



The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Walking
Welcoming
Growing

Vol.26 No.7
September 2021



Called to serve

Introducing the Diocese's new lay ministries

See pages 6-7



Front-line faith

Bishop's new Adviser for Healthcare Chaplaincy writes

See page 8



Let us pray...

Andrew Nunn returns with monthly reflection

See page 10



Diocese gathers to celebrate SPA ministry

On Monday 26 July, Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs) from across the Diocese met at Southwark Cathedral in a moving and uplifting service.

Entitled *Serving God with Gladness and Joy – Celebration of the Ministry of Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries*, the service was presided over by the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark.

Passages from Genesis, Psalms and Mark's Gospel were read by newly commissioned SPAs Jane Ward and Michael Brockett and UKME Representative on the Bishop's Advisory Council Group for SPAs, Mitzi Isaacs.

The Revd Dr Clare Herbert, Research Fellow in Pastoral Care and Practical Theology at St Augustine's College of Theology, was unable to preach because she had been asked to self-isolate. Her sermon was delivered instead by the Revd Canon Wendy S Robins, Canon Chancellor and the Diocese's Director of Discipleship, Lay Leadership and Continuing Ministerial Education.

The sermon spoke of pastoral care as being "effortful and challenging" and that "listening is the deepest form of hospitality there is – offering each other the space we have inside ourselves for



Bishop Jonathan presents outgoing Diocesan SPA Gerie Knights with the Lancelot Andrewes medal for her service.

others to dwell there for a short while so that they can find their own shape in the space we offer them."

Welcome prayers were said for new SPAs Michael Brockett, Dorothy Lupinda, Lara Sholu and Jane Ward. All SPAs re-dedicated themselves to the service of this ministry. Retiring SPAs Peter Brand, Doreen Browne, Blanche Cassell, Cynthia

Coker, Glenda Dennis, Margaret Fadeyi, Stephen Harries, Jean Hems, Anita Hinds, Segun Osuntokun and Sally Pusey were awarded the title of SPA Emeritus. They received their certificates from Carolyn Watkins and Penny Seabrook.

Bishop Jonathan presented retiring Diocesan SPA, Gerie Knights, with the Lancelot Andrewes medal on behalf of

Bishop Christopher. Bishop Jonathan prayed, "Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Gerie among us, who has served her community and this Diocese faithfully. Now bless and preserve her at this time of transition. Give her sustenance for temporal and spiritual needs, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of the ministry to which you are now calling her."

Wendy Robins commented: "The SPA celebration was quite simply that: a wonderful celebration of the ministry of our pastoral assistants in the parishes, hospitals and chaplaincies in which they serve." She added: "SPA ministry brings comfort and support to so many and it has been particularly important during the pandemic and this was the perfect opportunity to say thank you to them all."

The service ended with the congregation singing *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*, followed by a drinks reception in the Cathedral courtyard.

Read more about lay ministry in the Diocese, and the launch of new lay ministries, on pages 6-7.

South Godstone vicar gives freestyle blessing

The Revd Peter O'Connell found himself in hot water on 16 July when he waded chest-deep into the swimming pool at St Stephen's Primary, South Godstone, to bless it.

"It was a very hot day when I was due to

bless the pool so when the school swim team said they thought I should bless the pool from in the water rather than standing on the edge I didn't refuse," Peter said. "This was the first time that I have blessed a swimming pool. Previously it has been houses and a pub!"

He added: "This is a great facility for the school and for the community. The school teaches our children many important things but swimming is the thing that is most likely to save their lives."

The blessing was part of a celebration



to mark 150 years of education at St Stephen's and the new enclosure of the swimming pool. As part of the celebrations, Bishop Jonathan visited the

school and each child painted a self-portrait on a pebble that will form an outdoor commemoration of the occasion.

Headteacher Amanda Blackburn said: "We are very appreciative of our community who have supported the fundraising efforts to enclose our swimming pool and we are particularly grateful to the London Marathon Charitable Trust and Swim England for their generous grant funding. This is a great resource that will benefit our current and future generations of families at St Stephen's."

A view from The BRIDGE



Welcome to the September issue of *The Bridge*. I hope you have had a lovely summer and that, whatever you did, you are at the very least refreshed for the weeks and months ahead.

In this edition, we have re-introduced, by popular demand, our monthly feature *Let Us Pray*, on page 10 and warmly welcome back Dean Andrew Nunn who has written the reflection. Dean Andrew will be joined by other contributors over the next year.

As a former staff member at Mothers' Union, I have fond memories of the global celebrations and services I attended during my time there. So I was excited to read about St Mildred's Ladies' Choir recording a song for the movement's special global service to mark the centenary of founder Mary Sumner's death. Read about their journey from singing it locally to it being streamed to a global congregation of thousands on page 11.

Not long after I joined the Diocese, I had the pleasure of meeting and working (virtually) with the Revd Andy Dovey, hospital chaplain in Croydon. Let us rejoice with him as he takes on the role of Bishop's Adviser for Healthcare Chaplaincy (page 8).

We celebrate and learn more about self-supporting ministry on page 12 while our centre spread on pages 6-7 features the new lay ministries that are being launched this month in the Diocese. I was also privileged

to attend the Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs) celebration service at the Cathedral in late July (see page 1). I wrote a Hearts on Fire blog post in late July about using our gifts and talents for God's kingdom (southwark.anglican.org/using-our-talents-and-gifts-for-gods-glory). Whether you feel called to ordained ministry or lay, we encourage you to read these articles to find out more, and share them with friends and family you think will find them useful.

In July we announced that Pamela Chisholm had been appointed as the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. On page 3, she talks about her life and work, and hopes for her new job.

In July, the Diocesan Synod unanimously approved the renewed Diocesan Eco Policy. Since then, members of the Diocese have been active in contributing to the campaign against climate change in the run-up to COP26 in November, when world leaders will meet in Glasgow. Read more about what's been happening over the summer, and find out more about upcoming eco-events, on page 9.

Other upcoming events include the Black History Month service at the Cathedral on 2 October (see News in Brief, right).

I hope you will be blessed and encouraged as you read these pages of news, updates and features from our Diocese.

Sophia Jones



NEWS IN BRIEF

Archdeacon to open Nations' Climate Sunday Service



The Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, will open the Nations' Climate Sunday Service on Sunday 5 September. Starting at 4.00pm, the service will see churches from across Britain and Ireland joining together online and in Glasgow Cathedral to pray and to present pledges to the Government ahead of COP26.

Register for the service here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nations-climate-sunday-service-churches-prepare-for-cop-26-tickets-165258230817. For those wanting to hold a Climate Sunday service of their own, there is still time to register here (bit.ly/3huDo8l).

Read more about eco-activity in the Diocese on page 9.

Black History Month service announced

This year's Black History Month service will take place on Saturday 2 October from 11.00am at Southwark Cathedral and will celebrate Business, Science, and the Arts; it will be followed by workshops in the afternoon. The Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt Revd Karowei Dorgu, will preside at the Eucharist. The preacher will be the Revd Les Isaac OBE, founder of Ascension Trust and Street Pastors.

