



The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.26 No.6
July/August 2021

Hands-free

Southwark launches contactless giving in parishes

See page 3



Curtain-up

Arts and theatre return to the Diocese as restrictions lift

See pages 4-5



Sailing to justice

Southwark supports climate initiatives as we head for COP26

See page 12



Ordained for ministry in Southwark Diocese

Twenty-four people were ordained Deacon on Saturday 26 June by the Bishop of Croydon at Southwark Cathedral (another had already been ordained Deacon on 9 May by the Bishop of Southwark at the Good Shepherd, Lee).

The Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn, introduced the service, saying it was a "great day of rejoicing" both for the candidates and for all those watching the service. He also passed on Bishop Christopher's greetings.

The Venerable Mark Steadman, Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey and formerly Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark, preached. Speaking of the unique contribution of the Diaconate, he said: "They help us Christians to be better disciples of the Lord. By their very lives, given to the Lord in his service, Deacons show us how to serve, how to minister."

The candidates then made their declarations, after which Bishop Jonathan ordained each in turn.

Watch the service here: bit.ly/3h0ImL8

Also on 26 June, one person was ordained to the priesthood and, on 3 July, a further 17 were ordained Priest. Find more details and a full list of names on page 10.

New Deacons in the Diocese of Southwark and the parishes in which they will serve



© Eve Milner

Henry Akingbemisilu

Thamesmead Team Ministry

Jane Andrews

Putney Team Ministry

Simon Asquith

Merton Priory Team Ministry

Dr Charles Bell

St John the Divine with St James the Apostle, Kennington

Gemma Birt

St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich

Timothy Brunt

Christ Church, Streatham

Daniel Burton

All, Saints, Carshalton

Dr Sylvia Collins-Mayo

Mortlake with East Sheen Team Ministry

Louisa Davies

St Michael and All Angels with St Stephen, Wandsworth

Luke Demetri

St Michael and All Angels with St James, Croydon

Leigh Engham

St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth

Harry Frost

Holy Trinity, Wallington

Christopher Gaul

St Peter, Brockley

Katie Kelly

St Edward the Confessor, Mottingham

Capt Nicholas Lebey CA

Tolworth, Hook and Surbiton Team Ministry

Carolyn Madanat

St Paul, Kingston Hill

Max Marsh

St Mary the Virgin, Lewisham

Jack O'Grady

All Saints with Holy Trinity, Wandsworth

Dr Francesca Perlman

Cheam Team Ministry

Janice Price

St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

Charlotte Smith

Richmond Team Ministry

Luke Whiteman

Christ Church, Gypsy Hill

Susan Wright

Parish of Herne Hill

Helga Zunde-Baker

All Saints, Hackbridge and Beddington Corner

A recording of the service can be found at bit.ly/3h0ImL8

Paul Adlington, Good Shepherd, Lee, was ordained on 9 May.

St James, Bermondsey slides into history

The Revd Jonathan Sedgwick, Acting Archdeacon of Southwark (pictured right taking his turn on the slide), was among the guests present to unveil a new Joyslide at St James, Bermondsey on Wednesday 20 June.

The original Joyslide was given to the children of Bermondsey by Arthur Carr of Peek Freans biscuit factory 100 years ago when he spotted



them sliding down the granite slope by the church steps.

The new version has been designed by architect Fergus Carr, Arthur's great-great-grandson. Intended for younger children, it is on a smaller scale than the original, but the hope is that it will entertain them just as Arthur's gift did a century ago.

Find more parish news on pages 4-5.

A view from The BRIDGE



“Thou has put gladness in my heart; since the time that their corn, and wine and oil increased”
— Psalm 4.8

As I write, PCC Secretaries and incumbents will be receiving their information packs for the Parish Support Fund 2022 (see page 3) and on the front of the packs is a picture of the banner on the front of Holy Trinity Clapham, which says “There is Hope”.

Dear friends, as Christians we always speak of Hope and now, after a long period of difficulty during the pandemic, we have new opportunities to show in our many ways how we are living and demonstrating that Hope with hearts full of gladness. We only need to turn to this edition of *The Bridge* to see examples of this.

There is Hope in our new deacons and priests as we continue to bring new life and fresh thinking into our parishes (see pages 1 and 10); there is joy as we all anticipate a return to a flourishing of the performing arts, with musical events certainly high on my own personal agenda (see the centre spread on pages 6-7).

The opportunities to appreciate the way in which visual art speaks to us will also increase and, as we continue to return to and recover from the pandemic, the work of the German Jewish artist Feibusch featured in this months *Bridge* (see page 4) speaks to us. The mural of the crucifixion will be

familiar to anyone on our Diocesan Synod as before the lockdown many meetings of synod were held at St John, Waterloo. As we gaze at the Son of Man on the Cross, in the mural, on Synod all members bring together the practical concerns of our Diocese with our faith. This week we have had a remote Synod (see report on page 8), but again we have brought together the material and the spiritual, and we thank God for the compassion and care that is at the heart of our faith, for each other and for the stranger.

In the verse from Psalm 4 at the start of this article, we hold together the spiritual and the material; it is so good to celebrate with gladness, in prayer and with thanksgiving, the easing of restrictions on our worship and our daily life.

We know that we still have much to pray for and there is weariness and anxiety still around us. And so the psalmist continues: “I will lay me down in peace and take my rest; for it is thou Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.” (Psalm 4.9)

Please enjoy this summer edition of *The Bridge* — and perhaps imagine yourselves, or try, having a ride on the Joyslide (see page 1) at St James, Bermondsey!

Ruth Martin

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.



NEWS IN BRIEF

New Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser appointed

The Diocese is delighted to announce the appointment of Pamela Chisholm to the role of Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Pamela has extensive safeguarding knowledge and experience of working with children and vulnerable adults, having served as a police officer for 30 years in the Metropolitan Police service. Pamela will join the Safeguarding Team on 24 August and Moira Murray, who has been covering the role on an interim basis, will be available for a short time to ensure a smooth handover.

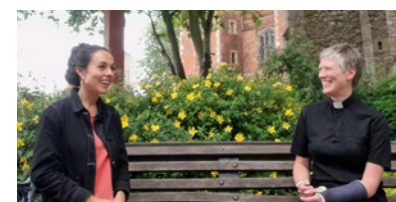
A full profile of Pamela will be published in September's Bridge.

Past Cases Review 2 update

The Diocese has continued to carry out the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) work throughout the period of COVID-19 restrictions and significant progress has been made in reviewing our clergy and Church Officer files and safeguarding records. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team directly if they are comfortable doing so. To assist those who may not be comfortable with direct contact with the Diocese we have also put in place an independent confidential helpline. A national PCR2 helpline, operated independently by the NSPCC, is also available. The full statement can be found at: bit.ly/SwarkPCR2

Pioneer Eco Minister appointed

The Revd Dr Sharon Moughtin (far right) has been appointed Pioneer Team Vicar at St Mary's Eco Church in Lambeth, alongside Cara George as Pioneer Assistant Minister. Sharon will lead the work of pioneering a new church with a particular focus on the Fifth Mark of Mission, and engage with those both inside and outside the Church who have a strong affinity with ecological awareness and issues of social justice.



