

# The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking  
Welcoming  
Growing**

Vol.28 No.8  
October 2023

## Black History Month

Faith – Legacy – Heritage

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## A trip to Scotland

Award winners enjoy a summer adventure day

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Providing support to travellers

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## In loving memory of Bishop Karowei's inspirational ministry

*Southwark Diocese mourns the death of The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, Bishop of Woolwich, who died peacefully after a long struggle with his health on Friday 8 September in the presence of his family at King's College Hospital.*

Bishop Karowei was ordained Deacon in 1995 and Priest in 1996. His curacy was at St Mark, Tollington Park, followed by, in 1998, building the community of faith at St John, Upper Holloway, before being consecrated Bishop of Woolwich in 2017.

Born and brought up in Nigeria, Bishop Karowei worked as a medical doctor before ordination. He studied theology (BA Hons) at London Bible College, he trained for ordained ministry at Oak Hill College, and undertook his postgraduate theological research for MA Missiology at All Nations College, Ware. He was always keen to share the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He had a deep concern for mission and regularly led open-air evangelism in his parish, which saw his church grow remarkably.

Bishop Karowei also had a keen interest in training candidates for lay and ordained ministry, offering his expertise as a tutor on a number of training programmes. He was for many years Assistant Director of Post Ordination Training in the Stepney Area. Prior to his appointment as Bishop of

Woolwich, he was a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

Bishop Karowei is survived by Mosun, a Consultant Child Psychiatrist, their adult son Timi, and his twin sister Collette.

Speaking shortly after Bishop Karowei's death, Bishop Christopher said: "I wish to convey my deepest sympathy to his wife Mosun, son Timi, twin sister Collette and the whole family. I express my gratitude for Bishop Karowei's friendship and inspirational ministry – latterly as Bishop of Woolwich – where he brought much joy in his passion for the Gospel and loving encouragement to all whom he encountered. It was a privilege to join the family at his bedside and anoint him in his last hours, and I am grateful that the Archbishop of Canterbury came to pray with the family. We have lost a dear friend, brother and colleague and we will miss him greatly. I commend Bishop Karowei and his family to your prayers. May he rest in peace."

Expressing her condolences, Nicola Thomas, Diocesan Secretary said, "Bishop Karowei's love of God and his passion for social justice and for



mission were utterly irrepressible – and we have been so blessed to know and work with him."

Shortly after his death colleagues, friends and family gathered for a vigil at Southwark Cathedral for prayers in memory of Bishop Karowei. A short service was also held by colleagues at Trinity House, the Diocesan office, as staff came together to share tributes about Bishop Karowei's ministry and personal impact.

At the time of going to print a series of key moments in memory of Bishop Karowei, including his funeral service, took place at Southwark Cathedral. To share your memories and condolences with the Dorgu family, please share them on this website: [forevermissed.com/bishop-karowei-dorgu](https://forevermissed.com/bishop-karowei-dorgu)

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## A view from The BRIDGE



**It was with great sadness last month that I announced the death of a dear brother in Christ and friend, The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, Bishop of Woolwich since 2017.**

Bishop Karowei died peacefully after a long struggle with his health on Friday 8 September in the presence of his family at King's College Hospital. I am grateful that Archbishop Justin and I were able to visit and pray with Bishop Karowei and his family in his final hours. It was a privilege to anoint him.

I am grateful, too, – grateful beyond words – for the immense blessing that Bishop Karowei was to all of us. In the many tributes and stories that have been shared with me over the past few weeks, people have spoken time and again of his great presence – of the warmth and joy that he brought wherever he went. His passion and enthusiasm for the Gospel were inspiring and his commitment to the development and growth of others leaves us a legacy of rich and diverse ministry.

As we pay tribute to him during Black History Month, it is important to remember that in his own ministry, Bishop Karowei was a trailblazer. As the first Nigerian Bishop in the Church of England, he was the first black Bishop to be

consecrated since Archbishop (then Bishop) Sentamu in 1996, who had been serving as a Parish Priest in Southwark until his consecration. At Bishop Karowei's consecration, Archbishop Sentamu and Bishop Wilfred Wood, the first black Bishop in the Church of England (and Bishop of Croydon in this Diocese) placed on his head the jewelled mitre that had been entrusted to each of them in turn.

Of course, the greatest loss is felt by Bishop Karowei's family: his wife Mosun, his son Timi, and his twin sister Collette. May they remain in our prayers and may they know God's presence and comfort in their sadness.

May Bishop Karowei rest in peace and rise in glory – his legacy will live on in all of those that he inspired and nurtured.

**Bishop Christopher**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Follow the Star: Join the Song

The Church of England has launched a new campaign for Advent and Christmas to mark the beginning of the church year. This year's theme – Follow the Star: Join the Song – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany. Colleagues across the national Church have been working with dioceses and parishes to make a range of resources available to help communicate the Follow the Star theme. Along with some familiar elements, they have announced new strands to the campaign to help schools, churches, cathedrals to connect with this year's call to Join the Song.

You can find out more at: [bit.ly/3OZvHli](https://bit.ly/3OZvHli)



### Saying goodbye to Southwark

Rev'd Jonathan Croucher, currently Vicar of Christ Church, Gipsy Hill, Priest in Charge of Emmanuel, West Dulwich and Area Dean of Lambeth South, has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Chelmsford. Having been in the Diocese since 2004, Rev'd Jonathan, who is also the Chair of Trustees of St Augustine's College of Theology said, "I am delighted to have been invited by Bishop Guli to serve as Archdeacon of Chelmsford... It has been a privilege and joy to serve the wonderful community of Gipsy Hill for 11 years and to have supported the churches of Lambeth South as Area Dean for the last five years."



### Bishop's Adviser for Spirituality

Rev'd John Pritchard will take on the role of Bishop's Adviser for Spirituality. Commissioned by Bishop Christopher at the end of last month, Rev'd John is Vicar at St John, Upper Norwood. Since the pandemic, the parish has grown in children's ministry through the introduction of 'Toddlers at Playtime!' Read more on page 8.

### Remembering Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On Friday 8 September, churches across the country came together in prayer and thanksgiving to mark the first anniversary of the accession of King Charles III, following the death of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Remembering her extraordinary life, many paid tributes a year on from her death.

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### Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The NOVEMBER edition is due to be published online and in print on 1 November 2023. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER**.

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](https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures)



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The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said: “Bishop Karwei was a truly holy man, full of the Spirit and of grace, who simply radiated the joy of Christ. To be in his presence was to know a little of that joy, and so he was adored everywhere. The Church will be much poorer for his loss. However, he leaves us with a great legacy. May we continue to be inspired by his passionate commitment to evangelism and his passion for nurturing and developing new leaders. We know that Christ mourns with us, as we hold his family and all who loved him in our prayers.”



