listed building is large and needs a lot of updating. The electrics need sorting out; and as well as 'church' we have a lot of other meetings here, so we need new toilets and hot water (we have to boil water for refreshments and washing up, for example)".

Financially St Luke's is doing 'quite well' – thanks to £12,000 a year from the mobile phone mast on the church tower and to the evangelical culture which believes in giving to God. However the appeal for capital spending is 'struggling'.

"Our people are very generous in their giving... but they are less concerned about the building than in funding mission and ministry to the people we can serve," said Donald.

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# Let us pray

## October

There are some TV programmes that become legendary.

I can never quite believe that there were only twelve

episodes made of 'Fawlty Towers' - but it's true. One of the stars of that show, John Cleese, had of course come to fame in a much more revolutionary show that is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month.

'Monty Python's Flying Circus' had a longer run than 'Fawlty Towers' and is perhaps even more legendary. The humour was satirical, black, absurdist; 'Pythonesque' is a word that has entered the dictionary.

It became more than simply a TV show, leading as

it did to hugely controversial films like 'The Life of Brian'. The footage of the then Bishop of Southwark, Mervyn Stockwood, on the equivalent of 'Newsnight', condemning that film is 'must-see' TV.

As someone raised on 'Terry and June' and 'The Good Life', Monty Python was staggering. It was so outrageous that every teenager loved it and every grandparent hated it.

The ability to laugh is God-given. I'm convinced Jesus had a really strong

sense of humour. He uses absurd images and stories to make his point, the camel and the eye of the needle is just one, and I think that people must have laughed as they listened to him.

It's hard for us, however, to see the jokes in the Bible, we have too much respect for the word to laugh when it is read to us.

So where do we see the humour of God, how do we experience that?

**God, help me to laugh and to cry, to see the funny side of life as much as its pain and beauty.**

**Amen.**



The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

*Please follow me on Twitter as I offer a prayer each morning so that you can join me in Morning Prayer. Go to @deansouthwark*



Bishop Jonathan with Co-Chair Jatinda Singh Birdi

## Look out for Inter Faith Week 10-17 November

In our super-diverse Diocese we are home to many different faith communities, both large and small. Many churches with an outward looking focus are already engaged with neighbours of other faiths and witnessing to God's love as they do so. But how do you begin to do this?

### Sirol Davies Diocesan Inter Faith Adviser writes:

One way is through Inter Faith Week. Bishop Jonathan

is Co-Chair of the Inter Faith Network UK which leads on Inter Faith Week - why don't you and your church get involved too?

This year Inter Faith Week will take place between Sunday 10 and Sunday 17 November.

Inter Faith Week's aims are to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Celebrating the positive contribution which faiths make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society

- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

Find out what is going on near you or get some ideas to organise your own event at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org) or get in touch with me at [siriol.davies@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:siriol.davies@southwark.anglican.org).

Want more ideas? Have a look at these:

Twitter: @IFWeek

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ifweek](https://www.facebook.com/ifweek)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/ifweek](https://www.instagram.com/ifweek)

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**BY MONDAY 21 OCTOBER**

## Ongoing

\* **BEDDINGTON** - Quiet @St Mary's - 3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm. Including labyrinth

\* **BOROUGH** - St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm to 4.30 pm.

\* **CATERHAM** Guided Tours of St Lawrence, Church Sunday 6 and 13 October at 3pm. Adults £3 Children free.

† **HACKBRIDGE** - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month

\* **WADDON** - St George - Community Café and Time to Share. Tuesday (Term time) 9.30am - 11.30am. Lunch 12.15pm. Community Breakfast 1st Saturday 10am - 12noon.

\* **WARLINGHAM** - Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday  
† **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington - Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm

## October

### Wednesday 2 October

♫ **CATERHAM** - Munch with Music at St John's Church. 'Double Duos' - music from the Golden Age of Shows. Tea/Coffee 12:15. Performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Free - Donations welcome.

### Thursday 3 October

♫ **LEWISHAM** - 'England be Glad' - Medieval and Renaissance music with Ensemble Tramontana, 7.30pm - at St Mary's Church.. £10 on door.

### Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill

- admission free, donations invited. Thursday 1.10 pm

3rd - Reigate Grammar School

10th - Godfrey Searle Choir

17th - "Ralph Vaughan Williams" Michael Barlow - Lecturer/Pianist

24th - Violin & Piano Recital

31st - Recital - Emma Stannard - Mezzo-soprano

### Choral Evensong sung by the RGS Godfrey Searle Choir

Thursday 3 October St Mark, Reigate. 5 pm.

Sunday 6 October St Mary, Reigate. 5.15 pm.

Thursday 17 October St Mary, Reigate. 5 pm.

### Lunchtime Recitals at

### Croydon Minster

40 minutes of Music on Fridays at 1.10pm

Free entry donations requested

4th - Old Palace of John Whitgift School

11th - Edward Leung (Piano)

18th - Croydon High School

25th - Elizaveta Saul (Violin) & Ana Manastireanu (Piano)

### Saturday 6 October Black History Month Celebration at Southwark Cathedral

**Eucharist at 10:30am.**  
**President:** Bishop Christopher  
**Address:** Southwark MU president  
**Comfort Idowu-Fearon.**  
**Music from the Amies Freedom Choir**

**Workshops after the service: BAME women and Social Justice, BAME women in lay or ordained leadership.**  
For more information email [marlene.collins@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:marlene.collins@southwark.anglican.org) or tel: 020 7939 9412.

### Saturday 6 October

♫ **LEWISHAM** - Generation Project Concert at St Mary's Church 6pm -- with primary school choirs, the British Recorder Light Orchestra, the Generation Choir and the Tongue and Groove choir. Free entry.

### Saturday 6 October

♫ **CAMBERWELL** - Italian Opera classics followed by a Come & Sing choir performance of Vivaldi's uplifting 'Gloria'. 6.30pm at St Giles' Church. Entry is free (donations welcome) and a bar is available.

### Saturday 5 October & Sunday 6 October

✿ **RIDDLESDOWN** - St James Church Autumn Flower Festival. Saturday 11-4.30, Sunday 2.30-4.30.

### Saturday 5 - Saturday 12 October

\* **EPSOM** - Joys and Sorrows - Epsom mental Health and Wellbeing festival. Over 70 free events. Details from <http://bit.ly/2msiZlx>

### Saturday 12 October

♫ **MITCHAM** - The Merry Opera Company present: Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Pirates of Penzance' 7:00pm at Mitcham Parish Church. Licensed bar. Tickets (£10.00) & details: from 020 8646 0666.

♫ **BETCHWORTH** - Organ Concert at St Michael's Church. 4.00 pm. Christopher Herrick (International Concert Organist). Tickets £12, including glass of wine/soft drink. On sale from 01737 843498 or on the door. In aid of Church Funds.

### Sunday 13 October

♫ **EAST DULWICH** - Choral Evensong (music by Stanford and Ireland). 5pm at St. John's Church. All welcome.

### Thursday 17 October

♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Organ Concert at St John's - 7.30pm. Gerard Brooks. Free admission, retiring collection and refreshments.

### Friday 18 October

✿ **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group 4 pm. Revd John Parery on a Sikh poem about Jesus, All welcome.

### Saturday 19 October

♫ **DEPTFORD** - St Paul's Lunchtime Recital: Celebrating Women Organists - 1 to 1.45pm. Sue Heath-Downey (St Paul's Deptford).

♫ **MERTON** - Mordern Park Choral Society Concert, 7.30 pm at St John the Divine Church. Details from Mr Maylin 07392 489024.

### Sunday 20 October

♫ **STREATHAM** - Music at St Peter's Church. The Signal Trio: Lucy Cox (soprano) Brendan Musk (trumpet) and Will Mason (organ). Music by Handel, Mozart, Fauré, Rachmaninoff & Gershwin. 12:10pm to 1pm. Retiring collection for Church Organ fund.

### Thursday 24 October

✿ **GREENWICH** - "What can we really believe about Jesus Christ?" The Revd Canon Dr Robert Reiss, Canon Emeritus, Westminster Abbey at St George's, Westcombe Park 8pm. Part of the Community Lecture series. Admission free. Refreshments and Q&A session. Retiring collection.

### Friday 1 November

✿ **SUTTON** - 'China and the changing face of global Christianity' 8pm at Christ Church. Talk by Heather Clements (Bible Society) on the growth of Christianity in China. Free entry, refreshments for a donation.

