**A Soup-er Success!**

Year 9 girls from St Saviour’s & St Olave’s made and sold soup in Borough Market recently working with School Food Matters on a project to raise money for the charity Fareshare - a food poverty organization which diverts good food destined for the bin to worthy causes.

Students were given master-classes in bread and soup making at Borough Market and were also taught how to transform food waste into valuable ingredients. They were amazed to see how they could use vegetables peelings and leftovers into a delicious stock.

Chef Nicole Pisani took the students on a tour of the market to look at the array of different vegetables, herbs and spices, which gave the girls lots of ideas for their soup recipe. After trialing a range of soup recipes, the girls created a spicy roasted vegetable soup which was so good that it passed the Borough Market Food Quality Panel!

The students then went on to sell their soup and homemade ciabatta bread from their own stalls at the market, raising £138 for Fareshare.

Melanie Omoloso, from the school’s Food Technology Department said: “The girls were brilliant at drawing in crowds, explaining about the fundraising and most importantly how to reduce food waste. They worked extremely hard and thoroughly enjoyed their one day experience as market traders”.

Among the stall’s first customers was the Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, photographed right with Melanie, Nicole and some of the students.

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**‘A Good City for All’**

In an exciting new initiative, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, hosted a meeting at Lambeth Palace on 12 February, between those involved in development and those in ministry along the south bank of the Thames, to explore the concept of ‘A Good City for All’.

‘Battersea to the Barrier’, was chaired by the Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn. It provided an opportunity for dialogue between senior figures involved in new developments and regeneration along ‘London’s Creative and Flourishing Waterfront’ from Battersea to Woolwich and representatives of the Diocese of Southwark and the riverside parishes affected.

So much is going on between Battersea and the Barrier it seemed a good time to debate the question ‘A Good City for all – what is your part in creating it?’ As well as investing in staff and buildings (£23m in one riverside borough alone), the church has significant reach into local communities.

The delegates heard from speakers representing organisations as diverse as the company redeveloping Battersea Power Station and the Southbank Centre on what their contribution to creating a good city for all could be and what the church has to offer.

A question and answer session followed.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun promised that the Diocese would continue these conversations and convene future gatherings.

He said “The Church has been present along the riverside for centuries. We can offer continuity in the face of massive and rapid change and use our substantial resources in helping to build communities”.

More information is available at http://batterseatothebarrier.org/

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**Centre pages:**

The Archdeacon of Southwark, the Venerable Dr Jane Steen reflects on:

‘Battersea to the Barrier: what makes a good city?’
`the common good’

I remember once challenging some parents, in an albeit clumsy way, about the fact that they wanted their child baptised but had no intention of ever coming to church (apart from the service). I suggested that when the child wanted to join the Brownies, would it be the case that she wouldn’t go along and join in but just wear the uniform at home? This did not go down well but I hope made the point that whilst there is a personal element to faith, this is not the same as it being an entirely private matter.

Our Diocesan focus around vocation and discipleship, mission and ministry are all rooted in the same conviction; faith and belief have a strong component of ‘belonging’ about them and belonging is lived out in our social and public lives. Christian life and faith at its best and most robust is not about securing a place where people can be rescued and removed from a messy and dangerous world, but about our engagement in and with that world for the common good. Indeed, one of the most common sets of intercessions in ‘Common Worship’ invites us to pray that ‘we may honour one another and seek the common good’.

The exciting developments described in the centrespread about the growth of communities ‘From Battersea to the Barrier’ are a good test of this.

Of course there are big questions for the Diocese about mission and ministry in these new communities. We will need to talk, pray and work out how that can be done and what model or models would be most effective for this. But there is so much more to it than that. What will flourishing communities look like? What part will good accommodation, transport, infrastructure, amenities and facilities play in helping to deliver that? How can the church contribute to those discussions and see this take shape?

Living well and seeking human flourishing comes for many of us from deep personal Christian faith put into practice in the public realm. We know too that the concrete and glass, tarmac and architecture play a part in helping us to live well, but are not the whole story. The passion and will to model what it is to live generously, compassionately, justly and honestly are fundamental to flourishing societies. Good planning and architecture can be informed by them and enhance them but never live them.

And whilst we ask these questions about the rapid development of this part of the Diocese along the river, they are relevant to every community in South London and East Surrey. What does mean it for every Christian to hold, express and live out personal faith that contributes to building good communities?

The Venerable Chris Skilton

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**New Chaplain for the Bishop of Southwark**

Bishop Christopher has appointed the Revd Joshua Rey, Curate of St Leonard, Streatham, to be his Chaplain. He will take up his post on Sunday 1 May.

Joshua Rey has degrees in PPE, Theology and Christian Doctrine from Oxford. He was ordained Deacon in 2012 and Priest in 2013. He also brings to his new role experience gained through a varied pre-ordination career in banking, aid work and the Civil Service.

Commenting on his appointment Joshua Rey said, “I am very much looking forward to praying with the church for Bishop Christopher as he discharges his many and various responsibilities. My prayer is that I will be a support to him in realising his vision of God’s purposes for the Diocese”.

Bishop Christopher said, “I am delighted that Joshua has accepted the offer to become my Chaplain. He brings to this role a wide experience of life and Christian service. His prayerful, thoughtful and purposeful manner will equip him to offer timely and informed support in all aspects of my ministry as Bishop and to the Diocese as a whole.”

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**Now its Bob Love MBE**

Bob Love, of St Luke’s, Eltham Park and a long-time member of Diocesan Synod, enjoyed a visit to Buckingham Palace on 4 February where he received his MBE medal from Prince Charles.

He was accompanied by his wife Anne, the Diocesan Secretary of the Mothers’ Union and daughters, Helen and Catherine.

The MBE was awarded for Services to Education and in particular school governance. Bob has been a governor at various schools in the Borough of Greenwich over the past 30 years and currently serves on the governing bodies of seven schools, four of which he chairs.

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**Steve’s magic!**

Steve Price, a member of St Francis Church, Selsdon, has won this year’s Stage Magician of the Year Competition at the Fellowship of Christian Magicians’ Annual Convention in High Leigh, Hoddesdon.

It’s the second time Steve has won the competition. His act consisted of three illusions—pushing a brass knitting needle through a solid glass mirror (depicting how God came to earth as Jesus), tearing up a newspaper and putting it back together again (to illustrate Christ’s death and resurrection) and suspending six pints of water in mid-air (demonstrating trust in Jesus).

The Christian Magicians group exists to help members present the Gospel in an effective and memorable way.

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**Metalsmith and woodworker**

Conscientious and reliable, Ian Marshall provides new work and maintenance for a number of churches. To join his list of satisfied customers. Call: 020 8850 7981 or 077 6666 2747
“How good it is to live in unity”

On Sunday 31 January over 200 people from the congregations of Hook, St Paul, Tolworth, St George and Surbiton, St Matthew celebrated the inauguration of Tolworth Hook and Surbiton Team Ministry.

The Bishop of Kingston, the Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham led the service and the new Archdeacon of Wansworth, the Venerable John Kiddle preached. A special procession introit with words from Psalm 133 ‘Behold how good and joyful it is to live in unity’ was composed by St Matthew’s Director of Music, Simon Hancock and the choir and hand were made up of musicians from all three churches.

