

'Cycling up Smoothies' at Tooting Community Fun Day

Another fantastic Community Funday took place in Tooting on Saturday 13 July - organised by St Augustine's Church, Al Risalah Education Trust and the Balham and Tooting Community Association.

Highlights included street games, bungee jumps, smoothie bikes (they mix a smoothie as you ride) and farm animals. St Augustine's Church was open for space and quiet, and the people of St Augustine's ran a Caribbean food stall opposite the Churches Together Cake Stall.

Bishop Christopher spent time meeting people on Broadwater Road with the Mayor, Cllr Jane Cooper and local MP, Rosena Allin-Khan.

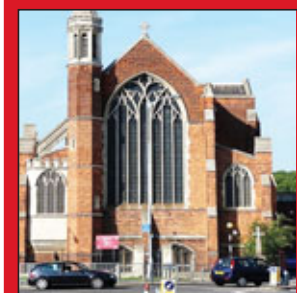
Right: Bishop Christopher cycles up a smoothie with local councillor Paul White



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THE BRIDGE
...this month



A Diocesan delegation visits our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe - pages 6 & 7



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July Diocesan Synod report...
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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

Southwark Synod votes to work towards being an Eco Diocese

On Wednesday 17 July, the Southwark Diocesan Synod voted unanimously to work towards becoming an Eco Diocese.

The Synod heard from members of the Environmental Working Group, led by Bishop Richard, in a series of heartfelt presentations.

The Revd Catherine Shelley drew attention to the fact that many Christian communities in the global south are already tackling the harsh realities of a changing climate – all but two provinces of the Anglican Communion think



that the climate crisis should be a priority for the Lambeth Conference in 2020. The Church of England is one of

the two provinces that has not listed it.

Comments from the floor reflected the urgency and

complexity of the climate emergency, with a shared consensus on the importance of the issue and the moral and theological imperative for Christians to take action.

The current period of Creationtide and Harvest (1 September to 4 October) dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, is the perfect opportunity for congregations to engage with environmental issues through both worship and action in daily life.

Forty-eight churches in Southwark have already registered with the A Rocha Eco Church Scheme, and eight of those have achieved Bronze

awards. St John's Waterloo, St Mary, Sanderstead and St Matthew, Redhill have achieved the coveted Silver award.

In total, 18 Church of England Dioceses are registered, and five of those are now Bronze Eco Dioceses.

The Diocese of Salisbury was the first to become an Eco Diocese.

The competition is wide open for the first Silver Award – watch this space!

To find out more about the Eco Church scheme, visit <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/> For resources, search 'Creationtide' at www.churchofengland.org

A view from THE BRIDGE

The importance of living lightly in the world

As the last Bank Holiday before Christmas approaches and people finish their summer holidays and get ready to return to work and school it always feels to me as if a new year is beginning, not just a new academic year.

In the last few days of my summer holiday I was in Somerset and as we journeyed around the area visiting people and places I was struck by the change in the Levels which were so badly flooded in 2014. It has been impossible this summer to ignore the ever-changing weather patterns.

I flew to Zimbabwe with Bishop Christopher, Archdeacon John Kiddle and the Revd John Whittaker (the Vicar of St Mary Putney) on the hottest day of the year at the end of July, yet places have been flooded and the dam collapse in Derbyshire threatened many homes.

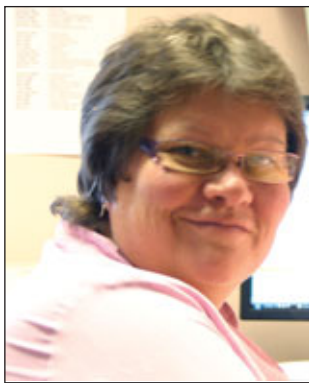
Returning from Zimbabwe the weather has been very varied with colder than usual days and lots of rain. (If I have any summer colour this year I am pretty certain it is rust!) I do know it is very British to go on about the weather but this summer particularly it has become a bit of a theme for me. The Diocesan Synod voted to become an Eco Diocese just before we went off to Zimbabwe and in Zimbabwe it was impossible to ignore the changes in the weather and the effect that this is having on the people of this extraordinarily beautiful and resilient country.

I know that as I head into, what I think of as, the new year I will be trying more consciously to live with more care for our environment and for our world.

Somewhat this summer has made the urgency around thinking about how we live and how we seek to preserve our world for future generations more real to me. Seeing the effect that climate change is having on the lives of our brothers and sister in Zimbabwe has struck a deep chord.

The economy is crippling them but so is the change in weather and the ability to produce food. I hope and pray that the move towards working on being an Eco Diocese will continue to remind me and others of the importance of living lightly in the world that God has given us.

Wendy S Robins



The Venerable Frederick Hazell

Former Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Fred Hazell died on 16 July aged 88.

Vicar of St Saviour, Croydon, then in Canterbury Diocese from 1968, he was Rural Dean of Croydon from 1972 to 1977 and an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral from 1973. He was made Archdeacon of Croydon in 1978, a post



that he held with distinction until his retirement in June 1992. As Chair of Welfare between 1985-1992 he made an outstanding contribution to the work of the charity.

In retirement, Frederick continued to minister in Bath & Wells, Birmingham, Worcester and Chichester Dioceses.

Writing to his widow Norma, Bishop Christopher said "He was a well respected Priest and supportive Archdeacon, and I know people in the Diocese have very fond memories of him so please accept my appreciation on behalf of the whole Southwark family".

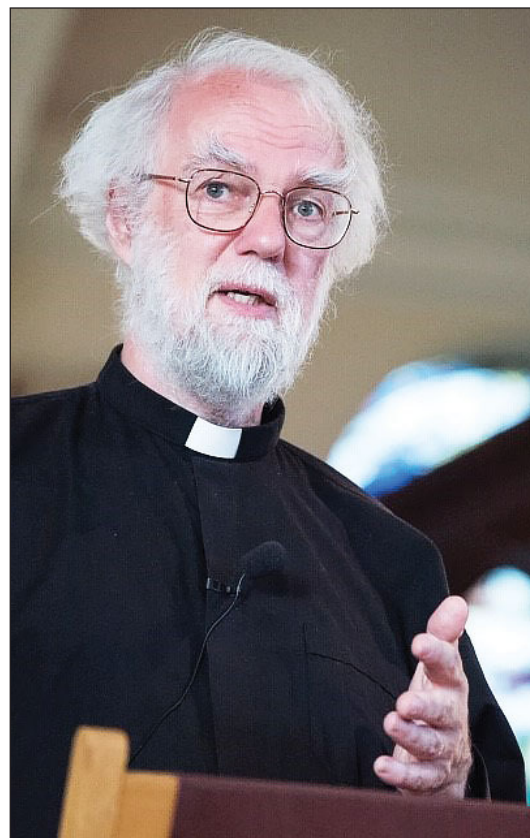
His funeral took place in St Botolph's Church, Heene, Worthing, on 5 August.

