

Bishop Christopher writes....

This year we are approaching Christmas in a way that is almost a return to normal. Although the challenges of the pandemic remain, many churches, including the Cathedral, are planning a full programme of services. There will be carolling and joy and, after all the preparations of Advent, the Christ-child will be born anew for us as we encounter him in the first Eucharist of Christmas. To prepare in this way is, in many ways, an act of faith. For none of us knows whether the arrangements we make will need to change, or whether what we plan will be cancelled. We are fragile parts of a fragile ecosystem - contingent - dependent on so many things. Yet each of us has the capacity for growth and for maturity, for hope and for fulfilment of hope. And so we prepare in faith for what God has in store.

There can hardly have been less propitious births than Christ's. Even his mother's journey to the place of birth was fraught. But there he lay - there he lies - the exemplar of contingency, dependent on his blessed mother for food, on a stranger for a cot, on God for his humanity. This was the moment of which prophets sang, and for which they longed. This tiny child, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory for

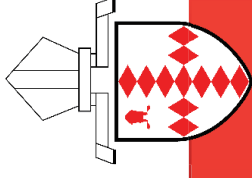
God's people Israel, this tiny child is God incarnate - a true sign of hope. The Christ-child is a sign of hope because in Christ God says, "it will not always be this way". Instead God says, "Behold I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?" In Christ all things will conform eventually to their purpose in God because the unchanging God took our changeable humanity and moved us firmly into the stability of the Divine life by submitting himself to the changes and chances of this fleeting world: a mother for food, a stranger for a cot. This Advent and Christmas I invite you to join all the faithful on the journey to the manger - a journey of faith, a journey of hope. A journey in which we encounter the source of our fulfilment and subsequent maturity.

May God bless you and those you love with peace and joy this Christmas and through the coming year. And may your encounter with the Christ-child teach us how dependent we are on each other, and lead us into growth and maturity, into hope and the fulfilment of that hope, as we learn what God has prepared for those who love him.

Christopher Southwark

NOTICEBOARD

*News and Events from the Diocese of Southwark
DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022*



At the Heart of Christmas

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas campaign theme for this year is "At the Heart of Christmas". Local churches all over the country will be welcoming their communities - onsite and online - to celebrate and share the good news of Christ's birth with special services and events, supported by a wide range of national resources.

As in previous years, the National Church has been working with dioceses and churches to make a range of digital and print content available, branded with the At the Heart of Christmas theme such as:

- Reflections: 12 stories and meditations from Justin Welby, Stephen Cottrell and guests. Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily - Monday to Saturday - until Epiphany.
- National online services for Advent and Christmas: there will be online services for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas at 9.00am which will be broadcast on the CofE's YouTube channel and Facebook page.
- Printed material: bookmarks, prayer cards, family prayer cards and booklets are available for churches to purchase through the Church Publishing House website: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/christmas>

Free resources, such as customisable videos, social media graphics and approaches to online giving and hymns, can be downloaded from the A Church Near You resource centre: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/hub/home/>

The Diocese will also be releasing a series of prayers from the Dean and Bishops over the course of Advent. They can be downloaded from our Diocesan website at: <https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/blogs/> and you can also find them on our social media channels (twitter.com/SouthwarkCofE) and www.facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE.

The Diocese of
Southwark

Walking | Welcoming | Growing



PERSONNEL

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

The Revd Raymond Baudon, Assistant DDO and Deputy Director of Vocations in the Diocese of Southwark, was licensed Honorary Minor Canon to Southwark Cathedral, on 14 November 2021, by the Acting Archdeacon of Southwark.

The Revd Mathew “Mat” Ineson, formerly Priest-in-Charge of Kendal, Holy Trinity & All Hallows Chapel in the Diocese of Carlisle and Leadership Enabler (CPAS), was licensed as Assistant Minister (non-stipendiary) of the Vauxhall BMO on 21 November 2021, by the Archdeacon of Lambeth.

