

The BRIDGE

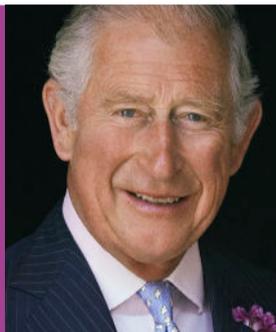
Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Walking Welcoming Growing

Vol.28 No.5
June 2023



**King Charles III
Coronation**
Parish celebrations
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Windrush 75
Celebrating the
75th anniversary
of the arrival of
MV Empire Windrush
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**Parish Support
Fund**
Display this poster
in your church
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Churches celebrate Coronation weekend



© Eleanor Bentall

Coronation weekend was celebrated by many across our parishes, from Eucharistic services to pageantry and parades, afternoon tea and street parties – there were many unique events to mark the historic moment to crown our new King and Queen.

Featuring history, culture and tradition, His Majesty King Charles III was crowned to lead the British Monarchy and took his oath as the head of The Church of England, alongside Queen Camilla. The service at Westminster Abbey led by the Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, was an opportunity for the nation to witness long-standing traditions in modern day.

In Kingston, there were big plans for the Coronation and on Sunday 7 May, a celebratory fair, parade and Service of Thanksgiving and Commitment, led by The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston, took place at All Saints and in the town centre (pictured).

Kingston was home to several Saxon coronations, including King Athelstan, who was considered by many as the first to rule over England. It was also the first 'Royal Borough' in England and brands itself as 'The Place where England Began'. The Saxon coronation stone is in the grounds of the Guildhall but is due to be returned to All Saints' churchyard – All Saints being on the site of the original Saxon church.

(Read more about the history of All Saints, Kingston here: bit.ly/41Cq72N).

Ahead of the weekend, Revd Joe Moffatt, Vicar at All Saints said, "We're hugely excited about the Coronation Parade, the fanfares, Tamil drums, street theatre and our churchyard fete, all culminating in a big service at All Saints Church."

Drawing upon the Borough's association with previous Coronations, the parade began with a fanfare. A community junk percussion band led the audience on a journey through the ages to the present day, with a re-enactment of King Athelstan's Coronation by the Kingston Youth Theatre, amongst other performances. The Town Crier

proclaimed, "it is the year 925 and the crowning of King Athelstan in Kingston."

In a post on Twitter, Bishop Martin said, "Fantastic street procession, Athelstan's crowning remembered, uplifting thanksgiving service. A delight to preach on Luke's subversive parable (Luke 10: 25–37)!"

To mark the Coronation, the bellringers at All Saints joined other churches to ring a Quarter Peal as part of 'Ring for the King'.

Read more about Coronation weekend across our parishes on pages 6 and 7.

Continued on pages 6–7 ►



A view from The BRIDGE



Spring often feels like a time for change – for fresh growth and new opportunities as the days lengthen and as what has lain dormant in the earth for months begins to sprout afresh.

Some people love change – they throw themselves into new experiences and opportunities with enthusiasm. Others can find change difficult and deeply unsettling. I think I'm probably somewhere between these two extremes – and for me, Spring has indeed brought change: a new job in a new diocese, back to commuter life after many years away from the city. So far, it feels good – but, of course, even good change takes some getting used to.

There's been change on a far grander scale, too, as we have celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with joyful parties, community sharing and volunteering across our nation – check out pages 6–7 for some of the highlights from our own parishes.

As I write this, we have also just celebrated the feast day of St Julian of Norwich (8 May) – England's best known female visionary. Her *Revelations of Divine Love*, the first known book written by a woman in English, has become a spiritual classic known

and loved by millions and a guide to many in the way of faith, hope and love. This year, the Church celebrates 650 years since Julian received her Shewings – her visions about the nature of God's love, God's presence in the world and his providence over all things. It's interesting to note that the special screen created for the moment of the King's anointing was embroidered with Julian's most famous saying: 'All shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.'

Julian's words reflect a deeper truth that is with us even in times of such change, upheaval and uncertainty – that God is near, that God cares for us, and that everything is in his hands. However you feel about change, however wonderful or unsettling life may be right now, may you know this truth deep down in your bones.

Anna Drew



NEWS IN BRIEF

Parish Support Fund

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. These pledges fund our shared mission in each community in every part of the Diocese. On the back page of this edition of *The Bridge*, you will find a poster which celebrates the impact of your generosity and God's blessing, to be displayed in your church. Digital PSF materials for 2024 will also be available soon and we hope that you will 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: gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org or your Archdeacon.



Anna Eltringham named as new Bishop of Ripon



The Revd Canon Anna Eltringham, currently the Team Rector for Oxted in the Diocese of Southwark, will be the new Bishop of Ripon and Area Bishop in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds. Revd Canon Anna who will serve many rural parishes and varied urban communities said, "Being nominated to be the next Bishop of Ripon is an honour," and "I am excited to serve God and his people in this place and prayerfully grow his Kingdom on earth together. I have felt drawn back to the North of England for a number of years and have a strong sense of God's call to this particular role."

Read the full article here: bit.ly/41JWtiy

Thanksgiving for the Dean of Southwark's ministry

Last summer the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, announced his intention to retire on 4 July 2023, following the 40th anniversary of his ordination as Deacon. To celebrate Dean Andrew's ministry in the Diocese from 1995–2023, a Service of Thanksgiving will take place at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 1 July, 3pm. The Friends of Southwark Cathedral have commissioned a new arrangement of the Gospel canticles in honour of the Dean which will be performed for the first time at this service. For details see What's On page 11.



