

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Walking
Welcoming
Growing

Vol.26 No.1
February 2021



Green team

How the Diocese is working towards Eco status

See pages 6-7



Vaccine drive

What Southwark clergy are doing to help combat the crisis

See page 8



A big decade

Celebrating 10 eventful years with Bishop Christopher

See page 9



Southwark signs historic Covenant with Jerusalem

Southwark and Jerusalem made history on 20 January when they signed a Covenant Agreement formally linking the two Dioceses.

Months in the making, the Covenant was signed by Bishop Christopher and Archbishop Suheil Dawani as part of an online service of thanksgiving.

The Covenant, which will now be in effect for five years, subject to renewal, formalises an already close relationship between the two Dioceses.

Bishop Christopher is regularly invited by the Roman Catholic Bishops Conferences to participate as an Anglican Bishop in the Holy Land Coordination, an international pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

In addition, the Very Revd Canon Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College Jerusalem, was previously Team Rector at Barnes Team Ministry. Bishop Christopher and the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, also regularly lead pilgrimages



to the Holy Land and Andrew leads courses at St George's College.

These ties – both the ones already existing and the ones to come – were all celebrated at the service of thanksgiving.

Archbishop Suheil opened proceedings, saying: "We are looking forward to this partnership between our two Dioceses as together we work for peace, justice and



Bishop Christopher and Archbishop Suheil Dawani lead a service before the pandemic restrictions; a still from the service of thanksgiving (inset).

reconciliation, especially in the land of the Holy One."

Bishop Christopher added: "This is a very special moment in the life of our two Dioceses, and it builds on very strong connections, links and friendships in ways which we hope will enhance our understanding of our Christian discipleship."

Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion, sent a message of support read by Bishop Richard. The worldwide

communion was, Archbishop Josiah said, "a family which is held together not by treaties, contracts, or constitutions; but by bonds of affection – between people, between clergy, between bishops and between whole Dioceses and provinces".

The service concluded with the signing of the Covenant while messages of support and thanksgiving were shared on screen by some of the 100-plus people who watched the event live on YouTube.

The video is available to view on the Diocesan YouTube channel here: bit.ly/SJCovenant

Bishop's letter pays tribute to parishes' generous Parish Support Fund response

Bishop Christopher sent a letter to Incumbents, Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries and PCC Treasurers on 28 January expressing his "heartfelt thanks" for the generosity of parishes in 2020.

Despite the very difficult financial conditions resulting from the pandemic, the collection rate for

the Parish Support Fund (PSF) stood at 96.6% in December 2020, well above average for other Dioceses. In addition, more than 70% of parishes have maintained or increased their pledges for 2021.

Bishop Christopher said: "In this Epiphany season, as we celebrate the light of



Christ manifested in our world, I rejoice in the many ways in which, in spite of the challenges and pressures, parishes have, adapted and responded."

He added: "People have given in many innovative and different ways to spread the light of Christ in our neighbourhoods."

The Bishop reassured parishes

that, despite the financial challenges still to come, their Archdeacons and the Diocesan Giving Team would be on hand to help, and also assured them of his prayers and blessing.

Questions about PSF pledges or giving more generally can be addressed to Gabby Parikh, Head of Giving, at gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org



A view from The BRIDGE



As we ponder how the year will unfold before us, wondering when we can see loved ones, enjoy a meal with friends and neighbours or simply browse in a shop, all around us nature is waking up to spring.

Even in central London, along Bankside, I spotted daisies; and nodding snowdrops can be seen in the parks, pushing their way through the earth.

Life, in abundance, is around us but we are all rather weary and most of us are feeling the pressure of sustained lockdown. Looking ahead is sometimes a challenge in itself but we do; rejoicing in simple pleasures, noticing more around us, trying to be patient, to be more open to change.

In the past year I have had to learn a great deal about myself. I've also had to think about changing the patterns of working for the staff team. I spent weeks last summer, with colleagues, preparing how we should best re-open Trinity House post-COVID, only to need to go into a form of restrictions very after we had done so. The ebb and flow of how we need to manage our lives seems to be constantly jostling for our attention in our work as, with urgency, we seek to maintain the essential services to our parishes.

The Diocese has nearly 400 residential properties and you can imagine how it must have been for our clergy families seeking repairs or moving when there were virtually no contractors, suppliers and supplies were scarce, and more than one clergy family was unable to move as there were simply no removal facilities!

During the full lockdown the Finance Director and I were signing and exchanging documents over our garden fences for this payment or that lease and the Coronavirus Task Group, set up by Bishop Christopher, of which I am privileged to be a member, was even meeting daily at the start of the pandemic.

In this issue, we celebrate, along with Bishop Christopher, his 10 years as our Diocesan bishop (see page 9). I am sure that we are deeply appreciative of his pastoral care for all of us, his determination that the people of South London and East Surrey should be well served by ministry and that we can openly rejoice in and celebrate our diversity. We thank God for Bishop Christopher's leadership and we wish him continued strength and energy as he leads us through these challenging times, always looking ahead, always mindful of the sacrifices of those who came before us.

As we approach Lent, we will be calling to mind all that we have learned about ourselves and our faith during these times, thinking about how we have sought to remain Christ-centred and outward-focused even though we have been largely home-based.

Most of us will be at home on Ash Wednesday as we reflect on our faith. We will begin this journey of Lent with a sharper sense of what it means to be alive to serve God, to know loss, to appreciate the care of the stranger and to be alive to God's love as each day unfolds. I pray that we are humbled by the privilege of grace and faith as we see the little snowdrop push its way through the earth to life.

Ruth Martin

'Rainbow Granny' awarded Lancelot Andrewes medal

There was rejoicing at St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common on 14 January as Joan Taylor received the Lancelot Andrewes medal for "Godly service and zeal for the Gospel".



Joan (right) had received news of the award on All Saints Day, which also happened to be her 90th birthday. Joan joined the church in 1938 and is part of its fabric. She served continuously on the PCC from 1962 until last year, including many years as a superbly efficient PCC Secretary. She also blazed a trail in 1976 as St Mary Magdalene's first female Churchwarden.

