Southwark Synod votes to work towards being an Eco Diocese

On Wednesday 17 July, the Southwark Diocesan Synod voted unanimously to work towards becoming an Eco Diocese.

The Synod heard from members of the Environmental Working Group, led by Bishop Richard, in a series of heartfelt presentations.

The Revd Catherine Shelley drew attention to the fact that many Christian communities in the global south are already tackling the harsh realities of a changing climate – all but two provinces of the Anglican Communion think that the climate crisis should be a priority for the Lambeth Conference in 2020. The Church of England is one of the two provinces that has not listed it.

Comments from the floor reflected the urgency and complexity of the climate emergency, with a shared consensus on the importance of the issue and the moral and theological imperative for Christians to take action.

The current period of Creationtide and Harvest (1 September to 4 October) dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, is the perfect opportunity for congregations to engage with environmental issues through both worship and action in daily life.

Forty-eight churches in Southwark have already registered with the A Rocha Eco Church Scheme, and eight of those have achieved Bronze awards. St John's Waterloo, St Mary, Sanderstead and St Matthew, Redhill have achieved the coveted Silver award.

In total, 18 Church of England Dioceses are registered, and five of those are now Bronze Eco Dioceses. The Diocese of Salisbury was the first to become an Eco Diocese.

The competition is wide open for the first Silver Award – watch this space!

To find out more about the Eco Church scheme, visit https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/ For resources, search ‘Creationtide’ at www.churchofengland.org

The importance of living lightly in the world

As the last Bank Holiday before Christmas approaches and people finish their summer holidays and get ready to return to work and school it always feels to me as if a new year is beginning, not just a new academic year.

In the last few days of my summer holiday I was in Somerset and as we journeyed around the area visiting people and places I was struck by the change in the Levels which were so badly flooded in 2014. It has been impossible to ignore the ever-changing weather patterns.

I flew to Zimbabwe with Bishop Christopher, Archdeacon John Kiddie and the Revd John Whittaker (the Vicar of St Mary Putney) on the hottest day of the year at the end of July, yet places have been flooded and the dam collapse in Derbyshire threatened many homes.

Returning from Zimbabwe the weather has been very varied with colder than usual days and lots of rain. (If I have a summer colour this year I am pretty certain it is rust!) I do know it is very British to go on about the weather but this summer particularly it has become a bit of a theme for me. The Diocesan Synod voted to become an Eco Diocese this summer particularly it has become a bit of a theme for the Diocese.

I do know that as I head into, what I think of as, the new academic year.

Wendy S Robins

Dr Rowan Williams on the life of Conrad Noel

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams gave a lecture at St Anne’s Church, Kew on Friday 12 July, to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Conrad Noel.

Bishop Christopher and more than 200 people heard Dr Williams speak to the title, “The Challenge of Affluence: lessons for a parish from the life of Conrad Noel.” He explored Conrad Noel’s understanding of Christian Socialism and Noel’s friendship with Gustav Holst.

On Sunday 14 July, the liturgy reflected some of the liturgical uses that Conrad Noel introduced to his parish in Thaxted. The service was followed by a parish picnic at which the Paula Singers presented a concert of music by Holst.

The Bridge - in print, in your parish... and on line at www.southwark.anglican.org/thebridge

The Venerable Frederick Hazell

Former Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Fred Hazell died on 16 July aged 88.

Vicar of St Saviour, Croydon, then in Croydon Diocese from 1968, he was Rural Dean of Croydon from 1972 to 1977 and an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral from 1973. He was made Archdeacon of Croydon in 1978, a post that he held with distinction until his retirement in June 1992. As Chair of Welcare between 1985-1992 he made an outstanding contribution to the work of the charity.

In retirement, Frederick continued to minister in Bath & Wells, Birmingham, Worcester and Chichester Dioceses.

Writing to his widow Norma, Bishop Christopher said “He was a well respected Priest and supportive Archdeacon, and I know people in the Diocese have very fond memories of him so please accept my appreciation on behalf of the whole Southwark family”.

