

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.28 No.7
September 2023

Nicola Thomas

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Diocesan Secretary
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Introducing the new Dean of Southwark

Bishop Christopher has appointed The Revd Dr Mark Oakley as the next Dean of Southwark. Mark is currently Dean of Chapel and Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and will be installed at Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral on Advent Sunday (3 December) at 3pm.

Mark was ordained at St Paul's cathedral in 1993 and served his curacy at St John's Wood Church in London Diocese. He was later appointed Chaplain to the Bishop of London and after four years was made Rector of the Actors' Church in Covent Garden. He subsequently served as an Archdeacon in the Diocese in Europe and Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral.

Mark holds a PhD in English Literature and is an author of several books on poetry and spirituality. A well-known speaker and preacher, Mark has been awarded both the Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing and the Lanfranc award by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for education and scholarship. He has a strong commitment to human rights and has served on the board of Liberty and the Civil Liberties Trust, as well as being awarded one of the first 'Upstander' awards for his work with hate crime victims. In 2021, King's College London awarded Mark a prestigious Fellowship

award in recognition of his 'exceptional service and achievement'.

Speaking about his appointment, Mark said: "I am very honoured, and a little daunted, to be asked to continue the ministry of the Dean of Southwark, following on from the extraordinary work and presence of Andrew Nunn. I have been grateful all my life for the existence of Southwark Cathedral, for its witness to the gospel through learning and formation, arts and the imagination, local partnerships and a commitment to social justice. I am now deeply grateful to be asked to become a part of its life and mission, and I ask for your prayers as I prepare to join the people of the cathedral and diocese. Our vocation is to embody a sacramental, poetic and just Christian faith that resonates with both joy and integrity. I really look forward to making new friends as we seek to do this together."

Bishop Christopher said, "Mark is a person of depth, insight and integrity who brings with him a wealth of priestly experience offered in many different contexts. Before St John's he was a Canon of St Paul's following on from service in the Diocese in Europe as Chaplain at Copenhagen and Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe. This variety of experience will equip him well for the prominent role he will now take on as



The Revd Dr Mark Oakley, appointed Dean of Southwark Cathedral.

Dean of Southwark and I much look forward to working with him."

The Revd Canon Michael Rawson, Interim Dean of Southwark Cathedral said, "He brings theological reflection alive in his preaching and writing. We look forward to worshipping and working with Mark as the Cathedral enters a new and exciting phase of our life together, in deepening our faith and reaching out in service of our parishes and Diocese."

Heather Hancock, Master of St John's College, University of Cambridge, said, "Southwark Cathedral is fortunate to be welcoming Mark as their Dean when he leaves St John's later this year; he will go with our gratitude and very best wishes."

Watch a video of Mark introducing himself here: bit.ly/3ORXviY

Concerns over new migration Act

The Illegal Migration Act aims to put a stop to illegal migration into the UK. This recent change in law means that migrants who travel to the UK by non-authorised routes will be detained and deported.

According to the Government, this will free up capacity so that the UK can better support those in genuine need of asylum who have arrived via safe and legal routes. But this also means that people

entering the country, can only do so via a small number of government-approved programmes.

Fundamentally changing the status of asylum seekers, the Act has been at the centre of debate between church leaders and parliamentarians in the House of Lords and the House of Commons, debating the controversial law aiming to stop small boat channel crossings.

During one of many committee debates at the House of Lords, which went on until 4.15am on Thursday 8 June, Bishop Christopher voiced his concerns about detaining pregnant women and children. This followed proposed amendments to the Act on migrant detention and the clinical screening of people at risk of harm in detention centres.

Continued on page 10 ►

A view from The BRIDGE



When I was at school we all had to memorize Keats' poem 'Autumn', and it always comes to mind each September.

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the
thatch-eves run;
...Until they think warm days will
never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their
clammy cells.*

Well, autumn is definitely in the air, as we say farewell to a summer – in which the sun did not 'overbrim'. Perhaps we should count our blessings, for extreme weather events have been seen throughout many parts of the world this summer, including floods, scorching temperatures, and raging wildfires, foregrounding the need for even more urgent responses to the climate crisis, at local, national and international levels.

This deeper focus on the environment fits into the season of *Creationtide*, which we will mark over the next few weeks – giving thanks for God's world and renewing our promises to treasure our world, as it states in the fifth Mark of Mission. September is also the month when we give thanks for the treasures of the earth that we receive. Many churches will celebrate their Harvest festivals and collect gifts to share in their communities and further afield, as we remember countries where the harvests will be poor or non-existent. As a Diocese, we give thanks for the generosity of

churches and schools in supporting local families and individuals with food, advice and advocacy, and for collecting money for charitable work overseas.

As well as marking seasonal changes, September is also a time of new beginnings. Schools, colleges, and universities will open for the new term, and many churches will mark 'Back to School' Education Sunday with prayers and blessings for new beginnings in the lives of students and staff alike. The Diocesan Board of Education and Multi-Academy Trust educate and care for over 42,000 students in our schools. At the end of the month, just before Michaelmas, there will be a service at Southwark Cathedral to give thanks for the work of our Board of Education – our school leaders, governors, and chaplains.

There are changes afoot, too, at the Cathedral and in our Diocesan offices. In August, a new Dean of Southwark was announced, and doubtless, the Cathedral will begin in earnest its preparations for Canon Mark Oakley to take up his post in December. Our new Diocesan Secretary, Nicola Thomas, will also take up her new role this month.

So, as the season turns and brings change, we give thanks to God for new beginnings and his unwavering provision.

Bishop Rosemarie



NEWS IN BRIEF

The Discipleship and Ministry Team welcome Charlotte Gautier

Peter Graystone, licensed Reader, has retired as Lay Training Officer having joined the team at Trinity House five years ago. He will be succeeded by Charlotte Gauthier, Assistant Director of Discipleship, who will now be leading on the Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship, supporting those across the Diocese taking part in the Growing in Faith and Life course (see more on page 12).



Charlotte recently completed her doctorate on the history of the English Church prior to the Reformation and has taught numerous courses on church history and theology. Born in the USA, Charlotte moved to London in 2015, was raised in the Presbyterian church and in 2019, was confirmed in the Church of England. A few weeks into her new role, Charlotte said, "I'm delighted to undertake this ministry, helping the people of Southwark grow in the knowledge and love of God and deepen their Christian discipleship."

Celebrating Black History

A thanksgiving service at Southwark Cathedral will take place in celebration of *Black History Month* on Saturday 7 October 2023 at 11am. We are partnering with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education to organise this exciting celebration with worship and afternoon workshops that will explore this year's theme of *Windrush 75* and its legacy.

Find out more at: tinyurl.com/2yv25a4z

Synod backs trial to drop wedding fees

The General Synod has backed a regional trial to offer Church of England weddings free of statutory fees following a motion brought by Blackburn Diocesan Synod. Members voted in favour of requesting that the Archbishops' Council design and implement a time-limited regional trial providing wedding fees free of all statutory fees. The Council has been asked to report on the impact of the trial on the number of weddings conducted, the pastoral and missional contacts made, and charitable giving in connection with weddings. The report would also detail the projected parochial and diocesan finances as a result of the trial.