"Being an active member of the body of Christ was instilled in Joan through her confirmation as a teenager," said the Revd Philippa Boardman, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene. "The vicar at the time told Joan that, having been confirmed, she now had the choice of singing in the choir or junior church leadership. Joan chose junior church – and hundreds of children and their children after them are so grateful she made that choice."

In her career Joan was an ambulance driver and then went on to work as International Secretary at Guide

Commonwealth Headquarters, during which time she travelled to the Falkland Islands to support the re-establishment of Girl Guiding after the war.

Joan's Guiding connections go back to childhood days. She still volunteers at her original unit, the Eighth Upper Tooting, where today's leaders pay tribute to her formative influence and where she is affectionately known as "Rainbow Granny".

Speaking of the award, Joan said with typical modesty: "I was surprised and honoured to receive this award and not sure you should get an award for doing something you love. I've been at St Mary Magdalene since 1938 and there have been the usual ups and downs along the way. But I really enjoy being here and really feel part of the family."

Bishop Christopher ordains the Revd Joe Moore

The Revd Joe Moore was ordained to the priesthood at St Christopher, Walworth on 20 December 2020. The service had been postponed because Joe had been self-isolating at the time of the Diocese's other ordinations in October. Bishop Christopher said: "So glad to ordain Father Joe to the priesthood at St Christopher's Walworth so close to Christmas!"



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MARCH edition is due to be published online on 1 March 2021. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY**.

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

It's been a tough year – but now we are looking ahead

Last year was very challenging for all of us, our parishes and churches, and we know that the challenges will continue into 2021, writes **Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin.**

We have all been encouraged by the positivity, support, and hard work shown by clergy and lay leaders in our parishes in enabling worship in new and, especially, online forms, and in supporting their local communities in numerous ways, such as setting up vaccination centres like the one at St Paul, Thornton Heath (right).

During the year, the Coronavirus Task Group set up by Bishop Christopher met sometimes daily, more often weekly, to ensure we could issue guidance as it developed. In addition, we issued guidance to allow parishes the greatest amount of flexibility over their usual APCM arrangements, seeking to reduce pressures and enable parishes to focus on their mission and ministry priorities.

The Diocese, too, sought to ensure that enabling ministry across the Diocese with a clear focus on the Southwark Vision continued to be the topmost priority last year and now in the year ahead.

The 2021 Annual Objectives, which have been accepted by Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Council of Trustees, focus

We have all been encouraged by the positivity, support, and hard work shown by clergy and lay leaders in our parishes

on a number of key themes. Central to them all is resourcing, supporting and enabling our parishes and the communities we serve.

Resilience in finances and budget

Synod and our Trustees approved a budget in 2021 that will not result in a surplus or a balanced budget but a certain deficit. This is because we need to enable our parishes to recover. We are also committed to sustaining our parishes and retaining the strength of stipendiary parish clergy, as well as wanting to continue to innovate.

We will prepare and regularly review our spending and budgets, reporting to each Synod as well as each meeting of the Trustees, and carefully managing deployment of our staff for a year of certain deficit and economic uncertainty. We will be looking towards a more settled financial environment from 2022.

Last year we reduced the number of posts in Trinity House and in 2021 our priorities will include completing condition surveys on our vicarages and



continuing to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

Growth

We will continue the rollout of the Strategic Development Funding initiatives we have already started in six different areas of the Diocese. We will also support parishes and deaneries as they emerge from these challenges through grants for Fresh Expressions of Church and pioneering initiatives, and the rollout of the Growing Faith Initiative for our children and families.

Strategic ministry, vision and deployment

We have developed a strategic policy in which the diversity and enhancement of lay ministries, as well as diversity in ordained ministries, will be underpinned by lay and ordained pioneer ministry as we move forwards in the Southwark Vision. All this will be undergirded by strong, long-term financial modelling.

Safeguarding

We will maintain safeguarding as a priority, with delivery of training and the implementation of any changes emerging from reviews such as IICSA and implementing new national guidance as it evolves.

Marks of Mission

We will focus on the outworking of the Five Marks of Mission through the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Department into our wider Diocese as part of our Christ-centred and outward-focused mission and ministry in challenging times. This will include our work towards becoming an Eco Diocese, playing our part in supporting initiatives to combat serious youth violence, and combating food poverty.

Within these broad areas there are very specific and target objectives to which the Diocese will work, including for example the launch of our new website. Further details of the work we are doing can be found on our website and, as we continue to work as hard as we can for our parishes and deaneries, we also want to thank you for the tremendous work and faith you have given in the past year, and to pray for your continued commitment to the Southwark Vision in the year to come.

Archbishop Justin marks major Becket anniversary



Archbishop Justin in the pulpit at Southwark Cathedral.

The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, preached at Southwark Cathedral on 11 December 2020 as part of a special service marking the 850th anniversary since the death of Thomas Becket.

Canon Richard Hearn, the Dean of St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Southwark, and Father Philip Andrews, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Southwark, also attended. They brought with them the relic of St Thomas which was processed into the Cathedral at the start of the service.

During his sermon, Archbishop Justin spoke of the necessity of our Church and all those in it, like Thomas Becket, speaking out against injustice regardless of the cost.

He said: "Becket's cause is not our

own. We do know better than him in some areas. But too often his courage is not our own either. Simplicity, humility, boldness must be our virtues as a Church that is deeply Christian and that comes, as it did with Becket, from a deeply rooted love for Jesus Christ."

Southwark Cathedral has always had a special connection with Thomas Becket. It was the very last place that he preached, on 11 December 1170, before leaving for Canterbury where he was murdered 18 days later.

The Dean, Andrew Nunn, said: "We wanted to mark this part of Thomas Becket's story with a special service. We are thrilled that the Archbishop of Canterbury is delivering a sermon on the very same day and in the same place that his predecessor preached 850 years ago."

Bereavement service launched

Bishop Christopher's Officer for Clergy Bereavement, the Revd Canon Yvonne Tulloch, is urging clergy to prepare themselves for the "tsunami of grief" resulting from COVID-19 deaths.

