



The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Walking
Welcoming
Growing

Vol.27 No.7
September 2022



Ukraine

Parishes welcome refugees into their communities

See page 5



Wychcroft at 60

60th anniversary celebration at the Southwark Diocesan Retreat Centre

See pages 8-9



Humanitarian disaster in Africa

Christian Aid's emergency appeal

See page 10

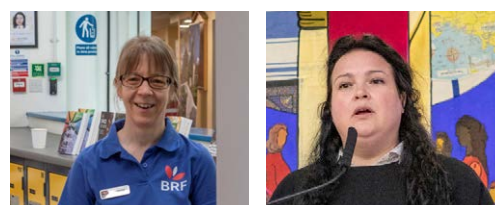


Three-day Diocesan conference brings lay and ordained ministers together from across the Diocese

Ordained and lay ministers gathered at Bacon's College, Rotherhithe, from 1 to 3 September. It was the first Diocesan-wide clergy conference in eight years and this year, for the first time, included lay ministers.

It was also live-streamed with 400 people joining morning worship online daily. The conference was hosted by Simon Hughes and the Revd Carol Bates. Its theme was 'Christ Centred Outward Focused' and ranged from inspiring, challenging and moving keynote speakers, to wide ranging seminars and workshops, a marketplace packed with stalls to equip, empower and inform delegates, to the daily morning and evening prayer and the Eucharists.

Mark Russell, CEO of the Children's Society's righteous anger was felt by the delegates when he shared that 4.3 million children in the UK live in poverty. This will rise to 5 million by the end of the year. The Revd Azariah France-Williams challenged delegates through story-telling, poetry and song, to focus not on the working week but on living life abundantly and finding the missing peace within and without. The Revd Melanie Marshall inspired delegates to "waste time" in discovery, creativity and friendship. Mark Greene encouraged delegates to affirm and commission parishioners in their everyday lives. Adjoa Andoh spoke of the importance of being present in Communion and storytelling in authentic ways.



In his sermon at the closing Eucharist, Bishop Christopher said, "God trusts you with the charge he has given you. We often only hear the charge – I hope very much that this conference has helped you hear again the wonder and joy of the trust that has been placed in you and I hope you know I give heartfelt thanks to God for each and every one of you."



© Eve Milner. Clockwise from top left: gathered worship; keynote speakers Azariah France-Williams and Melanie Marshall; marketplace stand BRF; delegates network between sessions.

Continued on page 3 ►

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs) gather for a special Summer Gathering

Forty SPAs gathered together, on Saturday 6 August, for their first Summer Social to celebrate SPA ministry, writes Wendy Stephens, Diocesan SPA.

The event was very kindly hosted by St Oswald, Norbury with their own active SPAs, Indira Christ and Bevon West. For many it was the first opportunity to meet up since March 2020 and there was a real feel of celebration in the air. Matched by beautiful weather, which meant everyone could mingle outside with coffee and biscuits, before Midday prayer in the shade of the trees led by the vicar Revd Alison Brunt. Before lunch, served by



a team of volunteers from St Oswalds, Wendy Stephens the Diocesan SPA read a message from Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education, in which she thanked the SPAs for all they do:

"Pastoral work is so often the unsung backbone of our churches. Quietly in the background our pastoral workers visit those who are stuck at home or in hospital; act as volunteer hospital chaplains or notice those who have not

been around. They are the ones who pray regularly for our communities and help out at the food banks or night shelters or are Street Pastors. The work of our SPAs is as varied as the SPAs are themselves and without this work many of our parishes would find themselves bereft of so many things.

So today I simply want to thank you all for all that you do; to assure you of my prayers and support for all your work."

It truly was a wonderful occasion and an opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Our thanks to all at St Oswalds for making us feel so welcome.

Read more stories at southwark.anglican.org/blog or find us on social media @SouthwarkCofE



A view from The BRIDGE



Welcome to the September edition of *The Bridge*. I hope you have enjoyed your summer and were able to rest, recuperate and keep cool during the period of unprecedented hot weather.

We have just finished our first ever Clergy and Lay, in-person and online conference at Bacon's College in Rotherhithe. Three days of listening to stellar keynote speakers, taking part in fun, empowering and challenging seminars, making new friends and reconnecting with old ones. What stood out for me was the palpable joy and laughter throughout the venue. Photographer, Eve, described it as "electric". We have featured the conference, mainly in pictures, on the front page and on page 3.

Another conference which took place this summer was the Lambeth Conference. Our bishops were in attendance and while there, Bishop Christopher was presented with the Cross of Nails. Find out more on page 11.

I spent a couple of weeks in Jamaica visiting my dad. I arrived just a week after the island celebrated 60 years of independence. There were signs of this throughout the towns and villages. Churches in our Diocese did the same. See page 4.

Bishop Rosemarie was honoured by both the Barbadian Prime Minister and President on her visit to Barbados recently, see page 16.

As Ukrainian refugees continue to settle in the UK, our churches continue to welcome and support them. Members of the Ukrainian youth group at St Barnabas, Dulwich went on a trip to the seaside and Christ Church Nutfield has opened its doors to Ukrainian Christians for regular services in the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition (read more on page 5).

Many reading this will be familiar with Wychcroft House, our Diocesan Retreat centre. What you may not know, is that it too, like Jamaica, celebrated 60 years this summer. Read all about it in the centrespread, written by Wendy Robins.

This month, we announced the appointment of the Revd Canon Gary Jenkins as Dean of Estates Ministry (page 12).

As we start a new term and the days become longer and cooler, and we continue to shine Christ's light in our various parishes and communities, I hope you will continue to be encouraged and uplifted by the stories you read in these pages.

Sophia Jones



NEWS IN BRIEF

Greenwich Winter Night Shelter wins prestigious award



Greenwich Winter Night Shelter were "over the moon" to be announced (in July) as one of the winners of the London Homelessness Awards 2022. They are looking forward to the awards ceremony in October, with fellow prize winners. Read the full press release here: <https://bit.ly/3wdDwBC>

Faith in Maintenance Training Course

The Diocese of Southwark is pleased to invite you to a one day training course on maintaining church buildings. The course, Faith in Maintenance, was developed by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and is aimed specifically at Churchwardens and people responsible for the maintenance of churches. It will be run by James Innerdale, an architect and historic buildings consultant. Places are limited so please limit to two people per parish. 10 September, 9.30am–4pm, St Leonard, Streatham, SW16 1HS, £10.

To book: <https://bit.ly/3T1Gsea>

Generosity Week

Generosity Week starts on Sunday 25 September. Keep a look out on the Diocese website, at the Diocesan Conference and our social media pages for more information.

How can churches support carers?

Informal carers who are looking after a loved one can often feel they are 'out of sight; out of mind'. It can be an isolating, hidden and exhausting role. Carers need the support of their church family, but what does that support look like?

SAGE (Southwark and Ageing) has invited Tina English from the charity *Embracing Age* to outline some guiding principles for churches in supporting carers, including those who care for older people, within their congregation and local community. Tuesday 27 September, 7.30–8.45pm, Zoom, free.

To book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org

Save the date! – Black History Month celebration

This year's Black History Month service will take place on Saturday 1 October from 11am at Southwark Cathedral and will celebrate the theme of 'Welcome'. Bishop Christopher will preside at the Eucharist. We have partnered with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education to organise this exciting celebration and look forward to hearing contributions from students at St Mark's Academy, Mitcham and others.

