Forest Hill comes together to pray for peace in the community

On Tuesday 26 March, members of West Lewisham Deanery churches and Churches Together in Forest Hill stood together in prayer with local councillors and members of the public.

They were responding to the latest episode of serious youth violence in South London; in which a teenage boy had been stabbed on Dartmouth Road, the main road through their community. He is currently recovering in hospital.

The Revd Edd Stock, Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Sydenham and Forest Hill told The Bridge that there had been a need for a visible response to the incident to counteract the visibility of the attack itself.

Many local people had witnessed the incident, including the pupils of Holy Trinity School and Edd had spent time in the school offering support and counselling to the staff and pupils. XLP, a London-based youth work charity, had worked with the pupils of the local Forest Hill Boys’ School as the victim is a pupil there.

Edd said that they wanted to be a visible presence of restoration and reconciliation in the area and the local community had responded well to their efforts.

One member of a local Sydenham Mums group commented on social media “I was sorry to miss this. Thank you for doing this in our community”.

With incidents like this happening more frequently, many Southwark churches are involved in work around youth violence in their communities. In November 2018 the Diocese hosted the Pan-London Churches Serious Violence Summit at Southwark Cathedral where people from all over the capital came together to hear about the work being done to combat youth violence and to share good practice.
As we look forward to Easter morning...

In the middle of Lent I led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with 30 of our curates. It was a wonderful opportunity to ‘Come and See’ for ourselves the places associated with Jesus’s birth, ministry, death and resurrection and I am grateful to St George’s College Jerusalem and to Canon Richard Sewell, recently appointed Dean of the College, for devising a superb programme.

It is a very special blessing to walk down the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane during Lent and then later in the same day see the first century steps, which are almost certainly those used by Jesus on his way to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest, at St Peter in Gallicantu from where he then carried his Cross. We are all pilgrims on a journey together in the Diocese we will move into the last weeks of Lent culminating in Holy Week and Easter.

At Easter we bring to a close our Lenten disciplines and celebrate the Risen Lord and all that means for us today. Yet, as we look forward with eager anticipation to Easter morning, we must not forget our needy world.

Here, in this country, we are still grappling with what will happen with Brexit (although by the time you read our way forward may be more clear) and there has been the terrible cyclone in Zimbabwe and Mozambique which has made many people homeless and destroyed property with considerable loss of life. When we hear regularly of people suffering because of natural disasters and conflict our hearts are heavy and we are moved to prayer.

On Easter morning our worship in every locality and community of faith across the Diocese will be infused with great joy.

Some will meet at sunrise and at the break of day I shall be baptising and confirming while presiding over the Easter ceremonies in the Cathedral.

Other congregations will meet later in the morning; but we shall all be giving thanks for our Easter faith and celebrate that Christ is risen. And, as we do this, I hope that you will want to spend time praying for our country and for our world.

Pray especially for our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and particularly the Diocese of Manicaland which has been badly hit by the cyclone.

I pray, too, that you will want to discover afresh God’s plan for your life. Ask God and ask yourself what you can do to be part of a change for good in your community, in your country and in our world.

I pray that you will have a blessed Holy Week and joyful Easter.

Bishop Wilfred Wood the former Bishop of Croydon and his wife Ina sent greetings from their retirement ‘Island in the Sun’ when Judith Spencer-Gregson, a member of St Matthew’s, Croydon congregation (on holiday in Barbados) visited them. Bishop Wilfred and Ina with their family were regular worshippers at St Matthew’s Church.

New Warden of Readers

Bishop Christopher has appointed Ray Wheeler to be the next Warden of Readers in the Diocese. He succeeds Nicole Burgum (Lay Canon), who is retiring having been the warden for the last two years.

Ray Wheeler has been a Reader in Southwark since 1988. He served first at St Stephen’s, Norbury & Thornton Heath and then at All Saints, Spring Park before moving to St George’s, Shirley in 2002, where he still serves. He is Croydon Area Warden, serves on the Southwark Diocesan Readers Board and from 2007 to 2014 he was Registrar of Readers.

He said, “I feel very privileged to be asked to take on the role of Warden of Readers.

“With the working out of the recommendations of the Lay Leadership & Lay Ministry Working Group, Reader ministry will be undergoing change as we begin to take on board other forms of lay ministries and as the proposed Lay Council is established.

“I want to support not only Readers through this change but Lay Ministry in general in whatever shape it will become within the next few years”.

Bishop Christopher said, “I want to thank Nicole for her years of service as Warden of Readers and for all that she has done in this role.

“Ray Wheeler brings a wealth of experience to the role and I know he will be a worthy successor”.

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Finding a spiritual director Please go to our website www.spidir.org.uk
Our link Dioceses need your help NOW

Cyclone Idai - one of the worst on record - has caused catastrophic damage in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, leaving more than 700 people dead and hundreds missing.

Wendy Robins writes

As you will know the Episcopal Areas in the Diocese and the Cathedral are linked with four of the five Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

This year’s Lent Call is supporting the work of the Dioceses as we do every year.

You can see the Lent Call material at www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall and there is more information and videos on our Lent Call Blog which can be found at: https://southwarklentcall.com/

On the blog you will see a video, which is a bit shaky, but nonetheless worth watching, from the Diocese of Manicaland, where they have been badly affected by Cyclone Idai. The southernmost coast of Africa has been badly hit by this terrible disaster, especially in Mozambique.

The countries involved were not at all prepared for the terrible weather that they have faced as no one expected the cyclone to be so severe.

Rt Revd Erick Ruwona, Bishop of Manicaland, writes: “The effects of Cyclone Idai were devastating and resulted in loss of lives.”

The Manicaland Link group has sent money out to the Diocese to help them feed people and keep them warm and safe - and to begin to rebuild.

Bishop Christopher has asked all our parishes to pray for Zimbabwe and the people elsewhere who have been affected by it.

Do please pray for our Link Dioceses who are now dealing with this tragic time as well as the difficult social, political and economic situation that they may know God’s live and peace at this time.

