



The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Christ
Centred
Outward
Focused

Vol.29 No.6
July/August 2024

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Southwark welcomes new Bishop of Woolwich

On Wednesday 3 July, the new Bishop of Woolwich, The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, was consecrated in what he described as “a service full of vision, hope and love”.

Previously, Bishop Alastair was Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich, and is the fourteenth Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark. Bishop

Alastair succeeds The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, who died in September last year.

Bishop Alastair was consecrated by The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Justin Welby at Southwark Cathedral.

The consecration was attended by many ecumenical, interfaith and civic guests, as well as Bishop Alastair's family and friends. There were clergy, lay ministers and parishioners from across the diocese and beyond, including many from Bishop Alastair's previous parishes – as well as



The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, the new Bishop of Woolwich.

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£29m for mission in Southwark Diocese

The Diocese of Southwark is set to receive £29 million over nine years from the Church of England – the largest sum ever approved for a single diocese.

The Church's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board has approved the funding for Southwark's whole-diocese transformation programme, which will facilitate mission and growth projects throughout South London and East Surrey. £21.63m has been approved for the first phase of this programme, to be awarded immediately, with an additional £7.44m to fund hub and resourcing churches, with locations for these to be identified in 2027 and beyond.

Hub churches create models that can be used in other parishes, offering support to those parishes in implementing change. Resourcing churches have the capacity and generosity to revitalise other parishes – often through planting and grafting into congregations.

The programme will enable the Diocese to invest in extra projects to meet missional challenges in partnership with the National Church, four of which as stated in the application are:

- Growing church attendance.
- Doubling the number of churches with more than 25 children and young people.
- Reaching and resourcing estates parishes.
- Growing pathways to ministry that increase the diversity of leadership and are more accessible to young people.

None of these projects will be at the expense of core funding for parishes.

“I am delighted at this outcome, bringing to fruition our overriding commitment to all our parishes,” said The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark.

The Diocese will respond to these challenges through creating a number of integrated initiatives designed to resource and enable churches of varying sizes and

kinds to flourish and grow, and then share the learning to benefit every parish in the Diocese. This will include Fresh Expressions and innovation grants, as well as support for bilingual congregations and estates ministry. There will also be a new Parish Development and Renewal Programme, which invites teams from parishes to engage in a two-year learning initiative addressing the real challenges of parish life and exploring missional change in their local context. An apprenticeship-style scheme will address the need for more children and young people's workers, offering young people a qualification and a path to paid employment. To further develop diversity amongst lay and ordained leaders in the Diocese, a research project will explore the barriers to ministry for people of all backgrounds – with the expectation that this will offer insights for the wider Church.

Ruth Martin, the Bishop's Lead for Strategic Development, who led the team which has worked together on the bid said, “It's immensely encouraging that our

colleagues in the National Church have supported our determination to enable and serve our diverse communities, and awarded this funding – without which we could not proceed with these Southwark Vision projects.”

Welcoming the news, Diocesan Secretary Nicola Thomas, said: “We are grateful to parishes for their faithful generosity through the Parish Support Fund which allows us to provide essential services to our parishes. This funding partnership will be in addition to our core costs and will enable us to achieve so much more than numerical growth across our Diocese. It will greatly enhance our resources and ability to build on strategies that we have already seen work, putting parishes at the heart of our work and valuing them in all their diversity.”

Canon Will Cookson, Director of Mission and Dean of Pioneering Ministry and Fresh Expressions, said: “We know that there is no one-size-fits-all solution that will enable our churches to flourish. Mission will always be driven by the needs and character of the local community.”

Read the full press release here:
bit.ly/4cCLIUi

A view from The BRIDGE



What a glorious season for our church schools, our parishes, and our diocese this is!

Junior and secondary school pupils and college and university students – especially Year 6s graduating and moving to secondary schools; students completing their GCSEs, A levels, and university degrees – many celebrating the fruit of their labours with an end of year ‘Prom’. In our gardens and countryside, we are seeing that peak of the growing, ripening and harvesting season – and as Jesus reminds us, we see this paralleled in people and their lives, too.

Others who are making important steps on their faith journey in this season are our theological college graduates, with curates reaching their ordinations as deacons and priests. Our communities and churches are richly blessed by God’s grace.

To Flourish, and to see Growing Faith, is what we love to see in individuals’ lives – but these are also the names of projects through which the national Church is helping children and young people to be more Christ Centred. Ministry with children and young people was one of Bishop Karowei’s key priorities; and as a trained youth worker and teacher myself, this continues as one of my passions and priorities, too. A significant proportion of the recent Diocesan Investment Programme grant from the Church Commissioners that the Diocese

of Southwark has been awarded secures an ongoing investment in our work with children and youth (see page 1). This grant funding takes us beyond what our vital ongoing Parish Support Fund pledges can achieve on their own. These young people are the church of today – not just of tomorrow – and we want them to know that they are included.

At a conference recently, we heard of the young Samuel, the young Timothy, and the young Jesus in our scriptures. We saw the key influences on them as they grew – particularly their mothers, each named in the stories alongside other valued individuals, who were prepared to both support and let go – often at significant personal cost. Welcare, the Mothers’ Union and our Estates Churches Ministry are other agencies working compassionately and effectively across our diocese, part of our *Outward Focus*, helping engage and empower individuals and families, making a change for good.

St Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth”. May we continue to celebrate and support what God is growing amongst us as we each play our part in building his Kingdom.

Alastair Cutting



NEWS IN BRIEF

Annual Report 2023

The South London Church Fund and The Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance Annual Report for 2023 has now been published on the diocesan website.

Copies have been delivered to parishes and you can download a digital version at: bit.ly/4elZrVK



Thank you so much for your continued generosity to the PSF!



We are excited to have shared the 2025 Parish Support Fund (PSF) materials with parishes at the end of last month – please be encouraged by the stories of growth, challenges and God’s blessing across the diocese. New for this year, the Archdeacons have been hosting Q&A sessions to help parishes understand how the PSF supports parish mission and ministry.

If you have any questions about PSF or have not received your 2025 booklet and parish details, please contact Gabby.Parikh@southwark.anglican.org

Newly-elected General Synod members

The Diocese of Southwark is pleased to announce its newly-elected General Synod members – the Revd Dr Charlie Bell and the Revd Nicholas Lebey. The General Synod, the national assembly of the Church of England, considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

For more information, visit: <https://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/who-we-are/governance-synods/general-synod-elections/>.

Save the date: Black History Month at Southwark Cathedral

Join the 17th annual *Black History Month* thanksgiving Eucharist, in partnership with the Diocesan Board of Education, on Saturday 5 October, 10.30am–1.30pm for a day of fellowship, learning and celebration, exploring this year’s theme ‘music at the heart of change’. After the service there will be a panel discussion featuring The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, and guests. See page 16 of this edition of *The Bridge*, for a poster to promote the event, to be displayed in your church.

Find out more here: southwark.anglican.org/bhm

Friends of the Holy Land welcome new Chair of Trustees

Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) announced that The Rt Revd William Kenney has become Chairman. An Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Bishop William is well known for his international work, especially in the Middle East. He succeeds Jim Quinn who retired in April. FHL is an ecumenical Christian Charity that provides support to vulnerable Christians.

Read the full press release at: bit.ly/3KYh5aC



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The SEPTEMBER edition is due to be published online and in print on 1 September 2024. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST**.