The Reverend Jonathan Roberts, Vicar of Camberwell, St Michael and All Angels w All Souls w Emmanuel, is to be commissioned as Acting Area Dean of Southwark & Newington on 3 December 2021 by the Acting Archdeacon of Southwark.

The Revd Grant Bolton-Debbage, presently Priest-in-Charge of Hatcham Park, All Saints, is to be instituted as Vicar of the same parish, on 5 December 2021, by the Bishop of Woolwich.

The Rt Revd Emma Ineson, presently Bishop at Lambeth, is to be commissioned also as Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark, by the Bishop of Southwark, on 6 January 2022.

The Revd Timi Ajayi, presently Curate of Blackheath Park, St Michael and All Angels, is to be instituted as Vicar of Plumstead, St John, on 12 January, by the Bishop of Woolwich.

The Revd Hannah Thomson, presently Curate of Canterbury, St Martin & St Paul in the Diocese of Canterbury, is to be licensed as Vicar (0.5) of Worcester Park, Christ Church with St Philip Methodist LEP, and also Associate Priest (0.5) of St Oswald (both in the Cheam Team Ministry), on 6 January 2022, by the Bishop of Croydon.

The Revd Anne Doerr, presently Minister without Stipend of St Helier, St Peter, Bishop Andrewes Church, is to be licensed as Associate Priest (SSM) of Belmont, St John the Baptist, by the Bishop of Croydon, on 22 January 2022.

The Revd Andrew O’Brien, presently holder of the Bishop of Southwark’s Permission to Officiate, is to be licensed as Associate Minister (NSM) of Wandsworth, All Saints w Holy Trinity, on 30 January 2022, by the Bishop of Southwark.

The Revd Simon Coupland, presently Vicar of Ham, St Richard in the Diocese of Southwark, is to be licensed also as Priest-in-Charge (NSM) of Petersham, St Peter, on 2 February 2022, by the Bishop of Kingston.

The Revd Kate Daymond, presently holder of the Bishop of St Alban’s Permission to Officiate, is to be licensed as Associate Vicar (House for Duty; 0.5 locally funded) of Petersham, St Peter, on 2 February 2022, by the Bishop of Kingston.

The Revd Bethany Lewis, presently Priest-in-Charge of Belmont, St John the Baptist, is to be instituted as Vicar of the same parish, by the Bishop of Croydon, on 22 January 2022.

DIOCESAN TRAINING

And it was very good: Preaching and the environment

Tuesday 29 March, 10.00am-12.00noon, Zoom, free

Tuesday 29 March, 7.30-9.30pm, Zoom, free

The Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry, will lead a workshop to help us think about how issues of climate crisis, pollution and the integrity of creation can and must inform the way we preach the Christian good news. This session is being offered twice so that as many preachers as possible, both lay and ordained, can attend.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org. State whether you wish to attend the morning or evening session.

Mission micro-grants

Is your church or parish planning a new project for your area? We offer micro-grants of up to £300 to help towards the cost of running events, providing resources, and outreach projects in the community.

We also offer a £100 grant towards the production of “Welcome back to church” cards.

For either grant, please fill in the [grant application form](#) and send it to mission@southwark.anglican.org.

Southwark Diocesan Conference 2022 (SDC2022)

1-3 September 2022, Bacon’s College, Rotherhithe or Zoom

The Diocesan conderence 2022 will be taking place in-person and online for all those who hold the Bishop’s licence.

The Revd Canon Jay Colwill, Canon Missioner and Director of Mission and Evangelism, who is also responsible for coordinating plans for the Conference, talks more about it in this video: <https://youtu.be/wwwYMsVveSPU>

“Under the theme of Christ-centred, outward-focused, we have the opportunity to deepen our faith in Christ Jesus, consider how we might serve our communities more and how we might do so creatively.” Revd Canon Jay Colwill.

