Farewell to Bishop Michael

On Sunday 19 June, people from all over the Diocese (and as far away as Zimbabwe) joined together to say a sad farewell to Bishop Michael Ipgrave as he leaves the Diocese to become Bishop of Lichfield.

St Mary’s Lewisham was packed with well-wishers, who had all come to say their goodbyes. The service was led by Bishop Christopher, who was the first to pay tribute to Bishop Michael. He was followed by the Woolwich Area Archdeacons, Alastair Cutting and Jane Steen and then Bishop Cleophas Lunga of Matabeleland who was representing the bishops of Southwark’s Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

The lessons were read by Nicole Burgum, Acting Warden of Readers, and Julia Ipgrave.

In his sermon Bishop Michael paid tribute to the people of the Woolwich Area and the wider Diocese, noting that one of his illustrious predecessors as Bishop of Woolwich, John Robinson, had been Vicar of St Mary’s.

There were gifts and flowers for Julia, Bishop Michael’s wife (left) and as the service finished there were more presentations to Bishop Michael from individuals and representatives of parishes from the Area. Then there was food and drinks and a chance for people to say their own goodbyes.

Photos of the service can be found at https://flic.kr/s/4HskCJNk

“Julia and I have been deeply touched by the many kind wishes, messages and gifts we have been given over the past few weeks as we prepare to move from Southwark to Lichfield. I am particularly grateful for the very generous gift that I received at my farewell service at St Mary’s, Lewisham on 19 June, and for the blessing which Bishop Christopher gave us on behalf of all of you.

“It has been such a joy to serve in South London for the last twelve years, and I will take with me to the Midlands the encouragement of your faith, your hope and your love. “Please keep me in your prayers, as I do you”.

Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE, Bishop of Lichfield
Reader Ministry

Thirty years ago I was tentatively waiting outside a room in the Diocesan House in Quarry Street Guildford.

I was waiting to enter into a room for an examination as to whether I could go forward into what was then called “Reader” ministry. I was 21 having just finished my degree.

They said I was unusual, being under 30 and wishing to be a Reader!

The outcome was that I was accepted for training and allowed to combine it with further postgraduate studies and come under a local training provision. I was also allowed to complete most of the training in the holidays from university and by distance learning!

This method is unheard of today and our centre-spread tells of the different aspects of the courses now. Parish placements, essays on Church doctrine and Old and New Testament studies, modules in Ethics, Liturgy and pastoral care. The course is wide ranging and very thoroughly put together to prepare an army of lay leaders and is highly accredited.

I received my license in 1986 and, looking at it again now, I am reminded that it outlines the duties of a Reader. They are to:

- “visit the sick, to read and pray with them, to teach in Sunday school and elsewhere, and undertake such pastoral and educational work and to give such assistance to any minister as the bishop may direct.”
- “During the time of divine service to read Morning and Evening Prayer (save the Absolution) to publish banns of marriage, to read the word of God, to preach, to catechize the children, and to receive and present the offerings of the people and to give such further assistance as may be authorized under Canon B12.”
- “To assist at the administration of Holy Communion, and to read the Epistle and Gospel and to give the address. To bury the dead.”

It is quite a wide brief. Some of these duties are not exclusive to Readers as we have become far more inclusive in the last few years recognising the ministry of all God’s People.

In fact one of our Diocesan Strategies is to work to increase Discipleship and Vocation of the “whole people of God”, aiming for a 50% increase by 2025. This includes Reader ministry.

To be a Reader can be the most fulfilling role giving support to clergy, congregation and parish life.

As a Reader you can remain rooted in one community and forge relationships that are built on trust helping the Holy Spirit to work through the hearts of people. It is also a ministry that allows one to continue working in the “secular” world as well, which in turn brings fresh insights and balance into church life.

Being a Reader also means that given the chance one can take some risks and challenge congregations in ways that perhaps those in ordained ministry cannot. As a young Reader, I can remember feeling that I wanted to lives things up a bit especially when it came to the “Family Service Talk”, and ask the congregation to participate in ways I knew if the vicar had tried he would never have lived it down... but as a Reader they let me!

So be encouraged all of you who are Readers. I want to say a big ‘Thank You’ for your ministry. And for those thinking about taking the step, I say go for it and realise your vocation.

Revd Carol Coslett

New Archdeacon of Reigate appointed

The Revd Canon Moira Astin has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Reigate. She will take up her new role in the Autumn.

Moira Astin is currently Vicar of Frodingham and New Bramby in the Diocese of Lincoln.

Moira Astin trained for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall Oxford and was ordained in 1995. She served her curacy in Newbury in Oxford Diocese, and was then appointed Team Vicar in Thatcham, Berkshire. She held various other posts in the Diocese of Oxford before moving to the Diocese of Lincoln in 2011. Prior to ordination she worked in Technical Support for computer databases in the Reading area. In her spare time she enjoys photographing sea birds and then painting them.

Moira Astin comments: “I am very much looking forward to moving to East Surrey, and getting to know the people and parishes of the Reigate Archdeaconry. It will be a bit like coming home, since I grew up in North Surrey. I look forward to supporting the clergy and laity as we seek to have our hearts on fire with God’s presence, and find new ways of helping those who live in our communities to discover the peace and joy of knowing God.”

Bishop Christopher commented, “Moira brings distinctive gifts to this role which will complement those of the other Archdeacons in the team.”

“She brings much experience of parish ministry and ecumenical involvement and I am sure that she will be a valuable addition to the Diocesan team.”

Bishop Jonathan said: “I am delighted that Moira is joining the team in the Croydon Area. I look forward to working with her and to sharing in all that she will bring to her new role”.

Moira will be welcomed into the Archdeaconry on Sunday 9 October and installed at Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 30

Hearing Champions Course

A short course on Hearing Aid maintenance run by Guildford Diocese is open to Southwark churches.

Hilary Vale and Jennie South from St Mary’s, Tatsfield recently took the course. St Mary’s now run regular sessions helping people in the community use and maintain their NHS hearing aids.

To find out more, contact: Tracey Wade: 01483 790327; mobile/ SMS (txt/voice) 07531 268 476 or email: tracey.wade@cofeguildford.org.uk

Three new SPAs commissioned

On Monday 20 June Bishop Christopher commissioned three new Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs) for service in the Diocese.

They are:

- Cathy Parker - St John the Baptist, Belmont
- Peter Crocombe - St John the Divine, Selsdon
- Sarah Alexander - St Luke, Reigate

The SEPTEMBER edition is due to be printed on 25 AUGUST and in your parish from the following Sunday.

Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by MONDAY 15 AUGUST.

Space limitations mean that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so.

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

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THE BRIDGE

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18 Deacons ordained at Petertide

Bishop Christopher ordained 18 people as Deacons to serve in the Diocese of Southwark on Saturday 25 June at Southwark Cathedral.

The youngest is 29 and the oldest 59. Their career histories include the law, teaching, business management, church lay workers and a mission companion. Some will serve in stipendiary (paid) posts, others will be self-supporting.

They will each serve their curacy in the parish indicated.

Simon Aston - Kidbrooke, St James
Helen Burnett - War姹, Luke & Chaldon, St Peter & St Paul in the Caterham Team Ministry
Peter Churcher - West Wickham, St John
Helen Cook - Redhill, St Matthew
Gareth Davies - Mortlake & East Sheen Team Ministry
Martin Davy - Morden Team Ministry
Alison Elson - Chipstead, St Margaret
Benjamin Graham - Wandsworth, All Saints w Holy Trinity
Helen Harlott - Clapham, Holy Spirit
Sebastian Harries - Longfield, St Peter and St Paul & Dormansland, St John United Benefice
Samuel Hole - Southwark, St George the Martyr w St Alphege & St Jude
Anna Moore - Reigate, St Mark
Jenny Morgans - North Lambeth Team Ministry
Jane Petrie - Wallington, Springfield EPP
Michael Robinson - Walthamstow, St Peter
Dr Stephen Srikantha - Kennington, St John the Divine w St James the Apostle
Dr Daniel Trott - Upper Norwood, St John the Evangelist
Andrew Woodward-Russell - East Greenwich Team Ministry

At the same service, The Revd Chidiebere Mbanude, having been received into the Church of England was licensed to serve in the parish of Croydon, St Andrew.