Further details can be found at: southwark.anglican.org/bhm

Free data for people in need

The National Databank is part of the *Good Things Foundation*. It provides free mobile data, texts and calls to people in need via *Good Things Foundation's* network of local community partners. Community organisations can sign up for free and then access free SIM cards and data packages to support people in need. To find out more about how families are affected, please follow this link to articles published by the BBC: <https://bbc.in/3SYISuf>



The Bridge is produced & published by:

Communications Department, The Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House,
4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW

Tel: 020 7939 9400 Email: bridge@southwark.anglican.org

The Editorial Team from the Communications Department:

Commissioning Editor:

Sophia Jones

Editor: Vacant

Advertising and Distribution:

Susana Rojas

Editorial Group:

Ruth Martin

Editorial Adviser (vacant)

Sophia Jones

Alastair Cutting

Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The OCTOBER edition is due to be published online on 4 October 2022. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by email by **MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**.

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



© Eve Milner. Clockwise from top left: Conference hosts, the Rt Hon Sir Simon Hughes with the Revd Carol Bates; a seminar workshop; delegates break for lunch; Marketplace Lay Reader stall; Street and School Pastors; volunteer, Odette, hands out Conference bags.



© Eve Milner. Top row L-R: Keynote speakers Francis Spufford, Mark Russell and Mark Greene. Far right: Bishop Christopher presents Jay Colwill with the Lancelot Andrewes medal for his dedication in organising the Conference. Bottom row L-R: Keynote speaker Adjoa Andoh; seminar speaker Chine McDonald; Conference organisers, Rachel Smith and Elaine Close receive flowers in appreciation of their hard work.

Lammas Day celebrated at Southwark Cathedral

On Monday 1 August, Southwark Cathedral celebrated Lammas Day as part of its daily Eucharist.

Lammas, or ‘Loaf-mass’, is a particular English feast in origin, celebrated as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest is presented during the Eucharist of that day, as took place at the Cathedral’s Eucharist on the day.

Precentor of Southwark Cathedral, the Revd Canon Andrew Zihni, who presided over the Eucharist, said, “We were very grateful to our friends from Bread Ahead bakery in Borough Market for baking the Lammas loaf, and being with us to present the loaf for blessing.”

He continued, “As a Eucharistic community, bread is an essential element of our worship – as a staple of both altar and



Revd Canon Andrew Zihni, blesses the Lammas loaf at Bread Ahead.

table. So, at the Lammas Day Eucharist, we gave special thanks for the holy sacrament that we receive in the form of bread, and prayed for a deepening of human compassion throughout the world, that no one may go hungry – physically, spiritually or emotionally.”



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

Rejoicing in Asian Culture at All Saints, New Eltham Asian Festival

The people of New Eltham gathered at All Saints for a day of dancing, singing, musicians, food, friends and family. The Asian Festival, which took place on Saturday 16 July, included a variety of people from across Asia rejoicing in their culture and showcasing it to the wider community.

There were craft stalls including fans, baskets and shawls, as well as a multitude of food stalls from China, India, Malaysia, and English tea and cake too. There was a very moving display about the continuing oppression in Myanmar and the Scouts raised funds for their trip to South Korea in 2023.

“We had fantastic dancers from Indonesia, musicians from Malaysia, Timor, Thailand and Myanmar.”

“We had fantastic dancers from Indonesia, musicians from Malaysia, Timor, Thailand and Myanmar. We ended the afternoon with a J’ ai Dance – a dance for gratitude and happiness, a very appropriate end to a fantastic day. We all joined this final dance, including our very own Brian Leach dressed as Godzilla,” said Vicar of All Saints, the Revd Annette Rose.

The day came about as a result of the church’s Mission Action Plan (MAP) committee meetings where they aimed to build their community engagement. This was led, in particular, by Lisa and Liston Siregar, members of the MAP committee and who are from Indonesia.

“The theme was chosen because they are passionate about showing our diversity to the whole community and for All Saints to be hospitable to all. So many people asked on the day can we come next year.



It was an absolutely joyful day full of fun, food and friends. We met so many people from New Eltham that day, some we knew and some we didn’t – it reminded our community that we are here, and making connections is invaluable,” said Annette.



Celebrating Jamaica at 60



Jamaica celebrated 60 years of independence on 6 August. This was marked by parishes in the Diocese.

On Sunday 7 August St John the Divine, Kennington celebrated the 60th anniversary of Jamaican Independence

with Sung Mass and a sermon from Revd Michael Clarke, the Principal of Codrington College in the Church in the Province of the West Indies. After mass there was a huge party with delicacies including curry goat, rice and peas, and the rum punch flowed. A sound system kept the

dancing going well into the evening, and a wonderful celebration was had by all. The longest-serving members of St John the Divine came from Jamaica in the late 1940s and 1950s, moving into the Brixton area, and have been stalwart and faithful in the parish ever since.

The Revd Sam Dennis, Vicar of St Luke Woodside, wrote the following tweet “On this 60th anniversary of Jamaican independence, we pray for Jamaica; and give thanks for all at St Luke’s, and across our parish with Jamaican roots.”

Ukrainian Youth Group have fun by the sea



On Monday 8 August, 44 members of the Ukrainian Youth Group from St Barnabas, Dulwich, enjoyed a trip to Margate, accompanied by volunteer youth leaders, clergy, and volunteers.

Highlights included a scavenger hunt around Margate town, football on the beach, kite-flying with the Vicar, paddling in the sea, a fish and chip supper, and singing together at sunset. One member said, “I had such a good day. We always worry we are not welcome here, but today we felt

welcome.” Another said, “I liked the fish and chips – I took some home in my bag for my mother!”

The Ukrainian Youth Group meets every Wednesday at St Barnabas Church for sports, music, art, dance, drama, and other activities chosen by the young people. There is always pizza and usually ice cream, cake or doughnuts! It aims to be a safe space where friendships can be formed and practical support can be sourced. Volunteers have placed a number of the young people in schools, colleges and holiday schemes, assisted with college

and university applications, and provided bikes and laptops to aid study and independence.

Assistant Curate, the Revd Rachael Gledhill said, “As a church we always say that we are sorry they have had to leave their homes, but we are very glad they are here safely with us, even if just for a short time.”

A parent described the church as “our guardian angel.” Another said, “It means so much that the church devotes so much time to our children, the children of Ukraine. It makes my heart rest easier.”

“I had such a good day. We always worry we are not welcome here, but today we felt welcome.”

To find out more visit www.stbarnabasdulwich.org/supporting-ukraine



“It’s like I’ve been at home” – Ukrainian refugees gather to worship in Ukrainian Orthodox tradition at Christ Church, South Nutfield



Ukrainian refugees, their friends and host families, had a taste of home on Sunday 24 July and 4 August with a Ukrainian Orthodox service held at Christ Church, South Nutfield.

The two-hour service was the first of its kind at Christ Church and was presided over by the Very Revd Protopresbyter Bohdan Matwijczuk, Dean of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Great Britain. It was followed by a community meeting. “Everyone was very excited and happy about this heartfelt event,” said Viktoriia. “It was like I was in my homeland, at home in Kyiv, attending my church, which I had not been to for several months. All those present also felt a part of Ukraine in themselves. After the

service, no one wanted to leave, everyone talked, ate delicious food cooked by local residents, drank tea and agreed to hold similar events in other places where Ukrainians live and visit them. Thank you very much to Christ Church, South Nutfield and the UAOC for the fact that we were able to imagine ourselves at home, to be there in our thoughts, to remember our loved ones, friends, and everyone who stayed there and defends our Motherland,” she continued.