The keynote speakers booked so far are:

- **Mark Greene**, Mission Champion of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.
- **Carrie Myers**, a Lay Ministry Officer in the Church of England.
- **Francis Spufford**, author of five celebrated books of non-fiction. The most recent is *Unapologetic*
- **The Revd Azariah France-Williams**, Priest-in-Charge of Ascension Church Hulme, Manchester.
- **Adjoa Andoh**, a Licensed Lay Reader in the Diocese.

DIOCESAN TRAINING

The Christian art of Edward Burne-Jones

Monday 28 March, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

Sir Edward Burne-Jones trained as a priest, he revived the neglected tradition of stained glass, he was knighted for his services to the arts, and he painted some of the most sublime religious pictures of the 19th century. Led by Revd Jeremy Groombridge, assistant priest at All Saints Church, Sanderstead.

Jeremy will reflect on insights into God from Burne-Jones' Pre-Raphaelite art, showing us many of his works, including *Days of Creation* and *Star of Bethlehem*.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Ground Floor Guide to Proverbs

Monday 4 April, 8.00-9.00pm, Zoom, free

An introduction to the wisest, most practical and funniest book of the Bible. There will be an opportunity to explore the maxims, jokes and riddles of Israel's wise men and women a thousand years before Jesus. Together we will work out how to make them mean something life-enhancing for 21st-century life. Led by Peter Graystone, Lay Training Officer.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Three cheers for our SPAs

Saturday 2 April, 10.00am-1.00pm, Trinity House, free

A summit for all SPAs in which to reflect, share and pray. The first cheer: a vote of thanks to SPAs for all they have done during two years in which so much has happened and changed. The second cheer: an opportunity to look back and look forward, so that shared experience can inform how SPA ministries grow as a result of what we have learnt. The third cheer: a chance to contribute to plans for the courses, workshops and other ways of developing the ministry of the SPAs.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Challenging funerals

Tuesday 5 April, 7.30-9.30pm, Zoom, free

Funerals of a child, a violent death, or someone who has taken their own life are challenging. They require particular skills and sensitivities.

This session is for clergy and Readers who take funerals, and will also be appropriate for SPAs and those who offer pastoral support to bereaved families. The Revd Hilary Fife, former Senior Chaplain of Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, will share her experience and lead a discussion about the most helpful way to approach such sad circumstances. To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS

The Revd Sue Weakley, previously Priest-in-Charge of Charlwood, St Nicholas & Sidlow Bridge, Emmanuel, retired on 8 October 2021.

The Revd Jonathan Mortimer, presently Vicar of Peckham, All Saints, is to retire on 2 January 2022.

The Revd Christopher "CJ" Davis, presently Rector of Tooting, St Nicholas Graveney, is to resign on 12 January 2022, to take up the post of Rector of the Wulfric Benefice in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

The Revd Peter Hughes, presently Vicar of Hanley Road, St Saviour and Pioneer Minister of King's Cross in the Diocese of London was granted the Bishop's Permission to Officiate on 1 November 2021 (Lambeth North Deanery).

The Revd Anna Mason, presently Curate of Pentonville, St Silas w All Saints & St James, and Pioneer Minister of King's Cross in the Diocese of London was granted the Bishop's Permission to Officiate on 1 November 2021 (Lambeth North Deanery).

The Revd Jon Carter, presently Pioneer Minister of King's Cross in the Diocese of London was granted the Bishop's Permission to Officiate on 1 November 2021 (Lambeth North Deanery).

The Revd Stephen France, formerly Rector of Brondesbury, Christ Church & St Laurence in the Diocese of London, was granted the Bishop's Permission to Officiate on 1 November (Balham Deanery).

The Revd Natalia "Tasha" Critchlow, presently Hospital Chaplain of the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust London and Surrey, was granted the Bishop's Permission to Officiate on 1 November (Sutton Deanery)

The Revd Roger Symon, formerly holder of the Bishop of Gloucester's Permission to Officiate, was granted the Bishop of Southwark's Permission to Officiate (Dulwich, St Barnabas; Dulwich Deanery) on 23 November 2021.