Read the full press release at: bit.ly/3Dpoz2m

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The OCTOBER edition is due to be published online and in print on 1 October 2023. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**.

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...

Diocesan Synod

Vision and investment: July Diocesan Synod

On 12 July, members gathered at St Peter, Battersea for Diocesan Synod. Bishop Christopher welcomed members to the meeting, as he expressed gratitude to Ruth Martin, Diocesan Secretary, who retired from her role as Diocesan Secretary at the end of the summer.

In his Presidential Address to the Synod, Bishop Christopher urged those present to continue to seek unity. He said, "I stand here as your brother in Christ. Our lives are bound together as we witness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am committed to upholding your theological convictions in the belief that they are held in good faith. I ask and expect that we live and work as those who are bound together by a common baptism and a common profession of faith in the living God who has revealed himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Read the full Presidential Address here: bit.ly/3s84lrK

Together, the Diocesan Secretary and Mark Rhodes, Director of Finance provided the midyear financial update and three year forward view. Synod then received the Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and audit outcomes presented by Sir David Beamish, Chair of the Diocesan Board

of Finance. Members were asked to vote on the motion and this was moved by unanimous show of hands. Read the annual report here: bit.ly/3NGdVjt

Later, Adrian Greenwood, Chair of the House of Clergy took to the chair, where Richard Taylor from the Battersea Deanery introduced a motion on ethical investment. This followed the report of the National Church's review of its own ethical investment policy and the multi-session debate during the March Diocesan Synod. Mr Taylor urged members of Synod to be attentive to 'the signs of the times' remarking that, "Between the fourth and the tenth of July we experienced the seven hottest days on earth in the past 100 years."

Two amendments were brought by Marshall Manson, Deptford Deanery and Sir David.

Speaking on behalf of the investment committee and referring to his amendment, Sir David said, "It reflects the fact that for some time it has been our policy in this Diocese to follow the policy of the national investing bodies and this amendment simply restates that. With Marshall's very helpful amendment and with the decision of the national investing bodies to divest themselves from investments in fossil fuels... we don't have



Clockwise from top left: Sir David Beamish, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, focused on financial resilience; Revd Sandra Schloss updates all on General Synod; Bishop Christopher in discussion with Synod members.

any difficulty in accepting this amendment and it gives us until the end of next year to do the divesting."

A discussion followed and both amendments were accepted. This is a significant step forward – the Diocese has now pledged to divest from any funds that invest in fossil fuels by the end of 2024. Additionally, it committed not to invest in fossil fuel companies in the future.

Welcoming the decision, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, said, "We are in the midst of a climate crisis – and this requires each of us to do whatever we can to reduce our carbon emissions and care for God's world. We are at the beginning of our journey to Carbon Net Zero, and there is a great deal more to be done, but this is a significant step forward for our Diocese."

The Diocese has committed to reaching Carbon Net Zero by 2035 and plans to set up a dedicated fund to support this work by the end of 2023.

Next, the *Southwark Vision* Diocesan Investment Programme 2023–2035 was presented by the Diocesan Secretary and Revd Canon Jeremy Clark-King, after which members split up into groups for an activity focused on the draft *Vision* through expressing their concerns and ideas.

Revd Sandra Schloss, Vicar at St Luke, Peckham, Chair of the Southwark Racial Justice Committee and General Synod member also provided an update on the General Synod's July Group of Sessions which took place in York. This was followed by formal questions. Synod concluded with Revd Lotwina asking the Diocesan Secretary what she'll be doing "This time tomorrow..." as members prayed for her. Thanksgiving and reflection during Compline led by Bishop Christopher was an opportunity to end in prayer after commissioning The Revd Sue Clarke as Diocesan Retirement Officer and The Revd Esther Foss as Dean of Women's Ministry (see page 8).

A huge privilege to be called to serve

Our new Diocesan Secretary writes:

As St Paul rattles off his list of spiritual gifts in his letter to the Romans, some may be surprised to find 'administration' and 'leadership' alongside the, perhaps, more obvious gifts of prophecy and teaching. And yet, in order for the staff of our Diocese to lead, enable and serve our parishes, there have to be efficient and well-managed administrative processes – this is where the Diocesan Secretary comes in.

After the intensive selection process (one application letter, two presentations and three interviews) I am delighted to be stepping into this role in Southwark from 1 September. Having lived in this Diocese for nearly 25 years, it is a huge privilege to be called to serve in this way and to continue the great work of my predecessor, Ruth Martin. Ruth's faithful service – and that of the wider staff

team – are gifts that I am grateful for and privileged to inherit.

The role of Diocesan Secretary is complex – it has many elements, all of which interact with each other. Governance and accountability are at the top of the list and in my first few months I will prioritise getting to grips with the various governance processes that enable our Diocese to run smoothly and effectively. I am particularly mindful that most of our Diocesan central budget comes from the generous giving of our parishes and must be stewarded wisely and transparently in order to enable and serve our mission and ministry.

There are undoubtedly challenges ahead. The relentless pace of inflation is affecting everyone. Costs are going up: costs of running a parish, but also the costs of running a Diocese, whether paying utility bills, or staff, or materials for property repairs for clergy houses. We are all in a time of change as we learn how to

live after COVID, with the ever-growing evidence of climate change around us, and economic inequality that is increasing, rather than decreasing, with time. I am excited about working with staff across our Diocese to support our parishes as together we rise to these challenges, building on the creativity, passion and wisdom I witnessed during my time as Head of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for the Diocese.

In the face of such challenges, we recall that God is good – all the time. There is an abundance of opportunities as we strive to become ever more Christ-centred and outward-focused. This autumn, in our Episcopal Areas and Archdeacons we will be reflecting on and developing our vision for the future as we seek to discern God's direction for our communities.

In a Diocese that has always been creative and ahead of its time, this is an opportunity to consider together and with the Holy Spirit how we proclaim the good



Nicola Thomas, the incoming Diocesan Secretary.

news of Jesus Christ afresh in East Surrey and South London.

As I step into this role I am looking forward to leading a team that is ready for the future, that engenders trust, openness and collaboration as we seek to serve our parishes. No matter what challenges we face, no matter what the future holds, we will face it together – each day renewing our trust and confidence in the God we serve.

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES

More than a name on a wooden cross

It is not often that a Parish Administrator receives an email requesting items from the church's collection of archives

So, when *In Flanders Field Museum*, Ypres, Belgium, wrote to Hannah Deasy at All Saints, Putney about a wooden cross (pictured) marked with the name of a late parishioner, she was intrigued. What was to follow was the discovery of a man in the Armed Forces who had honourably served his country through the terrors of the First World War.