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited. All photographs submitted for publication are assumed to have the necessary permission for printing. Please ensure that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so. Forms for permission for the use of photographs of children (Form 10) and adults who may be vulnerable (Form 11) can be found at southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures

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international guests from India, Zimbabwe and even Aotearoa New Zealand.

Bishop Alastair grew up in a Christian family in South India, where his parents were doctors in a rural village hospital. He made a personal commitment to faith at the age of nine. Before becoming Archdeacon he served as a parish priest for 25 years, ministering in the diverse contexts of a Yorkshire mining parish, and an industrial village in Sheffield, as well as both rural and suburban contexts in Sussex. He is married to Kay, who is a teacher of children with profound and multiple learning difficulties and special needs and they have two grown-up daughters.

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, said, “I give thanks that Alastair has now been consecrated as Bishop to serve in the Woolwich Episcopal Area and for the path that has brought him to this ministry in the diocese. I know that he will prioritise our parishes and support our churches in their mission and ministry. Please continue to hold Bishop Alastair and Kay in your prayers.”



Bishop Alastair said, “The warm relationships I’ve built with parishes and civic leaders during my time as Archdeacon give me a great head start as I step into the role of Bishop of Woolwich. I am inspired by the wonderful examples set by my predecessors in engaging with the community and sharing faith in creative ways. I’m excited to see what God has in store for us in the Area and I’m looking forward to serving together.”

Dr Elaine Storkey, broadcaster and theologian, was invited to preach at the consecration of which she described as an “enormous joy and privilege”. She also spoke about Bishop Alastair’s commitment to the empowerment of women and his heart for gender justice – as well as his longing for Christians to be united in faith and service across the world.

Read the full press release: bit.ly/3K6kL7t

Watch this video and meet the new Bishop of Woolwich: bit.ly/3VThtwd



Top (l-r): Bishop Alastair’s declarations; Alastair kneels before Archbishop Justin; Bishop Alastair with Archbishop Justin. Middle: Southwark’s four bishops – Martin, Alastair, Christopher and Rosemarie. Bottom: Civic representatives.

The Revd Canon Dr Chigor Chike to be next Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich

The Revd Canon Dr Chigor Chike has been named as the next Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich. Chigor will succeed The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, Bishop of Woolwich.

Chigor has served as the Vicar of Emmanuel Church in Forest Gate, East London, for fourteen years. It is hoped he will come into post and begin his new ministry in Autumn 2024.

Chigor said, “Every opportunity to serve God is a great privilege. This moment is particularly joyful because I lived in the boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich many years ago and that was where my ministry journey started. It feels like a home coming.

“My life and ministry is my response to a calling by God to use what voice and agency I have to advocate for those marginalised – for whatever reason – by society. I am inspired by Southwark’s Diocesan Vision and excited to step into this new role, supporting parishes as they

seek to bless and serve the communities of Lewisham and Greenwich.”

Bishop Christopher said, “I am glad to appoint Dr Chigor Chike as the next Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich in the Woolwich Episcopal Area where he will work alongside the new Area



Bishop and the Archdeacon of Southwark. Chigor is a priest with a pastoral heart, solid parish experience in East London, and great theological insight. He has a passion for social justice and, God willing, his enormous gifts will be a great blessing both to the archdeaconry and wider Diocese. Please pray for Chigor and his family as they make this transition.”

The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, Bishop of Woolwich said, “I am delighted at Chigor’s appointment as Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich. He is a prayerful priest and a gifted scholar and author, whose work has enriched his personal pastoral ministry as well as the wider Church.

“My life and ministry is my response to a calling by God to use what voice and agency I have to advocate for those marginalised – for whatever reason – by society.”

I first got to know Chigor during the first covid lockdown through his helpful contributions to our reflections on the impact of George Floyd’s death at local and national levels. He will be a great asset to us in Southwark Diocese, joining Archdeacon Jonathan and me in the Woolwich Trio.”

Nicola Thomas, Diocesan Secretary said, “This is a really exciting appointment for the Diocese. Chigor’s reputation as a voice for justice and equality, as well as his insights from many years of parish ministry, will be a huge asset in his new role, and we look forward to him joining the team.”

Chigor will be collated as Archdeacon of Lewisham & 2024 during Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral.

All photos © Tom Bridges

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES

Back to school for Ant and Dec

Wandsworth schoolchildren received a surprise visit from TV's very own Ant and Dec. St Michael's C of E Primary school, Wandsworth works in partnership with Twinkl, an online educational resource for primary and secondary schools and Santander, the retail and commercial bank.

In May, the CEO of Santander, Mike Regnier, and celebrity favourites, Ant and Dec, surprised the staff and pupils at St Michael's with a special visit to celebrate the school's commitment to teaching

children about financial literacy and the learning taking place across the school.

Ahead of the surprise, Adele Stewart, Upper Phase Lead said, "It has been a challenge to keep this a secret, but I am ecstatic to finally share more about this fantastic event."

Children in classroom 5S had the opportunity to ask Ant and Dec questions, including what they were currently saving for, their largest purchase to date, their ethical investments, and what they spent their pocket money on when they were younger. There was even



Ant and Dec with pupils and teachers of St Michaels Primary School.

a chance to take a whole school assembly selfie with the duo (pictured).

Adele added, "I want to say a huge thank you to the children for their wonderful behaviour, to the staff for delivering the wonderful lessons, and to Twinkl and Santander for delivering this fantastic and

creative event. I'm absolutely sure that this will be a moment that all the children and staff will cherish and remember for many years to come!"

Watch this video to find out more about the visit at: bit.ly/3xApVrM

The Great Prayer Bake Off

As part of *Thy Kingdom Come*, this year, pupils at All Saints, Benilton C of E Primary School took part in the 'Great Prayer Bake Off'.

School families were encouraged to take part at home and decide on something they would like to pray for – while baking and decorating cakes or cupcakes to share their prayer.

Emma Murton, Religious Education and Spirituality Subject Lead said, "There were 95 entries to the prayer bake off and the standard was incredibly high. The



prayers on the cakes were amazing and the children had chosen so many different things to pray for. There were prayers for the world, for peace, for the sea creatures, for love, for ending poverty, for animals, insects, creation, friends and so much more."

Tenison's Through Time

On Friday 17 May, The Archbishop Tenison's C of E High School welcomed visitors to the opening of a new exhibition at the Croydon Clocktower: *Tenison's Through Time 1714–2024*.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, together with Mayor Jason Perry were invited to officially open the exhibition.

Archbishop Tenison's was founded by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Tenison, in 1714, for 'ten poor boys and ten poor girls of the Parish of Croydon'. At that time, it was a radical new departure to educate boys and girls together in the same school. Today the school serves the Archdeaconry of Croydon and Deaconry of Sutton and is a voluntary aided, Anglican, mixed,

comprehensive school for more than 760 11–18 year old pupils and sixth form students.

The exhibition reflects on the 310-year old school, its legacy and rich history since its foundation. Richard Parrish, Headteacher said "The exhibition provides a visual illustration of the history of the school and commemorates this important milestone for Archbishop Tenison's school community. Further events are planned for pupils and students throughout the year, which will also provide them with relevant historical and social context. It is a privilege for us at the school to work in such a well-established Christian educational tradition with such committed and inspiring young people."