**A prayer, by the Very Revd Andrew Nunn.**

Loving God,  
who brings us to birth, holds us in life  
and takes us through death to new life in you;  
embrace our brother Karowei,  
your child and servant, our brother and bishop,  
who has died in you and lives for your eternity.  
Comfort his family, especially Mosun, Timi  
and his twin sister Collette;  
hold us in our grief and give us thankful hearts  
that we have known and loved one who followed you  
with humble thankfulness and a generous spirit  
and showed us the pilgrim path to heaven  
which he now treads with Jesus Christ,  
your risen Son, Our Lord.  
Amen.

**Clockwise from top: Bishop Karowei's consecration, 2017; at the Lambeth Conference with Bishop Christopher and Mosun Dorgu, 2022; meeting soldiers based at Woolwich, 2018; and engaging with school children at St Peter's CE Primary (Walworth) and Bishop John Robinson CE School (Greenwich).**

# Peal rung in the City of London in memory...

**On the afternoon of Sunday 10 September, the bells at St Katharine Cree Church in the City of London rang out. Bell ringers rang 5040 Plain Bob Minor in two hours and 58 minutes in memory of Bishop Karowei.**

Edward Gormley (pictured right), who rang his first peal to mark ten years since he started bell ringing said, “I am holding the rope connected to the fifth bell which I rang; and also holding my green flag up towards Heaven, to show that I am looking forward to meeting Bishop Karowei there one day.”



Tributes poured in on 'X' feeds, the posts reflecting Bishop Karowei's friendship and inspirational ministry.





## NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES

# An adventure to Edinburgh

**After winning the Jack Petchey Foundation Award of The Boys Brigade with Girls Association, the children and young people at St John, Peckham travelled to Scotland for their summer adventure day.**

The competition – open to Brigade Members of 16 to 25 years – sees winners provided with a grant of up to £1000 to spend on group activities or resources. Flying to Edinburgh, the group of five leaders, six parents and nine members of 1st Peckham Brigade Company worshipped and prayed together at the chapel before boarding their flight. On arrival, they visited the zoo and enjoyed a guided tour of the national park. The trip was an

opportunity to share new experiences, with group bonding exercises, a chance to see the animals and have lunch together.

Revd Emmanuel Adeboye, Vicar at St John Chrysostom with St Andrew, Peckham said, “We are grateful to everyone who has supported us to make this journey a reality. Particularly, grateful to Emmanuel IniOluwa Adeboye who won the Young Leaders Award, as well as a £300 grant contribution from the Diocese towards this trip alongside donations from members at St John’s Church.”

The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up to inspire and motivate young people across London and Essex by providing exciting projects and programmes for them to



Children and young people from St John, Peckham enjoyed a trip to the zoo.

get involved in. The foundation also recognises the outstanding achievements of young people by awarding them for their hard work and positive impact in their community. Find out more at: [bit.ly/48nszyE](https://bit.ly/48nszyE)

A number of Diocesan children and youth grants are available to help churches and parishes. Find out what is on offer and how you can apply at: [tinyurl.com/5aw6ukrd](https://tinyurl.com/5aw6ukrd)



# St Mark, Battersea Rise celebrate 150 years

**In 1873, St Mark was built from a vision in the heart of Revd Erskine Clarke, Vicar of St Mary’s Church. In 1987 Pastors Paul and Christine Perkin took over as leaders at St Mark, and the process of church planting – starting a new church from an existing church – began.**

At the time it was the second Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) church plant to be completed. After years of prayer and raising the profile of the church in the community – and although faced with opposition – it became a catalyst for church planting. The restoration of the 100-year-old church cost £350,000, transforming the Victorian building.

*Growing in Faith*, a new building project launched in 2005 to restore parts of the church – developing the whole building as the church worked and ministered together. Talking about the process, Paul said, “Looking back to see how thrilled we were, a phase which has led onto a new phase”.

The church is now run by Martyn and Emily Layzell, Senior Pastors who have been at the church since 2020. “It is an extraordinary church and continues to be so and we’re just so thrilled to see this new phase under Martyn and Emily,” Christine said. After finding one of the

term cards that talked about ‘The Church on the Rise’, Martyn said, “We thought, wouldn’t it be amazing to just resurrect that idea and that prophetic sense of what we are doing – hence the name, City Rise at St Mark’s Battersea, because we recognise that’s in the DNA of who the church is.” Emily added, “What an opportunity to be able to take on after Paul and Christine served for 33 years... taking our part of the baton for the next journey, the next stint of St Mark’s.”

In a video message in celebration of the anniversary, Bishop Christopher said, “I send you warm greetings on the celebrations marking the 150 years of mission and ministry at St Mark’s Battersea Rise, sharing with you the constancy of God’s love in Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Spirit vouchsafed to us... You have restored and extended these magnificent buildings – a gift from your forebears. You fill its grand spaces, in worship and in attentiveness to God’s Word. At every level you have lay people serving the church and community so that you attain ‘the measure of the full stature of Christ’ (Ephesians 4:13). These are your answers in the affirmative. God has blessed you richly. May he continue to do so.”

# Another millennium in Greenwich

**Earlier in the Summer, the congregation of St Alfege, Greenwich celebrated a special occasion – a significant anniversary for their patron saint, Alfege, Archbishop of Canterbury.**

St Alfege was martyred by a band of Vikings in Greenwich in 1012. A thousand years ago, in 1023 his remains were transferred from the old St Paul’s Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral on the orders of England’s Danish king Canute, also known as Cnut the Great.

On marking the millennium, David McEvoy, Reader at St Alfege said, “A group of 25 people from the church made a pilgrimage by coach to Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday 3 June where they were given a special guided tour and celebrated communion in the crypt. They were delighted to be shown the stone marking the site of the shrine of St Alfege. A week later over 30 hardy souls attended the lunchtime Eucharist in St Paul’s Cathedral and then walked in the heat over six miles on a pilgrimage to Greenwich, to the sound of bells rung by the Meridian Ringers in three City churches and in St Alfege Church itself. The celebrations concluded with a special Communion service on Sunday 11 June with a sermon by Revd Canon Andrew Dodd, Canon Treasurer of Canterbury Cathedral.”



Vicar, Revd Simon Winn said, “We were delighted to mark this significant anniversary in the story of our saint. A commemorative stone in our church records the words of Anselm about Alfege, ‘he who dies for justice dies for Christ’. A millennium later in our beautifully diverse community of Greenwich we seek to live out the call of Christ in our daily life, welcome, worship and ministry”.



## Care for creation and open-air worship

**In a bid to get closer to nature and do their bit for the environment members of All Saints, Kenley and St Barnabas, Purley came together for a morning of litter-picking in their local community – followed by an open air Eucharist.**

**Churchwarden, Chris Myers, writes:**

Wellies were the order of the day, plus nifty yellow 'safety' tabards provided by Croydon Council, who also supplied litter-picking wands. It was a rewarding and, dare I say, virtuous task that saw us fill quite a few bags for rubbish disposal and recycling.

