Ordained for ministry in Southwark Diocese

Twenty-four people were ordained as Deacons by Bishop Christopher on Saturday 29 June in Southwark Cathedral - more than the number ordained in the past two years combined.

As the Diocese welcomed this year’s new deacons, and celebrated eleven deacons being ordained priest, there was more good news relating to vocations in Southwark.

Since 2015, the number of people entering the discernment process exploring ordained ministry in the Diocese of Southwark has increased by 130% and lay ministries have increased by 65%.

These figures far exceed the strategic objective set in 2017 as part of the Southwark Vision, which aimed to grow lay and ordained vocations by 50% by 2020.

Great strides have also been made in increasing diversity among our ordained ministers in order to reflect the diversity of the Diocese – another major goal. Of the 61 ordinands in training in the Diocese in 2018, 24% were black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME), well above the national average.

In addition, more than a third (35%) were under 32 years old, nearly half (48%) were women and 30% were offering for non-stipendiary ministry.

“These figures really show that Southwark is taking its strategic objectives seriously and equipping its ministry to reflect our vibrant and diverse Diocese,” said Ruth Martin, Diocesan Secretary. “We are very proud and happy to welcome all our new deacons.”

On Saturday 6 July 11 Deacons were ordained to the Priesthood having served a year as Deacons:

**CROYDON AREA**

- Hayley Argles-Grant: Streatham, St Leonard
- Sarah Atkins: Ham, St Richard
- Dr Emmanuel Bakhle: Surbiton Hill, Christ Church
- Liz Barnett: Dulwich, St Barnabas
- Trini Mari (Carol) Bates: East Wickham, St Michael
- Martin Calderbank: Barnes, St Michael & All Angels

**KINGSTON AREA**

- Ruth Chapman: Warlingham w Chelsham & Farleigh Team Ministry
- Dr Stephen Davidson: North Lambeth Team Ministry
- Bernadette Excell: Balham, St Mary & St John
- Paul Fitzpatrick: Beddington & Roundshaw, St Michael & All Angels
- Erin Gilmore: Reigate, St Mary Magdalene
- Hannah Gordon: Carshalton Beeches, The Good Shepherd
- Reginald Grant: Reigate, St Mark
- Jonathan Haynes: Putney, St Mary
- Michael Johns-Perring: Surbiton, St Andrew & St Mark
- Tim Jones: Clapham, Holy Trinity
- Emma Louth: Gipsy Hill, Christ Church
- Joseph Moore: Croydon Minster
- Nicholas Quinnrud: Kennington, St John The Divine w St James The Apostle
- Tomos Reed: South Dulwich, St Stephen
- Joseph (Josh) Skidmore: Wimbledon, Emmanuel (Proprietary Chapel)
- Sarah Whitehouse: Tooting, All Saints
- Deepthi Wickremasingha: Walworth, St Christopher

**WOOLWICH AREA**

- Hannah Argles-Grant: London Bridge
- Dr Stephen Davidson: North Lambeth Team Ministry
- Bernadette Excell: Balham, St Mary & St John
- Paul Fitzpatrick: Beddington & Roundshaw, St Michael & All Angels
- Erin Gilmore: Reigate, St Mary Magdalene
- Hannah Gordon: Carshalton Beeches, The Good Shepherd
- Reginald Grant: Reigate, St Mark
- Jonathan Haynes: Putney, St Mary
- Michael Johns-Perring: Surbiton, St Andrew & St Mark
- Tim Jones: Clapham, Holy Trinity
- Emma Louth: Gipsy Hill, Christ Church
- Joseph Moore: Croydon Minster
- Nicholas Quinnrud: Kennington, St John The Divine w St James The Apostle
- Tomos Reed: South Dulwich, St Stephen
- Joseph (Josh) Skidmore: Wimbledon, Emmanuel (Proprietary Chapel)
- Sarah Whitehouse: Tooting, All Saints
- Deepthi Wickremasingha: Walworth, St Christopher

Those ordained Deacon and the parishes where they will serve their curacies are as follows:

- Hayley Argles-Grant: Streatham, St Leonard
- Sarah Atkins: Ham, St Richard
- Dr Emmanuel Bakhle: Surbiton Hill, Christ Church
- Liz Barnett: Dulwich, St Barnabas
- Trini Mari (Carol) Bates: East Wickham, St Michael
- Martin Calderbank: Barnes, St Michael & All Angels
- Ruth Chapman: Warlingham w Chelsham & Farleigh Team Ministry
- Dr Stephen Davidson: North Lambeth Team Ministry
- Bernadette Excell: Balham, St Mary & St John
- Paul Fitzpatrick: Beddington & Roundshaw, St Michael & All Angels
- Erin Gilmore: Reigate, St Mary Magdalene
- Hannah Gordon: Carshalton Beeches, The Good Shepherd
- Reginald Grant: Reigate, St Mark
- Jonathan Haynes: Putney, St Mary
- Michael Johns-Perring: Surbiton, St Andrew & St Mark
- Tim Jones: Clapham, Holy Trinity
- Emma Louth: Gipsy Hill, Christ Church
- Joseph Moore: Croydon Minster
- Nicholas Quinnrud: Kennington, St John The Divine w St James The Apostle
- Tomos Reed: South Dulwich, St Stephen
- Joseph (Josh) Skidmore: Wimbledon, Emmanuel (Proprietary Chapel)
- Sarah Whitehouse: Tooting, All Saints
- Deepthi Wickremasingha: Walworth, St Christopher

Standing together to combat serious youth violence

St Mark’s Church, Kennington hosted ‘Churches Standing Together’ on 4 July - a Synergy Network meeting to discuss how to tackle the rising challenge of serious youth violence.

It brought together youth practitioners from churches and other groups to explore how different organisations can work with the Church and youth outreach programmes.

The meeting heard from organisations working with young people and in local communities and about the new Churches Together in British and Ireland website ‘Churches Standing Together’. After group discussions the meeting closed with communion led by the Revd Canon Steve Coulson and the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallet.