...and 20 Deacons ordained as Priests

On Saturday 2 July twenty people were ordained to the Priesthood at services in their episcopal areas. Each has served as a Deacon during the past year and will continue to serve their curacy in the parish indicated.

CROYDON Area
Ordained Priest by Bishop Jonathan at Holy Trinity, Redhill.
The Revd Aneal Appadoo - Redhill, Holy Trinity
The Revd Jeremy Groombridge - Sanderstead Team Ministry
The Revd Martha Mutikani - Reigate, St Luke
The Revd Douglas Ross - Salfords, Christ The King
The Revd Cecile Schneider - Sutton Team Ministry
The Revd Derrick Thompson - South Norwood, Holy Innocents & South Norwood, St Mark
The Revd Alan Wenham - Woolwich, Holy Trinity

KINGSTON Area
Ordained Priest by Bishop Richard at Kingston Upon Thames, All Saints.
The Revd Anne Cocking - Kingston Upon Thames, All Saints
The Revd Chidiebere Mbanude - Woolwich, All Saints
The Revd Christopher Mezey - West Wickham, St John
The Revd Sarah Dawson - Mitcham, St Barnabas
The Revd Laura Selman - Surbiton, St Andrew w St Mark

Nine new Honorary Canons

Bishop Christopher has appointed six new Honorary Canons and three new Honorary Lay Canons for Southwark Cathedral:
The Revd Phil Andrew - Vicar, St Mary Magdalene, Reigate
The Revd Carol Coslett - Rector, Battlesworth & Buckland (United Benefice)
The Revd Angela Ghebikan - Vicar, South Beddington & Roundshaw
The Revd Darren Miller - Team Rector, Cheam Team Ministry
The Revd Howard Such - Warden, College of St Barnabas
The Revd Duncan Swan - Team Rector, Caterham Team Ministry
Mrs Anne Love - Secretary, Southwark Diocesan Mothers’ Union
Ms Ruth Martin - Diocesan Secretary & Reader, Richmond Team Ministry
Mr Colin Powell - Diocesan Director of Education
They will be installed at Southwark Cathedral during Choral Evensong on Sunday 18 September 2016.

Photo right : The Revd Phil Andrew, who will be on sabbatical in September, was installed at Choral Evensong on Monday 27 June. At the same service the Revd Joshua Rey, Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark, was appointed as an Honorary Minor Canon.

Love Southwark

A weekend of mission in the Borough of Southwark is planned for 2-5 September. Under the banner of ‘Southwark for Jesus’ there are currently 20 partner churches of all sizes and denominations involved – and if your church is not already signed up for it they’d like to hear from you.

The central event will be on Monday 5 September at the 2,000 seat Lighthouse Theatre, Camberwell, featuring music, celebrity interviews and a presentation of the Good News by Archbishop Justin Welby with the opportunity for people to respond.

Local churches are also planning guest services on the Sunday and outreach events or funraising events in parks and other communal spaces over the weekend.

After the weekend, evangelism and discipleship courses such as the Alpha Course, will be needed to enable people who have made a commitment at the mission to start the process of discipleship and to get embedded in local churches.

The organisers are currently looking for more churches to get involved – to help fund the mission and to provide team members for the main event on 5 September.

To sign up or for further information contact the Revd James Nichols (Assistant Priest at Camberwell, Christ Church) e-mail: james@southwarkforjesus.org.uk
Southwark celebrates the Queen

Over the weekend of 12 June Southwark Diocese celebrated HM the Queen’s 90th birthday. From the Cathedral in the north to the Surrey villages in the south, we gave thanks in churches and partied in halls and on village greens.

Our thanks to those parishes who sent in reports and photos to share their celebrations with the rest of the Diocese.

A picnic and a special Choral Evensong in the Cathedral

Sunday 12 June saw people from across the Diocese come together at the Cathedral for a picnic and commemorative evensong. The congregation included local civic and political leaders and even the British weather couldn’t dampen the celebratory mood! More photos are available from https://flic.kr/s/aHskCBLHr9

Bands, bunny hop and birthday cake

Hurst Green celebrated the Queen’s 90th Birthday on Sunday 12 June with a party!

Local people came along with picnics to enjoy a summer afternoon of entertainment on the village green - rock bands Rosted and One-eyed Jack; jazz from Sarah Newbury with Abi and Jim Simmons; a Bunny-hop demo with Louise Fitness and folk, spirituals and brass band numbers from the St John’s Choir, Hurst Green Singers and Oxted band. Everyone joined in Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and more at the big-sing flag waving finale.

The party was hosted by St John’s Church which joined up with local people, schools, businesses and community organisations to give this event to the community for free. Huge quantities of birthday cake were provided by local school children and served with free tea and coffee by the local Community Cafe, ‘Aggies on the Green’. Crafts and activities - and a fire engine - were on offer for the children.

Revd Anna Eltringham, the Vicar of Hurst Green said, “The great British public did us proud. The prospect of a damp and grey afternoon did not put them off. Out they came in their droves, in wellies and waterproofs, prepared to have a good time regardless. Amazingly, there was barely a minute or two of rain and the sun broke through by the end. This event has given Hurst Green a real boost. A true celebration of those things money can’t buy such as friendship, fun and creative talent”.

Putney

The Parish of Putney held an Afternoon Tea for local elderly people, especially those who are in local nursing homes or are housebound. 80 local people attended, ate sandwiches and cake, drank champagne and tea, sang patriotic songs, waved flags and toasted the Queen! A fun time was had by all.

Riddlesdown

St Edmund’s Riddlesdown started a week early (Saturday 4 June) with a tea and cakes afternoon. Invitations were delivered to the community with the Christian Aid envelopes and on the day 65 people, mostly not church members, arrived to be served tea and home-made cakes surrounded by royal pictures, flags and bunting. Each family was given a copy of ‘The Servant Queen and the King She serves’ and the afternoon ended with everyone singing ‘Happy Birthday’ and ‘God Save the Queen. As one of the elderly residents said “that was lovely, just like it used to be”.

St Luke’s Eltham Park celebrated the Queen’s 90th birthday with bubbles & cake after Mass then onto the park for Walking Football, The Greenwich Youth Band and teaching chess!

St Francis Church Horley took the opportunity of the birthday celebrations to hold an Open Church enhancing highlighted places in the church including the new stained glass windows displays of flowers and the hall with posters prepared by the Guiding Groups. Great fun was had looking through old photo albums and archive documents, making crowns and badges and having photos taken with ‘the Queen’. The afternoon ended with a cream tea, a birthday cake cut by a senior member of the congregation and an auction of the flowers for charity.

St John’s Choir, Hurst Green Singers and Oxted band.

Putney, Hurst Green, Riddlesdown, Southwark
Concert, street party in church and a cake fit for a Queen

St Mary’s, Bletchingley celebrated in style over the weekend 11/12 June.

The church was packed, with standing room only, for a Concert for the Village by the Village. Nearly 80 performers either living in the village or members of village organisations took part with solo performances, many from youngsters under the age of 18. The audience was charmed with operatic arias from Julian Gavin, a world famous tenor now resident in the village and three choirs - St Catherine’s school, the Bletchingley Community Choir and the Church Choir - presented a range of musical styles. A retiring collection gathered over £800 and this will be divided equally between Young Epilepsy and Us (formerly USPG) working with the refugees stranded in Greece.

On Sunday morning, the bunting was up, the gazebos erected, chairs and tables gathered but it carried on raining! Reluctantly as the 9.45 service ended the planned ‘Street Party’ was moved into the church.