Yvonne (pictured right), who is working with partners in the Loss and HOPE coalition to equip churches to support the bereaved, has made available online a six-session course on supporting those who are grieving.

She said: "Whether people have died of Coronavirus or another cause in the last year, bereavement has been a lonely experience. We encourage everyone to look out for people who are grieving and simply get in touch. Even in lockdown we can listen and show kindness."

The Bereavement Journey, created by the signposting website Ataloss.org, is a six-session ecumenical course of films and discussion groups led by volunteers. Now, all the resources and support needed



to make it easy for any church to run are available online, with accompanying training for volunteers and leaders.

Find more information on the Loss and Hope website: www.lossandhope.org

Vaccination success stories

See page 8 for more on how the Diocese is responding to the Coronavirus crisis.



CHRISTMAS ROUND-UP

Meet the ‘Angel ninjas’ spreading the Christmas message in Horley

Tim Hill, Horley Team Ministry’s new Pioneer Worker, reflects on an unusual evangelism initiative – and an evening spent in freezing fog

Creeping around on a dark, damp estate, wrapped up against the freezing fog, a small group from Horley Team Ministry, led by myself and the Revd Sue Bosley, the curate, delivered Angels by stealth.

This wasn’t how evangelism usually looks, but getting the good news of Jesus out to the community can be done in many ways.

We were inspired by the Angel project in Old Coulsdon the year before and we knew the knitters of the Horley Parish could work quickly. The

Mothers’ Union and many others were all over it! More than 200 Angels were knitted and then bagged and tagged at St Bartholomew, Horley with great efficiency.

The bags also contained a card with the Good News on one side and church contact details on the reverse. Tied with gold ribbon saying “take me home”, the attractive little packages were left for people to find on fences, trees and bushes.

The brave team of Angel ninjas were Les and Archie Wells, Dorothy Lupinda, Penny Lockhead and Naomi Ngururi.



The team bags up the Angels ready for delivery.

In the morning, excited children found them on their way to school and their delighted mums gave permission for them to pluck one and put it in their school bag.

We hoped that the message of joy would into homes on the Acres Estate in north-east Horley and lead to many further conversations.

Comfort eating brings joy at St Anselm, Kennington

North Lambeth Parish sits right at the heart of inner-city London and benefits from an astonishingly varied community, writes Suzette Aagard.

St Anselm’s Church reflects this rich heritage within its congregation. Recognising the struggles that so many of us have faced over the last months, the church team felt that it would be a useful exercise to compile comfort food recipes drawn from childhoods in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Eritrea or Yorkshire.

Eventually we put together a book of more than 70 recipes – and prayers or thoughts – from parishioners and those close to the church, including Archdeacon Simon Gates and Archbishop Justin and Mrs Caroline Welby. Altogether, 24 different countries were represented.

We were extremely grateful to be recipients of a Diocesan COVID grant to help with producing the book, and all profits will be forwarded to FareShare, a charity fighting food poverty.

As a sister initiative, St Anselm’s also



Angus Aagard and Comfort box.

reached out to the local community for sponsorship of Christmas boxes which we offered to local families in receipt of free school meals or known to us to be in need of a boost.

We eventually put together 120 Comfort & Joy boxes, filled with luxury Christmassy foods, board games, age-appropriate toys for each child, crackers, mince pies, holding crosses and a miniature Christmas tree.

The boxes were received with unalloyed pleasure and it was such a privilege to give out simple offerings of comfort and joy just before Christmas.

Delivering the Nativity door to door in Hurst Green



The team at St John, Hurst Green knew they wanted to connect with families during Advent and Christmas, but how were they to go about it with the lockdown restrictions in place?

The answer was a “Nativity in a Box” (above left). Each box contained the materials needed to create a Nativity scene, plus an instruction booklet, prayers and some sweet treats. Mary and Joseph were crafted from toilet rolls, the Angel came from a cake case, and a donkey came from a cardboard cut-out and pegs.

The boxes were delivered to 60 families around the parish, who each also received an additional box to pass on to a friend. The families then shared pictures of their creations (above centre and right).

Among many positive comments, Francesca Gauntlett told the team: “I wanted to say a huge thank you for your delivery last week. Comfort and joy indeed! It brought such light and excitement into our house.”

Arts minister opens doors in Battersea with Advent windows



In what is fast becoming a Christmas tradition, Nine Elms in Battersea played host to a multi-media Advent Calendar throughout December.

The project is led by the Revd Betsy Blatchley, Pioneer Minister in the Arts in Nine Elms, and showcases the work of local artists in an “Advent trail” around the area.

Pictured above (clockwise from above): *Lockdown Inn*, part of the triptych mural at St George’s CE Primary by Felicity Prazak; *Dancing in the Starlight* by Anna Cowie in collaboration with Melanie Porter, displayed at Scott House; Sam Haynes’ *Disco lights in the darkness* at Black Cab Coffee Company; *Lighthouse*, a collaboration between FASTLondon youth group and Signs by Joe, displayed at FASTLondon on the Patmore Estate.



When Santa takes the toys instead of giving them...



The Revd Edd Stock, Incumbent at Holy Trinity, Sydenham and Forest Hill, and Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) got some extra help this year from Santa.

Instead of delivering presents, “Reverse Santa” collected them from people’s doorsteps, so that the gifts could be passed on to vulnerable families in Lewisham.

Over a period of four evenings, “Reverse Santa” visited more than 60 homes, including a nursery, and collected more than 300 presents.

Edd said: “Having Father Christmas drop by brought joy to the community, whilst at the same time giving a way for families to help support those who are struggling. It also enabled families to receive Christmas presents who would otherwise would have gone without.”

Patron saint of children drops in on St James, Merton



St Nicholas dropped in on St James, Merton on Sunday 6 December, as he does every year, to receive and bless gifts for the White Lodge in Surrey, which helps those with a range of disabilities, their families and carers to lead fulfilling lives.

The Vicar at St James, the Revd Canon Dr James Rosenthal, founded the St Nicholas Society in 1999. “There is a bit of St Nicholas in all of us,” he said.

