Wandsworth Prison hosts Bishops ecumenical visit

On Wednesday 26 October Bishop Christopher and the Most Revd Peter Smith, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark spent the morning in Wandsworth Prison. They toured the prison with the Anglican and Roman Catholic Chaplains, meeting staff and prisoners representing various faith communities, and chatting informally with prisoners in and around their cells, and in the family visit room. This was followed by a meeting with Chaplains from other London prisons.

The Roman Catholic Church is celebrating the Jubilee for Prisoners in their Year of Mercy on 6 November and has sent an Icon of Jesus Christ to all prisons in England and Wales. The morning’s visit ended with a service at which Wandsworth Prison’s Icon was blessed and lunch, which the Bishops shared with the prisoners and chaplains they had met during their visit.

Bishop Christopher said: “I was pleased to be able to visit and see the work of Wandsworth Prison with Archbishop Peter as we look forward together to the Jubilee for Prisoners on 6 November.

“It was good to share time with staff and prisoners and with Chaplains from other prisons too. The work of our prisons is so important as they seek to rehabilitate people to rejoin our communities. But they face great challenges, particularly in terms of recruiting enough talented staff to do this vital work after several years of savage cuts. There is also a role for the Church, in providing virtuous circles of relationships and support for prisoners and their families, before and after release. Please pray for all prisoners and for those who work with them in this Year of Mercy”.

Mayor of London speaks at Faith and Community Assembly

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, gave the Keynote Address at the Faith and Community Assembly in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 1 October.

The Assembly was introduced by Bishop Christopher who said: “We come together from different faith and community perspectives to say that we want London to be for all Londoners; to say loudly and clearly that our diversity is to be cherished and celebrated as a source of vitality and blessing”.

“But we should not kid ourselves, London is not perfect, and we face divisions. We can deal with them if we work together and strive to build bridges and not walls - and continue to celebrate London’s diversity”.

Following the contributions from the Bishop and the Mayor, a number of young people spoke of the actions they were taking to work for inclusion and diversity including the work of ‘Stand Up Stand Out’ a migrant youth-led movement. The Assembly also heard from faith and community leaders representing the London Baptist Association: Sadaqa Day & Nisa Nashim Muslim-Jewish Women’s Network: the Christian Muslim Forum; London Boroughs Faiths Network; Citizens UK; City Sikhs and Faith Forum for London; the Diocese of London; Greenwich Islamic Centre and the London Methodist District.

They then joined the Mayor, the Bishop and the young people in signing the declaration(right).

- We pledge our determination as Londoners to ensure that this great city shall continue to be a place of welcome, generosity and equality, with respect for all
- We condemn and oppose prejudice and distrust and will work unceasingly for tolerance and the common good
- We abhor all examples of exclusion based on ethnic identity that mar relationships between neighbours of all ages, faiths and backgrounds
- We stand in solidarity with those in London who are mistreated or held in contempt because of who they are or where they have come from
- We affirm that our diversity is a source of strength and that we are committed to learning from one another
- We commit to living out this Declaration in our own lives, in our teaching and preaching and in our community engagement.

The Diocese of Southwark
Celebrating 50 years of the Anglican Centre in Rome... page 5
What makes a Good Funeral ... pages 8-9
Wendy Robins meets Bishop Precious Omuku ...page 11

Bishop’s Adviser for Spiritual Formation

Bishop Christopher has appointed the Revd Christopher Palmer, Team Rector of Merton Priory Team Ministry as his Adviser for Spiritual Formation.

He is currently Chair of the Diocesan Spiritual Formation Group and will carry this new responsibility alongside his work as Team Rector.

Speaking of his appointment Chris says, “I love to journey with others who desire to meet God in prayer and discover him in everyday living.”

Bishop Christopher says, “Chris has a wealth of experience in helping others on their spiritual paths and I am looking forward to working with him as we take forward encouraging spiritual formation throughout the Diocese.”

A Good Funeral

Simon McBurney of Theatre de Complicité spoke a few weeks ago at the Actors’ Church, St Paul’s Covent Garden, at the memorial for Annie Castledine - a wonderful creative talented member of the theatre, who worked with my wife and was a fascinating friend of ours over many years.

His was the greatest most energised performance in a series of extraordinary evocations of Annie - including a brilliant funny speech by a Roman Catholic priest to whom she had sort of turned late in life. She was born Catholic. Just days before she died, for my birthday she sent me a fresh copy of Poems that make Grown Men Cry (Simon & Schuster) and on the card wrote “God worries me”. I really wept.

We all die, and some people spend a lot of time planning their own funerals. Good to say you don’t mind cremation, or prefer burial. More vital – for the sake of relatives and friends – make a proper will, hopefully so beneficiaries don’t hate each other. But funerals and memorial services are for the living not the dead. Talk about it to the one person you know will feel it is up to them to make the arrangements. And make it clear they have the final word. You won’t be late for your own funeral. I was always being told I would be when I was young. You won’t be there. Sorry.

What we are thinking about at funerals and memorials is the life lost to us - the memory of that person now closed. You won’t be there. Sorry.

A funeral may be embellished gloriously with music and imagery. But what it needs above all is a sense of the dead having the life lost to us - the memory of that person now closed. You won’t be there. Sorry.

The Revd Timothy Pike was instituted as Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Croydon on Thursday 29 September

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 8851 7851 or 077 6666 2747

‘Enthralling’ Clergy Study Day

“A great turn out” of Southwark Clergy were “enthralled” by presentations on John’s gospel by Prof David Ford, Prof Joan Taylor & Dr Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski at the Clergy Study Day in Southwark Cathedral on 11 October. The day began with ‘Learning to Read and Live the Gospel of John’ by Prof David Ford OBE (Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus, Cambridge University) - “a most amazing lecture on John’s Gospel as the testament to God’s abundant love for all” (Revd Richard Sewell). That was followed by a presentation from the Templeton Foundation on ‘Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science’.

After midday prayer and lunch the subject was “The Gospel of John and its Cultural Context” presented by Professor Joan E. Taylor of King’s College, London and Revd Dr Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski, until 2013 a member of Richmond Team Ministry.

“A truly inspiring study day (now to put it all into practice)” – the Revd Rob Ryan, East Greenwich Team.

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Croydon Minster
“Beats the Bounds”

On Sunday 9 October, members of the congregation of Croydon Minster took to the streets to follow the ancient custom of Beating the Bounds.

Split into 3 groups, they walked the 10.5 mile boundaries of the parish between them before relaxing with a well-earned lunch at local pub, The Dog & Bull.

The ancient custom of Croydon Minster took

On Sunday 9 October, Croydon Minster “Beats the Bounds”

The Revd Andrew Wakefield

We regret to announce the sudden death of the Revd Andrew Wakefield who died on Wednesday 26 October of a heart attack.

Ordained in 1978 he spent his entire ministry in the Diocese of Southwark, serving in Mitcham, Putney and Wimbledon - where he has led Wimbledon South St Andrew since 1991, initially as Priest in Charge and since 1997 as Vicar.

