



# The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Walking  
Welcoming  
Growing

Vol.26 No.5  
June 2021



## Parish news

From Pentecost biscuits to virtual pilgrimages

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## Justice for all

How the Diocese is working to combat racism

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## Fond farewell

Archdeacon of Southwark leads goodbye service

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## Young people join the climate debate at Kingston Youth Forum



**“We learn a lot about climate change in schools. However, I think it should be discussed more in church, so we further understand how to take action against climate change” – group feedback from the Kingston Episcopal Area Youth Forum.**

This was a recurrent theme in the discussion among the young people who attended the first Kingston Youth Forum on Tuesday 18 May, which took place online and debated climate justice.

Churches and the CofE secondary schools in the Kingston Episcopal Area were invited to select up to three young people aged 13-plus to attend, along with an adult supporter. On the day, 20 young people shared their concerns and ways in which their churches and schools could do more to engage.

Among those present were Bishop Richard; Archdeacon Simon Gates; Ian Christie, Area Environment Officer; and Laura Baggaley, Environment Administration Coordinator, who are part of the team behind the Diocesan environment policy that will be presented to Diocesan Synod in July.

Suggestions for looking after the environment included remembering to switch lights off, walking or cycling whenever possible and buying second-hand. The young people also encouraged churches to become eco-churches, and consider solar roofing panels and better insulation.

However, they also commented that, whilst adults and organisations said they cared about the environment, there was little action. Aware that the global climate crisis causes droughts, water depletion and soil erosion affecting the least responsible and most vulnerable, they called for there to be more conversation in both schools and churches around how to care better for God’s amazing creation.

Aaron, 15, from Immanuel, Streatham, said: “The forum had a successful first session. The debates we had were interesting and enriching as we got to hear from different people from different backgrounds. It aided my personal opinion and I hope has had an impact on the Church as a community.”

Vanessa Elston, Curate at St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth, said: “It was

brilliant to hear the young people’s voices and opinions...how do we embrace their prophetic challenge and protest? How do we talk about the societal, economic and political changes that are needed and the journey of conversion that we all need to go on?”

### How to get involved...

**The CYP Team and Area Bishops invite young people from Croydon and Woolwich to add their voice to the climate justice discussion. Saturday 19 June on Zoom; Croydon Youth Forum (2.00-3.15pm), Woolwich Youth Forum (4.00-5.15pm); e-mail [keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:keli.bolton@southwark.anglican.org)**

**Feeling challenged as to how best listen to the children and young people in your church? Check out the latest Welcoming Children and Young People toolkit, *Decision-making & Inclusion*: [bit.ly/CYPToolkit](https://bit.ly/CYPToolkit)**



## Bishop Christopher speaks out on Palestine crisis

**In May, violence erupted in Israel and the West Bank while Bishop Christopher was in the Holy Land for the installation of the new Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum.**

On 16 May, as the UN Security Council met to discuss the Israel-Palestine conflict, and while he was himself still in Jerusalem, Bishop Christopher spoke to BBC News about the situation.

He said: “I have heard the sound of stun grenades at night, debris on the streets during the day, and we are just a short distance from the Damascus gate.”

He spoke of the tension and locked-in nature of Gaza, as well as the economic disadvantage and unemployment that was causing deep-seated resentments. He added: “It is about the underlying issues of creating a long-lasting peace with justice.”

Asked if he felt despairing, the Bishop said: “People of faith are always agents of hope, and I have been here as part of that demonstration. I do not feel despair, I feel extreme sadness, disappointment, frustration that underlying issues are yet to be addressed.”

**More about Bishop Christopher’s visit can be found on page 10.**



## A view from The BRIDGE



**The last time I wrote this editorial, it was spring and the daffodils were in full bloom. Now, roses are taking centre-stage, heralding summer.**

As we start to open up more, people are thinking of where to go on their holidays. Staycations are likely to be a favourite choice and I'm sure many in this Diocese will opt for the countryside. My children reminded me recently that, during our time in Kenya, we often went camping and on safari "up-country", something they haven't really done since we returned to the UK.

We are blessed to be a Diocese that not only includes the urban towns of South London but also the East Surrey countryside. The Revd Susie Williams was licensed at Diocesan Synod in March as the Diocese's new Faith in the Countryside Officer. Read about her on page 9. Caring for our planet was on the agenda at the Kingston Youth Forum. Read what they had to say on the front page.

The new Archbishop in Jerusalem, Archbishop Hosam Naoum, was installed in a beautiful service on Ascension Day against a backdrop of conflict in Jerusalem and on the West Bank (see page 10). Please keep him, his family, and everyone in our link Diocese in your prayers. Bishop Christopher travelled to Jerusalem for the service and while there and on his return did several media interviews about the situation (see page 1).

Conflict is the cause of displacement for many people across the globe. When I worked in East Africa I was responsible for sharing the stories of refugees living in camps throughout the region. Some of the people I met were waiting to be resettled in the UK, Canada, the US and Australia. They attended classes to learn the customs and ways of their soon-to-be-adopted homes. They shared their stories from the point of departure, but of course they continue. Churches play a key role in helping refugees resettle. Learn more on page 8.

In May, I attended a service marking the first anniversary of George Floyd's murder. Children from two schools in the Diocese took part, as did Bishop Christopher and Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett. See page 11.

As a Black British woman, racism is a reality. It is not as overt as it was during my childhood in the 1970s, but it is still very real. I was moved listening to Chine McDonald speaking to Rosemarie Mallett at Southwark Cathedral about her book *God is Not a White Man and other Revelations*. Racial Justice should not be an add-on that we do as well as other activities, but embedded in our very core as churches. The centre-spread discusses this further.

We also said farewell to the Archdeacon of Southwark, Jane Steen (see page 12) and Diocesan Director of Finance, Tony Demby (page 9). Please join me in wishing them well.

**Sophia Jones**

### Notice about images



**Please note: some photographs in the paper where people are not socially distanced were taken before the pandemic.**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Help your church to win up to £7,500

Ecclesiastical has launched its third annual Movement for Good awards, with £1,000 to be donated to 500 charities. Only one nomination can be made per e-mail address, so Ecclesiastical urges churches to spread the word to as many people as possible. Nominations close on 13 June. Nominate your church here: <https://movementforgood.com>

Meanwhile, up to £7,500 can be won in Ecclesiastical's Good News 2021 competition, which seeks to celebrate what churches have done to support their communities over the past year. This is open until 17 September. Find more information and enter at: [www.ecclesiastical.com/church/competition](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/competition)

### Calling all clergy: get paid to take a break

The MBAs have been running for more than 30 years and are open to all members of the clergy from Anglican Christian faiths. The awards will provide financial support for sabbatical breaks and projects planned for 2022. All applicants for a Bursary Award must submit their application forms by 30 September 2021.

For more information including eligibility criteria and to download an application form please visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/mba](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/mba)

### Find out more about the Diocese's new lay ministries

This online event on Saturday 19 June, introduced by Bishop Christopher, is open to those who feel they may have a calling to become a lay minister, or Incumbents who wish to encourage lay people in their congregations. 10.00am-1.00pm, Zoom.