Please consider also what you can give to the Bishop’s Lent Call to ensure that we can also be a real practical help to the people of Zimbabwe.

Footfall – A Lenten Installation

The Retrochoir of the Cathedral was the venue for the Private View of ‘Footfall’ - Alison Clark’s Lent Installation - on Tuesday 26 March.

The Dean of Southwark interviewed Alison about the inspiration behind ‘Footfall’ and the creative process which led to the striking 15-metre hanging, cascading from the High Altar screen of the Cathedral on display throughout Lent.

A cathedral bears traces of lives lived over the centuries, worn into the stonework and trodden into the paved floors. It can become like a slow sculpture...

This footfall includes those of pilgrims and priests, visitors and regular worshippers. Footfall sets out to make these traces visible.

O P P O R T U N I T I E S

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www.stcatherinehatcham.org.uk
www.sjhf.org.uk
Canon Jay Colwill was the keynote speaker at the 3rd Woolwich Episcopal Area Lay Conference - on the theme ‘Hearts of Fire with a Vision for Growth’ - held at the Ark All Saints Academy in Camberwell on Saturday 2 February.

100 attend WEA Lay Day

On Friday 8 March St Alban the Martyr Cheam welcomed Bishop Christopher as ‘Guest of Honour’ at the 15th Anniversary of its ‘Drop-In’!

The Revd Derek Brice, who founded the Drop-In, led a short Act of Worship and Thanks.

Derek’s PA Linda Thearle said: “Everything was going fine until the final hymn – Jerusalem - where a technical problem with the music.

“Bishop Christopher came to the rescue and so ably played the piano for us – what a talented gentleman he is!”

After presentations to the Bishop and the Derek Brice (right), a hot buffet was served during which the Bishop circulated and, said Linda, managed to speak to almost all of the 60 parishioners present.

In Richard Burbage’s footsteps

Residents from Burbage Road, Dulwich, took part in a walk on 13 March from Shoreditch to Southwark to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of Richard Burbage, Shakespeare’s actor and friend.

The Burbage Walk started at St Leonard’s Church, Shoreditch, where old English flowers and herbs, were placed at the actors’ memorial, before setting off in the footsteps of Burbage and his company, as they carried their wooden theatre across the river to rebuild it as the first Globe Theatre.

En route to today’s Globe, they paused at the Cathedral where the Dean, Andrew Nunn, welcomed them and took them to the garlanded Shakespeare memorial, introducing him as the most famous resident of the parish of St Saviour’s, now Southwark Cathedral.

The stained glass window above the memorial depicting characters from Shakespeare’s plays, proved to be an appropriate backdrop for a flash mob performance by actors from the Secret Theatre playing Richard III, Hamlet and Macbeth, all roles written by Shakespeare for Richard Burbage to deliver.

‘Footfall’, the Cathedral’s Lent installation by former artist-in-residence Alison Clark – was a fitting witness as the Burbage Road residents, walking in his footsteps, trod softly through the aisles on their journey of remembrance and respect.

Actor Pip Torrens reads the words Shakespeare created for Burbage

Parish Coffee - a new community hub cafe has just launched at the Ascension, Balham Hill.

Over 150 people from the local community celebrated at the launch party on the evening of 1 March.

Prosecco and puddings were served and the Vicar, the Revd Marcus Gibbs (pictured left with Cafe Manager Laura Thornborough), shared the vision for the cafe.

“In London, a city of no space, Parish Coffee aims to provide a homely space in Clapham South filled not just with the aroma of coffee, but the aroma of Christ.

“The cafe is not embarrassed about being both - a great community hub coffee shop and place of prayer.

“In fact the spiritual is baked into the DNA of the hub coffee shop - they work in harmony - that’s what makes it special. Some days it is parents and toddlers using the community space, other days it’s students from the 6th form college, other days it’s older folk.

“Midday prayer is offered to all - called ‘12 at 12’, it’s 12 minutes of prayer at midday.

“Come and join us any time 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday at Parish Coffee and we will have your latte and a bite to eat ready!”

100 attend WEA Lay Day

Bishop Christopher ‘tickles the ivories’

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Croydon marks Holocaust Memorial Day

Every year since 2001 the Borough of Croydon has held a Holocaust Memorial Day event - organised by Croydon SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) and members of the Council. This year’s event took place on 28 January at the Town Hall.

The Revd Canon Roxanne Hunte reports:

As usual it started with a candle lighting ceremony with the Mayor reading the Croydon pledge. A very powerful speech, written by the Jewish representative of Faiths Together in Croydon, reminded everyone of the number of genocides that had occurred since The Holocaust and how we must not be complacent as there are many people still being displaced across the world and that this year’s theme - ‘Torn from Home’ - also marks 25 years since the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

A speech from the Leader of the Council mentioned that there had been an article in the paper over the weekend which said one in 20 people didn’t believe The Holocaust had happened. This is quite shocking but as we have been holding the memorial event in Croydon for 18 years and as this is something that is taught in both History and Religious Education lessons in Croydon schools, it is hoped that this statistic is not true of Croydon citizens.

The Mayor of Croydon signs the memorial book

Following the ceremony two schools, Riddlesdown Collegiate and Oasis Coulsdon, presented thoughts on The Holocaust and on the 25th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide.

A film had been made of an interview with a member of the Croydon Synagogue, who at the age of 6 was taken from a small village in the mountains of Czechoslovakia to the infamous camp at Auschwitz where the rest of his family died. After being moved to several different camps he was finally rescued by the Russians and brought to this country.

This moving account was followed by a speech from the Rwanda, Chantel Uwamahoro, who spoke about her experiences in 1994 and the efforts still being made to bring justice to the people who suffered during the 101 days of terror.

