

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Walking
Welcoming
Growing

Vol.28 No.3
April 2023



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Treasuring creation
as part of our
Southwark Vision

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Holy Week – Stations of the Cross



For centuries, *The Stations of the Cross* have formed part of Christian devotion. Across the Diocese many churches pause for prayer at each station, to remember the path of suffering Jesus walked before dying on the cross. Here, we see Station 15 – Jesus is raised from the dead – the artwork, by Felicity Prazak, was commissioned by St Mary, Battersea during lockdown. See page 9 for more *Stations of the Cross* in our parishes.

The Coronation of King Charles III

The Archbishop of Canterbury will lead the Coronation ceremony of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May. Rooted in long-standing tradition, it will reflect The King's role today and look towards the future.

As we approach this historic moment in the life of our nation, there's lots you can do in your parish to get ready for Coronation weekend through services and celebration events.

The Church of England (CofE) are providing a range of resources to help you mark this historic moment.

As the King and Queen Consort prepare to solemnise the promises and



commitments they make to the nations and people they represent, the Church will begin 28 days of prayer and spiritual preparation using the book *'Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III'*. From Easter Sunday to the Coronation (Sunday 9 April – Saturday 6 May) people across the nation will pray with and for the King. Other resources available from the CofE include special prayers, reflections and sample orders of service.

On Sunday 7 May, a service for the Coronation of King Charles III will be

streamed from the CofE's website, Facebook and YouTube channels and will be available on-demand immediately after its conclusion.

To find out about what's happening in your local area or to get involved in volunteering work during Coronation Weekend, visit www.achurchnearyou.com. You can also watch a webinar with details on celebrating the Coronation Weekend at your church, visit bit.ly/402i9zG.

Read more stories at southwark.anglican.org/blog or find us on social media @SouthwarkCofE



A view from The BRIDGE



‘The joy of Resurrection fills the universe’ – these beautiful and true words are taken from one of the Church of England’s prefaces to our Eucharistic prayers, capturing the holy energy of Easter, and expressing the power of joy quickened by the Resurrection. Creation was borne of divine Love. We are breathed into being by God’s Spirit, and called according to a purpose which can never be thwarted. But in bursting from the darkness of the tomb, Christ fills the world with a new, joyous light in which we can see our recreation.

In the theologically rich and deeply moving prayer at the end of the third chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul prays ‘that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith’ so that we ‘so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God’ (Ephesians 3.17,19). There is a marvellous challenge here. Our hearts can be so opened to God that through Christ we can be filled with the fullness of God which also fills creation, for ‘the spirit of the Lord has filled the world’ (Wisdom 1.7).

At our last Diocesan Synod, a motion referring to the fifth Mark of Mission was passed that acknowledged our responsibility to safeguard the integrity of creation in the face of the climate crisis, and requesting the Diocesan Secretary to establish a designated fund to further enable the success of the Diocese’s Carbon Net Zero Action Plan. We are moving forward as a Diocese on environmental questions with Bishop Martin as lead bishop and Nicola Thomas, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation team, and

other colleagues – including those at the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education – resourcing our thinking and planning. We are taking our part in this common responsibility, moving forward even while we await further recommendations from the Church of England nationally about disinvestment from fossil fuels.

The words I quoted at the beginning are not, however, from the Church’s Easter liturgies. They are from our funeral rites. Even at the most difficult times and facing the most challenging uncertainties, the Church recalls us to the heart of the Christian faith, reminding us of what Christ’s Resurrection has accomplished. The climate crisis can appear overwhelming and our response may feel small in comparison with the challenges we face. But take comfort and strength from what Christ has accomplished on the Cross and in his Resurrection. God is with us and we may be filled with the fullness of God just as the Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world. The joy of Resurrection does indeed fill the universe – we need only to see what is already the case, working purposefully in faith in the knowledge that God will bring all things to completion in him – the Lord being our helper.

I wish you and all those you love, your families and friends near and far, a very joyful Eastertide and a deep and abiding sense of what God has brought to completion in the Resurrection. The Lord is with us and the joy of Resurrection does indeed fill the universe!

Bishop Christopher

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thy Kingdom Come prepares to launch

Thy Kingdom Come is a global Ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. This year’s theme for Thy Kingdom Come is ‘Our Father in Heaven’ along with the introduction of a new sub-theme ‘Living The Kingdom’ which invites us to pray daily from 18–28 May 2023.

A pack of prayer materials will be posted to parishes at the end of April, with further resources available online from May – visit bit.ly/3Lm5Lq4



Christian Aid Week 2023: Help transform lives

Christian Aid Week runs from 14–20 May 2023 and this year’s appeal is an opportunity to help and support farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

For more information and to find out how you and your church community can get involved visit: bit.ly/404IXR1

The Bishop’s Lent Call

Each year, the Bishop’s Lent Call raises funds for local community projects in Southwark and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem, as well as calling parishes to a time of prayer and contemplation. The theme for this year is ‘Mental Health and Well-being’ and we ask for your generosity to support our chosen projects as they work to facilitate well-being by developing strategies to cope with the stress and mental illness caused by our modern world. As we approach the conclusion of a prayerful and holy Lent, we hope that you will still feel able to generously support these projects.

For more information and to make a donation, visit: bit.ly/3JFggDE



Christian Climate Action

As part of nation-wide day of actions led by Christian Climate Action, Christians staged protests at cathedrals across England and Wales about investments fuelling the climate emergency. On Sunday 5 March an act of witness was carried out at Southwark Cathedral.

Read more here: bit.ly/3ZTeAfk



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The MAY edition is due to be published online and in print on 1 May 2023. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **MONDAY 10 APRIL**.

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

Unanimous show of hands for Carbon Net Zero action plan

On Saturday 11 March, members gathered to attend the Diocesan Synod at St Peter, Battersea.

The meeting was opened by Revd Lotwina Farodoye, Chair of the House of Clergy who began by inviting The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun to welcome members to the meeting after which The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston led Synod in prayer and Bishop Christopher gave his Presidential address.

