



# Celebrating 'the light of Christ' at Pentecost

**On Sunday 20 May people from across the Diocese gathered at Southwark Cathedral, bringing banners and waving streamers, to join together and celebrate Pentecost.**

The service also marked the end of Thy Kingdom Come, the global wave of prayer started by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which invited Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

After an introduction by the Bishop of Southwark and testimony from the Bishop of Woolwich, the Revd Canon Jay Colwill (right), Canon Missioner and Director of Mission and Evangelism, preached about the presence of God at Pentecost, saying: "Pentecost is all about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is all about the presence of God".

Members of the congregation were then invited to receive anointing for the renewal of faith and witness before writing their prayers on paper 'flames', which were collected together to make up larger flames.

The service culminated in the lighting of sparklers in the grounds of the cathedral, reflecting the Bishop of Southwark's charge to "carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places".

Photos: below (l-r) anointing for the renewal of faith; paper flames bearing prayers and the 'lights of Christ'. More photos are available at <http://bit.ly/2IXCaUi>



## Barbara Lane and Jill Sandham receive Lancelot Andrewes medal

**On Friday 25 April Bishop Christopher presented the Lancelot Andrewes medal to Lay Canons Barbara Lane and Jill Sandham for 'Godly service and zeal for the Gospel'.**

Barbara (left) was Diocesan Director of Education from 2004 to 2013. Jill (right) retired in 2013 from her role as Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser after more than 20 years working for the Diocese.

Barbara chairs Cathedral Enterprises (the 'trading arm' of the Cathedral Chapter) and Jill is in her second term as one of the College of Canons representatives on the Cathedral Council.



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## A view from THE BRIDGE

### People don't choose to be refugees!

I often sit and wonder how much the world I grew up in has changed. We humans have become more sophisticated but the more educated and enlightened we become, the more barbaric and wicked we have become - wars and rumours of war, dissent among countries, one nation standing up against the other.

The world as it is, in my view, is ample enough for all of us to live and, as they say, do our own thing. But as in the olden days, we are always striving for more. The grass is greener on the other side or what we have here is not enough.

Refugees are people who have been forced to leave their country in order to see what is on the other side, to escape war, unrest, persecution (be it race, colour or creed) or natural disaster.

My personal experience of the movement from home to another country was the outbreak of war and unrest in my country and an exodus of old, mature people leaving the comfort of the homes that they had built and fleeing to countries they never knew or were unused to with unfamiliar customs and culture.

Jesus and his parents were warned to move to a land they did not know but were promised safety. We pray that in God's good time we will all return to the land of our birth and not live as refugees or campers in tents.

And so, as we think of all the work done by the agencies, we pray for stability in God's beautiful world.

Adeline Cole



# The Very Revd David Edwards



**Bishop David Atkinson writes:**

**David Edwards was a gracious man. A very fine scholar, yes, and a dedicated and prayerful priest, but I think of him mostly as a very generous, caring and gracious human being.**

I only knew him during my time at Southwark Cathedral between 1993 and his

retirement to Winchester in 1995, though I had earlier read some of his writings – most notably his masterly *Religion and Change* (1969). David's hospitable mind enabled him to write on the *Honest to God* debate, many volumes of church history, a study of the new Roman Catholic Catechism and biographical work on people as varied as the philosopher Bishop Ian Ramsey and the poet John Donne. In 1989 he wrote *'Evangelical Essentials – a liberal-evangelical'* dialogue with John Stott.

My first personal encounter with David was when I came for an interview for the post of Canon Missioner.

The farewell lunch for Bishop Peter Selby was still in full swing, so Bishop Roy sent David out to his study to look after me. His polite shyness and my pre-interview nervousness made for a rather halting - though thoroughly friendly - half hour.

On our first morning in Southwark, he took me and Sue (my wife) to see Hays

Galleria, and had to rush back having forgotten he was taking midday prayers. We prayed in St Andrew's Chapel which David had set aside as a place of prayer for people suffering from HIV and AIDS.

He was responsible for the memorial plaque honouring the victims of the *Marchioness*, which sank in the Thames in 1989. And he directed the first stage of the fine new buildings on the Cathedral's north side.

When I think of David now, I often recall him leading intercessions, and his passionate prayers 'for Bosnia' (in 1994/5). It was from him I learned freshly to pray 'Your kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven'. There was one memorable moment when the Chapter were lining up before the Sunday Eucharist, and David quietly asked: 'who is preaching this morning?' We all turned to him and said: 'You are.' And he did, and delivered, unscripted, one of the finest sermons I have heard from the Cathedral pulpit.

David asked Roy White and me to accompany him when, to

his surprise, he was honoured with the Freedom of the Borough of Southwark.

David cared for his colleagues and staff. On one occasion he took us all in a minibus to Bruges for a very fine lunch, and then back again. I was never quite sure why Bruges.

He and his wife, Sybil, were people of open-hearted, inclusive and gracious generosity.

At the farewell dinner with the Chapter on his retirement, he read some lines from Tennyson that summed up how I think he wanted to be remembered: 'The old order changeth, yielding place to new, And God fulfills himself in many ways.... More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of....For so the whole round earth is every way bound by gold chains about the feet of God.'

● The Very Revd David Lawrence Edwards OBE (20 January 1929 – 25 April 2018) was Provost of Southwark Cathedral from 1983 to 1994.

## New Chair and Vice Chair for Board of Finance

**Alan Saunders (left) was elected as Chair of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and Lotwina Farodoye (right) as Vice Chair, at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 May.**



Alan Saunders read economics at Cambridge before becoming a stockbroker. He had a career both as an economist and in investment, and has been chair and trustee of a number of pension funds.

Lotwina Farodoye graduated from Cranfield University Business School and has worked in marketing, and in business development and advice.



Alan is a parishioner in the Richmond Team Ministry and Lotwina worships at Springfield Church, Wallington.

At the meeting Bishop Christopher thanked Adrian Greenwood, Chair of the House of Laity, for acting as interim Chair. Adrian will present the Annual Report and Accounts to Diocesan Synod on 4 July, and Alan will fully take up office

from 5 July. Lotwina's term of office begins with immediate effect.

Bishop Christopher said: "I am delighted that Alan has accepted my invitation to become Chair of the Board. He will bring welcome additional expertise to our investment committee and also much needed expertise to the wider church in pension funds."

### Sub-committee chairs

New Chairs have also been elected for the Policy & Finance Sub Committee (Nicholas Burt, who took up post in March) and the Audit & Governance Sub Committee (Michael Hartley, who will take up post in the autumn).

## Archetypes and Archives...

An exhibition of photos from the Church of England Record Centre's archives, illustrating life in Britain in the 1960s, will be on display from 1 July - 2 September in Southwark Cathedral.

Taken by official photographer W.R. Hawes, the photographs illustrate the Church's actions and teachings with relevant, often symbolic images taken from everyday life.

It shows how the majority of people *really* lived - an interesting alternative to the popular vision of Swinging London and the psychedelic 60s.

## THE BRIDGE

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The **JULY/AUGUST** edition is due to be printed on **12 JULY** and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 25 JUNE.**

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

The editorial team will assume that all photographs submitted for publication come to us with the necessary permission for printing. So, please ensure that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so. Forms for permission for the use of photographs of children and adults who may be vulnerable can be found at [www.southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)

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# Bishop Christopher condemns the violence in Gaza

**Bishop Christopher has joined with Bishop Declan Lang, Chair of the Holy Land Coordination, in condemning Israeli violence in Gaza.**

They said: "The terrible loss of life in Gaza caused by the Israeli army's use of live fire against civilians is to be condemned unequivocally. These protests take place against the drastically deteriorating humanitarian situation which leaves little hope and continues

to undermine a peaceful resolution. Hundreds of families across Gaza are now mourning their loved ones, dead and wounded. Israel has a right to defend itself but also has the moral and legal responsibility not to use disproportionate force and not to prevent the injured from

receiving medical treatment. All violence is destructive to peace efforts and our cry is for a peaceful two-state solution with Jerusalem as the shared capital. We pray for all those who suffer from this conflict and for the peace of Jerusalem."

