

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Walking
Welcoming
Growing

Vol.25 No.7
September 2020



Building belief

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Ministry shares
messages of hope

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Celebrating the work of our teachers with “spa-rty” bags

A COVID-19 micro grant from the Diocese enabled St Anselm, Kennington Cross, to pamper primary teachers with well-being goodie bags, writes Suzette Aagaard

St Anselm’s was very lucky to get a COVID-19 micro grant from the Diocese. We put it towards manufacturing, on the vicarage kitchen table, 75 “spa-rty” bags – a sort of party bag filled with well-being goodies – for the teachers and staff in our church primary school.

Archbishop Sumner CoE Primary School had the highest number of key worker/vulnerable children attending through lockdown in Lambeth at around 40 a day, and the staff really went above and beyond. The “spa-rty” bags were intended as an end-of-term pick-me-up.

The idea came out of an earlier St Anselm’s initiative, aimed at the 78 children on our Sunday school registration roll. During lockdown, in the hopes of keeping them engaged with church whilst offering a little much-needed fun, St Anselm’s gave them home-made “prayer and play” bags, filled with pens, stress balls, teddies, seeds, bookmarks, DIY bead key rings and prayers. Each child was asked to draw an uplifting picture for another which we also tucked in the bags.



An unexpected end-of-term treat: St Anselm’s thank you “spa-rty” bags.

This party bag initiative proved popular with the children and we thought it might be feasible to extend the idea, albeit with a slightly more sophisticated twist, to all the staff at Archbishop Sumner. To that end, we approached the Diocese and were hugely grateful to receive a COVID-19 micro grant.

The school staff had worked cheerfully and tirelessly throughout lockdown to offer outstanding provision, both for those on the premises and those learning at home through Google Classroom.

Clearly an end-of-term spa day was going to be out of the question but we decided to make “spa-rty” bags instead. Home-made fabric bags labelled “with love From

St Anselm’s”, they contained all manner of feel-good items, from a set of essential oil roller balls, bath bombs and face and foot masks to a handmade heart-shaped biscuit and a little rubber duck.

Enclosed in each bag was a passage from I Corinthians, “Love is patient, love is kind... Love never ends”, with a message of thanks from St Anselm’s to all the school’s teaching, support and maintenance staff, for the phenomenal love and care they had shown to the children.

The bags were then handed out to staff as an unexpected end-of-term treat – hopefully a welcome tonic after weeks of ceaseless hard work!



Lambeth Awards honour two with Southwark connections

A Reader from Charlton Deanery and an Honorary Minor Canon from Southwark Cathedral have received Lambeth Awards from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

John Clark, Reader at St Michael and All Angels, Blackheath Park, was awarded the Cross of St Augustine (above) for his “outstanding and selfless contribution to the life and witness of churches of the Anglican Communion”.

He said: “I was very surprised and humbled to be notified of the award. It came right out of the blue. I never considered that my work with the Anglican Communion Mission Commission and various charities connected with the Churches in the Middle East and particularly Iran should gain any recognition.”

He added: “The citation brought back many good memories of the joy and vitality of Anglicans and other Christians in many parts of the world, often in testing circumstances. I am most grateful to the Archbishop.”

The Revd Prebendary Jonathan Osborne, meanwhile, received the Alphege Award for Evangelism and Witness for his service as Senior Chaplain of the Metropolitan Police Service.



A view from The BRIDGE



When visiting Zimbabwe, one of my favourite places has always been the Simon of Cyrene School near Bulawayo, with its marvellous chapel full of wonderfully evocative murals of Bernard Mizeki and biblical stories.

This is a boys' boarding school and we have often been shown the artwork created by the boys who live there week by week during term time, as they seek an education to help them pursue the professional careers that so many of them desire.

These days, sadly, this will often involve leaving Zimbabwe to go to South Africa or Australia for university or other further education as the universities in Zimbabwe, like the schools, are struggling because of the economic situation.

Despite visiting the school on a number of occasions I had not really taken on board the story of the Scottish clergyman, Edward "Ned" Paterson, who was the driving force behind the Cyrene Mission, where the school is situated, and his artistic background.

He used this background to inspire the students who attended the school in its early days in the 1940s to produce wonderful pieces of artwork with a sophistication far beyond their years. So, it was a particular pleasure to be able to see *The Stars are Bright* exhibition recently in London. The vibrancy of the artwork speaks

volumes of the beauty of Zimbabwe and of the spirit of the people there.

Sadly, though, as you will read on pages 6-8, the Cyrene Mission is one place where the Diocese of Matabeleland is having to battle to regain possession of land which has been theirs for many years. This is an added burden on top of the desperate situation in the country and of each of the Dioceses with which we are linked. The situation in the Diocese of Harare with which the Diocese of Rochester is linked is no different.

The effect of the pandemic on a country which was already suffering because of food insecurity, shortages of water and a lack of functioning infrastructure has been devastating. Yet, despite the terrible situation in Zimbabwe, we know from our conversations with our friends and colleagues there that their faith is a real source of solace and inspiration.

Our Link Dioceses pray for us regularly and very much value our support to them, which is always through prayerful fellowship and sometimes through the practical monetary help that we can give.

I long for the day when this beautiful, vibrant, colourful country and its people can live less stressful and precarious lives, which reflect the natural resilience and resources of the land and its people. I pray for this each day and hope that you will want to join me in doing so too.

Wendy S Robins

Please tell us your stories!



Inspiring things are happening all over the Diocese – please do let us know what is going on in your parish so that others can share in it too. Get in touch via e-mail at bridge@southwark.anglican.org, Twitter @ SouthwarkCofE or Facebook at [facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE](https://www.facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE)

Diocese bids a fond farewell to Stephen Roberts



On 23 July, colleagues gathered to mark the Revd Canon Stephen Roberts' retirement from the Diocese as he prepared to leave his role as Deputy Diocesan Secretary. Stephen will be spending his retirement on the South Coast in East Sussex.

Stephen said of his 31 years in Southwark: "It has been a journey shared with colleagues and friends to whom I am indebted. Leaving them is a wrench. They have been co-workers with me, I have depended on them and their company has enriched my life immeasurably."



CELEBRATE CREATIONTIDE

Climate Sunday

As part of Creationtide (1 September to 4 October), churches are invited to include a "Climate Sunday" in their worship plans, either as part of their existing Harvest celebrations or on another Sunday in the run-up to the UN climate conference in 2021. For more information, see the Diocesan website's environment page at southwark.anglican.org/help/jpic/environment or the Climate Sunday FAQs page at www.climatesunday.org/faqs

The National Church has also created a number of Creationtide resources. Find them at bit.ly/CofECreationtide

Thank you to our farmers!

This Harvest, the Arthur Rank Centre is running a campaign to encourage churches to thank the farmers across the UK who grow our food, and to pray for the farming community as it faces challenges around COVID-19, a new agricultural policy and changeable weather.

