Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday 13 December, for a Service of Light. They also visited Borough Market accompanied by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Justin Welby.

During the service the Gospel Choir of Saint Saviour’s and St Olave’s School sang ‘This Little Light Of Mine’. Matt Jones, Owner of Bread Ahead (in Borough Market), read from the Gospel of St John and the children of the Cathedral School placed candles on the High Altar as they led the prayers, which were drawn together by Archbishop Justin.

Following a hymn, the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, pronounced the blessing after which the congregation sang the National Anthem.

They were welcomed to Southwark Cathedral by the Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, who said, “We were delighted to receive a visit from Their Royal Highnesses and the Archbishop of Canterbury and are pleased that they have been able to come and see for themselves how the Cathedral and the local community are recovering from the tragic events of Saturday 3 June. “December 13 was the Feast of St Lucy, whose name means ‘light’. The service celebrated Jesus’ light in the world and the way that this area and its people responded to the events demonstrates that darkness will not overcome the light”. Bishop Christopher said, “We were very honoured by the visit of Their Royal Highnesses, which was a tremendous boost to morale after the traumas of recent months. “We are grateful for their recognition of the resilience which has characterised this community as well as the solidarity among faith and community leaders working together and deepening friendships in a determined effort to demonstrate that we will not be divided”. Photos: (Left) Their Royal Highnesses during the service. (Right) The St Olave & St Saviour’s School Gospel Choir (above) and (below) Cathedral School pupils lead the prayers. More Photographs from the visit can be found on Flickr at: https://flic.kr/s/aHSkyPSA6k

Inside THE BRIDGE...this month

The Southwark Vision: Centre pages

Parish profile: Wallington St Patrick... page 10

The Bishop’s LENT CALL 2018... back page

PLUS - 8 pages of news and photos from around the Diocese and

We need your news and photos for future features:
• What is your parish doing to help refugees?
• Your ‘churches together’ or interfaith activities
• Your children’s and youth work
• Anything unusual happening in your parish at Easter

Listening to the young people of the Holy Land

Bishop Christopher visited the Holy Land in January accompanied by an international group of Roman Catholic Bishops on their annual pastoral visit to the region as part of the Holy Land Coordination Group.

This year’s trip, led by the Bishop of Clifton, Bishop Declan Lang, had a specific focus on meeting young people from both Israel and Palestine. It involved visits to Gaza, the Hebrew University, and the Centre for Emmaus in Qibehel which is supervised by Bethlehem University from which there is a very high rate of graduate employment.

Bishop Christopher said: “It was a joy and a privilege to meet with young people in Israel and Palestine as part of the Holy Land Coordination, in which I have now participated for four consecutive years - and to learn of their hopes for their future lives in the context of the current conflict. Their voice has given us renewed encouragement to work for peace and justice throughout the region and it has been both humbling and heartening to engage with them”.

Following the visit, the Bishops issued a communiqué, in which they committed ‘with the help of God’s grace, to play our part in making this land more human and more worthy for the youth of today and the future’.

The full text of this communiqué can be read at http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Holy-Land-Coordination-2018/Final-Communique

Photographs of the visit can be found at https://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism

New Canon Missioner for the Diocese

The Revd James (Jay) Colwill has been appointed Canon Missioner for the Diocese of Southwark. He succeeds The Very Revd Stephen Hance who is now the Dean of Derby.

Jay is currently Vicar of Christ Church, Orpington, in the Diocese of Rochester. He is also Assistant Missioner in the Diocese where he has worked with Deaneries and Parishes to encourage them to create Mission Action Plans. He also looks after a Bishop’s Mission Order in a neighbouring parish.

Prior to ordination in 1994 Jay had several roles including working for the Transport Research Laboratory, The Missions to Seafarers and in a vegetarian restaurant! He is interested in food, football, cycling and music.

Bishop Christopher said: “Jay brings vast experience of growing churches and working in parishes with different church traditions and demographics. His experience of working on Mission Action Plans will be invaluable”.

The Dean, The Very Revd Andrew Nunn added, ‘I am delighted that Jay will be joining the team at Southwark Cathedral. We look forward to all that he will bring as we play our part in God’s mission to the world’.

Jay will be collated and installed at Choral Evensong Southwark Cathedral at 5pm on Sunday 15 April.

He said, “I am excited to be joining a culturally rich and diverse diocese at this time. There is so much to learn and share with one another about making faith real to people and communicating the powerful message of God’s love made known in Jesus”. 

May your Lent be a gift and a celebration

This year Lent begins on Valentine’s Day; it might seem to be a strange coincidence.

On Ash Wednesday we are invited to remember our mortality: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”

Valentine’s Day is a day of love symbolised by a red rose and celebrated with champagne. Lent is a season of reflection and self-denial.

Quite a contrast, the truth, if we stop and think about it, is that Lent is fundamentally also a celebration of love.

We remember our mortality because in doing so we are more able to embrace the eternal love of our creator and redeemer. We enter into the season of Lent by giving ourselves to prayer and contemplation, study and self-denial; not as an end in itself but so that we can grow closer to the one who loves us and gave himself for us.

The disciplines we take on are windows which open to the love of God. Through them God touches our lives and invites us to see him, and the world he loves, with fresh eyes and a renewed, overflowing, generous love.

This edition of The Bridge is full of reminders of the variety of ways in which the love of God impacts us and our communities and calls us to be part of the difference that love makes.

As a Diocese our response to that invitation finds a focus in the Bishop’s Lent Call, playing our part in the difference that the love of God is making in local communities and in Zimbabwe.

It’s a call that is at the heart of our Diocesan Vision to be a people marked by our welcome for all and generosity to all.

May you find, however you mark it, that the season of Lent is a gift to you and a joyful celebration of God’s life-changing love.

The Venerable John Kiddle

THE BRIDGE

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North Lambeth - ‘Kicking against the wall’

Local children and grown-ups gathered early one Saturday in December, in the car park of St Anselm’s Church, Kennington, to fire footballs against a wall covered with paint-filled balloons. After an hour or so, a great big messy, technicolour artwork had emerged. The event was called “Kicking Against the Wall”, and it was about coming together to have fun making spontaneous art. But it was also about something deeper. It was arranged by a local group, the Kennington-Bethlehem link, and hosted by the clergy and people of St Anselm’s Church as an artistic act of commitment to peace and justice around the world, and especially in Palestine.