## November

### Lunchtime Recitals at Croydon Minster

Fridays at 1.10 - 1.50pm  
Free entry donations requested

1st - David Woods (Tenor), Bryony Burnham (Soprano) Ezra Williams (Piano)

8th - Tim Guntrip (Organ)

15th - Old Palace of John Whitgift School

22nd - Emmanuel Garnier (Piano)

29th - Laine Theatre Arts Choir

### Wednesday 6 November

♫ **CATERHAM** - Munch with Music at St John's Church. Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Tea/Coffee 12:15 Performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Free - Donations welcome

### Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill

Admission free, donations invited  
Thursdays @ 1.10 pm

7th Dunottar School

14th Hannah Hever (Clarinet)

21st Wind & Words: "World War II" - Valerie Fry (Narrator) & Chris Hooker (Clarinet)

28th David Hanesworth (Violin) w Patricia Romero (Piano)

### Choral Evensong sung by the RGS Godfrey Searle Choir

Thursday 7 November St Mark, Reigate 5 pm.

Thursday 14 November St Mary, Reigate 5 pm.

Sunday 17 November St Peter, Tandridge 6.30 pm.

Thursday 21 November St Mark, Reigate 5 pm.

Sunday 24 November St Mary, Reigate 5.15pm.

Thursday 28 November St Mary, Reigate 5 pm.

### Saturday 9 November

♫ **DULWICH** - The Ionian Singers with clarinettist Marina Finnamore - St Stephen's Church, 7.30pm. Tickets at the door £14.00 (u/16s & f/t students free).

### Saturday 16 November

♫ **CROYDON** - Come and Sing Dvorak's Requiem. A one-day choral workshop and performance with the Croydon Bach Choir 10am - 5.30pm Pre-registration and payment/essential. For more information go to <http://bit.ly/2mf5SUW>

\* **LINGFIELD** - Friends of the College of St. Barnabas Annual Fair at 10.00am. Gifts, cards, refreshments, stalls, raffles, tombola. Admission £1. Come and help The Friends to provide social activities, concerts and visits.

### Sunday 17 November

♫ **STREATHAM** - Matt Lowe (cello) and Poppy Beddoe (Clarinet) at St Peter's Church, 12:10pm to 1pm. Concert to include Beethoven's Piano Trio Op 38. More details to follow.

### Wednesday 20 November

✿ **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group meets at Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace SW1P, 4 to 5 p.m. Speaker - Raya Tibawi on her walk for Medical Aid for Palestine, All welcome.

### Friday 22 & Sunday 24 November

♫ **WATERLOO** - 'Dialogues des Carmélites' - Midsummer Opera Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at St John's Church. (Friday @ 7pm, Sunday @ 5.30pm) Tickets in advance £24 (£22 concs Friday) 020 7652 0070 or on-line <http://bit.ly/2kDqDPP> ). On the door £28 (£26 concs Friday).

### Saturday 23 November

♫ **DEPTFORD** St Paul's Lunchtime Recital: Celebrating Women Organists - 1pm to 1.45pm Eleni Keventsidou (Athens and London).

\* **MERTON** - St James Church Christmas Fair 11am. Visit from St Nicholas. Adm,free.

### Thursday 28 November

✿ **GREENWICH** - "Thank God for Equal Marriage" - The Very Revd Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans Cathedral at St George's, Westcombe Park at 8pm. Part of the St George's Community Lecture series. Refreshments. Q&A session. Admission free. Retiring collection.

### Saturday 30 November

\* **ADDISCOMBE** - Christmas Fair at St Mary Magdalene Church, Canning Road 11am - 3 pm.

## December

### Sunday 1 December

♫ **MERTON**: The Joyful Mysteries: Advent Music at St James Church 6pm.

### Choral Evensong sung by the RGS Godfrey Searle Choir

Thursday 5 December St Mark, Reigate 5 pm.

Thursday 12 December St Mary, Reigate 5 pm.

### Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill

Admission free, donations invited

Thursdays @ 1.10 pm  
5th Raymond Wui-Man You (Piano)

12th Martin Cooper (Organ) "Christmas Festival"

### Saturday 7 December

♫ **WEST WICKHAM** - Big Christmas Sing - Carols and readings in aid of Christian Aid. Come and join in favourite carols. St.Francis of Assisi at 4pm. Free admission & refreshments

### Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 December

\* **SELSDON** - St John's Christmas Angel Weekend - Saturday 11am-3pm Angelfest Fayre: Children's activities, Father Christmas, stalls refreshments. Free Entry Sunday 6pm - Christmas Concert, mulled punch and mince pies. Free Entry. [www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk)



# The Rt Revd Robert Kerr (Roy) Williamson

**Bishop Roy Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, 1991 to 1998, died peacefully in the early hours of Tuesday 17 September, surrounded by his children.**

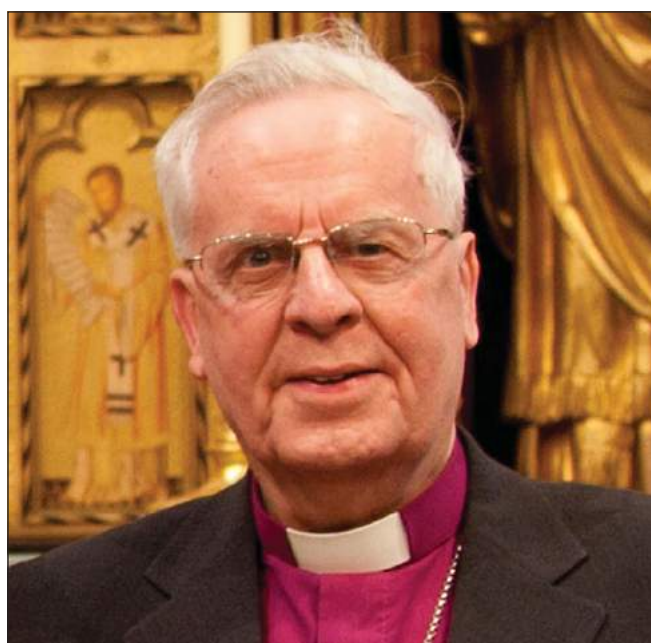
Bishop Roy came to Southwark from Bradford where he was Diocesan bishop. However, he had worked in the Diocese of Southwark long before his ordination, as a London City Missioner.

Bishop Roy was a warm, gentle pastor, a real father-in-God to many, a great preacher, a shepherd to his flock.

He was always supported in ministry by his wife Ann. She died a few years ago and left Roy to continue life in the place that they loved on the edge of Nottingham.

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark said: "Bishop Roy Williamson's varied and distinguished ministry culminated in serving from 1991 to 1998 as the eighth Bishop of Southwark.

"During this time he even extended his ministry north of the river in ordaining a large number of women to the Priesthood in 1994, including one of my colleagues in Stepney. He is remembered in this Diocese with great warmth and affection: his pastoral heart coupled with the twinkle in his eye and delightful sense of humour meant that wherever he went people felt loved and affirmed. As well as his very evident love of Christ, he cared deeply about all the



clergy and people in his care. He will be much missed by many and I extend heartfelt sympathy to his family. We give thanks to God for his life and ministry".

The Dean of Southwark, The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, came to Southwark Diocese to work with Bishop Roy as his Chaplain. He writes:

It was the day of the ordination of women to the priesthood in Southwark Cathedral on 21 May 1994. Bishop Roy Williamson, the Bishop of Southwark, with the Area Bishops was ordaining all the women in just one day. The Cathedral was buzzing with people and excitement. And in the midst of all this frenetic activity Bishop Roy made his way to the Provost's study in the Cathedral's offices. A

young priest had come down to the ordinations and +Roy had agreed to meet him in between two of them.

The Bishop was looking for a new Chaplain. His Chaplain, The Revd Margaret E Jackson, was on the move. So he had put feelers out for her replacement.

Up in Leeds this priest received a rather cryptic message by phone 'The Bishop of Southwark would like to speak to you'... and that was why on that busy Saturday between the ordinations he had an informal interview.

You may have guessed already but that young priest was me. In the end I left my parish in Leeds and made my way down to begin work in Bishop's House in 1995.

I had never met anyone like Bishop Roy. I joke that I had

not met an evangelical before I met him and, in a sense, it is true. But nor had I been in a Diocese like Southwark where the volume seemed to be turned up and everything was happening. In the three and a bit years I was Bishop Roy's Chaplain before he retired things were constantly happening.

