Angelic photo wins £2,000 for St Stephen, Dulwich

Having taken the prize for the South East region, the photograph will now go forward to Ecclesiastical Insurance's Parish Pixels competition grand final.

“We were delighted to win the regional prize,” said the Revd Canon Bernhard Schunemann, vicar at St Stephen’s. “Although Dulwich is seen as an affluent area, in fact three-quarters of the people in our parish live on a council housing estate and we are the only urban priority area in the deanery. The money will be very useful in our community outreach.”

The winner of the grand final will be announced later this year, and will net a further £5,000 in prize money. To help in the decision, Ecclesiastical is encouraging people to vote online for their favourite. “Vote early, vote often!” Bernhard pleaded.

(Voting is open now at http://bit.ly/ParishPixels; hover over the image you wish to vote for, and click on the ‘vote’ button that comes up in the top right-hand corner.)

Dream team

The photograph was taken by St Stephen’s Director of Visual Communications Sarah Bucknall. She said: “I was stunned to have got this far in the competition. None of us had ever seen the sun lighting up the angels like this before – it was just the right time of year.”

These intricately carved angels look down on the choir stalls at the back of the church, and are a hit with both church members and visitors, Bernhard said.

“They’re very special and all very slightly different,” he added. “so, when I have school classes in, I love pointing the children upwards to look at the angels and spot the differences.”

The prize-winning photograph by church member Sarah Bucknall.

Southwark joins Cross of Nails community

During the Choral Eucharist on Sunday 26 January, Southwark Cathedral was welcomed into membership of the Community of the Cross of Nails network of churches and Christian organisations.

Inspired by the story of Coventry Cathedral, the Community shares a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation.

As a visible sign of its membership, the Cathedral was presented with its own cross of nails by the Dean of Coventry, the Very Revd John Witcombe.

After the service, Bishop Christopher said: “Southwark Cathedral sits beside London Bridge, the site of two recent terror attacks, so it is fitting that the Cathedral has joined the Community of the Cross of Nails, becoming part of a worldwide network working together for peace and reconciliation.”

Cathedral Sub-Dean, Canon Michael Rawson, added: “Membership of the Community is very important to us as healing the wounds of terrorist attacks in our neighbourhood form an important part of our ministry as well as challenging youth violence and knife crime in our city.”

More images and local stories online — follow our blog or find us on social media @SouthwarkCofE
Southwark’s Safeguarding Adviser announces move to sports charity

Kate Singleton (right), the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Safeguarding Adviser to Southwark Cathedral, is leaving the Diocese at the end of April after six years in role.

Kate has accepted an exciting new post in the fast-changing environment of safeguarding in sport. The Revd Canon Stephen Roberts, the Bishop of Southwark’s Safeguarding Lead, said: “We are sad to see Kate go as she has been an excellent Safeguarding Adviser helping the Diocese of Southwark to continue to develop its safeguarding policies and practice.

“Her professionalism leaves us in a good position for the future and we are very grateful for this and would like to thank her for all that she has done.”

The process to appoint a new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is now underway.

USPG stained glass gives sign of hope to the world

Bishop Christopher was a special guest at USPG’s chapel on 5 February, where he led a service of blessing and dedication for USPG’s stained glass windows.

The windows had been in storage since USPG moved into its new building a year ago. As he blessed the windows, the Bishop paid tribute to the four bishops commemorated on them: Samuel Ajayi Crowther from Nigeria, Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah from India, Tsae-Seng Sing from China and Joseph Sakunoshin Motoda from Japan.

“These four bishops were surely signs of hope in the world,” Bishop Christopher said. “They are signs that for all we may be constrained and confined in our culture, the Gospel we have been given to proclaim does, time and again, shine forth in ways that make profound contact with God’s people in every part of the world.”
St Mary, Addiscombe parishioner

Lancelot Andrewes Medal honour for St Mary, Addiscombe parishioner

On 4 February, Woolwich Area clergy gathered at St Laurence, Catford, which provided warm hospitality as we attended a day themed around inclusion of those with disabilities entitled

Just As I Am.