Pupils in Croydon schools had been invited to write an essay on this year’s theme ‘Torn from Home’, this was organised by Croydon SACRE and the winner Emily May Taylor from Oasis Coulsdon and the runner up, Jake Dennis from Whitgift School, were given certificates and read their essays out. The RE teacher from the winning school was also presented with a set of Jewish artefacts to enhance their lessons.

A couple of sixth form pupils, Stephanie Cateaux and Louis Sprangate, from Harris Academy South Norwood gave their very profound thoughts on the Lessons from the Holocaust project which introduces pupils to a survivor and takes them to visit Auschwitz.

Finally, a string quartet from Whitgift school played the theme tune from Schindler’s list. The whole event was compered by Cllr Ali and the considerable audience was given refreshments provided by the Mayor.

Further information on The Holocaust including interviews with survivors can be found at www.HMD.org.uk

Southwark Diocese responds to the attacks on Christchurch mosques

On Saturday 16 March Bishop Christopher and Dean Andrew led prayers in Southwark Cathedral for those affected by the attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, two days earlier.

The following day, Sunday, a group from the Diocese walked from Southwark Cathedral to the Road Mosque to offer support and friendship at the planned ‘Tea and Tour’ event.

In a letter to parishes, Bishop Christopher wrote: “On behalf of the whole Diocese of Southwark and my episcopal team we condemn, in the strongest possible terms, any violence based on someone’s race or religious beliefs and we stand in solidarity with our friends in the Muslim communities in Southwark Cathedral, knowing they will share in the grief that so many feel today.

“Those attacks will cause great anxiety in their communities, as they do across the whole community, and we support them by standing together firmly for the rule of law and the dignity of all people. The Christian community stands together with all people of goodwill to oppose those who wish harm to others so that we can bring light to our troubled world and continue to commit ourselves to work together for the common good.”

Dean Andrew has written the following prayer for the dead and injured in Christchurch:

God, all holy, all loving,
hear the cry of your people in Christchurch,
those caught up in the horrors,
those witnessing the effects of so much hate,
those who hear the news from far away.
From north and south, from east and west,
draw your peoples into a closer union,
that we may challenge hatred with love,
the fear of the other with friendship
and all evil with your goodness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Join Christians around the world to pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’

Christians from around South London and East Surrey will be joining in prayer and outreach events between 30 May and 9 June 2019.

The global ecumenical prayer movement, initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York has established itself within the church calendar in 2019, once again, Southwark Diocese is providing a range of resources to support parishes, schools and communities in this ten days of prayer.

These have been designed to help your church, school and deaneries participate in this initiative once again this year. The resources in the pack have been developed for individuals and for groups, using different prayer formats and creative ideas to encourage prayer in various locations.

Further resources are available centrally from the official Thy Kingdom Come website at https://thykingdomcome.global.

The Bishops and Archdeacons of the Diocese will be seeking to make time during these nine days to engage with parishes and deaneries, taking opportunities for both private and corporate prayer.

The celebrations culminate in Pentecost across the Diocese on Sunday 9 June. Information about those taking place in your episcopal area will be coming to you through the area offices and in the May edition of The Bridge. Do please support them.
The Revd James McKinney (1952-2019)

It took me a while to get to know Jim. When I first arrived in Wandsworth Deanery to serve in St Barnabas, Southfields, thirteen years ago, I immediately noticed his personal warmth but he was at first quite a distant figure, doing dynamic things in Roehampton and Wandsworth, with the Council and various community groups about which I knew little. He was Borough Dean at the time as well as Vicar of Holy Trinity Roehampton.

Things began to change the day that our Chapter Meeting was due to be in his Vicarage. Being committed to walking whenever practical I decided to walk across Putney Heath to the meeting. Half way there I noticed in the distance a bearded man, approaching from the opposite direction, clutching a carrier bag. A few minutes later I realised that this was Jim, on his way to St Paul’s Wimbledon Park, where he believed the meeting to be.

It was on the return walk to the meeting that our friendship properly began. I found Jim to be a genuinely humble man, brimming with ideas and kindness, and with a confident expansive faith which found delight in life’s complexity and expression in loving social action. Over the years to come I eventually ceased to be surprised when coming across a community-based organisation that was chaired by Jim!

Among the most moving elements in his funeral held on 1 February were the testimonies from so many people beyond the walls of the church who had felt that he had revealed to them the meaning of Christianity.

Jim was born on 14 July in 1952 and grew up in Kenya. Studying Mathematics at Exeter University he worked as a computer programmer before being ordained in 1978. He began his ministry in Yorkshire and before moving to Roehampton in 1996, had alternated responsibility for various parishes in the north of England, with periods of chaplaincy. He was the Industrial Chaplain of Sheffield (1984 to 1987, Chaplain to Bramshall Police Staff College (1987-92) and chaplain to the Cumbria Constabulary (1995-1996). At Bramshall he had taught Ethics, Counselling and Management Development for senior officers and at the same time he founded and became the first co-ordinator for, the National Association of Police chaplains.

This rich background in parish ministry and chaplaincy provided Jim with appropriate experience for ministry in Roehampton, where much of his work has involved advocacy for vulnerable groups in society and bringing disparate parts of the community together. Jim was very skilful at keeping people with different religious, social and political outlooks talking to each other. He was chair of the Roehampton Forum for many years.

One of the examples of this that I saw at first hand was his work with the South Asian Community Empowerment Network (WCEN) which he chaired from its inception in 2001 – an organisation dedicated to developing health and social services which are inspired by the vulnerable groups most affected.

Official agencies are invited to partner and resource local initiatives rather than just decide what local needs are. Leaders of Mosques and Black Churches have trained in Systemic Family Therapy, the South Asian Community have organised healthy eating workshops, and groups representing young members of the BME community are exploring pathways into mental health provision.

At his funeral Ruth said this about Jim, revealing even more of his hinterland and confirming his inspirational qualities.