He has been an Industrial Chaplain and Diocesan Urban Missioner and more recently Borough Dean for Merton and Chair of Merton Chamber of Commerce.

A fuller tribute will appear in next month’s edition of The Bridge.

The Minister groups were composed of all ages, and they did indeed carry sticks which were used to beat various points along the boundaries as prayers were said.

All participants agreed that it was a great way to take the church out into the local community.

Right - Some of the boy choristers gleefully volunteered to be upended in a symbolic reminder of less child friendly times.

Back when maps were rare, old and young members of the community would be led by the priest and church officials to share the knowledge of where the boundaries lay and to pray for protection and blessing for the land.

They would be armed with sticks or boughs to beat the boundary markers – and occasionally also some of the young boys in the groups, to ensure that the next generation would remember!

St George’s College in Jerusalem is often the venue for significant meetings between people in the place where so much of the history of the three Abrahamic religions meets.

Bishop Richard chairs the British Regional Committee of the College, which is developing programmes for Dioceses who are linked together.

From 3-11 November forty priests – 20 from Southwark and Rochester Diocese and 20 from the five link Dioceses in Zimbabwe - will meet together at St George’s College to share a time of finding out more about the Holy Land together.

Southwark Diocese is linked to Matabeleland (Kingston Area); Manicaland (Woolwich); Central Zimbabwe (Croydon) and Mavingo (the Cathedral); the Diocese of Rochester is linked to Harare Diocese. It is hoped that this will help to deepen and solidify the relationships between the Dioceses as people from the different Diocese share learning about the Holy Land.

There will be a blog at https://linkedjerusalem.wordpress.com/ it will begin on 1 November as the parties prepare to journey, and will enable you to follow what they are doing. There will be a report and photographs in the next edition of the Bridge.

Harvest Thanksgiving at St Barnabas, Sutton

Woolen squares created by the Knitting Circle were sewn together to create an altar frontal for Harvest at St Barnabas, Sutton on 25 September. The frontal can also be divided into two and used as blankets for any old people in church who might feel the cold during the winter.

The Knitting Circle set up and run by Dorothy Hannam, is held twice a month during St Barnabas’ Open Saturdays and for three of the knitters it was their first try at knitting.

Harvest gifts collected at the service - 18 full carrier bags of provisions - were given to Sutton Night Watch.

Set up in 2015, Sutton Night Watch runs a ‘soup kitchen’ for the homeless in Sutton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings between 8 and 10pm near the car park at Sutton Station.

They give out hot drinks, blankets and food and also put people in touch with drug workers and those that can provide them with accommodation.

Ena Bussy and Davina Hodson prepare the table for the Annual Harvest Bread Sale at St James’s Church, Malden, in aid of Christian Aid on 2 October. Congregation members and their partners make the bread using a wide variety of recipes. Christian Aid envelopes were also distributed.

Nearby New Nissans...

Good Old-Fashioned Value!

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The Anglican Centre in Rome

You could feel history in the air when the Archbishop of Canterbury arrived in Rome for the events to celebrate fifty years of Anglican Roman Catholic dialogue, friendship and partnership in mission and service.

The Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby

Half a century before, Archbishop Michael Ramsey had travelled to Rome to meet Pope Pius VI - the first time such an event had taken place since the Reformation.

In 1966 the Anglican Centre in Rome was established as a sort of Anglican ‘embassy’, with its Director (currently Archbishop David Moxon, from the Anglican Church of New Zealand) serving as the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Personal Representative to the Vatican.

The centre welcomes Anglicans from across the world offering a programme of study from ecumenical matters to preaching, biblical studies and more general themes; it welcomes people for sabbaticals (including the possibility of accommodation); and hosts an extensive ecumenical library in the beautiful Palazzo Doria Pamphili (top right).

Famously, in 1966, the Pope took off his own episcopal ring and placed it on Archbishop Michael Ramsey’s hand. What couldn’t be said in words, was said in deeds: ‘we recognise in you, episcopal ministry’. The ring is worn by Archbishops of Canterbury whenever they visit the Bishop of Rome.

On this occasion, the Pope gave Archbishop Justin a beautiful crozier modelled on the crozier of Pope St Gregory the Great, who sent St Augustine to Canterbury to work for the conversion of England to Christianity.

In turn, Archbishop Justin gave a Coventry ‘Cross of Nails’ pectoral cross to Pope Francis which the Archbishop took around his own neck and presented to the Pope who immediately wore it himself.

IARCCUM

The Archbishop had arrived in Rome having spent time in Canterbury with ‘pairs’ of bishops from around the world.

The International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission is one of the fruits of the last fifty years of closer relations between Anglicans and Roman Catholics. Essentially, the aim of the Commission is that Roman Catholics and Anglicans should work together in mission and service, whenever possible.

Thirty-six Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops, representing 19 different regions across the world, were commissioned to do just that, at a service of Vespers at the Caravita Church where the Archbishop of Canterbury preached, and the Cardinal Secretary of State presided. Very powerfully, the Cardinal Parolin insisted that Archbishop Justin should carry the crozier given to him by Pope Francis the previous day at the service.

Anglican Social Theology

At the Pontifical Gregorian University, Dr Anna Rowlands gave an inspiring call to social action. In particular she encouraged the rediscovery of the rich heritage of Anglican Social Teaching, which had, she said ‘an impressive cloud of traditions and teaching’ including combating the great social ills of slavery, poverty, and injustice of all kinds through history. She encouraged us to seek a genuinely ecumenical social theology in the face of the huge need we see in our world today.

There were so many powerful moments during the time in Rome. It was incredible to see the ethnic and cultural diversity of the IARCCUM bishops representing many of the countries which are also present in our own Diocese. It was also good to see female and male bishops and priests among the Friends of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

I was struck by the real warmth and excitement between the bishops. There was a real sense that we’re stronger together, and that the main aim is share the love of God in the world together as much as we can.

Further information

You can find more information on the work of the Anglican Centre in Rome at http://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/

Southwark has three Diocesan representatives of the Anglican Centre in Rome. Please contact the relevant one for more information or a conversation about how you might like to be involved:

Croydon Area: Revd Roxanne Hunte – Woolwich Area: Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby

Kingston Area: Revd Canon Mark Williams (photographed left meeting the Pope)

Proud to be sponsoring ‘Of things not seen’ at St James’s, Clapham

14th - 27th November 2016

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Reigate welcomes new Archdeacon

The Revd Canon Moira Astin was welcomed to Reigate Archdeaconry at Reigate, St Mary’s on 9 October. She will be formally installed as Archdeacon at Southwark Cathedral on 30 October.

Canon Carol Coslett

Over 100 clergy, lay and community representatives from across the Archdeaconry enjoyed a reception in the hall and a chance of a word with Moira. At about 6pm, they moved into church for a celebration and formal welcome to this new stage in the life of the Archdeaconry. During the service Bishop Jonathan interviewed Moira and as Bishop (with his mitre on) and as Acting Archdeacon, he handed over a “Yellow Hard Hat” to Moira to protect her from the fabric issues that Archdeacons encounter.