The venue was Foxley Woods and Higher Drive Recreation Ground, which adjoin St Barnabas Church.



We then assembled in a parishioner's garden for Holy Eucharist, passing the chalice and blessed bread to each other – it was a moving experience. The atmosphere was lightened somewhat by a young member whispering, "Do I have to eat all of it?"

Revd Justine Middlemiss, whose idea it was, billed the event as a 'music-free' Eucharist. But, as our Director of Music Giles Holland was there, we sang two hymns outside following the tune coming through the patio doors. Luckily the promised rain never arrived!

**We're told this could be a whole new thing at All Saints and St Barnabas.**

## Bells ring out over the parish of Horley

**Horley Team Ministry welcomed Bishop Christopher to preach and preside at a celebration Eucharist at St Bartholomew, following the completion of the refurbishment of the spire and tower oaks shingle. A stained glass ornament was also gifted to the church by parishioner Sue Rogerson to mark the occasion.**

A first since the pandemic – all eight bells rang out from over the parish of Horley and the parish celebrated with Martin Saunders, Horley Town Mayor and his family, along with other councillors and dignitaries amongst many from the local community.

This was all made possible thanks to generous donations from the local community – many gave their time to hold



events and take part in sponsored walks and silences to raise funds for the bells.

St Bartholomew's is a Grade 1 listed building and dates back to 1218, when the very first rector was recorded. The current Rector, Revd Canon Les Wells said, "I want to say thank you to everyone who has taken part in this restoration, especially to the local community and our neighbours. We have built this temple in the name of Jesus Christ, so that we have a constant reminder that God is ever present in our lives."

## Celebrating faith in our land



**Earlier in the summer, the congregations of the Windmill United Benefice (St Bartholomew, Burstow, St Mary the Virgin, Horne and St John the Baptist, Outwood) came together to celebrate Lammastide in the barn of Hookhouse Farm in Outwood, Surrey.**

The word Lammas comes from the Saxon word Hlafmaesse, meaning loaf mass, and is an ancient early harvest festival tracing its roots back to the presentation of the first fruits in Old Testament times (Deuteronomy 26: 1-4). The Saxon church adopted the festival and although reference to it ceased at the Reformation, the Church of England has more recently breathed new life into agricultural festivals such as this.

Judith Calver, Parish Magazine Editor, St Bartholomew, Burstow said, "The service began with a blessing, owners of the farm, James Wells took up some grain and Carole Wells, a homemade loaf of bread. Both were blessed and the bread was distributed to the congregation at communion.

"In rural parishes such as these on the southern tip of the Diocese, harvest festivals are earthed in the experiences of the local farmers and the poor summer weather in July and early August has had

serious implications for them as they struggle to get the harvest in."

Local farmer, Ian McCubbine said, "When one thinks of a traditional harvest, one usually thinks of arable farming; that is, the production of cereal crops such as barley, wheat and oats, and the vision of the combine harvester. For us livestock farmers, harvest is all about producing high-quality winter forage for our animals. Many people do not think of grass as a being a crop but it is actually probably the most expensive crop to grow.

"Our early cut silage (dried, pickled grass that the cows eat in winter) and hay were of an excellent quality and we made enough of it to satisfy the cattle right through the winter months. However, we are now all starting to feel a little twitchy and uneasy as to how harvest will progress. As farmers, we are always at the mercy of the weather and after a flying start to harvest we are now waiting for the good weather to come back."

Judith added, "when the Benefice prayed in the Lammas service for 'all who work on the farm and in the field; for their hope and courage in days of difficulty and disappointment', it was both a reminder of how farming can be a struggle at times as well as a powerful expression of the link between faith and the land and those who work it in these rural parishes."



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*This month, The Diocese is preparing for the sixteenth annual Black History Month (BHM) thanksgiving at Southwark Cathedral. Partnering with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE), this will take place on Saturday 7 October 2023, 11am–2pm.*

This year's Diocesan theme will celebrate Windrush 75, embracing the faith and legacy of the Windrush generation and recognising the foundations they have laid to shape the cultural landscape of Britain.

All are welcome to attend this vibrant celebration with worship – where Bishop Christopher will preside during a thanksgiving Eucharist, plus poetry, musical tributes and a steel band.

There will also be an interactive panel discussion on 'Windrush 75: faith, legacy and heritage – taking up the baton', exploring how we, as a multicultural society, implement the lessons learned from the Windrush generation. The panel includes, Sonia McFarlane, Headteacher at St James Hatcham CE Primary School, Mr McFarlane, of the Windrush generation, Revd Dorothy Penniecooke, Minister at Ascension Balham and Jason O'Shea, Southwark Delivery Officer for



Serious Youth Violence and Leader of Operation Forgiveness.

This event follows the National Service of Thanksgiving at Southwark Cathedral held in June to mark Windrush 75. Organised by the Windrush Planning Committee and Racial Justice Advocacy Forum, the service entitled *Remembering the Struggle, Celebrating the Contribution and Flourishing for the Future* was an opportunity to

celebrate the significant role of the Windrush generation and the Diocesan event will build on this momentum.

Revd Sandra Schloss (pictured), Vicar at St Luke, Peckham, Chair of the Woolwich Area Racial Justice Committee and Chair of the BHM planning group, said, "This year will be slightly different to previous years as we are remembering the Windrush generation as it is 75 years since the Empire Windrush docked at the port of Tilbury.

Our interactive panel will address people's questions. You can submit a question that you would like the panel to explore when registering on Eventbrite. (See page 7 for more about Revd Dorothy)

"The poetry workshop will be led by Adukeh and Lena Norman and many of you will remember Adukeh read a beautiful poem during the service in 2021 which was followed up with a poetry workshop where those who participated were encouraged to write their own.

"As the chair of the BHM thanksgiving service planning team it is a privilege to

**WINDRUSH 75**

celebrate each year. I hope that you will also feel encouraged to celebrate elements of Black History Month in your parishes throughout the month of October and beyond."

**Attendance is free and for all ages. Registration is still open, book your place for the BHM Celebration at: [bit.ly/3PBW74u](https://bit.ly/3PBW74u)**



Revd Dororthy Penniecooke, Minister at Ascension Balham

Revd Dororthy was born in Jamaica and moved to the UK with her husband in 1965. She became a member of Ascension in 1967 and was ordained as a priest in 2000.

In June of this year, Dorothy helped to curate an exhibition to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the first Windrush arrivals. The exhibition explored the lives of those who arrived in the UK from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1970, the impact they have had on British society and the sacrifices they made. Many arrivals settled in the Clapham South area and Ascension Balham was one church that welcomed them.

Talking about the exhibition she said, “In this exhibition I tried to show the positive side of the history of the Windrush generation – their hard work and loyalty. I hope to inspire in our younger generation that England is their home and motherland and it should be their ambition to achieve the best they can for themselves and the country.”