"Dad was a fountain of knowledge – great on a quiz team and a hoarder of Great Courses Lectures and books (as everybody who has been to the Vicarage will know). He was an avid fan of documentaries, and in the few days before his death he was very pleased that he had finally worked out how to record programmes on Sky – Time Team, WW2 Air Crash investigation, a series on the Spanish Civil War and the history of Stonehenge. Dad influenced me in so many ways – from love of Spike Milligan to folk music, theology to flags of the world to name just a fraction, and I am eternally grateful.”

I too am grateful for a friend and colleague who was good company, a source of personal encouragement and wisdom, and who could discuss the latest scientific theories as readily as he could preach an enlivening sermon. Jim proclaimed the Gospel in word and deed and restored the heartbeat to the words ‘service’, ‘enable’ and ‘collaborate’, which are too often robbed of their true meaning.

To the very end Jim could surprise. After his death his family discovered a complete manuscript of a novel called Dark Air, along with some positive comments from a potential publisher!
Wendy Robins meets the new Southwark Diocesan Mothers’ Union President

Comfort Idowu-Fearon

Comfort Idowu-Fearon is really quite a small person, but she is big in heart and energy.

This is the third time that Comfort has lived in England. She came first she said, many years ago, in order to marry Archbishop Josiah. He was a student at Durham at St John’s College where he was studying theology.

Comfort worked as a nurse whilst Josiah was studying and continued to do this when he went on to study in Birmingham. He was able to do this through a scholarship from the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion. Comfort was here for five years in total – a year before they were married and then a further four whilst Archbishop Josiah completed his studies.

After Archbishop Josiah completed his studies they returned to Nigeria where Bishop Josiah eventually became a Bishop of the Diocese of Sokoto. He was then elected Bishop and then, eventually, Archbishop of Kaduna. The area is in the north of Nigeria and is a rural area in which less than 5% of the population are Christians.

As is traditional in much, if not all of Africa, the wife of the Bishop is the President of the Mothers’ Union and the wives of the vicars also lead the Mothers’ Union in the parishes.

So, Comfort has been much involved in the Mothers’ Union for a very long time.

The MU in Nigeria, as in other parts of Africa, is very involved in the Mothers’ Union here is quiet here in London.

Eventually Comfort returned to England and worked as an A&E nurse for around thirteen years in order to ensure her children’s education. She travelled back and forth to Nigeria during this time and continued her MU work, with some of the vicar’s wives helping in her absence.

Just at the point when she had been beginning to think whether it was time to stop living in two places at once

and return home tragedy struck when her second son, who was studying medicine at Bristol University, contracted meningitis and died.

Following the funeral she says that she just knew that it was time to go home and be with family and friends rather than by herself. There is, she said, ‘no place like home’. So she went back to Nigeria and worked there with the MU again, being very much involved in the Diocesan Health Committee.

The Diocese also had a farm which had a Conference and Retreat Centre as part of it and Comfort was Acting Manager of the Centre. She was really busy running a gift shop to ensure an income during this period but it came to an end in August 2016 when Archbishop Josiah became the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion Office and so Comfort began her third time living in England.

Lambeth Palace

They now live in a house in the grounds of Lambeth Palace. As we walked across the grounds past the beautifully flowering magnolia, she spoke of the peace at Lambeth Palace away from the busy-ness of London and the world.

It was obvious that she appreciated this but obvious too that she missed getting up every morning and wondering about how much she had to do today’.

Comfort says that her passion is to care for and work with clergy wives. She says, that she realises that she is very privileged as a Bishop’s wife having the opportunity to travel and to learn about other places and societies. Many of the clergy wives are not equipped to lead their local MUs and she wants to train and enable them to help their communities to grow and to find sustainability.

Commissioning

Comfort has not been idle since she has been here as she has been doing voluntary work in the local area and now life is about to get busier, as on Saturday 16 March she was commissioned by Bishop Christopher as the Southwark Diocesan Mothers’ Union President.

She is really rather familiar with this role but not in England and she admits that the Mothers’ Union here is rather different.

She has been involved in the Diocesan Mothers’ Union for a couple of years now as the Action and Outreach Co-ordinator and so has some sense of the way in which they work and what they do.

I asked Comfort about her hopes for her time as MU President here in Southwark and she spoke of the fact that the MU does so much in secret and how much she has had to do today’.

Comfort spoke of having learned not to be afraid to make change and so she has begun to talk to the Trustees a little about how they work together and why they do what they do.

She is enthusiastic when she talks about the MU and encouraging younger people to become a part of it. She knows of the work that happens with the MU in Africa and how this energises and empowers women and the vibrancy of the organization and her presentation at the Mothers’ Union Service on ‘Walking in his steps’ (see P16) was inspiring and challenging.

But it is not only the work in which Comfort is involved. She is working with Sarah Synder, the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Adviser on Reconciliation and Caroline Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury’s wife, on a programme which has come to be known as ‘Women on the Frontline’. They travel to countries by invitation to train and equip Archbishops’ and Bishops’ wives.

Last year they visited Burundi and the Solomon Islands and Southern Sudan. This year they are thinking of going to the Middle East, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They stay between three and seven days and invite some ecumenical women too. They seek to train women in reconciliation and other skills, enabling them to think about how to fundraise and work together for the good of their communities. It sounds as if it is exciting work.

Comfort told me ‘Clergy wives have always been my passion. I have seen privileged I am - how educated and sharing that and I’ve learned that clergy wives has always been a focus for me’.

Share God’s love

It’s easy to see how Comfort was the ‘Mama’ of Archbishop Josiah’s Diocese and Province and how she simply wants to share God’s love with all around her. Southwark Diocesan Mothers’ Union is very lucky to have her and the next three years promise to be exciting times. Watch out for the stories.
Alleluia... give thanks to the risen Lord... An upbeat loveable version. How deep the Father's Love for us. The most profound words ever sung—sung here in this Dances of Death for Christmas. How often... We sing with love... 

The music of Easter

The Revd Jonathan Coore writes

It may come as a surprise to some people but I don't have a personal trainer. Whilst I am reasonably fit and active, I was put off sport by people using phrases such as 'feel the burn' and 'no pain no gain'. Besides, Lycra has never been my thing.