Find "Thank you to our farmers!" Harvest resources and more information on the campaign at arthurrankcentre.org.uk/church-life/harvest-2020/



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The OCTOBER edition is due to be published online on 1 October 2020. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S Robins by e-mail no later than **MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**.

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

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

Bishop Christopher licenses new Chaplain at Southwark Cathedral



On Sunday 2 August, Bishop Christopher licensed the Revd Dr Alun Ford (above left) as his new Chaplain, and installed him as an Honorary Minor Canon of Southwark Cathedral.

During his sermon, Bishop Christopher said: "Alun possesses a real spiritual depth. Brought up in a Free Church setting, and for some years worshipping as a member of an Orthodox Church, he has

a breadth of sympathy to appreciate the rich diversity of this Diocese and I pray to flourish in his new role."

The Bishop added that the role of a chaplain was not just another way of saying "chief of staff" but rather to help to support the rhythm of prayer at Bishop's House.

"It will be highly vocational and, like our Southwark Vision, it will be Christ-centred and outward focused," he said.

The Rt Revd Stephen Oliver joins Southwark as Assistant Bishop

On 23 July, Bishop Christopher commissioned the Rt Revd Stephen Oliver (right) as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark.

Bishop Christopher said: "I am very glad to commission Bishop Stephen, who will work closely with Bishop Karowei and the Woolwich Episcopal Area."

For more on clergy licensings during lockdown, see page 12.



New Adviser for Women's Ministry prepares to start work in Woolwich Area

The Revd Liz Newman, Rector of Charlton, has been appointed Adviser in Women's Ministry for the Woolwich Episcopal Area.

Liz will be commissioned by Bishop Christopher at the first Diocesan Synod meeting after lockdown ends. The Revd Esther Foss, Area Adviser for Croydon, and the Revd Katie Thomas, Area Adviser for Kingston, will be commissioned at the same time.

The Revd Anna Eltringham, Dean of Women's Ministry for the Diocese of Southwark,

said: "It is wonderful to welcome Liz to the team. We still have plenty of work to do to improve gender balance in Southwark and to support women in their ministry. Her great passion and energy to work on issues of justice, one being gender, will bring fresh insight and inspiration to us as a team, and her pastoral skills will greatly benefit women in ministry in the Woolwich Area."

Liz added: "As soon as we think we have 'made it' we can become blind to the things that God still wants to



change in us, and injustice and exclusion slip off our agenda. I am old enough to have experienced the exclusion of women from all sorts of

Christ Church, Brixton Road mourns long-serving Vicar

The Revd Tim Jeffreys, Vicar of Christ Church, Brixton Road, died on 19 August.

Born in 1958 and ordained Deacon in 1986, Tim spent the bulk of his ministry in Southwark, after serving his curacy in the Diocese of Chelmsford.

Tim first joined Southwark as a self-supporting minister in St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth, before moving to St John the Baptist in Croydon. In 2006, he moved to Christ Church, Brixton Road, where he spent the remainder of his life, first as Priest-in-Charge and then, from 2012, as Vicar.

The Revd Canon Chris Moody, a long-standing friend, said: "Tim was a great colleague as well as friend. I think that his regard for the truth in ministry was something that was never going to make his path easy in it. He was willing to embrace the suffering that this entailed, and I hope that he knew, however obscurely, that in doing this he was participating in the ministry of Christ, our exemplar and our eternal High Priest, constantly ministering to us as we minister to others."

Chris added: "St Paul talks somewhere about how we enter more fully into Christ's sufferings in order that we may know the power of his resurrection and his victory over death – something he imparts to us in the depths of our weakness and occasions of despair that things will ever eventually come right. Some sow, and others reap the harvest. Tim was definitely a 'sower'."

Bishop Christopher said: "The Revd



Tim Jeffreys cared for the people of the parish of Christ Church, Brixton even during his last months of illness, before he was admitted to Trinity Hospice, where he died. His faithful and dedicated service to the local community and to the members of the congregation will be much missed.

"Whilst at Christ Church, Tim developed the Community of Christ the Servant, a group of people who have committed themselves to building a community that reflects the dynamic life of the Holy Spirit. This reflected his commitment to living out his faith in the community and encouraging others to do so too."

Bishop Richard said: "Tim served as a faithful, gracious and prayerful priest. He was deeply committed to his calling and his ministry was greatly valued by many in both the parish and the school. May he rest in peace and rise in glory."

Please remember Tim's family and all who mourn in your prayers. The funeral will be held at 11.00am on 9 September in Southwark Cathedral, and will be live-streamed.



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Finding a spiritual director

Please go to our website, www.spidir.org.uk, or contact Biddy Taylor (above)



IN FOCUS...

Life in lockdown

Mortlake parishioners take a holiday from lockdown



The Revd David Guest acts as compere for the Holiday at Home crowd.

For the past few years, the Parish of Mortlake and East Sheen has hosted Holiday at Home, a week of activities at All Saints, for older members of the community who cannot go away on holiday, writes Penny Cowell.

This year we realised early on we would have to offer a very different, scaled-down version so in July we had two tea parties for nine people each outside on the grass at All Saints Church.

Guests were brought by two buses belonging to our local neighbourhood care charity, FiSH, or made their own way and sat three to a table. There was light music on a portable piano as they arrived,

followed by a quiz. Local team vicar, David Guest (in disguise), acted as compere. Teas were plated up beforehand to prevent cross-contamination. Great care was taken to sanitise all equipment before and afterwards and even the pencils for the quiz were sanitised!

For many it was the first time they had seen their friends for four months and they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get out and chat. Both days we were blessed with good weather and a light breeze.

Thanks to a donation from Waitrose we have a healthy balance to go over to next year when we hope to host a very special full week of activities as usual.

St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth's cross for all seasons



The cross outside St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common, has helped sustain the congregation and local community throughout lockdown with its visual impact and invitation to prayer.

Each important date on the church calendar has been commemorated with new decorations.

Pictured left is the cross dressed with bright sunflowers and the message, "Sunflowers turn their face to the Sun. Christians follow their faith to the Son."

Lights, camera, action at St Francis, Monks Hill



The Revd Peter Wyatt (right) lines up a video camera on its "dolly" or wheelable tripod in preparation for live-streaming a service at St Francis, Monks Hill. Also pictured is Yemi Oseni, one of the Churchwardens in the parish.

Seeing 'agape' at work in Holy Trinity with St Matthew



Volunteers sort clothes donations at Holy Trinity with St Matthew.

When families with no access to resources started arriving at Holy Trinity with St Matthew, Southwark, during lockdown, the Revd Hugo Adán Fernández knew that something had to be done.

"It's something we call *agape*," Hugo said. "It's the social service of the parish, which we created out of nothing during the Coronavirus crisis because plenty of people were knocking at our doors and saying, 'I have nothing, I don't have money, I'm not working, I don't have food.'"

