

Built to last

Southwark church wins building competition

See page 5



A new normal

Four-page special on reopening our churches

See pages 6-9



Fond farewell

Stephen Roberts gets ready for retirement

See page 12



Southwark supports Black Lives Matter

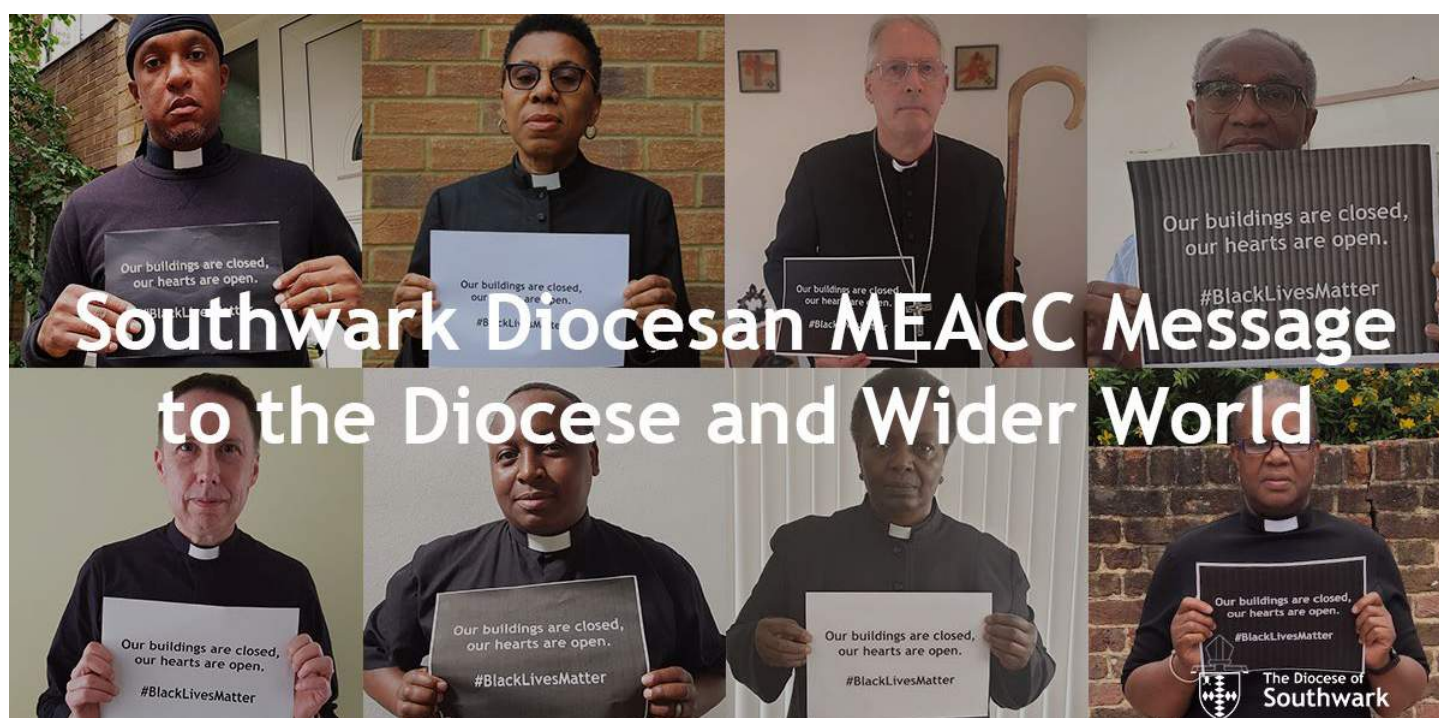
“Our buildings are closed, our hearts are open. #BlackLivesMatter.”

Those were the words shared on social media in early June by Bishop Christopher, Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett and chairs of the three Episcopal Areas' Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committees (MEACC) in response to the killing of George Floyd in the US.

Rosemarie said: “As a Diocese, we wanted to respond to the outpouring of anger at the injustice of the George Floyd murder and the virus of racism that underlies that situation with a gesture which was prophetic and not tokenistic, and spoke to our Diocesan Vision of valuing all people.”

Bishop Christopher added: “We wanted to stand in solidarity with those who are lamenting, praying, and protesting about the death of George Floyd in Minnesota.”

The Revd Cordella Dawson of St Luke, Woodside, has recorded an audio version of Andrew Nunn's prayer in support of #BlackLivesMatter. Listen at southwark.anglican.org/news/dailyprayer



From left, top row: the Revd Darius Weithers; the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett; Bishop Christopher; Michael Phillips. From left, bottom row: the Revd Patrick Eggleston; the Revd Stanley Njoka; the Revd Funke Ogbede; the Revd Cordella Dawson.

Priests and parishioners take the knee at St Peter, Walworth

Bishop Christopher joined the Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby and parishioners from St Peter, Walworth on 8 June to mark the death of George Floyd.

In an act of remembrance, Andrew, the Bishop and children and staff from St Peter CofE Primary School knelt for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time a police officer knelt on George Floyd's neck as he died.

Andrew said: “This was an act of lament for this awful event, of solidarity with people of colour everywhere, of prayer for the repose of the souls of all people of colour

who have died in police custody in the UK and in the US, and of quiet protest against the racist structures of the Church of England and of our Government as revealed in the Windrush scandal.”

Windrush connection

St Peter's was also the venue for the National Online Church service on 21 June commemorating Windrush Day. Andrew led the service, as well as a one-minute silence to lament the racism experienced by the Windrush generation.

He recalled one such incident from St Peter's own history, when a BAME family



Taking the knee: the Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby (right) and Bishop Christopher (above).

was denied entry to the church by the Rector at the time. “They eventually found a full welcome here at St Peter's,” said



Andrew. “But that racism is a stain on the soul of our Church.”

He went on to call on all members of the Church to “work hard and work urgently” to end racism in the institution today.

For more on Black Lives Matter and Windrush Day, see page 10

A view from The BRIDGE



As we begin to see the road ahead to opening our churches for public worship, many of us will be wondering what is next in the roller-coaster of change that each of us has experienced during the past three months.

One impact of COVID is that we will continue to be challenged by the financial issues which face our parish and Diocesan finances, so I have been rather focused on this during this time. However, I am also so pleased that the ministry of Stephen Roberts, the outgoing Deputy Diocesan Secretary and former Archdeacon of Wandsworth who retires next month, is celebrated in this edition (see page 12). Stephen is such an example of God-centred service, and it has been a privilege to have worked alongside him.

At home I usually have open house for my family, so whilst the garden has been dreadfully empty of grandchildren a fox has taken up residence. I have tuned into Night Prayer at the Cathedral most nights – so encouraging. My church has also had online services and coffee Zooms. When I am in church I am usually doing things instead of stopping for coffee, so I have learned much more about some of my fellow congregants.

We all know how much we benefit from the blessings of faith, and of each other as members of a church family – how might we take this forward in these tumultuous times?

We must pray especially for our parish clergy and Churchwardens as they – you! – plan the route to reopening our sacred spaces for worship (see pages 6-9). I pray that we will be even more attuned to going out as disciples to serve and encourage those in our communities

whom we have come to know and respect in a new way.