Southwark Curates' Pilgrimage

A group of 30 curates from Southwark Diocese, accompanied by Bishop Christopher, headed for the Holy Land last month (4–11 May). With some from each of the curacy years, it was an opportunity to visit Jerusalem including the sites of the Mount of Olives, Dominus Flevit, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of All Nations and the Holy Sepulchre.

You can read a series of reflections and blogs written by some of the curates here: bit.ly/3lprona

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The JULY/AUGUST edition is due to be published online and in print on 3 July 2023. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **MONDAY 12 JUNE**.

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



IN FOCUS...
Eco Church celebration

Promoting the knowledge of how we care for the earth – Southwark’s Eco Church celebration

On Saturday 22 April – International Earth Day – the Diocese hosted an event to celebrate Eco Church and more than 150 church communities who have now registered for the Eco Church Awards Scheme.

Southwark is on a journey towards greater sustainability and to deepen our commitment to creation care – the 5th mark of Anglican mission: *to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

At the start of summer 2022, global conservation organisation, *A Rocha*, awarded the Diocese of Southwark the Bronze Eco Diocese Award. This has all been made possible by churches signing up to the Eco Church Awards, having made practical changes to their church and land, while engaging with parish communities to become more energy efficient to achieve Southwark’s goal to become Carbon Net Zero.

The event was aimed at anyone seeking to support their church along its Eco Church journey, particularly those involved in an eco group. Participants attended a range of talks and workshops targeted at supporting church communities.

The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, and Chair of the Eco Diocese Working Group opened the event and welcomed attendees. She said, “We need to take political action as well as practical action”. In talking about the five marks of

mission, she applauded attendees saying, “Thanks for all you have been doing in your churches to promote the knowledge and glory of God through taking practical action on climate change.”

Jack Edwards, Environment Officer, who organised the event introduced The Revd Canon Giles Goddard, Priest-in-Charge at St John, Waterloo. Revd Giles spoke about the transformation the church has made to become a Silver Award Eco Church. Revd Georgia Ashwell, curate at St John, also shared details about the church’s campaign towards their journey to become more sustainable. Attendees heard from other speakers, including Andy Atkins, Head of *A Rocha UK*, who congratulated the Diocese on achieving the Bronze Award and talked about the seriousness of the climate emergency, the scale of the crisis in society and action needed by the Government.

Revd Dr Sharon Moughtin said, “It was so good to be in a place with so many others who are passionate about the environment and actively working to respond to the challenges of the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis.

“It was so good to be in a place with so many others who are passionate about the environment...”



© Eve Milner. **Clockwise from top: Jack Edwards (red jumper) leads a workshop; Revd Sharon Moughtin, Pioneer Team Vicar at St Mary’s Eco Church and Andy Atkins, Head of *A Rocha UK*, address the delegates.**

I loved the opportunity to share our story as St Mary’s Eco Church over the past year and it was wonderful to hear about how other churches are responding to the challenges in so many diverse and imaginative ways. Having opportunities like this to cross-pollinate ideas and projects is so important.”

Workshops on community and global engagement led by Revd Canon Giles, managing church buildings led by Jack and the management of church land by a representative from *A Rocha* took place, and attendees broke off into groups to have more engaging discussions. This was followed by a Q&A session with Deborah Colvin, Churchwarden and Eco Team Lead at St James, Piccadilly.

On attending the event Karen Wilkins, Community Hub Manager at The Ascension, Balham said, “It is encouraging to be a part of Christians gathering

together to work out how to fulfil the mandate our Creator God has given us to protect and nurture our world and all who inhabit it, especially those who are most vulnerable.”

The programme concluded with a service of thanksgiving led by The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston.

Find out more

Southwark Diocese Eco Church webpage: bit.ly/3nL26Zu
A Rocha’s Eco Church action plan: bit.ly/2CdvRjC

New Precentor of Southwark Cathedral announced

Revd Kathryn Fleming has been appointed as the new Canon Precentor of Southwark Cathedral.

Revd Kathryn has been a residentiary Canon for Worship and Community at Coventry Cathedral since 2014. She studied English at Trinity College, Cambridge and Durham University where she specialised in 17th century religious poetry. Prior to ordination, she had a varied career including working as a bookseller, music teacher, bed and breakfast proprietor and charity

administrator. Before taking up her post at Coventry, Revd Kathryn served in the Gloucester Diocese.

Commenting on her appointment, Kathryn said, “My time at Coventry has reinforced my understanding of reconciliation as central to the Gospel. I look forward to exploring the interplay of this with the radical inclusion that is so integral to the life of Southwark Cathedral and I’m excited to be joining a team that models this so well to the wider Church”.

Bishop Christopher said, “I am delighted to have appointed The Revd Canon Kathryn Fleming to this key role. Kathryn will bring with her a passion for music and liturgy as well as extensive experience of cathedral life and ministry. I look forward to welcoming her to both our Cathedral and the Diocese.”

Also expressing his delight, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, The Dean of Southwark said, “We are delighted that Kathryn has been appointed as Canon Precentor at Southwark Cathedral. She will come to us with valuable experience gained at

Coventry in both the liturgical and pastoral aspects of cathedral life. Kathryn will join a fantastic team of musicians, vergers, liturgists and clergy and will enable the busy ministry at Southwark to continue to flourish and the worship of Almighty God be offered, with excellence and inclusion in mind, in person and online.”

The date of Kathryn’s installation and licensing by the Bishop of Southwark will be announced in due course.





IN FOCUS...
News from our parishes

Bell Sunday

St Dunstan is known as the Patron Saint of Bellringers due to his experimentation in early forging of bells in the 900'sCE. It is for this reason that The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) chose the nearest Sunday to his feast day (19 May) to introduce Bell Sunday – a day where the contribution of bells and bellringers to the life of the Church is recognised.

