

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Christ
Centred
Outward
Focused

Vol.30 No.5
June 2025

Eco awards

St George, Shirley
strikes gold
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Celebrating Southwark's volunteers

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Vicar swaps Sunday robes for life jacket in fundraising challenge

Last month, energetic fundraisers from St Mary, Battersea took part in a charity appeal for Christian Aid to support vulnerable communities around the world.

Eight church members kayaked for three hours down the Thames in a bid to raise £2,000 as part of Christian Aid Week (11–17 May), passing many of London's most iconic landmarks including the Cutty Sark and the London Eye.

Ahead of the appeal, The Revd Canon Stephen Taylor, Vicar at St Mary's, who took part said, "Every year, during this appeal, people across Britain and Ireland have seven days to make a difference and support their global neighbours, in a celebration of hope for a fairer world."

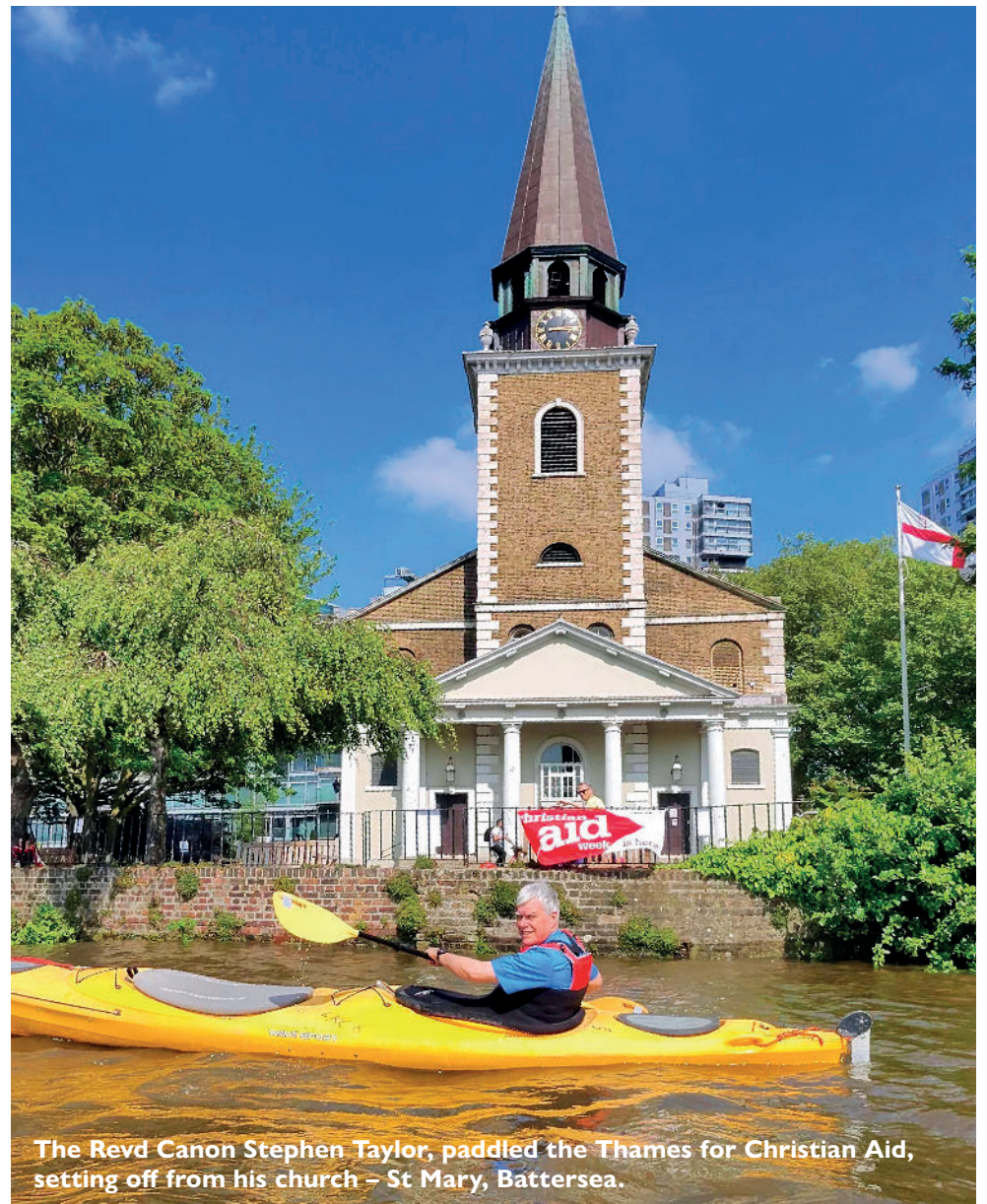
"Last year we walked round St Mary's parish boundary and raised £1,700 for Christian Aid. This year we have upped the target to £2,000. Huge thanks to David Britten, Ed Standing, Francis Britten, Amy Hammond, Katy Silverman, Phoebe Studdert-Kennedy, and Tim Walker who will be accompanying me."

The Church also held special services and a parish lunch to fundraise and help make a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable communities through Christian Aid and its charity partners.

This year's appeal focused on work in Guatemala, in Central America, where climate change is causing the seasons to intensify and shift erratically. As a result, farming communities have to battle severe floods and, more recently, ferocious heatwaves. Water sources are drying up and vital crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty.

Christian Aid – which is marking its 80th anniversary this year – has been working with organisations to offer training and tools so farmers can diversify and grow more resilient crops, build water recycling systems and create organic fertiliser.

To support the team, please visit: tinyurl.com/yzzdny2t and to find out more about projects like these and how to get involved, visit: christianaid.org.uk



The Revd Canon Stephen Taylor, paddled the Thames for Christian Aid, setting off from his church – St Mary, Battersea.

Recognising Croydon's volunteer chaplains

On Tuesday 6 May, Pauline Chapman, Puspa Visrolia, Rose Headlam and Sheila Moloney, volunteer chaplains at Croydon University NHS Hospital Trust, were awarded certificates by the Civic Mayor of Croydon Cllr Kola Agboola in recognition of their volunteering service at Croydon Town Hall.

Anglican Chaplain Pauline has 29 years of service and specialises in paediatric chaplaincy and bereavement care. With 20 years of service, Pushpa supports Hindu staff and patients, leads training and conducts Hindu funerals. Over the last 35 years, Rose who is the longest-serving chaplaincy volunteer at the Trust, has been providing weekly ward

communion at the bedside of more than 29,000 Roman Catholic patients. Sheila has served for 20 years – she provides spiritual care, mentors Roman Catholic priests, leads services, supports end-of-life care and coordinates 24/7 chaplaincy support.

The 84 chaplaincy staff and volunteers of all faiths at the hospital, are supported by

the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Team led by The Revd Andy Dovey.

Andy said, "Without the presence of a multi-faith chaplaincy volunteering team, the chaplaincy team would not be able to provide the highly respected pastoral, spiritual and religious care that the team are known and respected for to everyone who crosses the doors of the hospital."