The international exhibition entitled '*For Evermore*', which explores cemeteries of the First World War, opened earlier this year and runs until February 2024. In an email to Hannah the curators requested '*In the context of this exhibition, they would like to have an item from your collection on loan. It concerns the following item: the cross of*



private GA Down.' Hannah said, "The initial question that flew to the mind was, do we have a World War One cross in the church?" After sourcing the cross from the collection at church, progress was made to arrange packing, dispatch and insurance. Hannah continued, "We were curious to know how Ypres were even aware of the cross in the Church's 'collection'. We later found out that the information was quite easy to find on a website: *Returned from the Front* (thereturned.co.uk). A Registrar at the V&A museum, responsible for loan agreements, kindly gave us guidance on legal and contractual issues to ensure the safe packaging and delivery of the cross which is now installed and on display in Ypres."

The *In Flanders Field Museum* is located in the rebuilt Cloth Hall, Grote Markt, Ypres, and stands itself as an important symbol of wartime hardship and subsequent recovery. The



Philosophe Cemetery, where Private Down is buried.

exhibition focuses on the Commonwealth, French, Belgian, American and German cemeteries, and highlights the people laid to rest in each place. In 1918, the Imperial War Grave Commission was established and architect Herbert Baker was selected to design war memorials and cemeteries for British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the conflicts of the First World War. Baker's Philosophe Cemetery, with its simplicity and uniformity of the war graves, never ceases to impress its visitors.

Although Hannah and Revd Daniel Trott, Team Vicar could not attend the opening of the exhibition, Elizabeth Hamilton and her husband Barry recently travelled to Belgium and were able to visit. Elizabeth

said, "It is very well and sensitively curated. The rebuilt mediaeval Cloth Hall is dedicated to the story of WWI and the whole experience of the visit was very moving indeed."

Hannah also said, "We can certainly expect a revived interest in the cross and its story on its return to All Saints Church next spring. Suddenly Private G A Down is more than a name on a wooden cross at the back of the church. He is a former member of this parish who served his country honourably. If anyone has further knowledge of the family which they would be happy to share with us, please get in touch."

What do we know about Private Down?

George Arthur Down was a Private in the 1st Battalion of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and was killed in action on 7 July 1917 at 33 years old. He was buried in Plot 1, Row T, Grave 7, in the Philosophe British Cemetery, Rue Alexandre Dumas, Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France. The rudimentary wooden cross which usually hangs below the west window at All Saints' marked his grave

and he was later added to the lists of the dead at both All Saints' and St Mary's, Putney (where he is known as Arthur). After the installation of George Down's official headstone, the wooden marker cross was evidently returned to the family, before being presented to the church.

Born 8 June 1884 in Putney, George was the eldest brother of six children born

to William Down (of Kingston, Surrey) and Emily Elizabeth Down, née Hunter. George attended St Mary's Boys School on Felsham Road, Putney.

The 1891 Census indicates that he lived at 1 March's Place with his parents and two sisters. By 1901, George is recorded as a 'plumber's boy', living at 3 Pentlow Street with his three brothers. The 1911 Census lists George (aged 26) as a house painter and still living at Pentlow Street.

In March 1913 at St John the Evangelist Church, Putney, George married Rose Ann French (1882–1964). Together they had two daughters, Rosemary Emily Down (1914) and Lilian Marian Down (1915). They lived at 75 Festing Road.

Following his death, George was awarded both the British War Medal (1914–1918) and The Victory Medal.

St James, Clapham opens its doors for unique exhibition

This month, St James, Clapham will host a unique exhibition as part of Heritage Open Days – the country's largest festival of history and culture. This is the first time St James' Church has participated in Heritage Open Days and its the fourth major exhibition staged by the church in recent years.

The exhibition will document both the building's inspiring story, as well as the remarkable and creative work of the post-war architecture of the church. It will feature photographs created and curated by Jim Grover, award-winning Clapham-based social documentary photographer,

and include maps, prints, documents and other archive materials to tell the story of St James' Church. The work of architect Nugent Cachemaille-Day will be the focus of the exhibition, with photos and a timeline of 20 of his ground-breaking churches, including others in the Southwark Diocese, that were built either side of World War II.

The exhibition will include a presentation on Saturday 16 September, at 4pm, by Clare Price, Head of Casework at 20th Century Society, and an expert on the work of Cachemaille-Day.

Revd Kit Gunasekera, Vicar of St James said, "I am so pleased to be opening our

doors once again, to welcome in our local community and to reveal and experience the fascinating and inspiring story of our beautiful church building."

Jim Grover, exhibition curator and Churchwarden at St James said, "This year's Heritage Open Days theme is 'Creativity Unwrapped'. The creativity of our architect, Nugent Cachemaille-Day, is remarkable; this is the first time an extensive exhibition of his work has been staged and I know that visitors will enjoy seeing examples of his creative, bold, and radical designs for some 20 churches that he designed, including our own."



The exhibition will run from Saturday 16 September – Sunday 15 October. Details at: stjamesclapham.org.uk

Transformation for all – St Mark's Academy, Mitcham

Melody Thorpe, a member of the Local Governing Board at St Mark's Academy, Mitcham writes:

Social action and social justice are vital elements of mission within God's kingdom. We have seen this in action in St Mark's Academy's transformational journey in the last decade as it has committed to seeing 'transformation for all'.

St Mark's wants all their young people, of all faiths and none, to be 'transformed by the renewing of their minds' (Romans 12:2) through learning, and to live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

Situated in the heart of Mitcham, St Mark's is truly a diverse and inclusive school with 40% of their pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding. This funding, allocated by the government, aims to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils – the national average is 25% of pupils eligible.

St Mark's is an academy that is in both the Southwark Diocesan family of schools and part of the Anthem Trust education charity. As such it is well supported and has an active local governing board which includes foundation governors from the local community who are supportive of the Christian character of the school.

St Mark's' vision is to provide an outstanding quality of education, dedicated to academic and character excellence, underpinned by the inclusive Christian values of love, hope and trust. This is seen in action on a daily basis as you walk into the academy grounds and meet students and staff and see how they interact. Their vision is lived and breathed by every member of the St Mark's family.

It hasn't been an easy journey from a school given notice to improve by Ofsted in 2009 with a negative reputation in the local community to becoming a vibrant, oversubscribed school with high levels of expectation and ambition for all. Students are happy and do well and are well prepared for the next stage of their education, employment or training – equipped to live life in all its fullness.



"This is an inclusive school where pupils are happy and do well. Leaders have high expectations for pupils and ensure that they follow a broad and ambitious curriculum."

Most recently, their journey has also been recognised by Ofsted which graded St Marks' as having "enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding if we were to carry out a graded inspection". Ofsted also said "This is an inclusive school where pupils are happy and do well. Leaders have high expectations for pupils and ensure that they follow a broad and ambitious curriculum. Pupils develop a deep body of knowledge and produce work of high quality in different subjects".