St Matthew's is Southwark's first bilingual parish, catering mostly for a Latino congregation. The people who were turning up at their door were also Latino, migrants who had been in the UK less than six months. Because they had little or no English and an unclear legal status, they could not access Government support.

In response, some 20 volunteers set to work. "At the beginning it was just providing food, but now it is also clothes and we have started to offer legal

advice, practical English, all these kinds of things," said Hugo. "We started with about 50 people and now we are helping more than 300 families every week.

The parish has also been providing a summer camp for the children of these families together with the Mayor's Fund for London.

Every Monday and Saturday from the last week in July to the end of August, some 30 children gathered at St Matthew's to meet and play.

"We did all sorts of activities with the children," said Hugo. "The team of volunteers planned activities: play, do a little bit of sport, but also time to relax, have fun. We also ran lessons on how to cook healthily, and had a meal with them."

Hugo was keen to stress that all of this was possible not by the clergy's doing, but because of St Matthew's dedicated volunteers. "In this," he said, "the clergy are not the main people, I am just here to help them. It is the lay leaders of the Latino congregation who are amazing."

Why going digital helped spread hope in Battersea

“Hope is the key to get what you need.” “Continue to support and appreciate our NHS.” “Just. Strong. Free.”

These are some of the messages of hope created during lockdown for the #HopeInNineElms project, led by the Revd Betsy Blatchley, Pioneer Minister of the Arts in Nine Elms, Battersea.

The project was originally intended to be part of a series of pop-up events in the area from Holy Week to Pentecost, culminating in an installation of postcards. When lockdown came, Betsy took the project online instead. “We came up with an idea to do something that was a digital project but also allowed people to get creative at home,” she said.

Schools, local artists and people from the community were urged to create “Hope” squares, which could be shared on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. The finished artworks could then be displayed in people’s windows.

The project launched on 8 May with a few artworks designed by local artists. After that, contributions were posted online nearly every day until mid-August.

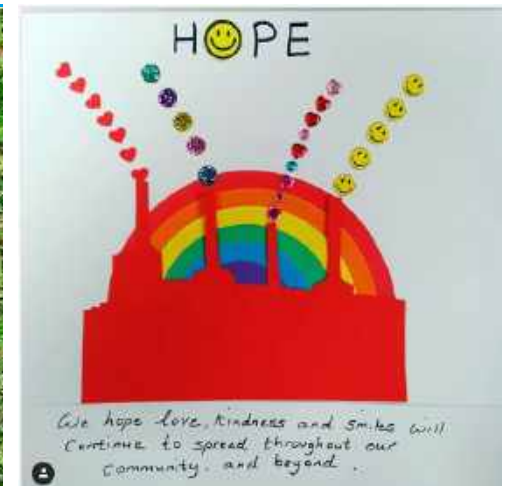
“We’ve had poems, self-portrait silhouettes with words of hope, we even had hope as an elephant made out of plastic milk bottles. So it’s been really, really varied,” said Betsy.

And it’s not just about the people who create the art, she added: “I’ve had messages from people saying, ‘I’ve found it really inspiring, seeing all of these’ and

“We’ve had poems, self-portraits, we even had hope as an elephant made out of plastic milk bottles”

it’s enabled us to connect with a much greater cross-section of our community.”

At the same time, the Nine Elms Arts Ministry has been working on creating a pop song themed around hope. The lyrics were created by a group of 24 local choir members and artists from the Nine Elms arts community at Zoom workshops led by Dan Swana, Music Director of Battersea Power Station Community Choir; Dan is composing the music. The plan is to record the finished song and



release it with an animated music video showcasing many of the Hope artworks.

To see more of the artworks, search for #HopeInNineElms on Instagram or Twitter, or visit: www.hopeinnineelms.com

Artwork created by (clockwise from top left): Shakeel Rabbaney; Luke M Walker; Rachael, Battersea Park Library’s children’s librarian; and Megan Kash.

How Christ Church, Gipsy Hill took its Open Doors ethos into the community

When Coronavirus closed the doors on Christ Church, Gipsy Hill’s Open Door project on 17 March, the team decided to change their approach.

Instead of welcoming in Open Door’s regular visitors for morning tea and cake, the team took the food to the community. On 29 April, they began to deliver meals to the doors of those who were struggling to put food on the table.

Thanks to the help of the Friends of Gipsy Hill, who quickly organised a grant of £5,000 courtesy of United St Saviour’s Charity Southwark, Christ Church was able to fund the provision of meals during the COVID-19 lockdown. “That encouraged us and enabled us to offer the service twice weekly,” said the Revd Jonathan Croucher, Vicar at Christ Church.

Very quickly the team was delivering between 50 and 60 meals twice a week; to date, more than 1,500 meals have been distributed.

Through the Friends of Gipsy Hill, they also developed a relationship with Sainsbury’s Upper Norwood to collect leftover fresh bread – “fairly consistently about 50kg of bread a day,” says Jonathan. They then delivered this



to the Brixton and Norwood Food Bank warehouse in Streatham, and to the COVID-19 Food Bank on the Kingswood Estate.

Jonathan added: “Danielle, our regular Open Door cook and coordinator of the Magnolia Club, our drop-in for people with dementia and their carers, and Ina are the core kitchen team and they shop, prepare and cook the food.

“We are also very grateful to Janet Boyce and Josh Klein who, with Emma Lowth our curate, have coordinated the administration of the Open Door Kitchen, and led the team of volunteers who delivered the meals to the doorstep in accordance with best practice social distancing.”

The deacon and the “Twiddle Muff”

The life of a Deacon is never dull, writes the Revd Capt Paul Fitzpatrick, Assistant Curate in the parish of South Beddington and Roundshaw.

Three years ago, while on a theological college placement in the Diocese of Leeds, I had the honour of serving in a weekly group of people who were living with dementia. At the end of the placement, I was given a “Twiddle Muff”, which calms and focuses the mind by allowing you to focus on one thing: twiddling your thumbs. It often benefits those who have suffered a stroke, or who have Alzheimer’s or dementia.

Recently, I visited a parishioner whose partner had died suddenly. Their bereavement was compounded by the fact that they were experiencing memory loss. I decided to bring my “Twiddle Muff” to see if it could help. I also brought a video message from the leader of the lunch club this person attends.

When I showed this parishioner the video message, the person delivering it was immediately familiar to them. In placing an image in the parishioner’s mind of where they had attended



lunch club previously, it allowed me to build trust.