Our opening speaker was Fiona MacMillan (above), a trustee of Inclusive Church who runs conferences supporting and empowering Christians with disabilities. She gave the historical background of a Church that has seen those with disabilities as needing healing or, worse, exorcism. She asked us to reflect on the words of Psalm 139: “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Fiona encouraged us to think of those with disabilities bringing gifts to the Church, not as victims but as liberators.

Kay Cutting, who works in a school for children with profound medical needs, and Dr Mosun Dorgu, who is a consultant child psychiatrist, both gave valuable insights into how we can welcome and value the presence of those with disabilities in our churches, not because of what they might contribute but as fellow sisters and brothers made in God’s image.

Kay shared Becky Tyler’s sermon to Greenbelt in 2017, which is an example of how we can be ministered to by those with disabilities (find it on YouTube at bit.ly/BeckyTyler).

Then, at the end of the day, the entertaining double act of the Revds Tim Goode and Jonathan Macy outlined a means of enabling this in our congregations via a new initiative, Wonderfully Made Church. Details of this project, which aims to draw attention to and celebrate the vocations and ministries — both lay and ordained — of disabled people, will be released soon.

St Leonard, Streatham leads response to terror attack

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St Leonards Streatham found itself caught up in a terrorist incident just before 2pm on Sunday 2 February, when shots were fired only metres from the rectory.

The Revd Canon Anna Norman-Walker, Rector of St Leonard’s, tore up her sermon for that day’s Evensong and instead preached on the subject of finding light in the darkness. In the intervening hours, she had opened the church for prayer, and spent her time supporting police and emergency services attending the incident.

The next morning, Anna was joined by Bishop Christopher and more than 30 people from local churches as they gathered to pray that the community would respond with compassion “and a determination not to allow this incident to divide local people or instil fear”.

On Thursday, the Bishop and the Rector attended an inter-faith breakfast at Streatham Mosque, where the Bishop offered words of peace for all faiths.

Later, on Saturday, community and choir members gathered in St Leonard’s to learn songs for peace, before joining a vigil led by London Mayor Sadiq Khan.

Bishop Christopher, speaking in the House of Lords on 4 February, said: “The community response was very remarkable. The Rector of the parish was immediately out on the streets giving refreshments to the emergency services, the parish church was open for prayer.”

He added: “I think this wider dimension is immensely important for the nation to be aware of.”
A student from St Saviour’s & St Olave’s School in Southwark has received first prize in a competition to have a chair of their design made into a real piece of furniture by bespoke designer Tom Faulkner.

Anne-Elizabeth Sowah (left, with Faulkner), a Product Design student, was announced as the winner of the ‘Take a Seat’ competition at a private viewing at Bell House in Dulwich in February.

Anne-Elizabeth’s chair was inspired by her favourite design movement, Art Deco. She said of the piece: “My inspiration comes from the Ziggurat shape, often found in Art Deco architecture.”

The ‘Take a Seat’ project was developed in collaboration with the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership and featured entries from 11 students across five schools within the partnership.

“Mud, glorious mud: Mossy Church in action at St James, Kidbrooke.”

Mud, glorious mud: Mossy Church in action at St James, Kidbrooke.

and biscuits, topped off with a craft activity — all themed to our Bible story.

We’ve hunted down 99 sheep, huddled around a pretend campfire above Bethlehem, and made fireflies and candles to remember Jesus being the light in the darkness, around the time so many celebrate Halloween.

One mum, Silvia Kolu, who brings her girls aged five and three, started coming along to one of our Sunday services after becoming comfortable at the Mossy sessions. She says: “As a family we are keen on unstructured play, so we take every opportunity to get the kids outside and create contact with nature. There is no better way to share the word of God with small children. Mossy Church in fact nourishes the soul, the combination of nature with stories from the Gospels, music, crafts and interaction with the community makes it unique.”

Naomi Wellings of St James, Kidbrooke shares the rewards of taking church into the great outdoors, and mud’s teachable moments.

We’ve lost track of the number of times we have had to explain it, but Mossy Church is Mossy. Mossy Church involves mud, climbing trees and getting wet and, at the same time, remembering who made the mud, the trees and the rainwater!

Ask any parent, and they’ll tell you that “Forest School” is a big draw these days, and it feels only natural to make the connection between the created and the Creator. We welcome young families to our worshipping community who wouldn’t necessarily want to come into our building, but are extremely comfortable enjoying our outdoors.