Luke Steven, North Lambeth Parish Youth and Children’s minister, said: “This was a way to symbolically ‘kick against’ the walls in our world - whether physical, societal, or in our minds and hearts - that divide people and cause hatred and pain.”

“Kate Hoey, the local MP, came along to prove her skill with a football, but also to remind those there that the world is not as it should be, and we, through our actions, our relationships, and our prayers, have the responsibility to care and heal, to protest and ‘kick against’.”

“Very excitingly, the Mayor of Bethlehem has invited a group over in the new year to replicate ‘Kicking Against the Wall’ - at the Israeli West Bank Barrier wall - with children from a local refugee camp”.

The huge canvas of paint and colour now hangs above the altar in St Anselm’s as a reminder of the beauty and vibrancy that can come when people pledge themselves to peace.
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‘Church heroes’ honoured in Balham and Tooting awards

Volunteers from local churches were among those honoured recently in the Community Awards given by the Balham and Tooting Community Association for exceptional service to the community. Diane Holmes’s award recognised her 40 years as a Guide and Brownie leader at St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham. Moira Hodgson, also of St Mary’s, received a commendation reflecting her work in bringing different groups of Christians together. She is the long serving Chair of Churches Together in Balham and Upper Tooting.

Residents of Western Lodge hostel for homeless men in Trinity Road, Tooting Bec, received an award for their outreach and community service. They run a weekly drop-in café for homeless people jointly with Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting, offering specialist advice on housing, benefits and health. They also give ‘odd job’ support to Holy Trinity, including lawn mowing, decorating and helping with ‘lifting and shifting’ tasks.

The awards were presented at a celebration event compered by the Revd Andrew Davey, Vicar of Holy Trinity and St Augustine, Tooting. Award recipients came from all faiths and backgrounds. Their fields included support to elderly people with limited English, bereavement support in the Muslim community, outings for the elderly and isolated, overcoming disability to achieve sports prowess, creative activities for those with sight loss, and volunteering by school students.

This was the sixth round of awards since the Balham and Tooting Community Association was established in 2006 to strengthen and Tooting’s communities to come together and build trust.

Christmas gift from Streatham ‘seniors’

Older people in Streatham churches were determined to find ways of giving as well as receiving. Thus was born the partnership between Streatham Senior Connections and the Norwood and Brixton Foodbank.

Ann Morisy writes:

Older people from Christ Church, Immanuel and St Andrews, St Leonard’s and St Peter’s, Streatham Baptist and Methodist Churches collected toys and other gifts for a very special Christmas Fair. Invitations were distributed by the Foodbank and 40 ‘senior’ volunteers hosted a total of 145 grown-ups and children.

Each guest was given tokens to exchange for gifts – and a visit to Father Christmas. Gifts were wrapped and labelled ready for Christmas Day. Face painting, card making and refreshments were provided, and each family also received a £10 voucher and special gift bag as they left.

Whilst the intention was for an older people’s effort, many others came on board. PRS for Music gave generously, as did Purley Baptist Church Lunch Club, Tesco Extra and Sainsbury’s. Big Yellow helped with storage and Streatham Home Cooks Project produced the most delectable food. Love Streatham, Streatham WI and Club 55 from Streatham Leisure Centre all contributed to make it a unique all Streatham effort.

Ann Morisy is Development Officer for the London-based Project for Seniors and Life-Long Ministry (PSALM).

New Bishop of London is former Southwark priest

Bishop Christopher has welcomed the appointment of the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally as Bishop of London. He said; “Her ministry for many years in Southwark will make for an excellent working relationship between the two Dioceses. I hope to be as supportive for her in her new role as the previous Bishop of London was for me when I came to Southwark and I assure Sarah of my prayers”.

Sarah Mullally was chief nursing officer for England from 1999 to 2004. She was made a dame in 2005. After training for ordination at the South East Institute of Theological Education she served her curacy in the Battersea Fields benefice, and was Team Rector of Sutton from 2006 – 2012.

Opportunities
THE EGG THAT SHARES THE EASTER STORY

Original (RRP £3.99)
The 2018 design includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a bag of Swiss Chunky Buttons (25g) and a milk chocolate egg (125g) with a lovely creamy taste. 35% cocoa – Palm Oil free.

Dark (RRP £5.50)
Includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a chocolate egg made from dark Belgian chocolate (165g) and 3 dark chocolate squares (3 x 5g). Delicious, smooth and fruity. 71% cocoa – Palm Oil free.

Special Edition (RRP £9.99)
Inside this specially crafted edition you will find a simple guide to Easter, an olive wood holding cross keyring from the Holy Land, an orange milk chocolate bar (80g), and a luxury milk chocolate egg (200g). 35% cocoa – Palm Oil free.

A chance to share the good news
Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. To date, we have sold more than one million eggs with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools.

Gifts for individuals and groups
There are five types of Real Easter Eggs available in 2018, all with new content. The Original, Dark and Special Edition Eggs are designed to be a personal gift for people of all ages. For people looking to buy for Children’s Easter events, Messy Church or for outreach give-aways, we have our Egg Hunt and Sharing Boxes. You can read more about these online.

How your church can be involved
To allow us to continue to make The Real Easter Egg, we need people to switch and buy. We need a champion (maybe you) to spread the word, collect orders and buy directly from us. You can download resources or buy from us today by visiting our website www.realeasteregg.co.uk. Don’t forget, delivery is free if you spend more than £45 (that’s just 12 eggs) and order by 6th March 2018.

How to order
Pay online by card: The simplest way to pay is to visit our online shop at: www.realeasteregg.co.uk/shop
Payment by cheque: Complete the form below and return to: The Meaningful Chocolate Company, 11a Eagle Brow, Lymm, WA13 0LP. Cheques payable to: The Meaningful Chocolate Company Ltd.

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*FREE DELIVERY on orders over £45 and received by 6th March

NOTE: Sharing and Hunt boxes can only be ordered online.

Buy now or download the resource pack from www.realeasteregg.co.uk
**Mental Health Matters - It could be you!**

A conference, ‘Mental Health Matters - It Could be You’, was held on 13 January.