In her address Moira talked about the challenge of change, moving house and the stresses of no internet! She also touched on what it might mean to be the Church in our area, and how we could all work together to further the kingdom.

Worship songs were led by the St Mary’s music group and the service concluded with a collection in aid of Welcare - and then another chance to greet Moira at the door. We all look forward to the year ahead as we get to know Moira more and as she gets to know this area of East Surrey.

Making Connections in Purley

St Mark’s, Woodcote and St Swithun’s, Purley will hold an Advent Outreach Mission starting on Sunday 27 November at 5pm with a service at St Swithun’s, and will end with a service with Bishop Jonathan at 3.30pm on Sunday 4 December at St Mark’s.

The Revd Len Abrams writes:

This will be a week of discussions and rediscovery through a series of meetings during the week open to everyone inside and outside the Church. The mission is being supported by a grant from the Croydon Episcopal Area 2016 Mission Fund.

The mission aims to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Christ in such a manner as to be ‘hearable’ by those whom God is calling to faith in the community, and to breathe new life into the faith community.

It will be led by the Rt Revd Martin Breytenbach, Bishop of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, Polokwane, South Africa. Bishop Martin trained and worked as a civil engineer before becoming a parish priest. He was installed as Bishop in February 2000 and is a senior Bishop of the Anglican Province of Southern Africa. A gifted speaker and musician, he chairs the Board of the “Growing the Church” Institute founded by the Archbishop of Southern Africa, out of which has developed the Anglicans Ablaze movement. The 2014 Anglicans Ablaze conference in South Africa was attended by Archbishop Justin Welby.

In a world which has never been so ‘connected’ - through the internet, social media, smart-phones and global communications - people still can find they are disconnected and alienated from themselves, their families, the world around them and from God. The theme of the Mission is “Making Connections” – reconnecting with ourselves and those we love through a rediscovery of our connections with God through Jesus Christ.

For more information:
For more information visit www.PurleyConnections.co.uk or call the Parish Office on 020 8763 9991 and leave a message.

What do you love about being a Bishop?

What don’t you like about being a Bishop? How do you become a Bishop? Were you religious as a child? What’s your favourite book?

These are just some of the questions students from Christ’s School, Richmond asked Bishop Richard during a recent visit. The Bishop met with students across all year groups and enjoyed a lively conversation answering a diverse range of questions.

In return, he also asked the students questions about religion and science, and life as a student in a church school.

The students enjoyed interacting with the Bishop and he was very relaxed during his time in the school.

The students, Headteacher, Helen Dixon, and the School Chaplain, Serena Willoughby, all enjoyed his visit. Bishop Richard is planning a further visit to the school to meet with the students.

Of things not seen

A year in the life of a London priest
Photographs by Jim Grover

Monday 14th to Sunday 27th November
St James’ Church, Clapham

‘Of things not seen’ was first exhibited in March 2016 at gallery@oxo on London’s South Bank. It attracted 7,400 visitors and extensive media coverage. We’re now proud to be ‘bringing it home’ to St James’, before it tours elsewhere in the UK.

Exhibition address
St James’ Church
Park Hill
Clapham
SW4 9PB
www.stjamesclapham.org.uk
www.ofthingsnotseen.com

Opening Times
Monday-Wednesday 11-6
Thursday-Friday 11-9
Saturday 10-4
Sunday 2-6

Refreshments
Admission free

Sponsored by
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Supported by
Kingston Mission Team
Southwark Diocese
The countryside comes to Kennington

What do you get if you cross a donkey, a load of scarecrows, hundreds of children, and a vicar?... Kennington Country Life

Croydon North Deanery churches recently hosted a breakfast meeting to bring community, contractor and local council together to address the problems of rubbish on the streets.

Over the last year the Deanery has been engaged in a community ‘listening project’ assisted by James Asla of Croydon Citizens and by a Mission Grant from the Croydon Episcopal Area. One of the main concerns raised was fly-tipping, waste and litter on local streets.

During several meetings involving church members - supported by local community group, Thornton Heath Community Action Team THCAT - discussions revolved around balancing the responsibilities of residents, the waste collection contractor and the local Council.

It was decided that the best way forward was to host a breakfast meeting to bring together Church, community, contractor and Council.

The first ‘Streets Working Breakfast’ took place at 8.30am on Thursday 8 September in Holy Saviour Church Hall. The doors opened at 8am serving teas, coffees, croissants and fruit provided by the church. Even though it was a working morning, 10 Veolia Waste Operatives were among the 75 people, seated around four tables, with local authority representatives at each table.

A welcome and introduction (with ground rules) was given by the Revd Leonard Marsh - Area Dean of Croydon North.

The meeting was co-chaired by Linda Watson, leader of THCAT, the Revd Catherine Tucker, Vicar of Holy Saviour Church and Canon Joyce Forbes of St Stephen’s, Norbury.

The meeting started with remarks on ‘why this process is so important’ from the leader of Council Cllr Newman, Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon, Cllr Stuart Collins and Regional Manager of Veolia, Sean Trotter. Then a facilitated discussion was held so that everyone present could contribute as the four topics were aired: bulky waste collection, report fly tipping, landlord accountability and Street Champions.

The Revd Catherine Tucker said ‘The main achievement of the meeting was being with each other and hearing each others perspective. The meeting, which was reported in the Croydon Advertiser also gained a promise that the Council would not wind down the ‘fly tipping phone hotline’ and agreement that this type of ‘meeting together’ should be repeated on a regular basis.

Wandsworth churches to run night shelter

Three Wandsworth churches have joined forces to provide vital night shelters for the homeless - providing a warm welcome, a hot supper, and the chance to get support to move off the streets for good.

To support the project parishioners were among more than 100 people who slept out in Chelsea to raise funds for homeless shelters run by the Glass Door charity and to highlight the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness.

The £150,000 raised will help Glass Door extend its network of church-based shelters and, with the Wandsworth churches on board, it will be partnering 25 churches, allowing the charity to shelter at least 85 individuals every night in winter, up from 70 per night.

Archdeacon of Wandsworth, the Venerable John Kiddle said: “This is a really important initiative. It has engaged over a hundred volunteers in a partnership of churches across the Borough of Wandsworth. It is a practical expression of mission at its unconditional best; love and care for some of most vulnerable people in our community, those without a home in the cold winter months who would otherwise be sleeping rough.

“At its heart, the Night Shelter project is about people meeting people in hospitality and friendship, which is what our churches are there for; each encounter, each conversation an opportunity to discover the truth of Jesus’ words that as we welcome others we welcome him.”

The Wandsworth churches hosting a night shelter are: Ascension Balham; St Peter’s, Battersea; St Mark’s, Battersea Rise; St Barnabas, Clapham Common; St Barnabas, Southfields; St Michael & All Angels, Southfields; St Luke’s, Battersea.
This year sees the 150th anniversary of Reader ministry in the Church of England. This milestone comes at a time where the importance of lay ministry is being highlighted more and more at a national and local level.