Teacher well-being lies at the heart of the academy's vision and ethos. The Ofsted report celebrates the fact that, "staff are proud to work here and feel well supported. They comment that leaders listen to them when implementing policies and aim to reduce workload."



The Principal, Hannah Fahey, has worked at the academy since 2009 when she joined as a newly qualified teacher of religious education. When writing to staff following the inspection, she said; "It is with great pride and excitement that I am able to finally share our long-awaited Ofsted report with you all. This report is a testament to the transformational work that each of you has carried out over time to allow every member of the community to live life to the full.

"As you read the words, you will feel our vision come to life and should feel so proud of all you do. This report should be a reminder that you are all truly valued and go above and beyond each day to support each other and our community. Receiving this outcome is quite literally history in the making."

Strong leadership, together with staff and pupil engagement within the school and alongside its strong Christian values

has truly been transformational for all. St Mark's is the most improved school in Merton and its students leave the academy with life changing outcomes that place the school within the top 10% of all schools nationally for GCSE Progress and A Level attainment – an exceptional achievement.

Have you ever thought about becoming a school governor?

School governing bodies need many different kinds of experience from the worlds of work as well as church, charity and community involvement.

Excellent training is available and being a school governor is a great way of helping your local church school to offer the best possible Christian education to local children and give them the best start in life. It is also a great way to develop your own skills and experience. Get in touch with your local school, incumbent or email Rachel Norman at the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (rachael.norman@southwark.anglican.org)

The members of the Local Governing Board of St Mark's have been privileged to witness and accompany St Mark's through their transformational journey. The school continues to pray and be grateful for how faith and the Church of England can affect and shape the lives of young people through their education and for all our school governors who donate their time voluntarily. If you would like to join the Board of St Mark's please contact Carol Low (clow@stmarksacademy.org.uk) or find more details at: tinyurl.com/DoSGov



Principal, Hannah Fahey engages students at St Mark's – dedicated to academic and character excellence.



IN FOCUS...
The Season of Creation 2023

Giving thanks for God's Creation

As we approach the Season of Creation or Creationtide (1 September – 4 October), we see many church communities use this time to celebrate all of God's creations and reflect on how we care for the world around us.

This year's theme for the Season of Creation is 'Let Justice and Peace Flow', dedicated to God as creator and sustainer of all life. The symbol is a Mighty River – we are called to join the river of justice and peace through climate and ecological justice. "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24).

As God's children we are encouraged to work together on behalf of all creation – not only do we renew our commitment to care for the planet, but we also give thanks for what God calls us to care for during special services, Harvest festivals and thanksgivings. Creationtide also

brings us together to give generously – giving gifts to those who need it most, as well as donating to charitable causes, to communities across the world who are severely impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

We also continue our journey in Southwark Diocese towards greater sustainability and appreciate the value of creation care, one of Church of England's *Five Marks of Mission*, so that we may live out our faith in everyday choices and actions.

The Church of England offers a range of free resources to help your church community to mark the season of creation (see below).

More information

Find out more and download resources to help your church or Christian community mark the Season of Creation at: tinyurl.com/yw39ru2x



Small steps to make a big difference

Thank you and well done to 44% of parishes who have now completed the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT).

This is the highest completion rate we have had so far and has doubled from last year. The EFT is an online resource that will calculate your church's carbon footprint over a yearly period, based on the energy used to heat and light your buildings. Completing the EFT will allow the Diocese to keep track of our overall carbon emissions, which in turn, will help the Diocesan team know what level of support and guidance you might need to reduce your carbon footprint.

Remember, by understanding your carbon footprint, you can make informed decisions and take meaningful actions to reduce your energy consumption and environmental impact.



A good time for generosity and gratitude

Smudging fingers and scratching arms while foraging blackberries or getting up early to cook heaps of chicken wings for bring and share meals... there are many kinds of harvest celebrations in a Diocese like ours – but whatever we're sharing, autumn is a good time for generosity and gratitude.

The Church of England marks *Generosity Week* from 24 September to 1 October. Gabby Parikh, Director of Giving, is encouraging churches to embrace this opportunity for honest, hopeful, grace-filled conversations about generosity.

Gabby said, "Some people feel awkward about talking about money in church. Sometimes 'money talks' are only ever given in response to a crisis, so they are associated with anxiety or guilt. Or they are so frequent that it seems the church talks about little else. But Jesus spoke about money naturally as a part of discipleship and churches can learn by following his lead."

Bishop Martin remembers ministering in a very deprived church, where, for some, finding an extra fiver was a stretch. Together the church was able to raise £50,000 for a major building project over five years. He said, "It was real widow's mite kind of stuff!" This discipleship is born in gratitude: "Any serious conversation about giving needs to begin with a reflection on the good gifts we have received in our lives – people, experiences, the love and companionship of family and friends – and a sense of thankfulness to God for them. We come into the world with nothing, fragile and dependent, and yet from our first breath until our last God provides."

He concluded, "For those who have much, I hope we can rejoice in how our gift enables mission and ministry in places where people have little. Moreover, while more prosperous parishes may through their financial giving enable mission and ministry, say, on our estates, our estates equally bless and have much to teach the wider Church."

Gabby and the Giving Team are keen to support churches in these conversations. There are resources – including sermon notes, a PowerPoint presentation and children's activities – which can be found at: tinyurl.com/GWsouthwark

The team are also hosting an informal lunchtime Zoom on Wednesday 13 September at 1pm to discuss resources, ideas and questions. To join email: hannah.starkins@southwark.anglican.org

"Growing both in what we give and how we spend are important elements in the life of a disciple."

Sharing his thoughts on giving, Bishop Martin who is deeply committed to social action and environmental justice said, "Growing both in what we give and how we spend are important elements in the life of a disciple. What we eat, the clothes we buy, the holidays we take, the transport we use, all say something about where our heart is, especially given the way in which our consumption impacts the planet and our neighbours near or far."



Flying the Green Flag

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark international standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom and around the world. In this month's Bridge, Nutfield Church Primary School and St Mary's Church, Lewisham celebrate joining thousands in achieving Green Flag status.

Nutfield Church Primary School, Redhill

The Eco-Schools Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised achievement for schools and nurseries committed to learning for sustainability. To achieve this award, the school has worked on three of the Eco-Schools 'ten topics'. These topics specifically combat a variety of global issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution. The topics Nutfield School chose were grounds, litter and biodiversity, and the school's Eco Team have been busy all year to help make the school as sustainable as possible.



Proud school children with their Eco Schools Award.

Headteacher, Miss Imogen Woods said, "Mrs Matthews, the wider staff team and the children's Eco Team have been working very hard over the past few years. I am immensely proud of the work that the children, teachers and families have done to make our school, community and indeed our planet, flourish. Our children are world changers, and it is a privilege to be part of their journey to the future."

As the new academic year begins, the school will be planning for their Eco work to be further embedded to work alongside the Diocesan 'Five Marks of Mission'.