Ola and her children fled their home in Chernihiv district, near the Russian border, a month after Russia invaded Ukraine. She said, “During the first month of the war, my family went through a lot. Now we live in safety, with the kindest

people in England, we simply adore them, our sponsors.” “We received an invitation to the church and visited it with pleasure. We were very impressed by the atmosphere of the institution. All the people are open and friendly. And then there was a service and a speech. How I missed it! It’s like I’ve been at home. My family and I are very grateful to everyone who participated in this. We look forward to the next meeting with great pleasure.”

The Vicar at Christ Church, the Revd Len Abrams, explained how it all came about. “I made enquiries at the Cathedral of the Holy Transfiguration in Acton about how we could, at a local level, best minister to the needs of the Ukrainian refugees who have been arriving in our area. In addition to welcoming them into our communities and inviting them to join us in our regular Sunday services and children’s groups, I wondered if they would like to meet and worship in Christ Church in their own tradition and language, which would be an additional comfort and support. After discussion with our lay leadership, our Archdeacon, and with Father Bohdan, we are offering Christ Church for regular services in the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition on Sunday afternoons. We are encouraging the Ukrainian Refugee community in the area to take on the organising and advertising so that it is

their initiative, with our support. This will involve an agreement between us and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in the UK. We are very pleased to have received support from the Croydon Episcopal Area Special Grants 2022 to help cover the costs of this ministry.”

The second service was held at Christ Church on Sunday 4 September with 40 Ukrainians in attendance – more than the first service. “The service was again very moving although I had little understanding as it was all in Ukrainian. We are now holding the services regularly on the first Sunday of each month. With the UAOC we have established a committee of local Ukrainians who will arrange future services, refreshments and activities in collaboration with the UAOC and myself. I think we will see a whole community grow up with the regular monthly worship at the centre,” said Len.





IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

St John The Evangelist, Hurst Green launch their Community Fridge

On 22 July, a community fridge was officially launched by the congregation of St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green in the village hall. The ribbon was cut by Mayor Jackie Wren and Councillor Cameron Mackintosh.

"The idea of the *Community Fridge* is that anyone in the community who has surplus vegetables, than they need from their

allotment or garden, or more groceries in their cupboard than they will use can bring them to the village hall for people to come and collect for free once a week," said Assistant Curate, the Revd Lotwina Farodoye.

She continued, "The supermarkets and community have been so generous. Our small team gather food donations which we offer to the community for free, along with a cup of tea, biscuits and a friendly chat. Our aims are to bring the community together thus combatting



loneliness, especially post COVID isolation, to prevent food waste and help the environment by preventing surplus food going into landfill and to feed those in need in our community who may be struggling. Because food banks only provide dry goods like pasta, tinned food, many miss out on fruit and vegetables especially, during the school holidays."

"Furthermore, our *Community Fridge* means that anyone in need can come and collect fresh food without stigma, and without the need to complete forms. Jesus fed the 5000 from a few fish and loaves donated by a small boy. We are inspired by his example," said Lotwina.

Funding joy for St Mary the Virgin, Lewisham

A much-loved South London church is to share in a £437,000 urgent funding pay-out from the National Churches Trust. Eddie Tulasiewicz of the National Church Trust writes about the grant.

A £30,000 *National Churches Trust* Cornerstone Grant will help to pay for urgent repairs to chancel, tower and side apse roofs at St Mary the Virgin, Lewisham, to ensure the church thrives today and tomorrow.

The church also receives a £10,000 *Wolfson Fabric Repair Grant* from the *Wolfson Foundation* on the recommendation of the *National Churches Trust*.

Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of the *National Churches Trust*, said:

"I'm delighted that St Mary the Virgin is being helped with funding for urgent repairs to the building's structure. This will safeguard unique local heritage and keep the church open and in use for the benefit of local people."

"Whether seeking quiet reflection, access to community services or a place to worship, the *National Churches Trust* helps hundreds of churches each year and with the support of local people keeps them thriving today, and tomorrow."

Paul Ramsbottom, chief executive of the *Wolfson Foundation*, said:

"As well as being places of worship and buildings of beauty, churches sit at the heart of the community. In many ways they stand between the past and present. We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the *National Churches Trust* to support the preservation of these significant, much-loved historic buildings across the UK."

Forty one churches across the UK will stay open and in good repair thanks to £437,000 of funding awarded by the *National Churches Trust*. Twenty one churches benefit from £134,000 of *Wolfson Fabric Repair Grants*. In 2021 the

National Churches Trust made 304 awards to churches worth £5.2 million.

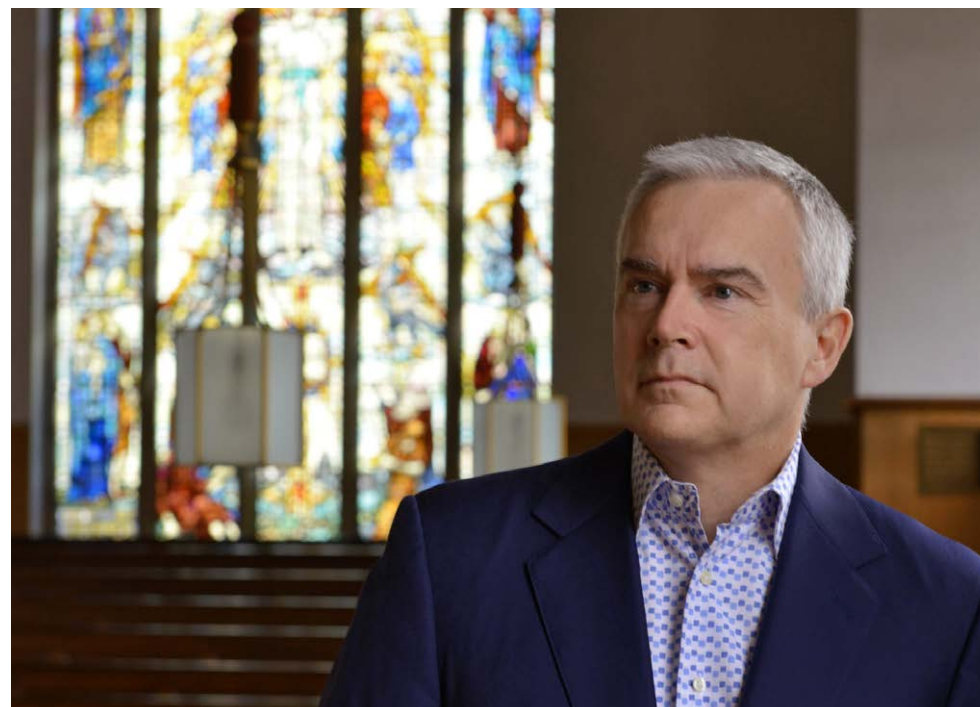
The current Georgian building, by local architect George Gibson, dates from 1777. It features a medieval tower with a prominent Victorian clock with four faces and is a hidden gem of south-east London architecture. It was designed as a 'preaching box', with galleries and a high pulpit with sounding board, and was used by John Wesley.

St Mary's contains many impressive monuments, including those by renowned sculptor John Flaxman, dating from 1797,

Victorian stained-glass windows depicting the life of the Virgin Mary and mosaics from the redesign by Sir Arthur Bomfield, portraying the patriarchs, Empress Helena and Queen Bertha of Kent.

St Mary's is a strong and diverse church community serving a dynamic community of central Lewisham. Father Steve Hall, vicar and churchwardens Joan and Jennifer who are overseeing the project on behalf of the PCC, said:

"We are delighted to achieve our target of £250,000 with these grants from the *National Churches Trust* and the *Wolfson Foundation*, after more than two years of fundraising and hard work – and many decades of water pouring in, buckets and mopping up and subsequent damage to the fabric of our wonderful church. We give thanks for the generosity of so many in contributing to this success and look forward to celebrating with our friends, supporters and the wider community when the work is complete."