Southwark UKME leaders speak out on vaccination for NHS

The Bishop of Woolwich and the Archdeacon of Croydon have appeared in an NHS video encouraging UKME people to come forward for the vaccine, released in late June. In the video, Black Church leaders are seen receiving the vaccine and asking others to do the same. Watch the full video here: bit.ly/3xcJRMc

London's Open House Festival open for applications

Applications are open for Grade I and II* listed churches to sign up for London's Open House Festival, which takes place from 4-12 September. The event gives churches a different way to open their doors to members of the community who would perhaps not normally come into church, and could lead to missional or fundraising opportunities. The deadline for applications is 30 July. If you do sign up, please let Duncan Gregory know (duncan.gregory@southwark.anglican.org)

<https://open-city.org.uk/how-to-take-part-in-open-house-festival>

Southwark Diocesan Conference 2022 update

Planning for the Southwark Diocesan Conference 2022 (SDC2022) at Bacon's College, Rotherhithe, on 1-3 September 2022 is well under way. Confirmed speakers include: Mark Greene, Carrie Myers, Francis Spufford and the Revd Azariah France-Williams. The Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley appears in the latest video released to publicise the conference. Watch it here: youtu.be/u4hF3OoLocE

The Bridge is produced & published by:

Press and Communications, The Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House,
4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW

Tel: 020 7939 9400 E-mail: bridge@southwark.anglican.org

The Editorial Team from Press and Communications:

Commissioning Editor:

Sophia Jones

Editor: Abigail Sanderson

Advertising and Distribution:

Susana Rojas

Editorial Group:

Ruth Martin

Editorial Adviser (vacant)

Sophia Jones

Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The SEPTEMBER edition is due to be published online on 1 September 2021. Material for that edition must be with Sophia Jones by e-mail by **FRIDAY 20 AUGUST**.

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

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



IN FOCUS...

News from the Diocese

Diocese launches contactless giving project in parishes

The first round of a new project helping Southwark's parishes to promote contactless giving, jointly run by the Diocese and the National Church's Giving Team, launched in June.

Parishes in seven deaneries across the Diocese were invited to take part in the scheme, under which each received a contactless giving terminal part-funded by the National Church. The remaining financial contribution was provided by the parishes themselves.

Alan Carter, Treasurer at St Peter's Woodmansterne, said: "Without the subsidy, the upfront costs involved in trying contactless would have been a barrier to us trying it."

Prior to receiving their devices, clergy, PCC Treasurers, and other volunteers gathered online for training with the Southwark and National Giving Teams, which covered new ways to encourage generous giving. They then collected their new machines at an in-person training session in early July.

"This is a new way to receive gifts for many of our parishes, so the face-to-face training was a great opportunity to build people's confidence," commented Head of Giving, Gabby Parikh.

Bishop Christopher added: "It is very



One of the new contactless machines in use at St Mark, Mitcham.

good that we are piloting contactless giving in the Diocese. Parishes have been extremely generous during the pandemic and I hope that this tool will support them significantly. As well as providing a facility for members of the congregation wishing to give generously, it is particularly suited to encourage one-off visitors also at occasions such as special festivals, baptisms or other occasional offices."

A second round of the project is planned in the coming months.

Parish Support Fund launches

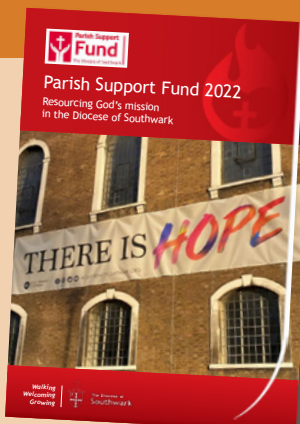
Thank you for your continued generosity to the Parish Support Fund (PSF) over what has been a year like no other. We are delighted that parishes are continuing to honour their PSF pledges and that the collection rate is currently over 98%.

The 2022 Parish Support Fund booklet is now being distributed to parishes and is available online at southwark.anglican.org/giving/parish-support-fund

We hope that you will be encouraged as you read the letters from our Bishops and Diocesan Secretary, as well as stories from our parishes who have faced many challenges and opportunities this year.

Bishop Christopher and his fellow Bishops invite you to join together in the words of the PSF prayer, written by the Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn. We hope that you might like to use a short video recorded by voices from the PSF booklet at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEBJv4DNR64.

If you have any questions about the PSF, please contact Gabby Parikh at gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org



New leadership opportunities unveiled at Lay Ministries event

On 19 June, more than 40 people attended a Zoom event to explore new lay ministries in the Diocese of Southwark, writes David Cundill (right), Pioneer Development Officer.

Our Lay Council has recently approved schemes for Lay Pioneers and Lay Ministry amongst Youth and Children. This morning provided an introduction to each of these and opportunities to explore one or two of them in breakout rooms.

People were also given the chance to explore more than one approach to ministry; for instance, would it be best to develop your vocation as a lay minister with youth and children (say, mainly with those involved in our churches) or as a pioneer minister (with young people out in the community to establish a new form of church amongst them)?

From my experience it was great to find so many people interested in lay pioneering and often already involved in reaching out beyond the Church and forming new approaches with the people who normally do not attend. This included: Forest Church, pioneering through football, supporting people with mental health, pioneering beyond family-focused Fresh Expressions, those spiritual but not religious and pioneering amongst people struggling with faith.

During our breakout sessions we explored how people can develop their ministry or vocation as a lay pioneer, including starting a Fresh Expression, using the online Godsend



resources (www.fxgreenhouse.info), trying a Mission Shaped Ministry course or joining a Greenhouse learning community.

We also looked at becoming a commissioned pioneer, which involves an apprentice-based learning programme to support people in their ministry and a new licensed pioneer learning programme. In our two breakout rooms we had lively and enthusiastic discussions and hope we can help some develop their vocations further as a result.

Feedback in the main Zoom session indicated that people exploring lay ministry amongst Youth and Children, Readers, Pastoral Assistants and Church Army Evangelists had similar experiences. Due to the amount of interest we are looking to repeat the process again in a few months' time.

If you would like to explore lay ministry further, visit southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/ministry/discipleship-ministry/lay-ministries

Tributes paid as former Evangelical Alliance leader dies

The Revd Dr Joel Edwards, former General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, has died of cancer aged 70.

Bishop Christopher said: "It is with great sadness that we have heard of the death of the Revd Dr Joel Edwards who for many years gave leadership to the Evangelical Alliance. He was a devoted pastor and friend to many, especially in London. I have always had a high regard for his generosity of spirit. Please join me in giving thanks for his life and Christian witness and please pray for his family in their loss. May he rest in peace."

The Revd Dr Edwards' final message was: "This is to say a final goodbye. First, my incredible



thanks for your prayers, love and holding on to me with that fingernail miracle. Words cannot express the depth, breadth and height of my gratitude, but I have gone home."



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

Uncovering the local legacy of a German-Jewish artist

The Diocese of Southwark has an important cultural and artistic legacy that is only now coming to light, writes Beth McHattie, Communications Consultant for St John, Waterloo.

Eight of its churches are home to murals by Hans Feibusch, a German-Jewish artist who came to London in 1933 and ended up painting some 40 murals for the Church of England, more than any other artist in the entire history of the Church. Yet he is hardly known.

This astonishing fact has been brought to the fore by St John's which has two magnificent but perilously fragile Feibusch murals and is fundraising for their urgent conservation. The murals were done in 1951 when St John's was restored to become the Festival of Britain church. Now £57,000 is needed to stop them flaking to the floor and the church is appealing for donations.

Last year, St John's hosted an online tour of Feibusch murals in South East London churches (see bit.ly/3yFPVNC). In June this year, it held a conference – *A Jewish Jesus: Art and Faith in the Shadow of World War II* – on the wider subject of why so many Jewish refugee artists adorned our churches with paintings, murals, sculpture and stained glass in the post-war period.