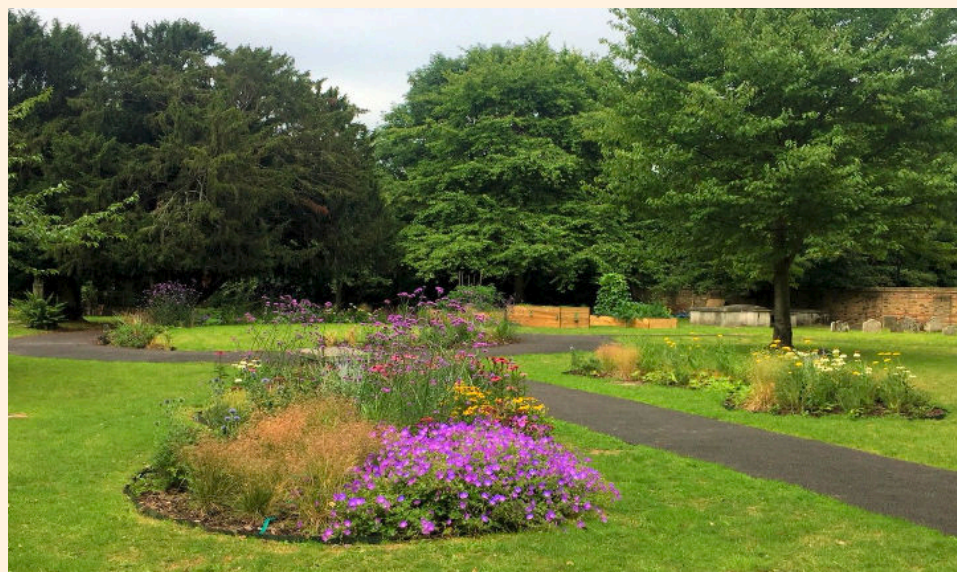
Find out more: eco-schools.org.uk

Lewisham therapeutic garden

Volunteers at St Mary's Therapeutic Garden and Churchyard in Lewisham have been awarded a Green Flag, joining 23 other green spaces across Lewisham also with Green Flag status.

Under the direction of their gardener, Sue Luxton, the focus of the garden has been to increase biodiversity, as well as provide a place of beauty and peace for the whole community to enjoy. Volunteers are now crowdfunding to buy a second 1,900 litre water butt to collect water from St Mary's Church roof, which will greatly reduce the use of mains water.

Find out more: tinyurl.com/mr7fxjsr



The Therapeutic Garden and churchyard at St Mary, Lewisham.

Community Fridge continues to flourish one year on



Last month, St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green, celebrated its Community Fridge first anniversary. Since its inception, the Community Fridge has flourished with the support of volunteers who ensure that it runs smoothly each week.

Valued and enjoyed by the Hurst Green Community, it is useful to the environment by helping to reduce the amount of fresh food that goes into landfill. It also encourages generosity (as everything is given away free) and reduces isolation as attendees can stay for a cup of tea and a chat. It's a crucial response to the cost-of-living crisis through providing access to free, fresh food without means testing or form filling.



During the celebration, Revd Lotwina Farodoye thanked everyone involved and welcomed Che Ramsden, as the new Leader and Chair of the Community Fridge. In appreciation for Che's leadership and early involvement, Revd Lotwina (pictured left) said, "I have every confidence in Che and know that the fridge will continue to evolve, blossom and flourish under her leadership."

The Hurst Green Community Fridge runs on Wednesdays at Aggies on the Green from 11.15am–12.30pm.

Parish Support Fund – make your pledge by 15 September

The Parish Support Fund (PSF) was introduced in Southwark in January 2016 and since its launch parishes have responded positively and generously across the Diocese.

Each year parishes are invited to make a pledge to the PSF which is realistic, challenging, and generous and these pledges fund our shared mission in each community in every part of our Diocese. The deadline to make your pledge is **15 September 2023**. Don't forget that there are a range of PSF materials available online at: bit.ly/43GyHyq and we hope that you will continue to share these letters, stories and videos with your PCC and congregation.

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





DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Lutherans in Southwark

There are not many Lutherans in the UK but Southwark is something of a Lutheran hotspot. Lutheran seafarers built their churches in proximity to ports and wharfs, so it is no surprise that you can find two Scandinavian churches in Rotherhithe. These churches have long-standing links with the Diocese of Southwark.

More recently, another Lutheran organisation has moved to Southwark: The Council of Lutheran Churches in Great Britain (CLC). This is an umbrella organisation for nine Lutheran Churches, all from different countries (including Scandinavians) and one from the UK itself – the Lutheran Church in Great Britain. Many are also members of the Porvoo Communion through which we share full communion with the Church of England.

Anna Kraus, General Secretary of the Council of Lutheran Churches, writes:

CLC was established 75 years ago to support Lutheran refugee communities. We continue to support our churches, run a student chaplaincy for international students, sponsor a Sanctuary Scholarship at Mansfield College, Oxford, and are deeply engaged in ecumenism.

We have a podcast 'Lutherans in the UK' in which we talk about Lutherans and how we are involved in different areas of life in the UK. Our recording studio is well equipped, and we are happy to share its with others!

This is an exciting year for us, not least because we have found a new home in Southwark. We are deeply grateful for the warm welcome by the Diocese. All are warmly invited to our weekday Eucharist held every Tuesday, 12 noon, at our office (Trident House, 46–48 Webber Street, SE1 8QW). This is a great way to express the Porvoo Communion in practice. People are also very welcome to celebrate our 75th anniversary with us on 31 October (Reformation Day). We will meet in our office to follow the celebrations during the day, or people can join us for the service at 6pm in the Norwegian Church.

We are looking forward to settling down in Southwark. Thank you for welcoming us with open arms. Do get in touch if you would like to know more about us and what we do.



Find out more...

Website: lutheran.org.uk
Facebook: bit.ly/3qubWk0

Celebrating Southwark Mothers' Union

Southwark Mothers' Union welcomed members and friends from across the Dioceses as well as officers from other dioceses and across the Canterbury Province to their Festival Eucharist on 15 July at Southwark Cathedral.

The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu presided and preached on the theme 'Transformation Now', a strong message to the Mothers' Union and the Church as a whole to allow God to transform our lives that his light might shine out of darkness.



Top (l-r): The team leading the intersessions – Dorothy Lupinda, Noah Dunford and Jamal Idowu-Fearon (and sister). Bottom (l-r): MU Leaders – Kathryn Anderson the Provincial President for Canterbury, Comfort Idowu-Fearon, Southwark Diocesan President; Sue Johnson, London Diocesan President; Julia Jamieson, Zonal Trustee for the Canterbury Province, Mary Margaret Yates, Rochester Diocesan President.

The Bishop of Southwark commissions...

Over the summer, Bishop Christopher commissioned a number of people to key roles to support mission and ministry across our Diocese.