Huw Edwards – praise for historic St Mary the Virgin, Lewisham.

Read more

The *Wolfson Foundation* is an independent charity with a focus on research and education. Its aim is to support civil society by investing in excellent projects in science, health, heritage, humanities and the arts. For more information about the work of *Wolfson* visit: www.wolfson.org.uk/

Sixteenth Century drawing by Nicholas Hawksmoor displayed in St Alfege Church, Greenwich for the first time



An original drawing by Nicholas Hawksmoor, one of England’s most significant architects, was on display at St Alfege Church on 7 and 8 August. Over 200 visitors enjoyed taking a closer look at the sketch that outlines the north face of St Alfege Church and dates from the 1700s.

The church was able to display the drawing, which was on loan from the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust (RGHT), thanks to its new heritage interpretation scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust’s Chief Executive, Tracy Stringfellow, commented, “We’re delighted to share this remarkable piece of history with the people of Greenwich. It’s difficult to imagine a better first place to display one of Nicholas Hawksmoor’s beautiful drawings than the very building it depicts.”

This was the first time the sketch has been on public display in the church. It was first discovered in the RGHT archive back in 2017. Since then, Rebecca Parrant, Heritage Manager at St Alfege Church, has been working towards creating a Heritage Hawksmoor Open Day. “Our new heritage display case already holds a facsimile of the Hawksmoor sketch but having the original on display for visitors is a momentous moment after years of project developments,” she said.

In addition to the Hawksmoor drawing, visitors to the church also had the opportunity to take part in a series of sketching workshops delivered by artist Sally Minns. The half hour sessions provided an introduction to urban sketching and groups used the interior and exterior of the church for inspiration. One participant said, “These urban sketching workshops provided an oasis of calm.”

Patronal thanksgiving service, St Margaret, Chipstead

Sunday 24 July was the Patronal Festival of St Margaret, Chipstead and it was an ideal occasion on which to hold a thanksgiving service for the ministry of their Honorary Curate, the Revd John Wates OBE.

John has been an integral and important part of church life for many years, working with five rectors. Before becoming ordained, his professional life reflected his desire to serve God – similarly his hands-on involvement in many charitable fields was a response to God’s calling.

John’s family has a long connection with Chipstead going back nearly 100 years, and he recounts proudly that he was baptised in St Margaret’s font. This close tie is evident in his passion for the parish church and his long-standing and ongoing generosity and care towards the people of the parish, both past and present.



The importance attached to this Thanksgiving Service was evidenced by the presence of Bishop Christopher, who presided, and the Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, who preached the sermon. The church was packed with those who wished to celebrate with John, together with two past rectors.

After the service a lavish buffet was organised in the Orchard, the hall adjacent to the church and everyone had a chance to share happy memories with John. This culminated in John cutting a cake uniquely crafted into the shape of St Margaret’s church.

IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

Service of thanksgiving for the work of Welcare in East Surrey

On 17 June, The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Cllr Frank Kelly, supporters, local councillors, and representatives from local voluntary organisations gathered in the welcome coolness of St John the Evangelist Church in Redhill to give thanks for the work of the Diocesan Family Support Charity, Welcare, in East Surrey.

The charity delivers practical and emotional support to families with children up to the age of 13 throughout East Surrey from its centre based in central Redhill.

The theme of the service was to have courage, like St Peter, to accept and make change. This is an important part of the process for families who are referred to Welcare for help and support. A particular highlight of the service was the contribution from Sandcross School Senior Choir who performed two popular songs – ‘Count On me’ and ‘Power In Me’.

During the homily, the Vice-chair of Welcare, the Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, invited the congregation to write down and share their hopes and fears. These were blessed by Moira after the service and are now displayed in the centre.



Welcare Chief Executive, Anna Khan, said, “The service reminded me of the importance of human connection and the huge value we place on relationships with our supporters and how much we missed seeing them during the pandemic. We gave thanks for the prayers which sustained and encouraged us throughout the COVID-19 crisis and asked God to help give us, and the children and families we serve, strength and resilience for the year ahead.”

Read more

View the full story on the Welcare website, which includes a list of the prayer suggestions.

<https://welcare.org/news/east-surrey-service-of-thanksgiving/>

For more information about the work of Welcare please email info@welcare.org or visit www.welcare.org



WYCHCROFT

Wychcroft at 60

This year the Diocese is celebrating 60 years of Wychcroft House as the Diocesan Retreat and Resource Centre. Bishop Christopher invited people from around the Diocese to come and enjoy a day at Wychcroft and a service to give thanks for its work and St Mark's Trust.

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education writes...

Saturday 16 July was a beautifully sunny day without a cloud in the sky, yet whilst it was hot and sunny it was not as overpoweringly so as the following few days would become. It was a wonderful day to gather together at Wychcroft, in order to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of its use as our Diocesan Retreat and Training Centre.

The Diocese of Southwark has been privileged to be able to use the house and grounds for the last 60 years because of the generosity of the *St Mark's Foundation*. Following a conversation between the then Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Mervyn Stockwood, and Uvedale Lambert of South Park, who owned the house and lands, it opened as a Training Centre on February 2 1962. It is now owned by the *St Mark's Foundation* and is leased to the Diocese on a peppercorn rent.

The celebration was planned so that those who had used Wychcroft regularly when they were training on the *Southwark Ordination Course* (the forerunner of the South East Institute of Theological Education (SEITE) and St Augustine's College) and on the Ordained Local Ministers (OLM) course could return and

see what the centre is like today. Those who use the centre regularly today were also invited.

As well as tea, cakes and cold drinks to keep everyone cool, there was croquet on the lawn, 'hook a duck', garden sized Jenga and other games as well as places in the shade or in marquees for people to sit and chat. Bishop Christopher and the Venerable Moira Astin, the Archdeacon of Reigate, battled it out at croquet and the Archdeacon was victorious!

There were stalls with information about two local organisations: *Sparkfish* and *Welcare*. *Sparkfish* is a local, collaborative, Christian organisation that aims to inspire and encourage young people in faith, hope and love. They work with young people in schools across Reigate, Redhill and Merstham, offering support in important areas of the curriculum and school life. *Welcare*, of which Bishop Christopher is President and to which the Diocese of Southwark gives a grant every year, works with children and families across South London and East Surrey, helping parents and carers use their strengths and skills to nurture happy and confident children.

Later in the afternoon Bishop Christopher and Dame Sarah Goad DCVO planted a Liquidambar tree to mark the event. It stands in the heart of the Prayer Walk and



will grow into a wonderful focal point for prayer and contemplation.

The Chapel (which is dedicated to the People of God) at Wychcroft was full as Bishop Christopher led a Eucharist of Thanksgiving for the years at Wychcroft. During the service Bishop Christopher presented Dame Sarah, Cassandra, Dame Sarah's daughter, who is now the Chair of the St Mark's Foundation and Richard Ellis (Wychcroft manager) and his wife Wendy with soap stone crosses crafted by the artists at *ArtPeace* in Zimbabwe. You can find out more about *ArtPeace* which is based in Harare here: <https://www.facebook.com/zimworks/> and <https://standrewsurc.org/artpeace-zimbabwe/>.

The Diocese of Southwark is linked with four of the five Dioceses in Zimbabwe and *ArtPeace's* work can be purchased at Southwark Cathedral.