Find out more and book your place here: <https://southwark.anglican.org/new-lay-ministries>

### Living in Love and Faith taster day

To sign up for this online taster event from the national LLF team on 26 June, 2.00pm-5.30pm, please e-mail Zoe Skilton at [zoe.skilton@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:zoe.skilton@southwark.anglican.org).

LLF material can be found on the CofE website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>. More can also be found on the Diocesan website at [southwark.anglican.org/llf](http://southwark.anglican.org/llf)

### Parishes asked to respond to Protect Duty consultation

As part of the Government's plans to protect public places from terrorist attacks, it has launched a consultation on its new "Protect Duty", under which public venues with a capacity of more than 100 are legally required to ensure preparedness for, and protection from, terrorist attacks. According to David Knight of the Church Buildings Association and the Venerable Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, this could lead to unintended consequences for churches and they urge parishes in every Diocese to respond to the consultation with their views.

Find out more and respond online: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty)

### New book launched by the Archdeacon of Reigate

The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, has published a new book, *From Nazareth to Northumbria: How Christianity Came to Britain and Stayed*. The book reflects on the places mentioned in John's gospel before investigating how Christianity might have arrived and taken root in Britain. It is on sale from Amazon for £20 at <https://amzn.to/34hHxqg>; proceeds will go towards the Croydon-Central Zimbabwe Diocesan link.

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### Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The JULY edition is due to be published online on 1 July 2021. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **MONDAY 21 JUNE**.

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](http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)



**IN FOCUS...**  
*News from the Diocese*

# Service marks four years since London Bridge attack

The Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn, led a service on 3 June, jointly organised by Southwark Council, marking the fourth anniversary of the London Bridge terrorist attack.



Dean Andrew by the olive tree.

Also present were dignitaries including the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, and Councillor Kieron Williams, Leader of Southwark Council, who joined the families of victims in laying flowers at the base of the olive tree which was planted as a permanent memorial in the Cathedral courtyard on the first anniversary of the attack.

The Dean said: "Southwark Cathedral was at the heart of the events of that evening four years ago. We continue to stand as a place of loving remembrance for the whole of the community who continue to live with the reality of what happened but look to the future with hope."

In introducing the service, he also paid tribute to the victims, saying: "On the evening of 3 June 2017, eight people lost

their lives, eight people working here, enjoying this place, relaxing in its inclusive atmosphere. They were eight people from around the world, as were the 48 people whose injuries we know about, and the many people who were mentally and emotionally scarred that evening."

The service can be viewed on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=msyOZd96T-0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msyOZd96T-0)

## Artwork in Southwark Cathedral offers "message of hope"



© Ben Stevens, The Times

Southwark Cathedral unveiled a major installation by artist and former Turner Prize nominee Mark Titchner on 2 June.

The installation, entitled *Please Believe These Days Will Pass*, was originally intended to be staged as the Cathedral's Lent installation earlier this year. With normal life only now tentatively resuming, Dean Andrew Nunn said: "Mark Titchner's monumental installation in Southwark Cathedral will be a stark reminder that we need to look beyond these islands to a world still suffering. But it is also a message of hope."

The artwork was first seen on billboards and posters across Britain in the early days of lockdown in 2020. Mark Titchner said: "I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to present a new large-scale version of this work to a new audience within the resonant, historical setting of Southwark Cathedral."

"Please Believe These Days Will Pass" will be on display in the Cathedral to 23 July 2021

## Bishop Richard accepts invitation to join new Anglican Communion Science Commission committee

The new Anglican Communion Science Commission, which was announced on 21 May, has invited Bishop Richard to be an inaugural member of its 20-strong committee.

According to its draft constitution, the purpose of the new commission is to "resource the whole Anglican Communion for courageous and confident spiritual leadership in issues involving science". Committee members will be a mix of scientists, theologians and bishops with an interest in science.

The Commission will formally launch at 2022's Lambeth Conference. In the meantime, the Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, is inviting his fellow Anglican Communion Primates to nominate a Bishop from their Church to serve as their provincial representative at the Commission's conferences.

Bishop Richard has long been a champion of the importance of science in discussions of faith. He is a co-director of the Equipping Christian

Leaders in an Age of Science (ECLAS) project, which provides opportunities for church leaders to connect with science ([www.eclasproject.org](http://www.eclasproject.org)).

Bishop Richard said: "The pandemic with its mantra of 'following the science' has reminded us all of the central importance of science in our world, both for the practical results such as vaccinations and our deeper understandings of the mysteries of life and the universe. So it is critical for the Churches and Christian faith to have a strong and positive engagement with science."

He added: "For some years I have been a co-director of ECLAS, which has provided many resource for it. The newly formed Anglican Communion Science Commission will give a real opportunity to develop that across the world in the next few years. I am enormously looking forward to serving on it, praying that it will bring stronger understanding of the benefits and nature of science, and crucially the relationship of science with our deep Christian beliefs about God's creation and the impact of that for God's mission."



## A message about the PSF from the Diocesan Secretary

Thank you for your sustained generosity to the Parish Support Fund which has enabled continued strong collection rates rising to more than 98% in March and April, writes Ruth Martin.

As we think ahead to 2022 please could I ask you to include the discussion of your 2022 pledge as an agenda item at your PCC meetings in the months of July, August or September. We will be sending out the 2022 Parish Support Fund material digitally at the beginning of July and asking parishes to send in their pledges by Wednesday 15 September.

We appreciate that this will be a tight deadline and financial forward planning may be difficult for you, but we hope by then there may be a better sense of how your finances may look for 2022 with rentals etc restarted. Equally, without your pledges it will be difficult for us to enable the budget to be presented and discussed by the governance committees ahead of Diocesan Synod. We will be asking you to submit your pledges online, as last year. If you have any questions please contact Head of Giving Gabby Parikh or your Archdeacon.

Thank you again for enabling us to continue to resource our Diocese's mission and ministry through your Parish Support Fund pledge donations.





## IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

# Putting sidespeople centre stage in Blackheath

At All Saints, Blackheath's APCM on Sunday 23 May, parishioner Edward Gormley made a short speech reflecting on his first ten-and-a-half years of organising the sidesperson's rota, and thanking them for all their hard work and commitment.

**I officially became responsible for organising the sidesperson's rota on Sunday 15 August 2010, writes Edward Gormley.**

The first rota I organised ran from 12 September to 12 December 2010. I have now organised 39.

The sidespeople welcome the congregation and visitors into church on Sunday mornings, and occasionally at other times. May they strive to bring those outside who never worship into membership.

The first mention of sidespeople at All Saints was in 1889. Ten were elected. I invited the congregation to join me in thanking God for all the sidespeople who have served in the church in the past 132 years.

Footnote... of the 38 sidespeople who have served in All Saints in the past ten-and-a-half years, one is now a Verger at Southwark Cathedral, and one is a priest. I think it's very special that two former sidespeople have moved on to these exciting next steps.



**Edward Gormley giving his speech at the APCM, which fell on Pentecost.**

## St Mary, Barnes Reader celebrates 18 years of service



After nearly 18 years as a Reader at St Mary, Barnes, Christabel Gairdner has now decided to step back from some of her duties. In a joyful celebration in May, Christabel was thanked for her Reader Ministry and was presented with a certificate signed by Bishop Christopher, conferring her new Reader Emeritus status.