The Revd Canon Giles Goddard, Vicar of St John's, said: "Our Feibusch murals have graced St John's and focused our thoughts for almost 70 years. But it is only now that we, and other churches blessed with works of this period, are beginning to see the bigger picture. What did Feibusch and his fellow non-Christian artists bring to our faith and to our understanding of the post-war world? How can we save their legacy? And how can we respond to the art of refugees in Britain today?"

Edmund de Waal, world-famous potter and writer, welcomed people to the conference, calling it "an extraordinary day of events, memory and celebration of an exilic generation of artists who have profoundly enriched the public inhabiting of faith in the United Kingdom..."

Explaining why the conference was important, he said: "I grew up in the Church of England...with a mother who writes about monasticism and a father who was an Anglican clergyman who was also Jewish...so for me this experience of having two places in my life, a grounding in this country but a sense of elsewhere means that this day means an enormous amount to me."

The conference was held in association with Art + Christianity and Insiders/Outsiders as part of Waterloo Festival and all the talks are now online at: bit.ly/36dSwSu



Section of Feibusch mural of the Crucifixion housed in St John, Waterloo.

Woolwich priest celebrates 97th birthday



The Revd Margaret Mabbs, who holds the Bishop's Permission to Officiate at St Luke, Eltham Park, celebrated her 97th birthday on 28 June. She received COVID-secure visits from the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark; the Revd Dr Catherine Shelley, Eltham & Mottingham Area Dean; the Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong, Vicar at St Luke, Eltham Park; and others. The rain did not deter them or members of the community from sending their best wishes and raising more than £500 for a local donkey charity.

Christ the King, Salfords welcomes new priest

Bishop Jonathan presided at the licensing of the Revd Canon Dr James Rosenthal at Christ the King, Salfords on the feast of Corpus Christi on 6 June, writes Sian McIntosh.

It was lovely for the church family to be present, even if socially distanced and mindful of the COVID regulations, to celebrate the licensing of Father Jim who comes to us from his previous parish, St James the Great in Merton.

It gave us all a cause to be joyful and hopeful and, as Bishop Jonathan reminded us in his sermon, "the promise of God is not voided by a pandemic". We were able to join together in a more "normal" way – the sun shone, the flowers looked beautiful, a small choir sang and the organ played!



Army chief gives unique award for service to Southfields school



St Michael’s children show off the “SAS” display board to military guests.

The sound of boots on gravel reverberated around St Michael’s School Southfields on 14 June and all the pupils were on parade to meet a very special visitor, writes a school spokesperson.

Fresh from meeting The Queen at the Trooping the Colour on 12 June and the US President on 13 June, Major General Christopher Ghika came to the school to salute its work with military families with the presentation of a unique commendation.

For the past decade, Headteacher Ann-Marie Grant has held weekly support group meetings (named SAS, short for “Social At School”), with more than 100 military children benefiting from the scheme’s friendship and pastoral care.

The current cohort of pupils, ranging in age from five to eight, expressed their thoughts and feelings on what the St Michael’s SAS group means to them. One said: “Being in SAS means we can help each other.” Another added: “It’s good to share how we are feeling, especially when our dads go away and we might feel a bit worried about them.”

In presenting his special “Meritorious Service Award” to Ann-Marie, the Major General, who commands the Guards and the Army in London, said that his own family had seen St Michael’s as a “bedrock” when times were hard, in particular when he was away in Afghanistan for seven months while his two children were in Reception and Year 2 at St Michael’s.

The award is usually only given to individuals and this is the first of its kind during his tenure that has been presented to an organisation. In return, the children presented their guests with unique “Golden Superstar Certificates”, thanking them for their service. Year 4 pupil George also explained to the Major General that he was to receive a bespoke St Michael’s School plaque which Major General Ghika declared would be added to the display of regimental plaques in his office on Horse Guards in Whitehall.

After the ceremony, the children proudly showed their guests the special SAS display board, which features a mosaic designed by the children bearing the symbol of the military child, the dandelion, because they “bloom everywhere the wind carries them”.

St Mary, Lewisham honours COVID dead with cherry tree



St Mary, Lewisham was blessed with a beautiful spring morning in April for Lewisham Mayor Damien Egan to plant a commemorative cherry blossom tree, writes the Revd Steve Hall, Vicar at St Mary’s.

The tree has been planted to honour those in the borough who have died through COVID-19, those who have lost loved ones and those who have cared for the community through the pandemic. The Mayor and I were joined in the planting by Imam Shakeel and other faith leaders, along with the Chair of Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust.

St Mary’s Therapeutic Garden, which also received an award from the Mayor for its service to the community during the pandemic, has become a place of beauty, healing and prayer. The wider community have visited in large numbers during the lockdowns, finding peace and finding God. We continue to work with Lewisham Hospital and the Ladywell NHS mental health unit to support those in need.

Newly carved sculpture of St Augustine finds perfect niche

This sculpture of St Augustine of Canterbury was installed in the church of St Augustine of Canterbury, Honor Oak Park on St Augustine’s Day (26 May 2021) and blessed by the Revd Canon Colin Luke Boswell, Priest-in-Charge (right, with the sculpture).

The sculpture was carved from English limewood in the style of an “Isle of Lewis” chess piece by the Revd Dr Michael Brooks, an Associate Minister of St Augustine’s, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The octagonal stone base was supplied by WT Lamb & Sons Ltd and was quarried in Caen, Normandy, which is the source of the limestone that was used to construct Canterbury Cathedral when rebuilding commenced in 1070.

Colin said: “We were delighted that during our celebration of Holy Communion on the feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, our patron saint, we were able to bless and dedicate a lovely sculpture of St Augustine.”

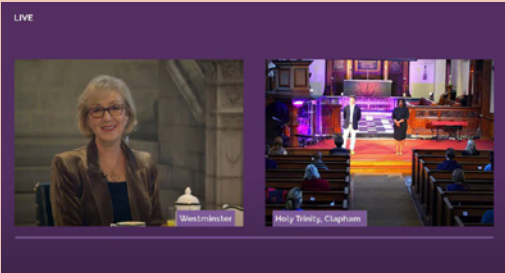
He added: “We prayed that we would as a church be mindful of the mission that brought St Augustine to England and that we also will have a zeal for sharing the good



news with others as we work to establish God’s kingdom where he has called us to worship, witness and serve.”

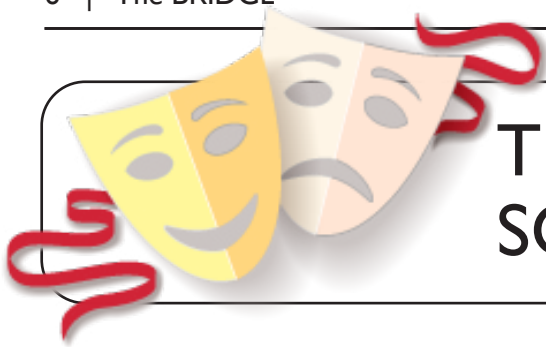
Holy Trinity, Clapham joins Parliamentary prayers

Shadow Women and Equalities Minister, Marsha de Cordova, MP for Battersea, was with the Revd Jago Wynne at Holy Trinity, Clapham on Friday 25 June to take part in the annual National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast.



Chaired by the Rt Hon Dame Andrea Leadsom MP, the event was broadcast live from Westminster Hall, with local churches — including HTC — joining in remotely to share the work they had done to support local communities during lockdown.

Watch the full event here: bit.ly/3vZXMDf



THE ARTS IN SOUTHWARK

Performing arts enter a new act post-COVID

Sophia Jones, Director of Communications, investigates how the Diocese's rich artistic tradition has been damaged by the pandemic, and how the Church has a key role to play in encouraging its return.