The children from each of the churches made cards to present to the other two and they can be seen here being held by the churchwardens. The event finished off with an abundance of tea and cakes contributed by all three parishes and a celebratory cake made by Ada Franklin from St George’s.

The Revd Helen Hancock, Team Rector, said: “This is an exciting time to begin a new Team Ministry in the area. We hope to share and gain from all that is best about our three churches whilst also recognising our differences”.

On the Road: Look Up, Look Out!


Following a Vision Day entitled ‘On the Road: Look Up, Look Out!’ in September 2015 coordinators were appointed to lead MAP Vision Groups looking at actively growing as an inclusive community, with concern for the outsider, the marginalised & the vulnerable PLUS: Communications; Music; Children Young People & Families.

Jacquie Howell writes: “Our focus now is to transform our MAP into prayerful action, to determine future strategies and to set ‘Hearts on Fire’. St Luke, Eltham Park is now ‘On the Road: Looking Up, Looking Out’. Thanks be to God”.

Above: Liz Oglesby-Elong helps the Bishop to the first slice of the celebration cake.

‘Faith Through a Lens’

Photographer Jim Grover’s black and white photo of communion being given to a parishioner has won him this year’s ‘Faith Through a Lens’ photography competition - and has helped re-ignite his faith.

It was chosen from a shortlist of ten images showing aspects of various faith and were selected from hundreds of entries by the panel of judges.

The picture is of Floris, who is too weak to attend church and receives communion at home and comes from a year-long photo-project that sought to bring to life the ministry of the Revd Kit Gunasekera, Vicar of St James, Clapham.

The outcome of the project is an exhibition (Of things not seen: A year in the Life of St James, Clapham) and a book. The panel of judges were selected from hundreds of entries by the panel of judges.

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“A year’s ‘Faith Through a Lens’ competition - and has won him this year’s ‘Faith Through a Lens’ photography competition - and has helped re-ignite his faith.
The Diocese of Southwark is involved in an exciting new initiative to provide Spanish language Anglican services for the growing number of Latin Americans in the Borough of Southwark. The Parish is now recognised as Southwark Borough's second most spoken language with 8.9% of the population (approx. 8,000 people) identifying themselves as Latin American (LA). This does not include Spanish speakers from Europe. The Elephant and Castle has become a focus for LA business with over 80 shops and a business group called Latin Quarter formed to represent their needs. The LA population of London, as a whole, has increased to over 120,000 and is growing.

Since 2012, Lent in Southwark Cathedral has been accompanied by art installations which aim to make visitors to the Cathedral think and reflect during this very different time of the Church’s year. In 2016 the artist Peter Burke will be exhibiting a selection of his ‘Earthworks’ until Good Friday, 25 March. Public viewing is free.

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, says: “Each year the art installation at Southwark Cathedral takes us to a very different place. This year ‘Earthworks’ encourages us to go back to the creation story and the very stuff beneath our feet.

‘For Christians, Jesus’ humanity is painfully present in the events of the crucifixion and the fact that we share with him in being ‘earthworks’ makes his passion, ours. Peter Burke’s hands, feet, faces and torsos make us think about this ‘earthly’ nature that we share. They are both beautifully crafted and deeply evocative and the journey that we share with them creates for us in the sacred space a connection with this world. In this time of awareness of the fragility of our environment and way of life, it is perhaps a good time to refer back to the basics of life, to people and our natural resources.' The Dean will lead a ‘Walking Earthworks’ meditative trail on Sunday 20 March at 6pm.

In Hurst Green
David Young reports:
An ecumenical service held at St John’s Church, Hurst Green, led by the Revd Anna Eltringham, was moving and memorable. Holocaust situations and events initiated by violent regimes tend to creep up unnoticed. The abused don’t realise initially what is happening to them, sometimes thinking that they are moving to a new and better life. The rest of the world looks on and does nothing; not local, so ‘not our business’.

Dr Nigel Eltringham, lecturer in Anthropology & Human Rights at Sussex University, has studied the Rwanda genocide and its aftermath. He sowed some very helpful thoughts in our minds about these mass murders. They keep happening; the Nazi persecution of the Jewish communities and the Holocaust in the prison camps; Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge; Rwanda murders by an extremist regime; Bosnia by Serb forces against Muslims, notably in Srebrenica; Sudan Darfur racist atrocities against African villages; and, no doubt, Syria in its present chaotic war.

Dr Eltringham described the processes that are the path to genocides: a ‘labelling’ of target groups (yellow stars; racial segregation or discrimination; identified faith buildings; painted doors; refugee wrist bands). Then, active ‘hate gangs’ violently pick on those eventually to be eliminated on grounds of their race, colour or faith. Active physical separation into ‘us’ and ‘them’ communities, slums, ghettos, prison camps. We don’t realise it’s happening to others, or even to ourselves. Hindsight is easy and too late.

We, as Christians, need to be a channel of God’s peace. Walls don’t work long term: Berlin; Apartheid; Israel/Palestine; and, yes, USA/Mexico. Thankfully, some of these walls have come down. Many “rescuers” have shown great courage. And the forgiving nature of some who were violently oppressed has been remarkable: holocaust survivors, Nelson Mandela and many others.

After the service some stayed for further discussion and reflection with each other and Dr Eltringham over coffee. During Lent, St John’s also showed the German film Phoenix (2014) in connection with Holocaust Memorial Day. The film depicts a Jewish singer who survived Nazi concentration camps and returns to Berlin to seek out her husband to discover if he was her betrayer. We need to know about these events, remember and keep talking about them. Perhaps this will help towards the world avoiding genocides again. We cannot be bystanders. The memorable Holocaust Memorial Service will, we hope and pray, help us in this mission.
Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story booklet in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from its sales."

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Contains a high quality milk chocolate egg (200g) and an olive wood holding cross keyring from Bethlehem, cross shaped Easter story and orange milk chocolate bar (80g). Not available in Tesco this year. Can be ordered in singles.

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**Not enough space for Easter eggs**
Every year, 80 million Easter eggs are sold in the UK. But with Easter day falling on 24th March this year, it means there is not enough shelf space available in shops or enough time for online retailers to post them all out leading to shortages. So if you normally buy your Real Easter Eggs online, from supermarkets or a local shop, then act now.

The Dark egg and Special Edition are not being sold in supermarkets but can be bought from independent stores or ordered online. You can buy now from [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk), Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons, The co-operative or from independent stores, bookshops and Cathedral shops.

**Find your nearest shop at:**
[www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)
**Could you rent a room or flat to a homeless person?**

The Robes Project is trying to encourage people with an empty flat or even a spare room to rent it to one or more of their homeless guests who are ready to move on to a tenancy but unable to find suitable, affordable accommodation. As a result they are staying in the Winter Shelter longer than was intended blocking new referrals.

The project’s Wendy Thompson said “To ensure that tenants do not fall behind with their rent for example, there will be mentors/befrienders supporting them and there will be ongoing support for potential landlords.”