However, the weather didn’t deter villagers from coming out as the social committee fed over 220 people with cold meats, salads, chutneys and various summer fruit tarts. Finally, the candles on the birthday cake were lit, ’Happy Birthday’ sung and the small children present blew out the candles!

The Band of the Surrey Yeomanry played throughout the lunch which finished with everyone joining in to sing Jerusalem and then the National Anthem.

Lewisham InterFaith March for Peace

On Sunday 29 May 2016 the second Lewisham InterFaith March for Peace was held, hosted by Lewisham Metropolitan Police.

Over 200 people gathered at Catford & Bromley Synagogue who hosted lunch. They then marched to the Civic Suite in Catford, then on to Lewisham Islamic Centre where the Imam spoke powerfully of the cooperation that exists amongst the faith groups in Lewisham.

The march then proceeded to St Mary’s CoE Church, St Saviour’s RC Church and the Lewisham Sivan Temple where we were served with hot spicy snacks, concluding at Lewisham Police Station. At each location a candle was lit and a few words spoken.

The marchers were joined by Lewisham Mayor, Steve Bullock, Heidi Alexander MP, Councillor Janet Daby and Joe Oakley (Deputy Superintendent of the Met Police in Lewisham), along with several Lewisham Street Pastors.

Caro Swan (one of the Street Pastors) said “It was a great day demonstrating both the diversity and unity shared amongst the major faith groups in Lewisham”.

...and some parishes said it with flowers

Just two of the displays created by the flower teams at Holy Trinity, Redhill (above) and St Stephen’s, South Dulwich, (left) to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday
Celebrating 140 years of the Mothers’ Union

In a joyous Festival Service at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 21 May, members, friends and family joined together to celebrate 140 years of the Mothers’ Union (MU).

Bishop Jonathan commissioned the Trustee Board and the President to serve the MU for the next three years.

Preaching on 1 Peter 1: 3-9 he said it was right, firstly to ‘Praise God’ and then to ‘Stand firm in our Faith’ and then to ‘Serve with Joy’.

Cynthia Smith, Southwark Diocesan President, writes:

“We heard from members the story of our founder Mary Summer and a little of our history.

“We gave thanks for our journey and for the transforming of many lives through our faith and work. We also gave thanks and prayed for our Patron Queen Elizabeth as she celebrates her 90th birthday.

“We looked at the future and were encouraged to continue to serve family through the numerous projects e.g. ‘Away From It All’ holidays, prison work, toddler groups, women’s refuges, hospital supplies etc. We were also asked to look particularly at the needs of young families in our community, just as Mary Summer did, and see how we can serve them. We will continue to pray and work for marriage and family in all its diversity in this Diocese and throughout the world with joy. We have so much to give thanks for and we give God the Glory”.

Photo: Cynthia and the new Trustee board.

NSMs meet as numbers fall and need grows

Our churches are full of people who, week by week, give their time, talents, experience and energy to join in God’s work of mission and ministry in the Diocese of Southwark.

Canon Dr Sue Clarke writes:

Often juggling busy secular jobs and family lives with church commitments, this army of volunteers is vital to our work for God’s Kingdom.

Non-stipendiary clergy (NSMs) are part of this army of volunteers currently representing 20% of clergy in Southwark. About one third combine their secular work with their ordained ministry and the remainder are retired and able to contribute significant time to parish based ministry.

NSMs have been meeting together over the last few months with their Area Bishops to discuss their ministry – its joys and challenges - and to encourage one another in what is sometimes perceived as a ‘second class’ ministry.

Yet NSMs frequently cover interregnum and stipendiary clergy sabbaticals and holidays and some are serving as incumbent status clergy. NSMs are now serving as priests in charge, team vicars and assistant/associate priests in parishes in the Diocese.

Some clergy in sector ministry, such as hospital chaplains are also ministering part time in parishes as NSMs. Some are serving in several parishes and across Deaneries. NSMs bring a wealth of experience and skills from their secular work and many who are retired are working full time in ministry. NSMs, male and female, come from a great variety of backgrounds and employments, teachers, social workers, civil servants, lawyers and health care professionals to name but a few. The Area meetings provide an opportunity to share experiences and to hear from the Area Bishops how NSMs will play a vital role in the new Diocesan Strategy for Ministry.

But sadly the numbers of those considering a call to non-stipendiary ministry are falling. The reason for the falling numbers is not fully understood but the requirement for more NSM clergy is becoming increasingly clear in a time of stretched pastoral needs. Training for ministry takes place on the part time course offered by the South England Institute of Theological Education (SEITE). Lectures, seminars and group work are held one night per week per term and on residential weekends during the 3 year course.

The training at SEITE has been judged of equal academic and professional standard to courses at residential training colleges. Ordinands for NSM train alongside some ordinands for stipendiary ministry who chose a part time course. Vocations events are taking place across the Diocese and these provide an opportunity to learn more about the variety of licensed and ordained ministries that God may be calling us to.

Non-stipendiary ministry started in the Diocese of Southwark in the 1960’s. Nearly sixty years on, we have a fresh opportunity to ensure that NSM clergy in our Diocese are used strategically and appropriately recognize their offering of time, gifts, skills and experience.

Canon Dr Sue Clarke is Honorary Team Vicar, Furzedown Team Ministry and Area Dean of Tooting

Hustings in Tooting

During the recent by-election in the Tooting constituency five (of the 14) candidates took part in a question and answer session organised by Churches Together in Balham and Upper Tooting at the New Testament Assembly in Tooting.

They answered questions on a range of subjects including: foreign policy, security, climate change and food banks. The Archdeacon of Wandsworth, John Kiddle, was in the chair for a lively evening in which the political temperature rose with the candidates’ passionate explanation of their views.

The by-election followed the election of the sitting MP Sadiq Khan as Mayor of London.
Woolwich pilgrims head for Canterbury

Woolwich MEACC make a memorable pilgrimage...

Over a hundred pilgrims from the Woolwich Area accompanied Bishop Michael on 11 June on a memorable pilgrimage to Canterbury. The pilgrimage, which was organised by Woolwich Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee (MEACC), began at St George the Martyr, Borough High Street, on the old pilgrim route. On arrival in Canterbury, some of the pilgrims were led by Bishop Michael in Morning Prayer at St Martin’s, the oldest church in the City, before walking with the others on the final stretch of the pilgrimage route to the Cathedral.

At the Cathedral, Bishop Michael presided at a Eucharist before being presented with a farewell card and gift by the Revd Stanley Njoka in thanks for his great support for Woolwich MEACC and the BAME community during his time as Area Bishop.

The day continued with a tour of the Cathedral and Choral Evensong plus some free time in the City.

The Revd Stanley Njoka, Chair of Woolwich MEACC said: “It was truly wonderful to have Bishop Michael with us on pretty much his final engagement in the Woolwich Area. We are also hugely grateful to Canterbury Cathedral, and in particular, Canon Clare Edwards for making us so welcome”.

Photo: pilgrims walking through the Cathedral precincts and the Eucharist in the Cathedral

... and young people experience how good people truly can be

Richard, Catherine, Alice and Noah - are four Church of England Ministerial Experience Scheme (CEMES) Pastoral Assistants working for a year in the Ravensbourne Team Ministry to get experience of Christian leadership and ministry.

Catherine Haydon writes:

At the beginning of June, Alice, Noah, Richard and I walked from our house in Deptford to Canterbury, covering almost 70 miles in four days. Sheer lunacy some might say, and I must admit I agree!

As part of our CEMES year we are travelling to Zimbabwe to visit Manicaland and Bishop Erick Rwonza to gain experience of the worldwide Anglican communion. So our journey was in fact a sponsored pilgrimage to raise money to help us get over to Zimbabwe – thank you to our generous sponsors. For me personally the walk to Canterbury was the hardest thing I’ve ever done physically in my life. Bishop Michael sent us off with a blessing (and welcomed us at Canterbury at the end). By the end of day one, after covering some 20 miles, we reached Gravesend and my feet were in bits.