The image above shows (left to right) Christabel, the Revd James Hutchings and Marilyn Burkett, Area Warden of Readers for the Kingston Episcopal Area.

## St Catherine, Hatcham takes Pentecost into the open air



Pentecost celebrations at St Catherine, Hatcham took part outdoors this year, with the congregation joining in with songs and the Gospel before moving indoors for the sermon, intercessions, anointing with oil and Holy Communion. The Revd Sheridan James (above left, seated) said: "We came out again for *This Little Light of Mine*, plus 'Come, Holy Spirit!' in as many languages as we could!"

## Baking faith into Pentecost at St Clement, Dulwich



Parishioners at St Clement with St Peter, Dulwich, got a tasty treat this Pentecost, when the Revd Cécile Schnyder served up home-made biscuits after the all-age worship service. She said: "The past year we really missed out on community and we still have no coffee after the service. So I was looking to create something beautiful, something that could be shared... By taking a biscuit home to share with others, 'Here is a flame biscuit from my church because today is Pentecost', that's not a bad introduction to faith, I think."

# Exploring the Cathedrals of England, online and by bike



Southwark Cathedral, which was one of the stopping points on All Saints' virtual pilgrimage. © Len Abrams

On 19 May, All Saints, West Dulwich had its first virtual pilgrimage in place of our usual annual "actual" pilgrimage, writes the Revd Dr Alan Everett, Vicar.

Uploaded to our YouTube channel, the day began with Morning Prayer and concluded with the Eucharist, Night Prayer and a Blessing by Bishop Christopher.

Under the theme of Cathedrals of Britain, we enlisted the support of eight cathedrals from around the United Kingdom. Southwark, Wakefield, Salisbury, Armagh, Edinburgh, Bristol, St Albans and Durham all sent us recordings.

We learned about their history, and their mission, ministry and outreach to the local community. They told us about their experience of the pandemic and their hopes for the future. They prayed for us.

The Cathedrals and their stories were

diverse, but they had two things in common. First, they profoundly valued their sacred heritage, and, second, they believed in their distinctive mission. These complementary qualities were inspiring.

We were greatly encouraged by their generosity to us, the viewers. Their offerings were produced at a difficult time: during the last lockdown, or soon afterwards. Despite the immense pressure they were under, the Cathedral staff, lay and ordained, spent valuable time and energy producing wonderful insights into their work.

Watching these recordings and participating in the virtual pilgrimage was a joyful, moving and prayerful experience for us all. So much so that this autumn we hope to have a second pilgrimage, to the Shrines of Britain.

The "virtual" pilgrimage can be found at: [www.all-saints.org.uk/virtual-pilgrimage-2021](http://www.all-saints.org.uk/virtual-pilgrimage-2021)

## Canon Missioner takes to his bike for cycling pilgrimage

The Revd Jay Colwill (right), Canon Missioner and Director of Mission, is doing a pilgrimage of his own this summer. He will be cycling as much as he can of the new 2,000-mile Cathedrals Cycle Route, which links all 42 English Cathedrals and which was launched on 30 May at Newcastle Cathedral with a relay event, Cycling with Purpose.

The new route was devised by Shaun Cutler of Northumbria University, who also led a band of cyclists in the first leg of the relay event. They were joined by Jay, who said: "I find the greatest sense of stillness when I'm on the move, on my bike. As the pedals turn, so my mind turns with them."

Find the route here: [www.cyclinguk.org/cathedrals-cycle-route-challenge](http://www.cyclinguk.org/cathedrals-cycle-route-challenge)



## Birthday celebrations for St Francis parishioner aged 102

St Francis of Assisi, West Wickham, wished its oldest church member, Joyce Town, a happy 102nd birthday on Sunday 16 May.

Joyce, pictured right, is now in a care home, but her daughter says she is well and still has her sense of humour, and is highly thought of in the home.

"Hopefully we will be able to visit you again soon, Joyce," said a representative of St Francis.



## Warm hands and warm hearts at St Luke, Eltham Park



The old inefficient heating system at St Luke, Eltham Park was in desperate need of replacing, writes Chris Warrell, Churchwarden.

Six of the 14 overhead gas heaters (dating back to 1982) had stopped working and the level of warmth was patchy to say the least. In 2019 the decision was made to replace the whole system with something more efficient. The process of getting advice, applying for the Faculty, and obtaining quotations and grants took more than a year, but by late 2020 everything was in place to go ahead.

The contract was awarded to the firm of HeatinGlobal Ltd of Manchester who carried out the work in February and March 2021. They were a very efficient and hard-working team who finished the job one week early!

We now have 18 fan-assisted radiators around the church, with electric heaters in the crèche, kitchen and toilet. The twin gas boilers are located in an upper room. For the first time in many years we have a heating system

that heats up the whole church evenly, rather than having pockets of heat in a largely cool building.

Our "Warm Hands, Warm Hearts" Heating Appeal has been extremely generously supported to meet the £80,000 total cost from individual donations, fundraising events and grant applications success with Allchurches Trust, The Rank Foundation, Goldman Sachs, Viridor, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Beatrice Laing Trust.

Our Vicar, the Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong (pictured above left alongside Chris Warrell), along with my fellow Churchwarden Lynette Polderman and the PCC, are delighted that there has been so much support for this project to heat the church building.

It will ensure that, with warm hands and warm hearts, our worship, our welcome and our outreach to our local parish and the wider community will be sustained and grow, guided by the light of Christ. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



## DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

*Racial justice*

*“But God has put the body together... so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.”*

— 1 Corinthians 12: 24-26

# Moving forward with our brothers and sisters to tackle injustice everywhere



**Over the past year, since George Floyd’s murder in May 2020, there has been an outpouring of grief, anger and reflection all around the world. The rallying cry has been, “Black Lives Matter!”**

An inflection point on issues of racial inequity appears to have been reached, and has doubtless influenced the publication of the three major reports in the UK in spring 2021 by the Government, the Diocese of Southwark and the National Church.

At Diocesan Synod in March 2021, the Diocese of Southwark unanimously approved its Anti-Racism Charter (see [southwark.anglican.org/antiracism](http://southwark.anglican.org/antiracism)), which

sets out a 12-point plan to bring changes to Diocesan, deanery and parish life.

Speaking at Synod, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon and Diocesan lead on Anti-Racism, said: “The plan now is to take forward our programme for future action. This action must be taken at all levels, working in partnership with our parishes, our schools, our young people, our Cathedral, and our Area and Diocesan Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committees, to ensure that racism in any form is rooted out and diversity is truly our strength.”

The Government’s Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities published its

report in April (see [bit.ly/3cqvmMa](https://bit.ly/3cqvmMa)), which concludes that, while racism still exists in British society, there is little evidence of institutional racism. This conclusion is contradicted by the Archbishops’ Anti-Racism Taskforce’s report *From Lament to Action* (see [bit.ly/3wXusi0](https://bit.ly/3wXusi0)), which proposes deep changes to the culture of the Church of England because of its ongoing institutional racism.