Diocesan Public Policy Adviser Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett encouraged church congregations to consider whether they might be able to help.

For further information e-mail info@innfromthecold.org.uk or call Crispin at The Robes Project on 020 7407 5623 or Margaret at The Manna Society on 020 7403 1931. Inn from the Cold is an initiative from The Robes Project & The Manna Society.

**Ashes for Ash Wednesday**

Bishop Jonathan Baker joined members of St Stephen’s Lewisham offering Ash for Ash Wednesday at Lewisham Station - now an annual offering as a sign of God’s presence in the community.

**St John’s School jumping for joy**

St John’s Church of England Primary School in Shirley, recently ranked as the most popular primary school in Croydon, has been given an ‘Outstanding’ rating by the school watchdog OfSTED.

Inspectors described the school as one which “helps pupils develop a love of learning.”

The report goes on to say “a level of exceptionally high expectations from staff, parents and pupils ensures that all members of the school community focus on pupils achieving their full potential.”

Head Teacher Martina Martin said: “We are delighted. This achievement reflects the work of both the staff team and our governing body, who work tirelessly to ensure that every child at St John’s achieves their best and exceeds expectations.”

“We are so proud of our wonderful children, parent community, amazing staff team and diligent governors.”

The school is also planning to double in size from 2017 when it will offer 60 reception places per year. Preference is given to committed Christian families but it will also offer 14 Open Places to local families once the new school building is complete.

Chair of Governors John Phillipson, said “This is a milestone for us, not a finishing post. We look forward to taking the school forward and welcoming more children, through our planned expansion.”

**Fun Ways to Fundraise**

If you are looking for inspiration for a local fundraising campaign, this handy paperback is a good place to start.

If you find yourself using tried and trusted methods to raise money on your Patrons Festival Day or at the Summer or Christmas Fair, then this book may well invigorate your ideas and give you a fresh outlook.

It is full of ideas, some of which require some outlay (e.g. selling merchandise) and many of which just require people’s time and/or skills to achieve successfully.

I thought it was interesting to see what fundraising ideas the author had chosen to explain and which she left her readers to research themselves.

So for example the Matchbox race and Spider race were explained but the chef and waiter race and ‘hold a Christmas tree festival’ were not.

If you are looking to raise substantial money for a capital fundraising campaign, there will be other sources of funding which are not covered at all in this book.

So for funding available from the Heritage Lottery Fund or Trusts and Foundations that donate to charity, you will have to look elsewhere.

For ideas and more ‘home-grown’ fundraising this book is available either in paperback (£7.99) or as a Kindle book (£3.97).

Kevin Hawkes

**St John’s School jumping for joy**

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We believe in life before death
Fifteen years have passed since a special report in The Bridge asked just that question. How would we know if London were developing into a good city?

• It would be first and foremost, a just city in which wealth creation benefited all citizens, with housing, health and hope available to all.

• Second, London would be a place of diversity and rejoice to be so.

• And third, London would be a place of divine discontent, whose inhabitants did not seek to keep up with the neighbours but with the saints.

So, is London developing into a good city? That was the inquiry which prompted Battersea to the Barrier, an event in Lambeth Palace on 12 February.

The Venerable Dr Jane Steen reflects:

The Archbishop of Canterbury hosted developers, politicians, local councillors, clergy and others at a breakfast meeting to hear about the philosophies and intentions of those who are shaping the future of London along the south bank.

The event brought together many different people closely involved in the redevelopment of the southern waterfront to provide a unique opportunity for reflection on how best to shape the city and our life together.

Battersea to the Barrier originated when Canon Giles Goddard met with the Archdeacon of Southwark, the Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich, and the Dean of Southwark, to discuss Southwark’s changing riverbank cityscape.

They quickly realised that the ribbon development ran through four separate London Boroughs: Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich. That means that decisions in one borough might be very different from those in another. And so a chance to discuss ideas, to develop what makes for the best living environment across borough boundaries, can be restricted: people cannot come together and the planning process might seem to make creativity harder to achieve.

The place of the Church
But the Church is present in all boroughs and has been around for a long time. Since the days of St Augustine of Hippo, fifteen hundred years ago, we have been concerned with what makes a good city and how we are creating it. The Church is there whether communities are rich or poor, and the glory of the parish is that rich and poor do come together, to worship, to pray and to engage in mission. Christians have much to contribute to the way in which cities are rebuilt and redesigned for the benefit of all and to end social exclusion.

Our continued presence in ever-changing cities is part of our witness to the incarnation of our Lord which we celebrated at Christmas. As Christ dwelt with his people on earth, so his Church exists wherever there are his followers today. That means that the Church brings questions and insights from long experience in city ministry.

The participants in Battersea to the Barrier received a pack explaining this. “The expected lifespan of The Shard is dwarfed by Southwark Cathedral’s 1,800 years. Churches are often the first institution on the scene building new communities: the last movement still present when other shops, schools, businesses and charities have left.

“The Church is able to bridge geographical and intergenerational divides. The changing fortunes of the waterfront up and down the river are understood in relation to each other. Parishes deal with the collective hopes and fears of children, pensioners and community groups as well as individuals of working age. The Church offers significant reach into existing local communities: it has social capital, resonance, credibility on the ground, goodwill, the capacity to bridge relationships and significant pro bono resources. It hosts and commissions works of art and offers its spaces for performance.

“The Church also provides substantial assets: buildings where local people can come together and where activities can take place, investment (£23m in one riverside borough alone), paid staff, resident clergy and hundreds of volunteers. The Church has always incorporated newcomers to London and will continue to do so today. Its diverse social networks reflect patterns of migration and the fast-changing and international nature of a global city."

All that is true, but how did Battersea to the Barrier address the concerns this raises?

A sense of community exists in all of us, but we’ve lost some of that with technology and other things. As developers we have to oil the wheels of community to make it go round properly and that’s what we’re endeavouring to do at Battersea Power Station.

Rob Tinknall

Key people interviewed
Certain key people were asked to interview one another to find out what they thought about the developments in which, for whatever reason, they were involved. The speakers sat in a semi circle facing those who had come to hear them and to ask questions.

The first interviewer was the Archbishop of Canterbury, who asked Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor (Policy and Planning), ‘A good city for all – what is your part in creating it?’ Sir Edward then asked the same question of Rob Tinknall, CEO of the Battersea Power Station Development Company, who asked Sir Sue Foster from Lambeth Council – and so on. In all, ten people were interviewed for up to five minutes.

The other speakers included Jude Kelly (the artistic director of the South Bank Centre), Cllr Peter John (leader, Southwark Council), Noha Nasser from the Department of Architecture and Construction at the University of Greenwich, Bob Allies from the architecture practice, Allies and Morrison, Mike Hayes (planning and development consultant) and the Revd Andrew Davey, Vicar of Holy Trinity with St Augustine, Upper Tooting and urban theologian. The Archbishop was interviewed last.