All Saints, Kingston organised an early Bell Sunday, which took place for evensong on Sunday 23 April.

Bellringer So-Shan Au writes:

We took the opportunity to dedicate our new and recently installed carillon, an electronic chiming device, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the augmentation of the bells from 10 to twelve.

The bells

The earliest records of bells in All Saints, Kingston are in the 16th century; then in 1681 a new frame was installed and the ring was increased from six to eight bells. This is around the time that change ringing was becoming an established art, and we can speculate that change ringing started in Kingston at this time, too.

In 1748 these bells were recast and increased to 10. During the 17th and 18th centuries there was considerable rivalry between towers, and the fact that All Saints had a ring of 10 bells by the mid-eighteenth century suggests considerable importance in Kingston and the church.

Over the years the bells became difficult to ring, though they were held in considerable affection by some of the ringers, not least because of the unusual anti-clockwise rope circle. In 1973 the wooden frame,

which housed the bells, was replaced by a new metal one and the bells were augmented from 10 to 12, this time with a conventional clockwise rope circle.

The new carillon

The old carillon dates from 1923 and has given solid service for the last 98 years. In recent years the carillon barrel and associated mechanisms have reached the end of their operating life and were judged to be beyond repair. Following a faculty granted by The Diocese of Southwark a new electronic chiming mechanism was installed by Nicholsons Engineering Ltd in February 2023. The new carillon will play the same tunes, strike the hour and have a minute bell facility.



The service

The service was well attended by members of the congregation, ringers from local towers, past tower captains from the past 50 years, John Shepherd – the curate from 1973, the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston, other local dignitaries, Andrew Nicholson of Nicholsons and Alan Hughes, lately of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry (who worked on the bells). The sermon was given by The Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth. Readings and prayers were read by some of the bellringers, and the tower captain, Paul Flavell gave an explanation of the work to the bells. A reception was held in the church afterwards.



Top: Revd Joe Moffatt with Paul Flavell, Tower Captain, at the reception. Bottom: Bernard Stone (white shirt), Tower Captain 50 years ago (1968–1977). The inscription on bell two says: *The gift of Bernard J Stone who named me Grace; Whitechapel 1972.*

College Confirmations

Students at Bacon's College, Rotherhithe, confirm the promises that were made when they were baptised during a ceremony at St James' Church, Bermondsey.

Confirmation can be an important part of a lifetime journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ and on Thursday 27 April 18 students were confirmed by the Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, Bishop of Woolwich.

Revd Nicky Teverson, College Chaplain writes:

After four months of preparation including a residential weekend learning about God, Jesus, the Christian life and prayer the students committed themselves to the Christian faith at a very moving and special service. We welcomed Bishop Karowei, who confirmed each young person by anointing their foreheads. We then celebrated the Eucharist, ending with Grace Notes, the Gospel Choir, singing our college song, *'The Lord Bless you'*.

There were 50 guests who joined us, including the families and friends of the confirmed and The Venerable Jonathan Sedgwick, Archdeacon of Southwark, who preached on the Prodigal Son, forgiveness and the love of God.

After the service we celebrated with a reception offering food and drink. The occasion was one of those moments in life when the grace of God was truly felt and the power of community love and support celebrated. I think all who attended felt moved and very proud of the students, who

after a lot of hard work, were outstanding in their participation in the service.

I wish to thank Bishop Karowei and his wife, Archdeacon Jonathan, Principal Mr Wilson, Mr Danquah, Mr Alemu, Mr Lawson and Miss Alexander for their support.

Year 7 students confirmed

- Manny Ebo Rockson
- Cherise Nserenko

Year 8 students confirmed

- Daisy-Rae Tiame Davies
- Abdul Fatoma
- Erinayo Ayetiran
- Timothy Elegbede

Year 10 students confirmed

- Alexis Walya
- Alfreda Fatoma
- Esther Abu
- Kinderly Gbadamosi
- Omawumi -Ayetiran
- Anastasia Abe
- Teniola Oduola
- Davina Omiona
- Simon Appiah
- Rocco Simeon
- Ramon Domingos
- Brandon Toro



Bishop Karowei (seated) confirmed each student.

Restoring the upper room

St Mildred, Lee, have undergone a revamp of their upper room to create a space for children and young people (CYP) with the aim of increasing discipleship among youth.

Bringing together old and young from the community to restore the room, it was a joint effort to design and decorate the 'Upper Room' for the Sunday evening youth group. The community at St Mildred applied for a CYP grant to fund the restoration, re-purposing the room to provide extra space.

If you are interested in applying for a CYP grant, find out more from the diocesan website: bit.ly/3MvcOgf



Valued by members of St John the Divine, Selsdon

On Easter Day, Alice Hicks from St John the Divine, Selsdon, was presented with the Lancelot Andrewes medal by The Venerable Greg Prior, Archdeacon of Croydon and Revd Debbie Forman, Area Dean for Croydon.



After retiring, Alice had moved to Addington with her husband and became a valued member of St John the Divine. She joined the PCC and choir, and became Lay Chair of the Croydon Addington Deanery Synod. After six years, Alice is now stepping down from her role as Lay Chair.

Alice has given many years of service to the church, starting as a teenager serving on the PCC of St Leonard, Streatham. Along with raising a family, Alice was a Churchwarden and also sang in their choir. She has also served as a member of Synod and Lay Chair in Lambeth South.

During the presentation in recognition of her 'godly service and zeal for the Gospel', Alice was praised by the congregation as she received her medal and certificate to loud applause.