Find more information about the school, at: archten.croydon.sch.uk

Lighting up the world

St Nicholas', Kidbrooke, has been running a youth club, called *Fireflies* –shining lights since September 2023. Meeting for a couple of hours every Sunday evening, the group welcomes children from age 10 years and over from within the local community.

On Sunday 12 May, the children held an evening of arts and crafts with a special fashion show organised by friend of the group, Angels Hinds, who is a

performance poet. The youngsters were tasked to design and then make an outfit using newspaper and tape.



Jacky Franklin, CYP leader at St Nicholas', Kidbrooke said, "The results were splendid, showing real imagination and creativity, despite the limited materials. After only about 15 minutes, one child in each group was introduced by another and then modelled their outfit by walking along a red 'carpet'! A delightful and inspiring evening for everyone involved. The children and young people of St Nicholas certainly know how to light up their world!"



'Fireflies' prepare and display their creative outfits.

Growing community in Barnes

Helen Hewitt, Community Gardening Coordinator writes:

Up until the early 20th Century, market gardens in Barnes supplied fruit and vegetables to the city of London. Today, Barnes is a place of contrasts. Famed for its 'village' character, residents are spoilt for choice when it comes to restaurants and independent retailers. However, our parish, Holy Trinity Barnes, encompasses several areas of relative deprivation. We run the local distribution centre of the Richmond Foodbank and there is a general lack of accessible amenities, such as affordable food shops.

We want to use all our resources, including land, to 'love our neighbour' and benefit the wider community. Last year, we received a grant from the All Churches Trust Mission Fund to convert a derelict area behind the church into a community garden. In 2023, we harvested over 60kg of produce, worth £500. Most of this went directly to the foodbank, often within hours of picking. We also coordinated a network of storage boxes, where other

local growers such as allotment holders, could deposit their surplus. We collected this, stored it at church and delivered it with our own produce to the foodbank.

We run regular volunteer sessions, open to the whole community, where we grow and harvest food, teach people how to grow and simply enjoy being outside. We welcome volunteers of all ages, including groups from local nurseries and schools. Living in a city, we can buy fruit and veg all

year round. Many families don't have access to outside space. Consequently, children and adults alike are disconnected from the source of their food, so time spent in the garden is precious.

Having our hands in the soil deepens our connection with God, our creator and his creation. We want to provide sanctuary space for both humans and wildlife. The vegetable patch has become a place where people can pause and take a deep breath.



The community garden at Holy Trinity, Barnes harvested more than 60kg of produce for their local foodbank in 2023.

Our gardening work is supported by a micro bakery: *Nourish and Grow*, which operates as a Community Interest Company. We bake and sell bread to the local community to generate income, along with a range of seasonal preserves made with excess garden produce. We donate almost 10 loaves to the foodbank every week, which paying customers can sponsor.

The new growing season is upon us and we are turning our attention to other areas of the church site. We believe that fulfilling our biblical mandate to care for creation includes increasing biodiversity, improving the quality of our local waterways and so on. A local authority grant will enable us to create a rain garden and habitat wall. Together, they will reduce the volume of water entering the drains during extreme rain and create more homes for wildlife. We use regenerative agriculture methods to grow food, working to improve soil health and make ecosystems stronger. We cannot turn back time, but we can start to heal our rift with the land, all the while pointing to the one who is 'reconciling all things on earth and in heaven to himself' (Colossians 1:19–20).

Instagram: @nourishandgrow_food
Website: nourishandgrow.org

Worship and prayer by the seashore

Wendy Jackson, St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon writes:

There's nothing like sharing good ideas with each other and that is exactly what a group of us at St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon did with All Saints Church, Findon Valley, when the Revd Andrew Cunnington generously shared his Lent booklet *Signs along the Seashore*. Andrew already had connections with St John's having previously ministered in Southwark Diocese before he returned to minister in his birthplace, West Sussex.

During Lent, small groups at St John's studied together and it was suggested that we plan a time to join All Saints for communion. The morning of the outing dawned, bright and clear with no sign of rain in the blue sky and there was even a

hint of warmth in the sunshine. Headed for the Worthing seaside, 21 of us excitedly packed our coats, umbrellas, sun hats and paddling shoes as we had no idea what the weather might have in store for us.

On arrival, we were warmly welcomed by Andrew and his church to join in a Eucharist. Coffee and cake followed our worship, with Andrew advising us that All Saints prided themselves on their 'cake ministry'.

We were so busy chatting and enjoying fellowship that by the time we set off for the seafront to walk, worship and pray, it was a little later than planned. Rapidly changing our plans, we stopped for lunch at Chipwicks' fish and chips restaurant.

After lunch we gathered on the beach, looking out at sea and guided by Andrew,



Members of St John the Evangelist, Old Coulsdon, gather on Worthing beach for prayer and reflection.

we reflected on both the enormity of God and the sea. God's presence and power among us – we sang a verse of 'Father we love you, we worship and adore

you'. Together we prayed, ending with the Grace and Andrew gave the final blessing. It was a beautiful and powerful day out.

Parachuting priest hits heavens for community...

The Revd Anna Moore, Vicar at St Matthew, Redhill braced herself to take a literal leap of faith during a charity skydive to fundraise for the church.

Anna, who has a self-confessed fear of heights, took off for the tandem jump on Saturday 25 May and has raised £2,500 for the church. She dropped from 12,000ft over Headcorn, Kent, while strapped to an instructor.



Before taking to the skies, Anna said, "Obviously I'm a tad apprehensive but I wanted to do something to raise awareness – as well as money – for all our team is doing. We are supporting our local area in many different ways, from a much-needed foodbank to providing our Ukrainian community with a place to meet. Most recently we have launched a Pride Café as a focal point for our LGBTQ+ residents – we want to keep up the momentum and do more where possible."

Talking about support from the local community, Anna said, "St Matthew's, as with many churches, relies on regular giving from supporters. Like other organisations we also face rising costs to maintain the fabric of the building, carry out basic

general maintenance tasks and provide heat and lighting – we need the support of our community to provide these basics."

Local funeral directors, Stonemans, also shared their support by sponsoring the jump. No stranger to testing herself, Anna once abseiled down Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich. She said, "I was scared stiff by the prospect of hanging off a building and jumping from thousands of feet takes everything to another level.

"But I'm definitely looking forward to the challenge – most people use the church at some point in their lives, at Christmas and Easter as well as weddings, baptisms and funerals, and the cause of helping our people is a real driving force."



IN FOCUS...
Welcare

Welcare – child and family support services

Welcare provides child and family support services for families with children up to the age of 13 throughout South London and East Surrey. The mission of the charity is inspired by its Christian faith and Anglican heritage and is to provide practical and emotional support to enable children and families to thrive.

Supporting families of all faiths and none, Welcare works with each child and family individually by providing a range of social-worker managed practical and emotional support on an individual, one-to-one basis and a range of group work programmes including the Strengthening Families and Strengthening Communities Parenting Programme, CODA domestic abuse recovery and treatment programmes and Caring Dads – for men who have abused or neglected their children.

Over the last three years Welcare piloted a new group work programme, delivered in school to children in Key Stage 2. It aims to build emotional health, wellbeing and resilience of children and is called CapeAbility in School the course refined in response to the huge increase in children experiencing mental health challenges exacerbated by the Covid-19 lockdowns. Welcare relies on the support and prayers of the Diocese of Southwark



Welcare, supporting families of all faiths and none.

and individual parish churches to continue its work.