The whole event was caught on camera and follow up, more local, meetings are planned. What’s more, as some readers will already know, the event was covered in social media and the Twittersphere was very lively. Print journalists were also invited, including Kate Allen from the Financial Times - both a journalist and a south London resident concerned about development. People mingled afterwards to follow up particular matters of interest and to ensure that this wasn’t a nice breakfast with important people which didn’t have any effect afterwards. What people said in their interviews was, of course, very interesting, as were the questions which audience participants asked.

There was a real sense, especially expressed by Sir Edward Lister, of wanting to partner with the church. Sir Edward was very clear that the church could direct developers to those areas where poverty abounded and to those people and groups where a difference could really be made by money coming from regeneration.

The Archdeacon of Southwark is seeking a further conversation with Sir Edward about this and he has said he is happy to meet.

Cllr Peter John gave a robust defence of regeneration in Southwark: unsuitable housing on large estates was no longer fit for
what makes a good city?

**Design isn’t just creating physical space, it is creating the stage for social life and if we don’t design places for people, we’re excluding them.” Dr Noha Nasser**

Battersea to the Barrier: what makes a good city?

It’s early days yet but some Spanish speaking clergy and others are working to see what facilities can be provided for such speakers to worship in their own language, while also affirming their integration into current, English speaking, parish congregations.

All this begins to point to the Church’s support for one of the answers to the question, what makes a good city, in that special report in The Bridge in 1999. A good city is diverse and rejoices to be so. We should add that a good Church is diverse and rejoices to be so as well.

Other questions

But what about the other questions? Did Battersea to the Barrier present London south of the river as a place of development in which wealth was created for all and in which people are more concerned with keeping up with the saints than with the neighbours? I think it’s early days. All those interviewed spoke very well about the importance of wealth spreading out to all the residents of their boroughs. Sue Foster, from Lambeth, was particularly articulate about the way in which younger people were involved and the way in which the healthy regeneration in Lambeth will benefit them.

It remains true that, although there were agreements that partnering with the church would help to ensure that regeneration does not create some very wealthy people and leave others increasingly poor, there needs to be more to show for this. So the churches need to continue to engage with local councillors and others, to work with local charities, community groups and community organisers, to ensure that those who say they are committed to benefiting the whole population are assisted by us to do what they have said they wish to do. Likewise, the developers, politicians and others need to seek out the groups, including churches and faith communities, with whom they can partner in order to ensure that the city’s creating is sustainable, diverse and a genuine improvement on the urban environment we had before this current wave of rebuilding began.

As for keeping up with the Saints, well, perhaps that is primarily a task for the Church. Battersea to the Barrier and its local follow up meetings must not split what the ‘world’ does from what the ‘Church’ does. After all, we are all citizens of South London and we can all rejoice in a diverse city which improves the lives of all who live here. Since the days of St Paul, Christianity has been an urban phenomenon and it is a truism to say that the Bible begins in a garden but ends in a city.

**What can we learn?**

What, then, can the churches, present at Battersea to the Barrier or not, learn from the event?

Firstly, we can learn from those involved in the redevelopment today. We need to take it on trust that councils and councillors really do want to make their boroughs flourish. They are taking risks, trying new ways of doing things. That will undoubtedly bring change – but didn’t some things need changing?

Secondly, we can learn from our own mistakes in the past. We can become a more risk-taking Church. We can start new congregations – after all, you don’t need many people meeting to pray, encouraging others to join them, and reading Scripture together. We can keep faith and recognise that some of our significant forbears were simply wrong.

**Bishop John Robinson said in 1969 that he didn’t think there would be any visible church in the inner city by 1979!**

Others foretold the extinction of the Church of England within a generation in November 2013.

The time has come to disavow these narratives and to thank God for our continued presence, by his grace, in south London and east Surrey.

The time has come to work with what the Lord sends, knowing his gospel message of love can be proclaimed to all and is a message of which all have need.

The time has come to reach out in new ways to people who don’t come to Church, just because they don’t come to Church – and not because they have rejected the gospel.

**Our calling**

However the new housing being built from Battersea to the Barrier affects public and private life in our parishes, we are called to offer ways to worship God in places, at times and in ways which help all people find the Lord’s grace in their lives.

The narrative of the past might make us feel like London’s lost rivers – but as every builder will tell you, no construction worth its salt fails to notice the streams of living water which rise up in the least expected places.
Cementing the Manicaland/Woolwich Link

Bishop Erick Ruwona, the newest Bishop in Zimbabwe who was consecrated Bishop of Manicaland in May 2015 visited the Diocese of Southwark for a week in January. He was accompanied by Archdeacon Luke Chigwanda and Samuel & Portia Magada (They are photographed right at the Bishop’s House).

Wendy S Robins reports:

During the trip the group were able to see and visit a number of different things in the Diocese. The programme included a ‘Meet Bishop Erick’ event at St George’s, Southwark when about a hundred clergy and lay people from the Woolwich Area met with the Bishop and his colleagues; a visit to Southwark Cathedral; healthcare visits including Lewisham Hospital; visits to schools and a Clergy Study Day in Peckham.

Bishop Christopher hosted a dinner for the Zimbabwean guests with others who are part of the Manicaland Link Group here in the Diocese or have another sort of link with Manicaland.

Hopes

Just before dinner Bishop Christopher and Bishop Erick and others met together and Bishop Erick spoke of his hopes for the Link and the situation in Zimbabwe.

Bishop Erick told the group that he was pleased to be part of the Link saying, that he hoped that Manicaland and Woolwich can have a strong partnership which goes beyond a link at Diocesan level and helps us to link our lives, our parishes and our institutions. He spoke of the current difficulties in both the Diocese and the country. He noted that there are people to make this Link trip in order that the experience of the Link could be spread more widely but sadly eight had been unable to get visas to enter Britain. This makes it harder for the Link to grow.

Bishop Erick explained that one of the main challenges for the Link of Manicaland is that more than 50% of their priests have been ordained in the past 3 years. This is very exciting at one level but it does mean that they are falling behind in terms of pastoral experience.

He said that he found it hard to see how they were going to be able to have senior priests. It means that somehow they need to find a new model for ministry and it might be that the Diocese of Southwark could help with this. Bishop Michael said that the Link group was looking at how they could enable priests from the Woolwich Area to spend some weeks in Manicaland sharing their particular expertise which might help to bring extra experience to the Diocese.

Balance

There are questions too about how to get the balance right between the use of volunteers and professional workers in the Church; one factor is finance because the cost of running the Diocese and paying clergy stipends exceeds the Diocesan income. This led to an interesting discussion concerning funding the mission and ministry in both Dioceses.

Bishop Christopher explained to the guests from Zimbabwe about the change which has just made been in the Diocese of Southwark to the new Parish Support Fund scheme of giving which had come about partly because the old scheme had begun to be too complicated and not to work.

Bishop Erick spoke too of his hopes to extend parish to parish Links and hopes that they may be able to learn from the experience of the other Links to help with this. WhatsApp is a good way for people to communicate with each other in Zimbabwe.

Mrs Magada, who is a Churchwarden at St Agnes Chikanga and Chairperson of the fundraising committee, spoke of the importance of the seeking to further involve lay people in the work of the Church but mentioned that it is difficult to engage the men in this. Referring to the struggles in the recent past, she said that the Church has lost people because of the conflict but that it is important to help people to regain confidence.