An exhibition guide is available from: [philip.bull@ascensionbalham.org](mailto:philip.bull@ascensionbalham.org)

# Celebrating Self-Supporting Ordained Ministry

Three in ten licensed clergy in the Church of England are Self-Supporting Ministers (SSMs). Although SSMs undertake all aspects of clergy duties (including leadership roles), they do not receive a stipend or pension. Many (including Ministers in Secular Employment) consider the workplace to be their main focus of ministry.

In 1963, Southwark Diocese led the way as the first SSM ordinations took place at Southwark Cathedral. Those who were ordained were the first to complete the Southwark Ordination Course established by Bishop Mervyn Stockwood – a course designed to enable Ordinands to study for ordination without having to do so at a full-time residential college or leaving their secular employment.

On Saturday 9 September this year a festival Eucharist in thanksgiving for 60 years of Self-Supporting Ministry was held at Southwark Cathedral.

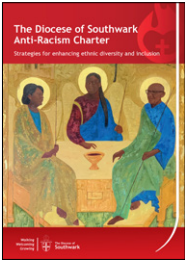
The service, led by Bishop Christopher, was hosted by the National Network of SSM Officers and Advisers, with the support of the National Ministry Team. It celebrated the contribution of SSMs in the life and work of the Anglican Church in many parts of the world – giving thanks for the vision of the Southwark Ordination Course, for SSMs and all who support them, and praying for all who serve without a stipend in so many different settings. The Rt Revd Julie Conalty, Bishop of Birkenhead, preached. During the service and SSMs joined together to renew the commitment to ministry.

In a blog post written before the event, Revd Mark W Smith, Assistant Priest, St Michael the Archangel, East Wickham and Bishop's Adviser on Self-Supporting Ministry, Southwark Diocese said, “In my view this Diocese ought to be justly proud of the role it has played historically in this legacy and I live in the hope of the role it is yet to play, with all the challenges the future holds.”

Read out blog at: [tinyurl.com/mr3htm29](https://tinyurl.com/mr3htm29)

## Resources to use in your parishes

### The Anti-Racism Charter (ARC)



The ARC is a strategy to enhance ethnic diversity and inclusion across the Diocese of Southwark. We encourage you to continue to refer to the charter in your parishes – download our ARC pack at: [tinyurl.com/dosARC](https://tinyurl.com/dosARC). Over the coming months we are planning to share an ARC Study Guide for you to use within your parishes to further support the key principles of the ARC.

### CofE liturgical resources

The Church of England have designed a number of resources available for use during BHM, which includes services of the word, prayers and resources for school assemblies.

You can download resources from at: [bit.ly/3Pfwhln](https://bit.ly/3Pfwhln)

### Committed to Racial Justice



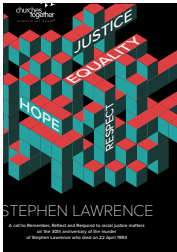
The CofE are calling on Global Majority Heritage/UK Minority Ethnic Clergy and Lay Leaders to join an ethnocultural communications network. Visit [cofe.io/gmh-network](https://cofe.io/gmh-network) to register or email [racialjusticeunit@churchofengland.org](mailto:racialjusticeunit@churchofengland.org) to find out more.

### After the Flood: The Church, Slavery and Reconciliation

Plan a watch-night in October to view *After the Flood: The Church, Slavery and Reconciliation*. A 67-minute educational and redemptive documentary that addresses the historical neglect of slavery in British Christian history and explores biblical principles for racial reconciliation in our churches today. Watch at: [tinyurl.com/8rzdwbse](https://tinyurl.com/8rzdwbse)

### Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

You can use Racial Justice resources throughout BHM in your parishes available at: [tinyurl.com/3h4k565n](https://tinyurl.com/3h4k565n)



## Events

### Saturday 14 October 2023

BHM Celebration Party, St Luke's Church, Peckham. Website: [stlukespeckham.co.uk](https://stlukespeckham.co.uk)

### Saturday 14 October, 1–6pm

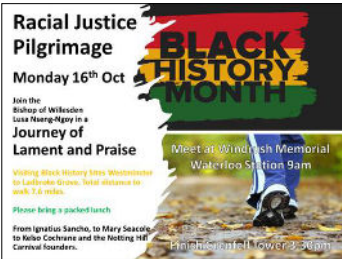
The Racial Justice Advocacy Forum We Will Repay! The Churches and Reparations 35 Lower Marsh, London SE1.

Register for tickets via Eventbrite at: [tinyurl.com/3fj25zhe](https://tinyurl.com/3fj25zhe)

### Monday 16 October 2023

Racial Justice Pilgrimage.

Join the Bishop of Willesden, Lusa Nseng-Ngoy, in a journey of lament and praise, visiting black history sites, from Westminster to Ladbroke Grove.



### Sunday 22 October 2023, 10.30am

Centenary Anniversary Celebration at St John the Evangelist, Angell Town. Bishop Martin will preside and Revd Canon Ivelaw Bowman will preach. Website: [stjohnsangelltown.church](https://stjohnsangelltown.church)

### Saturday 28 October 2023

Croydon Area Racial Justice Group's BHM celebration. Windrush 75 celebration and its legacy. St Matthew's Church, 71 Station Road, Redhill, RH1 1DL.

### Saturday 4 November, 11am-4pm

CTBI Hope for Justice Conference, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP. Details at: [tinyurl.com/cy5ak682](https://tinyurl.com/cy5ak682)



Top: Self-Supporting Ministers. Bottom (l-r): Julie Conalty, who preached during the service; and John Lees, who addressed the congregation.

© Photos Eve Milner





## DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

*Mixed Ecology of Church*

# Towards a Mixed Ecology

*On Saturday 25 November, Southwark Diocese will be hosting a Fresh Expressions and Pioneering Conference entitled: Towards a Mixed Ecology.*

The conference, being held in partnership with the Diocese of Chichester, is an opportunity to learn more about how to help parishes thrive in a church where 'mixed ecology' is the norm. This means that churches are able to value not only their own tradition and rooted in worship but also embrace ideas of pioneering, fresh expressions or church planting to reach those who would otherwise not come to church. This is a key aim for both the Church of England and the Diocese of Southwark.

Beyond the COVID pandemic we are seeing a significant rise in the number of churches starting or restarting fresh expressions alongside traditional Sunday congregations, with reports of more than 100 of our parishes having these in the latest attendance returns. In this edition of *The Bridge*, we look at some of the churches across our Diocese who are leading the way.

### Toddlers at Playtime! at St John, Upper Norwood

Emerging from the COVID pandemic, *Toddlers at Playtime!* is a faith-based playgroup which has grown into a large fresh expression of church. Each week the church invites toddlers and their parents and carers to explore and enjoy sensory play, crafts, storytelling and songs. Some of the toddlers and their families have

now joined Sunday Mass, with several of those children being baptised, as well as adult confirmation and wedding requests from families that were not previously known to St John's.

