



Strictly for the birds!

A Surrey parish has reorganised a major rebuilding project - to fit round the migrating patterns of swifts.



The birds nest at St Mary's Church, Oxted every year and are an endangered species. Their numbers have plummeted over the years, often owing to nesting sites being closed over during refurbishment of old buildings.

Determined that this would not happen at St Mary's, the PCC brought in Edward Mayer of the charity Swift Conservation to work closely with the builders to ensure that the swifts' needs were taken into account during the renovations.

St Mary's is Grade I listed and on the 'Heritage at Risk'

Register - or it was. Repairs by the Victorians had led to the softer stone and mortar crumbling away, with very little of the original lime render left.

After several years of hard work, finance was secured from various local benefactors and the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the building project to proceed.

In order to accommodate the swifts, work near their nesting sites was completed as 'swiftly' as possible, avoiding the breeding season. Scaffolding was sited to avoid obstructing entry holes, and while filling in many of the gaps in the



stonework, the builders deliberately left quite a few! These holes are mostly just below the overhang of the roof and are vital to the swifts.

Churchwarden, Catherine Hough, said: "A neighbour in the old Manor House opposite the lych gate kept us informed of the first arrivals in spring but we were reassured that they would not yet be breeding.

"Gradually more birds filled the sky, perhaps as many as 40 or 50. The builders were still working at height and the scaffolders were not going to be available to take down the upper level for several days.

"So there was quite an anxious wait as the swifts were flying very close to the church. However as soon as the scaffolding was lowered,

the swifts took up residence again... swiftly!"

● Edward Mayer will speak about the work of Swift Conservation at St Mary's Open Day on Saturday 8 September. All with an interest in conservation are welcome - check www.stmarysoxted.uk for times and details.

Inside
THE BRIDGE
...this month

8 pages of news and pictures from the parishes



Parish Profile - St John the Divine, Kennington
... page 4



WWI - 'We will remember them'
... pages 8/9



WHAT'S ON
around the Diocese
...page 15

The Archdeacon and the dragon...



When the Archdeacon of Southwark, the Venerable Dr Jane Steen, heard that St James, Bermondsey's dragon was back from the repairers, she decided to 'inspect' it at ground level, before it returns to its perch.

The dragon is a golden weathervane which usually crowns St James's bell-tower. It was removed for refurbishment while repairs were taking place to the tower.

St James's Vicar, Canon Gary Jenkins, said: "The presence of the dragon on top of a church tower has puzzled people down the generations, but recently an intriguing link was made with the City of London, just across the river.

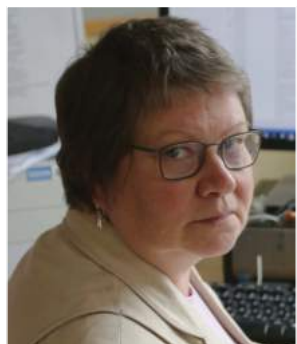
"The City's coat of arms shows a shield with the cross of St George, supported by two dragons. This has led to the dragon itself being seen as a symbol of London, and to being immortalised in a least one City church, St Mary-le-Bow, whose dragon bears more than a passing remembrance to that on St

James's tower. Perhaps the founders of St James had a link with St Mary-le-Bow. But whatever, it looks likely that our dragon is a link to the City, and via the City, to St George, and via St George, to the triumph of good over evil - and as such it begins to make more sense as a symbol on top of a church".

Has it got a name?

Incidentally, the Archdeacon had the same question that children from St James's School regularly ask... 'has it got a name?' Suggestions to Gary Jenkins please.

A view from THE BRIDGE



Stop and think ...and pray

Sometimes you see things that make you stop and think.

On occasion that's because the thing that you are looking at has been put there to make you think and on other occasions it is because the visual impression of something is so stunning that you cannot take your eyes off it or forget it.

The World War I graves in Normandy are one of the latter experiences for me. The rows upon rows of graves, almost all of young men, speak of lives and families destroyed. Hidden beneath the headstones are stories of bravery and of fear; of long tiring battles waged over small pieces of land; of young men simply doing what they were told to do to defend their way of life and dying all too soon. It is impossible to forget them once seen and it is impossible not to grieve for so many lives lost.

Another Place is an Antony Gormley installation on Crosby Beach and it too is unforgettable. It consists of 100 cast-iron, life-size cast figures of Antony Gormley's own body (the statues depict the artist naked which has been a little controversial). They are spread out over a space of about three kilometres and they all face out to sea. They are all regularly covered by the sea and the further from land they are placed, the more covered in barnacles the statues have become.

That this should happen is completely obvious when you think about it and yet it fascinated me as it made it so clear how context changes things. The vast majority of them have remained upright and gaze out to sea as if contemplating life and the future. It is an incredibly powerful installation and well worth a visit.

When we see things such as the War Graves and installations such as *Another Place* we are forced to stop and think; to contemplate life. In the last four years we have looked back remembering the centenary of the First World War and contemplating those who lost their lives and the devastating effects that the many deaths and injuries sustained had on so many people - on a whole generation.

As we move towards the end of the four years of remembrance let's commit ourselves to pray for peace and justice in our troubled world and to join together to work bring God's love and to show God's Kingdom to those around us.

Wendy S Robins

Croydon Area Office has relocated

The Croydon Episcopal Area Office has moved from St Matthew's House to:
6 St Peter's Road, Croydon CR0 1HD.
Tel: 020 8256 9630 (main office).

All postal communications should be addressed to the new premises. St Matthew's House is now vacant.

Contact

Details for individual members of the Croydon Episcopal Area Office are as follows:

The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon

E-mail: bishop.jonathan@southwark.anglican.org
Tel: 020 8256 9632

PA to the Bishop of Croydon, Nadina Bedlow

E-mail: nadina.bedlow@southwark.anglican.org
Tel: 020 8256 9632

Kathleen Bailey (Maternity Cover)

E-mail: kathleen.bailey@southwark.anglican.org
Tel: 020 8256 9632

The Venerable Christopher Skilton, Archdeacon of Croydon

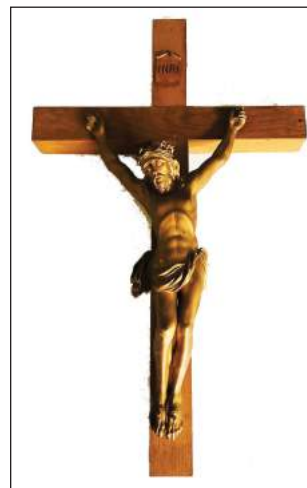
E-mail: christopher.skilton@southwark.anglican.org
Tel: 020 8256 9633

The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate

E-mail: moira.astin@southwark.anglican.org
Tel: 020 8256 9633

PA to the Archdeacons, Susan Wheeler

E-mail: susan.wheeler@southwark.anglican.org
Tel: 020 8256 9633



...and has some items to give away

Croydon Episcopal Area Office has the above items which it doesn't need anymore and is currently offering to parishes at no cost.

There is also 10 litres of Dulux 'Wellbeing' paint (vibrant green) available on a first come-first served basis. The colour would be suitable for a young person's meeting room or similar.

Contact Susan Wheeler at Croydon Episcopal Area Office, St Peter's Road, Croydon CR0 1HD Tel: 020 8256 9633

Were you baptised at St Mary Addiscombe?

St Mary Magdalene Church is 150 years old this year.

As part of the celebrations a special service is being held on Sunday 16 September (10.30 am) to which anyone baptised at St Mary's is invited.

The service will be followed by refreshments. No need to 'RSVP', just turn up.

OPPORTUNITIES

Operations Manager

St Hilda's Crofton Park
Courtrai Road SE23 1PL



Would you enjoy a half-time post managing a range of premises, applying your business, marketing, sales, and customer service skills?

We are looking for an Operations Manager to take responsibility for our site and user groups; to play a key role in sustaining business, communications, fundraising and events.

We serve a wide diversity of people - an enjoyment of customer service will be essential. You will need to be confident in handling maintenance, health and safety issues, and have basic 'Excel' for accounting. Experience of community events would be desirable.

For the information pack - please contact:
church.admin@sainthildas.org

Using social media and websites to reach out

The Diocese is hosting live video training on An Introduction to Social Media and Writing for the Web, streamed live from Church House Westminster - 30 places are available, and are limited to one place per parish.

Delegates are asked to bring along their laptops or tablets to follow along with the training as it's delivered.

We'll have staff on hand to offer help throughout the sessions. The national Comms team, who will be delivering the training, will take questions during the day too.

The training will take place from 10am-4pm on 30 October at Trinity House SE1 1HW.

Booking will open via E-mail to our Web Manager & Social Media Officer, Daniel Stone (daniel.stone@southwark.anglican.org) at 10am on Monday 3 September, and will not be accepted before this time. Please include the name of your parish when E-mailing.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but you will need to bring your own lunch or buy lunch from one of the local places.

THE BRIDGE

is produced & published by Kent Christian Press for Communications and Resources on behalf of The Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW
Tel: 020 7939 9400 Fax: 020 7939 9468
e-mail: bridge@southwark.anglican.org

Managing Editor:

Wendy S. Robins
(Communications & Resources)

Editor:

Bryan Harris
(Kent Christian Press)

ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION

☎: 01474 854503

E: kcpress@btinternet.com

Editorial

Advisory Board:

Dr Jane Steen
(Chair)

Adeline Cole

Sallie Eden

Roxanne Hunte

Wendy S. Robins
(Secretary)

Tom Sutcliffe

The **OCTOBER** edition is due to be printed on **27 SEPTEMBER** and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by **MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**

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



VACANCY FOR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ ORGANIST

The Parish Church of Lewisham, St Mary the Virgin has a modern Catholic liturgy, a lively and diverse congregation and a fine musical tradition.

We seek an inspirational, innovative and collaborative Director of Music/Organist to join our vibrant church and lead our music in new directions.

Excellent 3-manual Allen organ plus grand piano.

Salary in line with RSCM rates, to a maximum of £6000, related to qualifications and experience. Opportunities for weddings/ funerals fees at RSCM rates.