Further details and information on how to sign up can be found at: southwarkbhm21.eventbrite.co.uk



Celebrate a return to singing with new liturgy

Now that congregational singing is once again permitted, the Bishop's Advisory Group on Liturgy has produced material to help parishes to celebrate. This includes liturgy that can be adapted to local traditions and customs, as well as a checklist of questions to help churches return to singing safely and sensitively. The advice remains to move forward cautiously, taking into account your own context and risk assessments.

Download the material at: southwark.anglican.org/liturgy

Welcome back parishioners with an invitation

The Mission Team is offering invitation templates for parishes wanting to invite parishioners back to church, and micro-grants of £100 to help with this initiative. An invitation to a specific service is a great way to re-engage people who may have stopped connecting with worship and discipleship during the pandemic.

Invitation cards and application forms can be downloaded from: southwark.anglican.org/we-are-open. Completed application forms should be e-mailed to: mission@southwark.anglican.org



Notice about images



Please note: photographs in the paper where people are not socially distanced were taken before the pandemic or when subjects were in a bubble.

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The OCTOBER edition is due to be published online on 1 October 2021. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**.

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

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



IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

Bishop's House hosts milestone moment for local synagogue



Bishop Christopher and guests, including his colleague in the House of Lords, Baroness Merron (third from right).

Braving a day of changeable weather, members of the South London Liberal Synagogue (SLLS) marked their return to in-person worship when they met at Bishop's House on 3 July to pray together physically for the first time since the pandemic began.

Bishop Christopher extended the invitation to SLLS after being approached by Rabbi Nathan Godleman. The synagogue had been meeting online for the previous 16 months, and the "Bishop's Garden Shabbat" was a celebration of their safe return to face-to-face worship. Bishop's House is only five minutes' walk from the shul.

The congregation on the day numbered around 30, including Baroness Merron, chief executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Luckily for all concerned, there was a marquee still standing in the garden from a previous engagement, as the rain began to fall not long after Rabbi Nathan began the service. However, the weather failed to dampen the spirits of those gathering together for this joyful service after so long apart.

Gifts of gin and "holy socks" (with biblical verses) were presented to the Bishop and his chaplain, Alun Ford, after the service.

Bishop Christopher said: "It was good to reflect on the shared presence of our respective faith communities in Streatham. The South London Liberal Synagogue is not far now from its centenary and has

borne witness to the constant love of God through the changes and inconstancies of London and in wider British society over that time. The Synagogue is evidence, if any were needed, of the strength which diversity imparts to our nation. Our traditions have the common good clearly in view and we work towards it with the strength God gives us."

He added: "I was glad we all met together as neighbours and friends. The morning ended with friendships renewed and deepened, and a continuing sense of possibility."

Could this be a year to learn and grow?

I asked someone who took part in the Bishop's Certificate course last year whether she had enjoyed it. She said, "If I hadn't enjoyed it, I wouldn't be standing beneath an umbrella sheltering from the rain under a tree right now. I have come to see you today and get soaked through just so that I can say a huge thank you."



We were talking in a park at the stage of the lockdown when we were able to meet people outdoors, but weren't yet allowed to sit and study next to each other in a room.

The 60 magnificent people who took the Bishop's Certificate last year met week by week on Zoom, but never met each other indoors. So administrator Zoë Skilton and I arranged a party in a park so that we could see each other face to face at the start of summer. This being England, it rained on the very day we hoped for a sunny gathering. Grrr!

So what is this course that people love so much that they have kept going through such difficult circumstances? It is called *Growing in Faith and Life*, but everyone nicknames it the Bishop's Certificate.

It lasts 10 months, starting in mid-September, and it covers the subjects that will help you understand the Christian faith better and grow in your desire to be a follower of Jesus. It's about the Old and New Testaments, what it means to be an Anglican, what Christians believe, how to be an active disciple, and how to put your future into God's hands. There is a handbook, and tutors from around the Diocese who love to teach lead the different modules.

Some people take it really seriously because they are enquiring whether God is calling them to be ordained or to take a significant lay role such as a Reader, a Pioneer or a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary. They make their learning even richer by writing short assignments. But most people do it for the joy of learning more, and just enjoy attending the sessions, discussing with others, and reading the handbook.

This year we have something different to offer. You can either take the course in person in Trinity House on a Tuesday evening or a Saturday morning, or you can take it on Zoom on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. It is just as rewarding either way, and it ends up with a residential weekend in the Surrey countryside.

If you would like to receive more details, or find out what it costs and book a place, drop us a line at bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org or phone 020 7939 9440 and ask as many questions as you like. It might be just what you need to revive and restore you after the extraordinary times we have been through. And this year you won't even need to get wet.

**Peter Graystone,
Lay Training Officer**

"I feel a great desire to share my experience": meet the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

A move from the Metropolitan Police to the Church of England is not the usual career trajectory, but for the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Pam Chisholm, it was one that made perfect sense.



"I've been employed by the Met Police since I was about 17, predominantly focused on safeguarding roles," she said. "I feel like I've amassed such a wealth of

experience, knowledge and expertise, and I just feel this great desire to share it, and enhance it."

Pam's 31-year police career has seen her work both operationally and strategically with victims, offenders, sex offenders and in serious case reviews focused on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Most recently, she was an acting Detective Chief Inspector within the continuous policing improvement command, working to improve best practice and with a responsibility for designing safeguarding policy.

A strong focus of Pam's work has been on improving the police response to domestic abuse, and to ensure that

survivors receive the help they need. "Trained in sexual offences investigative techniques, I have responded to and provided the highest quality of care to survivors," she said.

"As an advocate for improved responses, I have engaged extensively with those experiencing trauma to understand lived experience and then review and professionalise organisational approaches."

As she begins work in her new role, Pam is also looking forward to supporting those responsible for safeguarding across the Diocese. "That's one of the things I'm passionate about, that training aspect," she said. "I know it will be a huge part of my role."



IN FOCUS...
News from our parishes

Windrush celebration returns to St John, Kennington

On Sunday 8 August the parish of St John the Divine, Kennington marked its fourth annual celebration of the Windrush generation and their descendants, writes Wail Qasim.

The day began with a Mass for the Feast of the Transfiguration, where the Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley, Vicar of St

The Revd Canon Mark Williams, Vicar of St John the Divine, Kennington, said: "Since the 70th anniversary of Windrush, we have kept an annual celebration at St John the Divine to give thanks for the immense contribution of the Windrush generation and their families to the church, the nation, and to our community here in Brixton."

He added: "We cannot underestimate the struggles and challenges faced by our people who have been resilient, dignified and generous throughout. The fight for racial justice continues, and keeping the



From left to right: the Revd Charles Morris; Councillor Nanda Manley-Browne; the Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley; MP Florence Eshalomi; the Revd Canon Mark Williams. Inset: MP Bell Ribeiro-Addy.

"We were reminded that, working together in the light of Christ, change can happen, resurrection will come"

Mark's and Holy Innocents, South Norwood joined the congregation to preside. Also sharing in the liturgy was the Revd Charles Morris, Deputy High Commissioner for Barbados to the United Kingdom, who preached a powerful sermon.

Feast of the Transfiguration we were reminded by Fr Charles Morris, DHC, that, working together in the light of Christ, change can happen, resurrection will come."