In his Presidential Address, Bishop Christopher talked about his recent visit to Holy Land during an Ecumenical Pilgrimage (see page 8). He said: “this pilgrimage holds a particular place in my heart because I and my fellow pilgrims, Anglican and Roman Catholic, were following in the steps of Jesus even though divided by history and confessional disciplines.”

He shared with members that one of his “responsibilities in the House of Bishops is to be the Lead Bishop for relations with the Oriental Orthodox Churches” and the significance of “building relationships of trust and thanksgiving”. This had led him to reflect on the charge given to him by former Archbishop Rowan Williams ‘to encourage clergy and laity to engage with one another across respective expressions of Anglican faith; to nurture and value the gifts of all in the service of the mission of the Church embracing the openness the Diocese has to different traditions and perspectives’. During his address Bishop Christopher acknowledged conversations around Living in Love and Faith and the recent motion approved by all three houses during February’s General Synod. He went on to say “The Church more

widely has also made progress in seeking to affirm, accept and welcome all God’s people.” He concluded his address with reflections on the years of contested issues that have faced The Church of England. Read the full address at: bit.ly/3YVqYKJ.

The Revd Dylan Turner, Anglican Communion Relations Officer received a warm welcome from synod members when he gave a presentation about the accomplishments of the Anglican Communion through its structures and instruments across the diversity of provinces around the world.

Paul Waddell, General Synod Member, Croydon Central Deanery, provided a summary of the February meeting of General Synod and the General Synod debate which had concluded with passing the motion to issue prayers which would enable same sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God’s blessing.

Bishop Martin opened the major presentation on the environment and movement towards Carbon Net Zero, in what was his first speech to diocesan synod since being consecrated as Bishop of Kingston. He spoke about treasuring creation as part of our Southwark Vision: ‘God’s creation and God’s creativity is an act of love’ and his commitment as Lead Bishop on the environment to lowering carbon emissions, recognising the diocesan target of 2035, and drawing attention to the impact of climate change and loss of biodiversity on communities due to the climate crisis.



Top: Bishop Christopher commissions The Venerable Moira Astin as the Diocese Countryside Officer; The Revd Dylan Turner, Anglican Communion Relations Officer to Diocesan Synod; the Revd Lotwina Farodoye with Bishop Christopher and Ruth Martin, Diocesan Secretary.

A presentation of the Carbon Net Zero Action Plan started with Jack Edwards, Environment Officer summarising the Eco-Church initiative and the Church of England’s five marks of mission. Nicola Thomas, Head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, covered the Environment Policy agreed in 2021 by synod members and the Diocese’s target to move towards Carbon Net Zero by 2035 and engagement with process led by National Environment Team. Shaun Burns, Primary Religious Education, Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Adviser for the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education talked about environmental sustainability in schools and public sector decarbonisation. Concluding the presentation, Naomi Shaw, Head of Property at Southwark Cathedral focused on divestment, energy consumption and use of renewably resourced materials and campaigning to raise awareness about climate justice and end the environment with the congregation and visitors to the Cathedral.

The motion on the Carbon Net Zero Action plan was formally moved by The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate and Chair of the Eco Diocese Working and synod members acknowledged the motion, voting with a unanimous show of hands.

A call to prayer (*This Time Tomorrow*) was followed by a Holy Eucharist with the commissioning of Archdeacon Moira as

Faith in the Countryside Officer. Bishop Christopher welcomed Archdeacon Moira to her new role, read the commission and offered a blessing.

During the final part of the agenda, and before the Synod concluded with the formal questions posed by members, Adrian Greenwood introduced Battersea Deanery Synod motions on ethical investment and divestment from fossil fuels, and invited Revd Richard Taylor, Vicar at St Barnabas, Clapham Common, to move the motion and present the item which he shared with Revd Vanessa Elston, Environment Eco Representative and Information Officer for Battersea Deanery. This item formed part of a multi-session debate. Synod members heard from speakers including Alan Saunders, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance Investment Committee (and former Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance). Representatives from Kingston, Merton, Tandridge and Tooting Deaneries also spoke. To close the debate Sir David Beamish, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, gave the final speech, and the motion was adjourned for further debate and conclusion following receipt of the Report of the National Church’s review of its own ethical investment policy in the summer.



Left: Members of Diocesan Synod, ready to vote. Right: Nicola Thomas, Head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in the Diocese.



IN FOCUS...

News from our parishes

Songs, psalms and prayers

In September 2021, Richmond Team Ministry started a Children's Service, which takes place once a month, on a Saturday afternoon at 4pm. Open to children of all ages, Revd Charlotte (Charlie) Smith, Curate at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond tells us what young people attending can expect. Revd Charlie writes:

Our vision for the service was to create a service where children and their families could engage with every element of it. Each service incorporates recognisable aspects of Sunday worship; including songs, readings, psalms, prayers, a homily, and an activity of worship, with the hope that they are both accessible and fun. Each

Children's Service has a different theme; based on the church and secular calendars.

We share the peace by singing the song 'Peace like a river' and, together rippling a long piece of blue fabric like a river. We read stories from Children's Bibles or watch story videos and use accessible adaptations of psalms with responses for everyone to join in with. The liturgy uses clear and simple language, and we all have the chance to take part, just like we do in Sunday morning services. We sing songs and simple hymns which are easy to learn, don't require reading, and often have actions. Using our bodies in worship is important and we try to incorporate sign language into the service, so that everyone can join in. During most of the services we have discussed what we



have wanted to pray for and then prayed together, but we have also enjoyed times of silent prayer together, which are beautiful.

The children's service now has a distinct congregation, including families who do not attend other services. It is a welcoming space which seeks to encourage each person's own spirituality and to equip children in their own relationships with God.



Top: Children listening to a story during Saturday church. Bottom: A child praying and lighting a candle for the world.

Bishop Karowei visits schoolchildren in the Woolwich Episcopal Area

Last month, The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu joined a service at St Michael's CE School, Sydenham, for collective worship alongside Revd Ifeanyi Chukuka and Revd David Howland who was also commissioned as the new School Chaplain during the service.