170 years of St John, Angell Town



© Christopher Icha

A dedication service and festival Eucharist was held at St John, Angell Town to celebrate 170 years on 14 May.

The service, led by Bishop Christopher was a chance for the community in Brixton to come together in celebration. The church was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester in 1853, and with more than a century and a half of worship and service, St John's has served many in the community, working to support justice and peace for local people.

In recent months, the church has shared plans about renovating the church hall to better serve the community, in areas of wellbeing and youth development.

Revd Robert Faulkner, vicar at St John, Angell Town said, "I am grateful for the

faithfulness of God for allowing worship to continue in this church for 170 years. It is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the Saints who have worshipped here before us. I pray that God will grant us the grace to continue to be faithful witnesses of the Gospel in our community, just as those who have come before us have done. May we continue to be a light in the darkness, spreading God's love and mercy."

In a post on Twitter, Bishop Christopher said, "Great joy to be with Revd Robert at St John, Angell Town, Brixton bursting at the seams for 170th celebrations, giving thanks for all who have loved and served the Lord in this House of Prayer, shown Christ's love and fought for justice in the parish community. Let us bless the Lord."

Area retired clergy services

Woolwich



On Thursday 11 May the Woolwich Episcopal Area hosted its annual Retired Clergy Celebration Service and Lunch at St Margaret of Antioch, Lee. During the service, Bishop Karowei presented Revd Raymond Turpin with the Lancelot Andrewes medal, on behalf of Bishop Christopher, for his service as the Woolwich Area Officer for Retired Clergy. The Revd Canon Kim Hitch was commissioned as his successor. Pictured (l-r): Canon Naomi Whittle, Diocesan Clergy Retirement Officer; Archdeacon Jonathan Sedgwick; Mary Turpin; the Revd Ray Turpin; The Bishop of Woolwich; The Revd Canon Kim Hitch; and Archdeacon Alastair Cutting.

Kingston



Bishop Martin presents Revd Pam Stevenson with the Lancelot Andrewes Medal, also on behalf of Bishop Christopher, for her long-standing service as Kingston Area Retirement Officer.

Croydon

Having presided at the Croydon Area Retirement Clergy Service, the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon said on Twitter, "A lovely service for our retired clergy today. They have been and remain a gift to the church. A huge thank you to Revd Peter Macan and Revd Naomi Whittle for all they do to serve the retired clergy of the Area and Diocese."



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

God save the King!



The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Thousands across the Diocese came together over the Coronation Weekend (6–7 May 2023) to celebrate King Charles III and Queen Camilla. This month, we share some of the highlights...



© Chris Jackson



Church Leaders come together in prayer

Bishop Christopher and Bishop Rosemarie join London Church Leaders at St James's Palace on 2 May 2023. Church Leaders met to pray for His Majesty the King as he prepared for his Coronation.



Choral Evensong at the Cathedral

To mark the historic event a Choral Evensong took place at Southwark Cathedral, followed by the book launch of *A guide to the National Anthem* written by Annie-Marie Minhall and illustrated by Rosie Brooks, and featuring Hodge, the Cat!

In his sermon, Dean Andrew talked about meeting the then Prince of Wales and witnessing "the most amazing pageantry" of the Coronation, ending his sermon saying, "We have entered a new age. God save the King." You can read the full sermon here: bit.ly/3MAu7gb.

Artwork produced by Cathedral School, inspired by King Charles and the Coronation, was displayed to decorate the Cathedral along with red, white and blue themed flowers arranged by the Flower Guild.



Wimbledon – cleaning up the Common

The community came together for 'The Big Help Out' on Bank Holiday Monday to clean up the Common and litter-pick as part of looking after the environment. Locals were joined by a few furry friends, with an appearance from The Wombles.



A symbol of the Christian world

Craft makers at the Good Shepherd and St Peter, Lee, brought out the hot glue gun to make props for their all age service on Sunday 7 May. One prop was The Orb, which symbolises the Christian World. During the ceremony at Westminster Abbey, the King's Orb called the investiture was placed in his right hand by the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Children and young people lead the way

At St Michael, Stockwell the children and young people took over during an extra special service, as well as leading the sermon on the theme of Jesus the King of Kings. This was followed by a garden party, where the community came together to celebrate in style.



Dancing merrily around the maypole

At Christ Church, Gipsy Hill, the Coronation fun was non-stop with maypole dancing to cap off the weekend of celebrations.

Leading the CofE national service

Before the Kingston Coronation parade, Revd Joe Moffatt led the Church of England national online service of Sung Eucharist for the fourth Sunday of Easter from All Saints Church Kingston. The congregation gathered to pray for the King and for national unity as we approached the Coronation. You can watch the service here: bit.ly/3Mxwe4i

Celebrating Betchworth style with Bishop Rosemarie

The congregation at St Michael, Betchworth enjoyed a service full of musical joy, singing hymns including *All People that on Earth do Dwell (The Old One Hundredth)* in the Ralph Vaughn Williams setting, with the choir who sang the motet, (again by Ralph Vaughn Williams) *O Taste and See*. Music was played by Richard Calver, the new assistant organist, who also played out with the voluntary '*Crown Imperial*' at the end of the service. The celebrant, Bishop Rosemarie, presided during the service after which the congregation joined the village community on the green for a parade, where locals Charles Hardy and Camilla Peterkin dressed up as the new King and Queen. Following the event Pam Armitage at St Michael said, "A huge thank you to all the committee that worked for weeks to put this fantastic afternoon together. A big thank you to all those who helped set up the Green and to clear it after the event. You are all stars! And a special thank you to Him up there, who had the sun shine on our wonderful and memorable event."