Southwark Cathedral heads out into the community for a new kind of carol service

With so many people unable to visit as usual this Christmas, the team at Southwark Cathedral decided to do a different kind of carol service. The result was *Journey to Bethlehem*, an online carol service which interspersed singing by the Cathedral choir with a journey round the local area, while members of the local community told the Christmas story, among them Maureen Lynch of Living Bankside and the Bread Ahead Bakery (right).

Watch the service on the Cathedral’s YouTube channel at bit.ly/3tzN320





CARE FOR CREATION

Why small steps could change the world

In the year of the UN Climate Conference, Southwark's Environment Administration Co-ordinator Laura Baggaley looks at how the Diocese is tackling climate change – and what you can do to help

It was July 2019 when the Diocese of Southwark voted unanimously to become an Eco Diocese. Six months later, when General Synod voted for the Church to become carbon neutral by 2030, no one had any idea we were about to enter the turbulence of a global pandemic.

So, what progress have we made? Despite the challenges of recent months, there is good news to report. In the 18 months since the vote at Diocesan Synod, Eco Church registrations in Southwark have doubled. Almost a third of all Southwark churches are now registered with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme (ecochurch.arocha.org.uk). Of those, 19 have achieved Bronze Awards, and six have been awarded prestigious Silver Awards. We are well on our way to achieving Bronze Eco Diocese status and working hard to get there before 2021 is out.

These figures are a real testament to the dedicated efforts being made by so many people in so many churches, and it is heartening to hear how much is continuing to be done during the difficult

times of the pandemic, such as the stories on these pages.

The pandemic has changed so much but, of course, what hasn't changed is the urgency of the climate and ecological crisis gripping our planet. In November this year, 12 months later than planned, the UK will host leaders from all over the world at the United Nations Climate Conference, otherwise known as COP26.

The COP26 summit will bring together delegates including heads of state, climate experts and negotiators, to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change and to accelerate movement towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

As well as the negotiations, countries, international organisations and other delegates will showcase climate action, highlight diverse climate change issues and share knowledge. There is a fresh sense of hope since the new US President, Joe Biden, has committed America to re-joining the Paris Climate Accord.



A team from St Mary, Lewisham, building a raised bed in their therapeutic garden.

The opportunity offered by the conference is a vital one. Humankind's overconsumption and waste of resources, and the corresponding destruction of ecosystems and extinction of plant and animal life, is devastating God's earth. We are destroying not only our children's futures but our own; global heating and the decimation of biodiversity are accelerating and millions of people in the Global South are already suffering the effects of climate change.

What does this have to do with the Diocese of Southwark? Our pledge to become a Bronze Eco Diocese sounds small in the context of planetary disaster. But it is small steps such as these, carried out imperfectly by every member of our community, that will add up to meaningful change. Yes, the governments of the world must take the lead. But without

a mandate from their people, without a sense that this is what society is calling for, they may not recognise the need or have the strength to act. Small individual actions and international systemic change are two sides of the same coin. We need them all, in the same way that we need the Cathedral and Diocesan Offices to work as wholeheartedly towards carbon neutrality as the most committed PCC, individual or Eco Deanery.

Each of us has a part to play. In the run-up to COP26, 2021 has been declared the UK's Year of Climate Action (together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org). The Government will be "working closely with businesses, civil society groups, schools and people across the UK as part of our conversation on tackling climate change... Many people

Continued on page 7 ▶

St Mark, North Downham: Eco Church Bronze Award Holder

St Mark's North Downham, in Catford, began the process of becoming an Eco Church in 2019 and achieved its bronze award in April 2020.

"I have been passionate about God's kingdom extending over the whole of creation for many years. I remember hearing a speaker from A Rocha during my undergraduate theology degree and the passages that she highlighted about the goodness and redemption of all of creation resonated with me," said Vicar, the Revd Nick Walsh.

Since becoming Vicar at Downham, Nick started looking into opportunities to teach and lead the church in this aspect of mission. "When my church warden heard about the A Rocha Eco Church Award and brought this to the attention of our DCC, this seemed like the ideal and achievable opportunity to explore," he continued.

Much of 2020 saw the church buildings out of use, reducing the church's carbon footprint, but it has also been difficult to measure the impact its Eco Church commitments have



made. However, they switched to 100% renewable energy as a result of the Eco Church review.

Eco-friendly initiatives have included switching to 100%

renewable energy and encouraging church members to do the same. The vicarage is also 100% renewable energy.

"We have been exploring with one of our partner charities the potential of using our garden to encourage local children to grow plants. Our sister church with whom we share a vicar has also partnered with South East London Community Energy (SELCE) to install solar panels to generate renewable energy," said Nick.

Nick outlined some challenges,

such as cost in terms of both time and finances. "We have also found quite a challenge in communicating the importance of care for creation across cultural differences, and generally overcoming the 'what difference does it make' attitude that is endemic in society."

His advice to other churches thinking about becoming an Eco Church was this: "The A Rocha Eco Church audit is accessible and achievable and could make a real difference to the impact our churches have on our environment, go for it!"

◀ Continued from page 6

from all over the UK are already doing their bit on climate change. We want to celebrate them and inspire more to join them.”

It is hard to read the environmental reports that seem to bring worse news month by month. The ice is melting faster than scientists ever predicted, tracking worst-case climate warming scenarios. One million species are at risk of extinction in the near future. Around 40% of plants are considered endangered, and insects are disappearing rapidly in many regions. If deforestation of the Amazon continues at its current rate, the “lungs of the earth” will become a desert.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed. However, it is not at all difficult to take action! The best remedy for eco anxiety or stress is to do something, however small. Here are just a few ideas...