Dr Rowan Williams on the life of Conrad Noel

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams gave a lecture at St Anne's Church, Kew on Friday 12 July, to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Conrad Noel.

Bishop Christopher and more than 200 people heard Dr Williams speak to the title, "The Challenge of Affluence: lessons for a parish from the life of Conrad Noel." He explored Conrad Noel's understanding of Christian Socialism and Noel's friendship with Gustav Holst.

On Sunday 14 July, the liturgy reflected some of the liturgical uses that Conrad Noel introduced to his parish in Thaxted. The service was followed by a parish picnic at which the Paulina Singers presented a concert of music by Holst.



Left: Bishop Christopher and the Revd Nigel Worn (St Anne's Vicar) respond to Dr Williams's lecture

Black History Month 2019

Southwark's 2019 Black History Month Celebration will take place at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 5 October.

It starts at 10:30am with a celebration Eucharist, organised by the Diocesan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Department in partnership with the Mothers' Union. Bishop Christopher will preside and Southwark's MU president Comfort Idowu-Fearon will be giving the address.

Music will be provided by the Amies Freedom Choir, a choir made up of previously trafficked women who are using music as part of their healing journey.

After the service there are workshops on offer: BAME women and Social Justice; BAME women in lay leadership and BAME women in ordained leadership.

If you plan to attend, please register through the Eventbrite page <https://southwarkbhm2019.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information either e-mail marlene.collins@southwark.anglican.org or telephone 020 7939 9412.



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

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THE BRIDGE

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The **OCTOBER** edition is due to be printed on **26 SEPTEMBER** and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**

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

Kingston Deanery Funeral Scheme

Kingston Deanery has received £1,500 from the All Churches Trust Mission grants scheme to help the ongoing funding of a Deanery Administrator for funerals.

Now in its fourth year it provides a central contact for undertakers when seeking a funeral from churches participating in the scheme.

"We realised that one of the reasons undertakers often worked more with ministers

who provide secular funerals was because they tended to be more easily contactable. Clergy are often very busy and it can take a day or two for an undertaker to speak with them", said Robert Stanier, Kingston Area Dean.

"However after three years of our scheme, the number of funerals taken by churches in our Deanery is rising very slightly when, nationally, the number of funerals taken by churches is in decline."

Participating churches each contribute £100 towards the cost of the Administrator supplemented by a grant from the All Churches Trust. This is the last year that this funding will be given, and plans for self sufficiency are ready for next year.

Joining the dots: mission in everyday faith



As you meet Ish Lennox it is impossible not to be struck by her enthusiasm for what she is doing and for life in general.

Wendy S Robins

With a background in health and well-being - Ish worked with the NHS until 2010 - she was then hired as one of the Faith Leads for the 2012 Olympics with the task of mobilising God's people to become involved in the mission and discipleship opportunities of the Games. This was followed by a stint in the same sort of role at the Commonwealth Games in Scotland. Back in London-Ish specialised in community engagement.

All this has led nicely into her work of encouraging the laity here. For someone who says she is not sporty it is quite a CV and one which will make those of us who are interested in sport rather envious!

Ish lives in the Woolwich Area of the Diocese and has been appointed to a three-year fixed-term post as Lay Leadership Development Adviser.

Working within the context of the Church of England's Renewal and Reform initiative, Setting God's People Free, and the Diocese's strategic aims, her task is to help to bring about a culture change to help grow whole life, faith filled, mission focused disciples.

Ish tells me: "Around 95% of people's time is spent with family and in the community and we want to encourage people to see themselves as

salt and light wherever they live out their faith.' It is, she says, 'helping individuals join the dots so that they can see that what they do as mission in everyday life'.

It's an exciting time, says Ish: there is a lot of energy in the Diocese and throughout the Church around engaging and equipping the laity. She plans to bring together resources to help deepen discipleship and support people in their everyday faith and life and is developing a web-based resource, entitled Everyday Faith, which will seek to help nurture confident people of God.

This resource will be launched on 14 September at the Croydon Lay Conference 'Refreshing Church'.

Ish is one of the speakers at the Conference and will use her session to introduce

these resources which are designed to help lay people in our churches to explore their role as the 'sent church'. The resources will help individuals in our parishes to celebrate the work that is already being done and to realise that all that they do at work, in their voluntary roles and in other organisations, such as Street Pastors, is part of the mission and ministry of the church.

It is important, Ish says, for our clergy and laity to work together to affirm people in what they are doing in their Monday to Saturday lives.

She adds that her passion for health and well-being hasn't diminished, and that digging into discipleship and providing the resources to help us all be the best, most confident version of ourselves will help to ensure this throughout the Diocese.

St John's Garden Room is now Open!

The Garden Room at St John's Church, Selsdon, was officially opened on Sunday 16 June by the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon.

The opening began with a community songs of praise attended by the Deputy Mayor of Croydon, Cllr Maddie Henson and a large gathering of friends and supporters, after which Bishop Jonathan cut the ribbon and blessed the new room. He marked the entrance with the letters CMB (Christus Mansionem Benedicat - Christ Bless this house) and sprinkled holy water liberally (!) around the newly painted walls!

The ceremony was followed by Afternoon Tea and an opportunity for guests to view the new room, take a look at the Book of Dedications from donors (all of whom were invited to the opening ceremony) and visit the display showing the many and various events and fundraising

activities which have raised money for the project.

The project has received the generous support of the whole community, in making donations and supporting and running fundraising events. Funding was also received from Viridor Credits, Garfield Weston Foundation, Allchurches Trust, City of London Corporation's charitable funder, City Bridge Trust and Croydon Council.