OTHER VACANCIES

Community Outreach Worker in Bandon Hill Methodist Centre. Part-time (20 hrs/week). Starting salary: £12,740 pa. For an application pack with more information contact Paul Gotts at suttoncircuit@gmail.com or 53 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 3LY. Closing date: Friday 17 December 2021 at noon.

Greenwich Winter Night Shelter is looking for a Caseworker to advocate on behalf of their guests, signpost to local services and support them to move on into more sustainable, longer-term housing solutions. Job description and details can be found on their website: <https://bit.ly/3DtH70Z>. Deadline is Monday 6 December. Please share with your networks and contact Katy at hello@gwns.org.uk for any questions.

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS EMERGENCY SERVICES

for houses maintained by the Property Services Department

The Diocesan Office will be closed from 5.00pm, Thursday 23 December, to 9.00am, Wednesday 29 December and on 3 January 2022.

If a serious emergency should arise when the Diocesan office is shut, the following contractors should be approached directly. If the contractor is told that it is a property for which the Diocese is responsible, they will invoice the Diocese directly. If it is not a serious emergency, please call the Property Services Department after the holiday period or e-mail property.repairs@southwark.anglican.org

Whenever you smell gas you should immediately turn off the gas at the meter. If the smell persists call Transco on 0800 111999 at any time.

Emergency Boarding Up or Security

- All Emergency Services Co: 020 8664 3760

General Builders (Emergency Only)

- TD Property Maintenance: 07958 771646; 07947 941461
- Overall Construction: 01323 422373; 07739 287533
- All Emergency Services Co: 020 8664 3760

Tree Surgeon

- South London Tree Surgeons: 07508 384069 (Joshua Byfield)

The table enclosed with this month's mailing identifies specific contractors for gas central heating, plumbing, drainage and electrics. We would prefer for these contractors to be used. You will see that we have added contractors who should be reasonably local to you whom we have vetted to provide a quality service.

WINTER HEATING

Now that winter is approaching, the following advice may be helpful to all those responsible for Diocesan or parish property which is empty:

- leave trap door to roof space open
- leave the boiler set to run continuously
- leave the room thermostat set at 50°F (10°C)
- turn the water off at main stopcock.

It would be very helpful if all those with a responsibility for Diocesan property follow the advice above, which will help to avoid frozen pipes and the subsequent damage, some of which may not be covered by insurance. The responsibility for parish houses rests with the relevant parish but dealing with the matter in this way prevents freezing up when there is a sudden drop in temperature during the winter months and is also the most cost-effective way of doing things.

Colin Bushell, Diocesan Surveyor

Nikki Dyson, Property Operations Manager

DIOCESAN TRAINING

The Church of England Carbon Literacy Course

Tuesdays 15 and 22 February, and 1 March, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

This three-part course is specially tailored for the Church of England by the National Environment team and the Carbon Literacy Project.

Session 1: Why we are here - the theology and science of creation care

Session 2: Our personal and collective carbon footprints - our individual footprints and the Church of England's footprint

Session 3: Taking it wider - How climate change is already affecting us and how can we communicate that.

The course is led by Jack Edwards, the Diocesan Environmental Officer.

To book your place, e-mail

ipicadmin@southwark.anglican.org

Praying with the Psalms

Monday 28 February, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

This is the first of a new series of events focussed on enriching our spirituality. Peter Graystone, the diocesan Lay Training Officer, will help us pray with the psalms. There will be praise, lament, relaxed contentment and honest anger.

To book your place, e-mail

ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Praying with Julian of Norwich

Tuesday 15 March, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

In the late 14th century a devout woman, living in isolation, survived a life-threatening illness and wrote a book called *Revelations of Divine Love*. Her name is Julian of Norwich.