Closing date: 23:59 Friday 14th September; interview/audition 21st September, afternoon and early evening; to commence mid-October 2018.

For job description and how to apply, please visit:
<http://www.lewishamparish.com>.

For any further information E-mail: The Revd Steve Hall, Vicar: vicar@lewishamparish.com Tel: 020 8690 2682.

St Mary the Virgin: A worshipping community celebrating everything good about Lewisham

To advertise your vacancy in The Bridge (in print and on-line) call 01474 854503 or e-mail: kcpress@btinternet.com

Children's choir are Lambeth Country Show-stoppers



St Anselm's North Lambeth's new junior church choir took to the stage at the Lambeth Country Show this year - and 'stopped the show'! After less than a year in the making, 'The Young Voices of St Anselm's' put on a fantastic performance which had passers-by singing along and demanding an encore! The choir welcomes children from all backgrounds and sings a mix of secular and sacred pieces. They perform once a month at St Anselm's Church, North Lambeth Parish, as well as at many public events.

Outwood Heritage Day launches vital repair project

The church of St John the Baptist, Outwood buzzed with activity during its Heritage Day at the end of June.

The day marked the start of vital repair work on the Grade II listed church building following a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The grant of £140,300 will fund repairs to the external stonework, which was in imminent danger of collapse, removing old loose material and re-rendering the building.

It will secure the building for regular worship and as a focus for local heritage and history displays and cultural events.

Architect John Bailey was on hand to explain the project and an exhibition in the church celebrated the memories of past generations, with photos and documents. Visitors were able to visit parts of the church that are usually unseen

and track points of interest around the church building and an ecology trail round the churchyard. The Outwood Horticultural Society took the opportunity to stage its Early Summer show.

The day concluded with a concert of sea shanties. It was the first performance by the Windmill Songmen, made up of men from the local communities and the Windmill United Benefice churches.



Chair: Biddy Taylor

E: jmandcbytaylor@gmail.com
020 7622 4912

For information about training courses to become a spiritual director contact:

Ruth Lampard
E: ruthlampard3@gmail.com
07870 651240

Membership Secretary
E: sallylowe1943@gmail.com
01306 884467

Finding a spiritual director
Please go to our website

www.spidir.org.uk

125 years of the Mothers' Union in Surbiton

St Andrew & St Mark, Surbiton Mothers' Union Branch celebrated its 125th birthday on Wednesday 20 June.

Among the guests present were Heather and Brian Elphick, visiting from Somerset for the occasion. Heather was Branch Leader from 1988 until the end of 1999 and was the main organiser of the centenary celebrations in 1993.

After the welcome cups of tea, Audrey Eldridge, Branch Leader, read a congratulatory letter from Bev Jullien, Mothers' Union Chief Executive.

The Vicar, Robert Stanier, a Mothers' Union member, led an informal service of thanksgiving.



During the service he asked everyone to share memories of Mothers' Union over the years.

Members also heard about those doing the catering at Southwark Cathedral and Mary Sumner House and shared fond memories of former leaders of the branch who have died.

After the service the reminiscences continued over a celebration cake, bring-and-share puddings and bubbly. On behalf of the members, Audrey Eldridge said: "Many thanks to all who contributed in some way to leave us with such happy memories of this special occasion".

Metalsmith and woodworker

Conscientious and reliable, Ian Marshall provides new work and maintenance for a number of churches. To join his list of satisfied customers.

Call: 020 8850 7851
or 077 6666 2747

Cleanki



Church Mice...
Wasps in the West End,
Pigeons over the Pulpit,
Ants in the Aisles,
Squirrels in the Sanctuary,
Rats in the Rectory,
Cockroaches in the Crypt

Award-winning pest control services
0800 056 5477
info@cleankill.co.uk



cleankill.co.uk

AUDITRONIC SERVICES

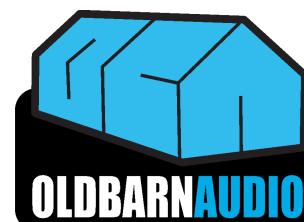
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS

We install and maintain public address, induction loop and background music systems, designed to meet your needs

Repairs to existing systems carried out

020-8770 2173

55 Northey Avenue, Cheam, Surrey SM2 7HU



A professional sound and AV installation and hire company serving the south east of England - approved in 3 dioceses with installations in over 250 churches



Quality tailor-made loop and sound systems, radio microphones and AV installations for churches and other public buildings.



Sound and lighting for exhibitions, conferences and outdoor festivals.



Professional recording facilities - in our studios or on location

Our aims are simple - 'to produce excellent sound using quality equipment and experienced engineers' - in our opinion, the only way to work!

Call us for a FREE quote

UK Sub-Distributors for the Martin Audio product range



Unit 6, Sham Farm Business Units, Eridge Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 9JA. Tel: 01892 752246

www.ldbarnaudio.co.uk

Bryan Harris's

PARISH PROFILE



Kennington St John the Divine

The church of St John the Divine was built with a mission to bring the Christian Gospel to the poor of 19th-century Brixton and Kennington. It continues that mission today, but to a far more diverse community.

Consecrated in November 1874, the church typifies the highly ornate style of the Anglo-Catholic churches of the Victorian era. It was built by public funding, including some £10,000 from its curate (and later Vicar) the Revd Charles Edward Brooke. Like many London churches, it was virtually destroyed in 1941 by German incendiary bombs. However, when it was rebuilt in the 1950s the original architect's drawings were followed – and today St John's is regarded as one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic in the country and has Grade I listing.

But however imposing and prestigious the building, it is the people who make a church.

Canon Mark Williams is the Vicar of St John the Divine, Kennington (and

a Canon of the Diocese of Asante Mampong in Ghana). Whilst he has been in Southwark for 18 years, his quiet-spoken voice still proclaims his Welsh origins. He said: "We minister to a very diverse area ethnically, culturally, educationally and financially – and St John's congregation is a microcosm of that community.

"We have more than 60 different nationalities in our church family, including a longstanding Caribbean community. St John's was one of the churches that actively welcomed the 'Windrush generation' and in the 1960s and 1970s our Youth Club was recognised as one of the best in London, drawing Caribbean youngsters from miles away. As a result the Caribbean community has a great affection for St John's. Today they share the pews with significant numbers of people from West Africa and also from continental Europe and South America".

Most Sundays will see 200 people of all ages from babies to 90 year olds in church for the 10am Parish Mass – with a steady following for the weekday daily Masses.

Poverty hasn't gone from the parish. It's among the top 7% in the country for

deprivation and the top 5% for child poverty. Mixed housing stock and gentrification see the affluent living cheek by jowl with Council tenants and families living five to a room.

"St John's was founded as a missional church – and mission remains at the heart of everything we do, whether it is in our time together in worship or socially or learning together, or in our social action and outreach to the community", said Canon Mark.

The Mass – Sunday and through the week – is central to St John's mission. And so a lot of effort is made to ensure that when people come to church they are made welcome and that the worship – liturgy and music – are of a high quality. St John's tradition continues to be Anglo-Catholic. The services are formal and based on Common Worship with a few additions, and with theologically orthodox but socially liberal teaching – but as Canon Mark puts it 'there is grit in our incense!' Vestments are worn, there are a dozen or so altar servers (mainly young people), and incense and bells are used at various points of the service. Yes, it's very 'colourful' but every attempt is made to gather the congregation into the activity of the worship.

One important way in which that happens is through music with a 30-strong adult choir and some 70 children in three choirs singing at Masses and Evensongs. Until six years ago all music was adult-led – but it was decided to build on St John's music tradition to develop work with children by providing opportunities to train as choristers. Three choirs were formed – a boys and a girls primary age choirs and a mixed secondary age choir – and they are given classical choir training with a cathedral-style repertoire led by their director Ben Vonberg-Clark.

More than 90% of the children were new to St John's – most, if not all go on to prepare for communion and they bring parents to church, some of whom have since been baptised and confirmed. St



John's has links to St John's College Cambridge which hosts a residential summer school every July for the children and supports organ scholarships for five young people. Each children's choir sings in turn at one Sunday Mass a month and Evensong once a month. The adult choir sings on the other Sundays and a couple of times a year all four choirs sing together – more than 100 voices.

The church has close relationships with both its parish schools St Gabriel's College and St John's Primary. St Gabriel's is unusual as a state school in having a full-time chaplain which until Easter was the Revd Ellen Eames, who is also an Assistant Priest at St John's. A new full-time chaplain has been appointed to start in January, exciting times as St Gabriel's moves into new school buildings. Canon Mark is in and out of the primary school much of the week and the pupils come to church regularly for mass and as part of their lessons.

Every Sunday children over four years old meet in the church's community centre for the first part of the mass on three Sundays a month with worship and activities designed for them. A crèche is provided for children up to four years old. There are groups for teenagers who meet for lively discussions and a group for young adults called Eagles. Both groups have been on pilgrimages including to Rome and Fatima. There is

also a discussion group called Godtalk and an Ignatian prayer group, which meet monthly.

St John's has a long-standing tradition of social action, and was one of the founding parishes in the Robes Project. An active member of the London Citizens community action network, the church is kept open every afternoon to provide a 'safe haven' – including for school pupils doing their homework – and one of the parish's two church schools, St Gabriel's College led a campaign to welcome refugees to the UK – the 'Refugees Welcome' Schools Initiative. The church also provides the premises for Welcare's HQ and has links with Codrington College – the Anglican Seminary for the Province of the West Indies in Barbados and to the Diocese of Asante Mampong.

With so much going on it is not surprising that St John's has been a training parish, and hope they will receive a deacon next Petertide. However, Canon Mark has support, including two school chaplains and four retired clergy including Bishop Peter Selby and the Revd Robert Stretton SSM. A quick glance at the church website suggests that they all play active parts not only in worship but also in the spiritual

nurture of the congregation. The parish has also provided Pastoral placements for people considering their vocation – including Sam Hole and Steffan Mathias who have been ordained in Southwark in the past 2 years and one ordinand currently in training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield.

