

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.25 No.8
October 2020

Harvest special

How parishes
are celebrating
Creationtide

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Lessons learned

What Southwark's
schools did during
lockdown

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Curtain up

Southwark
welcomes a new
Bishop for the Arts

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Deacons ordained in Southwark after three-month delay

Eighteen deacons were ordained in the Diocese of Southwark on Saturday 19 September, after a three-month delay owing to Coronavirus restrictions.

The ordinations took place in three separate services, one for each Episcopal Area, so that social distancing could be maintained.

Bishop Christopher ordained the Deacons at each of the services. He was joined by Bishop Richard and the Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham, at Kingston Episcopal Area's service. The Revd Canon Anna Matthews preached at all three services.

Bishop Christopher said: "We are joining in prayer, thanksgiving and offering with all those who are tuning in from other places and from afar."

He added: "I think it is wonderful that we are together and we should give thanks to God."

The Deacons will each serve their curacy in the parishes indicated, where they have been licensed since 27 June.

Woolwich Episcopal Area

Esther-Jael Olabisi Akano-Adesoye
Thamesmead Team Ministry

Adelaide Davies
United Benefice of Charlton

Rachael Gledhill
Dulwich, St Barnabas

Delorine Green
Walworth, St Peter

John Henry
Southwark, Christ Church

Robert Slater-Carr
Southwark, St George the Martyr with
St Alphege and St Jude

Daniel Walker
Lee, St Margaret of Antioch

Daniel Wyman
Eltham, Holy Trinity

Croydon Episcopal Area

David Atkinson
Wallington, Springfield Church

Susan Bosley
Horley Team Ministry

Judith Brooks
Redhill, St Matthew

Lisa Fairman-Brown
Purley, Christ Church

Lotwina Farodoye
Oxted Team Ministry

Kingston Episcopal Area

Ian Luke-Macauley
Clapham Common, St Barnabas

Alastair Newman
Wimbledon Team Ministry, St Matthew

David Povall
Clapham, St Paul

Shavaun Shodeinde
Wandsworth Common,
St Mary Magdalene

Luke Steven
Balham Hill, The Ascension

Recordings of the services can be found
at bit.ly/southwarkyt



Curates from the Woolwich Episcopal Area with Bishop Christopher.



Curates from the Croydon Episcopal Area with Bishop Christopher and the Dean.



Curates from the Kingston Episcopal Area, alongside Bishop Richard, Bishop Christopher, the Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham, and the Dean.

More images and local stories online – follow our blog or find us on social media @SouthwarkCofE



A view from The BRIDGE



Back to school, back to work, or does “back to front” feel more accurate?

So many of the usual “back to” experiences which characterise our lives have been disrupted. “The new normal” doesn’t feel very normal yet. In CS Lewis’ terms, we have had too much novelty and not enough rhythm.

In *The Screwtape Letters*, he describes the contrast between them. Novelty “diminishes pleasure while increasing desire”. Lewis points out what anyone with teenagers knows: “continued novelty costs money”. He concludes that wanting novelty “spells avarice or unhappiness or both”.

Rhythm is different. It is God’s gift, offering renewal. For Lewis, God gives “the seasons, each season different yet every year the same”. We are delighted, every time, by “snowdrops this January, sunrise this morning” because we have seen them, yet not seen them, before. Lewis reminds us how the rhythmic gift of God refreshes us through the Church’s year; we “change from a fast to a feast but it is the same feast as before”, renewed.

Lewis helps us to make sense of some major disruptions in our lives: climate change and COVID. With climate change, our seasons are altering. Some of us delight in conkers in the park every autumn. Now, there is anxiety: they are too early. They remind us that winters are warmer. With winter come familiar colds and flu, and less familiar COVID. Novelty displaces rhythm.

Novel COVID disrupted the God-given church rhythm, too. Sunday, with

the great celebration of the Eucharist or simply meeting for worship, is not quite the time of renewal that it used to be. We have had too much novelty: a new virus, new technology, new ways to give, new ways to “meet” and seemingly endlessly new regulations. We have lost the familiar patterns of renewal. We are a little back to front.

So, what do we do? In this month’s *Bridge* we see how our amazing church schools and churches have valued old rhythms and developed new ones (see pages 6-9). The Board of Education has helped with the familiar pattern of worship. Secondary schools have achieved (wonderfully) the pattern of exam results and onward progression, even without exams. In the time freed up, many schools have established new rhythms of support through food banks, food delivery schedules, phone calls and in many other ways.

Let that encourage us in the months ahead. Let’s maintain the old rhythms. I encourage you to participate in Sunday church. If you have a smartphone, download the Daily Prayer or Time To Pray app. Pick a time and pray: alone, with others, by phone, Zoom/Skype or whatever works.

Let’s also establish the new rhythms, in prayer, reaching out to others or in other ways. Be reassured that you are not alone in missing the familiar patterns of life. But, above all, rejoice that God has given us new ways to establish new rhythms to meet with our Lord and with one another which will sustain us in faith and friendship, now and in the future.

Jane Steen



Please tell us your stories!

Get in touch via e-mail at bridge@southwark.anglican.org, Twitter @SouthwarkCofE or Facebook at [facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE](https://www.facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE)

Cathedral institutes and installs new Honorary Canons



Bishop Christopher instituted and installed three new Honorary Canons at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 13 September.

The Revd Canon Dr Olu Adams (above right) is Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, Peckham; the Revd Canon Anna Eltringham (above, second from right) is Team Rector at Oxted Team Ministry; and the Revd Canon Mia Hilborn (above left) is Hospitaller & Chaplaincy Team

Leader at Guy’s & St Thomas’ Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The three clergy were appointed in August but were not formally installed until a few weeks ago owing to Coronavirus restrictions.

Bishop Christopher said: “I am delighted that these very gifted priests have accepted my invitation to become Honorary Canons in recognition of distinguished service in the Diocese and wider Church.”

Southwark’s Children and Youth Team relaunches Diocesan Resource Exchange

The Resource Exchange offers free loans of resources to support and enrich children and young people’s (CYP) mission and ministry in churches and schools throughout the Diocese. The CYP Team is launching an updated catalogue this term with resources such as prayer labyrinths, Godly Play storytelling boxes, large play and other useful items. Download the catalogue at: bit.ly/ExchangeCatalogue

Alongside the updated catalogue, new membership/booking forms have been created that are easier to navigate online. If you have previously been a member of the Resource Exchange, the CYP Team kindly asks you to complete a new membership form when you book your next items. Please make bookings with reasonable notice within the pandemic; as long as the team is in the office, they will organise for items to be borrowed or advise if this becomes impossible.