- Churches all over the country are joining the Climate Sunday initiative, holding services to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray and to commit to action. See www.climatesunday.org
- Action can take the form of campaigning, committing to personal lifestyle changes, or working to reduce the carbon footprint of your church. The National Church has a practical path to “carbon net zero” including guidelines and a downloadable checklist, together with an invaluable series of webinars. See bit.ly/36PUwWo
- A group of leading Christian charities have collaborated on the Climate Emergency Toolkit, which provides a road map for how to take action in your church or institution. See www.climateemergencytoolkit.com
- Hope For The Future is supporting churches and faith groups in contacting MPs, to encourage and support our political leaders to make the necessary radical environmental commitments at COP26. Clear support from local faith groups gives a strong mandate for political leadership on climate change, and our voice as Christians has never been needed more. See www.hftf.org.uk/faith
- Finally, the A Rocha Eco Church scheme provides a framework for action, offering suggestions for eco initiatives large and small, from green cleaning products to solar panels.
- Within Southwark Diocese, we have a team keen to offer advice and support to our clergy and congregations. Our Diocesan Environment Officer, Area Advisors, Environment Coordinator and Church Buildings Officer are all on hand to answer questions, make visits or give talks. Visit southwark.anglican.org/help/jpic/environment

As Christians we have a biblical mandate and moral imperative to care for God’s creation. In caring for the earth we show our love for God and the great gift of his Creation. By living simply and speaking out, we might change everything for the better.

The Ascension, Balham Hill: Eco Church Bronze Award holder

Two years ago, members from The Ascension, Balham Hill attended a conference run by Christian environmental charity A Rocha, and they haven’t looked back. Today, they’re a Bronze award-winning Eco Church.

“The conference was deeply challenging and also inspiring,” said Dan Francis, Operations Director at The Ascension. “We felt that we needed to take practical action as part of caring for creation and being good stewards of this planet.”

He added: “A lot of our changes have been in response to the recommended actions in A Rocha’s Eco Church Survey. It is such a helpful guide. When we started thinking about this we didn’t know where to start and having a nice helpful guideline really helped us to pinpoint those areas.”

After filling in A Rocha’s Eco survey, they took a number of small, incremental steps to change their carbon footprint.

Initiatives include Parish Refill (see right), where they sell a variety of ethical products such as vegan animal cruelty free shampoo. The Ascension’s coffee shop, Parish Coffee, uses Fairtrade organic coffee in combustible cups. The furniture is reclaimed wood. Their



electricity is 100% from renewable energy, and all their lights are LED. They also use recycled printing and toilet paper.

“I recently calculated our energy footprint and our energy emissions per person hour rating. It is A+. Bearing in mind we have lots of activities in the church and pre-COVID we easily had 1,000 people accessing the church per month for a variety of activities. So that’s pretty good,” said Dan.

Dan believes that all churches should “Go for it! It doesn’t happen overnight. You have to be patient with this.”

He added: “There can be the financial implications, too. So, if you’re moving from one electricity supplier to another, that can potentially be in a higher tariff to spend if they are renewable.”

Christ Church, South Nutfield: Eco Church Silver Award Holder

Christ Church, South Nutfield became an Eco-Church from the first year the scheme started. They have achieved both bronze and silver awards and plan to work towards the gold when COVID-19 allows.

“We have cut down on fuel use by thermostatic control and encourage people to wear warm clothes,” said Veronica Hamilton, who runs Christ Church’s Environment group. “We also use a green energy provider. We have adopted LED lights where possible and encourage switching off lights when the sun shines!”

Other eco-friendly initiatives adopted by the church include recycled paper, Fairtrade coffee and tea, and using china cups and plates.

“We encourage the congregation to make changes in their lifestyle to reduce driving and plastic use, buy second-hand clothes, shop locally for organic and locally produced food, eat Animal Friendly food and fairly traded produce,” said Veronica. “Sometimes this has been done with sermons and through demonstrations as part of the children’s teaching, and often we use articles, some in the village magazine, some in the church weekly *Seed* news.”



Attending the mass lobby for Climate, Nature and People in 2019.

The church also conducts an Environment service at least once a year.

To achieve the Gold award, they aim to work with the wider community on the local environmental impact. In 2019, they met with their local MP and as a result formed a village-wide organisation called Nutfield’s Greener Future. “We organised public meetings and placed several articles in the village magazine before we and the magazine were shut down by COVID restrictions,” recalled Veronica.

One of the aims of the group is to have solar power installations on the

community buildings of the village, including the Christ Church Centre.

Veronica is passionate that others become Eco Churches, “As Christians we have a responsibility to care for God’s beautiful creation, and to follow in our Lord’s footsteps in establishing climate and trade justice, protecting the poor and weak. Unfortunately for a long time it was a neglected aspect of Christian calling and we need to repent of past inaction and give it full attention now.”



IN FOCUS... Coronavirus vaccinations

Senior Southwark clergy join vaccination drive

Black clergy in the Diocese of Southwark have been spearheading a campaign to overcome reluctance among the UKME/BAME community to be vaccinated.

Their efforts came after GPs sounded the alarm over a lack of take-up of the vaccine among UKME/BAME communities, with this population 10 times as likely not to show up for their appointments. At the same time, a survey of UK households revealed that up to 72% of UKME/BAME people were unlikely to have the jab.

Bishop Karowei, a former GP and hospital doctor, has been vocal in his support for vaccination. Together with Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, he has released a video urging the Black community to accept the vaccine.

“Fear and mistrust can make a huge difference in a community,” he said. “When there is fear people can act completely inappropriately and irrationally. So a lot of the irrational behaviour we are seeing is being fed by the fear of the unknown, misinformation and lack of trust.”

Rosemarie also has a background in medical research, which she said made her confident in the science behind the vaccine. “I’m urging anyone who has doubts about taking it to do the research for themselves rather than listening to the conspiracies,” she added.

Myth-busting

Woolwich MEACC also took action to counteract disinformation in the Black community by staging an online event



Bishop Karowei gets his jab (left); the Revd Jean Yearwood, who has urged friends and family to get the vaccine as she herself has done (above).

designed to bust myths and reassure participants. Around 100 people turned up on 28 January to hear Dr Tolullah Oni answer questions.

Dr Oni is an urban epidemiologist at the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge, and an expert in viruses as they affect UKME/BAME communities. She discussed drug trials, efficacy, side effects, and the need for everyone to take part. “At the end of the day we all breathe the same air and this virus is primarily transmitted through aerosol droplets,” she said.