Dr Clare Dowding has been appointed as Warden of Readers from early October, succeeding Ray Wheeler on his retirement. Clare is a Reader at All Saints' Blackheath and works as Business Manager of the Dean's Office at King's College London. Clare is also a Vocations Adviser, part of the Diocese's work in encouraging and supporting those discerning a vocation to formal ministry.

The Revd Esther Foss has been commissioned Dean of Women's Ministry. Currently the Croydon Area

Women's Ministry Advisor, Revd Esther is also the Chaplain to Mothers' Union and Vicar at St Andrew, Coulsdon.

The Revd Dr Melanie Harrington-Haynes presently Vicar of Kew, St Philip and All Saints with St Luke was commissioned by Bishop Christopher as Adviser for Women's Ministry in the

Kingston Episcopal Area on Wednesday 26 July. She will be working alongside The Revd Esther Foss, Dean of Women's Ministry.

The Revd Canon Dr Sue Clarke, presently holder of the Bishop of Southwark's Permission to Officiate, has been commissioned as Kingston

Episcopal Area Retirement Officer to support retired Clergy across the Diocese. Revd Sue has also been appointed as Southwark Diocesan Retirement Officer replacing Revd Canon Naomi Whittle, where she was commissioned at the July Diocesan Synod.



Dr Clare Dowding



Revd Canon Dr Sue Clarke



Revd Dr Melanie Harrington-Haynes



Revd Esther Foss & friend!

PARISH NEWS



Feast of sounds in Tooting

Revd Prof June Boyce-Tillman writes about Wandsworth Arts Festival Fringe in All Saints Church, Tooting.

The soaring arches of All Saints Church, Tooting, echoed joyfully as the Arts Festival celebrated the diversity of our wonderful part of Wandsworth. Jazz concerts began and ended the event with *Fuzion* and the *Senior Street Sextet* filling the space with excitement. Pawel Siwczak's harpsichord provided sensual and mysterious sounds in three concerts, including the magical celebration of keyboard instruments, led by Emma Howarth with Simon Gutteridge's *Tooting Suite* for organ.

Midsummer was celebrated in two concerts – community choirs led by Katie Rose and local storytellers including Alison Royce and June Peters; and I brought alive the world of the medieval mystic, Hildegard of Bingen. Sounds of Sanctuary enabled people to enter a contemplative meditative atmosphere with gongs and oboe. Wandsworth Music inspired us with young instrumentalists.

The community concert included an extraordinary variety of ages, ethnicities, abilities, instruments and experiences. We had a 'generous feast' of sounds for everyone and around 1,000 people came through the festival portal.

We were so pleased to welcome them all into sacred hospitality.



L-R: Judith Silver of Companion Voices; the Senior Street Sextet at the closing Jazz concert.

Long-serving organist awarded British Empire Medal

Long-serving organist, Tony Adkins of St Richard, Ham, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to charity.

To celebrate, Tony played at his 29th piano concert to raise funds for a variety of causes. The concert was attended by Bishop Martin, Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Fiona Sacks and her

consort Richard Sacks, along with many others.

On receiving his BEM, Tony said, "I am greatly humbled, overwhelmed and proud that through a lifetime of giving concerts my work has been recognised by His Majesty The King. My gratitude also goes to my audiences, without whom, this would never have happened."



L-R: Richard Sacks, Fiona Sacks Deputy (Mayor of Richmond), Tony Adkins, Bishop Martin and the Revd Simon Coupland, Vicar of St Richard, Ham).

Pedal-powered cathedral tour

Revd John Whittaker, Team Rector of the Putney Parish, cycled across the country, in a bid to stop at every single one of the 42 cathedrals in England.

Dedicating his sabbatical leave to a pilgrimage across the United Kingdom, Revd John set off from Putney on 15 May, arriving at his first cathedral stop, Chelmsford – followed by Bury St Edmonds, Norwich, Peterborough and Leicester. He continued in an anti-clockwise direction around the country, heading further north to take in the views of Southwell Minster and Derby Cathedral, through to the Yorkshire Hills, Lincoln and York.

John documented his progress on his 'X' (formerly known as Twitter) profile @PutneyPriest to keep friends, family and parishioners updated.

Two weeks into the pilgrimage he had visited 15 cathedrals and took a well-deserved few rest days in Newcastle. From Newcastle, he cycled to England's most northerly cathedral in Carlisle and started the journey back south via cathedrals in Ripon, Blackburn, Manchester and Liverpool.

The bike ride did not come without its challenges, and on the same day as passing his 1,000-mile mark, John's bike suffered a tyre puncture. As well as many sore muscles along the way, he also had several impacts with thorny bushes on the side of the road and a buckled back wheel that needed replacement.

Battling through these difficulties, John pushed on with his third week, visiting Chester, Lichfield and Birmingham Cathedral. Coventry was the first stop of week four and he pedalled on to make stops at Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester and

Oxford before finishing at Bristol Cathedral.

John was supported by his friends and family, who offered hospitality in the form of meals and places to stay, as well as meeting him at their local cathedrals and accompanying him on stretches of the pilgrimage.

Week six was dubbed the toughest of them all and setting off from Bristol, John cycled to the furthest cathedral on his trip – Truro – visiting Wells and Exeter on the way. Although exhausted, he continued to journey back to the capital, via Winchester, Portsmouth, Chichester and Guildford.

The pilgrimage finished on 5 July at St Paul's Cathedral and then on to Southwark Cathedral, just in time for evening prayer – a suitable way to end his 1,800-mile pilgrimage.



L-R: John was joined by fellow Anglican priest Paul Cowan for part of the journey; John finishing at Southwark Cathedral.



Celebrating a musical ministry

On 18 June, St Francis, Horley, celebrated organist Joan Turtle's musical ministry during a special morning service.

Over 40 years ago, Joan started attending St Francis with her son, Jamie and when the Sunday School needed a new pianist and organist the leader asked the children if any of their parents played the piano. Three hands shot up, including Joan's son, and following on from that she became the church organist. Throughout the years, Joan has supported a range of different groups that take place at the church, including the weekly Ballet Dance School. She has also provided piano lessons and plays regularly for Mothers' Union services and the Christmas party.

Phil Wright, Church Warden and Penny Lochead, Reader, shared

messages of appreciation from parishioners during the service from a special book of dedication – compiled of photographs taken over the years to celebrate Joan, despite her often saying "you don't want a photograph of me".

One young mum wrote, "In particular when my son Daniel was little, Joan always made a special effort to chat, share a smile or a loving wave which

honestly meant so much to a frazzled mum. Those simple actions really made me feel part of a wider church family."

A former Church Warden wrote, "Joan has helped with the Langshott School and Bobtails visits when she would play the organ for the children and explain how the organ worked. The children were fascinated, clambering to take a look. Their faces were a delight to watch as music appeared to come out of keys and pedals! Joan was full of smiles."