As the lockdown gradually lifts, theatres and arts venues are opening up. The Revd Betsy Blatchley, who is Pioneer Minister in the Arts and leads Nine Elms Arts Ministry in Battersea, is hopeful.

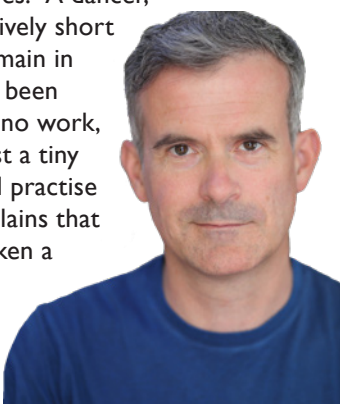
She says, "With theatres, cinemas, galleries and museums beginning to open there is definitely a higher level of hope and I am starting to see people working on projects." She warns, however, "the arts world is immensely resilient but it is going to be a very tough time. There is still plenty of uncertainty and anxiety and I think that, as it emerges post-pandemic, it may look very different."

The impact of COVID-19 on the arts and theatre communities has been huge. Betsy believes that "the arts, and maybe especially the performing arts, have been devastated". Whilst most other sectors have been able to open sporadically, very little live performance has been able to take place for well over a year and social distancing makes it almost impossible for many venues to open feasibly.

"The freelance nature of the arts and the fact that, for the vast majority of artists even in good times, work is fairly low-paid and sporadic, has meant that many artists have been left with no income at all," Betsy says.

The arts as vocation

The arts are a vocation for many, something for which they have trained for years, sometimes decades. "A dancer, for example, has a relatively short career and needs to remain in top condition. That has been incredibly difficult with no work, no classes and often just a tiny bedsit or flat to try and practise in," says Betsy, who explains that not only have artists taken a blow, but so too have the numerous support industries to the performing arts.



"The challenges to international touring and collaboration that Brexit has brought will potentially make things even harder," she adds.

A number of arts organisations have been offered small grants, "but these have been a drop in the ocean," notes Betsy. Many have not been eligible for Government grants at all. "Artists have taken on all sorts of jobs as they could find them but the toll practically and emotionally has been huge," she says.

Actor Nick Fletcher (pictured below) has a similar story to tell. He says: "We lost all the means to do what we do overnight on 16 March 2020. As the Government support arrangements took shape it emerged that 40% of Equity members just weren't going to get any financial assistance. Television and film production have stuttered back into a fragile and reduced life since that summer. Now theatres are re-opening but we all rehearse and perform with the constant worry that just one colleague getting an isolation instruction from contact tracing authorities could close our shows. As in all walks of life, we long for a reliable return to normal life."

During lockdown, Betsy had to re-imagine projects and ways of working. "My work as Pioneer Minister in the Arts and leading Nine Elms Arts Ministry has always been about gathering people together and creating live events. Bringing together

"Now theatres are re-opening but we all rehearse and perform with the constant worry that just one colleague getting an isolation instruction could close our shows"



individuals and organisations to support our local community through creativity has been a key part of my role in the past year," she says.

In practice, this meant that the annual Nine Elms Advent Calendar combined a live trail of art with film, photography and digital input in 2020, so that it could be enjoyed in both real and virtual worlds. Social media has helped Betsy to reach out and celebrate artists and creatives through online exhibitions. There have also been weekly arts prayer meetings. "My pastoral work among artists and creatives has definitely increased," Betsy says.

Eye of the storm

Bishop Rob Gillion was commissioned by Bishop Christopher as Associate Bishop for the Arts in September 2020 in, he says, "the eye of the storm which is COVID-19". Describing how artists have been struggling, he adds: "One musician said, 'it's something I've done for most of my life and I've never done any other job. To suddenly have that stop one night in March last year, to do nothing for this long, is quite a toll to take'."

Bishop Rob is praying that this is about to change. A former actor and theatre director, he believes that the Church has an important role in supporting artists, especially at this time. "Championing of the arts and artists by the Church has been crucial during this time of pandemic," he says. "There is a very powerful ministry

Clockwise from above: the Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn, at the reopening of The Globe Theatre in May 2021; David Loftus' *Be Kind*, part of the Nine Elms Arts Ministry's social media exhibition *The Art of Connection*; Alexa Muen's *Emergent Family*; and Briony Marshall's *The Chemistry of Life*, both also from *The Art of Connection*.



LET US PRAY

Andrew Nunn's prayer for The Globe Theatre's reopening:

*Creator God,
Who made the world a stage
set in a sea of stars,
bless now this wooden O,
the ground beneath,
the sky above,
the seats around,
the space where all life is found;
that eye may see
and ear may hear,
heart may conceive
and tongue may taste
the dreams you put into our minds
this night and always.
Amen.*



that churches can offer by commissioning artists and performers, and paying them appropriate remuneration.”

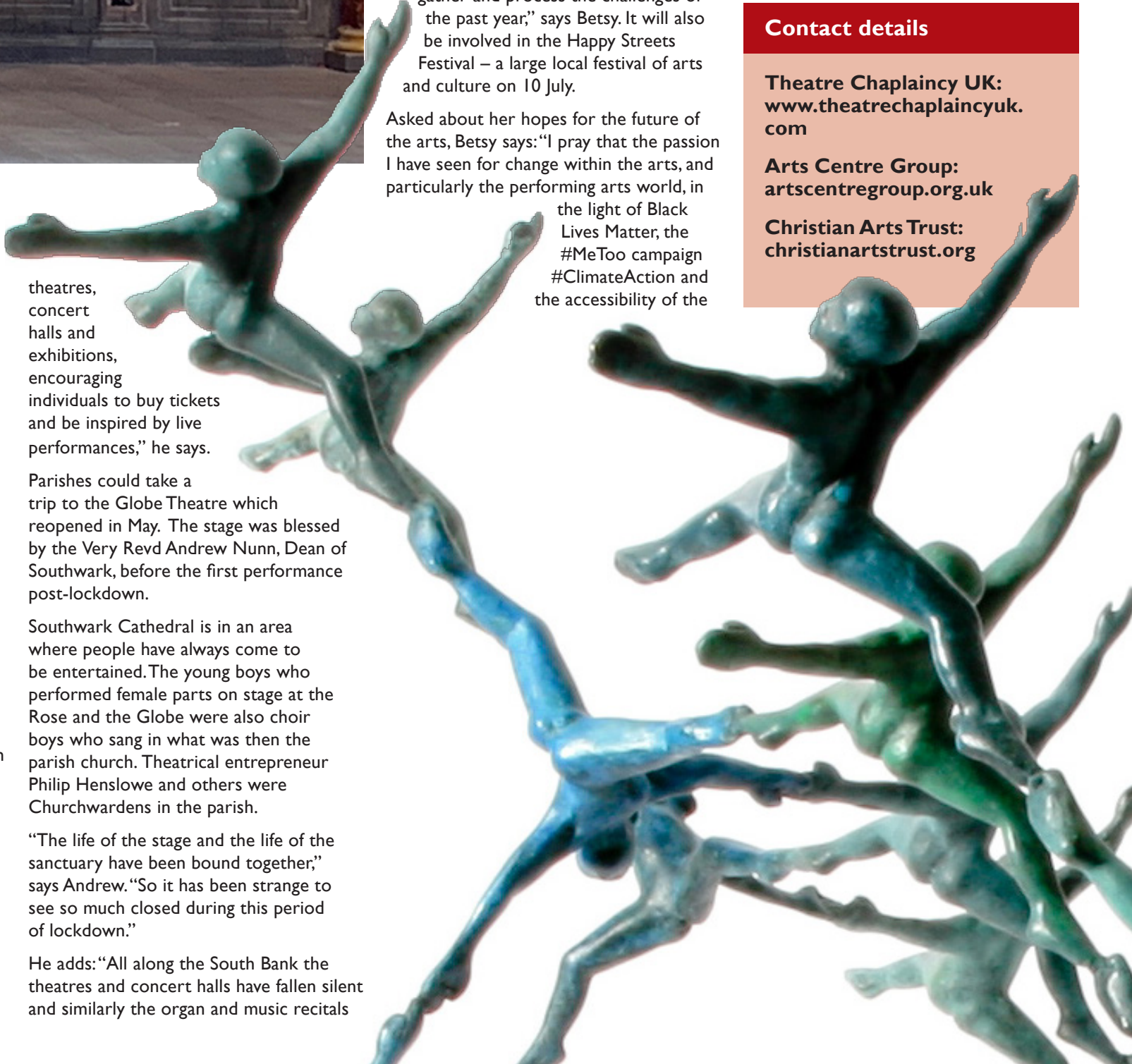
In his role as Associate Bishop for the Arts, Rob is keen to support and promote concern for artists and management as well as to support churches engaged in offering opportunities for the arts community.