Unfortunately when contemplating music and the Easter narrative I find myself using the latter cliché. We cannot just begin Easter with Easter Sunday otherwise the resurrection becomes a narrative divorced from all that preceded it. In order to have the resurrection experience, it is also necessary to have that sense of desolation.

As a musician, this is all to the good because some of the most wonderful music has been composed for Passiontide. So, as we journey, musically, through Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday let us embrace all the emotion of Passiontide and Easter bringing us into the story and the story into our time.

Miserere Mei

It was Holy Week 1770 and a youth aged 14, heard a piece of music sung by the choir of the Sistine Chapel. It so captivated him that it said he wrote it down from memory after hearing it twice at the most.

This particular detail is disputed but one cannot argue that anyone hearing Gregorio Allegri’s Miserere Mei, a setting of Psalm 51, for the first time would be stunned.

The chapel closely guarded the work, it was forbidden to perform it outside of the Vatican and no copies of the music were available.

The youth was Mozart (1756 - 1791) and he had been in Italy not primarily for religious or spiritual purposes.

He was roughly halfway through a tour of Europe with his father when he was invited to become a member of the prestigious Accademia Filarmonica di Bologna. The Mozarts went to the Sistine Chapel and were clearly taken by surprise, to say the least, by what they heard.

Although not specifically written for Maundy Thursday (it was written for the Wednesday of Holy Week and Good Friday), Allegri’s Miserere is now regularly performed then and also on Good Friday.

It speaks of King David’s abject horror and sorrow for what he had done when confronted with his acts of adultery and murder.

One can also imagine the sense of isolation from God and from himself as the full weight of his actions bore down on him.

Imagine Judas or Peter as they too realised what they had done and said.

‘Superstar’

When Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice wrote Jesus Christ Superstar exactly two hundred years after Mozart’s The Passion of Jesus Christ Superstar is in this case going to on Good Friday and can be heard in so many churches is something sublime here.

For centuries. There is no Bach Passion in its entirety on Good Friday. It is simply glorious and I will never forget the experience.

A wall’s width outside my room was the devastation and aftermath of war and inside was a close encounter with the divine. I was transfixed.

Bach is often thought to have written settings of the passion from all four gospels. Two authenticated versions (St Matthew and St John) are regularly performed to this day and attempts have been made to reconstruct the St Mark. There is dispute over what exists of the St Luke but it is generally accepted as not being the work of JS Bach (1685 - 1750).

It is incredible to think that after Bach’s death, these mighty and deeply spiritual works were forgotten and all but lost.

I had almost lost Good Friday in my distraction and scepticism Jesus shows raw passion and anguish of Gethsemane.

Bach’s Passion heard in Bosnia

On Good Friday 2003, I had partly forgotten that it was indeed Good Friday because my mind was focused on what was going on around me. I was in Mostar, Bosnia.

I decided to switch on the TV for company more than anything else. On the television was a mainstream German channel and I noticed that the programme was scheduled to last three hours. I had no idea that German TV broadcasts a Bach Passion in its entirety on Good Friday. It was simply sublime and I will never forget the experience.

Whether it is to your musical taste or not, there is something sublime here. One final piece that I listen to on Good Friday and can be heard in so many churches is Crucifixion by Antonio Lotti. It is a setting of part of the creed and is full of tension and beauty.

Scored for unaccompanied choir it is one of those pieces that many musicians wish they had written. I have already used the word sublime but I am going to permit myself to use it again. Sublime and something to be experienced at least once.

Singing the Easter story

So much for music that we can listen to but we also, of course, sing the Easter story. Again, we can experience the full joy of Easter by journeying through the sorrows. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross and My Song is Love Unknown, The
The music of Easter 

by Jan Van Eyck (1390-1441)
Come and celebrate Welcare’s 125 years

This year Welcare will celebrate its 125th Anniversary, with a special Service of Thanksgiving in Southwark Cathedral.

Welcare was founded by the Bishop of Rochester, Randall Davidson and his wife in 1894 in response to the desperate need of those we would now call single, homeless young girls and women. Throughout the decades, Welcare has worked closely with local churches and developed its services to reflect the changing needs of local communities. They now work throughout south London and East Surrey with children and families who struggle to face major challenges of poverty, domestic abuse and mental and physical ill health, offering a range of group work programmes and individual support.

Welcare will host a Service of Thanksgiving in Southwark Cathedral at 11am on Saturday 15 June, to celebrate work with families over the years, and to look forward to a bright and positive future. Welcare’s President, Bishop Christopher, will officiate and preach.

Volunteers, staff, and young people will contribute to the service through specially chosen readings and hymns. All are welcome and refreshments will be available after the service.

For more information please see Welcare’s website: https://welcare.org/news/welcares-125th-anniversary/ or contact Diane Taylor at info@welcare.org

BAME Vocations Weekend

Twenty people from across the Diocese took part in the BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) vocations weekend at Wycken in March.

The 15 women and five men, aged between 22 and 55 came from African, Latin American, Caribbean and South Asian backgrounds. Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon (above), Secretary General of the Anglican Communion gave the keynote address on Friday evening: “Ordained ministry in the Church of England: A global perspective” and at Morning Prayer spoke on Isaiah 6 and the call to respond to God’s call.

Rosemarie Davidson-Gotobed, National Minority Ethnic Vocations Officer for the Church of England, was with us for the whole weekend - led a session on “Encouraging Vocation” where participants reflected on their hopes and fears as they explore God’s call to them, and explored scripture and prayer as means of support.

Bishops Christopher, Karowei and Jonathan also participated in the weekend with Bishops Karowai and Jonathan also joining a panel of vocations team members talking about their own vocational stories.

Practical sessions on the discernment process in Southwark, criteria for ordained ministry, training and support.

Members of the vocations team provided leadership and opportunity for individual conversations.