A view from The BRIDGE



One of the antidotes to anxiety, whether in our society, institutions, or individual hearts, is to learn to say deep and significant ‘thank you’s in life. We are reminded of this at each Eucharist, for ‘thank you’ is what the word means – and deep gratitude is what the liturgy leads us to discover.

Our half-willed response needs schooling and encouraging. At its best, this is what the Church is called to do. It is also there to stand alongside, and give voice for, those for whom saying ‘thank you’ is made difficult – because of oppression, warfare, discrimination, hatred. Our vocation is to work towards a world where ‘thank you’ is our common language.

I’m delighted that this edition of *The Bridge* has ‘thank you’ written across its pages, not least for the generosity of our parishes and the commitment of our volunteers across our diocese.

At the Cathedral we have just started some podcasts entitled ‘*The World Needs More Poetry*’ in which guests choose a poem and tell us why it is important to them. The latest guest is The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Sarah Mulally, Bishop of London. There is something about a good poem that acts as a snowfall in the soul, able to distil us and help us see

the things that matter, the emotions we must care for, the world we inhabit, and the relationships we treasure. A poetry book is very ‘putdownable’ – we need to put it down again and again as we catch up with the epiphanies it gives us that we don’t want to lose. I start each day reading a poem, and most days this opens a new door to a gratitude I had forgotten or overlooked.

There is something about the words ‘thank you’ that take us into the heart of the world.

Reflecting on these words, I leave you with a quote from George Herbert’s poem *Gratefulness*:

*“Thou that hast giv’n so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart.”*

Mark Oakley

*The Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley,
Dean of Southwark*

The Southwark Cathedral Podcasts
are available to listen to here:
tinyurl.com/tnxtceza



NEWS IN BRIEF

“Viva il Papa” – long live the Pope!

On Thursday 8 May, Robert Francis Prevost – now known as Pope Leo XIV, was announced as the 267th occupant of the throne of St Peter – the new head of the Roman Catholic Church. *For more information visit: vaticannews.va/en*

80 years of hope

This year marks Christian Aid’s 80th anniversary and 80 years of global impact. Since 1945, Christian Aid has offered support to refugees in Europe following the Second World War. In the decades following, it has worked tirelessly with its supporters, churches and partners around the world to tackle poverty and injustice. On Thursday 12 June, a special service to reflect, give thanks for and renew the charity’s commitment to justice and hope will take place at Westminster Abbey – see page 11 for details.



To find out how you can get involved in events, campaigns and actions throughout the year visit: tinyurl.com/2z2vt9vj

Parish Support Fund (PSF)

We are delighted to be celebrating 10 years of incredible parish generosity through the PSF this year. Thank you for your church’s pledges over the last decade which have resourced mission in every community across our diocese. Please display the “Thank you poster” which you will find on the back page of this edition of *The Bridge*, which celebrates the impact of your congregation’s generosity and God’s blessing.



Each year parishes are invited to make a pledge to the PSF which is realistic, challenging and generous. Digital PSF materials for 2026 will be available at the end of June and Archdeacons will be hosting Q&A sessions in July. Please submit your 2026 pledge by 15 September. Please share the letters, stories and videos with your PCC and congregation and do link these materials on your parish website.

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

Energy Footprint Tool – have you submitted your data?

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) has been open since January for churches to submit their 2024 energy data via the Online Parish Returns system. Thank you to those who’ve already completed it. If you haven’t yet, don’t worry – the tool remains open until **30 June**.

The EFT is a simple way to measure your church’s carbon footprint from the energy used to heat and light your buildings. Submitting data each year is strongly encouraged and supports future eligibility for net zero-related grants. Need support? Our Diocesan Environment Officer, Sophie Roberts, is happy to help: Sophie.Roberts@southwark.anglican.org. You can also join weekly drop-in sessions, kindly offered by the Diocese of London, **every Wednesday 12–1.30pm until 26 June** if you have questions. For the Zoom link, email: JPICAdmin@southwark.anglican.org

For more information visit: tinyurl.com/mrxhwj98

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The JULY/AUGUST edition is due to be published online and in print mid-July. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **WEDNESDAY 11 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...

News from our diocese

'Come, you that are blessed'

On Tuesday 29 April, a special event to celebrate the Kingston-Matabeleland Link took place at St Mark, Kennington. The Revd Jonathan Haynes, Team Rector of Mortlake with East Sheen and Zimbabwe Link Committee member, writes:

'Come, you that are blessed...' These words were the invitation of the Gospel and of the guest president and preacher The Rt Revd Cleophas Lunga, Bishop of Matabeleland, who delivered a heartfelt message of hope and solidarity during a special service celebrating the Kingston-Matabeleland Link. The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston shared leading the eucharist with Bishop Cleophas where the fellowship echoed the compassionate call from Matthew's Gospel: *"Come, you that are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

It is a blessing that our diocese is united in bonds of friendship and support across God's good earth. Amid the hospitality there was a serious message that our Link Diocese and the communities in Matabeleland face a number of very real

challenges. Many families in rural areas are subdued by poverty making it difficult for individuals to thrive, leaving them without the means to enjoy a life of abundance. Despite these hardships, the diocese and Mothers' Union – a true powerhouse of support and lay ministry, led by their President Mrs Soneni Lunga (special guest at the service) – remain resilient and channel energy and resources into projects, where the work mandated by the Gospel can be realised and bear fruit.

Bishop Cleophas shared poignant stories from Matabeleland, shedding light on vulnerable young women and school children who often do not receive the holistic care they deserve. As members of the Church, we are called to respond to Christ's teaching by being instruments of his love and grace. The Kingston-Matabeleland Link is not just about creating awareness and providing material assistance; it involves creating opportunities for growth and empowerment. The fostering of relationships in the UK and in Zimbabwe are inspiring, proactive and focus on initiatives that can bring relief to people in need.

Two particularly hopeful initiatives highlighted during the service were the diocese's commitment to St Cecilia's School, in Lupane and St Christopher's, in the Zambezi district. Bishop Cleophas



Bishops Martin and Cleophas celebrated our Kingston-Matabeleland Link at St Mark, Kennington.

announced plans to construct a boarding house that would enable students to reside closer to their school, as many are known to walk an exhausting 15km to and from school daily – making it hard to fully engage in their education, and many give up. These endeavours do not merely address logistical challenges, they embody a comprehensive approach to enhancing educational access and allowing young minds to thrive in environments which support their academic, personal and spiritual growth.

The service was followed by a delicious Zimbabwean meal and a call to action for all of us as a community of faith. The Kingston-Matabeleland Link is more than a partnership – it is a shared commitment to living out the gospel through tangible acts of love and service.

May we ask ourselves how we can extend our blessings to those in Matabeleland and beyond. Each small act of kindness – be it financial support, prayer, or raising awareness – can contribute to a larger transformation.

