

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.



In a first for Southwark Diocese, Church Army Captain Nick Russell has been licensed as Parish Evangelist for the parish of St Saviour's Eltham. The licensing - which is part of the partnership between the Church Army and the Diocese across the Greenwich Centre of Mission - took place in St Saviour's on Thursday 22 September.

FROM PROPAGATION TO PARTNERSHIP

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.

† UNITED SOCIETY PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

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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 'moth-balled' 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.