Following the service, there was the chance for a last cup of tea or cold drinks and chat before people headed home. The day offered a wonderful opportunity for

people to catch up with each other and to look at the changes that had been made to Wychcroft (including decoration and two bedrooms now being ensuite). Those there spoke of how wonderful it was to be able to be at Wychcroft again and to meet with those with whom they had trained there.

The Revd Pamela Stevenson, the Revd Canons Ivelaw Bowman and Alan Wyld also enjoyed some time chatting, as they had done of old when they trained on SEITE, and were often together at Wychcroft. The Revd Eileen Stranghan said: "I had a wonderful time there (at the Wychcroft celebrations). Gill Gregson and I were the only people from the 1998 Ordination as Deacons group, but it was good to catch up and have a chat with her. We decided that we would meet again soon for afternoon tea somewhere. It was interesting to discover that other members of the deanery had also been through the same experience at Wychcroft."



Top: Bishop Christopher leads a Eucharist of Thanksgiving. Left: Revd Canon Joyce Forbes (right) and Revd Isoline Russell enjoying a break from the sun under a marquee. Right: The Revd Pamela Stevenson and the Revd Canons Ivelaw Bowman and Alan Wyld.



Top: Dame Sarah Goad DCVO plants a Liquidambar tree to mark the event. Bottom: The garden was busy with stalls, croquet and other games.

The history of Wychcroft

The House at Wychcroft stands on a holding which was known in 1527 as 'Wychefelde'. This comprised two crofts and a wood and it took its name from the Wych elms on the site. Its history can be traced back to the Domesday Book in 1086.

In about 1870 Warren Smith, one of the tenants of the owners the land who had a holding known as Isemongers, built the house which is now known as Wychcroft and called Underhills. The house was sold to Thomas R Stokes in 1907 and it is here that the story of the use of the house as we know it today really begins. Stokes had a large family and so he made the house bigger to accommodate them all. The size of the house meant that when he sold it just over a quarter of a century later, in 1933, it was large enough to become a Farm Training Centre run by the Southwark Catholic Rescue Society.

A further 27 years on the land between South Park (where the Goad family still live) and Tilburstow, which included Underhills, was put up for sale. It would seem that the owners of South Park, Uvedale Lambert and his family, owned much of the land between there and Tilburstow and were alerted to this whilst they were on holiday and they purchased it.

Uvedale Lambert was a man of great faith and offered the house to the Diocese of Southwark through the then Bishop, Mervyn Stockwood. When it opened it was originally used for the Southwark Ordination Course and gradually developed into a centre for conferences and retreats and of a religious or training nature.

In 1971 the *St Mark's Foundation* was registered with the Charity Commission. The Trust took its name from the date of Uvedale Lambert's birth on St Mark's Day (April 25) in 1909.

The Trustees are all members of Uvedale Lambert's family and it is now chaired by his granddaughter, Cassandra. The Trustees generously lease the House and the land upon which it stands to the Diocese of Southwark on a peppercorn rent and continue to contribute to the external upkeep of the house.

The Diocese of Southwark gives thanks to God for the generosity of Uvedale Lambert and his descendants for all the wonderful work which The Wychcroft Retreat and Training Centre has allowed and for the help and support of Sarah Goad, his daughter and her family.



Managing Wychcroft

When Wendy Ellis saw the advert for the role of Manager at Wychcroft she thought that this might be exactly the right next move for her husband, Richard, who was looking for a new role in hospitality. They laugh as they tell me that Wendy saw the advert once and was never able to find it again. Nonetheless, undaunted Richard applied for the role and was interviewed but did not get the job!

Four months later, when Richard was working in a hotel in Sheffield, he was approached by the Diocese to see if he was still interested in the post. He met with Bishop Christopher and Ruth Martin, the Diocesan Secretary and the rest, as they say, is history. Richard had been working in hospitality for a number of years having previously been a driving instructor. However, he had been finding the industry increasingly stressful and although he was enjoying his role in Sheffield, the chance to work at Wychcroft and to bring together faith and work was very attractive.

Richard and Wendy arrived at Wychcroft in October 2016 and after just three and a bit years the pandemic closed Wychcroft and all the work that goes

on there. Before this happened, though, Richard had already begun to make changes in the way that Wychcroft ran and to upgrade some of the facilities. Bathrooms had been upgraded; windows replaced, rooms decorated and the tables changed in the dining room so that people can sit in smaller groups of six. Not only that, when the groups are smaller the dining room can double as a training room and people can eat in the smaller dining room in which food is usually served. All designed to make Wychcroft an even greater asset to the Diocese.

Wendy and Richard met through Pathfinders in December 1979 and they have been married for 38 years now. Richard ended up running Pathfinders in East Riding as the Area Chairman and they were active in their local church. Wendy worked for their parish in Hull looking after the admin and the buildings, helping to raise the £500,000 needed to avert disaster in some of the buildings. She also worked with the Diocese and worked part time in health and safety. All these skills were helpful in the hospitality industry and have continued to be so at Wychcroft, where Wendy works as the Bursar.

They have two children and grandchildren who live in the Hull area and they visit them regularly when



Richard Ellis and his wife Wendy greet guests at the Wychcroft event.

they have some time off. Making sure that they get their necessary time off is one of the few issues that Richard identifies as a problem about working at Wychcroft. More or less ever since they have been there, they have been short staffed and that means that they cannot always guarantee that they will get their allotted time off. So, if you live near Wychcroft and fancy some hospitality work do contact them!

They have enjoyed their time at Wychcroft despite the challenges of the pandemic – which enabled Richard to do a lot more decorating and renovating – and the staff shortages. They love being

able to offer the best possible hospitality to those, mostly from the Diocese of Southwark, but some from farther afield, who visit the House. Richard says that Wychcroft's aim is to be fully self-sufficient so that Wychcroft can continue to flourish as a resource to the Diocese and not be a burden. But, he adds, Wychcroft could not do what it does without the support and understanding of the Diocese and he and Wendy want to express their gratitude for that as they look forward to many more years of welcoming people to this wonderful haven in the Surrey countryside.



IN FOCUS...

Christian Aid appeal

East Africa faces a humanitarian disaster – Bishop Christopher calls on the Diocese to “Give generously to Christian Aid’s emergency appeal”

The heatwave that impacted several parts of the UK recently was a stark reminder to many that climate change is warming the world and creating, in some countries, huge problems.

In Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, communities are experiencing the worst drought in 40 years with four consecutive failed rainy seasons, causing a hunger crisis for millions of vulnerable people. According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 18.4m people across the three countries are missing meals.

Yitna Tekaligne, Country Director for Christian Aid Ethiopia, warned “millions are taking desperate measures to survive in the face of failed harvests, livestock deaths, water shortages and extreme hunger.”

He added: “The severe conditions are being made worse by the climate crisis, COVID and now Russia’s invasion of Ukraine which has caused global food prices to rocket. A tough situation has now turned into a dire crisis.”

In response to this crisis, Christian Aid has just launched an emergency appeal for East Africa. The charity is working through local partners to respond in Ethiopia and Kenya. Together they are helping over 300,000 people by repairing wells, distributing water purification kits, providing cash support, and trucking water to drought affected communities as well as providing fodder and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive.

Bishop Christopher is supporting the appeal and said, “The impact of climate change on the world, and in particular the Horn and East Africa region, is taking a devastating toll on communities and



Adoko Hatoro Engang, age 76, outside his temporary home in Dasenech, South Omo, Ethiopia.

their livelihoods. I have been hearing first-hand from my brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion at the Lambeth Conference how the worst drought in forty years has caused this hunger crisis and a threat of famine. Please hold all who are suffering or affected in your prayers and consider making a generous response by giving generously to the emergency appeal.”

