

Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visit XLP

XLP, the urban youth charity welcomed the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge to some of their inner-city mentoring and community outreach projects on 27 March.

The three hour visit began at Christ Church, Gipsy Hill where the charity started. They then went on to Sydenham to visit XLP's stripped out and refurbished double decker bus, which reaches out to young people in the area facing challenges like gang culture, family breakdown and addiction.

The young people shared their stories of overcoming tough situations, including Nadine who is one of 16 children and experienced family breakdown. She was made homeless at the age of 16, living rough on the streets for 2.5 years.

Nadine performed a poignant and powerful poem she had written for the event adding: "Performing today for

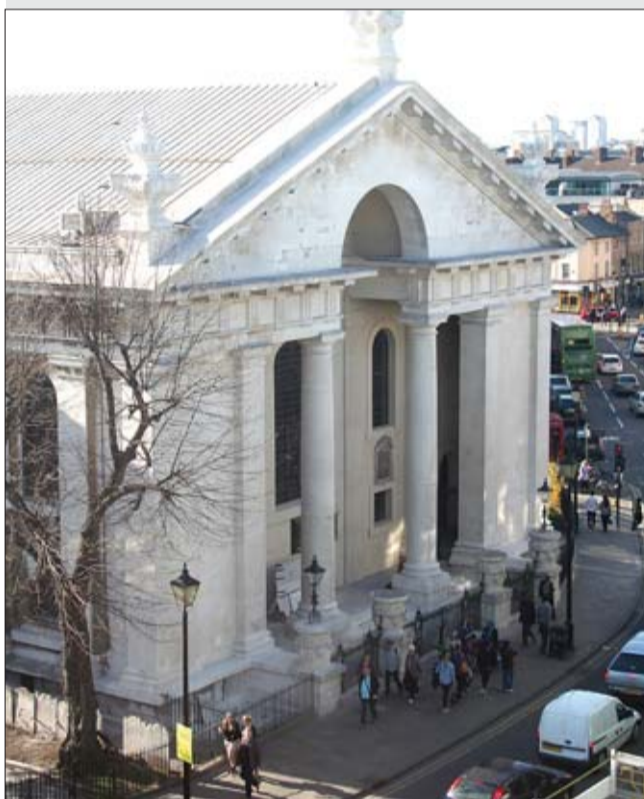
the royal couple is an opportunity to share my passion for honest, raw poetry with people of importance. I've been through many times where I haven't felt important myself so to share that experience with the Duke and Duchess is exhilarating - I feel like my passion is valued".

Many of the young people went on to talk about their experiences with issues like mental health and domestic violence. The Duke responded, telling them that they had a bright future and should be proud of themselves adding that they were "an inspiration to us all".

Photo: Keziah Regan, daughter of XLP's founder and CEO, Patrick Regan, delighted the Royal couple with a very special gift - a baby-gro designed specially for the soon to be new arrival. It carried the XLP message "I refuse to believe this is a lost generation".



Celebrating the restoration of 'Hawksmoor's finest'



The third stage of St Alfege Greenwich conservation programme has been completed with the restoration of the East Portico facing onto Greenwich Church Street.

A formal 'opening' was celebrated on Sunday 19 April the feast day of St Alfege who was martyred by the Vikings on the spot 1003 years ago.

The congregation gathered outside as the choir sung an anthem and the Vicar, Revd Christopher Moody, blessed the portico steps - and the congregation and by-standers - with prayer and holy water.

The East Portico is considered by architectural historians to be the finest feature of Nicholas Hawksmoor's design for this the first of his London churches. It was intended to look as if it was the main entrance to a Greek or Roman Temple but because the main altar is at that end it actually only contains small side

entrances. The main entrance is at the west end, under the tower.

All the money for the work was raised by a local appeal committee led by Tim Barnes and included a substantial grant from Viridor Credits Environmental Company.

The next and biggest challenge in the conservation programme (which began in 2010) will be the creation of wheelchair access, repaving and restoring the north side of the church.

I St Alfege is the parish church in Greenwich town centre. The church has connections with many famous figures in British history, including Henry VIII, Thomas Tallis, General James Wolfe, and John Flamsteed. It was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, Sir Christopher Wren's famous pupil.

The 2016 Diocesan Pilgrimage A life changing experience

The Diocesan Pilgrimage (22-29 February 2016) is a wonderful opportunity to spend part of Lent in some of the places in which Jesus lived and taught.

Beginning in Jerusalem we will see the possible site of Emmaus as well as visiting the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu - a possible site of the High Priests House.

Following the Via Dolorosa through the lanes of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is an amazing experience especially during Lent as we think together, pray together and walk the journey that Jesus took to the cross. We visit, too, a possible site of the Upper Room and have the chance to see the Western Wall and the devotion of those who pray there.

No visit to the Holy Land is complete without time in Bethlehem and around the shores of Lake Galilee where it is possible to imagine Jesus spending time with his disciples and teaching them.

As we journey around the important biblical sites we will also visit some of the projects which are run by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and see how the church is reaching out to those who have need today.

Do join Bishop Christopher and the Dean Andrew Nunn for this life changing experience.

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Monday 22nd - Monday 29th February 2016
with Southwark Diocese

A comprehensive 8-day pilgrimage based in Jerusalem and the Galilee McCabe Pilgrimages

The Bishop and the Angels

Bishop Jonathan joined Club Angels at Tiger Tiger (nightclub) in Croydon in March.

Croydon Club Angels have recently received a mission grant through St Mary Magdalene, Addiscombe to develop their work. One of the 'Angels' (on the right in the photo) is Lara White whose husband James is curate at St Mary's.

Club Angels are teams of Christian volunteers who work inside and alongside nightclubs (and sometimes pubs) in towns, cities and student unions, to promote and ensure a safe and happy night out for all.

Cathy from the Club Angels team said "We had a quiet night in terms of helping



drunk young people probably only four very quick interactions. But we did talk to staff members. In particular the manager of the Cardiff

club who was covering for the Croydon manager. How amazing would it be for us to have sparked an idea in his mind? Watch this space!"

To make enquiries about reserving your place on this tour, please contact the Pilgrimage Administrator, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street London SE1 1HW. Tel: 020 7939 9428. Email: pilgrimage16@southwark.anglican.org