The event was organised in cooperation with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, London City Mission, Ascension Trust and the Diocese of Southwark.

‘Church on the Hill’ celebrates diamond jubilee

St Barnabas Church, Purley celebrated its 60th anniversary on Sunday 9 June.

Bishop Christopher presided at the service of celebration with Priest in Charge the Revd Justine Middlemiss and in the presence of the Mayor of Croydon Cllr Hamayan Kabir.

The Bishop described ‘The Church on the Hill’ as very important to the life and worship of the Purley community and said that hoped it would continue to serve for many years to come.

The St Barnabas congregation were joined in celebration by All Saints, Kenley and The Hayes Church, Kenley, both sister churches. Later in the afternoon St Barnabas hosted a Purley Churches Together service of ‘Scones and Songs’.

The SEPTEMBER edition is due to be printed on 22 AUGUST and in your parish from the following Sunday.

Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by MONDAY 12 AUGUST

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

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

At a garden party at Lambeth Palace, celebrating 25 years of women’s ordination to the Priesthood the Revd Margaret Mabbs got special attention from the Archbishop of Canterbury, as the previous day was her 95th birthday. Margaret is still a valued member of the ministry team at St Luke’s Church, Eltham Park.

The Bridge - in print, in your parish... and on line at www.southwark.anglican.org/thebridge
Second anniversary of London Bridge attack commemorated in the Cathedral

The second anniversary of the London Bridge attack was commemorated at a special Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral on Monday 3 June. It was attended by survivors of the attack, families of the victims, police officers, civic leaders and others who were affected by the events of that evening.

The Queen was represented at the service by her Deputy Lieutenant for the Borough of Southwark, Simon Buckworth; also present were the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan; the Mayor of Southwark, Cllr Sandra Rumble; Neil Coyle, MP for Bermondsey & Old Southwark, and Peter John, Leader of Southwark Council.

During the service the Mayor of London lit a Candle of Remembrance on the altar on behalf of the people of London (left) and the Lessons were read by Amir Eden, Chair of Living Bankside, one of those caught up in the attack, and PC Wayne Marques GM, of the British Transport Police, who was injured in the attack.

During his address, the Dean of Southwark, The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, talked about the ongoing inquest into the attack and said, “we want to know the truth because the truth will set us free – eventually”.

The full address can be found on the Cathedral website: http://bit.ly/2F1R54Q.

At the end of the service the congregation processed outside to the Tree of Healing, planted on the first anniversary of the attack, for an Act of Remembrance where the names of those who died were read out and silence was kept.

The final blessing was given jointly by The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, The Most Revd Peter Smith.

At the end of the service floral tributes were laid in front of the Tree of Healing by the Mayor of Southwark, The Most Revd Christopher Chessun, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, The Most Revd Peter Smith.

Trish Arathoon, a member of Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting, has raised over £30,000 for The Children’s Society, including organising a sponsored walk for over a decade. At the end of May she received royal recognition for her dedication with an invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party.

Images from the service can be found on Flickr at: https://flic.kr/s/aHsmE1PkgE
In June a team of budding artists from St Peter’s Church, Limpsfield and the village have been outside showcasing their artistic talent. Led by Dr Richard Spiller, the team created a community mural depicting pilgrims from Geoffrey Chaucer’s ‘Canterbury Tales’ on dormant hoardings opposite St Peter’s Church Hall.

The project was completed in just under a week and has plans to expand involving more of the community, with a panel reserved for children from the local Church of England Infant School in Limpsfield. The mural can be seen from the church and is lit at night by street lamps, admired by many including passers-by who use the church hall entrance to get down to the Glebe Meadow.
On 13 June Bishop Christopher hosted a meeting with the Revd Capt. Patience Wanzala, Principal of the Church Army’s Carlile College Nairobi. The College is one of the Bishop’s Lent Call Projects in 2019.

The Revd Terry Drummond

Patience spoke of the work of the College - named in memory of Wilson Carlile, the founder of the Church Army - with an emphasis on the training of students to work in the poorest parts of Nairobi, especially in the slums where families and individuals who lack the basics of life are crowded into poor housing.

The problems of poverty due to low incomes, poor health and young girls becoming pregnant are endemic. Whilst similar issues might be found in London the big difference is the lack of a social welfare system that can offer support.

The Church Army Evangelists, who are trained to work in these areas of social need, take the message of hope that is central to the Christian faith whilst also working with people on gaining practical skills that will lift them out of poverty.

The work that is undertaken is difficult and, because it is with the most deprived, is not necessarily seen in a positive light by those who do not suffer from the deprivation and degradation that is so obvious in the communities that are being served.

The Lent Fund contribution which is distributed in November will be used by the College to assist in funding student fees for those who lack the financial ability to pay for themselves.

The visit of Patience to the Diocese enabled her to give her personal thanks for the support of the Lent Fund.

Iftar shared at All Saints Kingston

All Saints Church has been at the centre of Kingston life for centuries and serving the community in a variety of different ways is a top priority for us.

Isobel Isaacson writes:

It therefore seemed a good opportunity to continue this tradition when Beyza Nur Coskun approached the Rector, Jonathan Wilkes, to say that a group she was involved with of Turkish Muslims, the Dialogue Society and Fethullah Gulen would like to host us in our own church as they broke their fast in Ramadan.

Jonathan was delighted to accept on our behalf and to invite people to come and join in. So it was that we gathered together for this purpose on the evening of Wednesday 29 May. Many of us already knew Beyza as she is a valued member of our Listening service at the church and as numbers grew there was a cheerful buzz of conversation and tantalising aromas became noticeable in the café area.

Jonathan gave a welcoming speech, setting out something of the significant heritage of the church. He emphasised that the church is open to all and is in ways such as this that we can become more familiar with the different sections of our communities.