During his address, Bishop Karowei told the story of Jesus' disciples on a boat in the middle of a storm where Jesus was asleep. He invited the children to describe how the Disciples must have felt and think about times of fear and uncertainty, using this to illustrate trust in God, in facing fears, concerns and anger in situations that we might face and how he helps us move on and progress.

St James Hatcham CE School opened its classrooms to welcome Bishop Karowei who visited the schoolchildren during their assembly and spoke to them about Christ The King. The Faith Group at the school, made up of pupils and a teacher, shared their School Museum which included photos and objects, featuring a mural of Mr McFarlane, a member of the Windrush Generation (people arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries), who is also the father of the current headteacher, Ms Sonia McFarlane. The mural was an example of the abiding legacy of the Windrush Generation and how Mr McFarlane's culture, identity and contribution has paved the way for the next generation of his family.



Top: the commissioning service at St Michael's School, Sydenham, (l-r) The Revd David Howland, The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, Bishop of Woolwich, and Revd Ifeanyi Chukuka. Bottom: The Faith Group at St James School, Hatcham.



PlayTime! Creative worship and play for toddlers

St John, Upper Norwood launch Toddlers @ PlayTime! as part of their ministry for children and young people. The Revd Rachael Gledhill writes:

We launched *Toddlers @ PlayTime!* at St John, Upper Norwood on Friday 24 February, not really knowing what to expect. Like many churches, our ministry to children and young families has been affected by the COVID pandemic, and, after much prayer, we decided that reaching out to under-5s and their grown-ups would be a good place to start.

Toddlers @ PlayTime! is a tried and tested model for a faith-based playgroup that involves an hour of creative worship and play, during which children are encouraged to explore a scriptural theme through sensory play, sand, water and craft, followed by the Bible story, then song-time.

The session takes place in the main body



is home-baked treats and fresh coffee for grown-ups, with healthy snacks for children. The theme of our first session was Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and in the run-up to the day we were busy sharing flyers and posters around the parish; and sewing play vestments for toddlers.

We were thrilled when at 9.30am, more than 100 under-5s and their grown-ups walked through the doors. They clearly had a good time, as one week later many came back to explore the theme of Lent. We had lots of interesting discussions with the families about church and were very glad to welcome a few on the following Sunday morning. We can't wait to see how God blesses *PlayTime!* at St John's in the future.



"We can't wait to see how God blesses PlayTime! at St John's in the future."

of the Church itself, with the pews moved to the sides. Christ-centred hospitality is at the heart of *PlayTime!* and so there

Squirrel vs Bells!



When the Bell Ringers at St John The Divine, Merton prepared to ring out the bells on Sunday 12 February, they found their ropes strewn on the floor – cut through at ceiling height.

Worried it was a vandal they called the Police. Peter Judge, Bell Ringer at the church said: “The door was locked. Three of the ropes were untouched, and nothing else had been damaged. How did the vandal get in? Why did they lock the door after them? More worrying, two of the ropes were only half cut through – and when we arrived, one of them was still swinging. Could the culprit still be in the upper chamber?” With police backup, Peter and the team of bell ringers climbed up the ladder to the bell

chamber, and all was revealed – a small, panicked squirrel scurried around the chamber, up to the ceiling, through a rope hole and down

into the ringing room. In the ringing room, the squirrel scampered up and down the remaining ropes, repeatedly trying to force its way out through a partially open window. Peter went on to say, “We opened the window fully and left the chamber, in a few minutes we saw the squirrel make its getaway. It scaled the outside of the tower, jumped to a tree, and disappeared.”

The bells were completely undamaged by the squirrel; the remainder of the ropes were taken down carefully and repaired by a specialist craftsman. The band hopes to be ringing again at St John by Easter.



Find out more



Are you interested in bell ringing?

The ‘Ring for the King’ initiative is seeking more bell ringers in advance of the Coronation. <https://ringfortheKing.org/>

Guide, comforter and friend

Remembering The Revd Frances Forward (1943 – 2022). The Revd Canon Tim Marwood, Kingston Deanery, writes:

In your parish you may have experienced the ministry of one of those church people who quietly make a real difference to your journey of faith. Maybe a teacher, Guide leader, Lay Reader, hospital chaplain, priest or friend who really understands you spiritually and delivers what is needed to help you grow. The Revd Frances Forward ministered in all the above roles during her long and fruitful life which ended suddenly last November, just five weeks short of her 80th birthday.

Revd Frances was always first to praise others and was rather modest about her own achievements. But the impact that she had on the mission of the institutions where she served was considerable. She was inspired to become a teacher by the headteacher of her secondary school, who could see her potential and helped her find a way through a system which, at the time, had low career expectations for women. In turn, Revd Frances became a great encourager, prepared to support new ways of learning and to take a glimmer of talent and polish it until it gleamed.

Colleagues like Revd Frances can be relied on to commit and make things happen, she never ducked a challenge, even though it could be costly sometimes. For refreshment, Revd Frances drew great support from the liturgy and teaching of Southwark Cathedral and the Cathedral Chapter, and the congregation were represented at her funeral which took place at her parish church of St Andrew, Ham. Together with friends from St Richard, Ham, and St Peter, Petersham, colleagues from Kingston Hospital, Bishop Otter College, and Kingston Guides were among those in attendance from the many other places where she had served during her abundant ministry. May she rest in peace.



Walking on Holy Ground – a pilgrimage on the Via Francigena and the Western Front –from London to Laon

John Mears writes:

Before going any further I must confess, as a walker myself, I am extremely impressed with the thought and organisation that went into the walk itself.

The book is the first part of a planned trilogy. It is an engaging, touching journey through the present but inextricably linked to the past contextualising not just a physical journey but a journey through time. Intimate personal and individual experiences linked to the vast horror of the First World War bring into sharp reality the events and effects of those times. It is not a ‘Naked and the Dead’, ‘The Dead the Dying and the Damned’ or ‘Birdsong’ but it is a lovely, easy and enjoyable read that has been thoroughly researched. Yes, I really liked it.

