

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

Vol.28 No.4
May 2023

Maundy Money

Southwark's nominees for the King's annual gift share their experiences
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Living our greater stories

Flourishing and exciting new opportunities
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Forest school garden

A chance for pupils and local community to connect with nature
See page 9



The Coronation of King Charles III

The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May 2023. Rooted in long-standing traditions and pageantry, the ceremony will be led by The Archbishop of Canterbury and will reflect the King's role today and look towards the future.

Coronation weekend will also see the conclusion of 28 days of prayer and spiritual preparation led by the Church of England which began on Easter Sunday, where people across the nation have been praying with and for the King.

During a broadcast on Friday 9 September 2022 and at the start of a service of remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral for the late Queen Elizabeth II, his mother, King Charles made his first public address as monarch. In a pledge to the nation, he said: "The role and the

duties of Monarchy also remain, as does the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England – the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted."

As parishes prepare for Coronation weekend with services and celebration events to mark this historic moment, Southwark Cathedral will be celebrating with a Choral Evensong service on Sunday 7 May at 3pm. The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon will be offering the blessing and The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, will be preaching.

All are welcome to attend, no tickets are required and guests should aim to be seated by 2.45pm.

Visit the Church of England website for full information about Coronation weekend and access to watch the online service at Westminster Abbey: churchofengland.org/coronation



His Majesty King Charles III.

© Hugo Burnand

New Diocesan Secretary appointed

Nicola Thomas has been appointed as the new Diocesan Secretary to start on 1 September 2023

Nicola, was appointed by the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt

Rev'd Christopher Chessun, in consultation with Sir David Beamish, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance following a recruitment process led by an external search consultancy.

The Diocesan Secretary leads and develops the executive function of the Diocese, working with colleagues to ensure excellence in all areas as we seek to resource and serve the parishes and people of south London and east Surrey. Nicola will have overall responsibility for the effectiveness of the Diocese's governance and management structures, strategic finance, capital planning and

budget setting as well as income generation, including the successful partnerships with parishes for the Parish Support Fund.

Nicola has had a distinguished career in the Civil Service from



1999–2020 and is currently the Head of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation since she joined the Diocese in 2021. She will succeed Ruth Martin, who announced her retirement earlier this year.

Following her appointment, Nicola said: "I am delighted to be taking on this role in the Diocese of Southwark, building on the strong foundations created by my predecessor. Having lived in the Diocese for more than 20 years, I am looking forward to working with the strong Diocesan staff team, dedicated clergy and talented trustees and volunteers

to support and enable the people and parishes in south London and east Surrey."

Speaking of the appointment Bishop Christopher said, "I very much look forward to working with Nicola Thomas as she takes up this important post. Nicola will build on our core values to lead, enable and serve the people and parishes of this great Diocese. Her work in developing our commitment to Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation has been exemplary and I know she will give of her best to the task which lies ahead."

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



A view from The BRIDGE



In the last twelve months, much has changed. The nation mourned the late Queen Elizabeth II and celebrated her glorious reign. Prince Charles became King Charles III; and we are about to gather to celebrate his coronation. There has been a great deal of 'political turbulence' in our nation and we are still in the midst of a cost of living crisis and a war in Ukraine. Amidst these changes, we worship 'the King of Kings and Lord of Lords'. Jesus Christ is our rock and salvation – 'the same, yesterday, today and forever'. (Heb. 13.8).

Thy Kingdom Come has been established in churches throughout the world as nine days (a 'novena') of prayer and action. At the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit stirred the whole people of God of different races and ethnic backgrounds. I'm excited that the resources of *Thy Kingdom Come* have a real variety offered within them to enable you to pray, act and witness in a way that the Spirit leads, for the good of your community. Picking up on the Pentecost theme of both prayer and service, Southwark Diocese is promoting: '*Thy Kingdom Come: Living the Kingdom*'. Each day of the novena, you are invited to read, pray, reflect and act in love and compassion.

The needs of our communities and society are significant! We offer these resources (a sample pack has been sent to every clergy person of incumbent-status) to enable parishes to use them as they see fit. Additional copies of each resource can be ordered. However, wanting to become 'greener' in our approach, we have ensured that all resources are available to individuals and parishes digitally at: bit.ly/3LIGWF1

The Mission team also offer grants to encourage parishes to reach out to their neighbours through prayer and action. So, please consider what your parish might do in outreach and witness. Do take any photos or share stories with us of how you prayed for and served your community.

The past years have been very hard for many people. The 'breath of the Spirit' is much needed! May 'all God's people' pray: *Thy Kingdom Come!*

Jay Colwill



NEWS IN BRIEF

Communications Team changes



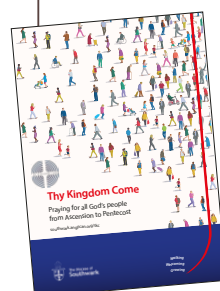
This month, we are pleased to welcome Anna Drew as new Director of Communications and Press Officer to Bishop Christopher. Anna joins us from Canterbury Diocese and brings a wealth of experience in press and media relations. Anna will further develop the progress made on the Diocesan Communications Strategy working on communications across our parish communities, and joins Vernia, Susana and Sue in the team.

After more than seven years, the team is also saying goodbye to Web Manager and Social Media Officer Daniel Stone, who is taking on a new role with the City of London Police.

Agape meal resources

The Bishop's Liturgy Group have released an Agape (pronounced a-ga-pay) meal resource for family worship at home. It is for use by children and adults to make a special occasion of eating and praying together at any time, a custom which dates back to the 2nd century. Resource packs have been delivered to parishes, which includes meal instructions and prayers.

You can also download a copy on the website: bit.ly/406ZfYa



Thy Kingdom Come: 'Our Father in Heaven'

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

A pack of prayer materials has been posted to parishes. Further resources are available online here: southwark.anglican.org/tkc

Croydon announced as London Borough of Culture 2023

Croydon opened its year as London's Borough of Culture 2023 with a flagship event at Fairfield Halls. Croydon promises a bold, cross-cultural programme running until March 2024, which will celebrate the borough's unique identity, diverse communities and rich heritage, culture and creativity. This includes major events with international headliners performing alongside emerging home-grown talent, plus hundreds of cultural activities from Croydon's communities. The London Borough of Culture Awards launched in 2017 by the Mayor of London and aims to shine a light on the character and diversity of London's boroughs and bring culture to everyone.