I very slowly shuffled along over the next three days, fuelled by copious amounts of plasters and Lucozade, lots of encouragement from my fellow walkers, and a tearful phone call or two with my mum!

Whilst I found the walking far from enjoyable, the one thing I have taken away from this experience is how good people truly can be.

The hospitality of strangers has restored my faith in humanity and really humbled me. Our first night was spent with a vicar and her family in Gravesend, who opened their home to four slightly muddy strangers and couldn’t do enough to help us feel welcome. A lady who was gardening invited us in for a cup of tea as we passed. The pub landlady, the restaurant manager, the volunteer in Rochester Cathedral who all asked about our trip and donated to our fund.

Time and time again God’s love was shown through the kindness of strangers. He walked with us every single step of the way, and whilst it’s an experience I never wish to repeat, it’s most certainly an experience I’ll never forget.

Photo: the team with Bishop Michael and Julia Ipgrave and Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos of Canterbury Cathedral at the end of their journey
Readers are lay people in the Church of England, from all walks of life, who are called by God, theologically trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work.

The office of Reader is the only lay ministry in the Church of England which is voluntary, nationally accredited, Episcopally licensed and governed by Canon. Men and women are represented almost equally.

2016 sees the 150th anniversary of the founding of the modern Reader ministry. This feature aims to celebrate that anniversary by giving some of the variety of ministries exercised by Readers in the Diocese.

In Southwark, there are 252 lay men and women who exercise the Office of Reader. This year they celebrate 150 years since their re-introduction but a re-introduction to what? The history of the Office gives us the answer.

It’s possible that Readers of the Christian Church developed as lay ministers from the readers of the Jewish synagogues within New Testament times. However, the earliest detailed description of Christian service, outside the Bible, is in Acts 20:20. In 1561, Archbishop Parker was the first to revamp the Office of Reader in the Church of England.

In this country the Office of Reader was first revived in 1597. Between 200 and 300 this form of lay ministry seems gradually to have declined and by the end of the 19th century had disappeared.

A century passed before the Office of Reader was revived a second time at a meeting of Archbishops and Bishops at Lambeth Palace on Ascension Day, 1886. Thirteen years earlier an archdeacon had seen the scope for greater service from the laity including in the sanctuary.

There were 252 Readers in the Diocese of London, and 155. It makes reference to the Reader as distinct from the President and the deacon.

In The Apostolic Church Order published before 1500, Readers are placed after bishops and presbyters but before deacons. A Reader amongst other attributes shouldn’t be a babbler, a drunkard, or a jezebel; but should be of good morals, submissive, capable of clearly expounding the Word. Between 200 and 300 this form of lay ministry seems gradually to have declined and by the end of the 19th century had disappeared.

The Reader’s Office was re-introduced to the Church in 1886, to stand between the Incumbents and the people. The existing Readers were permitted without examination and ‘Readers’ had disappeared again.

The Readers were to be teachers and catechists working in Sunday Schools and organising activities for young people. They also lectured to adults and ran Bible classes but never in a church – just mission halls and in the open air. They were described as ‘Christian men who can bridge the gap between the different classes of society’ – a go-between the lower classes and the clergy who were regarded as being high on the social scale.

The better educated Diocesan Readers were gradually permitted to preach in the church building itself but not from the pulpit – this wasn’t permitted until the Second World War. They were also allowed to administer communion. Women were admitted to the Office in 1969.

And today all Readers, not just Diocesan Readers (which no longer exist in Southwark), can preach in churches and administer communion.

Today, Reader ministry still holds to the tenet of being lay theologians - preaching and teaching the Word of God in all sorts of places - and many Readers today enjoy a pastoral and greater liturgical role as well. Readers have a vibrant and joyful ministry and in this article, are examples of how they work in the community as well as in church.

If you feel called to be a Reader please have a chat to your incumbent and contact Leanne Roberts, DDPO (leanne.roberts@southwark.anglican.org) or Kim Honey, co-ordinator of Reader Selection (kmhoney@gmail.com).

Nicole Burgum serves at St Andrew the Apostle, Catford.

History of Reader Ministry

Nicole Burgum Acting Warden of Southwark Readers writes:

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If you feel called to be a Reader please have a chat to your incumbent and contact Leanne Roberts, DDPO (leanne.roberts@southwark.anglican.org) or Kim Honey, co-ordinator of Reader Selection (kmhoney@gmail.com).

Nicole Burgum serves at St Andrew the Apostle, Catford.

History of Reader Ministry

Nicole Burgum Acting Warden of Southwark Readers writes:

The better educated Diocesan Readers were gradually permitted to preach in the church building itself but not from the pulpit - this wasn’t permitted until the Second World War. They were also allowed to administer communion. Women were admitted to the Office in 1969.

The Readers were to be teachers and catechists working in Sunday Schools and organising activities for young people. They also lectured to adults and ran Bible classes but never in a church – just mission halls and in the open air. They were described as ‘Christian men who can bridge the gap between the different classes of society’ – a go-between the lower classes and the clergy who were regarded as being high on the social scale.

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Ministry to the unemployed

Brian Griffiths writes:

Two Readers licensed to the United Benefice of St Mary of Nazareth and St Francis of Assisi, West Wickham – Ken Bryan and I – serve the local community as volunteer coaches at Churches Together in West Wickham Work Club. What is the Christian response to redundancy and those who find it difficult to find work? We need to hold them before God in our prayers both individual and in liturgical intercession. But how can the church directly support those who are jobless? It was this situation that focused the minds of the Men’s Group at St Francis and St Mary’s, West Wickham. We were inspired by the outreach of St Peter’s, the ‘floating church’ group meeting next to Canary Wharf and Trinity Church in Wall Street, New York. Both had opened their doors to the redundant workers in the financial crisis of 2008.

After much prayer, discussion and research it was decided to launch a ‘Work Club’ to offer practical support and advice to jobseekers. We believe in a God who loves and cares for everyone and is concerned about all aspects of our lives. The work club has been set up as a response to this love and care for this wider community outside the walls of our churches. The Work Club was launched in May 2013 and free drop-in support and advice sessions are held each Monday afternoon in the local library. The Work Club has given over 300 volunteers from local churches. Some of these have experience in human resources and recruitment within their own work organisations. Others are simply people with a heart for Jesus and who are willing to take part in some training.

To date assistance has been provided to over 70 clients, many of whom have complex needs. The majority sought advice on drafting CVs. We have also helped clients search for jobs on employment websites including the Government Universal Jobmatch site.

If anyone is interested in exploring the possibility of setting up a work club in their church or group of churches please contact ctwwworkclub@gmail.com for more information.

Brian Griffiths, Reader – United Benefice of St Francis and St Mary’s, West Wickham and CTWW Work Club co-ordinator

Prison Fellowship in Wormwood Scrubs

Marilyn Woodroffe writes

For the past 25 years I have been a member of Prison Fellowship (PF) which serves in the prisons nationwide, and runs various courses, prayer groups and pastoral ministry inside and outside the prisons. My group is attached to Wormwood Scrubs.

Several of us go into prison several times a week, to visit, to help in education, and to run courses. Christian-based and remedial. Members go in each Sunday to take Christian worship, and every Christmas there is an essential Carol service.

I have involved some Sycamore Tree for many years. Sycamore Tree was a six week course to heighten victim awareness. Many offenders believe their offences to be ‘victimless’, and one of the most effective sessions is that in which a real victim of crime tells their story, and the effect upon their lives. We work in prisons giving talks to known people well, coping with the issues thrown up by what is discussed. Sycamore Tree reduced effectively reoffending statistics, until it was closed three years ago due to shortage of officers, and increased security concerns. It is tragic that such courses are having difficulty. London prisons are to be relocated outside the city, and meanwhile have been changed into remand centres. This means the men are with us for only a few weeks. It’s very hard to adapt to the longer more effective courses, although that is what we are doing. We run Alpha courses, Bible studies, and pastoral care groups as well as supporting and being supported by the chaplains at the Scrubs.

