

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Christ
Centred
Outward
Focused

Vol.29 No.5
June 2024

Raising funds

And enjoying
the challenge
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Making a difference

Celebrating our
parish volunteers
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Saying “thank you” to volunteers in your parish

This month, National Volunteers’ Week takes place from Monday 3 – Sunday 9 June 2024. As the nation celebrates 40 years of Volunteers’ Week, it’s a time to focus on inspiring more people in our communities to make a difference.

There are hundreds of volunteers in our diocese who selflessly give up their free time to go above and beyond to lead and serve in their church communities. In this edition we shine a light on just some of the many volunteers across Southwark.



Read more on pages 6 and 7. ►

A heart for Christian unity

On Sunday 5 May, Canon Michael Branch, Dean of St George’s Roman Catholic Cathedral in Southwark was installed as Honorary Ecumenical Canon by The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, at Southwark Cathedral. The institution and installation took place during a service of Choral Evensong at which the Dean of Southwark, The Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley, preached.

The title of Honorary Ecumenical Canon recognises and respects those who promote good relations between the churches and have served and contributed to the lives of their local communities as well as in national and international outreach.

Fr Michael was formed for the priesthood at Campion House, Osterley, and St John’s Seminary, Wonersh. He was ordained Priest on 31 May 1997, serving as Assistant Priest at St Joseph’s, Roehampton and St Saviour’s, Lewisham. In 2006 he became Parish Priest of St Patrick’s, Plumstead. He then spent nine years as Parish Priest at St Peter’s, Woolwich, before taking on his present position as Dean of St George’s Cathedral.

He has worked closely with Bishop Christopher on relationships between the two cathedrals and dioceses and they both helped to lead an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2023.

Bishop Christopher said: “I am glad to welcome the Dean of St George’s Cathedral to this appointment as an Ecumenical Canon. I value his friendship and know Fr Michael has a heart for the unity of Christian people. We will work together to deepen the cooperation and friendship on which good ecumenical

relations need to be built supported by prayer.”

In an era of change where division and differences are often emphasised, we at St George’s Cathedral are unreservedly dedicated to working for Christian Unity to highlight our shared mission with Southwark Cathedral in proclaiming in word and action that God is love and the dignity of all human life.

Fr Michael said: “It is a tremendous honour to be appointed an Ecumenical Canon at Southwark Cathedral by

Bishop Christopher. The two Southwark Cathedrals have maintained a close friendship and collaboration working for the common good for many years, which I am confident will continue to be strengthened and deepened in our shared love for Christ. In an era of change where division and differences are often emphasised, we at St George’s Cathedral are unreservedly dedicated to working for Christian unity to highlight our shared mission with Southwark Cathedral in proclaiming in word and action that God is love and the dignity of all human life. Pope Francis stated, ‘When Christians serve God and their neighbours, they also grow in understanding of one another. Our Lord Jesus calls us to love one another as He loves us, which means we must seek areas of unity to share the beauty of Christ with the world.’

During his sermon, Dean Mark said: “Michael, welcome to the family here. I know you will be a blessing to us and we hope that we will help uphold you as we pray for you and celebrate your ministry in this wonderful part of London. God bless us in this journey of faith, together in a parched and searching society, and, in the words of St Oscar Romero, a saint dear to St George’s and to us, ‘Let us never tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world’”.



L-R: Fr Michael with Bishop Christopher and Mark Oakley.

A view from The BRIDGE



Our theme this edition is 'thank you' – recognising the huge generosity and gifts of God's people, as well as all their hard work.

As I write, exam season is well and truly underway in schools and colleges across our diocese, with young people seeking the recognition and results they deserve for their studies over the last few months and years. Diligent (and not so diligent) students will be sitting in silent exam halls, armed with sharpened pencils, staring into space or scribbling furiously against the clock, trying to demonstrate all they've learned on a subject in a mere two hours.

Anxious parents will be clockwatching, too, with every fixture of the exam schedule etched fiercely onto their brains. Will they remember what they revised? Will they do their best? Will the stress take over – or the adrenaline kick in, just as they need it? Will they be okay?

My own son, who is in his final year at primary school, did his SATs this week. While those exams are designed to test the school rather than the children, a number of kids have been feeling the pressure, with some made sick by the stress of knowing that their learning would be under the microscope. As I tucked him into bed on the last night of the exams, I said how proud we are of him, no matter what the outcome will be. "Do I get donuts now?" he replied, ever looking for the bonus.

"You get my appreciation," I said. "In the form of donuts?"

This world is always seeking to tell us – and our children – what our value is. We should use a particular beauty brand 'because we're worth it'. Our social media offer a feast of filtered images and carefully curated lives, designed to make us green enough with envy that we reach for the credit card, so that we might be 'like them'. Our qualifications and careers are brandished as badges of honour as if they, too, demonstrate our significance. They give us something to point to – a sign that says: 'I matter.'

As Christians, I believe we're called to offer a truer story to our children and ourselves – an alternative banner that hangs over every adult and child, every dwelling and resting place. One that reads: 'Precious child of God. Perfectly and unconditionally loved.' This is the recognition they deserve.

Whatever the results days bring, let's give thanks for and celebrate each young person. Let's pray they know that their worth could never be determined by an exam board or a score on a page. May their efforts be rewarded with whatever they need to pursue their skills and interests to the next level (as well as, maybe, a jam donut) – without them needing to believe the lie that this reflects their value. And may the knowledge of God's unconditional and unsurpassable love be their bedrock and security – and ours, too.

Anna Drew



NEWS IN BRIEF

Anglican and Eastern Churches Association pilgrimage

Bishop Christopher recently joined the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association on a pilgrimage to Kerala and South India (22 April – 4 May).



It was led by his Grace, Abraham Mor Stephanos Metropolitan of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in the UK. The pilgrimage was an opportunity to discover the rich heritage and living faith of the Christians of South India, both of the Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic traditions. The group explored the footsteps of St Thomas, from Chennai (Madras), to Kerala, pictured here at the headquarters of the Marthoma Syrian Church, India.

Parish Support Fund (PSF)

Thank you for your commitment to the PSF. Each year parishes are invited to make a pledge to the PSF which is realistic, challenging and generous. These pledges fund our shared mission in each community in every part of the diocese. On the back page of this edition of *The Bridge*, you will find a poster which celebrates the impact of your generosity and God's blessing, to be displayed in your church. Digital PSF materials for 2025 will also be available at the end of June. Please share these letters, stories and videos with your PCC and congregation. Feel free to link to these materials on your parish website. New for this year – Q&A sessions hosted by the Archdeacons – for details see "What's On", page 11.