There was then a short film about the Dialogue Society. The Dialogue Society is a registered charity, established in London in 1999, and with the aim of advancing social cohesion by connecting communities, and making possible dialogue on a whole range of social issues. The main aim of this event was simply to promote friendship.

We settled ourselves at tables around the café making sure that we didn’t sit solely with people we knew. To help us to get to know something of our fellow guests we had a list of three questions which each person was invited to answer:

- where were you born?
- who do you love the most?
- what was your moment of greatest joy?

In answering the second and third we discovered of course that there were many similarities in the answers given, regardless of place of birth.

Then the food was served and fully lived up to the delicious smells. The many children present happily brought dishes to the tables and helped to clear away, too.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening and perfectly illustrated some words from the epistle for the following Sunday (Sunday after Ascension Day):

‘Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.’

On Sunday 23 June the Lewisham Interfaith Forum held its fifth Inter Faith Walk for Peace. It was attended by over 400 people and included stops at a Hindu Temple, Islamic Centre, St Mary’s Parish Church, the Civic Centre, the Unitarian Church and a Synagogue.

‘Opening the Word’: Writing for Theology and Ministry

Want to study theology but worried about your writing? Our new course at St Augustine’s is just for you.

‘Opening the Word’ offers an excellent, theologically relevant foundation in writing for theology and ministry.

Ideal for anyone planning to study theology or train for ministry at undergraduate level.

Mondays at Trinity House, Southwark (7:00-8:30pm) 2 terms of 8 sessions. Fees: £350 per term. Bursaries available.

Please contact Becky at r.young@staugustinescollege.ac.uk or ring 01732 252656
Reflecting the increasing global diversity in Southwark Diocese

It is a real reflection of the increasing diversity within the Diocese that, since the last edition of the Bridge was published, Bishop Christopher has been visited by two Bishops from the Church in India and has instituted two priests and licensed another from other parts of the world to lead parishes in this Diocese.

The Most Revd Pradeep Samantaroy, Bishop of Amritsar in the Church of North India joined Bishop Christopher at the Pentecost Confirmation in the Cathedral (see P10) and The Rt Revd Samuel Devasahayam Ebenezer Clement, Bishop of Thoothukudi-Nazareth in Tamil Nadu came to Bishop’s House with the Anands who are now priests in this Diocese. Then, as is his custom, Bishop Christopher instituted two priests and licensed another from other parts of the world to lead parishes in this Diocese.

They were (left to right below)
- The Revd Leslie Jesudason, who comes to us from the Diocese of Oxford and is now Vicar of Croydon, Christ Church,
- The Revd Emmanuel Adeloye, who had held the Bishop’s Permission to Officiate became Vicar of Peckham, St John w St Andrew having exercised senior ministry in Nigeria and
- The Revd Premraj Dhanaraj, who had served his title in this Diocese and returns to us from the Diocese of Madras in India, is now Priest in Charge of New Addington, St Edward the Confessor,

A brass band serenaded visitors to the Plumstead UB Christian Aid Fair on Saturday 1 June - and it was a ‘family affair’.

The Stedfast Association Band Director of Music is Dennis Hawkes, whose daughter Denise Kamau is a band member - and one of the churchwardens at St Mark’s w St Margaret’s Church where the event was held.

Stalls inside the church hall included a collection of original art painted by a member of our congregation – and cakes, including an enormous pink one which was bought jointly by two members from St Mark’s and The Ascension, and enjoyed by the congregations after the Sunday service.

And the band played on

They walked six miles from Eynsford, via Shoreham, to Otford, visiting the three village churches of St Martin, St Peter & St Paul (below), and St Bartholomew for prayer and reflection.

The Revd Diane Rees (Shoreham) and the Revd Richard Worssam (Otford) welcomed the travellers to their churches for refreshments, talked about the history of the churches and led them in prayer. Woolwich Area Representative Marion Watson said: “It was a lovely day, enjoyed by all”.

OPPORTUNITIES

St Mary’s Church, Wimbledon
Part-time Verger

St Mary’s Church, Wimbledon is seeking a team player with good communication skills and initiative to be our Verger on a part-time basis. Duties include preparing and verging for services, responsibility for the security of the building, and concerts, and some cleaning. Due to the nature of the work, applicants must be physically fit.

Due to the increasing diversity in the Diocese, the advert for the position has been extended for one month. Interviews are scheduled for 2nd August and the post will commence on 10th August.

To apply email your covering letter and CV to info@welcare.org

Welcare 19 Frederick Crescent, London SW9 6XN
Registered Charity Number 1107809

On 14 June the newly elected Mayors, Council Chairs and the Chief Executives of the local authorities in the Diocese of Southwark gathered at Bishop’s House, to meet the Bishops, Archdeacons and other senior staff.

St Mary’s Church, Wimbledon

Welcare is recruiting…….

Are you passionate about the mission of Welcare to work alongside parents to give children secure and confident childhoods to enable them to thrive in the future?

Community Fundraising and Engagement Manager (£36,283 p.a.)

Welcare is looking for a dynamic enthusiastic Community Fundraising and Engagement Manager with great people skills to implement our fundraising and volunteer engagement strategy. Ideally, you will have a track record of successful community fundraising and stakeholder engagement; supporter care; and experience of digital marketing campaigns.

To apply email your covering letter and CV to info@welcare.org

Application closing date: 23 July 2019
Interviews: 31 July 2019

Trustees (reasonable expenses only)

We are looking for trustees with diverse skills who can demonstrate a commitment to Welcare’s mission and willingness to devote the required time and effort; a problem-solving ‘can-do’ attitude, enthusiastic approach and ability to work effectively as part of a team.

To apply email your covering letter and CV to info@welcare.org

Application closing date: 19 August 2019

Enquiries or expressions of interest to Diane Taylor at info@welcare.org

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To apply email your covering letter and CV to info@welcare.org

Application closing date: 19 August 2019

Enquiries or expressions of interest to Diane Taylor at info@welcare.org

Welcare 19 Frederick Crescent, London SW9 6XN
Registered Charity Number 1107809
Margaret Quaife was surprised and delighted when during the last meeting of the SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary) Council Bishop Christopher presented her with the Lancelot Andrews medal in recognition of her work as SPA Treasurer and Reigate Archdeaconry SPA. Margaret will continue as Reigate Archdeaconry SPA but has retired from her role as Treasurer.