The Garden Room on the south western side of the church overlooks the Garden

of Remembrance. Accessible directly from the main church building it can be closed off as a separate space with an external door from the garden. The room provides a purpose-built refreshment hub and fully accessible toilet facilities including a baby changing area. There is also improved access into and around the whole church building.

The project is community focused for the use of groups and individuals within the Selsdon area in addition to church groups.



On July 14 Paul Conde was baptised by full immersion by the Revd Peter Wyatt, Minister-in-Charge at St Francis Church, South Croydon. The baptistry was loaned by a neighbouring church.



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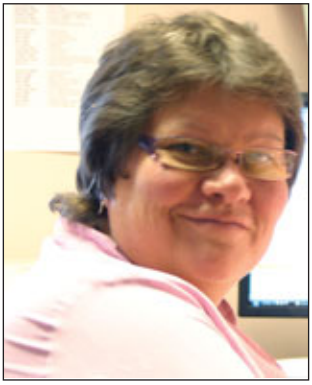
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Wendy S Robins

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

The Synod returned to its customary venue of St John's Waterloo on Wednesday 17 July. The meeting opened with prayers led by the Revd Canon Naomi Whittle and with the Revd Canon Rosemarie Mallett in the Chair.

New members were welcomed and apologies noted and Capt. Nicholas Lebey was thanked for his service as this was his last meeting before he goes off to train for ordination. Rosemarie added her own thanks to him for leading the Refugee Professionals debate at General Synod.

Notices followed from the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, who invited people to self-nominate for two vacancies for members of Synod on the Environmental Working Group, one clergy and one lay. She also noted that there were two casual vacancies on the General Synod for lay people for the remainder of the quinquennium, which ends in July 2020. Nomination papers had already gone out. Ruth also

showed a contactless giving plate, encouraging parishes to consider using it.

In the absence of the Registrar, Bishop Christopher then promulgated Amending Canon 38 which is concerned with Ecumenical Relations.

The Presidential Address followed during which Bishop Christopher spoke of the national situation as we awaited a new Prime Minister and were once again on the brink of Brexit. He spoke of how Southwark Diocese has sought to see strength in our diversity and to affirm and celebrate the work of all God's people through work around Lay leadership and Lay Ministry, including the appointment of a full time member of staff to help take it forward (see page 3). He also mentioned the ending of the SPA Council and the retirement of Margaret Quaife as its Treasurer and as Reigate Archdeaconry SPA, whose service he recognised with his personal gift of the

Lancelot Andrewes medal at the final meeting. He then commissioned Canon Gary Jenkins as Diocesan Focal Lead for Estates Ministry - he will also be joining a National Task Group on this issue - and Canon Naomi Whittle as Diocesan Retirement Officer (photo below). The Presidential Address can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2Yt72V3>

Bishop Ric Thorpe was welcomed and invited to speak

about his work. In addition to being Bishop of Islington he is also the Bishop of London's Adviser for Church Planting and encouraging new Christian communities. He said that he also worked across the country, including a good deal with Southwark's Dean of Fresh Expressions, Canon Will Cookson. Bishop Christopher thanked him and said how blessed we were to have some of his time as an Assistant Bishop.

Adrian Greenwood took the Chair and introduced Canon John Spence with whom he works on Archbishop Council and whom he described as "a star of General Synod". John began by telling the story of his life until he became blind in 1990 and went on to describe how he had become the Chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, the visits to Dioceses he undertook as he began the role, and the plans and achievements that

have ensued - all without extra funding. At the finish there was a brief time for questions.

Alan Saunders, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, then asked Synod to receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 2018. He outlined some of the highlights thanking everyone who had contributed through the Parish Support Fund. 2018 was the end of the three-year transition period during which Diocesan finances had been turned around so that they were now robust. The Report and Financial Statements were unanimously passed.

The Diocesan Secretary then gave feedback on the Diocesan Peer Review - a review of the Diocese by a group of representatives from other Dioceses. Bishop Christopher commented that the review was very positive about our direction of travel although we were not spared hard questions.

The Bishop of Kingston, Bishop Richard, then proposed a motion that the Diocese should seek Eco-Diocese status on behalf of the Eco-Diocese Working Group. This proposal had the support of all the Bishops of the Diocese. Five members of the Working Group and Diocesan Staff took part in the presentation. Many contributed to the debate and questions asked included ones on the Five Marks of Mission and timescale. Bishop Richard summed up and the motion

to register the intention of the Diocese of Southwark to achieve Eco-Diocese status at a bronze level by 2025 at the latest was passed unanimously. More about this can be found on Page 1.

Colin Powell, Director of the Diocesan Board of Education, then gave an update on the work of the Board mentioning new statutory inspections for Catholic and Anglican schools; governor vacancies; the new school on the Greenwich Peninsula which would eventually be for 1,500 students and the "brilliant" headteachers that lead our Schools. He concluded by saying that they were a small team with a large remit.

Capt Nicholas Lebey reported on July's General Synod meeting in York, commenting that it came to be known as the "Southwark Diocese Synod" because of the significant contribution of members from Southwark. The Diocese had been responsible for two motions passed by General Synod on Refugee Professionals and Serious Youth Violence. Other Southwark contributions, included the Dean chairing three items with great humour.

Formal questions on The Bridge, Self Supporting Ministry, enhancing the environmental capacity of parsonages and the Five Marks of Mission were answered and Synod closed with a service of Compline led by Bishop Christopher.



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'The faith of Zimbabwe's people is

In July and August, a delegation from the Diocese once again visited our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. Led by the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, the party found a country that is struggling with inflation, food and fuel shortages and severe hardship. Yet they also found a people who continue to trust in God's grace, and believe that a better future is just around the corner.

The images below give a flavour of the sights and sounds of the trip, from the welcome dinner in Bulawayo to the Arthur Shearly Cripps festival, held annually in Chivhu. A full account of the trip and more images can be found on the Diocesan blog page at southwarkcofe.tumblr.com and on the Very Revd Andrew Nunn's blog at southwarklivinggod.wordpress.com



On Day 3, the visitors preached at Sunday morning services, before visiting three separate projects in and around Gweru. They went first to the gardens of the mayor of Kwekwe, to have lunch with two men's groups that work together on evangelism and social projects (left).