Nick Shepherd writes:

There are over 250 Readers serving the church in its ministry and mission across the Diocese. Last month we welcomed four new members to the Diocese. At this service Bishop Christopher also welcomed David Banbury, admitted in Bath and Wells, to be licensed to South Nutfield. Christ Church (photo right).

Many people will be familiar with the role Readers play in leading worship and in teaching and preaching. This though is often only the tip of the iceberg of the areas of service that our Readers are engaged in. Many of our Readers in the Diocese serve as lay chaplains in schools and hospitals. Some are helping to lead and develop Fresh Expressions of Church. Others have roles connected to theological education. Most are active members of church communities – running home groups, being part of PCC’s. This sense of the breadth and diversity of Reader Ministry is captured in a recent compiled work to mark the 150th anniversary called, Instruments of Love: The Ministry of Readers. Here, Reader ministry is described as being “a flexible and Spirit-led ministry, continually renewing as the needs of the Church are changing to fit evolving ministerial contexts.” This describes well what Caroline, Tim, Chris and David are now enacting. They each belong to different communities. They each have different gifts and interests. They will each contribute differently.

As the role of licensed lay ministry continues to evolve it is vital that we continue to widen the diversity of people and the range of gifts we have in Reader ministry. A barrier to this, as Instruments of Love states, is that Reader ministry sometimes gets a “bad press as a stop-gap ministry’ – filling in where we don’t have clergy or ‘keeping church services ticking over’. This couldn’t be further from what the heart of Reader ministry is, or from how we are seeking to promote and celebrate Reader ministry in Southwark. At its heart Reader ministry is concerned with connecting. Connecting one skill, experiences and understanding to the opportunities to serve in mission and ministry. Seeking to help others to connect the word of God to with their experiences and concerns. Attempting to find ways to make new connections between the Gospel, the Church and contemporary life. Reader ministry isn’t concerned with keeping the church ticking over. It finds its place within and alongside all members of the church in looking for where we are moving and where we need to move. In being licensed Caroline, Tim, Chris and David formally join this movement. With their contribution Reader ministry takes another Spirit-led step forward.

Dr Nick Shepherd is Assistant Director of Discipleship and Ministry and is a Reader at the Good Shepherd with St Peter, Lee.

Instruments of Love: The Ministry of Readers by Phillip Tovey, Sally Buck and Graham Dodds is published by SCM Press.
What makes a good funeral?

The right words

Dr Sandra Millar

Dying, death, bereavement and bereavement care have been part of our lives since birth, and the ordination process promises to prepare the clergy for their deaths, and throughout the ensuing grief and bereavement in the particular concern for those whose vocation in life is ministry. In the 21st century, however, emerging culture and the opening up of opportunities has meant that the Church of England Funerals (Partnership) has been set up to incorporate and build on 150 years of the Church of England’s expertise in funerals. Nationally, around 85% of all deaths are still marked with Church of England ceremony, and recent research from the Archbishops’ Council has helped to bring fresh understanding of what means to happen if we are to continue to meet with our days and end our days. The cultural taboos around taking about death being painful, and always trying to begin to say to the music and Aristotelian conversations around assisted suicide and end-of-life decisions have been talked about. The CoE research showed that we are well placed to be part of the emerging public conversation, and continue to work alongside families and with local communities.

New understanding

Contemporary funerals have changed, and ever have a huge, huge focus on understanding the story of a person’s life, and how that can be remembered. It has been shown that the Church of England has a strong reputation in acknowledging the emotional reactions around death, with a liturgy that acknowledges those emotions, and a service that expresses gratitude. The public value what we offer, especially what we offer on the need for the family. This led us to be concerned about what the Church can do better, with a support network of bereaved and sometimes immediate relatives or TV drama. Offering pastoral care that goes beyond the day of the funeral, with a message that is meaningful and appreciated.

The Church of England offers a variety of services to light a proper candle in the warmth of a local college service, and many people want and welcome the advice and help and the funeral director, and want to have an idea around life circumstances and concerns about the family. There are new developments Church of England funeral ministry. The right words can change a funeral.

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A parish priest reflects on Three aspects of a `good funeral`

Robert Stanier

The right words

Celebrating a golden age in Abbey Wood

It was a chance comment by a visiting electrician that setWilliam Temple Church on a journey culminating in a day of celebration on 2 October.

As the Revd Donald Silcock, Curate-in-Charge, explained, it was a memorable day. He had seen the date of 1966 on the foundation stone by the door, a stone passed by so often by the congregation that we tended not to notice it anymore.

Having been reminded of our age we didn’t want to miss the chance to celebrate our Golden Anniversary so plans were soon put together for a day of celebration in October to commemorate the dedication of the completed church on 26 October 1966 by Mervyn Stockwood, Bishop of Southwark in the presence of Francis Temple, widow of Archbishop William Temple for whom the church is named.

The in the post-war housing boom of the 1950’s the Abbey Wood Estate was built on former marshland and a community of some 8,000 people settled there in just five years. A Curate was one of the first residents. He established a regular church meeting in the waiting room of the doctor’s surgery.

As the group grew they moved into a workman’s canteen and then a temporary canteen and then a temporary building on what was to become church grounds. After 8 years of planning and fundraising William Temple Church was built in 1966. One of only a handful of churches in the UK named for a twentieth century individual.

Photos and artefacts, were displayed around the church at a local history afternoon which concluded in a service of celebration led by Bishop Christopher. Many from the local community, past and present, came to celebrate our history with us. We also were blessed with many previous clergy and were particularly pleased that the Revd Donald Silcock, Curate-in-Charge when the church was built was able to make the long journey from his retirement home.

For many he was the highlight of the day and he was constantly surrounded by people who remembered his part in their special days. It was a wonderful thing to be able to celebrate the pioneering work of those early clergy who forged a Christian community on this new estate.

It was also a reminder to us of the work we have ahead of us as a new era on the estate begins.

The coming of Crossrail is bringing changes to this area almost as momentous as those that led to the building of the estate in the first place. We pray that we may be as ambitious and adventurous as we move into this brave new world.

Bishop Christopher with the Revd Donald Silcock

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Spirituality & the brain

St Margaret’s Lee will welcome celebrated author Dr Iain McGilchrist on Tuesday 8 November (7.30-9pm) to present its fourth annual Halley Lecture.

Dr McGilchrist has a wide range of publications, embracing literature, philosophy, medicine and psychiatry. He is a former Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and of the Royal Society of Arts. He is a former Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director at the Bethlem Royal & Maudsley Hospital and has been a Research Fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

Ticket: £10 including drinks and nibbles - concessions available for students and young people. Contact the Parish Office at: stmargaretslee@btinternet.com or call on 020 8318 9643
Thinking back over many conversations with the Rt Revd Precious Omuku I can’t help but think that his is a story of being called by the church and by God to be in some difficult places.