The challenge and opportunities this presents us as Church are huge. We are beginning to come to terms with the enormity of the difficulties for our education system, NHS, care homes, and our priorities as a society with a duty of care to the most vulnerable.

Our appreciation for those on the front line during the pandemic has led us to question our attitudes to poorer, hard-working, risk-taking service providers, so often our Black, Asian and minority ethnic brothers and sisters.

The pandemic is not only affecting us now, but is redrawing our priorities for the future. Whether your passions are more for the care of our environment as we have celebrated a less polluted living space, or the aching food poverty we know we are surrounded by, or the anger of young people who will bear so much of the burdens from the impact of COVID on our world and local economies, we know that, for God, each matters intensely.

As worshipping communities, as individuals, as a Diocese, the challenge is how to be Christ-centred and outward-focused as we look to the future. We can be reassured by some of our brothers and sisters around the Diocese in this edition of *The Bridge*, serving in faith and hope and love to others: volunteers in our churches sustaining their communities, and preparing to take the next important steps.

Sometimes it is in the shortest sayings of Jesus that we can hold on to whatever we are facing: "Peace be with you"; "do not be afraid"; "I am".

Ruth Martin

Bishop Christopher welcomes new chaplain

Bishop Christopher has appointed the Revd Dr Alun Ford (right), Priest-in-charge of Fen Ditton, Horningsea & Teversham and Honorary Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, to be his Chaplain.

Alun will take up his post on Sunday 2 August. His predecessor, the Revd Joshua Rey, will become Vicar of Holy Trinity, Roehampton in the autumn.

Alun studied for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge, and has a BA in Theology and Religious Studies from the University of Cambridge as well as a BA in English Literature from the University of Exeter. He also has an MA in American Cultural Studies from Exeter and an MA in Information Services Management from the University of North London. He read for his PhD in the University of Manchester.

He was ordained Deacon in 2011 and Priest in 2012, and served his curacy at St George and St Hilda in the Diocese of Newcastle. Prior to ordination he worked as an academic librarian in the University of London.

Commenting on his appointment, Dr Ford said: "I am very excited about



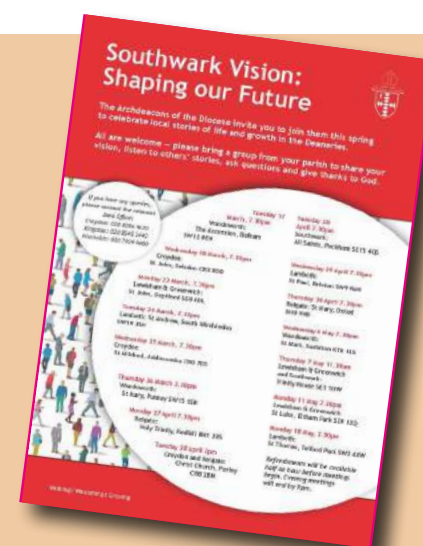
coming to the Diocese of Southwark, with all its diversity and vibrant, imaginative faith. It will be a privilege to work with Bishop Christopher and his team."

Bishop Christopher added: "I am delighted that Alun Ford has agreed to become my new Chaplain. I have been grateful for the gifts each of my chaplains have brought to the role. Alun is a gifted and experienced priest who will bring a wide range of parish experience, both urban and more rural, which will enable him to understand the challenges and great diversity of this Diocese."

Parish Support Fund 2021 launches

We are aiming to send out Parish Support Fund materials in digital form in mid-July. They will be sent to Incumbents, PCC Secretaries and Treasurers, so please watch out for these in your e-mails.

There is also a new online form for parishes to use to make pledges which will hopefully make the pledge submission process easier for all.



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The SEPTEMBER edition is due to be published online on 1 September 2020. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S Robins by e-mail by **MONDAY 17 AUGUST**.

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

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

Southwark marks anniversary of London Bridge attacks



Despite lockdown, Southwark Cathedral was able to mark the third anniversary of the London Bridge terrorist attacks with a virtual memorial service and contributions from the relatives of some of those killed that night in June 2017.

The service was led by the Dean, Andrew Nunn (above). Reflections came from Isabel Echeverría on behalf of her brother, Ignacio Echeverría; James Hodder on behalf of his partner, Kirsty Boden; and Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.

Cllr Peter John, leader of Southwark Council, read the lesson. The Youth Choir from Bede House, a charity based in Rotherhithe, sang the anthem *Stronger*, which has also been recorded by clients of Bede House to raise money for domestic abuse victims.

Andrew began the service by remembering the eight people who lost their lives on 3 June 2017, as well as the

48 people injured and the many others who were mentally and emotionally scarred that evening. He referenced, too, the attack outside Fishmongers' Hall in November 2019, which, he said, had for some in the community "opened old wounds".

He went on to talk of the olive tree which was planted in the Cathedral churchyard on the first anniversary of the attack, and the words written around its base: "The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations," adding, "those words are as true today as they were back then."

Later, prayers were said in front of the Cross of Nails, dedicated to victims of violence, and wreaths were laid at the base of the olive tree by representatives from the British Transport Police, Bishop Christopher on behalf of Borough Market and Amir Eden on behalf of the local community.

Find a recording of the memorial service at: bit.ly/LBMemorial

Furzedown shocked by loss of "pastorally gifted" priest

Julie Connell, a self-supporting minister at St Paul, Streatham, has died after a short illness. She is remembered here by the Revd Canon Sue Clarke, Team Vicar in the Furzedown Team Ministry.

Julie was born in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Educated at Oxford University in German and French, she spoke many European languages fluently and worked in several countries outside Britain before returning to the UK. After maternity leave, Julie worked full-time for 18 years as PA to the principal of Ernest Bevin School, a large secondary school in Wandsworth.

Julie, right, was an active church member, sharing in lay leadership. She completed the Bishop's Certificate Course in Theological Study in 2001 and trained as a spiritual director in 2003-2004. She was called to ordained ministry in 2005, completed OLM training in the Diocese of Southwark and was ordained in 2008. She served at Christ Church, North Brixton before moving to St Paul's in Streatham.

Julie was due to be licensed as Team Vicar to St Paul's on 1 June, the day she died. Bishop Richard, who conducted Julie's funeral on 24 June, said: "Julie was a deeply pastoral and thoughtful priest who served the church of St Paul's in the Furzedown Team. Her ministry was much appreciated. My deep sympathy and prayers are with her husband, Graham, all her family and friends, and the community of St Paul's whom she served so well. May she rest in peace and rise in glory."

During her time at St Paul's, Julie regularly led worship, presided and preached at the Eucharist and shared in the leadership of the Pilgrim Course series. She and her husband, now a licensed Reader,



led an Alpha course which was much appreciated. She also served on Deanery Synod and was elected to Diocesan Synod in 2019. At a Diocesan level, Julie was the Spiritual Director of the Southwark Anglican Cursillo prayer and spiritual study movement, and was actively involved in Diocesan and national meeting planning.