He suggests that artists should be encouraged to contact Christian organisations for support, including Theatre Chaplaincy UK, Arts Centre Group, Christian Arts Trust and other professional bodies such as Equity (see box, right). He feels that the Diocese has been blessed by Betsy’s pioneer arts ministry engaging with artists of various disciplines, and he has also been inspired by the number of concerts on Zoom by artists raising money for those who are struggling.

A listening ear

Bishop Rob believes that supporting health and well-being is vital in body, mind and spirit, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and materially. “A listening ear and a voice to speak out are so important,” he says.

He has been offering his church, free of charge, to be used as a rehearsal space for musicians and actors and meeting with them while they are there. “I would encourage other churches to offer the same at this time, and as we come out of lockdown let’s organise parish trips to



theatres, concert halls and exhibitions, encouraging individuals to buy tickets and be inspired by live performances,” he says.

Parishes could take a trip to the Globe Theatre which reopened in May. The stage was blessed by the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, before the first performance post-lockdown.

Southwark Cathedral is in an area where people have always come to be entertained. The young boys who performed female parts on stage at the Rose and the Globe were also choir boys who sang in what was then the parish church. Theatrical entrepreneur Philip Henslowe and others were Churchwardens in the parish.

“The life of the stage and the life of the sanctuary have been bound together,” says Andrew. “So it has been strange to see so much closed during this period of lockdown.”

He adds: “All along the South Bank the theatres and concert halls have fallen silent and similarly the organ and music recitals



and the regular round of concerts in the Cathedral have not happened. We have been starved of that side of life.”

Andrew is reminded that in Shakespeare’s day the theatres were often closed when there was an outbreak of plague. “The Bard used the time to write long narrative poems such as *Venus and Adonis* whilst the plays could not go on. So it is good that, as we begin to emerge from restrictions, the theatres are opening up,” he says.

In May, Nine Elms Arts Ministry ran its second social media exhibition, *Art of Connection*. In the pipeline are arts well-being pop-ups. “We hope these will be a gentle and positive way for people to gather and process the challenges of the past year,” says Betsy. It will also be involved in the Happy Streets Festival – a large local festival of arts and culture on 10 July.

Asked about her hopes for the future of the arts, Betsy says: “I pray that the passion I have seen for change within the arts, and particularly the performing arts world, in the light of Black Lives Matter, the #MeToo campaign #ClimateAction and the accessibility of the



arts and how arts organisations relate to their local communities, will be acted upon and we will see an even more beautiful and just arts world emerge.”

Bishop Rob, meanwhile, believes that the championing of the arts by the Church will be crucial. “Let’s celebrate the Diocese as a place where the arts and artists are valued as a crucial part of Christian practice, culture and mission,” he says, “and that the creativity of all God’s people is nurtured and celebrated. Reflecting on the life of Christ as an artist, a superb story teller, and a transformer of lives, let us encourage our own and others’ creativity in the hands of a creative God.”

Contact details

Theatre Chaplaincy UK:
www.theatrechaplaincyuk.com

Arts Centre Group:
artscentregroup.org.uk

Christian Arts Trust:
christianartstrust.org



IN FOCUS...

Diocesan Synod

Lay ministry, Deaneries and eco issues dominate Synod

Football fever was in the air when members met online on 7 July for the last Diocesan Synod of the triennium.

The meeting opened with prayers led by Bishop Christopher, after which he welcomed the new Director of Finance, Mark Rhodes, for whom this was the first Synod, and also formally thanked the Revd Duncan Swan, Deaneries Development Adviser, as he moves into a new role.

Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin followed with an update on Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod elections, before Bishop Christopher gave his Presidential Address.

Reflecting on the past extraordinary year, he thanked all those who had stepped up to help during the pandemic: "in our food banks, packing PPE equipment...and our hospital chaplains and others on the front line". He also thanked parishes for their "magnificent support" through the Parish Support Fund.

The Bishop acknowledged the contribution to the Diocese of colleagues who had retired or moved to new roles in the past year, and paid tribute to two members of Synod – Brian Wilson and Sarah Swanson – who had recently died.

Formal business began with a technical motion put forward by Adrian Greenwood, Chair of the House of Laity, and carried unopposed. Next, Alan Saunders, Chair of the DBF, formally presented the 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements to Synod (copies can be downloaded from: bit.ly/3hJN2Va), before Ruth Martin and Mark Rhodes gave attendees a brief financial update. This too passed unopposed.

Lay leadership in action

Next on the agenda was an end-of-triennium update on the Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry (LL&LM) report, delivered by the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Development. Wendy discussed the work of the Lay Council, the creation of which was a key recommendation of the report, and its role in developing new licensed, commissioned and affirmed lay ministries.

She also discussed other actions taken to celebrate LL&LM, including a liturgy for parish use for those entering affirmed ministries; the showcasing of lay-led stories in Diocesan communications; the refocusing of clergy appointment, training and review to emphasise the role of lay people in missional service; and progress



towards additional authorisation of lay ministries, to be launched in September.

The Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Director of Mission, spoke next on the work of the Deaneries Advisory Group, another priority for this triennium. Jay revealed a positive picture when it came to breathing new life into Deaneries. More than 50% have a Deanery Leadership Team, where lay and ordained work together with a missional focus, and more than 60% are keen for a Mission Accompanier to help them. "We have begun a journey, and begun it well," said Jay.

Environmental journey

Bishop Richard came next with an update on the Eco Diocese Working Group, revealing that Southwark is almost ready to apply for its Bronze Award. As part of this process, a renewed Diocesan Environmental Policy has been created, for which Bishop Richard sought formal approval from Synod and which was accepted unanimously.

Bishop Richard said: "There is very much a gospel imperative in all we do [on the environment]. There is also a practical imperative: there is no Planet B." In this he was backed up by young people from the Kingston Youth Forum, who had their say via a video in which they discussed their hopes and fears around climate justice (find the video at: bit.ly/2Uq2IVA).

Head of JPIC, Nicola Thomas, then shared more detail on the Environmental Policy. "This is a vision that people need to be committed to at local level," she said, "in schools, parishes and Deaneries, and we are working to build that infrastructure."