Then once there he is often used to seek about improvements to the local communities and to work with others to try to bring about healing and co-operation where there previously there has been antipathy. Bishop Precious is a very smiling, good humoured man, or at least that is always as he seems to me - and I am struck by what an effect his good humour has on me and those around him and what an asset it must be when he is working.

As he greets me at Lambeth Palace, where he works some days of the week as the Archbishop’s Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs – a role for which he is seconded from the Anglican Communion Office - his infectious smile was quickly in evidence. His sense of fun and engagement with life was immediately clear too when we were offered coffee. Quick as a flash he whipped out of an inside jacket pocket a packet of his favourite blend and laughed as he gave it to the person to whom he had offered to make the drink. The good natured banter between them showed that this was not the first time he had done this!

Precious Omuku is one of those people who could be any age really but his life story suggests that he must be rather older than he looks because he has packed rather a lot into his years. He is Nigerian; a geologist by profession and he worked in the oil industry. He eventually became a chief geologist working in external affairs which brought him closer to working with human beings - which he very much enjoyed. He recalls, though, in there - a break took this he moved onto more external facing work that he and his colleagues had lived amongst the people of the areas in which they were doing exploratory work looking for oil. He said that he came to realise the real deprivation of those who lived in the Niger Delta and how pleased he was that he and his colleagues could share what they had (especially clean water) with those around them. His concern and compassion is evident as he recalls those times and wanting to help to improve the situation of those from his country who had so little.

He was already, by this stage, very involved in the church; singing in the choir and being a member of the PCC. But this was not to last as soon the local Bishop in Port Harcourt suggested that he should become a Lay Reader and so he trained part-time fitting the study in between his work and travels.

As his career in the oil industry progressed he was transferred to Lagos where the local Bishop in Port Harcourt suggested that he should become a Lay Reader and so he trained part-time fitting the study in between his work and travels.

As his career in the oil industry progressed he was transferred to Lagos where he continued as a Lay Reader and took other work with the church. Here, it would seem, his negotiating skills came to the fore and he was involved in talking with the local communities seeking to encourage them to give the oil company permission to work there. As he helped the work Bishop Precious began to realise how important the church is in working with communities and gradually he began to involve various heads of the church locally in what he was doing - Anglican, Methodist and Catholics. It was out of this work with the various communities seeking oil rights and to bring people together in various regions that he first met a priest called Canon Justin Welby.

Ordination training followed at the behest of another Bishop and he was ordained in deacon in 2002 and priest in 2003. Bishop Precious was transferred to London in 2006 where he became Corporate Adviser for the oil company. Whilst doing this he and his family attended Morden, St George and he has worked there as a Lay Reader since that time. Bishop Precious and his wife have three children, a daughter who lives quite near to them in Morden and, with her husband, provides them with the enjoyable need to undertake grandparent duties. His son is an engineer and lives in the United States and his other daughter lives in Nigeria and is an artist.

Retirement? He retired in 2007 and was theoretically based here in London and licensed in both the London and Southwark Dioceses. But, in fact, he was quickly snapped up by his government in Nigeria to go and help them to put systems into their procurement process. Frankly, his face was a picture when he talked about all that he needed to do but it is clear that he had a great time and sorted out quite a lot of things such that there was 42% compliance with the new systems in four years! It seems somehow that Precious is someone who is just where he ought to be at the right sort of time and a lot of things that have happened recently really show this. Having met Justin Welby some years ago it was a natural step really that having worked with Canon Justin when he was involved in working on reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral that he asked Precious to work with him again when he became Archbishop Justin and went to Lambeth. Bishop Precious says that Archbishop Justin is ‘incalculable about reconciliation’. It seems that it is, at least in part, what drives him and I can see that it drives Precious too.

They have worked together now for a number of years and Bishop Precious’ work has been so valued that at the beginning of this year the Church in the Sudan decided to consecrate him as Bishop. This is incredibly unusual because the Church in Sudan does not usually ordain non-nationals as bishops, but that is exactly what they have done.

Bishop Precious says that this has been a wonderful thing. It has allowed him to feel that he has the authority to go into places and do the work of reconciliation quietly and behind the scenes to which he is called. He spoke especially of his recent experience in the South Sudan where the visiting team of which he was a member, received all round warm welcome - from community members to high levels in government.

He says he feels enabled and as ‘chasing improved relationships is right up my street’ this is clearly a great blessing to him. In the past he says that he often ended up seeing people in the corridors and now he can see whoever he needs to see – they will make time for a bishop.

Visits with Archbishop Justin

Just as we are ending he tells me of some of the visits that he and Archbishop Justin have made. It is clear that many of them have not been publicised and that’s because the Archbishop has been in different places helping to work to draw people together and at times it is clear, from what Bishop Precious says, that the Archbishop’s presence has moved people to tears because they have been so grateful that he has gone to spend time with them. I think that it is probably the case that much of what Bishop Precious has done cannot easily be told or discussed. His is the work of the back room chap who moves around making connections and taking personal risks in order to try to bring reconciliation and to try to enable people to continue to journey together come what may. But, in Morden and elsewhere where his ministry has touched people it is clear that his gentle firm manner wins hearts and helps to change minds and that is a gift that few have and which many could use.

Bishop Precious is clear about how much he enjoys what he does and how much he has grown personally from all he has seen and done. He repeats a number of times ‘God is wonderful’ and he so means it. Sometimes he says it can be quite depressing because it is not always clear what is happening: the plant has been planted but maybe starved of water and simply waiting to come back to live.

Wherever he goes he knows that he and the people with whom he is working, are being prayed for by Archbishop Justin and Lambeth Palace and by the people of Morden parish where he feels at home and so very supported.
Southwark hosts the New Monasticism Convention

From 14-16 October 95 people gathered from England, Scotland, Wales, USA and Australia at St George the Martyr, Southwark, to explore God’s calling of those involved in the various forms of what has become known as New Monastic Communities.

The Diocese of Southwark is leading the way with two New Monastic Communities – one in the Woolwich Episcopal Area in Peckham and one in the Kingston Episcopal Area in Streatham Hill.

The Revd Ian Mosby reports

New Monasticism was named as one of the first models of fresh expressions of church in the Church of England and beyond, in the now famous ‘Mission Shaped Church report’.

This conference - the first of its kind - aimed to allow 50 leaders of existing communities and 45 who were wanting to set up new monastic communities to go much deeper in understanding what this particular form of missional community-focused model of church is; its forms of discipleship and the call for a mature approach to ‘prayerful-action’ as mission.

The truth is the label ‘new monasticism’ in itself is not really a very helpful one, as it makes people think that we aim to be monks, nuns, and friars with a commitment to sandals. But the label has stuck.

Those gathered had a shared sense of vocation to develop contextual forms of missional community that have a praxis or lived experience approach to Christian discipleship, requiring a commitment to spiritual disciplines and practices, as a rhythm of life where everything becomes renewal of prayer and worship, requiring a whole of life approach to following the way of Christ based on the Gospels.

New Monasticism is not easy, like those through the ages who have been committed to the ‘religious life’ this way of being Christian costs.