His funeral took place in St Botolph’s Church, Heene, Worthing, on 5 August.
Joining the dots: mission in everyday faith

As you meet Ish Lennox it is impossible not to be struck by her enthusiasm for what she is doing and for life in general. Wendy S Robins

With a background in health and well-being - Ish worked with the NHS until 2019 - she was then hired as one of the Faith Leads for the 2012 Olympics with the task of mobilising God’s people to become involved in the mission and discipleship opportunities of the Games. This was followed by a stint in the same sort of role at the Commonwealth Games in Scotland. Back in London, Ish specialised in community engagement.

The opening began with a community songs of praise attended by the Deputy Mayor of Croydon, Cllr Maddie Herson and a large gathering of friends and supporters, after which Bishop Jonathan cut the ribbon and blessed the new room. He marked the entrance with the letters OMB (Christus Mansionem Benedict – Christ Bless this house) and sprinkled holy water liberally (!) around the newly painted walls!

The ceremony was followed by Afternoon Tea and an opportunity for guests to view the new room, take a look at the Book of Dedications from donors (all of whom were invited to the opening ceremony) and visit the display showing the many and various events and fundraising activities which have raised money for the project.

The project has received the generous support of the whole community, in making donations and supporting and running fundraising events. Funding was also received from Viridor Credits, Garfield Weston Foundation, Allchurches Trust, City of London Corporation’s charitable funder, City Bridge Trust and Croydon Council.

The Garden Room on the south western side of the church overlooks the Garden of Remembrance. Accessible directly from the main church building it can be closed off as a separate space with an external door from the garden. The room provides a purpose-built refreshment hub and fully accessible toilet facilities including a baby changing area. There is also improved access into and around the whole church building.

The project is community focused for the use of groups and individuals within the Selsdon area in addition to church groups.

On July 14 Paul Conde was baptised by full immersion by the Revd Peter Wyatt, Minister-in-Charge at St Francis Church, South Croydon. The baptism was loaned by a neighbouring church.

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In July and August, a delegation from the Diocese once again visited our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. Led by the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, the party found a country that is struggling with inflation, food and fuel shortages and severe hardship. Yet they also found a people who continue to trust in God’s grace, and believe that a better future is just around the corner.

The images below give a flavour of the sights and sounds of the trip, from the welcome dinner in Bulawayo to the Arthur Shearly Cripps festival, held annually in Chivhu. A full account of the trip and more images can be found on the Diocesan blog page at southwarkcathedral.org.uk and on the Very Revd Andrew Nunn’s blog at southwarklivinggod.wordpress.com

BULAWAYO
26 JULY

The Bishop, the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, the Venerable John Kiddle and the Revd John Whittaker arrived in Bulawayo to a warm welcome from Bishop Cleophas and a meal and service.

“Arriving in Bulawayo is a little like being finally home,” says Wendy.

The following morning, Bishop Cleophas triumphantly produced two loaves for breakfast — which had cost twice as much as they had done two days previously, owing to inflation.

Worryingly, basic supplies are being priced out of people’s reach.

Day 2 of the trip saw the Bishop, Wendy and the two Johns (Kiddle and Whittaker) visiting Cyrene Chapel (right) and Farm, where the effects of climate change and economic problems could be clearly seen.

The farm can no longer grow the crops that helped to feed local pupils, as the bore hole no longer produces enough water. For the moment, the farm workers continue to raise pigs and chickens, although with the ever increasing cost of feed this may not last long.

On Day 3, the visitors preached at Sunday morning services, before visiting three separate projects in and around Gweru. They went first to the gardens of the mayor of Kwekwe, to have lunch with two men’s groups that work together on evangelism and social projects (left).

This proved to be an inspiring example for more reasons than one, as the current and former mayors — of different genders and from different political parties — work happily together at St Luke’s.

The climax of the visit was the Shearly Cripps Festival, celebrating the missionary who lived and worked alongside the Shona people in the early 20th century. The celebration begins with Evening Prayer on the Friday, after which the pilgrims camp around the shrine until Sunday. The Southwark group arrived on Saturday in time to take part in the Festival Mass at 8.00am, with Bishop Christopher helping to lead the service (left).