Community Missioner in the Diocese of Niagara

Revd Canon Dr Ian Mobsby, currently Interim Pioneer Rector, will be leaving Southwark to join the Diocese of Niagara in The Anglican Church of Canada, this Summer. His new role will focus on setting up new mission focused initiatives in Ontario. Ian also serves as the canon theologian for mission and teaches with the Niagara School for Missional Leadership.

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

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

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...
News from the Diocese

Chrism Eucharist

The Chrism Eucharist took place at Southwark Cathedral on Maundy Thursday (6 April) during Holy Week. The congregation gathered to witness the renewal of ordination vows and the blessing of the oils.

The service, part of preparation for the celebration of the passion and resurrection of the Lord, began with a welcome by The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, during what would be his last Chrism Eucharist as Dean before his retirement in the summer. Bishop Christopher then introduced the celebration. The first reading was taken from Isaiah 6.1.1-9 read by Indrani Balachandran, Lay Chair, Croydon South Deanery, and the second from James 5.13-16 read by The Revd Cordella Dawson, Vicar of St Philip, Norbury.

In his sermon, Bishop Christopher spoke about baptismal promises and the ancient practice of blessing the oils to be used in ministry during the coming year “before the three great holy days of our most solemn season to renew our commitment to ministry and to be equipped, by the blessing of the oils and nourished by the sacrament, so that we may continue in good heart in the charge that has been given to us.”

He also thanked clergy for “all that you offer in the service of Christ’s Kingdom”

and went on to say: “In our baptism, the dignity given to us as creatures made in the image of God is restored and given a new and greater dignity as we are incorporated into the body of Christ.”

Bishop Christopher then invited all bishops, priests and deacons to renew their commitment to ministry, as stewards of the mysteries of God and ministers of his grace. After the liturgy of the sacrament, the congregation stood as the oils for anointing of the sick and dying, signing with the cross at baptism and the oil of chrism were brought forward and presented to Bishop Christopher in turn to be blessed. Prayers were said for olive farmers in the West Bank and the whole of Palestine, and for peace with justice for all the people of the Holy Land.

The congregation were invited to receive communion and the service concluded with a blessing and recessional hymn *O Jesus, I have promised*.



Above: the Chrism oils – for the sick, for baptism and for Chrism (© Eve Milner).
Below: a packed Cathedral for the Chrism service.



The audience enjoy St John Passion by the Wimbledon Choral, Florilegium and international soloists during a performance of JS Bach’s masterpiece under the baton of the choir’s Music Director, Neil Ferris, at Southwark Cathedral.

Blessed with the gift of story telling

On Palm Sunday’s BBC Songs of Praise, Laura Wright met a star of stage and screen, Adjoa Andoh.

Adjoa talked about how she became a Lay Reader at her church in Herne Hill, how faith has influenced her life and work – being blessed with the gift of storytelling in church, in theatre and on set through her acting career and her interest in “telling stories in a way that allows us to see our common humanity”.

To mark Palm Sunday Adjoa read St John’s account of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Watch the full episode here: bbc.in/3GzMldY



© Suki Dhandra

Royal Maundy

Every Maundy Thursday, the Monarch distributes special Maundy Money to local pensioners in a service which commemorates Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper.

This year King Charles III undertook his first Maundy Service as Monarch at York Minster. During the service The King presents each recipient with two purses: one red and one white. The white purse will contain a set of specially minted silver Maundy coins equivalent in

value to the age of the Monarch. Each year Bishop Christopher nominates recipients for Royal Maundy and before heading to York, we spoke to Brian Jones, Mary Howell, Daniel Cooper and Odette Penwarden about what the nomination means to them.



Brian Jones

Brian Jones, 82, has been a member of Living Waters, Elim Church in Chorley, Lancashire for over fifteen years. During that time, Brian has had the privilege of serving on the Leadership Team in various roles including teaching and preaching. Eleven years ago, Brian became the Coordinator of Chorley Street Pastors and during his years of serving vulnerable people in the community, he developed a close friendship with the Revd Les Isaac OBE, who founded the Christian organisation, *Ascension Trust*. Brian describes the Trust as the “umbrella body” overseeing street pastors nationally.



Prior to joining the Living Waters Church, Brian served for twelve years as the Pastor of Esher Green Baptist Church in Surrey before retiring at 65 and moving North to Chorley. Brian said: “For the vast majority of my Christian life, I have been greatly privileged to have been

involved with young people, serving as Director of a Christian Outdoor Pursuits Centre in North Wales, and over many years have had the enormous privilege of teaching outdoor skills to children and adults, whilst at the same time building affirmation, confidence and respect for life and love for God and others whilst doing so.”

Brian travelled to York with his wife, Brenda, and ahead of meeting King Charles III said: “I feel humbled and greatly privileged and it is taking quite a while for it to sink in that I will actually be meeting the King! I am so grateful that my dear wife will be accompanying me to see him.”

Mary Howell

Mary Howell, 83, from a little village in Lincolnshire, spent almost 40 years as a volunteer at Southwark Cathedral, helping with all sorts of duties from changing the high altar, to volunteering in the sacristy. Mary is a skilled seamstress who has been a faithful member of the Broaderers at the Cathedral, helping with conservation work, caring for vestments and other fabric items. Prior to moving to Lincoln, Mary lived in Kent with her late husband and two children.

Before heading to York to receive her Royal Maundy, Mary said: “It’s a great honour, quite a surprise. I am thrilled.”

Daniel Cooper



Daniel Cooper, 82, was a teacher at John Fisher School, Purley for most of his working life. In 1972 there was a faith movement in schools and Daniel was assigned to help bring faith into schools through teaching.