Yet, its commitment to prayer and devotion in the context of the actual place where people live and/or work has been for many a freeing-up and transformative approach to being and doing as a Christian disciple.

In line with the vision of Phil Potter (The Archbishop’s Missioner and Leader of Fresh Expressions) of Fresh Expressions as a movement of mission, we hope that the New Monasticism UK Network will become a hub amongst hubs, or a movement amongst movements.

As a first gathering, I think many of us came away with a lot of questions but I know I was hugely encouraged listening to the stories, dreams, and hopes of those called on a similar journey to myself, which can at times feel very lonely and isolating.

We hope that this new network, which will soon have its own website and online resources, will be a space of support and sharing of wisdom, in what can feel like a very fragile and challenging form of missional community.

This is a first of what we hope will be a number of support and training events in the UK and beyond, which I hope will help all of us called to this model of fresh expression into deeper understanding and commitment to the Holy Trinity.

Listening to the conference, it is exciting to hear that new monasticism as a form of the renewal of the religious life, is springing up in all sorts of contexts in and outside of the church.

We hope that new monasticism can play its important role, as it has through the ages, to bring apostolic restoration and hope in an age of major challenge to the Church in all its forms.

In November, the new community of St Margaret the Queen in Streatham Hill will be committing to their seasonal vows before the Bishops of Southwark and Croydon, and representatives of the Diocese and Anglican Religious Communities including Abbot Stuart of Mucknell Abbey OSB and Sr Joyce, CSSP of the Southwark Anglican Franciscans.

The New Monastic Community at St Luke’s Camberwell in Peckham will be committing to their seasonal vows before the Bishop during Pentecost.

This is an exciting time as fresh expressions of church are developed in the various church traditions of the Diocese.

New Monasticism is but one of many different ways of being a fresh expression.

We are planning for a New Monastic Community in every Episcopal Area of the Diocese.

For more information on the two New Monastic Communities in the Diocese of Southwark see www.smtq.com and www.stlukespeckham.co.uk.

For more information on the New Monasticism UK Network please see the Facebook group of that name, and soon we hope, a website.

Ian Mosby is Woolwich Mission Enabler, Priest in Charge, St Luke’s Camberwell and Associate Missioner Fresh Expressions. With Gareth Powell of the Community of St Margaret the Queen, he was one of the organisers of the Convention.

1st Welcare volunteer and supporter awards

Bishop Christopher presented the prizes at the inaugural Volunteer and Supporter Awards at the Welcare General Meeting on 30 September. The Bishop is president of Welcare.

The awards have been developed as a way to celebrate the contribution of the 200 volunteers who support the work of the charity, to which the Diocese of Southwark gives an annual grant.

Welcare is a registered charity which has been working with children and families across South London and East Surrey since 1894.

In recent years the Charity was forced to withdraw from certain areas because of cuts in local authority funding.

But it is now able to work again in Southwark and Lambeth, and has been warmly welcomed.

In presenting the awards the Bishop paid tribute to the ‘visionary leadership’ of the CEO Anna Khan.

He also said, “I am very proud to be the President of Welcare because it is exactly what it was set up to be a ‘friend to the friendless’. But this is a slow business and sometimes we can think that nothing is happening for a long time. That’s why the skill and commitment of the volunteers is so important. I am grateful for all that the Welcare Staff and volunteers give.”
National Deaneries Conference 2016
Deaneries and ‘Renewal & Reform’

The role of Deaneries in helping to deliver the national Church programme of Renewal & Reform was subject for the fifteenth National Deaneries Conference 7-9 October 2016 at Swanwick Derbyshire.

It was attended by over 130 delegates from 33 Dioceses. The Southwark representatives were: Venerable Alastair Cutting, Chris Elliott, Adrian Greenwood, the Revd Susan Height, Sue Mallinson, Oluwabunmi Oludipe-Davies, John Parkes, Jackie Pontin, Steven Taylor and the Revd Jenny Thomas.

Adrian Greenwood reports

The Conference set out to address the question of how Deaneries can be places where the national vision for renewal and reform can be delivered.

The Conference was led by a number of very high quality and inspirational speakers – Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington; Emma Buchanan, team member for the National Evangelism Task Group; John Spence, Chair of Finance Committee of the Archbishops Council; Roger Matthews, Canon Missioner for Chelmsford Diocese and Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath & Wells.

They were all clear that Deaneries can play a significant role in Renewal & Reform (R&R) if they:

- focus on mission, discipleship and prayer; especially towards the areas/communities/people in the Deanery who are not being reached by current, traditional church activities
- are adequately resourced for mission, with the right leadership
- think strategically and creatively about the deployment of clergy and lay ministerial resources
- utilise fully the resources of all baptised Christians
- are allowed/encouraged to be flexible and adaptable
- are strong on communication.

John Spence gave a typically robust presentation on why R&R had been developed and the various work streams, which are progressing, including the crucial report of the Lay Leadership Task Group which will seek to release and fully use for God’s Mission the gifts and talents of the 98% of church members who are not ordained.

Bishop Ric challenged everyone present with two thoughts. First, that every Church has been planted at some time, by someone (or group of people) and for a specific reason – normally a ‘gap in the market’. Second, every congregation can and should be growing in depth of discipleship (‘love for the Lord’), in service to our communities and in evangelism to the un-reached parts/people of our Deaneries; these represent the opportunities for fresh expressions, church planting and church grafting of the 21st century. He gave the example of ‘Deanery mapping exercises’ which focus on the communities of people who are not being reached with the Gospel as the springboard for church planting and/or fresh expressions and challenged that where such communities are identified (whether existing and un-reached people or areas/communities/people who are not being reached parts/people of our Deaneries) we should aim to ‘build community first and then consider buildings’.

Emma published ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ 2017, the 10 days of intentional prayer for the evangelisation of the nation from Ascension to Pentecost. All major denominations are signed up as is the Anglican Communion. In Southwark Diocese, this will culminate with the Diocesan Pentecost Service at the Cathedral on 4 June 2017. This is a great opportunity for Deaneries to pray together and with ecumenical partners. The launching video is available from the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ web-site: www.thykingdom.com.

Rogers spoke about the latest work on ‘Transforming Presence’ in the Diocese of Chelmsford and the establishing of their first Mission & Ministry Unit (M&MU) in Saffron Walden Deanery. He stated clearly that it is not clear how the M&MUs will impact on the organisation and role of Deaneries once all are set up. But he was equally clear that M&MUs are using the priorities listed above.

Bishop Peter spoke of the development of strategies in Bath & Wells since his arrival. Fuller and more detailed reports are being prepared by the 10 Southwark delegates.

Copies of the presentations are available on www.nationaldeaneries.net

The Deaneries Conference meets every two years and the next is fixed for the 2nd weekend in 2018.

A “Gravetalk Event” will be held on Thursday 17 November (3pm to 4.30pm) at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Sexual Health Clinic, 4-5 Burrell Street, London, SE1 0UN.

It will be led by the Revd Mia Hilborn, Hospitalist, Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust.