After the service it was time for the traditional choir competition — although fewer than usual were able to enter, because fuel shortages meant that people found it difficult to travel. Daramombe High School went home with the top prize, presented by the Bishop, Bishop Godfrey and the Dean.

CYRENE
27 JULY

GWERU
28 JULY

SHURUGWI
RURAL DISTRICT
1 AUGUST

HARARE
4 AUGUST

CHIVHU
2 & 3 AUGUST
extraordinary. It stands as a lesson.’

On Day 6, the Southwark group were taken to four different churches and schools in Shurugwi Rural District: St Boniface, St Mary, St Michael and St Francis. All reported problems with getting enough water, and none have a regular electricity supply or computers for the pupils. Even so, the children danced and sang in welcome, excited to have visitors, and were happy to talk about their reading, writing and arithmetic.

On the last full day in Central Zimbabwe, the Bishop and Wendy inspected progress on the hospital at St Patrick’s Mission, which is making great strides, although it still needs electricity in parts and an agreement with the government over staffing. They also visited St Patrick’s High School, and admired the girls’ smart new winter uniform of long, red trousers — although those used to English winters felt that these were too hot for 24C heat!

On the way to Masvingo, Bishop Christopher and Wendy were taken to Bishop Ignatios’ exciting new initiative which he hopes will make Central Zimbabwe Diocese self-sufficient: a mining operation. The picture shows the machine which Bishop Ignatios hopes will be used to refine gold, and the warehouse in which it will be situated.

Day 6 took the visitors on an extraordinary journey, to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Great Zimbabwe. Built between the 11th and 15th centuries, this royal city gave the country its name: ‘Zimbabwe’ comes from the Shona words for ‘large stone house’. Once upon a time, between 10,000 and 18,000 people lived here in these huge stone buildings, built without mortar in the same way as a dry stone wall — an impressive feat of engineering, and a reminder that a powerful and established kingdom existed here long before any Europeans arrived.

A trip to the Transfiguration Skills Centre revealed further problems: they were not able to plant maize this year and they have fewer chickens and pigs. But the people are hopeful things will improve.

On the final day in Shurugwi, Bishop Christopher and Wendy were taken to Bishop Ignatios’ exciting new initiative which he hopes will make Central Zimbabwe Diocese self-sufficient: a mining operation. The picture shows the machine which Bishop Ignatios hopes will be used to refine gold, and the warehouse in which it will be situated.

Kwekwe. As their vicar said: “If we can do this at St Luke’s, there is hope for Zimbabwe.”

Lunch was followed by a visit to the Children’s Ministry at Gweru Cathedral (centre), where the Bishop taught the children ‘The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock’.

The day concluded with a dinner hosted by the newly formed Anglican Women’s Fellowship (right), which provides a sense of belonging for unmarried women who cannot join the Mothers’ Union.

On Day 7, the Southwark group were taken to four different churches and schools in Shurugwi Rural District: St Boniface, St Mary, St Michael and St Francis. All reported problems with getting enough water, and none have a regular electricity supply or computers for the pupils. Even so, the children danced and sang in welcome, excited to have visitors, and were happy to talk about their reading, writing and arithmetic.

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Celebrating 800 years of Christian presence at the heart of Richmond

St Mary Magdalene, Richmond, is celebrating its 800th anniversary; not just for one day but for a whole year which began on 21 July with a service at which Bishop Christopher preached and presided.

The second event was a very popular_Hymns & Pimm's and the third was Afternoon Tea with Teddy Bears picnic. If you thought the latter would be for young people only, you are mistaken.

Some of the teddies who joined us on Saturday 17 August were more than 50 years old and one had recently celebrated his 94th birthday!