This proved to be an inspiring example for more reasons than one, as the current and former mayors — of different genders and from different political parties — work happily together at St Luke's,



The Bishop, the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, the Venerable John Kiddle and the Revd John Whittaker arrived in Bulawayo to a warm welcome from Bishop Cleophas and a meal and service. "Arriving in Bulawayo is a little like being finally home," says Wendy.

The following morning, Bishop Cleophas triumphantly produced two loaves for breakfast — which had cost twice as much as they had done two days previously, owing to inflation. Worryingly, basic supplies are being priced out of people's reach.

BULAWAYO
26 JULY

CYRENE
27 JULY

GWERU
28 JULY



Day 2 of the trip saw the Bishop, Wendy and the two Johns (Kiddle and Whittaker) visiting Cyrene Chapel (right) and Farm, where the effects of climate change and economic problems could be clearly seen.

The farm can no longer grow the crops that helped to feed local pupils, as the bore hole no longer produces enough water. For the moment, the farm workers continue to raise pigs and chickens, although with the ever increasing cost of feed this may not last long.



HARARE
4 AUGUST

CHIVHU
2 & 3 AUGUST

SHURUGWI
RURAL DISTRICT
1 AUGUST



The climax of the visit was the Shearly Cripps Festival, celebrating the missionary who lived and worked alongside the Shona people in the early 20th century. The celebration begins with Evening Prayer on the Friday, after which the pilgrims camp around the shrine until Sunday. The Southwark group arrived on Saturday in time to take part in the Festival Mass at 8.00am, with Bishop Christopher helping to lead the service (left).

After the service it was time for the traditional choir competition — although fewer than usual were able to enter, because fuel shortages meant that people found it difficult to travel. Daramombe High School went home with the top prize, presented by the Bishop, Bishop Godfrey and the Dean.



extraordinary. It stands as a lesson.'



Kwekwe. As their vicar said: "If we can do this at St Luke's, there is hope for Zimbabwe."

Lunch was followed by a visit to the Children's Ministry at Gweru Cathedral (centre), where the Bishop taught the children 'The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock'.

The day concluded with a dinner hosted by the newly formed Anglican Women's Fellowship (right), which provides a sense of belonging for unmarried women who cannot join the Mothers' Union.



On the last full day in Central Zimbabwe, the Bishop and Wendy inspected progress on the hospital at St Patrick's Mission, which is making great strides, although it still needs electricity in parts and an agreement with the government over staffing.

They also visited St Patrick's High School, and admired the girls' smart new winter uniform of long, red trousers — although those used to English winters felt that these were too hot for 24C heat!



On the way to Masvingo, Bishop Christopher and Wendy were taken to Bishop Ignatios' exciting new initiative which he hopes will make Central Zimbabwe Diocese self-sufficient: a mining operation. The picture shows the machine which Bishop Ignatios hopes will be used to refine gold, and the warehouse in which it will be situated.

ST PATRICK'S MISSION 29 JULY

SHURUGWI URBAN DISTRICT 30 JULY



On Day 7, the Southwark group were taken to four different churches and schools in Shurugwi Rural District: St Boniface, St Mary, St Michael and St Francis. All reported problems with getting enough water, and none have a regular electricity supply or computers for the pupils.

Even so, the children danced and sang in welcome, excited to have visitors, and were happy to talk about their reading, writing and arithmetic.



After visiting the mining operation, the group continued on to Masvingo, where they joined up with Andrew Nunn and enjoyed another welcome supper. Despite severe food shortages, hosting visitors offers an opportunity to put on a feast.

Sadly, most of the time the Zimbabweans are struggling, and all four of the schools visited later in the trip have to run feeding programmes for pupils.

CHIDZIKWE 31 JULY

GREAT ZIMBABWE 31 JULY

MASVINGO 30 JULY



A trip to the Transfiguration Skills Centre revealed further problems: they were not able to plant maize this year and they have fewer chickens and pigs. But the people are hopeful things will improve.



Day 6 took the visitors on an extraordinary journey, to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Great Zimbabwe. Built between the 11th and 15th centuries, this royal city gave the country its name: 'Zimbabwe' comes from the Shona words for 'large stone house'.

Once upon a time, between 10,000 and 18,000 people lived here in these huge stone buildings, built without mortar in the same way as a dry stone wall — an impressive feat of engineering, and a reminder that a powerful and established kingdom existed here long before any Europeans arrived.

Celebrating 800 years of Christian presence at the heart of Richmond

St Mary Magdalene, Richmond, is celebrating its 800th anniversary; not just for one day but for

a whole year which began on 21 July with a service at which Bishop Christopher preached and presided.

The second event was a very popular Hymns & Pimms and the third was Afternoon Tea with Teddy Bears picnic. If you thought the latter would be for young people only, you are mistaken.

Some of the teddies who joined us on Saturday 17 August were more than 50 years old and one had recently celebrated his 94th birthday!

Richmond Team Rector, the Revd Wilma Roest said "There is much more happening over the coming months, a mediaeval banquet in October, a flower festival in May, to name but two. St Mary Magdalene hopes to continue being a welcoming church at the heart of Richmond".

For more info: <http://stmarys800.com/>



St James Hatcham Book Festival

St James Hatcham Church of England Primary School held their second annual Book Festival in July. This year there was a particular focus on young writing talent and one of the highlights of the week was a poetry workshop with Theresa Lola, the Young People's Laureate for London.

There was also a very entertaining visit and book signing from Samuel J Halpin, author of *The Peculiar Peggs of Riddling Woods*.

Renowned storyteller Wendy Shearer, who has appeared at Hay and other major book festivals, told spellbinding tales from Greek Myths. Dr Julia Hope from Goldsmith's College spent a sunny afternoon in the outdoor classroom, telling stories to the youngest children and children from Play 2 Learn Nursery.

And a group of Year 6 children got involved telling stories using puppets to children in Key Stage 1.

COMINGS & GOINGS

At Warlingham

On 30 June Warlingham with Chelsham and Farleigh Team welcomed the Revd Ruth Chapman to All Saints' Warlingham after her ordination at Southwark.

At the same service Geoff Green celebrated his retirement by giving his last sermon as a Lay Reader. The Revd Michelle Edmonds, Team Rector and Lindsey Ould from the Southwark Diocese Association of Readers presented him with gifts of appreciation for his long and faithful service to the Warlingham Team.