The level of humanitarian

suffering is emphasised by the appeal from the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza saying that 'the situation at the hospital is critical'. The Director of Al Ahli implemented an emergency response to receive trauma cases including setting up an emergency wing with staff doing extended shifts to

treat the injured and wounded.

This hospital is supported by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and will receive support through the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call Fund 2018. It is regarded as a centre of excellence in healthcare in the Gaza strip.

## Café Concert for Christian Aid

In April Christ Church Purley hosted an evening of fun, food and music to raise funds for Christian Aid's 'Stronger than the Storms' appeal.

The band *song!* headlined the evening, telling the Gospel story through beautiful moving songs, many of which were they had composed.

The evening, compered by Andy Leigh OBE, also featured music from Rock Choir, and from Christ Church members Sue Keeler and Tom Griffiths. After a ploughman's supper, Peggy Amoako, Christian Aid's London Church Co-ordinator, shared something of the vision for Christian Aid Week 2018.

## Sun shines on St George in Southwark

The sun shone for the highlight of the St George in Southwark Festival in April when a 12 ft dragon (created and carried by members of The Dragon Café), the Mayor of Southwark, and St George led the parade from St George's Cathedral to the Church of St George the Martyr in the Borough.

The square outside St George's Church became an open-air theatre for community singing and a performance of Sarah Harding's moving play about the martyrdom of St George.

It featured St George the Martyr children's choir and children's drama group alongside professional actors. To finish the day, a community tea was enjoyed by performers and guests alike courtesy of the Mothers' Union!

The Festival programme included a children's craft event, a poetry workshop and performances of *The Ballad*



of *St George and the Dragon*. Visiting choirs and the Putney and Wandsworth Brass Band enriched the Festival Eucharist and Choral Evensong on 22 April. The Festival ended on 24 April with an interactive concert for local children.

The Priest in Charge, the Revd Jonathan Sedgwick said "By telling and re-telling our stories, drawing on our

creativity, and involving people from all ages and backgrounds we can celebrate St George and our diverse heritages at the same time as encouraging one another to overcome the dragons we face in our own day.

"If anyone has ideas for next year or would like to be involved then please contact us."



## Want to learn how to be a pastor? Go on a prayer walk with your Bishop!

That's what three curates (Sarah Simpson, Steffan Matthias & Daphne Clifton, pictured left to right) in East Lewisham Deanery did when Bishop Karowei visited recently.

At the beginning of a packed week of visits to all the churches in the Deanery, the prayer walk started at All Saints' C of E school and finished at the Good Hope

Café in Hither Green, which is run by the Jimmy Mizen Foundation.

Even though he has the longest legs, and arms tailor-made for selfies (!), the Bishop taught the curates how to walk slowly and pastorally using what he calls his 'policeman's walk'. Stopping along the way for conversations and to pray for the local businesses, schools, colleges and community, Bishop Karowei allowed plenty of time to reflect on the past, present and future ministry in this Deanery as the curates prepare for their ordination as priests on 7 July.

Bishop Karowei went on to meet school groups, parent and toddler groups and Scouts and, at the end of a very busy week, had enough energy to encourage the clergy at a Chapter lunch.

## 'In Mary Sumner's footsteps'

St John, Coulsdon Mothers' Union branch celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with 'The Big Party' on Saturday 28 April.

**Nicy Roberts, Branch Leader, writes:**

The inspiration was the MU theme 'In Mary Sumner's footsteps'. As she started by inviting women in her parish into her home, so we issued an invitation to our community to an All-Age Family celebration in our home, the church.

We welcomed 110 adults of

all ages and 63 children for an afternoon of traditional gadget-free fun, a sumptuous tea, a touch of magic, and an MU focus, not forgetting cake and balloons and party bags containing prayer cards and mini Bible story books.

Cynthia Smith, our MU Diocesan President, presented long service certificates for 25 years, 59 and 65 years.

The overwhelming response was 'more events like this, please!' In turn we are now asking 'what more can we do to offer Christian care for families?'



Cynthia Smith and Nicy Roberts cut the birthday cake

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# 'Appeal for the Peal'

The bells of Croydon Minster have been pealing out across the town since December 1936. Now they are in need of major refurbishment and an 'Appeal for the Peal' will be launched at the Minster's Patronal Festival on June 23/24, to raise the £26,000 required.

**Shirley McGill, Tower Captain, writes:**

The bells were cast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon's local bell-foundry. They are much praised throughout the bell-ringing fraternity as a very fine example of 'A Gillett Ring'.

Bell-ringing at Croydon has a long history. Following a disastrous fire in 1867 which destroyed the bells, a new ring cast by Taylor's of Loughborough was dedicated in 1869.

Documents state that these bells were hung in a frame of 'faulty construction' and were always difficult to ring, earning the nickname of 'the slaughterhouse'. By January 1934, when some ringing was attempted for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first peal the bells were almost unringable.

Cyril Johnston of Gillett and Johnston was a member of the Croydon ringers, who had long held a notion that a 'flagship' peal of bells could be achieved by recasting the old eight bells and adding four more.

Progress was rapid and as a result new and recast bells were dedicated on 12 December 1936 by the Vicar and the



Bishop of Croydon. Since then except for a short spell during WWII, they have sounded out most Sundays and have been in demand from ringers from all over the country.

However, while they still have a magnificent sound and are basically sound and safe, remedial work will make them easier to ring and ensure that they remain ringable for many years to come.

The Minster and its ringers will be embarking on fund-raising to complete this project, starting on the weekend of June 23/24 when Bell Tower Tours will be offered on the Saturday and an exhibition about the history of the bells can be viewed. For more information go to Croydon Minster's website at [www.croydonminster.org.uk](http://www.croydonminster.org.uk)

Taking away the old bells for recasting in 1936



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# Remembering the London Bridge Attack

Southwark Cathedral will mark the first anniversary of the attack on London Bridge and the Borough Market throughout the day on Sunday 3 June.

The principal event will be a Service of Commemoration at 3pm - an invitation to the families and friends of those who died, survivors and the first responders to come together and to remember.

During the service four new corbels will be blessed, one of which depicts PC Wayne Marques, one of the first

responders who was injured in the attack.

At the end of the service Bishop Christopher will bless an olive tree, 'The Tree of Healing', as a permanent memorial to those who died. This will be planted using compost made from flowers left on London Bridge after the attack.

Later in the day Southwark Cathedral will host its second Grand Iftar which, this year, will also mark the anniversary of the London Bridge attacks and will bring

all communities together to celebrate Ramadan, to promote resilience and to share the common values of Hope, Peace and Unity and celebrate the diversity of those who live and work in the Bankside area.

There is also an exhibition of three pieces of work by Alison Clark, Artist in Residence, at the Cathedral. On display until 14 June and entitled *Broken Beauty*, they have been especially commissioned to mark the anniversary.

# Embracing Diversity

The Diocese of Southwark Diocese of Southwark's Children and Young People's Mission and Ministry Department joined with Greenwich Parent Voice in a project to engage and support more families with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) particularly across Greenwich Borough. The Embracing Diversity Celebration took place on Saturday 12 May at Woolwich Polytechnic School.

The idea for a special church service, especially for families of children with SEND was suggested by a parent as a way of countering negative perceptions of disability in some Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Greenwich.

These might be where disabled children are seen as a source of shame or where having a disabled child for some signifies insufficient faith. Disabled children are not always welcome at church services and some parents are fearful of taking their children to church if the child presents challenging behaviour, is noisy or just appears to be different.

After 14 months of careful planning and spreading the word, the event was a festival of colour, music and Caribbean food. The hall was filled with music, large banners and artwork made by local schools and community groups on the theme of All God's People, equality and justice.