He taught Religious Education, amongst other subjects, at the prep school for boys – some of whom went on to join the priesthood. A tireless educator, Daniel retired in 1998 at the age of 60 but continued working in schools as a help to chaplains and teachers.

Before meeting the King, Daniel said: “I am looking forward to meeting him! It’s beyond my wildest dreams” and on receiving his Maundy Money he said: “The King thanked me for all that I do for the Church and for God”.

Odette Penwarden



Odette Penwarden, 76, has worked on reception in the Diocesan office, Trinity House, for the past 18 years. Prior to joining the Diocese, Odette had a career in the tourism industry and her last post was with Best Western Hotels. She started attending Southwark Cathedral in September 1989 after surviving the *Marchioness* Disaster, where a boat sank on the river Thames and caused the tragic death of 51 people, including five of Odette’s dear friends – for one of whom the funeral took place at the Cathedral.

After meeting the Rt Revd Peter Price, Cathedral Canon at the time, Odette was introduced to volunteering and started to regularly attend the Cathedral. She is now Chair of the Guild of Stewards at Southwark Cathedral and spends much of her time coordinating more than 30 volunteer stewards who welcome visitors.

On speaking about her nomination to receive Royal Maundy she said: “I’m absolutely thrilled. I think it’s lovely. I don’t do anything to get something out of it and I probably get more out of the volunteering here than anybody else, because I love both God and I love working here, so it’s really nice to be recognised.”

Mothers’ Union new members

The congregation at St Alban the Martyr, South Norwood, were joined by Bishop Christopher for a Mothering Sunday service where parishioners Comfort, Shelley and Margaret were enrolled as new members of their Mothers’ Union (MU) branch.

Bishop Christopher preached during the service and blessed the new lighting system that was recently installed in the church and he also blessed bunches of

flowers made up by MU members. Very much a family service, these flowers were given out to all mothers in the congregation by the children and young people present. The Brownies joined the service too.

Comfort, Shelley and Margaret shared their delight in becoming new members with Branch Leader, Val Green. Comfort knows the important part the Mothers’ Union plays in society in Africa, in peoples’ lives and the good work they do for families and the community. She wanted to be part of our MU, to help continue the good work done by members in this community.

Shelley said, “I wanted to join because of the wonderful work they do with and

for families, and because my mum was a member here and in the equivalent organisation in America.”

Only recently becoming aware of the Mothers’ Union and reading up about it, Margaret was impressed with the “amazing work the movement does internationally and at local level, empowering and supporting women to bring change in their lives and communities.”

In a thank you message, Revd Sean Gilbert, Vicar at St Alban the Martyr said, “It was a wonderful Sunday and a joyful day. Praise the Lord!”

For more information about Mothers’ Union in the Diocese of Southwark, contact: mu@southwark.anglican.org



L-R: Lynette Heywood, Juliana Lutterdott, Rose Okomi, Shelley Leckey, Val Green, Angela Terry, Victoria Phillips, Ivylyn Nkwani, Bishop Christopher, Comfort Williams, Pat Onyike, Margaret Earle, Beatrice Nwanneka and Betty Davies.

Easter across the Diocese

A round up from across the Diocese of parishes celebrating the gloriously risen Christ.

St Peter, Limpsfield
At St Peter, Limpsfield children helped make the Easter garden. Set against a painted backdrop, the garden was made from moss, rocks and wooden crosses. On Easter Saturday children were invited into church to decorate it with lots of spring flowers and were told afresh the good news story of Jesus' resurrection.

St George the Martyr, Shirley
Susan Wheeler, Junior Church Leader writes:
Eastertide was a very memorable occasion at St George's this year – not because the Vicar, Revd Barry Hengist, announced on Palm Sunday that this would be his last Easter before retiring in July, but because every day there was something special to attend marking Jesus' journey through Holy Week.

After processing from the hall to the church on Palm Sunday, the next real highlight was our Maundy Thursday Eucharist, held for the first time in church with our newly flexible space. Sixty people sat and shared the Passover meal together, after which tables were cleared, the service began and Revd Barry washed the feet of volunteers. When it came to the distribution of bread and wine, we ministered to each other, passing the bread and cup from one to another along the meal tables. As we neared the end of the service, lights were dimmed, the Gospel verses recalling the betrayal at Gethsemane were read, the altar was

stripped and all ornamentation, was taken out of the church. As the last lights were extinguished, we melted away just as the disciples had done. Some went back to the Lady Chapel where a vigil was kept until midnight.

Local school children joined 'Step Into Good Friday' run by the Junior Church team to hear a condensed version of the events in Jesus' life through Holy Week. Children played their instruments and sang 'Hosanna, Hosanna' to celebrate Palm Sunday. They also heard the events of the Last Supper and made lanterns before taking their lamps and hearing about the Garden of Gethsemane. They then made Holy Week calendars. Finally the story of Easter Day was told with Mary finding the empty tomb. The workshop ended with a group activity



(pictured above) where all the children decorated a five foot cardboard cross with colourful flowers for the Easter Day service. The children, their parents

and the congregation who had been on the Walk of Witness joined in for hot cross buns, squash and tea. It was a real community event.

As the children's 'Step Into Good Friday' event took place, adults in the congregation constructed an Easter Garden under the altar using bark chippings, stones, slates, cacti, miniature olive trees and rosemary bushes.

Easter Day started at 6am around the new fire outside the church, with the procession with the Paschal Candle followed by breakfast in the church hall. Revd Barry gifted two Easter banners and blessed them. The banners were designed by him and worked by both his mother and sister. An Easter egg hunt followed the service, with Prosecco and wine for the adults and slices of home-made cake and pastries.

St Mary, Barnes
The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston, joined services at St Mary, Barnes, on Maundy Thursday. On Twitter, Bishop Martin said "Good to wash feet and have my feet washed at St Mary, Barnes this evening. It's only when we come face to face with our own weakness that we realise our need for Jesus' cleansing and healing touch."

On Good Friday a garden service was held with a walk of witness, reflections on the cross & liturgy of the sacrament.