If you would like to help Welcare please:

- share the YouTube Video: bit.ly/45FMQi7
- sign up to receive their newsletter at welcare.org. The newsletter is distributed four times each year and you won't be bombarded with fundraising requests

- pray for their work and for the children and families they support
- follow and tag Welcare on social media to raise awareness of their work @welcareuk.

More information

www.welcare.org



Thank you Chris Elliot



Christopher (Chris) Elliott has been the Chair of Trustees for Welcare for three years. He will be stepping down from his role this July.

Chris (pictured) worked in The City of London for most of his life in the Lloyd's Insurance Market where amongst many roles he had responsibility for teams of people and budgets. He was also a Member Nominated Trustee of the company's final salary pension scheme.

Much of Chris' church life, he has been Church Warden of St John the Evangelist, Redhill. He was also Chair of their New Building Committee through the time of gaining planning permission, tender and the start of construction.

Chris has been a Trustee of Southwark Diocese, Lay Chair of Reigate Deanery and continues to be a member of Diocesan and Deanery Synod. He currently chairs Reigate Archdeaconry

Southwark Against Modern Slavery forum, which aims to join churches and others across Surrey in raising awareness of the signs of County Lines Drug Dealing, Modern Slavery, Serious Youth Crime and Domestic Violence and how to report concerns.

We spoke to Chris about some of the highlights of his time at Welcare and his hopes for the future.



"I have really appreciated working with and meeting the staff at Welcare – they are absolutely wonderful people. They are always smiling and genuinely everyone is happy."

Chris said, "I have really appreciated working with and meeting the staff at Welcare – they are absolutely wonderful people. They are always smiling and genuinely everyone is happy." Talking about what the future holds, Chris said, "Welcare is developing a programme called CapeAbility – it's an exciting project."

Chris has worked with the diocese to maintain a relationship with Welcare and raise awareness about the support available to families through the charity. Chris said, "Bishop Christopher is the President and is a tremendous support.

Since I have been Chair, we have met with all of the Bishops and Archdeacons and Area Deans, we have presented to Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Council of Trustees. We go to anything people invite us to. I am hoping that the name of Welcare has become more widely known."

Thanking Chris for his commitment and dedication to Welcare, Anna Khan, Chief Executive said, "It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Chris over the last three years, the whole staff team has appreciated his personal support and encouragement of their work. We have been fortunate to have such a wonderful ambassador for our work in the diocese".

Bishop Christopher awarded Chris a Lancelot Andrewes medal for his zeal and godly service. This was presented by The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate at the Archdeacon's visitation service at St Matthew's, Redhill.

Bishop Christopher said, "I am truly grateful for the exceptional work that Chris Elliott has done over recent years as Chair of Welcare, supporting much needed practical help and support to families experiencing difficulties in South London and East Surrey. Chris has been a key figure in fostering relations between the charity and colleagues across the diocese. His contribution to church life is very extensive and his advocacy for social justice and raising awareness of modern slavery continues to bear fruit that will last."



Southwark Mothers' Union: Festival Eucharist

On Saturday 8 June, Southwark Mothers' Union (MU) welcomed members and friends from across the diocese to their Festival Eucharist. Bishop Rosemarie presided and preached on the theme of transformation.

During the service the Revd Sandra Schloss, Vicar at St Luke, Camberwell and Area Dean for Camberwell was commissioned as the new MU Diocesan Chaplain.

Comfort Idowu-Fearon, Southwark Mothers' Union President said, "Thank you to all who joined us, members and friends from Southwark and other diocesan MU leaders. Elections are taking place throughout the MU world. As we elect a new Worldwide President and other positions within our Southwark diocese, we hope and pray that members would stand up to be elected. Remember, God calls everyone."



Revd Sandra Schloss (fourth from left) was commissioned as the new MU Diocesan Chaplain.

Zimbabwe celebrates faith in its future

Zimbabwe is a country of such vibrancy and joy and yet also experiences such poverty and hardship. Wendy Robins writes:

Unemployment is very high and as a result many young people are leaving their homeland to try to find work elsewhere in the world. Those who remain, especially those who live in the more rural areas, leave school after the 7th grade, so before secondary school age – and work with their families to find a living as best they can. It is no surprise really that there is an increase in mental health difficulties and the use of drugs.

Yet the churches are growing and everywhere Bishop Christopher and I visited there were plans for building new churches or schools or growing sustainable projects that will help local communities. In Matabeleland we saw the site of the new St Cecilia's School. Where the drilling of two bore holes – each of 60 metres – made possible by a gift from St Mark, Kennington has given more accessible water to the local, very rural, community and new impetus to the building. In the Diocese of Masvingo we saw the expansion of the sustainable gardens and piggery at Daramombe School and learned of Bishop Osiward's passion for making the school self – sufficient and being able to sell produce to those who live nearby. It is impossible not to join in with their enthusiasm and hope.

The Bernard Mizeki Festival draws more than 20,000 people together to celebrate the first Zimbabwean martyr. The Festival is a three day long event culminating in a Eucharist attended by bishops, priests

and people from around the province of Central Africa but especially from Zimbabwe. Bishop Dinis Sengulane preached and Bishop Christopher brought greetings from Southwark Diocese.

The singing and dancing went on well into the night and even in the freezing cold the joy and certainty of their faith that God would make all well was a wonderful testimony from which we could all learn.



Top: Bishop Christopher with Bishop Erick Ruwona of Manicaland (left) Bishop Osiward Mpika of Masvingo (right) and Bishops from Mozambique. Bottom: attendees at the Bernard Mizeki Festival.

An evening of welcome



On 7 June, Bishop Christopher welcomed newly elected Worshipful Mayors serving South London and the Worshipful Mayors and Chairs of the District Councils of East Surrey 2024–25 for an evening of thanks and appreciation at Bishop's House.



IN FOCUS...
Vocations

Meet Southwark’s brand new Revs...



Newly ordained Deacons in the Diocese of Southwark.

On Saturday 29 June The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, ordained 17 Deacons to serve in the diocese in a special service at Southwark Cathedral.

Speaking ahead of the ordinations, Bishop Christopher said, “I ask you to surround with your prayers the seventeen candidates as they prepare in coming days to be ordained, God willing, to the office and work of Deacons in the Church God, serving in parishes across the Diocese. May they be guided in all that lies ahead by their faith in God and love for others and please pray too for their families and all who have surrounded them with love and encouragement along the way. The Bishops of Croydon, Kingston, and the

“May they be guided in all that lies ahead by their faith in God and love for others.”

Bishop designate of Woolwich, together with Bishop Peter Wheatley will be joining me for the ordination and we ask God to bless them and fill them with the Holy Spirit as they embark on their journey, and may their service be an example to others of God’s everlasting love as they receive the grace of Holy Orders.”

