New building for St John’s Angell Town primary school

Bishop Christopher officially opened the new St John’s Angell Town (CofE) Primary School on Saturday 17 September. He unveiled a plaque and an original artwork outside the school’s main entrance.

With hundreds of parents and other local residents gathered around, the Bishop was ‘danced in’ through the school gate by St John’s pupils. He also toured the school and the nearby community garden, blessing the garden and planters near the entrance while children planted flowers. Later he joined the school community and guests for tea in the Hall.

Visitors, including Baroness Floella Benjamin, local MP Helen Hayes, and Diocesan Director of Education Colin Powell, were clearly impressed by the new building and the children – and wished the school every success for the future.

St John’s School dates back to 1853. It survived several additions and war damage, but was re-built in 1972 on its Angell Road site, just behind St John’s Church. In July 2014 the school was relocated to a nearby temporary building, previously used by other Lambeth schools while their premises were being rebuilt.

The new school is a three storey purpose built building with a capacity of 700+ pupils – going from a one form entry to three form entry. Head Teacher Martin Clark said “It is a far cry from the facilities in our previous building - no small classrooms or areas of the school not fit for purpose. We now have modern facilities and classrooms that meet approved standards and a fantastic place to educate the children”.

The building cost in the region of £6m, funded in part by the Department of Education and the local authority, Lambeth.

Martin Clark added “We are thrilled to be back in the heart of the Angell Town community. In the coming years the school leadership will focus on ensuring high academic achievement from all its learners as well as ensuring that the school reaches full capacity”.

The Reluctant MU President...page 11

Diocesan Holy Land pilgrimage...page 6

What’s On Page 15

New Honorary Canons and Lay Canons installed

Bishop Christopher installed five Honorary Canons and three Honorary Lay Canons for Southwark Cathedral during Choral Evensong on Sunday 18 September.

They are:
- The Revd Carol Coslett, Rector of Beddington & Roundshaw
- The Revd Angela Gehr, Vicar of South Beddington & Roundshaw
- The Revd Darren Miller, Team Rector of Cheam Team Ministry
- The Revd Howard Such, Warden, College of St Barnabas
- The Revd Duncan Swan, Team Rector of Caterham Team Ministry
- Anne Love, Secretary of Southwark Diocesan Mothers’ Union
- Ruth Martin, Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of Southwark & Reader, Richmond Team Ministry
- Colin Powell, Diocesan Director of Education Bishop Christopher said, “Those made Honorary Canons are priests serving in the Croydon Episcopal Area who are enriching Diocesan life in inspirational ways”.

Of the Honorary Lay Canons, he said “Where would the Diocesan Mothers’ Union be without Anne Love?” “Ruth Martin is a great blessing to the Diocese in her role as Diocesan Secretary springing from a faith life firmly rooted in Richmond” “And Colin Powell, Director to the Board of Education, now joins his predecessor Barbara Lane as a Lay Canon in recognition of his distinguished support to Church Schools and the Board of Education”.

Bishop Jonathan, who preached at the service, told the new Canons: “The Church gives you today the honour you have not sought, in thanks for all you have done in your calling and ministry”.

The OCTOBER edition is due to be printed on 27 OCTOBER and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for this edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by MONDAY 17 OCTOBER.

Quality tailor-made loop and sound systems, radio microphones and AV installations for churches and other public buildings.

Sound and lighting for exhibitions, conferences and outdoor festivals.

Professional recording facilities - in our studios or on location.

Our aims are simple – to produce excellent sound using quality equipment and experienced engineers – in our opinion, the only way to work!

Call us for a FREE quote

Unit 6, Sham Farm Business Units, Eridge Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 9JA. Tel: 01892 752246 www.oldbarnaudio.co.uk

THE BRIDGE...October 2016

Children’s Ministry

Jesus said “Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of heaven belongs” (Matt 19: 14)

What is your earliest memory of an experience in church? Or when did you first become aware of a spiritual experience as early as 4/5 years old. That’s the case it then begs the question what happens next? How do we grow into knowledge of faith and develop a living relationship with God that will guide us into adulthood?

My personal view is that we all learn to know God, by being made to feel welcome when we visit a church for the first time, If we are allowed to explore and discover for ourselves what church is all about as children, then we can begin to own the experiences we have and feel part of a worshipping community.

That’s easier said than done. Young families often feel worried about coming to church in case they may not know what to do. Somehow we have to break down these barriers. As a young mum coping with energetic 6 and 3 year olds I was befriended by an older member of the congregation saying, “Don’t worry they are safe in church, if they wonder around they can’t come to any harm, and no one minds”. An affirming comment that relaxed me, and stress levels fell. So it was ok if my daughter followed the vicar up to the altar and sat on the chancel steps while he celebrated. Better to leave her than pick her up and take her away screaming!

Creating a worship space in church where EVERYONE can feel welcome and grow in confidence with their faith, so that they can turn in play a part to shape and re-shape the mission of the church, is surely what we all strive for.

The Children and Young People’s programme for Southwark is enriching Diocesan life in inspirational ways”.

Metalsmith and woodworker

Conscientious and reliable, Ian Marshall provides new work and maintenance for a number of churches. To join his list of satisfied customers. Call: 020 8850 7851 or 077 6666 2747

www.spidir.org.uk

A professional sound and AV installation and hire company serving the south east of England - approved in 3 dioceses with installations in over 250 churches
Historic Ordinations at St Mary Putney

In what is believed to be only the second ordination ever to be held in St Mary, Putney three people from Kingston Episcopal Area were ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Richard, having served as Deacons.

The service took place on Sunday 25 September. They will each continue to serve their curacy in the parish indicated. They are:

- The Revd Laura Fawcett: Putney Team Ministry
- The Revd Katherine Smith: Battersea, St Peter & St Paul
- The Revd Dr Nicky von Fraunhofer: Wandsworth, St Paul

It is probable that a church was first built on the site of St Mary, Putney in the 13th Century as a chapel of ease of the larger Manor of Mortlake. In December 1302 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Winchelsey, ordained 36 men from across the Province of Canterbury there.

Although George never actually worked as a vicar in Southwark Diocese, he will be known to many. His last post as Vicar was for seven years a member of Christ Church, Putney in the 13th Century as a chapel of ease of the larger Manor of Mortlake. In December 1302 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Winchelsey, ordained 36 men from across the Province of Canterbury there.

Sixty years in ordained ministry – and still going strong

Sunday 18 September saw Christ Church, South Nutfield celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Revd George Young’s ordination.

Hilary Brand writes:

Although George never actually worked as a vicar in Southwark Diocese, he will be known to many. His last post as Vicar was just across the boundary in St John’s Becketham, and he was for seven years a member of Christ Church, Purley, whilst working for the South American Missionary Society. After a ministry which took him from Everton to Beckenham via Bolton, Tyneside and Buckinghamshire, he has spent the last 23 years in very active ‘retirement’ as part of the leadership team of Christ Church, South Nutfield, preaching and leading worship, and with his wife Margaret taking a central part in nearly all aspects of parish life.