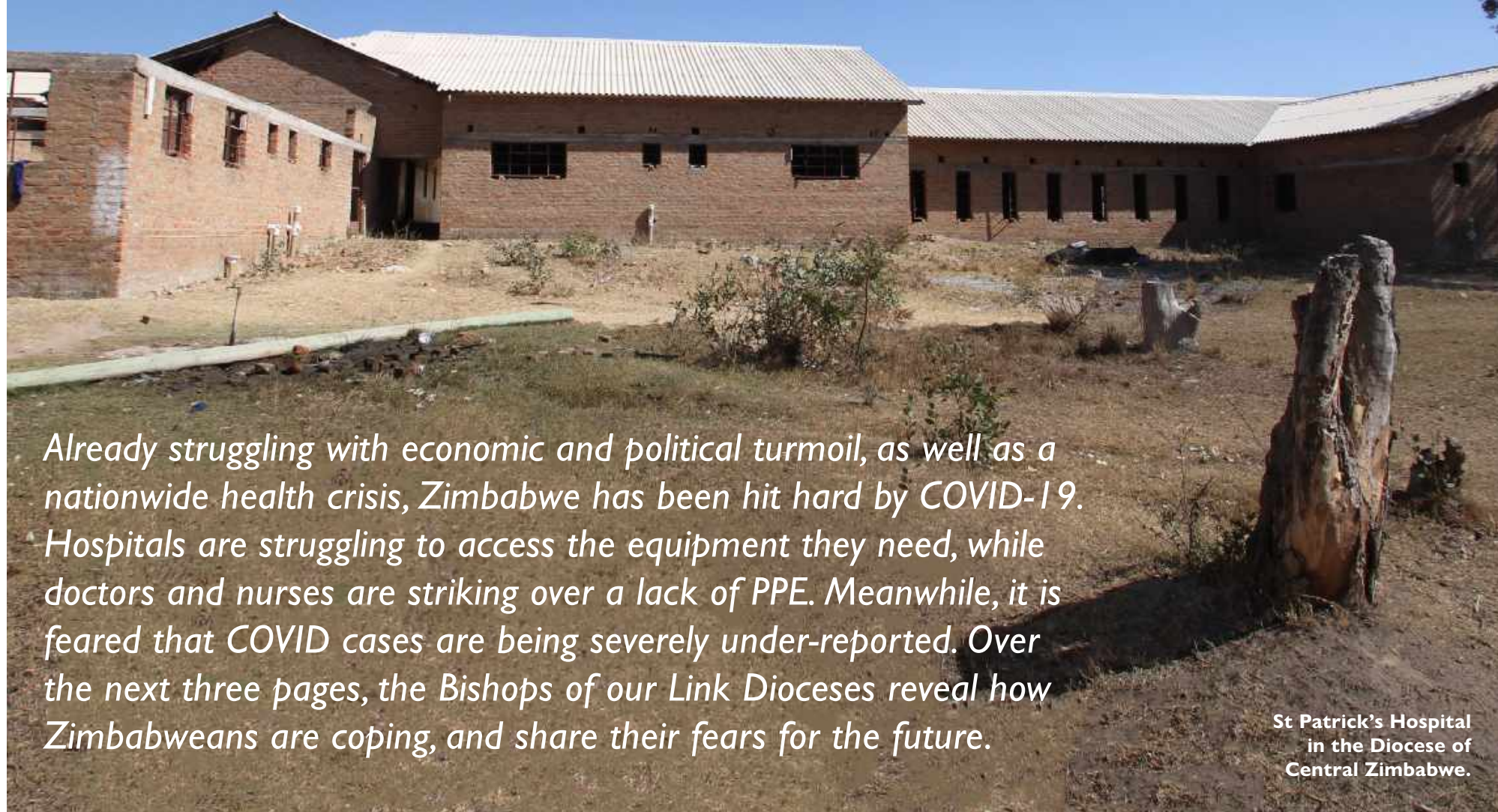
I offered my parishioner the “Twiddle Muff” as a gift, and I explained how it could be used. It was lovely that, over the next 20 minutes or so, we twiddled and remembered, we twiddled and prayed, and we twiddled and discovered that the person who died was with God.

Memories are so precious, often we take them for granted. It is in the experience of remembering in situations like this that I have learned how important it is to create innovative moments for others to enter into their grief and find hope in the midst of the wilderness of bereavement.



IN FOCUS...
Zimbabwe

Life under lockdown in Zimbabwe



Already struggling with economic and political turmoil, as well as a nationwide health crisis, Zimbabwe has been hit hard by COVID-19. Hospitals are struggling to access the equipment they need, while doctors and nurses are striking over a lack of PPE. Meanwhile, it is feared that COVID cases are being severely under-reported. Over the next three pages, the Bishops of our Link Dioceses reveal how Zimbabweans are coping, and share their fears for the future.

St Patrick's Hospital
in the Diocese of
Central Zimbabwe.

Diocese of Central Zimbabwe

In the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, we are in the middle of a severe crisis, writes Bishop Ignatios.

Like everyone else in the world, the Coronavirus pandemic has brought changes in our lives. We are trying to cope and make progress. While others may be running to the hills to hide, we remain in the field working.

We have opened our church buildings for worship and we are happy with the response from our parishioners. The financial support



from congregates is dwindling by the day as the economic challenges continue to bite hard.

We continue to be innovative in order to support the Church. The gold processing plant (visited by Bishop Christopher last year, left) started working in July 2020, Glory to God. We have planted 72,000 seeds of garlic, with the harvest due in October. We have vegetables we are selling – so far we have sold 543 small bundles of rape and covo. The Mothers' Union harvested one ton of sweet potatoes.

We have also partnered with a local foundation which manufactures sanitary ware. The Church is marketing the products, and the individuals who are doing the direct sales are getting a commission, thus empowering them. This is very helpful to our disadvantaged women and girls.

The Diocese of Central Zimbabwe believes in being self-sustaining, hence the initiatives to ensure that the Church remains afloat financially during this time of lockdown.

Matabeleland Diocese struggles to respond to illegal settlers as well as Coronavirus

Cyrene Mission, lying 30km to the south of Bulawayo, was established by Canon Edward Paterson in 1939 on two farms donated by John Banks in 1936, writes Bishop Cleophas.

Driven by a desire from an early stage to provide an institution where the local populace could be nurtured to become self-reliant, Cyrene Mission became reputable in Arts and Crafts with a purely African flair. The mission's chapel with its murals depicting the nativity was granted National Monument status by the government of the day in 1987.

Two more farms, Irene and Collaton, adjoining the mission station were donated in 1938 to constitute Cyrene Farm. Documentation to this effect is on file. Part of the consolidated farm – that is, Irene Farm – was erroneously gazetted by the Government for acquisition on 14 November 2014, creating far-reaching implications for the educational institution holding around 650 staff and students in Forms 1-6, a farming enterprise in cattle ranching (above right) with a 250-strong herd and cropping, and a clinic serving not only the mission but also the local farming community inclusive of the illegal settlers at the moment.