We get around 20 children aged six and under for an hour-long session, involving free play in the beautiful woodland surroundings, a Bible story, song accompanied by ukulele, hot chocolate

“Forest School” is a big draw these days, and it feels only natural to make the connection between the created and the Creator. We meet monthly in the back of the church grounds, which have been made into a Forest School-style play space for use by a local nursery during the week. We welcome young families to our worshipping community who wouldn’t necessarily want to come into our building, but are extremely comfortable enjoying our outdoors.

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Southwark hosts its first Youth Forum

We had our first Youth Forum meeting on 18 January, writes Voke Didimako (above), aged 17, from St Mary, Peckham.

We met young people from other churches in Southwark before brief introductions and an icebreaker activity, where we built famous London landmarks.

We were split into two groups to do this: Team Shard and Team Canary Wharf. Within these two groups we discussed the two most popular topics within the young community: issues/bullying at school and mental health.

Using what we learned from the presentation skills videos and winners of the Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge, we recorded our presentations.

The mental health group shared some of their personal experiences dealing with mental health issues and their coping mechanisms, as well as addressing what more the Church could do to support its young people.

The issues/bullying at school group performed a drama piece set in a classroom that included breaks to highlight what goes on in school, with surprising statistics to validate their point.

Doing this helped us to build our confidence and learn new and valuable skill sets for addressing young people’s needs within the church community.

Southwark Diocesan Servers’ Festival 2020

Plenty of young servers were among the 170 or so people who arrived at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 25 January for the Southwark Diocesan Servers’ Festival 2020.

As well as a Eucharist, at which Bishop Christopher presided and the Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby preached, there were workshops on being a thurifer, the meaning of the Eucharist, how to carry the cross in procession and intercessions, as well as a treasure hunt (right).
Croydon Prayer Space prompts deep thought

The Minster Nursery and Infant School in Croydon held its third annual Community Prayer Space Project in February and it was the most successful yet, writes Assistant Headteacher Kerry van der Berg.

Working alongside The Minster Junior School, we created a Community Prayer Space that allowed children, young people and family members, of all faiths and none, to explore spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. We focused on current local, national and global areas for reflection.

Some examples included: What are our worries as an individual? What impact do natural disasters have on people’s lives and the country/community? What challenges do children face locally and around the world? What items would be most important to you if you had to leave your home in five minutes? Which fruit of the spirit have you shown?

In addition to the reflection areas in our schools, we created three areas for reflection within the Minster Church in Croydon. These focused on the importance of nature, water and our hopes for those who are homeless.

A visit by the infant and junior schools’ faith groups to these areas at Croydon Minster was a huge success, thanks to the support and determination of our volunteers both in and out of school.

We were also fortunate to have visits from the Revd Dr Andrew Bishop, Incumbent at Croydon Minster; the children at Krishna Avanti primary school; and a morning spent with Alison Clark, Bishop Jonathan’s wife. Our thanks go to everyone involved in the whole project.

Pupils reflect on veganism at a Prayer Space station.

St Michael, Blackheath to launch youth choir festival

When Sarah Burnard decided to found St Michael’s Young Choir Festival in Blackheath Park, south-east London, she decided on a new approach. “Our special focus”, she said, “is on getting young children involved in music for the first time. All our singers are in Years 3 to 6, and we have one competition just for newly formed choirs, with others for more experienced groups.

“We aim to help schools who would love to bring music into their children’s lives but are prevented by lack of budget. So, unusually for a choir festival, we have no entry fee. Music is one of God’s great gifts and we think that getting it into young lives is very important; it may stay with them for ever.”

St Michael’s Young Choir Festival is on 13 June; entries close on 31 March. E-mail sarah@rosepeach.co.uk or call 07538 239310 for more details.

Southwark colleagues make a splash at General Synod

General Synod met at Church House Westminster from 10 to 12 February and members of Synod from the Diocese of Southwark were active as usual.

Among other contributions, the Revd Andrew Moughtin Mumby’s (Rector of St Peter, Walworth) Private Members’ Motion on the Windrush Commitment and Legacy, in which the Revd Canon Rosemarie Mallett spoke, was carried nem. con.