Throughout this time the couple have also been running Opportunities Through Trade, a company selling fair-trade goods both direct to the public and via local churches. They built it up to a business with a healthy turnover of £10,000 per month (without taking a penny for themselves) - a massive commitment which they only gave up 18 months ago at the age of 80 plus! The company continues, with others taking the reins.

Christ Church celebrated the work of this much-loved couple with a special service followed by a bring-and-share lunch. As if this were not enough, on 2 October there was another celebration, this time for Jonathan Holland who recently clocked up 40 years as a Reader, all in South Nutfield. No wonder the parish’s theme for the season is faithfulness.

However records indicate that September’s service was the first ordination in the church since then. The church is famous nonetheless as, during the Civil War, Cromwell and members of the New Model Army met there to discuss their vision for a new democratic society in what is now called “The Putney Debates”. Colonel Rainsborough’s resulting statement about the equality of all in the sight of God is recorded on the wall facing the altar.

The Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth, preached at the ordination and said: “The priestly ministry is to make space, to hold space - your hands open, your heart open - your presence not an imposition but a gift”.

Bishop Richard commented, “I am delighted to have been able to ordain these three women to the ministry of priest in the Church of England. They have much to offer in their work in their parishes and in the wider world.”

Black History Month Journeying Well Together

Saturday 8 October 2016

The Diocese is celebrating Black History Month on Saturday 8 October with a Service of Thanksgiving at 10.30am in the Cathedral followed by workshops.

The day recognises the contribution of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people within each Episcopal Area. MEACCs will facilitate a workshop on one of the sub-themes - Lead, Enable, Support - bringing together a range of speakers of different ages and levels of community engagement.

Please do encourage your family and friends to attend.

Church Nice... We’ve seen it in the West End Pigeons over the Pulp Anti in the Asises Antics to the Sanctuary Rats in the History Cockroaches in the Crypt

Let your pest be our problem
0800 056 5477 info@cleankill.co.uk cleankill.co.uk

Cleanki environmental services

AUDITRONIC SERVICES
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS
We install and maintain public address, induction loop and background music systems, designed to meet your needs
Repairs to existing systems carried out
020-8770 2173
55 Northey Avenue, Cheam, Surrey SM2 7HU

“EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE”

John Kenway 0800 0333 130 trustpilot

OUR PRICE £3696

“BRAND NEW”

AVAILAABLE

NATIONWIDE

CALL 0333 130 0284

THE BRIDGE...October 2016 3
St Mary’s celebrates ‘the art of nature’

The bells of St Mary’s, Buckland rang out over the late Summer bank holiday weekend, to welcome the many visitors to The Buckland Art and Flower Festival themed ‘The Art of Nature’.

Tom Briscombe writes:

Bishop Jonathan preached at a special service at St Mary’s on Sunday, where visitors and congregation alike witnessed an amazing transformation of the church with magnificent flower displays cascading from stained glass windows and the bell-tower stairway.

The Chancel and Altar were lit by the brilliance of more floral creations and contemporary designs.

In his address, the Bishop thanked all those who had helped in the organisation of this event, including those local artists who had exhibited their works in the Buckland Reading Room. All funds raised went to The Brigitte Trust and St Mary’s Church.

(Lef) Bishop Jonathan was welcomed to the Festival by the Revd Canon Carol Coslett, Rector of Betchworth and Buckland.

Inaugural ‘Faith for the Climate’ event at St John’s Waterloo

How should religions respond to climate change? This was the question that attracted vicars, rabbis, Muslim activists and government advisors to St John’s Waterloo on 21 September for the inaugural conference of “Faith for the Climate”.

The evening kicked off with a speech from Bishop Nicholas Holtam. “Climate justice is a profoundly moral issue,” said the Bishop. “There is no ‘Planet B’. This is our common home.”

The event was a moving display of unity, with prayers, workshops and busy networking. Dr Husna Ahmad, CEO of Global One and author of “The Green Guide to the Hajj”, drew rounds of applause when she called out: “Only when we think as one humanity can we save the planet.”

There were sobering updates too. Sir David King, special representative to the Foreign Secretary on climate change, pointed out the need to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 in order to restrict global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Workshops on green investment, changing the behaviour of congregations, creating eco-churches (or other places of worship), took place throughout St John’s before everyone gathered for final thoughts. Rabbi Natan Levy sounded the end of the evening by blowing on the shofar.

Canon Giles Goddard, vicar of St John’s and co-chair of the event said: “Opportunities for genuine interfaith action do not come around very often. But climate change focuses the mind and produces a sense of urgency. If your place of worship can reduce its carbon footprint, how did you do it, and can the rest of us do the same?”

(PA) Bishop Nicholas Holtam interviewed by ES London Live

‘Praising God through the gift of music’

For many years St Mary the Virgin Beddington has had a traditional choir of boys and an adult ‘back row’ singing Eucharist and Evensong Sunday by Sunday during term time.

The previous Rector, the Revd Justine Middlemiss initiated a Ladies’ Choir, enabling three part music once a month, which has gone from strength to strength.

And now under the leadership of the Revd Andrew Fenby, the current Rector, a separate Girls choir has been formed.

They sing with the boys and the ‘back row’ for special occasions and regularly at their own evening services. This has proved very popular and numbers are averaging the same as the long established boys choir!

Director of Music, Karl Dorman commented “It is very exciting to see people responding to the call and coming forward to praise God through the gift of music. The Holy Spirit is at work bringing choir-member families through the west door to see and hear what is going on”.

The photo shows both boys and girls together for the Patronal Festival.
What will the next generation know about the Bible?

More than you might think.

With only 1 in 10 adults in England and Wales actively engaging with the Bible, you might think connections with the word of God are disappearing. However, we’re hard at work bringing the Bible to life for the next generation across the country.

Find out how you can get involved: biblesociety.org.uk/nextgeneration
COMING WITH US TO THE HOLY LAND

Bookings have now opened for the next Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land which Bishop Christopher and Dean Andrew will lead between 19-26 February 2018.

Bishop Christopher said “We will take pilgrims to the sites where the most important events in Our Lord’s life and ministry took place. By visiting the Holy Land we are also standing in solidarity with our brothers and sisters there. Meeting the ‘living stones’, Palestinian and Israeli Christians, is humbling. This time we will visit the Neve Shalom reconciliation centre”.

A taste of the tour

The programme gives a unique opportunity to
• Walk where Jesus and the first disciples walked - places like the Mount of Olives, The Pool of Bethesda; the Via Dolorosa; the Garden of Gethsemane.
• Visit churches on historic sites such as the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu - believed to be the site of the High Priests house; the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem.
• Visit Ein Karem, the birthplace of St John the Baptist; stand in the Fields of Olives, The Pool of Bethesda; the Via Dolorosa; the Garden of Gethsemane.
• Visit the West Bank and meet the ‘living stones’ at Abu Gosh, at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and on the Galleean lakeside.
• Join Evening Prayer at St George’s Cathedral.
• Visit the site of the first disciples walked - believed to be the site of the Old City Walls and in Tiberias, at the four star Ron Beach Hotel right on the lakeside.
• A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £445.