If you have any questions please contact Gabby Parikh, Director of Giving and Parish Funding: gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org or your Archdeacon.

Cricket season begins with a win

Southwark and Friends Clergy Cricket Team have won their first game of the season against Kingston Grammar School. Made up of 11 players from various parts of the diocese, the team caught all their catches on what was a pleasant, sunny day by the Thames in Kingston. Well done to players Robert Stanier, Steve



Coulson, Gerry Daley, James Miller, David Loft, Joe Moffatt, James Hills, Charles Cotton, Ian Luke-Macaulay, and Rob Brown. The team have recently played a game at Charterhouse School and are hoping to have fixtures against London Diocese and the Refugee Cricket Network later in the season.

New players are always welcome – please contact Robert Stanier by email at: robertstanier@btinternet.com if you are interested.

New appointment

On Wednesday 24 April, The Revd Alison Way was licensed as Team Vicar of Warlingham with Chelsham and Farleigh Ministry by The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett and the Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate. Alison was also commissioned as Parish Ministry Development Office in the Croydon Episcopal Area.

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The JULY/AUGUST edition is due to be published online and in print on 15 July 2024. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **MONDAY 10 JUNE**.

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



IN FOCUS...

Diocese News

Fellowship, family and friendship

Thank you to our schools and parishes who have given generously to the Bishop's Lent Call 2024. Each year, funds are raised for local community projects in Southwark and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem, as well as calling parishes to a time of prayer and contemplation. Through your incredible generosity, this year's appeal has raised more than double last year's, totalling over £60K so far.

The Bishop's Lent Call 2024 focused on peace with justice in the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and resilience and wellbeing across our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

Giving his thanks for your support to this year's Lent Call project, Bishop Christopher said:

"I am particularly thankful for your generosity when so many are feeling the ongoing impact of the high cost of living. Our commitment to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe and the Holy Land continues throughout the year, and is a genuine partnership in which we encourage one another and learn from each other."

So many schools and parishes held special services, events and activities to fundraise. Church members at The Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches held their annual fundraising dog walk. Together in fellowship and friendship, the group – which included friends from the local community – set off to walk along Oak's



The Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches annual fundraising dog walk.

Park. Having completed the walk, they enjoyed refreshments at a local coffee shop where canine friends were treated to a 'doggy bag'.

The group raised a total of £120 which was part of the church family's donation of £3,400 to support this year's projects in Jerusalem and Zimbabwe.

At a thanksgiving service held on 30 April, our diocesan family of schools joined to

give offerings of money raised and pray for peace. The service included music from Saint Gabriel's College jazz band and trumpets played by children from Malden Parochial CofE Primary School. The bible reading was taken from Amos 5:24 and was read by a pupil from All Saints' CofE Primary School, Wimbledon. Prayers were written and led by students from St Mary Magdalene All Through School, Peninsula Campus. At the end of the service and during a moment of reflection a representative from each school lit a candle at the altar – together they prayed to let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream and for peace for all.

Although the Lenten season has ended, we hope that you will still feel able to continue to give generously throughout the year. Please share your stories and tell us how you raised funds in your church or school community. More information at: bit.ly/41Wtpj2



Lent Call thanksgiving service for our diocesan family of schools.

Refugee Week 2024

Many churches, schools and community groups will be celebrating Refugee Week, 17–23 June 2024.

The theme is *Our Home*; from the places we gather to share meals to our collective home, planet Earth: everyone is invited to celebrate what *Our Home* means to them at a personal, communal and global level.

Together, let's practise our solidarity and make *Our Home* a more welcoming, safe, and sustainable place for all.

Natalie Walters, Head of Justice, Peace and Integrity Creation (JPIC) said, "The churches and our diocese have been serving refugees for many years and continue to thrive as places of welcome. Many individuals have opened their homes for refugees and walked alongside them. We acknowledge the many challenges that refugees face.



"Refugees have enriched our community and churches through their resilience, sharing of arts, culture and food as well as adding to the diversity of our churches. Home is more than where we were born or having a physical place to live (which is important) – home is also belonging. The diocese continues to be a place called 'home' and we continue to support those God has placed in His creation."

To mark Refugee Week some churches plan to have special services or events sharing the diverse experiences of

refugees. If you are doing any activities for Refugee Week, please do let us know. If you would like further Refugee Week resources which include thoughts for holding events, 'simple acts' ideas and resources for groups and discussions, see box below.

The JPIC Team, with other partners, have put together a signposting booklet for those who have received their refugee status and those working with them in their churches. The refugee move process can be overwhelming and we hope this may provide some simple support – see our diocesan website refugee page.

Find out more

Refugee Week resources:
refugeeweek.org.uk

Diocesan website refugee page:
bit.ly/4bK1vuF



Silver Eco Award for Southwark Cathedral

Southwark Cathedral has been awarded the A Rocha UK Silver Eco-Church Award for its work on the environment and promoting sustainability.

The Silver award is part of the Eco-Church scheme created by A Rocha UK – a charity committed to mobilising Christians to care for nature.

The award comes after the excellent work of the team across various areas of Cathedral life. This includes reducing energy use, improving recycling, hosting events on the environment, encouraging small changes through their monthly Sustainable Steps feature and developing the Cathedral precinct to increase biodiversity, amongst many other green initiatives.

Work is already underway to achieve the Gold Award. Watch this space!

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES

Celebrating 200 years of steadfast witness

On Sunday 21 April, St George's Church, Camberwell celebrated 200 years of Christian witness and service. The Revd Sarah Dawson, Vicar writes:

The original Church, consecrated on St George's Day in 1824, was built to commemorate the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo – a



L-R: The Revd Anne Stevens, Assistant Director of Formation, The Ven Jonathan Sedgwick, Archdeacon of Southwark, and The Revd Marie John, retired SSM.

'Commissioners' Church' – and was the first of six churches designed by Francis Bedford (others in this diocese include St John's, Waterloo and St Luke, West Norwood). A school followed swiftly in 1826 and in 1885, Trinity College Cambridge set up a Mission Partnership with the church which still flourishes today.