This evening event will bring you some information about Julian's life and work, but the focus will be on prayer and contemplation. It will be led online by the Revd Cynthia Jackson and Charlotte Ennis, of the Wimbledon Julian Meeting.

To book your place, e-mail

ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Diversity training

Tuesday 22 March, 10.00am-12.30pm, Trinity House, free

A programme to help individuals, churches and communities address issues of unconscious bias which arise in diverse communities. The training is important for all in positions of leadership. This includes clergy, Readers, SPAs, Pioneers, CYP leaders, and PCC members. It is led by the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, and the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education.

To book your place, e-mail

ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

DIOCESAN TRAINING

A fresh look at ministry among older people

Wednesday 9 February, 10.30am-12.00noon, Zoom, free

The population is ageing, and that's reflected in our congregations. Does your church have a strategy in place for ministry amongst older people? Does it need refreshing post COVID-19? How can we respond to the opportunities and privilege of having a growing number of older people in our church and community?

This SAGE (Southwark and Ageing) webinar will be led by Tina English, who is director of the charity Embracing Age. It will help churches plan strategically for their ministry amongst seniors.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Ground Floor Guide to St Benedict

Wednesday 23 March, 8.00-9.00pm, Zoom, free

An introduction to the life and enduring influence of St Benedict, who wrote one of the most influential Christian texts of all time. There is an immense amount that Christians today can learn from him.

The session is led by the Revd Jeremy Clark-King, IMEZ Lead.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Building a dementia-aware church

Monday 21 February, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

This SAGE event will help us explore ways in which we can make our buildings and events more inclusive so that they can be welcoming to people with dementia and their carers. The topic will be introduced by Melanie Cressey, Dementia Friendly Community Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society in the London Borough of Southwark.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Preaching hope for Lent and Good Friday

Thursday 24 February, 10.00am-12.00noon, Zoom, free, or

Thursday 24 February, 7.30-9.30pm, Zoom, free

An opportunity to look together at the lectionary passages that will feature during Lent and on Good Friday. This collaborative workshop is led by the Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, Deputy Director of

Discipleship and Lay Ministry. This session is being offered twice so that as many preachers as possible, both lay and ordained, can attend.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org. State whether you wish to attend the morning or evening session.

NOTICES

Supporting those who are struggling this Christmas

AtalLoss.org provides a UK-wide website hub of bereavement support and information for anyone bereaved and those seeking to support them. It is an easy way for clergy to sign up bereaved congregation members and people in their communities to support.

[Loss and HOPE](http://LossandHOPE) is a project working with the CofE Life Events Department, Care for the Family and HOPE Together, equipping churches in bereavement support. A dedicated website provides resources, training and information for clergy and any Christian wanting to know how to effectively support bereaved people. Information on holding an alternative Christmas service is currently available and webinars are provided for leaders to consider how to improve their church's accessibility to those who have been bereaved. See www.lossandhope.org

[The Bereavement Journey](http://TheBereavementJourney) is a resource for supporting all bereaved people in the community, which Loss and HOPE is recommending UK churches offer as a pandemic recovery response. A six-session series of films and discussion groups, it has a step-by-step guide, promotional materials and team support. Churches are encouraged to offer this to bereaved people in their communities after Christmas. See www.thebereavementjourney.org and www.lossandhope.org/whats-on-offer/online-the-bereavement-journey-support.

Pilgrimage to Malta & Gozo

27 May - 3 June 2022

Enjoy five nights on Malta and two on Gozo with a mix of guided tour and space for individual exploring. Excellent 4* hotels, flying from Heathrow. Price from £1,195 for twin share, limited single rooms available. Led by Revd Brett Ward & Revd Daniel Wyman. For details contact: fr.brett@ht-e.org.uk 020 8850 1246 or info@lightline.org.uk 01992 576 065.