The work of the SPA Council came to an end at this meeting and the work of the Diocesan Readers’ Board will also come to an end later in the year. The formation of a Diocesan Lay Council was agreed at the Diocesan Council of Trustees on 22 May 2019. It will be chaired by Bishop Christopher. The Diocesan intention to focus on the flourishing of all God’s people and its aims to recognise the ministry of all God’s people is led by The Revd Canon Dr Raewynne Ford. She will take up this role this August.

The work of the SPA Council will also come to an end at this meeting. The newly commissioned SPAs in the Kingston Area are: Fiona Carnegie (Telford Park, St Thomas with St Stephen); Anna Corcoran (Wandsworth, St Mary Magdalen); Oona Emerson (Streatham, St Leonards).

Meanwhile Eight New SPAs commissioned

Eight new Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries were commissioned at Southwark Cathedral on Monday 24 June.

SPA Training Officer Paula Thorvaldsen writes:

The service was conducted by Bishop Christopher, while The Venerable Dr Jane Steen gave an uplifting sermon about the importance of living out what we believe and showing it forth in our lives.

After the commissioning promises, Bishop Christopher handed the points of each candidate and all SPAs present were invited to recommit themselves to their ministry. Those becoming SPA Emeritus were presented to the Bishop. He prayed and thanked Brenda Barron, Guy Buckland, Maureen Edmonds, Sue Liptrot, Daphne Marshall, Mary Ann Meldrum, Rosie Plumb, Suzanne Retter, Andy Reynolds, Yvonne Trotmann, Barbara Walker, Margaret Wood and Hilary Yates for their service.

SPAs are men and women who are called to share in the ministry of caring and are authorised for pastoral work on behalf of the Church in a voluntary capacity. The ministry of each is different depending on their calling and their personal gifts and according to the needs identified in the local church and community.

The newly commissioned SPAs in the Croydon Area are: Justina Foli (St Helier, St Peter); Sandra Groombridge (Sanderstead, All Saints); Claire Mills (Chipstead, St Margaret’s); Daniel Simpson (Upper Norwood, St John the Evangelist); Marie Williams (Croydon, Holy Saviour).

If you are interested in this exciting ministry and would like more information, please contact me on paula.thorvaldsen@southwark.anglican.org or 07711 887430.
Don’t just take a holiday

For most of us, the words ‘summer holiday’ conjure up visions of beaches and sunsacks, city breaks and child-friendly activities. Yet for many hundreds of people the summer break offers the chance to go on a spiritual as well as a physical journey, by undertaking a pilgrimage. Pilgrimages offer a unique perspective on faith and life. The summer break is full of friendly activities. Yet for many others, city breaks and children’s holidays conjure up visions of beaches and sights. For most of us, the words ‘summer holiday’ mean the chance to take a di
days, pilgrims, known as a norm.

1. St Cuthbert’s Way

This cross-border route follows in the footsteps of Celtic saint St Cuthbert. It covers 100km from Melrose in the Scottish Borders, where St Cuthbert began his religious life, to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, where he died. Pilgrims can undertake the whole route in one go (it will take between four and six days), or do a series of short walks ranging from one to eight miles in length.

Although Cuthbert undertook his own journey in around 650AD, this trail has been officially open only since 1996. Even so, modern pilgrims will be able to get some sense of Cuthbert’s spiritual journey regardless of how far they travel, according to Celtic spirituality expert Dr Nick Mayhew-Smith. “In early Christianity there wasn’t really pilgrimage as we understand it now,” says Nick, a Reader in Southwark Diocese. “When you look at Cuthbert, he had a very, very intense relationship with the land where he was standing. He would go into the sea to pray, and he would talk to the birds and let them nest in his hut. It’s not a pilgrimage in that sense—it’s very much a focus on the ground beneath one’s feet where you are.”

For more information: www.stcuthbertsway.info; Dr Nick Mayhew-Smith’s new book, ‘The Naked Hermit: A Journey to the Heart of Celtic Britain’, is published by SPCK

2. Southwark Cathedral to Canterbury

Travellers have been following the Pilgrim’s Way from Southwark to Canterbury since Chaucer’s time—the characters in his Canterbury Tales gather at the Tabard Inn on Borough High Street before their journey. These days, pilgrims can pick up a Passport from the Cathedral and get it stamped by churches and businesses along the 70-mile route.

Among the pilgrims this year were the Revd Steve Hall (right) and some 30 parishioners from St Mary, Lewisham, who did the journey in stages over eight days in late May. “We planned it so that every day we started and ended at a train station—we weren’t staying on village hall floors or anything like that,” says Steve. “People joined us when they could, and in the end over 30 of us arrived in Canterbury.”

There were moments when the group was tired and fed up, but these were easily outweighed by the day-to-day highlights of walking through “beautiful countryside” and the joy of being together as a group. And being welcomed into Canterbury Cathedral at journey’s end and sharing a special Eucharist in the crypt was “the ultimate highlight”, says Steve. “It was really, really special.”

For more information see longer article on page 12 and visit www.pilgrimswaycanterbury.org

3. Rouen to Mont-Saint-Michel

The sight of the monastery rising out of the sea at Mont-Saint-Michel at the end of a 205-mile journey from Rouen is as welcome to modern-day pilgrims as it would have been to medieval ones. Although Mont-Saint-Michel is primarily a historical monument these days, pilgrims, known as miquelots, still travel there from across France. The most well-known routes are the ones that join up with the Camino de Santiago, but the road from Rouen has a charm of its own, with plenty of unsupervised scenery and quiet forest paths.

Those who can’t make the whole journey can simply walk across the causeway from the mainland and join the Monastic Fraternities of Jerusalem who celebrate Mass daily.