Ordained Deacons
Croydon Area

- Debra Elsdon
Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry
- Graham Hains
St Michael & All Angels with St James, Croydon
- Paul Holden
Merstham & Gatton Team Ministry
- Tabitha Singh
St John, Shirley
- Vic (Victoria) Stone
Horley Team Ministry

Kingston Area

- Ollie (Oliver) Butlin
St Andrew, South Wimbledon
- Dan (Daniel) Grayson
St John The Evangelist, Angell Town
- Amanda Emberley
The Ascension, Balham Hill
- Zim (Zimuzo) Okoli
Holy Trinity, Clapham
- Rachel Gardner
Immanuel & St Andrew, Streatham
- Mike (Michael) Addis
The Ascension, Balham Hill

Woolwich Area

- Bethany Austin
St Bartholemew, Sydenham
- Wayne Barron
St Paul, Newington
- Alex (Alexandre) Garziglia
St Christopher (Pembroke C M)
- Jo (Joanne) McCrone
St John The Baptist, Eltham
- Anna Mills
St Mildred, Lee
- Owen Morgan
Charlton (United Benefice)



Bishop Christopher hosted garden parties at Bishop’s House for this year’s Ordinands.

Explore your call...
Find out more at:
tinyurl.com/4zxdnv8e

Priests ordained

On Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July – this Petertide – 21 people were ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Southwark, having served as deacons during the past year. They will each serve their curacy in the parish indicated. Please pray for our newly ordained deacons and priests and the communities where they are serving their curacies.

Croydon Area

The following were ordained Priest by The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark at St John The Evangelist, Upper Norwood. Bishop Christopher was joined by the Revd Raymond Baudon, Assistant DDO and Deputy Director of Vocations; and the Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, who preached.

Kerry Jane Evans
Horley Team Ministry

Jonathan (Jon) Fox
All Saints with St Margaret,
Upper Norwood

Ian Nott
The Good Shepherd,
Carshalton Beeches

Michael Nayagam
St Peter & St Augustine,
South Croydon



In a separate service, Joshua Pollard, was ordained by The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham, at St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood. Bishop Jonathon preached and was joined by The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark.

Joshua Pollard (right)
St Alban the Martyr,
South Norwood



Kingston Area

The following were ordained Priest by The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston, at All Saints, Kingston-upon-Thames. Bishop Martin was joined by the Revd Anne Stevens, Assistant Director of Formation and the Revd Vanessa Elston, who preached.

Gillian (Gilly) Bailey-Smith
St James, Clapham

Dr Giacomo (Jack) Belloli
St Paul, Wandsworth
(Wimbledon Park)

Grey Collier
St John with St Andrew,
Waterloo

Sarah Cornick
St Thomas with St Stephen,
Telford Park

Sarah Curl
St Margaret, Putney

Jonathan (Jonny) Fitter
All Saints with St Margaret,
Upper Norwood

Natalie Jones
St Peter, Norbiton

Dr Matthew Linfoot
All Saints, Tooting

Alex Mutyaba
St Mark, Kennington

Dr Hannah Swithinbank
St Philip and All Saints with St
Luke (United Benefice), Kew

Sarah Williams
All Saints, Kingston Upon
Thames



Woolwich Area

The following were ordained priest by The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, Bishop of Woolwich at The Good Shepherd, Lee. He was joined by The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, The Revd Canon Jeremy Clark-King, Canon Treasurer & Director for Clergy Formation and Initial Ministerial Education; and The Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley, Dean of Cultural Diversity, who preached.

Andrew (Andy) Blacknell
Herne Hill & Brixton Prison

Christopher (Chris) Henriette
The Good Shepherd with
St Peter, Lee

Ejovwokoghene (Ivan) Ibuno
St Phillip and St Mark, Camberwell

Dominic (Dom) Toms
St James, Kidbrooke

Peter Welby
St Mary Magdalen with St Olave,
St John and St Luke, Bermondsey



NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES

Architectural award win for St John's, Waterloo

© Eleanor Bental



St John's Waterloo has received an award from the Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA) London region in recognition for the church's building works, renovations and architecture.

Celebrating their success, the Revd Canon Giles Goddard, said, "This project took over twelve years from start to finish, and the results confirm that our vision for this restoration was more than justified. The commitment of Eric Parry Architects and

our design team was exceptional. We are very pleased that the renovated St John's Waterloo is already being enjoyed by the church, community, orchestras, businesses, visitors, and more. The project has exceeded our expectations in every way."

More information

Read more about the award at: bit.ly/45uJWwB



St Oswald's @ 90

St Oswald's Church was consecrated on 16 May 1934 and since then it has been a visible sign and centre of Christian prayer, worship and ministry on the corner of Green Lane, Norbury. To celebrate the church's 90th anniversary, the whole church community got involved to enjoy a week packed full of events.

Vee Benn, from the St Oswald's @ 90 planning group writes:

We held a thanksgiving service and evening prayer on Thursday 16 May to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the consecration day in 1934. This was followed by a wonderful celebration eucharist on the Feast of Pentecost, at which we were fortunate to have Bishop Rosemarie preside and preach.

During a week of events (12–19 May), many people came to see our Story of St Oswald's exhibition, memory wall and stunning floral displays in the church, and to tour our beautiful gardens – which were adorned with posters on the trees

designed by local children from Rainbows and Brownies. There were special displays and activities from groups in the hall including 'flexercise', taekwondo, a pop-in club for seniors and a well-attended women's fellowship talk from a local historian.

We topped off the week with a fantastic anniversary celebration and community afternoon tea, with special guests including the Civic Mayor of Croydon and former clergy of the church. There was live music from a brass band, wonderful singing, dance performances to Swan Lake and Abba's Waterloo and a well-enjoyed garden trail.

It has been a delight to welcome so many visitors and to hear stories of people's connections to the church – past and present, and a true blessing to be able to celebrate St Oswald's @ 90 with so many in our community. The exhibition and memory wall is still open for anyone who would like to visit.

More information at: stoswalds.org.uk



In memory of the Revd Stan Catton (1944–2024)

The Revd Canon Gary Jenkins, Dean of Estates Ministry writes:

Stan Catton was part of a pioneering group of three working class men from St James, Bermondsey who were selected, trained, and ordained to serve as local ordained ministers in the parish where they lived and where, in Stan's case, they had grown up and come to faith.

As one of the first ordained local ministers in the diocese, Stan threw himself into the life of St James, Bermondsey. He was well known in the community. He spoke the language of the people and he was a popular choice for weddings and the many large funerals that took place at St James. He combined his work in the parish with his work for Transport for London

where he was a coachmaker, repairing and maintaining London's buses, as well as serving as a shop steward.

It was not just buses Stan could mend; he could repair anything. He was an immensely practical man. He loved working with cars and bikes and renovated a near derelict house which became his family's home. He was constantly helping and assisting people in the community as part of his service to the parish. Stan was the kind of priest who could take your Nan's funeral and fix your broken door.



Stan Catton, who was part of a pioneering group from St James, Bermondsey.

As a young boy, he had joined the Cambridge University Mission boys' clubs in Bermondsey (now the Salmon Youth Centre) in the 1950s and there he gave his life to Christ. There he met his wife, Pat. He continued to serve as a leader in the clubs for many years, eventually becoming a trustee of the centre.

I first met Stan when as a young vicar I was teaching on the OLM (Ordained Local Ministry) course and he was one of the students. Later I became vicar of St James and St Anne's and I was thrilled to be reunited with Stan and have in him a trusted and valued colleague, a wonderful asset to our staff team.

He was renowned for his warmth, his kindness, his cheerfulness and his sense of humour. Stan reached out with love to the increasingly diverse community of Bermondsey and he was widely loved and respected by people of all backgrounds. His faith was strong and clear. In everything he did or said he commended the saviour he loved.