Easter Messy Church Goes Wild, Greenwich Team Ministry
Messy Church Goes Wild, East Greenwich Parish is encouraging our urban families to meet God in the outdoors and explore



Bible themes through a reconnection with nature.
Children planted seeds in the garden and decorated a cross with flowers (pictured above).

St Peter and St Paul, Chaldon
A packed church for the Easter Day service at St Peter and St Paul was complemented by a pony! (below)



Knitting for children in need



Members of a knitting group at St Edward, New Addington, which has been running for 15 years has been knitting clothes for babies and children in need in different parts of the world.

These beautifully made items, blessed by The Revd Dhanaraj (Prem) Premraj on Sunday 12 March 2023, will be packed up and sent to the Phoenix Group who will distribute them to parts of the world such as Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and

Romania where natural disasters, political unrest, or severe weather have left people in desperate need.
There are four home knitters, assisted by members of the congregation, who kindly donate wool or make contributions towards the postage. Boxes containing over 100 garments (blankets, baby jumpers, and hats) are sent through a third party twice a year, along with medical supplies, hospital equipment and other needed goods to charities abroad

including the Red Cross, UNICEF, and Oxfam International.
One of the knitters from the group said, "As long as our efforts are appreciated, we will continue to do our bit." Revd Prem said: "The knitters have been busy. Joyce has knitted 35 children's blankets, while

Vivienne, Dawn and Jaqueline have knitted over 50 jumpers, some with matching hats and small blankets.
"A big thank you must go to all our knitters and to Kevin, Jacqueline's husband, who deals with the packing and delivery to the postal depot."

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IN FOCUS... Pioneering

Living our greater stories

One of the great strengths of the Diocese of Southwark is our wonderful diversity of gifts, experiences and stories. One of the most exciting challenges that this presents is that of resourcing and supporting such a range of vocations and ministries. This month, we take a look at how some of our stories are growing into flourishing and exciting new opportunities to share the Gospel...

Home-grown mission on our estates

We're delighted that the Diocese is set to receive a grant of £6.5 million to help develop the mission of our churches in an incredible variety of contexts.

One of the key themes of this bid for this funding – which is being awarded by the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board – was that of seeking to help our churches with estates to grow and flourish. The funds will be used over six years.

After consultation with many of our parishes with estates we came up with an 'incarnational' approach that seeks to honour the stories of our estates and the people who live and work there. Later this year we'll be writing to parishes to identify members of their churches, living on estates with high levels of social housing, who we might have overlooked and who could be supported, trained and encouraged to reach others on their estates with the Christian story. Part of



the funding will be used to train 25 of these Lay Estates Pioneers over the next six years. We'll be looking to create small local training hubs of six to eight people from a deanery or a group of churches who can be supported and developed to take on this role. Our pioneers will be able to apply for special grants to help them grow new Christian communities on their estates. We also have funding for a small number of them to potentially be employed part time in this role after their training. Our Dean of Estates Ministry, Revd Canon Gary Jenkins, will be leading on this work – do contact him if you're interested in getting involved: gary.jenkins@southwark.anglican.org.

Reaching the Farsi community

One of the exciting stories that has emerged from our focus on a mixed ecology has been that of the growing Iranian Christian community at Christ Church, Gypsy Hill. Curate Revd Emma Lowth tells us more...

When two young Iranian men recently housed in a nearby hotel arrived at our Sunday morning worship in September 2021, it was a complete God-incidence that the member of our congregation welcoming arrivals that morning was herself married to an Iranian.

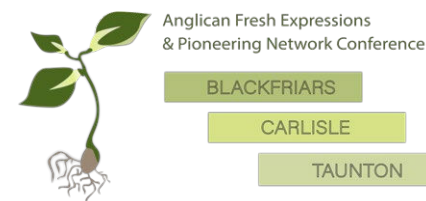
But as we sought together to serve these young men, numbers steadily started to grow and (thanks to the slow-moving asylum process) to grow and grow until, after a year, we had welcomed more than 100 Farsi-speaking men, women and children through our doors. And God's miraculous provision for the work has kept pace as He brought skilled individuals alongside and raised up extraordinary ministry gifts from among our own congregation.

We have been on a steep learning curve in terms of discipleship, and we have also been delighting in discovering the amazing story that God is writing – both in Iran and among displaced Farsi-speakers across churches in the UK. Our model is based on our desire to create a cultural hub where Farsi-speakers can find a church home for as long or as short a time as they are in the area.

We welcome and look for the 'Jesus story' that each individual carries and we are seeking to build a vision of church together that celebrates our diversities of culture and nationalities. Alongside this, we're supporting deeper discipleship through midweek meetings in Farsi, as well as providing opportunities for a wider congregation of Farsi-speakers – drawn from nearby churches – to gather bi-monthly for Holy Communion.



National Pioneering and Fresh Expressions Conference –
Saturday 20 May 2023



Revd Emma will be sharing more of the story of this ministry at the National Pioneering and Fresh Expressions Conference on 20 May – along with Revd Dr Hugo Adán, who is pioneering a bilingual approach to mission with the Hispanic community.

The Conference will take place at Christ Church, Blackfriars and arose out of a national discussion about how dioceses might better support and encourage a 'mixed ecology' of mission and ministry. With the support of Bishop Christopher, Southwark is one of the three regional centres for the conference – with simultaneous events taking place at Carlisle Cathedral and Taunton Minster – as well as live link to the USA.

The aim of the conference is to share stories, learn from others, and look with fresh eyes at how churches can better engage with those in our communities. Its title, 'From the stories we found ourselves in to the stories we need to tell' encourages us to explore the sharing of stories and what such stories might mean for our own contexts. Keynote speaker, theologian Brian McLaren, will be reflecting on how we can tell the story of the Christian faith in a way that is relevant to the needs and concerns of



Top and above, Southwark Pioneers in action.



Community outreach project on the Roundshaw Estate.

those in our communities. As well as other notable speakers, there will be a wide range of seminars looking at the many different ways that the church can engage well with those in our parishes, including outreach through choirs, church grafts, ministering in estates, serving and supporting our different ethno-linguistic groups.