Let us accept Christ's invitation and answer the call to 'Come you that are blessed' with open hearts and willing hands. Together, we can build a bridge that connects our communities, fosters hope and creates environments where all can thrive. Let us be a source of encouragement, mirroring the compassion that our saviour teaches us. Through unity and prayerful action, we can make a real difference, ushering in a future filled with hope and possibility and the love of the Lord. *Siyabonga!* – means 'thank you' in Ndebele, a language spoken in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe.

Find out more

To find out more, or organise a group to come to your church and talk about the Link, please contact The Revd Canon Stephen Coulson, Link Chair, by email: vicar@stmarkskennington.org

Giving thanks for John Kiddle's ministry

A farewell service to give thanks for The Venerable John Kiddle – who retires as Archdeacon of Wandsworth this summer – took place at St Barnabas, Clapham Common on Wednesday 7 May.

Led by The Revd Richard Taylor, Vicar at St Barnabas, it was a joyful service attended by many. Archdeacon John presided and Bishop Martin preached. The Venerable Simon Gates, Archdeacon of Lambeth – who worked with John in the Kingston Area, led the intercessions.

In his sermon The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston said, "John, you have modelled something – more than you can know during your time with us as Archdeacon of Wandsworth, and we can all see that it is rooted in your love of the Lord Jesus and your longing to draw closer to him. And this has spilled



over – as it always must – into how you have been with us. All our prayers, all our love, go with John and Rachel for the next season and all that lies ahead."

After the service, Nicola Thomas, Diocesan Secretary spoke of John's great kindness, saying, "He genuinely cares about those whom he meets, and this has made him a great gift to our diocese."

Speaking on behalf of the clergy in the Kingston Episcopal Area, The Revd Robert Stanier said:

"The Bible says that wine gladdens the heart and when John enters the room it gladdens the heart."

Archdeacon Simon also spoke on behalf of the Archdeacons. Having worked closely with John, Archdeacon Simon said:

"John says one of his favourite saints is Barnabas, the son of encouragement, whom the Bible says was a good man, full of faith. That sums up John, essentially kind and deeply loving, he saw his role as encouraging churches and the clergy and people, especially church wardens."

John will be succeeded by The Revd Bridget Shepherd. Bridget will be licensed as Archdeacon of Wandsworth by Bishop Christopher on 6 July.

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES



St George's strikes gold

St George the Martyr, Shirley has become the second church in our diocese – and the 85th in the country – to achieve the Eco Church Gold Award. A significant achievement, the award comes as a real testament to St George's deep and ongoing commitment to caring for creation in every part of church life.

The Eco Church scheme, run by global conservation agency – A Rocha UK helps churches to reflect on how they care for God's world. Through its free online survey, church communities can assess their environmental practices across five key areas: land and nature, buildings and energy, community and global engagement, lifestyle, and worship and teaching. By taking some simple actions and regularly updating their Eco Church answers, churches can qualify for a bronze, silver or gold award.

In our diocese, 50% of our churches are now Eco Churches, with over 27% having achieved a bronze award or higher. This number continues to grow monthly, as more churches explore what it means to honour God through sustainable everyday actions.



Jan Turner, member of the Eco Team at St George's and Eco Champion for Croydon Archdeaconry said, "At the start of our Eco Church journey, St George's already had solar panels, cycle racks and some secondary glazing. When completing the survey, the Church had already achieved Gold in the 'Worship and Teaching' section. This gave us the impetus to pursue other areas in the survey which could be classed 'easy wins' and helped progress our journey through Bronze and Silver towards the Gold."

Since 2020, the team has been meeting regularly online to identify next steps and plan key events. This included hosting an environmentally themed film night with a presentation on 'How to start your Eco Church journey' – open to other local churches – and the introduction of litter picking around the church site and the Great North Wood, located within the parish.

The Revd Jenny Walpole, Priest in Charge, said, "The Eco Team at St George's is an inspiring group of people who in all honesty are further along on the journey than I am. They continue to encourage and challenge us as a community to do more and think more deeply about the environmental impact of the choices we make. I am also grateful for the legacy of Pope Francis who in his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*, reminds us of our shared

responsibility to our Common Home. The world is a beautiful gift from God and it is our pleasure and our joy to care for creation."

One member of the Eco Team said, "being part of the group has been an eye opener in that it impacted so many areas of our church life and caused me to view my personal life differently. I'm sure many others in the congregation feel the same. Constant publicity in the newsletter and around church events has been so beneficial."



"The Eco Team at St George's are an inspiring group of people... they encourage and challenge us as a community to do more and think more deeply about the environmental impact of the choices we make."

Feedback from the Gold Eco Church inspection said, "We very much enjoyed our visit and are really grateful that so many members of the team – and churchwarden and new incumbent – took part. Thank you very much for your

generous hospitality. Everything we saw and heard complemented and extended the impressions we gained from the evidence you submitted. It was a great pleasure to witness the commitment, enthusiasm and teamwork you have brought to your Eco Church journey so far."

Following the inspection, the team were given some recommendations to work towards – which they hope to achieve in the next six months, and they have planned a series of activities and events throughout the rest of the year.

Sophie Roberts, Diocesan Environment Officer said, "A huge congratulations to St George's! This is a huge achievement which a lot of effort went into, and I know the Eco Team has been so committed to spreading their passion both to their congregation and wider community. Continue to share the knowledge you've gained on your journey – and celebrate the win!"

More information

Find out more about the A Rocha Eco Church initiative here: tinyurl.com/5aukyck and care for creation here: tinyurl.com/2ja7as93



Solar panels, an early initiative at St George, Shirley.

The not-so-solemn squirrel

All Saints, Kingston received a surprise secret squirrel encounter during its Good Friday Service – one of the most solemn services of the year.

Kate Shrimpton, Communications Manager at All Saints Church, said, "The squirrel had clearly been drawn in by the beautiful sounds of the choir but lost its footing and plummeted from the roof beams onto a chorister's music book, thankfully missing the chorister themselves but making a rather terrifying bang (due to

our excellent acoustics!) as it landed. We can confirm that the squirrel did survive the experience as squirrels bodies are well adapted to falling from heights in their natural home in tall trees. Credit to the ever professional choir who didn't skip a beat. The Revd Joe Moffat, Team Rector, said, "Nothing detracts from the singing of the Good Friday liturgy at All Saints, not even dive bombing squirrels."

The squirrel's antics even caught the attention of BBC TV's *Have I Got News for You* and Classic FM. It can be seen scampering off during the service in this video: tinyurl.com/3y8urbmv



Heartfelt thanks for faithful service

Last month, Bishop Christopher joined the parish of St Laurence, Catford to wish a happy retirement to The Revd Canon Charles Pickstone after 36 years in ministry.

On his X account, Bishop Christopher posted a photo of Fr Charles Pickstone 'returning his share in the cure of souls in the parish of St Laurence Catford,' which he has served faithfully since 1989.



"He has been much loved right across the community", said Bishop Christopher. "Heartfelt gratitude to Charles and Helen praying for a long and happy retirement."