The Diocese has persistently sought the reversal of the gazettement, which it believes was not consonant with land acquisition norms on church properties. From the initial 60 families who had been resettled by the Government, the number of illegal settlers has ballooned to more than 500 families encroaching on Collaton and Klipspring Farms, the remainder of Cyrene Farm. This development poses a very serious threat to human life, the educational institution, medical clinic and farming enterprise. There is rampant deforestation, stock theft, degradation of pasture and water sources, illegal mining



activities, unwarranted human traffic creating a serious security and health threat given the present deadly pandemic.

Every effort has been undertaken to engage relevant Government ministries to no avail. The Diocese has been left with not much of a choice but to undertake the very costly and time-consuming legal route in an effort to bring normalcy to the situation. In the present economic stranglehold, the Diocese reels under serious financial constraints to pursue these matters and attain the desired outcomes.

Notice served: an update on the situation at Cyrene Farm

More than 500 illegal settlers at the Anglican Church-owned Cyrene Farm in Figtree, Matabeleland South, were on Wednesday served with a 2003 High Court order directing them to vacate the property within seven days, writes Albert Sibanda, who works in sustainability for the Diocese of Matabeleland.

The order, granted by High Court judge Justice George Chiweshe, reads: "The respondents and any persons claiming through them, as well as other persons presently in unlawful occupation of Cyrene Farm, Figtree, be and are hereby ordered to vacate Cyrene Farm together with all their property and possessions immediately upon service of this order, failing which the deputy sheriff of Bulawayo with the assistance of officer-in-charge Figtree are hereby authorised and directed to evict the respondents."

Church authorities had become increasingly concerned about the new wave of invasions as settlers were encroaching onto the church's school grounds. Officials said that if the settlers did not leave the farm, a forced ejection would be conducted in accordance with the court order.

Farm workers and church officials said that, of late, the invasions had escalated, with settlers allegedly vandalising fencing material and destroying the environment as they panned for gold.

Church authorities recently appealed to President Emmerson Mnangagwa to intervene and stop what they described as lawlessness and wanton illegal occupation of Cyrene Farm. Matabeleland South police spokesperson Chief Inspector Philisani Ndebele recently urged the Church to secure a court order so that police could assist them with evictions.



LET US PRAY

SEPTEMBER

The prayer this month is by the Revd Lindiwe Maseko, Assistant Clergy in the Ravensbourne Team Ministry and originally from Zimbabwe.

Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless and protect all your children in Zimbabwe. We ask that, by your Holy Spirit, you would transform the leaders so that they are Christ-like; we ask that your healing hand will be upon all the communities, especially at this time of the pandemic, and that you grant them your peace that surpasses all understanding.

Lord, we pray for people affected by poverty and hunger across the country.

We lift up to you our Link Dioceses. We pray for Bishop Ignatios in Central Zimbabwe; Bishop Erick in Manicaland; Bishop Cleophas in Matabeleland; Bishop Godfrey in Masvingo; and all their clergy and people. Amen.



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

Diocese of Masvingo

There is a political and socio-economic crisis in Zimbabwe, writes Bishop Godfrey.

The economy continues to deteriorate with the inflation rate at more than 800%. There is also a high rate of unemployment. Poverty is widespread and many people are in need of food aid.

In the Diocese of Masvingo, the Clergy and the Faithful continue to grapple with the new normal. Those in the rural areas find it difficult to acquire thermometers for taking temperatures, hand sanitisers and properly made face masks. I wrote a circular to churches in the Diocese encouraging strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines by both Clergy and the Faithful.

In September, I will visit the Clergy in their respective Archdeaconries, to listen as they share their experiences since the beginning of the pandemic. I, together with the Clergy, will try to find solutions to the challenges, and will take this opportunity to pray with the Clergy, give words of encouragement and explain the importance of observing COVID-19 protocols. I am unable to hold virtual meetings with my Clergy since most of them do not have such facilities.

Ordinations, which were postponed because of the pandemic, will be held sometime towards the end of the year if conditions are favourable. As of now, confirmation services have been cancelled until



The Transfiguration Training Centre, pictured in 2019.

such time as the Government relaxes some COVID-19 restrictions.

There is general concern about the lack of preparedness of schools to resume lessons in September amid COVID-19. Most of our Diocesan schools are yet to make adequate preparations in terms of the

availability of clean, soapy water, alcohol-based hand sanitisers, face masks, disinfection of furniture and common surfaces, and the acquisition of thermometers for taking temperatures.

The pandemic has worsened the financial situation of the Diocese. The situation has been aggravated by some service providers who are demanding payment in US dollars. Petrol and diesel is also being sold in US dollars in most of the service stations.

We cherish the partnership that exists between Masvingo Diocese and Southwark Cathedral. We are very grateful for your prayers and support. You are also in our thoughts and prayers.



Zimbabwe's bright stars shine over London

An exhibition of paintings by students at the Cyrene Mission is on show in Shoreditch. The Dean of Southwark Cathedral, Andrew Nunn, tells the story of how they came to be there

We had some great plans at the Cathedral and in the Diocese for the time when the Lambeth Conference was happening.

Like many things, the Conference has been a victim of the pandemic (although it will be taking place in 2022, God willing) and so what we were hoping to do, as we welcomed guests from around the Anglican Communion, had to be scrapped. Part of what we were planning was related to the hospitality we were to offer to the bishops from Zimbabwe.

The word "serendipity" is a great one and it is amazing how often it seems appropriate in life. But we might want to call it God's surprising grace. And it was that which was apparent when I was invited to a meeting with a white Zimbabwean now living in London. He wanted to show me a collection of paintings that he had purchased. They were the work of students



"The colours and stylised forms speak of the beauty of Zimbabwe and the faith of these young people"

at the Cyrene Mission near Bulawayo in the Diocese of Matabeleland.

The 40 students, whose work is represented in the collection of paintings, produced the most incredible pictures. We agreed that the paintings should be brought to Southwark and exhibited in the Cathedral for the visit of our guests from Zimbabwe and others coming to the Lambeth Conference.

Whilst the Conference didn't happen, the



Top: Tree Flowers by Barnabus Chiponza (1945). Above: The Stars Are Bright by Musa Nyahwa (1945) Credit: Debbie Sears.

exhibition has, albeit not in the Cathedral but in the Theatre Courtyard Green Rooms in Shoreditch. It is titled *The Stars Are Bright*, and is free for anyone to attend.

And the pictures? They are vibrant, exciting, exhilarating. The colours and the stylised forms speak of the beauty of Zimbabwe and the faith of these young people. You cannot fail to be impressed by both the naïve style and the professional skill, the eye to capturing the essence of what they were seeing and the vision that underlay it. We are grateful to the Belvedere Trust for making the exhibition possible, and free. And the owner of the pictures wishes to take them back to Zimbabwe where they belong!

'The Stars Are Bright' is running at the Theatre Courtyard Green Rooms, 36 Bateman's Row, Shoreditch, London EC2A 3HH, until 30 September. Entrance is free but you must book a ticket in advance. You can book a place here: www.thestarsarebright.com/book-now/

Diocese of Manicaland

The health delivery system is hugely affected especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, writes Bishop Erick.