Nelly Misenga reports:

The objective was to explore ways in which churches can promote mental wellbeing and provide early support for the mental health needs of their congregations by breaking stigma, creating space to talk about mental health and supporting each other.

The conference was organised by the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) department of the Diocese, St Faith’s church, North Dulwich and South London and Maudsley NHS (SLaM). The venue was St Hugh’s Church, Crosby Row, Southwark.

The day was opened by a talk and prayer by Bishop Southwark. Hugh’s Church, Crosby Row, (SLaM). The venue was St Hugh’s Church, Crosby Row, Southwark.

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There were opportunities for attendees to contribute and interact with each other, especially during workshop time. There were five workshops: ‘Mental Wellbeing - Spiritual and Pastoral Care in Mental Health’ led by Juney Muhammad; Juney Muhammad; ‘Journeying Alongside - The Skill of Being Present to Others in their Distress’, led by Canon Andrew Wilson; ‘Small is Beautiful - The History of the Being Alongside Forest Hill Drop-In Centre’, led by Nick Cotton and Gail Cotton, Psychotherapist/Counsellor, co-founders of the centre and ‘The Power of Acceptance and Working with Men’, led by Carmine de Rosa, former Recovery Facilitator at SLaM.

It was a day of exchange of experiences where everyone had at least something to offer with regard to their experiences of the way poor mental health has affected the lives of people they have known in their personal life or in their church communities. In this regard some participants started already thinking about organising social activities more regularly for church members to get used to talking to each other more.

The JPIC department are happy for churches who would like more information on the issues discussed or to get assistance in holding local events on mental health and wellbeing to get in touch on 020 7939 9400.

Above: (r-l) - Canon Rosemarie Mallett (JPIC Director), Juney Muhammad, Carmine de Rosa, Canon Andrew Wilson, Nelly Misenga and Revd Susan Height.

**Blessing London’s Bridge and River**

On Sunday 14 January representatives of Southwark Cathedral and St Magnus the Martyr in the Diocese of London met on London Bridge to bless the River Thames.

The two churches have shared responsibility for the care of the Bridge since 1207.

Bishop Richard, the Dean, Andrew Nunn, members of the Cathedral clergy and congregation and the Mayor of Southwark, Cllr Charlie Smith, processed to the middle of the Bridge, to be greeted by the Rector of St Magnus. Prayers were offered for all who use the bridge and the river. The Dean read out the names of those who lost their lives in the London Bridge & Borough Market attacks on 3 June before holding a short silence.

Bishop Richard and the Rector of St Magnus, the Revd Philip Warner, then followed the Orthodox custom of throwing a cross into the river which, taking place on Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, acts as a symbol of Christ’s baptism.

**Sheltered accommodation available at the Whitgift Almshouses - Croydon**

If yes, then the Whitgift Almshouses, North End, can offer you a haven of tranquillity and security where self-contained flats are clustered around a beautiful quadrangle. Residents have access to their own Chapel, Common Room, fully equipped laundry and a weekly programme of social activities.

**Are you:**

- Over 60 and in need of accommodation to live independently but with 24hr on-call support?
- Looking to be part of a thriving and inclusive community?
- A communicant member of the Church of England and presently live in the parishes of Croydon, Lambeth or the county of Kent?

If you are interested, please contact Whitgift Almshouses, North End, Croydon CR9 1SS.
The Bishops of Southwark Diocese called for Epiphanytide to be a time of thanksgiving
• for the way in which the Parish Support Fund has been embedded in the Diocese
• as a time when we try to ensure that our parishes are fully aware of the Southwark Vision 2017-2025 and
• that the work of the parishes is motivated by this Vision.

The themes of the Vision are designed to help shape all that we do together as people of faith.

The opening paragraph tells us the basis for the Vision. It says:
‘Our vision is founded on mutual commitment from all who make up the Diocesan family to walk together in the pilgrimage of faith, supporting, encouraging and resourcing each other in our common task.’

The Southwark Vision finds its beginnings in the Archbishop’s Charge which was given to Bishop Christopher in 2011.

As a pilgrim people together, the Diocese has been on a journey of discernment since the Bishop was given the Charge, in order to develop a shared vision of our work and life together.

The Southwark Vision 2017-2025 document brought together the themes and agreed outcomes described in the Strategy for Ministry which was adopted by Diocesan Synod in November 2015 and which can be found on the Diocesan website at:

The Southwark Vision

A fruitful future

Strategy for Ministry and Hearts on Fire have led us to a Vision in which we share a Fruitful Future based on shared goals and objectives which aim at helping us to grow God’s Kingdom here in South London and SE Surrey.

We share a vision for the future in which we will see:
• growing churches, new worshipping communities and new Christians
• deepening discipleship: engaged, prayerful and informed Christians
• growth in vocations to existing and new ministries
• generous giving and prayer supporting all we do
• justice and peace built up, and violence challenged, in our local and global community
• a shared commitment to the integrity of creation
• a church for all which reflects our diverse community in membership and leadership.

The Southwark Vision will be primarily worked out in the shared life, mission, ministry and service of all the baptised, clergy and lay, together.

This is one of the reasons why, in line with the Charge given to the Bishop, we have been working at making our Deaneries more effective hubs for mission and ministry, as well as seeking to see how best to equip the many talented lay people within our churches to live out their faith from Monday to Saturday.

It is so important that we recognise the gifts of all God’s people and utilise them in the best ways that we can in order to share the Good News of God in Christ with as many of those around us as possible.

That’s why the Lay Leadership and Ministry Group is so important and you will be able to read more about that next month.

The Parish Support Fund (PSF)

This scheme for enabling parishes to give towards supporting the ministry and mission in the Diocese was introduced in 2015. It resulted from a review of the Fairer Shares Scheme which was asked for by Strategy for Ministry, and first used to collect the pledges from the parishes in 2016. It has been a remarkable success with 99.9% of what was pledged being collected in the first year and 99.1% so far in the second.

The PSF exemplifies our mutual support in the

The Diocese of Southwark serves...

The 2015 Strategy for Ministry Report identified a number of outcomes which we wish to see if the Diocese is to deliver on its vision and mission.

The Hearts on Fire document emphasised our commitment to the Five Marks of Mission.