The Revd Andrew Nunn, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, proposed an amendment in the carbon emissions debate which set a target of net zero carbon for 2030. A number of other Southwark members also spoke in the debate.

The Revd Canon Giles Goddard was part of the discussion which took place on the floor of Synod as a member of the Living in Love and Faith Steering group, and the Dean of Southwark also helped to steer the legislative business around the Draft Cathedral Measure revision stage through Synod.

Bishop Richard presents new vicar to St Andrew, Ham

The congregation of St Andrew, Ham warmly welcomed Bishop Richard to the parish on 19 January, as he presented the Revd Alice Pettit to them as their parish priest.

During the service, Alice was presented to the Bishop by John Dewhurst, Kingston Deanery’s Lay Chair, on behalf of King’s College Cambridge, the Patron of St Andrew’s parish. In his sermon, Bishop Richard spoke movingly of the new decade being a time of reflection.

The solemn procession to the door of the Church was led by churchwardens Margaret and Richard. The photograph shows the moment that Bishop Richard placed Alice’s hand on the door with the words, “I induct you into the real, actual and corporal possession of this church and benefice.” Alice then rang the bell to show she had taken possession of St Andrew’s.

The parish’s thanks go to Bishop Richard for the service and it continues to extend a warm welcome to Alice, her husband James and their family.
A view from the Diocesan Confirmation Service

Taking the next step: from Sunday school to confirmation

Hannah McIntyre, who worships at St Michael and All Angels in Wimbledon, is currently supporting her daughter Eliza (below), aged 11, through confirmation classes. ‘It’s a step up, but it’s one that she thinks Eliza is ready for: ‘Eliza attends Sunday school so it’s obviously something that comes up-And one of her friends was confirmed last year so she saw the service,’ says Hannah. ‘I was happy for her and I felt that it was the right time to make the decision. She’s old enough now to know.’ Eliza is a few classes in and will be confirmed later in the year. Some weeks the candidates have a Sunday afternoon session; other times their preparation involves taking part in the main service – by doing the readings, for example. ‘There’s an emphasis, too, on confirmation as a journey. One of the classes takes the form of a pie and a sleeper in the church with the previous two year’s candidates.’ Eliza (who ‘is extremely excited,’ says Hannah) another class invites the current candidates and their families to St Paul’s Cathedral for evensong. ‘There are things that you just have to feel,’ says Hannah, ‘but also things that include other people from previous years in well as family members and other people around her.’

In this church community which Hannah believes will have the most profound effect on her daughter in years to come, particularly as she moves up to secondary school in September and through her teenage years. ‘As a parent, I think it’s great – being part of this group in which you’re well established will give her other adults in her life who can help with guidance – whether that be to do with Christian morals or just in general having other adults she can trust – if she can’t talk to me.’

“I Just can’t put it into words”: joining the Church as an adult

In his own words, Aaron Coldham is not a “goody-goody”. Yet getting baptised and confirmed as an adult has been a transforming experience for him. When he was younger, his grandmother often asked him along to church but he never went. Getting baptised, he says, ‘is something I wanted to do for my own peace and for my family.’ Aaron had just become a father when he was confirmed. He.Mvc 1 year ago and “It was the first time I’d been there – it was massive. The environment of the church is like heaven. They designed it to feel like you’re in heaven!”

Paul came to confirmation after feeling a calling towards the Church Army. During attended an open day, he filling in an application form when he noticed that Church Army applications had to be confirmed. He consulted his vicar, Father Patrick Eggleton, who enquired in classes and entered him for the Diocesan service. Paul then asked his wife, Grace, to join him, so the pair of them could be confirmed at the same time. It was a day Paul says he will always remember. “It was awesome,” he says. “I’ve never seen something like this.” He was particularly moved by the words of the bishop. “He said God has given us a light and a hope and a love to move on and spread the Gospel to people. And when the bishop laid his hand on his head, I felt the Holy Spirit in me, like something coming upon me and moving me, making me get strong in both.”

Now, he says, he’s ready to go out again and evangelise, to spread the Word of God. “It really encouraged me that I should be doing that more.”