Julie was a dedicated priest, pastorally gifted, deeply prayerful and much loved. Her sudden collapse and death has shocked everyone and she will be greatly missed. John Kiddle, her Archdeacon, said: "Julie's death has deeply saddened and shocked all who knew her and worked with her. She was an outstanding priest in whom faith, hope and love was lived with an consistent reality and an ever-present, infectious smile."

As well as her husband Graham, Julie leaves her three children, Rupert, Jonathan and Natasha.

"I care passionately about SPA ministry"; Wendy Stephens appointed as new Diocesan SPA

Bishop Christopher has appointed Wendy Stephens, who is a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA) at HMP Wandsworth and All Saints, West Dulwich and the Lambeth Archdeaconry SPA, to be the new Diocesan SPA. She succeeds Gerie Knights who retires as Diocesan SPA in October.

The Diocesan SPA is a member of the Lay Council of the Diocese and will work with Bishop Christopher and the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, to establish the new SPA Advisory Group.

Commenting on the appointment, Bishop Christopher said: "Wendy Stephens has a great deal of



experience working as a SPA both at Wandsworth Prison and in her home parish. She has much to contribute to the development of lay ministries in the Diocese and will continue to be an asset to the

Lay Council upon which she already serves. I look forward to working with her in this new stage of the Diocesan journey as we seek to further encourage lay vocations."

Wendy Stephens added: "I am delighted and honoured to have been asked by the Bishop to take over from Gerie Knights as Diocesan SPA. My thanks to her for all the support and encouragement she has given me since I was commissioned in 2014. I care passionately about SPA ministry and believe lockdown has proved that the many gifts our SPAs have are invaluable to parishes and beyond in places like hospitals and prisons."



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or contact Biddy Taylor (above)



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

St Mildred, Addiscombe choir to “visit” Guildford



St Mildred, Addiscombe Choir outside Guildford Cathedral in 2019 (taken before social distancing measures came into force). © Nigel Davey

For the choir at St Mildred, Addiscombe, the restrictions of lockdown have not meant falling silent – or even forgoing their annual choir trip.

Through the magic of Zoom, a house organ and a lot of hard work, Director of Music at St Mildred's, Richard Mander, has helped the choir to stage an Easter programme of music and they have now also signed up to a summer guest slot at Guildford Cathedral.

The “virtual” trip came about when Richard was browsing Facebook and saw

“The first recording was a bit of a trial for all of us, but I think when people heard the end result they were more confident”

a request from Guildford Cathedral's Master of the Choristers, Katherine Dienes-Williams, for virtual visiting choirs over the summer. “We actually went to Guildford last year so we have a good link with the place anyway,” he said. “I just thought that, for those of us whose trips have been cancelled this year, it was a nice thing to do.”

It is not a small undertaking: “We have to put together a Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei, three hymns, a motet and a psalm. So it's quite a challenge! But everyone was up for it,” said Richard.

Producing the music is a meticulous business. First, Richard videos himself conducting the piece, then plays it back and accompanies himself on the organ. “Basically I put together a backing track,” he said. “I'm lucky enough to have a house organ so I can do an organ accompaniment at home.”

This backing track is then sent to each of the choir's 28 members, who play it back over headphones while they video themselves singing their parts. Richard then stitches these together using music editing software.

“It is time-consuming but it's been fun to do,” he said. “The first one was a bit of a trial for all of us, but I think when people heard the end result they were a little bit more confident by the second time.”

The Gloria will be from Richard Shephard's Addington Service, with the Sanctus, Benedictus and Angus Dei from Herbert Sumsion's Communion Service in F. “I've tried not to be overly challenging. I want to put something together that's really good,” said Richard.

Continuing with the choir in lockdown has been a morale boost, Richard added, not just for the choir members themselves but for the parish as a whole. “We've been really well supported,” he said. “It's a hugely important part of St Mildred's life, the music and the choir.”

St Mildred, Addiscombe's choir will feature in Guildford Cathedral's online service on 26 July. Find it here: www.guildford-cathedral.org

The harder they fall: virtual assemblies in Wandsworth



Pictured: youth worker Sam Benjamin acting as David in one of St Michael, Wandsworth's video assemblies

“It's just been a real blessing to be able to bring some of God's words, some of God's love to schools at a time where they're all locked down.”

That is what Sam Benjamin, Children and Youth Minister at St Michael, Wandsworth Common, said about the video assemblies he has been sharing with three local schools during lockdown. “We usually offer assemblies to a few schools around our parish, and we really wanted to continue to connect with these children. So we began recording, not knowing whether anyone would use them or not, and they just went down a real treat,” said Sam.

Sam and the Revd Tif Ewins record themselves on Zoom, aiming to be as creative as possible. The still above, for example, is taken from Sam's assembly on David and Goliath.

“You can change the backgrounds on Zoom, so I played David, who's this crazy, fast-talking boy, and Reverend Tif was Goliath, this arrogant and yet defeated giant,” said Sam. The takeaway message? Slaying the giant of racism, and “what stones we can use to bring down that giant: love, respect, the things that we've already been taught in school.”

One day, two pilgrims, three Episcopal Areas and 14 miles

Monday 9 March saw two intrepid walkers set off from the Croydon Episcopal Area Office in St Peter's Road, Croydon, to walk 14 miles to Southwark Cathedral, writes Ray Wheeler, Warden of Readers.

I wanted to undertake my own pilgrimage for Lent and at the same time raise some funds for the Bishop's Lent Call. One of our church members, Andrea Cordery, provided company for the walk. I realised that our journey took in the three Episcopal Areas.

The first stop was at St Michael & All Angels, Croydon, where we were welcomed by the Incumbent. Continuing along the London Road we called in at Christ Church, Croydon, and then at St Stephen, Norbury and Thornton Heath, where we were plied with refreshments.

Immanuel and St Andrew, Streatham provided a photo opportunity with Dr Marion Gray, their Reader. Then a warm welcome from the Revd Hayley Argles-Grant, Assistant Priest at St Leonard, Streatham. We ate our picnic lunch in the kitchen of Bishop's House, before trekking along Streatham High Road to Christ Church, Streatham.

The view of our destination came into focus as we reached the top of Brixton Hill with the Shard in the distance and



Ray Wheeler and Andrea Cordery at St George, Borough High Street (taken before social distancing measures came into force).

then we knew Southwark Cathedral was only a short distance away.

Another refreshment stop at St Matthew with St Jude, Brixton, and a chance to give thanks to God for our journey so far in its wonderful side-chapel. Then photo-stops at Christ Church, Brixton Road, St Mark, Kennington, and St Mary, Newington. We were near journey's end and a warm welcome at St George the Martyr, Southwark, awaited us. A brief hello at Trinity House, before arriving at the Cathedral in time for Choral Evensong.

St Edward, Mottingham, wins housing competition

A project aiming to provide social housing and revamped facilities at St Edward the Confessor, Mottingham is one of a handful of winners in the Innovative Built Solutions competition, run by the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Commission on Housing, Church and Community and funded by Allchurches Trust.