This recognition of systemic racism in the Church of England was highlighted in a BBC *Panorama* report about clergy experiences of racism aired only a few days before the publication of the Anti-Racism Taskforce report.

Indeed, one of our Diocesan clergy

members has told of her own experiences of racism. The Revd Sandra Schloss, Vicar at St Luke, Peckham and Area Dean of Camberwell, says: “When I went to Bishops’ Advisory Panel, I wanted to be considered for incumbent status. However, despite being a manager in the Civil Service, where I managed several staff for many years, I was not considered as a leader. It was stated that I lacked confidence. For far too long they look at us and think we are not good enough. This needs to change.”

The Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, welcomes *From Lament to Action*, saying: “It’s a watershed

Continued on page 7 ►

◀ Continued from page 6

moment for us in the CofE to honour God and strive for a future where these gospel imperatives would be the order of the day and these issues would be behind us.”

Despite differences in emphasis, each of the three reports recognises the need for action to tackle inequalities that arise because of racialised differences. Our deaneries and churches across the Diocese have heard the message and are focusing on racial justice.

Deptford Area Dean and vicar of St Catherine, Hatcham, the Revd Sheridan James, says: “As a deanery we are keen to see real and tangible changes that make a significant difference to the way the Black and brown community feel seen, heard, supported and empowered. I am reminded of the suffragettes’ slogan: ‘Deeds not words.’”

There is the Black Voices Matter initiative at St John, East Dulwich; Racial Justice Conversations at St James, Clapham; and All Saints, Peckham has been running a process called *Listening for Change*. Emmanuel, Croydon also set up a listening group two years ago and has been running a series of sermons with accompanying home group materials entitled *Conversations about Race* (Read more about what churches are doing at [southwark.anglican.org/antiracism](http://southwark.anglican.org/antiracism)).

Some churches have also publicly repented of the past indignities meted out to people of colour when the Anglican Church did not welcome those of the Windrush Generation. The Revd Canon Jonathan Boardman of St Paul, Clapham arranged a service of apology (see [www.pcuuk.com/Watch-Anglican-Church-apology-to-PCU-founder](http://www.pcuuk.com/Watch-Anglican-Church-apology-to-PCU-founder)) for what happened to the Revd Carmel Jones in 1955, when, after attending on three successive Sundays, he was asked by a member of clergy not to return.

“The importance of this apology lies in the way it helped strengthen the openness in our Church family towards continued institutional racism in the Church of England and our dedication to change that as much as we can,” says Jonathan.

The Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby, Vicar of St Peter, Walworth and member of General Synod, not only apologised to Doreen Brown for the historic inhospitable treatment her Windrush Generation parents received at his church, but, on 11 February 2020, he led a motion at General Synod on behalf of people who were barred from entering the church “due to the plain fact of the colour of their black skin”.

The motion called upon the Church to “lament” and apologise for conscious and unconscious racism encountered by “countless” UKME Anglicans arriving in Britain from 1948 and in subsequent years. (Read the full motion here: [bit.ly/2TE0D7Q](http://bit.ly/2TE0D7Q)).

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said that he was “sorry” and “ashamed”. He told Synod that there

## Southwark Vision and Anti-Racism Charter Commitments

The Diocese is committed to challenging racism in our church and the wider society, recognises the need to create a more diverse Church and is fully committed to:

- learning more about the way in which past and present church collusion in institutional racism and ethno-cultural differentiation continues to impact on UKME community members’ participation in the Church. This will include relevant work on the history and contributions of diverse people to our Church as well as the history of our buildings and memorials
- creating safe and trusting spaces to have honest and open conversations about race and racism, racial inequality, power and privilege, and

actively listen to the voices of those impacted and affected by the issues, from UKME and white communities

- providing training and mentoring and opportunities for leadership development for people from diverse heritages
- working to close any gaps that exist between UKME and white experiences of engagement with the Diocese
- engaging our parishes and equipping them to engage constructively with the Charter and the practical change it hopes to bring about
- collaborating with our training institutions and schools on issues of diversity and inclusion.

Read the full Anti-Racism Charter here: [southwark.anglican.org/antiracism](http://southwark.anglican.org/antiracism)

## What does it mean when the Church of England calls itself institutionally racist?

In 2006, General Synod issued an apology, acknowledging the part it played, through the actions of individuals and agencies, in perpetuating and profiting from historical slavery and the exploitation of, and discrimination against, people based on the colour of their skin.

General Synod voted in February 2020 to apologise for racism experienced by UKME people in the Church of England since the arrival of the Windrush Generation. Speaking to

Synod, Archbishop Justin said there was “no doubt” that the Church of England was “still deeply institutionally racist”. The National Church has established an Anti-Racism Taskforce, and will shortly be setting up an Archbishops’ Commission on Racial Equality which will address the justified anger surrounding the continuation of structures of racism and racial injustice within Church institutions.

Source: The Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter

was “no doubt” that the Church of England was still “deeply institutionally racist”. He also responded to the many calls not just for an apology but for actual change in the Church’s systems, structures and practices.

Systemic cultural change on racial inequalities very much underpins the Diocesan Anti-Racism Charter. Earlier this year, the young people of the Diocese’s Woolwich and Croydon Youth Forums met to talk about the Charter and about racism in the CofE. One young participant said: “Sometimes I think people think that because we’re all Christians and we’re all meant to be nice that it [racism] won’t translate at all into church... and if we don’t think that that can happen then we never really address it.”

The Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, has emphasised some of the structural ways the Diocese approaches working collaboratively on issues of racial inequity. She says: “We are blessed with a vigorous Diocesan Minority Ethnic Anglican

Concerns Committee and Area Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committees which enable the Diocese to ensure we are working together in common purpose to tackle racial injustice.”

She adds: “It is a strategic objective of Southwark Vision that we actively seek diversity in our Diocesan structures. We are each of us made in the image of God and I pray that we resolutely move forward with our brothers and sisters to tackle injustice wherever we can.”

Bishop Christopher says: “I am greatly encouraged that the Diocesan Synod voted unanimously to endorse the Anti-Racism Charter which we are committed to implementing fully. Our rich ethnic diversity in this Diocese is God’s gift and blessing which we celebrate.”

He adds: “There is no place for racist attitudes and behaviours in this Diocese. The Charter will guide us as we journey forwards in faith, hope and love for the people of South London and East Surrey.”

## What does being anti-racist mean?

Being anti-racist is not the same as simply not being racist. It is not enough as a Diocese not to be racist but we must actively counter, disrupt and oppose racial injustice. This isn’t an easy task; it takes introspection as well as continued intentional action and is not a static description of ourselves. We are not anti-racist because we have a Charter, we are anti-racist when we act against racism in individual situations.

Source: The Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter

## Why UKME rather than BAME?

We mark a shift away from the acronym BAME to UKME which is more inclusive of colleagues who did not see themselves as falling within a Black or Asian categorisation. This includes our community members from Korea, China, Hong Kong and Singapore, and Latin America among others. This term (unlike BAME) has come into usage as it recognises that people coming from global majority ethnic heritages and living in the United Kingdom are only minority ethnic in that context.