... and Lewisham

St Stephen with St Mark's Church, Lewisham gave an international farewell party for the Revd Philip Corbett on 6 July. After six years as Priest in Charge and then Vicar he has moved on to new challenges in Notting Hill, London Diocese.



On Sunday 14 July the bells of St Mary's Church Rotherhithe rang out as Edward Gormley celebrated 10 years as an event steward at Southwark Cathedral. The team rang a quarter peal of 1320 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles in 48 minutes with Edward ringing the tenor bell (above)



Double trouble at St Michael's School

It was a quadruple case of mistaken identity at St Michael's School Southfields when Tuesday 16 July was turned into 'Reversal Day'. St Michael's School is currently blessed with four sets of identical twins. On Reversal Day they swapped classes and hairstyles in a bid to confuse their classmates and teachers. All the children agreed that their friends and teachers had got to know them so well that it was almost impossible to fool everyone but they all enjoyed causing Double Trouble in their last week of term.



Murder in the Cathedral

2020 marks 850 years since the murder of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

To celebrate this anniversary theatre company Scena Mundi plans an extensive tour of T S Eliot's play *Murder in the Cathedral* in

cathedrals across the country.

The opening performances of the tour will take place in Southwark Cathedral on 4, 5, 12 and 13 November - all performances begin at 7.30 pm. The nationwide tour programme will be announced in due course.

Murder In The Cathedral was written by Eliot for the Canterbury Festival in 1935. It retells the murder by four Norman knights of

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury (1162-1170)... the violence of the murder... the miracles which began to take place at Canterbury... Thomas's almost immediate canonisation by the Pope and the transformation of the scene of martyrdom to one of Europe's most visited pilgrim sites. All combine to make this a gripping and sensational story.

Scena Mundi is an ensemble theatre company, much of whose previous

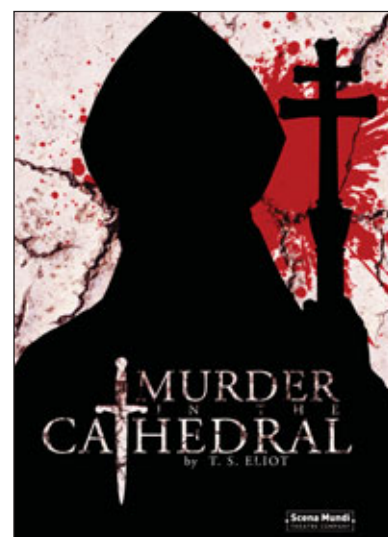
work has been performed in churches. Since directing *Murder In The Cathedral* in 2014, director Cecilia Dorland has dreamed of touring it to major cathedrals and that dream is now being realised.

The Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn said; "Thomas Becket preached his final sermon in London at the Priory of St Mary Overie, now Southwark Cathedral.

"It is therefore appropriate that this new production

of Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* will be performed at Southwark as we begin the marking of the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of this great saint. We look forward to playing our part in the remembrance of a champion of the English church and people".

For more information contact Scena Mundi, London+447419209755 or e-mail: info@scenamundi.co.uk



Bryan Harris's

PARISH PROFILE

When Fr Sean Gilbert became the new Vicar at St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood, in May he said that for the first year he would "just 'be' and get to know everyone".

Wrong... St Alban's was ready for change and in Sean's first three (busy) months the seeds of change have been sown.

St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood is a small parish, home to some 8,000 people – nominally in South Norwood but actually at one end of Thornton Heath High Street and within earshot of Selhurst Park, Crystal Palace FC's ground. The church itself is huge - built in stages between 1889 and 1939 with a nave designed to hold 800 people (standing). Grade 2 listed it stands on a prominent street corner with its doors opening onto the pavement and with a (very) small car park to one side in front of the adjacent church hall.

It's an Anglo-Catholic parish – and always has been – and today is under the Extended Episcopal care of the Bishop of Fulham.

"We strive to be authentically Anglican and authentically Catholic, with our church life centralised around the Eucharist", said Sean.

Mass is celebrated twice on Sunday – a said Mass at 8am and a sung Solemn Mass at 10am, with a robed choir, mainly adults, and a team of servers of both young adults and children. St Alban's doesn't have a Sunday School but from the age of about seven youngsters are encouraged to join the servers team and take a full part in the life of the church.

The congregation at the main service is usually around 80 people – although for high days and Holy days (and funerals) the numbers swell to double or treble that number.



South Norwood, St Alban the Martyr



They use a rite, which is a legacy of the previous incumbent. It is very similar to Common Worship with just a few extras and is one that is very much favoured by the congregation.

Mass is now also said daily throughout the week in the Lady Chapel. When I joined them on a wet Wednesday morning there was a congregation of 10 – but on other days it can be 20 or more.

Today's congregation is a mix of local residents – largely of West Indian and African descent – but on Sundays they are joined by a substantial number from outside the parish. Some are drawn to the church by its traditional style. But many are people who have moved away but still regard it as 'their church' and so come back regularly, sometimes with their families, friends and new neighbours and often from quite a distance!

"St Alban's is a family church and a close church family" said Sean. "I have been blessed by joining a church where people genuinely love one another and enjoy being in each other's company – and our mission is to draw more people into our family".

"We enjoy an occasion" he said "and there's a great sense of fun".

So within Sean's first month he experienced a Vicarage Garden Party, a barbecue on Hastings beach and a Family Fun Day all in true St Alban's style – plus the Patronal Festival which included another party!

"Our people get a lot of joy out of their faith and our aim is

to communicate that sense of joy to those around us so that they will want to experience it too!" he said.

Sean is a 'one-man band' – no curate, lay ministers or retired clergy to call on. But he says "I have two tremendous churchwardens and terrific support from all the congregation". Nevertheless he has developed close links to other Anglo-Catholic parishes, and there is a mutual support system in place including cover for holidays etc.

In July the PCC agreed to start work on its Mission Action Plan where two objectives have already been identified. The PCC agreed while discussing the parish profile during the vacancy that they were very happy with the style of worship and that it is participatory - members of the congregation read, lead the Intercessions, young people lead the Intercessions at Harvest and Mothering Sunday.