Festivities continued after the service with a community party where Milton Inniss, High Commissioner for Barbados to the United

Kingdom, and local MPs Florence Eshalomi and Bell Ribeiro-Addy were among the guests.

This year's festivities were particularly poignant for the congregation following a move online in 2020 and postponement from the usual date close to Windrush Day in June 2021 when COVID-19 restrictions were in place. It was with great joy then that, so close to the Feast of the Transfiguration and Jamaica Independence Day, this event marked a return to lost aspects of community life.

"We've built a beautiful community": Pip's kids' club launches



Local children have enjoyed a summer of games, dancing, face painting, arts and more with the launch of Pip's kids' club at St Philip, Avondale Square.

Funded by the Corporation of London and staffed by church volunteers, Pip's aims to provide a hot meal and entertainment for up to 30 children per week, plus their adults.

Among many other activities, there have been special guest visits by a zookeeper, T-shirt printing and plenty of dance routines. On one day, there was even a trip to London Zoo, heavily subsidised by ZSL.

Vicar at St Philip's, the Revd Helen Harknett, said: "We have met every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in August, welcoming between 40 and 60 people each day. We eat a hot meal at lunch time and send the children home with a packed supper."

She added: "A beautiful little community has formed here this summer. It has been such a delight to witness and I am massively hopeful for the future of our wonderful church community."

One person said: "This club is exactly what this community needed. Bringing families and children together, feeding them and providing interesting opportunities and activities. Brilliant!"

St Paul, Thornton Heath gives thanks for COVID centre

At the end of January, St Paul, Thornton Heath, opened its doors as a COVID-19 vaccination centre, writes Gill Borthwick, Reader at St Paul's.

Eleven GP practices, along with the NHS and local volunteers, came together to set up the centre — one of six GP-led centres in the borough of Croydon. In total, they delivered more than 40,000 vaccinations to local residents.

On Sunday 1 August we held a special service of Thanksgiving and Wholeness & Healing in recognition of their efforts. Some of the volunteers joined the congregation for the service.

Included in the service was the planting of a strawberry tree by Teresa Chapman, Non Clinical Lead at the site and Business Lead — One Thornton Heath PCN, and Dipti Gandhi, the Clinical lead and Clinical Director for Primary Care North Croydon PCN, as a thank you for their leadership and commitment to the success of the centre. The tree will also serve as a symbol of hope and a reminder of all those who have sadly lost their lives.

Afterwards, the congregation were



joined by the practices and other volunteers (65 people in all) for a celebratory lunch to thank all the volunteers. During this, Dr Agnelo Fernandes MBE, Partner of the Parchmore Medical Centre, presented certificates to the volunteers. The Revd Derrick Thompson received a certificate of recognition for St Paul's.

Everyone really enjoyed the event and so many commented on what a rewarding experience it had been to work together to help to vaccinate people. It was really lovely also to see the hall filled with joy after such a long time.

Using parish boundaries to build friendships in south-west London



St Paul, Wimbledon and Holy Trinity, Roehampton beat the bounds.

At a time when boundaries are being erected around the world to keep people apart, St Paul, Wimbledon Parkside and Holy Trinity, Roehampton have been drawn together by their shared border.

These two parishes were both established in the late 19th century, carved out of the original country parishes of Wandsworth and Putney respectively. The historical border between these two parishes, going back many centuries, runs along an old straight trackway across Wimbledon Common from near Tibbet's Corner, to the old windmill.

This year, the two churches revived the ancient tradition of beating the bounds. After their morning services on Sunday 13 June, the two congregations met on the Common to pray together before walking the thousand yards of shared border, carrying banners and taking full advantage of the regulations to sing joyfully together in the open air.

At the end of the walk, after a short service by the water trough, they retreated into the shade of the trees around the green by the Windmill, just inside the parish of Roehampton.

Food appeared from nowhere in a miracle of generosity and improvisation. The younger and hardier members of the party played rounders. Conversations were shared, new friendships made and old friendships renewed.

The Revd Susan Bolen, Vicar of St Paul's, said: "We are blessed to live amidst such beautiful green space, and it's great to explore and enjoy it together."

The Revd Joshua Rey, Vicar of Holy Trinity, agreed: "The parish system, with good fences making good neighbours, has drawn us together to appreciate God's gift of nature."

The walk along this ancient boundary looks set to become an annual tradition – other boundaries with other parishes are being explored.

"It gave us all a cause to be joyful": clergy appointments



The Revd Robert Faulkner was collated and inducted at St John, Angell Town on 18 July by the Venerable Simon Gates, Archdeacon of Lambeth (above). The service was well attended with people spilling outside into the church grounds, in the gazebos provided. The Revd Caroline Clarke, Area Dean for Lambeth North, gave an uplifting sermon, while local MP and supporter of St John's, Helen Hayes welcomed Robert officially on behalf of the community.



The Revd Kit Gunasekera with the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Archbishop's Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs, left, who led the service on 25 July at which Kit was instituted as Vicar of St James, Clapham.

Bishop Jonathan presiding at the licensing of the Revd Canon Dr James Rosenthal on the feast of Corpus Christi, right. Parishioner Dr Sian McIntosh said: "It was lovely for the church family to be present, even if socially distanced and mindful of the COVID regulations in place. It gave us all a cause to be joyful and hopeful."



Peckham church welcomes Archbishop's Special Representative



The Rt Revd Precious Omuku, Honorary Assistant Bishop and Special Representative on Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa, joined the parishioners of St John with St Andrew, Peckham for Sunday service in July. He presided over the celebration of the Eucharist and gave the homily. Pictured above; the Bishop and his wife, Jane (centre); the Revd Dr Emmanuel Adelaye (far right), Vicar at St John's, and his wife, Temi (third from right); and the church servers.



ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST
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Church Manager

St James, West Streatham, is a thriving evangelical Anglican church located in London SW16, and is looking for a new Church Manager to join our staff team. You will be responsible for financial and church administration, communications, lettings and buildings management, and the day-to-day running of our church office. The job is part time (30 hours per week) with a salary range of £23k-£27k depending on qualifications and experience.

For more information and job description contact the Rector at revrobpowell@stjamesw16.plus.com

Closing date for applications: 1st October 2021
Interviews on Saturday 9th October 2021



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Lay ministry

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all... The gifts [God] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.”

— Ephesians 4: 4-6, 11



Where is God calling you to serve?

As the Diocese launches a major series of new lay ministries, there have never been more opportunities to fulfil your calling. The Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry, introduces each of the pathways and asks, where do you want to go?

“I’m the ears. I’m there when people need a listening ear.”

“I’m the hands. I get busy wherever I’m needed.”

“I think I’m the liver. I work away quietly in the background.”

“I’m the brain. I love thinking about what it means to be a Christian.”

A quiet whisper came. “I’m the heart. I love people.”

“I’m the funny bone.”

We were in the parish hall, about 10 of us, adults and children alike, talking about what it meant to be the body of Christ, and what part of the body we were. The final claim – from an eight-year-old boy – made us all laugh, proving that it was true. He, and all the others, understood that they each had distinct gifts, and that those gifts had a place in the Church.