The overall journey is along the *Via Francigena*, the pilgrim path from Canterbury to Rome. As with all good tales there are a couple of twists. Firstly, the journey started in Tooting. What better place, I ask myself.

Secondly, for the most part, the journey is actually along the Western Front from Nieuport to Laon. A sharp left at Dunkirk took Nick from one pilgrim path to another. Nick’s knowledge and understanding of the events of 1914–18 are impressive. To help follow the journey a simple, clear line map is provided at the front of the book.

I think that for the first time, I felt I had an understanding of the geography of the conflict. An order to the place names I had heard so often over the years.

One of the things I particularly liked about the account was the interweaving of personal stories, some of which involved members of Nick’s family, and the greater events of the time. They gave a solidity and reality to the events that quite frankly were too horrific and massive to sit comfortably in one’s mind.



Walking on Holy Ground

A Pilgrimage on the Via Francigena and the Western Front, from London to Laon

Nick Dunne



The interludes around dead ends and locked bed and breakfast accommodation bring to the fore some of the difficulties of organising a walk of any kind let alone one in foreign parts. I envy Nick’s ability to plan.

Finally, what shines through the whole story is Nick’s faith and his love of his family and friends, and indeed his love of life. The sharing of intimacy, of closeness and openness to others is for me the glue that holds us all together, whether in Bethany, on the road to Jericho or in Balham and Tooting. It is the canvas upon which the story is told.

This is an edited reprint of John’s review written for Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting Parish Magazine December 2022.

Walking on Holy Ground is available as an e-book at £4.99 and in paperback at £9.99 from online retailers and bookshops. Som Tam Books and www.yps-publishing.co.uk ISBN 978-1-7396199-0-9

Multi generational confirmations at St James, Merton



Three generations of the same family – regular attenders at St James, Merton were confirmed by Bishop Christopher on 12 March. Yasmin O’Connor said: “We were honoured to be able to be confirmed together as three generations of the same family at such a beautiful service.” Pictured (l-r): Madeleine Evans, Pru O’Connor, Bishop Christopher and Yasmin O’Connor.



Embarking on our journey towards Net Zero and greater sustainability

Southwark is on a journey towards greater sustainability and to deepen our commitment to creation care, the 5th mark of Anglican mission. Jack Edwards, Southwark Diocese Environment Officer, talks about what it means to be carbon Net Zero, how your church can complete the Energy Footprint Tool and shares examples of how you can reduce carbon emissions.

At the latest meeting of the Diocesan Synod the Synod members, acknowledging the climate crisis, approved the current form of the Diocesan Carbon Net Zero Action Plan (see page 3). The product of several years work, which began when the General Synod set the ambitious target of getting the Church of England to Carbon Net Zero by 2030. This may leave you thinking two things: What do we mean by 'Net Zero'? and '2030 doesn't seem that far away!' – do not worry Southwark is running to the target of 2035.

The Fifth Mark of Mission:

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.



What does it mean to be Carbon Net Zero?

The way that Net Zero has been defined is as a reduction of carbon emissions of 90% from current levels, with the remaining 10% available for an offsetting scheme.

To establish what the carbon emissions of a church building are, an Energy Footprint Tool has been created by the Central Church, available online via the *Parish Returns* system used to submit financial returns for 2022. This system requires you to submit the totals of your energy bills for the previous year, the size, and the estimated footfall for your church. It will then provide you with the size of your churches carbon emissions for the past year.

This is an important process as the route map to Net Zero highly recommends that the Diocese focuses on providing support and expertise to the top 20% of emitting churches. If you are one of the highest emitting churches but have not completed

the Energy Footprint Tool, you may miss out on things like grant support and additional expertise. A carbon intensive church is most often a busy and well used church, but being a high emitter is not a negative and you may just need some additional support in being as efficient as possible without compromising your missional activities.

We encourage every parish across the Diocese to complete the Energy Footprint Tool on the system and if you need any assistance email: jack.edwards@southwark.anglican.org

How do we reduce our emissions by 90% in the next 12 years?

Studies show that 80% of emissions come from your heating system, for most this is a gas boiler. A further 6% comes from the lighting systems and the remainder comes from everything else that uses power, for example the sound system, alarm system, tea urn and under sink water heater. By reviewing your energy use and the fabric of your building, such as repairing windows to stop draughts, you may be on track to cutting costs and saving energy.

Here are some examples of churches and schools across each episcopal area on the eco journey.

St Francis, Selsdon

Over the past year St Francis, Monks Hill, has managed to significantly reduce their energy usage (around 50%), not by stopping activities or keeping parishioners in the cold, but by measuring the energy usage of each and every appliance in the church and creating a well managed plan for when heating and appliances should be on. Their emissions are expected to be significantly reduced from previous years, and it will have saved money in these times of high energy costs.

St Luke, Kew

On Saturday 11 March, St Luke's welcomed more than 500 people for the first ever Kew EcoFair. Held as part of St Luke's Eco Church initiative, it was an opportunity to inspire action on climate change, in support of the event's official charity *Thames 21*. Children from The Queen's Church of England Primary School took part in a competition to design the official event poster. There was something for everyone including, free bike health checks with *The London Cycle Workshop*, eco-shopping from local businesses, a sustainable clothes swap, a smoothie bike, repair café, craft and nature activities, musical entertainment, with local charities and organisations also present.

Proceedings started with speeches by Revd Dr Melanie Harrington-Haynes, Vicar at St Luke and broadcaster Jeremy Vine, who arrived on his penny-farthing bike. He spoke about the global decline in nature and the need to travel more sustainably, while the Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Julia Cambridge and local MP, Sarah Olney, made appeals to guests to think about the changes they can make in their own lives to reduce their carbon footprint.

St Luke has been awarded its Bronze Eco Church award, and will build on the success of the EcoFair to gain Silver status, taking steps to improve the sustainability of all aspects of church life.