We thank God for every remembrance of him. He rests in peace and will rise in glory.

St Richard's, Ham, listed



One of the very few 1960s churches to be listed, the building has an unusual "hyperbolic paraboloid" roof. Having faced challenges in recent years with maintaining the architecture and carrying out building repairs, the church is fundraising to make it ready for the next generation of worship, work and witness.

Read the full story: bit.ly/3L2aJH6

‘Holy Spokes’ it’s a pedalling priest!

All age worship at All Saints, Merstham took a surprising twist when their Rector, the Revd Nigel Griffiths dropped in on his bike to lead the morning service.

Nigel and a support team of All Saints parishioners, ‘Holy Spokes’, were participating in the 2024 London to Brighton bike ride. When asked about his motivation for undertaking the challenge, Nigel said, “When I heard that the official course for the event goes directly through Merstham and past our front door I half-jokingly remarked that it would be amusing to do the ride, stop off and take the morning service and then get back on the bike all the way to Brighton. The next thing I knew it had pretty much been decided by everyone and there was no backing out.”

The all age service was set to a ‘bring your scooter or bike to church’ theme, packed with appropriate activities, amended song lyrics and even a reimagining of Psalm 23



The ‘Holy Spokes’ team who raised funds for their church and hall.

(He anoints my chain with oil, my gearing mechanism overflows). At the outset of the service a large welcoming party was at the roadside outside the church with banners and balloons to welcome the Holy Spokes team and usher them into church.

The iconic cycling event from Clapham Common to the seafront of Brighton was not just a personal challenge but also an opportunity to raise much needed funds for this much loved church and its hall in the heart of the Merstham community. So far the grand total raised by Holy Spokes stands at more than £4,000. Nigel added, “Like pretty much all churches these days our fabric is in need of some TLC. In our case we’ve had three leaks and a flood since September, our paving needs resetting and our seats are becoming threadbare.”

Find out more here: bit.ly/3VVmHIK

Lancelot Andrewes Medals awarded

St John the Divine, Kennington



Bett Llewelyn is presented with her Lancelot Andrewes Medal.

On Trinity Sunday, the Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley presented the Lancelot Andrewes Medal on behalf of Bishop Christopher to Bett Llewelyn, Parish Administrator at St John the Divine, Kennington. In a post on ‘X’, Bishop Christopher said that the award is “in recognition of tireless service of the Lord – in Bett’s case given with unfailing cheerfulness.”

St Michael, Barnes

At St Michael’s, on Trinity Sunday, the Revd Stephen Stavrou presented the Bishop’s Lancelot Andrewes Medal to Mother Judith Roberts for 32 years of godly service and zeal for the Gospel. It was a double celebration and day of thanksgiving as the congregation celebrated Judith’s 80th birthday and marked her 30th anniversary of priesthood.



The Revd Stephen Stavrou, Team Vicar at St Michael’s, presented Judith with her medal.

Celebrating church music

On 9 June, choral singers and musicians at St John the Evangelist, Caterham Valley celebrated ‘Music Sunday’, an initiative led by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM).

Enabling church music and musicians to flourish, Music Sunday is an opportunity for congregations to celebrate church music and the work of all church musicians.

During the service five musicians spoke about their favourite music. Paul Miller

played the trumpet in Jeremiah Clarke’s *Trumpet Voluntary* and the hymns were those suggested by RSCM. The descants were played on the trumpet and the choir sang Boyce’s *Alleluia* in three parts. The organ music was *Fanfare* by Kenneth Leighton and *Prelude on Rhosymedre* by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

John Woodhouse, Organist and choirmaster who has been playing for 55 years (eight of them at Caterham) said, “The service was enjoyed by our music-loving congregation.”



Left: Bermondsey Group Ministry welcome new Vicar. On 9 May, the Revd Katie Kelly, previously Assistant Curate of St Edward the Confessor, Nottingham was licensed as Vicar of the United Benefice of St James and St Anne, Bermondsey in the Bermondsey Group Ministry.



On 19 June, the Revd Jenny Dawkins was instituted and inducted by Bishop Martin as the new Vicar of Christ Church, Gipsy Hill.



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

St Augustine's College



Discipleship for a planet in crisis

Our climate is changing from storms and floods, forest fires and droughts, to record breaking heat waves, melting polar ice, and habitat destruction.

Rebecca Young, Head of Operations at St Augustine's College of Theology writes:

We hear little in mainstream media about the mounting passion among Christians to know what discipleship means when our planet is in such crisis. This is a hopeful passion, partly because Christians have greater resources of wisdom and more inspiring examples of practice that we quite realise. More importantly, it is hopeful because 'God so loved the world' does not mean just us – it means all of life and the complex systems on which all life depends. For many, the scope of discipleship has now grown wildly beyond what we have imagined in the past.



Training for ministry at St Augustine's.

We need to think through the implications of this and come up with ways of living, praying, serving, thinking, and speaking that match up to our time of crisis and of potential transformation. We cannot just pick our favourite 'causes' anymore. *I shall save the whales, while others deal with famines, and others protest corrupt government.* Climate and environmental destruction bring all causes together, particularly to the lives of people living in poverty who suffer the most immediate and grievous harms from a heating planet. They cannot find relief and hope, which means we cannot either, while we still benefit from the environmental destruction, injustice, and unfair trade that destroys them.

St Augustine's is a college of theology, so we want to help the Church, as best we can, discover God's call for a discipleship with all creation as our horizon. In September, we are launching a new Masters (MA) pathway with the very practical purpose of forming a body of people equipped to 'pitch in' educationally, spiritually, and practically, as churches find their own vision of discipleship for a planet in crisis. Our MA, then, is targeted toward living and serving, following Jesus at work, in the congregations, in dioceses, with environmental organisations, and alongside people who, Christian or not, want to find ways to meet the demands of our time as our planet heats up.

Students taking our MA pathway – called 'Theology for a Planet in Crisis' – will engage with climate destruction

and biodiversity loss from a variety of perspectives, including spirituality, biblical studies, theology, ecological sciences, ethics, economics, social action, and worship. They will develop their reflective and practical skills in placements with both churches and environmentally – concerned organisations. They will also write a dissertation inspired by some aspect of their pathway. Above all, this MA invites students to make a long-term personal commitment, to live, work, and to model a discipleship that, through God's grace, rises to the level of our critical times. We are especially grateful to The Revd Giles Goddard and the team at St John, Waterloo, where classes for this MA will be taught, as well as begin to enlarge the scope of our involvement to include events and opportunities beyond the MA itself.

Bishop Martin Gainsborough – who holds the environmental brief for the diocese – has recently accepted the position of St Augustine's Chair of Trustees. He writes in encouragement of the program: "I think St Augustine's decision to launch an environmental MA is really exciting as well as coming at a key moment. This is a very challenging time for humanity: we are living outside of nature's limits and this is not sustainable. As a species, though, we are still resisting the kind of radical changes that we need to make in this generation, for the sake of generations to come. I think this is the issue of our time. The Church has a vision of what it is to be human, and what the good life looks like and doesn't



"Climate and environmental destruction bring all causes together, particularly to the lives of people living in poverty who suffer the most immediate and grievous harms from a heating planet."

look like. At the centre of that life today is learning how to live more gently on God's good earth. This MA is badly needed, and there's an appetite. People want to think these things through, want to see that we are beginning to make changes that will make the world a habitable place for generations to come. This is vitally important for anyone, lay and ordained, who hopes to influence their church community or exercise ministry in the direction of the changes we need to see."