Beyond ‘small corners’

A very old hymn, has stayed with me from my Sunday School days (which weren’t quite that long ago, thank you very much).

The Revd Peter Organ, Vicar, Wickham, East (St Michael the Archangel) writes:

Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light, like a little candle burning in the night; In this world of darkness, so we must shine, You in your small corner, and I in mine. Susan B Warner 1868

It’s kind of cute, but does rather encourage us not to look beyond our small boundaries, our parishes, and focus on keeping the light of Christ burning just where we are.

Whilst it’s clearly important to strive to be lights in the world in the various places God has called us to, if we end up focusing too much on our own individual small corners, keeping that light shining can seem a very lonely and isolating calling, even with fellow church members to support us. Spending time with sisters and brothers from Deanery, Diocesan, and wider connections in the Anglican communion can remind us that we are not alone in striving to keep the light of Christ shining, for the good of our own faith, and that of others around us.

This is particularly true for those of us who are on the edges of the Diocese, and you can’t get much further than Sam Magada, lay folk who face very different challenges to those of us who are in our different journeys.

In turn, this last week we’ve had visitors from Manicaland to the Woolwich Area. Sadly not as many as we had hoped, as getting visas to enter this country is one of the challenges visitors from Africa face, but it was wonderful to welcome Bishop Erick Ruwona, Archdeacon Luke Chigwanda (who has long-standing links with our Diocese where he was ordained) and Portia and Samuel Magada, lay folk who have been very involved in the life of the Diocese over the years.

We have much to learn from each other, with our visitors appreciating trips to see how the Diocese is at work in the life of our schools and hospitals, along with being very interested in our new Parish Support Fund, as disruption in the life of their Diocese has led to a breakdown of their quota system.

At a parish level, seeing something as simple as how we include a time for giving thanks for and celebrating the work of our children in church on a Sunday was something which really struck our visitors as something they could take back with them to enrich their own church life.

In turn, they have much to teach us, not just in the vibrancy of their worship, and resiliency in the face of persecution, but also in the way in which their laity have been empowered to take a deeper role in the life of their Diocese. They have far fewer clergy than us, and those who have cover huge areas of the country, with high demands on their time and energy, and yet clergy and lay folk retain an enthusiasm for the Gospel which can often ours to shame.

Ultimately it’s all about enabling the light of Christ to shine ever brighter, not just in our small corners, but around the world, strengthening each other’s faith through sharing our stories and learning from our different journeys.

Do keep our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe in your prayers, particularly during Lent. Prayers for the clergy and parishes of Manicaland will be posted on the Diocesan Twitter feed during the 46 days to help you in this.

Whilst money will be raised as part of Bishop Christopher’s Lent appeal, it is in our prayers for each other that we feed the flames of our faith and fellowship.
faces, enthusiastic singers and willing pray-ers - and a whole lot of people who obviously got on well together which showed before, during and after the service.

The congregation was a mix of black and white, young and old (and unusually for the CofE as many men as women) – and a wealth of young people. The Vicar is Philip Rogers and (after a curacy in Manchester’s Old Trafford, on the borders of Moss-side) he’s been at St John’s for 32 years, literally half his life. He told me “It’s a lively fellowship who love worshipping God and I’ve loved being here. This is a real caring family of believers.”

That shows in the people you meet – like the young Nigerian woman who said she joined a Pentecostalist church when she came to the UK. A bit disillusioned she tried St John’s and stayed – “the worship is the best of both worlds and it’s a wonderful fellowship”

Or Catherina, also Nigerian. She came to the Plumstead area in 2009. In 2010 her husband (a taxi driver) was murdered. She sought me out to tell me about the support she gets from her ‘church family’. They helped re-locate her and her children in a new home and continue to ‘surround us with love’ (her words). Phel Rogers said “I describe us as ‘conservative evangelical’ – we believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that the Spirit and the Word agree and work together – and we are ‘gently charismatic’, immersing ourselves in the Spirit and allowing his fruits to be seen in our worship and our lives.”

Among the visible fruits are prophecy, speaking in tongues and interpretation during worship and, at the end of every service, healing prayer and laying on of hands. “We sometimes get words of knowledge often revelations for individuals, on one occasion someone in church for the first time told me ‘I know now that God knows me and wants to bless me’.”

Their mission statement commits St John’s to being an expression of the love, the ministry and the person of the Lord Jesus Christ to the people in our area in the way we live, the things we do and say... – Central to their mission is meeting with God and each other in worship and small groups.

There is one Sunday service - on the first Sunday of each month it’s All Age Worship; on the 2nd 4th and 5th there’s a Family service. Holy Communion is celebrated once a month on the 3rd Sunday – on most Sundays the children leave after the first hymn for their own activities. All worship is based on Common Worship, albeit pared down to the essentials and printed on laminated double sided cards and while there are books for the traditional hymns, the worship songs are on a printed pew sheet.

“Our policy is keep it simple but try to do it well. We aim for a relaxed, accessible style of worship and encourage as

many people as possible to share in ministry.”

“We are very blessed in the support we receive from the Diocese,” said Philip. “When I first came Bishop Peter Hall told me I was to preach the Gospel in my way without fear or favour. And the Diocese has consistently let me do that”. Today the area is “upwards mobile”.

Transport links to central London have been improved, the tower blocks have been upgraded, older houses are being pulled down and new ones built – but at the moment house prices and rents are still comparatively affordable so it’s a ‘moving through’ place for families. As a result every time St John’s electoral roll is revised the steady figures hide dozens who have moved out and others moved in.

Another result is that less than half of the congregation live within the parish. “We have folks who have moved away but either stuck to St John’s or came back. We also have people from local parishes attracted by our worship style.”

There are currently 123 on the electoral roll but 75 average attendance with numbers that vary from 40 to over 100 adults and 20 to 40 children. “For many ‘regular’ means fortnightly or every monthly,” said Philip.

“Most families locally are under pressure,” said Phil. “Often couples are both working, sometimes one of them has two jobs. Sunday can be the only ‘family day’ they get and it’s wonderful that they join us as often as they do. But evening meetings can be difficult to make – when they get home they just need to relax and recover.” At the moment the PCC is looking at ‘Growth’ – “how we can grow spiritually, in fellowship and in outreach. Our commission is share the Good News and we are looking at realistic ways to do this in a busy community” said Philip.

Set against a backdrop of tower blocks, St John’s Church itself is a post war rebuild on the footprint of a bombed (probably) Victorian building - a simple rectangular building with a vestry and a library on one side and a church hall on the other with a kitchen and meeting rooms.

The church hall is let to a pre-school play group Monday to Friday mornings. It’s a service to the estate not a money maker – the rent just covers the costs.

And that led to another astonishing feature of St John’s (which by the way is an Urban Priority Area). “When I came in 1984 the parish wasn’t paying its quota. Since then we’ve paid in full and this year under the new scheme we are planning more than we paid last year” said Philip.

