

# Two congregations meet to bless London's river



**On Sunday 13 January the congregations of Southwark Cathedral and St Magnus the Martyr in the City, processed onto London Bridge for the annual blessing of the River Thames.**

The ceremony, held on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ for a number of years, took place at the point on the Bridge which marks the boundary of Southwark and London Dioceses. This year it was filmed by ITN for use in a forthcoming documentary series about London's River.

The ceremony started with a welcome from the Rector of St Magnus the Martyr, the Revd Philip Warner. The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, then said prayers for all those involved with the Thames and the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth and an Assistant Bishop in Southwark Diocese,

led the Blessing of the Thames. He wore a cope made by artist Sarah Wilson from recycled plastic collected from the river.

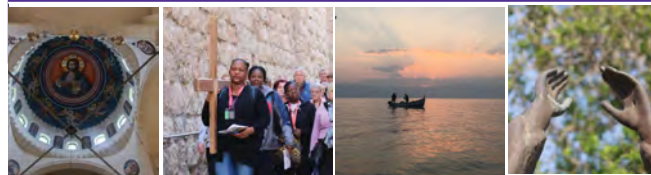
During the blessing a cross is thrown into the river from the bridge as a sign of the two churches' prayer and concern for the Thames, for those who work on it and for all those to whom it is important.

**Historic note:**

The first stone bridge across the Thames was opened in 1209. Since then the care has been shared between the Priory of St Mary Overie (now the Cathedral) and the parish church of St Magnus the Martyr in Lower Thames Street. The Blessing of the River was instituted by St Magnus the Martyr in 2004 and Southwark Cathedral has been a part of it since 2009.

Images from the Blessing of the River can be found on Flickr at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm8gEoS4>

## 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](mailto:pilgrimage20@southwark.anglican.org)



# Solar panels help to value God's creation

The roof of South Dulwich, St Stephen's Church hall is now covered in solar panels. The cost was

covered by a generous individual donation and a grant from Southwark Council's 'Cleaner-Greener-

Safer' scheme. The installation was handled by Chelsfield Solar - all they need now is sunshine!

St Stephen's Vicar, the Revd Canon Bernhard Schunemann, said "Even though the sunny side of St Stephen's and its lean-to hall was out of public view, it took many months to obtain all the right faculties and local authority planning permissions".

The panels were blessed and commissioned on a cold Monday morning in December in the presence of the local MP Helen Hayes, Cllr Andy Simmonds and representatives from every school and nursery in the parish.

Canon Schunemann added: "Having solar panels is the culmination of a lot of hard and collaborative work.

"Unfortunately during the planning process the government changed its feed-in tariff regulations - so now it will probably take over 20 years for the investment to pay off!

"However this is still an important way to show how much we value God's creation".

And of course, you don't need sun for solar panels to work, just light!