"I am very much looking forward to taking part in this conference. We have seen the real fruit and blessing of fresh expressions and pioneering in the Diocese of Southwark and I highly commend this conference to all."

Bishop Christopher said, "I am very much looking forward to taking part in this conference. We have seen the real fruit and blessing of fresh expressions and pioneering in the Diocese of Southwark and I highly commend this conference to all."

More information and ticket details at: bit.ly/3KShvij

Toast, popcorn, and a community meal on Roundshaw

The two things that run through the various outreach projects of Springfield Church on the food and faith.

Roundshaw is one of the largest outer London estates. It was built on the site of the old Croydon Airport in 1965. The propeller shaped cross of St Paul's Church, shared with Springfield on Sundays, is a reference to the aeronautical heritage of the area:

In 1998, the decision was taken to start the process of a partial demolition and regeneration programme on the estate over a ten-year period at a cost of £80m.

Springfield's current season of pioneering on Roundshaw, led by pioneer curate The Revd David Atkinson and his wife Jules, is based on midweek connecting spaces at the Vanguard Way Community Centre with a *Community Meal and Meditation*, run in partnership with the Roundshaw Community Network. There's also *After School Tea and Toast* for primary school children and their parents, *Popcorn and Ponder*

where people can come and watch a film version of the Bible and ponder what it means over some popcorn, as well as Christians Against Poverty groups, which Springfield has run on Roundshaw for many years, such as the money course and the newly-launched *Life Skills*.

Each week at the community *Meal and Meditation* members of the local community are invited to bring different kinds of food to share – there is a strong emphasis on participation and fun where everyone there is part of the community together. Describing the time of meditation that occurs after the meal David said, "Afterwards everyone is invited to come to the meditation. Just a short time for anyone who is anxious, feeling stressed or maybe spiritually open and wants a bit of peace and quiet in their week. So we look at some words that are life-giving and reflect on them in silence... It's a really special time for people in their week."

In these and other creative ways Springfield Church is serving the community on the estate, building community and offering gentle and sensitive introductions to the Christian faith. A steady number of people have come to faith through their ministries and the rest of the church have found themselves both encouraged and challenged by the new members of faith.

If community action projects are signs of God's kingdom, the skill is to also offer ways for people to meet the King. Springfield's engagement with Roundshaw seems to draw these two things together in a fine example of estates-based holistic mission.

Come and hear David Atkinson at the National Pioneering and Fresh Expressions Conference on Saturday 20 May 2023 (see page 11).

Street Pastors celebrates 20th anniversary

On 18 April, Street Pastors, one of Britain's most well-known community safety initiatives, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special march through Lambeth and a civic service at St Matthew, Brixton.

Street Pastors, launched by the Ascension Trust in 2003, has been helping churches work together ecumenically to provide pastoral support and community welfare.

The initiative has helped provide safety for vulnerable women and men, administered first aid to those in need and prevented many incidents from requiring emergency responses. Volunteers also work in the community to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour, remove weapons from the streets and provide a pastoral presence to the communities in which they serve.

Since its inception, Street Pastors has trained over 20,000 volunteers to serve their local communities. There are currently 240 Street Pastor teams across villages, towns and cities all over the UK, and 10 internationally in the Republic of Ireland, USA, Antigua, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria and Gibraltar.

Mr Bejoy Pal, CEO of the Ascension Trust, said: "It's such an encouragement to see how Street Pastors has grown over the past 20 years; and has encouraged churches to work together to support their local communities. Since joining the organisation in 2015, I've seen relationship – that our teams represent at all levels – is the key to the success of this work. From working with the local authorities, emergency services, community stake holders and members of the public; it's always been about collaboration and working together for peace and safety."

You can find out more about Street Pastors at: streetpastors.org

Listening & loving § Serving & building community § Exploring discipleship § Reimagining church worship



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

Chaplain to the High Sheriff

A listening ear to the High Sheriff of London

The Revd Raymond Baudon, Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Deputy Director of Vocations, has been appointed as Chaplain to Ina De, the incoming High Sheriff of Greater London for 2023/24.



The High Sheriff of Greater London is appointed by His Majesty The King. It is a year-long appointment with ancient origins going back to Saxon times. The role has changed a great deal over time and now High Sheriffs support both the work of the judiciary and the wider justice system by lending support and encouragement.

As the incoming High Sheriff, Ina's priorities for her year in office also include celebrating the work of unsung heroes all over London who have supported the justice system and the voluntary sector. A particular focus will be on London prisons and those who work in them. In addition, she will be focussing on supporting literacy and numeracy initiatives in schools in the capital.

This month, Revd Raymond (pictured) spoke to us about his role as Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Greater London.

What does your role as Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Greater London involve?

I see my role primarily as supporting Ina as she carries out her duties as High Sheriff. I will be a listening ear and a sounding board. I am able to make connections. For example, I've recently been in contact with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education regarding some of the literacy projects happening in our schools. I will also be attending events with Ina, including those where people's achievements are

being recognised. I am particularly excited about the awards that are being organised by PACT, the charity supporting prisoners and their families. The aim is to hold an awards ceremony for prisoners, prison staff and volunteers in several prisons within Greater London during the year.

How does this work link in with your role in the Diocese?

I am fortunate that my diary allows me some flexibility to attend to my Chaplain duties without too much disruption. What is interesting to me is that one area that I explore with our ordination candidates is the place of the Church of England in the life of the nation. I feel that I am getting a first-hand experience of what that means!

What will your first duty as Chaplain be?

Ina's swearing in was on 27 April 2023 at the Royal Courts of Justice and that marked the start of her term in office – I attended that as my first official duty. However, we have already been hard at work. Earlier in April we visited Wormwood Scrubs to see what work is being done there to support prisoners and their families. In November there is going to be a service for members of the judiciary at Southwark Cathedral and Ina and I have already been involved with the planning for that.

How does faith and religion play a role in the judiciary system?

This is a fascinating question! Our judicial system is, rightly, entirely secular. However, the principles of justice and mercy that are being weighed up every day in the courts are also principles that we as Christians wrestle with. On a pastoral level, I would hope that repentance, forgiveness and healing would be central to our justice system, particularly for those in the prison system.