BAME Vocations Weekend

Southwark curates make pilgrimage to the Holy Land

From 20 to 27 March a group of 30 curates from Southwark parishes took part in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, as part of their in-service training.

They were led by Bishop Christopher and members of the Diocesan senior staff. They were hosted by Canon Richard Sewell now Dean of St George’s College, Jerusalem.

Their itinerary included visits to the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, pool of Bethesda. In Nazareth they took part in the Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation at the Basilica of the Annunciation. In Bethlehem they saw the separation wall and visited the beautifully restored Church of the Nativity.

They prayed at the tomb in the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem after making the way of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa. They celebrated the Eucharist by a cave in Shepherds’ Fields, on the Mount of the Beatitudes and on the Shore of the Sea of Galilee.

We hope that these photos give a flavour of their visit.
The Diocesan Synod met at St Mark, Kennington on Saturday 9 March.

Bishop Christopher thanked the Revd Canon Stephen Coulson for hosting us once again and especially Rebecca Coulson for being so hospitable to the church provides. He presented her with a bouquet of flowers. He said that Steve and Rebecca recently visited the Kingston Area Link Diocese of Matabeleland with Colin Powell, Diocesan Director of Education. Steve has taken over as the Chair of the Link.

Welcomes and announcements

During his welcome, Steve Coulson brought greetings from the Revd Christopher and said that, as he had been pleased to welcome the Southwark visitors, as it made them feel less isolated at this difficult time. Bishop Cleophas and the parishes had welcomed them and were determined not to let standards of hospitality drop - and Steve remarked on the ‘sharply resilient’ Christian faith in Zimbabwe.

Bishop Christopher welcomed those at their first meeting and said that Ray Wheeler (recently announced as Warden of Readers designate) would lead the prayers. He said that he would commission the Revd Rob Kenyon as Faith in the Countryside Officer for the Diocese during the Eucharist and that Bishop Graeme Kings had become the Diocesan World Mission Adviser. Ruth Martin spoke of the 25th anniversary of Welcare and the anniversary services on 15 June and asked everyone to continue to support them.

Bishop Jonathan then spoke about vacancies on the Board of Education and encouraged members of Synod to think about this. Information can be found on the Board of Education’s website.

Presidential address

In his Presidential address Bishop Christopher noted that Synod was meeting at the beginning of Lent and said how good it was to be setting out on the Lenten journey towards the Cross together. He commended the Lenten discipline of listening, because it is, in large part, through good listening that our unity is forged.

He talked about the recent letter sent by the Bishops of the Diocese to clergy encouraging churches and congregations to pray for unity and for our peoples and the peoples of Europe, whatever our personal views about Brexit. His full address can be found here https://bit.ly/2t26xh5.

Southwark Vision

The Director of Press and Communications spoke about the Southwark Vision evenings happening throughout the Diocese in March - enabling parishes to hear more about the way in which the money pledged through the Parish Support Fund underpins the work of ministry and mission in the Diocese.

MAPs

The Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Diocesan Missioner, spoke about Mission Action Plans (MAPs). He told Synod that 66% of parishes had MAPs, 21% of which are known to be up-to-date. Noting that 34% do not have a MAP, he thought that there had been a recent slip in the initial energy and enthusiasm. He encouraged everyone to renew their plans and to contact the Mission Team for help with making one for the first time if necessary. He said that ‘growth’ is not simply numbers but in spiritual depth and community impact and the mission team wants to work with parishes to spread the good news about what you are doing.

Deanery Leadership

The Revd Canon Duncan Swan, the Deanery Development Adviser, gave an update on Deanery Leadership Teams. The first seven teams are about to be commissioned and he hoped that up to five more teams will be commissioned in September. He noted that the Area Dean’s Handbook is nearly complete and that the Lay Chair Handbook will follow.

He said that Bishop Christopher had made it clear that mission activities in Deaneries should not be constrained by synodal structures and processes, but that ‘we should all look to create space for the Holy Spirit to stir us with imagination and creativity towards the task of mission in our areas’.

Fresh expressions

The Revd Canon Will Cookson, Dean of Fresh Expressions gave an explanation of fresh expressions and spoke about the growth of the AA and its developments in the Diocese. He told Synod that when he had taken up his role in 2016 there were 39 and now there are nearly 100. He spoke of growing a ‘platform’ to see how parishes can best be helped. E-learning groups are being grown for those working on estates, working with people with disabilities and for Catholic parishes, to see how we can best resource people. These are led by practitioners with experience of this kind of work. He said ‘This work is very good news for the Diocese as it complements what is happening in our parishes’.

He also committed ‘bridge’ work where there are activities which encourage people into existing wider services.

Lay Leadership & Ministry

The Archdeacon of Southwark, The Venerable Dr Jane Steen, spoke about the next steps on Lay Leadership and Ministry. An Implementation Group, established as a result of the report which Synod accepted, will deal with lay ministry and leadership and the outpatient, in Southwark, of the national initiative ‘Setting God’s People Free’.

There will be a new Committee which brings together the diversity of the work of all lay ministries in the Diocese and it is hoped that this will be up and running in the autumn. A person has been appointed to the three-year fixed term relating to lay ministry and it is hoped that the Area Pentecost Services will celebrate lay ministry.

Seven people spoke in the time for questions and comments and during this Bishop Richard spoke briefly about Southwark becoming an Eco-Diocese. He said that this would give the Diocese a direction of travel on environmental matters. He hopes to bring a motion to Diocesan Synod later this year.

Knife crime

Chris Elliot proposed a Bishops Deanees motion on Knife Crime. Speaking of the terrible damage knife crime can do to so many people’s life he urged Southwark Diocese to get on with taking action. The motion was slightly amended with his agreement and following the amendment, sixteen people spoke in the debate. Chris Elliot responded, and the motion was overwhelmingly passed:

This Synod encourages each church therefore:

a) to support those who have been bereaved and those who are emotionally vulnerable as a result of gun and knife crime
b) to recognise that our response to violent crime in our communities is a public health issue and that children involved, as perpetrators and victims, require a safeguarding and trauma informed response. Trauma affects the whole community and demands a whole community response. We look to churches to build relationships with, external organisations and as churches

c) to work with the police and others in providing pastoral care for those targeted as vulnerable through County Lines, through strategic intervention work across our parochial networks.