Pilgrimage to the Passion Play in Oberammergau

18 - 24 July 2022

Travel by luxury coach from South London visiting the fairy-tale castles of Austria and Innsbruck, before seeing a performance of the Passion Play, staying overnight in Oberammergau and then driving back home. Prices from £1,095 sharing, limited single rooms available.

Led by Revd Canon Dr Sue Clarke. For details contact Sue at semclarke@btinternet.com or 07710 744006.

COVID-19: Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting Historic Surfaces

Historic England has issued detailed, research-based guidance for cleaning and disinfecting historic surfaces in line with the Government's guidance on how to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the workplace.

It can be found here: <https://bit.ly/31hpcv>

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Diocesan Confirmations

Saturday, 29 January 2022, 4.00pm, Southwark Cathedral

The next Diocesan Confirmation Service will take place at the Cathedral on the evening of Candlemas. There are still spaces available, so if you have any candidates that would like to be entered please contact Susanna Bloomfield no later than Wednesday 5 January. E-mail names to susanna.bloomfield@southwark.anglican.org

Synergy Network Christmas Thanksgiving Service

Saturday 11 December, 4.00 - 5.30pm at St Mark, Kennington

Taking a stand against serious youth violence with the Synergy Network. Join us for the Christmas Thanksgiving service.

Find more details and sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3Gylaxq>

Messy Celebration: Southwark science

Saturday 14 May 2022, 2.00-4.00pm, Southwark Cathedral

Activities for all ages, including science experiments and challenges, culminating in a time of worship and celebration. Further details and information on how to sign up will be available at: southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/whats-on

Access to HealthCare Chaplaincy A.H.C.C

Monday 6 and Tuesday 14 December, 4.00pm-5.00pm, Zoom

The Department of Spiritual Health Care at Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust is organising a virtual taster event about this course. If you are interested in healthcare chaplaincy but have lack of experience this is an opportunity to:

- learn how to enroll on their Pg Cert in Health Care Chaplaincy towards a career in healthcare chaplaincy
- learn about their courses and get advice about Healthcare Chaplaincy career routes
- chat live to lecturers and also have a Q&A session.

Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3d0ICqM>

Meeting ID: 876 5852 061

Passcode: 1LsTDa

Anchored by Revd Canon Mia Kyte Hilborn & Revd Nana Kyei-Baffour.

For more details contact:

Chaplain@ukChaplain@gstt.nhs.uk

Tel: 0207 1888 1187/5588

Diocesan Directory update

The latest edition of the Diocesan Directory is now available on the password-protected area of the website. If you find any information which is out of date or inaccurate please e-mail: data@southwark.anglican.org

DIOCESAN TRAINING

Ground Floor Guide to the Reformation

Tuesday 1 February, 8.00-9.00pm, Zoom, free

A Ground Floor Guide is a short, sharp hour which introduces a subject that every churchgoer has heard of, and most people feel they want to know a bit more about.

The first of this year's Ground Floor Guides is about the Reformation - the transformative movement within Western Christianity in the 16th century that changed the religious and political landscape. It was out of the Reformation that the Church of England was born. It is led by

Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, who is Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Working effectively with volunteers

Wednesday 23 February, 10.30am-12.00noon, Zoom, free

Nelly Misenga, the Development Officer of Together Southwark, will lead an interactive, energising session covering recruitment, induction, motivation and retention, policies and procedures.

To book your place, e-mail jpicaadmin@southwark.anglican.org

The gospel according to William

Monday 7 February, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

A journey through the life and work of William Shakespeare, who lived, acted and wrote in the streets around Southwark Cathedral. It looks at key speeches from the plays and traces their ideas back to the Bible. Can the drama of the world's greatest writer enrich your understanding of what it means to alive, serving God in this brave new world? Peter Graystone is the Lay Training Officer for Southwark Diocese, and author of *All's Well That Ends Well: From Dust to Resurrection - 40 Days with Shakespeare*.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

Ground Floor Guide to Revelation

Monday 7 March, 8.00-9.00pm, Zoom, free

The second of this year's Ground Floor Guides - hour-long basic introductions to people, places and parts of the Bible. This one is about the Book of Revelation, the last and most intriguing book of the Bible.