Co-organisers Suzie O'Brien and Charlotte Baker said: "We were totally thrilled with the success of the first ever Kew EcoFair. The atmosphere was wonderfully positive and it was lovely to welcome so many people to St Luke. We felt it was really important to provide a space for the community to come together, engage, learn and network on the most pressing issue of our time – climate change. We hope this is just the start of St Luke's Church engaging with the wider community on how we can better care for the planet."



The EcoFair at St Luke, Kew offered 'gardens in a jar', free bike health-checks and a clothes swap area.

Bacon's College: Carbon Neutral Action Plan



Children and staff of Bacon's College keenly engage in environmental activities including tree planting.

Schools across the Diocese are working on sustainability action plans and since September 2020, all electricity supply at Bacon's College comes from 100% renewable energy sources.

The college are also working to measure food waste and track food-related carbon emissions and have been piloting a scheme with REFOOD, where weekly food waste collection is sent to an anaerobic digester which produces renewable energy and fertilizer thus reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Project which helps schools get serious about sustainability and respond to the climate crisis. Other initiatives include reusable water bottles issued to every student, increasing the number of plant-based options on menus, having more energy efficient boilers fitted and planting new trees donated by Southwark Council.

They have also signed up to be a Zero Carbon School through the Green Schools

Earth Day – 22 April
 This month on Earth Day the Diocese will host a celebratory event at St John, Waterloo as part of our Eco Church journey. Read more on page 11.

Messy Church Goes Wild, East Greenwich

Messy Church Goes Wild is the movement within Messy Church which aims to encourage Messy Churches to meet God outdoors, love the natural world and to be more eco-aware in all we do.

Messy Church Goes Wild East Greenwich meets monthly on Wednesdays, in a previously neglected outdoor space owned by St Mary Magdalene's Church of England School, Greenwich. Starting last year, Revd Dom Hubbick, School Chaplain secured funds to build an outdoor classroom with raised beds and a fire pit. Even though it's an urban location, there are plans gradually transform the space into a community garden, working in partnership with the school, Parent Teacher Association, parish clergy and community gardening group.

Aike Kennett-Brown, Messy Church Ministry Lead said: "Encouraging urban families to meet God outdoors and



Messy Church participants harvest potatoes and work into the evening on their plant beds.



"We have an opportunity at Messy Church Goes Wild to relate the science of the climate crises learnt in school, to experiences of awe and wonder."

reconnect with the natural world is part of the journey towards better stewardship of our planet. We have an opportunity at Messy Church Goes Wild to relate the science of the climate crises learnt in school, to experiences of awe and wonder, as children turn over a log to discover a colony of woodlice or see how the

potatoes that were planted in spring have multiplied four-fold by harvest. Like Messy Churches that meet indoors, we also hope to transform lives and bring Christ's love to this community, as we explore Bible themes using this outside space."

Find out more about Messy Church Goes Wild on the website: <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/> where you'll find training events and resources to get you started on your Messy Adventures or speak to the team at East Greenwich Parish.

Pilgrims to the Holy Land

On Monday 27 February, Bishop Christopher, Bishop Paul Hendricks, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Southwark, The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral and Fr Michael Branch, Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark, led a group of 70 pilgrims on an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The pilgrims experienced the sites, sounds and smells of various parts of the Holy Land together. They visited institutions supported by the Anglican Diocese of Southwark and Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark.

This included L'Arche, a community for people with and without disabilities who share their lives together to create an inclusive society. L'Arche, a former project of the Bishop's Lent Call, provides an opportunity for members to contribute to producing gifts and souvenirs made from Olive Wood and felt, made from wool that is bought from local shepherds.

Three pilgrims – Andrew and Pat Moulton, who joined the group for the first time, and Eleanor Stoneham, who returned to the Holy Land for the second time in over a decade – share their reflections on the trip.

Pat and Andrew Moulton

“We have wanted to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for some time and during November leaflets were distributed in our church, St Michael and All Angels, Wallington detailing the pilgrimage. We booked, and our first introduction was a meeting at Southwark Cathedral at the end of January. Here we met some of our



The pilgrims at a visit to Bania, where they renewed their baptismal vows.

fellow pilgrims and some of the leadership team.

“We flew from Heathrow and were met by our guides at Tel Aviv Airport, were divided into our two groups and got onto our coaches to Jerusalem. Our guide was called Bishara, who was excellent throughout.

“Whilst in Jerusalem we had a busy itinerary visiting a number of holy sites, including the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Village of Ein Karem. We also followed the Via Dolorosa. We visited the Pool of Bethesda, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Upper Room. In Bethlehem we visited the Church of the Nativity, Manger Square, St Jerome's Caves and the Shepherds Fields.

“On day five, we left Jerusalem and drove through the Jordan valley to Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee, visiting Jericho on the way. We spent three nights by the Sea of Galilee, and saw many of the sites connected to Jesus' Ministry, including, the sites of the Sermon on the Mount,

the Church of the Loaves and Fishes, the Mensa Christi and Capernaum. We also visited Caesarea Philippi, where we all renewed our Baptismal promises. On Sunday we had a visit to Nazareth and the Basilica of the Annunciation and in the afternoon, we took a short boat trip on the Sea of Galilee. We are so pleased that we joined the pilgrimage.”

Eleanor Stoneham

“I first came to the Holy Land in 2013 with Southwark Diocese. Our group travelled in a bus called Hope. This seems to have a stronger resonance than our 2023 Red Bus group! Never have we needed more hope, than in these uncertain times in our world. We hope and pray for peace, which will only come through justice and reconciliation.

“We enjoyed a different kind of peace and calm on the shores of the sea of Galilee. The old walled city of Jerusalem was certainly noisy, dirty, smelly and far too busy for me and I am not used

“

“Throughout the pilgrimage we all found and felt our own personal resonant moments in the thoughtfully chosen readings, prayers and homilies, group acts of worship and in so many other experiences as we made this spiritual journey together.”

to the bustle of city life and more at home in the countryside. Of course, it contains a sometimes tense melting pot of the various cultures and religions within those walls. But, it still remains a tremendous experience to see so many sites connected with the Gospel story, even if it is almost impossible for many to find any opportunities for real personal spiritual reflection when everywhere is so crowded. But once in Galilee we found more time to process our previous experiences as we looked forward to a somewhat calmer pace there.