For more information: www.lescheminsdumontsaintmichel.com

4. Mont-Saint-Michel

Every 10 years, the island is closed to the faithful on the 1st of July to mark the 756 Years’ Anniversary of the Battle of Tours. This year’s festivities are being held from 20th to 27th July, with a special Grand Procession on the Sunday. Next year, 2020, marks the 20th anniversary of the short-lived Mont-Saint-Michel study centre, which was forced to shut after five years due to lack of funding.

A special Mass will be said for the Meeting of the Pilgrims in the 205-mile journey from Rouen to Mont-Saint-Michel at the end of July, and a large statue of St Cuthbert will be brought to the island to be venerated. As with all events at Mont-Saint-Michel, the pilgrimage will be open to visitors from all over the world.

5. St Cuthbert’s Way

Southwark Cathedral to Canterbury is a normal part of a fellow pilgrim’s amazing journey. The journey is not only about the recovery of faith, but also about the recovery of the body.

For more information: www.lescheminsdumontsaintmichel.com
**Oberammergau**

Every 10 years, the sleepy village of Oberammergau, set high in the hills of Bavaria, becomes a magnet for pilgrims from all over the world when it stages its renowned Passion Play. In 1633, as the Thirty Years War ravaged the local area, the inhabitants vowed to perform a play about the “suffering, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ” every 10 years if God would save them from the plague. And for the next 350 years, with the exception of 1940, they have fulfilled their promise.

This year, the Revd Canon Dr Sue Clarke and some of her parishioners from Furzedown Team Ministry will be part of the pilgrims to see the Passion Play. “It was the historicity of it,” she says. “Because it goes back centuries, and the fact that the members of this little village have chosen to do this as a way of thanking God for their deliverance from the plague, and have kept to that promise and commitment, is very engaging and challenging for us in the modern day; how much we commit to doing something in gratitude and that village has stuck with it.”

“Any pilgrimage, however, it’s about more than the destination, Sue adds: “It’s the journeying, and to know people, worshipping together, being together and sharing together.”

*Further information: www.passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en/home*

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**El Camino de Santiago**

One of the most iconic of all pilgrimages, El Camino de Santiago (The Way of St James) attracts more than 300,000 pilgrims a year. There are a dozen possible routes across northern Spain, but all end at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in western Spain, where a Pilgrim’s Mass is held daily for those who have earned their compostela — a certificate of achievement confirming that the pilgrim has completed the journey on foot or 200km by bike.

Neil, who was prompted to leave his corporate job after his first Camino and who now worships at Southwark Cathedral, describes himself as “addicted”. He says: “It’s something about stripping away from the busy life. I always come away feeling incredibly blessed.” For Neil, the real joy is meeting other pilgrims, and that is what brings him back year after year. “Every time I’ve walked I’ve met the most amazing people,” he says, “people who are dealing with really big life stuff, like losing a child or a parent, or having from their third recurring cancer, with real grace. It makes me feel that I am really privileged.”

*Further information: www.csj.org.uk*

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**Ephesus**

This ancient site in modern-day Turkey has been a focus for pilgrimage since the seventh century BC, when Greeks flocked to its Temple of Artemis. It has been an important Christian site since St Paul preached there and established the Church of Ephesus, which became the head of the Seven Churches in western Asia Minor.

These days, Christian visitors can get a sense of the kind of places Paul would have known and been part of, as well as gaining a greater understanding of how our forebears in the faith lived and the difference their faith made to them.

*Further information: www.wws.org.uk*
‘When the Day of Pentecost had come...’

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in Camberwell. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now there were devout people from every nation under heaven living in Southwark. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard the good news: Columbians, Spanish, Jamaicans and residents of Trinidad, Cameroon and Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Ghana, migrants from Manchester and Humberside, Teesside and the parts of Ireland belonging to the UK, and visitors from Europe, both Belgian and German - in our own languages we hear about God’s deeds of power.

The Revd Jonathan Roberts,
Camberwell St Michael & All Angels & All Souls w Emmanuel

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* Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.

A Song for the Season of Creation

A Song for the Season of Creation has been written for churches to include in Creationtide services later this year. A recording by St Bride’s Church choir has been produced with the support of the CofE’s Mission and Public Affairs.

The song, which uses poet Malcolm Guite’s words, has been commissioned by the CofE’s Environmental Working Group and has been arranged for singers of various ranges.

Sue Mallinson, Diocesan Environmental Officer, said: “The music really helped me reflect. It needs to be heard around Southwark Diocese, and not only in September and October”.

Sheet music, rehearsal files and recordings can be downloaded free of charge from the St Bride’s website http://www.stbrides.com/webcast/2019/05/a-song-for-the-season-of-creation.php

On the eve of Pentecost Saturday 8 June, 31 candidates were confirmed at Southwark Cathedral by the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun. He was joined by The Most Revd Dr Pradeep Samantaroy, Bishop of Amritsar in the Church of North India.

Nine different languages join in the Acts Pentecost reading at St James Merton. Photo: Jean Lamb

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Charlton United Benefice

Every new incumbent is the signal for a new beginning for a parish but how do you achieve that when you’ve been part of it for 34 years?

When the Revd Liz Newman became Rector of Charlton United Benefice in 2017, she’d been a member of the congregation, then a Reader and from 2005 an Ordained and Local Minister – and she’d been an unpaid member of the clergy team whilst a school and hospital chaplain locally.

“It comes with advantages – you know the place and people so well – but also disadvantages because it’s harder to be detached and see the need for change” she said.

But change was needed – because Charlton and its parishes had changed and there’s more change to come.

The United Benefice, created in 2002, brought together the parishes of St Luke with Holy Trinity, Charlton and St Thomas, Old Charlton – a population of some 22,000 people in a wide area which sweeps down from Shooters Hill Road to the Thames.

Both churches have smallish, multicultural congregations.