Looking ahead? They are working on a project to replace the current church hall with a new community centre to develop their role as a key player in the local voluntary sector – and if St John's music tradition is to be maintained the organ needs replacing' installed after the war damage as a stop gap, it is well beyond its 1973 'use by' date!

Neither is going to be easy. "We pay our way, largely because the congregation give sacrificially," said Canon Mark, "but we're not a wealthy church and we have no endowments to dip in to".

Finally I asked him to sum up 'what draws people to St John's'?

He said: "We aim to make people welcome, to inspire them and to help them grow in their faith, to enjoy our fellowship and to live out their faith through action".

It certainly seems to be working.



Canon Mark Williams



Pentecost 2018 lunch



St Gabriel's School service in Holy Week 2018

Spreading the good news - online

A Catford parish has been awarded funding to employ a part-time online missionary in an effort to spread the good news to the unchurched.

St John the Baptist Church has appointed Shea Hollis (right), a member of the congregation, to build online networks of people and groups that might be drawn gradually towards church life.

She is now working across all the major social media platforms and the local online community groups.

Some of the existing support groups online are hugely popular, and, crucially, very local.

Mummy's Gin Fund, a Facebook support group for parents which describes itself as a 'Squad of parents and allies supporting, cheerleading and high-fiving each other,' has just short of 32,000 members, mainly in South East London.

Such thriving online communities have a heavy flow of postings and to attract attention needs perseverance and dedicated personnel.

The Revd Martin Thomas, Team Rector of Catford and Downham, said: "We all seem to spend more and more time online and the church needs to be part of the conversation.

"If we are not a lively and quick-witted presence online, many people simply won't see us at all. We hope, in trying this out, to see if it might be a model for others to use.

"The church can seem to be all about buildings, getting your child into school, or bizarrely old-fashioned fairs with raffles. If we really do have something worth sharing we need to put resources into where people actually spend their time – online.

"According to Ofcom, adults spend about 20 hours online each week in addition to work. That number is higher the younger the age group. So this initiative is just one way of trying to get the good news circulating in people's minds".

Shea Hollis said: "As a member of the congregation, a mum of young children and someone who spends a great deal of time online, I can see the potential for growth that greater online presence can bring to our church.

"Much of my social media browsing is spent looking on community Facebook groups, Twitter feeds and Instagram pages, seeking out local activities.

"We have so much to offer, both on Sunday and throughout the week, and engaging, creative and interactive activity on our social media platforms will heighten our neighbourhood's awareness of what goes on inside St John's, with a view to bringing people through the doors themselves".



The Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley (centre) was commissioned as Diocesan Discipleship and Vocations Missioner and Assistant Priest at St Mary's Sanderstead at Southwark Cathedral on 29 July.



ST. MARY'S CONVENT WANTAGE

St Mary's Convent offers a variety of facilities and flexible accommodation for Group Quiet Days and Group Retreats. Also, Conference facilities and private stays. Everyone is welcome at the Eucharist and Daily office in St Mary Magdalene's Chapel.

For further details please contact:

St Mary's Convent, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9AU

Tel: 01235 763141

Email: guestwing@csmv.co.uk

www.csmv.co.uk

WYCHCROFT
Retreat and Resource Centre,
Bletchingley

- Opportunities and space for nurture and prayer
- Excellent facilities for training and learning.
- Comfortable accommodation and home cooked food

www.wychcroft.org

enhancing church interiors
Ronald Emmett fine furniture
www.ronaldemmettfurniture.com
01308 868025

STUART TOWNEND AND BAND
THE COURAGE TOUR 2018

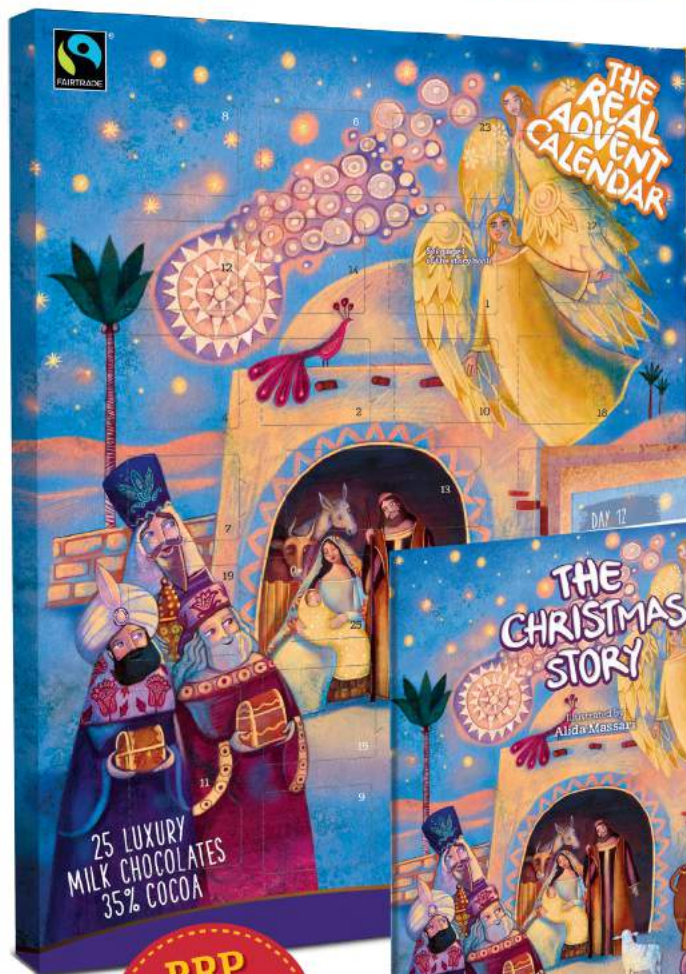
Writer of "In Christ Alone", "The Power of the Cross", "How Deep The Father's Love For Us", "Beautiful Saviour", Stuart Townend's only London concert in this tour is at
**St Michael and All Angels Church,
1 Pond Road, Blackheath SE3 9JL**

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start on
Sunday September 30th
Tickets £15 each online from
<http://www.se3.org.uk/stuart-townend>



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY

FOILED
FOR FRESHNESS



NEW DESIGN

Includes free 24 page Christmas story-activity book.

The Real Advent calendar was created in 2013 following surveys which showed that 36% of 5-7 year olds did not know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. In the same year 51% of adults said that the birth of Jesus was irrelevant to their Christmas.**

The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to reverse this tipping point and put Christ back into the hearts of those who no longer know the Christmas story in full.

SUPPORTING

FUNZIBODO
THE FUNZI AND BODO TRUST

TRAIDCRAFT
Exchange

RRP
£3.99



"...A GREAT IDEA."
Alan Titchmarsh

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Direct sales are very important for our company as they allow us to continue trading. Usually a church, school or organisation finds a champion (maybe you) who can encourage, put up a poster and sign up list, collect the money and put in an order with us. The resources at www.realadvent.co.uk will help you and don't forget we also offer free delivery*.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.MEANINGFULCHOCOLATE.CO.UK

THE MEANINGFUL TREAT PACK

The 2018 edition has new content and is designed to help with mission work on, and leading up to, the eve of All Saints (Halloween). It is suitable for Light Parties, outreach events, schools and for children who trick or treat on 31st October. Each box costs £30 with 30 packs per box (£1 per pack). There is a leader's guide in each box of 30.



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

These fabulously festive Fairtrade crackers are the perfect way to get into the festive spirit around the Christmas meal. These are the UK's first Fairtrade certificated crackers and will look magnificent on the table. **Box of 6 crackers - RRP £9.99**

HOST OF ANGELS DECS

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



HOW TO ORDER

Order a case by
1st November
for **free delivery**

Pay online by card

The simplest way to pay is to visit our online shop at: www.realadvent.co.uk

Payment by cheque

Complete the form below and return to: Basement Suite, 11a Eagle Brow, Lymm, Cheshire WA13 0LP. Cheques payable to 'The Meaningful Chocolate Company Ltd'.

Shops - Tesco (larger stores) and independent retailers such as Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk & CLC shops have supplies. For details visit our website.

Delivery address:

Postcode:

Title:

First name:

Surname:

Tel. No. (daytime)

E-mail:



Case of 18 Real Advent Calendars
£71.82 (£3.99 per calendar)
must be ordered in multiples of 18

No. of cases

Total

Postage & Packaging
*Order by 1st November for free postage

FREE*
or £4.95

www.realadvent.co.uk

Grand Total

DIO MG 18

Lusitanian Bishop visits St James, Merton

The Rt Revd Jorge de Pina Cabral, Bishop of the Portuguese Lusitanian Church, preached at the Patronal Festival Mass at St James, Merton in July.

Bishop Christopher was the celebrant, and various clergy, including the Most Revd Walter Makhulu, took part in the liturgy.

St James' priest, Canon Dr James Rosenthal, is a Canon of the Lusitanian (Anglican Communion) Cathedral of St Paul in Lisbon.

(Photos: Thalia Alexandrou)



School children's murals brighten Balham church

A hitherto dreary corridor in St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham has been transformed with colourful murals based on children's art.

The initiative instigated by the Vicar, the Revd Robert Tobin and Miss Lynn Anderson, the new headteacher of Trinity St Mary's CofE Primary School, has not only brightened the church but it has also strengthened the links between the church and the school.

The murals were painted by the headteacher and two other members of staff, Gemma and Maria Moram, using the pupils'

art as a basis. Images produced by the children were drawn onto the wall, then painted. The images include crosses drawn by Year 6 children; Christian symbols in literature (including Aslan from the *Narnia* books) by other Key Stage 2 classes; the wonders of Creation from EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and, near the choir-room, music-making and angels by Key Stage 1 children. The inside of the door to the garden represents E E Nesbit's *Secret Garden*.

The corridor links the school playground, the church and the church garden and provides access to the church toilets and music room.

The children are said to be 'proud and excited to see their work so valued and on display' - and both parish and school are delighted by the closer ties which the project has fostered.