This month we are excited to launch our new range of lay ministries in the Diocese of Southwark, in response to the recommendations of the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group in its 2018 report. It is part of a move across the Church of England to encourage and equip lay people for ministry.

Valuing and empowering the laity was one of the three charges given to Bishop Christopher on his appointment as Diocesan Bishop and is an intrinsic part of the Southwark Vision. This is, of course, nothing new: we have a very strong tradition of lay ministry. Readers have been active in Southwark since the early days of the Diocese, as has the Church Army.

Other ministries also flourished locally, and, in 1961, the first Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs) began their training. The vision of the founder, Cecilia Goodenough, was of women (at a time when women could not be Readers) who would make contact with and provide care for people on the margins of society. Since that time, these ministries have flourished. Hundreds of people currently serve across our Diocese in these lay ministries, authorised by the Bishop.

But now there is the opportunity to develop new areas of ministry and to affirm and celebrate ministries that have often gone unrecognised, at least formally. And so we are launching a range of five lay ministry focuses: children’s, youth and family ministry, evangelistic ministry (including Church Army), pastoral ministry

(including SPAs), pioneer ministry, and Reader ministry. This is not an exhaustive list, and we hope to continue to develop the range of ministries we support.

At the same time, we are aware that a one-size-fits-all model has limited usefulness, so we have set up three pathways: affirmed, commissioned, and licensed. Affirmed ministry is discerned in the local parish, locally trained, and locally authorised. Commissioned ministry is discerned and trained by the Diocese (two years part-time) and commissioned by the Bishop. Licensed ministry is discerned by the Diocese, trained both by the Diocese and externally (three to four years part-time), and licensed by the Bishop under national canons. Some ministry focuses will have options in all three pathways; others in one or two (though again these may expand in time).

So what are the five ministry focuses?

Children’s, Youth and Family ministry (affirmed, commissioned, licensed)

Children’s, youth and family ministry is about helping children and young people and their families to follow Jesus and to be full members of the church. And, of

course, it is not new. Many of us trace our faith back to the time when we were in Sunday school or a youth group, where someone took an interest in us and encouraged us in our faith.

Ministry with children and young people might include Sunday School, all-age or intergenerational worship; midweek groups in schools and churches, carer and toddler services, youth groups, Messy Church, Godly Play, holiday clubs and fun days, and confirmation preparation.

For many years our Diocese has supported those involved in this ministry through our Mission Team; now there are new opportunities for discernment, equipping, recognition, and support.

Evangelists (licensed)

Evangelists are focused on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. In Southwark we offer support and training for lay evangelists through the Church Army. Church Army Evangelists work in a wide range of situations, from a single local church to large projects supporting mission over a large area or diocese. Here in Southwark, they work in some

Continued on page 7 ►

◀ Continued from page 6

of the most deprived communities in the UK. Their work includes: running youth and children's clubs, home visiting and mentoring, families work, holiday clubs and trips, and employment advice and training, specialist work with young offenders and those at risk of offending, work with local schools to help those struggling at school and at risk of exclusion, prayer evenings for young people, and youth church.

Pastoral ministers (affirmed, commissioned (SPAs), licensed)

Pastoral ministers are at the forefront of practical, Christ-centred pastoral care, seeking to bring wholeness and well-being to the individuals and communities they serve. As one of the first SPAs, Anne Butler, said, "Being servants in our communities, and being absolute in our powerlessness, we become a friend to the friendless and an obstacle to no one."

Lay pastoral ministry might include coordinating a bereavement support group, helping to run a pastoral care and visiting team within a parish, volunteering at a refugee centre, reaching out to homeless people, visiting as part of a hospital or prison chaplaincy team, or serving as a London Fire Service volunteer chaplain.

Pioneer ministers (commissioned, licensed)

Lay Pioneers seek to reach communities and groups of people who need to know the love of Christ. They spend most of their time with people outside the Church – the unchurched and dechurched – and begin by listening to God and to the people in their context, reaching out to them with loving service, building community, and developing discipleship, with the hope that eventually a new worshipping community will emerge. These worshipping communities include café church, a new church on a housing estate, a church for a particular ethnic or linguistic group, Messy Church, community church plants, eco-church, and new monastic communities.

Readers

Readers are trained and licensed by the Church to teach the faith, enable mission and lead in church and society. They help Christians to live out their Christian faith in the places where they spend the majority of their time. As people who move daily between the worlds of work, home, social networks and church, Readers can teach the faith and play a part in leadership such that all God's people grow in confident and humble witness to God's kingdom. They typically collaborate with their incumbent to read out to the church and the local community. Reader ministry might include leading services of the Word, preaching, leading Bible studies, pastoral care, and funeral ministry.

So what might this look like in practice?

Holy Trinity, Redhill has a team including Readers, a parish nurse, a youth minister, a

Minako Hall: Lay Pioneer

"If in our daily life someone is talking to Christ outside of a church building, for example to colleagues or a member of the family or your classmate, that person has already started pioneering work," says Minako.

Her own ministry as a commissioned Lay Pioneer takes the form of leading two Fresh Expressions of Church for Japanese people in south-east London.

Minako, who is herself from Japan, came late to faith, in part, she says, because



Christianity is so uncommon in her country of origin. Now she talks to her countrymen about God: "The gods in Japan are not a creator God like the God in Christianity,

and the Japanese do not have any concept of sin and forgiveness. That is a very high hurdle to clear," she says, "so I am here to fill in the gaps of their ethnicity and culture, so they do not have to make a detour like I did."

The first group has been running at St Hugh, Bermondsey since 2015. Members meet regularly to discuss the Bible – they are currently studying the book of Daniel – and culture. The second group is a one-to-one Bible study session which

has been running at St John, Blackheath since 2019.

Now, Minako is beginning two years of training as a licensed Lay Pioneer so that she can work across Diocesan boundaries. "In our meetings, people come from different Dioceses. If I have a licence, I can work for these people with their local church," she says.

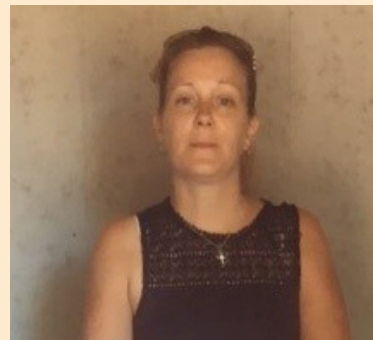
It's a bit scary but exciting, she says: "I'm quite happy to learn more about being deeply shaped to serve Christ."

Karen Saunders: Pioneer Evangelist

Karen's call to become a Pioneer Evangelist happened almost by accident. Five years ago, she was trying to find a youth club that would take her son – then only recently diagnosed as epileptic. All the clubs in the borough said no, because they needed a staff member who was seizure-trained for insurance purposes. But the Pioneer Evangelist at William Temple Church thought outside the box. Was Karen seizure-trained, he asked? Then she could come and lead the club and her son would be welcome to join.

Karen began doing more and more there, leading what they called the "God slot" and speaking to the young people about Jesus. Her predecessor told her she was an evangelist and encouraged her to go on a Church Army discovery day.