Strategy for Ministry sets out how we remain focused on that vision and mission, through ongoing cultural change as a Diocese.

We are committed to becoming a Diocese which is:
• Adaptive - seeing a culture of risk-taking, permission-giving and experimentation becoming embedded in the life of the Diocese
• Diverse - with visibly increased diversity in every part of Diocesan life
• Accountable - with communication demonstrated through increased sense of engagement from parishes with Diocesan central structures
• Devolved - especially in building up Deaneries and encouraging them to become viable centres for mission and ministry, but also in encouraging collaboration, team work, and leaders who can enable and form individuals and communities
• Strategic - looking ahead, discerning new opportunities which align with our vision and mission
• Realistic - aligning resources to serve vision and mission.

The themes from this have been drawn together with the Hearts on Fire Vision for Mission, with its commitment to the five marks of mission and the strategic goals which were adopted by Diocesan Synod in March 2016.

Hearts on Fire restates our commitment to mission, grounded in prayer that the growth of the Kingdom of God may be at the heart of all we do. In particular we will:
• serve our Communities
• share our faith with great joy and gladness
• be the Church; a people with hearts on fire, Loving God, Walking with Jesus and Led by the Spirit.

Diocese most obviously through the sharing across the Diocese of the financial responsibility for our life and mission.

Through its principles of generosity and accountability it enables all members of the Diocese to have confidence that resources are being generously given and effectively used.

Outcomes and Actions

There is so much going on in the Diocese, and so much contained in the documents which have been drawn upon to produce the Southwark Vision 2017-2025, that it is important to think in manageable terms about what we can realistically hope to achieve by 2025.

The 2015 Strategy for Ministry Report identified a number of outcomes which we wish to see if the Diocese is to deliver on its vision and mission.
The Five Marks of Mission

These are an important statement on mission which expresses the Anglican Communion’s common commitment to, and understanding of, God’s holistic/integral mission.


Instead of being just one (albeit the first) of five distinct activities, this should be the key statement about everything we do in mission.

The Five Marks of Mission are:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Outcomes and Objectives

Some outcomes which have been developed as a result of Strategy for Ministry and Hearts on Fire, such as Mission Action Planning, are already being worked on and achieved.

The Mission Action Planning process is a key means for ensuring that the Diocese as a whole is working towards our vision and mission.

Parishes and other communities which produce Mission Action Plans are asked to do so in the light of this, and specifically to reference how their MAP will reflect the Five Marks of Mission. MAPs, in turn, resource those working across the Diocese as a whole with a richer vision of the potential areas for support and outreach.

Objectives

Other outcomes will become the focus of later objectives. But, it is important to focus our energies on an achievable number of these outcomes.

We have set the following objectives for the Diocese for the years to 2025:

- to grow our average weekly attendance by 5% by 2025, partly through having each church develop a high-quality Mission Action Plan (MAP) which includes a course for evangelism and discipleship
- to increase the number of worshipping communities by 2025, with a primary focus on areas of population growth through investment in Fresh Expressions (f(x)) in the areas where the Diocese seeks the existing congregations are increasingly unrepresentative of the resident community and therefore unlikely to be successful in reaching them without intentional intervention
- to grow a financial resource base that allows investment in growth for the future. Key measures include: annual financial surplus, working financial reserves equivalent to six months operating costs by 2020, 1% of Diocesan turnover annually dedicated to major Diocesan ministry and mission projects beginning in 2014, rising to 2% by 2020
- to grow the number of ordained and lay vocations by 50% by 2020, by enabling and discerning ordained ministers; expanding opportunities for licensed and commissioned lay leadership; by affirming and growing other lines of lay ministry (e.g. worship leaders, family & youth leaders, spiritual directors); to offer relevant and enriching training, and create networks of support and celebration which reflect the diversity of the Diocese
- to grow leadership and representation which reflects the rich diversity of our Diocese by 2025, and especially focusing where the data suggests groups are currently underrepresented: through ethnicity, age (especially 18-40), educational opportunities, material well being, and tradition

Growing

St Mary the Virgin in Lewisham took growing literally – creating a Therapeutic Garden part of their churchyard, which BBC Gardeners’ World fame to fir Marion Watson, a Reader at St Mary’s, wrote about how a partnership with the nearby Ladywell Unit (part of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust) enables them to ‘reach out to and support those recovering from mental health issues’. The First Mark of Mission, identified at ACC-6 (the sixth meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in 1984) with personal evangelism, is really a summary of what all mission is about, because it is based on Jesus’ own summary of his mission (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:18, Luke 7:22; cf. John 3:14-17).

Help us to share the Vision

In order to help to make the Southwark Vision something that we can share easily in bite sized chunks, we have developed materials to help.

There are posters (in both A3 and A4 sizes), a postcard, and an Epiphany tide prayer. These are materials that we have sent out and we will ensure that there are more materials as the outreach of our Vision leads us into ever new and vibrant ways of communicating the ambitious targets and plans that we have for the coming years.

We hope that you and your parish will wish to become involved with the work of the Diocese, especially as we work out how best to bring about the fruitful future that we want to see here in South London and East Surrey.

We are:

- motivated by this faith
- inspired by hope in God’s purpose for creation
- committed to expressing, in transformative action, our love for God, for our neighbours here and overseas, (especially 18-40), educational opportunities, material well being, and tradition
- to make care for God’s creation an integral part of their worship, life and work
- to celebrate the gift of creation especially at Creation Time (Sundays in September)
- to make a regular review of progress in broadening and encouraging our engagement and commitment to improving our carbon footprint, and in working for a more sustainable economy within planetary boundaries
- to work where possible in cooperation with others in churches and civil society to strive for a more just and sustainable world
- to recognise the rights of all people including future generations, and to ensure the responsible use and sharing of the rich resources of God’s earth.

We hope that you and your parish will wish to become involved with the work of the Diocese, especially as we work out how best to bring about the fruitful future that we want to see here in South London and East Surrey.

Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being Church Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God’s Kingdom

Walking

“I enjoyed the chance to travel with fellow Christians visiting places whose names are familiar from the Bible. We got to meet the local people, and worshipped with the Christian community in Nazareth which was a great privilege. The pilgrimage was a chance to make new friends and enjoy a different culture whilst following in the footsteps of Jesus.” A participant in the Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage 2016

Welcoming

St Margaret, Lee have worked in partnership with Action for Refugees in Lee (AfRiL) to support recently arrived refugee families from Syria. They helped run ‘English for speakers of foreign languages’ classes, and worked to help families feel integrated.