The prize is several days’ consultation with specialist housing consultant LivShare. The Revd Dr Catherine Shelley, Incumbent of St Edward’s, said her parish’s plans

“Throughout history, churches have provided shelter to those who need it, from almshouses to Christian housing associations”

were at an early stage, but that this advice would be helpful in moving the project forward and possibly attracting funds. The project first of all involves developing the interior of the church to have more toilets and kitchens. “We’ve got active plans for this and we are going through the faculty process for it. Then we can

use the church for community activities as well, and things that are currently happening in the hall can migrate into there,” Catherine said. She added: “That then frees us to redevelop the hall site, probably with some additional community space there so that in due course we would have two venues, and then we would have flats built on top of the hall as part of that new development, so it would be a combined community and housing development.” Ultimately, St Edward’s is aiming to provide up to 25 affordable flats. It also hopes to redevelop its vicarage and attached land to create three to four large family homes. The competition win is a welcome boost to St Edward’s, after previous plans ran into difficulties in 2015. “The hope was that the development of the hall would deliver the funding to do the church bits and that just wasn’t stacking up financially,” Catherine said. “So there was a sense that things had hit the buffers, really.” Since then, St Edward’s has focused on core priorities: heating, secondary glazing and making the church roof secure. Now, with the support of the Diocese and the



St Edward the Confessor, Mottingham, taken in November by project architect, Alun Jones of Dow Jones Architects.

Housing Commission, they hope that they can move their plans forward to the benefit of the community. “We are very much hoping we can get the figures to stack up to get the partners involved to make it social housing,” Catherine said. “A lot of people in this area are in low-paid work, and really in need of somewhere they can get their foot on the housing ladder as renters to start with.” The Commission’s vice-chair, The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, said: “The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Housing Commission seeks to enable churches to play their part in responding to the housing crisis, while asking the

Government and others to work with us to create real change. “Throughout history, churches have provided shelter to those who need it – from almshouses to Christian housing associations. The winners of *Innovative Built Solutions* will build on this heritage in our day.” The Commission’s lead for Local Church and Community, the Revd Lynne Cullens, said: “It’s been really inspiring to see the imaginative and innovative ways churches are seeking to meet the need for affordable housing in their contexts. “We are delighted that this competition has resulted in at least six successful exemplar projects being developed across the country.”

Reigate Grammar School transforms into drive-through food donations centre



More than 200 families drove through the playground of Reigate Grammar School on 23 April, after the school was turned into a food donations hub by St Matthew, Redhill Food Bank and Loveworks. In total, three minibuses were filled with food and other essentials, with donations pouring in from staff, parents, current and former students from 9.00am until 5.00pm. Many of these donors had collected supplies from multiple households in their street or from classmates’ families. Others delivered their donations on foot.

The operation was staffed by volunteers from Redhill and Reigate Mutual Aid, a group set up by local Susan Gregory in response to the Coronavirus crisis, as well as staff and ex-students from the school and food bank volunteers. Social distancing was maintained at all times. Liz Wheeler from St Matthew’s Food Bank who came up with the idea, said: “A big thank you to the school for being the first to pilot the scheme. The response has been overwhelming. These much-needed donations will make a huge difference to food bank clients who are struggling at this very difficult time.”

St James, Bermondsey honours the victims of Grenfell



On Sunday 14 June, Edward Gormley tolled the tenor bell at St James, Bermondsey half-muffled, 72 strokes and 72 echoes, in remembrance of the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire, on the third anniversary of the tragedy. The clock in the background of the photograph is showing 6.00pm, the time that Edward began ringing.



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Returning to our churches

Get ready for the new normal

As our churches are gradually re-opening for private prayer and public worship, we have asked the Venerable John Kiddle and the Revd Canon Jay Colwill to share their thoughts around what the new “normal” in church will look like. To the right, Jay uses the Cathedral as an example of what churches may want to think about in terms of balancing online and “in-person” services, while, below, John also offers some thoughts on how to approach this.

There are many questions to be considered at this stage, so over the next four pages you will also find some practical help on what needs to be done to meet Government and Church requirements, as well as hearing about what some of our parishes have done. Do let us know how opening works for you, if you are able to open and, if you are not able to at present, do please let us know what you are doing so that we can share your experience too!

As we gradually and tentatively emerge from the restrictions of lockdown it is worth taking time to reflect on what we have experienced and observed, and what we might be learning, writes the Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth.

That process of observation, reflection and learning is an important one and one that takes time. It's a process we can all take part in. It's a process in which, as we listen to one another, we will also find we are listening to God.

To get us started, here are some questions which have emerged from some of the observations that people have shared

Attendance

Many churches have reported significantly higher online attendance than normally expected in church on a Sunday. This is encouraging and indicates a large number of people who are interested in engaging with prayer and worship. Online Alpha courses are also attracting large numbers. How might we continue and develop this wider engagement?

However, it is also clear that a “view” for a recorded service YouTube might represent only a moment's engagement. Is God inviting us to ask what it really means to attend a service? How might we all pay closer attention to the presence of God

in worship? How can we better attend to others in our prayer and discipleship?

Inside out

Perhaps online services have turned things a little inside out. One priest reports that some “regular” attenders have taken a bit of a sabbatical while many who don't usually come to church on Sunday morning are enjoying and entering into the online service.

We talk about God being there for those “on the edge”; perhaps this is an example of that working out in practice. It's often too easy to think of “the fringe” as people we need to “get into church”, or even rope onto the PCC. Might it be that God is inviting us to change our perspective, showing us a wider community full of interesting and interested disciples?

Local and global

Online services can be accessed by someone living in Balham or in Brisbane. Several churches have collected regular attenders from across the world. This is exciting, especially where people have been able to renew old connections. Like the virus itself, many of the matters that we seek to address are global, not least the racism and injustice brought into the light again by Black Lives Matter.

“A matter of eternal significance”

Dean Andrew Nunn on a prayer walk.



Throughout the period of lockdown, churches have come up with imaginative ways to stay connected to their worshipping communities, writes the Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Canon Missioner.

One of the unexpected by-products of this is that it seems more people have accessed worship online than would necessarily come to our church buildings. The Cathedral has offered daily Morning and Night Prayer from the Deanery, as well as a Sunday 11.00am Eucharist and other services.

In addition, Zoom coffee sessions after the Sunday 11.00am service have captured a small but engaged audience for discussion with the preacher. We have completed our Lent series online via Zoom and offer this term's study series in the same way.

Through our online services, we have captured both the interest of the Cathedral community and a wider participation from around the country and even internationally. Like many churches in the Diocese of Southwark, the Cathedral is now exploring how its online presence can be sustained in line with its overall mission and activity.

The aim is twofold: to find ways to engage and support congregational members who are unable to attend services in the building, as well as reaching out to a wider congregation. We recognise that there will be a need for a mixed economy/ecology of both online and building-based worship for some time to come.

There are a number of considerations to be explored.

1. What is the purpose of sustaining and expanding our online presence?
2. How do we judge the success of what we were already doing online during the lockdown weeks?
3. What do we want to offer?
4. How does an online offer fit with the Cathedral's overall mission?
5. What resources will be needed in terms of technology solutions? People? Funding?
6. How can we ensure that whatever

we do is sustainable, especially once more “normal” times resume?