Further information can be found at southwark.anglican.org/cypmm/resourceexchange or e-mail the CYP Team if you have questions at cypcourses@southwark.anglican.org



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The NOVEMBER edition is due to be published online on 1 November 2020. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S Robins by e-mail by **MONDAY 19 OCTOBER**.

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited. All photographs submitted for publication are assumed to have the necessary permission for printing. So, please ensure that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so.

Forms for permission for the use of photographs of children and adults who may be vulnerable can be found at southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures



IN FOCUS...

Diocesan news

New faces, new roles, new-look Trinity House

Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin reflects on a season of change for staff at the Diocesan office – and what it will mean for parishes

Autumn has brought significant change to Trinity House, as it has to all of us. Some of that change is immediately obvious, with screens and other safety measures in place in response to COVID-19.

For the foreseeable future, too, most staff will be working at least some of the time from home, and we keep this under review, although this will not affect the service we are able to provide to parishes.

Rather less visible are the internal review of structures to seek greater effectiveness and to reduce operational costs in light of the pandemic. There have sadly been a few redundancies as part of this process and I am grateful to all our staff colleagues for additional tasks that some have taken on.



“We have also sought to give greater focus to cohesive data collection, and using and developing our technology”

Firstly, the ecclesiastical measures and legal structures around property and land now report in through the Secretariat, thereby enabling the property services department to focus on clergy housing needs.

There is now no separate Pastoral Department. Luke Tatam, newly promoted to DAC Secretary, reports to me (parishes wishing to apply for faculties should continue to do so in the usual way).

Many of you will already know Jackie Pontin (see right), but she now has a number of significant additional responsibilities as Deputy Diocesan Secretary. These include the duties of Secretary to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC). Debbie Highwood, as Diocesan Estates Manager, will now report to Jackie.

We have also sought to give greater focus

to cohesive data collection, and using and developing our technology. Mark Charlton now has wider responsibilities for data in his expanded role as Director of IT and Data Management. Caroline Wakelam-Jones will become part of his team, so that data, statistics, information and IT are all together. If you have queries about parish statistics for mission or the Parish Information Review, or need to share information on personnel changes in parishes, please do contact Caroline. The e-mail address for data updates is data@southwark.anglican.org

We are in the process of appointing a new head of JPIC (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation), who will work in the broader Mission and Evangelism team headed by the Revd Canon Jay Colvill.

We have also created a new post to lead our work on curates, which will enable a stronger focus in the Discipleship and Ministry team on discipleship and lay ministry (see page 12).

The Revd Canon Wendy S Robins, currently our Director of Press and Communications, takes over the Discipleship and Ministry team in a few months after her successor arrives. In the meantime, the Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, Deputy Director of Discipleship, is Acting Director. Parishes wanting information on training and lay ministry should continue to contact Raewynne and Peter Graystone. We hope to be able to announce our new Director of Communications in the next month.

We have also bidden farewell to a number of staff over lockdown. Some leaving us, like the Revd Canon Dr Mandy Ford (see right), are beginning new roles; others, like our previous Deputy Diocesan Secretary, the Revd Canon Stephen Roberts, and Finance Officer Bob Dallimore, have retired. We wish them all well.

We are very pleased to welcome Hugh Constant as the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (see right). He will be reporting to me now that I am the Bishop's new lead for safeguarding.

The Croydon office will also be facing changes of its own, when Susan Wheeler, PA to the Archdeacons, retires later this autumn after serving the Diocese since 2012. Her successor is Kathleen Bailey, currently my PA at Trinity House, and my new PA is Seema Duggal.

Long Diocesan history for new Deputy Diocesan Secretary

The new Deputy Diocesan Secretary, Jackie Pontin, is no stranger to the Diocese, with extensive experience across a number of Diocesan departments.

Jackie first joined the Diocesan staff in 2004 as part of the team setting up the Diocesan centenary celebrations in 2005. She later worked as the stewardship adviser, helping parishes with their giving, and was part of the team which introduced the Parish Support Fund (PSF).

Jackie then went on to oversee the Diocesan projects awarded Strategic Development Funding (SDF) while also working on more operational projects such as implementing GDPR across our Diocese and looking at how we collect and use data. This is a real passion of Jackie's, who is fond of using an occasional spreadsheet!



She said: “I am excited by my new role as Deputy Diocesan Secretary and Secretary to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee. It is a privilege and a joy to be a part of our vibrant Diocese and the team bringing the light of the Gospel to the places we serve.”

Prior to joining the Diocese of Southwark, and after graduating from Bristol University with a degree in botany, Jackie worked in medical research before moving to NatWest Consultancy in the City.

She has been a Reader in St John, Shirley since 2006 and also sits as a magistrate in South London. When her children were younger she served as a school governor in two of our church schools.

Diocese welcomes new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

The new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), Hugh Constant, began work in September at Trinity House having been appointed during lockdown to succeed Kate Singleton.

Hugh was previously Head of Practice Development at the Social Care Institute of Excellence, and has also worked as a social worker for people with learning disabilities.

He said of his appointment: “I am hugely excited to be joining the Diocese of Southwark as its Safeguarding Adviser. I have audited the safeguarding arrangements of both Diocese and Cathedral in recent years and know that there is a strong culture of keeping people safe, which I hope to maintain and develop.

“My first few weeks as DSA have been hugely exciting, with a warm, welcoming and informative induction programme. As with any new job, every day reveals



more things that I don't yet know, but learning new things is always good. And in the meantime, there are a lot of people around to help me settle in.”

He added: “I look forward to working with clergy, parishioners and survivors to help make the Diocese a safe and supportive environment for everyone.”

Going West: Mandy Ford to take up new role as Dean of Bristol

Colleagues at Trinity House bid farewell to the Revd Canon Dr Mandy Ford on Thursday 27 August (see right). She is moving on after six years as director of Discipleship and Ministry and Canon Chancellor at Southwark Cathedral to be Dean of Bristol.

Mandy said: “During my six years in Southwark it has been a joy and a privilege to encourage and develop the discipleship and ministry of so many dedicated and prayerful people. I will take a lot of happy memories into my own future ministry.”





IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

A farmer's eye view of Creationtide: encouraging nature for all to enjoy

Christians are called to care for creation, writes Alastair Roberts, a farmer in the parish of St Peter, Tandridge.

The land behind the village is some of the easiest working land we have, but with the apparent changes in climate it is struggling to produce decent yields, so it needs fixing. Reintroducing some grass, root crops, legumes and livestock on a rotational basis to parts of the farm which have been in arable production for 40-odd years has to be a good thing.

The winter drought and spring flood meant that the oil seed rape planted last autumn was a write-off, which has given

me time to think. I have been putting together a plan for an Environmental Stewardship Scheme, contributed to by Defra, to benefit the wider environment.