Source: The Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter

## Read more...

- Read an interview with the Revd Sandra Schloss and Bishop Karowei at: [southwark.anglican.org/antiracism](http://southwark.anglican.org/antiracism)
- Watch members of the Woolwich and Croydon Youth Forums speak about racism in the Church at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJo4Wt\\_IoL4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJo4Wt_IoL4)
- Learn more about the Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (MEACC) at: [bit.ly/2T6bp6u](http://bit.ly/2T6bp6u)
- Send us stories of what you are doing in your church to combat racism so we can share them also. E-mail [sophia.jones@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:sophia.jones@southwark.anglican.org)



## IN FOCUS...

### Refugee Week

# “Groups speak again and again of the joy their sponsorship has brought”



Syrian woman sets up in business selling Syrian food.  
© UNHCR

*In a special report to mark Refugee Week, Nicola Thomas, Head of JPIC, recalls the part she played in setting up the UK's Community Sponsorship scheme while working at the Home Office.*

In September 2015, when then Prime Minister David Cameron announced his intention to expand resettlement from Syria to 20,000 people, I was working in the Home Office.

I immediately asked if I could join the new Resettlement Programme, and a few weeks later had started a new role in a tiny makeshift office where about 20 people were squeezed in, often two to a desk.

My job was to implement the announcement that then Home Secretary Theresa May had just made at the Conservative Party conference, to create “a scheme to harness the generosity of spirit of the British people... to allow individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to support refugees directly”.

This was the birth of the UK's Community Sponsorship scheme for refugees.

Skipping forward five years, we now have a scheme which is internationally recognised as the first private sponsorship scheme in the world to follow the lead Canada set 40 years ago.

The idea is that local groups sponsor a refugee or family of refugees, helping them to integrate into life in the UK. During the first year, the group will help those

being sponsored to access English lessons, benefits, healthcare and employment, as well as sourcing accommodation for them. They will even meet them at the airport.

Take-up in the UK is still small. In the latest published statistics, 449 refugees

### Read more...



**Parishes around the Diocese are already working to help refugees and asylum-seekers. Read more about the work of Battersea Welcomes Refugees and St Peter, Lee (above) at: [southwark.anglican.org/we-cannot-walk-alone-supporting-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-the-diocese](https://southwark.anglican.org/we-cannot-walk-alone-supporting-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-the-diocese)**

## Bishop Christopher speaks out on asylum issues



Burundian refugees, who may be affected by the new asylum rules

Bishop Christopher spoke up in the House of Lords on 27 May against the Government “engaging in blarney” with its new rules on asylum claims.

The Bishop's intervention came in response to a Motion of Regret moved by Lord Green of Deddington in protest at a lack of transparency in recent changes to the asylum rules.

Deploring the lack of time set aside to debate the issues by the Government, the Bishop questioned its desire to “treat as inadmissible” any asylum claims

made by those who have passed through or have connections with a safe third country.

He said: “The refugee convention makes no such requirement of those fleeing persecution that they must do so in a specified geographical radius.”

The Bishop added: “What the Home Office might consider safe is not universally experienced as such,” and also pointed out the “linguistic, cultural and family ties” that influenced the routes that people fleeing from persecution might take.

have been resettled through community sponsorship; it is not a scheme for everyone.

However, the rewards are immense. In a policy change, every refugee resettled under community sponsorship is now in addition to the Government's original commitment of 20,000, and can come from a range of countries requiring resettlement, not just Syria. Sponsoring groups speak again and again about the joy that their sponsorship has brought to their community, and about the way that coming together to care for a refugee family has transformed the welcoming community as well as those welcomed.

Faith communities have been key partners all along the way. The very first community sponsorship placement was at Lambeth Palace in July 2016, followed swiftly by a Roman Catholic parish in Manchester and a Salvation Army community in South London.

So far there are a number of sponsored families in South London and East Surrey but none that is directly connected to the Diocese of Southwark. If you think you might be ready to take on this challenge, why not sign up to an event on 17 June being run by Government-sponsored charity Reset and the Church of England, with an introduction by the Archbishop

of Canterbury? You will hear first-hand from people who have experienced the transformative power of community sponsorship.

Other support is available, too. Reset provides information and training, including application workshops and an application-checking service, sponsorship training and an advice line for any issues that arise post-arrival.

The charity's website also has a huge amount of useful information, videos and testimonies about the experience of sponsorship from resettled families and sponsors.

### Get involved...

**The Communities for Refugees webinar is on 17 June at 6.00pm. Register here: [communitysponsorship.org.uk/events](https://communitysponsorship.org.uk/events)**

**Resources from Reset can be accessed here: [ResetUK.org](https://ResetUK.org)**

**Nicola Thomas is speaking at *Welcoming the Stranger* on 16 June at 7.30pm. Book here: [bit.ly/SalArmyStranger](https://bit.ly/SalArmyStranger)**





**IN FOCUS...**  
*News from the Diocese*

# Diocesan Finance Director heads for retirement

**A move from a high-powered job in the City to the Church of England might not have been for everyone, but for Tony Demby, the Diocese’s outgoing Finance Director, it made perfect sense.**

Tony came to the Diocese in January 2015 to help with the Year End accounts; when the position of Finance Director came vacant, he jumped at it.

“It spoke to me,” he said. “I was at a point where I’d achieved all I’d wanted to in the commercial world, I’d been involved with my parish in one way or another for about 20 years, as the Treasurer and on the PCC and as a server, and it struck me that the Diocese needed what time and talents I’ve got more than the City did.”

The past 15 months have not made things easy, with audits for two sets of accounts having to be undertaken in lockdown. However, “it all got done” and 2020’s accounts have recently been signed off by all the appropriate Diocesan committees.

In a message to his successor, Mark Rhodes, Tony said: “You will probably never work with a better group of people who are committed to one cause than you will at the Diocese. I’ve never worked with such a welcoming, friendly group whose values are pretty much the same as mine, and that’s immeasurable.”

Speaking in particular of the Finance Team, Tony said: “I never thought I’d work with a group of people who get on so well and I think a testament to that is we’ve all been together pretty much for as long as I’ve been there.”



He added: “If I’ve achieved anything it’s on the back of what they’ve done, not on me alone. There is no ‘I’ in ‘Team’, as I’ve said many times.”

Ruth Martin, Diocesan Secretary, paid tribute to Tony in return, saying: “It has been a privilege to work closely with Tony to ensure that the stewardship of our financial resources serves the needs of our wonderful Diocese, working in close partnership with our parishes.”

She added: “Tony came into the role simply to serve and he will be much missed across the Diocese and especially in Trinity House – not least by fellow chocolate aficionados!”

Tony’s plans for retirement are, he said, to do “not very much!” initially, but he hopes soon to be able to spend more time at his holiday home on the Isle of Wight, and to do more cycling, “if the weather stays at anything like a normal level of dryness!”

## From farm to pew: meet Southwark’s new Faith in the Countryside Officer

**I was licensed as Faith in the Countryside Officer for the Diocese of Southwark at the last Diocesan Synod, writes the Revd Susie Williams, Rector of St Margaret, Chipstead.**



Thanks to the forethought of those who sought to keep the green spaces for the well-being of us all – and haven’t we been particularly grateful for that over the last 16 months – Chipstead is a rural parish even though we are within the M25!