One of many people Christian Aid is supporting is 76-year-old Adoko Hatoro Engang, who is living in an internally displaced person camp in South Omo, Ethiopia, with his two wives and 15 children. Recurrent drought and flooding, due to the climate crisis, has destroyed his farmland and depleted his livestock, causing hunger for his family.

He said, “I remember when I was young, the rains would follow the drought season and flooding devastated everything. If I am able, I eat once a day. We only share very small amounts of food we cook, using the money Christian Aid gave us.”

With money raised from the appeal, Christian Aid hopes to help many more people like Adoko. It is also calling for the UK Government to speed up the delivery of funding that has already been promised to the region.

Karimi Kinoti, Christian Aid’s interim Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns Director, said, “The response to humanitarian needs in Ukraine has been remarkable. The UK Government must now live up to its moral responsibility and urgently act in that same spirit for East Africa. Every day that we delay will make it more difficult to avoid tragedy.”



The remains of goats in Dasenech, South Omo, Ethiopia. Agro pastoralists depend on their livestock but this community is currently facing extreme drought and hunger. Cycles of drought, followed by rains and floods are occurring more frequently, due to the climate crisis. Many livestock have died.

To donate

Please visit the Christian Aid website dedicated appeal page <https://bit.ly/3Qlha3z>

Lambeth Conference

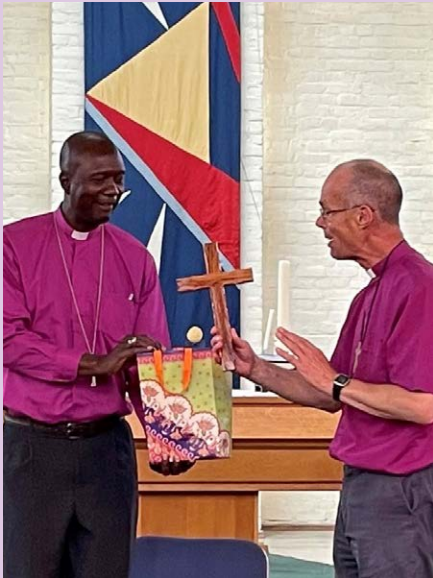
The fifteenth Lambeth Conference took place from 29 July to 8 August. Convened by The Archbishop of Canterbury in 2022, the Lambeth Conference is a gathering of bishops from across the Anglican Communion for prayer and reflection, fellowship and dialogue on Church and world affairs. This year's theme was 'God's Church for God's World – walking, listening and witnessing together,' the conference explored what it means for the Anglican Communion to be responsive to the needs of a 21st Century world. Bishops Christopher, Karowei, Rosemarie and Richard attended. Here are some pictures of their time there.



Above: Bishop Christopher presented with a Cross of Nails. The Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, the Bishop of Coventry, presented Bishop Christopher with a Cross of Nails pectoral cross, for his work for reconciliation.



Far left: Catching up with Zimbabwe Diocese Bishops. Bishop Christopher, Bishop Richard and Bishop Rosemarie had dinner with Bishop Cleophas, Bishop Erick Ruwona, Diocese of Manicaland and Bishop Igantios Makumbe, Diocese of Central Zimbabwe and their wives, from our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. Also present were the Bishops of Rochester Diocese (linked with Harare Diocese) and their wives.



Left: Pre-Conference. Bishop Cleophas Lunga, Diocese of Matabeleland with Bishop Richard at a Kingston Link Group event.



Clockwise from left: Bishop Rosemarie giving support to Mothers' Union No More 1in3 Campaign; Bishop Christopher with Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem and Bishop elect Patrick of Namibia; Bishop Rosemarie with the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson Wilkin, and the Bishop of Lestotho, Vincentia Kgabe; Bishop Karowei with Bishop Ketlen Solak, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh; celebratory dinner with Archbishop Andrew Chan and Bishops from Hong Kong as well as Bishop Moses Nagjun Yoo of Daejeon, South Korea.





IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

Dean of Estates Ministry appointed

Bishop Christopher is initiating a new Diocesan role – Dean of Estates Ministry. He has invited The Revd Canon Gary Jenkins, Vicar of St James and St Anne, Bermondsey, and Area Dean of Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Deanery, to take up the appointment in January 2023.

Bishop Christopher said, “The Diocese of Southwark has the second highest number of estate parishes in the Church of England. These are defined as any parish that has more than five hundred units of social housing. My hope, in line with the encouragement of the National Church, is to energise missional presence and engagement, sharing the Gospel and serving the people on estates in line with the vision around which the Diocese was created. I am delighted that Canon Gary

Jenkins has accepted my invitation to take up this role which will build on his experience as Diocesan lead on Estates Ministry, about which he is passionate, and I commend him to everyone’s prayers and support.”

Estates Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark goes as far back as the 1930s when the Diocese built 25 new churches, many on estates, as part of the *Twenty-Five Churches Project*.

Canon Gary Jenkins said, “I am delighted to have been appointed the first Dean of Estates Ministry. The Church has always been present on our estates. We have never been absent. There are some very large estate parishes at New Addington, St Helier, Downham, Roehampton, Thamesmead and other places, plus parishes with very significant levels of social housing, spread over several estates in many parts of the Diocese. Back in the 1980’s we had the *‘Faith in the City’* report and then four years ago, there was

a major debate at General Synod about a strategy for evangelism on estates. This is something we need to keep coming back to and we are in a season where the Church is renewing its concern for our people in these communities. Estates are also often isolated and physically separate from their communities and sometimes there can be an aspect of stigma attached to the estate and that’s why a loving Christian presence among estate communities is so important.

Gary continued, “I will now be working full-time helping to share good practice on Estates Ministry, researching key issues for mission on estates, visiting and encouraging estates and drawing together practitioners – people who are engaged in estates ministry. I will also advise and assist parishes that are wanting to develop this area of ministry. The intention is that I will be an advocate for Estates Ministry. I want everyone to be concerned about it and this role will, I hope, bear lasting fruit.”

Diocesan Director of Pioneering Ministry and Dean of Fresh Expressions, the Revd Canon Will Cookson, said: “This is great news and I am delighted to welcome Gary into our team. Gary has always had a passion for estates ministry and I look forward to his bringing this passion to help our estates churches throughout the Diocese. There is much to be done in the next few years as we develop our support for our estates through advocacy, sharing best practice and developing our estates



Revd Canon Gary Jenkins, the new Dean of Estates Ministry.

lay pioneers pathway. I know that Gary will bring much wisdom and insight to all of this.”

This innovative post is integral to Southwark Vision. The Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, has confirmed that it is funded through the Diocesan Southwark Vision Development Fund and, in particular, through the generosity of the Diocese’s largest grant giver, *Trust For London*.

Gary’s last day at St James and St Anne will be on Sunday 4 December – the 10th anniversary from when he was instituted as Vicar.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2023

In 2020 just ahead of the pandemic, a group from the Southwark Roman Catholic Archdiocese and our own Diocese of Southwark went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was a wonderful experience. And so we are looking forward once more to going on this pilgrimage, which will take

place next year from 27 February to 6 March 2023.

The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Christopher, the Bishop of Southwark, with Bishop Paul Hendricks, Assistant Bishop in the Archdiocese, as well as Andrew Nunn, the Dean of Southwark,

and Michael Branch, the new Dean of St George’s Cathedral.

The trip begins in Jerusalem, visits Bethlehem and all the holy sites before travelling to the Sea of Galilee to stay in a hotel on its shores and experience Nazareth and the other sites in the area.