Richmond Team Rector, the Revd Wilma Roest said “There is much more happening over the coming months, a medieval banquet in October, a flower Festival in May, to name but two. St Mary Magdalene hopes to continue being a welcoming church at the heart of Richmond”. For more info: http://stmarys800.com/

St James Hatcham Book Festival

St James Hatcham Church of England Primary School held their second annual Book Festival in July. This year there was a particular focus on young writing talent and one of the highlights of the week was a poetry workshop with Theresa Lola, the Young People’s Laureate for London.

There was also a very entertaining visit and book signing from Samuel J Halpin, author of The Peculiar Poggs of Riddling Woods.

Renowned storyteller Wendy Shearer, who has appeared at Hay and other major book festivals, told spellbinding tales from Greek Myths. Dr Julia Hope from Goldsmith’s College spent a sunny afternoon in the outdoor classroom, telling stories to the youngest children and children from Play 2 Learn Nursery.

And a group of Year 6 children got involved telling stories using puppets to children in Key Stage 1.

At Warlingham

On 30 June Warlingham with Chelsham and Farleigh Team welcomed the Revd Ruth Chapman to All Saints’ Warlingham after her ordination at Southwark.

At the same service Geoff Green celebrated his retirement by giving his last sermon as a Lay Reader.

The Revd Michelle Edmonds, Team Rector and Lindsay Ould from the Southwark Diocese Association of Readers presented him with gifts of appreciation for his long and faithful service to the Warlingham Team.

... and Lewisham

St Stephen with St Mark’s Church, Lewisham gave an international farewell party for the Revd Philip Corbett on 6 July. After six years as Priest in Charge and then Vicar he has moved on to new challenges in Notting Hill, London Diocese.

Double trouble at St Michael’s School

It was a quadruple case of mistaken identity at St Michael’s School Southfields when Tuesday 16 July was turned into ‘Reversal Day’. St Michael’s School is currently blessed with four sets of identical twins. On Reversal Day they swapped classes and hairstyles in a bid to confuse their classmates and teachers. All the children agreed that their friends and teachers had got to know them so well that it was almost impossible to fool everyone but they all enjoyed causing Double Trouble in their last week of term.

Murder in the Cathedral

2020 marks 850 years since the murder of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

To celebrate this anniversary theatre company Scena Mundi plans an extensive tour of T S Eliot’s play Murder in the Cathedral in cathedrals across the country.

The opening performances of the tour will take place in Southwark Cathedral on 4, 5, 12 and 13 November - all performances begin at 7.30 pm. The nationwide tour programme will be announced in due course.

Murder In The Cathedral was written by Eliot for the Canterbury Festival in 1935. It retells the murder by four Norman knights of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury (1162-1170)… the violence of the murder… the miracles which began to take place at Canterbury… Thomas’s almost immediate canonisation by the Pope and the transformation of the scene of martyrdom to one of Europe’s most visited pilgrimage sites. All combine to make this a gripping and sensational story.

Scena Mundi is an ensemble theatre company, much of whose previous work has been performed in churches. Since directing Murder In The Cathedral in 2014, director Cecilia Dorland has dreamed of touring it to major cathedrals and that dream is now being realised.

The Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn said: “Thomas Becket preached his final sermon London at the Priory of St Mary Overy, now Southwark Cathedral. It is therefore appropriate that this new production of Eliot’s Murder in the Cathedral will be performed at Southwark as we begin the marking of the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of this great saint. We look forward to playing our part in the remembrance of a champion of the English church and people”.

For more information contact Scena Mundi, London. 077419209755 or e-mail: info@scenamundi.co.uk

On Sunday 14 July the bells of St Mary’s Church Rotherhithe rang out as Edward Gormley celebrated 10 years as an event steward at Southwark Cathedral. The team rang a quarter peal of 1320 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles in 48 minutes with Edward ringing the tenor bell (above)
South Norwood, St Alban the Martyr

When Fr Sean Gilbert became the new Vicar at St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood, in May 2019 he said that for the first year he would “just be and get to know everyone”.

Wrong…St Alban’s was ready for change and in Sean’s first three (busy) months the seeds of change have been sown.