Attended by more than 170 people, including Theresa Pearce MP and senior community leaders, the service



BARBARA COLE

was led by the Revd Herbert Aparanga, Vicar of All Saints, Plumstead. It included, Taizé worship, gospel music and multi sensory prayers. There was Makaton signing and a visual timetable to support the needs of those present.

Javan Coker, a student at Charlton Park Academy, sang in the band and performed one of the songs from his album *Shout Jesus*. Peter Lincoln James and Aike Kennett-Brown presented a three-part drama on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Prayers and readings were led by young people on the autistic spectrum.

In two short films commissioned for the event parents of children with autism talked about their experiences of the love and support they receive from their churches. There was also challenge for churches to do more to reach out. Capt. Nicholas Lebey CA, Thamesmead Team Ministry, gave a powerful and moving address, reflecting on the fact

that 'all of us are created in God's image, we are all God's children and we all have abilities'. He also apologised for the Church not always being as welcoming as it should have been. After the service there was lunch and the opportunity to look at stalls offering relevant services and support.

*Greenwich Parent Voice is an independent group representing parents of children with a child with special educational needs and/or disability. The group is committed to giving a voice to all parents. GPV publishes information, holds free events and provides the means for parents of children with SEND can connect with and support each other. It is funded by the Department for Education and supported and monitored by the charity Contact-A-Family.*

*Hugh Ridsdill-Smith, the Youth and Children's Work Consultant can be contacted at [hugh.ridsdill-smith@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:hugh.ridsdill-smith@southwark.anglican.org)*

## Do you know a family or an individual who needs a holiday?

Southwark Mothers' Union 'Away From It All' (AFIA) is a holiday scheme funded by members and other donations to help people who wouldn't otherwise be able to have a holiday.

The scheme is open to anyone who is experiencing stress in their family life. Holidays are normally booked at a holiday camp for families but can also be at a small guest house for individuals depending on their needs.

Individuals can also apply for themselves or for their family but applications will need to be supported by someone in church ministry, a health professional, social worker, head teacher or similar. For an application form, contact Pat Fisher at [fisherpk@live.co.uk](mailto:fisherpk@live.co.uk) or telephone 020 8289 8348.



# 'Messy Readers' renew commitment

The three Area Annual Meetings of Readers took place mid-April, with Joanna Cox of SAGE as principal speaker at all three meetings, talking about 'Encouraging Spirituality in Later Life'.

**Ray Wheeler, Croydon Area Warden of Readers, reports:**



The Croydon Area meeting took place at St Matthew, Redhill on Saturday 14 April.

During the business session, Lindsay Ould (Addington, St Mary) was elected to fill the vacancy of a Croydon Area Representative on the Readers' Board.

The worship at St Matthew's took the form of Messy Church planned by Anne Currie (Reader at St Matthew's) with the theme 'Faith as small as a mustard seed'. Readers were invited to participate in three activities:

1. Cleaning pennies - what dulls your sparkle? what refreshes you?

2. Creating a tree from hand prints (representing leaves of the mustard tree) - a big tree where all our prayers come to rest.

3. Constructing a 3D cross - stretching your brain... and considering the gift of patience.

In her introduction, Anne highlighted that just as God plants his seed of love, God also plants vocation in our souls that need nurturing and feeding - firstly to bring it to maturity and then to keep it strong and healthy.

"As Readers we have come together like the birds of the air... all different, all with

our hopes and dreams for our ministries...but as one body, the body of Christ."

Bishop Jonathan then encouraged us to stand around him for the Act of Rededication.

In conclusion he highlighted the plight of the 'children of the Windrush' and encouraged us all to sign the online petition calling on the Government to resolve the issue.

● **The Kingston Area Readers met at St Mark, Wimbledon, while the venue for the Woolwich Readers was St James, Bermondsey.**



28 candidates were confirmed and three more baptised and confirmed by Bishop Christopher in the Cathedral on the Eve of Pentecost (Saturday 19 May). Among the young people confirmed was Io Ashby Goode, whose grandfather Bishop Godfrey Ashby was invited by Bishop Christopher to join him in laying hands on her (photo right). Bishop Godfrey was ordained in Southwark and served his curacy at St Helier. He was Bishop of St John's in South Africa.



## College of Canons meet

Southwark Cathedral's College of Canons met on 25 April to hear about the work of the Cathedral from the Dean and to offer thoughts and advice where appropriate. They also elected Lay Canon Jill Sandham to serve a second term as one of their representatives on the Cathedral Council along with the Revd Canon Kim Hitch.



On Friday 11 May Bishop Christopher blessed and dedicated the new Florence Nightingale garden at St Thomas' Hospital. The garden, filled with healing plants and flowers, has been designed around the 'Nightingale Rose' - a diagram which Florence Nightingale used to illustrate statistics of army deaths in an easily understandable manner.



On 19 May St James Merton Novena Group welcomed 'Harry and Megan' (centre) to their ninth day of Thy Kingdom Come prayers in the Vicarage Garden- followed by a toast to the Royal couple.



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# Seeking sanctuary, new ho

Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events taking place in the week around World Refugee Day on 20 June.

**In this particular week, the contribution of refugees to the UK is celebrated to encourage a better understanding between communities and to highlight some of the issues affecting the estimated 65.6 million forcibly displaced people in the world - of which 22.5 million are now considered to be refugees.**

Since joining the Diocese in November as the Refugee Response Coordinator working within the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Department, I've had the

pleasure of visiting many parishes, and meeting many individuals and voluntary organisations who have been working hard on the ground or who are keen to support and help refugees and asylum seekers.

Alongside the good work undertaken by our parishes there are also a number of well-established projects and charities who have strong links with us. These include the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers (SDCA), LEWCAS (Lewisham Churches For Asylum Seekers) and the London Churches Refugee Network (LCRN).

As a Diocese, we have been committed at all levels to supporting and helping refugees and asylum seekers for many years. A number of properties owned and maintained by the

Diocese have been allocated to provide housing for asylum seekers and refugees, these include a property which housed women and children in the care of the Sisters of the Church, a religious community within the Anglican Communion and an otherwise unoccupied vicarage in which a refugee family is living.

We may now be responding to the needs of refugees from different parts of the world but the challenges, the hopes and dreams of those who seek sanctuary are nevertheless the same – to rebuild their lives, to feel safe, to work, to make friends and give something back.

I hope that this article will give you a taster of some of the good work that is being undertaken within our Diocese and encourage you especially in this month of June in Refugee



Week and on World Refugee Day to get involved in supporting, helping and praying for the refugees and asylum seekers in your community.

**Joanne McCrone**  
– Refugee Response Coordinator

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## Bishop Jonathan reflects:

I have recently been reading *'Fortress Britain?'* – a series of essays on how we approach immigration after Brexit.

As I did so, I was struck once again by the gulf between how people in Britain see ourselves, and the experience of those who come here looking for asylum.

One of the essays gives voice to those who are not usually heard, the asylum seekers themselves, and enables them to share what it is like to be distrusted, not to know when or for how long you might be taken into

custody, with the fear of returning to a country of origin where you are not safe. It is an experience which robs people of their dignity and their humanity.

Christian faith demands of us that we see everyone as a child of God. No one is 'illegal' in themselves; all people should be able to retain that sense of their own worth as a human being. That is the calling of the churches in serving those who come seeking refuge here.

Some will come through schemes which at least give them acceptance by the institutions of

## Around the Diocese

### St Margaret's Church, Lee

St Margaret, Lee continue their work with Syrian refugees through offering top up ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes once a week in their crypt. They have also been working hard at building friendships with the families. A Community Social was held in March attended by 80 people. The evening was held at their church hall with food provided by the 'Damascus Chef', a local restaurant owner originally from Syria himself. The evening ended with dancing in which both church members and guests took part which was led by the Syrian men! All of the 69 Syrian refugees who have been resettled in the Borough of Lewisham were invited and 56 came despite it being a very snowy evening.