You might wonder why Southwark needs a Faith in the Countryside Officer, since most of the Diocese is urban. Among other things I am here to stay abreast of current rural issues and developments so that I may advise the Bishop on concerns within rural areas, and to support the mission of the Church in our rural parishes, which experience different challenges and concerns from those in urban areas.

The first thing I will be organising is a meeting, in mid-October, of the incumbents of the rural parishes within Tandridge and Reigate Deaneries. If you are in another area of the Diocese and would like to join us, please contact me after 1 September at rector@smchipstead.org

### “Do not be afraid”

For 20 years, before becoming a full-time vicar, I farmed a 216-acre estate with my husband on the beautiful Llyn Peninsula. We could see both the sea and Snowdon from the farm, which was predominantly livestock.

My husband was very ill for a number of years so I had to take over the work with three, and then four, very small children. It was certainly a challenge, and I reduced the number

of cattle to focus on sheep when my youngest was tiny, lambing 1,400 ewes each year.

During that time I also started training as an Ordinand and gained my degree in theology over a five-year period. Looking back, I cannot believe that I managed to juggle so much!

The first thing I learned whilst farming – always an unpredictable and precarious way of life at the best of times – was that trusting God is imperative. The second thing was to give thanks in every situation; to find the things for which we are grateful and to recognise God’s many blessings. The third thing was not to be anxious, because anxiety doesn’t change anything positively, it merely makes things worse.

So, in these challenging circumstances in which we currently find ourselves, I sign off with my most quoted verses, Philippians 4: 6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

## “There is low cancer awareness among the BAME communities”: Kingston MEACC shares vital prostate cancer information

**On 19 May, the Kingston Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (KMEACC) continued its health series with a presentation on prostate cancer by Suresh Rambaran.**

Suresh is the UK’s first UKME person to be appointed as a Cancer Information Specialist (CIS) and has more than 40 years’ experience of raising awareness about prostate cancer. He is also a member of St James, Clapham. More than 40,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year in the UK. One in four Black men will develop prostate cancer compared with one in eight white men.



“There is low cancer awareness, as well low uptake of screening, among the BAME communities,” said Suresh, adding: “The aim of the presentation was to inform and empower men about their prostate cancer risk so that they can go to their GP for a prostate check.”

Suresh spoke about the risk factors of age, ethnicity, family history, body weight, and diet. Almost 6,000 55- to 59-year-olds in the UK are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year. This rises to more than 7,000 men aged 60-64; almost 8,000 aged 65-69; and 7,000 aged 70-79.

Men are two-and-a-half times more likely to develop prostate cancer if their father or brother have been diagnosed. This risk increases if their relative was under 60 or more than one close relative has been diagnosed.

Research also shows that being overweight or obese increases your risk of getting cancer that is more likely to

spread. Signs and symptoms include:

- a weak or reduced urine flow
- needing to urinate often
- feeling the bladder is not completely empty
- a desperate need to urinate
- difficulty starting to pass urine.

Regardless of ethnicity, if you are experiencing any of these symptoms, Suresh urges people to go to their GP, or contact the National Male Cancer Helpline on 0808 802 0010; [www.orchid-cancer.org.uk](http://www.orchid-cancer.org.uk)

Read Suresh’s blog on prostate cancer at: [southwark.anglican.org/li-feel-that-god-has-called-me-to-use-my-knowledge](http://southwark.anglican.org/li-feel-that-god-has-called-me-to-use-my-knowledge)



## IN FOCUS...

Other news

# World gathers to welcome new Archbishop in Jerusalem

**On Ascension Day, 13 May 2021 the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem celebrated the installation of the Most Revd Dr Hosam Naoum as the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, and the 15th Anglican Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.**

The Cathedral of St George the Martyr in East Jerusalem was filled with family and friends, bishops from the Anglican Communion, the Diocese of Jerusalem's retired Archbishop Suheil Dawani, heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, priests from Palestine and Israel, heads of Diocesan institutions, parishioners from St George's Cathedral, and diplomatic and civic leaders.

Bishop Christopher attended on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. After the new Archbishop was presented to the congregation amid rapturous applause, congratulatory greetings were said.

Bishop Christopher read out a message from Archbishop Justin, which said: "As well as rejoicing in this feast day, it is also a day of sorrow and real concern given the most recent events. I pray, as I do continually, for the peace of Jerusalem and I pray for you, Archbishop Hosam, in your leadership at this time."

Bishop Christopher also sent greetings from his fellow Bishops in the Diocese of Southwark and the Dean of Southwark, and expressed thanks that he and Archbishop Suheil had signed the Covenant Agreement between the two Dioceses in January.

Archbishop Hosam delivered his sermon firstly in Arabic and then English. He laid out his vision and plan for the future ministry of the Diocese in its five regions (Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon) through its congregations and institutions.

"Here in the city of the Resurrection, we must be people of the Resurrection. Always looking to God's life, light and hope for us and for the whole world. My vision for our Church is that we collectively reflect the mind of Christ. This means first and foremost that we as the body of Christ are united to face the true north of our faith which is to live in the light of the Kingdom of God and seek God's righteousness. All are welcome and included in this vision," he said.

*The Archbishop is appealing for financial support for Al-Ahli Hospital, in Gaza City, which falls under his care. You can donate here: [bit.ly/GazaAppeal2021](http://bit.ly/GazaAppeal2021)*



**The Most Revd Dr Hosam Naoum (left) and Bishop Christopher.**

### Letter from the Holy Land

**On 2 June, Archbishop Hosam wrote to Bishop Christopher, thanking him for the support shown during the installation.**

"Dear Bishop Christopher," he said, "I am writing to thank you for your participation as episcopal envoy and concelebrant on the occasion of my Installation last month. Coming in the midst of the Gaza War and ethnic rioting in Israel's mixed cities, your pastoral presence and words of encouragement from both yourself and Archbishop Justin meant a great deal to the clergy and people of the Diocese of Jerusalem, as well as to me personally."

He added: "It is my hope that with the travel restrictions beginning to relax as the pandemic runs its final course, we will see a return to more normal times here and around the world, allowing your plans to move forward for another visit with us here in the Land of the Holy One."

### Read more...

**Bishop Christopher has written a reflection on his recent experiences in the Holy Land. Read it here: [southwark.anglican.org/a-reflection-from-jerusalem](http://southwark.anglican.org/a-reflection-from-jerusalem)**

### Helping the Diocese to speak truth to power for 30 years

**Before there was Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation there was the Social Responsibility Department. As it marks its 30th anniversary, former member Terry Drummond shares his memories of working in one of the department's incarnations.**

The work of the Board for Social Responsibility which, in its various guises, is celebrating 30 years of action and reflection was rooted in the work of a number of paid officers who had over many years developed projects across the Diocese.

The work and ministry of the Board was predicated on reflecting the commitment of the Diocese and parishes to social issues such as poverty and exclusion, the environment, fair trade, and refugees and asylum-seekers. The intention was to highlight issues through evidence-based research and theological reflection, which could assist parishes who wanted to work for change.