"I come from a clergy household, so I have had the Church and Christianity in my life all my life. But I never felt that I quite fitted," says Karen. "So I went to the discovery day and I suddenly



realised, I am Church Army-shaped."

Now Karen is herself the Pioneer Evangelist at William Temple, having taken over the job from the man who encouraged her to join the youth club, and she is training as a commissioned Church Army Evangelist. "They opened the door wide and took us in," she says, "and I found a pathway I wasn't expecting."

These days, Karen works at the heart of her community. "God chose a different path for me," she says. "Speaking about Jesus and being with young people seems to be where I should be."

families and children minister, and a wide range of lay people involved in the life and mission of the parish. The vicar, the Revd Captain Mick Hough (himself a Church Army evangelist), says that "God has called all Christians onto his team". He believes that, because God gives gifts to all his people, ministry is a shared activity, not for clergy alone. The gifts and energies of lay people are vital for the church to become all that God calls it to be, he says.

All Saints, West Dulwich, meanwhile, has a SPA, an affirmed pastoral minister, two Readers-in-training, one Pioneer-in-training, and a team of people responsible for children's and youth ministry. The Vicar, the Revd Dr Alan Everett, sees lay ministers and clergy working together as

the way forward for churches, and says that the gift that he has received from lay ministers in the 36 years since his ordination is enormous.

As people gain a sense of belonging and participate more fully in ministry, the Church creates new opportunities to grow and learn together and to reach out to others. Paying attention to the deeper sense of God's calling among all the people of God and the gifts they have leads them to grow as disciples, becoming the people God has called them to be, and serving the congregation and the wider community.

So, back to the beginning: what are your gifts? Are you a foot, or a mouth, a hand or a kidney? Where might God be calling you to serve in lay ministry?

Gerry Daley: Reader

Gerry has been a Reader at St Andrew, Coulsdon, since 2018. He leads prayer groups, delivers sermons, does pastoral care – "basically," as he puts it, "anything that is non-Eucharistic".



Gerry's discernment process was thorough; he knew he wanted to be deeply involved in the life of his church but also had family and other commitments. He chose to train as a Reader as it would enable him to study intensely but also continue in his work. "I'm an accountant. I work for a charity now – I moved from commercial to charity once I was licensed. The point is, I'm still an accountant out there in the world, doing what I enjoy," he says.

The training, he adds, was "second to none" and has been transformational. "There's a different confidence, when you're licensed, because you've been through a tried-and-tested process," he says. "It's like anything. You go through training and once you're licensed or qualified, then clearly you move onto the next level, don't you?"

To others thinking of taking the plunge, he says: "Even when you think you're not ready, if God's calling you, then with training and time you can do it." He adds: "It's changed me dramatically. I can't put it into words, really."

Find out more...



Publicity about the new ministries will be sent to all churches in the Diocese in September. You can also find more information at: southwark.anglican.org/layministries



IN FOCUS...

Healthcare chaplaincy

“Chaplains had to adapt during COVID, and we did”

Newly appointed Bishop’s Adviser for Healthcare Chaplaincy, the Revd Andy Dovey shares his perspective on the past 18 months of ministry – and his hopes for the future.

Being asked to become the Bishop’s Adviser for Healthcare came as a bit of shock, because I am sure that there are many other chaplains who could have been asked, and what’s more could do a better job. However, in my ministry, like all of us, I believe that we have been called.

The last 18 months have probably been the most traumatic months in the life of the NHS. We have had to look at how we care for our patients, relatives and our staff. With national lockdown, we had no choice but to try and protect patients’ relatives and staff as best we could. This resulted in thousands of patients being admitted, with many dying without a relative by their side.

Chaplains had to adapt, and that we did. With modern technology, we were able to link families remotely with patients who could see them, encourage them and tell them how much they loved them. For thousands this was the last time they would see them. At the same time, we had faith leaders Zooming on one phone, the family on another whilst last rites were administered, before we held the hands of patients as they passed away. We had the whole world in our hands: faith leaders, families, patients and staff. What a responsibility that was.

None of this comes without a risk to the chaplains, and I have been quoted as saying that “Chaplains are called to minister to God’s people, regardless of the risk to ourselves”. During the pandemic, chaplains risked their lives and emotionally risked



their well-being. But God’s grace binds us together in the knowledge that we are serving him as we are called and by his Grace we will serve his people.

The pandemic has given healthcare chaplaincy the opportunity to prove our worth, and that we did. Now we have the opportunity to be invited to the table as the NHS transforms and grows.

I am the boy from Peckham who grew up with my mother only, left school at 15 unable to read and write properly but let God lead me on my path in life. It is, therefore, an honour and privilege to serve as Bishop’s Adviser for Healthcare Chaplaincy and with God’s grace I will be able to serve you all.

To listen to Andy leading Sunday morning worship for BBC local radio, visit: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09tr8lc

Chinese heritage clergy visit Southwark in fellowship



Members of the Teahouse Group of Chinese heritage clergy joined the Revd Canon Andrew Zihni, Canon Precentor, to celebrate Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral on Monday 16 August. The group, founded by Bristol curate the Revd Mark Nam, were meeting in person for the first time, having connected over WhatsApp during the pandemic.

A life in chaplaincy: “What really matters is being there”

At the end of July I retired as Lead Chaplain at the Royal Marsden and also as Bishop Christopher’s Adviser for Healthcare Chaplaincy so this seems like a good opportunity to reflect back on my (quite long) career in pastoral ministry, writes the Revd Alistair McCulloch.



For the past 17 years I have been a member of the team at the Royal Marsden, a specialist cancer centre based in Sutton, Surrey and in Chelsea. Before that, I was a chaplain at King’s College Hospital at Denmark Hill, a huge and very busy South London district general and teaching hospital. Before that, in the 1990s I “cut my pastoral teeth” when I trained as a member of the pastoral care team for the London Lighthouse in Ladbroke Grove; the hospice for those living and dying with HIV/AIDS. This was really the first time I had experienced the tremendous privilege to walk alongside those who are very sick. This was a steep learning curve for me but perhaps one of the best things I have ever done.

The point is often made that what really matters about chaplaincy is “being there” and our presence as chaplains can often be more important than anything we do or say. I think this is certainly true. Being a visible presence around the place is crucial in all our relationships with staff, but also with patients and their carers. It is through the chance encounter on the corridor or on the ward that the valuable pastoral opportunities come our way.

Furthermore, the extraordinary thing about “being there” is that you

never quite know who you might be ministering to! I will always remember being stopped in a corridor by a lady who said, “You must be the chaplain; you don’t know me but many weeks ago you brought Holy Communion to the lady in the next bed. As you prayed the Lord’s Prayer with her I quietly joined in. Before that moment I had planned to give up receiving treatment and go home to die. Your prayers inspired me to carry on!”

It is undoubtedly the case that the pandemic has caused the value of chaplaincy to be more widely seen and perhaps valued by the Church and society in general. It is also the case that the Churches cannot take the continued presence of chaplaincy for granted in our hospitals and other secular institutions. We will need to work closely with other faith groups and with the Trusts to effectively make the case for chaplaincy to ensure that this precious ministry is available for future generations.