The area around the Parish of St George has always been one of rapid change. Housing estates have come and gone and reappeared, the canal has been filled in and a beautiful park created. The one constant among this rapid change, is the church remaining a steadfast witness to Christ's saving grace – serving a community with great need.

We stand today on the shoulders of those who have served with dedication and faith. We continue to look to our calling to serve God afresh in this generation. We are so thankful that people of all ages call St George's their spiritual home and we pray for Christ to strengthen us as we journey together in the years ahead.

Pilgrim Churchwardens

Last month Churchwardens, Hazel Weaver and Sian McIntosh (pictured) at Christ The King, Salfords headed for Spain to walk from Camino to Santiago to raise money for their church community and Alzheimer's Research UK. Hazel and Sian write:

Having kept ourselves spiritually and physically nourished during the Covid lockdown; we undertook daily walks which took us virtually on the Camino to Santiago. Since then, we promised ourselves that we would do the walk for real – when time and circumstances allowed.



Starting from Sarria, we walked the 117.3km of the Camino. We travelled on a well sign-posted way, carrying our Camino credentials for stamping. We were not alone and the hundreds of fellow pilgrims of various ages, physical abilities and nationalities, were our companions. The terrain was challenging, and it seemed that after every welcoming café there was a steep climb! We were blessed by good weather and travelled through many small hamlets as we visited a myriad of churches, both simple and beautiful.

The fifth day saw us leave before daybreak to arrive at the Cathedral in Santiago before a downpour of rain. Like all our companions, we attended the Pilgrims mass, touched the statue of St James and visited his tomb in the crypt which was a moving end to our adventure.

We received a certificate of Camino and celebrated our achievement by raising a glass of vino tinto (red wine). We are so pleased to have raised a total of £2,600 for our church and Alzheimer's Research UK.

Pete runs 70K in May

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world. This year's appeal took place from May 12–18 and focused on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa.

With so many ways to make a difference over seven days, this year, there was a chance to take part in '70k in May'. One person who endured the physical challenge to go the extra mile for vulnerable communities around the world is fitness enthusiast Pete Moorey from Christ Church, Gipsy Hill.

Pete who is Head of Community and Church Fundraising and Engagement at Christian Aid said, "Every year, during Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world."

Ahead of his run from his home in Crystal Palace, Pete said, "I'm planning to run 70km throughout May, from either my home in south London or from our Christian Aid headquarters near Waterloo, to 21 of our supporting churches in the area.

"I'm hoping to get to St Mary's Battersea, St Leonard's Streatham, All Saints West Dulwich, Beckenham Baptist, Beckenham Citygate Church, St George's



Pete Moorey going the extra mile for vulnerable communities.

Beckenham, Beckenham Methodist, St Hilda's Crofton Park, St Saviour's Brockley Rise, the Grove Centre church in Sydenham, St John's Waterloo, Southwark Cathedral, St Anselm's in Kennington, Tooting Methodists, St Paul's Herne Hill, St John the Evangelist in East Dulwich, St Barnabas' in Dulwich, St James in Clapham, St Luke's Battersea, St George the Martyr in Shirley and finally to Shirley Methodist.

"I enjoy a challenge and this feels like a great way to show solidarity with people in some of the most vulnerable communities who often have to travel long distances for work, or clean water. I hope I'll meet some of our amazing supporters and hear about their Christian Aid Week fundraising as well."

For details on Christian Aid Week visit: christianaid.org.uk

To support Pete please visit his fundraising page: bit.ly/4dgAeBo

Ezekiel's Wheels Cycling Challenge

The Revd Mick Elfred was ordained Deacon at Lincoln Cathedral at Petertide in 1979 and then as Priest in 1980.

Before retirement, Mick was vicar of the Good Shepherd, Tadworth and encouraged several young congregation members to take up long-distance cycling. Together they undertook many adventures including riding from Land's End to John O'Groats three times and raising money for the church and several other charities.

In 2015, Mick was diagnosed with cancer and, with the dedication of the team at the Royal Marsden and the prayers of many friends and fellow Christians, he was given the all-clear at Christmas 2023.



Mick Elfred's long distance charity cycling challenge.

In celebration of his ordination anniversary and his cancer recovery, he is aiming to do 45 rides of 45 miles during his challenge 'Ezekiel's Wheels' over this anniversary period. He will be accompanied on some of those rides by his former cycling friends and family members, several of whom have had their lives touched by cancer.

The challenge is in aid of Cancer Research and you can sponsor Mick and the team using here: bit.ly/3wuu1Bc



Students of Christ’s School, Richmond, appreciative of the new minibus.

Christ’s School hits the road in new minibus

Christ’s School, Richmond is now the owner of a new 17 seater Citroen Flexlite minibus. The school, which is ranked within the top 2% for sport in the country, will benefit from the new minibus to transport students to venues and fixtures across the UK – enabling them to participate in more academic and extra-curricular opportunities in support of their learning.

Thanks to a generous donation from a family within the school community, the new minibus is ULEZ compliant and will help the school to continue on its eco journey, in caring for the environment and will keep running costs down.

Mrs Helen Dixon, Headteacher at Christ’s School said, “It is no secret that schools are facing huge funding challenges currently, so we appreciate that we are extremely lucky to have a wonderful, supportive community at Christ’s School. We are extremely grateful for this generous donation from one of our families which ensures that our fantastic extra-curricular programme can continue to flourish. Throughout the year we are also supported by the efforts of our wonderful Parent Staff Association, parents, staff and students at Christ’s School who raise funds to support a wide range of activities and initiatives for the benefit of our students.”

Farewell to Bishop Rob Gillion

The Rt Revd Bishop Rob Gillion, the first Honorary Assistant Bishop, Bishop for the Arts and Vicar of Christ Church, Streatham will retire on 9 June 2024.

Bishop Rob has had a very varied life and ministry. He was ordained deacon in 1983 and priested in July 1984 at Norwich Cathedral. He was appointed Vicar at Christ Church in September 2021 and is Trustee for Nine Elms Arts Ministry.

On Sunday 28 April, the congregation at Christ Church held a celebration service in recognition for over forty years of his ministry across the UK, Australia and Hong Kong.

Bishop Rob and his wife, Janine are the Founders of Intermission Youth – a charity

organisation set up at St. Saviour’s in 2001 to change the lives of young people through theatre. Both remain patrons.