Coronation community gathering

Around 200 people from the community joined the celebrations at St Helier Centre of Mission for a royal 'knees up'.



Croydon Heath Services

The Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Team at Croydon Health Services dressed their worship centre in preparation, lighting a special Coronation candle for prayer and reflection.



Time for tea and cake

It was a joint effort at Christ The King, Salfords where Mary Newstead MBE, Churchwarden and Julia Newstead, PCC Secretary pulled out all the stops with their Coronation cake. The cake was enjoyed by members of the congregation during a celebratory coffee morning after parish mass.



Fit for a King and Queen

At St Michael's Church of England School, Wandsworth pupils gathered in the playground to take part in a special Coronation celebration, complete with a tree planting ceremony, music, acting, and dance performed by pupils.





**DISCIPLESHIP &
MINISTRY**
Ministry in the Arts

Nine Elms Arts Ministry becomes the newest Bishop's Mission Order

In 2018 the Diocese of Southwark licensed Revd Betsy Blatchley as the first ordained Pioneer Minister in the Arts in the Church of England, within Battersea Fields Parish, for mission to one of the largest redevelopment areas in Europe – Nine Elms (encompassing Battersea Power Station and the US Embassy).

On 28 April 2023, Bishop Christopher signed the paperwork to create Nine Elms Arts Ministry as the newest Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) – a Fresh Expression of Church – for the next five years. Nine Elms Arts Ministry runs *Creative Soul* – a programme of arts well-being activities for the community. It also creates collaborative large and small scale arts events such as the Nine Elms Advent Calendar, alongside developing an emerging missional community exploring creative prayer and worship.

This is the eleventh BMO for Southwark, which has the second largest number of BMOs among all Church of England dioceses. During the presentation, Bishop Christopher said, "A Bishop's Mission Order is created for extending, creatively, areas of outreach in missional, encouraging and life-enhancing ways – and this particular Mission Order represents the growing regard we have for the work Betsy has done to pioneer and reach out in arts ministry."

Revd Betsy thanked Bishop Christopher, The Venerable Simon Gates, Archdeacon of Lambeth, and others; and spoke about this work as the fulfilment of a vision that God had given her for the previous five years. She said, "I had absolutely no idea how it could ever come to pass... It's been a fascinating and sometimes challenging five years but, I think, the best of my ministry so far." Betsy will also be supported by Bishop Rob Gillion, Bishop for the Arts.



L–R: Revd Betsy Blatchley, Bishop Christopher, Ruth Martin and Revd Leighton Carr.

Torch-Bearer Award for Pioneer Minister in the Arts

The *Peace Run Torch-Bearer Award* recognises remarkable people and honours ordinary heroes who work to uplift their communities. On 24 April, Revd Betsy Blatchley (pictured above), Pioneer Minister in the Arts in Nine Elms was presented with an award for her contribution to the community in Nine Elms, Battersea during a ceremony held at The World Heartbeat Academy. Also honoured at the ceremony were

Marsha de Cordova MP for Battersea, Balham and Wandsworth and Gold Medal Athlete and five times Olympiad, Jo Pavey.

On receiving the award, Revd Betsy said, "It's such an incredible honour to be awarded this for my work in Nine Elms. A huge thanks to the World Heartbeat Academy for the nomination and event, and to all involved the Peace Run."

Community sponsorship for refugees

Each year on 20 June, the world celebrates World Refugee Day. It's an opportunity to think about those who have been forced to flee from a place they call home, to escape conflict or persecution, and a day to recognise people globally in their plight to seek safety. On this day communities will come together and host a variety of events to build on the support available to help improve the lives of refugees.

Across the Diocese many churches provide help and support to people in our communities who have been marginalised as a result of being displaced, unable to access support because they are seen as alien and who need assistance to integrate, belong, find homes and settle.

In 2018 the parish of Christ Church, West Wimbledon had been thinking of sponsoring a Syrian family and in June last year, they welcomed Mohammad, Bariaa and their three children. In the first few months of the family's arrival the project team worked hard to help sort out many

practical matters including access to healthcare, schools, benefits, banking and arranging language lessons. The parish agreed to support the family for two years on their journey to becoming independent as they look forward to their new lives in the UK.

Chris Larkman, Project Coordinator said, "The family are now approaching the end of their first year with us. Going forward, we are working hard with Mohammad and Bariaa to encourage them to get to a high standard in English and they are both attending English lessons at the local further education college. We are hoping to invite the family to a parish event in the coming months, giving all of us in the parish the opportunity to meet them in an informal setting. So many people have been generous giving their time, expertise and money to help support our family. My thanks goes to them all. Please remember to pray for our family and for the project team who continue to support them."

Read more about supporting refugees and asylum seekers on the Southwark JPIC page, including resources: bit.ly/3nIcrFM



The project team from Christ Church, West Wimbledon.

Diocesan schools come together to give thanks

The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call Thanksgiving Service took place at Southwark Cathedral on 3 May.

The service, in recognition of funds raised for projects that work to improve mental health and well-being, was attended by children from our Diocesan family of schools, teachers and colleagues from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education – who joined together, to give thanks for the support given this year. Children from each participating school described enthusiastically the many different creative ways they had raised sums to donate to the Lent Call.

The congregation sang songs of praise, including *By the Waters of Babylon* sung

by pupils from The Minster Junior School and steel drums were played during an 'offering through music' by students from St Gabriel's College. The Revd Annie Kurk and Robert Bamforthi from the Whyteleafe Community Hub, who shared how the Hub supports the needs of local families, improving the quality of lives through donations of food, toys and clothes and offering a befriending service.