Doctors and nurses and many other paramedical staff have been on strike since March 2020 complaining about poor remuneration and lack of basic PPE. Most of the COVID-19 cases who need hospitalisation are dying because no one is willing to offer help in the hospitals because of the associated risk.

The Diocese recently lost its Vicar General, the Venerable Enrosi Hwata, who was admitted to Rusape General Hospital with COVID-19 symptoms. He was provided only with oxygen and limited health care because of a shortage of staff. Our people in the Diocese now live in fear because the hospitals are ill-equipped.



"Our people in the Diocese now live in fear because the hospitals are ill-equipped"

Uncertainty about the duration and severity of the virus spread remains high, given that the nation's health delivery system is compromised. Mission hospitals have been overwhelmed. Their sense of calling has led many staff to continue to serve even without adequate PPE. Unfortunately, our financial situation as a Diocese precludes us from assisting our health institutions but, with the help of the Diocese of Southwark and our partners, we have procured some PPE for all our health institutions.

Zimbabwe is also facing an economic crisis, further worsened by the pandemic. In 2019, we were hit by severe drought and Cyclone Idai. That, coupled with shortages of foreign currency, led to double-digit contraction of agriculture, electricity and water production, and pushed more



than half the population into food insecurity. Prices of goods and services went up drastically while salaries did not increase.

The economic outlook has worsened in 2020 because of persistent climate shocks and domestic vulnerabilities worsened by COVID-19. The pandemic has negatively affected exports, tourism and manufacturing, deepening the economic crisis.

The Church is not spared the economic and social quagmire. Churches are closed, schools are closed, projects are under pressure.

Our Diocese depends on income from schools and churches to finance its budget. However, since lockdown the schools have been closed and there is no clue on how the costs incurred by the schools are going to be recovered. By law, they are obliged to continue paying staff salaries but they are not receiving any income. We are really in a bad situation as a Diocese, as our clergy and staff have not been receiving any income or stipends for the past five months.

If it were not for the economic crisis, we could have been engaging in other income-generating projects but the environment is volatile and the markets for our piggery project compromised. Our wish and prayer is that the Government allows meaningful dialogue and engages stakeholders for a better Zimbabwe.

Bishop's Lent Call

The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call in 2020 has been raising money to support projects in each of our Link Dioceses.

For more information on the projects, and how to give, please visit the Diocesan Lent Call page at: southwark.anglican.org/lentcall





IN FOCUS...
News from the Diocese

Construction and baking: all in a day's work for our clergy

Wednesday 5 August was a busy day for the **Revd Canon Michael Rawson**, whose official engagements began with blessing a drill for the **Tideway construction project** before heading back to **Borough Market** to mark **Lammas Day**.



Michael first went to Tideway's Chambers Wharf site in Bermondsey, on the banks of the Thames, to bless a giant tunnel boring machine (TBM).

spiritual care to vulnerable local women and children, and remains a charity today under the name Mission Care.

This TBM, known as Selina, will create the final 5.5km stretch of London's new super sewer. She recently arrived in Bermondsey by river, and will begin the final part of her journey towards Abbey Mill Pumping Station later this year.

Once Selina had received the Southwark stamp of approval, it was back to Borough Market for Michael, where he arrived – slightly out of breath – to celebrate Lammas Day in association with Bread Ahead bakery.

"Huge thanks to the Tideway team for their hospitality when I visited to bless the workforce and TBM Selina at Chambers Wharf," said Michael.

The service began by processing through the market (above), before moving into the Cathedral to mark the blessing of the first fruits of the Harvest.

Selina is named after Dr Selina Fox, who founded the Bermondsey Medical Mission in 1904. This provided medical and

Watch the whole service at: bit.ly/LammasDay

New head of Discipleship and Ministry appointed

The Revd Canon Wendy S Robins has been appointed the new **Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Development**, replacing the **Revd Canon Mandy Ford**, who is leaving the Diocese to become **Dean of Bristol**.

Wendy, currently the Director of

Press & Communications and Bishop's Press Officer, said of her new role: "It is a pleasure and privilege to be moving to serve the Diocese in this new way and to continue to work to help implement the Southwark Vision."

Wendy will take up the position once a new Director of Press & Communications has been appointed.

Santa comes early to Southwark Cathedral



The **Garry Weston Library** in Southwark Cathedral played host to the **Ministry of Fun Santa School** on **26 August**, as budding **St Nicks** undertook training on "How to do Christmas safely in a pandemic".

Bishop Christopher invites clergy to mark VJ Day

On **Saturday 15 August** at **11.00am**, **Bishop Christopher** invited clergy, **Readers** and **parishioners** in the **Diocese** to join him in marking the **75th anniversary of VJ Day** with prayer and reflection. "It is appropriate that we reflect

upon the peace that was wrought in such a costly manner, remembering with gratitude those who made great sacrifices during the **Second World War** in defence of our liberties and freedoms," he said.

Bishop Graham Kings moves to pastures new



The **Rt Revd Graham Kings**, **Honorary Assistant Bishop in Southwark Diocese** (left), joined the **St James and St Anne, Bermondsey** Sunday service on **12 July** for the last time, as the **Revd Canon Gary Jenkins**, **Priest-in-Charge**, quizzed him about his retirement plans for the **Diocese of Ely**.

St Stephen, South Dulwich reopens with a musical flourish

In the middle of lockdown, just as churches were reopening for private prayer, I got a phone call from double bassist **Lynda Houghton**, writes the **Revd Canon Bernhard Schunemann**, **Vicar of St Stephen, South Dulwich**.

Lynda, the principal double bass player for the orchestra of the **Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields**, said that her fellow orchestra members had been locked into their homes without being able to practise

together for months, and they were longing to play together again. So I invited them to use **St Stephen's** for some experimental rehearsals and recordings.



As a thank you for the trust that **St Stephen's** had placed in them, the orchestra (left) offered to play some concerts at the first possible opportunity. This they did on **Sunday 23 August**, using a new format for **St Stephen's**

which can be summed up as "shorter and more local".

Trusting that **Government** rules would allow us to go ahead, we put on two concerts, each about an hour in length and with children and young people able to

attend free of charge. The building was risk assessed, and pews were thoroughly cleaned between concerts. Attendees, just like our congregation at the moment, were able to follow the programme on their smartphones.

The programme contained music by **Mozart**, **Glazunov** and **Britten**, and the orchestra was kind enough to include *Fratres* by **Arvo Pärt**, who is a friend of our family. This work is a profoundly spiritual piece of music reflecting the power of divinely redeemed humanity.



IN FOCUS...

News from Diocesan Synod

Despite Coronavirus, the Diocese's work goes on

The Southwark Diocesan Synod took place virtually for the first time on Wednesday 8 July, writes Wendy S Robins, Director of Press and Communications and Bishop's Press Officer.