Churchwardens, Denise Downie-Campbell and Tina-Marie Hennessy said, “In the four years that they have been at Christ Church they have made a significant impact on life here, particularly through his role as Honorary Assistant Bishop for the Arts, in developing the creative side of our church, and Janine has significantly impacted our children’s ministry.”

“They have greatly affected our sense of community and family at Christ Church, which has been a great honour and privilege to be a part of. They will be greatly missed by us all, but we wish them well in their new adventure together.”



In a post on ‘X’ the Revd Betsy Blatchley, Pioneer Minister in the Arts in Nine Elms said, “Joyous and tear-filled farewell service at Christchurch Streatham for @BpRobGillion – who has been an amazing Bishop for the Arts in @SouthwarkCofE and shall be hugely missed as he retires – not least as a wonderful trustee for Nine Elms Arts Ministry.”

Bishop Rob and Janine will move to Hertfordshire, where he will be Chaplain to Lord Salisbury at Hatfield House.

History and heritage: 150 years of Holy Trinity School, Forest Hill

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, Forest Hill celebrated 150 years during a service at Southwark Cathedral.

Warmly welcomed by the Revd Canon Kathryn Fleming and the Cathedral

team – the school community came together to give thanks with current and former students, teachers, and families in attendance. The service highlighted the significance of the school’s 150th anniversary by reflecting on the past, honouring the school’s tradition and

innovation – praying for the school to thrive for another 150 years and beyond.

Holy Trinity opened in 1874 to promote the religious education of the parish and neighbourhood and is one example of a late Victorian National School that has touched the lives of so many families.

Sarah Ambrose, Headteacher said, “It was the most incredible and momentous service. We felt so blessed and privileged to have been able to celebrate our very own special service at the iconic Cathedral. Our children did us so incredibly proud and their unwavering commitment brought the sunshine into the Cathedral. We heard fantastic singing and readings from children in Year 6. They also shared the most amazing memories of past pupils from 1947 onwards. Every child performed our new school hymn ‘In classrooms, corridors, playground and hall’ with such diligence and passion.

“We were blessed to have the service led so beautifully by the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon and Chair of the Southwark Diocese Board of Education. Thank you to Revd Ben of Holy Trinity Church, the Venerable Alastair Cutting, Archdeacon of Lewisham

and Greenwich, Sir Steve Bullock, Deputy Lieutenant for London Borough of Lewisham and Jaqueline Paschoud our Chair of Governors for their participation in our service.”

In a post on ‘X’ The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Chair of SDBE, said:

“A proud moment in the life of a wonderful school. Thank you Yr 6, all the students, the head and staff team and the Cathedral for a fabulous service.”

Roz Corder, Director of Southwark Diocesan Board of Education said, “To be part of such a wonderful celebration was such a privilege. The sense of belonging shared by the whole Holy Trinity school family was a joy to behold, with the church and school drawing together for a very special worship. I can imagine the new school hymn being sung by generations to come. I am delighted that former pupils of our diocesan schools are now teachers and leaders at the school; what great role models our leaders of tomorrow have.”





IN FOCUS... Volunteers' Week 2024

Inspiring more people to make a difference

*Volunteers carry out a variety of roles and responsibilities within their church communities. They are people of all ages, backgrounds and skill sets who contribute to the life of the Church. Across these pages, read about some of the voluntary services that people, lay and ordained do – sometimes behind the scenes. From helping to keep church doors open to maintaining the building, from spreading the Gospel to welcoming new worshippers and supporting vulnerable communities – we say **thank you** for all that they do.*

The Ascension, Blackheath Bridget Knapper



Bridget Knapper (pictured) is a volunteer with the Church of the Ascension in Lewisham.

Over the years, Bridget has been running ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes in the community centre on the Parkside Estate. The classes are open to anyone whose first language is not English. Taught by a professional teacher, the classes are supported by a team of volunteers. The classes offer crèche facilities and work on a drop-in basis. Bridget successfully rebuilt the classes after pausing during the Covid pandemic, and she has recently secured three years of funding from the City Bridge Foundation.

Talking about Bridget, the Revd Anne Bennett, Area Dean of Deptford said, "She gives her time selflessly, despite also having a busy professional life, and the classes are going from strength to strength."

St Alfege Church, Greenwich Heritage Ambassadors

St Alfege has a team of approximately 30 volunteers who keep the church open every day – they provide a warm welcome and helpful information to visitors.

It's a church with a thousand years of history – people visit from all over the world; to find silence or to pray, to discover their heritage and connections with the church, see its architecture and to find out about the history of the building.

In sharing their reasons why they give up their time to volunteer at St Alfege, the heritage ambassadors said:

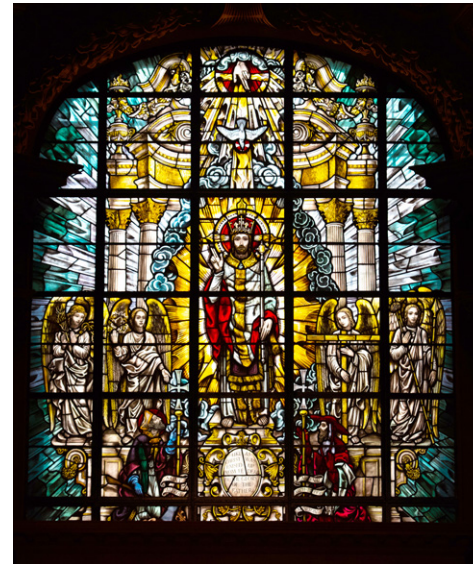
"Sitting in St Alfege Church, feeling the holy silence and the wonderful press of history" – *Eleanor*

"I love walking through the west doors and seeing the whole of the inside opening up towards the magnificent stained glass window above the altar and below it the place of St Alfege's martyrdom!" – *Ann*

"I love being close to the wood in the church, it seems to be both warm and cool and adds to the beautiful feeling of calm." – *Iris*

"I love meeting people in a peaceful place" – *John*

Anne Burton, Volunteer Development Manager said, "We are very proud here at St Alfege to be able to welcome visitors to our glorious church. We could not do this without our amazing volunteers. Thank you for keeping our church alive and welcoming."



St Andrew's, Coulsdon Stella Corney

St Andrew's Contact Group was set up in 1990 to provide a friendly space for people to meet, offering fun and fellowship for people who may otherwise feel isolated due to older age or issues of health. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers the group is still going strong.