The Revd Andrew Zihni reviews:

Enfolded in Christ: The inner life of a priest by John-Francis Friendship

In the work of the Diocesan Vocations Team with those offering themselves for lay and ordained ministries in the Church, one of the things we discern is whether a candidate's vocation is 'obedient, realistic and informed'.

'Realistic' and 'informed' seem easy enough: it is often not a good start if a potential candidate confides that one of the things they most dread is going to church on a Sunday.

But 'obedient' is perhaps the hardest of those three things to unravel, especially for those exploring a call to ordination.

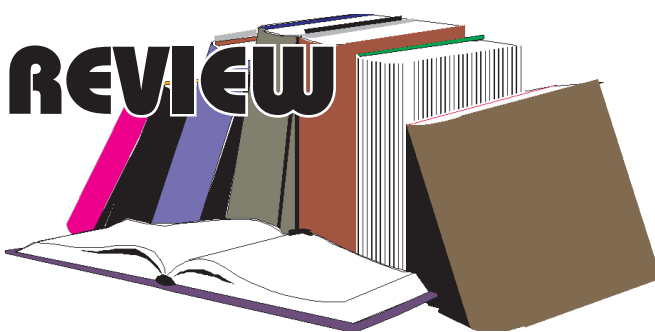
At the heart of the call to obedience is a perpetual listening to God that, far from narrowing our world, opens us up to endless possibilities. But this is something that requires a deep examination of our inner life and how well this is orientated towards God.

It is not a fashionable virtue, as it requires us to reflect on the heart of who we are, and the focus of our feelings and attitudes, rather than what we do.

In exploring a priestly vocation, therefore, understanding what a priest is holds as much significance as what a priest *does*.

With so many books available that speak of the

REVIEW



role of the priest in terms of function, task and ministry, it is very welcome to have alongside these the Revd John-Francis Friendship's new book *Enfolded in Christ: the inner life of a priest*.

Here is a work which tackles the 'being' rather than the 'doing' aspects of ordained ministry, and the often hidden interior life of the priest.

As the author so rightly observes, ministry can be experienced as an endless round of busyness and activity, to the neglect of prayer, contemplation, and spiritual growth with the result that physical exhaustion, depression and disillusionment can ensue.

Looking at the themes of confession, absolution and reconciliation; the ministry of the deacon; formation; prayer; the Daily Office; the Eucharist; developing a wholesome life; and discerning a personal vocation, the author delves richly into his considerable experience of spiritual direction, and his acquaintance with a diversity of spiritual writings, as well as his own journey of faith, to provide thought-provoking reflection and wise counsel, both for those who may be exploring a call to ordained ministry, and for those who have been living out this call for many years.

At the core of the book is a passionate call for priests to keep their gaze fixed on Jesus, and to understand that "Christ must be the heart of

the priest's heart".

This is challenging, not least as it invites us to recognise the sometimes uneasy truth that God calls us for who we are, not whom we would rather be. Ministry is the outliving of who we are, so that we can manifest the compassion and love of Jesus to the world which he became incarnate in humanity to redeem.

For John-Francis, this self-acceptance and knowledge of the awesome love of God in Christ is what will shape the character of the priest, such that they will be a blessing and an icon of Christ in the daily tasks and functions they are called to undertake.

Useful questions for reflection or discussion and spiritual exercises are provided in the book to help enliven this ongoing formation.

The Doctrine Tutor at my theological college used often to advise us that 80% of Christian discipleship is self-knowledge.

Enfolded in Christ: the inner life of a priest is a book that explains (often movingly) why. This is something which should apply not only to clergy, but to the whole people of God as we seek to deepen our common discipleship in Christ Jesus.

Small wonder then that, even in Classical literature, the Oracle at Delphi recognised that the greatest wisdom of all is to 'know thyself'.



CANTERBURY
cathedral

VOICE TRIALS

FOR BOYS AGED 7 & 8
10TH NOVEMBER 2018

ENQUIRIES ARE WELCOME AT ANY TIME

Substantial scholarships are awarded and choristers benefit from an all-round excellent education at St Edmund's School Canterbury.

The Master of Choristers, David Flood, is always pleased to meet and advise parents and their sons.

For further details please telephone

01227 865242

davidf@canterbury-cathedral.org



@No1Cathedral



'At the going down of the sun and in the We will remember'

World War I, which lasted from 28 July 2014 to 11 November 2018, shook the world. And, 100 years later, the country has spent the past four years remembering the sacrifice made by so many young men.

For most people now the First World War is not a lived experience; very few remain who were alive during those four years. As the heroes from WWI have died, people from their local communities and all over the country have gathered to bid them farewell and to thank them. Many of us will recall the stories recounted by Harry Patch, the plumber from Wells who became the last British survivor from the Western Front (he died aged 111 in 2009). More recently in 2012, the world's last surviving WWI veteran, Florence Green, died aged 110 at a care home in Norfolk; she had served in the Women's Royal Air Force.

The effects of WWI were nothing less than cataclysmic. The writings of poets such as Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon are still studied in our schools, sharing in a small way the experiences of the young men who gave their lives in what they thought would be "the war to end all wars".

During the past four years, too the works of Vera Brittain have been rediscovered following the release of a film of the first book of her memoir *Testament of Youth*, while another film adaptation of RC Sherriff's powerful *Journey's End* was released in February 2018.



Giving thanks

There have been many different schemes nationally to help local communities to remember WWI. The Royal British Legion's #ThankYou100 campaign asks us to say thank you all those who sacrificed so much in the war (<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/thank-you/>).

People are encouraged to share their thanks via social media, or to commemorate a fallen soldier on the Royal British Legion website – the aim being to remember every one of the one million Commonwealth servicemen and women killed during WWI.

There is an opportunity to remember a relative, a name on a local memorial or a person randomly allocated to you at <https://www.everyoneremembered.org/>.

An art installation by Sarah Arnett has also been travelling around the UK in support of the campaign. Launched on the South Bank of London

on 3 August, the installation consists of 8ft high letters spelling out the words 'Thank You' (above).

The front illustrates some of the many people involved in the war effort, from women making munitions to Indian infantrymen on the Western Front and war artists such as Paul Nash; the sides and back of the letters are white canvas, leaving space for people to write their own messages of thanks.

Preserving memorials

The War Memorials Trust has also been doing its bit by helping to preserve some of the 100,000 memorials in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man by offering grants of several thousand pounds to individuals wanting to look after their local memorial.

One of these was St Lawrence, Caterham, which received £1,470 to repair its Thomas Mewborn Crook-designed Calvary cross and plinth.

HOPE's Remembrance 100 campaign, meanwhile, has created a raft of resources to help churches to mark the two-minute silence on 11 November.

On 4 August the group also launched its 100 Days campaign, to mark the national day of prayer called by King George V on the same date in 1918. The hope is that people will commit to 100 days of prayer between then and Armistice Day – Bible readings, reflections and prayers with an introduction by Archbishop Justin are available from the website at <https://www.remembrance100.co.uk/>.

Bell-ringers in the Diocese will also be able to mark the centenary in their own unique way: on 11 November 2018, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country. Big Ben will also strike at 11am to mark the centenary. The campaign is being coordinated by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, and aims particularly

to remember the 1,400 bell ringers who lost their lives during the war (<https://a100.cccbr.org.uk/>).

Preparing for the Armistice

Another national initiative is the £40 million First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund, launched by the Government in 2014, which invited applications from Catholic and Church of England cathedrals to address urgent repair works.

The fund prioritised making buildings weatherproof, safe and open to the public as well as ensuring they would be in a safe condition to host acts of remembrance for the centenary of the Armistice in 2018.

Southwark Cathedral was awarded a total of £837,765 in three tranches from this Fund. This was for repairs to the roof, to help to dispose of rainwater which was damaging the fabric of the Cathedral, and for the repair of the quire roof and work on high-level masonry.

The work has now been completed, with the extra assistance of some private donations, and the stonework renewed.

Yet the project is not just a practical one: the WWI Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund has generated an enormous amount of publicity around the work of our cathedrals and provided an opportunity for our Dean to encourage people to come along to our churches.



The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn reflects on The Centenary and the Cathedral

What would it mean to commemorate World War I? How could we keep such a long period of remembering alive and active?

These were some of the thoughts that I remember having as we approached the beginning of the four years of commemoration back in the summer of 2014. 11 November

2018 seemed a very long way off – but now we are fast approaching it.

For many of us the commemoration began in the most amazing and memorable way when 888,246 ceramic red poppies were installed in the moat and down the walls of the Tower of London. *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*, as that installation was called, caught the public imagination.

So many people arrived in Southwark Cathedral after visiting the Tower full of admiration for what had been done. But more than that I think that all of us were staggered to see so graphically displayed the actual cost of the war in human lives. The sight of the lone figure of Her Majesty the Queen, walking among the poppies, was a powerful one.

Like many other people I applied for one of the poppies when the installation was dismantled and I was fortunate to get one. It has remained with me through these years as a reminder in the Deanery of the reality of what we were remembering.

My poppy represents just one life. It could have been a young lad, a member of one of the 'Pals Regiments'; it could have been a young officer, taken from his university studies, exercising hesitant leadership skills in an unknown and alien world. It could have been a serving soldier, a seaman, one of those early and brave pilots, someone who had signed up, eager to serve King and country. It could be any of these, a name unknown to me.

In the Diocese, in preparation for the

commemoration we were all encouraged to gather the names from our own war memorials and to send them into Trinity House.

Those names were collated and all of them have been prayed for in the Cathedral over the four years – every name we were sent has been spoken out loud and held before God. None has been forgotten. That has been a powerful witness, a solemn act of prayer.