7. What concerns and risks do we need to mitigate? Examples include:
 - safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
 - cyberbullying/trolling
 - reputational risks
 - the inclusion of congregation members who lack appropriate technology.
8. How will we judge success?

As a community, we want to engage in a positive way with the opportunities that online learning and worship offer. Primarily, we are aware that it can improve access and inclusion for people. It can offer a pattern of prayer, community and discipleship for those who may find visiting the Cathedral a challenge. It can enable us to engage with new forms of liturgy and creativity.

One example of this was the prayer walk that The Dean undertook at Rogationtide (see above). This fitted in closely with praying for our communities during Thy Kingdom Come. The medium of video made the prayer walk both evocative and accessible (bit.ly/TKCWalk).

A second example was the way in which “online” broadened our creativity in liturgy. On the third anniversary of the London Bridge attacks, for example, young people from The Bede Centre in Bermondsey created an animation and song called *Stronger* (bit.ly/LBBede, 22.35min). Their evident musicianship and creativity was wonderfully expressed in our online memorial service in ways it could not have been, had we only hosted the service in the Cathedral.

None of this diminishes the power of live music and the benefit of face-to-face encounter. Rather, each can serve different purposes at different times.

As the Diocese enters the new reality, we face significant challenges but also opportunities. How we meet them has an eternal significance.

For more on the London Bridge memorial service, see page 3.



Pictured above: The Revd Jim Rosenthal, Vicar at St James, Merton, blesses the church doors as the chapel opens for private prayer.

◀ Continued from page 6

The online world also makes it easier for people to find a style and tradition that suits them, which can be really helpful. But we also need to stop and reflect. Has the move to online services served to amplify the tribalism and consumerism already present?

How do we, in an increasingly online world, continue to be local churches, engaged in our local areas, serving all people and addressing local needs and concerns?

An incarnational, sacramental faith

A final question... The heart of our faith is belief in God whose fullest revelation is in a person, a life and body – seen, touched and loved. The word was made flesh. The heart of our worship is meeting together around a table, receiving bread and wine, in hands and mouths, seeing, touching, smelling and tasting.

Isolated living and remote communication has been challenging. As we emerge into a different world, and prepare to meet again for public worship, but with spatial distancing, how do we embrace our incarnational faith? How do we reach out more strongly to God and to one another?

How do we know more deeply the transforming love of God, who never stands at a distance but embraces, abides, serves and transforms? How do we live more fully that costly radical love?

“I hope people feel safe”; All Saints, West Dulwich prepares to open its doors to the public

“It’s not going to be easy getting people used to the idea that they can go back into church,” says Julian Greene, Churchwarden at All Saints, West Dulwich.

It’s a problem facing all the parishes in the Diocese: finally able to open for private prayer and, from 4 July, for services, they must wait and see how congregations and the general public respond to the relaxation of lockdown.

Despite the difficulties, however, Julian and his fellow All Saints Churchwarden Angie Sharma are excited to be reopening after three months away.

“I just feel a huge sense of relief,” says Angie. “We have been very well catered for with a variety of services and Zoom meetings and Zoom groups that have continued during the lockdown. But I think all of us are just missing that social contact, that human contact.”

The team has been hard at work preparing the church to meet Government guidelines. “What we’ve had to do,” says Julian, “because All Saints is a fairly open space, our caretaker has arranged the chairs with two metres space around each chair, which probably means we might be able to fit in about 30 people at most.”

It won’t be the same as a normal



Caretaker Adam Roberts sets up the new-look seating arrangements.

Sunday, when All Saints can expect a congregation of between 100 and 120, but it is a start. In order to help people feel more comfortable with returning, hand sanitiser will be provided and all the points that get regular contact will be cleaned frequently.

For the moment, the church will be staffed by a rota of volunteers for two hours every weekday, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, with visitors being asked to sign in so that there is a record of who has been in when – All Saints’ own version of track and trace.

The Incumbent, the Revd Alan Everett, also has plans for extra, smaller

Eucharistic services, “for those people who are nervous at meeting in a larger group,” says Angie, adding: “We are doing our best to gradually get people back. I hope they feel safe. People have really missed being able to use the space and be a visible part of the community.”

For those who are shielding, or feel unable to come in person, All Saints will continue to stream services online. For a while, at least, it will provide “mixed economy” worship – although, as Julian points out, even streaming services comes at a cost.

For now, nothing is certain. But All Saints is committed to making it work.



IN FOCUS...

Returning to our churches

Facing the future with hope, and God, at work

All Saints is open for private prayer again, and the team is looking for positives despite a difficult balancing act with restricted numbers and new regulations.

"We keep talking about tightropes, and trying to strike a balance," says Tom Hardyman, Operations Director at All Saints, Peckham. "There are some big questions going on."

The doors at All Saints are open for private prayer every weekday from 11.00am to 2.00pm, and the 11-strong staff team is trying to settle into the new normal.

"There's hand sanitiser everywhere, and a faint smell of alcohol throughout the church as a by-product of that!" says Tom.

So far they are coping well with the Church and Government guidelines: plenty of hand sanitiser points, no more than 20 people in the church at any one time, spacing out the church and wiping it down every hour or so, plus a team of two supervising at all times.

They took the decision to open the toilets, "making sure it's clean and sanitised by a member of staff," says Tom. Not every church will have the capacity to do this, but as All Saints does, the team felt it was important: "Although we have a fairly young congregation, having no toilets could still be an unnecessary exclusion to people coming and praying," Tom says.

All Saints has also set up its own mini

version of track and trace, recording the details of people who come into church.

The next stage is making the transition to live, "in-person" services — not easy to plan under the current restrictions, particularly when your usual Sunday attendance can top 250 adults and 120 children.

"We emphatically don't want to do ticketing — for us that is again an exclusionary method as opposed to an inclusionary method," says Tom. Another issue is singing: All Saints' live band is a key part of their services, "and not to have that is something that we're really working through at the moment," he adds.

"To be a part of actively being the Church and worshipping and exploring the Word together, I feel excited about that."



All Saints, Peckham has been welcoming people for private prayer.

At the moment, plans are centering around possibly reintroducing a smaller, more reflective service first and seeing how that works.

All Saints' youth programme is also waiting and seeing, according to Director of 0-25 Years Ministry Ruth Samuels (left). "It's so hard to know what is and isn't possible, because things change so often," she says.

During lockdown, youth groups have continued to meet via Zoom, and Ruth hopes to introduce at least some element of face-to-face interaction over the summer by meeting, socially distanced, outdoors in parks. "I really want to get stuck into having deeper, more one-to-one conversations," she says.

"To go back to being a part of actively being the Church and worshipping

and exploring the Word together, I feel excited about that. But there's quite a lot of uncertainty."

For the foreseeable future, Ruth is prepared for online activities to be a large part of her ministry.

To that end, she is thinking of ways to cater for different personalities online and at a distance, when some young people may not be comfortable with a group chat. "I've been trying to work with our safeguarding team in terms of how we put into place safe practices for essentially having one-to-ones online," Ruth says.