I leave you with Bishop Christopher’s comment to me: “I am mindful that hospital chaplains are present at such critical points in people’s lives and have the privilege of being the unacknowledged, quietly persisting presence of Christ for so many.”

Southwark Cathedral rises to the Lammas Day challenge

The Revd Canon Andrew Zihni, Canon Precentor at Southwark Cathedral, gave an ancient tradition a modern twist when he led the annual Lammas Day procession through Borough Market on 30 July.



Lammas Day is a Christian tradition with its origins in Anglo-Saxon times; each year on 1 August the first harvest was milled and baked into the Eucharistic loaf.

Today, Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market bakery Bread Ahead have revived this tradition and mark Lammas Day with a special event every year.

A member of Southwark clergy first helps to mill the wheat into flour for

the Lammas Day bread, which will be used in the service at the Cathedral, before blessing the bakery, the bakers, all the staff, the millers, the farmers, and the bread, flour and grain.

Once the loaf is ready, participants process through the Market and a service is then held in the Cathedral where the Lammas loaf is presented and blessed.



IN FOCUS...

Eco news

Filling hearts with a passion for climate justice

The Young Christian Climate Network Relay has been campaigning on vital eco issues all over the UK. But for organiser Molly Clark, the journey through Southwark was a homecoming, too.

Late in the afternoon on 4 August I was standing in front of my church – St Paul, Clapham – waiting excitedly for a group of walkers to arrive. When they appeared in the distance, they were unmistakable – about 15 people, wearing walking boots, and carrying a flag that read “Relay to COP26”.

I am a member of the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN), and this year we have organised a Relay pilgrimage, going from the G7 in Cornwall to the international climate conference (COP26) in Glasgow. Though the walk is organised and led by us, young people, it is open to all ages. As we walk, we aim to raise awareness about climate justice, and about the disproportionate effects of climate change on the world’s poorest; and we call upon MPs and COP26 decision-makers to advocate for fair climate finance. No country should be in debt from tackling climate change.

My main role has been behind the scenes, co-ordinating volunteers in the Relay’s central section between Salisbury and Sheffield. Finally at the start of August



came the most exciting moment so far: the Relay was coming to Southwark, and it was stopping over in St Paul, Clapham, the church where I have worshipped my whole life. It was so moving to talk to the pilgrims, especially my fellow YCCN members, some of whom I had been co-planning with for months without having met in person.

An amazing team of volunteers from my church made banners to welcome the walkers and treats to restore their energy.

St Paul, Clapham earns Silver Eco Church award

St Paul, Clapham has achieved an A Rocha Silver Eco Church Award, the parish announced on 16 June, only 14 months after earning its Bronze Award.

The Revd Canon Jonathan Boardman, pictured right in the church’s Eden Garden, said: “I never thought that working on a renewed Mission Action Plan after a year in a new parish could bear such good fruit so quickly. On St Andrew’s Day 2019 our church members prayed, brainstormed, and committed themselves to fresh initiatives at St Paul’s Clapham especially relating to Eco Church and racial justice.”

He added: “The A Rocha Eco church Bronze and then Silver Awards have come rolling in over the past two years and I have learned a great deal about the initial steps every Christian individual and community must take to respond to the Fifth Mark of Mission. I never thought I’d go vegan for



Creationtide 2020 but it was far more enjoyable than I had imagined and I have adopted it as a recurring seasonal discipline.

“Clergy who do not feel drawn to Eco Church concerns should let the God of Surprises speak to them with the clarity that is his alone: they’ll help their parish win gold of a greater value even than the Olympic medal before they know it!”

Flood of support: YCCN tributary walk through Southwark



Above: Archdeacon Alastair Cutting (left) greets the Revd Dr Emma Pennington, Canon Missioner at Canterbury Cathedral (second from left), Chris Anthony, IT Coordinator at Canterbury Diocese, and Sue Mallinson, Southwark’s newly retired Diocesan Environmental Officer (right). The walkers were about to set off from Southwark Cathedral on the final leg of the Canterbury-London YCCN tributary walk on 5 August, bringing prayers with them to hand over to the young people.

Jonathan Boardman, our Vicar, put together a beautiful, unique service of prayer for climate justice, featuring both classic hymns and contemporary composition, readings from Isaiah, Paul, and Tolkien, and the prayer of St Francis of Assisi. I gave the address at the service, speaking about YCCN’s vision for fair climate finance, and about the energy St Paul modelled for embracing a complete change of direction.

The visual and thematic focus of the service was our YCCN boat, *The Pilgrim* (above left). This boat symbolises YCCN’s hope that at COP26 we will set sail towards a more just future, and also captures the notion that, with climate change, we are all in the same storm, but not in the same boat. The sails are made up of fabrics and photos sent to YCCN from climate-vulnerable Christian communities across the world, including

Zambia, Grenada, Nepal, the Solomon Islands, and more. After the service we celebrated the pilgrims with the help of the Clapham Community Choir, local Scottish dancers, and delicious vegan dishes from local Ethiopian and Thai restaurants.

From St Paul, Clapham, the pilgrims continued the next day to a Christian Aid event outside St Paul’s Cathedral, via the Houses of Parliament and a children’s workshop in the Lambeth Palace gardens. The boat visited several services in London, including at Westminster Cathedral and St Martin-in-the-Fields.

We are now continuing to Glasgow. I am truly grateful for the welcome we received in Southwark. And I pray that as the Relay continues we will fill more and more hearts with a passion for climate justice.



OTHER ECO NEWS

Prayer vigil for COP26 at Southwark Cathedral

South Bank Churches are inviting people of all faiths to a prayer vigil on 23 October at Southwark Cathedral. The vigil will begin at 2.00pm and you are invited to make a pilgrimage on foot, by bicycle or via public transport (however you wish), to the Cathedral where there will be a variety of interactive prayer stations. At 3.20pm, the Vigil will culminate with an act of worship. Find more information, and book your place, at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/prayer-vigil-for-cop26-climate-conference-tickets-15273277484

JPIC welcomes new Diocesan Environmental Officer

We are pleased to welcome Jack Edwards as the new Diocesan Environmental Officer. Jack has recently moved to live in the Diocese and has experience working with asylum seekers and refugees in Birmingham. Having spent the pandemic studying environmental theology at Roehampton University he looks forward to serving our communities as they rise to the challenge of the climate crisis.



St Alban, Cheam (left); The Barn Church, Kew (right).



Barn church life: respecting the past and protecting the future

Caring for a church building is always an act of faith and stewardship, maintaining it for a season before passing the responsibility on to the next generation. But what about buildings with a particular historic resonance? How does it feel to shepherd these into the future?

For the Revd Bethany Lewis, Team Vicar in the Cheam Team Ministry and responsible for St Alban, Cheam, it is an opportunity. "You can do so much with a building like that within the community," she says. "I go and chat with the parents who are watching football in the field opposite on Sunday, and they're like, 'I've never been in there, I always have a look. It must be really interesting inside.'"

St Alban's is one of two barn churches in the Diocese, both designed by the architect Edward Swan and built within a few years of each other.

The Barn Church in Kew was first, its timbers coming from a 17th-century barn in Oxted, Surrey, which was used for cattle and the storage of hops and crops. The barn was dismantled in 1929 and

donated to the Diocese by the Lambert family, who also allowed the Diocese the use of Wychcroft Retreat House.