“Our people are so very generous, they receive from God and they give willingly to God,” he said. As a result St John’s is financially stable and without fund-raising! “I don’t think it’s right for the church to go with a begging bowl to people in a poor community - we are here to serve them not take from them”.

Another example of the congregation’s generosity is the ‘gleanings cupboard’ filled by parishioners who buy extra packets and cans to be given to people in need in the parish – in effect its own foodbank - started 20 years ago.

Prayer is important to St John’s and to no-one more than Philip. In 2003 he was diagnosed with Leukaemia and given 10 years! He said “I told the doctors I have a lot of praying friends who all disagree. I knew I had both prayers and prophecy in my corner and at one stage when I lay there not sure if I was alive or dead - I called on Jesus and felt his presence with me. It was reviving, I haven’t looked back.”

There’s so much more I haven’t had space to cover – the Fresh Expressions venture that attracted all sorts of people with problems; the Monday group of pensioners currently studying Pilgrims Progress; the curates trained at St John’s now leading other urban parishes and so much more.

The only thing I can suggest is go, visit, talk to them and listen to the tales, you’ll be impressed. I know I was.

Bryan Harris’s PARISH PROFILE

St John w St James & St Paul, Plumstead

It’s not often that I can’t hear myself during the singing or that the front rows of a church are full - and not because the occupants were last to arrive! But those will be just a couple of the lasting memories from a visit to St John w St James w St Paul, Plumstead.

St John’s parish covers the slopes from Plumstead High Street up to the Common. I knew the area well some 40 years ago and remember it as run-down terraces and multi-storey Council blocks that no-one wanted to live in unless they had no choice.

So with that kind of catchment area I wasn’t expecting much – but how wrong can you be?

The website describes it as ‘an evangelical charismatic church’ – which is not my ‘style’ so it was with some trepidation that I walked through the door.

What I found was a recognisably Common Worship service (albeit cut to the essentials), with a mix of traditional hymns accompanied by an organ and songs led by a worship group; contemporary prayer from the congregation; a relaxed chat from the Vicar rather than a sermon which still got the message – YOU are the light of the world - across and even encouraged ‘feedback’.

But it wasn’t so much the content but the participation that was impressive - I’ve never seen so many eager

The Revd Philip Rogers
Archbishop meets ‘LifeSavers’

St Bartholomew’s Primary School Sydenham welcomed The Archbishop of Canterbury in February to see their ‘LifeSavers’ pilot project.

Caroline Washbourne, School Admin Officer writes: “When we were accepted as a pilot school we decided two things; the whole school would take on the curriculum side of the project and two year groups the savings bank.

“The curriculum units explore the role of money in society, the difference between ‘need’ and ‘want’, charitable giving and what difference we can make as individuals. It also engages the children with the cost of everyday things, wages and debt.

“The savings bank is run by our year 6 volunteers supported by several adults. This has enabled the year 6 to develop their skills in leadership and has been exceptionally worthwhile.

“Next year we plan to open the savings bank to the whole school community”.

OPPORTUNITIES

Diocese of Southwark Parish Giving Communications Officer London Bridge - £34,000 - £36,000

The Diocese of Southwark is a large, vibrant and varied Diocese, stretching from the Thames to leafy Surrey. We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed Christian, with excellent communications skills to support our parishes as they develop their approach to giving as part of the mission and ministry of the church in South London and East Surrey.

With the ability to write creatively, and to present clearly and enthusiastically to parishes, you will have the chance to help them make better and more effective use of their resources and to identify and release new resources.

You should have a good understanding of the principles of Christian stewardship, and the organisational and numeracy skills to monitor your system of parish giving which funds the work of the Diocese.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 7th March.

Interviews will take place on Tuesday 16th March.

For an application pack, please visit our website www.southwark.anglican.org/who/for/our/vacancies.

The requirement for a practicing Christian in this position is a genuine occupational requirement, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Diocese of Southwark Team Members at Wychcroft, Diocesan Resource & Retreat Centre

We have opportunities to join the staff of Wychcroft, the Southwark Diocese Resource & Retreat Centre, based at a country house near Bletchingley, Surrey. You will be part of a team providing hospitality to guests during their stay at the house, with a variety of duties including cooking and housekeeping. We need our team members to have:

- A willingness to serve, in an unobtrusive style, to the highest standards of hospitality, which enables our guests to make the most of their stay.
- Experience of cooking, and a good awareness of food hygiene is essential.
- Ability to work as part of a team, with a flexible attitude to enable you to support and help others when needed.

A strong commitment to the values, culture and ethos of the Church of England is important, and to share the spirit of service, hospitality and team life.

There is flexibility in the number of hours that are offered, anticipated to be about 18 – 20 hours per week, depending on the needs of the Centre. These will be part-time, flexible hours.

Pay is based on an hourly rate of £8.35 per hour.

For further information and how to apply contact Uzma Osnisimo on 020 7393 9402, or via the website, www.southwark.anglican.org/who/for/our/vacancies.

We will consider applications at any time so please do complete an application, and we will then contact you to arrange an appointment.


diocesenews@southwark.anglican.org

To advertise your vacancy in The Bridge (in print and on-line) call 01474 854503 or email: kcpress@btinternet.com

Bergen on behalf of the Diocese

In early February, Bishop Michael led a small team on a three days visit to Bergen Norway. The aim was to explore the structures of the church in Norway and the ways that Southwark and Bergen Dioceses might work more closely together.

The Bishop, Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett (Diocesan Public Policy Adviser) and Ruth Martin (Diocesan Secretary) were accompanied by Revd Torbjorn Holt, Rector and Senior Pastor of the Norwegian church in London as facilitator and interpreter. During the visit Ruth and Rosemary contributed their thoughts to the Diocesan blog and what follows are some extracts;

We were shaken by the differences between our Dioceses. In Norway pastoral leadership, community outreach, development of youth work, family work and much else we associate with our parish priests, is led by a permanent, paid, lay diaconate.

Until the end of 2016 the (Lutheran) Church of Norway is state administered. Many churches have at least four paid staff members (effectively civil servants), including a religious education officer, a deacon, a musician, perhaps a chaplain and of course the parish priest. The state also pays for the buildings and most of the resources in the buildings.

At the Diocesan offices we met Diocesan staff, and later the Archdeacon (or deans as they call them). We visited a centre for interreligious dialogue, new and older churches, including the church of St Mary in Bergen which is used by the Anglican congregation. We also saw the new church at Kravvik (above) - inexplicably built just yards from a perfectly adequate existing parish church!

We met diocesan teams working with inner city poverty and with new migrants, those working in schools and with young people and older people, all with innovative ideas for ministry.

From the end of this year the Church of Norway will need to develop its own administrative structures and considerable changes therefore lie ahead.

This might include less influence in schools and society as secularist and humanists apply pressure to eject religious acts from schools and from state traditions.

So our hosts were interested in our insights into living with less means, fewer paid staff and so greater need for volunteers - and issues around working hours and workloads.

As a team, we reflected that while we in the Church of England struggle with our national governance structures, we have some very valuable freedoms: the opportunity to direct our own future and the freedom for each Diocese to respond independently on a range of issues. We also of course have to raise the funds to cover our costs, but even if the state is continuing to fund the church for the time being that’s something with which the Church of Norway is likely to have to grapple sooner or later.