To listen to an audio version of this prayer, visit southwark.anglican.org/news/dailyprayer

Here are three things you can do during the coming weeks to revive the ancient connection between Lent and baptism:

- Every time you go into your church, say a prayer to help you:
  - to feel like you’re in heaven!
  - to hold them firm in love and hope;
  - may the life of the risen Jesus become the faith by which they live;

- May the meaning of this sacrament be emotional for everyone, as Rob’s explains: ‘There’s a sense of wonder, that somebody’s life is being transformed. A sense of hope for her future, a recognition that take part in these things because we need redemption, and that she is now part of the body of the Church and wherever happens in her future she will always have that. I find that very moving.’

God of the waters, we pray for all who are preparing to be baptised and confirmed. May the new which they be may the faith which they be; may the faith which they be; may the faith which they be; may the faith which they be; may the faith which they be; may the faith which they be;
Tuck into a Big Brekkie this Christian Aid Week.

Enjoy a fry-up with friends at home, serve pancakes in church, or pastries in your office and help us create a world free from poverty.

Visit caweek.org/brekkie to get started and order your free fundraising pack.
IN FOCUS...
Epiphany

Burstow Church looks to the stars at Epiphany

St Bartholomew, Burstow honoured its former Rector and one-time Astronomer Royal John Flamsteed with a special Epiphany service in January, marking 300 years since his death on 31 December 1719.

The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, preached and celebrated and Claire Coutinho, the new MP for East Surrey, was present.

The joint choir of the Windmill United Benefice sang a new anthem composed for the occasion by the Burstow organist, Roger Hind, on words from St Matthew’s Gospel: “We have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him.” The same words appear on the east window of the church which was installed in memory of Flamsteed.

At the end of the service, a wreath in the shape of a star was laid in the chancel.

Flamsteed was appointed in 1675 by Charles II as the first Astronomer Royal; he was also Rector of St Bartholomew from 1684 until his death. Flamsteed’s work as Astronomer Royal took up most of his time and he spent much more of the year in Greenwich, where he worked at the Observatory, than he did in Burstow.

But he visited Burstow on major festivals, such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas, the rest of the time paying a curate to take the services at Burstow and to look after the pastoral needs of the parish.

This was not unusual for clergy at the time, the Archdeacon noted. Because the Church was the leading provider of scientific education, and theology was considered the queen of sciences, there were many priest-scientists – and she considered herself one of their successors, she said. The Archdeacon also emphasised that she had never seen any conflict between theology and science, the study of science serving only to emphasise the wonder of God’s creation.

Flamsteed was buried in the chancel of Burstow Church on 12 January 1720 but no memorial or tablet marked the spot until 1975, when an official Royal Observatory memorial was placed in the church to mark the observatory’s tercentenary.

GET INVOLVED...

Explore your vocation at St Luke, Eltham

St Luke, Eltham will explore discipleship and calling with its Lent sermon series, Life is for Giving, with guest preachers each week exploring a different facet of vocation. There will also be four weeks of Lent classes based around Andy Rider’s Life is for Giving: a Toolkit for Exploring Your Calling.

“This is the first time St Luke’s has welcomed such a series and we are looking forward to embracing something new this Lent in our preparations for celebrating the Easter feast,” said St Luke’s incumbent, the Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong.

For more details, e-mail vicar@saintlukes-eltham.org.uk or call 020 8850 3030

Support local composers in Wimbledon

The choir of St Mary, Wimbledon has commissioned seven local composers to contribute to a collection of new choral music on the subject of Christ’s Seven Last Words from the Cross, writes choir director Max Bailey.

The choral pieces, by Owain Park, David Bednall, Oliver Tanney, Ruth Byrchmore, Ken Burton, Esther Bersweden and Andrew Lenon, will provide new music for the Palm Sunday liturgy at St Mary Wimbledon, at 6.30pm on 5 April. The service will consist of the choral music, readings and congregational singing.

Play the organ in Caterham

Four churches in Caterham will be inviting people to “have a go” at playing the organ on Saturday 18 April as part of National Organ Day.

The event at the United Reformed Church venue starts at 10.00am with the distinguished organist Barry Williams. At St John, Clareville Road, John Woodhouse will play a short recital at 11.15am. Chris Buck welcomes you to St Mary, Caterham Hill at 1.00pm, and the day concludes with William Higgins at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church from 2.15pm.