Despite the new meeting format, the agenda followed its usual pattern beginning with welcoming new members: Wendy Stephens (right), the new Diocesan SPA, and Jon Baldwin, the Deputy Registrar for the Diocese.

The Warden of Readers, Ray Wheeler, then spoke about what he would be doing "This Time Tomorrow", after which the Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Rosemarie Mallett, led the Synod in prayer.

Amongst the announcements and notices given by Adrian Greenwood, Chair of the House of Laity, was the news that Hugh Constant had been appointed as the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. The press release concerning this can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y32gnpya>

"The Diocesan Secretary stressed that it was important that the Diocese continued to invest in the Southwark Vision"

It was also noted that Jackie Pontin, the Director of Strategic and Operational Projects, was to be the new Deputy Diocesan Secretary.

Bishop Christopher then gave his Presidential Address, which can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yyqc3pwd>

The Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Alan Saunders, introduced the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 2019, and spoke of the praise we had received for them from the auditors. The Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, and the Director of Finance, Tony Demby, presented the Report and Accounts which had been unanimously approved by the Diocesan Council of Trustees (DCT). A copy can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5nx9j2m>

The Diocesan Synod formally received



the Annual Report by a unanimous electronic vote.

Ruth Martin and Tony Demby went on to speak about the impact of COVID-19 on the budget and offered a revised budget for 2020. Ruth stressed that it was important that the Diocese continued to invest in the Southwark Vision as well as the importance of high standards of financial management. Bishop Christopher thanked parishes for their endeavours and the finance team for their care and dedication.

Adrian Greenwood moved a motion asking Synod to approve the new model rules for Deaneries. The Synod approved them with one abstention in an electronic vote. A letter and a copy of the Deanery Model Rules were to be circulated in due course to Deaneries for them to formally adopt themselves.

Rosemarie Mallett then took the Chair and invited Philip Fletcher, Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), to move the amended DAC Constitution which had been approved by the DAC and the DCT. It specifically includes reference to the Southwark Vision and Southwark as an Eco-Diocese. Synod approved the motion unanimously. Philip Fletcher reminded Synod that there were two vacancies on the DAC: one for a clergy member of Diocesan Synod and one for a lay member and he encouraged members to offer themselves to serve.

After the formal questions, which can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5q2qnff>, Bishop Christopher asked Paul Morris, the retiring Registrar, to say a few words before closing the meeting in prayer.

"I'm proud to say this is my child's school": St Mary's CoE Primary, Lewisham, shines during lockdown

St Mary's CoE Primary School, situated in the heart of Lewisham, put community at the heart of all that they do, writes Christine Bernard, Headteacher.

St Mary's school vision states that it wants to "be a learning community that promotes the well-being of every person" and this has never been more necessary than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school was quick to form a Learning Hub with a local Roman Catholic School, St Saviour's, remaining open during the height of the crisis to teach the children of key workers and providing an emergency service for workers at Lewisham Hospital.

Children at the Learning Hub created a colourful rainbow banner in support of NHS workers, which was displayed on Lewisham High Street, opposite the hospital (top right).

Families in need have been supported with laptop loans to support learning, as well as play packs and emergency food parcels. Existing community links have been maintained as the children have sent cards to a local home for elderly residents and Lewisham Hospital.

In addition, working in partnership with Lewisham Citizens and Citizens UK, the school has been able to distribute food parcels, fresh and frozen meals to many families in need. So far, more than 100 food parcels (centre right) and 300 meals (bottom right) have been given out.



Parents have also been supported with clothing, furniture, travel and housing. All the support has been gratefully received. As one parent stated, "I'm proud of you all and proud that St Mary's is my child's school."

Much-loved teacher retires from St Matthew's Primary



Debbie Stubbington retired this summer after 41 years as a teacher at St Matthew's CoE Primary in Surbiton. "Ordinarily, we would have loved to throw her a party but were unable to in these socially distanced times," said Wendy Teece, Office Manager at the school. "We would like to thank her for her dedication and wonderful teaching over the years and assure her that she will be very much missed."

Debbie is pictured, above, with children in her bubble. They are pointing at her trainers, which boast a pattern of the children's design.



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Everyday faith

Seasoning life as the salt of the Earth

Marcia Grant-Che, Reader at St George, Waddon, reflects on her journey through lockdown

For me, lockdown started the week of 20 April as I came out of hospital having had lip surgery.

So much was happening at work, church and home. As a Christian and a Reader, I was asking myself what God needed of me in that situation and how I could use my gifts from God. I was still expected to work as a teacher and course team leader from home, managing and teaching more than 40 young people and three teachers. This was indeed going to be challenging as we were expected to communicate using a range of platforms: Zoom, Skype, the list went on.

Students were still expected to achieve their qualifications using remote assessment methods; course team leaders were also expected to set targets for teams and students. I believe it was my faith in God, my church family, my training as a Reader and my family that supported me during the most difficult times.

I had been praying for my local community and those I knew who were struggling to make ends meet. I was aware that families with children were only leaving their homes to go shopping for food. Then I found out that some of them had lost their jobs, or their salaries were cut, and the money that was coming in could only cover the basic bills. Another factor was that, with the children at home, this meant



there was more pressure on parents to provide food.

One of my friends got involved in the FareShare food waste project, which works with local supermarkets to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to local communities. I helped to do some of the deliveries in Chipstead and Coulsdon, then started my own FareShare registration in Waddon and Croydon.

My family and I have now been sorting and delivering food for 14 weeks and have delivered more than 98 food parcels. I have been able to go out and listen on the doorsteps and share the love of God.

The truth is, some families will never set foot in a church building for all sorts of reasons and others are of other faiths! So, I asked myself how I and my family could bring church to these people.

When I reflect on the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, he says: "You are the salt of the Earth. You are the light of the world." Salt helps to prevent decay, to establish peace and justice (salt is both a preservative and a fertiliser). To hear Christ speak specifically about salt, I understand my calling as a person of influence in my workplace, my home and my community, showing the way and helping people to see in the very dark places of life.

Being on people's doorsteps gives me, as a lay minister, the opportunity not just to listen and pray for the concerns of the community, but to represent the Church of the body of Christ. Lay ministers are uniquely paced to enable this work to flourish.

WAGOLL: What a Good One Looks Like

A good enabler of mission teaches everyday faith; models everyday prayer; encourages everyday witness; and sustains everyday action.

The Central Readers' Council

St Mary, Lewisham garden bears new kind of fruit



The therapeutic garden at St Mary the Virgin, Lewisham, has blossomed since lockdown.

It has been a haven for the local community, sometimes with more than 100 people using it in a day.

However, one thing seemed to be missing. Reader Marion Watson said: "We were concerned that many of the people using it supposed it was a garden run by the council. They didn't seem to realise that it was connected to the church. So, to try and make our Christian heritage more obvious, we decided to create a Prayer Tree."