This is an extract of the blog http://southwarkcofe.tumblr.com/ There’s a lot happening and it’s all there for you to follow. Why not sign up?

William Hill.

Loving God. Walking with Jesus. Led by the Spirit.

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To advertise your vacancy in The Bridge (in print and on-line) call 01474 854503 or email: kcpress@btinternet.com
KNOWN, LOVED AND PROTECTED

Compassion connects children living in the vulnerability of poverty with a sponsor.

Each sponsor enables a child to be loved and nurtured in their local church project. Here they are empowered to reach their full potential and taught about God’s love for them.

When you know and love a child, you do anything to protect them.

CHANGE A CHILD’S LIFE TODAY
www.compassionuk.org
There are many things I don’t understand and as I get older I realise more and more the limitations of my understanding. I did all three sciences at school – biology, chemistry and physics – but it was the latter that really stumped me and which I finally failed at O Level. My brain and physics just didn’t seem to find a meeting point! So I approach commenting on this month’s anniversary with some trepidation.

100 years ago, so in March 1916, Albert Einstein came up with his theory (in fact two theories) of relativity. All I know is that it has something to do with the formula E=mc² and that it is about space and time. But that is all I know. But what I do know is that rather than frightening me it creates in me a sense of awe and wonder.

I feel a bit like Job arguing his case before God and then ultimately saying: ‘I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.’ (Job 42:3)

The glory of creation is not so much its complexity but its simplicity, beauty and perfection. Listening to a scientist, even if I don’t understand what is being said, deepens my faith in a creator God. It doesn’t challenge my belief that all that is, is not some consequence of a cosmic accident but of something which springs from immense, divine love.

What this anniversary reminds me of, however, is that I don’t need to understand in order to appreciate and that what Einstein gave to us is not just a beautiful theory but a window into a beautiful creation.

Creator God, we see your love all around us in the vast expanse of time and space; in the delicacy of flowers and Cells. In awe and wonder may we treat your creation as a holy sacrament your real presence with us. Amen.

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 @deanouthwark

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Tour in October 2016

Bishop Christopher and the Revd Charles Bradshaw will lead a short tour (Monday 3 - Friday 7 October 2016) to explore the places and the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The cost of the tour is £599.

The tour includes his home in Berlin, where his bedroom was as it was on the morning of his arrest in 1943. There will be a visit to the museum of terror which tells the story of the Nazi takeover of Germany.

The party will worship in the church where he was ordained which is the memorial to the ‘conspiring ministers’ who met together to oppose Hitler. Visits will also be made to the memorial to the German holocaust, the railway station used for the deportation of the Jews from Berlin and a new museum commemorating those who took part in the 1944 bomb plot.

After worship in Dresden Cathedral the group will visit Flossenburg camp where Bonhoeffer was hanged five days before the liberation of the camp.

The Revd Charles Bradshaw comments ‘There is much in the thinking of Bonhoeffer for our world today’.

For full details contact Revd Charles Bradshaw at 39 Mill Lane, Hurst Green, RH8 9DF.
Ongoing

† ZIMBABWE ANGULIC COMMUNITY in Southwark meets monthly at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass Second Sunday at 2pm. Mothers’ Union last Saturday 2pm
† HACKBRIDGE - Taizé at All Saints at 7pm on the first Sunday every month. 40 minutes of prayer through singing and silence, followed by coffee/tea and discussion.
※ WARELINGHAM – Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall -12.1pm first Wednesday each month
† CHALDON - Church will reopen for Sunday tees on 3 April until 23 October. (3 to 4.30pm.)
† WESTMINSTER - Cathedral Interfaith Group. 4 to 5pm, third Wednesday of the month in the Hinsley Room. All welcome. In 2016 the group will study Pope Francis’s encyclical ‘Laudato Si’ ‘Our care for our common home.’

March

Wednesday 2 March
✿ UPPER TOOTING - Community Open Day at Holy Trinity Church 11am-3pm. Details from: www.holytrinityuptooting.org

Thursday 3 March
✿ SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL - Historian Robin Lane-Fox discusses his latest publication Augustine: Conversations and Confessions. 6.30pm. The talk will last approx 50 minutes followed by a Q&A session chaired by The Dean of Southwark. Refreshments available after the event. Free but limited places so you must register at http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/robin-lane-fox-augustine-conversations-and-confessions-tickets-21011600262

Friday 4 March
✿ BROCKLEY - Women’s World Day of Prayer service at St Andrew’s URC. 7.30pm. ‘Receive children. Receive me.’ Prayers for the people of Cuba
✿ LEE – Murder Mystery Evening in the Crypt of St Margaret’s Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £10. More information from stmargaretsslee@btinternet.com

Saturday 5 March
✿ WEST DULWICH – Concordia Chamber Choir concert of Spanish classical music. 7.30 pm at All Saints’ Church. £12 at the door, or £11 in advance from www.concordiachamberchoir.co.uk
✿ UPPER TOOTING - Community Open Day at Holy Trinity Church 11am-3pm. Details from: www.holytrinityuptooting.org

Thursday 10 March
✿ SUMMERSTOWN 182 - Local History Discussion Evening. 7.30pm at ‘The Corner Pin’(next to Wimbledon Stadium)

Saturday 12 March
✿ NORTH DULWICH – Concert by children and adults at St Faith’s Church, 7pm. Admission free. A collection will be taken in aid of the music programme at Ecole St Vincent, an Episcopalian school in the Diocese of Haiti.

Sunday 13 March
✿ LEE – Music at St Margaret’s. 7.30pm – Blackheath Choir Concert. Tickets from 020 8855 6325

Tuesday 15 March
✿ STRATHAM – Martin Lawrence and friends - An evening of horn playing, terror and bliss at St Peter’s Church, 7.30pm – retiring collection.

Thursday 17 March
✿ CROYDON - ‘Crosslight’ Riding Lights Passion 2016 Play for Lent – at St Mildred’s Church, Addiscombe, 7.30pm. Crosslight draws us into the dramatic events of Christ’s Passion and the experience of one disciple who failed, despite everything he believed. Tickets from 020 8655 1434 or www.stmildredchurch.org.uk/payments

Saturday 19 March
✿ CHEMI - Verdi Requiem - Carshalton Choral Society / Sutton Symphony Orchestra. 7.30pm at St Andrew’s Church. Tickets £10 from www.carshaltonchoral.org.uk or www.suttonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk
✿ SANDERSTEAD HILL - Exhibition & Sale of Pictures by Local Artists at the URC Hall - 10 am - 4.30 pm. Proceeds to The Children’s Society. Admission 50p
✿ EARLSFIELD - Summerstown 182 Walk (Earlsfield/Wandell Section) 2pm from St Mary, Summerstown.