If you would like to play please bring music and register on Eventbrite at http://bit.ly/Caterham-Organ

The Diocese of Southwark
Sessional Holiday Hub Co-ordinators

Hours: 12 to 16 hours per week
Job type: fixed term for the duration of each project
(projects are scheduled for school holidays)
Hourly rate: £15 per hour, pro-rata equivalent to £27,300 per annum
Location: across the London Borough of Lambeth

We are seeking to recruit motivated and passionate Sessional Staff who share our aim of providing quality support to children and their families during school holidays.

As a Sessional Holiday Hubs Co-ordinator, your role will be to work with churches and grass-roots groups supported by Together Southwark.

You will assist them in planning and organising holiday hubs in Lambeth for children and young people from families who often cannot afford costly play schemes or time away. The hubs will offer a healthy free lunch, coupled with recreational and educational activities to give the children positive experiences in the school holidays of 2020.

For an application and job description, including person specification, please e-mail kumbi.maponga@southwark.anglican.org

Successful applicants will need to provide ‘right to work in the UK’ documentation, undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and provide two satisfactory references prior to commencing employment.

Closing date: Sunday 15 March 2020.
Applications sent beyond this time will not be considered.

Interviews will take place the week commencing 23 March 2020.
Please send your application and supporting documents via e-mail to kumbi.maponga@southwark.anglican.org
WHAT’S ON

Please send details of your next events for APRIL ONWARDS to Trinity House BY MONDAY 16 MARCH

Ongoing

✝ BEDDINGTON – Quiet @ St Mary’s, 3rd Thursday each month 11am-2pm. Including labyrinth.
✠ BOROUGH – St George the Martyr Community Café and TimeBank, every Thursday 2pm-4.30pm.
✝ HACKBRIDGE – Taizé at All Saints at 7pm. First Sunday every month.
✠ WADDON – St George, Community Café and Time to Share, Tuesday (Term time) 9.30am-11.30am. Lunch 12.15pm. Community Breakfast 1st Saturday 10am-12noon.
✠ WARLINGHAM – Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday.
✝ ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm. Mothers’ Union last Saturday 2pm.

March

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH
✠ CATERHAM – ‘Munch with Music’: Musicians from Trinity Laban. St John, Caterham Valley. 12.45pm-1.30pm. Free.

THURSDAY 5 MARCH
✠ REDHILL – Lunchtime concert: violin recital with Emmanuel Bach. St Matthew, Redhill. 1.10pm-2.00pm. Free.
✠ RICHMOND – Bishop Stephen Cottrell will talk about his book Christ in the Wilderness, exploring paintings by Stanley Spencer. St Matthias, Richmond. 7.00pm. Free.

SATURDAY 7 MARCH
✠ TADWORTH – ‘Music for Everyone’, a concert by the band of the Surrey Yeomanry at the Church of the Good Shepherd. 7.30pm.
Tickets: £12 (accompanied children under 16 free).
✠ SHIRLEY – Cinema @ St John the Evangelist. Dumbo at 2.30pm; Judy at 7.30pm. Tickets: £5 (children £3), available online or on the door. https://www.stjohnsshirley.org.uk/cinema

SUNDAY 8 MARCH
✠ MONDAY 9 MARCH – SATURDAY 21 MARCH
✠ CLAPHAM – ‘Hope: an Exhibition’. Photography exhibition by local residents. St James, Park Hill. Daily. 11.00am-7.00pm. Free. www.stjamesclapham.org.uk
✠ THURSDAY 12 MARCH
✠ REDHILL – Lunchtime concert: the Renaissance Recorder Group. St Matthew, Redhill. 1.10pm-2.00pm. Free.
✠ SATURDAY 14 MARCH
✠ WATERLOO – The Ionian Singers perform Jonathan Harvey’s I Love the Lord. St John, Waterloo. 7.30pm. Tickets £23; £18 unreserved; £5 child.

ORDER THE 2020 REAL EASTER EGG NOW

10th Anniversary edition

Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. There is a 24 page version in the Original and Dark eggs with activities, biblical text and a prize competition worth £200. There is a poster activity version in the Fun Pack and a simple guide version in the Special Edition. Both the Original and Dark 2020 eggs are plastic free and all chocolate is Palm Oil free.