Leading by example

The Revd Jean Yearwood, a retired Senior Midwifery Manager and PTO, has also been vocal on her social media channels and to friends and family about the benefits of the vaccine. She was shocked when people in her community tried to dissuade her from having her jab.

“I encourage everyone and anyone who will listen that it is a lifeline for people around the world to the deadly Coronavirus that is ravaging people,” she said. “We need to act now.”

Croydon chaplain Andy Dovey recruits vaccination volunteers

The Revd Andy Dovey, Lead for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, managed to recruit at least 1,000 subjects for vaccination when the roll-out began in December 2020.

Andy reached out to his contacts in churches and the local community to identify over-80s who would be suitable for the vaccine. In this way, vulnerable people who might otherwise have had to wait were brought early to the attention of medical personnel.

Andy (pictured right) said: “The response has been amazing. I am really grateful to the community of churches that have pulled together to support our congregations in these difficult times.”



St Paul's vaccination centre hopes to keep community safe

St Paul, Thornton Heath has partnered with the NHS to set itself up as a vaccination centre for the local community.

Between 4,500 and 5,000 people have received their jabs since the programme started in the week beginning 4 January. Healthcare staff are also taking the vaccine out to care homes, the housebound and the clinically vulnerable who have received shielding letters.

The Revd Derrick Thompson, Incumbent at St Paul's, said: “We are very pleased to be partnering with the NHS in such an important programme, and are hoping that



At St Paul's vaccination centre.

having so many people coming through the building will not only help the fight against Coronavirus, but will also increase the profile of St Paul's in the local area.”



GET INVOLVED

Watch our video

The Diocese of Southwark's leading Black clergy, the Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, Bishop of Woolwich, and the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, have released a video urging UKME/BAME people to take the vaccine when they are offered it. You can watch the video, which has been viewed nearly 2,600 times, on the Southwark YouTube channel: youtu.be/lwtcvdDbIWg



Find the facts

If you or a loved one is concerned about taking the vaccine, the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group has produced a series of helpful myth-busting fact sheets which can be found here: selondonccg.nhs.uk/what-we-do/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/

The NHS website also has a page with further information on the Coronavirus vaccine, including what to expect when having the jab and possible side effects. Find out more here: bit.ly/39zY6kU

The Government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is planning to bring out a fact sheet on the vaccines, covering everything from contraindications to expected side effects. The SAGE website is here: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies

Read a personal story

The Revd Canon Dr Sue Clarke, retired consultant and PTO in the Diocese, shared her story of becoming a vaccinator with her local GP surgery. Read more on the Diocese's Hearts on Fire blog here: bit.ly/RainbowScrubs



IN FOCUS... Celebrating Bishop Christopher

The 10 years since Bishop Christopher received the Archbishop of Canterbury's Charge in 2011 have been a time of great change and activity for the Diocese. To celebrate his decade in post, this page shares some highlights, from the reopening of Borough Market after the terrorist attack in 2017 and the Paralympic Torch Relay in 2012, to snapshots from pilgrimages across the globe.



Clockwise from top: Bishop Christopher and Mayor Sadiq Khan at the reopening of Borough Market after the 2017 terrorist attack; the Queen visits Southwark Cathedral in 2013; celebrating 20 years of women priests in 2014; on pilgrimage in Zimbabwe in 2018; Bishop Christopher visits India in 2014; pilgrims to the Holy Land in 2013; laying the foundations of St Michael and All Angels in 2012; Bishop Christopher stands at his enthronement in 2011 with the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, then Bishop of London; the Paralympic Torch Relay comes through Southwark in 2012.





DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Bishop's Lent Call

Why this year's Lent Call wants us to feed the hungry

Each year the Bishop of Southwark issues a Lent Call to the people of the Diocese, writes the Revd Canon Wendy Robins.

This year, the Lent Call focuses on food insecurity and projects in this Diocese as well as in our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem.

The Lent Call materials share information about the work that is being undertaken by five food banks in the Diocese, a food project in Jerusalem, and feeding and agricultural projects in the four Dioceses with which we are linked in Zimbabwe.

We have also supplied some reflective materials and some fundraising ideas which take account of the need to do many things online. Do look at them and use them, both to pray for the work that we are featuring and to consider how best you might be able to raise funds to support it.

At this time of challenge for us all, it is important that we use Lent as a time to stop and consider all that God has done for us and how we can best respond. Some people might find that they are spending less as a result of the pandemic and could offer financial support to the projects. Others may have less to give financially



but they might instead have time to offer in prayer or as a volunteer.

The projects

The five food banks in the Diocese all bring much-needed food to those in need. Each of them has found that the need for their work has increased a great deal because of the pandemic.

Week One looks at the work of St Matthew, Redhill, in the Croydon Episcopal Area, where the average cost of a weekly household parcel is £30. They deliver 100 a week.

In Week Two, two food banks are featured from the Kingston Episcopal Area: the Wandsworth Food Bank and the Norwood and Brixton Food Bank. Both are part of the Trussell Trust network which works to provide food to those in need and to tackle the causes of food insecurity. Since the pandemic they have seen demand almost double as people are forced into poverty.

Week Three goes to the Woolwich Episcopal Area, and LewCAS and Together Southwark: Lunchbox Library. LewCAS works with refugees and asylum seekers who have



A school boy in Zimbabwe (above). Many people are currently struggling to get enough to eat there. A volunteer for LewCAS (inset, left).

no other means of obtaining the things they need to live. The Lunchbox Library works to ensure that children have a warm meal and a safe space to be during the day during school holidays.

Our Linked Dioceses

In Zimbabwe there is always concern about whether there is going to be enough rain for the crops will grow. Now, there is also a worry about too much rain in the rainy season: when we last heard from our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe, they told us that some of the crops had been planted early in the season in the hope of rain and sadly these had been washed away.

Many are finding food hard to procure because they do not have work and there is not always a lot in the shops. So, in many of the Dioceses there are feeding programmes, often related to Diocesan schools, from which they can feed the students and surrounding villages.

The Diocese of Jerusalem has experienced a sharp decline in income because of the lack of tourism, the inability to collect school fees and the loss of other income.