Find out more



To find out more details, or to reserve your place on this pilgrimage using the booking form, view here: bit.ly/3Kp6vbr. A copy of the brochure can also be downloaded here: bit.ly/3PIgWyo.

For any queries please email pilgrimage23@southwark.anglican.org



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

Festival of Arts highlights the value of the arts to mental well-being



St Francis and St Mary, West Wickham (United Benefice), recently held the first part of our Festival of Arts which highlighted the value of the arts in helping with well-being and mental health issues, writes Tim Shingler.

Our first event in July provided an exhibition of arts which included painting, photography, bead art, wood art, clay modelling, floral arrangements, sugarcraft and stone painting. There were also a number of live demonstrations as well as static displays.

Our local primary school, Hawes Down, provided a large selection of art produced specifically for the exhibition as did our pre-school. The weekend also provided the opportunity for visitors to contribute to our art wall by painting or making a picture from

various materials to add to our collage.

The two day event was to raise awareness of the impact art can have on peoples’ mental health and each of the local clubs provided representatives to talk with visitors. One of our exhibitors was the Bethlem Gallery, part of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, which was a recipient of the funds raised alongside our other chosen charity, MIND. We have so far raised over £700 for our two charities.

The second part of our Festival will be held on Saturday 24 September at St Francis church.

We will be celebrating the written word with an exhibition of the ‘100 books of the 21st Century’; a breakfast for children with a professional storyteller; and a selection of readings performed by our local amateur dramatic club,



the Matchbox Theatre. Several local writers will be providing advice and insights into how they became published authors with a Q&A session. We will also be running a short story competition for a range of age groups. Open 9.30am–5pm, entry free.

The day concludes with a concert in the church at 7.30pm. This includes music from a number of artists including Jacqueline Turner, soprano, performing two sessions of singing popular classic. We also have the West Wickham Operatic Society performing some numbers from their upcoming ‘Calendar Girls’ show. Tickets are £10 per head. (See page for 15 for contact details.)



Feeling hot hot hot!

As the country sweltered in record-breaking temperatures, some churches across the Diocese, remained open, providing an oasis of coolness.

The Revd Sean Gilbert, Vicar at St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood wrote, “We’re open all day 7am–6pm, Get out of the heat into the coolness of the church!”

St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood, tweeted, inviting local people from the surrounding areas of Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood, in particular those in apartments.

The Revd Hannah Gordon, Assistant Curate at The Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches was shocked by what the heat had done to the paschal candle, “I had popped into the vestry on the Thursday 21st to sort out the paperwork for a triple Baptism, on the Sunday and thought I’d move the candle into church. I couldn’t quite believe it and had a good chuckle. A friend suggested I tweet it, I had no idea it would be so popular. The replies ranged from helpful to very risqué! It was a much needed giggle!” she said.



Melted Paschal Candle, The Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches.

Emmanuel, West Dulwich host a free school uniform rail for local foodbank

Free second-hand school uniform

Do you or any of your clients need school uniform?

We will have a second-hand uniform rail at :

Emmanuel Church, 96 Clive Road
SE21 8BU

Thursday 25th August, 1st, 8th and 15th September 12-2pm

Come along and help yourself.





DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

University and college chaplaincy

Chaplaincy with Soul

Gathering and being together is vital for any community and so it was a joy to do just that at the end of June with Southwark Diocese's university and college chaplains.

Celebrating the end of another academic year, chaplains from across the further education and higher education world in the Diocese came together for a Summer Gathering at the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE).

Revd Gary Neave, National FE and HE Policy Adviser for the Church of England, gave the keynote presentation on the topic *Chaplaincy with Soul*. He steered



us through the current landscape using the historical context of education to shed light on the 'now' of post-COVID chaplaincy. Using the scripture John 1:14, he reminded us that just as Jesus came in the flesh, so we too find ourselves in physical community again with one another, along with all its complications and contradictions. The gathering then spent some time thinking about how a reimagined chaplaincy might look.



Chaplains who are so used to serving others and providing hospitality for students were, themselves, served and catered for. There were refreshments to enjoy throughout the afternoon topped off with a climb up to the roof for a celebratory glass of bubbles to toast the end of term. The sun shone and the threatened train strikes didn't come to pass. All this along with the addition of a therapy dog joining the group made for a really memorable afternoon.

By Fiona Foreman – Secondary Religious Education Adviser, Wellbeing, Mental Health and Character Education Adviser, College and University Chaplaincy Development Officer (Interim).



Southwark Diocese's university and college chaplains (and therapy dog) celebrated the end of another academic year; Revd Gary Neave (above right) delivered the keynote presentation.



LET US PRAY...

SEPTEMBER

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

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

Can you remember when August used to be 'the silly season'? The newspapers would be full of stories that in more normal times wouldn't even make the editor's desk. The month would be a holiday from the usual grind, even for those who couldn't actually get away – and when September came normal service would be resumed and we would all get back to the serious side of life.

This year, however, there has been no 'silly season' at all, in fact the reverse. I was fortunate to get away, but I couldn't get away from the relentless

news agenda – leadership campaigns, rising prices, war in Ukraine, a climate emergency, fire and flood – and even the Lambeth Conference produced its own tensions! Rather than relaxing many of us have arrived at what is the beginning of the autumn with an underlying sense of anxiety.

The questions we have about where things are heading and how we will manage are real. We may be able to turn the thermostat down, turn off appliances we normally leave on stand-by, we may be able to choose to shop differently,



to buy less, or differently, to change our priorities, but we may already feel that there is nothing left we can cut, and our own vulnerabilities makes us even more vulnerable in this situation.

Jesus speaking to the crowd on the mountainside in St Matthew's Gospel speaks also to us in our anxieties today:

'Do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we

wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.' (Matthew 6.31–32).

It's easy to read but it is hard to do, to not worry but to rely on God, to trust. We may want to push back and say "well, Jesus lived in simpler times" but maybe we need to live more simply, more thoughtfully. All I can do is allow those words of Jesus to find a place within me, and in my own anxiety, to allow his peace to become part of me – and then in his strength and by his grace to see what tomorrow brings.

**Lord Jesus,
in the anxieties of today
may we hold on to
your promises
to see us through
all our tomorrows.
Amen.**

WHAT'S ON

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

September

8 & 15 SEPTEMBER

- * **WEST DULWICH** — Free second-hand school uniform. Do you or anyone you know need school uniform? *Norwood and Brixton Foodbank* will have a second-hand, non-branded, uniform rail at Emmanuel Church, 96 Clive Road SE21 8BU. 12–2pm. Come along and help yourself.