This Synod therefore calls upon ‘all Dioceses, working with the Mission and Public Affairs Council, to develop strategies to facilitate engagement and resources’:

a) through support for our schools, especially within urban environments. We recognise the issue of excluded young people being at higher risk of involvement in serious youth violence, and we seek to support the reduction of exclusions in our schools. In addition, we recognise the role that church youth workers and other ministers play, we seek to prioritise services which support children and young people at risk
b) by ensuring that the Diocesan website contains information concerning the response to violent crime in the Diocese; online signposting for support and counselling for those affected, pointers as to how to respond if such violent crime takes place within the parish or deanery worked in conjunction with the police

c) through providing training for clergy and lay leaders on understanding risk factors and identifying signs of vulnerability to county lines involvement including safeguarding responses within parishes.

And finally...

Questions concerning Parish Pledges, the process of dissolving a Deanees Synod Standing Committee, Estates Evangelism and encouraging Youth Evangelism were answered. Bishop Christopher then presided at the Eucharist during which he commissioned The Revd Robert Kenya to the Faith in the Countryside Officer.

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Servers visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea

On Saturday 9 March, a group from the Southwark and London Chapter of the Company of Servers visited the Royal Hospital, Chelsea at the invitation of its Chaplain, the Revd Steven Brooks.

The visit began in theEcclesial Ecumenical (Anglican/Roman Catholic) Chapel located in the Thacher Infirm, refurbished in 2008. The Chaplain gave a presentation on the foundation of the Hospital in 1682 by King Charles II, its history and its operation on military lines as a place of retirement for approximately 300 ex-service personnel (including women since 2009).

It was good to learn that Steven’s vocation began as an altar server at his family’s parish church and that he has always valued the ministry of servers throughout his time as a parish priest, navy chaplain and at the Hospital where he has been the Chaplain since 2013.

The group walked through the Courts of the Hospital to the Wren Chapel which was completed in 1867. The Chapel is dominated by the captivating Resurrection by Sebastiano Ricci above the sanctuary arch.

Mass was celebrated in the Chapel and seven members of the serving team of Holy Trinity, Sloane Square were admitted as Companions – one of whom is a Chelsea Pensioner.

Members of the Chapter continued their fellowship after Mass with lunch in the Hospital’s café.

All active servers in the Dioceses of London and Southwark are welcome to join the Company and The Chapter’s forthcoming events.

Further details are available on the Company of Servers website: www.companyofservers.org
Jebbeh’s own sister lost her life giving birth in Sierra Leone.

As her baby grows, Jebbeh fears she could be next.

With every envelope, every Big Brekkie, every click. Every one of us can help save lives.
with mums Week

Change lives over breakfast!

Serve up a Big Brekkie for your community to support Christian Aid Week 2019.

It’s a great chance to enjoy breakfast together while raising vital funds for your global neighbours.

Get your free fundraising pack at caweek.org/brekkie

Find out how your church can get involved at caweek.org
The fact that no one can agree on a more definite number shows something of the horror that was unleashed in a 100 day period of killing.

Over the years we have been privileged in the Diocese to host at the Cathedral a number of memorial services for the victims of this atrocity. As we have remembered those who died we have been conscious that the scourge of genocide is an evil which has to be named and confronted.

During a Cathedral pilgrimage to Armenia we stood at the genocide memorial in the capital Yerevan conscious that our own nation has not yet named the killing of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 as an act of genocide.

Whilst the international community refuses to name what happened as an attempt to destroy a people, real healing cannot take place. We like to think that we learn the lessons of the past, but clearly we don’t. The Bible records the destruction of the Midianites by the Israelites in the 2nd millennium BC. Numbers 31 recounts that an army of Israelites killed every Midianite man but captured the women and children as plunder.

Nearly four millennia later the Jews would suffer their own genocide in the Holocaust. It makes us want to weep and certainly should make us pray.

Lord, forgive us the sin that sets nation against nation, people against people, neighbour against neighbour.

May we learn to live in peace and learn too, the lessons of the past.

Amen.

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

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

Go to @deansouthwark
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**Ongoing**

- **BEDDINGTON - Quiet @ Mary’s**
- **3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm**
- Various tools for quiet including labyrinth
- **BOROUGH – St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank**
- **Every Thursday 2pm to 4.30 pm**
- Meet people, get advice, help one another
- **ELTHAM - Sing with an orchestra**
- **3pm last Sunday each month (not Aug or Dec)**
- **ElthamPk Methodist Church**
- **HACKBRIDGE - Taizé**
- **At all Saints at 7pm First Sunday every month**
- **WARLINGHAM - Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday**
- **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers’ Union last Saturday 2pm**

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**April**

- **Tuesday 2 April**
  - **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL - An American Celebration of Music - Youth Performing Arts Choir & String Ensemble,**
  - Kentucky. 3.30pm. Music from both sides of the Atlantic. Free admission with a retiring collection

- **Wednesday 3 April**
  - **CATERHAM - Munch with Music at St John’s Church Alfred and Salamanda**
  - **Performance from 12:15; Tea/Coffee from 12:15; Performance 12:45 - 1:30pm. Admission Free - Donations welcome**

- **Saturday 6 April**
  - **UPPER NORWOOD - Coffee Concert at St John’s - 11am Coffee and cakes, 11.30am, Coffee Concert at St John’s Church 11am**
  - **Music from both sides of the Atlantic. Free admission with a retiring collection**

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**WHOLESALE ADVICE & SERVICES**