“Throughout the pilgrimage we all found and felt our own personal resonant moments in the thoughtfully chosen readings, prayers and homilies, group acts of worship and in so many other experiences as we made this spiritual journey together. You should go on at least one pilgrimage to the Holy Land if you possibly can.”

You can read more about the pilgrimage on our website blogs: bit.ly/3yE2QS3 and bit.ly/3TfmKwi



Left: Andrew Moulton and Pat Moulton taking in the sites. Right (in pink hat): Eleanor Stoneham, with fellow pilgrims, enjoying the boat trip on the Sea of Galilee.

◀ Continued from page 1

Stations of the Cross from across our parishes



Contributing parishes (in no particular order): St Clements with St Peter, Dulwich; St John, East Dulwich; Christ The King, Salfords; Christ Church, Streatham; St John, Kennington; St Edward, Mottingham; The Ascension, Lavender Hill St Luke, Woodside; All Saints, Benhilton; St Mary, Battersea.

Bishop Martin meets his new communities



Clockwise from top left: A warm welcome from St Peter, Battersea – some great singing; spending time with Revd Steve Coulson of St Mark, Kennington hearing about ministry in his community; St Mary, Wimbledon, exploring Lenten themes (with chocolate to aid audience participation!); Revd Jonathan Croucher of Christ Church, Gypsy Hill spoke of their excellent and pioneering work with the Farsi community; St John, Angell Town, a joy to worship their and hear about their plans for the hall to better serve the community; the team at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond following sung Communion which included a beautiful Brahms anthem; Wychcroft retreat centre, talking with clergy new in roles about the gift and the challenge that is being new... “how appropriate!”



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Croydon Area Study Day

What do a Roman Catholic woman, a Southwark Pastoral Auxillary and a Diocese of London priest have in common? We found out at the Croydon area Clergy study day on 8 March. The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate writes:

About 60 clergy from the Croydon Episcopal Area gathered to learn more about chaplaincy, often seen as the 'Cinderella' of Christian ministry, and yet the vibrant sense of calling and service was clear in the words of each of our speakers.

First we heard from Frances Novello who is the lead chaplain to Surrey and Sussex police. As well as providing direct pastoral support to police officers her role involves recruiting and supporting a team of multi-faith chaplains, including many from the Church of England, since Christianity is still the largest faith in this country. The volunteer chaplains commit to four hours a week – two for direct visiting of a local police station and two for responding at other times to any calls. They often find it the most rewarding part of their week, although sometimes they feel that they are a spare part in the station as others rush past. However, when someone does need their support their presence is invaluable.

Wendy Stevens, our Diocesan SPA, told us of the joys and challenges of being a chaplain at Wandsworth Prison. She

meets all new inmates when they arrive to assess their spiritual needs. Many explore their faith when they find themselves in prison, where they have plenty of time to think, and find the chapel a place to step out of the institutional cycle and reflect and worship God.

Revd Bruce Rickards is the lead chaplain at Heathrow Airport and so has millions of people pass through his patch each year. He makes sure there is regular worship in the various chapels and is available when there is a crisis. This includes the death of a passenger on board a plane which happens about once week. Once the plane lands it is isolated and no one can leave while the police assess it – it is a possible crime scene. He is allowed on to minister to the passengers and crew in this stressful situation.

Following questions and group discussion (on how chaplaincy interlaces with parish ministry and where there are gaps) we heard from the Bishop's chaplain, The Revd Dr Alun Ford, on the theology of chaplaincy. He reminded us that his role is very different from the others since he has only one person in is 'cure', the Bishop, while they have thousands. Yet in both situations chaplaincy shows the importance of giving people time and attention.

In the afternoon, we heard from hospital chaplains, the Revd Andy Dovey and the Revd Deborah Premraj; school chaplain Revd Alan Bayes; and Street Pastor Mr Pal. Each spoke of the way they could speak of their faith when invited to, and could show Christ's love by their presence.

In all it was a valuable day, where we could meet each other and reflect on the varied aspects of pastoral ministry and how God calls us to support each other as we seek to speak of Him to our neighbours.



LET US PRAY...

APRIL

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

(follow @deansouthwark to see the Dean's daily morning prayers on Twitter)

Time goes so quickly. It feels like no time at all since we began Lent and here we are buying our Easter eggs and planning our celebrations of the resurrection. Things seem to happen so quickly, and we get caught up in the race of time. The same really applies to those three days at the end of Holy Week. The hymns may talk about 'three days in the tomb' but by the time we have had our Good Friday service, the evening vigil on Holy Saturday is about to begin and Easter is already happening. Those three days shrink to nothing.

Of course, people always seem to be very eager to move on, not to sit with anything that is less than comfortable, to get to the better, the happier place in life. I can understand that. Nevertheless, giving in to that impulse too easily means that we miss out on reality, on the reality that things do not always go right, not always go the way we would like them. We need to sit with Good Friday in order that we really understand the joy that Easter Day brings.

For the disciples the period between the moment when they hastily buried the body of Jesus, rolled the stone in place and went back to their locked room, and the joy that burst into their lives as Mary and the others, in the first light of day, brought back the good news that he was alive, must have seemed endless. They didn't know how the story would end; we are not in that position. We are children, people, the community of the resurrection. As St Augustine of Hippo wrote, 'We are Easter people and alleluia is our song'.



But we also know that you can't get to Easter without Good Friday, that we can't encounter the empty tomb without first encountering the cross.

So, take your time this Holy Week, this Easter; don't rush on but sit with the reality, because that is what life ultimately demands of us. We are called to face the pain as well as the pleasure, the sadness as well as the joy in life, and in both encounter the living God.

**God of the cross and the empty tomb,
bring us through the pain of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Day,
and know you, both in death and in life.
Amen.**

Could you be Honorary Treasurer for Churches Together in Surrey?