Find out more

You can read more about the High Sheriffs' Association at: <https://bit.ly/3KORFeU>

Learn, share and connect

On 1 April, the Woolwich Episcopal Area Lay Conference took place at Ark All Saints Academy.

This year's theme was *Walking Through Walls* and attendees heard from keynote speakers, Jason Roach of London City Mission, who spoke about breaking down the barriers of race in our churches, and Paul Brown of City Hope Church, Bermondsey, who spoke about making churches places where people thrive no matter what class or background they come from.



The conference, run by lay people for lay people, saw attendees from around Woolwich join for worship, workshops and a visit of marketplace stalls.

Susan Patterson, Licensed Lay Minister at St Stephen, South Dulwich, who attended the conference shares her thoughts.

Susan writes:

As I got off the bus and walked towards the Woolwich Lay Conference venue, I had some apprehension, especially having had a busy week at work, but I am pleased to have left the conference feeling enriched and energised by the day.

The first workshop I attended was called 'race in our churches'. We were a lively group, skilfully led by the Revd Jason Roach of the London City Mission. The workshop provided an open and honest space for discussion and reflection, and I left with a feeling of shared hope and connection with the others there.

The second workshop I attended was about making churches places which are

welcoming to people no matter their class or background. It was a reminder of the importance of making the church accessible and welcoming to people from all walks of life. It was led by Paul Brown of City Hope Church. Paul talked about his experience of being a working-class Christian who leads a church. He highlighted the ways in which the church can be exclusive, the different cultures and approaches to finances that people from a middle-class and working-class background have, particularly how this can make it difficult for people from a working-class background to feel at home in a church. I came away from this workshop thinking about the Anglican culture and our privileged place as the established religion of England.



"One of my key takeaways from the day was the importance of listening and learning from the experiences of others."

One of my key takeaways from the day was the importance of listening and learning from the experiences of others. As lay people, we have a unique perspective on the church. It is essential that we continue to share our experiences and insights with each other. By doing so, we can work together towards creating a more inclusive and welcoming churches.

Overall, it was great to catch up with people I know or trained with. It was a day to learn, share experiences, and connect; and ultimately, how we better live the Gospel for all people in the Woolwich area.

Clergy Support Trust

Majestic

Three incredible cathedral choirs perform together, for a charity service in celebration of Anglican clergy.



Clergy Support Trust Festival

www.clergysupport.org.uk/the-bridge

Tuesday 9th May, 5pm

St Paul's Cathedral | Free



IN FOCUS...
Southwark Schools

Grand opening of forest school garden

Bishop Karowei attended the grand opening of St Mary's Lewisham CE Primary School forest garden.

After identifying a patch of unused wasteland, overgrown and filled with rubbish, St Mary's Lewisham CE Primary School had a vision to transform the area into a forest school garden to benefit the local community. A consultation with local residents and stakeholders followed, the contract was secured and work started. A team of volunteers also helped to add the finishing touches.

The garden is next to the school and provides a natural space in an urban area, giving school children at St Mary's a chance to connect with nature in positive and sustainable ways.

During a service, part of the official grand opening to bless the garden, Bishop Karowei prayed saying: "We give you thanks for all those who have contributed and worked really hard to make this possible and today, as we dedicate (this garden), we dedicate our own lives to you

for the use of your kingdom and for the glory of your name. And so in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we bless and dedicate this new forest school garden to the use of St Mary's School, Lewisham and the wider community."

Christine Graham, Headteacher at St Mary's said: "The forest school area has already made such a huge difference to the mental health and well-being of our pupils and wider school community. The children of St Mary's – many of whom don't have gardens or green spaces of their own – have really engaged with their natural environment, planting trees and flowers, making compost and learning about the ecosystem.

"At the grand opening, Bishop Karowei shared our vision for the forest school garden to be a transformative space for generations of children to flourish and thrive. We are looking forward to seeing the area develop and change with the seasons. Community groups are already benefiting from the space and we have already seen a positive impact on children's learning. We are very grateful to Bishop Karowei and Damien Egan, the Mayor of Lewisham, for attending the event and formally opening the area."



"The forest school area has already made such a huge difference to the mental health and well-being of our pupils and wider school community."



Top: Bishop Karowei shares the school's vision for the garden (left); members of the wider community attended the opening (right). Middle: Damien Egan, the Mayor of Lewisham (far left) cut the ribbon at the opening which was attended by Bishop Karowei (far right). Bottom: St Mary's school children actively engage with the green space they helped create.

National basketball champions at Christ's School, Richmond

Christ's School, Richmond under 14 basketball team 'Richmond Knights' (pictured) celebrated becoming national basketball champions after winning in the U14 Dynamik National Schools Basketball Finals in Manchester Performance Centre for the fourth time in seven years. The team's triumph comes after beating St Bonaventures School, Newham.



Congratulating the team, Mr Tom Smith, Head of PE at Christ's School said: "this achievement is testament to the hard work and dedication of the whole team and our fantastic coach, Isaac of Richmond Knights. We, as a school, are extremely proud to have the best under 14 basketball team in the whole country. With this win, the team has created a real legacy".

Coach Isaac, who has coached the team throughout the year said: "A lot of sacrifice has gone into achieving this and we are so proud to have brought another Championship back to Christ's School".



IN FOCUS...

The Community of St Anselm

Listen, reflect and serve

The Community of St Anselm was founded by Archbishop Justin Welby eight years ago. It is a community of over 100 young people, based at Lambeth Palace from all around the world and from many different Christian denominations, who have chosen to fully dedicate one year of their life to God. Marie Mondesert, who is part of the team running the Community of St Anselm writes:

What does it concretely mean to spend a year in God's time?

It is a year to listen. Through a daily (and sometimes demanding) rhythm of prayer, rooted in the Benedictine and Ignatian traditions, we are invited to enter a deep dialogue with God. A dialogue means speaking. Speaking with God about everything – all your thoughts, desires, expectations, ideas and emotions have their place in that dialogue. All that makes up your life is interesting to

God. A dialogue also means to listen to another, the Other. To listen to the One who has essential things to say for your life.