VE Day: commemorations, bell ringing and prayers for peace

On Thursday 8 May, churches across England participated in a series of commemorations to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

Events across the nation offered an opportunity for reflection, remembrance, and a renewed commitment to peace, echoing the spirit of unity that defined the end of the Second World War in Europe.

In our diocese, many parish communities came together to honour the sacrifices made by those who served in the conflict and to pray for lasting peace both at home and abroad.

Churches and cathedrals were invited to ring their bells as a collective act of thanksgiving.

The Bishop of St Germans, Hugh Nelson, who is lead Bishop for the Armed Forces said, "The 80th anniversary of VE Day is a moment of profound significance for

our nation. It is a time to remember with deep gratitude the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today." Read the full statement here: tinyurl.com/ywnv8ny7

More information about national commemorations for VE Day and the 80th anniversary of VJ (Victory over Japan) Day on 15 August 2025 can be found here: ve-vjday80.gov.uk



Clockwise from top left: The Revd Ruth Chapman, vicar at St Matthew, Croydon alongside a 1937 car; Royal Greenwich VE80 service at St Alfege, Greenwich; Scouts of 6th Lewisham South, St Andrew, Catford at Westminster Abbey; Pupils at St James, Hatcham paid tribute to the WWII generation dressed in period costume at St James war memorial; Edward Gormley in the ringing chamber at St Giles, Camberwell (see pg7); and an outdoor service at Wimbledon Common war memorial.

Charles the champion...

A special service to mark 80th anniversary of VE Day took place at St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich on Sunday 4 May. The service, led by The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, Bishop of Woolwich was an opportunity to honour The Revd Charles McKenzie, who oversaw the rebuilding of the Church after it was destroyed by bombing in World War Two. A memorial plaque was unveiled and dedicated to Charles to celebrate his role in the reconstruction.

The service also marked the 160th anniversary of the opening of St John's Church on the Goose Green.

The church first opened at its consecration on 16 May 1865. It was almost completely destroyed during the Blitz – the German bombing campaign that lasted eight months and targeted 16 British cities – in 1940. The Church continued its ministry without a building during the war; ministering in air raid shelters and hospitals and maintaining worship services in a local church hall even as bombs fell nearby.

Shortly after VE Day and with the arrival of Charles in 1946, plans to rebuild the Church began in earnest and the restored Church was rededicated in 1951.

The Revd Gill O'Neill, Vicar, said, "It is wonderful that there has been a church faithfully serving the community in East

Dulwich for so long. Keeping the Church alive has taken the care and dedication of many people throughout the years, not least The Revd Charles McKenzie, who championed the rebuilding after the Blitz. It's an honour to celebrate his contribution this year as we mark the anniversary of VE Day, and to give thanks for our community's story of hope and resilience following the devastation of the war."

Charles' children, John and Mary (pictured), said, "We are delighted that our father's contribution to the rebuilding of St John's is being recognised. For us and the wider family, it is also wonderful for his life and work to be permanently commemorated on this new plaque."

For more information about St John's visit: stjohnseastdulwich.org





IN FOCUS...

Volunteers' Week 2025

Celebrating Southwark's amazing volunteers

National Volunteers' Week, a UK-wide celebration that takes place from Monday 2 – Sunday 8 June.

The campaign highlights the diversity and unity of volunteer work across the UK – and it's a time to focus on inspiring more people in our communities to make a difference.

Volunteers carry out a variety of roles – and responsibilities within their parishes. They are people of all ages, backgrounds and skill sets and their contributions to the life of the Church are immeasurable.

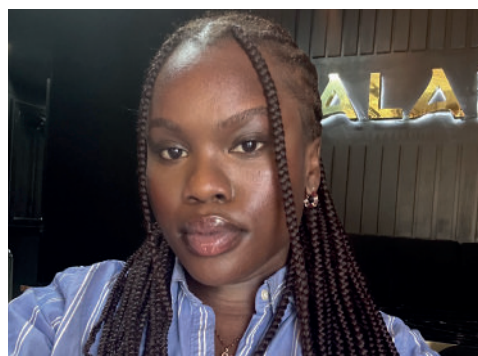
Across these pages, you can read about some of the volunteers in our diocese, who selflessly give their gifts and time, going above and beyond in leading and serving their church communities.

Growing faith with children, young people and families

Tamara, Children and Young People's (CYP) volunteer at St Peter, Brockley

Tamara volunteers at the children's Sunday sessions and summer club led by Kylie and supports the youth Sunday sessions and youth club, led by Elisha at St Peter's Church.

Tamara said, "I have been at St Peter's for my entire life (22 years). Volunteering with young people allows me to actively live out what I'm learning through discipleship while also investing in others on their own faith journeys. It's a space where my faith is not only reaffirmed but continually stretched. I often hear God speak in unexpected ways through them. There's something powerful about the simplicity with which children approach scripture; their childlike faith strips away the complexity we often add as adults. Their passion for Jesus is contagious and constantly inspires me to seek him more deeply."



Encouraged by Kylie's approach to create creative and meaningful ways for children to connect with God and Elisha's genuine heart for young people, she said, "Both Kylie and Elisha embody the love and inclusivity that Jesus calls us to experience and extend to others through their faithful and compassionate leadership."

In talking about what motivates her to volunteer, Tamara said, "Young people have a raw and honest faith that constantly challenges me to keep pursuing God with a childlike curiosity."

Mothers' Union volunteers

Sally Steele, Mothers' Union (MU) Trustee and Coordinator of 'Away From it All' holidays



Sally has a real passion for the *Away From it All* (AFIA) holiday scheme. It is primarily funded by MU members and gives the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life – helping 2,500 people on average to have a holiday each year.

As the first point of contact for families or advocates, Sally volunteers behind the scenes to help with the application process.

Sally said, "All the families are vulnerable in a variety of ways but on the whole, they have never had a previous holiday. Often, they struggle financially, and quite often, have a child with additional needs, either learning disability or autism. Given that many of the families we support have children who attend Special Educational Needs schools, they share the information of the scheme with friends. Whether it's a church community or a school or families with the same social worker, all are

welcome to apply. We have also arranged day trips for women and children who may need the support of a women's refuge."

Janice Clarke, MU Branch Leader at St Barnabas, Sutton



Janice is an active member of her church community and within the wider MU. She plans and leads 'Bible Stories for Children' every Sunday during the morning service with their parents and carers. The sessions include a Bible story, prayer, colouring, crafts, quizzes, games and songs.

Janice said, "There is so much that children can learn about Jesus and the Bible from the stories we share and it is a great way to reach out to our local families."

Supporting refugees and asylum seekers in our communities

Cynthia Smith, MU member at Christ Church, Purley – 'Tea and Talk'

Cynthia has developed an initiative – 'Tea and Talk' – to support refugees and asylum seekers staying at a hotel in South Croydon. Each Thursday, a group of seven volunteers from three different churches meets at the hotel to offer support, tea and a chat. The group helps those for whom English is not their first language, using various resources.