St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood is a small parish, home to some 8,000 people – nominally in South Norwood but actually at one end of Thornton Heath High Street and within earshot of Selhurst Park, Crystal Palace FC’s ground. The church itself is huge – built in stages between 1889 and 1939 with a nave designed to hold 800 people (standing). Grade 2 listed it stands on a prominent street corner with its doors opening onto the pavement and with a (very) small car park to one side in front of the adjacent church hall.

It’s an Anglo-Catholic parish – and always has been – and today is under the Extended Episcopal care of the Bishop of Fulham.

“We strive to be authentically Anglican and authentically Catholic, with our church life centralised around the Eucharist”, said Sean.

Mass is celebrated twice on Sunday – a said Mass at 8am and a sung Solemn Mass at 10am, with a robed choir, mainly adults, and a team of servers of both young adults and children. St Alban’s doesn’t have a Sunday School but actually at one end of Thornton Heath High Street and within earshot of Selhurst Park, Crystal Palace FC’s ground. The church itself is huge – built in stages between 1889 and 1939 with a nave designed to hold 800 people (standing). Grade 2 listed it stands on a prominent street corner with its doors opening onto the pavement and with a (very) small car park to one side in front of the adjacent church hall.

It’s an Anglo-Catholic parish – and always has been – and today is under the Extended Episcopal care of the Bishop of Fulham.

“Imagine a church that is run by retired clergy and no curate, lay ministers or retired clergy to call on. But he says “I have two tremendous, churchwards and terrific support from all the congregation”. Nevertheless, he has developed close links with other Anglo-Catholic churches and there is a mutual support system in place including cover for holidays etc.

In July the PCC agreed to start work on its Mission Action Plan where two objectives have already been identified. The PCC agreed while discussing the parish profile during the vacancy that they were very happy with the style of worship and that it is participatory - members of the congregation read, lead the Intercessions, young people lead the Intercessions at Harvest and Mothering Sunday.

But the PCC agreed as one objective, that the church needed to ‘get out there’ more to reach out into the streets and get involved in the community more. As the parish representatives will tell you in Sean they have found the right man to help them achieve this.

And Sean is out there – daily walking around the parish in cassock and ‘dog-collar’ and “it’s amazing how many people I’ve met and got to know just by being obviously “the vicar”.

There are two primary schools and a drama school in the parish. In the past engagement has been nominal but being ‘out there’ has seen Sean beginning to develop those links. And there’s more…

St Alban’s people are devoted to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and already this year they have taken part in the National Pilgrimage and a Parish Pilgrimage (all in Sean’s first three months) and there is another pilgrimage later this year. They are also planning to start a cell of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham and Sean hopes that its weekly meetings will be another opportunity to draw people into the life of the church. There are also plans for Advent and Lent Bible Study groups, where again the aim will be to bring in ‘outsiders’.

Later this year the parish’s young people are off to Carroty Wood – an adventure centre in Kent – with other young people from Anglo-Catholic parishes in Southwark and Rochester Dioceses. This will be the third such trip – and “we are looking at ways to open that up to children of non-church families”.

The second objective said Sean “is to use our sacred space more effectively”. There are various social issues locally including knife crime and a lack of community. “Social media may put people in touch but conversely it has also led increasing isolation as people tap their keyboards alone”.

They hope to find ways to develop St Alban’s as a community hub, with its door open every day, offering coffee, perhaps or just someone to talk to.

The Church Hall is on the site of a Victorian mission church. When the present church was built, it became the hall. It was rebuilt in the 1960s after a fire and recently a new kitchen was installed – part of a plan to develop its facilities for community use. There are already two day nurseries and a martial arts club there and it is used by local groups for meetings. But the long term aim is to totally refurbish the hall and make it more available and attractive to the community as a whole.

Mind you those plans bring their own challenge.

Finance is tight at St Alban’s. “We pay our share but there’s little to spare”. The church needs a new boiler and major work to the lighting system and “we also need to develop better signage outside, to catch the eye and to draw people in through our doors” said Sean. The congregation give willingly but a stewardship campaign is planned to put the giving on a more stable basis.