Volunteers Suzy and Sue welcome a visitor

taking with her an order of service, Sunday's lectionary readings and collect. Jemima is also known to visit homeless people, sleeping rough on the streets in the local area. This year, Jemima offered the imposition of ashes during a visit on Ash Wednesday.

One of the volunteers involved in the contact group is Stella Corney (pictured above). Stella became treasurer in 2023 and provides an array of home baked cakes each month for guests to enjoy at the church's 'Pop in Teas'. At a recent Sunday service, Stella was thanked for her contribution to this important aspect of their outreach.

St John the Divine, Richmond The Revd Canon Jemima Prasadam MBE

The congregation at St John the Divine, Richmond would like to say thank you to the Revd Jemima Prasadam (pictured right). Having retired from her last parish in Birmingham, she relocated to Richmond.

Jemima has Permission to Officiate in Southwark and sometimes presides at several churches in Richmond, frequently in the Chapel of St Francis at the Alms Houses.

In church, Jemima is ready to jump in as a welcomer, reader or just about whatever is needed. Affectionately known as 'Auntie Jemima' from her time in Birmingham, throughout the week Jemima visits various shops and cafés in the town centre,



Extending Christian fellowship, Jemima now visits local businesses on the high street in Hounslow, meeting people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds.

In speaking about Jemima, Mary Ricketts, Churchwarden said, "She sets a wonderful example to all of us through her love for all people, her innate understanding of inclusivity, her humility, her immense kindness, willingness and energy and not least her work as a local evangelist."



at St Alfege.



“...Your efforts are truly invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference that will last a lifetime.”

**Holy Trinity with St Matthew, Southwark
AGAPE Clothing Bank volunteers**

Carolina Giraldo, Parish Administrator at Christ Church, wants to say a huge thank you to AGAPE Clothing Bank volunteers at St Matthew’s Church (pictured below).



Caroline said, “Thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of Spanish and Portuguese speaking families.

Your compassion and generosity shine brightly, illuminating the path to brighter futures for those in need. Your efforts are truly invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference that will last a lifetime.”

**Southwark Cathedral
Joshua Phung**

Joshua (pictured above right) has been a volunteer at Southwark Cathedral for 10 months. He started as a money counter in August 2023 helping to count, detail and log money from services and collections. More recently he has been volunteering as a finance assistant helping to keep track of supplier invoices.

Sharda Rozena, Volunteers Officer said, “A huge thank you to Joshua for his diligence, eye for detail and dedication to



the Cathedral’s finances. The department has attracted many aspiring financiers of the future, and we look forward to following Joshua’s achievements.”

**St Jame’s Church, Streatham
Oliver and Evie**

At St James Church, Streatham the congregation gives thanks for some of the young people who volunteer. To recognise their commitment and dedication to volunteering, achievement awards are presented to say ‘thank you’ for all that they do.



Last month, Oliver Nicholls (pictured above) received an award for his service on the sound team, especially in providing sound for a Gospel concert single-handedly.

Last year, Evie Neill was presented with a certificate for helping to make a difference by volunteering at the local ‘holiday at home’ summer club for over 55’s – run by four churches in Furzedown.

Volunteering in Southwark – Join the diocesan volunteers steering group and share your views.

Our parishes rely on volunteers to offer worship, keep buildings open and maintained, play a significant role in mission and outreach, and be part of how they are governed. Our churches could not do what they do without them. Recruiting and supporting volunteers, however, is not always easy.

The Revd Liz Newman, Rector, Benefice of Charlton and The Revd Nicholas Peacock, Team Rector, Cheam Team Ministry are starting a project to understand the picture of volunteering across our diocese. Where is volunteering working well in our churches and what might we learn from this? Where is volunteering more of a struggle and what might we be able to do about it?

If you are interested in being part of a small steering group for this project, please contact Liz and Nick by email at: southwarkvolunteerproject@gmail.com, letting them know why you are interested and how you can help.

Recognition for community service at St Paul, Brixton

St Paul’s Church has been awarded a **Certificate of Recognition**. The certificate was presented by the **Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr Sarbaz Barzniji to acknowledge the church’s outstanding contributions to the community.**



L–R: The Venerable Simon Gates, Archdeacon of Lambeth; Cllr Sarbaz Barzniji, Mayor of Lambeth; Angela McFarlane; and The Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley.

Over the years, St Paul’s Church has been a cornerstone of support and service within the community – dedicating efforts to operating a food bank and facilitating meetings for community causes.

The foodbank has provided invaluable assistance to individuals and families facing hardship, ensuring that no-one goes hungry. This has made a profound difference in the lives of local people – offering not only nourishment for the body but also hope and compassion for the soul.

Members of the church have played a pivotal role in facilitating community events, working closely with local authorities and event organisers to provide a safe and vibrant space for community meetings, gatherings and celebrations.

St Paul’s is currently in Interregnum. Angela McFarlane, Church and Hall Administrator said:

“This certificate serves as a testament to the tireless efforts and selfless dedication of the members of St Paul’s Church. Everyone’s commitment to serving others and making a positive impact in the community exemplifies the true spirit of compassion and dedication.”



IN FOCUS...

Modern-day slavery

Calling out modern slavery right here, right now

There are thousands of victims of modern slavery in the UK. Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. Our diocese is committed to raising awareness of the existence of modern slavery in our communities and helping people to find ways of responding. It is estimated that there are over 120,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK today and with a large percentage of those in London and the south-east, it is fair to assume that there will be victims in every parish in our diocese.



Chris Elliott receives his award from Surrey Police Chief Constable, Tim De Meyer.

Chris Elliott currently jointly chairs Southwark Against Modern Slavery (SAMS) with Jennifer Hyde. SAMS aims to join churches and others across our diocese in raising awareness of the signs of Modern Slavery and County Lines drug dealing and how to report concerns.

In recognition of his work in social justice, particularly on anti-slavery, Chris was recently awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation from Surrey Police. In this edition, we spoke to Chris about his commitment to social justice, raising awareness about modern slavery in East Surrey – working in partnership with the Church and community organisations.