A great way to share the Easter Story

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 as a way to share the Easter story and support Fairtrade. Crowd funded by churches and schools it has reached millions of people.

Ten years on, out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is still the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

Buy Now

see below for details.

Order on 01948 831 043 or at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Larger stores and a range of retailers are also stocking selected items from the full range.
March 2020

**WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH**

**SOUTHBANK** — Lewisham Choral Society, His Majestys Sackbutts and Cornets plus seven soloists sing Monteverdi’s Vesper of 1610. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London. 7.30pm. From £16. Tickets from www.southbankcentre.co.uk

**THURSDAY 19 MARCH**

**REDDINGTON** — Lunchtime concert: River City Saxes, St Matthew, Redhill. 11.00pm-2.00pm. Free.

**FRIDAY 20 MARCH**

**CLAPHAM** — Concert of Hope with Garth Hewitt. St James Church, Clapham. 7.30pm. Free. http://www.garthhewitt.org

**SATURDAY 21 MARCH**

**MERTON** — ‘I Was Glad’ English Sacred Music by the Morden Park Choral Society. St John, Merton. 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (concessions £5). Includes a glass of wine or soft drink.

**SANDERSTEAD HILL** — Art exhibition and sale by local artists at United Reformed Church Hall. 10am-4pm. Free (20% of art sales go to the Children’s Society’s work with disadvantaged children).

**ADDINGTON** — ‘Come and Sing’ Choral Day in aid of the Children’s Society’s ‘Come and Sing’ Choral Day in aid of

**Lunchtime Recitals at Croxton Minster**
Free, but donations gratefully received. Fridays @ 1.10pm
6 March Arthur di Francesco, piano, & Vanessa Hristova, viola
13 March Yiyi Su, piano
27 March Vincenzo Loisi, piano
3 April Mei Fujisato, violin

**Music at St John, East Dulwich**
Choral Evensong on Sundays @ 5.00pm
8 March, 19 July, 11 October
Organ Recitals on Saturdays @ 11.00am
9 May Marcus Wigberley (Beckenham).
18 July Michael Szostak (Poland).
19 Sept Paul Goby (Rotherhithe).

Company of Servers, Southwark and London Chapter: 2020 events
21 March, 10.00am
Lenten Retreat led by the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Southwark Cathedral

Parkinson’s UK and Jessie’s Fund at St Mary, the Blessed Virgin. Registration 10.30am. Rehearsals from 11.00am. Concert at 5.30pm. Tickets £5.
Register by e-mailing occasionalvoiceschoir@gmail.com

**WATERLOO** — Rethinking Mission: Rediscovering the Gospel in “Christian” Nations, USPG day conference at St John’s. 10am-4pm. £10, including lunch. Details at www.uspg.org.uk/rethinkingmission2020

**TADWORTH** — Model Railway Exhibition, Church of the Good Shepherd. 10am-5pm. Adults £6, seniors £5, under-16s £3.

**THURSDAY 26 MARCH**

**REDDINGTON** — Lunchtime lecture on Sir Edward Elgar. Lecturer and pianist: Michael Barlow. St Matthew, Redhill. 1.10pm-2.00pm. Free.

**SATURDAY 28 MARCH**

**CROYDON** — Croydon Bach Choir’s 60th anniversary concert; J S Bach’s St John Passion with the Leipzig Ensemble. St Mildred’s Church, 30 Bingham Road, CR0 7EB. 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (children £5).

**SUNDAY 29 MARCH**

**OXTED** — Oxted & Limpsfield Choral Society’s Come and Sing concert; Stainer’s Crucifixion, Bruckner’s Locos

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**APRIL**

**WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL**

**CATERHAM** — ‘Munch with Music’; Alfred and Salamanda Saxophone Quartet. St John, Caterham Valley. 12.45pm-1.30pm. Free.

**FRIDAY 3 APRIL**

**SOUTHWARK** — ‘100 Years of Note: City Chorus Sings Mozart Coronation Mass and Handel’s Zadok the Priest’. Southwark Cathedral. 7.30pm. Tickets £20 (£10 concessions). http://bit.ly/LondonCityChorus

**SATURDAY 4 APRIL**

**SHIRLEY** — Cinema @ St John the Evangelist. Frozen II at 2.30pm. Tickets: £5 (children £3). www.stjohnshirley.org.uk/cinema


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RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
‘He has meant so much to so many’: Diocese gathers to honour departing Archdeacon Chris Skilton

The main body of Emmanuel, Croydon was filled with people from all over the Diocese whose lives had been touched by the work and person of the Venerable Chris Skilton, whose retirement they had come to celebrate, writes Director of Press & Communications Wendy S Robins.