The focus was on being a Church in and of the world, active in challenging injustice from a theological and political perspective. The importance of its work was highlighted in the developments that led to the Diocese receiving Fair Trade status, following an active campaign that encouraged parishes to be involved.

The problems associated with poverty and exclusion were highlighted by the growing number of food banks across the Diocese. These offered important practical and pastoral support to many individuals and families but it was equally important to challenge Government on why so many were required.

The challenge of the prophets who spoke truth to power underpinned the message that the Church was more than a place for assistance; it



was also a space where experience of social problems could be channelled into evidence of injustice.

The environment was an important issue about which the Board believed both the Diocese and local churches should be able to promote better understanding, and it made an important contribution at a time when the subject was not as well publicised as it is today. It also contributed to helping with the growing problems suffered by asylum seekers and refugees, working alongside the London Churches Refugee Working Group.

In a fragmented world there will always be social problems; it is important for the Church to minister, challenge and follow in the steps of the Old Testament Prophets in seeking truth. The importance of the Board for Social Responsibility was its contribution to trying to focus thinking on the Church in the world when considering justice issues.

*Nicola Thomas, current Head of JPIC, reflects on the 30th anniversary at: [bit.ly/3gfYuHj](http://bit.ly/3gfYuHj)*

### "Sense of solidarity": Chine McDonald in conversation

**Author, broadcaster and Head of Community Fundraising and Engagement at Christian Aid, Chine McDonald, spoke movingly in an interview about her new book *God is not a White Man and Other Revelations* with Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett at Southwark Cathedral on 25 May.**



© Donna Ford

**When speaking about how Black women are perceived, and how they see one another, she said, "We are seen as inferior. However, I talk about how there is a sense of solidarity. There is a connection that we have. We see each other often in a world that doesn't see us."**

*"God is Not a White Man and Other Revelations" is out now, from £9.99*



## IN FOCUS...

Social justice

# CTBI stages service to mark George Floyd anniversary



Southwark pupils lay candles in an act of remembrance. © Peter Neill

**An ecumenical service in memory of the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd was held at the New Testament Church of God Community Church in Brixton and broadcast on YouTube on 25 May and BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 30 May.**

The service, which was organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, began with Bishop Christopher saying, "as George Floyd said, 'I can't breathe.'" He was followed by church leaders from other denominations saying the same words. Children from the Diocese of

*"We all need to stop waiting for justice to roll down and, as churches, join with others in proclaiming that now is the time"*

Southwark's St Martin's High School and Archbishop Tenison's High School took part in a symbolic act of remembrance by laying candles at the foot of the cross.

Worship was led by John Fisher and IDMC Gospel Choir. Scripture readings and reflections came from the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York; Pastor Agu Irukwu, Senior Pastor at Jesus House; Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo, Senior Pastor at Kingsway International Christian Centre; the Revd Lynn Greene, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain; and the Revd Mandy Ralph, Church of Scotland.

The Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, added to testimonies from university student, Gabriel Dedji, the Rt Revd Dr John

Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell, and Youth Worker, Dion-Marie White. She said: "We all need to stop waiting for justice to roll down and, as churches, join with others proclaiming that now is the time for change and to not only say it but to actively stand up and speak out and not to stop doing that until we see the changes that need to happen, happen."

Solo artist HURU sang her song *Black Beauté*, which she describes as "a celebration of the culture, diversity, history, creativity and greatness that resides in all shades of Melanin".

During the minute's silence for George Floyd, a list of the notable black deaths in police custody in Britain was displayed.

In his sermon, Les Isaac, chief executive of the Ascension Trust and founder of Street Pastors, said: "The killing of George Floyd was projected on a global stage. It gave a panoramic view of the challenges that Black people and people from all over the world are facing in terms of injustice within the 21st century."

A prayer entitled *There is a Balm* was led by Bishop Dr Eric Brown of the New Testament Church of God. Responses came from the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover; His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London; the Rt Revd Paul Hendricks, the Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark; and the Revd Inderjit Bhogal of the Methodist Church and Church of Sanctuary.

The service ended with a blessing from Bishop Christopher.

You can watch the full service at [bit.ly/3fGc4Vn](https://bit.ly/3fGc4Vn), or listen to a shorter version on BBC Radio 4 at [bbc.in/3i8AAAa](https://bbc.in/3i8AAAa)

# WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for JULY ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 21 JUNE**



## June

### MONDAY 7 - FRIDAY 11 JUNE

\* **ONLINE** – Church of England-led webinars in support of Churches Count on Nature Week. Various times, free. [bit.ly/CountOnNature2](https://bit.ly/CountOnNature2)

### WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE

\* **ONLINE** – Wonder, Wisdom and Worship: opportunities and challenges for using science in preaching. 1.00pm-2.00pm, Zoom, free. Link available on the day here: [www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/event/science-in-preaching-seminar](https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/event/science-in-preaching-seminar)

### WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE

\* **ONLINE** – Wonder, Wisdom and Worship: opportunities and challenges for using science in preaching. Follows on from 9 June's seminar. 1.00pm-5.00pm, Zoom, £25. E-mail [churches@faraday.cam.ac.uk](mailto:churches@faraday.cam.ac.uk) to book.

\* **WATERLOO/ONLINE** – A Jewish Jesus: Art and Faith in the Shadow of World War II. One-day conference on Jewish refugee artists at St John, Waterloo, SE1 8TY. 9.30am-8.30pm, £19.46-£32.93. Information and tickets from: [bit.ly/3vltDc](https://bit.ly/3vltDc)

\* **ONLINE** – Welcoming the Stranger: The Ethics of Migration. Webinar by the Moral and Social Issues Council exploring the ethical issues surrounding migration, refugee settlement and seeking asylum. Information and booking at: [bit.ly/SalArmyStranger](https://bit.ly/SalArmyStranger)

### THURSDAY 24 JUNE

\* **ONLINE** – Living with Dementia. Online ecumenical conference from the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (mass livestreamed at 9.15am). Talks on spiritual care for those affected, making your church dementia-friendly and more. 10.15am-1.00pm, Zoom, free. To register, e-mail [mihoward@btinternet.com](mailto:mihoward@btinternet.com)

### MONDAY 28 JUNE

\* **ONLINE** – SPIDIR AGM and annual conference. 10.00am-3.00pm, Zoom. Open to SPIDIR members. E-mail Sally Lowe to book a place: [sallylowe1943@gmail.com](mailto:sallylowe1943@gmail.com)

## Organ Recitals at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

Free. Thursdays @ 7.30pm. [sjunoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sjunoffice@gmail.com); 020 8771 6686

**17 June:** Ian Keatley, Director of Music, Southwark Cathedral

**15 July:** Adrian Gunning, St John the Evangelist, Islington

**16 September:** Andrew Prior, London

**14 October:** Jeremiah Stephenson, All Saints, Margaret Street, London

### WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE

\* **ONLINE** – Young people, drugs and alcohol – what every churchgoing parent and care-giver needs to know. A webinar presented in partnership with local drugs awareness charity the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation. 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free. Register at: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DA0YjUp2SQi4DGwkThvJKQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DA0YjUp2SQi4DGwkThvJKQ)

## July

### SATURDAY 3 JULY

♪ **DULWICH** – The Ionian Singers in a programme of French and English music. St Stephen, Dulwich, London SE21 7HW. 7.30pm. £15 (free for under-16s and full-time students). Tickets in advance from [bit.ly/2R9tpwe](https://bit.ly/2R9tpwe), [info@ioniansingers.co.uk](mailto:info@ioniansingers.co.uk) or 07950 143916.