Summing up appreciation of Joan's service and dedication Dr Williamson said, "Joan has been the most loyal, skilful and brilliant musician, enriching the life of our church. It is hard to thank her adequately for all her skills and we must hope that she will continue to enrich St Francis for many more years to come."



Joan with the youngest member of the congregation in 2021.

◀ Continued from page 1

Bishop Christopher (pictured right) spoke to the two amendments moved by Baroness Lister of Burtersett, supported by the Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek. Amendments sent from the House of Lords were sent back to MPs in the House of Commons to discuss.

In a post on ‘X’ (formerly known as Twitter), Bishop Christopher said, “Glad to have voted to support these amendments including that of Archbishop Justin Welby last night – The House of Lords is looking to the Government for further concessions – tellingly Theresa May said in the Commons the Act will consign more people to slavery – no doubt about it.”

The Illegal Migration Act 2023 was given royal assent on 20 July 2023.

In an opinion piece published in the Church Times on 28 July, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark said, “I maintain hope that our church communities will continue to



do whatever they can to welcome and support strangers and travellers – wherever they hail from: hope that those of all faiths and none will continue to advocate for the dignity of those seeking to come to the UK; hope that God will open our eyes, our arms, and our hearts to the gifts of our brothers and sisters who have come to these shores as a result of economic and political imperatives, and have contributed so richly to the life of our gloriously diverse nation.”

Disability Awareness Sunday

On Sunday 17 September churches will come together to celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday as part of an initiative from Through the Roof, a charity working to transform lives through Jesus with disabled people.

Disability Awareness Sunday is a chance to join with many other churches across the UK to focus on how the presence and participation of disabled people enriches the life of the church and our mission to our local communities. This year’s theme is ‘The gifts God gives us’ and the material includes service ideas, stories and testimonies, and a video featuring Ashleigh talking about her work with *Through the Roof*.

Here are some helpful pointers to get you started:

Please don’t worry if your calendar doesn’t allow you to hold this service on 17 September. Simply choose any Sunday in September or October on which to hold your ‘Disability Awareness Sunday’.

If this is the first time you are holding a service like this, you could start with resources based on Luke 5 and the story of the man who was lowered through the roof by his friends.

There are plenty of resources available including service ideas, stories and testimonies, and videos.

Importantly, in any service with a disability focus, be sure to put the voices, stories and experiences of disabled people at the very centre of what you do. Include the disabled members of your congregation in the planning and delivery of the service and continue that involvement in the weeks and months to come. Disabled people will feel that your church is a place that truly welcomes and values them when they begin to see themselves represented in your leadership.

Register to access free resources available on the *Through the Roof* website here: tinyurl.com/4vth65uw.



The service for St Bartholomew’s Primary, Sydenham.

Primary school leavers give thanks

This summer, several primary school leavers services took place at Southwark Cathedral to give thanks for their time in a Church of England school. It was an opportunity to pray together and ask God to travel with them to secondary school and beyond. The theme of this year’s school leavers services was ‘Faithfulness,’ paying tribute to her late majesty, Queen Elizabeth II who lived her life steadfastly by Christian faith.

Pioneering together



A missionary vision of Southwark Lay and Ordained Pioneers, pictured at Bishop’s House for an evening together – giving thanks, and sharing stories of pioneering and fresh expressions from across the Diocese.



LET US PRAY... SEPTEMBER

The Venerable John Kiddle
Archdeacon of Wandsworth



And, as we make space to consider, what might God be seeking to say to us – about faith and dependence – about gratitude and generosity – about hope and action – about love and justice?

We celebrate this month the Season of Creation. Many churches will be holding Harvest Festivals and other events during these weeks. It’s a good opportunity to reflect with gratitude on the beauty and bounty of creation, but also to reflect with repentance on the damage we do to a fragile planet on which we, and all of life, depends.

Perhaps this year we will do so with an added sense of urgency, a sharpened sense of dependence and gratitude, and a renewed determination to play our part in ensuring a fair future for all.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus invites us to stop and open our eyes to the beautiful fragility of creation, and, as we do so, to see more deeply God’s loving provision and goodness.

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?” Matthew 6.28-30

This month, how might we consider creation?

It might mean taking time to open our eyes and see the intricate beauty around us.

It might mean learning to pay attention to life and its changes around us.

It might mean finding out more about the causes and effects of our changing climate.

It might mean being still, and knowing our true dependence on God

*Loving God
Open our eyes to see the beauty of your creation
Open our hands to hold lightly the gifts you give
Open our minds to think deeply and widely
Open our hearts to repent readily and love compassionately
And open our lives to walk gently
For your world’s sake.
Amen.*

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for OCTOBER ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**

September

1-3 SEPTEMBER

- * **OXFORD** – 'Find Your Voice'. The CofE Racial Justice Unit is inviting young adults (aged 18-23) of all UKME/GMH backgrounds to represent their diverse communities. Christ Church Saint Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1DP. Free. Details/tickets at: tinyurl.com/ym4acz8b

Concerts at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

Saturday 2 September, 11.30am: coffee concert for St John's At Risk Restoration Appeal. Cristiana Achim piano. Coffee & cake 11am.

Thursday 28 September, 7.30pm: organ concert with Claudia Grinnell (Winchester Cathedral). Refreshments.

Saturday 7 October, 11.30am: coffee concert for St John's At Risk Restoration Appeal. Riverside Winds. Coffee & cake 11am.

Thursday 19 October, 7.30pm: organ concert with Anne Page, Cambridge. Lavish refreshments.

Venue: St John the Evangelist, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX
Admission FREE, generous donations, please. Further details at: sjun.org.uk

THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

- * **CROYDON** – Operation Forgiveness Vision Night. Come along and find out how your church can respond to serious youth violence. 7-9.30pm, at West Croydon Baptist Church, Whitehorse Road, CR0 2JH. Free. To book email: tayo.oshea@lcm.org.uk

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

- * **SURREY** – Surrey Churches Preservation Trust Ride & Stride. Bike or walk to raise funds for Surrey's churches and have a great day. Discover Surrey's heritage and make a real difference. Routes visit churches across the county and can be found at: bit.ly/3MyNrKr.

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

- ♪ **DULWICH** – David Goode, internationally known for his performances of JS Bach, plays the historic 18th century George England organ. 7.45pm at Christ's Chapel, 14 Gallery Rd, Dulwich Village SE21 7AD. Free, generous donation please.

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – Thanksgiving Service of Evensong for Ruth Martin as she retires as Diocesan Secretary. 5.30pm, followed by an informal reception. If you would like to attend please email Charles.Hudson-Beddows@southwark.anglican.org

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

- ✠ **ONLINE** – Church Army Discovery Evening. We train, support and employ Pioneer Evangelists. Find out what we do and how you can share in our vision. Free. Details/book at: tinyurl.com/yx6wcbe

16-17 SEPTEMBER

- * **UPPER NORWOOD** – Open House Festival. Step into a fascinating place with much history and heritage to enjoy. 12-6pm All Saints Church, Upper Norwood SE19 3EP. Free.