The tour is on a full-board basis with buffet breakfast, lunch and table d’hôte evening meal included daily. Flights are with EL AL Israel Airlines. All airport and security charges are included. All entrance fees are included and an amount towards the group gratuity included and an amount towards the group gratuity to the local congregation of Christ Church, Nazareth, with other Eucharists at Abu Gosh, at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and on the Galleean lakeside.

Tour details

The cost of this tour is £1,545

DOMESTIC DELIVERY

Travel Insurance

Arranged for Southwark Bridge readers

Real and friendly people... not machines!

Our insurance has a customer: 24-hour helpline, full medical cover for single-trip or multi-trip cover, and an emergency medical evacuation service for those at risk wherever in the world they are. If you are over 80 you can purchase insurance in the same way. Our comprehensive cover includes:

• 24-hour Medical Evacuation and Repatriation
• 100% cover for Pre-existing Conditions
• £250,000 of Personal Liability cover, and many other benefits.

For a tour brochure and booking form contact the Pilgrimage Fund, to be disbursed locally.

10% DISCOUNT USING CODE OCT10 OFFER ENDS 31/10/16

St Cecilia’s celebrate results

St Cecilia’s Church of England School in Southfields is celebrating its GCSE and A level results.

St Cecilia’s is now one of the top three schools in the Borough of Wandsworth. At GCSE level, English and Mathematics performed particularly well with 86% and 83% of pupils achieving A* - C. A level results were also very positive with 25% of students gaining A* - A grades. Leavers have gained places at prestigious universities, including Oxbridge.

A Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on 6 October (6.30pm – 8.30pm) and an Open Event for Year 7 entry on 17 October (9am-12pm).

Dr Rowan Williams preaches to a packed St Matthew’s, Redhill

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams, preached to a packed St Matthew’s Church on Sunday 18 September as part of the church’s 150th anniversary celebrations and to mark St Matthew’s Day.

Choosing to speak from the front of the church, rather than the pulpit, the theme of Dr Williams’ sermon was about debt and how God does not ask for repayment for his love. Formerly a tax collector, St Matthew turned to Jesus and became one of his disciples. The Revd Andrew Cunningham said: “It was an absolute pleasure to welcome Dr Williams to St Matthew’s. We were so pleased that he was able to find time in his busy schedule to preach and to meet so many of the congregation as part of our patronal festival.”

During the service Dr Williams also blessed two new ceremonial staves used by the Church Wardens and made a presentation to the Revd Rosemary Webb in recognition of her tenth anniversary as a Priest, all spent at St Matthew’s.

On Wednesday 7 September, the Venerable Dr Joseph Ajaebohi was licensed by Bishop Christopher as Chaplain to the Nigerian Community in the Diocese and Assistant Priest in the Deptford Deanery.

Joe follows the Venerable Ben Enwuchola as Chaplain to the Nigerian Community as Ben has now returned to Africa.

National Fruit Tree Specialists

One of the UK’s largest suppliers of fruit trees and soft fruit plants including Cranberries and Goji Berries

10% DISCOUNT USING CODE OCT10

OFFER ENDS 31/10/16

NATIONWIDE DELIVERY

DEACONS NURSERY

Saint Columba’s House
Retreat and
Conference Centre

01483 766498

Maybury Hill, Woking
GU22 8AB
retreats@stcolumbahouse.org.uk

www.stcolumbahouse.org.uk

NATIONALFRUITSPECIALISTS.CO.UK

PHOTO: DAVID ALCORN
Choose award-winning home insurance for a fairer deal

We’re proud to say that Ecclesiastical has come top of the Fairer Finance table of home insurance providers. We scored highly for customer happiness, complaints handling and being open and transparent, and the ranking reflects the excellent standard of cover and levels of service we offer you.

Call free now for a quote 0800 917 3345
(8am to 6pm weekdays)

www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance

The usual underwriting terms and criteria apply. *Minimum premiums apply.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc Reg. No. 24869 is registered in England at Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ, UK and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

25% OFF
Work or volunteer in the church?
Take out Contents and Buildings insurance together online and save 25%*
Children’s ministry at St Barnabas Dulwich

We are very blessed to have a thriving, vibrant and varied children’s programme at St Barnabas.

Sunday Activities: Our Creche and Scramblers for pre-school children meet every Sunday. Older children from Reception to Year 6 meet every Sunday except the first Sunday in the month. We have over 150 children on our registers and usually on a Sunday morning there are about 50 children in the five groups. We all work to a termly plan using the Gospel reading whenever possible for our weekly focus.

The older children engage in discussions, puzzles and games, whilst the younger children enjoy role play, storytime and a craft related activity making something to take home. Looking forward to Harvest each group is producing a large banner to display in our Welcome Area, based on a harvest prayer. Our older children will also lead the intercessions.

Children’s Church: Children’s Church is an informal group for pre-school children and their parents, which meets twice a month in the side chapel. We tell Bible stories and sing Christian songs, using puppets and props. The children are quick to learn the songs and take part in the interactive stories. After 20 minutes we go through to the welcome area and do a craft activity related to the story. The mums and dads can then chat over coffee and cake!

Children’s Interactive Bible Study: On a Wednesday evenings we run an interactive bible study for primary age children. This grew out of a first communion course which the children enjoyed and they wanted to continue! Sessions include role-play, games, questions and answers and craft activities.

Choir: The Choir is a major part of our Children’s work. Children join from the age of 7 and Friday night rehearsal begins with pizza before the children have their own rehearsal with our music directors.

At 7pm the adults join them for a full rehearsal for Sunday’s service. Afterwards the children play games or join in an activity like craft or baking. We also have special events for the children such as sleepovers, carol singing and crazy games nights.

Kick London: In August, St Barnabas in conjunction with Kick London ran a multi-sport summer camp, where children aged between 5-11 years old were given two or three different specialised sports coaching sessions per day. All of the days had a theme, or a Christian value attached to them and each day the children would have a talk about why this was important. We were overbooked and actually ended up making money (although we were never the aims) from our mission activities.

The success of the camp has led us to start a weekly Street Dance club in conjunction with Kick London, which began this September. We also run a summer camp for primary aged children. As with the summer camp, the club will teach Christian values whilst having fun!

*Article written by: Angela Batty (Sunday School Co-Ordinator), Ross Gunderson (Curate), Hannah Robinson (Youth Minister) & Jackie Watson (Vicar’s Wife)
n come to me
heaven belongs to such as these.”

Children and Young People’s Mission and Ministry

Our vision is of a hospitable church, in which children and young people are welcomed and invited to shape, and be shaped by the life of the church. They are encouraged, empowered and enabled to contribute to the church and its mission and bring their energy, inspiration and challenge.