As with many other churches, too, parents at All Saints who would usually volunteer to help are facing struggles of their own, with home-schooling and other issues.

Putting together, and maintaining, an online offering of meetings and services, as well as creating daily content for an Instagram channel dedicated to the church's young people, has been a steep learning curve, says Ruth.

But she, and the rest of the team, are determined to continue.

"We have found that most things are possible, really"; St John, Shirley, plans its return to a new way of worshipping

Returning to St John, Shirley for the first time since lockdown has been "lovely", says the Revd Lu Gale, Incumbent of the parish. "Just watching the reactions of people coming back in to the building. Some want to talk, some just burst into tears."

When it was announced that churches would be able to reopen for private prayer, Lu knew she wanted St John's to be among them — she just didn't quite know how. And then, by great good fortune, she heard from a man who had been watching her live-stream a service.

"Keith, who lives in the parish, called me and said he was a retired health and safety officer who had

been called back into work to do all the safety things for a TV channel. Would we like him to come along?"

Lu jumped at the opportunity, and Keith joined her and the Churchwardens for a health-and-safety makeover at St John's.

For now, St John's is opening on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 10.00am to 12.00pm. They already had plenty of hand sanitiser and have now invested in a portable sink, too, "so we've got hot and cold running water for people to use when they come in".

To keep tabs on the areas that need cleaning, Lu has devised a system whereby red laminated cards (right) are placed where people can



pray; when they are finished, they take the card to a basket, and Lu is then clear about which seat has been used.

How worship will look in the future remains to be seen. One thing Lu is clear about is that she will continue to live-stream services.

"We've had a person joining us from Kuala Lumpur, somebody in Brighton, we've got families spread all over watching from different places. Yes, we want to be back in church but we also want to find a way of keeping all that going."

The choir, although unable to sing in church for the time being, has been doing its bit by recording hymns for use during services, for which Lu is very grateful. "That has been amazing," she says, "that they've learned a new way of doing things. And finding that most things are possible, really."

Keeping our churches as safe as possible

Over the past few weeks the lockdown has been eased a great deal and we are beginning to be able to do many things which we have not been able to do for a long time.

This, as you will know, includes going into our churches for private prayer and public worship. But, as you will have seen from the articles on the previous three pages, the way in which we can “do Church” is going to be very different for some time to come.

Bishop Christopher and the Diocese’s Coronavirus Task Group have been sending out bulletins regularly to clergy and lay ministers, and in them Bishop Christopher has made it clear that churches are now able to open for public worship but that at present they do not have to do so.

For some churches it may be better to wait a little longer to be absolutely sure that everything is properly prepared and safe for

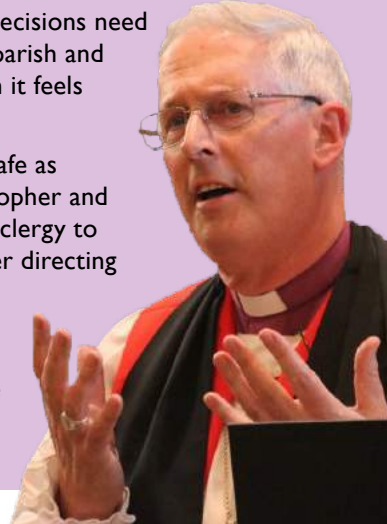
A message about clergy well-being

Being able to open for public worship does not mean that you have to do so immediately.

We want to stress that the guidance from both the Government and the Church of England gives us permission to re-enter our buildings and to resume public worship but we know that it is not right for every church to do this immediately.

Some of our parishes are planning to reopen for public worship on 4 July, others are leaving it for a further two or three weeks, and some are not planning to open until September. These sorts of decisions need to be made by the Incumbent and people of each parish and no one should feel compelled to open sooner than it feels safe to do so.

It is of vital importance to make our churches as safe as possible for all those entering them. Bishop Christopher and the other Bishops of the Diocese are encouraging clergy to factor in the need to take annual leave and consider directing congregations to online alternatives should they decide to take their leave before reopening for worship. The Archdeacons will be making available a series of online sermons which they hope will be a useful resource for parishes during the summer.



everyone. You can see the guidance and Bishop Christopher’s comments on this subject in the box to the left.

For churches that are able to open, the Church of England now offers new and revised guidance on a whole host of different services. You can find information on weddings, funerals, baptisms, Holy Communion, confirmations and individual private prayer at:

- bit.ly/CofEweddings
- bit.ly/CofEfunerals
- bit.ly/CofEbaptisms
- bit.ly/CofEHolyCommunion
- bit.ly/CofEconfirmations
- bit.ly/CofEprivateprayer

You can also find more general information about worship in church buildings at bit.ly/CofEpublicworship

Do read as much of the material as you would like but below are some of the highlights. For other questions, e-mail ctg@southwark.anglican.org

Frequently asked questions: returning to church after lockdown

What should I do when I arrive at church?

Each church will be set up slightly differently, so please follow the instructions of your church team. You may have to enter and exit through different doors, and the route you should follow around the church will be marked.

Churches will provide hand sanitiser or handwashing facilities; please use these on arrival and departure.

The Church of England advises that people provide their details on arrival, so that they can be traced in case someone develops symptoms. Churches will have different systems for this, so please follow the directions of your church teams. Your details will be destroyed after 21 days.

Hymn books and service sheets should not be shared. Single-use service sheets may be printed and placed on seats in advance, or you may be able to print your own service sheet in advance. Please take your single-use service sheets home with you for disposal so that no one else has to touch them.

Families in a social bubble may sit together but otherwise people must sit at an appropriate distance. Some churches will have laid out their chairs two metres apart, or marked out places where you are permitted to sit on pews.

Should I wear a face mask?

There is no requirement to wear a face mask — it is a personal decision. However, do bear in mind that the Government advice on the wearing of masks in public places may change.

My church usually has a high attendance. Will I have to book in advance?

Each church will be doing this differently, depending upon the numbers they expect and can accommodate at any one time. Some will put in place a ticketed system, others will be first come, first served, and still others will have several services in a day. We advise that you check in advance with your church about which system they will be using and how it will work (for example, how to book tickets).

Are we allowed to sing?

No. We understand that this is disappointing but the Government and Church of England guidance is very clear: only one person — a designated cantor — can sing inside a church.

In practice, this means that musicians such as guitarists cannot also sing (unless they are the designated cantor). It also means that if it is your practice to, for example, sing *Happy Birthday* when announcing the birthdays of church members during the Notices, this will not be allowed.

Can we share the Peace?

Sadly, no, in order to minimise risk.

How will I receive Holy Communion?

At the moment, Holy Communion remains in one kind only with no sharing of the common cup. Intinction is not allowed at this time. Communicants should, if possible, sanitise their hands before receiving Communion, which

will be administered in silence to minimise risk. The celebrant will drop a wafer into your hands; if you accidentally touch hands, both you and the celebrant should immediately sanitise them.

What will happen with the collection plate?