Jo McNerney writes: ‘Our prayer is that through this area of outreach we will continue to follow and hope and good news to many in our community in need of a welcome.’

Growing

St Mary the Virgin in Lewisham took growing literally – creating a Therapeutic Garden part of their churchyard, which BBC Gardeners’ World fame to fir Marion Watson, a Reader at St Mary’s, wrote about how a partnership with the nearby Ladywell Unit (part of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust) enables them to ‘reach out to and support those recovering from mental health issues’.

Caring for the environment

‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth’… (the 5th mark of mission)

Our commitment to the environment is expressed through the policy adopted by Diocesan Synod in 2011. The policy ‘Taking Care of God’s creation’ can be found on the Diocesan website here: http://bit.ly/2QGyEi

It begins with Biblical principles saying: ‘We recognise the biblical vision that the environment, in which all humanity and all other creatures live:’

- comes to us as a gift from God the Father,
- is held together in Christ the Redeemer
- and is given life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God’s creation, like all His gifts, is good. But we also believe that it needs to be cared for.

We are:

- motivated by this faith
- inspired by hope in God’s purpose for creation
- committed to expressing, in transformative action, our love for God, for our neighbours here and overseas, (especially 18-40), educational opportunities, material well being, and tradition
- to make care for God’s creation an integral part of their worship, life and work
- to celebrate the gift of creation especially at Creation Time (Sundays in September)
- to make a regular review of progress in broadening and encouraging our engagement and commitment to improving our carbon footprint, and in working for a more sustainable economy within planetary boundaries
- to work where possible in cooperation with others in churches and civil society to strive for a more just and sustainable world
- to recognise the rights of all people including future generations, and to ensure the responsible use and sharing of the rich resources of God’s earth.

(From: Taking care of God’s Creation 2013)
It doesn’t happen often but when I arrived (early) at St Patrick’s, Wallington, the car park was already full and people were queuing up to get in.

Mind you that was partly because there was a lot of meeting, greeting and catching up going on just inside!

But that’s the kind of church it is – they describe themselves as a friendly, lively evangelical Anglican church and they certainly live up to that description.

St Patrick’s is one of three evangelical CoE congregations within a few square miles – Holy Trinity is the original and ‘planted’ both St Patrick’s and Springfield Church. Indeed, despite being planted 100 years ago (on St Patrick’s Day, hence the church name) and having a 1930s built church, St Patrick’s remained a District Church in Holy Trinity parish until 2012.

So when David King arrived in 2010 it was as ‘curate in charge’ – by coincidence, the post his late father Canon Philip King had occupied in the 1960s, both having also been curates at Holy Trinity, Redhill. In 2012, once the lengthy legal formalities had been completed, St Patrick’s became a separate parish with David as its first Vicar.

St Patrick’s clearly sees itself as an evangelical church with a local focus. As such, it seeks to keep a breadth of appeal, through its broad spectrum of services. There are services twice a month at 8am and then every week at 10.30am, 4pm and 6.20pm.

There is a communion service each Sunday – at 8am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (Book of Common Prayer); at 10.30am on the 2nd Sunday and at 4pm on the 4th (Common Worship based); then at 6.20pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and at 4pm on the 2nd Sunday – at 6.20pm.

Of services. There are services of all types to keep a breadth of appeal, and worship songs led by a music group. There were no hymn books or service sheets (everything was shown on giant TV screens) but practically everyone took the preferred Bible and referred to it during the readings and the expository sermon. The service was led by lay Reader, Tom Clark and David King preached and celebrated.

A few years ago the 10.30 service outgrew the space available – “...God blessed us with numerical growth and I think used the decision to bring the children in at the beginning of the service, which seemed to attract more young families”, said David King. So the afternoon service was started – not just to cope with growth but also to make ‘church’ available to people who can’t make Sunday morning.

The service is basically the same but more informal and simplified. “Children and young people are an important part of St Patrick’s,” said David. “And in the afternoon they feel a real ‘ownership’, more involved and staying with the family for longer - only going to separate groups for teaching towards the end of the service. And after the service everyone then gets back together – to share a substantial tea”.

The evening ‘Lifetime’ service is even less formal – with a different (less Common Worship) format, a café style layout, home-made cakes and real coffee. It has proved particularly attractive to younger people – and offers a youth club for teenagers afterwards.

So what are the challenges?

“We need to build the confidence of every church member to be openly different, to share Jesus with people they meet and to invite them into the church family,” said David. “With that confidence we can reach out further to serve the community and to bring more people into a life transformed by Jesus.”

“In order to facilitate this, the church has moved from running Christianity Explored once per year, to once per term, with a strong follow up structure”.

“I think a challenge for us as a church is to be more reliant on God – and less on our own abilities,” said David. “We have some tremendously gifted and talented people here, but the mission before us is so much greater than our ability to meet it, and so we have a growing awareness of our desperate need for God”.

David King told me: “We are unashamedly evangelical but strive to maintain a breadth of worship to meet the needs of a wide range of people. The Christian faith is a Gospel of grace – and we try to be open to all people, wherever they are from and wherever they are at.”

To minister to the growing church, St Patrick’s has four paid staff – the Vicar, David King, two parish-paid assistant ministers and an administrator. There are two Readers and a Pastoral Assistant. There is also a lot of involvement by other lay members of the church family many of whom bring their professional expertise to help meet the needs and progress the plans of the church.

I joined them for the 10.30am service on a second Sunday along with 160+ adults and 30 youngsters. The young people started in the main service for the first hymn, family news and prayer. They then went out to their age-related groups behind placards held up by the leaders! One group, “Frog” (11-14) had already shared breakfast together before the service.

The worship followed the CW Order One (albeit not all of it and not always in the usual order). Music was a mix of traditional hymns, accompanied by an organ, and worship songs led by a music group. There were no hymn books or service sheets (everything was shown on giant TV screens) but practically everyone took the preferred Bible and referred to it during the readings and the expository sermon. The service was led by lay Reader, Tom Clark and David King preached and celebrated.