Our own Cathedral war memorial in Borough High Street was completely restored during these four years and many of our war memorials have been spruced up for November. Cathedrals across the country have benefited from government grants to be ready for November. We ourselves have benefited from



morning them'

Written in stone

Key to this publicity have been the stone corbels commissioned by the Cathedral, working with the City & Guilds of London Art School. The four carvings tell something of the story of the Cathedral: one represents local suffragette Evelyn Sharp and commemorates the centenary of the Suffragette movement; another depicts the fruit and vegetables of Borough Market; the third represents the cathedral cat, Doorkins; and the fourth depicts PC Wayne Marques of the British Transport Police, recognising his heroism on the night of the terrorist attack at London Bridge in 2017.

The corbels were blessed during the Commemoration Service for the attack on 3 June 2018, and on 20 August a small gathering including PC Marques (photo left) and the Dean witnessed the installation of the first three.

Of them all, the Doorkins corbel has attracted a good deal of interest, after being covered in a BBC news report which went viral (find it on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffdTroxzhP8>). The purpose of the carving is not merely decorative but symbolic, as the Dean, Andrew Nunn, told the many reporters who asked him why Doorkins was so important. "I hope that when in the future people see the corbel of Doorkins and ask 'Why on earth is a cat here?' somebody will be around to tell the story of a little lonely stray cat who wandered into a church and found herself at home," he said. "And maybe they'll wander in and find themselves at home as well."

at initiative and all our roofs
ve now been replaced and
one work repaired so that the
urch building is watertight
d ready for these final acts of
mmemoration.

But the remembering
esn't end on 11 November
18; we continue to
member because we must
ver forget. Only 21 years
er the signing of the
mistice, Europe was at war
ain. In 2019 we will mark
e 80th anniversary of the
ginning of World War II.
We hadn't learned the lesson
WWI and I doubt that we
ve learned the lessons yet.
t the witness of Jesus and
e witness of the church
always for peace, with
stice. My hope is that these
ur years have helped us to
member so that not one of
ose who died, died in vain.

A memory in every community

Throughout the years since 2014 the Diocese and our churches have been commemorating the centenary of WWI. In 2014, the names of the Fallen from all the war memorials across the Diocese were collated and have been gradually prayed for ever since in Southwark Cathedral, as well as being listed in batches each month for more than two years in the monthly prayer calendar sent out to all parishes.

In that first year, there were many services of commemoration, art exhibitions, history projects and talks. There was even a *son et lumière* at Charlwood Church to remember the 62 men from the parish who died. Our churches came together with local organisations to remember the Fallen and the start of that long and terrible war.

A project started in 2014 by St Mary, Summerstown to research the stories of the 182 local men killed during the war has grown beyond expectations. The Summerstown182 group has written blog posts, given talks, worked with nine local schools and led 38 local walks. Now it is hosting workshops to make individual tributes to these 182 men in time for November. Read more at <https://summerstown182.wordpress.com/>

Holy Trinity, Eltham has marked Armistice Day every year since 1917 with a service in its Gallipoli chapel, which was dedicated to the men of the 29th Division who did not return to Britain. The memorial was the idea of Holy Trinity's then vicar, the Revd Henry Hall, who had taken leave from the parish to serve in the Dardanelles as a chaplain and never fully recovered from his experiences. In these centenary

History brought to life

"I'm very mindful of the anniversary," says Jeff Richards, Reader at St Barnabas, Sutton. And he has more cause to be than most, as he is part of a major restoration project being undertaken by church and community volunteers to restore St Barnabas' War Memorial Hall in time for a Festival of Remembrance on 10 November.

The hall has been out of action for 17 years, until a Community Fund Grant in February allowed the restoration to begin. Since then, the hall has been stripped back to its bones and carefully repaired.

Fixing the floor required shifting an amazing six tonnes of earth – and removing some unexpected asbestos tiles. The electrics remain to be done, and Jeff is hoping they will be complete in time for the civic service.

"We've been rushing to bring this building to life since February," he says.

And the work doesn't end there.

A team led by local historian Fiona Carey has been researching the biographies of the 146 names engraved on the western wall of St Barnabas' War Memorial Chapel, the only such chapel within the borough.

Fiona's work will feature at the Festival of Remembrance, where guests – including a representative of the Lord Lieutenant of London, Tom Brake MP and the Mayor of Sutton – will hear songs, poetry, music and stories relating to the Fallen of Sutton New Town. The service will end with an act of remembrance and a communal commitment to peace, and St Barnabas' own Remembrance Service will take place on 11 November.



years, Remembrance Sundays have a particular resonance.

Elsewhere, St James, Streatham centred its Act of Remembrance in 2017 around its unique war memorial (below), which lists those who were lost in WWI by the street in Furzedown on which they lived. And, earlier this year, the parish community of St Peter,

Streatham gathered together in July for the rededication of its own WWI memorial. (see page 13)

There will be plenty more tributes as Armistice Day grows closer.

Each church will be leading its own, and the Cathedral will hold a special memorial service at 3pm on 11 November.

**They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.**

From *The Fallen* by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in *The Times* newspaper on 21 September 1914.

Across the Diocese, and across the nation as a whole, people will unite in remembering this great sacrifice, and in praying that such a sacrifice is never required again.

The Commemorations will draw to a close throughout the country with church and civic ceremonies.

- The Bishop of Southwark will attend the 3pm memorial service at Southwark Cathedral.
- The Bishop of Kingston will attend a civic service at Kingston Parish Church on the morning of 11 November, before leading a special service in the afternoon at St Paul, Wimbledon Park.
- The Bishop of Croydon will be attending a civic service at Croydon Minster on the morning of 11 November.
- The Bishop of Woolwich will be attending the Lewisham Council Remembrance service at the Lewisham War Memorial on the morning of 11 November, and a rededication of Forest Hill Team Ministry's war memorial in the afternoon.

We want to hear your stories!
Please E-mail details of your centenary events to:
bridge@southwark.anglican.org,
or tag @SouthwarkCofE

There But Not There

Churches have also been involved in the *There But Not There* centenary campaign, led by the charity Remembered.

The hope is to commemorate the men named on war memorials across the country by placing a clear Perspex figure of a soldier in every community, where these men would have worked, lived and worshipped. The funds raised from the sale of the Perspex 'Tommy' figures will go to veterans' charities.

Remembered aims to:

- inspire communities to purchase and install silhouettes of their local Fallen wherever they are listed for the Armistice Period, 2018, and/or to buy a six-foot 'Tommy' figure for use in a public space at any time through 2018
- educate all generations about why these soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice
- raise very substantial funds to help heal those suffering from the hidden wounds of war.

Find out more about them at <https://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk/>





**SAVE
UP TO
50%**
AGAINST OFFICE
SUPPLIERS

**FAIRTRADE
& ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GOODS
AT EVERY DAY LOW PRICES**

**SWITCH
AND
SAVE**



FAIR TRADE & ORGANIC COFFEE AND TEA

ORDER ONLINE @
WWW.KINGDOMCOFFEE.CO.UK
01189 86 87 86

FRESH GROUND COFFEE
& ESPRESSO BEANS ROASTED WEEKLY
EVERY DAY FRESH TEA IN ANY QUANTITIES
INSTANT COFFEE
CHOCOLATE POWDER
100% BIODEGRADABLE & COMPOSTABLE CUPS
AND A LOT MORE

OPEN PRICING AND EXCELLENT SERVICE
FREE DELIVERY - NEXT WORKING DAY
ACCOUNT CUSTOMERS WELCOME



Meantime... in Greenwich

Historic sketch found in St Alfege files...

A centuries-old drawing by the man behind the Painted Hall has been discovered in St Alfege Church archives - thanks to the *Heart of Greenwich: Place and People* project funded by the National Lottery.

The 17th-century drawing by Sir James Thornhill, who decorated the Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College, was recently discovered in St Alfege Church archive boxes which were held on loan at Greenwich Heritage Centre.

Rebecca Parrant, St Alfege's newly appointed Heritage Engagement and Interpretation Manager, discovered the drawing tucked away in an



envelope containing more modern, unrelated documents.

Dr Richard Johns from the University of York, an expert on Thornhill and a member of the Old Royal Naval College Project Advisory Panel, said: "There's no doubt that the drawings are by Thornhill".

The document shows two sketches side by side, both framed by an arch supported by two flat pillars. The sketch on the left is titled *Fettering & tormenting St Elphage* and the right-hand drawing is titled *Death of St Elphage*.

Initial research suggests that these might have been early concept proposals for the chancel painting at St Alfege Church. The existing painting in the chancel has

been attributed to Thornhill's workshop.

Commenting on the discovery Vicar, Canon Chris Moody said: "We are very excited as it shows the skills of the craftsmen working in Greenwich and St Alfege Church during the re-building of the church by Hawksmoor".

Stuart Hopley, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund London, said: "I'm delighted that money raised by National Lottery players has helped to uncover this sketch by Sir James Thornhill.

"It is a fantastic addition to the 'Heart of Greenwich' project, which will illuminate the rich heritage of St Alfege Church for a wider audience".

...as the church reaches the climax of tercentenary celebrations

The celebrations marking 300 years of Hawksmoor's church will conclude with a series of special events in September.

The church reputedly marks the place where St Alfege was martyred in 1012. The original structure was rebuilt around 1290. During a storm in 1710 the medieval building collapsed, its foundations having been weakened by burials both inside and outside.

The present building was constructed to the designs of Nicholas Hawksmoor. It was begun in 1712 under the auspices of the 1711 Fifty New Churches Act. It was finished by 1714 but was not consecrated until 1718.

On Sunday 23 September, the rededication in September 1718 by Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, will be celebrated with a Sung Eucharist at 10am led by Bishop Christopher. It will be followed by a bring and share lunch and a community poetry event at 1.30pm.

On Wednesday 26 September at 7.30pm, Canon Chris Moody, Vicar of St Alfege, will give a talk about Bishop Atterbury. A controversial clergyman, he



led the high church revolt in Convocation that led to the Fifty New Churches Act.

Having later become Bishop of Rochester, he remained a critic of the Hanoverians and ended up in exile at the court of the Old Pretender in Paris.

The talk will explore the delay between the completion of Hawksmoor's new church and its dedication - allegedly caused by Queen Anne's death and a dispute over the

inclusion of the royal pew.