But the PCC agreed as one objective, that the church needed to 'get out there' more



– to reach out into the streets around and get involved in the community more. As the parish representatives will tell you in Sean they have found the right man to help them achieve this.

And Sean is out there – daily walking around the parish in cassock and 'dog-collar' and "it's amazing how many people I've met and got to know just by being obviously 'the vicar'".

There are two primary schools and a drama school in the parish. In the past engagement has been nominal but being 'out there' has seen Sean beginning to develop those links. And there's more...

St Alban's people are devoted to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and already this year they have taken part in the National Pilgrimage and a Parish Pilgrimage (all in Sean's first three months) and there is another pilgrimage later this year. They are also planning to start a cell of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham and Sean hopes that its weekly meetings will be another opportunity to draw people into the life of the church. There are also plans for Advent and Lent Bible Study groups, where again the aim will be to bring in 'outsiders'.

Later this year the parish's young people are off to Carrotty Wood – an adventure centre in Kent – with other young people from Anglo-Catholic parishes in Southwark and Rochester Dioceses. This will be the third such trip – and "we are looking at ways to open that up to children of non-church families".

The second objective said Sean "is to use our sacred space more effectively". There are various social issues locally including knife crime and a lack of community. "Social media may put people in touch but conversely it has also led increasing isolation as people tap their keyboards alone."

They hope to find ways to develop St Alban's as a community hub, with its door open every day, offering coffee,

perhaps or just someone to talk to.

The Church Hall is on the site of a Victorian mission church. When the present church was built, it became the hall. It was rebuilt in the 1960s after a fire and recently a new kitchen was installed – part of a plan to develop its facilities for community use. There are already two day nurseries and a martial arts club there and it is used by local groups for meetings. But the long term aim is to totally refurbish the hall and make it more available and attractive to the community as a whole.

Mind you those plans bring their own challenge.

Finance is tight at St Alban's. "We pay our share but there's little to spare". The church

needs a new boiler and major work to the lighting system and "we also need to develop better signage outside, to catch the eye and to draw people in through our doors" said Sean. The congregation give willingly but a stewardship campaign is planned to put the giving on a more stable basis.

"One of our greatest assets is that St Alban's is really a family. They support each other in any difficult times and many of our people have been coming to this church for quite a long time. They are also willing to get involved and try new things. That's a tremendous launch pad as we look to jump into the 21st century" said Sean.

So, as they say, "watch this space".

The 2019 Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham



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Let us pray September

The Great War (1914-1918) had been 'the war to end all wars' but less than 20 years later we were at war again. This month is the 80th

anniversary of the start of the Second World War.

We may feel a little weary after spending four years commemorating the centenary of the First World War, not quite ready for another five year period of remembering. But as we say each November, we remember so as not to forget. In fact, many of us know so much more about this second war than the first.

This war came home to us and especially in those communities in London and elsewhere that took the force of the Blitz. We still see the

evidence around us, the infill houses in a terrace where a bomb must have dropped, pockmarked buildings, our own cathedral with no stained glass on the south side.

The evidence of the war is all around us, even 80 years later. Whatever character these commemorations take I hope that we can remember not just the heroism of those who went off to fight but also the heroism of those who stayed home and bore the brunt of rationing and bombing, evacuation and displacement.

This was a war not just fought by the military but lived by the civilians and not least in the communities of this Diocese.

The poet M. Jean Prussing wrote in her poem 'September 2, 1939'...

What we have feared assumed dimension and a name; the long shadow emerges from the wall; the smoke is flame.

The fear became reality, the smoke was flame. There will be a great deal to remember between now and 2025 but let us hold this beginning in prayer.

**God of love,
may wars cease
and all be peace.
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

Back to School

Aike Kennett-Brown

We see this phrase splashed around our shops, encouraging us to prepare for the new academic year ahead, but what does this mean for you and your church?

I wonder how many people in your congregation are involved with school in some way? Education Sunday on

8 September is the perfect opportunity to find out and pray for your teachers, school governors, students, parents/grandparents and carers at the school gate. Some may be excited to see friends and colleagues after the summer break, others may be anxious about transitioning into a new class or school, or the workload they face. Perhaps you will be the only Christian in your class or workplace? How can you be salt and light?

Fortunately we are not alone, God has promised His Holy Spirit to be with us in all situations and as a church family we can encourage each other. Your church might like to try *This Time Tomorrow* where the leader interviews a young person or teacher for two minutes asking: Where will you be 'This Time Tomorrow'? What do you do there? What are your challenges and joys? And

how can we pray for you? You might also commit to pray for all those who enter the school gates.

However, our involvement with school must go beyond Education Sunday. In February 2019, General Synod overwhelmingly supported the House of Bishops' vision *Growing Faith: Churches, Schools and Households*.

It seeks a culture change within the Church so that every aspect of mission and ministry is seen through the lens of what it means for children, young people and households. One aspect of *Growing Faith* is to build strong relationships between church, schools and households, encouraging churches to make the most of extracurricular opportunities for intergenerational mission.

The start of this new academic year is perhaps the



time to review and refresh how your church or deanery links with either your community or Church of England (CofE) schools? Here are a few ideas:

- Develop a church/school partnership that supports the teaching of Christianity in RE lessons. Invite a class to visit your church and share the Christian story, making the most of key Christian festivals. On 9 October Southwark Diocese will launch a new resource: *CSI Easter – The Case of the Missing Body*. Written by Jude Barber (Christ Church Purley), this resource has all the information required to turn your church into a crime investigation scene, as
- Key Stage 2 students discover the events around the first Easter.
- Develop a relationship that supports PSHE and set up a Prayer Spaces in Schools; or an after school Messy Church.
- Support children spiritually as they transition from primary to secondary schools and beyond, making use of Scripture Union's *It's Your Move* resource.
- Learn how schools develop children and young people to serve their community through school councils and as leaders of collective worship. Build on this to encourage their participation and leadership within your church.

- Encourage children and young people to build relationships with their peers, equipping them to confidently share their faith with family and friends.
- Train volunteers to offer mentoring for at risk students, making use of XLP or School Pastors resources.

Some of these suggestions need some training and equipping before you start. Make use of online resources e.g. *YFC's RE:quest* or *Barnabas in Schools*. Find out which parachurch organisations operate locally and how you can partner with them: *Spinnaker*, *Sparkfish*, *Sutton Schools Ministry*, *Oxygen* (YFC Kingston), *Greenwich YFC*, *Transforming Lives for Good*, *School Pastors*, *Open the Book*, *Walk through the Bible and XLP*, to name a few.