Saturday 26 March
✿ SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL - Good Friday Choir Concert. 6.30-9pm. The Cathedral Girls’ choir and Lay clerks sing a programme of Lenten music. Tickets £12 from https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/southwark-cathedral-good-friday-concert-2016-tickets-2091660132

Saturday 26 March
✿ CROYDON - Mozart Requiem in D minor - Choirs of Croydon Minster/Whitgift Minster Choral Society/Whitgift Chamber Choir & Academy of Haling Park. 7pm, Croydon Minster. Tickets: £10, (concs £5) on the door
✿ CROYDON - Lewisham Choral Society sing Mendelssohn’s Elijah with The Derbyshire Singers. 7.30pm at the Fairfield Halls. Tickets: £15 to £30 (Inc. programme) from www.croydon.co.uk or by phone on 020 8688 9291

ADDICOMBE - Croydon Bach Choir Spring Concert 7.30pm at St Mildred’s Church - Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis with professional soloists & Croydon Bach Orchestra. Tickets £15.00 from https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/croydonbachchoir

April

Tuesday 12 April
✿ STRATHAM - Boxwood and Brass at St Peter’s Church 7.30pm. Retiring collection in aid of the church organ fund.

Saturday 16 April
✿ RAYNES PARK - Tallis: Spem in Alium. Wimbledon Chamber Choir 40th Anniversary concert. 7.30pm at St Matthew’s Church. Tickets £10: www.wimbledonchamberchoir.org.uk

Saturday 23 April
✿ TOOTING - Summerstown 182 Walk (Tooting Section) 2pm from St Mary, Summerstown

Saturday 30 April
✿ ELTHAM – Spring Serenade – with the Greenwich Youth Band -7.30pm at St Luke’s Church, Westmount Road. Tickets £8 (concs £6) at the door or from Normans Music 32 Well Hall Road. Interval refreshments.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL
Guided Walks starting from the Cathedral
Friday 22 April 11am Shakespeare’s Southwark
A fascinating tour of Bankside and the Southwark Church he and his friends knew so well. (90 mins.) £7 per person
Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 April 10.00am–10.00pm The Complete Walk - Shakespeare's Globe Screenings of a short film for each Shakespeare Play along the South Bank.

Friday 29 April 11am Historic Bankside Walk
Uncover the rich and colourful history of this area. This walk recounts a time when bishops, bards, and prostitutes lived and worked alongside each other. (90 mins.) £7 per person
Tickets from: www.eventbrite.co.uk or the Cathedral Shop

GUIDED WALKS

15 Free for 4s and under Reduced childrens prices

Lee Abbey
Christian Community

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your events for APRIL ONWARDS to Trinity House BY FRIDAY 11 MARCH

THE BRIDGE... March 2016

CONFERENCEs

RETREATS

HOLIDAYS

“Got to climb cliffs, walk in forests, fly 100 feet off the ground, swim in the ocean and praise God in His awesome creation. Will definitely return. x!”

CHRIS

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150 years of Christian Community
Monster Cathedral Fundraiser makes £100k

The monster Robes Project Sleepout, at Southwark Cathedral on the 29 November 2015, where 150 people slept rough, has raised £101,147.

The 5th Sleepout was supported by impressionist Jon Culshaw; Neil Coyle, MP for Bermondsey & Old Southwark and the Mayors of Southwark and Lambeth. Participants listened to the ukulele band, Katie’s Jumping Fleas, and took part in a gala auction hosted by radio and TV legend, Canon Roger Royle, before heading out for a night under the stars, in the cold churchyard.

The event will provide shelter for 15 to 20 people every night throughout the winter. Last Robes Project created 2,800 overnight stays, serving 5,700 meals and got many men and women off the streets last winter.

This year, the funding will help the project meet its costs of £80,000 per year, as the charity receives no Government or statutory funding. More than 22 church venues, backed by an army of 400 volunteers, are providing shelter, food and support.

George Martin, Chair of the Robes Project Trustees said: “This was our biggest Sleepout to date. The money will allow us to double the spaces we offer to our homeless guests.”

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn said: “This fundraising effort is astounding. Sleeping rough is dangerous and bad for your health, and it is almost impossible to break the cycle without a place to take a shower, rest, eat and get advice. With the Robes Project guests can get the right support, to help them get back on their feet and into a more stable way of living. We are grateful that such large numbers of people have donated and supported to help us continue this vital work.”

The next Sleepout is on 25 November 2016. More information on the robes project can be found at www.robos.org.

Credit union re-launched as Community Bank

Savers and borrowers across Croydon are set to benefit from the re-launch of a credit union as a council-supported community bank offering a safe and cost-effective alternative to payday loan companies.

Croydon Plus promises members competitive interest rates and a range of services that sit in line with the council’s financial inclusion strategy that seeks to enable more people to take control of their household budgeting.

The re-launch sees the introduction of online banking – to go to www.croydonplus.co.uk – and a new product called the Jam Jar Account, designed for members who might have money-management difficulties.

When members open Jam Jar Accounts, they agree to have any benefits they may be receiving paid straight into the account which will then manage the funds, settle household bills, pay off debts and, at the same time, squirrel away a percentage as savings.

Keen to see the revitalised credit union succeed in helping the community, Croydon Council is backing the venture with a loan of £100,000 that will help the union deal with the new clients the relaunch is expected to attract.

Established in 1999 as Credit Union – Croydon Plus, Croydon Credit Union – Croydon Plus is overseen by an unboard chaired by the Revd Andrew Wakefield (Vicar of South Wimbledon, St Andrew). Andrew Wakefield said he was looking forward to an exciting time ahead: “We see the involvement of the council as a major step forward in growing our services and our membership”.

Marking the anniversary of the 2011 Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami

A Memorial service was held on Saturday 6 February at Southwark Cathedral marking the fifth anniversary of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the second such service to be held there.

Minako Hall - Japanese Anglican Church (SE London)

Some 300 people attended the prayerful and reflective service to remember the people of Japan still affected by the disaster of 2011. A solo sopranoist sang as people arrived, a tranquil prelude to the service.

The service was presided over by Canon Gilly Myers, the Precentor of Southwark Cathedral and the sermon was given by the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Woolwich. Guest speaker, Kei Ikumori of NSKJ, the Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan, gave an update on how many people’s lives are still affected by the disaster. Kei is General Director of the “Let Us Walk Together Part II” project which ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of tsunami survivors.

Prayers were led by the Revd Tsuyoshi Ejiri, Ealing Christian Centre Japanese Church and the Revd Ikuko Williams, Chaplain, Leeds University Hospital. Other clergy with Japanese connections were involved in the service.

Many Japanese people attending the service including the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Japanese Embassy. Andrew Wakefield, the Mayor of Southwark and representatives from US, CMS and JA (Japan Association in the UK). The Rikkyo School in England attended and their choir sang during the service.

Upon arrival, the congregation each received a hand-made paper petal of cherry blossom (Sakura) bearing the name of a town in Japan where a person had died in the disaster. During the Act of Remembrance, the congregation came forward to hang these petals upon two cherry trees, bringing them to life. The trees were then illuminated as a sign of hope.

NSKJ continue to work with victims of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Every year, even though in the rest of Japan, the affected areas are largely forgotten - please keep these people in your prayers.

The Japanese Anglican Church (South East London) meets regularly at St Hugh’s Church, Southwark.