Showing appreciation to the congregation, Bishop Christopher said, "Thank you for your gift and your offering. When we give something, we often feel good about that because it means that we are thinking about others and other people's needs in our community and across the Diocese."

Windrush 75 – honouring a generation who have shaped the culture of our society

The MV Empire Windrush arrived at the Port of Tilbury Docks on 21 June 1948, where hundreds of Caribbean men and women arrived in the UK upon an invitation calling for help from Commonwealth citizens, as the country recovered from the Second World War.



The term ‘Windrush generation’ refers to arrivals to the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971, when British immigration laws changed.

The Windrush generation played a significant role in shaping the cultural landscape of Britain and since then, many have made an immeasurable contribution to our society.

There are many stories about the welcome and hospitality from communities shown to those who arrived at the port of Tilbury, some of which was shown through leaders in the Church.

In this month’s *Bridge*, Joanna Cox, Parish Safeguarding Officer at Ascension, Balham, visited Wandsworth Heritage Service Archives to share a glimpse into the story of church hospitality shown to Windrush arrivals at that time.

Joanna writes:

In 1948, about half of the passengers who disembarked Empire Windrush on 22 June – a day after arriving, had no accommodation arranged in the UK. In Clapham, accommodation was made available in the Clapham South deep level shelter, which had been built during the Second World War as an air-raid

shelter in the parish of the Church of The Ascension, Balham.

The Wandsworth Heritage Service holds microfilms of past copies of local newspapers. On 2 July 1948 the Clapham Observer included news under the heading “THE JAMAICANS IN THE SHELTER: A Church Takes Steps to Entertain Them”.

The paper reported that the weekend after the men arrived, the Vicar of Ascension Church went to the shelter and invited the men to church on Sunday. About 80 came and were entertained and had tea in the hall afterwards. The report also quotes a church representative, Mr W H Garland, describing how they had to “scrounge tea and sugar” (there was still rationing), and how “his own wife made cakes and others helped with provisions”. He also commented that “The Jamaicans were charming people; they were churchmen and keen”.

We have nobody in the congregation at Ascension today who was there in 1948. We still have congregation members from the *Windrush*. The longest standing member of Ascension currently is our Minister, Revd Dorothy, who is originally from Jamaica and has been at Ascension since 1967 when she arrived in the UK.

Revd Dorothy and her husband, along with several others who also arrived at the Port of Tilbury (about half a dozen of whom are still at Ascension) settled in the area in the 1960s.

Windrush 75 – A National Service of Thanksgiving

To mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of *MV Empire Windrush*, a National Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Southwark Cathedral on Thursday 22 June at 2pm. (To book see What's On page 11.)

The service, organised by the Windrush 75 National Planning Group and the Racial Justice Advocacy Forum (RJAF), is entitled: *Remembering the Struggle, Celebrating the Contribution and Flourishing for the Future*, and will involve worship, music, reflections, readings and prayers to honour the legacy of the Windrush generation.

Ahead of the national service, Bishop Rosemarie, a member of the RJAF said, “The service will be an opportunity to honour a generation who have shaped the culture of our society here in Britain through a legacy of so many achievements, from contributing to the National Health Service to helping build our London transport systems – the courageous

stories of the generation and their descendants need to be celebrated. Let us come together in prayer and thanksgiving to express our deep gratitude.”

Also, in celebration of the anniversary, a new exhibition by award-winning social documentary photographer Jim Grover called *Windrush: A Voyage through the Generations* will be at the Clapham Library, open until 2 September 2023.

Windrush: A Voyage through the Generations, is a moving new photo-story which explores how the generations which followed the Windrush Generation are living their lives in the UK today. This work uniquely explores and invites conversations around the different ways of passing down traditions, the continuity of heritage and intergenerational exchange. It also continues the stories of some of the familiar faces who featured in Grover’s previous Windrush exhibition; the first generation of men and women from the Caribbean who played a crucial role in the creation of a multi-cultural Britain.

For more information about how to visit this exhibition, go to What’s On page 11.



© Jim Grover. **Clockwise from left: Jayanne and Jordan Davis, third generation siblings, release white doves at a traditional Jamaican burial of their mother in Lambeth Cemetery – the doves symbolise the transportation of the soul of the departed to heaven; Ingrid Munroe has taught her grand-daughter, Carlicia (12), how to crochet, a skill of many of the first generation Caribbean women; The Brixton Immortals Domino Club teaching the young generation how to play the game as part of a collaboration with Lambeth Libraries – Jeremiah (9) has his first introduction to the game.**



IN FOCUS...

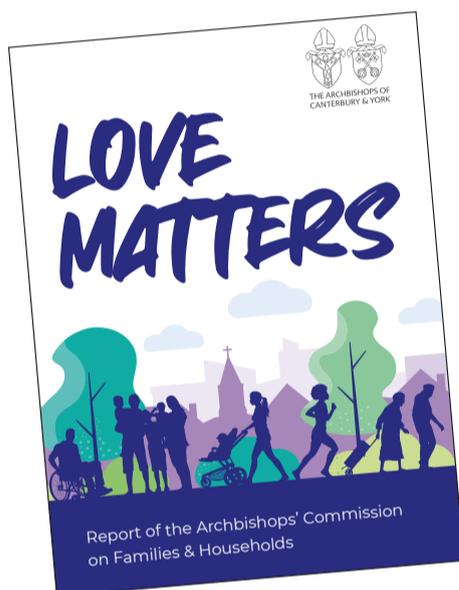
Love Matters report

'Love Matters' – flourishing our families and households

The Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households, established in March 2021, has published its report 'Love Matters' on 26 April 2023. At the heart of Love Matters is a deep conviction that our flourishing as a society depends on the flourishing of our families and households, the building blocks of every community.