Chris was presented with his award on Wednesday 15 May at Loseley House in Guildford. Surrey and Sussex Police Force and several members of the public

received commendations for acts of bravery, service and going over and above in Surrey. Chris attended with colleague Jennifer Hyde and Natalie Walters, Head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Chris said, "I feel very pleased and very honoured to have an award and it's nice that it is coming from somewhere outside the Church – from Surrey Police. They know that I am very much involved in the church. It's a great recognition of the cause of anti-slavery and that it's on their agenda. It's not just an award for me, there are a lot of people who work with me on anti-slavery."

Chris talked about slavery sliding down the political agenda and that the SAMS work with the police and Crimestoppers is key. This started the focus five years ago, Chris said, "I was looking at what we do

as a diocese and there was a huge amount being done – the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, as head of JPIC at the time was doing a lot of work and the focus was very much on London. I saw that we needed to concentrate on raising awareness on modern slavery outside of London – in East Surrey, as it was a very different demographic. That's how we started but now we reach out across the whole diocese. We talk to churches; we talk to Deaneries and outside organisations. We talk to Rotary Clubs and parts of our local authority and particularly the foodbanks. The police appreciate the work we are all doing to raise awareness of modern slavery, because it's something they don't have the time to do, they don't have the manpower."

Talking about the increasing rate of victims, Chris said, "Most people are surprised about the extent of it. We always say there will be victims of slavery in every parish in the diocese. Over 100,000 victims a year and hundreds in the southeast, so the strapline – *right here, right now* is very true."

Lots of work is going into making church communities and organisations more aware of modern-day slavery. We asked what people can do. Chris said, "What we can all do is to learn more, to become more aware. We have a course that was designed by *The Clewer Initiative* – the course is called *Hidden Voices* and it runs over four sessions. The idea is that people finish the course with a plan as to what they might be able to do in their area. We have run it in several places locally, in Redhill, Reigate, Merstham, Caterham and Oxted. Each area is different and the people that live there know what works for each area. We invite people who complete the course back to discuss the different ways they are raising awareness in their area. We need people to know how to report what they see. Tell the police, tell Crimestoppers and call the helpline."

Chris is also Chair of Trustees for Welcare – a family support charity working with children and families in South London and East Surrey. In other areas of Church life, He has been Church Warden of St John the Evangelist Redhill and was also Chair

of their New Building Committee through the time of gaining planning permission, tender and the start of construction. He has also been a Trustee of Southwark Diocese, Lay Chair of Reigate Deanery and continues to be a member of Diocesan and Deanery Synod.

Whether you are employing someone through an agency, getting work done on your home or church or buying a service – if the price seems too good to be true it probably is and someone may be suffering.

What do I do if I suspect something?

If there is an emergency and someone is in immediate danger, don't hesitate call 999.

Call CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111.

If you need advice or support on a modern slavery issue then you can call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700. It operates 24 hour a day, 365 days a year.

If your church is affected in any way notify your Parish Safeguarding Officer.

If you would like to report any non-emergency suspicious activity in your local area then you can call your local police on 101 or go to your local police station.

Find out more

About modern slavery:
bit.ly/4bmbM0c

The Bridge is your newspaper

Each edition is packed full of stories and features from across the diocese, which we hope you enjoy and will be encouraged by. Please feel free to share this newspaper with your friends, family and wider community. You can re-use individual stories for your parish magazines, newsletters and pew sheets (crediting *The Bridge*).

Printed copies are distributed direct to each parish and an online version can be read or download at: southwark.anglican.org/thebridge

Thank you to all who shared stories – do keep them coming! Send your stories, hires pics and listings to Vernia at: bridge@southwark.anglican.org.

To advertise in *The Bridge* please email Joseph: Joseph.Callanan@southwark.anglican.org





Fighting poverty in Southwark since 1989

In 1989, Pecan was created by six churches gathering to discuss social action in the area due to unrest caused mainly by poverty. Pecan began by tackling unemployment. It continues to fight poverty and its causes in Southwark communities, supporting people with kindness, belief and hope.

Pecan’s current projects are Southwark Foodbank, Peckham Pantry, Women’s Service, Employment Support, and community space Together.

In its 35th year, Pecan wants to share more about the work it does now, its impact and part within the community. Over this time, the organisation has continued to adapt its services to support the community. Each week, foodbank sessions see between 70–120

people. Data taken from the Peckham Report suggests that since January 2024, Pecan has supplied food parcels to 1,000 households – equivalent to 3,000 people. The Peckham Pantry project is a member-based social supermarket, that continues to grow and it is hoped that Pecan will continue to attract more shoppers looking for budget-friendly, healthy alternatives in their regular shop.



Top: Peckham Pantry, a member-based social supermarket. Middle: Pecan women’s drop-in group. Left: A helper at Southwark Foodbank.

Pecan’s Women Service supports women from all backgrounds, including those affected by the criminal justice system. It also offers advocacy, drop-ins, and a safe space. Its newest project, *Together Community Space* is a social safe space that operates as a café and warm space every Monday and Tuesday, from 1–3pm. This community venue offers free creative courses, workshops and awareness events throughout the year and space for meetings.

Employment Support is Pecan’s longest running project and continues to support community needs. Today, Employment Support collaborates with community organisations for training and placements, as well as running accredited courses.

Run by a team of staff and volunteers, Pecan recently welcomed its new CEO, Peter Edwards. Following his appointment, Peter said:

“I am looking forward to working with Pecan’s dedicated staff and volunteers, meeting clients and strengthening our relationships with partner churches and organisations. I also hope to draw on my experience in the voluntary and poverty alleviation sectors as Pecan continues its development.”

In 2015, Pecan was selected as a recipient of funding from The Bishop’s Lent Call.

During the season of Lent, Bishop Christopher called for people to give generously to support the community charity through challenging times and help fight against poverty in Southwark. Find out more in this video that explores its work and former project, Ignition: bit.ly/4ahIL4I

More recently, Pecan joined the panel at a Together Southwark event – *Working Effectively with Volunteers in 2022* – to discuss challenges faced with recruiting volunteers to carry out activities around social action. You can read more about this here: bit.ly/4bF72ST

Find out more

Pecan.org.uk



IN FOCUS...
Southwark Vision

Youth and diversity

In our series unpacking the priorities of the Southwark Vision, Roxanne Eversley writes...

Our renewed Southwark Vision speaks of a deep commitment to becoming a younger and more diverse diocese – one that reflects more fully the vibrancy and gifts of the communities that we seek to serve.