It will mean planting up awkward corners and small fields with grasses and more diverse crops to attract wildlife. It will also involve committing more land to habitat zones for wildlife, and a woodland scheme that should result in us planting another 20 acres of deciduous trees.

We will put our farming efforts into the bigger, more productive fields, fulfilling people's need for food, but also caring for "incidental" things like hedges and ponds. This is also known as re-wilding.



Harvesting food is only one aspect of a farmer's care for Creation

Like all habitat change-about, these will work if people are considerate. In the first weeks of lockdown, it was noticeable that dogs were kept on leads on footpaths and wildlife came into its own. Skylarks and lapwings, for example, which nest on the ground, have enough of a job keeping their eggs away from badgers and foxes, and their chicks from buzzards and red kites, without having their homes overturned by errant dogs. Let us all take more care.

One unforeseen bonus of the Coronavirus situation has been more people out walking, careful with social distancing, but taking the opportunity to enjoy the moment, and to talk with us about what we are doing on the farm. To acknowledge other people helps everyone.

A version of this article has already appeared in St Peter, Tandridge's parish newsletter

Harvest in Limpsfield and Tatsfield

Harvest is always a season to remember in Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry. And, despite Coronavirus restrictions, the team is aiming to keep it that way this year.



"The land around St Mary, Tatsfield used to be owned by the Titsey Estate, so they'll be sending us some produce from their gardens," said Team Vicar the Revd Vince Short. (Pictured above is last year's contribution from the Estate.)

The flowers will still be blooming in the church, too. "Our flower team are disappointed they can't gather as a big group, but they are still making arrangements individually which they will then bring into the church." After the main service, on Zoom, Vince is hoping to open the church so that people can come and see the flowers, suitably distanced.

Over in Limpsfield, the Revd Helen Cook, will be running three open-air Harvest Treasure Trails with the infant school, focusing on the wonder of God's Creation. And all three churches – St Mary's, St Peter, Limpsfield and St Andrew, Limpsfield Chart – will be making food collections. The chief beneficiaries will be Christ Church Brixton Road food cupboard and the Reigate and Banstead Women's Aid (previously Refuge).

"One thing I want to underline is our thankfulness for all who work in the food production process, viewing them as key workers and recognising the additional challenges they have faced," said Vince.

St Mary, Tatsfield, St Peter, Limpsfield and St Andrew, Limpsfield Chart will be holding their main Harvest services on 4 October.

"We wanted to thank those working against the odds"

As we approached the Harvest season this year, the PCCs of Emmanuel, Sidlow Bridge and St Nicholas, Charlwood felt it was important to take this opportunity to give thanks not only for the food that we have but for all those who are working against the odds and in different ways to make sure that food is available. And, possibly most importantly, to continue to support the local Food Banks as we have in past years.

Although the churches are not open at the moment other than for a fortnightly service, everyone felt it was important to decorate the churches, and really celebrate. At Emmanuel, every member of the PCC contributed to the decorating with flowers and produce, including a lovely display of non-perishables at the altar. At St Nicholas (right), it was decided to focus on the church porch so that the many walkers that pass by each day could enjoy it.

With the Harvest services using some of the material supplied by the Arthur Rank Centre, we celebrated and gave thanks – suitably distanced, of course and in our masks. We missed our favourite Harvest hymns and the traditional Harvest lunch but felt that, in the midst of so much uncertainty, it was lovely to have a real celebration.

We had approached Harvest with a little trepidation, feeling it just might not be the same, but we did give thanks, we did celebrate, and we did share some of what we have with others, through the Horley and Redhill Food Banks, as well as reminding ourselves that "all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above".



**The Revd Sue Weakley,
Priest-in-Charge**

Chaplaincy volunteers honoured for work during COVID-19



The families of three volunteers at the Croydon Health Services NHS Trust are to be presented with Angels of the Nation statues in recognition of the work their loved ones did during the Coronavirus crisis.

All three of the volunteers died during the Coronavirus crisis, although not from COVID-19 itself. Two had been chaplaincy volunteers for more than 10 years, while the third was a long-term volunteer porter at the Trust.

"We are so proud to award these Angels of the Nation to three members of our volunteering team," said the Revd Andy Dovey, Lead for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust.

"Each has been volunteering with the Trust for many years, devoting the love and care that our patients need. These Angels provide us with an opportunity to express to their families how important and loved each of them was by the Trust and the people that they served."

Of the two volunteers who

worked within the chaplaincy team, he added, simply: "We miss them both very much."

Andy (pictured above holding one of the Angels) has himself been recognised for his work during the Coronavirus crisis. Bishop Christopher presented him with a Lancelot Andrewes medal on 27 September to mark Andy's extraordinary efforts during COVID-19 (see page 12).

The Angels will be presented to the families in October by the Trust's chief executive Matthew Kershaw; Joint Chief Nurse Elaine Clancy will also attend one of the ceremonies.

The Angels of the Nation appeal was begun by father and son Paul and James Gilley in memory of the 181 NHS front-line workers who died during the Coronavirus first wave. Their hope is to raise enough money to create statues to be delivered to each of the families of these NHS workers. Any surplus raised will be donated to NHS Charities Together.

For more information, see www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/angelsofthenation

Taking the plunge for Macmillan Cancer Research

The Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong, Vicar of St Luke, Eltham Park, has taken on the Swim the Thames challenge on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Research.

In total, she will swim the equivalent of seven miles of the Thames from Canary Wharf to Battersea Power Station in the clean water of her local pool: the equivalent of 455 lengths.

In her first five days, Liz had raised more than £500 in online donations and swum 150 lengths.

"There is a way to go but I am very determined and going strong," she said. "I am just praying that the pool will stay



open if it's deemed safe still with further COVID-19 restrictions very likely ahead."

<https://swimit.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/swim-for-life2021>

A trip to the seaside wraps up summer for St Anselm, Kennington's parishioners



A parish family trip to the seaside seemed like a particularly good way to close the unnaturally long school summer holiday this year, writes Suzette Aagaard at St Anselm, Kennington.

Many in the congregation had not had a change of air since March. St Anselm's has a high number of young families, the majority of whom had been providing both entertainment and education for their children since March, so we applied to the Diocese for a COVID-19 micro grant towards an away day.

The grant allowed us to hire a coach to Camber Sands and the group set off bright and early. Restrictions meant that we sat well-spaced on the coach and adults took the opportunity to doze and older children to play video games, although the younger ones were refreshingly excited at fields of sheep and the odd swan on our journey.

Once we were there and the windbreak installed the children were desperate to get into the water. A number had only seen the sea once or twice and delighted in running in and out and splashing each other.