### St Peter's Church, Lee

St Peter, Lee (part of the parish of the Good Shepherd with St Peter) set up a foodbank and drop-in for asylum seekers and refugees working in partnership with Action for Refugees in



Lewisham (AFRIL) last year. The church is open every Saturday from 10am till 12pm where breakfast is served and food parcels (including tinned food and fresh vegetables) and toiletries are given out. All the fresh food is 'surplus stock' collected from supermarkets and local shops on Friday. Clothes and toys are also often donated and given out and the church pays the travel costs of foodbank users as they often have no recourse to public funds.

"It's like running a café, a corner shop and charity shop all in one!" says Immy (left) – a volunteer from St Peter's.

Advice workers are on hand from AFRIL, whilst volunteers from the parish and wider community welcome and chat to foodbank users. One-to-one support with learning English is also on offer as are monthly sewing lessons and talks from other community organisations on health-related matters.

This foodbank is unique because it provides for the same 20 families each week. Families stay on the books until their circumstances improve and they get their papers through.

It means that foodbank users and volunteers are on first name terms which creates a very friendly atmosphere and befrienders are able to support service users through the highs and lows of each week.

The foodbank has been very well supported by the wider community too, drawing in volunteers from the local Women's Institute and uniformed groups.

The Revd Bridget Shepherd, Vicar of St Peter's Church said: "One of the unexpected

benefits of the foodbank has been the way it's brought together a wide range of people of all faiths and no faith, of all ages and backgrounds, friends, neighbours and strangers – all united by their desire to care for some of the poorest people in our community".

### St George's Church, Westcombe Park

St George, Church, Westcombe Park (below) is one of the key members of the Greenwich Sanctuary Group (GSG).

The Borough of Greenwich has committed to taking in 20 families from Syria through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) scheme over the next few years. Three of those families have already arrived. Led by the Greenwich Islamic Centre, the GSG includes St George's Church along with Trinity Vineyard Church and volunteers from across the community.

Team Vicar, the Revd Tim Yeager has been working hard to encourage the council to find more accommodation so that the other families can arrive.

Meanwhile the group has been offering donations of

household items, helping the families to learn English, befriending and hosting social activities to which the refugees have been invited.

### Emmanuel Church, Croydon

The SELAM (Speaking English, Learning and Meeting) project from Emmanuel, Croydon has been running for many years.

Originally started as a class to help a few non-English-speaking women in the church, this project has continued to go from strength to strength. Classes run three times a week, twice at the new church hall and once a week at a neighbouring Baptist church. The session at the Baptist church particularly draws asylum seekers and refugees in particular due to its location nearer central Croydon.

This project has been and continues to be run by women for women, all of whom are volunteers. Space is provided for children to attend which is a particular blessing.

Over the years, the group has made a huge difference and made many friends. Church members who have come along to help have also been given the opportunity to train as ESOL tutors.



A number of church members are also involved in helping to run Croydon Community Against Trafficking (CCAT), a charity set up to help vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants which has had strong connections with Emmanuel for several years.

### The Church of the Holy Spirit, Clapham

Holy Spirit, Clapham has been working with Syrian refugees since their arrival in Lambeth by hosting social evenings and providing household items including helping to fund TV



## Behind the headlines

- The UK currently houses 1% of the world's refugees.
- Scotland has taken four times as many Syrian refugees as Greater London. Relative to their populations, northern England has taken more than twice as many Syrian refugees as the South.
- While London has accommodated fewer Syrian

refugees than other regions (less than one per 10,000 population), it has accepted 10 times that number of asylum seekers with an overall impact of six per 10,000 people.

- At the end of last year, there were just over 40,000 asylum seekers located across the UK. Asylum seekers are from around the





# omes, friends and a secure future

## an

government; others will be subject to the full experience of the 'hostile environment'.

All need to find a welcome, find people who will respect and care for them, whether they are in this country for a long or a short time.

That is our calling to practical hospitality. We are also I believe called to witness that we do not believe any human being should be subject to a deliberately hostile environment.

That is not the way to see justice done.



**As churches, we should both do justice ourselves and witness for a more just society, one in which all people are given the respect that is their due.**

licences and other needs. The Revd Ruth Burge-Thomas has befriended many of the families and has herself started to learn Arabic. Members of the church have even taken some of the families out on day trips.

Marwa Belghazi (below), the Senior Resettlement Officer from SHP (Single Homelessness Project) who has been commissioned by the Borough of Lambeth to oversee the settlement programme for Syrian refugees in the borough, is full of praise for the way in which this church has taken to welcoming the families.

"I love how so many of the families know of this place. The

church has used their space in such a positive way. I would not call myself a person of faith but seeing churches like this one being so welcoming has changed my view of the role of faith groups and the difference that they can make in our communities.

"I now look at churches in a new way. There was never a reason for someone like myself from a Muslim background to go into a church building before and now I spend so much time in them. It's really good for our society to have groups working together towards this shared goal of helping people like refugees."



## - the facts and figures

world and must reach the UK before claiming asylum, unlike those on the VPRS.

- Asylum claims take at least six months to be processed with many people waiting for up to three years before they hear anything. Many fall into destitution as they are not permitted to work, volunteer or study. Many live on just over £5 a day.

- The most vulnerable asylum seekers are unaccompanied minors – young people under 18 who have had to make their way into the UK on their own. In 2017 2,500 children were referred to the Refugee Council's Children's section. These children claimed asylum on their own without their families alongside them.

## Not just a house but a home..

The Al Hateeb family are one of many refugee families who have been settled in the UK through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). This is a joint initiative involving the UK Home Office and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to offer protection to people fleeing conflict in Syria and the Middle East.

Refugees who come through this route are identified as having the most severe and pressing needs. These include people who have disabilities, women, children, the elderly and those who have experienced extreme trauma.

In the past two years, more than 10,500 people fleeing Syria have been resettled in the UK through this route.

The UK government under David Cameron committed in 2015 to receiving 20,000 refugees from Syria over a five year period which will end in 2020.

This commitment has been expanded to include a further 3,500 people from a number of



other surrounding countries in the Middle East at risk of displacement.

The Al Hateeb family arrived just over 14 months ago. All seven members of this family including mum, dad, three sons, grandma and grandpa were flown into the UK from Egypt. Coming into the Borough of Lewisham, which is participating in this scheme, the Al Hateeb family were welcomed by representatives from a coalition of voluntary and faith groups led by the organisation Citizens Lewisham, including St Saviour, Brockley Hill, St Luke, Downham and St Margaret, Lee.

With the help of a translator, Fayeaz and Asmaha were happy to share a few thoughts on their life in the UK since their arrival.

They are currently living in a property that has been loaned

to the council by Southwark Diocese for the express purpose of housing refugee families from Syria.

### Why did you leave Syria?

"We left one night when the fighting got too much. We just decided to leave after it all got too frightening. We had one bag of belongings between us and decided to flee. The fighting got too close and we had already lost many neighbours, friends and many members of our family".

### What are your dreams for the future?

Fayeaz: "I would like to get better at English so I can make friends and find work so I can support myself and my family. I

used to be an accountant but I am prepared to do anything". Asmaha: "I would like to make friends and find work too, so we feel we can give something back."

### What three pieces of advice would you give people who want to help refugees?

"Take the initiative to say 'Hello'. It is difficult for us to make the first move because we're not very confident and don't know how to start up conversations.

"Help us to improve our English. We need people to practise with.

"Look out for work opportunities for us. We really want to work and we don't know where to find jobs. If you know of anyone who can offer work experience that would be a big help."

### Have you made friends in the neighbourhood?

"Yes, slowly. Our children have made friends at school. The Reverend Nick [Walsh] has come to visit us too. We are used to living in a Christian area. Even though we are Muslims, we like it and want to be part of the community. We feel settled but can't help feeling anxious because we don't know many people and what the future will bring."

## How can you help?

**There are a number of straightforward ways in which both churches and individuals can help refugees and asylum seekers.**

**These include helping to provide more housing options, helping to teach English, befriending, providing advice, donating household items and food and supporting charities that work directly with refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of services.**

### Housing

Do you have a three - four bedroom furnished house you would be willing to rent out to a refugee family at social housing rates for at least two years?