Revd Rachel Gledhill who leads *Playtime!* shares how Christ-centred hospitality is at the heart of the mixed ecology of new and existing congregations emerging that is emerging said, "Many bake cakes for *Playtime!* or enjoy serving tea and the chat with newcomers. The hospitality is so good that new parents are offering to help and finding it easy to feel at home on Sunday mornings. The success of *Playtime!* is leading to the launch of Messy Church this autumn, which (based on Eventbrite bookings) expects to see around 70 families attending."

### Messy Church at St Mark, Downham

St Mark is nurturing its mixed ecology through Messy Church and introduced Forest Church during the lockdown. This has become a popular activity with both existing church members and people from the local community meeting in the local park.

### The Windmill Benefice, Café Church

Liz Copland, Volunteer explains that the newly established Café Church "provides a relaxed, friendly atmosphere for informal worship that brings together



**Above: *Playtime!* at St John, Upper Norwood, with leader Rachel Gledhill pictured with John Pritchard and friend. Below: Revd Tif Ewin with members of the weekly TIMS group.**

people who would perhaps not normally come to church. Some Café Church attendees have said they appreciate the opportunity to meet socially and for worship on a Sunday afternoon, as it breaks up the weekend when they would normally be on their own."

### Mixed Ecology at St Michael, Wandsworth Common



St Michael are thriving with their dementia friendly mid-week service, TIMS (This My Story, This is My Song). Revd Tif Ewin shares that TIMS is a simple and welcoming worship service. She said, "We have learnt that the same structure makes it easy to run and it's a safe space where members then feel very able to speak up and pray out. We all learn and grow in faith hope and love through being with one another in the presence of God in this worship setting".

In a blog post written ahead of the conference, Will Cookson, Director of Pioneering Ministry and Dean of Fresh Expression said, "Across the Diocese of

Southwark we have such a variety of great parishes who are seeking to share the love of Christ with those around them in creative and innovative ways; digging into their tradition and looking to see how they can be Christ centred and outward focused... We do hope that you will be able to come to the conference and bring others with you to hear from others, learn, ask questions and share ideas."

Read more about Towards a Mixed Ecology at: [tinyurl.com/2u3kt7z3](https://tinyurl.com/2u3kt7z3)

### We're here to help...

There are many examples of mixed ecology emerging, as churches creatively join in with God's mission in their context. The Diocese has more than 20 Pioneer Curates, each working to grow Mixed Ecology Church with Lay Volunteers in their parish settings. The Pioneering and Fresh Expressions Team are always keen to find new stories and help parishes nurture their mixed ecologies. Do feel free to get in touch: [pioneering@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:pioneering@southwark.anglican.org)

Resources for Pioneering and Fresh Expressions can be found at: [southwark.anglican.org/pioneering](https://southwark.anglican.org/pioneering)

## Southwark welcomes new head of JPIC

**Earlier last month Natalie Walters, joined the Mission team as the new Head of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC).**

An experienced education practitioner and a qualified Youth and Community Worker, Natalie has over 20 years of experience in supporting and educating young people in informal and formal settings across much of South London



as well as Latin America. Natalie has a passion for social justice and seeks to empower and help to transform the futures of young people and families.

Natalie succeeds Nicola Thomas (now our new Diocesan Secretary) and will focus on supporting our parishes and churches in engaging with the 'Marks of Mission' with particular reference to promoting loving service, transforming unjust structures and striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. All this within the Diocese's vision for social action, social justice, the environment, and other closely related issues.

On her appointment, Natalie said, "I have sought to stand for justice throughout my life and seek to continue to do so. This is an exciting and dynamic role and I look forward to this opportunity to engage with social justice concerns in the

Diocese working on strategy for churches and their communities. With a strong faith and deep love for all God's people I also look forward to serving in the Diocese of Southwark as part of such an effective team."

Speaking about the appointment, Bishop Christopher said, "Not only does Natalie have a deep personal commitment to social and climate justice, but she also brings with her many years' experience of engaging and resourcing others in this crucial area. I have no doubt that Natalie will be an invaluable resource for our parishes and the Diocese and I welcome her into this role."





## IN FOCUS... Legacies

# A cloud of witnesses – legacies for the future

**Jenny Dawkins, Generous Giving Advisor writes:**

A Sunday service begins. You sing a song from the psalms whose words have been passed on through the centuries by worshippers. You read from a bible, and a label in the front tells you that it has been placed there through a generous financial gift. The children of the church teach you a rhyming prayer that they've learned from their teachers – it's now going to stick in your head all week. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, sharing faith through the ages.

As All Saints Day (1 November) approaches, we remember those who have gone before us. Their witness and generosity give us the springboard from which we can 'run the race marked out for us', 'proclaiming afresh' in this generation the unchanging love of God. In this season, our Giving Team are giving thanks for those who have left gifts in



their wills to our churches, leaving a legacy for the future.

In Southwark, around one third of our churches receive a legacy in any given year. These gifts have funded new sound systems, children's workers, sets of Bibles, churchyard gates and more. They can be transformational, enabling and birthing new ministries. However, around a third of worshippers in the Church of England do not currently have a will – very often it is just something that we don't get around to doing! A partnership between the Church of England and *Farewill*, the nation's favourite will-writer, means that you can now write your will for free, online, in as little as 30 minutes. Make a start and find out more at: [farewill.com/southwarkdiocese](http://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese)

In churches around the Diocese, there are stories of ministry and mission being sustained by the generosity of worshippers that have left legacies – one generation

### Your faith is powerful; so is your will – Christian Aid and church leaders launch new initiative.

This autumn, an inspiring new partnership is helping to create local and global change through gifts in wills.

International development agency, Christian Aid, is working with the Church of England, Church of Scotland, and the Quakers on a pioneering opportunity called *Faith Will*.

Christian Aid and church leaders believe wills can tell a powerful story

of someone's faith, and the choices we make can ensure our values live on for generations to come. Currently only around 24 percent of wills contain a specific legacy bequest, according to latest research by *Remember a Charity*.

Churches will be holding *Faith Will* 'moments' to explore how people can leave a gift to their local church and to Christian Aid, to support neighbours near and far.

Here in Southwark Diocese, we are working with the team at Christian Aid to support and provide training for

## St Leonard, Streatham



In 2019 congregation member Mimi, bequeathed St Leonard's with a generous unrestricted gift of £20,000. The PCC decided to use this to invest in reaching children and families through church music. They appointed a new Director of Music and a children's choir was started. Four years on 25 choristers practice every week and sing every month in a service. The adults' choir has also grown and diversified, there have been baptisms, first communion, confirmations and the church youth group has grown all as a direct result of Mimi's legacy.