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But being ‘Church’ is not just about Sunday worship and St Patrick’s - as well as the four children’s groups that meet during Sunday services - there are midweek children’s groups and parent and toddler groups. A youth group meets during the morning service and a second after the evening service – and St Patrick’s supports a wide range of uniformed organisations with about 160 children in the eight scouts and guides groups – about 30 of whom join the regular parade service. Several of the leaders are church members.

There are a dozen or so Home Groups – David describes them as ‘the core unit of our church family’. They focus on Bible study, supporting one another and reaching out to others. They include men’s and women’s breakfast groups; a mums group with a creche for the children and two specially for teenagers.

For older people, there’s a weekly lunch club and then every month there is, among other things, an afternoon fellowship (with a speaker, plus tea and cakes) and a social group aimed at those who find weekend a lonely time. Although staffed by church members and their friends, these are all open to the whole community.

Social activities provide the opportunity to draw the church family closer together and to draw in ‘outsiders’ and St Patrick’s is a very ‘social’ church. “People really seem to like each other,” said David. All age social activities have ranged from an Olympic challenge fun day in 2012 to Hog Roasts, trips to the seaside, barn dances and Open Gardens.

Many of those activities have taken place in St Patrick’s church hall – just across the car park - and currently there is a planned £2.5 million building project aimed at increasing the mission opportunities it presents.

The current hall will be demolished and replaced by a new centre linked to the church itself with a new, higher profile entrance to the church. A large proportion of the total cost has already been raised and subject to Diocesan and local authority approvals, it is hoped that construction will begin next year.

“Our Sunday worship – with the preaching of the Word at its heart - exists to equip us to be ‘church’ throughout the week,” said David. “That includes helping those in need outside the church family”.

Whilst Wallington is ostensibly a fairly affluent area, there are pockets of deprivation in and around – and so as part of its ministry to the community, St Patrick’s is developing an increasingly strong connection with Christians Against Poverty, already running Money courses and Life skills courses and looking to become a CAFOD debt centre. There is also a strong link with world mission including support for several missionary organisations and sending people out from St Patrick’s to serve.

So what are the challenges?

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St Patrick’s is a strong supporter of worldwide mission including the annual Samaritan’s Purse shoe-box appeal.

The Revd David King

- an informal café-style service. On a typical Sunday St Patrick’s draws upwards of 250 people – up to 200 in the morning, 60 in the afternoon and 40 in the evening.

- The common factor is an emphasis on Bible-based teaching – with the same theme and sermon across the morning and afternoon service, but a different service at the evening. However, as
Raewynne Whiteley writes

One of my earliest memories is of Sunday school class when I was about three.

We crouched down, facing the wall, and sang,
Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world of darkness, so let us shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

As we sang the last line, we put our fingers up as candles, and slowly turned around and stood facing out into the room.

That call to shine with the light of Christ is the call of every Christian.

How we live that out takes many different forms: caring for family, in our work, in service in our church and in the wider community.

But for some of us, God’s call takes the particular form of ordained ministry as a deacon or priest.

For some, that call comes very early in their lives, when as children they love playing church, and that passion continues and grows. For some, they have never thought about it until their vicar said to them, “I think you should consider ordained ministry”.

For me, it began when as a teenager, I was offered opportunities to serve within my local church and at school, teaching Sunday School, playing music, and leading bible studies. At the same time, I found myself drawn to people in full-time ministry, from Lutheran nuns to Scripture Union workers, and everything in between.

It wasn’t until I went to University and through the training courses offered by my parish discovered a gift for preaching and love of liturgy, that I had a clear sense of call to ordained ministry.

You might have had similar experiences, or be wondering if God is calling you to ordained ministry.

Exploring

Over 2-4 March, the Diocesan vocations department will be offering a weekend conference at Wychcroft, ‘It’s your call’ exploring ordained vocation.

We will explore questions such as:

• How do I know if I have a vocation to ordained ministry?
• What does ordained ministry look like? Is it just like what my vicar does?
• What does the training involve? Do I have to go away?
• What about finances? Family?

To attend you will need the support of your incumbent or chaplain. So if you are interested, please talk with them, and then get in touch with me.

Of course, ordained ministry is by no means the only way God calls people to serve him; many have vocations to lay ministry and leadership.

There will be another conference over the weekend of 16-18 November, where we explore lay vocations in more depth.

Quiet Day

In the meantime, there is a forthcoming Vocations Quiet Day at Wychcroft, our Diocesan Retreat Centre, which is open to anyone who might like some time apart to reflect how God might be calling them and how they might respond. Register for that by contacting me.

I am delighted to have been called to serve in Southwark, and look forward to exploring the Diocese and getting to know people here – and exploring vocation with you.

The Revd Raewynne Whiteley joined the Diocese in January as Diocesan Discipleship and Vocations Missioner replacing the Revd Louise Ellis.

Contact: raewynne.whiteley@southwark.anglican.org

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SAVE£’S
A unique school in Surrey received a ‘seal of approval’ recently when inspectors from Southwark’s Anglican and Roman Catholic Dioceses judged the ‘distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Bede’s as a church school’ as ‘outstanding’.

The Redhill based institution was formed in 1976 following the merger of two schools – St Joseph’s (Catholic) and Bishop Simpson (Anglican). In the 1990s the school extended its partnership to include local free churches as part of a unique ecumenical project. The overall education provision was judged ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted in February 2017.

The recent section 48 inspection was carried out using a bespoke framework that had been agreed by the school’s partner dioceses. The final report states that ‘pastoral care is excellent’, ‘worship is inclusive of all’, pupils grow into mature and compassionate young people’, and that ‘RE is central to the life of the school and permeates every facet of its life’.

Headteacher Stephen Crabtree explained: “We are extremely grateful for the support of local parishes and churches as we seek to provide a rounded education to all the young people in our care”.

The photo (below left) shows the school’s two chaplains – Angela Clark and Jenny Penn with Year 9 pupils.

…and Nutfield School gets REQM Gold award

Nutfield Church Primary School has achieved the prestigious Gold Award for the national RE Quality Mark. The REQM recognises high quality learning in religious education.

The Headteacher, Miss Woods said: “The assessor spent time in the school interviewing staff, speaking to the children from across the year groups, looking in books and at much of the RE related work the school is doing.