The ministry team - Liz Newman (Rector), two non-stipendiary priests Bennett Spong and Joe Lee and five SPAs - works equally across both. The two parishes have retained their individuality and independence, with separate PCCs and budgets but the congregations co-operate well on joint projects and share worship at patrimonial festivals and social events.

The Revd Liz Newman said “The new start began with MAP - asking ourselves, what is Church for? The process took a year, including three months of prayer, focus groups and listening to the community. It was thorough and ambitious and so it’s a big ask we have set ourselves, especially with limited resources and relatively small congregations. However both congregations are growing and the new people coming in have helped to make ‘change’ more sustainable. I believe we’ve got better at opening the front door – and closing the back door and at helping guests transform into hosts. I’m delighted to say that our age profile is also changing with a growing proportion of children and younger adults.

“We are working on our ‘governance’ and finances to ensure that we have the building blocks which will support our mission plans; we have to grasp a few nettles, support our mission plans; we need to look beyond our Church for example; and the intention is to build on our extensive history and Grade 2* listing (in the 1980s to provide a more flexible layout with the east and partitioned off to provide a two-storey meeting space. St Luke’s, in contrast, remains almost as it was 200 years ago.

As it was not uncommon along what was a smelly River Thames, St Luke’s at the top of the hill was the village church surrounded by large houses. St Thomas’s parish, down the hill nearer to the river was a mix of industry and large terraced houses, for up and coming Victorians. Nowadays there’s little difference between the two parishes (except in size). Both have a mix of private houses, houses in multiple occupation and social housing - and despite some gentrification both are still among the most deprived areas of London.

“The first priority”, said Liz, “was to take a good look at ourselves, prayerfully and ask ourselves why do we exist and what is God calling our churches to be”. The response was a Mission Action Plan launched last September, which combines some shared elements with, crucially, individual plans for the two parishes.

The priorities established were:

- nurturing children and young people
- sharing faith confidently and developing community engagement and action
- Children & young people: The benefice includes four secondary and seven primary schools and a nursery – and whilst none are CoE schools, relations with most primaries are good and a schools project run by a member of St Luke’s

St Luke’s Church is already a community hub - partly because of its flexible layout but also because the local community feels ‘ownership’. There are groups for the elderly and for young people (Tom’s Café); a boxing club uses the first floor of the church; ‘Champions for Change’ promotes fitness and well-being for all ages from children to OAPs, and an anti-gang project is about to begin.

The church and hall also host a winter night shelter for the homeless, community meetings, parties and local councillors’ surgeries - and St Thomas’s MAP plans are focused on further developing the church as the community focal point including offering English

language classes for recently arrived Syrian families.

The northern part of the benefice is the Thames riverside – currently industrial and retail estates. But plans are afoot for redevelopment which will bring some 8,000 new homes to an area of the benefice which is ‘remote’ from both St Thomas’s and St Luke’s. As part of ‘Charlton Together’ the benefice is working with the local Council to try to ensure that homes are built rather than, where well-being for all ages from children to OAPs, and an anti-gang project is about to begin. The church and hall also host a winter night shelter for the homeless, community meetings, parties and local councillors’ surgeries - and St Thomas’s MAP plans are focused on further developing the church as the community focal point including offering English

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A big day out with the DAC

"Welcome"; "celebration"; "vision"; "community".

These were some of the words shared by participants at the end of the annual Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) tour of churches in the Diocese, led by the Revd Canon Stephen Roberts and Luke Tatam of the Pastoral Department.

The theme of the day, which took place on 4 June, was "using our churches for mission", with Stephen Roberts wanting to share examples with members of the DAC and other key people in the Diocese of how different uses of space can enhance the work of the Church.

The focus this year was on Kingston Episcopal Area, with the tour taking in St Mark’s Battersea Rise, St Peter’s Battersea and St Luke’s Ramilden Road, before breaking for lunch at Home Café inside St Andrew’s Earlsfield. The day concluded with a visit to St Peter’s Petersham.

One thing I feel very strongly is that people understand the role that churches play in spirituality,” said Stephen. “They often play a role even when they are empty. They tell you something about what the church is doing. I think they speak quite eloquently.”

Boost for St John’s ‘reignition’

The campaign to ‘reignite’ St John’s Waterloo has received an important boost. A faculty has been granted for significant improvements at Diocesan Synod recognising that some of the refugees and asylum seekers coming to this country are well qualified in medicine, teaching, law or other professions but need to undertake appropriate courses and placements before they are ready to practise here.

The motion offered a number of actions which parishes and dioceses can take to enable people to undertake the appropriate courses so that they can practise again. Bishop Christopher also spoke in this debate. The motion was amended before it was put to Synod and the amended motion was passed.

According to The Venerable John Kiddie, Archdeacon of Wandsworth, one thing all these churches spoke of was community. During the lunch break at St Andrew’s, he reflected on “place and space” as it related to the Archdeaconry of Wandsworth and how, “right from the start, we have been trying to build churches that respond to the places we serve”.

As he spoke in St Andrew’s, which has converted the west end of its nave into a café serving the whole of Earlsfield, he said: “It’s lovely to be in this space, because that begins to show us what that means. It’s very valuable to me as an architect.”

The day ended in Richmond, where the Revd Tim Marwood shared their 10-year and £300,000 journey to making the tiny St Peter’s Church, Petersham fit for purpose, with a bespoke meeting room that has allowed the church to expand while retaining its historic character. The impetus came from their Mission Action Plan, he said, when they decided they needed a space for children. The build began in October 2017 and was finished in eight months.

“We were just in time for our youth leader to run the first activity with a still-concrete floor!”

Southwark members take the lead at General Synod

Members of General Synod from the Diocese and others from the Diocese who had come to support them were prominent at the July meeting of Synod held on 5-9 July.

The Venerable Dr Jane Stern took part in the debate on relations with the Methodist Church, in which she proposed an amendment which was carried and the amended motion itself was carried in all three houses. Capt. Nicholas Lebey CA and the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett both proposed motions. These had come from Deeney Synods in the Diocese, through Southwark Diocesan Synod to General Synod.