Hugh Ridsdill-Smith

The Diocese offers parishes support in a number of ways in their work with children, young people and worship.

Our webpage on the link Diocesan website explains our vision and approach in more detail. It also has links to a wide selection of events, resources, ideas and useful external organisations.

It is being added to regularly, for example, there is a downloadable fundraising guide www.southwark.anglican.org/cypmm

Training

Courses are open to everyone. Our **Central Training Programme** includes courses on organising Effective Youth work; The Key; Growing Messy Leaders and our new Living Faith Seminar evening. We have also repeated the popular Quiet Day, this time held with the Sisters of St Andrew in Lewisham.

Our **Local Training Programme** enables clusters of churches and Deaneries to organise training tailored to their local needs. Advice and guidance is offered to ensure maximum effectiveness. The Children and Young people’s local training fund is available to help offset trainer costs.

Courses include: The Key; children’s ministry; youth ministry; Godly Play; Messy Church; all age worship; sport in CYP ministry; working with hard to reach CYP; challenging behaviour; building volunteer teams; children and young people’s spirituality; social media and new technology; parent work; developing young leaders; starting CYP from a small base; toddler church; admission of children to communion; confirmation; schools work training... http://www.southwark.anglican.org/cypmm/training/

Networking

All churches have been invited to appoint a representative for children and young people’s mission and ministry. There are Parish Representative and Deanery Champion update sessions across the Diocese in October and November. They are a great opportunity to connect, share experiences and resources, support and training. There are also lunches for employed children, family and youth workers, three times a year.

The Key: This is our basic course for those engaged or interested in work with children and young people.

It does not assume any previous experience and works especially well with groups from churches. Topics include values and priorities, leading sessions, safe practice and resourcing your work.

Events

Our first ‘Messy Celebration’ Saturday 25 February 2017 11am-1pm at Southwark Cathedral. Join us for this large colour celebration of rich and varied expressions of worship. Inspired and provided by churches of all shapes and sizes across the Diocese there will plenty of fun and activity, culminating in a Eucharist with Bishop Jonathan where we will share bread and wine together. Get involved... Children, bring your adults! http://www.southwark.anglican.org/messycelebration

What’s next?

Stay in touch. Regular email updates contain details of events, resources etc. - to join the list and for all enquiries including courses contact cypcourses@southwark.anglican.org

- Hugh Ridsdill-Smith is DIOCESAN CONSULTANT, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S MISSION & MINISTRY. Hugh is available to offer advice and support to PCC’s, teams and clusters of churches.

- E-mail: hugh.ridsdill-smith@southwark.anglican.org

Our first Messy Celebration was in Southwark Cathedral.

Worshipping with children at St John’s

Paul Roberts

Worshipping with children: I call it ‘having fun in God’s presence’. That’s not to say that it is difficult or merely entertaining; rather, it’s about entering into the world of children who are not self-conscious about expressing pleasure and delight.

Jesus said, ‘Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it’. In the same way I would say that anyone who cannot enter into that childlike innocent delight and joy will find it hard to lead or enjoy worship with children.

When I first came to St John the Evangelist Old Coulsdon, thirteen years ago, we had a monthly Family Service which attracted a handful of families. We used a printed liturgy, which gradually got eaten by the very small children, and sang children’s hymns from the hymn book. I took it in turns with two of our leaders to lead or give the talk.

I decided to invest my energy in this service simply by being there every time and not seeing it as an irritating add-on. Gradually we introduced some newer action songs. The piano was replaced by a keyboard. Pictures and songs appeared on screen; nothing very radical.

Over the years, with the help of three enthusiastic curates, this service became something that the children have enjoyed coming to, and by 2013 we were regularly getting 60 or 70 each month. When we put forward the idea of holding the service twice a month some wondered if people would simply choose to attend on only one Sunday. In practice, most came twice a month and the numbers continued to rise. A year ago, with the intention of turning this into a congregation rather than just a ‘service’, we decided to meet every week and set up three leadership teams led by myself, our assistant priest and youth pastor. We haven’t worked out yet how to introduce this congregation to holy communion. I look forward to the training session in the Cathedral next year about ‘Messy Communion’.

Some basic do’s and don’ts: keep it short – 35 to 40 minutes, keep it moving, keep it active, don’t be put off by a bit of noise and chaos, keep the language concrete rather conceptual. This last point is a good way to engage also with young dads who have little experience of church. (We get more dads at this service than to any other.) We link the Family Service to our baptisms so the week following the baptism – usually at a separate service - we use the baptismal words of welcome and give out the baptism certificates.

What is the secret? There isn’t one really. We have consulted with parents about why they come, and what is attractive. We have involved parents in leading, as well as in the usual rotas. We have had some social events and seen real friendships developing.

Personalities has a lot to do with it: I find it easy to lead an informal interactive style of worship. I was delighted recently when I had been talking about the parables in Luke 15 and mentioned the party in heaven. ‘A party in heaven!’ called out a child just near me. She had got the point. ‘Yes’, I said, ‘and we can enjoy it now’.

- The Revd Dr Jerome Berryman from the USA, the founder of Godly Play, and over eighteen workshops were run from every room in the church.

- Godly Play is based on the Montessori method and requires specialist training. This year it became clear that there is a growing demand for localised training. Part-funded through Hugh Ridsdill-Smith’s, Consultant for Children and Young People’s Mission & Ministry in the Diocese, 20 members of church leaders meet monthly to develop and deliver training to church leaders in their area.

- Hugh Ridsdill-Smith, Rector, St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon

- Hugh Ridsdill-Smith is Rector, St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon

- Hugh Ridsdill-Smith is Rector, St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon

- Hugh Ridsdill-Smith is Rector, St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon

- Hugh Ridsdill-Smith is Rector, St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon

In Putney we use Godly Play as one of the teaching resources for Sunday School, for our Admission to Confirmation class (where parents are able to benefit from Godly Play too) and in both of our church schools.

We know we are fortunate in having such a beautiful dedicated space and welcome other church groups to use it, either for Godly Play itself, or for training session or Sunday School teacher training in Godly Play.

In April 2015 St Mary’s hosted the Godly Play UK annual conference. Just under two hundred delegates attended from the UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Latvia, Finland, Belgium. The key note address was given by the Revd Dr Jerome Berryman from the USA, the founder of Godly Play, and over eighteen workshops were run from every room in the church.

Godly Play is based on the Montessori method and requires specialist training. This year it became clear that there is a growing demand for localised training. Part-funded through Hugh Ridsdill-Smith’s, Consultant for Children and Young People’s Mission & Ministry in the Diocese, 20 members of church leaders meet monthly to develop and deliver training to church leaders in their area.

It is hoped that we will now begin to create a hub of local Godly Play teachers for mutual support and further training. It is also a regional hub for Godly Play Advocates (area representatives) in the South-East to meet during the year for training and support.

Meanwhile in our parish church the Godly Play Room is a beautifully quiet holy space also used for our Emmanuel service, a children’s Eucharist held six times a term and by some adults for meditation.