In search of someone to take up the mantle of Honorary Treasurer for Churches Together in Surrey (CTS).

Introduction to CTS

CTS exists to promote and facilitate county wide ecumenical mission and fellowship in Surrey.

There is one employee – the Ecumenical Co-ordinator (EC); one Honorary Treasurer; five Denominational

Ecumenical Officers; and 10 Senior Church Leaders.

You are invited to be part of this group, working closely with the EC, if you have the experience needed. We currently have the commitment of an independent examiner.

Expected responsibilities of the role

Approaching the denominations annually requesting contributions.

Facilitating CTS's banking arrangements to release monthly salary, pension and occasional other expenses.

Preparing a set of annual accounts statements (currently on an accrual basis, but could be a simple Receipts and Payments statement).

Act as the charity correspondent with the Charity Commission.

For more information about the role please call Bob Dallimore on 01483 720403, or email bob.dallimore707@gmail.com.

For more information about CTS call Grace Keal on 01244 626412, or email gracectsurrey@gmail.com.



WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for MAY ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY MONDAY 10 APRIL**.

April

SATURDAY 1 APRIL

- * **CAMBERWELL** – Woolwich Area Lay Conference: 'Walking through walls'. How to break through barriers to inspire and equip the people of God to serve Him better. Bookings now open for all lay people in the Woolwich Episcopal Area to attend the conference. 10am–4pm, at Ark All Saints Academy, 140 Wyndham Road, London SE5 0UB. Free. Find out more or book ticket: bit.ly/3XKgJUL

TUESDAY 4 APRIL

- * **LAMBETH** – Enslavement: *Voices from the Archives Exhibition*. Free. 10am–5pm at Lambeth Palace Library, 15 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7JT. For those unable to visit in person there is a selection of items from the exhibition to view online. Details: bit.ly/3YY0ajV

SATURDAY 15 APRIL

- * **SOUTHWARK** – 'Taking SPA ministry out of the church door'. An opportunity to look at new ways of taking pastoral ministry into our parishes. 10am–1pm at the Diocese of Southwark head office. Details: bit.ly/406LuZC

St Peter, Streatham

Upcoming concerts and recitals.

Saturday 1 April, 7.30pm:
Dixit – A concert by Streatham Choral. Tickets: £10 (£8.50 concessions), online from: wegottickets.com/event/573902/

Sunday 23 April at 11.50am–12.50pm: Organ Recital by Laurence Caldecote. Free entry with retiring collection.

Saturday 17 June at 6pm:
The Beckenham Concert Band with The Royal Free (Hospital) Music Society Choir. Entry by ticket with collection for an NHS Charity – details to follow.

St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD.

For further details please contact: www.stpeters-streatham.org

TUESDAY 18 APRIL

- ☞ **ONLINE** – Messy Church 'How to build your team' webinar. Find out how to sustain Messy Church and build and maintain your team when you have fewer team members. 12noon–1pm Zoom. Free. Details and to book: bit.ly/3Jjdaym

SATURDAY 22 APRIL

- * **WATERLOO** – Eco Church Celebration! Join us to celebrate those churches who have begun their Eco Church journey. Shared learning of churches with Silver and Bronze awards; an update on Eco Diocese status; and workshops delivered by A Rocha Eco Church. Suitable for anyone interested in assisting their church progress on the eco church awards journey. 10am–2pm at St John, Waterloo. Followed by a liturgy led by Bishop Martin. Lunch provided. Free. To register email: JPICAdmin@southwark.anglican.org.

23 APRIL – 7 MAY 2023

- * **CATERHAM** – Exhibition of Icons, drawings, frescos and illuminations by the traditional Byzantine iconographer Hanna-Leena Ward. Open daily, 12–7pm at St Lawrence Church, Church Hill, Caterham, CR3 6SJ. Free. There are also daily icon painting classes 10am–2pm during the exhibition, cost £35 daily. All levels welcome. Details from: hannalward@hotmail.com.

Message from the Editor

The Bridge is always packed full of stories and features from across the Diocese and we are so grateful to those of you who have got in touch and shared your stories with us. Remember this is your newspaper, so please do continue to send us your stories.

So that we can continue to provide you with news, which we hope you will enjoy and be encouraged by, please send us your photos too. These need to be BIG – sent to us at their original size if possible (rather than optimised for social media or reduced down by email). Printers require images to be much higher resolution than those used online for screens (roughly four times as big), so a good quality photo needs to be roughly 1,600 pixels wide and have a file size of 6Mb.

Remember, material for the next edition must be sent by email to Vernia Mengot, Editor at bridge@southwark.anglican.org by **Friday 10 April 2023**.

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

WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL

- * **KENNINGTON** – *Out of the Pandemic* – church perspectives on homeless support. A space for church communities in the Dioceses of Southwark and London to reflect on provision for those who experience homelessness. We would like to hear your thoughts on how to engage with and support the homeless in this new landscape. Lunch provided. 10am–2pm at St Mark, Kennington, Park Road, SE11 4PW. Free. For more information and to book go to: bit.ly/3yclq28

May

SATURDAY 13 MAY

- ♪ **CROYDON** – Croydon Bach Choir "Come and Sing" Day. Join the Croydon Bach Choir for a one-day workshop exploring and performing Rossini's "Petite Messe Solenne". 10am at St Matthew, Croydon CRO 5NQ. Tickets £25 via bit.ly/3XJY3sX

SATURDAY 20 MAY

- * **BLACKFRIARS** – National Anglican Fresh Expressions & Pioneering Conference 2023 – from the stories we found ourselves in, to the stories we now need to tell. 9.30am–4.00 pm at Christchurch, Blackfriars, London. Cost £15 per person (including lunch). Details: bit.ly/42j4mH2, or to book: bit.ly/3Tjma0k

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

- * **BATTERSEA** – Church Urban Fund *Growing Good Workshop*. The dioceses of London and Southwark with Church Urban Fund, invite you to join them for an afternoon exploring the connections between social action, discipleship and church growth. 1.30–5pm at St Peter, Battersea, 23 Plough Road SW11 2DE. Free. Details or to book: bit.ly/3ZRj3ut