After a picnic lunch, each family group was allocated a bucket and spade and given strict instructions on the rules of the parish sandcastle competition (most notably that sabotage would result in disqualification). Each entry was awarded points on creativity and back story – and didn't disappoint.

In preparation for our act of worship, each person found a stone. We then dug a giant cross into the sand and, taking turns, children and adults threw in their stones whilst offering prayers.

As the day closed we collected a giant order of fish and chips and tucked in before a very quiet, mostly sleepy and rather sandy return coach journey.

St Francis, Monks Hill lays new foundations

St Francis, Monks Hill is building a church and community hall for the Monks Hill Estate, writes the Revd Dr David Huntley.

Apart from the church's needs, the entire estate is without any community hall for, for example, weddings, birthdays – or even funerals.

Minister-in-Charge, the Revd Peter Wyatt, has taken up a long-considered project and made it (literally) concrete! By the year's end, there will have been about three years' praying and planning.

The new building will incorporate a multi-purpose modern hall with a fully equipped kitchen. Apart from church activities, we expect to welcome community activities to this long-needed facility.





IN FOCUS...

News from our schools

Letting their light shine in the community

Our Diocesan schools have been busy during lockdown. Whether delivering food parcels or outstanding exam results, they have been beacons of hope. Across pages 6-9 we share their inspiring stories while, below, the Diocesan Director of Education Colin Powell reveals the Board of Education's plans for the future.

Since the end of March, our Diocesan Church of England schools have continued to play a crucial role in supporting pupils, parents and their local communities during lockdown.

At the start of this new academic year, we have many good news stories from across our Diocesan schools to share with you: stories of supporting key workers, vulnerable children, online learning, spiritual development, managing school buildings within COVID-19 restrictions, motivating communities, staff and leaders going that 'extra mile', courageous advocacy and, of course, adapting to new ways of working. You can read these stories on pages 6-9.

Here at the SDBE it has been 'business as usual'. Our offices were closed from the end of March to 1 September and the team continued to work remotely, supporting and advising schools and colleges, delivering training, and offering clear guidance and support to comply with Department for Education guidance and legislation. As one of the top performing Diocesan Boards in the country, we are proud of all that has been achieved and maintained during this time.

Over the summer, our headteachers, senior leaders and governors worked hard to ensure that schools were ready for pupils returning in September.

What next?

Our schools have been pleased to welcome back all pupils from the start of this term. Headteachers, governors and senior leaders continue to review their risk assessments to ensure that their institutions are safe places. Schools have also been engaging with a 'recovery curriculum' which will enable pupils to reintegrate fully into school life.

We are aware that this may be a long process as a certain amount of 'catch-up' will be needed. The support of parents is key to this being successful.

As part of this process, schools have put systems and structures in place should there be local lockdowns or COVID cases within a school. In these situations, all Diocesan schools will work closely with their Local Authority, Public Health England and the SDBE.

Please pray for our Church schools at the start of this new academic year.

Archbishop Tenison's School



We are proud that our students have let their "lights shine before others" by helping to make the streets around the school safer for the whole community, writes Elizabeth Gregory, Head of Religious Studies at Archbishop Tenison's.

Three of our Year 10s (see above) took part in a community planting session in June, directed by gardening charity Father Nature and in the presence of Councillor Claire Holland, Lambeth Cabinet Lead for Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clear Air, as well as many local residents.

It was a great opportunity for our students to learn a little about gardening and ways of improving the environment. One student commented: "I was privileged to go on the trip for planting, and it was a great experience. I was able to show wisdom through listening and learning how to plant properly, as it was my first time!"

Julie Joyce, Archbishop Tenison's Academic Key Stage 4 Lead, said: "I loved every minute, it was so lovely to see them working hard as global citizens within their community – they are really demonstrating their stewardship of God's Creation."

Feeding the community

We were also proud that Chefs in Schools chose to use our premises as a "hub school" to host their school lunch service

over the summer. The charity, whose motto is "no child should go hungry due to COVID-19", is sponsored by Guy's and St Thomas' Charity.

Chefs in Schools funds volunteer professional chefs to provide healthy vegetarian lunches weekly, a programme that ran for seven weeks over the summer holidays, with a total of 3,990 lunches produced for our community.

In our first week as a hub school, the students and families of Archbishop Tenison's were the lucky recipients of these lunches. However, we then scaled up so that families from three local primary schools were able to benefit, with 114 families receiving the service.

In addition to this, the school teamed up with the School Food Matters charity to provide free breakfast boxes for our students. In total, 750 boxes were put together by our teachers over 15 weeks.

Headteacher Simon Wilson said: "As a Church of England school, serving the community is at the heart of what we do. It is an example of the school's determination to live out its vision from Matthew 5:16 of letting our lights shine to "glorify your Father in Heaven".



'Pupils' mental and physical well-being was a priority': how the SDBE helped schools to keep worshipping during lockdown

Throughout lockdown, the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education has supported its schools by providing regular, simple and ready acts of collective worship, writes Shaun Burns, the SDBE's Primary Religious Education Adviser.

Based on stories from the pandemic that give hope, these Collective Worship services also reflected the liturgical seasons and national events. They were shared



"I only want one", an image to reflect on from one of the SDBE's lockdown resources. Photo by Lauren Taylor.

by pupils and staff who were still in schools and those at home, helping to bring a sense of togetherness to our Diocesan family. At the same time, the SDBE signposted teachers and parents towards good quality resources to support religious education in lockdown.

All these resources, including the Collective Worship services, remain available on the SDBE website in the members' area at: education.southwark.anglican.org

The mental and physical well-being of pupils was a high priority, too. The SDBE sourced and sent resources to promote well-being in weekly bulletins whilst also writing and sharing reflective sessions to help school staff in repairing, restoring and rebuilding the pupils' emotional lives.

Finally, our Diocesan Primary Schools Leavers' Service for 2020 became a virtual service. You can watch it at: bit.ly/SouthwarkLeavers

“The staff worked tirelessly all summer”

Kathryn Evans, Deputy Headteacher at St George’s CE Primary School in Battersea, reveals a culture of caring that helped students and families through lockdown

Throughout my first few days as deputy headteacher at St George’s CE Primary School in Battersea, I chatted to staff about their lockdown experiences and how the school community has supported one another.

Led by headteacher Sarah Collymore and our school learning mentor, Lisa Povey, the staff worked tirelessly during lockdown and over the summer holiday to support families in our community. We have been generously supported by local churches and businesses, as well as national companies, in providing quality food parcels to families in need.

Through donations from the community and members of school staff, we have been able to support our families with a number of initiatives. As well as the food parcels, we have funded competitions to cook the best meal on a budget (with the winning family receiving a week’s worth of shopping); provided essentials such as a microwave oven and mobile phone; collected and delivered medicines and grocery shopping for shielding families; and checked up on the emotional and mental welfare of our families.