“He completed the assessment by speaking with me about the range of learning he had seen and discussing the work that we have undertaken in developing our curriculum to ensure that we continue our journey in teaching about not only Christianity but also many other world faiths. We are absolutely delighted to say that we were awarded the Gold award!

“We are the first school to be awarded this classification in the area. I would like to congratulate the whole team on their considerable efforts to ensure that our RE curriculum is of the very highest standard. “Well done teachers and well done too to the brilliant children who showed off their knowledge, talents and insights so well”.

How long, O Lord, How long?

On 21 December the Times Newspaper shared on page 1 a photograph of the choir of St Paul’s Cathedral, the premier Cathedral of the Anglican Communion, 15 boys in all.

14 white and 1 of mixed race. How long, O Lord, how long?

A vivid display of unintentional racism.

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We began back in 2014 with that amazing installation in the moat around the Tower of London entitled ‘Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red’ with a poppy for every life lost.

Since then, in parishes and schools throughout the Diocese, we have been remembering those, from our own communities, who paid the ultimate price in a war meant to end all wars.

But whilst war was waging other things were happening that have had, and still have, huge implications and which can be in our prayers.

The right to vote is something that, unfortunately, many people take for granted. But the truth is that it is only 100 years that women in this country were given the vote and at that stage only women who were over the age of 30, who owned property and were graduates from British universities.

It was ten years later, so 90 years ago, that the right to vote was extended to all women over 21, regardless of wealth or education.

St Paul, in his First Letter to Timothy, gives instructions about prayer and begins like this: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

We should take society seriously and we should take politics seriously and know that God calls us both to pray and participate, for the good of all, and to use rights so hard won on our behalf.

Lord, bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good. Amen.

(Pray Common Worship)
Ongoing

* BEDDINGTON - Quiet @ St Mary’s - 3rd Thursday of each month 11am - 2pm. Various tools for quiet including labyrinth

* BOROUGH – George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm to 4.30 pm. Meet people, get advice, help one another

* CROYDON - Lunchtime Recital series at Croydon Minster. Every Friday at 11.10am, from 6 October to 1 December. Bring a packed lunch. Donations to Minster Funds

* ELTHAM - Sing with a full orchestra. Hymns, light classics and popular standards last Sunday each month except Aug and Dec. 3pm Eltham Park Methodist Church

* HUCKABACK - Taizé at All Saints 7pm first Sunday every month

* KEW - Homemade cakes and teas 3-5pm on Sundays at St Anne’s Church. Suspended - until May (building works)

* WARRINGHAM – Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday

* ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass, Second Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers’ Union last Saturday 2pm

February

Saturday 3 February

* BATTERSEA - Jazz concert - Joe Stilgoe Trio, St Luke’s Church 7.30pm (pre-concert interview at 6.30pm). In association with Homestart Wandsworth. Tickets £18 (Concs £14) from www.sli.ms.org.uk

Saturday 10 February

* STREATHAM - Come Sing Evensong at St Peter’s Church. Singers’ workshop from 2pm; Evensong at 4.30pm. Music Inc. Park’s ‘Blest Pair of Sirens’, Howell’s Collegium’s Regale Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis and Bonci’s ‘Blest Pair of Sirens’.

Saturday 17 February

* CROYDON - Come and Sing Handel’s Four Coronation Anthems. Choral workshop and informal evening performance at St Matthew’s Church with the Croydon Bach Choir. 10am until 6pm. Pre-registration and payment is essential at http://www.croydonbachchoir.org/events

Saturday 24 February

* CROYDON - Croydon Bach Choir Spring Concert at St Mary Magdalen Church, 7.30pm. Dvorak’s Mass in D and Gounod’s St Cecilia Mass. Tickets £12 (children £6) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir

Wednesday 7 February

* CATERHAM - Munch with Music at St John’s Church. Double Duos - music from the Golden Age of Shows from the 20s to the 50s. Admission Free - Donations welcome. Tea/Coffee from 12.15pm, Performance 12.45 – 1.30pm. Bring your own “Munch”

Tuesday 13 February

* NEW CROSS - Women’s World Day of Prayer Service 7.30pm, St James’ Church. The theme of this year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer is ‘All God’s Creation is Very Good!’ The service being used is from Suriname

Friday 2 March


Saturday 3 March

* SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL - Verdi Requiem sung by Eltham Choral Society, West Barnes Singers and Wimbledon Youth Choir with orchestra and soloists. 7.30pm. Tickets: £20, £15, £12 & £10. From www. elthamchoral.org.uk, www.westbarnessingers.co.uk or on the door.

Tuesday 6 March

* KEW - ‘Climate Change and A Faithful Christian Response’ a conversation between Bp David Atkinson & Fr Nicholas King, SJ (Churches Together in Kew) & Fr Andy at The Barn Church, Atwood Avenue. 7.45pm - 9.15pm

Saturday 10 March

* REIGATE – ‘Musical Reflections’ by the Reigate and Redhill Choral Society. 7.30pm at St Mary’s Church

Sunday 11 March

* DULWICH - Organ Recital by Richard Hobson at Christ's Church, Dulwich College - 7.45pm. Admission free

* DULWICH - Concordia Chamber Choir Spring Concert – 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Oval Road. Poulenc’s Gloria & 4 Motets and works by Debussy, Messiaen & Stravinsky. Tickets £12 at the door, or £11 in advance at www.concordiachamberchoir.co.uk. (Concs available)

March

Saturday 17 March

* Lunchtime Concerts at St Matthew’s, Redhill

Thursday at 1.10pm

1 Piano Recital (Theresa Yu)

2 Recital - Hannah Hever (Cabinet) w Javier Morillas (Viola) & Teresa Stachova (Piano)

15 River City Saxes - “Four Centuries for Four Saxes”

22 Chalumeaux Clarinet Quartet

Free entry, a donation of £3 per person to cover costs is welcome.