Again, each church will handle this differently. However, please do consider setting up a regular gift via bank transfer, to help your church cut down on as many potential sources of infection as possible. Your PCC Treasurer or Incumbent will have details of how to do this. If you cannot set up a regular donation, please avoid cash wherever possible (some churches are set up to receive contactless card payments). It is likely that the collection plate will not be passed during the service as usual, and will instead be left in one place.

What are the rules for weddings?

From 4 July, a maximum of 30 people can attend weddings. This includes all those at the ceremony, including the couple, witnesses, officiant and guests. It also includes any workers who are not employed by the church such as photographers. It does not include staff or volunteers employed by the church such as vergers or churchwardens.

Hymns cannot be sung, and the service should be kept concise. Social distancing should be observed throughout.

As with any event or service in church, it is vital that people stay at home if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

And for baptisms and confirmations?

A baptism should have no more than 30 people present, unless it takes place during routine communal worship, such as a Sunday morning service. The candidate, his/her parents, godparents and the minister are all that are required to be present for baptism and parents might wish to keep to this number. If it is not taking place during a normal Sunday service, social distancing should still be strictly observed.

Confirmations are also restricted to 30 attendees, except where they are taking place as part of routine communal worship, and it is advisable to have no more than one baptism at any one service (where candidates are being both confirmed and baptised).

What are the rules for funerals?

A maximum of 30 people are allowed at funerals. Alongside the member of clergy, funeral director and staff, the Government has stated that only members of the person’s household, close family members, or close friends (if the household or family are unable to come) can attend. Social distancing must be strictly observed throughout.

What is happening with live-streaming?

Many churches will continue to provide live-streamed and recorded worship online as well as “in-person” services. The Diocese has a handy guide to live-streaming here: southwark.anglican.org/downloads/livestreambasics.pdf



IN FOCUS...

Parishes respond to Black Lives Matter

Southwark Deaneries stand against racism

The Revd Kit Gunasekera, Incumbent at St James, Clapham, gave a homily in support of the Black Lives Matter movement on 28 June at an event in Brockwell Park organised by Lambeth North and South and Dulwich Deaneries.

Some 300 people were present to hear Kit speak powerfully about the injustice present in our society, and how we must commit, as Christians, to changing that.

"Black Lives Matter: the truth of it should be self evident," he began, "The need to say it at all as a protest rather than as a fact, as an aspiration rather than a reality, is shameful. But it does have to be said. Because behind its cry, sits a stubborn ingrained, injustice, which is open for all to see, in plain sight."

He concluded by saying that Black Lives Matter must never be left as a slogan but



Lambeth and Dulwich Deaneries' BLM event © Eleanor Bentall

"move into being experienced by those who have not experienced it".

Kit said after the event: "It was very moving, and good to see a mix of black and white faces. We also had the eight minutes and 46 seconds of taking the knee, which was very powerful. There was a sense of oneness, that we were in that moment coming together."

St Peter, Brockley starts a difficult conversation



St Peter, Brockley tackled the issue of racism and the Black Lives Matter campaign head on during its regular Sunday morning YouTube service on 7 June. Instead of the standard service, three members of the church sat down with the Revd Ben Jones to share their response to the death of George Floyd and their experiences of racism in the UK. "This is only the beginning of our response," said Ben.

Watch the video at youtube.com/watch?v=STLkYSj06Qw

St John, East Dulwich holds first Black Voices Matter event

Some 37 people joined St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich's inaugural Black Voices Matter event on 28 June, which took place over Zoom.

Intended to be the first of many such events – part two is already being planned – this was an "ask-me-anything" session, with four members of St John's volunteering to answer questions submitted anonymously in advance.

The Revd Raymond Baudon, curate of St John's and the facilitator at the event, said: "People just don't have the vocabulary to talk about this, and don't want to cause offence, so

they just don't talk about race. It was incredibly generous and a great gift to us that the panellists answered these questions."

The four panellists were Joy Taylor, Tayo Olatunde, Jayne Mallett and Maxine Plunkett, and they spoke about their experiences of being Black in the UK (Joy and Maxine are of Jamaican heritage; Tayo is Nigerian-born and Jayne is dual heritage).

Plans for future events include the possibility of unconscious bias training, in order to make the experience of church as welcoming as possible to all.



LET US PRAY...

#BlackLivesMatter

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3.28)

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

Amen.

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



Diocese of Southwark celebrates Windrush Day



People and parishes across Southwark marked a two-minute silence at 11.00am on Monday 22 June to mark Windrush Day, and to give thanks for those who emigrated from the Caribbean to this country, and for all that they have contributed to the UK and to the Diocese.

In preparation for the event, Bishop Christopher said: "Let us make Windrush Day 2020 a day when we as a Diocese pledge to

change structures of inequality in the Church as we seek to implement our vision of increasing the diversity of lay and ordained leaders in our parishes and institutions."

Pictured above from left: the Revd Dorothy Penniecooke, taken by Jim Grover for the *Here Am I* exhibition; the Southwark Trinity icon; Eileen Walkin receiving the Lancelot Andrewes Medal from Bishop Christopher.



IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

Ordinands receive a virtual welcome to the Diocese

Ordinands who would have been made deacon this Petertide were instead licensed as lay ministers to their title parishes on 27 June, after social distancing rules prevented their ordination taking place in the usual way.

They will now be welcomed into the Church at Michaelmas instead. Deacons who were expecting to be ordained priest this Petertide will also have to wait until Michaelmas. Until then, they will remain as curates in their current posts.

Director of Vocations and Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, said: "We share our ordinands' sadness in having to postpone the ordinations, one of the highlights of the year in the life of our Church. But we are very much looking forward to welcoming our candidates into their new

roles as licensed lay workers, where they will be sharing the cure of souls in this new stage of their formation.

"We are delighted to be planning to welcome our new deacons at their ordination in the Cathedral at, God willing, Michaelmas."

Licensed lay ministers

The ordinands who were licensed as lay ministers and their title parishes are:

Ian Luke-Macauley
St Barnabas, Clapham Common

Alastair Newman
St Matthew, Wimbledon Team Ministry

David Povall
St Paul, Clapham

Shavaun Shodeinde
St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common

Bishop Christopher presides at the Eucharist at the pre-Licensing "virtual" retreat.



Luke Steven
The Ascension, Balham Hill

Esther-Jael Olabisi Akano-Adesoye
Thamesmead Team Ministry

Adelaide Davies
United Benefice of Charlton

Rachael Gledhill
St Barnabas, Dulwich

Delorine Green
St Peter, Walworth

John Henry
Christ Church, Southwark

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

Daniel Walker
St Margaret of Antioch, Lee

Daniel Wyman
Holy Trinity, Eltham

David Atkinson
Springfield Church, Wallington

Susan Bosley
Horley Team Ministry

Judith Brooks
St Matthew, Redhill

Lisa Fairman-Brown
Christ Church, Purley

Lotwina Farodoye
Oxted Team Ministry

WHAT'S ON

We hope that our What's On section can return from SEPTEMBER.