Peter Graystone, the Lay Training Officer, will introduce the book and the characters we encounter there.

To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

DIOCESAN TRAINING

Equipping Christian leadership in an age of science

Tuesday 7 December, 10.00am - 12.30pm, Zoom, free

Bishop Richard hosts a morning about theological and Christian narratives of salvation in the COVID-19 world. He will be joined by three members of the Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science project (ECLAS). The event is aimed at all in lay or ordained leadership roles, and is of particular importance to those who preach. To book your place, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

An introduction to Eco Church

Thursday 20 January, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

Prayer, community and buildings - an introduction to the A Rocha Eco Church Award. The Eco Church scheme leads you through a series of questionnaires, allowing you to examine where care of creation features in your worship and teaching, management of church buildings, community and global engagement, and lifestyle. Jack Edwards, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, will lead this opportunity to meet churches in Southwark Diocese who have already been given an award for their efforts.

To book your place, e-mail jpicaadmin@southwark.anglican.org

Vocations forum

Saturday 15 January, 9.00am-4.00pm, Southwark Cathedral and Trinity House, free, OR

Saturday 26 March, 9.00am-4.00pm, Southwark Cathedral and Trinity House, free

A vocations forum is an opportunity to reflect, pray and discuss with others what type of ministry God might be calling you into.

Every Christian is called by God to serve him. For some people this means working out what it means to be a follower of Jesus in a family, a workplace, in retirement or in sport or leisure. But for others it might be a call to exercise some form of recognised ministry in the Church, whether lay or ordained.

Attending a vocations forum is the first step to entering a process of discernment about where God may lead you. You need your incumbent or chaplain to sponsor you to attend.

Please ask your incumbent to book your place by e-mailing sue.stewart@southwark.anglican.org

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DIOCESAN EVENTS

Advent and the Birth of the Word Within Us

Saturday 11 December, 10.00am -5.00pm, Zoom, £25-£35

In this special Advent workshop from the School of Contemplative Life, you will reflect on the birth of God's Word as the birth of loving-awareness and how meditation (contemplative prayer) can help prepare the ground for this event. The season of Advent does not simply point us towards an extraordinary event that happened 2,000 years ago. You are invited to turn to what is happening now, within each of us and all creation.

Through a series of short talks, meditation practice and conversation you will explore:

- how the practice of meditation helps prepare the ground for the birth of loving-awareness
- manifesting this birth in compassion: living in ever-deepening relationship with each other and the whole of creation.

Further information and booking details: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/advent-and-the-birth-of-the-word-within-us-tickets-202495528577>

For information about the School of Contemplative Life and free resources: <https://schoolofcontemplativelife.com>

The December 2021 - January 2022 issue of The Bridge

will be live on our website southwark.anglican.org/the-bridge from 3 December

Lay ministries

The Diocese of Southwark has recently launched a range of new affirmed, commissioned, and licensed lay ministries to complement our existing ministries. People have long been authorised in our Diocese as Readers, Church Army Evangelists, and SPAs; now there are additional opportunities to discern a call to licensed lay pastoral ministry, commissioned and licensed lay pioneer ministry, commissioned and licensed lay children's, youth and family ministry.

For more information, look online at <https://southwark.anglican.org/exploring-your-call/lay-ministries> or contact Raewynne Whiteley for more details at Raewynne.Whiteley@southwark.anglican.org.

There is an exploration session for those interested in children's youth and family ministry: <https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/whats-on/commissioning-licensing-for-children-youth-and-family-leaders/>. And look out for information sessions about all commissioned and licensed lay ministries in the early new year.