The Revd Steffan Mathias, formerly the curate at St Mary's, helped to make this idea a reality. After his final service at St Mary's in August, a few parishioners joined him in the garden, where he blessed the tree and tied on the first ribbon as he prayed.

Marion added: "It's his legacy to us, and we're really grateful. It was a very simple ceremony, but one by which we'll always remember him."

Unravelling the mysteries of Revelation with Bishop David Atkinson

The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ: Meditations on Themes from the Book of Revelation

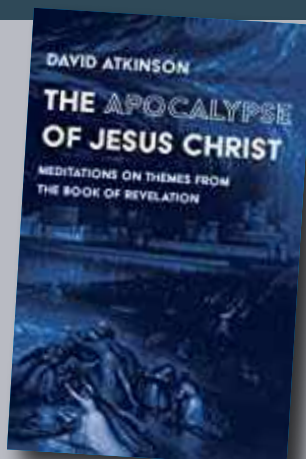
By the Rt Revd David Atkinson
(Wipf and Stock, 2020, 124 pages)

At a time when all sorts of godless "empires" tempt us to put other gods in the place of Jesus Christ, when it seems easier to fit in with the culture of the day, how do believers hold on to the Christian faith? Where is God's Kingdom? These are just some of the questions we grapple with as we struggle to stay strong in our witness to God in today's world.

Last year, Churches Together in Sanderstead were treated to a series of meditations for Lent by Bishop David Atkinson on themes

from the book of Revelation. For five weeks we were taken on a tour of the images and symbols set out in this letter to the early churches, written by John in exile on Patmos around 95AD at a time when Christians faced persecution under the oppressive Roman Empire.

Bishop David has further developed this series of addresses and published a book, *The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ*. In his typical approachable, analytical style, Bishop David communicates



the essence of John's message: despite trials and tribulations, keep hold of your faith, keep the vision of the crucified and risen Lamb of God always in front of you; follow him wherever he goes; rest your hope in the faithfulness and promise of God.

This is an immensely encouraging and practical book, which debunks some of the misunderstandings of this apocalyptic prophecy. For anyone struggling to fathom the mysteries of Revelation, this small book makes an excellent read.

Jeremy Groombridge



Linking Lives UK & Together Southwark invite you to...

COFFEE WITH TWO'S COMPANY

Wednesday
23 September 2020
10.30am on Zoom

Join us to hear how we could partner with your church to reach the lonely and isolated.
Sign up through Eventbrite:
bit.ly/TwoCompanySouthwark



“Virtual ministry featured in my interview – but not nearly as much as it has in practice!”

One of the casualties of the Coronavirus restrictions has been the licensing of clergy to new roles, with this vital part of the Church's work looking very different over the past few months of lockdown.

Some clergy have been licensed over Zoom; more lately, others have been able to enter their churches but with strict rules on numbers and social distancing. Yet these occasions have been no less joyful for all that.

Bishop Christopher said: “Licensing begins a new journey for the parish and the priest as they seek to serve their local communities and share the Good News together. Despite it not being possible for people to gather in person, I was glad to be able to license these priests virtually and there was a surprising spiritual depth to these joyful occasions. I am pleased to commend their hopes for their new ministries to you as we pray that what God has begun will bear much fruit.”

Here, we share the thoughts and hopes for their new ministries of 10 clergy licensed since March.

Egerton Gbonda,
Priest-in-Charge:
St Katharine with
St Bartholomew,
Bermondsey



“It is my prayer and hope to build on the ministry and mission foundation that have been laid by all at St Katharine with St Bartholomew Church; it is all about MORE: maximising our real efforts.

“More means more small ventures into various communities, to bring about stronger and lasting Christian presence in those places; more individual church members growing through regular personal prayer, Bible study and taking initiatives and diligent efforts to reach out to their neighbourhood with the love of Christ; more community members using the church as their spiritual home; and more initiatives taken to make our church space a hub for family and community engagement as well as a space for worship.”

Grant Bolton-Debbage, Vicar: All Saints, Hatcham Park

“This has not been the easiest year to move to a new parish and carve out a ministry, but the opportunities to serve seem more prevalent than ever and I am looking forward to working alongside the local community to bring even more light and life to the vibrant parish of All Saints, New Cross!”



James Njue,
Priest-in-Charge:
St Jude with St Aidan,
Thornton Heath

“I am glad to have been licensed as Priest-in-Charge at St Jude with St Aidan. I look forward to serving the community here in Thornton Heath as we walk and grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. My hope is that our ministry would inspire hope as well as affirm the love of Christ to all in this community.”



Yunghee Koh,
Associate Priest:
St Luke, Battersea

“In my new ministry, my hope is to be able to harness the technological advances we have made as a church during this recent period and integrate them into our ‘new normal’ and future ministry.”



Helena Whittaker,
Priest-in-Charge: St John
the Divine, Earlsfield

“I am very excited to have joined the congregation of St John the Divine and look forward to journeying with them as we discover what God has in store for this next chapter, as we share God's love with the community and as we grow in faith.”



Heather Peters,
Interim Minister: St Peter,
Norbiton

“I am working with the people of St Peter, Norbiton, whose Vicar sadly died at the beginning of lockdown, as an Interim Minister until Easter 2021. I am looking to give them space to grieve and support as they move to advertising for their next Vicar.”



John Carruthers,
Priest-in-Charge:
St Paul, Newington

Zoom, WhatsApp and YouTube have been my tools of ministry these last few months after being licensed right at the start of lockdown (by Zoom!). As much as I'm savouring more face-to-face contact as restrictions are eased, our team realises that our reach has been extended by technology and we plan to develop these new ways of connecting with the parish.



The Revd Steffan Mathias,
Priest-in-Charge: St Peter, Streatham

“I was licensed at St Peter's at the end of July. All the plans I thought I had for starting a new ministry have gone out the window because of COVID-19, but it's been a chance to slow down and look at things differently and I'm increasingly grateful for that.

“The focus is really trying to hold the congregation and the worship before God so that we can begin to make the most of the new normal, while at the same time moving slowly enough that everything is safe and we can give people confidence to return. I think the season for actively reaching out to the wider parish will come, probably next year, but there is a humbling acceptance that right now this time we've been given is a time to build relationships and heal the trauma of lockdown.”



The Revd Jane Petrie,
Team Vicar: East Greenwich Team Ministry

“At my interview in January, virtual ministry featured strongly – but not nearly as strongly as it has proved in practice, during a first few months dominated by Zoom, Instagram, Facebook and iMovie. As lockdown eases, the virtual still features heavily, but the Prayer Space (the multifaith community space which we oversee) is gradually re-opening, Zoom gatherings are slowly giving way to parks and roof terraces, and I remain excited and hopeful about what God is going to do here.”



Sandra Schloss,
Priest-in-Charge:
St Luke, Camberwell

“My hopes for the future are to make St Luke's a place the community can feel is theirs and to be a welcoming place for all.”