This is an informal café which offers a safe space for conversations about what happens when someone dies. God, Faith, practical aspects such as wills, finances, powers of attorney, and funeral arrangements are among topics for discussion.

Expert advice will be on hand to introduce topics. The event respects the need for confidentiality and different points of view.

For more details contact: The Revd Mia Hilborn; 020 7188 1187 or e-mail: chaplains@gstt.nhs.uk

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Let us pray

November
25th anniversary
of Terry Waite’s
homecoming

St Faiths, North Dulwich
second biennial weekend away,
at High Leigh Hoddeston,
on August bank holiday was
addressed by The Revd Dr
Catherine Shelley on the
theme ‘Pilgrimage - Walking
with God’.

She invited all to share their
diverted journeys from atheist,
Islamic, Catholic, Salvationist
and other backgrounds. After
reading the Gospel passage on
the Emmaus road ‘encounter’
she invited couples to walk the
gardens sharing about God at
work in their lives.

The Revd Susan Height,
parish priest, said “We all
found it inspiring, recalling
the journeys of the patriarchs,
saints, Holy family and Paul.

Giving heed to God’s call gives
us direction and purpose in our
life journeys”.

The weekend ended with
Sunday Eucharist and then
very enthusiastic ‘tug of war’
matches.

‘Greater Than Gold’ -
Mwy na Aur

The story of Mary
Jones and her Bible
inspired the founding of the
British and Foreign Bible Society.

Tom Briscombe

It also inspired a dramatised
concert musical by Roger
Jones to be adapted for the
Charlwood community choir
and young performers by Beth
McLean Director of Music at St
Nicholas, Charlwood.

“Greater than Gold” centred
on Mary’s hesitant but
six mile walk aged just fifteen,
from her home in Snowdonia
to a chapel in Bala to buy
a copy of a Welsh Bible -
something she had never
owned - from the Revd Thomas
Charles.

This two act production
translated from the hills
of North Wales to the 11th
Century Medieval Church of
St Nicholas; the setting, an
expansive medieval arch. The
players in period costume
and ‘older’ Mary and sang
exquisite solos supported by
a strong community choir.

Chloe, the older was a similar
age to the devout Mary who
received her bible in 1799.
Revd Sue Weakley, Priest-in-
Charge at St Nicholas, thanked
Beth and the choir for an
outstanding performance.

PHOTO: Beth Mcclean
giving an introductory
welcome.

Health Care
Chaplains
meet the Bishops

Healthcare Chaplains from
Southwark, London, and
Rochester Dioceses met with
the Bishop of Southwark and
The Bishop of Willesden (The
Rt Revd Pete Broadbent) on
St Luke’s Day 18 October at
Southwark Cathedral.

After Evening Prayer the
Chaplains and the Bishops discussed ministry in
the health and social care context. They
reflected on partnership between parishes and
the health and social care systems, Mental
Health Chaplaincy, Anglican religious care,
and encouraging vocations to healthcare.

They recognised the vital contribution of Lay
Chaplains and volunteers.

The meeting was chaired by the Revd Canon
Ben Rhodes, the Bishop of Southwark’s Adviser
for Health Care. It concluded with a homily from
Bishop Christopher who emphasized the call to
live out Christian discipleship with compassion
and mercy.

For many years the Church
Army College was based in
Blackheath. A prominent
member of the Church Army
who was trained there was
Terry Waite.

This month marks the
25th anniversary of Terry’s
homecoming after being held
hostage in Beirut for 1,763
days, the first four years of
which he was in solitary
confinement.

He had been there as a Peace
Envoy for the Archbishop of
Canterbury and had secured
the release of other hostages
before finally being captured
himself.

It seems a long time ago but
the terrible truth is that whilst
the situation in the Lebanon
may have eased the same
cannot be said for the rest of
the Middle East.

What is even more
disturbing is that whilst Terry
was released, able to return
to family and ministry those
captured today are treated in
a brutal way which most often
leads to a violent and horrific
death. In the intervening years
things seem to be worse, not
better, in that region.

Yet people still give
themselves sacrificially to
the work of peace, to being a
go-between, an envoy in order
to get people talking, in order
to try to reach some degree of
reconciliation.

Terry’s willingness to be in
the heart of the mess and to
risk himself is a challenge to
me who prays from the side-
lines. Not that my prayer is
unimportant and not that your
prayer is unimportant. But I
thank God for those men and
women who will be bridge-
builders and peace-makers and
risk-takers and I will pray for
them and for the courage to do
what I can, that there may be
peace.

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Amen.

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark
The Dean is currently on Sabbatical and so is not tweeting
a morning prayer. But follow his travels and his blog
@deansouthwark

St Barnabas Open Forum Series

Migration in the 21st Century – our local and national response

Migration of people across continents and seas has always been part of
our human story. Wars and tyrannical regimes have forced people
to seek safety as refugees in neighbouring countries, or beyond when
those borders close. Poverty and inequality, economic oppression or
natural disasters have also led people to seek opportunities elsewhere.
Public debate prior to the referendum often confused the different
reasons for migration in the light of the UK’s membership of the EU
and feelings and opinions continue to divide society, with
misunderstandings on both sides.

Please join our panel for discussion on this topical issue.
- Dr Sarah Spencer, CBE, Director of the Global Exchange on
Migration and Diversity, COMPASS, University of Oxford
- Revd Jonathan Sedgwick, St George the Martyr, Borough High Street,
SE1 (formerly Deputy/Acting CEO UK Border Agency)
- The Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers

Chairman: David Beaminsh, Clerk of the
Parliaments

Wednesday 23 November 2016
8.00 - 9.30 pm, followed by light
refreshments
St Barnabas Church, Calton Avenue,
Dulwich SE21 7DG
WHATEVER'S ON

Please send details of your events for DECEMBER ONWARDS to Trinity House
BY MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER

**What's On**

**Wednesday 2 November**

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<tr>
<td>CATERHAM - Munch with Music at St John's</td>
<td>3rd Nov</td>
<td>Violin Recital - Judith Wolpe</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Dunottar Chamber Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATERLOO - Performers present Humperdinck's fairy-tale opera 'Hansel &amp; Gretel', semi-staged, in German at St John's Church.</td>
<td>7.30pm.</td>
<td>Katie Collin (clarinet) and Philip Collin (piano). Free with a retiring collection.</td>
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**Saturday 11 November**

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**Tuesday 15 November**

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<tr>
<td>STRATHMOR - Recital at St Margaret's Church</td>
<td>7.30pm.</td>
<td>Katie Collin (clarinet) and Philip Collin (piano). Free with a retiring collection.</td>
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**Friday 18 and Sunday 20 November**

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**Sunday 20 November**

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<tr>
<td>LEYDEN - Silent Film Night at St Giles'</td>
<td>7pm.</td>
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<td>frighten' (1929) with live jazz band and Camberwell Community Choir. Tickets £7. <a href="http://www.musicatgiles.com">www.musicatgiles.com</a></td>
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**Wednesday 2 November**