## St Margaret's, Putney

Elizabeth Worth was a member of the congregation of St Margaret's Putney for many years. Her generous legacy to the church has enabled them to launch a significant development project, which will allow for a new parish centre and much needed building work. This will make a lasting impact on the church and local community for centuries to come.



commending to another the wonderful works of God.

This autumn, why not thank someone who has sown faith into your life? Is there a Sunday school teacher, relative, or friend who has invested in you, leaving you a legacy of faith to pass on? This season provides an opportunity to give thanks.

You might also want to consider making or changing your will, in order to leave a

gift to your church for the future. Find out more at: [bit.ly/3Zu7b7b](http://bit.ly/3Zu7b7b)

The Giving Team will be holding two Zoom sessions in October to support any churches wanting to have helpful, encouraging conversations about gifts in wills. 'A hopeful hour about legacies' will be held on Monday 9 October, 7.45am–8.45am, and repeated on Thursday 17 October, 1pm–2pm. Email [jenny.dawkins@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:jenny.dawkins@southwark.anglican.org) for more information or to sign up.

anyone who would like to hold a *Faith Will* 'moment', or to talk about legacies in their church.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, said:

*"When we make a will, we actively choose what we will do with the gifts we have received in our lifetime. Planning and decision-making about these aspects of our future are important and can bring peace of mind and ensure our wishes are followed."*

*"If we are people of faith, then our faith should encourage us to also make an offering to God in our will, by making a gift to churches or church organisations, so they are resourced and supported to offer God's loving work in the world."*

*"Our gifts can be a legacy to ensure we can act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."*

A range of free resources, including a short film and leaflets for congregations is available at: [caid.org.uk/faithwill](http://caid.org.uk/faithwill)

# Prisons Week 8–14 October

**Wendy Stephens, Diocesan SPA and full-time Anglican Chaplain at HMP Wandsworth writes:**

Prisons week is a week when Christians everywhere are encouraged to pray for prisoners and their families, the victims of crime and their communities. It is also a time to pray for those working or volunteering in the criminal justice system, including prison chaplaincies and the many organisations such as Prison Fellowship, the Mother's Union, the Nehemiah

Project and Change for Good – which support the important and invaluable work done inside and outside of prisons.

This year's theme for Prisons Week is 'The Heavens declare the Glory of God, so...' based on Psalm 19, the Psalm set for Sunday 8 October. For centuries Christians have learned to pray through the Psalms, the sacred poems and prayers written from the heights and depths of human experience and emotions: despair, loss, anger, betrayal, abandonment, guilt, suffering, confusion, hope, joy, wonder, thanks and praise. These are emotions felt by many prisoners who turn to the Psalms whilst in prison to find comfort and support in the words they provide. Psalm 23 is a particular favourite but

there are many others too. The Psalms have inspired this year's prayers written by people with their own experience of prison and the criminal justice system.

During Prisons Week, please pray for the five prisons in this Diocese: HMPs Belmarsh, Isis, Thameside, Brixton and Wandsworth and the two others, High Down and Downview which fall just within the Guildford Diocese in Banstead. Please think about how you as individuals and churches can help the people for whom you are praying.

Prisons Week prayer leaflet can be obtained through the 'Contact Us' link on the website [prisonsweek.org](http://prisonsweek.org) or by emailing [info@prisonsweek.org](mailto:info@prisonsweek.org)

## Prisons Week Prayer

*Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.*





# DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

## Choral Evensong for Ruth Martin



Ruth pictured with Bishop Christopher and some of her family who attended the service.

On Thursday 14 September, colleagues, friends and family gathered at Southwark Cathedral for a service of Choral Evensong to pay tribute to Ruth Martin having completed her time as Diocesan Secretary.

Bishop Christopher welcomed the congregation and spoke about Ruth’s acumen and the work she has undertaken to build relationships across staff teams and her focus on serving parishes. He said, “For Ruth this is not simply about being professional – although there is a good deal of that – but of calling... Ruth’s emphasis on establishing and building relationships with our parishes is something that she has modelled in her own ministry as a Reader.”

He went on to acknowledge Ruth’s “remarkable capacity for work” and added, “I am very grateful that she will continue to be my Lead for Strategic Development over the next two years, bringing her wealth of insight and experience to bear as we set a strategy for the next six to nine

years – Ruth, thank you for all you have given us – and are continuing to do.”

The servers during the service were from Christ Church, Clapham and Richmond Team Ministry both parishes where Ruth serves in her ministry as a Lay Reader – she has been licensed to the Richmond Team Ministry since 2012.

Ruth’s grandchildren, Edward and Sylvie, read the first lesson (Proverbs 16.23–24, 31; 17.1, 3, 5–6) and the second, (1 Corinthians 1.18–2) was read by Canon Wendy Robins, Chancellor and Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Development.

Colleagues from Trinity House – Jackie Pontin, Deputy Diocesan Secretary and David Loft, Director of Human Resources, also led prayers.

In thanking colleagues, Ruth said, “It was wonderful to see so many of our Synod members, volunteers and other colleagues at the Choral Evensong which also marked my retirement from the role of Diocesan Secretary, as well as my parish friends and family. I was very moved by all of you who came and by the generosity of Bishop Christopher’s words. It has been such a privilege to work with you all and I look forward to continuing to do so part time as Bishop Christopher’s Lead for Strategic Development. Please continue to hold my successor Nicola Thomas in your prayers, and all who work with her serving our wonderful Diocese as we face new challenges and opportunities.”

A reception hosted by Bishop Christopher and colleagues followed in the Retrochoir.



# LET US PRAY... OCTOBER

The Venerable John Kiddle  
Archdeacon of Wandsworth

Fruit of our labours: answers to our prayers.

I am writing this in Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, on a warm Sunday evening in September. Today has been a wonderful day; long and joyful. I, with Bishop Martin and Archdeacon Simon Gates, have been privileged to attend the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Diocese of Matabeleland, which is linked with the Kingston Episcopal Area.

There is so much to celebrate in the life of the church here in Matabeleland. New parishes and schools are being established, young clergy being ordained, partnerships growing. It is especially good to see the success of the malaria project in the north of the diocese, real progress is being made. All this has happened through some very difficult years.

The words that have shaped the 70th anniversary celebrations are *Fruit of our labours: answers to our prayers*. Those words characterise the diocese well, and indeed Bishop Cleophas himself. The life and progress that are so evident are the fruit of much hard work and generosity and also of faithful heartfelt prayers, often crying out to God in times of great need.

*Fruit of our labours: answers to our prayers.*

Sometimes we can find ourselves working desperately hard but never stopping to pray. In our busyness and anxiety we can lose sight of the active presence and the good purposes of God.

Sometimes we pray, asking God to act but not getting round to doing much ourselves to make the change we long for. True prayer opens our eyes to see what God is doing and opens our hearts to act, to work, to serve.



*Fruit of our labours: answers to our prayers.*

It’s a powerful combination. As in Matabeleland, change begins to happen as we hold both together.