On Sunday 30 September at 7.30pm there will be a performance of Handel's *Esther* (1718) given by St Alfege Church Choir and Orchestra with guest soloists.

Tickets cost £18 & £12 and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-alfege-church, by E-mailing office@st-alfege.org.uk or on the door.

Calling all former pupils!

St John Baptist Primary School in Downham is reaching out to all its ex-pupils and friends.

Headteacher John Goodey writes:

The Alfred and Peggy Harvey Charitable Trust has provided funds to build a new library. Now the staff and families at the school hope to raise at least £15,000 to fully stock the new library with books.

The school has launched a fundraising campaign with the help of actors Prunella Scales and Timothy West.

At the launch, they delighted the children with readings from Shakespeare and a range of children's literature. The children responded by reciting the works of Edward Lear and Walter de la Mare.

Local MP, Heidi Alexander, shared a passage from Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant*



Peach and the Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn shared the story of Doorkins, the cat that lives in the Cathedral.



We want to reach out to our past pupils and families. I am sure there are many who would like to give something back that would really make a difference.

For example, a £10 donation will pay for a new book with a book plate inside acknowledging the donor. For £500, individuals and companies can sponsor a 'shelf' which will have a brass plaque acknowledging the sponsor.

The school will keep donors updated on progress through the Just Giving page, the website and through social media posts. I'd like to encourage everyone to post, share and tweet in order to get this message out into the community.



The Children's Society

No child should feel alone

Celebrate Christingle and show a child they are not alone this Christmas

Bring your church and community together to help a vulnerable child enjoy a first Christmas free from fear

To find out more or to order your free resources visit christingle.org

Collective Worship is an essential part of life at Reigate Parish Church Primary School

"We like learning about Jesus and God."

"It always tells a story that helps us to be better. We like singing and celebration assembly because you can be proud of people."

"I like the stories. I like to learn about the Bible. I like going up to the front to help." "I like that the teachers tell us about Jesus and stories from the Bible. I like class assemblies. I like the story of Noah and the ark."

Frances Davis, a Headteacher, writes

These are just some of the quotes from children in Reception to Year 3 about collective worship in our 2017 annual questionnaire.

We meet daily either as a whole school or in key stages. Every week children listen to assemblies from the headteacher, teachers, visiting clergy and other visitors. The assemblies follow a similar structure (gathering, engaging, input, responding, reflection) but the style of the person leading the assembly varies and this is enjoyed by everyone.

Some people use pictures, some utilise video, some rely on oral storytelling while others employ props. Whatever their style, they

are engaging, the message is clear and children leave with a greater understanding of God, Jesus, the Bible, society and themselves.

Collective worship links in with RE lessons, PSHE lessons and playing with friends at playtimes, plus children will make connections to their topics where they see the relevance. Our children talk with confidence about their own understanding of Christianity, faith and belief and have the self-assurance to make their own minds up and not to be swayed by parents, peers or school.

Reigate Parish Church Primary School, has a comprehensive collective worship rota which focuses on one of the school values each month and is annually reviewed by the headteacher and the vicar. The rota is circulated to everyone who leads worship so they understand the focus of their assembly and how this fits in with the other planned assemblies.

The vicar leads training annually for the teachers on how to structure their assembly, giving them the confidence to tease out the core Christian message through their delivery. A favourite assembly is the

Friday Celebration when two children from each class receive their celebration certificate for something of note they have done that week. Children bring in certificates of their achievements with external clubs and often we see swimming, gymnastics, football, skiing and Brownie certificates, medals or badges. Everyone gets a big clap at the end of the assembly.

Children equally enjoy active participation in assemblies. They are always encouraged to contribute their ideas to questions; to lead at the front the signs we use in the songs we sing; and to say, from the front, their own prayer linking ideas they have heard in the assembly. All children in the school have opportunities to help lead collective worship. They all have a class assembly where they showcase what they have been learning to the whole school and to their parents. This year, working with the headteacher, each half term children from each year group can lead, practice and deliver a whole school assembly on the value of generosity.

This is very popular and the children have to meet in their own time; work together to make decisions on the content of the assembly; practise their lines at home and rehearse



Assembly led by a teacher and with the children acting out the walls of Jericho falling down

their assembly several times so their presentation is polished.

Recently, after the Year 3 children led their assembly consisting of a puppet show, an explanation, prayers and a song, the children reflected on what they had learned, saying 'it is better to give than receive', 'generosity is a sign of kindness', 'it's nice to give to others', and 'it makes me feel happy when I give something to someone'.

In our annual whole school questionnaire we also ask parents, staff and governors their perceptions of collective worship. Their comments last year included:

"Collective worship is a warm, celebratory atmosphere. A chance for year groups to come together." (a parent).

"Collective worship is important and brings God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit's presence into the school. There has never been a time in history when I feel it is so important that we raise Kingdom Kids." (a parent).

Members of staff commented:

"Collective worship is an important part of the spiritual development of our children."

"I think collective worship gets better and better each year. I have learned so much, from the Christian values to stories from the Old Testament which I had forgotten about!"

"Collective worship is a chance to come together as a school, as a team and as a community" (a member of staff).

"Collective worship is highly valued here. Collective worship styles are varied, engaging and delivered well. The children have a strong knowledge of the Bible. The children enjoy collective worship"

Daily we see evidence of the impact of collective worship on children's lives (and that of our staff). They articulate precisely our school values, they can say how they are showing that value in action and explain its importance to them as individuals.

Final words on collective worship from the children:

"It is fun learning new things, we love the visitors who come and take assembly, and assemblies are all about how God loves us and we learn about Bible stories."

A unique opportunity to 'get up close' to a unique ceiling

Greenwich Old Royal Naval College is offering a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to 'get up close' to the historic Painted Hall ceiling via the scaffolding of the major conservation project taking place.

The work is due to end on 30 September and the scaffolding – including a special observation deck – will come down. Until then there is the facility to get within touching distance of the UK's largest painted ceiling and watch the conservators at work.

Book online or at the Visitor Centre and quote the code 'GROUP10' to get a 10% discount on the admission price (the code can be used by individuals as well as groups).

The Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich was commissioned by King William and Queen Mary and designed by Sir Christopher Wren to be a home for disabled Navy pensioners. The Painted Hall was to be their dining area.



The painted ceilings and walls were decorated by Sir James Thornhill to tell a story of political change, scientific and cultural achievements, naval endeavours and commerce illustrated by allegorical, mythological, historical and contemporary characters.

In January 1806 the Hall saw the lying-in-state of Admiral Lord Nelson enroute to St Paul's Cathedral following his death at the Battle of Trafalgar. For a hundred years from 1824 it housed the first National Gallery of Naval Art. When the last naval pensioners left the

site in 1869, it became home to the Royal Naval College, an officers' training academy and for many years the Painted Hall was the Officers' Mess.

With the departure of the Royal Navy in 1997, the Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College was established to conserve the buildings and grounds and to open its facilities to the public. Some parts of campus are leased to the University of Greenwich and to Trinity College of Music.

For more information visit <https://www.ornc.org/>

**CRE-new
CRE-imagine
CRE-vitalise**



16-18 Oct 2018
Sandown Park, Surrey
www.creonline.co.uk

Your one-stop shop for church supplies, resources and ideas

'They were a wall unto us, both by night and day'

The newly restored War Memorial at St Peter's Church Streatham was rededicated on 15 July. The rededication followed the Parish Mass at which Bishop Christopher celebrated and preached.

During the final hymn the servers, churchwardens, choir and congregation, led the Vicar, The Revd Peter Andrews, and the Bishop, to the Calvary War Memorial in the church grounds.

The memorial commemorating the Fallen of the World War I was originally dedicated in January 1922 by the Bishop of Kingston, the Rt Revd Cecil Hook.

It consists of a large teak cross and a brass figure of Christ standing atop a hexagonal stone plinth with the names of the dead. The inscription reads:

This memorial was erected in 1921 in grateful memory of the members of this parish and congregation who gave their lives for their country in the war 1914-1918

*May they rest in peace
They were a wall unto us, both by night and day*

By 2011, the effects of 90 years of wear and pollution had caused many of the names to erode. One of the faces containing names was illegible and other names were fading fast. The figure of Christ was showing signs of corrosion and whilst the teak cross was in good condition, cleaning was needed. Nevertheless in 2017 the War Memorial was designated as a Grade II memorial by Historic England. A War Memorial Restoration Fund was launched by Churchwarden Simon Launchbury that year, on Remembrance Sunday.

The sum needed for restoration was £9,360. The War Memorials Trust provided a grant for 75% of the

restoration costs. The balance was met by donations from The Streatham Society and members of the congregation.

The Christ figure was cleaned and waxed; the cross was cleaned and then coated with wood preservative. The roof was cleaned and repaired. The plinth was cleaned; cracks were filled and conservators restored the inscriptions.

During the act of Dedication conducted by Bishop Christopher, the names of the Fallen were read and then the last post played on the bugle. The poem, *For the Fallen*, by Laurence Binyon, which includes the famous verse... *'They shall grow not old...* was read by a senior member of the congregation, Margaret Francke.

While the choir sang the *Russian Kontakion of the Departed*, members of the congregation scattered sprigs of Rosemary (for Remembrance) at the foot of the memorial. The *Kontakion* was sung at the original

act of dedication in 1922.

A young member of the congregation, Ania Musat, read from Jeremiah Chapter 31 concluding with *"Blessed are the peacemakers"* to which the congregation responded: *"for they shall be called children of God."*

Among those present was Adrian Holdsworth, who had travelled from Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, for the event. One of his relatives, Godfrey Edward Holdsworth, killed in action in 1918 aged 30, is commemorated on the memorial.

At the conclusion, Bishop Christopher thanked the Revd Peter Andrews for the service and said that it was a "moving and fitting act of rededication".