We meet once a month at a vibrant PF Prayer Group. We are gathered from all parts of society and backgrounds. Some ex-offenders have been part of us, and the prayer is electric and evangelical! As a contemplative Anglo-Catholic my habit of becoming more rather than less silent is tolerated...as they get it that I am also charismatic, and I can play the guitar and sing and often therefore lead the music that is integral to our prayer evenings. I find I am probably more ecumenical and interfaith than the average member.

As London is set to be a prison-free zone (Holloway is already gone), our group has an uncertain future, but we are used to flexibility; the first 25 years have been good.

Mark Lanyan wrote about our prison work in our magazine...massively rewarding and increasingly necessary.

Marilyn Woodroffe is a Reader at Holy Trinity, Roehampton

Compline at Farleigh

Mark Lanyon writes

St Mary’s, Farleigh is a small Norman church standing in fields just beyond the Oxted boundary - one of the four churches in the Worthingham, Chelsham and Farleigh team. For many years it has celebrated the service of “Compline by Candlelight” at 8.00pm on Sunday evenings in summer, consisting of a short talk and the service itself.

When the vicar left in 2003 the task of organising this fell to me, fairly recently licensed as a Reader. It was necessary to give the talks an overall theme, but what?

I had often thought what a pity it was that, while we rightly celebrated the faithful followers of Jesus in the Biblical period, we often knew very little about those who bore witness during the succeeding centuries and shaped our present Christian life. Common Worship lists a whole range of Christians through the ages who are worthy of being remembered, but about whom most people know nothing. I thought that perhaps our talks might cover “People of Faith” and that speakers, clergy, Readers, lay, and others from outside the Team might be willing to come and share with us their enthusiasm for past Christians of special interest or inspiration to them.

This has proved to be a durable and popular theme. This year Bishop Christopher talked about Arthur Shearly Cripps, Canon Simon Jones, chaplain of Merton College, Oxford, our patrons since 1264, about St Ethlem the Syrian, Father Simon Hall, our local Catholic priest about ST Terese of Lisieux. Other speakers will talk about Christians ranging from Sue Ryder to Bishop Hassan Dehquani-Talafi, the first Persian Bishop of Iran since the 7th century.

My contribution is to choose and invite the 20 speakers each year. Many find it rewarding and I am most grateful for their enthusiasm and support.

I also publicise the service, and welcome and encourage the congregation from our own Team, and from other local churches and denominations – people who find Compline at 8.00 pm a holy and peaceful way to end Sundays.

The programme features in the Diary page in “The Bridge”, and on our “A Church Near You” website. You would be most welcome to join us to experience it for yourself.

Mark Lanyon – Warlingham v Chelsham & Farleigh Team Ministry

Being a Reader at Trinity School, Lewisham

Marion Watson writes

Three Readers from East Lewisham Deanery, Nicole Burgum, Grace Wylly, and myself, were asked a few years ago whether we might consider helping out at Trinity C/E secondary school in Lewisham. We were all more than happy to oblige, and have thoroughly enjoyed our involvement with both pupils and staff.

Subsequently, another Reader from East Lewisham Deanery, Paul Wynter has started working there as an assistant to the school chaplain.

Our main task is to help with the monthly midday Eucharist in their chapel. Here we get to know the pupils, help them understand the readings, listen to any concerns they might have (especially at exam time!), and just chat about what’s going on in their lives. We also administer the chalice.

From time to time we attend whole school services, which start at 8.30am, and again help administer communion. The invited celebrant is always someone of high calibre, so the sermons are excellent! Also, an occasional invitation to join the pupils for lunch on the ‘Top Table’ is always great fun!

Recently we agreed to help out with assemblies in the primary school as well. Another treat is when we escort a group of pupils on outings and trips. The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Taizé in France and St Albans’s are regular trips. Although enjoyable, these are hard work! We also escort students on trips around London – Southwark Cathedral, boat rides on the Thames and theatre trips to see thought-provoking dramas. I was involved when the Head boys and girls went on an exchange visit to Cardiff Cathedral School - a real eye-opener for our pupils and theirs. We are regularly asked to join friends of the school on their visits to other Woodard schools including Lancing and Ardingly Colleges.

It’s a pleasure to help in such a vibrant school. There’s no mistaking the strong Christian presence and we’ve been made welcome by everyone, particularly by the Headmaster, Fr Richard Peers, and the Chaplains, Mother Juliet Dennelly. We are grateful for this wonderful opportunity to share our faith with the next generation of Christians. Paul Wynter and the Revd Juliet Donelly, School Chaplain
Iftar in Tooting...

Church and community leaders were invited to break the Ramadan fast in June at the Idara-e-Jaferiya mosque in Tooting.

The mosque is a leading centre for Shia Islam in London and has hosted an annual Big Iftar event for three years. Before prayers the gathering was addressed by local politicians and the Revd Helen Matthews of the South West London URC Group.

Work by the mosque’s Sunday school was on display and a member of the youth group gave a passionate talk on growing up in the Shia tradition.

Good relations have been built between the mosque and local churches, and the event was a good example of building bridges between faiths.

...and in the Borough

A ‘Dine With Your Community, Grand Iftar’ event took place on Monday 4 July at St George the Martyr, Southwark.

Hosted by Bankside Residents Forum, the evening was open to people of all faiths and none. The evening consisted of window-making (below), presentations from Banksides Residents Forum about their work in building community and developing the Neighbourhood Plan and a speech from Sir Simon Hughes, ending with breaking the Ramadan fast together with food cooked by members of the local community.

Manicaland priests in SE London

Manicaland priests from Zimbabwe again showed their support for the local community as they celebrated their annual Iftar in Tooting.

The mosque, which is the largest Shia centre in the South East, has been at the heart of the community for over 30 years. The event was attended by local politicians and community leaders, including the Revd Dr Andrew Davey, Holy Trinity and St Augustine, and the Revd Christopher Davis, St Nicholas Tooting.

The event was open to people of all ages and cultures, and included a speech from Sir Simon Hughes, ending with breaking the Ramadan fast together with food cooked by members of the local community.

Sun shines on Redhill community party

Bishop Jonathan and Cllr Mrs Joan Spiers, Mayor of Reigate joined Welcare in East Surrey before a choir from St Matthew’s Primary School gave a spirited rendition of “This Little Light of Mine.”

The difference Welcare can make was illustrated by a Redhill mother, who told how the charity had helped her and her family to find housing, and to deal with other issues, including illness. She said: “Welcare changed my life, from the darkness to the brightness.”

After the service, the sun shone on the outdoor games and activities, including an obstacle course, storytelling, arts and crafts, and a feast of fresh fruit, sandwiches and other party food.

Centre Manager, Julie Mitchell, said: “The event had a festival atmosphere. One of the great things about Welcare is the way it helps everyone to celebrate their own potential. We are delighted so many of the local community could join in.”
Bryan Harris’s
PARISH PROFILE

“A ripe field of wheat, basking in the sun, just waiting to be harvested” — that was how the Holy Spirit described the parish of All Saints, Kenley in 2011 to its new Priest in Charge, self-confessed ‘mission junkie’ the Revd Chris Thomson.

All Saints is a substantial Victorian church in the commuter belt between Croydon and the M25 — one of several mission churches ‘planted’ by St John’s, Coulsdon in the mid 19th century as ‘suburbs’ spread into the Surrey countryside.

Grade 2 listed, the church stands in a secluded churchyard on the side of a hill in a leafy residential area. It has a traditional three aisles design, a steeple on one corner and a churchyard on the side of a hill in a leafy residential area.