In addition, we have been able to support families with stationery packs, toy and book parcels and Halal food packages.

Lisa successfully applied to Transforming Lives for Good, a Christian organisation that works with churches to make a tangible difference in neighbourhoods,



Lisa Povey prepares to put together Boxes of Hope care packages.

for funding to reach out to families with Boxes of Hope.

Each of these boxes contained emergency care and encouragement, as well as some much-needed pampering for the recipients. As one of them said: “My little pamper pack was such a special addition to such a generous food parcel. It was so needed at this time, too. Thank you all so much. I’m proud to be part of such a special school community.”

Our school staff have prepared food parcels, cooked meals in school, donated homemade cakes and goodies, volunteered at the local food bank and phoned families, often in their own time.

Where families have been unable to collect parcels from school, members of staff have delivered them. Where emotional support has been needed, staff have been at the end of the phone to listen, talk and direct families to relevant support. When one of our families had no food in the cupboard at home, their first thought was to call the school and ask for help.

Lisa explained that the school has a culture of wanting to support families and that the community has a reputation for helping those in need. As one family said: “I don’t know how we will ever repay the school for the kindness shown during such a tough time.”

Holy Trinity CE School, Sydenham



Holy Trinity CE Primary School in Sydenham had an active summer, according to Assistant Headteacher Alexandra Joyce.

Summer scheme

We ran a fantastic summer scheme for three weeks during the summer holidays, inviting a different bubble of children to attend each week. We visited Horniman’s Museum, did pond-dipping (above), mini-beast hunts and lots of other activities. We had a wonderful time with our children.

Food parcels

We delivered food parcels and had our own food bank throughout lockdown and the summer holidays. Headteacher Sarah-Jane Pendleton’s father even delivered every Tuesday!



Calls and home visits

We rang our families every week from 20 March onwards and during the summer holidays (above), and we made special visits to some of our families each week.

Virtual concert and Sports Day

We held an online end-of-year concert for our families, with the children sending in clips of themselves singing songs from children’s films. Plus, we had an online Sports Day with 10 different challenges!

Showing off staff talent

Finally, we made a video of all our staff dancing and singing to one of our favourite songs, *When Jesus Says Yes*, for our children and families to join in with at home. We also put weekly Collective Worships, story times and special messages online.

How St Luke’s and Christ Church Streatham primaries hit the gold standard for respecting rights

St Luke’s CE Primary School and Christ Church Streatham CE Primary School both managed to achieve Unicef’s Gold Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) Award, despite the difficulties of lockdown.

A Gold RRS Award is granted by Unicef UK to schools that have fully embedded children’s rights in their policies, practice and ethos.

At St Luke’s and Christ Church, both part of the same Multi-Academy Trust, teachers continued to highlight RRS activities throughout remote learning. This provided pupils with a voice to advocate for change on global, national and local matters.

Unicef’s report on St Luke’s said: “Pupils have a very good understanding of children’s rights and how they are applicable to life in school, their learning and general well-being in their daily lives.”

Enoch, a St Luke’s Year 6 pupil, agreed. “Rights respecting has been great and I get respected and listened to in school by the duty bearers,” he said.

A collection of Unicef Rights Respecting Schools award materials, including a certificate, a book titled 'Rights Respecting Schools', and several small blue and white award cards.

The St Luke’s report also stressed the school’s positive relationships. “St Luke’s is a diverse school in which differences are celebrated,” it said. “Being a rights respecting school goes hand in hand with the school’s strong faith and spiritual ethos of valuing each individual child and supporting all children to reach their potential.”

The Unicef report on Christ Church, meanwhile, said: “It was evident that children’s rights are embedded across the school and underpin every facet of school life.”

This was borne out by a parent of one of the pupils there: “There is lots of talk about rights... the understanding of issues and language to describe things has developed. Children see their worth as children, as humans,” they said.



IN FOCUS...

Exam results

Foundations built on rock

Our schools' solid Gospel values have given pupils a strong base from which to excel, says Dr Rachael Norman, SDBE Secondary Adviser

Our secondary schools are ambitious and aspirational for their young people. As a result, life-changing results have been achieved this year by students at all levels, particularly our most disadvantaged.

These results are a testament to the many hours of hard work, dedication and commitment of all members of our school communities.

Many of our schools have seen an increase in the percentage of students who have secured the highest possible grades and several subjects have achieved outstanding value-added scores and outcomes that are well above national averages.

There is an abundance of individual student success stories, from those who have gained 10 Grade 9s to others who have secured Oxbridge places.

Matthew 7: 24-25 says: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

Our secondary schools are all built on the solid foundations of deeply distinctive Gospel values. As a result, they have continued to offer excellent provision of the highest quality in order to meet the academic, emotional and spiritual needs of the students within our Diocesan family.

"A credit to our students' hard work": Christ's School, Richmond exam results

A-levels

Staff at Christ's School, Richmond, were delighted to welcome students on 13 August to celebrate their A-level success.

One of the first to arrive was Rory Halsall, who earned two A*s and an A and is heading off to Oxford University to study engineering. As he looked forward to the next step in his education, Rory thanked staff for all their support during his seven years at the school.

Outgoing Head Students Louis Icke and Lucy Blitz (right, flanking Headteacher Helen Dixon) celebrated receiving an A* and two As and three As, respectively. Louis will now go to Manchester to study aerospace engineering and Lucy to Birmingham to read political science.

Leah Howard was thrilled to receive two A*s and two As. She will be joining University College London to read English and German, whilst Bennie Mukanya is off to Durham to study Japanese, following her A* and two A grades. Following a double distinction in BTEC Business, Akshat Lond has a Level 7 apprenticeship with Ernst Young Assurance.

Commenting on the results, James Butler, Head of Sixth Form at Christ's School, said: "I would like to congratulate all of our students. In



a particularly challenging end to their school journey, we are thrilled that the majority of our students have received the recognition they deserve for all of their hard work. These results are a credit to our students' hard work, the quality and commitment of all of our staff and the strong relationships that exist between our students and staff."

Helen Dixon applauded the efforts of the students, staff and sixth form team who worked so hard. "We are celebrating the outstanding achievements of a number of our students whilst supporting those who were not awarded the grades that their hard work merited," she said. "We will continue our efforts to ensure that they receive the recognition that they deserve."



GCSEs

Many of Christ's GCSE students were also celebrating a week later when they picked up their results.

Arriving early was Ishab Ahmed, who was delighted to receive eight Grade 9s and two Grade 8s and signed up immediately for the sixth form.