Pioneer Gathering

Thursday 9 December 2021, 11.15am - 12.45pm

A Zoom gathering for Pioneers across the Diocese exploring resilience as apostolic pioneering in times of crisis with Dr Paula Gooder. To book e-mail: david.cundill@southwark.anglican.org

EXTERNAL EVENTS

Christians Aware Annual Conference: Transcending Divisions in a World of Diversity

14 - 16 January 2022, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

The conference hopes to affirm the rich diversity of our world and its people and to look at ways forward for enhancing this richness. It also seeks to tackle disagreements and blockages which lead to a lack of trust and to suffering and even death.

Keynote speakers include:

theologian Anthony Reddie, John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell, and Ann Pettifor, an economist well-known for her work towards Jubilee 2000.

Find out more at: <http://www.christiansaware.co.uk>

Triennial Forum: Churches Together in England

14 - 16 March 2022

The triennial Forum of Churches Together in England has the most diverse representation of Christians in the country. Churches together in South London (CTSL) has six fully-funded places available. CTSL is keen to take at least two young people aged 18-30, lay or ordained. You may already be engaged with ecumenism or just simply have a heart for matters of unity and justice. For more information go to: cte.org.uk/about/about-cte/forum/2022-forum or e-mail claire@ctslondon.org.uk

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 - 25 January 2022

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is coming up in January and many churches and unity groups in South London will share prayers, hold services, walks of witness, online discussions and more to mark the moment. Each year, CTBI commissions resources from a group of churches working together and for 2022 the material has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East - the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources, which can be freely downloaded at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

Christian CND Workshops

Christian CND is offering free workshops for churches, small groups and youth groups around nuclear disarmament and peace activism. The workshops are tailored to the demographic of the participants and include discussion around what the Bible says about peace, how we, as Christians, can engage with issues of peace and nuclear disarmament, and what it means to be a peacemaker in our everyday lives. These workshops are offered both in person in the church building and online over Zoom. Find out more and book a workshop at: christiancnd.org.uk/workshops.

EVENTS & NOTICES

NECN London Regional Conference 2022: Well-being

Thursday, 24 February 2022 St James the Less, SW1V 2PS

NECN (National Estates Churches Network) has organised this conference which will focus on exhausted clergy and laity finding well-being post-COVID. Sessions and topics will include:

- clergy well-being working group (Well-being) with Canon Simon Butler
- clergy family network - (Well-being and clergy families) with Lucy Walsh
- well-being and spiritual direction with Revd Steph Nadarajah
- Clergy Support Trust: practical help and grants
- partnership for missional church: networking and supporting estates churches.

To book tickets go to: <https://necnlondon2022.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more details contact:

sarah.martell@estatechurches.org

Subsidised Energy Audits

Parish Buying is supporting churches as they work towards carbon net zero 2030 by offering them the chance to apply for a subsidised Energy Audit. The Energy Audits are part-funded by Parish Buying's green electricity supplier, Total Energies. Full-priced audits will still be available after the 100 subsidies have been allocated. <https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/energy/energy-basket/audit>

Gladstone's Library

Gladstone's Library in Flintshire is both a haven for readers and researchers, particularly those from a Church background who may be interested in the library's extensive theological collection, and a hub for conferences and meetings.

All clergy are eligible for a 20% discount on accommodation at the library. Details on their discounts are available online: <https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/accommodation/special-offers>

Church launches consultation on plans to get to net zero carbon in just nine years

In February 2020, General Synod voted to set a target for the whole CofE of achieving 'net-zero' carbon by 2030. A Routemap for how the Church can achieve this has been drafted to invite conversation and consultation. For more details go to: <https://bit.ly/3Cvjv10>

COVID Response Funding

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has been given £20 million to distribute to nationally important heritage assets which are at risk due to the impact of COVID. To be eligible, your building should be listed and you should have already explored other sources of funding. Full details are available at: <https://www.nhmf.org.uk/funding/covid-19-response-fund>