Another of the ‘mission churches’ was St Barnabas, Purley with which All Saints ‘planted’ by St John’s, Coulsdon in the mid 19th century as ‘suburbs’ spread into the Surrey countryside.

Much of the worship at All Saints is traditional in an Anglo Catholic style which has nurtured and sustained the faithful, close and caring congregation for many years. Sunday services begin with a service which changes each week — including Eucharists and BCP Mattins with a robed (adult) choir and organ accompaniment.

However, on the second Sunday of the month more contemporary worship and a music group and singers have been introduced at the Family Service and there is a Café Church on the fourth Sunday at 11am. And when there is a fifth Sunday the two churches come together to experience different styles of worship both inside and outside the church buildings.

In 2013 the two churches held a Vision Day to look at their strengths, weaknesses, assets and potential. Three Vision Groups were set up to identify ‘quick wins’ and longer term priorities to help the congregations grow in faith; to develop the use of buildings and resources and to reach out to their communities.

At All Saints the priority was to ‘re-energise’ the church and to improve engagement with the Kenley community. Chris Thomson told me “There is a tremendous scope for mission — and the All Saints people were clearly up for the challenge”.

They set out to make worship more inclusive and accessible — so that newcomers or visitors could feel more at home. Café Church was begun and Family Services got a wider mixture of music and simpler liturgy.

Attention was paid to the hall and church layout to make them more flexible and ‘user-friendly’. There were a number of obvious ‘contact’ points — one of which was Kenley station used by large numbers for the daily commute, shopping trips etc. So it was decided to have a mission initiative giving away free tea, coffee and mince pies at the station at Christmas. It got a tremendous reception and is now an annual event.

There are primary schools locally and these were identified as opportunities and greater contact with them and the various uniformed organisations locally was established. Many of the initiatives are supported by the church and the churches share resources and work closely together.

There are also more young families in the congregation and encouraged by a creche area in one corner, with plenty of toys and a soft floor! And Messy Church which started four years ago now fills the Church Hall at St Barnabas (joint event with All Saints) to capacity.

Last year Chris Thomson was ‘guided’ to launch a church plant. “God told me, take church to the unchurched,” he said. “Donna and I talked about it, prayed about it and found ourselves sitting outside Hayes Primary School thinking — here, seems to be where God wants it to be. So seven months ago we hired the hall for a year, spent money on advertising and on the morning of the 15th November 2015 opened The Hayes Church with no idea whether anyone would turn up. But they did”.

Backed by the two churches, with initial support of Emmanuel Croydon, The Hayes Church is led by Donna Lazenby. It’s style is very different to All Saints — although equally sacramentally based, it is at the charismatic evangelical end of the spectrum and has drawn mostly people without previous church connections or looking for a new way to meet Christ.

“It’s not really a Fresh Expression, more like what you would experience at New Wine or Soul Survivor. Contemporary music, expository preaching, a lot of prayer — and a great focus on hospitality from the coffee at the start to the cakes which people seem to bake every Sunday as a blessing to everyone else.”

Lay involvement plays a major part at the Hayes Church including the development of lay leadership. 20 or 30 people (and often more) worship together each Sunday and The Hayes Church has brought many new people to Christ as evidenced by adult and infant baptisms.

Meanwhile Chris is keen to explore how the rich Anglo-Catholic spirituality of the All Saints congregation can also be opened up to the local community.

“There could be many local people out there who will respond to the Anglo Catholic discipline. The need is to develop a package — an app for their phones perhaps — which will offer inspiration, an easy to follow plan and the resources for starting and ending their busy days with prayer, bible reading and spending quiet time waiting on God,” he said.

When I visited All Saints I could see what Chris meant when he described them as ‘lovely, welcoming people’. Before the service there was a lot of chat and catching up. People went out of their way to check that I was OK and had everything I needed.

The church was clearly well cared-for and there was a sense that everyone knew what they had to do, where and when; from the sidespeople who welcomed me to the choir members who chatted until it was just the right moment to go change.

The service began and a calm reverence took over. The service was led by a retired priest David Hadley, who also read both the New Testament and the Gospel — and preached. The congregation was mainly ‘mature’ albeit there were three or four young couples with children — and if the young ones made the odd squeal or two, there were smiles, no glares.

I could also appreciate Chris’ reference to the spirituality of the congregation and his hope that it could be opened up to more people in Kenley.

So far so good, but what of the future?

“All Saints people are very generous with their time and money — both in caring for the building and in supporting ministry,” said Chris. “And they have shown their great willingness to try new things. With their depth of spirituality and experience of being ‘church’, the enthusiasm, excitement and new ideas bubbling up - just ‘watch this space’.”

Kenley, All Saints
Episcopal Area: Croydon
Archdeaconry: Croydon
Deanery: Croydon South
Patron: Archdeacon of Canterbury
Population: (2001 census): 5,530
Church: Church Road, CR8 5DU
Built: 1870-72
Architect: James Fowler
Listing: grade 2
Contact: Revd Christopher Thomson, The Vicarage, 1 Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey. CR8 5DJ
Tel: 020 8660 6981
E-mail: revdthomson@btinternet.com
Website: www.allsaintsandstbarnabas.co.uk

Chris Thomson and Donna Lazenby

Hayes Primary School

Patron: Archdeacon of Croydon
Built: 1930-33
Architect: James Fowler
Listing: grade 2
Contact: Archdeacon of Croydon
Website: www.hayesprimaryschool.co.uk
Art and Spirituality

What is the relationship between art and spirituality in today’s society?

This is the question posed by the recent exhibition at All Saints, Upper Norwood (20-26 June). The exhibition featured nine artists from across London and artwork by pupils from All Saints Church of England Primary School.

It was seen as a means of enabling reflection on spiritual issues in a way that was open to individuals of all faiths and of no faith.

It was initiated and organised though the PCC, aimed to stimulate questions about spirituality and its expression in art in today’s secular, individualistic society.

Some of the works in the show made explicit reference to faith, to familiar Christian iconography and to scripture—others explored questions of self discovery and the unconscious.

Pupils of All Saints Church of England Primary School (below) contributed six mixed media images in response to a range of Old and New Testament stories.

Smells and bells in Sanderstead

All Saints’ Church in Sanderstead was transformed by the scents from magnificent flower arrangements and the sounds of hand bells as part of the first ever Sanderstead Festival in June.

People joining in the festivities were treated to music from the hand bell ringers and All Saints’ organist John Jones, amid displays prepared by organisations including the Mothers’ Union, Guides, Rainbows, and Sanderstead WI. The Festival was sponsored by Sanderstead Residents’ Association, All Saint’s Church, Priscilla’s Tea Room, and Croydon Council. It featured local jazz bands, Hindu dancing, Selsdon Camera Club, Gresham Primary School and cricket on the local green.

Lynne Davison, Church Warden at All Saints, said she was “thrilled” to see so many people enjoying their visit to the church.

Sixty years a chorister

A special Choral Evensong will be held at St Andrew’s, Catford on Sunday 17 July at for the 60th anniversary of Trevor Owen joining the church choir.

Trevor joined when he was eight, later becoming head boy. When his voice broke, when he began singing in the alto line, which he still does to this day!

Church got very messy and sporty on Sunday 12 June when St Paul’s Brixton ran a special football themed ‘Messy Church’ to tie in with Euro 2016 ‘kick-off’.

‘Messy Church’ at St Paul’s with St Saviour’s Community Centre runs on the second Sunday of every month and the sporting will continue with an Olympic themed session on 10 July.

Revd Ben Goodyear, Vicar, says “Messy Church is for everyone - young and old, arty or sporty. It’s Church for those who find it difficult to cope with traditional Sunday church services. “Messy describes us all, as no one is perfect, and we all live messy lives for many reasons.”