### Living God

We thank you for the diocese of Matabeleland  
For its life and witness over the last 70 years, for its work and its worship, its labours and its prayers.  
Strengthen our partnership and friendships with all our link dioceses  
That together our faith may be strengthened and encouraged.  
Give us hearts that are always ready to work and wills that never cease to pray  
So may we, with our friends and partners,  
See the change we long for  
And the future you hold out for us.  
Amen.



Loyal readers of The Bridge from Christ The King, Salfords.





Please send details of your next events for NOVEMBER ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 9 OCTOBER**

## October

### 1–15 OCTOBER

- \* **CLAPHAM** – *Heritage Open Days* ‘Treasures Revealed’ exhibition: stories of St James, Clapham and the 20th century ecclesiastical architect Nugent Cachemaille-Day. Open Saturdays 10–5pm, Sundays 2–5pm, Tuesdays and Fridays 11am–2pm. Free. St James Church, Park Hill, London, SW4 9PB. Details at: [bit.ly/3P4nlzf](http://bit.ly/3P4nlzf)

### THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER

- \* **SHEFFIELD** – NECN National Conference 2023 – *God With Us: Sharing our journey* – focusing on lived experience with estate practitioners sharing their wisdom, sharing aspects of ministering in social housing estates and disadvantaged communities. £20. Details at: [tinyurl.com/52wnp3r8](http://tinyurl.com/52wnp3r8)

### SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

- \* **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – Black History Month – Faith, Legacy, Heritage. Join us for a day of fellowship, learning and celebration, exploring this year’s theme of *Windrush 5* and its legacy. Free. Details at: [tinyurl.com/2yv25a4z](http://tinyurl.com/2yv25a4z)

### SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

- \* **CATFORD** – Harvest Festival event with car boot table top sale, live music and excellent food stalls. 10am–4pm at St Laurence, 37 Bromley Road, Catford, SE6 2TS. Free.

#### 🎵 Croydon Minster

##### Lunchtime recitals – 40 minutes of music on Fridays at 1.10pm.

- 6 Oct George Inscoc, Organ
  - 13 Oct Maria Kustas, Piano
  - 20 Oct Katherine Nicholson, Voice and Richard Pinel, Organ
  - 27 Oct Leora Cohen, Violin & Dr Paul Wingfield, Piano
  - 3 Nov Old Palace of John Whitgift School
  - 10 Nov Guilia Toniolo, Piano
  - 17 Nov James Gaughan, Baritone & David Hammond, Piano
  - 24 Nov Sophie Garbisu, Soprano & Laetitia Federici, Piano
  - 1 Dec Laine Theatre Arts Choir
- Free but donations gratefully received. Details: [croydonminster.org](http://croydonminster.org)

### SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

- 🎵 **DULWICH** – organ recital: Rosemary Evans (St Alphage, Edgware). 7.45–8.30pm at Christ’s Chapel, 14 Gallery Rd, Dulwich Village SE21 7AD. Free, retiring collection.

### 10 – 28 OCTOBER

- \* **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – *Marvel at the Moon*. Following the hugely successful *Gaia* installation last October, artist Luke Jerram returns to Southwark Cathedral this October with *Museum of the Moon*. Open Monday to Saturday. Tickets start at £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. Details and book at: [bit.ly/45Olq97](http://bit.ly/45Olq97)

### TUESDAY 10, 17 & 24 OCTOBER

- \* **UPPER NORWOOD** – Workshop: *Reclaiming the Bible* (for the Catholic Tradition in the Church of England). Group sessions based on practical exercises to help understand better the context of the Bible. 8–9pm at All Saints with St Margaret, Upper Norwood, SE19 3EP. Free. Booking required: [tinyurl.com/3xrv3kmu](http://tinyurl.com/3xrv3kmu)

### SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

- \* **ST ALBANS** – Festival of Church Music with choirs from across the country performing at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. 7pm. Free. Details at: [bit.ly/3RaXHLB](http://bit.ly/3RaXHLB)

### SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

- \* **EPSOM** – *Surrey Churches Preservation Trust* – Around The World in 80 Churches – illustrated talk by Andrew Plumridge, architect and trustee. 2pm at Ruxley Church, Main Hall, Ruxley Lane, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT19 0AF. £5–£10, details/book at: [bit.ly/3P9EG9M](http://bit.ly/3P9EG9M)

### SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

- \* **LOCAL** – Christians Against Poverty CAP Sunday. Free resources to help tackle UK poverty. Theme ‘*compassion in action*’. Details at: [capuk.org/sunday](http://capuk.org/sunday)

### MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

- \* **WATERLOO** – Racial Justice Pilgrimage – join the Bishop of Willesden, Lusa Nseng-Ngoy, visiting Black History memorials and art from Westminster to Ladbroke Grove. Total distance to walk 8.4 miles. Meet at Windrush Memorial Waterloo Station 9am.

## November

### THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER

- 🎵 **CROYDON** – Organ recital with Herman Jordaan. 1.30pm at Fairfield Halls, Croydon CR9 1DG. £5, under-18s free. Details/tickets at: [tinyurl.com/2fr6ktyj](http://tinyurl.com/2fr6ktyj)

### SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

- 🎵 **STREATHAM** – Streatham Choral performs Gioachino Rossini’s choral masterpiece. Conductor, Calum Fraser; Piano, Samuel Ali; Harmonium, Edward Dean. 6.45pm for 7.30pm at St Peter’s Church, Leigham Court Road, SW16 2SD. Tickets: £10.00 (£8.50 concessions) – details and book at: <https://bit.ly/3PgRDih>

### SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

- 🎵 **STREATHAM** – Recital by Daniel Shao, Flautist. 1150am–1250pm at St Peter’s Church, Leigham Court Road, SW16 2SD. Free entry with retiring collection. Details at: [stpeters-streatham.org](http://stpeters-streatham.org)

### FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER

- \* **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – *Robes SleepOut* annual fundraising event for homelessness. An evening of entertainment before participants bed down for the night in the Cathedral grounds. Details & register at: [tinyurl.com/5f32zavy](http://tinyurl.com/5f32zavy)

### SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

- \* **BLACKFRIARS** – Southwark Diocese Pioneering team ‘*Towards a mixed ecology of Church*’ – explore what a mixed ecology of church could look like in your context. 10am–4pm at Christ Church, 27 Blackfriars Rd, SE1 8NY. £15 includes lunch. Book at: [tinyurl.com/5yuvzh8p](http://tinyurl.com/5yuvzh8p)

### SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER

- 🎵 **DULWICH** – organ recital: Makoto James (St Michael, Cornhill). 7.45–8.30pm at Christ’s Chapel, 14 Gallery Rd, Dulwich Village SE21 7AD. Free, retiring collection.