“One of our greatest assets is that St Alban’s is really a family. They support each other in any difficult times and many of our people have been coming to this church for quite a long time. They are also willing to get involved and try new things. That’s a tremendous launch pad as we look to jump into the 21st century” said Sean.

So, as they say, “watch this space”. 

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September

The Great War (1914-1918) had been ‘the war to end all wars’ but less than 20 years later we were at war again. This month is the 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War. We may feel a little weary after spending four years commemorating the centenary of the First World War, not quite ready for another five year period of remembering. But as we say each November, we remember so as not to forget. In fact, many of us know so much more about this second war than the first.

This war came home to us and especially in those communities in London and elsewhere that took the force of the Blitz. We still see the evidence around us, the infill houses in a terrace where a bomb must have dropped, nameless buildings, our own cathedral with no stained glass on the south side. The evidence of the war is all around us, even 80 years later. Whatever character these commemorations take I hope that we can remember not just the heroism of those who went off to fight but also the heroism of those who stayed home and bore the brunt of rationing and bombing, evacuation and displacement.

This was a war not just fought by the military but lived by the civilians and not least by the communities of this Diocese.

The poet M. Jean Prussing wrote in her poem ‘September 2, 1939’:

What we have feared assumed dimension and a name;
The long shadow emerges from the wall; the smoke is flame.

The fear became reality, the smoke was flame. There will be a great deal to remember between now and 2025 but let us hold this beginning in prayer.

God of love, may wars cease and all be peace.
Amen.

The Very Rev Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

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

Welcome and Outreach to older people

Joanna Cox writes:

The start of the year marks a time when many churches will be planning events for the year ahead.

Finding ways to reach out to all groups in the community - young and old - is an important part of the vision and MAP of many parishes. SAGE (the Diocesan working group looking at ministry among older people) is keen to help churches find ways to reach out to and serve older people.

How can seasonal occasions and one-off events be used as an opportunity for mission, invitation and welcome to older people? Christmas parties are always the tip of an iceberg of possibilities here. Not only celebrations in the church year, but other regular events in the calendar such as Holidays at Home - sometimes put on by a group of local churches. Harvest and Remembrance have provided a stimulus to imaginative work with older people in some churches.

Anniversaries of national events provide an excuse for creating an event which could include music, food and sharing memories.

Anybody with experience and leadership within your church is invited to be part of SAGE. Please pray for your church as you plan.

Key Stage 2 students discover the events around the first Easter.
• Develop a relationship that supports PsHE and set up a Prayer Spaces in Schools; or an after school Messy Church.
• Support children spiritually as they transition from primary to secondary schools and beyond, making use of Scripture Union’s It’s Your More resource.
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**Ongoing**

- **BEDDINGTON** - Quiet @ St Mary's - 3rd Thursday each month 11am - 2pm. Including labyrinth.
- **BOROUGH** - St George the Martyr Community Cafe and TimeBank every Thursday 2pm to 4.30pm.
- **CATERHAM** Guided Tours of St Lawrence Church Sunday 22 & 29 September, Sunday 6 and 13 October at 3pm. Adults £3. Children free.
- **GREENWICH** - Galilee Course - new course on Christianity - at St George's Church on eight Wednesday nights starting 18 September.
- **MITCHAM** - Mothers' Union International Tuesday, 17 September

**September**

- **Compline by Candlelight** St Mary’s Church, Farleigh 8.00 pm
  - *More people of Faith*
  - 1st Hannah Hurnard - 20th century Christian author Lay Canon Ruth Martin
  - 8th St Hildegard of Bingen (Abbes, visionary, writer, composer, mystic) Revd Col. P Hewlett-Smith
  - 15th John Robinson (Bishop, scholar, author of ‘Honest to God’) The Very Revd Andrew Nunn
  - 22nd St Mary Magdalene - Revd Ruth Chapman
  - 29th Bram Fischer (Anti-apartheid activist, Nelson Mandela’s lawyer) Revd Sara Goatcher