Eden Hartley, Tess Cottin, Hope Coles and Aaliyah Lorenzo were also happy, receiving 17 Grade 9s, 15 Grade 8s, eight Grade 7s and one Grade 6 between them.

Nivi Nair (left) and Samuel Sodunke were both relieved that all their hard work had paid off, with both receiving two 9s, five 8s and three 7s.

Helen Dixon said: "Today we have celebrated the outstanding achievements of all our students. We are delighted that all of their hard work and efforts have paid off and look forward to welcoming many into the sixth form in September."

Testament to a team determined to ensure students flourish: St Saviour's and St Olave's exam results

A-levels

Speaking of the pupils collecting their A-level results at St Saviour's and St Olave's School in August, Headteacher Catherine May said: "I am thrilled that this year group have shown exceptional resilience in the face of what has been an incredibly challenging year. These strong results mean that all our students are going to progress in the area they have chosen, whether that be university, apprenticeships or taking their first steps on their chosen career path."

She added: "Despite everything that has been going on around them they are looking forward to the future with optimism, and they will be successful. I genuinely can't wait to see what impact these amazing young women will have on the world."

Every student wanting to attend university has been accepted, many



at Russell Group institutions. The school is proud of the results of all its students, but especially celebrates the determination of Oluwasola Asaolu and Evie Cakebread, who both achieved A*A*A*, Esther Igali who achieved A*A*A*, and Thi-Hoa Nguyen who achieved A*AA. Three of these students will be studying at Oxbridge in September.

Head of Sixth Form Hannah Kennedy

said: "We are extraordinarily proud of the achievements of all of our girls this year. They have displayed resilience in the face of ever-changing news about exams and results, and have felt trepidation about the grades they may receive in a way that no other cohort has ever faced. These results reflect the culmination of seven years of hard work and absolutely deserve to be celebrated."

GCSEs

Results at GCSE were also exceptional, according to staff, with St Saviour's and St Olave's students (left) exceeding the national average in most subjects including English and maths.

Catherine May said: "I am so proud of the academic successes of these young women, but equally proud of the patience and resilience they have shown throughout this extraordinary year. I am very much looking forward to seeing

many of them return in September to our sixth form. I am confident that the skills they have learnt throughout this whole period will make them stronger and inspire them to make the most of every opportunity available to them."

Deputy Headteacher Michelle Ferguson, who led on the moderation process that replaced the usual examinations, said: "Our students demonstrated remarkable maturity during this process and staff acted with absolute integrity. We are grateful to our staff and immensely proud of our amazing students and their incredibly supportive families."

Sherine Gray, Director of Year 11, added: "It has been a delight to lead this cohort over the past four years and witness their commitment to achieving their academic goals. Despite the unforeseen challenges, the girls have shown great resilience in the face of uncertainty and they have been an inspiration to us all."

Paying tribute to a hero of Tooting

Trinity St Mary’s parent Hayley Van Den Bergh reveals why she and others nominated headteacher Lynn Anderson for a schools award

March 23 2020: lockdown day for schools. Parents were suddenly faced with a totally unprecedented and frightening situation, as well as questions such as, “how will I teach my children? How will I feed my children?”

A very scary and uncertain few months lay ahead for all at Trinity St Mary’s (TSM) but one person stood out for us. Our Headteacher, Lynn Anderson (pictured right), was consistently present and unfailingly clear about the situation and how the school would be adapting to the new environment under lockdown.

Lynn’s commitment to the school, its staff, its children and its parents was remarkable. She made sure that the support of the schoolchildren was prioritised by supporting all parents.

The MP for Tooting, Dr Rosena Allin-Khan, ran a School Heroes Award in June where people could nominate those in schools across Tooting who had gone to extraordinary lengths to help their pupils, their pupils’ families and their communities. A few TSM parents got together and nominated Lynn.

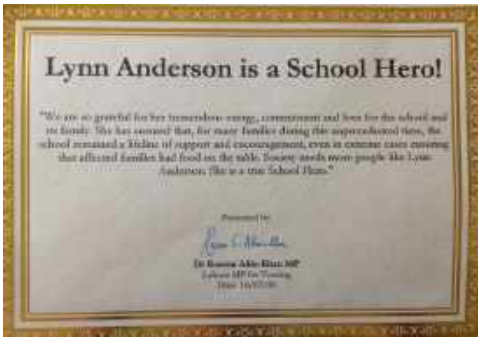
Their submission spoke about how Lynn had gone to great lengths to support parents, children and staff. Examples of such support included making sure that those families who did not have access to printers or computers were able to obtain home learning by providing weekly hard copies of the work for parents to collect.



Laptops were provided to those children who needed them.

Lynn also set up, coordinated and maintained a small food bank to discreetly help parents struggling during these uncertain times, going to great lengths to secure pasta and flour.

She provided a safe and welcoming place for the children of key workers, as well as vulnerable children, to be at school. She worked tirelessly to ensure that children who relied on school meals had access to them, including those who were not able to attend school at the time.



“We are so grateful for Lynn’s tremendous energy, commitment and love for the school and its family”

Lynn worked incredibly hard to ensure that everyone associated with the school remained connected to the community. She ran a virtual Easter Egg hunt, and organised virtual celebrations for VE Day and the TSM site manager’s sixtieth

birthday. Throughout, Lynn remained positive, engaged and steadfast in her determination to ensure that the school was able to support teachers, parents and the children themselves, to the extent of forgoing any time off during lockdown. She even paid out of her own pocket for those in desperate need.

When Lynn received news she had won the award in August, she was quick to say it was just her job, but we are so grateful for her tremendous energy, commitment and love for the school and its family.

We acknowledge and reflect on our good fortune to have an individual of Lynn’s calibre leading the school during these uncertain times. She ensured that the school remained a lifeline of support and encouragement and even, in extreme cases, made certain that affected families had food on the table.

Society needs more people like Lynn. She is a true school hero and the #TSMFamily is incredibly proud to have her.

A virtual hug from All Saints CE Primary, Croydon



At All Saints’ we worked hard as a community to support families, the teaching team and all members of staff, writes Josephine Copeland, Headteacher.

We kept the school open to children from key worker families or vulnerable pupils needing additional support and care. We also endeavoured to support families experiencing financial difficulties by organising food parcels.

One of our key priorities was keeping the school community updated on local and national guidance and how this affected the work of the school. Staff made regular phone calls home and sent texts to parents to check on pupils’ well-being or to offer additional support with home learning tasks. We also organised home visits to shielding families or those experiencing difficulties with online teaching resources.

During this time we always had members of staff in school so that pupils and families were supported. Without

fail, we e-mailed our Friday newsletter to all parents and sent photos, messages and prayers of hope to everyone to provide a sense of “business as usual”.