- **Ark字体**
- **EAST DULWICH - Music In Montefiore at St John’s Church 7.30pm - 11am Coffee, 10.30am - 12pm, Organ recital at St John’s Church 11am**
  - **Music by Mendelssohn, Mozart, Brahms, Wagner, Beethoven, Debussy, Ravel, Chausson, Elgar.**
  - **Conductor Aidan Hodgson (Piano)**
  - **Tickets: £10 (students £5) from 01342 870681. Light refreshments during the interval. Proceeds to Church funds.**

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**May**

- **Sunday 27 April**
  - **SLOANE SQUARE - Dulwich Choral Society celebrates its 75th anniversary at Cadogan Hall, performing Mendelssohn’s Elijah. 7.30pm with City of London Sinfonia and Neil Davies, (baritone).**
  - **Conductor Aidan Oliver. Tickets: www.cadoganhall.com**

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**Wednesday 8 May**

- **Lunchtime Concerts at St Matthew’s Church, Redhill**
- **Thursdays at 1.10pm**

- **4th Recital - Paul Gregory (Guitar) & Niko One (Piano)**
- **11th Recital - Emmanuel Bach (Violin) & Jenny Stern (Piano)**
- **25th Piano Duet Recital - Kyle Nash-Baker and Raymond Wui Yiu**

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**服从**

- **Saturday 25 May**
  - **OUTWOOD - 150th. Anniversary Concert at St John the Baptist Church 7.30pm - 11am Coffee, 10.30am - 12pm, Organ recital at St John’s Church 11am**
  - **Music by Buxtehude, Sibelius, Mendelssohn, Bach & Brahms.**
  - **Conductor Aidan Hodgson (Piano)**
  - **Tickets: £10 (students £5) from 01342 870681. Light refreshments during the interval. Proceeds to Church funds.**

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**Sunday 5 May**

- **CROYDON - Spring Concert - Croydon Bach Choir-Erland’s, The Kingdom. 7.30 pm at St Matthew’s Church. Tickets £12 (child £5) from http://www.croydonbachchoir.org**

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**Tuesday 15 April**

- **WIMBLEDON - The Spirit of Venice - Wimbledon Chamber Choir concert at St Matthew’s Church, West Wimbledon, including sackbut and theorbo.**
- **Tickets £12 / £9. Further information from Sue White 020 8944 4053**

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**Saturday 18 May**

- **CROYDON - Come and Sing Bach’s St John Passion at St Matthew’s Church. Croydon Bach Choir workshop and informal performance 10am - 5.30pm. Cost - £20 (students free) info & tickets from www.croydonbachchoir.org/ Book lunch.**

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**Pentecost services different this year**

This year the Diocese is trying something a little different for Pentecost and our Diocesan Pentecost celebrations will be in the Areas.

The Croydon Area is planning to have one service in each Deanery and details will be circulated as soon as they are finalised.

The Kingston Area planning team are meeting soon to think about the service and will write to all the parishes in the Episcopal Area after they have met.

The Woolwich Area service is take place to All Saints, Peckham. There will be a time of prayer between 9-10am and the service will begin at 10pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. The Bishop of Woolwich has already written to all the parishes about this.

We will have more details in the next edition of the Bridge - so ‘watch this space’...
Southwark MU opens a new chapter at Festival Service

The new Diocesan Mothers’ Union (MU) President and Board of Trustees were commissioned at the annual Festival Service in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 16 March.

Prior to the service a band from St Jude with St Aidan, Thornton Heath played and they helped to create a carnival atmosphere as people greeted each other as they arrived and filled the Cathedral.

The Cathedral was full of colour as many members wore their MU uniforms from different parts of the world.

The first reading was read by Ada Wilson-Jones, the Cathedral and St Hugh’s MU Branch Leader, the Gospel was read by the Revd Esther Foss, the MU Diocesan Chaplain, and Bishop Christopher preached.

He welcomed Comfort Idowu-Fearon as the new Diocesan President and spoke of the many good things that the MU does saying that they very much ‘walk the walk’ rather than ‘talk the talk’.

The Bishop then commissioned Comfort as President and Comfort then presented the Trustees to the Bishop, who were then also commissioned. The MU Choir, accompanied by Peter Wright, then sang Mary Sumner’s Personal Prayer.

The theme of the service was ‘Listen, Observe, Act – in step with God’ and the new President made a presentation on ‘Walking in his steps’. She said that the MU must not only be called to make cakes and biscuits.

“We must make a new noise…you are God’s building and there are lists of vacant posts to fill. I have anchored God’s call in my life for the next three years and I urge you to join me”. She then welcomed Trish Heywood as a special guest, whom she said had been her mentor on the journey that she has travelled.

She ended with a quote from Mary Sumner; “Together we can strengthen one another when we are weak and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength”.

After the service, the band from St Jude with St Aidan played again as photographs were taken.

Wendy Robins interviews Comfort Idowu-Fearon - page 5

‘Next year in Jerusalem’

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn writes:

On any pilgrimage we learn almost as much from those with whom we journey as from the place to which we travel.

So we are delighted that in 2020 there is the opportunity to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land being jointly organised by the Diocese of Southwark and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark.

The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Paul Hendricks of the Roman Catholic Diocese and Bishop Christopher, supported by the deans of the two cathedrals, Andrew Nunn and Richard Hearn.

As with any pilgrimage to the land of Jesus we will be visiting all of the principal sites we know through the gospels. However, what will make this pilgrimage unique will be the opportunity to worship together, to understand a little more about our particular traditions but also to realise how much we have in common.

We will be staying in hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias and benefitting from local guides as well as the wisdom our bishops will bring.

Places are, of course, limited and so you are encouraged to book early to be part of this very special group.

The brochure and booking form can be obtained from the Pilgrimage Administrator (details in the panel right).

An Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

3-10 March 2020

led by Bishop Christopher Chessun and Bishop Paul Hendricks

Cost £1,745 sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. Single room supplement.

Details from the Pilgrimage Administrator
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,
Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW
Tel: 020 7939 9428
Email: pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org