Being at Bishop's House was really about becoming part of a family. Modern analysts of the correct way in which we should work would, I'm sure, not approve. The workplace is the workplace.

But Bishop's House was about being a family. Bishop Roy's five children had by then effectively flown the nest, but you wouldn't have known it. There was always someone there. The Bishop's wife, Ann, was the dispenser of tea and hugs; she was at St Leonard's Streatham, their local church, doing the flowers; or at the Cathedral helping to run the bookstall when it was in the nave, alongside the late Wilf Ding. The dogs, Gemma, a rather slow golden Labrador and Dolly, a very springy Springer Spaniel, were everywhere needing attention. Helen Mitchell and Jo Stevens were in the office. The Fax machine had just arrived, there was nothing called email for a few years! Munir was driving the car and making the coffee.

Bishop Roy and Ann liked lots of parties for the clergy. What those arriving didn't know was that before they got to the house we had all been in the hall, Bishop Roy had put 'Riverdance' on the CD player and we had all attempted an



Bishop Roy and Andrew Nunn together in 1996

Irish dance. That was why we always looked so happy when people arrived – we had been falling around laughing.

Rose coloured spectacles? Maybe a little bit. There were huge challenges for Bishop Roy. He was increasingly out of step with his evangelical friends.

The church over which he presided in Southwark was more liberal and more catholic than he had been used to, some issues were not just being talked about but being lived out. The crisis came with the hosting of the Lesbian Gay Christian Movement (LGCM) 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service in the Cathedral. Bishop Roy supported the then Provost, Colin Slee, in this but at huge cost to him, his family and his household.

He became the victim of abuse from those he called friends. For me the verse in Zechariah 13.6 'The wounds I received in the house of my friends' were never more true. In the end he had to give up his leadership of CPAS and the friends he thought he had, he

had no longer. Instead he was surrounded in love by so many and not just in this Diocese.

Bishop Roy was everything you could want in a bishop – a brilliant preacher, a diligent pastor, an iron hand in a soft velvety Irish glove, above all a man who lived his life for others, surrounded by his family, and whose every step was with the Lord Jesus.

He changed my life and made me realise that God could love even me.

## The Rt Revd Robert Kerr (Roy) Williamson

**Born; 1932**  
**Ordained**  
**Deacon; 1963**  
**Ordained Priest; 1964**  
**Consecrated**  
**Bishop; 1984**

**Education:**  
Kingston University  
**Ordination training:**  
Oak Hill Theological College

### Ministry

Curate, Crowborough, All Saints (Chichester) 1963-1966

Vicar, Hyson Green (Southwell & Nottingham) 1966-1972

Vicar, Nottingham, St Ann w Emmanuel, (Southwell & Nottingham) 1972-1976

Vicar, Bramcote, St Michael and All Angels, (Southwell & Nottingham) 1976-1979

Archdeacon of Nottingham 1978-1984

Bishop of Bradford (Bradford) 1984-1991

Bishop of Southwark 1991-1998

Retired; 1998

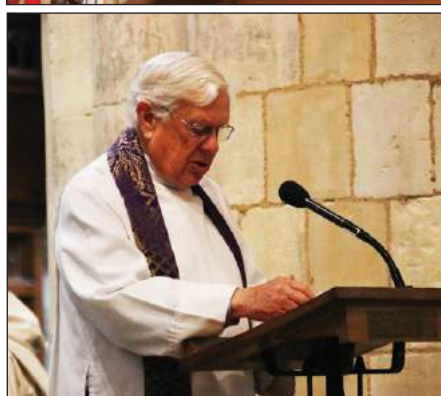
Honorary Assistant Bishop (Southwell & Nottingham)



**Bishop Christopher celebrated a Requiem Eucharist in Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday 25 September, the Feast of Bishop Lancelot Andrewes. These are some of the images from that service. A memorial service will follow at a later date.**



Above: The Bishop gives the blessing and just some of those who came to remember Bishop Roy  
Below: I-r : The Old Testament reading is given by Canon Arthur Quinn; the Revd Alison Tyler leads the Intercessions and Bishop Martin Wharton pays tribute to Bishop Roy



# Walking | Welcoming | Growing