The project we are supporting is designed to be able to offer \$100 (about £74) to up to 50 vulnerable families so they can feed themselves for about a month. This will enable them to buy basic foodstuffs and household goods. The main aim of this project is to ensure food security among the families of the parishes of the Diocese.

Please visit the materials on the website and think and pray about what you read, and consider how you can help the projects being supported by the Bishop's Lent Call 2021.

Get involved...



For more information on the projects in this year's Lent Call or to download the resources, visit southwark.anglican.org/lentcall

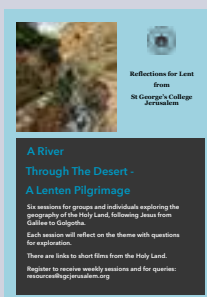
Donate via your church or our JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/campaign/bishopslentcall2021

A round up of some of the best Lent resources available elsewhere

Reflections for Lent from St George's College, Jerusalem

Register at resources@sgcjerusalem.org to receive the course and for queries

This six-session course for groups and individuals explores the geography of the Holy Land, following Jesus from Galilee to Golgotha. The course is led by the Very Revd Canon Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's and formerly Team Rector at Barnes Team Ministry.



Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land

www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/shop/lenten-book; £7.99 (funds will go to the Friends of the Holy Land)

This book was inspired by the experiences of a priest going through Easter during lockdown last year. It shares his poems imagining the experiences of key players in the First Easter, juxtaposed with reflections on key themes.



40 Days with God's Creatures

www.40dayswithgodscreatures.org

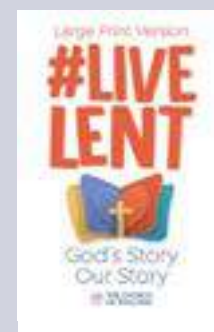
This free, interactive course offers participants the chance to reflect on how Christian faith shapes our perceptions of animals and how the Gospel message affects all of God's creatures. Contributors include the Revd Ian Tattum, Area Dean of Wandsworth. The course is also available via a free, easy-to-use app.



Live Lent

www.churchofengland.org/livelent

Live Lent: Our story, God's story, is the Church of England Lent campaign for 2021, written the Revd Stephen Hance, a PTO in the Diocese and the National Church lead for Evangelism and Witness. The book and accompanying daily reflections encourage people to think about their calling and how to share their faith. There is also an app.



WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for MARCH ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY**



February

WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY

* **ONLINE** – Questions of our Times - Truth: Christian Evidence webinars. In the first of a series of webinars, former Cabinet minister and prison chaplain, Revd Jonathan Aitken will be discussing the question, “In a world of fake news, who can we trust?” 8.00pm. Free. Register at christian-evidence.eventbrite.com

March

TUESDAY 2 MARCH

* **ONLINE** – Questions of our Times - Health: How can I find wholeness in a broken world? A Christian Evidence webinar led by the Revd Dr Gillian Straine, Director at the Guild of Health and St Raphael. 8.00pm. Free. Register here: bit.ly/3pUsfB7

TUESDAY 9 MARCH

* **ONLINE** – From Biology to Theology: How viruses challenge our perception of good and evil. Virologist Dr Mirjam Schilling leads this seminar, one in a series about science and faith from the Faraday Institute. 1.00-2.00pm. Free. No need to book; click this link at the appropriate time: faraday.cam.ac.uk/events/seminars/

* **ONLINE** – Questions of our Times - Race: Which lives matter? A Christian Evidence webinar led by the Revd Joel Edwards CBE, Director of Advocacy at Christian Solidarity Worldwide. 8.00pm. Free. Register here: bit.ly/3rtvDmj

TUESDAY 11 MARCH

* **ONLINE** – Church of England Net Zero Carbon Webinars: The Effective Management of Lighting. This webinar, one in a series from the National Church, will cover all forms of church lighting. 4.00-5.00pm. Free. Register here: bit.ly/39QeBJA

TUESDAY 16 MARCH

* **ONLINE** – Questions of our Times - the Environment: Can the future ever be green? A Christian Evidence webinar with Mike Hulme, Professor

of Human Geography at Cambridge University. 8.00pm. Free. Register here: bit.ly/3cNNWPA

* **ONLINE** – Church of England Net Zero Carbon Webinars: To replace or not replace? This webinar, one in a series from the National Church, discusses what to expect when replacing a church's heat and lighting. Led by chartered building services engineer Susan Logan from EcoTeric. 12.00-1.00pm. Free. Register here: bit.ly/3q7ljil

TUESDAY 23 MARCH

* **ONLINE** – Questions of our Times - Prayer and Spirituality: Is God really listening? Former Archbishop of Canterbury the Revd Dr Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth leads this Christian Evidence webinar, the last in the series. 8.00pm. Free. Register here: bit.ly/3tAoT8k

April

SATURDAY 24 APRIL

* **ONLINE** – Modern Slavery webinar from the Reigate Archdeaconry, which aims to raise awareness of this issue in the Surrey area. Speakers include Carolyn Thom of Their Voice, Ross Spanton of Reigate and Banstead Council, and Chief Superintendent Clive Davies and DC Bex Davies of Surrey Police. 9.30am-11.45am. Free. <https://rasjmodernslavery.eventbrite.co.uk>

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We want the What's On page to reflect what's happening across Southwark, but we need to hear from you.

If you have an event taking place, either online or in person, please e-mail bridge@southwark.anglican.org

Thank you!

St Francis, Selsdon aims to become a one-stop shop



We started our Food Stop in October 2019, a few months before the lockdown, writes the Revd Peter Wyatt, Minister-in-Charge at St Francis, Selsdon.

A Food Stop is different from a food bank in the sense that members can come every week if needed and pay a modest fee of £3.50 a week. As soon as lockdown hit, our numbers doubled overnight to around 30 to 35 families a week. This equates to more than 100 individuals being fed.

At Christmas, we gave a hamper to every active member including a turkey joint, vegetables, Christmas

pudding, cream, crackers and presents for all the family. We delivered to more than 50 families, which was a mammoth task, but the reaction from members was priceless.

We are so grateful for the Area Mission Grant which enabled us to buy our first commercial fridge and freezer and certainly got us off the ground.