**Saturday 7 September**
- **BERMONDSEY** - St Anne’s Church 150th anniversary Saturday Community event in the church garden 12pm to 4pm. Performance from St James primary school choir, face painting, rodeo ride, bouncy castle, arts and crafts, open church, bbq and refreshments. All are welcome.
  - Sunday 10.30am - Service celebrating St Anne’s presence in the community for 150 years followed by lunch. www.godlovesbermondsey.co.uk

**Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September**
- **BELLINGHAM** – Organist, Nicholas Manoukas RCM at St Dunstan’s Church at 4pm; refreshments. Retiring collection
- **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – ‘Classics For Cancer!’ Beethoven’s Symphony No. 8 followed by Mozart’s Requiem. The All Saints Chorus with orchestra and soloists. Proceeds to Lennox Children’s Cancer Fund. Tickets from £10 from 07933 983652
- **LINGFIELD** - Indian Summer Tea at Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre Fairtrade food and craft and MU stationery stalls. Tickets £7. E-mail: gillwilliam2006@yahoo.co.uk or 01342 833994
- **BATTERSEA** - All Saints Church - Creationtide Multi-Faith Conversation: Safeguarding God’s Creation. 6.30 pm for 7.90pm
- **ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY** at St Mary, Newington – Shona Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2pm. Mothers’ Union last Saturday 2pm

**Sunday 8 September**
- **LUNCHTIME MUSIC at St Mary’s Church, Farleigh**
- **WALKINGHAM** – Water Aid lunch at St Ambrose Church Hall, 12.1pm first Wednesday

**Sunday 9 September**
- **BATTERSEA** - All Saints Church – Creationtide Multi-Faith Conversation: “Spiritual Guidance and the Moral Dimension” Speakers from: Christian Aid, Bahrain Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre, Buddhist and Liberal Jewish perspectives Tuesday, 17 September “Local Spiritual Engagement to Net Zero”
  - Speakers from: Climate Ed, Carbon Conversations, Transition Towns, Tooting Extinction Rebellion Wandsworth, Queenstown Ward Wandsworth & St John’s Church, Waterloo.
  - Information from: The Revd S Anand Asir Anand, on 07711492946. E-mail: anandjessie@yahoo.co.uk

**Monday 16 September**
- **CROYDON MEACC** - ‘Croydon Celebrates Young People’ Day 12 noon to 4pm

**Saturday 15 September**
- **SHIRLEY** - St John's Church Heritage Open Day. Displays, church & churchyard tours, refreshments Saturday 10.30am - 4.30pm; Sunday 2pm - 4pm; 6pm ‘West Gallery’ style evesong
- **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - Society of Catholic Priests 25th Anniversary. 12 noon Concelebrated Eucharist 3pm Service of Reconciliation & Renewal. RSVP to your SCP priest by 1 Sept. By 19th September

**Sunday 15 September**
- **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** - Interfaith Group meets 4 to 5 p.m.

**Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September**
- **WARLINGTON** - All Saints’ Church Heritage Performance/Engagement Open Days; Displays, church & churchyard tours, refreshments Saturday 10.30am 4.30pm; Sunday 2pm 4pm; 6pm ‘West Gallery’ style evesong

**Wednesday 25 September**
- **MITCHAM** - Bocalis - a Brazilian Choir singing songs of Brazil and other lands. 7.30pm at St Barnabas Church. Tickets £10 from 020 8646 0119. sbarnabasmitcham@gmail.com

**Thursday 26 September**
- **GREENWICH** - St George’s Westcombe Park @ 8pm. “What’s the point of the parish church?” The Revd Canon Dr Rosemary Mallett, Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Diocese of Southwark. Part of 2019-20 Community Lecture series. Refreshments provided. Q&A sessions follow. All events are free. A voluntary retiring collection will be taken at the end of the lecture.