8–21 SEPTEMBER

- * **LONDON OPEN HOUSE 2022** — If your building is listed, it gives you the opportunity to show it off, and to invite in people who do not usually cross the threshold. Register here: bit.ly/3uwLBQQ

SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

- * **STREATHAM VALE** — Holy Redeemer is celebrating the 90th anniversary of the church building with a mini festival of music, games, BBQ and a chance to do some 'Looking Back and Looking Forward'. With family games, followed by live music and various community groups running 'taster sessions' for anyone to join in with, a small group from the church will sing a song specially written by Christopher Idle for the celebration. Starts 2pm, Holy Redeemer, Streatham Vale, Churchmore Road SW16 5UZ. Free. Everyone welcome. Details: info@holyredeemer.org.uk

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

- * **PUTNEY** — St Mary's Patronal Festival. Following 6pm Evening Prayer, Bishop Tim Steven, formerly Bishop of Leicester, will present a talk: 'The End of the Peer Show'. This draws from his reflections on his time in the House of Lords from 2003–2015, including six years as Convener of the Lord's Spiritual. Followed by drinks. Some parking available at the church, (priority for those with reduced mobility). Free, donations welcome. St Mary, Putney High Street SW15 1SN. More information: john.whittaker@parishofputney.co.uk

FROM 13 SEPTEMBER 2022

- * **ONLINE** — St Augustine's, College of Theology has extended their free online biblical language programme (Hebrew and Greek). The course runs from 13 September 2022 – 7 March 2023, Tuesdays 7–8pm, Zoom. Find more details here: bit.ly/3bXepC0

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

- ♪ **WEST WICKHAM** — Festival of Arts exhibition 9.30am–5pm, free. Evening concert 7.30pm, tickets £10 each. (See page 13 for more details). St Francis Church, Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham BR4 0PA. Details: tim.shingler@ntlworld.com

FROM 25 SEPTEMBER

- * **ONLINE** — *Generosity Week* starts on Sunday 25 September. Keep a look out on the Southwark Diocese website and social media pages for more information. Or see National Church resources <https://bit.ly/3pqFBqc>

TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

- * **ONLINE** — LICC *Growing a whole life disciple-making church*. Designed for ministers, preachers, worship leaders and all those in church leadership. Filled with practical advice, biblical insight, and opportunities to discuss with peers from other churches. Get equipped and inspired for your whole-life ministry. 10am–3pm, Tickets: £5, book here: <https://bit.ly/3ADTEPp>

October

SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER

- * **SOUTHWARK** — The Diocese of Southwark in partnership with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education invite you to join us at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 1 October, at 11am for our annual *Black History Month* celebration. Details: southwark.anglican.org/bhm

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER

- * **LOCAL** — Christians Against Poverty (CAP) hold their CAP Sunday. Alternatively, this could be on any date that suits you! New resources have been launched, from debt counselling charity CAP, to help churches respond to UK poverty. The theme, *Lament to Hope*, will inspire individuals through worship to bring our lament for those impacted by the cost of living crisis before God, listening to how we are being called to respond. The resources focus on Syd, now debt free through the support of his local church and CAP, who has journeyed from lament to hope. More details: capuk.org/sunday



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Diocese of Southwark in partnership with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education

WELCOME



'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'
Matthew 25:35

Join us at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 1 October at 11am for our annual Black History Month celebration.

After the Eucharist, we will have lunch - please bring your own - and spend time in workshops exploring this year's theme of 'Welcome'.

Find out more at southwark.anglican.org/bhm.



The Diocese of Southwark

TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

- * **BERMONDSEY** — Spirituality, environment and climate change event. Hosted by *Spidir*, the network promoting spiritual direction in the area which includes Southwark Diocese. Judith Russenberger, both a spiritual director and a third-order Franciscan, and with a special interest in this field, will lead a study day which addresses the spiritual aspects of the way we face up to environmental crisis. 10.30am–2pm. Free entry with a collection in aid of environmental charities. St Hugh, Bermondsey, Crosby Row, SE1 3PT. To book email susanjcharles@aol.com

February 2023

27 FEBRUARY TO 6 MARCH

- * **PILGRIMAGE** — to the Holy Land, led by Bishop Christopher, the Bishop of Southwark, with Bishop Paul Hendricks, Assistant Bishop in the Archdiocese. The pilgrimage will begin in Jerusalem, visit Bethlehem and all the holy sites before travelling to the Sea of Galilee and Nazareth. (See page 12 for more details.)

To include your upcoming events, please email bridge@southwark.anglican.org



IN FOCUS...

Standing Together

Standing Together Against Serious Youth Violence

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's (CTBI) Director of Justice and inclusion, Richard Reddie writes about the Standing Together weekend which was held at St Mark's Kennington in July. This article first appeared in the Hearts on Fire blog on 6 August.



Richard Reddie 'stands together' with event attendees.

The summer holidays are usually an occasion which many look forward to – perhaps with the exception of parents, who have around six weeks to 'entertain' their offspring! However, what should ordinarily be several weeks of enjoyment and relaxation, can often be a perilous time for some young people in many towns and cities in the United Kingdom. Police-related statistics reveal that there are often massive spikes in what is known as serious youth violence (SYV), during the summer break which sadly sees fatalities and injuries largely linked to knife-related criminal activities. (Indeed,

one of the few positives of the COVID-19 pandemic was the decrease in SYV during the lockdown.)

Aware of this alarming phenomenon, the Synergy Network (SN) launched its 'Standing Together Weekend' on 16 and 17 July 2022 (the weekend before many schools in the UK break up for the summer), which encouraged churches, parachurch groups and others to get involved in the work to address SYV.

The SN wanted Christian congregations to provide practical action to young people and their families whose lives



The Revd Les Isaac leads prayers.

are devastated by the realities of SYV. Churches have excellent 'assets' that make them ideal to engage in this diversionary work; they have buildings that can be used for both play and learning during weekdays. Equally, they have a proliferation of youth workers who could carry out engagement activities with young people from surrounding communities. Likewise, they have congregants who are professional people with the skills and abilities to work alongside youth workers and others to help young people.



"I was encouraged by the interest in our inaugural Standing Together Weekend activities. The feedback from participants has been extremely positive."

As a consequence, on 'Standing Together Saturday' (16 July), there was a large church service at St Mark's Church, Kennington, South London at which attendees had an opportunity to pray and reflect on the tragedy of young lives lost to violence, and to hear about the good work churches and others are doing to bring hope to desperate situations. Those in attendance included youth workers and practitioners from Christian youth work organisations, Borough Commanders from the Metropolitan Police Service, senior clergy, community leaders and interested parties. There was also a hybrid dimension

to the meeting which saw pre-recorded contributions from clergy and laity.

The following day, on 'Standing Together Sunday' (17 July), churches in cities and regions such as Belfast, Bradford, Buckinghamshire, Cardiff, Coventry, East Sussex, Luton, Manchester and Northampton, joined with a plethora of congregations in London to focus on SYV. Churches from a range of denominations and traditions included a segment, or chose to give over their entire service, to this issue.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and the Diocese of Southwark are key members of the SN, and I was encouraged by the interest in our inaugural Standing Together Weekend activities. The feedback from participants has been extremely positive, and the SN team is already working on next year's events. The SN would like the Standing Together event to be a regular fixture in the Church's calendar in Britain and Ireland, taking its place alongside other ecumenical activities.

Resources

The SN produced a range of excellent resources that equipped these churches to pray and take action on what is one of the most pressing issues of our time. These resources will remain available on the SN's website wearesynergy.org.uk/events

Bishop Rosemarie receives a warm welcome in Barbados

Bishop Rosemarie met with the Prime Minister of Barbados, The Honorable Mia Amor Mottley QCMP, on a recent visit to Barbados.

Prime Minister Mottley and Bishop Rosemarie discussed several matters, including the historical and religious linkages between Barbados and the United Kingdom, progressing the conversation surrounding reparations, addressing

mental well-being amongst the population and addressing pressing social issues.

Bishop Rosemarie also preached at St Laurence Church in Barbados, where the country's President, Dame Sandra Mason and Bishop Wilfred Wood, former Bishop of Croydon, were in attendance. President Mason unveiled a plaque marking the occasion of Bishop Rosemarie's visit.



Prime Minister Mottley meets with Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon.

"The outpouring of love, support and welcome was phenomenal and I am grateful to have been able to meet Barbados' leading politicians and discuss important matters that affect us here in the UK and in the Caribbean. It was wonderful to reconnect with fellow clergy, friends and family," said Bishop Rosemarie.