Most of all, get your church praying strategically for your local schools and those involved with them. *Pray for Schools* has some great resources.

Need some support? Contact Southwark Diocese Mission Support Officers (children and young people): aike.kennett-brown@southwark.anglican.org or keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org

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Welcome and Outreach to older people

Joanna Cox writes:

The start of the school year marks a time when many churches will be planning events for the year ahead.

Finding ways to reach out to all groups in the community - young and old - is an important part of the vision and MAP of many parishes. SAGE (the Diocesan working group looking at ministry among

SAGE Southwark Spirituality and Age Working Group

older people) is keen to help churches find ways to reach out to and serve older people.

How can seasonal occasions and one-off events be used as an opportunity for mission, invitation and welcome to older people? Christmas parties are only the tip of an iceberg of possibilities here. Not only celebrations in the church year, but other regular events in the calendar such as Holidays at Home - sometimes put on by a group of local churches - Harvest and Remembrance have provided a stimulus to imaginative work with older people in some churches. Anniversaries of national

events provide an excuse for creating an event which could include music, food and sharing memories - looking ahead, 2020 will see the 75th anniversary of VE day, for example. And there are examples of occasions when groups of older people who meet regularly in a church are involved in organising a one-off event to which other seniors can be invited.

SAGE is organising a session which will offer ideas, examples and some practical help and guidance on issues to consider when organising such events.

Anybody with experience to share, and those looking for new ideas to put into programmes will be very welcome at the session on Saturday morning (10am - 1pm), 21 September at Trinity House.

To book a place please e-mail: ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org



WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for
OCTOBER ONWARDS to Trinity House
BY MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

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 22 & 29 September, Sunday 6 and 13 October at 3pm. Adults £3 Children free.

† **GREENWICH** - Galilee Course - new course on Christianity - at St George's Church on eight Wednesday nights starting 18 September. Contact the Revd Tim Yeager 020 3633 5494.

or tim@stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk

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

* **TATSFIELD** - Teas served every Sunday 3 - 5 p.m. at St Mary's Church

* **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

September

Compline by Candlelight
St Mary's Church, Farleigh
8.00 pm

"More people of Faith"

1st Hannah Hurnard - 20th century Christian author *Lay Canon Ruth Martin*

8th St Hildegard of Bingen (Abbess, visionary, writer, composer, mystic) *Revd Col. P Hewlett-Smith*

15th John Robinson (Bishop, scholar, author of 'Honest to God') *The Very Revd Andrew Nunn*

22nd St Mary Magdalene - *Revd Ruth Chapman*

29th Bram Fischer (Anti-apartheid activist, Nelson Mandela's lawyer) *Revd Sara Goatcher*

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill - admission free, donations invited

Every Thursday at 1.10 pm

5th Recital - Anna Cashell - Violin

12th Chamber Music Recital - Cadran Trio

19th Recital - Anna Kondrashina - Flute

26th Piano Duet Recital

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September

BERMONDSEY - St Anne's Church 150th anniversary

Saturday
Free community event in the church garden 12pm to 4pm. Performance from St James primary school choir, face painting, rodeo ride, bouncy castle, arts and crafts, open church, bbq and refreshments. All are welcome.

Sunday
10.30am - Service celebrating St Anne's presence in the community for 150 years followed by lunch. www.godlovesbermondsey.co.uk

Saturday 7 September

* **MITCHAM** - Mothers' Union International Evening at Mitcham Parish Church Centre, 5pm - 10pm. Adults £12, Children £5 (incl two course meal & Disco) Cash Bar Tel: 020 8648 1566

♫ **PURLEY** - St Swithun's Musical Evening for charity. Women's barbershop chorus from Surrey Harmony followed by rhythm & blues from Adannay. 7pm in St. Swithun's Church. Tickets £10 : call 020 8660 5132 / 4119

Saturday 7 September

♫ **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - 'Classics For Cancer!!' Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 followed by Mozart's Requiem. The All Saints Chorus with orchestra and soloists. Proceeds to Lennox Children's Cancer Fund. Tickets from £10 from 07933 983652

Sunday 8 September

* **LINGFIELD** - Indian Summer Tea at Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre Fairtrade food and craft and MU stationery stalls. Tickets £7. E-mail: gillwilliams2000@yahoo.co.uk or 01342 833994

BATTERSEA - All Saints Church - Creationtide Multi-Faith Conversation: Safeguarding God's Creation

6.30 pm for 7-9pm

Tuesday, 10 September "Spiritual Guidance and the Moral Dimension". Speakers from: Christian Aid, Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre, Buddhist and Liberal Jewish perspectives

Tuesday, 17 September "Local Spiritual Engagement to Net Zero".

Speakers from: Climate Ed, Carbon Conversations, Transition Town Tooting, Extinction Rebellion Wandsworth, Queenstown Ward Wandsworth & St John's Church, Waterloo. Information from: The Revd S Anand Asir Anand, on 07711492946. E-mail: anandjessie@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday 12 September

† **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL**; Society of Catholic Priests 25th Anniversary. 12 noon Concelebrated Eucharist 3pm Service of Recommitment & Renewal. RSVP to your SCP priest by 1 Sept.

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 September:

* **SHIRLEY** - St John's Flower Festival: For the beauty of the Earth - Flowers and Food of the World, music, all-day café, Saturday night concert. Supporting the Food Bank.

Saturday 14 September

♫ **MITCHAM** - Wessex Vocal Consort "Hardy & Heritage" a concert of English Choral Music. 7.00pm Mitcham Parish Church. Tickets £10 from 020 8646 0666

♫ **BELLINGHAM** - Organist, Nicholas Manoukas RCM at St Dunstan's Church at 4pm; refreshments. Retiring collection

Sunday 15 September

♫ **STREATHAM** - Guy James (countertenor). Works by Howells, Pärt and Gurney. 12.10pm to 1pm. St Peter's Church. Retiring collection for Church Organ fund

Wednesday 18 September

* **WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL** - Interfaith Group meets 4 to 5 p.m.