In the future, when the pandemic is over, we want to be able to offer more services to our members, including housing and debt advice, cooking classes, and counselling and support for people with mental health issues.

Southwark welcomes new Deputy Director of Vocations

The Revd Raymond Baudon is to be the Diocese's new Deputy Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Raymond currently serves as curate at St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich; he was ordained in 2018. Since 2019, he has been a Diocesan Vocational Adviser.

Before ordination, Raymond (pictured right) had a successful legal career. After qualifying as a solicitor, he worked in a law firm in Edinburgh specialising in corporate finance. He moved to London in 2013 and, before beginning training, worked as an assistant in the chaplaincy at King's College London.

The Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, said: “We are delighted to welcome Raymond as Deputy Director of Vocations. He clearly has a great deal to offer the Diocese as we seek to encourage and enable all those in our parishes to consider the ways in which God might be calling them.”



Raymond said of his appointment: “I am delighted to have been offered the opportunity of this new chapter in my ministry. Although I am sad to be leaving the parish of St John's, I am looking forward to getting to know our candidates and ordinands.”

Raymond takes up his post after Easter.



IN FOCUS... Schools

Board of Education's Director retires

After 13 years of service to the Southwark Diocese Board of Education (SDBE), seven of them as Director, Colin Powell retired in December 2020.

Despite his success in the role, Colin's move to the SDBE came about almost by accident. When he joined in 2007 as a Primary Adviser, Colin had been headteacher of Malden Parochial CE Primary in Worcester Park for a decade. "Everyone said I was mad," he said. "I gave up a substantive headship post to come here on a two-year temporary contract and I've been here ever since."

The gamble more than paid off. Among other achievements, Colin oversaw the introduction of the Diocese's Multi-Academy Trust three years ago, and the SDBE's long-cherished plans to open a secondary school in Kingston are well underway. During his tenure, too, the financial position of the SDBE has stabilised; the Board now has a surplus and is financially secure.

Colin added: "One of the things we can be proud of is that we're one of the top performing Diocesan Boards of Education. We've worked very hard with our schools, and with our heads and governors, to make sure our schools do incredibly well."

A year like no other

It has not all been plain sailing; 2020 in particular was difficult for those working in education as much as it was for everyone else. "It has been a unique



Colin at a meeting of new headteachers in 2019.

challenge," Colin acknowledged. "I think that, in this pandemic, all of us have had to work in a different way."

Yet the way in which his SDBE colleagues and teachers in the Diocese responded made him proud. "I want to say to all our teachers, our governors and our headteachers that they do an absolutely brilliant, superb job and they must never underestimate the difference they make to young people," Colin said.

As for what 2021 will bring, Colin doesn't yet know. Just as he never planned his career – "it just sort of happened and has been guided, I think, by God" – he has no definite plans yet for retirement beyond dedicating some time to his family.

Whatever he does, he aims to enjoy it, and to continue to live out those principles that have sustained him throughout his years in education: inspiring young people to learn, to develop and to flourish.

SDBE launches 'Be a Blessing' campaign to recruit governors

You will have seen and heard how badly the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting our schools. It's a big challenge – and one that you could help with, writes Penny Cox.

Right now, the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) is running a campaign across its 105 schools, nurseries and colleges to recruit Christian volunteers to the role of Foundation Governor. The campaign is called 'Be a Blessing' – because a blessing is exactly what governors are to a school.

What does a Governor do?

Governors are responsible for overseeing and contributing to the leadership of a school. This includes the school vision, strategy, budgeting, staffing and a school's overall effectiveness. Foundation Governors are also key to strengthening and maintaining a school's Christian character and ethos.

Full governing body meetings are held three or four times a year, and there are also a number of smaller committee meetings. Governors typically don't sit on all the committees, but all governors will be on at least one committee. There will be various papers to read in preparation for each meeting. Governors are also encouraged to get involved in school life, for example by attending assemblies, summer fairs and so on.

The SDBE runs an excellent training programme. Skills from the worlds of finance, business, human resources and education are always very useful. But most important is a commitment to the role, regardless of experience.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Penny Cox at Beablessing.sdb@gmail.com

"I have been blessed by the relationships I've built"

Francis Neal
Foundation
Governor,
Holy Trinity
CE Primary
School
Richmond



"Being a Governor has been a great way to contribute to the life of the school and help it live out its vision of loving learning, each other and God. It feels as though I am supporting the school and staff, especially at this difficult time, to deliver an education to our children and to be an important part of the local community."

Michèle
Marcus
Foundation
Governor
and Chair of
Governors,
Holy Trinity
CE Primary
School Richmond



"School governance has been one of those unexpected paths that God led me down. When I first became a Foundation Governor I hadn't a clue what I could offer beyond time and a strong belief in the value of education. Like most things in life, the more you give the more you gain. Over the years, I have been blessed by the relationships I've built with children, staff and fellow governors. Being a governor has given me interests, responsibility and joy beyond anything I expected."

ST OLAVE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY

WAKEHAM CHORISTERSHIPS

Applications are invited from boys whose *tenth* birthday falls between **1 September 2020** and **31 August 2021**

Under the scheme, run jointly by St Olave's Grammar School and The Duchy of Lancaster, boys commence at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy in September 2021 and in Year 7 at St Olave's Grammar School in September 2022

- Singing in a Chapel Royal Choir
- Musical training at the highest standard
- Admission to one of the country's best state schools

Further details are available to download via www.saintolaves.net

The closing date for applications is Friday, 26 March 2021

Mini St Mike's Nursery opens its doors in Wandsworth

St Michael's CE Primary School in Southfields opened its Mini St Mike's Nursery on 5 January, ready to welcome up to 38 three-year-olds into its three classes once pupils are allowed to return.



It has been a dream of St Mike's headteacher, Ann-Marie Grant, to open a nursery at the school for 20 years. Located in the old staff car park, which links to the main school via the hall, it will be overseen by four members of staff. COVID restrictions meant the opening (pictured above, with Ann-Marie) was low key, but a grander opening is planned when circumstances allow.