Adrian Greenwood and Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett ended by thanking Synod members for their work over the triennium, a sentiment which was seconded by Bishop Christopher, while Bishop Richard thanked outgoing Diocesan Environmental Officer Sue Mallinson for her service (see page 12). The meeting closed with compline at which the Revd Mark Smith was commissioned as Bishop's Advisor for Self-Supporting Ministry.

CofE chooses SDBE to deliver new teacher qualifications



The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Multi-Academy Trust has been chosen by the Church of England Education Office as one of its regional partners to deliver teachers' CPD, it was announced in June.

In May, the Department for Education awarded the Church of England one of nine national contracts to deliver National Professional Qualifications (NPQs). These newly revamped qualifications offer teachers and school leaders the chance to develop expertise in areas of practice such as behaviour management and leadership.

The CofE Education Office decided to recruit and accredit Regional Delivery Partners to deliver the qualifications. In June, the SDBE MAT heard that it had been approved as one of these partners, meaning that, from November 2021 when the courses launch, it will deliver the qualifications to all schools and their leaders from across the

Diocese, including faith and non-faith schools.

Marcus Cooper, Chief Executive Officer for the MAT, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be a Delivery Partner for the Church of England, able, equipped and accredited to deliver NPQs to staff from across the entire Diocese."

He added: "We are especially proud that the qualifications will be delivered by leaders from across our Trust schools as part of our model for distributed leadership. It's great to see our serving leaders training other serving and aspiring leaders."

Meanwhile, Amanda Blackburn, Trust Leader for NPQs, said: "It has been a real privilege to see the transformation in our middle leaders across the Trust as they have engaged with the NPQML programme and developed and refined their leadership skills."

Pictured above: the SDBE MAT colleagues involved in the NPQs.

LLF taster event a positive experience for participants

On Saturday 26 June a group of almost 50 people, lay and clergy, gathered together online for a Living in Love and Faith Taster Afternoon, writes the Revd Canon Wendy Robins.



We were delighted that Eva John, the Enabling Officer for Living in Love and Faith (LLF), was able to facilitate. The Bishops of the Diocese have encouraged all our churches, as well as individuals and Deaneries, to get involved in the process, which is designed to encourage thinking about how questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ and what it means to live in love and faith together as a Church.

People who attended the session were very positive about the insights it gave them into the Bible study material and were encouraged to consider gathering together a group to be part of LLF. The input into the afternoon was recorded and will shortly be available on the LLF page of the Diocesan website. Why not have a look and consider whether you could draw together your own group? There is more information on our web pages or on the National Church of England website at: www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith

We hope to be able to have a Diocesan round-up session in the Autumn so people can share their experiences. Please do join this important initiative.



IN FOCUS...
Diocese of Jerusalem

An encounter with the “living stones” of the Holy Land

In the first of a series focusing on our Link Dioceses, The Very Revd Richard Sewell, Dean of St George’s College, shares the challenges and wonders of living as a Christian in Jerusalem.

I am delighted in the new Partnership Covenant between the Diocese of Southwark and the Diocese of Jerusalem, signed in January. I served for 17 years in parishes in Southwark and for the past three in Jerusalem, so it is a special connection for me.

Many people from Southwark will have visited the Holy Land on pilgrimage and they will have some impressions of this place and the extraordinary inspiration of visiting the holy places associated with Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. Some may have met local Christians and attended the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. But this would be just the briefest of introductions to the riches yet to be opened up by our new partnership link.

Most Holy Land pilgrimages focus primarily on the ancient stones of the beautiful churches which have been built to protect and focus attention on the sacred sites of the Christian faith. What should not be missed in this experience is an encounter with the “living stones” of this land, the Christians of all denominations who are upholding Christianity as a faith which is alive in these lands.

Some pilgrims even visit without realising that there are indigenous Christians here today, some of whom see themselves as being in unbroken continuity with the early Christian communities of the first Pentecost. Sadly, Christians now make up less than 5% of the population of Israel and Palestine and Anglicans are a minority amongst these. Nevertheless, Christians continue to make

an impact on the communities and their welfare far beyond what their numbers would suggest.

What I hope you will come to realise as this new connection develops is that the Diocese of Jerusalem is far more than a few churches founded there by the Church of England in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Diocese includes the churches and people of the West Bank and Gaza, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Just contemplate for a moment the scope of issues, challenges and mission possibilities which are contained within the region of this Diocese. How can our Archbishop (and sole bishop) effectively lead the Diocese in mission when it comprises such a diverse and challenging area? Our newly installed Archbishop is the Most



“The Bishop’s crozier has been passed to Archbishop Hosam to care for the clergy across this vast and fascinating region”



Above: in the Old City of Jerusalem; below: Richard Sewell, left, with the newly consecrated Archbishop Hosam Naoum

Revd Hosam Naoum and the Bishop’s crozier has been passed to him to guide and care for the clergy of the 27 parishes and 31 institutions across this vast and fascinating region.

As if the bare facts of the Diocese did not present enough of a challenge, we need to add to that the reality and complexity of the political situations facing Christians in all these countries. Just considering the Holy Land alone, there are immense difficulties for Anglicans, who are almost all Palestinian, living in a situation which is crushing the life out of them.

Israel and Palestine have been much in the world headlines once again: the recent war with Hamas in Gaza, the violent uprisings in Occupied East Jerusalem in response to threatened evictions, and the intercommunal violence in mixed towns in Israel, is testament to the current plight of Palestinians of whatever faith and location in these lands.

There is fear and distrust between Jews, Muslims and Christians, between Jews and Palestinians. The Anglican Church seeks to play its part in striving for justice, building bridges of understanding and striving towards reconciliation and peace alongside many others of all communities. As friends in Christian fellowship with brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Jerusalem, Anglicans in Southwark will share in this demanding and holy work.

Of course, in our partnership, the flow of concern and inspiration is not all one way. I hope that someone in your Diocese will be able to write a similar article sharing a description of Southwark, its churches and institutions, its people and the mission challenges and opportunities which are your reality. Then Anglicans across the lands here will have an outline of you to complement the one I am giving here.

At the heart of any Diocese-to-Diocese link must be the people; not just the bishops and clergy, but all of the women, men and young people of both. It will be a joy to share lived realities with one another and to pray for one another.

It does not come easily because all of us get caught up in our own day-to-day lives and with immediate concerns close to home. However, the benefits of connecting to people in seemingly far-off places are almost unlimited. One of the ways to do this will be through St George’s College, which is the Anglican Centre for pilgrimage in the Holy Land. We run pilgrimages throughout the year for parishes and individuals to see the holy places with expert teaching and to be rooted amongst the Living Stones of these lands.

The partnership between our Dioceses is all about encounter and I hope that there will be many opportunities for this through multiple different channels. May God bless our new venture together.

Pilgrimage on two wheels: the Cathedrals Cycle Route challenge arrives at Southwark

Riders following the Cathedrals Cycle Route challenge, which launched during Bike Week in May, arrived at Southwark Cathedral on 14 June.

After a brief overnight stop, the peloton set off at 8.00am on 15 June for Rochester Cathedral (see the cyclists preparing to depart, right).

The new route covers nearly 2,000 miles and links all 42 Cathedrals in England. Among those tackling the challenge is Canon Missioner and Director of Mission in Southwark, the Revd Canon Jay Colwill.

Jay told a film crew who caught up with the riders at the end of the Southwark to Rochester leg, “The idea of the baton relay was to



encourage people to visit their local cathedrals, reassured that they’d receive a welcome, and to visit their cathedrals by bike.”

Most riders will do only sections of the route, but Jay will be taking on the full 2,000 miles to raise money for Together Southwark. See bit.ly/JayColwill for more information.