Demand is high in the South East in and around London and is the number one factor

preventing many refugees from being received into the country. Some of the local authorities within our Diocese that have opted into accepting refugees through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) include Greenwich, Lewisham, Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth, Kingston, Merton, Richmond and Reigate and Banstead.

Could you host an asylum seeker who is in danger of becoming homeless? There is a huge demand for short-term accommodation for asylum seekers who are unable to find anywhere to live whilst they wait for their appeals to be granted. A number of charities such as Refugees at Home and Housing Justice have set up schemes which you can join. They will support you and your guest all the way through the process.

### Befriending

Would you have time to befriend a refugee or asylum seeker? HostNation is a charity that has been set up to link isolated refugees with people who are willing to befriend them and help them settle into life in the UK. Full training is provided.

### Offering advice

It is very difficult for asylum seekers to find people who are trained to deliver free advice on immigration related issues and guidance so they can access the benefits and services they are entitled to. The charity Refugee Action offers training to enable you to give immigration advice. You will need suitable training to be able to offer this sort of help as it is illegal to offer immigration advice otherwise.

### English lessons

Could you get involved in teaching ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)?

You could easily obtain a CELTA, (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) by doing an online course. A number of churches and charities run ESOL classes for refugees and asylum seekers at which you could volunteer. Or you could ask your local citizens group if there are any refugees they know whom you could help.

### Donations

Even the refugees who are able to access their benefits struggle to meet the cost of living. Donations of food, clothing and toiletries are often very welcome. Perhaps you could contact your local foodbank or citizens group for further information on where to drop off donations.

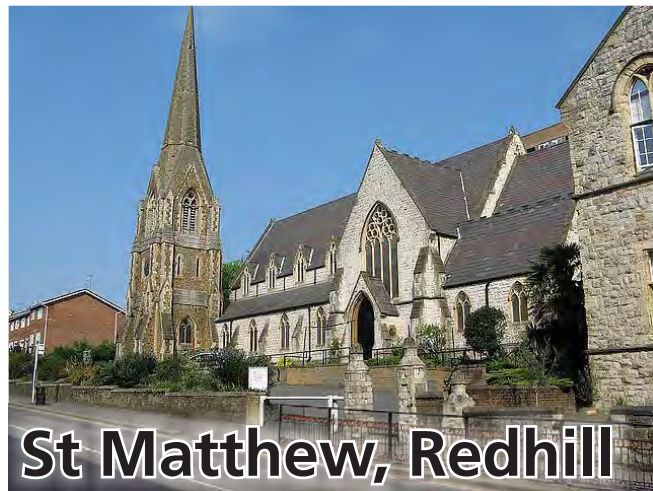
If you would like more information about any of the above suggestions, contact me at joanne.mccrone@southwark.anglican.org





## Bryan Harris's

## PARISH PROFILE



St Matthew, Redhill

**On the surface Redhill is a prosperous, bustling town. So a foodbank... a drop-in for the homeless... night shelters?**

Scratch Redhill's surface and there are pockets of deprivation and social problems which mean that town centre ministry is more than just Sunday worship and a 'chaplaincy' to shop and office workers!

St Matthew's Church is just across the road from Redhill's modern and busy Belfry shopping centre. It's an imposing Victorian structure – last year celebrating 150 years, with a service led by Archbishop Rowan Williams. Built in Reigate stone, with a lofty bell tower and a modern church hall where the vicarage used to be, it is also the base for an impressive range of services aimed at the less fortunate in Redhill's community.

The Vicar, Canon Andrew Cunningham (right), told

me: "Our vision gathered momentum around 10 years ago when I met with other local church leaders to ask ourselves - what is a town centre ministry all about? Is it just a church presence among the shops and offices - or are we called to be something more distinctive. And how can we do that as partners in mission. As a medium sized church our mission can be more effective by working with other partners."

The first fruits of that partnership was the introduction of street pastors. Street pastors led to working with the homeless, as partners in Renewed Hope Trust which



operates a daily drop in centre and a winter night shelter with St Matthew as the venue on Sunday nights in the church hall.

Six years ago St Matthew's launched a foodbank – initially with just a couple of cupboards – "to see if there was a need in Redhill", said Andrew. However, once other agencies in the town began to hear about it, the demand rapidly grew to the extent that last year £40,000-worth of food and utility top ups (towards the cost of gas and electricity) were supplied. Andrew said: "We now have about 30 volunteers operating the foodbank. Some 75% are from St Matthews, the remainder from other local churches – again, partnership at work."

Some 30 agencies hold foodbank vouchers for issuing to families in need. The family make an appointment to come in – but not just to collect food. Volunteers look at their needs, help with menus and so on – which, said Andrew, leads to good conversations about their wider needs and hopes. As well as churches, local shops and offices have bins for people to donate food. Andrew said "The Co-op in Redhill are particularly supportive. They've even invited us to 'come in whatever you need, help yourself. They also operate the gas and electricity top ups for us." As well as food and household items, donations cover the running costs. "Our main problem is storage," said Andrew. "So we've just applied for a faculty for an additional shed."

Some eight years ago they took an empty space between the church and the church hall and created a coffee shop which now runs three days a week serving shoppers, workers and church hall users. "It's a great place for meetings and for pastoral conversations – and is completely run by volunteers",

Messy Church (below) has been 'very good' for St Matthew's



said Andrew. It's also a popular meeting point for the audiences for the Thursday lunchtime music concerts.

The different activities have led to networking with other churches and agencies – and the local Council, which is struggling to meet people's needs.

"When I first came and went to a council meeting," said Andrew, "there was a sense of 'nice to see you but not sure why you are here, Vicar'. Today it's very different. Today St Matthew's is involved in the Reigate and Banstead five-year plan, our views are listened to, taken seriously and our support is asked for. It's a real opportunity, not just to meet needs but also to get back to the essence of the Gospel, to be a prophetic voice saying this is not right, this is not just and speaking out on the basis of our experience on behalf of the community."

"Worship is very traditional liberal catholic", Andrew told me. There are three services – an 8am said Communion, the main service at 10am and an evening service. The 10am service usually sees a congregation of about 110 people of all ages. It is usually Common Worship Eucharist with traditional hymns, vestments, servers, choir, organ and children's church groups. However on one Sunday it is more 'family-orientated' and includes more contemporary songs, led by a music group.

In the evenings, on the first Sunday of the month there's Messy Church at 4pm, followed by Sunday tea. On other Sundays at 6.30pm the programme includes a Healing service, a choral Evensong and Evening Prayer.

"Messy Church has been very good for us," said Andrew, "with several families moving on into the fuller life of church. People find their place by getting involved, not just in our community service activities but also in things like the choir, serving, readings and intercessions."

"Vocations has been one of our great joys – both lay and ordained," said Andrew. "We have also been privileged to host a regular stream of people looking to discover how God is calling them to ministry. They are pointed towards us by vocations advisers, particularly people from an evangelical background who want to experience the breadth of the Church of England. We are also a training parish, so I have a curate. We also have the benefit of three retired clergy, a Reader (and one in training) and two pastoral assistants. I'm very



The clergy team celebrate the Eucharist

grateful to have such a good team around me especially as I am Area Dean which in Southwark is a busy role."

The church school, St Matthew's CofE Primary is now part of the Southwark Academy Trust which Andrew says has "tightened our links to the church and has got just about the right balance between support and challenge. The school has 400 pupils of which 25% are Muslim – who take part in collective worship and visits to the church. The school is there to support all children in their spiritual journey – and in this we work closely with local mosque etc."

One feature of the church is the boards on the wall around the font with the names of all children baptised at St Matthew – and when they come into the church the schoolchildren look to find their name.

So what are the challenges... money? "The building and facilities are in fair shape despite the church being large and expensive to maintain – we've just spent £90,000 on work to the tower," said Andrew. "But somehow we stay just in the black and pay our way. The hall is a valuable asset – a community hub with lots of lets for community groups – we even rent out our car park spaces during the week to local businesses!"