Saturday 10 March

* Lunchtime Concerts at Croydon Minster

FEBRUARY

Friday 23 March

* WATERLOO - Verdi’s Luisa Miller sung by Midsummer Opera soloists, chorus and orchestra at St John’s Church. Friday at 7pm and Sunday at 5pm. Tickets: Friday £25; Saturday £27; Sunday £27. Children £10. Advanced booking 020 7652 0070 or wegotickets.com

Sunday 22 April

* WESTMINSTER - Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group 4 to 5 pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. Discussion of Amoris laetitia - The Joy of Love, Pope Francis’s encyclical on the family

Friday 23 March

* HASTINGS - Sandpiper Team Away-weekend of fellowship and Bible teaching at Ashburnham Place. Cost approx. £250 en-suite, double room or £100 for standard single room including meals. Contact the Rev Jeremy Groomebridge email: grmbj@aol.com or tel: 020 8688 7795

Saturday 24 March

* CROYDON - Croydon Bach Choir Spring Concert at St Mary Magdalen Church, 7.30pm. Dvorak’s Mass in D and Gounod’s St Cecilia Mass. Tickets £12 (children £6) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir

Wednesday 18 April

* WESTMINSTER Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group 4 to 5 pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. Speaker - Dr Helen Costigane (Heythrop College)

Sunday 22 April

* GREENWICH – Sunday Afternoon Classics in the Chapel of the Old Royal Naval College 3.30pm. Redhill and Reigate Choral Society. Inc. highlights from the 10 March concert ‘Musical Reflections’

Sunday 13 May

* DULWICH - Organ Recital by Marilyn Harper at Christ’s Chapel, Dulwich College - 7.45pm. (Dulwich Festival Recital)
‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ (Luke 4: 18-19)

The Bishop of Southwark’s Lent Call 2018
Supporting projects in the Diocese of Southwark, the Holy Land and in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe

In The Holy Land

Amid the sacred, peaceful and beautiful places a story has been unfolding which is one of sadness and need. The projects and places which the Lent Call will support in the Holy Land this year are part of the response to that need.

Al Ahli Arab Hospital
Throughout the Holy Land, many people are unable to travel freely to work or to visit family and friends or to receive the medical care or education that they need. That is why a hospital such as Al Ahli in Gaza is so important. Despite the difficulties which surround it, the hospital offers some of the best healthcare in the region to all, regardless of faith, class or gender.

Al Shurooq School
The Al Shurooq School for the blind and visually impaired was founded in 1981 in Jerusalem teaching the children braille and giving them access to braille reading materials. The aim of the school is to enable the pupils to become full and useful members of society. In 2009 the school moved into a purpose built school in Jerusalem and now teaches the children braille and gives them access to braille reading materials. The school is also able to provide them with multi-sensory experiences in the classroom, helping many children to thrive.

In Southwark Diocese

Bede House
Bede is a local community charity. Since 1938 it has worked from its base in Southwark to support local people in creating better lives for themselves, their families and communities. Bede runs four key services: Learning Disabilities, Youth Work, Starfish Domestic Violence Project and Community Engagement.

Croydon APCMH
The Croydon branch of the Association for Pastoral Care in Mental Health aims to help all those who come to them for themselves, their families or for their friends. The aim of the projects each week is to realise their full potential and improve the quality of their lives. APCMH is based at St Mildred’s Community Centre in Addiscombe and is open to people of all faiths and none.

The Spires Centre
Stratford based Spires helps people who are homeless or have insecure accommodation and who face issues like long-term unemployment, poor mental or physical health, addiction or substance misuse, or are imprisoned by sex work. All clients have access to hot food, showers and clothes; literacy, numeracy and other courses and classes to increase well-being and reduce anxiety. Many clients go on to employment and further education.

In Zimbabwe

In difficult and confusing times it is often the young who suffer most. Our donations will help to enable students throughout Zimbabwe to be resourced to receive the best possible education to help them to develop their potential and the future of Zimbabwe.

Central Zimbabwe
The Diocese has twelve schools – including several taken over from the state. There is concern about the condition of some of the schools. Much has been achieved in the last five years but more still needs to be done.

Manicaland
Many young people are still unable to go on to university because they do not have the money to do so and many schools face challenges through inadequate infrastructure and resources.

Mavingo
The Diocese now looks after fourteen schools. Much of the infrastructure is dilapidated and needs attention. There is a shortage of classrooms, furniture and supplies – and staff accommodation. Eight schools were also involved in supplementary feeding for children in 2016 and 2017.

Matabeleland
The Diocesan schools offer a first class education but sometimes schools struggle because families cannot afford to pay the fees. St Gabriel’s Centre makes uniforms and sells them to pupils as cheaply as possible. The Diocese has also bought a property to be a boarding house for girls attending Anglican schools in Bulawayo and to generate income.

Bishop Christopher writes:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since 1986, successive Bishops of Southwark have called the parishes to a time of prayer and contemplation during Lent, through the Lent Call.

Over the years, this has raised nearly £1,000,000 which has been shared with more than 150 projects. In 2017 we were able to give grants totalling over £80,000 to our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and to projects that work with people in our Diocese.

I am grateful to all our Churches and Schools for their generous gifts and fundraising. It is good that we share what we have in this way.

This year the projects we are supporting seek to bring help to those in need in the Holy Land as a result of the years of conflict and to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe as they work for a better tomorrow – and to care for those in need in our own Diocese across a wide spectrum of issues such as homelessness, mental health and domestic violence. Alongside giving to these projects I hope that you will pray for the people concerned and the needs these projects address.

With my thanks and prayers for our partnership in the service of the Kingdom.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Lent Call materials have been sent to parishes and schools. They can also be found on the Diocesan website www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall

As well as information about the projects you will also find worship sheets for use in schools and Sunday Schools. Greetings cards are available again from Trinity House. They offer images from our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and are blank for you to use in whatever way you wish.

Do follow our twitter feed (@southwarkcofe) as we will be adding extra material about the projects each week.

There will also be a Lent Call blog and a blog of the Pilgrimage that Bishop Christopher and the Dean of Southwark will lead to the Holy Land in February featuring two of the Lent Call projects.

GIVING

As well as giving at your church or school, it is possible to give to the Lent Call by text and online (http://www.bishopchristopher.org/ at LentCall18) as well as by cheque, which should be sent to John Jackson at Trinity House.

www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall

The Bishop of Southwark’s Lent Fund.
Registered Charity No 1075122

The Bridge - in print, in your parish... and on line at www.southwark.anglican.org/thebridge