The wide-ranging report has five key messages – that we must:

- 1 Value families in all their diversity, meeting their basic needs by putting their well-being at the heart of Government policy-making and our community life, including religious communities.
- 2 Support relationships throughout life, ensuring that everyone is able to develop loving, caring relationships, manage conflict well and promote the flourishing of individuals and families.
- 3 Honour singleness and single person households, recognising that loving relationships matter to everyone.
- 4 Empower children and young people, developing their relational skills and knowledge, recognising their value and agency, protecting them from harm, and giving them the best start in life.
- 5 Build a kinder, fairer, more forgiving society, removing discrimination, division and deep inequality for the sake of every family and household.



The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team (JPIC) works on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marks of Mission – tending to human need, transforming unjust structures, and treasuring creation. We know that safe, secure, loving relationships are at the heart of all this work, and particularly for providing children and young people with a good start in life.

The Commission report discusses several issues that are central to the work of JPIC, for example, poverty and the relationship with ethnicity and disability which highlight the intersection between different forms of inequality. As the report says, *Parenting in poverty is highly stressful and this in turn impacts adversely on family relationships* (Love Matters, p168).



“Love is the foundation upon which lives and relationships are built, and which helps children to grow up in security and forms the basis of a healthy society where every individual is valued for who they are.”

Here in the Diocese, we are fortunate enough to have as a partner, the charity Welcare (welcare.org), which supports parents with children up to the age of 13 in south London and east Surrey to combat these challenges, as well as our own charity, Together Southwark, which supports churches to help those living in poverty in ways that work locally.

Revd Jonathan Macy, Diocesan Disability Adviser, identifies and applauds the references in the report to the theology of the Body of Christ: *“Within our own congregations, breaking down barriers that prevent all people worshipping will enable the body of Christ to be truly diverse and unified.”* (Love Matters, p192).

On Delving deeper: how good relationships build resilient communities to tackle harm Chris Elliott, Modern Slavery Advisor and Chair of Welcare said, “I believe that it is essential to building kinder, fairer, and more forgiving societies that we as members of The Church of England need to be instrumental within our parishes in building resilient societies. The Clewer Initiative, with whom we connect on modern slavery issues, are doing a lot of work on resilient communities, initially to reduce slavery today but recognise that many of our problems today can be lessened or eliminated by having stronger relationships within our communities.”

Nicola Thomas, Head of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation said, “Tolstoy famously said that all happy families are alike: certainly, every happy family, regardless of its shape or size, has love at its heart. Love is the foundation upon which lives and relationships are built, and which helps children to grow up in security and forms the basis of a healthy society where every individual is valued for who they are. There are many challenges to family life in our society, this report calls on us to prioritise constructive, loving relationships to build up a kinder, fairer, more forgiving society.”

You can read the report here: bit.ly/3Bs6NuD



LET US PRAY...

JUNE

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

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

It has been 20 years since I began writing a prayer column for *The Bridge*. So, its quite sad for me to think that this will be my last. The first one I did was to mark the International Year of the Family. But over all those years we have prayed through so many events, festivals and seasons, some anticipated and regular – Christmas and Easter, for instance – some occasions of great celebration – royal jubilees and the Olympics – and some in the face of tragedy, not least the terrorist attacks that have happened in our city and our Diocese.

The popular hymn *‘What a friend we have in Jesus’* has a line in it which sums up what I have always thought is one of the foundations of the Christian life – ‘Take it to the Lord in prayer.’ To be honest, I don’t know what else to do but to pray, to keep that conversation with God going, to be honest with God where my own resources fail, or are inadequate. I just need to reach out in hope and expectation, that God always listens to me as I try to always listen to God.

One of the stories in the Old Testament that really encourages me is around the



challenging, difficult, but thinking of it in those terms which Moses experienced, speaking as though to a friend, makes praying through life not just possible but as natural as breathing, as easy as talking, as wonderful as listening.

It has been good praying through this last twenty years with you. Keep the conversation going and, always, take it to the Lord in prayer – for what a friend we have in Jesus.

experience of Moses in the wilderness. It says this in the Book of Exodus:

The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. (Exodus 33.11)

What a friend we have in Jesus, what a friend we have in God! We take all of our life experience, all our joys and our sorrows, our thanksgivings, our requests, to the Lord in prayer. We can over complicate prayer, make it appear

**Holy God,
hear our prayer
in joy and sorrow,
in hope and expectation,
through tears and laughter
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

WHAT'S ON

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

June

1 JUNE – 2 SEPTEMBER

- * **CLAPHAM** – Photography exhibition *Windrush: A Voyage through the Generations* (Jim Grover). Clapham Library, SW4 7DB. Free. Opening times: bit.ly/3MC63JS

SUNDAYS 4 –25 JUNE

- * **FARLEIGH** – Complines by candlelight with talks on *Persons of Faith*. 7pm at St Mary, Farleigh Court Road, Farleigh CR6 9PX. Free. Contact: bit.ly/42ji38f

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/44K5MeP

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE

- * **ONLINE** – Diocese of Southwark Lay Ministry evening. Aimed at anyone who feels that God is calling them into ministry. Explore the different areas of Lay Ministry – working with Children, Young People and their families, Readers, Pastoral Ministers, Church Army Evangelists & Lay Pioneers. Zoom 7.30 – 9pm. To book email: learning@southwark.anglican.org

10 –24 JUNE

- * **TOOTING** – All Saints Arts Festival: a series of concerts and stories from local storytellers at All Saints Church, Brudenell Road SW17 8DQ. For full programme contact: email@AllSaints.org.uk, 020 8767 7705.