IN FOCUS...

Vocations

Diocese ordains 18 to the priesthood this Petertide

Seventeen people were ordained to the priesthood by the Bishops of Croydon, Kingston and Woolwich on 3 July in three separate services, with a further person being ordained on 26 June by the Bishop of Fulham. Each will continue to serve their curacies in the parish indicated below.

Croydon Area

Ordained by the Bishop of Croydon at Croydon Minster on 3 July:

David Atkinson

Springfield Church, Wallington

Susan Bosley

Horley Team Ministry

Judith Brooks

St Matthew, Redhill

Lisa Fairman-Brown

Christ Church, Purley

Lotwina Farodoye

Oxted Team Ministry

Watch the service here:

www.facebook.com/croydonminster

Kingston Area

Ordained by the Bishop of Kingston at All Saints, Kingston-upon-Thames on 3 July:

Ian Luke-Macauley

St Barnabas, Clapham Common

Alastair Newman

St Matthew, Wimbledon

Team Ministry

Shavaun Shodeinde

St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common

Luke Steven

The Ascension, Balham Hill

Watch the service here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PM6bQzghlgY

Ordained by the Bishop of Fulham at St Paul, Clapham, on 26 June:

David Povall

St Paul, Clapham

Woolwich Area

Ordained by the Bishop of Woolwich at St Peter, Walworth on 3 July:

Esther-Jael Olabisi Akano-Adesoye

Thamesmead Team Ministry

Adelaide Davies

United Benefice of Charlton

Rachael Gledhill

St Barnabas, Dulwich

Delorine Green

St Peter, Walworth

John Henry

Christ Church, Southwark

Robert Slater-Carr

St George the Martyr with St Alphege

and St Jude, Southwark

Daniel Walker

St Margaret of Antioch, Lee

Daniel Wyman

Holy Trinity, Eltham

Watch the service here:

fb.watch/6w5ZPpADIh



Candidates from (top to bottom) Croydon Episcopal Area, Kingston Episcopal Area and Woolwich Episcopal Area.

Prayerful listening and uncovering people's stories: could ministry as a Vocations Adviser be for you?

"I love vocations. I'm interested in people's stories. I think I just want to encourage people, especially the unlikely ones – as an unlikely one myself!"

So said the Revd Helen Harknett, who has been a Vocations Adviser (VA) in the Diocese for two years now.

Meeting with a VA is a vital part of the vocations process. If, having attended a vocations forum, a candidate decides to take their application further, they will be assigned a VA. The VA and the enquirer will then meet regularly for around four months, so that together they can listen prayerfully to God and discern exactly how best the candidate can serve him.

The process is the same for any licensed ministry in the Diocese, whether lay or ordained. All Helen's candidates so far have been for Reader ministry,

for example. The challenge comes in exercising wisdom to decide what is the right pathway for the candidate.

It is not always easy, as the Revd Ada Onyekwelu (pictured right) admitted. She has been a VA for more than seven years, and said that the hardest part of the job is when someone may not be suitable for their first choice of ministry. But, she added, "at the end when they find the reward, they will give me a call and say, 'you were right'."

Despite the difficulties, Ada said, "the rewards of being a VA are enormous". She added: "It is a joyful experience. And I would encourage

other people to join the team. Philip said to Nathaniel in John 1:46, 'Come and see'. I will also say the same: come and see."

For Helen, too, the rewards go deep.

"Being a VA has helped me to sustain my faith," she said.

"I find trying to figure out what God is up to alongside the candidates is mutually beneficial always and I get to vicariously experience those early days of discernment, those feelings of excitement

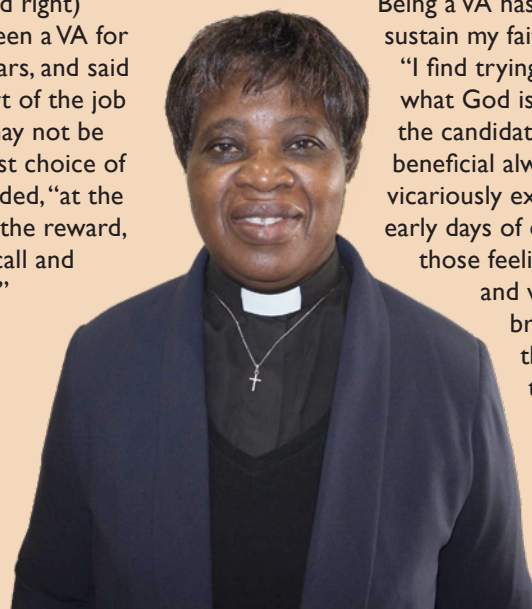
and wonder and bravery, alongside the questions and the doubts and the fear that come as part of the package."

Deputy
Director

of Vocations and Assistant DDO, the Revd Raymond Baudon, was himself a VA before taking on his new job. It was also a profound experience for him.

He said: "The experience of being alongside others as they sought to discern God's call hugely enriched my own ministry and sense of vocation. So much so that I'm doing it full time now! For me it is about prayerfully creating and holding a space in which both the individual and the Church can work together, asking where the Holy Spirit might be moving."

As part of the Bishop of Southwark's vision to grow the number of ordained and lay vocations, applications are sought from lay and ordained members of the Diocese to join the Diocesan Vocations Team in the role of Vocations Adviser. More information can be found at: southwark.anglican.org/vacancy/vocations-adviser



WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for SEPTEMBER ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 20 AUGUST**



July

SATURDAY 3 JULY

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

SUNDAY 11 JULY

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

September

18-26 SEPTEMBER

* **NATIONWIDE** — The Great Big Green Week will be the UK's biggest ever event for climate and nature, held in advance of COP26. For more information, visit: greatbiggreenweek.com

30 SEPTEMBER

* **ONLINE** — The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, in conversation about his book, *Dear England*. 8.00-9.00pm. Zoom. Free. Booking opens in July.

Organ Recitals at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

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

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

16 September: Andrew Prior, *London*

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

November

4 NOVEMBER

* **ONLINE** — An Introduction to Franciscan Spirituality. A session exploring St Francis of Assisi's focus on the natural environment. 7.30-9.00pm. Zoom. Free. E-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



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

Back to the beginning: tracing the origins of the Church



The early Byzantine Church on Ayasoluk Hill, Ephesus.

Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, was sitting in a convent near Eccles in Kent a few years ago, at a meeting about mission, when she had a revelation.

"We were discussing the fact that in many ways the Church is now beyond where people just assume you're Christian because you're English. And I thought, 'we've been here before,'" Moira said.

She had realised that the name Eccles came from a Roman word, *ecclesia*, meaning church, and that this could mean that the story we are told, "that the Saxons came over with their Angle and Saxon gods and they knew not Christ until Augustine brought Christianity", might not be all true.

A few years later, this realisation has turned into a book, *From Nazareth to Northumbria*, tracing the origins of Christianity in Britain all the way back to Israel.

Starting with Bede's account of the Synod of Whitby in 664AD, where he mentions that the Irish contingent said their tradition came from John (as opposed to the Roman faction, who claimed Peter), Moira said: "I thought, if that's so, we ought to be able to trace things all the way back from Whitby to John."

What follows is a journey from the 1st to the 7th centuries, and from Israel through Ephesus, Lyon, Ireland and, eventually, to Britain. "To help people get a feel for it, I went and took lots of pictures," said Moira. "You're not just reading what John says about the place, I actually show you pictures of it."