"The challenge for us is 'in-reach'."

"Like many churches we wrestle with the question - does our worship meet all the spiritual needs of our people in order to be of service in the right way? How do we help people to grow in their faith? Home groups have been a struggle to develop – people just don't have the time," he said.

With this in mind, this year, they experimented with an online Lent Group based on Sr Wendy Becketts 'The Art of Lent'. Each day they put up a picture and a reflection by Andrew – and at any time people could pick up and comment. Andrew said, "whereas you might expect 7 or 8 in a Lent group, this attracted 30 people."

Fortunately, St Matthew's is not a church where members just come on Sunday morning and don't do anything else.

"It's a church where, if you're not careful, you can get sucked in to all sorts of things," said Andrew.

"Working with other Christians across the town flushed out the 'activists' in our congregation and we discovered we have quite a lot."

Bearing in mind their impressive programme, this is fortunate to say the least!

The Coffee shop - 'a great place for meetings and for pastoral conversations'.



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## Nutfield church school 'outstanding'

A recent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools) has judged Nutfield Church (C of E) Primary School as 'Outstanding'.

The report sets out the strengths of the leadership and governance of the school, the enthusiasm, skill and creativeness of teachers, excellent attainment and progress and the high level of children's involvement in all areas of school life.

The children across the school were celebrated through their involvement in planning collective worship, being involved in the school's termly 'Love Projects' and the partnerships they have enjoyed with two other local church schools, St John's in Caterham and St Peter's in Oxted.

Headteacher Imogen Woods said; *"I am, as ever, immensely proud of our team. The school has gone from strength to strength due to the high level of support and encouragement from parents and members of the wider community and the staff team"*.

# Abp Tenison pupil wins BBC2 Young Brass Award

**Thomas Nielsen, a Year 12 Student at Archbishop Tenison's Church of England School, Croydon, has won the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Award.**

The final was broadcast live from the Royal Northern

College of Music Manchester on Friday 20 April. The judges were conductor Nicholas Childs, Helen Vollaam, Principal Trombone in the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and international trumpet soloist Andrew Crowley.

Thomas, who has been playing the cornet since the age of eight, said: "I'm so

surprised. The other players were excellent so winning didn't really come into my mind. I was just glad to have played as well as I could.

"I am extremely grateful for all the support I have received from my family, friends, instrumental teachers and my school."



## School Report



St Andrew's CE Primary School in Stockwell are celebrating receiving an REQM (Religious Education Quality Mark) silver award for 'outstanding teaching and learning in Religious Education'. Photo: The Revd Erica Woof, Priest in Charge Stockwell St Andrew & St Michael leads a school assembly

## Open Season at Saint Cecilia's

**Saint Cecilia's, Church of England secondary school, Southfields is holding a number of Open Events for parents of prospective pupils.**

Open mornings will be held on Wednesday 20 June, Monday 17 September and Monday 15 October from 9am - 12 midday. An Open evening will held on Thursday 20 September (6.30 - 8.30pm) with a Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 4 October (6.30 - 8.30pm).

All welcome - no need to book.

Further information is available from the website: [www.saintcecilias.london](http://www.saintcecilias.london)

**Prayers go up, blessings come down!**

To celebrate high days and holy days Saint Cecilia's pupils split into House groups and journey out for a Communion service in one of their local churches. The Chaplain, The Revd Annie Kurk, also receives one House into the Chapel.

At the Ascension Day service in the Chapel prayers were sent by airmail! Pupils wrote their most heartfelt prayer on a piece of paper, folded it into aeroplane shape and launched it towards the cross. Annie Kurk commented that despite concentration on the work of the Holy Spirit, candles were extinguished beforehand for health and safety reasons!



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## June

Even though I've been fortunate enough to fly on many occasions there is something still that is

thrilling about arriving at an airport. Even though the reality might be frustrating there is still a touch of glamour that surrounds the experience and often the knowledge that at the end of the flight a wonderful and relaxing experience awaits us.

As you may know, the Diocese of Southwark extends all the way down to Gatwick Airport and this month is the 60th anniversary of The Queen officially opening the new airport.

On 9 June 1958 the young Queen arrived in a place that would over the years see millions of people setting off on journeys.

But airports are also places of arrival.

As you leave customs and enter the arrivals hall you see the expectant faces of those who have come to meet a friend, a relative.

Occasionally you will spot a reunion happening - bags dropped, people running towards each other, arms open, embracing, kissing, tears, laughter. 'You haven't

changed a bit'. It is lovely, heart-warming to witness.

In the story of the prodigal we hear of something similar - no planes of course - but the father looking for the son's return and then, against all the conventions of the time, 'he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him' (Luke 15.20).

God is there for the arrivals and departures of life and embracing us in both.

*God, our beginning and our end, support us when we must say goodbye, bless us as we embrace others in welcome. 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

## SAGE Southwark Spirituality and Age Working Group

For many people, the challenges and pressures on social care services become

## Social Care: Whose Problem?

increasingly obvious when a relative, neighbour or friend gets older and needs more support and care.

Increasingly the demands of an ageing population added to pressures on funding have raised the profile of this issue, so that it is now something of a political 'hot potato'.

In the face of these

challenges, are there responses churches can make to social care needs?

This question will be explored in a session on 21 June organised by SAGE - the Diocesan group with a focus on issues relating to older people. Contributors to the session will include Tooting vicar Andrew Davey, whose

past experience working for the C of E Board of Social Responsibility gives him an overview of church involvement, which he will share along with theological reflection. Southwark Council's Assistant Director of Adult Social Care will help participants recognise the issues currently faced by local

authorities, and where the voluntary sector may be able to make a contribution. As well as other case studies and findings from a Wandsworth-based research project, there will be opportunities for discussion and questions.

The session will be on Thursday 21 June at Trinity House from 10.00am - 1.00pm. To book a place e-mail [caroline.wakelam-jones@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:caroline.wakelam-jones@southwark.anglican.org)

## 'Growing Together'

In April Ann and Dave Wright from Southwark Diocese took part in the International Rural Churches Association Conference in Lincoln, New Zealand.

**Ann writes:** Rural churches around the world are facing challenges, but are in good heart and have great confidence for the future. That was the message from the conference. For six days people from around the world met to share stories and experiences and reflect on what it means to be the presence of God in rural communities.

The time together included worship led by people from different continents, cultures and denominations and keynote speakers on rural vision and ministry. We visited Christchurch (the temporary cathedral is amazing but there is still much damage from the earthquakes) and local rural projects.

The full conference statements and links to the presentations can be found at <https://irca.online/blog/conference-statement/>

## Welcare relaunches its services in Greenwich

On Tuesday 1 May, clergy, supporters, staff, volunteers and friends gathered at St Luke's Church, Charlton for a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the relaunch of Welcare's services for children and families in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

The celebratory occasion was attended by Bishop Karowei, who spoke about the need for Welcare's work, and the current Mayor of Greenwich, Councillor Peter Brooks. Music was provided by The Thorntree

Primary School Choir and The Royal Greenwich Brass Band. Following the service, everyone was invited to enjoy the food prepared by the Friends of Greenwich Welcare at a reception held in the church.

Southwark Diocesan Welcare supports children up to the age of 13 and their families in the Diocese of Southwark in times of need and crisis.

To find out more visit: [welcare.org](http://welcare.org) or follow them on Facebook or Twitter @welcareuk.

## New YMCA St Paul's Group is commissioned

On Tuesday 8 May Bishop Richard led the Act of Commitment at a commissioning service for the new YMCA St Paul's Group at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

The new group has brought together four YMCAs - West London, London South West (of which Bishop Richard was President), East London and Slough.

Bishop Richard asked the trustees and staff to express their commitment to the newly merged Association and to lead the group "Prayerfully and in a spirit of unity, mutual respect

and collaboration...where people of faith and people of none can work together for the transformation of communities".

At the service the group showcased the work it does with young people and communities with prayers, poetry, dance and testimonies.