**Saturday 28 September**
- **RICHMOND** – Christian Aid Riverside Sponsored Walk. Eight miles or three miles from St Matthias Church Richmond to St Anne’s Church Kew Green. To register for the walk: www.rrw19.eventbrite.co.uk

**Saturday 28 September to Sunday 5 October**
- **LEWISHAM** St Mary’s Generation Project Week – celebrating the transformative power of the Arts. Exhibition open daily except Sunday 10am-2pm & 6pm-7.30pm
- **Saturday 28 September**
  - 2pm Exhibition opening with the Lewisham Concert Band 4pm-5pm - Sing with the Generation Choir 7.30pm - Cheese & wine supper with Ensemble Tramontana. £10 from website
  - **Sunday 29 September**
  - 7.30pm - Mozart’s Wind Serenade performed by Sonnet K361 in Bb - Free
- **Thursday 3 October**
  - 7.30pm – ‘England be Glad’ - Medieval and Renaissance music with Ensemble Tramontana. £10 via website or on door.
- **Saturday 5 October**
  - 6pm - Generation Project Concert - with primary school choirs, the British Recorder Light Orchestra, the Generation Choir and the Tongue and Groove choir. Free entry.
  - www.generationprojectonline.com

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[Image of CRE logo]
Southwark Cathedral marks thirtieth anniversary of Marchioness disaster

The 30th anniversary of the sinking of the pleasure boat Marchioness, on 20 August 1989, in which 51 people lost their lives, was marked by Southwark Cathedral with a candlelit vigil at the disaster site and a Memorial Eucharist.

On the evening of Monday 19 August, survivors of the disaster, friends and families, left from the Marchioness memorial in Southwark Cathedral to process along Bankside for a prayer vigil at the spot where the boat sank.

Odette Penwarden, who had been on board the Marchioness, shared her memories of that night, after which the Revd Canon Gilly Myers, Precentor, read aloud the names of those who lost their lives. Those present were invited to throw petals on to the Thames in remembrance of loved ones. The vigil ended with a flotilla of boats from the RNLI, Port of London Authority and Fire and Rescue gathering at the site of the accident to pay their respects.

At 12.45pm on Tuesday 20 August hundreds of people whose lives had been touched by the disaster gathered at the Cathedral for a Memorial Eucharist at which the Bishop of Southwark, Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, presided, Cllr Sandra Rhule, Mayor of Southwark and Sir Simon Hughes, who was the local MP in 1989, were among the worshippers.

Bishop Christopher introduced the service, recalling the events of 30 years ago and the horrifying speed of the tragedy. He then led prayers, before Diogo Vasconcellos reflected on his experiences of surviving the disaster and living with the trauma and loss of two brothers who did not survive. His voice broke with emotion, as he spoke of the difficulties of talking about grief, even with others who had been on the Marchioness that night.

The Sub Dean, Canon Michael Rawson, gave the homily reminding the congregation of the words from the Song of Solomon inscribed around the Marchioness memorial: ‘Many waters cannot quench love’.

He went on: ‘The clock stopped for 51 people in the early hours of Sunday 20 August, and for many of you, grieving the loss of your beloved or as survivors, it continues to be a long and difficult struggle on the journey to recovery.’ Yet, he added, it was love that had the last say in our lives.

The clergy then gathered at the Marchioness memorial to pray and again read aloud the names of those who died. A representative of the HM Coastguard then laid a wreath on behalf of the river’s emergency services and a period of silence was observed. This ended with a salute from the river, as boats from the RNLI, Port of London Authority and Fire and Rescue sounded their horns in tribute.

After the service, those present lit candles and placed flowers at the memorial.

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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

Walking I Welcoming I Growing

Upcycling at Limpsfield

St Peter’s Church, Limpsfield recently hosted an upcycling competition and exhibition organised by Limpsfield in Bloom.

The children from St Peter’s Messy Church were awarded first prize in the over fives category for their display. Re-using old plastic bottles, they made disciple figures and a fishing scene entitled “Cast your nets on the right side of the boat” (John 21: 6-8) to highlight how we need to stop polluting our seas with plastic.

Other prize-winning upcycled items included a chair re-covered in an old pair of jeans, wooden children’s toys made into planters and a war memorial display made from old bottles.

A large quilt made by members of the congregation and community was auctioned off during a special celebratory concert on the Saturday evening.

In total the event raised over £1,200.