THURSDAY 25 MAY

- ♪ **WESTMINSTER** – 37th Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture. Professor Anthony Reddie speaks on the subject 'From Black Theology to Black Lives Matter and Back Again'. 6.30pm at Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PA. Free, but tickets must be booked online in advance: bit.ly/3YmjLE8

June

6–19 JUNE

- * **LOCAL ARCHDEACONRY** – Archdeaconry visitations for churchwardens (incumbents, sidespeople and PCC members welcome). For details, date and venue specific to your Archdeaconry visit: bit.ly/3JjOsDn

TUESDAY 27 JUNE

- * **Westminster** – National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast (for clergy only). Lord Curry of Kirkhale and the Christians in Parliament APPG invite all clergy in the Diocese to the prayer breakfast. The theme this year is 'The Power of Forgiveness in Public Life'. The aim of the event is for MPs and church leaders to attend together. Please invite your local MP to attend with you (to buy a ticket your MP must confirm attendance). 7.30–9am at Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament. Cost £25. Details: bit.ly/3yEM31n

July

17–19 JULY

- * **HERTFORDSHIRE** – Modern Church Conference: *I have a Dream: Deconstructing Racism in the Church*. Speakers include The Rt Revd Rosemarie Mallet, Bishop of Croydon. More details and tickets (£200–£265) at: bit.ly/3mxKpM4



Spiritual Practices Pilgrimages – Lay Pioneer launches new missional venture

In November 2021, Andrea Campanale was licensed as the first Lay Pioneer in the Diocese of Southwark. Having pioneered since 2005, Andrea has gone on to become the founder of Sacred Space, Kingston. She is now journeying on a new missional venture, through the launch of Spiritual Practices Pilgrimages, as a way of introducing Christianity to people outside of Church.

Sacred Space is a Fresh Expression of Church, which Lay Leader, Andrea describes as “a way of meeting outside a church building.” She explained that smaller groups “meet in each other’s homes over meals and we try to do things that are more appealing for those who might describe themselves as spiritual but not religious, through being creative with liturgy, ancient rituals and physical prayer. We take a holistic approach and engage our senses.”



“There is something important about the landscape to encountering the divine, it resonates with who we’re made to be as people.”

Spiritual Practices Pilgrimages is a new social enterprise, for people in and outside of church who are open and interested in Christian spirituality but may not feel that a church building is the best way to

connect with their faith. In talking about the importance of pilgrimage, Andrea said, “This is part of our history and heritage, and there is something important about the landscape to encountering the divine, it resonates with who we’re made to be as people. I would encourage traditional church goers to think about who they know and encourage them to go on a pilgrimage as a tool to help them consider a relationship with God that can grow.”

On the pandemic playing a role in people getting out into nature, Andrea said, “God meets us at our point of need. People find a real sense of wonder and stillness in nature, and this can happen when we access whatever green space is available to us, no matter how small.”

Andrea talked about the pilgrimage as a way to tie into the Christian story and was inspired to organise pilgrimages after a visit with a group of pioneers to Ireland six years ago. In talking about what participants can expect, she said, “It’s a long weekend, based in Gartán Outdoor Education and Training Centre in County Donegal, Ireland. From there we can venture out to significant places to explore the life of St Columba. Our journey will incorporate meditation, reflection and



St Columba’s birthplace, County Donegal, Ireland.

ritual, allowing us to experience moments with God in the beauty of Creation.”

In future Andrea hopes to offer an online group, so that people can grow in the faith exploration after the pilgrimage and plans to organise the next one in Wales to take in different aspects of the landscape. The pilgrimages are set to be imaginative and experiential creating opportunities for spiritual encounter.

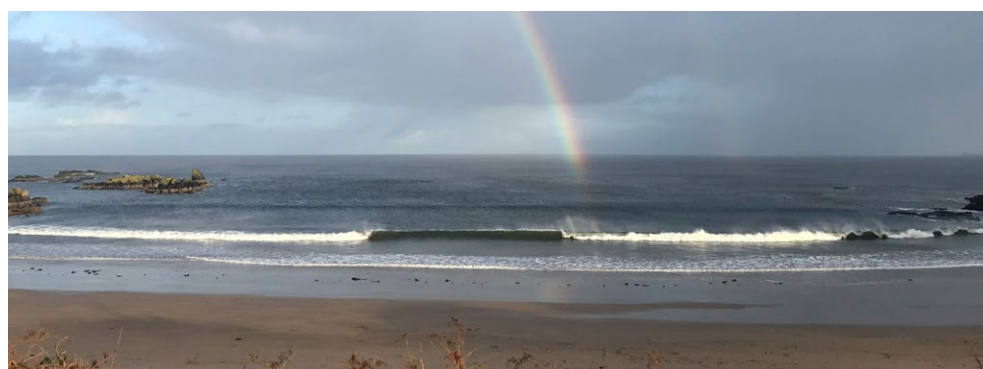
Andrea who teaches at St Augustine’s College of Theology and coaches Pioneers, has also set up the *Green Shoots Network* for those pioneering outside the

bounds of existing church. She said, “It’s a network for Pioneers doing things outside of church. I wanted to create a pathway to enable other Pioneers to be supported, trained and encouraged so the church of the future might grow in ways we can’t yet imagine. The network is a way to experiment with becoming more radically inventive in order to prophetically serve the Body of Christ.”



“God meets us at our point of need. People find a real sense of wonder and stillness in nature, and this can happen when we access whatever green space is available to us, no matter how small.”

Hearing stories of what God is doing in peoples lives keeps Andrea inspired, she said, “I really believe this is the Kingdom of God at work. I think of what the parable of the Yeast in the Dough (Matthew 13:33) teaches us – how something hidden and very small, can have a huge impact.”



Clockwise from top left: Columba’s Well; statue of Columba in Derry, Londonderry, Northern Ireland; Stroove Beach, County Donegal.

Find out more

Read more about the Spiritual Practices Pilgrimage at: bit.ly/3TnT9R8