Mayors visit Bishop’s House

On Friday 17 June, Bishop Christopher hosted a reception at Bishop’s House for the newly elected Mayors and Chief Executives of the local authorities which fall within the boundaries of the Diocese of Southwark.

To advertise your vacancy in The Bridge (in print and on-line) call 01474 854503 or e-mail: kcpress@btinternet.com
St Alban’s celebrates 125th Anniversary

Over the weekend of 18/19 June clergy, parishioners and friends celebrated the 125th Anniversary of Consecration of St Alban’s Church, South Norwood.

Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, formerly Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, preached at Evensong on Saturday 18 June (photo right).

Outlining the history of its foundation he reminded the congregation that St Alban’s was originally a 19th Century Anglo-Catholic church plant, and talked of the great Christian centuries to come. Champagne and canapés were enjoyed by those present afterwards.

On Sunday 19 June the parish kept St Albans Day. The parish uniformed groups presented a banner they had made, rousing hymns were sung and Solemn Mass celebrated. Afterwards a Garden Party was enjoyed by many of those present (photo below).

A parish of The Society (under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda), St Alban’s is also engaged in a Year of Mission, Invitation and Outreach and asks for Bridge reader’s prayers.

Alpha contributes to Charlton confirmations

26 candidates were confirmed at the Charlton Deanery confirmation service at Christ Church East Greenwich on Sunday 12 June.

Bishop Michael Doe also baptised six of the candidates and another candidate reaffirmed her baptismal faith.

The Revd Margaret Cave, East Greenwich Team Rector, said, “It is a real testament to the new life and growth in churches in our Deanery that so many came forward for baptism and confirmation.

“Many of the adults among the 18 candidates from Christ Church participated in the Alpha course last year and all the young people participate regularly in the parish youth group and youth cafe.

“It was a joy filled service with candidates from three of the deanery churches and their families and friends filling Christ Church and spilling up into the balcony”.

Diocese offers house for a refugee family

The Diocese of Southwark has offered one of its properties to house a Syrian refugee family.

The Venerable Alastair Cutting, Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich, handed a symbolic key to Lewisham Councillor Kevin Bonavia in June.

It followed a (very wet) march through Lewisham by ‘Lewisham Citizens’ an alliance of community organisations including churches, mosques and schools, in support of Refugee Week.

At the town hall they were joined by Cllr Bonavia who is lead for helping resettle refugees, who said: “We have made an ongoing commitment to house refugees. What we need to do as a Council is work out the practicalities.”

Lewisham Citizens have pledged to support the council with a list of resources to help the first family of refugees.

Alastair Cutting said: “This key represents an unlocking of opportunities, to open a door to hope and way forward for Lewisham’s response to refugees. The offer of this property is part of the welcome from the Diocese of Southwark and other faith communities and individuals, all playing a part in practical ways to make refugees welcome”.

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UK debt counselling charity

Leaving an eternal legacy

Christians Against Poverty are a group of people who are passionate about lifting people out of poverty, standing up for those who can’t speak for themselves and bringing justice and good news to the poor.

We are totally reliant on churches and individuals who share our heart to support our work as we receive no government funding.

For your free legacy pack, call 01274 761980 or visit capuk.org/legacy.
A baby friendly school initiative

Important development work has been embraced by St John’s Angell Town C of E Primary School in past months. A teaching team consisting of the school’s Head of PSHE, two parish midwives and a breastfeeding peer-supporter have been pioneers in developing and introducing an Infant Nurture and Feeding Curriculum. In collaboration with the head teacher, they have been able to create one of the first Baby Friendly School Policies, and are in the process of piloting baby friendly sessions for school pupils. Sessions include information on what a baby may need, both physically and emotionally; the importance of communication and nurturing relationships with young children; and the options when feeding a baby.

The project is a collaboration between teachers from the school and Baby Talk, a St John’s Church outreach project, set up by two Parish Midwives and volunteers, who are passionate about nurturing trust and strengthening family bonds in Angel Town.

Jessica Gordon, Baby Talk reports: “We think that this is important because today’s children are tomorrow’s parents. Children are also likely to come into contact with babies around them in their everyday lives”.

“So far, the sessions have been received well by the children. Teachers, who have led lessons with the team, have also responded positively; with some recommending that this should be available in more schools”.

To find out more, contact sjohnsparisbnursing@gmail.com.

Photo: Team members Rosemarie, Angie and Anna teaching reception class Rosemarie, Angie and Anna teaching reception class

The Very Rev Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

Please follow me on Twitter as I offer a prayer each morning so that you can join me in Morning Prayer. Go to @deansouthwark

120 years serving Wimbledon Parkside

The congregation of St Paul’s, Wimbledon Park, celebrated the church’s 120th anniversary serving Wimbledon Parkside, by holding a Flower Festival from 17-19 June. The church was filled with displays on a wide variety of themes, from the church cleaning team and fabric committee to a celebration of Her Majesty’s 90th Birthday. Contributions came from young and old. The Mustard Seeds (under fives) and Junior Church arrangements sat alongside ‘tea and coffee’ and ‘lunch’ displays, made by pensioners from the Community Centre’s Lunch and Friday Clubs.

Life in the church community was also illustrated in displays using baptismal clothes, a Wedding dress and photographs of people who had been baptised and married at St Paul’s over many years.

Two new guides to the church were also prepared especially for the occasion.

Live music was played by local musicians and sung by choirs from Southmead and Albermarle Primary Schools.

Dr Kevin Jones Director of Music at St Paul’s introduced and premiered his piano suite, Sicut Lilium (Consider the Lilies), inspired by the painting ‘Convent Thoughts’, by Charles Collins, (1850/51).

The festival closed with a lively ‘Pilgrim Evensong’ where St Paul’s were joined by people from three other local churches (St Andrew’s, Earlsfield, St Anne’s Wandsworth and St Barnabas, Southfields).

Do you know someone who needs a holiday?

Southwark Mothers’ Union ‘Away From It All’ (AFIA) is a holiday scheme funded by members and other donations to help people who wouldn’t otherwise be able to have a holiday.

The scheme is open to anyone who is experiencing stress in their family life. Holidays for families are normally booked at a holiday camp but can be at a small guest house for individuals.

Individuals can also apply for themselves or for their family but applications will need to be supported by someone in church ministry, a health professional, social worker, head teacher or similar.

For an application form, please contact Pat Fisher at fisherp@live.co.uk or telephone 020 8299 8348.

Time for a break

Holiday Cottage Summer Availability

Family run Holiday Cottages in beautiful south Shropshire, an area of outstanding natural beauty. Wonderful location with spectacular views. We offer 1, 2 or 3 bedroom cottages to suit all the family. Please visit www.botvylefarm.co.uk or call 01694 722889 for brochure

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Real and friendly people... not machines!
Our insurance has a customer 24-hour helpline, full medical cover with most pre-existing medical conditions accepted and cover for most pre-existing medical conditions accepted and Expiry Dates.

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Annual multi-trip cover (max. age 85)
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Single trip cover for all departures up to 31/12/17

Get a quote - please call for details

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Algarve

Luxury 3 bed villas (all ensuite) Sleeps 6/8, near Carvoeiro. Own pool, all mod cons. Luxury 3 bed villa (all ensuite) Sleeps 6/8, near Carvoeiro. Own pool, all mod cons.

Wandsworth and St Barnabas, Southfields

Wandsworth and St Barnabas, Southfields

Bishop Cleophas Lunga of Manicaland visited St Mary’s Rotherhithe on Sunday 19 June on his way to Bishop Michael’s farewell service. He brought greetings from the Diocese of Matabeleland and gave thanks for the links between the Diocese of Southwark and Anglican Dioceses in Zimbabwe. He also asked for continued prayers at a time of economic difficulty in Zimbabwe.

LET US PRAY

100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme

The 1st July 1916 saw the first of what would be 141 days of the bloodiest battle in human history and the loss of over 1 million servicemen on all sides. In the four years of commemoration of the centenary of the First World War this event is sobering.