Thursday 19 September

♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Organ Concert at St John's 7.30pm. James Lancelot. Refreshments. retiring collection

Saturday 21 September

* **CROYDON MEACC** - 'Croydon Celebrates Young People' Day - 12 noon to 4pm

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 September

* **WARLINGHAM** - All Saints' Church Heritage Open Days; Displays, church & churchyard tours, refreshments **Saturday** 10.30am-4.30pm; **Sunday** 2pm-4pm; 6pm 'West Gallery' style evensong

Wednesday 25 September

♫ **MITCHAM** - Bocalis - a Brazilian Choir singing songs of Brazil and other lands. 7.30pm at St Barnabas Church. Tickets £10 from 020 8648 0119. stbarnabasmitcham@gmail.com

Thursday 26 September

* **GREENWICH** - St George's Westcombe Park @ 8 pm. "What's the point of the parish church?" The Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Diocese of Southwark. Part of 2019-20 Community Lecture series. Refreshments provided. Q&A sessions follow. All events are free. A voluntary retiring collection will be taken at the end of the lecture.

Saturday 28 September

* **RICHMOND** - Christian Aid Riverside Sponsored Walk. Eight miles or three miles from St Matthias Church Richmond to St Anne's Church Kew Green. To register for the walk: www.rw19.eventbrite.co.uk

Saturday 28 September to Saturday 5 October.

* **LEWISHAM** St Mary's Generation Project Week - celebrating the transformative power of the Arts. Exhibition open daily except Sunday 10am-2pm & 6pm-7.30pm

Saturday 28 September 2pm - Exhibition opening with the Lewisham Concert Band 4pm-5pm - Sing with the Generation Choir 7.30pm - Cheese & wine supper with Ensemble Tramontana. £10 from website

Sunday 29 September 7.30pm - Mozart's Wind Serenade performed by Sonnet K361 in Bb - Free

Thursday 3 October 7.30pm - 'England be Glad' - Medieval and Renaissance music with Ensemble Tramontana. £10 via website or on door.

Saturday 5 October 6pm - Generation Project Concert - with primary school choirs, the British Recorder Light Orchestra, the Generation Choir and the Tongue and Groove choir. Free entry. www.generationproject.online



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Southwark Cathedral marks thirtieth anniversary of Marchioness disaster



The 30th anniversary of the sinking of the pleasure boat Marchioness, on 20 August 1989, in which 51 people lost their lives, was marked by Southwark Cathedral with a candlelit vigil at the disaster site and a Memorial Eucharist.

On the evening of Monday 19 August, survivors of the disaster, friends and families, left from the *Marchioness* memorial in Southwark Cathedral to process along Bankside for a prayer vigil at the spot where the boat sank.

Odette Penwarden, who had been on board the *Marchioness*, shared her memories of that night, after which the Revd Canon Gilly Myers, Precentor, read aloud the names of those who lost

their lives. Those present were invited to throw petals on to the Thames in remembrance of loved ones. The vigil ended with a flotilla of boats from the RNLI, Port of London Authority and Fire and Rescue gathering at the site of the accident to pay their respects.

At 12.45pm on Tuesday 20 August hundreds of people whose lives had been touched by the disaster gathered at the Cathedral for a Memorial Eucharist at which the Bishop of Southwark, Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, presided. Cllr Sandra Rhule, Mayor of Southwark and Sir Simon Hughes, who was the local MP in 1989, were among the worshippers.

Bishop Christopher introduced the service, recalling the events of 30 years ago and the horrifying speed of the tragedy. He then led prayers, before Diogo Vasconcellos reflected on his experiences of surviving



the disaster and living with the trauma and loss of two brothers who did not survive. His voice broke with emotion, as he spoke of the difficulties of talking about grief, even with others who had been on the *Marchioness* that night.

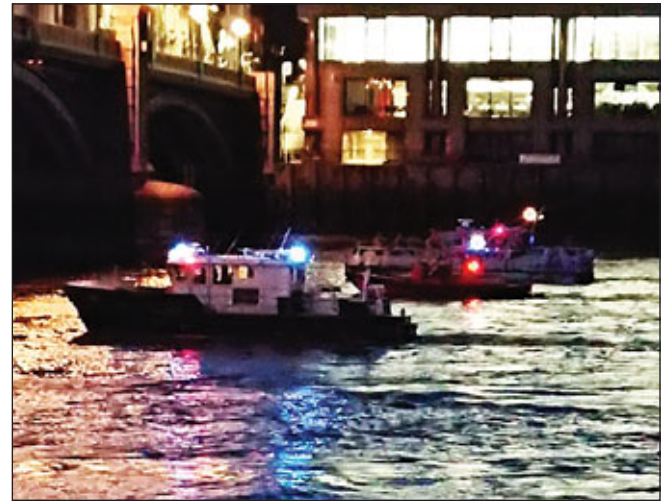
The Sub Dean, Canon Michael Rawson, gave the homily reminding the congregation of the words from the Song of Solomon inscribed around the *Marchioness* memorial: 'Many waters cannot quench love'.

He went on: "The clock stopped for 51 people in the early hours of Sunday 20 August, and for many of you, grieving the loss of your beloved or as survivors,

it continues to be a long and difficult struggle on the journey to recovery." Yet, he added, it was love that had the last say in our lives.

The clergy then gathered at the *Marchioness* memorial to pray and again read aloud the names of those who died. A representative of the HM Coastguard then laid a wreath on behalf of the river's emergency services and a period of silence was observed. This ended with a salute from the river, as boats from the RNLI, Port of London Authority and Fire and Rescue sounded their horns in tribute.

After the service, those present lit candles and placed flowers at the memorial.



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Email: pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org



Upcycling at Limpsfield

St Peter's Church, Limpsfield recently hosted an upcycling competition and exhibition organised by Limpsfield in Bloom.

The children from St Peter's Messy Church were awarded first prize in the over fives category for their display.

Re-using old plastic bottles, they made disciple figures and a fishing scene entitled "Cast your nets on the right side of the boat" (John 21: 6-8) to

highlight how we need to stop polluting our seas with plastic.

Other prize-winning upcycled items included a chair re-covered in an old pair of jeans, wooden children's toys made into planters and a war memorial display made from old bottles.

A large quilt made by members of the congregation and community was auctioned off during a special celebratory concert on the Saturday evening.

In total the event raised over £1,200.



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