If you plan to run an event from SEPTEMBER ONWARDS and wish to publicise it here, please send details to bridge@southwark.anglican.org **BY MONDAY 17 AUGUST**



Slow and steady progress helps All Saints, Hackbridge and Beddington to win its Eco Church Bronze Award

In October 2019, All Saints, Hackbridge and Beddington Corner celebrated achieving an Eco Church Bronze Award, writes the Revd Lynn Billin, All Saints' Vicar.

This was the culmination of a number of years' work by people past and present in the church and community centre.

All Saints is a traditional church built between 1928 and 1930. We have no double glazing, our roof is wooden vaulting, with no loft space so no insulation, and it is a leaky building in regard to heat. And we still achieved our Bronze Award. How was it done?

Worship and teaching: Gold

We include care of God's Creation in our worship and teaching. We regularly have Creation-focused hymns, we keep the feast of St Francis each year and incorporate some of the Creationtide material in our worship. Our church website has a page dedicated to caring



for God's Creation and we have a prayer station which focuses on this too.

Buildings: Bronze

In 2015, solar panels were installed on our church roof which feed into the National Grid, and on our Centre roof which heat the water. We have installed LED lighting in church, and dual flush toilets in both church and Centre.

Land: Gold

Around 2010 a decision was made to



turn the church grounds into an open space for wildlife and people. We have picnic tables in the grounds (above right), bird feeding stations, wild flower areas and a water butt.

A member of our church family is a gardener and has taken charge of our vegetable plots, the produce of which we hope to use in our weekly lunch club. In 2019, we installed two compost bins and we have fruit trees supplied by community project Social Orchards.

Community and Global Engagement: Bronze

Much of this is linked to our worship and teaching. The accessible toilet in our church is twinned and we support WaterAid's Jars of Change Lent Appeal. We are working to become a Fair Trade Church.

Lifestyle: Bronze

We have recycling bins in our church and Centre. We avoid waste at our social events and bring-and-share meals, and we encourage everyone to send a church family Christmas and Easter card.

To sum up

When first embarking on a journey to an Eco Church award, it seems a bit daunting. However, our experience has been that with slow, steady progress it is possible to achieve an Eco Church Bronze Award even when our building is a traditional church and difficult to heat.

Farewell tributes pour in to outgoing Deputy Diocesan Secretary, the Revd Stephen Roberts

A key and much-loved member of the senior management team, he retires in August after 31 years' service to the Diocese of Southwark.

The Revd Canon Stephen Roberts, who retires on 31 August, has spent almost all his ministry in the Diocese of Southwark, writes Wendy S Robins, Diocesan Director of Press and Communications.

He has been Deputy Diocesan Secretary, Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, and the Bishop's Lead on Safeguarding and an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral since 2015.

Having served his title in the Diocese of Rochester and a second curacy in the Diocese of London, Stephen came to the Diocese of Southwark in 1989 as Warden of Trinity College Centre and Vicar of St George's Camberwell. He was Rural Dean of Camberwell from 1997-1999, before being appointed Senior Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Canon Treasurer of Southwark Cathedral in 2000. Stephen was Archdeacon of Wandsworth from 2005-2015.

Stephen will be greatly missed by his colleagues and those who have worked with him around the Diocese.

A retirement collection is being taken for him; the details are in the box to the right.

Commenting on Stephen's retirement, Bishop Christopher said: "Canon Stephen Roberts has served in a succession of significant roles in the Diocese with zeal and devotion. He has been a calm and wise presence at the heart of our common life, giving encouragement and wise counsel at all times.

"With him as my Safeguarding Lead I have greatly valued knowing that this important area of Diocesan life was in the hands of such an experienced colleague. I want to thank Stephen for the blessing he has

Collection details

To contribute to Stephen's retirement collection, please make payment into the following account:

Account name: SLCF Assessment
Sort code: 60-60-04
Account number: 70380740
Payment reference: 2214.G01 2020

People can also send a cheque if they prefer, made payable to "South London Church Fund" and quoting the reference above on the back of the cheque.



Stephen Roberts shares his expertise on a DAC Study Day.

"A man of immense integrity, kindness and charm": a friend shares her memories

I have a vivid memory of Stephen stuck on a traffic island in the middle of Ludgate Hill when we were first students together, writes the Revd Georgie Bell, who first met Stephen in 1978 when they were studying theology together at King's College London.

He quickly perfected the "I am a little bit lost here" look, but these days there are only a very few who are deceived by this disarming, delightful exterior. He may appear to be cuddly – even an easy touch – but he knows always, and exactly, what is going on. He always listens

carefully even if he's usually right in the first place. In my experience he can bring you to tears very easily with his perceptive, gimlet eye.

I have learned so much from Stephen over the years about beauty: the natural wonders, creativity in art, music and the garden; about how to be a priest. His strength, resilience and determination are legendary, and if you are privileged enough to have travelled the process of vocation towards ordination, with Stephen as your Diocesan Director of Ordinands, you will never forget his

gentle wisdom and pastoral care. Like his many friends, you will have been touched by his direct and compassionate truthfulness. He puts these very considerable gifts at the disposal of us all, when we need them.

A man of immense integrity, kindness and charm – always reliable, perpetually surprising.

Georgie Bell is an Honorary Minor Canon of Southwark Cathedral and a former tutor at St Augustine's College of Theology. She also studied for ordination at Westcott House with Stephen after graduating from King's.

been to so many over the years and wish him a long and fulfilling retirement."

The Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, added: "When Stephen joined the Diocesan office as Deputy Diocesan

Secretary and Bishop Christopher's Lead for Safeguarding, I knew immediately what a great joy and a privilege it would be for all of us. Stephen has not only been meticulous in his responsibilities, utterly

reliable and greatly respected, but also much loved. His laughter fills the air and resonates around the entire office. We will all miss him and we wish him a joyful and very happy retirement."

News from Zimbabwe: the Zimbabwe Link Chairs Group and the Bernard Mizeki Festival

Our Link groups are in close contact with the Link Groups in Zimbabwe and we have been hearing that times have been very difficult, writes Wendy S Robins, Diocesan Director of Press and Communications and Zimbabwe Link Chair for the Cathedral and Masvingo Diocese.

We have been praying for them as they have been for us, and we have been able to send some financial help to the Dioceses.

Some of the lockdown restrictions have now been lifted in Zimbabwe



and church buildings can open but numbers are limited to 50 for each service. Bishop Godfrey, the Bishop of Masvingo, tells us that

this is a big challenge for the many large congregations in the country. It is hard to see how they will manage to restrict the numbers at services where people arrive from far and wide.

Wherever possible, clergy across the Dioceses continue to reach out to the faithful to offer pastoral services.

The Bishops thank us for our support and prayers, so please do continue to pray for them. You can watch messages from Bishop Ignatios at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwVJWXqEOts> and Bishop Cleophas at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLrzbns38w>

com/watch?v=NwVJWXqEOts and Bishop Cleophas at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLrzbns38w>

Bernard Mizeki Festival

On 18 June, Bishop Christopher expressed solidarity with the Zimbabwean people by celebrating the Bernard Mizeki Festival (see image, left).

He said: "Today I am praying for Zimbabwe, her people, land and Church, as today we keep the Feast of Bernard Mizeki, Apostle to the MaShona, Martyr."