Details of the restoration works and the fallen commemorated can be found on the website: www.stpeters-streatham.org

See 'We will remember them' - pages 8-9



Choose the UK's most trusted home insurer and we'll donate

£130

to your church

To celebrate our 130th anniversary, Ecclesiastical is offering to donate £130 to your church for every new home insurance policy taken out.*

To take advantage of this offer call **0800 783 0130** and quote **Trust130** or visit **www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130** for more information

*Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No.24869 is registered in England at Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ, UK and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority

When it feels **irreplaceable**, trust





September The Holy Land and WWI

The city of Jerusalem is built on seven hills.

We are very familiar with a couple of them – the Mount of Olives and Mount Zion – but others are perhaps less familiar to us. Amongst these is Mount Scopus. Located in a position from which you can look across to the Temple Mount, it's the home of the Hebrew University and also the British War Cemetery.

We are now in the final few weeks of the Commemoration of the First World War and fast approaching the centenary of the Armistice that brought hostilities to a close.

September 1918 saw the height of the war in the Holy Land. Battles were fought and land lost and gained, and in the process of which the 2,515 Commonwealth servicemen, who are buried in this War Cemetery, died.

The place looks like so many across France and Belgium, the neat lines of identical headstones, the names and regiments and ages recording who is buried there.

Neat mown grass suggests a place well looked after and the beautiful chapel becomes a cool and quiet sanctuary in a busy, noisy, hot city.

But what is particularly moving is to see on these British headstones so many Stars of David alongside those on which has been carved a simple cross.

War makes no distinctions between faith traditions and here, in these final battles, Jew and Christian fell alongside each other as comrades in arms and rest alongside each other in peace.

Perhaps we should pray verses from the psalms, scripture that unites both Jew and Christian, as we do casting ourselves upon the mercy of God.

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121: 1-2



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

Combating loneliness in later life - how can the Church help?

Nearly half (49%) of all people aged 75 and over live alone. And nearly a quarter (24%) of pensioners do not go out socially at least once a month, according to research for the Department of Work and Pensions. Age UK says that almost a million older people in the UK will go for a month without talking to anyone.

Many urban areas today lack a sense of community, which can contribute to people feeling anonymous and socially isolated. Loneliness is not an experience confined to older people, but this group is the most likely to experience a combination of factors, such as bereavement and reduced

SAGE Southwark Spirituality and Age Working Group

mobility, that can often result in an increased sense of loneliness and being cut off.

SAGE, the Diocesan working group focusing on issues that affect older people, is organising a session to explore ways to help combat loneliness in later life. In addition to looking at the findings of

current research on the issue, we will hear of work that some churches and deaneries in the Diocese are doing in response to this issue. If your church has ideas to contribute, please do contact SAGE at sage@southwark.anglican.org

The session will also be an opportunity to discuss how to develop further approaches that could help combat the loneliness many older people experience.

The session will be at Trinity House on Saturday 6 October (10am-1pm).

To book, E-mail: ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Things are 'looking up' on One Tree Hill

Since Canon Colin Boswell and the Revd Mark Hill arrived at St Augustine's, One Tree Hill (Honor Oak), the church has been transformed.

John Collett writes:

Hitherto neglected corners have been opened up and restored to their former glory. Flowers, regular deep cleaning and redecoration of the parish rooms has made it a much more welcoming place.

Congregations have been steadily improving and a number of initiatives have begun - notably the introduction of a Wednesday evening Eucharist and the formation of a small but enthusiastic choir led by renowned organist Marilyn Harper.

We have a thriving social side with a coffee morning every Wednesday during spring, summer and autumn, with cakes and savouries provided by our team of bakers. The money taken is split between the church and St Christopher's Hospice.

We also make weekly donations of food and essentials to Lewisham food bank.



The church has always had a great musical tradition. As well as our yearly pantomime, which helps not only the church but the Croydon outreach project for the homeless, we regularly host concerts by local groups including The One Tree Hill Orchestra, the Southwark Sinfonietta and a local choir, the Fairlawn Singers, who rehearse in the church.

The organ and piano are also available during the coffee mornings for budding

musicians to play. The parish rooms also host exhibitions by local professional and amateur artists.

So if you're in the area, particularly on a Wednesday or Sunday, why not pop in. You might be surprised. There's a lot going on at St Augustine's.

Photo (above) The Revd Mark Hill and Canon Colin Boswell with some of the Wednesday coffee morning team.

4 DAYS PER TERM IN LONDON, BIRMINGHAM OR BATH

MA

ADMISSIONS@FORMISSION.ORG.UK

0121 458 5240

FORMISSION.ORG.UK

Part-time over 3 years

3 study pathways

Campus for study near you

Student Loans available

ForMision's MA programme offers 3 study pathways resulting in one of the following awards:

MA MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP
MA MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP & SPIRITUALITY
MA MISSION LEADERSHIP & EUROPEAN STUDIES

Our innovative and practical masters programme is developed and taught by missional practitioners. We draw on missiology, sociology, psychology, leadership studies, theology and biblical studies to advance the students' knowledge and critical understanding of contemporary issues in mission.



CHURCH PEWS

UNCOMFORTABLE?

WHY NOT TRY SAFEFOAM'S TOP QUALITY UPHOLSTERED FOAM PEW CUSHIONS?

Safeoam, Green Lane, Riley Green, Hoghton, Preston PR5 0SN

www.safeoam.co.uk Freephone 0800 015 44 33
Free Sample Pack of foam & fabrics sent by first class mail
When phoning please quote SB0918

Travel Insurance

Arranged for Southwark Bridge readers
Real and friendly people... not machines!

Our insurance has a customer 24-hour helpline, full medical cover with most pre-existing medical conditions accepted and, most importantly, an air ambulance get you home service.

ANNUAL MULTI TRIP TRAVEL INSURANCE
UK, European and worldwide cover available
COVER FOR:- Atrial Fibrillation/Heart Conditions, Stroke, Cancer, Asthma, High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, Arthritis, Osteoporosis
PLUS many more - Please call for an individual quote

Conditions apply
Please call for details ~
0116 272 0500



Authorised & regulated by the FCA



St Columba's House Retreat and Conference Centre

Maybury Hill, Woking, Surrey, GU22 8AB



10 Meeting Rooms
31 Beds
Chapel and Oratory

01483 766498
www.stcolumbushouse.org.uk
admin@stcolumbushouse.org.uk

Registered charity in England and Wales No. 240675

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for
OCTOBER ONWARDS to Trinity House
BY MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

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
- * **CATERHAM** - Guided Tours of St Lawrence's Church, Sunday 23 & 30 September; 7 & 14 October - 3pm. Adm. £3. Children: free. Proceeds to church upkeep

- * **ELTHAM** - Sing with an orchestra. 3pm last Sunday each month (not Aug or Dec.) Eltham Pk Methodist Church
- † **HACKBRIDGE** - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month
- * **KEW** - Homemade cakes and teas. Sundays 3-5pm. 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, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers' Union last Saturday 2pm

September

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

- 2nd Erasmus of Rotterdam - Renaissance humanist, priest and theologian (Revd Martin Hayward)
- 9th Nicholas Ferrar - Jacobean scholar, courtier, businessman (Revd Peter Hewlett-Smith)
- 16th Carl Jung - Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst (Revd David Butlin)
- 23rd George Müller - Evangelist and carer for orphans (Heather Harris)
- 30th Thérèse Vanier - Doctor, founder of UK L'Arche Communities (Revd Michelle Edmonds)

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill

Thursday 1.10 pm: admission free, donations invited

- 6th Nadine Benjamin (Soprano)
- 13th Oliver Nelson (Violin) & David Way (Viola)
- 20th Max Neale (Piano)
- 27th Kyle Nash-Baker (Piano)

Saturday 15 September

- ♫ **EAST DULWICH** - Organ recital at St John's Church, 11am, by Richard Pilliner (St John's, Shirley): music by Dupré, Alain and Vierne. Admission free.

Sunday 16 September

- † **ADDISCOMBE** - Special service for anyone baptised at St Mary's Church. 10.30am All welcome, refreshments afterwards. Part of 150th anniversary celebrations.

Thursday 20 September

- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Organ Concert at St John's. 7.30pm. Carl Jackson, Chapel Royal, Hampton Court. Free Admission ~ Retiring Collection. sjunoffice@gmail.com www.sjun.org.uk

Saturday 22 September

- ♫ **BETCHWORTH** - Organ Concert at St Michael's. 4.00 pm. Richard Hills (St Mary, Bourne Street & Theatre Organist). Tickets £12, including glass of wine from 01737 843498 or on door. In aid of Church Funds.

- * **CROYDON** - Croydon MEACC Celebrates Young People in Croydon at the Archbishop Tenison's School 11am to 4 pm. Stalls & workshops, international food & drink; dance groups & music. All welcome. Adults £1, u/16s free.

Sunday 30 September

- ♫ **BLACKHEATH** - Stuart Townend and band, in concert at St Michael's, Blackheath Park 7.30pm. Only London event in a nationwide tour. Tickets £15 from <http://www.se3.org.uk/stuart-townend/>

October

Wednesday 3 to Sunday 14 October

- * **STOCKWELL** - St Michael's Arts Festival 2018 at St Michael's Church. Includes art exhibition, opera, concert, book launch. Details from www.stmaf.org

Saturday 6 October

- ♫ **BATTERSEA** - Mitsuko Uchida (piano) in concert at St Luke's Church 7.30pm. (Part of St Luke's Music Society 2018/9 season) Programme inc. Schubert Sonatas. Tickets: £24, £20 from the Box Office on 07951 791619

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill

Thursday 1.10 pm: admission free, donations invited

- 4th Reigate Grammar School
- 11th Godfrey Searle Choir
- 18th Peter Gould & Martin Hall (Piano Duo)
- 25th Chamber Music - Margaret Crutchfield (Clarinet), Daniel Emson-Jukes (Bassoon) & Jeremy Cooke (Piano)

Sunday 7 October

- † **FARLEIGH** - Harvest Songs of Praise - 3pm at St Mary's Church

Saturday 13 October

- * **WADDON** - St George's Church Annual Diversity Festival 11am to 4 pm. International stalls, music, food, workshops.