Peter Posner, President of YMCA World Alliance, gave a reading, and there was an address by the Bishop of Willesden.

The St Paul's Group is now one of the largest YMCA branches in Europe and has its head office in Surbiton.



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# WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for **JULY ONWARDS** to Trinity House  
**BY MONDAY 25 JUNE**

## June

### Lunchtime Concerts at Croydon Minster - Fridays at 1.10pm

#### June 2018

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Toby Forster, (Countertenor)  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Liam Connery (Tenor)  
**15<sup>th</sup>** David Woods (Tenor)  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** NO CONCERT  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Samuel King (Bass)  
 Free entry - donations invited to Minster funds

### Compline by Candlelight at St Mary's, Farleigh, Sundays at 8 pm 'More people of Faith'

#### June 2018

- 3<sup>rd</sup>** St Josemaria Escriva - Spanish priest, initiator of Opus Dei (*Father Stephen*)  
**10<sup>th</sup>** Revd Hon. Maurice Berkeley Peel MC - WWI army chaplain (*Revd Vince Short*)  
**17<sup>th</sup>** Dorothy Kerin - Healer, Founder of Burrswood (*Frances Withers*)  
**24<sup>th</sup>** Farleigh Voices

#### Wednesday 6 June

- ✦ **CATERHAM - Munch with Music at St John's Church;** Sinfonia Diverse - works by Elgar, Mozart and Trinity Laban composers. Adm. Free - Donations welcome. Tea/Coffee from 12:15. Perfo. 12:45 - 1:30pm. Bring your own 'munch'

### Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill Every Thursday 1.10 pm - admission free, donations invited

#### June 2018

- 7<sup>th</sup>** Piano Recital - Simon Watterton  
**14<sup>th</sup>** Piano Recital - Kyle Nash-Baker  
**21<sup>st</sup>** Saxophone Recital - Hannah McCarthy w Simon Watterton (Piano)  
**28<sup>th</sup>** South London Saxophone Quartet

#### Friday 8 - Sunday 10 June

- ✦ **OXTED - Brides and Blooms Flower Festival** at St Mary's Church. 11am-5pm (4pm Sunday). Music recitals 1pm and 3pm on Saturday and Sunday. Refreshments all day

## Ongoing

- \* **BEDDINGTON - Quiet** @St Mary's - 3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm. Various tools for quiet including labyrinth
- \* **BOROUGH - St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank** every Thursday 2pm to 4.30 pm. Meet people, get advice, help one another
- \* **ELTHAM - Sing with an orchestra.** Hymns, light classics, popular standards 3pm last Sunday each month (not Aug or Dec.) Eltham Pk Methodist Ch.
- † **HACKBRIDGE - Taizé** at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month
- \* **KEW - Homemade cakes and teas** 3-5pm on Sundays at St Anne's Church.
- \* **WARLINGHAM - Water Aid lunches** in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday
- † **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington - Shona Mass, Second Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm

**REMEMBER - Next month's Bridge is a combined July/August edition - so July August and September dates please...**

#### Saturday 9 June

- \* **UPPER TOOTING - Holy Trinity Church Open Day - 11am - 3pm.** Including events for adults and children; tours of the tower, hot food and cold drinks
- \* **UPPER NORWOOD - 'Art Exhibition exploring the question: 'What is an Icon?' All Saints Church,** Beulah Hill. 10am to 5pm free entry
- ✦ **OXTED - "The Spirit of Britain", a concert by Oxted and Limpsfield Choral Society** featuring Rutter's "The Sprig of Thyme" and Victorian ballads. 4pm at the URC, Bluehouse Lane. Adm £12 inc. afternoon tea. Tickets: 01959 577749 or on the door
- ✦ **BECKENHAM - Modern Day Slavery Conference.** 10am to 4pm at Christ Church. Hosted by the Diocese of Rochester and the Clewer Initiative. Details from [clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org](mailto:clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org)
- ✦ **CROYDON MINSTER-Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle" - Croydon Philharmonic Choir** 7.30pm Tickets £12 (u/16s £6) from: [tickets@croymdonphilharmonic.org](http://tickets@croymdonphilharmonic.org) or pay at the door

#### Wednesday 20 June

- ✦ **WESTMINSTER - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group** 4 to 5 pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. Jeremy Rodell (British Humanist Association)

#### Thursday 14 June

- ✦ **UPPER NORWOOD - Organ Concert at St John's.** 7.30pm. Paul Hale, Organist Emeritus, Southwell Minster. Free Admission ~ Retiring Collection

#### Saturday 16 June

- \* **SELSDON - Bric-a-Brac and Book Bazaar at St John's Church** 2pm-4pm. Stalls, refreshments. Proceeds to church funds
- \* **UPPER NORWOOD - 'Art Exhibition exploring the question: 'What is an Icon?' All Saints Church,** Beulah Hill. 10am to 5pm free entry
- \* **BROCKHAM - Brockham Open Gardens - in aid of Christ Church.** At least 10 gardens to visit. BBQ, coffee/tea and cakes in church hall, children's activities, plant stalls. £7 adult. U/12's free. Programmes from gazebo outside the church
- \* **MITCHAM - Gardeners' Question Time & Plant Sale at St Barnabas Church.** 3-5pm. Roses, bedding plants, herbs, tomato and vegetable plants, Bonsai, clematis, lavender, shrubs, raffle, refreshments. Free Entry

## Journey of the Magi

Churches are being invited to host a performance of *Journey of the Magi* - A Springs Dance Christmas event available from 24 November to 23 December.

The show portrays the journey that the wise men took 2,000 years ago, whilst drawing hilarious and poignant parallels with contemporary preparations for Christmas.

Further information can be found on the website <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/> by emailing [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk) or by calling 07876 752910.

#### Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 June

- \* **CROYDON - Minster Flower Festival - 11am - 4pm both days.** Summer Fayre - Saturday 11am - 4pm

#### Saturday 30 June

- \* **SUTTON - Christ Church Summer Fair** 12.30 - 4 pm, cream teas, bouncy castle, stalls, side shows & musical entertainment
- \* **LAMBETH PALACE - North Lambeth Parish Fete - 12.30-5pm** in the gardens of Lambeth Palace. Music, food, stalls, dog show, children's races, tug of war, entertainment. Tickets: £4, Concs £2.50, Child £1.50, Family £8

- ✦ **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL - Concert by award-winning Bremen Youth Symphony Orchestra.** 7pm. Music by Bruckner, Vieuxtemps & Bruch. Free entrance with retiring collection

- ✦ **CROYDON - Croydon Bach Choir Spring Concert - Anthology for Armistice** - to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War (1914-1918) 7:30 pm at St John the Evangelist Church, Shirley. Tickets £12 (4 for the price of 3) from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir)

## July

#### Sunday 1 July

- † **TANDRIDGE - BCP Choral Evensong** at St. Peter's Church 6.30pm led by the Reigate St. Mary's Choir School. Refreshments from 5.30pm

### Compline by Candlelight at St Mary's, Farleigh, Sundays at 8 pm 'More people of Faith'

#### July 2018

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Helmut Thielicke - Protestant theologian and academic (Revd James Ashton)  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Fra Angelico - Early renaissance painter (Revd Henry Kirk)  
**15<sup>th</sup>** William Temple - Archbishop, social theologian (Revd Andrew Rumsey)  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** George Macleod - Founder of Iona community, soldier, minister (Judith Brooks)  
**29<sup>th</sup>** John Bunyan - Puritan preacher and author of Pilgrim's Progress (Canon Ruth Martin)

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

Thursday 1.10 pm admission free, donations invited

#### July 2018

- 5<sup>th</sup>** Violin Recital - Emmanuel Bach w Jenny Stern (Piano)  
**12<sup>th</sup>** Piano Trio - Ellie Blackshaw (Violin), Paul Gregory (Cello) & Yoko Ono (Piano)  
**19<sup>th</sup>** Cello Recital - Camilla Morse-Glover  
**26<sup>th</sup>** Annual party including "Double Duos" - Alan Lakin (Saxophone/Clarinet), Michael Withers (Saxophone/Clarinet), Trevor Denyer (Horn) & Susan Denyer (Double Bass)