### SUNDAY 11 JULY

\* **PUTNEY** – Service of Lament and Hope at St Mary, Putney, reflecting on the pandemic with personal accounts from those on the front line. 6.00pm, free.

## September

### 18-26 SEPTEMBER

\* **NATIONWIDE** – The Great Big Green Week will be the UK's biggest ever event for climate and nature, held in advance of COP26. For more information, visit: [greatbiggreenweek.com](https://greatbiggreenweek.com)

# Diocese bids farewell to Archdeacon of Southwark after 20 years

**On 22 May, the Archdeacon of Southwark, the Venerable Dr Jane Steen, presided over the Choral Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral – her farewell to the Diocese she served for more than 20 years.**

The first reading was from Deuteronomy and read by Bianca Blake, a Churchwarden at St Philip and St Mark, Camberwell. The gospel from John was read by fellow Archdeacon, the Venerable Revd Alastair Cutting, Archdeacon of Greenwich and Lewisham, and the prayers of intercession were led by Akin Akinwunmi, Churchwarden at St Paul, Newington.

Jane's sermon focused on the words "Remember", "Rejoice" and "Receive". In the same way that the children of Israel were to remember the bondage of slavery, she said, "so too for us. We have had, let us face it, hard times. Some of you and those whom we know have had very hard times whether through work or ministry or family circumstance or health or for numerous other reasons. Now we hope, we pray, the worst is over, but in remembering our own suffering gives us compassion when others suffer."

Jane thanked the nurses, deacons, porters, volunteers, priests, delivery drivers, and transport workers among others. "You

have given us reason to rejoice even at the times of deepest darkness," she said.

"To receive is to admit that we ourselves can be different and to be ready for what the Lord gives," she added, stressing that the rivers of water do not flow from us but from Jesus himself. In conclusion, she said, "Come then, my friends, let us receive the Lord. Let us, come Pentecost, receive the Spirit. Let us be open to all that the Lord might have for us in the future. Let us rejoice in the ministry that we have shared, the friendships we have formed. All that we have done together."

There were joy-filled farewells and reminiscences from Dean Andrew Nunn; Ruth Martin, the Diocesan Secretary; Archdeacon Alastair Cutting; and Bishop Christopher, who said, "In the new Bishop of Lynn, the Church of God receives a gift that has been significantly formed, we are glad to say, in this Diocese. We wish Jane well as she begins this new phase of ministry." In response, Jane thanked colleagues and parishioners for their support.

At the end of the service Bishop Christopher said a blessing over Jane.

*Watch the full service at: [bit.ly/2RbsA69](https://bit.ly/2RbsA69); the full text of Bishop Christopher's tribute can be found in the box to the right; an interview with Jane is below.*



Jane Steen presides at her farewell Eucharist. © Eve Milner

## Bishop Christopher's tribute to Jane Steen

Jane has been an exceptionally gifted colleague, working in the Diocese for over 20 years. After a curacy in St Albans, Jane was appointed Chaplain to Bishop Tom Butler in 1999 and after five years became Canon Chancellor of Southwark Cathedral and Director of Ministry and Training for the Diocese. Her brief was to transform our IME programme with a focus on excellent ongoing ministerial and theological training and development. Eight generations of curates benefited greatly from her wisdom and skill in this role.

I appointed her to the archdeaconry of Southwark in 2013. In this role Jane has established strong bonds of trust with clergy and lay officers in each and every parish – Southwark being the most distinctly inner-urban archdeaconry. Her archdeaconry clergy would be the first to attest to her as an advocate if needed as well as a pastor with a loving heart. Jane is vigorous and focused,

and with those for whom she has been set to care she is consistently present, pastoral and sympathetic, working with Alastair and Bishop Karowei as part of the Woolwich Trio. Bishop Karowei sends his love and deep gratitude.

Jane has executed many important projects in the Diocese over 15 years. To give but one example, Jane was a highly effective chair of our task group which saw through a thorough review of Diocesan governance structures five years ago. Jane has also been a highly effective member of General Synod and has recently studied Canon and Ecclesiastical Law.

In the new Bishop of Lynn the Church of God receives a gift that has been significantly formed, we are glad to say, in this Diocese. We wish Jane well as she begins this new phase of her ministry and we pray for her, and her husband Pip, and the people she will serve in the Diocese of Norwich.

## In her own words... excerpt from an interview with Jane

### How do you feel about leaving the Diocese?

Southwark has been a fantastic Diocese in which to minister over the last 21 years. I've been very privileged to be part of its life in different roles and to have worked with so many great clergy and laity. I can't but feel a wrench as my time here ends. Southwark will always have a place in my heart.

### What have been the high points?

Too many to mention! But if I could choose one for each of the three posts I have held here, I'd say the Clergy Conference in 2004, the completion of IME for the 2006 deacons, and Visitation Services while I've been Archdeacon.

The 2004 conference was the first one we'd had for over 20 years. All the IME curates from 2006 to my last cohort in 2012 were amazing to work with but when the 2006 group were launched, I knew we could do this. As for Visitation Services, I always think that our Churchwardens are among the unsung heroes of the Church of England. It's a real honour to admit them.

### What are you looking forward to about being Bishop of Lynn?

On a personal level, I am very much looking forward to cleaner air, open skies and long walks. But most of all, I'm looking forward to meeting the clergy and laity of the benefices and supporting their mission.

### What are you going to miss about the Diocese?

That would have to be the people, without doubt.

### What is your prayer for them?

I have found Bishop Christopher's summary of our Southwark Vision, Christ-centred, outward-focused, as immensely helpful. So my prayer for this wonderful Diocese as I leave it, is that our parishes, people and priests can live by this and be Christ-centred and outward-focused in their lives.

*The full text of this interview can be found on the Diocesan website at: [southwark.anglican.org/interview-with-jane-steen](https://southwark.anglican.org/interview-with-jane-steen)*

## Bishop Christopher names Acting Archdeacon

**It was announced on 13 May by Bishop Christopher that the Revd Jonathan Sedgwick, Rector of St George the Martyr, Southwark, has agreed to serve as Acting Archdeacon of Southwark.**

The Bishop said: "In due course, I hope to appoint a new Archdeacon and I am glad that the archdeaconry will be in such good hands until that time. Jonathan will be working closely with the Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich – and of course also with the Bishop of Woolwich – and will be assisted by Richard Coe who continues as the Archdeacons' PA."

Jonathan (pictured right), who will remain Rector of his parish, said: "It is an archdeaconry I love very much. I love the diversity both of its people and its traditions."



He added: "I am well aware of the toll that the pandemic has had on our communities and churches and the well-being of clergy and lay people alike. I very much hope to be a source of encouragement and practical assistance as we begin to recover from this together."