For further details about Godly Play, resources and training visit: www.godlyplay.uk
Diddi Disciples at St Peter’s, Walworth

Diddi Disciples is Sunday morning worship for 0-6 year olds at St Peter’s, Walworth: a very mixed congregation near Elephant and Castle with all sorts of nationalities, languages, and educational experiences represented.

Sharon Moughtin-Mumbry

Diddi Disciples started five years ago with five children (three of which belonged to the leader!). But we now have 30-40 under 6 years old every Sunday at 10.30am.

Diddi Disciples meets during the Sunday Eucharist (we go downstairs after the first hymn and return during the Peace) so far it’s important that we’re actively involved. We were thrilled when Bishop Christopher came to visit St Peter’s and led Diddi Disciples downstairs, returning upstairs (like us) during the Peace to continue presiding over the Eucharist for the whole church. For us, this represents what worship at St Peter’s Walworth is all about: different ages meet in different spaces, but all of these are worship and fully part of the church. Many of our Diddi Disciples have been admitted to communion from baptism.

Diddi Disciples continues to grow. The material is being published by SPCK in July. In preparation, St Peter’s Diddi Disciples – babies, toddlers, children, and adults - are visiting churches in Southwark, Liverpool, and Dublin on Missions to plant new groups and we’re always excited to be asked to share our material with more churches. Back at St Peter’s, Walworth, we’re now setting aside the church sanctuary every Tuesday from 8-3pm for back-to-back Diddi Disciples sessions, ranging from ‘Baby Singing and Spirituality’ and ‘The Toddler Takeover’ to class worship for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 from St Peter’s school. Opening up space for our very smallest disciples has brought and taught us so much as a church.

The Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumbry, Rector of St Peter’s, said: “Diddi Disciples has been a key part in our growth in depth of faith and worship, and our growth in numbers. It’s helped us to provide high quality worship for young members of St Peter’s and their parents and carers, which means that people with younger children come more frequently, new people are more likely to stay, and word gets round that it’s OK to bring very young children. They will be surprised but won’t be expected to sit quietly.”

The Revd Sharon Moughtin-Mumbry is Assistant Priest at St Peter’s

Richard Dormandy reviews:

Books for All Age Worship

All Age Worship is not easy to do well. However, there are lots of resources in print and on the Internet, to help with the planning of All Age worship – and I’ve picked out some of those I found most helpful. You can also find a few attempts to give a rationale for All Age worship like my own YouTube video “All Age Worship - The Family Meal”, then there are websites such as familyworship.org.uk barnabusinrichchurches.org.uk and scriptureunion.org.uk

But the great thing about books is that you can write on the pages - annotate with your adaptations, leave them for others in a church library, turn down the corners for quick access, add ticks and crosses for ideas you think you would work easily or wouldn’t work at all.

All Age Worship, Lucy Moore, BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship), £7.99, 2010.

This is the number one book for helping you to see a vision and philosophy for All Age Worship. Written with depth, passion, respect, practicality, and simplicity this is not an “ideas” book, though there are plenty of examples which you can pick up and use.

Creative Ideas For All Age Church, Karen Morrison, Barnabas (BRF) 2010, £7.99. 12 Through-the-Year Programmes for Informal Church Services and One-off events. One of the best features to the genre of a special meal or food item for each occasion. The activities are fairly sedate and many are centred around conversations.

Used in conjunction with something like “Extreme Crafts” (below) you would have a rich repository of ideas.

Creative Worship, John Guest, Barnabas (BRF) 2016, £7.99. 20 Bible-based service outlines for All Age church, divided into five different types: “Signs and Symbols” “Storytelling” “Slapstick” “Surrogacy” (mainly using puppets) and “Silent” (i.e. an unexpected angle). Each chapter offers a theme, Bible link, possible songs, a suggested prayer, a suggestion as to how the service might go, the main item, and some follow up to end the service.

Extreme Crafts for Messy Churches, Pete Maidment & Barry Brand, Messy Church (BRF) 2015, £7.99.

This is a great book of “50 activity ideas for the adventurous.” The crafts are very simple and do-able. Each has a “mess” rating, a “danger” rating and a “difficulty” rating. This small book is packed with tons of fun with a useful appendix on “planning a male-friendly messy church.”

Few Children Great Opportunities, Sue Price & Ruth Alliston, Barnabas (BRF), 2012, 8.99.

Simply outstanding! Strictly speaking, this is a Sunday School slot but it is希望能 be split into two or four sessions.

Help! It’s The All Age Slot, Rebecca Parkinson, Barnabas (BRF) £9.99, 2010. It comprises 52 instant talk outlines, most of which use objects or visual activities of one kind or another. Each chapter follows the same format: Aim, Bible Links, “You will need” list, Talk Outline, and Challenge. An excellent book of its type and worth the money as a source of ideas.

Instant Talks For All Ages, Sue Relf, Kingsway, 2009. Here are 100 ideas for short talks divided into sections. Each has a Bible passage, teaching point, and involves some simple equipment. No ideas for context or follow-on are offered, so they won’t deliver you an All Age Service, but that’s not the purpose - it is a resource for a segment of your worship.

Making Disciples in Messy Church, Paul Moore, Messy Church (BRF), 2013, £6.99. This interesting book delves further into the thorny issue of whether Messy Church really makes disciples. The connections for All Age Worship of every kind are obvious. Each chapter ends with questions for further reflection.

Messy Church Theology (ed.) George Lings, Messy Church (BRF), 2013, £9.99. This is a fairly substantial assessment of where Messy Church is up to and how it might sit within the wider church. And because Messy Church is inter-generational, there is much in these 13 chapters that could apply to All Age Worship of any kind.

Messy Prayer, Jane Leadbitter, Messy Church (BRF), £6.99. This book is excellent, packed with simple, practical ideas that can be used or adapted for many-an All Age service. Aimed specifically at Messy Church, the book is structured around the particular elements of that format: the celebration time, the meal time, the home. But these are easily adaptable. This book is handy, practical, and great value.

Multi-sensory Ideas for Worship, Irene Smale, Kingsway 2009. Here are 100 ideas to aim to engage the senses - touch, taste, smell, etc. They involve a good deal more preparation, but they could easily form the core activity of All Age Worship.
As the Mothers’ Union celebrates its 140th anniversary, The Bridge meets the woman chosen to lead Southwark Diocesan MU through this special year – and beyond.

The Reluctant MU President

Cynthia Smith was a ‘reluctant’ Diocesan President.

“It admit, I really didn’t want to do it, and when it was proposed my reaction was... I’m 70, I’m too old! And a bit of me said that having given 40 years to the MU in various ways I’d done my bit”.

However, it was put to her that if she said ‘no’ there would probably be no Diocesan President in the important anniversary year. And when her daughters and daughter-in-law (all MU members) worked on her – ‘you’ve done everything else, so why not?’ she eventually agreed and in January became the Diocesan President for the next three years.

So who is Cynthia?