Chris and his wife Barbara, a Reader in the Diocese, were clearly much loved as was shown by all those who had come to be with them as they prepared to move to the South Coast to begin a well-deserved retirement together.

The service was led by Bishop Jonathan with Bishops Christopher and Richard both present. The music was led by the worship group from Emmanuel and there was a good mixture of more traditional hymns and worship songs. Somehow the eclectic nature of the service summed up Chris’ ministry really well. The service offered something for everyone, and this reflected the way Chris had managed to do the same throughout his 25 years in Southwark.

He had been supremely capable of spanning the many different traditions of those in the Diocese, offering his gentle wisdom, presence and good humour to all. Nadina Bedlow, the Bishop’s PA in Croydon, gave one of the readings and Barbara Skilton read the Gospel. Susan Wheeler, the Archdeacons’ PA, and the Venerable Moira Astin, Chris’s fellow Archdeacon in the Croydon Area, led the intercessions.

Chris preached a sermon which embodied his intellect, breadth of knowledge, talent for self-deprecation and sense of humour. The service took place on Saturday 1 February or, as Chris said, the Eve of Candlemas for some, which also happened to be the night after Britain left the European Union. He chose to begin by commenting that, one way or another, those present were all “remainers” and he was a “leaver”, going on to suggest that we needed to “Get Chrexit done!”

This and a joke about ageing which followed set the tone for a sermon which drew on the Candlemas readings featuring Simeon and Anna and Jesus in the Temple. Chris said that Rembrandt had been fascinated by this story all his life and showed us one of the artist’s paintings of Simeon and Anna, urging us to ask the question “What hope do we hold in our hands?”


During the service there were tributes from various people who had worked with Chris. They began with me, as I was able to speak of Chris’ time as Chair of the Communications and Resources Committee and as a member, and then Chair of the Editorial Board of The Bridge.

Bishop Richard talked about Chris’ time in the Kingston Area; the Venerable Simon Gates, who followed Chris as Archdeacon of Lambeth, also spoke. Moira Astin sang her tribute and Bishop Jonathan talked about Chris joining the Croydon Area at a time when many of those at the Area Office, including him, were very new. He said how good it was to have someone around who could quietly and calmly help everyone know exactly what to do and when to do it!

Bishop Jonathan gave Chris a gift from the Area team which provided a good deal of amusement as it was pretty much impossible to open, but eventually turned out to be a print of The Long Leg, the Edward Hopper picture which Chris had a version of on his office wall in Croydon.

Words from Bishop Christopher to both Barbara and Chris followed, as well as the presentation of a gift from the Diocese. Bishop Christopher spoke of Barbara’s ministry, both as a Reader and as a Director of Music, and once again emphasised how much Chris has meant to so many.

As the service ended, everyone queued up to have a few words with Barbara and Chris as they made their way to the Church Hall where a magnificent buffet was laid out, complete with one of the biggest and most imaginative cakes that I have ever seen. I am told it was of St John, Upper Norwood and it seemed a great shame to cut it!

All in all, it was a fitting send-off for a much loved and respected Archdeacon. We wish Chris and Barbara a long and well-deserved happy retirement.

The full version of Chris Skilton’s sermon can be found at: southwark.anglican.org/information/resources/sermons

Photos from the service can be seen on Flickr at: http://bit.ly/SkiltonFarewell

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A Festival of Hope

St James Church, Clapham
Monday 9th - Sunday 22nd March 2020

We warmly invite you to two free events:

An exhibition of images of ‘Hope’, created by our local community

A concert featuring gospel-singer Garth Hewitt

Details and timings of all events: www.stjamesclapham.org.uk

St James Church, Park Hill, SW4 9PB

This event is part of Clapham Park churches’ ‘Hope 2020’ programme.
Details: www.claphamparkhope.org

[Image of the famous farewell cake]