Andrew Rankin, Churchwarden at the Barn Church, says: "The timbers predate the barn itself and apparently they may

have come from ships that fought at the time of the Armada – how true that is, I have no idea."

Similarly, St Alban's was constructed from an old barn in Cheam Court Farm, giving the modern building its unusual structure.

Neither building is listed, which both Bethany and Andrew say is helpful when it comes to maintenance and meeting modern building requirements. But both feel a responsibility to history. "The repairs and upgrades we've been doing, they've been done in a way that's sensitive to the integrity of the building itself," says Andrew.

Most important of all, however, is to remember the church's purpose, they say. "It's not austere like some churches," says Andrew of the Barn Church. "It's a very informal building. It's an open space and it's a very flexible space. It's nice because it creates a lot of opportunities to do different things beyond worship."

For Bethany, too, the importance of St Alban's lies in its importance to the community. "We attract people from all around the place, and they seem to have stayed because of the character and been slowly drawn into the worshipping life of the church," she says. "The beams saw lots of communities coming together and eating food, and that's what our church likes doing – inviting people in. I think that does reflect the history of those beams."

Top tips for looking after historic buildings

- Understand what is significant about the building – small details may be disproportionately interesting to historians and building archaeologists.
- Look for markings. Carpenters preparing the frames used to number the pieces of joints to assemble them on site.
- Historically, timber was a scarce resource and reused between buildings. Is there any evidence of previous uses of the timbers?
- Are there other religious or superstitious etchings on any timbers? Letters such as M for Mary, an intersecting VV for Virgin of Virgins, or AM for Ave Maria were not uncommon on domestic or agricultural buildings.
- Help people in the broader community to engage with your building. Find interesting ways to tell its stories. When people feel connected to a place they are more likely to come back.
- Be careful in introducing modern services. Heat, light, toilets and kitchens are now expected in any church but need to be introduced in a sympathetic way. The DAC will be able to advise.

Find out more on the Diocesan website: southwark.anglican.org/support/for-our-churches/buildings-dac



LET US PRAY...

SEPTEMBER

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

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

In more normal times we make a big thing of New Year's Day. There's the countdown to the bongs of Big Ben and the subsequent fireworks, there's the revelling and the Auld Lang Synes, the resolutions quickly made and quickly broken and the hopes that this year things may be better. But I always think that when we get to September it feels as though we are entering a second new year.

Children return to school, some move to a new place of learning. Students head off for their universities. New jobs begin, new targets are to be met and Christmas is just around the corner. This year, however, it feels that even more than usual we are in the place of new beginnings.

We are all hoping and praying that we are seeing our way out of this pandemic. As I write this, none of us is entirely



confident about where we are heading but we are hoping that for our children and young people things can be better than they were before.

phrase, "Hoping against hope". He's talking about Abraham, persistently hoping in the face of everything that might make him give up hope. Despite everything that might suggest otherwise, Abraham carries on hoping and God is as good as God's promise. It is that great spirit of the patriarchs and the matriarchs of the faith that carries us through and encourages me as we make this new beginning. "Hoping against hope" – it is all I can do.

In Romans 4.18, Paul uses an intriguing

**God of hope,
increase my hope
and make good your
promises
that in you all things will
be well.
Amen.**

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for OCTOBER ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**



September

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

♫ **LONDON** – Soul @ St James. Monthly immersive event using gospel music, spoken word poetry and narration to explore life's important themes. First Sunday of every month. St James, Piccadilly. 1.30pm, free. More information at bit.ly/3zc4Csl

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

- * **WALWORTH** – Africa Day. This Kaleidoscope festival of diversity offers African drumming, dance, music, storytelling, performance, acrobats, art activities and more. 12.00-5.00pm, St Peter, Walworth, free. For more information e-mail whelanjohnwalworth@gmail.com
- * **DULWICH** – Jolliday! A free party for the community, including mobile farm, drumming workshop and giant garden games. 2.00-5.00pm, St Barnabas, Dulwich, free. For more information visit www.stbarnabasdulwich.org

11-12 SEPTEMBER

- * **LONDON/ONLINE** – Circle the City. Southwark Cathedral will be one of 10 virtual stops at Christian Aid's annual Circle the City event this year. There will also be two self-directed

Creation and the Arts Festival at St Paul, Wimbledon Parkside 12 September-10 October

Prayer stations, liturgy, music and arts events to help us reflect on Creation.

Saturday 25 September: Open Day, Local Artists' Exhibition (ongoing) and music in church; demonstrations and children's activities in the Community Centre and gardens; food and fun for all. 2.00-6.00pm

Sunday 3 October: Harvest Festival and Lunch following 10.00am service. Preacher: Bishop Richard.

Thursday 7 October: An Evening of Art and Music (with silent auction of items in exhibition). Net proceeds go towards funding St Paul's Youth and Children's Worker and other outreach activities. 6.00-8.00pm.

Sunday 10 October: Choral Evensong to conclude the Arts Festival with song and worship. 6.00pm.

walking options and a series of Zoom events. Find more information and sign up at: caid.org.uk/circle

12 SEPTEMBER

- ♫ **WALLINGTON** – Praise in the Park event staged by Holy Trinity, St Patrick's

Organ Recitals at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

Free. Thursdays @ 7.30pm. sjunoffice@gmail.com; 020 8771 6686

16 September: Andrew Prior, London

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

and Springfield churches. Includes worship and a music festival. Beddington Park, 11.00am-3.00pm, free. For further information, please e-mail parkpraise@htchurch.uk

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

♫ **DULWICH** – Concert by The Ionian Singers with 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 or info@ioniansingers.co.uk

- * **WESTMINSTER** – Hope by the Creed & Culture Project. This event asks whether the Christian message can offer encouragement during this time of intense social disruption. 2.00-5.00pm, Emmanuel Centre, SW1P 3DW, £12. Book at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hope-tickets-166085818153

- * **BLACKHEATH** – Breaking Bread Together. A study day with Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Fiona Thomas and other speakers. The Church of the Ascension, Dartmouth Row, London SE10 8AW. 10.30am-4.00pm. Free. More information and tickets at: www.ascension-blackheath.org

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

October

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

- ♫ **DULWICH/ONLINE** – Psalms, Psinging and Psandwiches! Come and explore psalmody at this regional event of the Hymn Society on 2 October from 10:00am to 3:30pm, at St John's East Dulwich, London SE22 9AT. All welcome, sandwich lunch provided. Tickets: in person £10 tinyurl.com/psalmssp, £5 livestream tinyurl.com/psalmssppls, £12 on the door.

E-mail bridge@southwark.anglican.org with your events.

St Mildred, Addiscombe Ladies' Choir sings for global audience in Mothers' Union service

Members of the Ladies' Choir of St Mildred, Addiscombe played a significant role in the Mothers' Union global Mary Sumner Day service on 9 August.

The online service marked the centenary of the MU founder's death and saw MU members from around the world join together in celebrating her life and work.

Among them were singers from St Mildred's, who had been invited to record themselves singing the words to Mary Sumner's prayer, which their Vicar, Roger Hagon, had set to music.