Cynthia said, "Many do speak English and so we chat and do craft. If we have children present, we play games with them or do craft work. Some of our helpers keep in touch with those who have left us and moved away. When we are at the Hotel, we take in food treats each week and gifts at Christmas.

"We do all this as we want refugees to feel welcomed and we know it makes a difference in our community."



Penny Locke, MU and Margaret Simmons, Croydon Women's Refuge

Penny and Margaret said, "At St Mildred, Addiscombe we have supported the Croydon Women's Refuge for many years, initially by collecting toys and books at our Epiphany Gift Service.

"Latterly, we have tried to concentrate more on day-to-day essentials since clients often arrive in the Refuge with nothing in the way of personal possessions and equipment. So, this year we sent more than 300 items of toiletries, hygiene products, clothing and nappies.

"We also try to meet any emergency requests during the year. For example, during Lockdown everyone kept a look out for formula milk which became scarce. Also, during 2024, we provided two Moses baskets of toiletries and clothing for newborn babies. Sue, the Refuge manager, is very willing to come and speak to groups about their work.

"Although this is co-ordinated by the MU, the congregation is very generous, and always happy to support any additional requests we receive. In fact, so generous, that after our Epiphany service were able to split the 600 gifts between the Refuge and the Croydon Refugee Centre."

Working with refugees

Danny Simpson, Commissioned Pastoral Lay Minister (CPLM), St John the Divine, Upper Norwood

Danny has been a CPLM (formerly known as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary) since June 2019.

As part of the lay leadership of St John's and with the support of the parish priest and PCC, Danny helps to coordinate a team of volunteers to run four missional



outreach projects – a community lunch, choir, meditation group and refugee café.

Danny said, “Our refugee café is a good example of the power of engaging with our local community to support others. Donations of clothes, kitchen equipment and toiletries all come from the generosity of our neighbours. Most do not have a Christian faith, and it is a joyful experience to see how safe and welcoming people feel in our church environment. It is a joy that, like us, they can share in the outworking of the love of God in action – and a privilege that the community can open their hearts to share their struggles, history, culture, education and skills with us.

“Many others had seen my vocation, but from that moment Bishop Christopher anointed my hands, I felt affirmed by the church and, more-so, called by God to bring his ‘living water’ to my community of faith and wider community. What I love about Jesus’ inspiring commandments is the relationship that we as volunteers develop with all who attend our projects. I am blessed by all the opportunities that God gives me to promote his kingdom.”

Danny also volunteers to support projects for children, young people and their families, as well as sharing in the ministry of taking communion to those who are sick, housebound or in nursing homes.

Hospitality at the heart of the parish

St Francis and St Mary of Nazareth, West Wickham

The community lunches at St Francis have been running since 2012. Primarily aimed at catering for the elderly and those living on their own in West Wickham and surrounding areas, the lunches run four times a year in February, June, September and December. Around 40 people attend to enjoy a two-course meal for between £8–£15.

They are run by a team of volunteers and with occasional help from the Youth Club – everyone does different jobs, including food preparation, setting the tables, serving food, clearing away and washing up.

A raffle takes place during the lunch, with proceeds going to Southwark’s Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

St Mary’s lunches have been running since 1982 as an outreach to those who were elderly or living on their own. They are monthly and held on the first Wednesday of the month. People enjoy a traditional British two-course lunch, followed by tea and coffee. Those of all faiths and none are welcome.

All food is freshly prepared and cooked on site by the team of 12 volunteers.

Holy Trinity, Redhill

The Timperley Cookery Club is a place for local mums to make friends, learn new skills and receive mutual support.

The Club is held at 7th Reigate Scout Hut, Timperley Gardens Estate, Redhill – the meeting place for Timperley Church, part of Holy Trinity Church, Redhill.

Run by a team of volunteers from the church community, it is currently funded by the Raven Housing Trust Brighter Community Fund, which supports local community projects and activities for their residents.

Members of the club not only share budget-friendly recipe ideas each session – they also learn to cook a new meal which they take home for their family to enjoy. This club brings together confident home cooks and those who want to improve their cooking skills.



Clare Horsfall, who co-ordinates the group, said, “Most members live locally in Timperley Gardens, but we’re also delighted to partner with Redhill Food Club and St Matthew’s Food Bank, welcoming referrals through these connections. Each session at Timperley Cookery Club celebrates food, friendship and the joy of sharing as well as providing practical help for mums and caregivers who need to feed their families. We are also grateful to Holy Trinity PCC and the Croydon Episcopal Area via an Area Mission Grant for generous financial support to sustain the Club going forward.”

The Timperley Cookery Club is also supported by Eli Karlicka-Cook, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council’s Community Development Worker (Redhill West).

Last year, in addition to the monthly cookery club, Timperley Church, hosted its first Thanksgiving meal led by long term volunteer, Hazel Gray. The meal was an opportunity to experience the American traditions of Bev Holmes, a former church volunteer who has now returned to the United States. In her testimony, Bev shared what Thanksgiving means to her, speaking about the gift of sharing food and her Christian faith.

The Revd Mick Hough, Vicar at Holy Trinity said, “Clare and her team do an amazing job of creating community by gathering people together around food, and the testimonies of the participants bears witness to that. Jesus did something similar – he has many of his key encounters around meals!”

Ringing in the congregation

Southwark Cathedral and St James, Bermondsey

Edward Gormley is a bellringer at St James, Bermondsey and Honorary Senior Steward at Southwark Cathedral.

Edward said, “I enjoy my bellringing because I go to different churches to practice ringing the bells, and also to ring

for services and events. These churches have rings of five, six, eight, ten or twelve bells, and each ring of bells has a lovely sound.



“St James’ is one of many churches where I regularly ring the bells and I am the Tower Clerk. I also steward at special services and events and volunteer in various ways at the Cathedral. Earlier this year, I took part in the Conservation Housekeeping Week at the Cathedral, this involved attending to the housekeeping needs of the Retrochoir and the Chapel of Reconciliation.

“I sometimes attend the bell-ringing practice sessions at the Cathedral and I occasionally ring for the Choral Eucharist on Sunday mornings. At my most recent practice session, I practiced ringing plain hunt caters and plain hunt cinques. These can be quite tricky to ring!”

Conserving the Cathedral



Sharda Rozena, Volunteers Officer at Southwark Cathedral said, “The volunteer conservation team at Southwark Cathedral have been working incredibly hard since January using special equipment to dust the friable stone and monuments. They have collected samples of crumbling stone for an archaeologist to observe and samples of paint dust for the conservators to study.

We are incredibly grateful for Andrew, Edward and Robert, and a special thank you to Larisa (pictured) – who worked continuously in this role with great enthusiasm, while also recently joining the Cathedral Stewards too. The hard work and skill of this team are invaluable to protecting and maintaining the fabric of the Cathedral for future generations.”

More information

Find out more about volunteering:
navca.org.uk
gov.uk/volunteering





DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

The Bishops' Certificate

Together for learning and fellowship

Every year, around 70 people from across our diocese come together to deepen their walk with Jesus by taking part in the Bishop's Certificate. Applications are now open for September 2025.