It is a year to reflect. Teachers from different backgrounds come to help you to build your faith on a solid understanding of the Scriptures and the tradition of the Church, to give you keys to interact well with our world and to know more about who God is, and who we are in front of Christ.

It is a year to serve. One day per week is given to a charity in London. There are also many occasions in daily life to serve fellow community members and to help us grow in love for one another and for those in need.

It is a year with three pillars – listening, studying and serving – and two ways of belonging: you might choose to be either an immersive member or an integrated member.



Members of the Community of St Anselm grow their faith and learn more about Christian unity across different cultures and traditions.

Some choose to live a full-time immersive experience but others, living and working in London, join on Monday nights, two weekends and two weeks of retreat over the year. This is integrated membership and being an integrated member gives you a unique chance to grow in faith with a community as you integrate your life of faith, while continuing your professional life.

Here's what Hayley and Selwyn who have joined the community have to say about their experience...

Hayley: "My year with Saint Anselm Community was a wonderful way for me to grow my faith and learn more about the importance of Christian unity across different cultures and traditions, even

when we had differing perspectives. I saw God at work in the Community and in the members in different ways".

Selwyn: "Saint Anselm Community has spurred my prayer life. The rhythm of gathering and praying together offered a weekly pause to anchor me, a community to encourage me, a model to inspire me. Slowly, imperfectly, that rhythm – and the desire to pray – has infused the rest of my life too".

More information

We invite those interested to explore further and to contact us with questions at: stanselm.org.uk



LET US PRAY...

MAY

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Dean of Southwark

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

My mum used to tell us about Coronation Day in 1953. Like lots of families at the time they didn't have a television – and for the first time in history the service was to be televised – but a neighbour had one and so they all crowded round their house, with everybody else from the street. There were party hats and cakes had been baked. In a time of rather grim austerity, of post-war reconstruction and rationing, the Coronation of this young, beautiful queen came as a moment of much joy for all the people. London had not looked as lovely for a long time and though the scars left by the blitz remained, the bunting and the flags took away from its effects, just for a moment.

Now we are preparing for the Coronation of our new King and Queen Consort in just a few days time. Most of us have TVs and numerous devices on which we will be able to watch it. There's no need to go round to the neighbours', unless they have got a super-big screen! London has been transformed in the last seventy years; we have seen so many wonderful occasions along the Mall in recent years. Yet some things are not so different. We may not have rationing but the number of food banks and the cost of food in the shops mean that many families are struggling to put food on the table. There is war in Europe and that has affected all of our lives. We are more divided about our politics and about our relationship to the monarchy



than before, and all of that provides for a sense of instability.

But I rejoice in what will be happening, in a ceremony that has its roots in the 10th century and the liturgy put together by St Dunstan. I rejoice that in our multi-cultural, multi-faith nation we have an anointed Christian monarch, that faith and religion is front and centre in our national life and blessed by God. I rejoice that the oil with which the King will be anointed was consecrated by the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre using oil from the olive trees in the surrounding

hills where Jesus walked. I rejoice that past and present and future will find their place in the Abbey and that we, as a united people in a United Kingdom, can celebrate who we are, under God, whatever name we use for God and however we worship the divine we know and love.

Enjoy it. Put on the paper crowns, fly the flag, and say your prayers. God save the King!

**Almighty God,
the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord,
King Charles, and all who are
in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity,
righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your
Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.**

WHAT'S ON

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

May

SUNDAY 7 MAY

- * **SOUTHWARK** – Southwark Cathedral are celebrating the Coronation with a Choral Evensong service at 3pm. All welcome, no tickets required, aim to be seated by 2.45pm.

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 13 MAY

- ♫ **SOUTHFIELDS** – Putney Choral Society Spring Concert: ‘Mozart – a Celebration’. 7pm at St Paul’s Church, Augustus Road, Southfields, SW19 6EW. Wheelchair access. Tickets £20 to include programme and refreshments. Tickets at: bit.ly/3Kt5Oy9; and at the door (card payment only).

SATURDAY 13 MAY

- * **SOUTHWARK** – Salvation Army Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery Team Roadshow. Raising awareness of Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking. Anyone welcome. 11am–3pm at Salvation Army Community Church, 1 Princess Street, London SE1 6HH. Free. Book at: bit.ly/43pkVBG

SATURDAY 13 MAY

- * **WEST MALLING** – St Augustine’s College of Theology Lay ministry celebration day. St Augustine’s is responsible for training most of Southwark Diocese’s clergy, Readers and licensed lay ministers. They are presenting a day of celebration, equipping and reflection. The keynote speaker is Jo Henderson Merrygold, who is the Head of Lay Ministries for the Church of England. There will be workshops about storytelling, rites of passage, worship and chaplaincy for seniors. 10.30am–4.30pm, Malling Abbey, 52 Swan Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6JX. Free. Register at: bit.ly/42VBF3h

♫ St Peter, Streatham

Upcoming concerts and recitals.

Sunday 21 May, 11.50am–12.50pm
Organ Recital by Laurence Long

Saturday 17 June, 6pm:

The Beckenham Concert Band with The Royal Free (Hospital) Music Society Choir. Entry by ticket with collection for an NHS Charity.