"The staff are always on hand for help; you can go to any one of them with an issue. They will consistently go the extra mile to offer personalised support. It's a family here." – Beverley, Student at St Augustine's College of Theology.

"...ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you" Job 12:8

Course details

Website: bit.ly/4cFuqQK

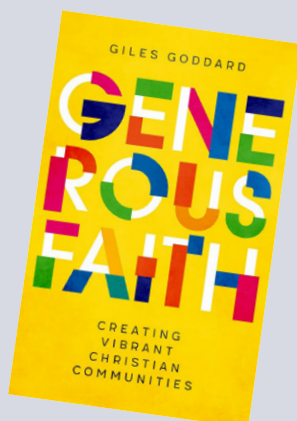
office@staugustinescollege.ac.uk

Generous Faith – a book by the Revd Giles Goddard

The Revd Giles Goddard has released his second book *Generous Faith*. It tells the story of St John, Waterloo, and Giles' spiritual journey as he reflects on 30 years of trying to make the church more inclusive.

Bishop Rosemarie said, "The reader is drawn into the warp and weft of life's tapestry, the weaving together the threads of loss, loneliness, disenchantment, dislocation, flaws, failures, self-loathing, deepening self-love, and sexual and religious awareness and awakening. Despite the fragility displayed in the text, it radiates with acceptance, resilience and hope. It is a deeply honest book, beautifully written."

More information can be found here: bit.ly/3Vqy6Ab



Give to Go Green

Last call for grant applications

The Diocese of Southwark has been successful in becoming one of only seven dioceses nationally to be selected for the Church of England Carbon Net Zero Programme's Give To Go Green grant funding opportunity.

In the words of Bishop Martin: "Give To Go Green is a great initiative to help accelerate our progress towards the net zero target. I hope our churches will seize this opportunity to fund their net zero projects through community funding matched by the Church of England".

There is still time to submit your funding application. Apply at: bit.ly/3xAmgu2 by 5pm on Sunday 28 July.

The team at Trinity House, which includes Net Zero Programme Management, Giving, DAC and Church Buildings are available to provide any support you need to apply.

Contact Jonathan Walter, Net Zero Programme Manager, for more information: Jonathan.Walter@southwark.anglican.org



IN FOCUS...
Generosity Week

Living Generously

Gemma Curran, Generous Giving and Funding Advisor writes:

Join us in celebrating Generosity Week – which is marked by the Church of England from Sunday 29 September to Sunday 6 October 2024 – coinciding with Harvest. It provides a two-Sunday ‘bookend’ to focus on and celebrate *Living Generously*.

It is an easy opportunity to give thanks for all that comes from our loving God, for people’s contributions to our church life as well as reflecting on how we can live generously in our everyday lives.

Having recently joined the Giving Team, I am excited about our plans. As the Children’s Ministry Leader at St Michael and All Angels, Barnes and recently completing the diocese on *Aurora* training course, I was delighted to write some new resources focusing on generosity and gratitude to use with our children

and young people (CYP), at home and in church. The resources provide an opportunity to prompt conversations about living generously across generations, from sermons to the family dinner table. You can download our CYP challenge at: bit.ly/3zjt1Be

The Lectionary for these weeks lends itself to encouraging and celebrating giving in our world today – our attention and time being key challenges. Help yourself to sample sermons, daily videos and bible studies, ideas to involve the community and more!

“...give thanks for all that comes from our loving God.”

Keep checking the giving section on the diocesan website as we update the resources over July and please remember, the that Giving team are here to support you – Gemma at: Gemma.Curran@southwark.anglican.org



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



GENEROSITY WEEK 2024

SUN 29 SEPTEMBER -
SUN 6 OCTOBER



The Bishop’s Certificate: Seeking to grow your faith

Over three weekends in June, Bishop’s Certificate participants gathered at Wychcroft, the Southwark Diocesan retreat house near Godstone in Surrey, for a residential to round off ten months of learning and growing in the faith.

Attendees enjoyed time for group discussion and Bible study, worship, individual prayer, meals together, and time to explore the splendid countryside around Wychcroft. They will meet again in September to celebrate their achievements in a joyful service at Southwark Cathedral.

The Bishop’s Certificate is a ten-month course in Christian discipleship, exploring the Bible, what it means to be Anglican, Christian beliefs, living out the Christian faith in daily life, and placing your life in God’s hands. Some groups meet in-person at Trinity House, and others online via Zoom.

A wide variety of people of every age and background across the diocese take part in the Bishop’s Certificate. Some do it out of an interest in learning and deepening their walk with Christ. Some

are training to be Lay Ministers.

Some are discerning a vocation to ordained ministry.

No matter what their reason for undertaking the Bishop’s Certificate, everyone who joins becomes part of a community of kind and supportive fellow Christians who want to love and serve the Lord.

When asked what the best part of the course has been, one of this year’s participants said, “Being taken to parts of the Bible I hadn’t looked at in a while, learning lots of new things about church, Christian history and the Anglican church”. Others commented on the high quality of the teaching, the supportive community amongst their fellow participants, and the chance to ask questions about the Christian faith in a non-judgemental environment.



Bishop’s Certificate participants gathered at Wychcroft retreat house.

Further details

To sign up for the 2024/25 Bishop’s Certificate email: bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org
Website: bit.ly/4cklG2U





IN FOCUS...

Southwark Vision

Deepening our discipleship

In our series unpacking the priorities of the Southwark Vision, Wendy Robins writes...

Jesus commissioned his followers to 'make disciples of all nations' and to teach the faith (Matthew 28:19-20). Equipping people for life-long Christian discipleship and mission – part of our Southwark Vision for 2024-2035 – means enabling people to have confidence in what they believe, confidence in talking about what they believe, and confidence in living out their beliefs throughout each week. Our goal is to form engaged, prayerful, and informed Christians who are rooted in Christ and able to share their faith in a variety of contexts.

One way to foster that confidence is to teach the faith well. A diversity of people from parishes across the Diocese have taken our Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship – a 10-month course covering the Bible, church history, what it means to be an Anglican, and living day-to-day as a disciple of Christ – which participants

have called 'life-changing'. Whether undertaking the Bishop's Certificate for personal interest or as part of training for ministry, participants have come away with new friends, new learning, and a new ability to share their faith with others in their homes, work, neighbourhoods and social lives.

We will keep working to reach people in all our parishes to equip them to deepen their walk with Christ, both through the Bishop's Certificate and through our wide variety of other courses and workshops. Further increasing the diversity of topics and voices represented is important in equipping people for discipleship and mission in communities across the Diocese.

Over the next few years, we will also work to develop a variety of digital strategies – including online resources for encouraging generous giving, maintaining our church buildings and using them for mission, deepening faith, and forming new Christian disciples – for parishes to use in mission.



Our vision is to be 'Christ centred, outward focused', and this applies just as much to us as individual disciples as it does collectively to us as a Diocese. Helping people to deepen their walk with Christ and giving them the confidence to turn outwards to proclaim the Gospel is vital as we seek to share God's love and serve our communities through our Southwark Vision.