The course, taught by Southwark clergy and lay ministers from a variety of traditions, covers the Bible, Church history, what Christians believe and how to live out your faith every day. Classes meet either online or in-person over ten months, from September to June. The course ends with a weekend residential at Wychcroft, our diocesan retreat house. A joyful service in the Cathedral then celebrates the achievements of everyone who took part.

“What all the attendees have in common is a desire to come to know and love God more profoundly in a supportive and welcoming atmosphere.”

Dr Charlotte Gauthier, Assistant Director of Discipleship said, “One of the great joys of every cohort is its diversity. Some people left school with no qualifications; others have multiple degrees. Some are cradle Anglicans, others are recent converts from other religions or none, and still others worshipped in various Christian denominations before coming to Southwark. A wide range of ages, ethnicities, and church traditions from Charismatic to Evangelical to Anglo-Catholic and all points in between are always represented. Some attendees



Bishop's Certificate attendees receive their certificates at Southwark Cathedral.

are discerning a call to ministry; others take the course for the sheer pleasure of learning. What all the attendees have in common is a desire to come to know and love God more profoundly in a supportive and welcoming atmosphere.”

When asked what their favourite part of the course has been so far, this year's attendees said:

“The tutors have been brilliant and have made it interesting.”

“Hearing views of a wide range of different people, meeting others and sharing views in a safe space.”

“The extremely wise and thought-provoking teaching.”

“I've been able to reflect on what I have read from the scriptures, instead of just reading the scriptures as how they are printed in words and letters. And how to apply the teaching of Jesus in my life.”

“The amazing teachers we had on the course were truly a blessing and having to pray at the end of each session was a wonderful experience of sharing our faith together united by the power of the Holy Spirit and love.”

“The teachers are brilliant in answering questions and explaining in simple terms for us to understand.”

The next course begins in September 2025. If you or someone you know would like to deepen your faith this coming year, email bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org for more information.

More information

You can find out more about the Bishop's Certificate here: tinyurl.com/4k6n582w



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Challenging unconscious bias

‘Unconscious bias’ is an unfair belief, prejudice or attitude towards a person or group of people that you are not aware of – but that affects your behaviour and decisions.

In our diocese, we have been offering unconscious bias training for some years, and now with the appointment of Reg Amoah, Racial Justice Training and Resources Officer (pictured), we look forward to offering training with renewed energy – and are keen to invite people from across Southwark to take part.

This training is an important way for us all to begin to think about the unconscious biases which arise in diverse communities and affect us all. Participants are encouraged to consider how such biases affect their relationships and how best to work to counteract them.

Training sessions take place at Trinity House and are open to everyone. You

can attend by yourself or with a friend or group from your parish. Each standalone session lasts for approximately three hours and the next session will be on Wednesday 23 July from 2 to 4.30pm.

If you would like to hold training in your parish or deanery, we are able to

come and run a session especially for your group. These sessions can be on a Saturday or held on an evening, and they last between two and a half to three hours.

We are also in the process of developing other materials which will cover specific biases – such as those linked to ethnicity, class or gender – but this training is the first step to help us to consider how our

biases affect our Church life and our lives in society.

Look out for more dates in our Discipleship and Ministry courses and events brochure and find out more online: tinyurl.com/mthfe97w

If you are interested in signing up to a course or arranging one in your parish or deanery, please contact Helen Medland, Ministry and Training Administrator by email at: helen.medland@southwark.anglican.org





‘Community as a Superpower’

Nicole McKeever, Social Action Development Worker writes:

London is home to nearly 100,000 people who have sought sanctuary in the UK, each bringing a unique story, culture, and gift to share. For many, in our diocese this is something which we are already aware of as our churches become richer and stronger because of it. The diversity within our congregations is a blessing to be celebrated and refugees contribute greatly to our shared life, offering music, food, art, and, often, extraordinary compassion born from lived experience.

This mosaic of cultures reflects the heavenly vision in Revelation 7:9, where people of every nation, tribe, and language gather to worship the Lord. In Southwark, that vision comes to life in our worship, fellowship and service and our church communities are a superpower for inclusion and mission.

It is this theme which we are invited to remember during Refugee Week (16–22 June). Entitled: ‘Community as a Superpower’ this year we celebrate the incredible everyday and ordinary acts of generosity and kindness which bring people together – revelling in the ‘contributions, creativity and resilience of

people seeking sanctuary.’ It is these small acts of justice which have significant power to transform lives.

This is not to minimise the challenges that people seeking sanctuary face in building a new life in the UK. Many have arrived in the UK after dangerous journeys, only to face the long and complex process of claiming asylum and seeking recognition of their refugee status. Even when refugee status is granted, the challenges do not end. Individuals must secure housing at very short notice, navigate unfamiliar systems and search for employment. For those arriving through resettlement schemes, different but equally significant barriers remain. It is inspiring and encouraging to hear of so much work across our diocese which aims at welcoming and supporting some of these vulnerable people in our localities.



Over the last few weeks, I have been listening to stories of community across our diocese. Time and time again, I’ve been inspired by how churches are creating spaces of welcome and belonging and hearing how this has been transformational experience for all involved. In parishes, friendships have flourished through churches’ support of families and individuals brought to the UK through resettlement schemes, with one individual now using her bookkeeping skills to serve the very church that welcomed her. Elsewhere, a church has opened its doors through a language café, a youth group, and monthly breakfasts for Ukrainian families. Their Pysanky egg-painting workshops, a traditional Ukrainian art form, have brought joy and cultural exchange to the community.

Another particularly impactful conversation I had was with The Revd Kit Gunasekera, Vicar, St James, Clapham. For the past two and a half years, he and his wife Jill have hosted a guest who is seeking asylum and who would otherwise have had no access to safe housing. They joined the Hosting Project – run by Housing Justice – initially because they had a spare room and a desire to share their blessings with those experiencing difficulty. But speaking with Kit, it is clear that this experience has been far more



profound than a transactional agreement or act of charity. Instead, carefully supported by Housing Justice, both host and guest have felt able to experience their small measure of community. They share meals, watch television, and enjoy each other’s company, while also respecting each other’s need for space. Kit shared that he has learnt so much from this experience, and has been struck by the generosity of their guest in cooking meals and in offering prayer and encouragement for both him and Jill. This experience being a good reminder of the fact that when you reach out to help someone, you also end up receiving so much in return – a reminder of the interconnected nature of generous giving and receiving, that is deeply embedded in the Christian faith.

During Refugee Week, the JPIC Team will be sharing information about events and resources for welcoming refugees in your local church communities. Visit: tinyurl.com/yc2tahb4

For more ideas on building community with people seeking sanctuary, visit the Refugee Week website: tinyurl.com/mvu5e654

If you would like to learn more about the Hosting Project or how you can support refugees and asylum seekers in your church, or to share your stories of building community with refugees, please email: Nicole.Mckeever@southwark.anglican.org

From Lament to Action

On Sunday 25 May, the Racial Justice Advocacy Forum held an ecumenical service at St John, Waterloo to mark the fifth anniversary of the killing of George Floyd.