One vital concern was that our Year 6 Leavers had the chance to celebrate and reflect on their time at All Saints’. Many of them returned in June, and in July we had our own Leavers’ service (above) in All Saints, Upper Norwood, led by the Revd Leonard Marsh and Arthur Williams, our Chair of Governors.


On the last day of term, all Year 6 children returned for an open-air presentation, with each child receiving a prayer book from the congregation of All Saints’. We feel blessed that the children were able to mark the final days of their primary education in this way.

Our work maintaining good communication with families has helped with a smooth transition to this academic year. We continue to work together in unity, and pray for hope and better times to come.

Holy Trinity CE Primary School and Nursery, Richmond


Over the Rainbow

More than 50 of Holy Trinity CE Primary School’s children recorded themselves singing *Looking to the Rainbow*, a song written by Nick and Becky Drake, as part of the Church of England’s Faith at Home campaign, for schools to perform during lockdown.



Well-being Wednesday

The school’s Well-being Wednesday World (below right) was created by some of the children attending school in lockdown from all the clothing in lost property – as a reminder for everyone to label and care for their clothes!





DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Black History Month

“Black Lives Matter is one of 2020’s defining themes”

The Venerable Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, reveals how the Diocese will be marking Black History Month this October.

Apart from the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement has become one of the defining themes of 2020. Sparked by the death of George Floyd and other examples of police brutality in the United States, it quickly spread to include a wider debate about racial inequalities around the world.

As COVID-19 spread, it was quickly realised that there were issues of health, social and racial/ethnic disadvantage that disproportionately affected those who were falling ill and dying.

Climate change, although it is something that will eventually affect us all, is also disproportionately affecting black and brown people worldwide.

Indisputably, the history of climate change is one of global inequality. The world’s rich, largely countries in the global north, rose to power through the use of carbon-

intensive industries. This has pushed the climate into crisis, resulting in devastating impacts on the global south, with populations of mostly majority black and brown people.

As a response to #BLM, politicians around the world have claimed to be moved by racial injustice. Making climate action a priority would be a good start in ensuring black lives matter everywhere.

On 3 October from 10.30am, the Diocese of Southwark will hold its annual Day of Thanksgiving for Black History Month, online in this instance, and will also host a web gathering to learn more about issues of racial justice and climate injustice.

Kingston MEACC will host a conversation on Black youth, justice and prison, followed by a short thanksgiving service. Croydon MEACC will continue its conversations on Black Theology. Woolwich MEACC will look at the issue of race and identity.



Lambeth and Dulwich Deaneries’ BLM event in Brockwell Park in June
© Eleanor Bental



WHAT’S ON

BHM: Day of Thanksgiving

Southwark Diocese in partnership with Christian Aid is presenting *Waiting to Exhale – A day of inspiring discussions about positive action on Black History and Environmental Justice.*

The event takes place over Zoom on **3 October from 10.30am.**

Please register your interest as soon as possible at southwark.anglican.org/blackhistorymonth



There will be sessions on: history of climate injustice and learning; young people and climate action; stewardship for the common good, with a focus on linkages between the global south and global north; and health and well-being matters.

BHM in Southwark Cathedral

We all have stories to tell and there are stories we should all listen to. To mark Black History Month and #BlackLivesMatter, members of the congregation at the Cathedral and St Hugh, Bermondsey will be telling their own stories, writes the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark.

Four people will speak: about being raised under apartheid in South Africa, and in the shadow of slavery and segregation in the southern United States, of arriving in another country they thought they knew, of raising children here.

Each story has strong themes of hope, justice and faith, and each is moving and personal. The individual stories will be held in the context of scripture and prayer as well as music by the Cathedral Lay Clerks.

The services will be broadcast each **Sunday at 6.00pm in October** beginning on 4 October. You can find them on the Cathedral Facebook page, the Cathedral’s YouTube channel or via the Cathedral’s website at <https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/worship-and-music/worship/live-service-stream/>

Minority Ethnic Anglian Concerns Committees

The Woolwich MEACC will be holding a conversational evening celebrating the joys, and discussing the challenges, of serving as a leader in a diverse community. This online event will be on **Thursday 22 October at 7.30pm**, via Zoom. Everyone welcome. Please contact the Revd Sandra Schloss on woolwichmeacc@gmail.com for the log-in details.

One Sunday in October (date to be confirmed), Kingston MEACC will be giving a presentation on Black youth, justice and prison, which will also touch on improving relationships with the police. The event will end with a short thanksgiving service.



LET US PRAY...

The prayer this month has been written by the Venerable Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral, in response to #BlackLivesMatter. It will be prayed each Sunday at Cathedral during Black History Month.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

*God of all,
who loves each of us for who we are,
to whom each life matters,
who counts the hairs on our head;
teach us to love as you love,
to respect, to honour, to care
and to protect
each of our sisters and brothers,
that your embracing,
including kingdom
may come now
and your love be known
by all, always. Amen.*

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



WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for NOVEMBER ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 19 OCTOBER**

October

THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER

- * **ZOOM** – NECN (National Estate Churches Network) will be having their second London Conference from 10.30am until 2.00pm. The two keynote talks are: Raising up BAME leaders from estates and Estate Ministry post-COVID. This is a conference for anyone who may have an estate or an area of deprivation in their parish. Free. Bookings can be made by e-mailing: ChristineM@cofebirmingham.com

TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER

- * **ZOOM** – ‘Experiences by Explore Churches’ online training. 10.30am. National Churches Trust seminar offers training on promoting your church to visitors and maximising income. Free. Book via EventBrite at: bit.ly/ChurchVisitors

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER

- * **REDHILL** – “Church Engagement with Communities in Rural Areas – Forging Lasting Links”. St Matthew, Redhill, 10.30am-2.30pm. Together Southwark’s seminar is aimed at clergy and lay leaders, including PCC members, and will answer questions such as: how well do we really know our local community? How well does our community know us? How do we engage in social action in the wider community? Book via EventBrite at: bit.ly/TogetherSouthwarkRural

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

- * **ZOOM** – “Life as a Franciscan Sister or Brother... could this be for me...?” A morning on Zoom to explore Franciscan community life in the Church of England. 9.30am-1.00pm. Free but booking essential. Please e-mail maureencfs@franciscans.org.uk or call 01526 321115 no later than 21 October to reserve a place.