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<tr>
<td>REDHILL - Lunchtime Music at St Matthew's</td>
<td>1.10 pm.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free and suitable for non-scientists. Q&amp;A session. Refreshments.</td>
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**Saturday 12 November**

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<tr>
<td>NEW CROSS - Lewisham Choral Society - choral and piano music by Schubert and Mozart.</td>
<td>7.30pm.</td>
<td>The Great Hall, Goldsmiths.</td>
<td>©2016 £22 (families £30, £125 for family of 5).</td>
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**Saturday 19 November**

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<tr>
<td>WEST DULWICH - An evening of mists, mellow fruitfulness and Magnificts. Concordia Chamber Choir with the South Circular Orchestra.</td>
<td>7.30pm.</td>
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**Saturday 26 November**

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<tr>
<td>SEDDON - St John the Divine Christmas Market.</td>
<td>11am - 3pm.</td>
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<td>A fun packed day with lots to see, win and buy Refreshments and Santa Express.</td>
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**December**

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<tr>
<td>CLAPHAM COMMON - The Green and Ethical Christmas Fayre 11am - 4pm at Holy Trinity Church.</td>
<td>£2 Adults, Children Free. Christmas Shopping with a Conscience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEST WICKHAM - The Big Christmas Sing. Carols for All at St Francis of Assisi at 4 pm.</td>
<td>Free admission &amp; refreshments. Collection for Christian Aid.</td>
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**Saturday 3 December**

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<tr>
<td>DEPTFORD - Pentonville - Dick Whittington – at St Nicholas Church.</td>
<td>Tickets Adults £10 - Children: £3. Information/tickets. Tel: 020 8692 2749 or <a href="http://www.stnicholaschurch.deptford.org/">www.stnicholaschurch.deptford.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>MERTON - St Nicholas Day Festival at St James Church, 7pm. Blessing of Toys, Concelebrated Mass with the Parish Priest and Archbishop Lord George Carey.</td>
<td>St Nicholas will visit. All ages.</td>
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<td>REDHILL - Reigate &amp; Redhill Choral Society 'Festive Carols 7pm at St Joseph's Church.</td>
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‘Journeying Well Together’

in Black History Month

A large number gathered at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 8 October for this year’s Black History Month Thanksgiving event, the theme of which was “Journeying Well Together”.

The Revd Patrick Eggleston

The day began with a Thanksgiving Eucharist service led by the Bishop of Southwark, featuring an inspiring address by Beverley Stanislaus (right), Headteacher of St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls in Tulse Hill. Mrs Stanislaus talked about her own life experience growing up as a child of mixed heritage in Britain and how she developed a resilience to overcome the challenges that brought.

That resilience and those experiences have shaped and informed the values and ambitions she now looks to encourage and nurture among her pupils today at St Martin’s.

Later in the service, the St Martin’s school choir and Baboutcher Primary School choir gave wonderful performances. The service was also notable for the presence of a large number of mayors and deputy mayors, many of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) heritage, from boroughs across the Diocese (top right)

The day continued after lunch with a series of excellent workshops organised by the three Area Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committees on the themes of Lead (Woolwich), Enable (Kingston) and Serve (Croydon). The workshops featured a variety of voices from the BAME community on what it means to serve and enable and lead in both Church and community.

One such voice was 15-year-old Mojola Babalola (right), who spoke of how serving in Church and acting as a Youth Warden has given her leadership skills that she uses at school and as a Church ambassador in the community. Canon Mandy Ford, Director of Discipleship and Training, led a group discussion of how Scripture shapes our understanding of Christian leadership.

Speaking after the event, Canon Rosemarie Mallett, the organiser of the event, said: “We are really pleased once again to have been able to mark Black History Month here at the Cathedral in such a special way and it has been wonderful to have brought together so many members of the BAME community from across the whole of the Diocese.

“We are very grateful as always to Bishop Christopher for his support and also to Canon Mandy Ford and the Cathedral staff for making this possible.”

Bishops and volunteers in Croydon to welcome young refugees

On Monday 17 October the first group of ‘unaccompanied minors’ from the Calais camp arrived in Croydon.

The Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, joined volunteers at St Michael and All Angels Church to offer immediate help and support to the refugees - including a welcome pack of essentials - staying with them while their cases were processed by the Home Office if required. The volunteers included St Michael’s Vicar, the Revd Tim Pike and members of his church, Ordinands from St Stephen’s House, Oxford, two Pastoral Assistants from North London and people from the Salvation Army, Baptist and Roman Catholic churches and other faith communities.

Tim Pike said “It was important for us to be here to offer support and assistance to these young people who have finally made their way out of their terrible situation in Calais”.

In Lunar House Dr Williams and Bishop Jonathan met some of the refugees before they were reunited with their families.

Bishop Jonathan said that the arrivals are “not just children seeking to reunite with their families, but also the most vulnerable young people (in the camp)’.

Further young refugees arrived the following weekend with more expected in the weeks ahead.

But said the Bishop: “With the demolition of the ‘Jungle’ we remain extremely concerned that children will go missing and urge the Government to redouble its efforts to transfer all the eligible children in Calais, and ensure the rest are adequately protected.”

Establishing the Distinctive Diaconate

As part of the Diocesan strategic goal of encouraging more vocations, both lay and ordained Bishop Christopher and the Vocations Team are placing a renewed emphasis on the Distinctive Diaconate.

In the Church of England’s Ordinal deacons are ordained ‘so that the people of God may be better equipped to make Christ known.’ This is a ministry firmly rooted in the earliest churches of the New Testament.

The ministry of the distinctive deacon is one of a life of visible self-giving, often with a particular care for the most vulnerable and marginalised. As part of this renewal Bishop Christopher is to ordain three people who already have a ministry which is diaconal in pattern which will establish an Order of Distinctive Deacons.

They are Capt. Terry Drummond, known to many people as a former Bishop’s Chaplain and Social Responsibility Adviser to the Diocese. His current ministry is at St Philip, Norbury.

Evie Vernon is a deaconess who works for USPG and the third person to be ordained is Emmanuel Korni who is a very experienced lay hospital chaplain in the Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital NHS Trust and worships at St Katherine, Hatcham.

The ordinations will take place on 11am on Saturday 10 December at St Philip, Norbury and you are welcome to attend. Please pray for them as they prepare for this important new step in their ministries

Another successful Diocesan Golf Day

Bishop Christopher presented the prizes at the very happy autumn meeting of the Diocesan Golf Society. It took place at Bletchingley Golf Club and one of its former captains, Bruce Turner took full advantage of his local knowledge to win the Harry Lloyd Cup with 38 Stableford points.

Frank Digby was runner up with 37 and he and the next four players behind him also received prizes. So too did the winners at the longest drive and nearest the pin holes. The excellent high tea was much enjoyed by all, including those whose golf was not quite as good as they had hoped.

The SDGS is open to all golfers in the Diocese and new members are always welcome.

Contact David Weightman for further information: davidcweightman@gmail.com