This commitment reminds me of a vision offered by the prophet Isaiah: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them....” (11.6). Christians, of course, believe this prophecy points to a particular child – Christ – who is both at the centre of our lives and leads us ever onward to bless his world.

Isaiah’s is also a vision of a reordered creation in which carnivorous instincts are transformed and the most vulnerable humans in society, the children, are free to take charge. We have yet to see this story unfold in our society and our church – and as Dean of Cultural

Diversity, I believe that we can each play our part to hasten this future.

The glorious diversity of God’s kingdom comes to us in so many ways – through age, experience, background and culture – as well as through the gifts and talents we have to offer. Southwark Vision gives us an impetus to pursue all of these in our mission by putting children, young people and families instinctively at the heart of all ministry and mission. We will develop our engagement with children, families and young people across home, school and church life. We will invest in training that will disciple young people and prepare them for positions of leadership. We will prioritise mission and ministry in low income and estates communities, empowering God’s people in those places to bless the Church and their communities with their skills and vocations. We will seek to identify and address those things that discourage or disempower people of Global Majority Heritage from stepping forward for ministry and leadership. We will listen to and amplify our lay voices, encouraging them to engage with our range of training streams.



Isaiah’s prophecy – like Southwark Vision – is a call to action. We need diversity because we need one another.

Without every person, God’s kingdom is incomplete, unfulfilled.

So, let us commit to including and empowering the whole Body of Christ as we continue to embrace our youth

and diversity and allow it to shape our diocese.

Roxanne Eversley is Dean of Cultural Diversity 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...
JUNE

The Venerable John Kiddle
Archdeacon of Wandsworth



Thomas Ken’s evening hymn, addressed to God, is a prayer of trust, a request for forgiveness, seeking a true perspective on life and death. It is a simple, but profound, prayer for peace and rest. It is a prayer if prayed each night offers not just peaceful sleep but the possibility of a life lived fully, faithfully and beautifully.

Both hymns invite us, each day, each morning and each evening, to take time to pray; each morning to welcome the gift of life and to live it in trust in God and each night to return it to God in peace and thanks. They end with the doxology he composed and that we sing and pray often. Maybe, this month, we could make it our daily and continuing prayer.

the words, the depth and simplicity of spiritual insight, the humanity and love of his devotion. Why not make them your prayer – morning and evening?

He addresses the morning hymn not to God but to his soul, inviting his soul to wake, to rise joyfully, to redeem misspent moments, to live with a light that shines to others, and with the angels to sing high praise to God. If you were to compose an invitation to your own soul at the beginning of a day, what would it say?

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, angelic host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Awake my soul

On 8 June we celebrate the life, hymns and prayers of Thomas Ken.

Thomas Ken was born in 1637 and ordained priest in 1662. He served in the Diocese of Winchester before becoming and Chaplain to King Charles II and then Bishop of Bath and Wells. His integrity and beliefs brought him into difficulty with both King James II and William and Mary and 8 June is the date he was imprisoned by James II. He spent several years in quiet retirement and died in 1711.

Thomas Ken is best known through his hymns. Perhaps the two most familiar are those he wrote for morning and evening.

The first verses of each are:

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

and

Glory to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light;
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath thy own almighty wings.

They are beautiful hymns that draw us gently and deeply into a prayerful life of trust in, and dependence on, God and a daily joyful discipline of living for God and in God. The hymns are well worth looking up in a hymn book or on the internet. Reflect on the beauty of

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for JULY/AUGUST ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE**

June

MONDAY 3 JUNE

- ☞ **ONLINE** – Torch Trust: *Sight Loss Friendly Church Q&A*. Meet our expert panel from Torch Trust and ask your questions around welcoming and including blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of your church. 2–3pm. Free. Register at: bit.ly/49PVcVI

MONDAY 3 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK** – *Theology for a Planet in Crisis MA Pathway*. Join St Augustine's College of Theology for an open event and find out what theology study could look like for you. Meet tutors and sample a theology class alongside current students (see this video: bit.ly/4bqeXDA). Southwark campus: Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW at 6:30–9pm. Details/book: bit.ly/4busM41

FRIDAY 7 JUNE

- * **MALLING** – *Theology for a Planet in Crisis MA Pathway*. Join St Augustine's College of Theology for an open event and find out what theology study could look like for you. Meet tutors and sample a theology class alongside current students (see this video: bit.ly/4bqeXDA). Malling campus: Malling Abbey, 52 Swan Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6JX at 10:30–4pm. Details/book: bit.ly/4busM41

SATURDAY 8 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – Mothers' Union Festival Eucharist. 11.30am, with commissioning of the new MU Chaplain, the Revd Sandra Schloss. Free.

SUNDAY 9 JUNE

- * **WATERLOO** – Interfaith picnic for The Great Big Green Week. St John's Church, Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8TY. 1pm picnic and family friendly activities (bring and share a vegetarian or vegan dish and a blanket). Stalls, hubs and more. 2.30pm entertainment: poetry and music. 3.15pm Interfaith reflections and pledges. 3.30pm tea. Free. bit.ly/3UYdILX

THURSDAY 20 JUNE

- ♪ **UPPER NORWOOD** – Organ concert: James Gough, (Southwark Cathedral). 7.30pm at St John the Evangelist, Sylvan Rd, Upper Norwood,

🎵 Croydon Minster

40 minutes of music – lunchtime recitals, Fridays 1.10pm

7 June Mark Zang, Organ
14 June Croydon High School
21 June Teresa Ferreira Violist
28 June Barnaby Silverstone, Organ

Free but donations gratefully received. Details: croydonminster.org

SE19 2RX. Admission free, retiring collection. Details: sjun.org.uk/whats-on

SATURDAY 22 JUNE

- * **GREENWICH** – Windrush Day at the National Maritime Museum. A showcase of Caribbean culture – celebrate the legacy of the Windrush generation in the UK today. Join a programme of events and discover your Windrush connections through a growing series of free online stories and resources. Free. For more information visit: bit.ly/3QDwYGq

MONDAY 24 JUNE

- ☞ **ONLINE** – *Thinking about the Church of England and Britain's empire*. Canon Dan Inman, Precentor at Chichester Cathedral and author of a forthcoming book on the Church of England and empire. 7.30–8.30pm, Zoom, free. To book email: learning@southwark.anglican.org

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE

- * **PIMLICO** – Company of servers (Southwark and London Chapter) – Summer festival evensong and benediction, followed by refreshments. Guest preacher Bishop Martin Wharton. All servers across London and the South East welcome. 6.30pm at St Saviour's Church, St George's Square, Pimlico SW1V 3QW. Free.