The service entitled: *From Lament to Action*, was an opportunity for people to come together to reflect, mourn and discuss how to turn grief into meaningful action – uniting communities to inspire positive change.

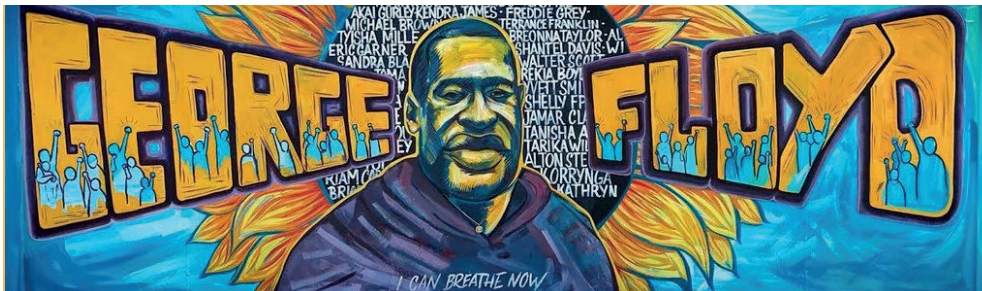
George Floyd was an African American man who was murdered by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Floyd uttered the words “I can’t breathe” as he was subjected to police brutality when the officer knelt on his neck. His death

sparked Black Lives Matter protests in 2020.

Co-celebrants of the service included The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Free Churches Moderator and President for *Churches Together in England* and Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary of *Churches Together in England*.

Bishop Rosemarie said, “It was important for the church – which believes that every person was created in God’s image and that challenging racial injustice is a gospel imperative – to gather on this fifth anniversary to mark, commemorate and lament, and to continue to call for action to redress the systemic racial injustices that George Floyd’s death so tragically demonstrated.”

The programme featured Christ’s Hospital Gospel Choir and organist Wayne Marshall, OBE.



Scriptural reasoning in Merton

The Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector of Merton Priory and Area Dean of Merton shares how people of faith in the local community have become fruitful in the practice of scriptural reasoning.

Scriptural reasoning is a fresh approach to interfaith dialogue to improve understanding and relationships within and between different faiths.

Mark writes:

For several years now, led by members of Merton Citizens, there has been in Merton a fruitful practice of scriptural reasoning – drawing together different faiths over their sacred texts and also fine hospitality –often cooked by a generous Syrian family.

Where might you start in undertaking this laudable interfaith work? In Merton, we have taken a thematic approach. Each speaker at the event: Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Baha’i in our context;

chooses a small portion of their holy writings around a common theme. So far, we have covered care for the creation, the concept of home and motivation for engaging in community work. After all the speakers have addressed those gathered, then the real work begins and in small interfaith groups they can ‘chew’ over all the texts. It helps to frame this with guidelines – ours is taken from the University of Cambridge’s recommendations which skilfully blends respect for others’ perspectives with honesty and integrity regarding your own. Given that we have chosen broad themes, sometimes a certain consensus has emerged, but this need not be the case. For instance, when I spoke one year, I chose a text from the Old Testament, knowing our local Rabbi would choose a different portion of these writings, which he calls the Hebrew Bible. Taking this a step further, the Abrahamic faiths could explicitly choose the same texts, accentuating diversity of interpretation, though perhaps this is more easily done in an academic setting.

What has also helped us are those broader human elements – ensuring this is not a theoretical exercise, namely nurturing our pre-existing relationships as local Merton residents across all faiths and, oh yes, did I mention food?



IN FOCUS...

Southwark Vision

Resource and Hub Churches – enabling our parishes to grow and flourish

In our series unpacking the priorities of the Southwark Vision, Will Cookson writes...

Through the DIP we are continuing to expand the number of Hub and Resourcing Churches across the diocese as part of our integrated programme to achieve our Vision. The Hub Church workstream seeks to identify models across the diversity of our diocese and share good practice in order to support parishes to grow their ministries in their local context.

There are significant differences between the two models. The Resourcing Church depends on generosity to send a clergy person, people and resources to help revitalise another parish; the Hub Church model is a church that has created a model that other churches can adopt to help their church grow coming alongside them with training, advice and support. We have a number of exciting examples of both in DIP, and we are hoping to develop more in subsequent rounds. What has been very important to us is to

ensure that we reflect the range of church traditions within our models.

One example of a Resourcing Church that we are excited about is a church plant into Stockwell by King's Cross Church (KXC) in London Diocese led by Lois Tackie-Oblie, working in partnership with the parish priest, The Revd Erica Wooff that is aimed at reaching multi-cultural young adults. There was a congregation from KXC meeting there during Covid-19 which had been welcomed by the parish and part of their Mission Action Plan was to see that re-start. It started last autumn and is already doing very well. We are hoping for another project to start in the next year with a church in the Catholic tradition.

In terms of Hub Church models, we have a wide range of models that we are encouraging in DIP, which we hope will have impact in multiple parishes across the diocese. These include:

- Serving and reaching our estates is an important part of our Vision. Springfield Church, Wallington is creating several pathways for estates churches, including an adult pathway with its 'Meal &



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Meditation' and 'Popcorn and Ponder'. An after-school pathway for young families and a pathway involving music and youth.

- St Mary's, Putney are building on the 'Youth Ministry in Communion' model that was developed in London Diocese. This model brings young people together from different churches (where there may only be a few in each church) in the Catholic tradition to help them grow in their faith and witness together.
- All Saints, Kingston is developing a new choral worshipping community pathway working with local schools (church schools and others). This model uses choral scholars to work in these schools to teach and build relationships and looks at how this can lead to a worshipping community.
- St John, Upper Norwood is working on creating an aged 0–18 pathway to faith in the Catholic tradition. It has seen very significant growth in the

past two years – with 34 baptisms at its Friday *Playtime!* last October – and the parish is developing work in new worshipping communities and its Sunday congregation.

- Others include a parish nurse model in a 'Forward in Faith' parish, St Michael & All Angels, Croydon and a 'Flourish' schools project at St Matthew, Redhill.

If you would like to hear more about the new models of ministry being developed and explore how they could be adopted in your parish context please do get in touch with Canon Will Cookson

The Revd Canon Will Cookson is the Director of Mission and Dean of Pioneering Ministry & Fresh Expressions for the Diocese of Southwark.

Details of Southwark Vision and the core document can be downloaded at: southwark.anglican.org/southwark-vision



LET US PRAY...

JUNE

The Venerable John Kiddle
Archdeacon of Wandsworth

Companions on the journey

It has been a special gift to write this column for the last two years, it has enabled me to reflect on prayer as we journey through the seasons and celebrate the saints who inspire us.

My retirement this month has also given me cause for reflection. Psalm 90 says, "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom". It's been a long journey since my ordination 43 years ago in Liverpool Cathedral. I am grateful for all the opportunities that have been given me, and for all those with whom I have walked – some for a brief moment, others for a lifetime.