The Revd Canon Wendy Robins is Director of Discipleship, Ministry, and Continuing Ministerial Education for the Diocese of Southwark.

Details of Southwark Vision and the core document can be downloaded at: southwark.anglican.org/southwark-vision



LET US PRAY...

JULY/AUGUST

The Venerable John Kiddle
Archdeacon of Wandsworth

Sunlight in the leaves

For many, the summer months bring some welcome space and an opportunity, perhaps, to be away. It's a happy gift to embrace a different daily rhythm or to breathe the air and see the beauty of a new place.

A few days ago, walking in the early morning in the garden of a conference centre away from home, I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the slanting sunlight dancing through the leaves of the ancient trees that framed the path that lay ahead of me.

In that moment my soul lifted and my heart stilled. I felt quietened and

lightened, and in a deep sense of connection, I was drawn to God in prayer.

The bible talks about the beauty of the world as a revelation, an unveiling, of the glory of God. Those glimpses of glory are God given doors to prayer. Prayer that begins in thanks and wonder. Prayer that leads us out from ourselves and our own inward-looking smallness, to a place that is bigger and more generous and more joyful.

What opportunities might you have, in these summer months, to be surprised by beauty or lifted by wonder? And how might those moments become for you God given openings to prayer?



The beauty of the world is all around us. But it is too easy, in busyness or familiarity, to miss it. Where might you, this summer, escape the rush and slow down? Where might you see something different? For even in familiar surroundings, glimpses of glory abound.

And as God's glory lifts our hearts, prayer begins naturally in thanksgiving. Gratitude to God for the gift of creation and our place within it, gratitude for life and breath, for all that sustains us and this wonderful world.

And as God's glory opens our eyes, prayer leads us not inwards but outwards, letting go of the small things that grip our hearts so tightly. Prayer leads us into a sense of connection, not just with God but with the world and with others. Prayer leads us into reconciliation, into justice, into service and kindness. Prayer leads us to act, to give, to live.

Loving God

Surprise us with glory

Still us with wonder

Open our eyes and enlarge our hearts

*May our love for you be joyful
our love for others be generous
and may our lives,
messy as they are,
be glimpses of your glory today.*

Amen.

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for SEPTEMBER ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 9 AUGUST**

July

SATURDAY 20 JULY

* **BATTERSEA** – *God Loves Battersea*: St Peter's Church, Battersea will collaborate with eight other local Christian churches. A family fun day with the theme of 'HOPE'. with food, crafts, music and entertainment. 12–4pm at York Gardens Library and park, SW11 2UG. Details: Emma@stpetersbattersea.org.uk

SATURDAY 20 JULY

* **WALLINGTON** – Cream tea to raise funds for Christian Aid. Raffle, bookstall and glee madrigal group. 2.30–5pm, at St Michael and All Angels, Milton Road, Wallington SM6 9RP. £5 adults, £2.50 children under 12. Tickets at: bit.ly/4bYmY2W

20 & 21 JULY

* **GATTON PARK** – Open-air theatre: 'Setareh – A Journey To Remember'. Come... walk with us, with PATH Gospel Choir. 7.30pm at the open air promenade theatre, Gatton Park, Reigate. Tickets: adult £15, child £8, family £40, from: bit.ly/45H02Do

26–28 JULY

* **BURSTOW** – Flower festival: celebrating an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund to re-shingle the spire. Refreshments, bells, singing group. St Bartholomew's Church RH6 9RG (near Horley). Fri–Sat 10am–6pm, Sunday 10am–4pm (evensong follows). Details: lambchopone@aol.com

August

SATURDAY 10 AUGUST

🎵 **CATFORD** – Choral-orchestral gala concert: works and anthems sung by the choir of St John, Catford with orchestra; and Beethoven's Egmont Overture and Chopin's Second Piano Concerto played by international prize winning concert pianist, Ralitsa Petrova. 6pm at St John's Church, Catford SE6 2RP. Tickets £15 (children free), on the door or book with: music.stjohnscatford@gmail.com

SATURDAY 31 AUGUST

* **SOUTHWARK** – Multicultural Festival. Join us for a day of vibrant celebration, where the rich tapestry of global cultures comes to life through an array of exciting activities and experiences: diverse gastronomy, workshops, dance performances, live music; small business opportunities. 11am–6pm at St Matthew's Church, Meadow Row SE1 6RG. Free.

🎵 **Concerts at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood**

COFFEE CONCERTS: 11.30am – 12.30pm (coffee & cake 11am)

Saturday 7 Sept: Triptych Singers
Saturday 5 October: Riverside Winds

ORGAN CONCERTS: 7.30pm

Thursday 22 August: Florence Rousseau – Kergonan Abbey, France

Venue: St John the Evangelist, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX
Admission FREE, retiring collection.
Details at: sjun.org.uk

Caring for creation

Share with us. How does your parish care for God's creation?

We want to share and celebrate stories of hope for creation from across our parishes, no matter how big or small. By learning from each other, we can all do more to increase biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprint and steward the green spaces in our diocese in a way that honours God and nourishes His kingdom.

Whether you're in the leafy countryside or the inner city, please share with us what your church is doing to make an impact. Please send your stories to us by Wednesday 7 August to: bridge@southwark.anglican.org



Chives growing in the community garden at St Thomas, Telford Park.

September

14 SEPTEMBER

* **SURREY** – Surrey Churches Preservation Trust 'Ride & Stride'. Enjoy a scenic bike ride or walk through Surrey's beautiful countryside, visiting historic churches along the way. Host an event to gather community support and contribute to the cause. The event can be any date you choose up to the end of September. Information, routes & maps at: bit.ly/4cBIGLC

October

5 OCTOBER

* **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – Black History Month thanksgiving eucharist. Join us for a day of fellowship, learning and celebration, exploring this year's theme 'music at the heart of change'. In partnership with the Diocesan Board of Education. 10.30am–1.30pm. Free. Details: southwark.anglican.org/bhm

November

9 NOVEMBER

* **SAVE THE DATE** – Diocese of Southwark Children and young people conference. Growing younger together, how small changes create big impact. Venue TBC. Details to follow soon.

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Ants in the Aisles,
Squirrels in the Sanctuary,
Rats in the Rectory,
Cockroaches in the Crypt

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This newspaper is printed with premier paper and the diocese is part of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and a Carbon Capture customer. This means that we are part of the Woodland Trust's Woodland Carbon scheme, a scheme that aims to mitigate the CO2 emissions generated by the production, storage and distribution of the paper purchased. For every pack of the paper sold, 5p of the wholesale price goes directly to the Trust. Of this, 2p goes towards Woodland Carbon and 3p to their other work, such as the protection and restoration of ancient woodland.

Email your upcoming events to
bridge@southwark.anglican.org

Music at the heart of change

*My tongue shall sing of your word, for
all your commandments are righteous.*

Taken from Psalm 119, v172

The Diocese of Southwark invites you to join the 17th annual Black History Month Thanksgiving Eucharist, in partnership with the Diocesan Board of Education. Join us for a day of fellowship, learning and celebration, exploring this year's theme 'music at the heart of change'.

A panel discussion will follow the service featuring The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and special guests.

At Southwark Cathedral
Saturday 5 October
10.30am–1.30pm

Find out more:
southwark.anglican.org/bhm



The Diocese of
Southwark

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

Black History Month