The motion on combating serious youth violence was put by Rosemarie Mallett. It called upon the National Church Institutions, dioceses and boards of education to take practical steps to help prevent serious violence such as gun and knife crime and to support those affected. It was passed by 315 votes with none against and no abstentions.

Nicholas Lebey put the motion which had been passed at Diocesan Synod recognising that some of the refugees and asylum seekers coming to this country are well qualified in medicine, teaching, law or other professions but need to undertake appropriate courses and placements before they are ready to practise here.

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Each day’s walk ended at a train station so we could all come home at night. We reached Rochester by Tuesday evening and returned the next morning to follow the Pilgrims’ Way, the North Downs path.

After eight days we arrived in Canterbury on a sunny Saturday, our numbers grown to over 30.

We shared a moving eucharist in the chapel of Our Lady Undercroft, had lunch in the ancient church of St Paul’s and returned for a service of Evensong and a welcome from the Dean. We also visited the French Chapel in the Cathedral, a link with a previous Vicar of St Mary’s in the 17th century, the Revd Abraham Cole.

We had walked over 80 miles, shared much together as we walked, and grown closer to one another and to God.

For centuries people have gone on pilgrimage for many different reasons – faith, health, friendship, a specific prayer intention, or just for simple enjoyment. It’s clear pilgrimage has come back in fashion today, with many Christian pilgrim routes being revived.

For us at St Mary’s Lewisham it was a time to draw closer to God and to listen to God’s voice as we walked, in silence, in conversations profound and profane, and in much laughter.

The encounter on the Road to Emmaus was in our minds as we met the Lord each day on the journey.

It was also preparation for me as I plan a 400-kilometre walk in September on the Camino, the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. My new boots and backpack held up well, as did my knees and feet.

It feels like 2019 has become a Year of Walking for me, reminding me that our pilgrimage of faith starts afresh every day. But my own preference on pilgrimage is more Chaucer than John Bunyan – and just as heavenly!
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Please return your form to: Church Homeless Trust, Can Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road, London N1 6AH

RCN 802801

SBW19
The day we went to the House of Lords

Who would've thought that a simple church school in Walworth would have the honour of being invited to the Palace of Westminster and the House of Lords? But that was exactly what happened on Tuesday 18 June.

Lois – a Year Six pupil at St Peter's Primary School reports:

When we arrived at the entrance, there was a security check to ensure that no-one had any weapons which could harm people.

During the process, we all felt a bit anxious because, even though we had no weapons, going through security is an unsettling experience.

After we were checked, we were given lanyards with our visitor ID's/cards. Entering the lobby, we were greeted by Peter (Peter Haddock, the Bishop of Southwark's Parliamentary Adviser) who answered our questions. He was very patient with our everlasting questions and tried his best to answer them.

Afterwards, he led us into the consultation room where we were split up into two groups. One group was at one end of the room and the other group was at the opposite end. The topics of the day were the medicine expectant mothers are given and Brexit (of course).

The room was voluminous! The highlight of the day was meeting Bishop Christopher.

We met up in his office and he informed us about his role as ‘My Lord Bishop’ in the House of Lords.

There was an opportunity for us to share with the Bishop our thoughts about the visit. Most people spoke about the statues, how big the Palace of Westminster was and the artwork (which was astonishing).

Another climax of the day was meeting Mother Rose Hudson-Wilkins - what an amazing lady. She enlightened us about her experience growing up and some of the difficulties she was faced with like not having a bed to sleep on until she was 14 but this did not deter her from following her dreams. I can personally relate to this as I have been through a lot of hardship to do with housing. Mother Rose realised that she had a passion for preaching the word of God at a young age and she followed this through. She continues to go from strength to strength.

The moral is that it doesn’t matter what your background and your beginnings are if you have an aspiration - just follow it. Thank you to Mother Rose.

Mutual Flourishing?

In June’s issue of The Bridge there is a lot written about the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood.

In essence there is nothing wrong with this, as for many this marked a milestone in the Church of England.

However, I was saddened to read in the piece entitled ‘A Journey through Women’s Ministry’ that the author thought it fit to highlight the withdrawal of Philip North from his appointment as Bishop of Sheffield almost immediately after the piece talking of the introduction of the ‘Five Guiding Principles’ and the concept of ‘Mutual Flourishing’.

This statement regarding Bishop Philip seems to me to be one of ‘triumphalism’ - certainly not one of promoting ‘Mutual Flourishing’ in that so much pressure was put on a true and faithful priest that he felt obliged to withdraw.

Even Justin Welby - Archbishop of Canterbury-regarded this as ‘deeply saddening for all involved’, and a ‘setback.’

There have been a number of appointments of women to the Episcopate - notably that of the new Bishop of London - but I haven’t heard many voices raised in opposition, and to my knowledge none have withdrawn from their appointments.

For my part, I am unable in all conscience to accept the Ordination of Women and I hope that in this Diocese we shall see some positive moves that reflect the ‘Mutual Flourishing’ that everyone says they are keen to promote.

At the moment I feel somewhat isolated.

Linda Maurice
Merton Deeney Synod and South Wimbledon, All Saints

Something to say?

Drop us a line - the postal & e-mail addresses are on page 2. Publication of a letter does not imply that it reflects the views of the Diocese and letters may be edited.

Stay calm & keep serving!

The annual Summer Festival of Evensong & Benediction of the Company of Servers – Southwark & London Chapter was held at St Saviour’s Church, Pimlico on Wednesday 26 June.

Michael Lewis Chair, Southwark & London Chapter:

The guest preacher was Bishop Jonathan Jonathan who recalled his experiences of many church vestries – ranging from the highly regimented to the absolutely chaotic but always full of anxiety before the impending service (whether or not that was due to his being present).

He urged all who serve to find that inner calm as they perform their duties before the altar of God.