Born in Caterham and now living not far away in Sanderstead, she is married – second time around – this time to a childhood friend. She has five children – including two who were long-term fostered - plus step-children. And she is still in touch with most of the other children she fostered over the years. Every year the immediate family have a holiday together – over 20 people across three generations in a 10 room house in the New Forest.

The weekend after I met her, she and John were celebrating his 80th birthday and were looking forward to hosting the whole family including many of the foster children - and stretching the walls of their house to get them all in!

One of five children she grew up in a time of post-war austerity but in a close and loving home – which gave her the concern for ‘family’ which has guided her life.

Her father died when Cynthia was 14 and the sense of loss, gave her ‘a heart for teenagers who were separated from their families’ which led to becoming a foster parent. Over the years she fostered 11 youngsters – mainly teens – all of whom are now grown up.

“It was also my thing about family that drew me to the MU in my late 20s. Family relationships are the basis of society and the MU exists to foster and encourage those relationships. So it was the right place for me.”

Her life in the MU saw her taking different roles in her Church, Deanery and the Diocese - even becoming a Vice-President for Crowley and a Trustee for a number of years. But nine years ago she stood down from the Trustees (not surprisingly to give her more time for her family) and became Worldwide Links Rep and continued with local MU work - only to be dragged back, this time to the number one role as Diocesan President. Ironically until 40 years ago she’d have been ineligible! Cynthia’s first marriage ended in divorce and up to 1976 divorces had to leave the MU. That rule still applies in some parts of the world.

But in 1976 the emphasis changed from ‘marriage’ to ‘family’ and began a gradual process of making the MU (in this country at least) more inclusive, accepting and open to the different committed relationships in 21st century society.

So what does a Diocesan President do?

“Encouraging, enthusing and organisng... bringing people together to make the MU in our amazing Diocese an even more powerful and all-encompassing force for good in building up families and family relationships...”

“When I started in January I thought I was going to drown in all the paperwork from headquarters and the neighbouring Dioceses (we’re in a cluster you know). But I have fantastic support from our hard working Trustees, all Southwark member and especially Anne Love the Diocesan MU Secretary, an incredible fount of MU knowledge and a ‘can-do’ attitude without which the president, any President would flounder!”

The President’s role is to chair Trustees and Council meetings and of course the AGM - and there are the many invitations to parishes and to MI branches, to enrolments and other special events. But Cynthia also sees her role to challenge and change. And those changes are already being felt.

For example, one of the most cherished MU projects ‘Away from it All’ (Afi A) which provides families in need with a holiday, was suffering from lack of take-up in Southwark.

As a project for the 140th anniversary year, the reasons were identified and put right, new people were persuaded to get involved – and Afi A was relaunched, now including day-trips. Already numbers are up on last year and demand is growing fast.

“And it’s wonderful to see the response. I was with a family earlier this year and Mum had never before seen the sea. Her look of wonder made everything worthwhile” said Cynthia.

Again for the anniversary year, new life has been breathed into ‘Tea43’ where MI members provide tea and cakes for families of children at the Evelina Children’s Hospital. Currently it’s twice a month but they are building to a target of weekly sessions. The sessions are also the base for the distribution of knitwear made by MI members which also go out via the Chaplain to the wider community.

With a new ‘triennium’ and a wealth of new MI officers, training mornings have been run in the four Southwark MU areas on different days to suit different people – and needless to say Cynthia has been at each, ‘encouraging, enthusing and challenging’.

“Our challenge is to make the MU in Southwark more visible. We’re not just elderly ladies who meet on Thursday afternoon to knit and drink tea! The Mothers’ Union is a respected voice, both nationally and internationally, at government level and even at the United Nations. ‘"We need to increase our public profile and the awareness that the MU has the power and the platform to raise the issues that concern families in Southwark. "We also need to get back to our founder Mary Sumner’s vision of an MU which serves and involves young families. And currently we are looking at how we can become more relevant and attractive to younger members.”

“They are the future of the MI and for example, we are planning a course for our younger members (and perhaps some prospective members) to help equip them to serve as our future leaders”.

“I started the year ‘overwhelmed’ but now I’m excited. I can feel the difference already. We have Vice-Presidents in all our areas for the first time for six years, sharing the leadership duties.

“We had an inspiring Anniversary service in the Cathedral which drew the membership together. Members have got behind our anniversary projects and wherever I go I see a growing sense of hope and purpose”.

Cynthia now worships at Christ Church, Purley, but ‘My faith journey started when I was sent with my siblings to an Elim Sunday School - probably to give our parents an hours’ peace on a Sunday afternoon,” she said.

“When I started work 16, I thought I was grown up and didn’t need ‘Church’. Married at 21, I had my first baby and felt an overwhelming desire to thank God. I was invited to go to the local Anglican church (in Sanderstead).

“Since then my faith has grown and deepened and I do nothing without praying about it first - well most of the time anyway! Although I have had some very difficult times in my life I feel very blessed indeed and I am a very thankful person. I am at my happiest when I am praying God. “One of my great loves all my life has been to walk in the countryside and do a lot of talking and listening to God in the beauty of his creation”.

“My life now is focused on Faith, Family and the Mothers’ Union. If ever I feel overwhelmed or a bit flat I remember my Elim days and look up and sing a simple song to Jesus and in short order he sorts me out!”

Cynthia with daughters Jo and Kate who are both MU members, Jo’s husband Jeremy and two of their children, Matthew and Alice. Jo’s youngest daughter Lydia took the photo.
New wall for St Mary’s churchyard

The congregation of St Mary’s, Beddington is celebrating the rebuild of their dilapidated churchyard wall.

The early 19th century Grade II listed wall had fallen victim to age, impact from vehicles parking nearby and vandalism. Beyond repair it needed to be taken down and rebuilt. The problem was the cost - around £140,000, beyond the means of the congregation. Enter Viridor Credits Environmental Company with a grant to enable the work to go ahead.

Christine Morgan, Churchwarden, said: “Being located in such a picturesque area of the borough, many people visit regularly and I was always being asked when ‘something’ was going to be done to the wall.

“It really was letting down the appearance of the Carew Manor Conservation Area. But the cost would have meant years of fundraising - and time was not on our side. The grant, made through the Landfill Communities Fund, made the impossible, possible.

“The entire length of the south wall was taken down to foundation level and rebuilt using the original flints. Repair works to the west wall were undertaken at the same time. We are all very pleased with the result and have received many compliments.

“Just one request - please don’t hit it if you’re parking nearby!” she added.

Photos: (Above) St Mary’s Churchwardens Chris Morgan and Alison Hargreaves with the Rector, the Revd Andrew Fenby and (Below), part of the wall before the rebuild.

Over sixty participants from the newly revised Bishop’s Certificate in Discipleship were joined by friends and family in a special service of celebration and thanksgiving on Saturday 10 September at Southwark Cathedral. Bishop Christopher gave a prayer of affirmation to all who undertook the Growing in Faith and Life course and awarded certificates for successful completion of the accompanying studies. In a sermon that focussed on the role of wisdom in Christian discipleship, the Bishop praised the dedication of participants to deepen their understanding of faith and seek the wisdom to guide us as disciples of Christ.