SATURDAY 29 JUNE

- * **LAMBETH** – North Lambeth Parish fete. Enjoy an afternoon of live music, children's races, a dog show and so much more! 12.30–4.30pm in Lambeth Palace Gardens, Lambeth Palace Rd, London SE1 7JU. Entrance: £5 adult; £2 children; £10 family; £3 concessions.

SATURDAY 29 JUNE

- ♪ **NUTFIELD** – Organ recital by Malcolm Archer – Bach, Elgar, Franck, Vierne, and the premiere of Four Hymn Preludes by Malcolm Archer. 6.30pm at



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Church Mice...
Wasps in the West End,
Pigeons over the Pulpit,
Ants in the Aisles,
Squirrels in the Sanctuary,
Rats in the Rectory,
Cockroaches in the Crypt

26 June – 18 July

Parish Support Fund Archdeacons' Q&A sessions

Reigate:	Wednesday 26 June	Evening zoom (6pm)
Woolwich:	Monday 8 July	In person 3.30pm, Trinity House
Kingston:	Wednesday 10 July	Lunchtime zoom (12.30pm)
Woolwich:	Monday 15 July	Lunchtime zoom (12.30pm)
Kingston:	Tuesday 16 July	Evening zoom (7.30–8pm)
Croydon:	Thursday 18 July	Lunchtime zoom (12.30pm)

Details from: gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org

St Peter and St Paul, Nutfield, RH1 4JA. Admission: £15.00 (free for school-aged children). Tickets at the door. Details: bit.ly/4aHlOm0

SATURDAY 29 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK** – Synergy Network: 'Trauma and it's impact on young people'. An opportunity for young people to explore issues around street violence. 4–7pm at London City Mission, Nasmith House, 175 Tower Bridge Rd, London SE1 2AH. Free food.

July

SATURDAY 6 JULY

- ♪ **WIMBLEDON** – Wimbledon Chamber Choir concert: 'There is a Garden'. 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Church Path, SW19 3HJ. Tickets £12 at: bit.ly/3V5C018 or on the door. Details from Sue White 07748 714949.

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

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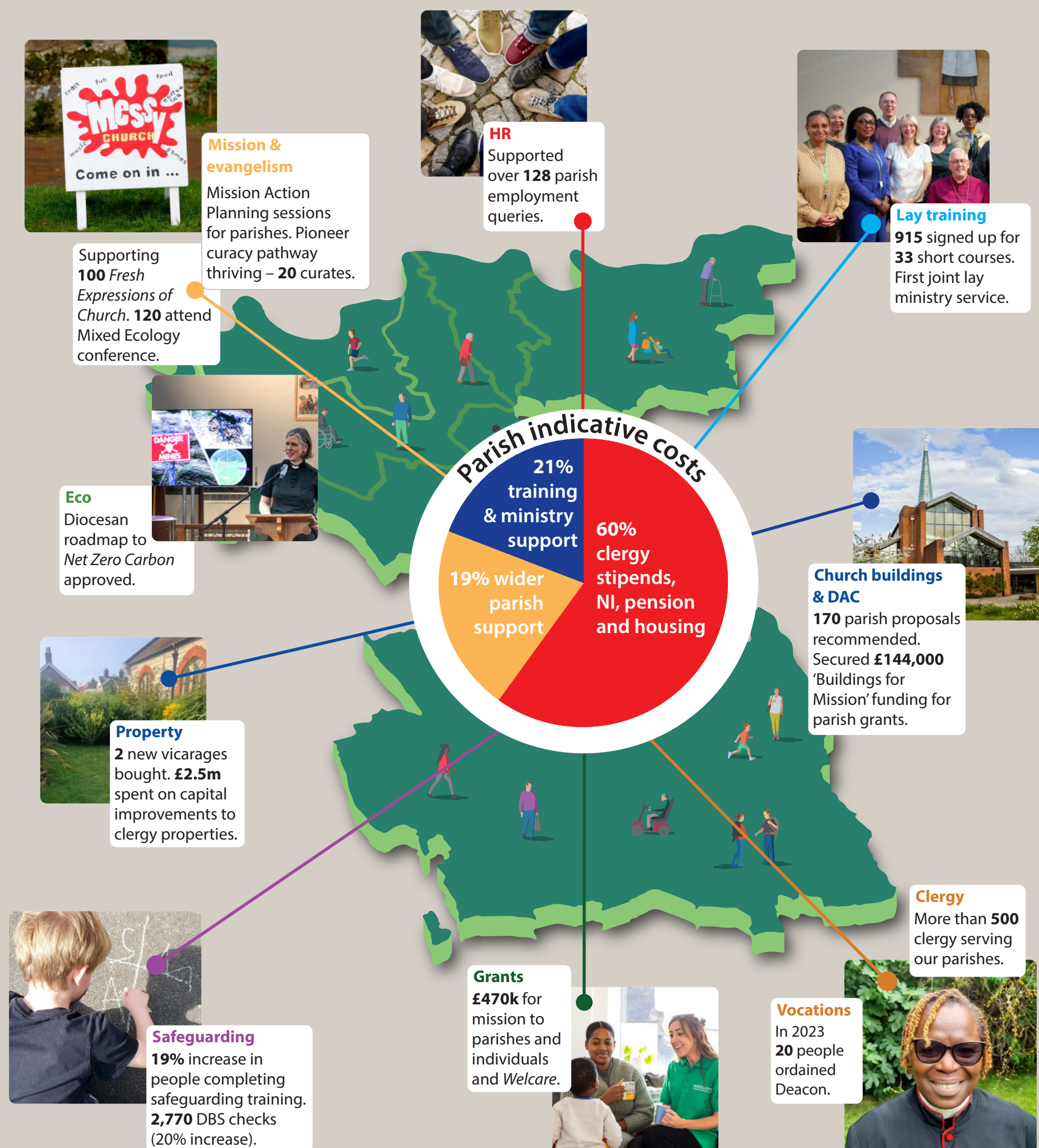
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



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

Thank you – your pledge provides...



Thank you for your generous pledge to the Parish Support Fund.