Wednesday 17 October

- ♫ **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group 4 to 5 pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. Spkr: Qaisra Khan on faith and wellbeing

Thursday 18 October

- ♫ **BATTERSEA** - St Luke's Church Annual debate NHS and Social Care - Where next? 7pm. Speakers include Gillian Morgan (NHS Providers), Gillian Norton, (St George's Hospital), Cllr Paul Ellis, Wandsworth Council. Chaired by Andrew Rawnsley. Tickets; £5 from www.stlukeschurch.org.uk
- ♫ **UPPER NORWOOD** - Organ Concert at St John's. 7.30pm. Christopher Herrick, Free Admission ~ Retiring Collection, www.sjun.org.uk

Monday 22 October

- ♫ **KEW GREEN** - Climate change: what can the church learn from the work of Kew Gardens? St Anne's Church, 7.45pm. Richard Deverell, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Brother Sam SSF Details from www.saintanne-kew.org.uk/kew-green/

Wednesday 31 October

- ♫ **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - Sacraments in the Community - liturgy in a home setting and in hospital e.g. confession, last rites, home communion. Spkr: The Very Revd Andrew Nunn. Details from www.praxisworship.org.uk



Southwark Black History Month

70/70 Vision History, Story, Legacy Tales of Windrush and Beyond

Saturday 6 October at Southwark Cathedral

Thanksgiving Service 10.30am-12noon

Afternoon Workshops

RSVP: marlene.collins@southwark.anglican.org

November

Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's, Redhill

Thursday 1.10 pm: admission free, donations invited

- 1st David Elwin (Piano)
- 8th Dunottar Chamber Choir
- 15th Chloe Barnes (Oboe)
- 22nd Alionor Trio - Ioana Voicu-Arnavoiu (Violin); Alan Thomas (cello) & Norman Macsween (Piano)
- 29th Giulia Semerano & Filippo di Bari (Piano Duo)

Saturday 17 November

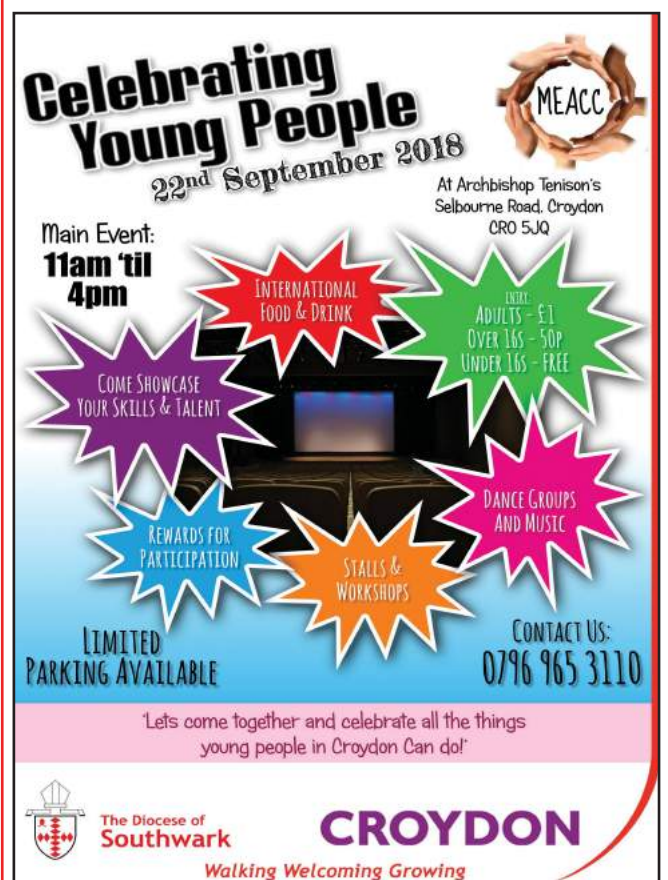
- * **LINGFIELD** - The Friends of The College of St Barnabas Autumn Fair. 10am- 12noon at the College. Adm £1 (lucky programme). Coffee, stalls, raffle and fun! All welcome!

Wednesday 21 November

- ♫ **WESTMINSTER** - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group -4 to 5 pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. Spkr: Bishop John Sherrington

Saturday 24 November

- ♫ **BATTERSEA** - Festival Chorus in concert at St Luke's Church 7.30pm. Tickets: £14, £18 from 07951 791619



Celebrating Young People

22nd September 2018

At Archbishop Tenison's Selbourne Road, Croydon CR0 5JQ

Main Event: **11am 'til 4pm**

Activities include:

- INTERNATIONAL FOOD & DRINK
- COME SHOWCASE YOUR SKILLS & TALENT
- REWARDS FOR PARTICIPATION
- STALLS & WORKSHOPS
- DANCE GROUPS AND MUSIC

Admission: **ADULTS - £1 OVER 16s - 50p UNDER 16s - FREE**

LIMITED PARKING AVAILABLE

CONTACT US: **0796 965 3110**

"Let's come together and celebrate all the things young people in Croydon Can do!"

The Diocese of Southwark **CROYDON**
Walking Welcoming Growing

Bishop opens new hall at Redhill's oldest church

St John the Evangelist Church, Redhill, opened its new community building on Saturday 7 July – a quarter of a century after it was first thought about.

Bishop Christopher officially opened the £2.3 million building next to St John's

Church, Redhill's oldest church after he and Bishop Jonathan had ordained two deacons as priests there - the Revd Dr Stephen Srikantha of St John's and the Revd Mark Anderson from the Oxted Team Ministry.

The new centre has a kitchen and main hall, which hosted its first wedding reception just a week later for two parishioners of St John's. There is a performance space, music

rehearsal room, a youth den, a prayer space and parish office. The exterior of the building has been constructed in the same stone as the church itself, which was built in the 1840s.

The Revd John Kronenberg, Vicar of St John's, said: "A lot of hard work has gone into making sure this building came to fruition, from conceiving the idea 25 years ago, to gaining planning permission and fundraising - and not least in

the last six months to fit it out inside, so that it can be used to carry out our mission by having a wonderful space for our community work".

To celebrate the opening, the church has held a series of events across the Summer including Heritage Open Days on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September.

For further details visit <https://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk/>



Holiday at home - A 'Wonderland' of fun...



A Mad Hatter's tea party was the climax of Mortlake with East Sheen's Holiday at Home week at the start of August for the elderly and lonely.

Each day up to 20 guests enjoyed a range of activities with an Alice in Wonderland theme, ranging from singalongs to a Queen of Hearts tart-making session.

In 2014 the parish saw the need for an activity for older or lonely people. Since then they have been running a week of activities, fun and good food

for people who, through age or other personal circumstances, could not get away on holiday.

The week is hosted at All Saints, East Sheen but helpers join from across the three churches and guests come from across the local community. Local shops, charities and other organisations support the event financially or donate food and gifts.

This year's Alice in Wonderland theme sprang from an idea to have a Mad Hatter's tea party on the final Friday afternoon, with guests and volunteers dressing up. Most guests sported hats, a

Cheshire Cat and a dormouse in a teapot appeared on the table, and large playing cards were used as place-mats (and tickets to a raffle in which everybody won a prize).

The Lewis Carroll theme was broadened into the whole week's activities, which included a daily quiz, greeting card making, flower arranging, singalongs, tart and muffin making, chair exercises, a play reading (Alice in Wonderland, naturally), poetry reading and writing, plenty of games, plus a fiendish 1,000-piece Alice jigsaw.

Hosting the event was Christ Church Vicar, the Revd David Guest, who rose to the challenge of dressing up in Alice in Wonderland-themed outfits every day – thankfully, nobody yelled "off with his head!"

David said: "It has always proved a popular event, Next year we are aiming to open the event to more people. Several of this year's guests have already signed up!"

For more information visit the blog www.southwarkcofe.tumblr.com

Comments heard during the week included:

"This is the first time I've been and I've loved every minute of it."

"I like to have the chance and leisure to talk to people."

"I've enjoyed everything, especially the music. Music every day next year please."

"I have liked mixing with other people (like the volunteers), playing games, singing and doing flowers."

"It's a pity it's only once a year."

"Put my name down for next year."

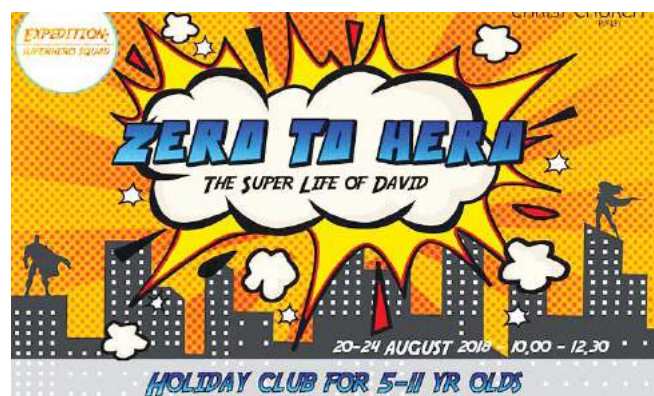
"This is how it should be: people talking to each other."

"I feel as if I have come alive again."



PLUS - 'Zero to Hero' in Purley and 'Summer at the Movies' in Reigate

'Zero to Hero', Christ Church Purley's Holiday Club transported the youngsters to Superhero HQ to follow the incredible story of David, to discover God's amazing gifts and to learn how they all could do amazing things for him. Not surprisingly, it was fully booked!



HOLIDAY CLUB GOES TO THE MOVIES
AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Reigate welcomed 100 people to spend time together at 'Holiday at Home' and over 200 children and 100 helpers at the Holiday Club - which was fully booked by the end of May! They 'tweeted' a huge thank you to all those that came and to all the volunteers.



During the lunchtime Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral on Monday 20 August, the 29th anniversary of the sinking of the Marchioness pleasure boat, people gathered round the memorial in the nave to pray for the 51 victims of the disaster and remember them by name.

Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the Marchioness disaster. An announcement will be made in the new year as to how that event will be commemorated.