The 2016 course has now begun, with venues in Southwark, Croydon and Reigate. For details of future courses see the Diocesan website.

DAC says farewell to Dr Harry Bramma

On Tuesday 13 September members of Southwark’s Diocesan Advisory Committee raised a glass to thank Dr Harry Bramma for no less than 40 years of service as Organs Adviser to the Diocese.

Dr Bramma has had a distinguished career. He was assistant organist at Worcester Cathedral from 1963, at a time when the Cathedral’s music was exceptional; in 1976 he was appointed Organist and Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, where he revitalised the tradition and put Southwark firmly on the map of English cathedral music.

In 1989 he became the Director of the Royal School of Church Music, a post which he held until 1998; in the same year he was appointed Director of Music at All Saints’, Margaret Street, retiring in 2004. He was appointed Southwark’s Organs Advisor in May 1976, undertaking ‘light duties’ between 1993 and 1999, when Dr William McVicker was appointed, and offering advice as-and-when needed.

During Dr Bramma’s tenure there have been many new pipe organs in the Diocese, numerous restorations of first-class instruments, and at least twenty transplants of redundant organs. In addition, four instruments have been brought back into full-time use having been ‘mothballed’ while parishes used an electronic organ.

The DAC chairman Paul Parkinson thanked Harry for his outstanding contribution, wise counsel and priceless experience offered to churches in Southwark and wished Harry well in his retirement.

As Us returns to the well-loved USPG, the P in our name has changed! It might seem a small change but it’s an important one. It’s the way we do mission now - inclusive, empowering, forward-looking.

FROM PROPAGATION TO PARTNERSHIP
**It might be difficult to believe but recent surveys show that knowledge of the Christmas story is fading.**

Among 5-7 year olds, 36% don’t know whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas and 72% don’t know Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Among adults, less than 12% know the full nativity story and 51% say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. This is a tipping point.

The new design 2016 Real Advent Calendar is unique and better than ever. The calendar comes with a free 28 page Christmas story-activity book designed to be used every day in Advent. Behind each of the 24 windows there is a different shaped Fairtrade chocolate.

**How To Order**

Pay online by card
- The simplest way to pay is to visit our online shop at www.realadvent.co.uk/shop

Payment by cheque
- Complete the form below and return to: Basement Suite, 11a Eagle Brow, Lymm, Cheshire WA13 OLP.
- Cheques payable to ‘The Meaningful Chocolate Company Ltd’.

Shops - Tesco (larger stores) and independent retailers such as Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk & CLC have supplies. For details visit our website.

Could you be a champion?
We recommend that churches, schools and groups buy in bulk directly from us. The best way is for a champion (maybe you) to collect orders and place an order online at www.realadvent.co.uk

“A great way to share the Christmas story”
It might be difficult to believe but recent surveys show that knowledge of the Christmas story is fading.**

Among 5-7 year olds, 36% don’t know whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas and 72% don’t know Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Among adults, less than 12% know the full nativity story and 51% say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. This is a tipping point.

**Survey findings from ComRes 2007, 2010, 2012.**
There have been few priests of the modern age who have had the global impact of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He celebrates his 85th birthday this month and we send him our very best birthday wishes and the assurance of our prayers.

Archbishop Desmond has a special place in his heart for the Diocese of Southwark and we have an equally special place in our hearts for him. He served as a priest in Bletchingley after studying at King’s College London. He was President of the Millennium Appeal for the Cathedral and many people use the room named after him. In that room is a lovely photograph of him in the Cathedral receiving an Honorary Doctorate.

What makes it so special is that he is laughing. That laugh and that smile are almost hallmarks of the man, wonderful, infectious. It is as though joy flows out of him, joy which catches those around him and lifts every spirit.

That is such a wonderful gift and even more remarkable given all that the Archbishop and others who went through the terrible years of apartheid suffered. Bitterness that could have entered his soul seems to have become pure joy in the Lord.

Perhaps that’s why people still turn out to see him and people around the world listen to him — because he and his words are authentic and true.

Archbishop Tutu once said “God created us ultimately for God, for goodness, for laughter, for joy, for compassion, for caring.” That is his birthday gift to all of us in the Diocese.

For all the saints, living and departed, we thank you, Lord and especially those who lead us into the joy of knowing you. Amen.

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

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

Hundreds flock to ‘Shakespeare in Bloom’

About four hundred people visited the flower festival ‘Shakespeare in Bloom’ organised by Churches Together in Balham and Upper Tooting (CTBUT) at Balham Baptist Church on 16-18 September.

Most were from the local community with no prior connection with the church. This was the first flower festival organised by CTBUT, which links 14 local churches from eight denominations to work and worship together. About a hundred helpers from different churches took part as flower arrangers, welcome and serving refreshments. Sixteen flower arrangements illustrated Shakespearean themes with creativity and verve. Plays including A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Hamlet and Macbeth and Shakespeare’s sonnets were featured.

Visitors included Dr Rosena Allin-Khan, MP for Tooting, and Cllr Richard Field, Mayor of Wandsworth. Dr Allin-Khan said: “It’s absolutely magical to see our community churches coming together with such creativity and love to produce works of art with flowers”. The Mayor praised the way that all generations, especially young people, had been involved.

As part of the festival, a concert ‘An Evening with Shakespeare’ featuring Tudor music and readings from Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets was enjoyed by a large audience on 16 September. Performers included students and staff from Graveney School, and local madrigal groups and soloists.

CTBUT wished to thank the many local organisations, businesses and individuals who supported the festival and contributed to its success as a vibrant community event.

Speak Up for climate action

One of the biggest challenges today is climate change, which is having a disproportional impact on millions of the world’s poorest people.

As sea levels and global temperatures continue to rise, many poor communities are forced from their homes and struggle to grow enough food to eat. As Christians, we are called to put our faith into action by showing our love to those around us, to our global neighbours and to the world in which we live.

This month (16-16 October), the Speak Up week of action will see thousands of people up-and-down the country meeting their MPs, at local events in their constituencies. They will ask their MPs to ensure the Government publishes an ambitious low carbon investment plan by the end of this year.

Speak Up is part of an ongoing campaign to secure ambitious political action in the UK on climate change. It is spearheaded by The Climate Coalition, a group of over 100 organisations including Christian Aid, CAPOD, Greenpeace, Oxfam and RSPB.

For more information about how you and your church can get involved visit www.christianaid.org.uk/climateweek
Celebrating, affirming and resourcing women in ministry

The Revd Alyson Peberdy, Dean of Women

Every couple of years we organise a day conference for women in ministry. Our next one is at St George’s the Martyr Church, Borough High Street, on 26 November. For the first time it is open to all women, not only women clergy. Men interested in the flourishing of women in ministry are also welcome.