Since the commemoration began in 2014 we have been praying each day in the Cathedral for all those from the Diocese who died and parishes and schools have been sending in names of parish and civil and village and school memorial boards.

Those names have been spoken out loud as part of the prayers so that we, one hundred years on, can remember them.

The names are so ordinary, so commonplace, but each was a son, a brother, a husband, a friend, each was a very real person caught up in the hell like circumstances of WWI.

We know the poet Robert Binyon’s work ‘For the Fallen’ because it was he who wrote the lines we say each Remembrance Sunday.

“They shall grow not old...’

But in that same poem is the verse; ‘They went with songs to the battle, they were young. Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow. They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted, They fell with their faces to the foe’.

There is no way we should glorify what happened – it was carnage and a terrible loss of so many young lives from our communities but neither must we forget them. That is why these four years and this month’s commemoration is so important. Because, if we dare to forget we will be in danger of making the same mistakes again.

God of peace, forgive us what is past, bless our present, fill us with hope for the future.

Amen.

14 THE BRIDGE... July/August 2016

100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme
**Ongoing**

- **CATERHAM - Guided Tours of the Ancient Church of St Lawrence** on 10 & 24 July; 7, 21 & 29 August & 4 & 18 September at 3pm. Adults £3 Children free.
- **CHALDON - Church is open for Sunday teas until 23 October. (3 to 4.30pm)**
- **ELTHAM - Playful Pilgrims: prayer, friendship and play at Holy Trinity Church.**

**July**

- **SUNDAY 10 JULY**
  - **SHIRLEY - Charity Concert at St John the Evangelist Church** at 7pm. Faure Requiem, songs from the shows and much more. Fundraising for the Orpheus Centre. Tickets £8 in advance (£10 on the door) inc. free glass of wine before the concert. Tickets from: stjohnshirley@gmail.com or phone 01689 841040. Doors open at 6:30 pm

**August**

- **SUNDAY 6 AUGUST**
  - **CHARLTON – Music For A Summer's Evening** instrumental and vocal music to suit all tastes performed by various artists in St Luke's Church, 7pm. In aid of the church organ restoration. Tickets £12.50 inc. a glass of wine or soft drink from 020 8556 7373 or gwen25mm4@yahoo.co.uk

**Tuesday 9 August**

- **BEDDINGTON - “Bells and Whistles” a concert by Ludo Geline, Organist and Carillon player from Belgium, the Hand Bell Ringers of St Mary’s and The Upland Singers at St. Mary the Virgin, at 7.45pm. £6.50 at the door. Refreshments during the interval.

**Saturday 27...**

- **Monday 5 September**
  - **CAMBERWELL - ‘Love Southwark Mission with Archbishop Justin Welby.** See page 3 for details.

**Scenes of Southwark past...**

Rarely seen (black and white) photographs of the people and places of a bygone Southwark, from The Times photographic archive will be on display at Southwark Cathedral from 2 July to 9 September. The exhibition - ‘Views of Southwark from The Times Archive’ - was inspired by the company moving south of the river Thames, to their new home in the London Borough of Southwark and was sourced from the vast photographic collection of the News UK Archives which house a century of iconic press photography.

The Dean said “In his play ‘The yellowing dickybird’ Dylan Thomas uses the phrase ‘the yellowing dickybird-watching pictures of the dead’ to describe photographs. However, this series of photographs of the Cathedral and Bankside environs from the Times archive are nothing like that. Though they present us with images from the last 100 years they show a community and a Cathedral that are set in the midst of life. The area, in which the Times and their sister titles now have their home, is one of the most alive in London – and there at the heart is the Cathedral, a still yet vibrant centre in an ever-changing world.

Entry to the exhibition – located in Lancelot’s Link and The Refectory – is free of charge.

**Tuesday 29 August**

- **BUCKLAND - Flower, Art and Music Festival** "The Art of Nature" at St Mary’s Church and Reading Room, Church open 10 – 5pm Refreshments & music all day, Sunday 5pm Songs of Praise with Bishop Jonathan.

**September/October**

- **Reigate - “Sounds and Sweet Airs...” - words and music at St Mark’s Church, with Nicola and Alexandra Bibby and Carol Boyd (Lynda Snell in ‘The Archers’). 6 – 8pm. Tickets - £10 (u/18s £1) Tel 07719 391179 or on the door

**Friday 30 September**

- **SOUTHWARK – Weicare Annual meeting and Volunteer Awards. 11am – 2pm at the Blue Fin Venue, 100 Southwark Street. RSVP info@welcaresouthwark.org or 020 7820 7910 by 31 July

**Bergen agreement renewed**

In May Southwark Cathedral renewed an international ecumenical agreement with Bergen Cathedral which was started in 2000. Members of the Lutheran Cathedral in Bergen and Southwark Cathedral have been visiting each other regularly, making joint pilgrimages to places such as Whithby and Lindisfarne and exploring each other’s traditions of prayer, teaching and church organisation.

Lay and clerical members of both congregations are involved, with many lasting friendships developing. Both cathedrals have experienced recent changes in personnel so the renewal comes at a good time to move forward with a particular desire to share experience of working with young people and marginalised groups.
Children of Wyvil Primary School in Vauxhall wove blue and white wool around recycled DVDs to raise funds for Water Aid. These were linked together to recreate “The Great Wave off Kanagawa,” by Hokusai which was displayed at Southwark Cathedral on 24 and 25 June.

St Paul’s Furzedown, celebrates 90 years

On Sunday 19 June Bishop Christopher presided at the morning Eucharist of St Paul’s Church, Furzedown, celebrating the 90th anniversary of the church’s dedication. After the service the Bishop and local Councillor Leonie Cooper formally opened an area at the west end of the church grounds which has been transformed into a Community Memorial Garden open to all for quiet reflection.

The garden has been funded by a Big Society grant from Wandsworth Council and created through the hard work of members of the church, community and Princes Trust. A local artist, Ken McCalla carved a bench for the garden from a piece of oak as part of the Furzedown Oak Project. Over 150 members of the congregation, other local churches and members of our community joined together for a joyful celebration.

St Paul’s was one of the 25 churches funded through the Bishop Garbett Fund when many were moved out of the east end of London and new housing was built round the periphery of central London.

The Revd Canon Dr Sue Clarke comments: “In the last 20 years, the demography of the church and area have changed and the percentage of Caribbean and West African church members has risen. Now the church membership is rising gradually with a mixture of young families and older members”.

In 2012 it became part of the Furzedown Team with St James’, West Streatham and St Alban’s, Streatham Park.

Richmond ‘doubles’

One of life’s happy coincidences was revealed in Richmond when Bishop Richard met a bell ringers from the Yorkshire town of the same name.

The Yorkshire ringers were setting out on a 350-mile cycle ride back to their home tower of St Mary the Virgin the following day and on 22 May were hosted for ringing and supper by their counterparts at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond, London.

Both Bishop Richard and the Mayor of Richmond David Linnette came to wish the cyclists - including two women on a tandem – a safe journey back north. Bishop Richard said the event had a special significance for him as his first job after university was as a science teacher in Richmond, Yorkshire and he had been a regular worshipper at St Mary’s church. The double Richmond gathering brought back memories of his first teaching experience.

The cycle ride helped to raise funds towards the £165,000 needed for new bells and fittings and included several stops along the way for the riders to do some ringing.

Peter Trewby, one of the Yorkshire group, told the Bishop and the Mayor that he thought it was “high time there was collaboration between the two Richmonds”.

Sarah Percival, tower captain of St Mary Magdalene said: “We were delighted to welcome our fellow ringers and we hope to go up to Richmond when their new bells are installed – but probably not by bike.”

(Above) Bishop Richard and the Mayor with Richmond ringers from London and Yorkshire outside St Mary Magdalene Church