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

For further details please contact: stpeters-streatham.org

SUNDAY 14 MAY

- ♫ **DULWICH** – Organ Recital: James Gough (Southwark Cathedral) plays a festive programme of music by Bach, Handel, Boyce and more to celebrate the Coronation on the spectacular 18th century organ. 7.45pm at Christ’s Chapel, 14 Gallery Rd, Dulwich Village SE21 7AD. Tickets £6/£4 on the door or from Dulwich Festival website at bit.ly/3GOXMyy

14–20 MAY

- * **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2023** – Help transform lives. This year’s Christian Aid Week appeal is an opportunity to help and support farmers in Malawi to build happier futures for their children. Find out how you and your church community can get involved at: bit.ly/404IXRI

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–4pm at Christchurch, Blackfriars, London. Cost £15 per person (including lunch). Details: bit.ly/42j4mH2, or to book: bit.ly/3Tjma0k

MONDAY 22 MAY

- 🕊️ **ONLINE** – Growing Faith with CYP. Are you wondering how to put children, young people and families at the heart of mission and ministry? Lucy Moore, Church of England, will present on Growing Faith which aims to grow faith in the home, school and church spheres of children and young people’s lives. Free. Book at: bit.ly/43r6UDA

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

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE

- 🕊️ **ONLINE** – Diocese of Southwark Lay Ministry evening. Aimed at anyone who feels that God is calling them into ministry. An opportunity to 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

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

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

- ♫ **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 of time and cost available shortly from: bit.ly/3mn71PA

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK** – *Godly Play Training*. Join the Children & Young People Team (CYP) and Ronni Lamont, an expert in Children’s Spirituality, and find out more about Godly Play involving storytelling and theological reflection for all ages. It’s not just for children – it will enhance your sermons too! 10am–4pm at Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, London SE1 1HW. Free. Book at: bit.ly/41k0Uuu

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/3lxqCwd.

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 event is for MPs and church leaders to attend together so please invite your local MP (to buy a ticket your MP must confirm attendance). 7.30–9am at Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament. Cost £25. Details: bit.ly/3yEM31n



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



IN FOCUS...

South London Interfaith Group

Interfaith Iftar

On 1 April interfaith communities came together for a celebration event to mark the Season of Lent and the Islamic Holy month of Ramadan.

Between 5 and 9 April, the religious observances of Lent, Ramadan and Passover overlapped and the Interfaith Iftar was an opportunity for friends and neighbours to come together and have a shared spiritual experience to help build better communities and neighbourhoods.

A panel discussion, evening prayers and Iftar – the meal breaking the daily fast during Ramadan – were part of the programme. The event was held at the Hyderi Community Centre, Croydon.

Organised by the team at the community centre, The Revd Deborah Premraj, Wellbeing Chaplain at Croydon University Hospital, was invited to join hosts Sister Salma Moledina and Sister Zahra Kanani, who spoke about Ramadan.

Revd Deborah writes:

It was a great experience to participate in an Interfaith Iftar organised by the Hyderi Community Centre.

During our discussions, I shared the meaning and significance of Lent for Christian people, how the Season of Lent begins from Ash Wednesday through to Palm Sunday and about Holy Week to culminate in the celebration of Easter, and the hope in life after death.

The South London Interfaith Group, co founded by The Revd Canon Dr Ivor Smith-Cameron, created a keen interest



"It was a great experience to participate in an Interfaith Iftar."

and awareness about interfaith. During my time at All Saints, Battersea, with Revd Canon Dr Ivor and Revd Alan Gadd, I had the opportunity to participate in various interfaith events hosted by the church and also developed friendships within the interfaith community. Now, as Wellbeing Chaplain, I am continuing my ministry in a rich multi-religious context to serve at the hospital.

Gods bless us all in our faith and belief to establish a peaceful kingdom here on earth.



Top: The Revd Deborah Premraj shared her experience of Holy Week.
Bottom: The interfaith Iftar brought neighbours together to have a shared spiritual experience.



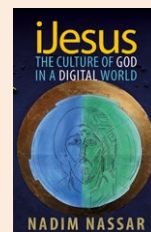
Grand Iftar held at Southwark Cathedral in partnership with Living Bankside and The Association of Muslim Lawyers. This was the seventh year that Living Bankside and Southwark Cathedral have jointly hosted an iftar, which brings together hundreds of people from across London.

L-R: Amir Eden, Executive Chairman of Living Bankside; the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Reverend Christopher Chessun; The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark; Dr Debbie Weekes-Barnard, Deputy Mayor of London for Communities & Social Justice; Remy Mohamed, President of the Association of Muslim Lawyers; Rihab Azar, oud player.

New books

iJesus

Revd Nadim Nassar's new book explores the intersection of modern technology and spirituality.



Revd Nadim Nassar, Assistant Priest at St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common has released a new book, *iJesus*, a guide to faith in the digital age.

The book, released earlier this year, is the second from Revd Nadim, following the release of *The Culture Of God, The Syrian Jesus* at the end of 2018.

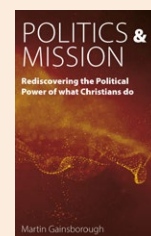
As the only Syrian Priest in the Church of England, Revd Nadim gives a prophetic vision of faith lived out in the changing cultures around us and shows how God can make himself known and understood in a digital age. *iJesus* explores the relationship between the culture of God as Trinity and our highly complex digital cultures and reflects on how followers of Jesus Christ can live in a world shaped by digital communication, connectivity and artificial intelligence.

Revd Nadim, who is also Founder and Executive Director of the Awareness Foundation – an international humanitarian charity said: "Living our Christian faith in a digital world could be one of the most challenging tasks we ever face. We live in a jungle of consumerism, an increasingly and rapidly advancing technological age, and we need to reconcile this with believing in a man who came more than 2,000 years ago and wrote nothing and left nothing other

than a handful of people who told us his story. Can we make sense of believing in that man, Jesus Christ, who is, for us believers, the incarnation of God, and yet enjoy our advanced global digital culture? I wrote this book in response to my own journey of exploration and my faith that we, indeed, can find the love of God active even in the middle of our ever-changing digital world."

Politics & Mission

Rediscovering the Political Power of What Christians Do – by The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough.



Contrary to popular sentiment, Christianity is not dull or out of touch but fresh, relevant, exciting, and contemporary. The Church is political because it tells a radically different story from the dominant political norms of our day. Through a study of the Church's liturgy, this book seeks to build confidence in the Church's mission.

Politics & Mission examines five pieces of liturgy detailing the ways in which the language of the liturgy, which we often take for granted, is powerful and counter-cultural. Through its analysis, the book sheds light on three principal areas: what it is to be human, the challenges of contemporary mission, and the particular way in which the Church is political.

Both books are available from the publisher (sacristy.co.uk).