The key note speaker and president at the Eucharist is Bishop Ruth Worsley. Many will remember Ruth as Woolwich Area Parish Development Team Director before moving to be Archdeacon of Wiltshire and now Bishop of Taunton.

Workshops will include:
- Unlocking the potential to be yourself;
- Managing overload;
- Insights from the margins – MEAL perspective - and;
- Startling the status quo.

Following lunch there is an opportunity to find out about various roles open to women. There is no paid employment are asked to bring a £10 donation payable on the day. But we do need to know numbers in advance.

For more details and to book your place go to: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e-permission-to-be-yourself-tickets-24918287675

Sunday 9 October

**RUDDICH** – Organ Recital at Christ’s Chapel - Carl Jackson - 7.45pm

Monday 10 October

**SOUTHWARK** - Book launch at Trinity House 6pm - New books by the Revd Malcolm Torry - Mediating Institutions (Creating relationships between religion and an urban world) and Citizen’s Basic Income (A Christian social policy). All free with donations welcome

Tuesday 11 October

**SOUTHWARK** - Launch of Faith Pictures (the popular Church Army course) in Southwark. 10am-1pm, at the Garry Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral. https://faithpictures.eventbrite.co.uk

Wednesday 12 October

**BATTERSEA** - British Values: Shared or divided. A debate at St George’s Church. 7.30pm, chaired by Mike Wooldridge (former BBC World and Religious Affairs correspondent). Speakers: Clare Fox (BBC Moral Maze), Andrew Day (Academy Director), Revd Canon Stephen Evans and Dr Monawar Hussain (Imam of Eton). Tickets £10 inc. glass of wine from St Luke’s Parish Office 8772 0463.

Thursday 13 October

**BATTERSEA** - British Values: Shared or divided. A debate at St George’s Church. 7.30pm, chaired by Mike Wooldridge (former BBC World and Religious Affairs correspondent). Speakers: Clare Fox (BBC Moral Maze), Andrew Day (Academy Director), Revd Canon Stephen Evans and Dr Monawar Hussain (Imam of Eton). Tickets £10 inc. glass of wine from St Luke’s Parish Office 8772 0463.

Friday 14 October

**SOUTHWARK** - Book launch at Trinity House 2pm - New books by the Revd Malcolm Torry - Mediating Institutions (Creating relationships between religion and an urban world) and Citizens Basic Income (A Christian social policy). All free with donations welcome

September 2016

**SOUTHWARK** - Launch of Faith Pictures (the popular Church Army course) in Southwark. 10am-1pm, at the Garry Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral. https://faithpictures.eventbrite.co.uk

November 2016

Monday 13 November

**SOUTHWARK** - Launch of Faith Pictures (the popular Church Army course) in Southwark. 10am-1pm, at the Garry Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral. https://faithpictures.eventbrite.co.uk

Tuesday 14 November

**BATTERSEA** - British Values: Shared or divided. A debate at St George’s Church. 7.30pm, chaired by Mike Wooldridge (former BBC World and Religious Affairs correspondent). Speakers: Clare Fox (BBC Moral Maze), Andrew Day (Academy Director), Revd Canon Stephen Evans and Dr Monawar Hussain (Imam of Eton). Tickets £10 inc. glass of wine from St Luke’s Parish Office 8772 0463.

Saturday 19 November

TOOTING - Autumn Fair 12 noon - 4pm at All Saints, Franciscan Road. Admission £1.00 and with retiring collection.

Sunday 20 November

**LEE** - Early Music Festival Concerts at St Margaret’s Church 7.45pm. www.earlymusicfestival.com for more details
Saddled up for Ride and Stride

Parishioners, lay leaders and clergy from Christ The King, Salfords took to the roads of Surrey in September, walking, cycling and horse riding in the annual National Churches Trust sponsored ‘Ride & Stride’ event.

This takes place in most counties and in Surrey aims to raise money for the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust to help preserve and improve facilities in historic churches.

After a brief stop at Emmanuel Church, Sidlow Bridge and a visit to St Bartholomew, Leigh, the party made its way to Christ Church, Brockham, where they were joined by the mounted riders. They went on to explore the historic bell tower at St Michael, Betchworth before returning to their home church of Christ the King Honeycrook Lane, Salfords.

Pictured from left to right: The Revd Doug Ross, Hazel Weaver, Tony Lindell, Sian McIntosh, Stuart Norton, Steve White and Liz Ross together with ‘equine friends’ Carlos and Guaso.

Robes Project SleepOut at Southwark Cathedral

On Friday 25 November Southwark and Lambeth homeless charity, the Robes Project, will host its 6th annual SleepOut event at Southwark Cathedral.

More than one hundred people are expected to brave the wet and cold to spend a night sleeping on the stone slabs raising money for homeless shelters across south London, with organisers hoping to beat last year’s total of £104,421.

The event will also raise awareness of homelessness in south London and the importance of emergency accommodation and support.

More than 900 people sleep rough in London, an increase of 25% on 2014, with local agencies reporting 7,581 people homeless in the Capital last year, an increase of 16% from the previous year.

Through the coming winter, from the 31 October to mid-April, 22 churches will work in partnership to host men and women who are homeless and sleeping rough.

The project aims to make a real change to people’s lives by providing a warm welcome in a church hall, dinner, a warm bed and a hearty breakfast.

By providing shelter, washing facilities and toilets, as well as food and support to find work and housing, the Robes Project helps individuals break the cycle of homelessness.

Bishop Christopher said “Once more I will be joining those who are sleeping out at the Cathedral to raise money for the Robes Project. The Project does magnificent work for those who are homeless on our streets and it is humbling to be able to join the growing numbers each year who come to the Cathedral in solidarity and support”

Registration is now open online at www.robes.org.uk/ alternatively email robes.admin@robes.org.uk for more information.

Meanwhile in October...
Glass Door SleepOut will help fund shelters in Wandsworth

On Friday 7 October homeless charity Glass Door will host its fourth annual Sleep Out event in Duke of York Square, Chelsea.

2016 Sleep Out aims to help fund an expansion of shelters in south-west London, St Mary’s Putney, already provides a ‘Glass Doors’ shelter, and from November 2016, more churches in Wandsworth area will join the network, offering a further 15 guests a safe and dry place to sleep every night, plus dinner, breakfast, and access to further help and advice.

The Wandsworth churches include: The Ascension, Balham; St Peter Battersea; St Mark, Battersea Rise; St Barnabas; St Luke, Battersea; St Michael & All Angels, Southfields; The Church of the Natarene; Earlsfield Baptist Church & St Mark UR.

By providing shelter, showers, food and support to find work and housing, Glass Door helps individuals break the cycle of homelessness. Last year caseworkers supported 162 individuals into work and helped 122 more find permanent housing.

Glass Door aims to recruit at least 300 people for this year’s Sleep Out. There is no registration fee nor fundraising target.

For further details contact the College Office on 020 8460 4712, weekdays 9.30am – 12.00pm or visit www.bromleyandsheppardscolleges.com