

The Church on the streets of Wandsworth

For two years volunteers from Wandsworth churches have been going out onto the streets to bring Christ's love to the borough.



Street Pastors is a scheme that trains Christians to provide a friendly, caring presence on the streets late at night, and at certain times during the day, providing non-judgmental support and help wherever possible.

They have made a real difference wherever they have been commissioned. In Wandsworth Borough there are teams going out once a

month between 10pm – 3am in both Tooting and Balham, and a twice-weekly patrol in Central Wandsworth when the schools get out between 2pm and 6pm.

The aim of Street Pastors is not to preach, but simply to care, to listen and to help. The results have been recognised by both the council and the police who have supported the scheme both practically and

financially over the two years it has been running.

"It is encouraging to know that the presence of the Church on the streets is having such an impact!" says David Martin, the coordinator of the scheme.

"We are keen to see Street Pastors trained and mobilised in other areas of the Borough as well."

Wandsworth Street Pastors would also welcome the opportunity to present the scheme to other churches in the area.

If you are interested to find out more, or even to become a Street Pastor yourself, email David at wandsworth@streetpastors.org.uk



Hurst Green

Bishop Nick opens new annexe at St John's Church

On Sunday 21 March the Bishop of Croydon, Nick Baines, presided at the 10 am Eucharist at St John's Hurst Green - and at the end of the service dedicated the new annexe - The York Rooms.

He cut a purple ribbon and the doors were opened – and there was an excited buzz as parishioners past and present, and invited guests moved into the newly dedicated rooms for drinks and canapés.

A substantial legacy left by Mrs Phyllis York MBE who died in June 2005 enabled the Parochial Church Council to proceed and in her memory the annexe has been called The York Rooms.

An extension was first considered in 2000 but left on hold. A few years later the time was right to take the matter further and in October 2006 an Appeal was launched.

Since that time there have been numerous events held to raise funds and the resultant fun and friendship has been enjoyed by both the congregation and the wider community.



A wealth of skills and talents have also been revealed.

Monica Fenton, who chaired the Extension Fund-raising Committee, said: "It has been a project long in the making, but now we pray for the

courage and vision to use it well and to work with love to further the work and life of St John's and the community in Hurst Green."

Sanderstead

Nave altar in Jean's memory

On Easter Day a new nave altar was dedicated St Mary, Sanderstead, to the glory of God and in memory of Jean Gorvett.

The church began experimenting with a nave altar in the spring of 2008. Early in the process, Jean died, having been a faithful member of St Mary's for over 60 years. Her children offered some money in her memory for something significant for St Mary's and the nave altar project seemed appropriate.

Jean was a botanist, and her daughter Gill suggested 'Consider the lilies', from Jesus' sermon on the mount as a text. The lily is the also the flower of St Mary the Virgin, the patron saint of the church. The result was this unusual and striking design, crafted by Treske of North Yorkshire, in European oak.

Rev. James Percival, St Mary's Team Vicar, said: 'The Eucharist was in the heart of Jean's life, and is in the heart of St Mary's church. I hope that this stunning gift will help to draw together, feed and inspire God's people here with the presence of Christ.'



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