Relating how this had come about, one of the choir members, Margaret Simmonds, said: "At the end of the St Mildred's Mothers' Union branch AGM a few years ago, [our conductor] Penny Locke read Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer. After the meeting, Roger Hagon, who had been in the chair, asked if he could set the prayer to music for the Ladies'



Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

*All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives
as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen.*

Choir – who were delighted to agree."

The arrangement had its first performance at the MU branch's 90th birthday party and has been sung a few times since – notably at Southwark Cathedral for the Diocesan Festival Service in 2019.

"We had two weeks' notice and,

thanks to the skills of Penny and Richard Mander, our Director of Music – knitting together a mixture of live and virtual recordings ready for loading on to YouTube video – we were able to meet the deadline ready for the global launch," said Margaret.

Watch the service here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=auKRvbtIN0w

Update on Southwark Diocesan Conference 2022



Planning for the Southwark Diocesan Conference 2022 (SDC2022) at Bacon's College, Rotherhithe on 1-3 September 2022 continues. Speakers include: Mark Greene, Carrie Myers, Francis Spufford and the Revd Azariah France-Williams.

This is an in-person and online conference. We hope that we will all be able to reflect together the theme of Christ-centred, outward-focused through mission, community and the arts.

Full details will be available at southwark.anglican.org/news-events/whats-on; bookings will open in January 2022.



IN FOCUS...

Self-supporting ministry

The beauty and reward of living with a double vocation

As we mark the appointment of the Bishop's new Adviser on Self-Supporting Ministry (below), other SSMs from the Diocese also share their stories of the joys and difficulties of this dual ministry.

The new Bishop's Adviser for Self-Supporting Ministry, the Revd Mark Smith, took a while to reconcile his dual vocations.

Having grown up in a clergy family, he knew that he was called to be very active in the Church; but he also knew he was meant to be a lawyer.

After being called to the Bar in 1982, Mark spent some time in private practice. However, he wanted to use his skills in public service so moved to a law centre in South London. Four years later, he was recruited into the Government legal department where he still works full-time advising the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on corporate and involency law.

During all this time, he says, "I thought, being frank about it, that I could do God on my terms, and use my legal skills and be a good lawyer in the world, but God just wouldn't let me go."

Mark began training at SEITE in 2001 and was ordained Deacon in October 2004. Since then he has worked as a self-supporting minister alongside the team at St Michael, East Wickham – which is a balancing act. "I have to be very disciplined," he says.

However, the advantages of his dual role far outweigh the difficulties. "There are all sorts of openings you can get at work where you can talk about faith and be there for people. It's a visible ministry - I've often got my dog collar on at work," he says.

And it's just as helpful in a church context,



he adds: "I have a shared experience with lots of people in the parish because I get on a commuter train in normal times, and I know what it's like to be in an office, and I know what it's like to come home absolutely knackered and have to go to a church meeting that starts before you've got time to eat!"

Having been appointed Bishop's Adviser at July's Diocesan Synod, Mark is looking forward to making the case for self-supporting ministry. "I was glad to be asked. It seems to me there is so much to do in this space," he says. "The more we can do to encourage people to support their ministry in some way, it adds resource and a different type of resource to the Church.

"People in SSM bring something of their lived experience and what they're doing when they're not in church or visiting people, that shines through in their understanding of what it means to be living out a priestly ministry in the world."

"My husband was supportive – if slightly mystified!"

I was about 45 years old when I first experienced a call to ministry, writes the Revd Canon Dr Sue Clarke, holder of the Bishop's Permission to Officiate in the Diocese.

My husband and I had been active members of our local church for more than 20 years. We were both doctors, having met in medical school, and felt called to our local church and the community.

But gradually I sensed a calling to a more defined ministry. After a conversation with my Vicar, I attended a vocations day to consider a possible call to Reader ministry. It was after this day and discussions with the Vocations Adviser that it seemed appropriate to explore a vocation to ordained ministry.

My year with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands was challenging, inspiring and, at times, infuriating! As an evangelical Christian I was more into preaching, teaching and prayer than liturgy and sacraments and he and I had many lively discussions about the nature of priestly ministry.

Throughout the year, however, I knew his prayerful support and the wisdom of his guidance and advice. And so, just after my 50th birthday and meetings with an Examining Chaplain and the Bishop, I attended a Bishop's Advisory Panel and to my joy was accepted for part-time training at the South East Institute of Theological Education (SEITE). All through this process my husband, who was becoming increasingly unwell with MS and cancer, was highly supportive – as were our two daughters – if slightly mystified!

Sadly, not long after the course started, my husband died. I continued to work full-time as a consultant hospital physician and senior lecturer, serving on a number of national and international committees associated with my medical specialty, whilst writing essays, reading voraciously and undertaking course projects and an attachment to Wandsworth Prison.

I was ordained deacon in 2006 and



priested in 2007 having been licensed as a training curate in another local church. I was blessed with a wonderfully supportive training incumbent who encouraged me to undertake pastoral projects and utilise my secular experience in training. In 2010, the living at another local church was suspended and I was offered the opportunity to become Associate Vicar (NSM) there. My ministry started five days after my 60th birthday and my retirement from the NHS and academia. I was therefore able to serve full time in ministry.

After two years, a team was formed between the three churches in Furzedown and I was licensed as Team Vicar. I spent 10 years working with a wonderful leadership team which included a part-time NSM colleague as assistant priest. Together with other NSM colleagues I was also invited by Bishop Christopher to form the Bishop's Advisory Group on Non-Stipendiary Ministry.

I still live in the house my husband and I moved into nearly 40 years ago. Having turned 70, I am now serving the team and the community in a PTO capacity. Self-supporting ministry has allowed me to use my gifts, skills and experience in the service of the Kingdom. I will always be both a doctor and a priest and I am so grateful to God and the Diocese for enabling me to be the person I believe I was created to be.

"God calls us all to different ministries, lay or ordained": the Diocese's first SSM Residentiary Canon writes

When I first felt a call to ordained ministry I was sufficiently new to the church that I didn't know that, as a woman, I could not actually be ordained. I just knew somewhere deep in myself that this was what I was meant to do, writes the Revd Canon Wendy Robins.

My journey to ordination was rather a long one. During the 20 years between that first sense

of call and ordination I was involved in the church as a lay person in every possible way. When I was eventually ordained in some ways not much changed. I was still in the same job and the same house but now I was preaching regularly and learning to take services...

In the last few months I have been privileged to be made a Residentiary Canon at Southwark Cathedral, combining this with my role across

the Diocese as Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education. Southwark has never before had an SSM as a Residentiary Canon and we have spent a good deal of time working out what that actually means. How does collegiality work across the clergy chapter of the Dean and the Residentiary Canons when one is an SSM? How can I play as full a part as the others when I live much further away?

We have spent time working on coming up with an arrangement that recognises my different circumstances but helps me to play a full part. We have all had to compromise but now we have a work agreement which we hope will work for us all. Here is an obvious recognition of the importance of SSM ministry and the value of the experiences that we can bring.

To read Wendy's full article, go to: bit.ly/WendyRobinsSSM