For Moira, discovering an unbroken chain all the way back to the early Church is a message of hope. "This is the Church that has had its challenges," she said. "There's no doubt that when the Roman Empire in the West collapsed, things were tough. But the Church kept going, so if we think things are a bit tough for the Church now, it's not the first time and it won't be the last. God's bigger than this."

For once, the pandemic was a help: Moira had already completed her field visits abroad, so was able to use that time to write. She is hoping now to pay that luck back, by donating the book's profits to the Croydon-Central Zimbabwe link. "I won't sell thousands," she said, "but even the £300-£400 I can make from selling the book will make a big difference."

"From Nazareth to Northumbria: How Christianity Came to Britain and Stayed" costs £20 from Amazon (see amzn.to/3hPVu1C); profits will go to the Croydon-Central Zimbabwe Link

Words to hold on to as we swim in the waters of life: review of Bishop David Atkinson's *A Light for the Pathway*

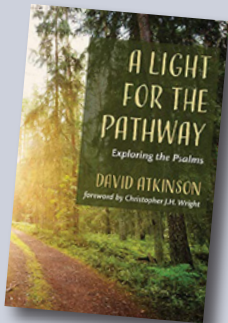
A Light for the Pathway: Exploring the Psalms

David Atkinson (Wipf & Stock, Eugene OR, 2021)

In *A Light for the Pathway*, David Atkinson, Assistant Bishop in Southwark Diocese, provides us with a clear, accessible, and hope-filled guide to the Psalms. Many of us come across the Psalms as the bit between the Sunday readings, or the main part of morning and evening prayer. More often than not, they are the scripture that is not

mentioned in sermons and left un-reflected on in daily meditations. However, it is in the daily round of prayer and worship that I find most resonance with Atkinson's sure-footed and gentle guide.

All life can be brought to and found in the Psalms. Our past, present, and future — as individuals and communities — are held in these songs of lament and praise. Atkinson wants us to connect with the



different cultures and times, but also within each person's relationship with God.

Atkinson gives several lenses through which to focus the light of the Psalms: Creation,

real people who brought their real emotions and thoughts, hurts, hopes, and adoration into their creation. He is also careful to retain some of the mystery of the unknown, both in terms of very

God's Loving Faithfulness, Law, Wisdom and Justice, Lament, Identity, and Salvation. Each chapter includes a meditation on a particular psalm and a reflection on where the theme resonates both in the New Testament and in other hymns and prayers.

Sometimes the waters of life threaten to drown us and in the Psalms we have something to hold on to with words we can cry out in our pain, grief, and loss. Sometimes we feel the weight of our failure or sin and here can find the words to

confess and know forgiveness and reassurance. Sometimes, we want to sing and dance for joy raising hallelujahs to the holy of holies, and all this is there too. Bishop Atkinson has amplified the light for our pathway given to us in the Psalms.

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants a richer engagement with the Psalms as part of their journey in faith.

Jeremy Clark-King, Diocesan IME2 Lead for Curate Training and Development

“COP26 is a huge opportunity to demand fair climate finance”

Churches in Southwark are preparing to play host to a group of young climate campaigners this summer, when the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) relay passes through London.

The 1,000 mile relay began in Cornwall on 13 June at the G7 summit, and will end in Glasgow on 31 October in time for the COP26. It passes through Southwark on 4 August, where it will stop for several days to allow local churches and other organisations to hold events in support.

Molly Clark, who worships at St Paul, Clapham and who is organising the central portion of the walk, said: “People can sign up for all sorts of things: walking, being on-call support, providing accommodation in your church, things like that.” She added: “Even though we’re a group of young Christians organising this, volunteers can be any age, any religion or none.”

Among those staging events during the pause in London on 4-8 August are St Paul, Clapham, which is hosting a celebratory service and meal, and St John,

Waterloo. There will also be a major Christian Aid event at St Paul’s Cathedral on 5 August.

“Tributary” walks, starting elsewhere and joining the main relay at various points en route, have also been organised, one of which comes through Southwark on 5 August.

“Our main message is that no country should be going into debt because of climate change. We see COP26 and the fact that the UK is hosting it as a really huge opportunity,” said Molly. “We want to be listened to and we want churches to join with us in advocating for fair climate finance. We’re really happy that so many are being so supportive of us.”

Information on the relay, how to volunteer, and the event at St Paul, Clapham can be found at www.yccn.uk; you can sign up to the event at St John, Waterloo on 6 August at bit.ly/2UtB2ih. More information on how to sign up for the Southwark leg of the tributary walk on 5 August, from Deptford to Southwark Cathedral and from the Cathedral to St Paul’s, will be posted at southwark.anglican.org/environment when it becomes available.



Molly Clark sets out on the YCCN relay from Cornwall.



IDEAS TO HELP YOU GO GREEN

Church Times’ Green Church Showcase

The Church Times, in collaboration with the National Church, is looking for inspiring initiatives that support the planet to feature in a video to be released during the COP26 climate talks in November. Submissions are welcomed from churches and schools of any denomination. The closing date is 21 July. Find more information and an application form here: www.churchtimes.co.uk/green-church-showcase

Energy Footprint Tool

There is still time to fill in the Energy Footprint Tool via the online Parish Returns System before it closes in the autumn. The Tool will calculate the carbon footprint of your church for 2020 (with an automatic adjustment for lockdown months), and can be accessed here: parishreturns.churchofengland.org

Save money by buying green energy

A survey by Parish Buying last month compared the typical fixed-term contracts for green electricity to their current Energy Basket rates. They discovered that, using typical consumption figures, the saving is around 21% for very large churches and cathedrals; 15% for medium churches; and 24% for churches with low electricity bills. Details of their energy baskets are available here: www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/energy/energy-basket



YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES WORKER

(FULL TIME, 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK)

We are looking for someone who is devoted to drawing young people and their families into a transformational relationship with Christ. The role will entail development and oversight of our existing work with young people (from pre-school to late teens) and their families.

We are hoping to appoint a Young People & Families’ Worker who will:

- **Creatively reach** into our community to forge links with families who wouldn’t instinctively connect with church;
- **Steer vision** for our work with young people and their families to help them embrace a lifelong journey of faith; and
- **Mobilise**, encourage and equip volunteers in support of this work – to harness their energy and bring coherence to their activity.

The successful applicant will have a love for young people and their families, and a deep desire to be part of God’s plans to help people ‘do life’ with Jesus.

Closing Date: 1 September 2021

Interviews: We aim to interview the week beginning 27 September 2021.

Job Description & Application Form: Please visit our website (www.stjohnsww.com) to download the paperwork associated with this post, or contact our Parish Administrator on 0208 462 6571/parishadmin@stjohnsww.com

Sue Mallinson retires as Diocesan Environmental Officer

This summer will see Sue Mallinson, Diocesan Environmental Officer, bow out on a high, as she helps to organise the Southwark leg of the tributary walk from Canterbury to St Paul’s Cathedral taking place as an offshoot of the YCCN relay (see above).

The event will mark more than eight years in post for Sue, whose interest in environmental matters goes back to childhood. “Although my main interest is social justice,” she says, “for me this is social justice: the way we live affects the way other people have to live and so on.”

As Southwark makes real strides towards

becoming an Eco Diocese, Sue notes that there is still a long way to go: “It needs a very big intake of breath to say, ‘yes, I will commit and change my life’,” she said. “We have to make it possible for people who are impoverished in our communities.”

It is about changing our whole philosophy towards sustainability, she says. She adds that working to that end with deaneries and schools in the Diocese, and other DEOs, will be something she misses. “It is knowing we have our faith in common and worshipping together, praying for one another as well as realising this wonderful creation in which we live and work.”