16 –18 JUNE

- * **ROTHERHITHE** – Exhibition *Journeys: Teithiau Rotherhithe*. An exhibition of small stained glass artworks on the theme of Journeys, by a group of English and Welsh-based artists. Friday 11am–4pm; Saturday 11am–5pm; Sunday 12noon – 4pm at Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe SE16 5HF. Free. Details: Ruth Cooke 07968 967490.

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

- * **ROTHERHITHE** – Concert: *Musica Antica* present two beautiful early 17th Century comedies. 7.30 – 9.30pm (doors and bar open 7pm) at Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe SE16 5HF. Tickets £10 (concessions £2). Details and booking at: bit.ly/42HKZ9L

🎵 Croydon Minster

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

- 2 June Lucinda Dunne, Saxophone & Lydia Lallemand, Piano
- 9 June Huan Zhang, Piano
- 16 June Oliver Turner, Baritone
- 23 June Fraser Ellson, Tenor
- 30 June Vanessa Hristova, Viola & Lily Petrova, Piano
- 7 July Fumi Otsuki, Violin & Alvaro Siculiana, Piano

Free but donations gratefully received. Bring a packed lunch.

Details: croydonminster.org

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK** – *Godly Play Training*. Join the Children & Young People Team (CYP) and Ronni Lamont, an expert in Children's Spirituality, to find out more about Godly Play involving storytelling and theological reflection. For all ages. 10am – 4pm at Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, London SE1 1HW. Free. Book at: bit.ly/3HYhCs5

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

- * **PUTNEY** – A concert of choral music preformed by the *Ionian Singers*, with harpist Cristina Di Bernardo, soprano Jocelyn Coates and conductor and pianist Timothy Salter. A programme of instrumental music, choral music and songs from the Romantic age to the present. At St Mary's Church, Putney High Street, SW15 1SN. Details available shortly at: bit.ly/3nF2Y20

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

- * **STREATHAM** – The Beckenham Concert Band with The Royal Free (Hospital) Music Society Choir. Entry by ticket with collection for an NHS Charity – details to follow. 6pm, St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD. Details from: music@stpeters-streatham.org

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

- * **WIMBLEDON** – Music for a Summer Evening – a concert given by the Hill Singers Chamber Choir featuring works by Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Parry, Whitacre and Copland. Tickets on the door: £14, £12 (concessions) cash only; children under 16 free. 7.30 pm at St Matthew's Church, Wimbledon SW20 0DE. Details at: hillsingers.co.uk

THURSDAY 22 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – A special *Windrush 75* national service. Remembering the struggle, celebrating the contribution and flourishing for the future. 1–2.30pm at Southwark Cathedral. Free. Reserve your place at: bit.ly/3nL2aZp

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE

- * **ONLINE** – Church Army *Discovery Evening*. Join us to find out what we do, our vision and values, about training or working for us. 7–9.30pm. Free. Details and to book at: bit.ly/3VJlhH6

SATURDAY 24 JUNE

- * **LAMBETH** – North Lambeth Parish Fete. A fun afternoon packed with live music, children's races, food and dog show. 12.30 – 4.30pm in Lambeth Palace Gardens, London SE1 7JU. £5 adults, £10 families, £2 child, £3 concession. Details at: bit.ly/42ayqUF

July

SATURDAY 1 JULY

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – Service of Thanksgiving for the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn's ministry in the Diocese from 1995–2023. The Friends of Southwark Cathedral have commissioned a new arrangement of the Gospel canticles in honour of the Dean which will be performed for the first time at this service. 3pm at Southwark Cathedral. Free.

SUNDAYS 2–30 JULY

- * **FARLEIGH** – Complines by candlelight with talks on *Persons of Faith*. 7pm at St Mary, Farleigh Court Road, Farleigh CR6 9PX. Free. Contact: bit.ly/42ji38f

SUNDAY 9 JULY

- * **DULWICH** – Andrew Benson-Wilson showcases music by the great English Composer William Byrd (1543–1623) on our fabulous historic organ. 7.45pm at Christ's Chapel, 14 Gallery Rd, Dulwich Village SE21 7AD. Free, generous donation please for our guest's expenses.

SATURDAY 15 JULY

- * **CRIPPLEGATE** – Woman Composer Repertoire Day – *Come and Sing*. Hosted by the Royal School of Church Music and Society of Women Organists. New music written by female composers and a rare chance to explore fresh sacred music. 11am–2pm, St Giles Cripplegate, London EC2Y 8DA. Entry £10. Details and book at: bit.ly/3LFX7bd

SATURDAY 15 JULY

- * **ADDISCOMBE** – Diocese of Southwark – children & youth volunteer and paid worker celebration. For volunteers in a church in the Croydon Episcopal Area with children and young people. There will be an opportunity to pray and eat together; and develop a vision for encouraging and growing active young disciples up to the age of 18. 10am – 1pm, at St Mildred, Addiscombe, Bingham Road, Croydon, CR0 7ED. Free. Details or book at: bit.ly/3KHhCNs

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. Details and tickets (£200 – £265) at: bit.ly/3mxKpM4

SATURDAY 22 JULY

- * **BERMONDSEY** – Diocese of Southwark – children & youth volunteer and paid worker celebration. For volunteers in a church in the Woolwich Episcopal Area with children and young people. Come along for lunch, meet other Christian young people, take part in workshops and learn a new skill. 12noon – 3pm at The Salmon Centre, 43 Old Jamaica Road, London SE16 4BB. Free. Details or book at: bit.ly/3GuQa4g



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



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