The worship was enhanced by a small choir whose members work for various central Church bodies; directed by Fr Peter McGeary.

As part of Evensong a new Companion from the serving team at Southwark Cathedral was admitted.

The service was followed by cheese & wine and a time to catch up on news from each other’s parishes.

The Chapter’s next event is on Saturday 16 November 2019 at Southwark Cathedral:

11am: Welcome followed by a talk on “A day in the life of a Verger” by the Head Verger, Paul Timms.

12 noon: Mass; in the Harvard Chapel.

All active servers in the Dioceses of London and Southwark are welcome to join the Company.

Details are available on the website: companyofservers.org
**WHAT'S ON**

Please send details of your events for SEPTEMBER ONWARDS to Trinity House by Monday 12 August

### July

**Saturday 13 July**
- REDHILL - Summer Classics - Reigate & Redhill Choral Society at St John’s Church 7.30pm.
- RAYNES PARK - Organ Recital by Theodore Frazier 7.30-9.30pm at St Saviour’s Church - Tickets £10 (u/18 £1) on the door

**Monday 15 July**
- CROYDON - A Concert of Medieval Music, 7.30pm at St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church. Featuring Wilde Roses with the New York based Avon Faire. Tickets £12 via www.wilderesomes.co.uk or on the door.

**Saturday 21 July**
- TATSFIELD - Teas served every Sunday 3 - 5 p.m. at St Mary’s Church
- WADDON – St George – Community Cafe and Time to Share. Tuesday (Term time) 9.30am – 11.30am. Lunch 12.15pm. Community Breakfast 1st Saturday 10am – 12noon.
- WARLINGHAM – Water Aid lunches in St Ambrose Church Hall, 12-1pm first Wednesday
- ZIMBABWE ANGELICAN COMMUNITY at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers’ Union last Saturday 2pm

**Sunday 22 July**
- NORTH GREENWICH – More than Welcome – disability training from Livability 10.30am-3.30pm, £20/£15. Practical tips, inspiration and guidance to support the full participation of disabled people at your church. To book visit livability.org.uk/events

**Saturday 28 July**
- TITSEY – Choral Evensong at St James’ Church 6.30pm,
Welcare celebrates 125 years of service

Diocesan family support charity

Welcare celebrated 125 years serving children and families struggling with poverty, mental and physical ill health, domestic abuse and social isolation at a special service in Southwark Cathedral on 15 June.

Welcare’s roots go back to 1894 when the Diocesan Association for Friendless Girls was started and over the years the charity has been renamed several times and has now been shortened to Welcare.

Welcare President, Bishop Christopher presided at the service. In his address he said “I want to focus on the spirit in which we pursue our future hope. We build on the foundations of the past and we look to the future: but if we know where we have come from, we find it easier to know where we are going.”

“The name Welcare: there may have been something quaint to the modern ear about a society committed to reaching out and caring for ‘friendless girls’ – yet there is a core truth that is of the essence of Welcare today.

“In the 19th century, your friends were more than your social circle: they were your family and your village, everyone cared for each other long before social welfare and services emerged. To be friendless was to be in material poverty; it was to be an outcast”. Anna Khan, CEO of Welcare (below) spoke about plans beyond 2019. She said “We will continue to provide one-to-one and group work programmes for families in need with children up to the age of 13. This enables us to work with the whole family, and give parents the skills, confidence and support to be the very best parent they can be, whatever their circumstances.

“Our services are constantly evolving to fill gaps in provision and meet changing needs. That is what inspired us to work with older children aged 11-13 especially at the point of transition from primary to secondary school as it can be a turning point, where the wrong path can lead to poor self esteem, risky behaviour, exclusion from school and possibly serious youth crime.”

In 2019 Welcare launched their digital #CapeAbility campaign targeted at schools and junior churches, to raise awareness and support for their work with a new generation.

The campaign uses the metaphor of superheroes (hence the Cape in CapeAbility) to encourage children to thrive, to care and to inspire others and recognise their own individual strengths and talents, and to give them opportunities to test themselves, and so become superheroes themselves.

Anna said “Through your continuing support and the #CapeAbility campaign Welcare will be able to give the next generation of young people a brighter future”.

Find out more about Welcare from www.welcare.org

Caterham’s three-legged ministry begins!

Two new Surrey Vicars ‘joined legs’ and walked cross-country from Chaldon to Whyteleafe to symbolise their future journey together in a new shared model of ministry

The Revd Helen Burnett and the Revd Annie Kurk will ‘job-share’ the role of Vicar to the parishes of St Luke’s Whyteleafe and St Peter and St Paul, Chaldon in the Caterham Team Ministry.

Helen Burnett is no stranger to either parish as she has been curate there for three years. Annie Kurk was previously Chaplain to St Cecilia’s C of E School, Southfields and Assistant Vicar at St Barnabas, Clapham Common.

They were licensed together at St Luke’s Whyteleafe by Bishop Jonathan, Bishop of Croydon. The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate and Tandridge preached and at one point broke into song!

After their first service in each church on 9 June, Chaldon hosted a party in the churchyard, which included huge quantities of labbouleh and baklava prepared by one of the resettled Syrian families that Helen has been supporting! People of the two parishes enjoyed time together, further cementing the ties between them.

Diocese awarded £3.1 million for Strategic Development projects

We are delighted to be able to announce that the Diocese of Southwark has been awarded £3.1 million in Strategic Development Funding from the Church of England.

This, the second successful bid, will be used to help to fund six projects in Deptford Deanery, East Greenwich, Elephant and Castle, Lambeth, Summerstown and Horley.

Reflecting our diverse Diocese, the projects are intentionally focused on places where we can breathe new life into mission and ministry for long term growth.

They include expanding the Hispanic bilingual church of St Matthew’s at the Elephant and Castle, a new worshipping community as an eco-church as well as lay workers focusing on students & young adults and greater engagement with children and families - all of which is in line with our strategic objectives.

More news and information in the September edition of the Bridge.