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

- Saturday 4 November, 11.30am: coffee concert for St John’s At Risk Restoration Appeal. Alexander Karpeyev, piano. Coffee & cake 11am.
- Saturday 2 December, 11.30am: coffee concert for St John’s At Risk Restoration Appeal. Chiarina Piano Quartet. Coffee & cake 11am.
- Venue: St John the Evangelist, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX
- Admission FREE, generous donations, please. Further details at: [sjun.org.uk](http://sjun.org.uk)

## Advent

- 🎵 Springs Dance Company is touring to churches and schools this Advent, performing *Journey of the Magi* – a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message. Details of fees and booking at: <https://tinyurl.com/sdc-magi>

## December

### SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER


- 🎵 **STREATHAM** – Advent carol service sung by the church choir. 6.30pm–7.30pm at St Peter’s Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD. Free.

### TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER

- \* **REDHILL** – A visit from St Nicholas. For all ages. Gifts for children in need. 6pm at St John, Church Road RH1 6QA. Please register: [nicholasmyrabari@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasmyrabari@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

- 🎵 **STREATHAM** – Christmas carol service sung by the church choir. 6.30pm–7.30pm at St Peter’s Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD. Free.

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If you wish to include details of your upcoming events, please email [bridge@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bridge@southwark.anglican.org)





## IN FOCUS...

### Chaplaincy at Gatwick Airport

# Getting to know Revd Sue Lepp

*This month Revd Sue Lepp will be licensed as the new Chaplain at London Gatwick Airport.*

At the second busiest airport in the UK, serving many destinations and more than 18.5 million passengers, Revd Sue (pictured above) will lead the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Team and provide support via the prayer spaces in the airport terminals.

New to the Diocese of Southwark, Sue began ministering in 2016 when she was Deaconed in the Diocese of Oxford, after training for ordination at Wycliffe Hall. She said, "I served my curacy in the Parish of Langley Marish on the east side of Slough where I became well acquainted with what it is like to live close to a major airport! During my curacy I became a Volunteer Chaplain with Thames Valley Police; a role I have loved. I was recently a board member of Police Chaplaincy UK.

"In January 2021 I moved to become the Interim Priest-in-Charge of the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches between Marlow and Henley and I was also a primary school Governor." This is the first time a role in chaplaincy at Gatwick Airport has been within Southwark Diocese. Speaking about her plans for the

*"I love airports and travel. I imagine 'wandering with purpose' to learn how this complex place works... I pray that I can be a helpful, caring presence in deeply distressing times."*

first few months, Canadian born Revd Sue said, "I love airports and travel. I imagine 'wandering with purpose' to learn how this complex place works.

"I will be leading the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Team and the prayer spaces in the terminals. I need to get to know that team and how we can work together to love and serve staff and passengers of Gatwick – I expect a steep learning curve as this is a varied role. There will be various meetings to attend and committees that I will sit on, so I get familiar with the people and policies."

Sue will also be the Priest-in-Charge of Charlwood and Sidlow Bridge. She said, "My call to ordained ministry came through hospital chaplaincy at the Royal Brompton. I had a great experience on an academic placement at Jesus College,

Oxford during my training. The five years I had with Thames Valley Police has been fantastic too. Chaplaincy has always run alongside parish ministry responsibilities. I feel very privileged to now work primarily as a Chaplain.

"Being a chaplain is a challenge and opportunity – you never know who you will encounter so you need to be ready for anything! As a chaplain you need to be able to read a situation quickly as people may not expect you or know how to respond to you. It is important to give space and time for conversations, listen more than you speak and be able to reflect back in the moment and later on.

"For me, I find the most satisfaction in developing relationships with people outside of the church and the Christian faith. It is really refreshing for my ministry and challenges me in what it means to be a Christian and a Priest. It is showing God's love and support for anyone and everyone in a demanding workplace."

Describing her ministry, Sue referred to Luke 7:11–17, the story of the widow of Nain: "Jesus approaches this woman in her moment of deepest distress and need on the wrong side of the wall. Jesus does not ask her who she is or where she is from. He simply meets her in her pain and brings comfort. There are many onlookers but no one else can do what He does. It reminds me that it is only Jesus who can fully meet our needs.

"I see chaplaincy as meeting people where they are and in the condition they are in. Not everyone can do what a chaplain does; there is a distinctiveness to the role. Not every passenger is going to a stag-do in Prague, not all travel is for pleasure although it is lovely to celebrate with people! I pray that I can be a helpful, caring presence in deeply distressing times."

## New Canon Precentor

On Sunday 10 September, Revd Canon Kathryn Fleming made her declaration of oaths at Southwark Cathedral and was instituted by Bishop Christopher and installed by Revd Canon Michael Rawson, Interim Dean of Southwark.



Kathryn was welcomed by members of the Cathedral Chapter before leading the congregation in prayer.

After the service, Kathryn, previously Canon for Worship and Community at Coventry Cathedral said, "Since my arrival here, I have been overwhelmed by the warmest of welcomes. The experience that day of the Cathedral filled with my favourite people, sharing inspiring worship and music that has shaped my faith journey over many years, will surely sustain me for months to come. Now I'm delighted to be getting down to work at such an exciting point in the life of this Cathedral."

## Changes to Bishop's staff team

**Last month Bishop Christopher wrote to all Clergy and Lay Ministers about changes in his staff team.**

Canon Jay Colwill, Director of Mission, will be taking up a new post as Senior Chaplain at St Michael's Church, Paris and will be leaving the Diocesan team at the end of October. Ahead of his departure, Jay said, "I am grateful to God for all that I have learned as I have served the Diocese of Southwark: its parishes, schools, communities and Cathedral. To live and work in such a vibrant, multi-cultural, international city and Diocese will be great preparation for the next step in my mission and ministry journey in Paris."

Will Cookson, currently the Director of Pioneering Ministry and Dean of Fresh Expressions will become Director of Mission as well as Dean of Pioneering Ministry and Fresh Expressions – combining all aspects of the Mission Department including our social justice and children and young people.

Will, who takes up this role at the beginning of December, said, "I am very honoured... I have served in the Diocese for more than 20 years and love the wide diversity of the parishes, their people and their contexts. I look forward to continuing to serve them in the coming years in this new combined department, building on all Jay has achieved and to see what God has in store for our wonderful Diocese."



The Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley has been appointed as a Residentiary Canon taking on the new role of Dean of Cultural Diversity. Speaking about her appointment, Roxanne said, "I am truly overjoyed and excited to have been offered the new post of Dean of Cultural Diversity, here in our Diocese. I also look forward to the joys and new learnings which the upgrade to Residentiary Canon at Southwark brings



in my appointment as Canon Librarian." Roxanne will be commissioned by Bishop Christopher when she is installed as Canon Librarian in the New Year – he said, "There has been wide consultation following the launch of the Southwark Anti-Racism Charter about effective implementation as well as modelling our cultural diversity. This new appointment will enable us to do this with imagination and strategic focus."



L-R: Jay Colwill, Will Cookson and Roxanne Eversley.