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER & WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

- * **ZOOM** – The Sight Loss Friendly Church team at Christian charity Torch Trust for the Blind is inviting churches to join a Sight Loss Friendly Church taster session on Zoom at 2.00pm on 27 October or 7.00pm on 28 October. In the session participants will learn more about sight loss and how they and their churches can help people with sight loss to feel more involved in church life. To register interest, participants should e-mail slfc@torchtrust.org

November

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER

- * **LONDON-WIDE** – Robes, the charity that helps to provide shelter for those who find themselves homeless in London, is holding a sponsored “SleepIn”. From 6.30pm. Find more information at <https://robes.org.uk/>

The Stars are Bright

The Stars are Bright – extended to 31 October

Theatre Courtyard Green Rooms, 36 Bateman’s Row, Shoreditch, London EC2A 3HH

This exhibition of paintings from students at the Cyrene Mission outside Bulawayo is free, but places must be booked in advance to maintain social distancing: www.thestarsarebright.com/book-now/



Barnabus Chiponza, Tree Flowers (1945).
Photo by Debbie Sears

Covid Tales from Tom’s Bench

Covid Tales from Tom’s Bench: a Photography Exhibition by Jim Grover

Thursdays to Sundays until 31 December

Omnibus Theatre Café/Bar, 1 Clapham Common Northside, London SW4 0QW and also online at www.jimgroverphotography.com

Each day in August 2020, award-winning social documentary photographer Jim Grover photographed someone or some group sitting on the same park bench, erected in memory of “Honest Tom”, on Clapham Common, South London and asked them how Covid had affected their lives. The resulting photographs and accompanying stories are available to view until the end of December 2020.



2nd August. Dave.
Photo by Jim Grover

Prisons Week 2020 – United in Lockdown

Prisons Week will take place from 11 to 17 October this year, with a theme of “United in Lockdown”. Resources to help mark it can be found at: prisonsweek.org

A video has also been released with prayers for prisoners, prison officers, families and those who work in the justice system. It can be found at: bit.ly/PrisonsWeek2020

One former prisoner said: “Due to COVID-19 a lot of people are now experiencing the loss of work and, at the same time, the loss of liberty... A lot of people can now relate to where I have been. In the same way I can now relate to their fears and insecurity.”

Bishop Christopher said: “All four bishops in the Diocese in Southwark actively engage in prison ministry. I encourage individuals and churches to use these Prisons Week resources to pray for all those involved in the justice system and prisons in the Diocese of Southwark.”

The day I filmed “Songs of Praise” by the Bishop’s Advisor on Prison Chaplaincy

Songs of Praise on Sunday 11 October comes from The Clink Restaurant, HMP Styal near Manchester, coinciding with Prison Sunday and the start of Prisons Week, writes the Revd Canon Tim Bryan, Bishop’s Advisor on Prison Chaplaincy.

In the programme, something of the extraordinary work of the charity is shared and celebrated. Founded in 2010, The Clink Charity now has more than 10 restaurants and training facilities across the country, including the Diocese’s own HMP Brixton.

In partnership with Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service, the charity supports men and women to develop the skills and discipline necessary to work in the catering industry at the highest level and successfully places many graduates in employment on release.

Mentoring and support is offered in the community and this has undoubtedly contributed to an impressive reduction in reoffending rates. Though severely affected by lockdown, the charity has now begun to open some sites and begun a new takeaway service for staff at HMP Brixton.



Tim Bryan with Songs of Praise presenter Claire McCollum.

As part of *Songs of Praise*, the CEO of The Clink, Chris Moore, and I will be interviewed.

Read more about The Clink Charity at thelinkcharity.org; ‘Songs of Praise’ will air on 11 October on BBC1



IN FOCUS...

Diocesan news

Bishop pays homage to Battle of Britain heroes at anniversary service



Mia Hilborn and Bishop Christopher lead the service (left); a member of St Thomas' staff pays her respects (right).

Bishop Christopher joined the Revd Canon Mia Hilborn at a service marking the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the Blitz at St Thomas' Hospital on 15 September.

NHS staff also took part in the service, which remembered the hospital staff and auxiliary firefighters killed during the Blitz, as well as the 16 members of hospital staff who have died this year.

Bishop Christopher said: "I was very

moved to participate in the Act of Remembrance to remember staff and firefighters who were killed during the Blitz at St Thomas' Hospital as well as Guy's and St Thomas' Trust staff who have died this year."

He added: "Nursing and hospital staff laid wreaths – as did I on behalf of the Diocese – and we were all reminded of the bravery of those who serve on the front line in our Health Service, past and present."

Lancelot Andrewes' medals awarded for COVID-19 support



Seven people joined Bishop Christopher at Southwark Cathedral for a special ceremony on Sunday 27 September, in which they were awarded the Lancelot Andrewes' medal for their work during the Coronavirus crisis.

Those presented with the medals were: Mark Charlton, the Diocesan Director of IT, who facilitated online services for the Cathedral; the Revd Andrew Dovey, Senior Chaplain, Croydon University Hospital, and

the Revd Stanley Njoka, Lead Chaplain, East Surrey Hospital, for their service on the front line during the pandemic; the Revd David Adamson, Curate at St George the Martyr and St Hugh's Southwark and Southwark Cathedral, for his work on the food project at St George the Martyr; and the Venerable Alastair Cutting, Ruth Martin and the Revd Canon Wendy S Robins, who worked with Bishop Christopher on the Coronavirus Task Group.

Bishop for the Arts takes to a new stage in Streatham



Bishop Christopher commissioned the Rt Revd Rob Gillion as Bishop for the Arts on 10 September at Christ Church, Streatham Hill. Bishop Rob was made Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church at the same time.

A former actor, Bishop Rob has been to the far side of the world in the course of his ministry, with a spell in the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macau and four years as Bishop of Riverina, Australia, from 2014-2018.

Bishop Rob (pictured above centre, with Bishop Christopher and the Venerable Simon Gates) said: "Thank you for your warm welcome to Streatham. I look forward to serving the community in the parish of Christ Church and the wider community of the Arts."

Bishop Christopher said: "My hope is that Bishop Rob will be an encourager for the arts, particularly the performing arts, which are under great pressure at present as a result of COVID-19."

Bishop appoints new tutor for curates' ministerial training

Bishop Christopher has appointed the Revd Jeremy Clark-King, Priest-in-Charge of St John the Evangelist, St Francisco, USA to be the new IME2 Lead for Curate Training and Development.

Jeremy said: "I am very excited to engage in this role of supporting the ongoing formation of the remarkable women and men called to ordained ministry and serving as curates."

He added: "I want them to enjoy



their curacy and flourish in these challenging times."

Jeremy will take up his appointment on 1 December.

New Diocesan Registrar sworn in

Jon Baldwin (right) was sworn in as the new Diocesan Registrar on 20 September at Southwark Cathedral.

The role of the Registrar is an important one for the Diocese. They act as chief legal adviser on ecclesiastical matters, such as licensings and consecrations, and also give legal advice to clergy and parishioners.