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

- ♪ **CROYDON** – Organ recital with Marilyn Harper. 1.30pm at Fairfield Halls, Croydon CR9 1DG. £5, under-18s free. Details/tickets at: tinyurl.com/mn35b9h5

SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

- * **CLAPHAM** – 3rd Annual Big Green Day – local action against climate change with speakers, workshops, stalls and a bring-and-share lunch. Outdoor Eucharist 10am, event 11am-3pm. St Paul's, Clapham, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DZ. Free. Details from: bgdclapham@gmail.com

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

- * **ELTHAM** – Craft Fair and Macmillan Coffee Morning. Stalls selling goods. Refreshments in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. 10am-1.30pm at St Luke's Church, Westmount Road, Eltham SE9 1XQ. Free. Details from churchwardens@saintlukes-eltham.org.uk

October

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

Black History Month
Southwark Cathedral
Saturday 7 October, 11am

Faith. Legacy. Heritage.

Join us for a day of fellowship, learning and celebration, exploring this year's theme of Windrush 75 and its legacy. Free. Details at: tinyurl.com/2yv25a4z

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

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

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

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

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>



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If you wish to include details of your upcoming events, please email bridge@southwark.anglican.org

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Church Mice...
Wasps in the West End,
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Squirrels in the Sanctuary,
Rats in the Rectory,
Cockroaches in the Crypt

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Winner COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Growing in Faith and Life

‘Transformational, life changing, empowering, diverse and inclusive’ these were just some of the words used to describe the journey experienced by 60 people from across the Diocese who, over the past year, have completed the Bishop’s Certificate Course: Growing in Faith and Life. Here’s what this year’s cohort shared about their experience:

Some of us knew that the Bishop’s Certificate would be the first step on the path that we had been called to, joining together as a group to explore, share and learn – committed as we met once a week over 10 months.

We all received some sort of invitation to join the course – whether a mention of it had caught our eye in notices, an email or Facebook post or via a gentle nudge by our local vicar. Coming along was about accepting the invitation to deepen our faith and understanding further. It’s optional to join the course virtually or in

person at Trinity House and our diverse group was made up of people who could quote their favourite bible passages and psalms, some who had converted to Christianity as well as some who had trained as SPAs (Southwark Pastoral Assistants). With open minds and hearts, we were seeking together.

Led by Peter Graystone, Lay Training Officer alongside a group of experienced facilitators. We navigated through the old and New Testament, explored the history of the Church, what Christians believe and discipleship. As part of our study, we also completed assignments. It was a safe space, created for honesty and vulnerability to share opinions, ideas and beliefs.

The final residential weekend at Wychcroft touched many of us emotionally – meeting virtual participants in person for the first time, as we reached the end of a nourishing and enriching journey. God’s presence was evident among us, as we listened and prayed.

If you’re starting this journey, we hope it is as fulfilling for you as it was for us. If you’re curious about going on an



Peter Graystone, Lay Training Officer for over five years, has recently retired.



Above: Bishop’s Certificate recipients outside Wychcroft House, the Diocesan Retreat and Resource Centre. Below: Peter Graystone, Lay Training Officer.



“I will always remember this year of the Bishop’s Certificate as the one where there was almost as much laughter as learning.”

adventure, take a leap – and if you’ve previously completed the Bishop’s Certificate, pray for us so that we can hear what God is calling us towards...

Following a final celebratory service for the 2022/23 cohort at Southwark Cathedral, Peter Graystone (who retired from this role in August) said, “I will always remember this year of the Bishop’s Certificate as the one where there was almost as much laughter as learning. I would like to thank the twenty superb tutors (all clergy and Readers from Southwark Diocese) who make this such

a life-enhancing experience for those who want to love and serve the Lord.”

Sharing a farewell message to Peter, participant Sue said, “Thank you for all your hard work, effort and care in delivering the Bishop’s Certificate this year. I can’t believe we will be your last group and feel grateful that I was able to take part during your tenure. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement time and onward to new ventures, in the knowledge that God still has plenty for you to do!”

Peter, who has been Lay Training Officer for over five years, retired in August and will continue to be active in the Diocese as a Lay Reader.

Find out more

Details of the Bishop’s Certificate course are at: bit.ly/3CdFoxK

Continued intentional action for racial justice

The Anti-Racism Charter (ARC) is a strategy to enhance ethnic diversity and inclusion across the Diocese of Southwark. The charter was unanimously approved at Diocesan Synod on 13 March 2021, following a discussion led by The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon and Diocesan Lead on Anti-Racism, who was Archdeacon of Croydon at the time.

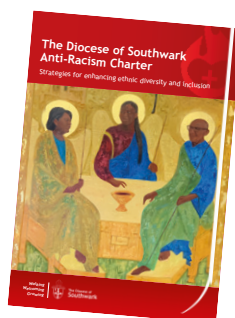
To actively counter, disrupt and oppose racial injustice, we encourage you to refer to the charter in your parishes.

The key principles of Southwark’s Anti-Racism Charter are:

- an explicit theological understanding that God’s kingdom is multi-ethnic – and that it is through our baptismal covenant that we recognise and respect the dignity of every human being and our unity in Christ
- an intentional focus in our theological studies, liturgy, teaching, prayer, word and work to take strategic and practical actions to combat racism and inequality
- a clear strategy for increasing and sustaining diversity in our governance structures at Diocesan and parish level so as to ensure representation and participation of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds at all levels of our organisation.

As well as its three key principles, the ARC includes six Diocesan commitments and a 12-point action plan for leadership and development.

Visit the website to download the Southwark Anti-Racism Charter Pack: tinyurl.com/yn7sftvf



A safe and welcoming place for all

Safeguarding is an important and evolving area of our work. Here in Southwark, we continue to learn by updating our policies, procedures and training through case reviews and best practice, to make the Church a safe and welcoming place for all. As we do this, it is vital that those with roles within our churches are kept up-to-date and know how to respond if needed.

Many courses are now online and can be completed in your own time through the Church of England training portal: bit.ly/3OrqlzT

- The *Basic Awareness and Foundation* courses are appropriate for anyone in a role within a parish, whether you are a PCC member, children’s group

volunteer, server or someone who helps with refreshments.

- The other course recommended for all (and required for leaders and PCC member is *Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse*.
- The final course on the portal is *Safer Recruitment and People Management*, for anyone involved in recruiting volunteers. At least one person in every parish should have completed this course, but as it stands, only around one fifth of parishes have someone who has completed it. Is your parish one of them?
- For all Clergy, Readers, SPAs, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Churchwardens, and other roles which influence the leadership of the church, there is the Leadership Course. This is run over two sessions and can be booked here: bit.ly/45rhb2N

All information on the courses can also be found on the safeguarding training page on the Diocesan website: southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/training and if you have any questions, please get in touch with Zoe, Safeguarding Training and DBS Administrator by email at: zoe.skilton@southwark.anglican.org