#### Lunchtime Concerts at Croydon Minster - Fridays at 1.10pm

#### July 2018

- 6<sup>th</sup>** Lily Addis, Soprano (Royal Russell School)  
**13<sup>th</sup>** Pamela Hall & Paul Guinery - More from the Great American Songbook  
 Free entry - donations invited to Minster funds

#### Saturday 7 July

- ✦ **REIGATE - Summer Classics: A Night at the Opera, Redhill and Reigate Choral Society** at St Mary's Church 7pm and 9pm. Drinks reception before each performance

#### Sunday 8 July

- ✦ **DULWICH - Organ Recital at Christ's Chapel, Dulwich College -** Andrew Benson- Wilson 7.45pm. Admission Free

#### Tuesday 10 July

- ✦ **SOUTH BANK SE1 - Transatlantic Rhapsodies - Lewisham Choral Society concert.** 7.30pm Queen Elizabeth Hall. Details from [www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk)


#### Friday 13 July

- ✦ **WESTCOMBE PARK - Aeris Brass in Concert at St George's Church** 7.30pm inc. traditional music from Scotland and Scandinavia and some Mozart Free admission - refreshments provided

#### Saturday 14 July

- ✦ **DULWICH - Organ recital by Andrew Chadney** at St Stephen's Church, 4pm
- \* **TANDRIDGE - Village Fair - Glebe Field RH8 9NN** 1.30pm - 5.30pm. Adm. £1 - Children free

## OPPORTUNITIES



### St Michael's Priory

At The Well, Willen  
Society of the Sacred Mission

### PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

The Society of the Sacred Mission (SSM) is a religious order in the Church of England.

Based in Milton Keynes, the religious community at St Michael's Priory has a life centered on daily Eucharist and prayer. Our community life is inclusive, and our mission and ministry with local churches and other organisations are central to the daily life of the Priory.

Building on the success of our previous years, SSM is seeking to recruit Pastoral Assistants (PA) to help with the life and mission of the Priory. We encourage applications from those who might be interested in religious life, ordained or lay ministry, or who simply wish to learn by sharing the life of the community. We provide a stipend, good accommodation, meals and will support relevant education and training.

St Michael's Priory, The Well,  
Newport Road, Willen, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AA.  
Telephone 01908 241974, email [admin@ssm-europe.org](mailto:admin@ssm-europe.org)







# THY KINGDOM COME - in Southwark

## Archbishop Justin Welby attended a special service at St Stephen's Church, Lewisham on 16 May as part of **THY KINGDOM COME**

He joined Bishop Karowei, the Archdeacon of Lewisham, the Venerable Alastair Cutting and members of local churches. Pupils from St Stephen's Primary School, took part in the initiative for the first time. Ranging from Years 3 to 5 they are part of the school's faith team, selected for their passion for putting their faith into action.

St Stephen's cChurch

has been involved with Thy Kingdom Come since it began. The first year they prayed the Rosary on different days for different intentions. The following year, they focused on the Jesus prayer and this year, they are following the 'Journey with Mary' devotional.

The Vicar the Revd Philip Corbett of St Stephen's Church, who organised the service, said: "It was a joy to have Archbishop Justin pray with us and help us in thinking how we serve our community."

"Each day from 10am-2pm the church has been open to the public for prayer. People are looking for spaces to pray and the response has been good."



## Croydon South Deanery held a Service of Praise and Prayer at St John, Old Coulsdon, on 13 May to mark **THY KINGDOM COME**

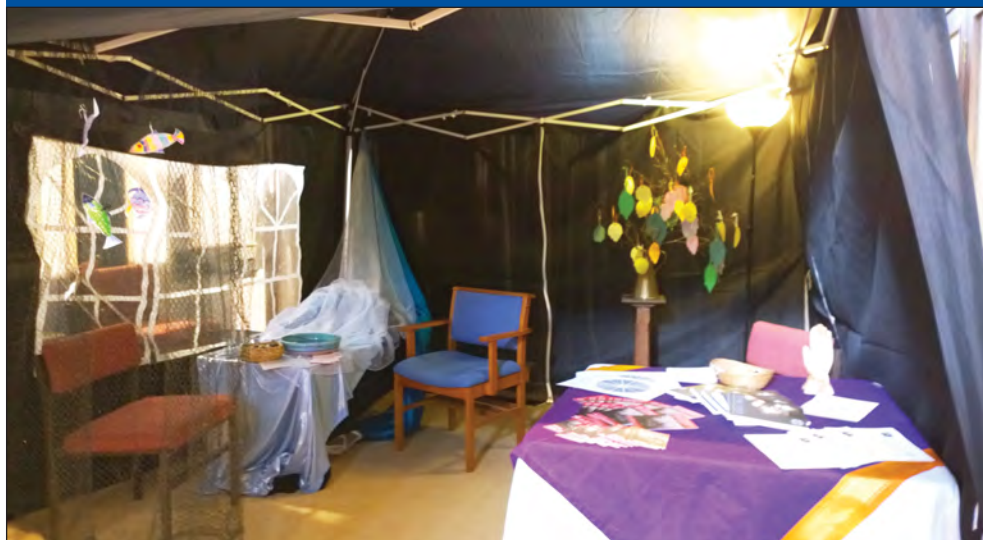
The preacher was the Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Chris Skilton.

Members of the Deanery churches set up imaginative prayer stations round the church, in addition to the host church's 'Prayer Den' (below). The 70-strong congregation were invited to spend 15 minutes in prayer for the mission of the church in the Deanery, using the prayer stations to guide them.

This is the first time the Deanery has organised a

service like this and there were appreciative comments from people who found the time of prayer very significant.

The Revd Paul Roberts, Area Dean, said, "Our Deanery mission plan is for the churches to encourage and learn from each other in the mission we are doing in our parishes. This service was a lovely expression of that mission."



## St John, Waterloo set up a **THY KINGDOM COME** Prayer Station.

It focused on the use of flowers to help those wanting to pray to experience both visual and sensual beauty as they contemplated an icon or used coloured wool to weave whilst they prayed.

The Station also contained guidance on *lectio divina* and Ignatian prayer to help worshippers try out less familiar ways of praying.

Outside the church, a blackboard encouraged passers-by to write their prayers publicly, while a postbox allowed them to write more discreet prayers for the church community to pray on their behalf each day at Morning Prayer and the Eucharist.

A large sandwich board proclaimed the changing daily prayer provided by the Diocese

for those at work during the novena.

The Prayer Station was used mainly by members of the congregation and visitors to the church. However the blackboard and prayer postbox were used extensively (and mostly appropriately) by many of the thousands who pass through Waterloo every day.



## Churches from Reigate Deanery joined together to mark **THY KINGDOM COME**

Kim Honey, Reader at St Margaret, Chipstead, writes: Beginning with an amazing open-air service on Reigate Hill, at which Bishop Jonathan preached, we gathered to pray and worship.

For the duration of TKC a prayer space opened from 8am-7pm in Redhill centre, inviting passers-by to come and pray.... And they did! We were visited by a steady stream of passers-by.

Pilgrims of all ages and from several churches enjoyed a nine-mile prayer walk from St Margaret, Chipstead to the Mill Church, Reigate Heath on Saturday 19 May, and the whole event culminated in a joyful celebration in Redhill Memorial Park on Pentecost Sunday. Our thanks to all those from many churches across the Deanery who joined in to make this a truly spirit-filled time of prayer.

## Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call service

Southwark Cathedral was filled with representatives from church schools all over the Diocese on Wednesday 2 May. They were all there to give thanks for the Bishop's Lent Call and to hand to Bishop Christopher money that they had raised during Lent through 'dress-down' days, market stalls and many other activities. The gifts received at the service from schools totalled £5,337.83.