25 years of my ministry was spent in the Diocese of St Albans. On 22nd of this month we celebrate the life of St Alban, the first Christian martyr in these islands.

Alban lived in the early third century in the Roman city of Verulamium. He gave shelter to a stranger fleeing persecution. This stranger was a Christian priest, Amphibalus. In making space for Amphibalus, Alban found he had made space for faith and for Christ.

When soldiers arrived at his house, Alban exchanged clothes with Amphibalus and was arrested, allowing the priest to escape. When asked by the authority to deny his new found faith, he replied:



"I am called Alban and I worship and adore the true and living God."

He was executed on the hill, where St Alban's Abbey now stands.

A moment of hospitality, a moment of faith, a moment of courage, have become for thousands and thousands the seeds of a lifetime's pilgrimage of faith, hope and love.

Let us give thanks for the moments that shape our lives, for the kindness that

transforms us, the courage that inspires us, the generosity that welcomes us, for the faith that lights a flame in our hearts.

Let us thank God for the journeys we make together, for companionship and friendship, for encouragement and grace. Let us thank God for one another and pray for one another, always.

*God of life
You meet us in the moment
And walk with us on the journey.
Thank you for the gift
of companionship.
Thank you for all who, like Alban,
shape our lives
Through kindness, generosity,
courage and faith.
May we, in the moments you offer us
And in the life you give us,
Be, always, in joy and in love,
a blessing to others.
Amen.*

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for JULY ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY FRIDAY 13 JUNE**

June

5-30 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – Portrait exhibition: through photographic portraits of six carers, presented in a style inspired by religious icons, Ruth Samuels conveys the sacredness of care work – a profound human vocation centred on love, dignity, and connection. The exhibition overlaps with National Carers Week, 9–15 June. Details from: andrew.graystone@theosthinktank.co.uk

SATURDAY 7 JUNE

- * **KENNINGTON** – *Open Doors* event in partnership with Southwark Diocese, focusing on our *Arise Africa* global campaign. Gain an insight into the persecution the church is facing in Sub-Saharan Africa. 10am–3pm at St Mark's Church, 337 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4PW. Refreshments available, bring your own lunch. Free to attend. Booking: tinyurl.com/5br46wxt

SATURDAY 7 & 14 JUNE

- * **HORNE** – *Big Green Week, Churches Count on Nature and Love Your Burial Ground Week*. Butterfly talk on Saturday 7 June, 3pm, to mark the beginning of the Big Green Week. Churches Count on Nature Wildlife – count and afternoon tea on Saturday 14 June, 3pm. Both events at St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Horne, RH6 9LA. Free to attend.

SUNDAY 8 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – *Thy Kingdom Come*. 10th anniversary celebration. Theme 'Light up the world

in prayer' and to mark the global wave of prayer, we're inviting you to join a family-friendly diocesan celebration, 3–5pm at Southwark Cathedral. The event is open to all and free to attend.

8-13 JUNE

- * **SOUTHWARK DIOCESE** – *Green Week Eco Pilgrimage*. Join Bishop Martin and the Chaldon Pilgrims to walk through our diocese. This will be a journey to connect, inspire, and change us as we walk together through creation. You can join for the whole route, do individual day walks or attend evening eco festivals of story, song and creation. More details: tinyurl.com/3wkppjsk

THURSDAY 12 JUNE

- * **WESTMINSTER** – A Service of Thanksgiving and Reflection to mark the 80th Anniversary of Christian Aid. 12pm at Westminster Abbey, Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3PA. Free. Register to attend: tinyurl.com/47ccyzvr

FRIDAY 13 JUNE

- * **GREENWICH** – *'The Beloved Son'*. A play about the life of the spiritual writer and priest Henri Nouwen, written by Murray Watts and performed by Andrew Harrison. The play explores hope and longing, family dynamics, sexual and emotional crisis and the profound insights of a man who became one of the greatest spiritual writers of the Twentieth Century. 7.30pm at St Alfege Church, Greenwich SE10 9BJ. Tickets £13.70 via: tinyurl.com/3vaery3s

WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE

- * **PIMLICO** – Company of servers (Southwark and London chapter). Summer festival of evensong and benediction, followed by social with refreshments. Guest preacher The Rt Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop of Edmonton. All servers and supporters welcome. 6.30pm at St Saviour's Church, St George's Square, Pimlico SW1V 3QW. For details email: michaeljlewis17@gmail.com

THURSDAY 19 – FRIDAY 20 JUNE

- * **BRISTOL** – *Growing Faith 2025 Research Conference*. Trinity College, Bristol. The Growing Faith Team invite you to their 2025 research conference. Hear from leading academics, expert practitioners, members of the Growing Faith Team and researchers in the field of Growing Faith. There will be opportunities for reflection and worship. Open to everyone involved in the spheres of church, home and school, both academics and practitioners. Book your place here: tinyurl.com/2u7vyd83

FRIDAY 20 JUNE

- ♪ **STREATHAM** – St James Church gospel concert. An evening of worship in song and praise. Performances by Roger Samuels, Tracy Campbell, Judene Achebe, the Dennis family, Kudos Gospel Choir (BBC Gospel Choir of the Year 2024). 7–10pm, St James Church, 236 Mitcham Lane, SW16 6NT. Booking: 0208 6773947

SATURDAY 21 JUNE

- ♪ **WIMBLEDON** – *The Hill Singers Chamber Choir* perform a concert of choral music from 'across the pond' featuring music by Lauridsen, Whiteacre, Barber and Copland. 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church, Wimbledon, SW20 0DE. Tickets on the door £15; £13 concessions, cash only, children under 16 free. Details: hillsingers.co.uk

FRIDAY 18 & SATURDAY 19 JULY

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – History Festival – 2-days featuring several of the best historians in the UK. Details: tinyurl.com/yfj6s4bd

SATURDAY 19 JULY

- * **KENNINGTON** – *Standing Together Sunday* is a day for churches across the country to share a day where they pray for young people and take action to address 'Violence Affecting Young People'. Join us at St Mark's Church, Oval, 337 Kennington Park Rd Oval London SE11 4PW. Free. Register: tinyurl.com/mpwx5my7

September

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

- * **HORLEY** – Lay Ministry Taster Sessions. If you are thinking about how to use the gifts God has given you, come and find out more about Lay Ministry. Hear stories of people who have experienced Lay Ministry roles and training, and how to exploring your own vocation. 10.30am–12.30pm, at St Bartholomew Church, Horley, RH6 8AB, Free. Any questions, email: The Venerable Carol Coslett, Assistant Director of Lay Ministry: carol.coslett@southwark.anglican.org. Book a place: email.learning@southwark.anglican.org



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July

SUNDAY 6 JULY

- ♪ **HORNE** – Concert by Bryony Frost and Elizabeth Barrett to promote young voices and fundraise for the Young Choristers Fund and the RSCM Bath Course 2025. 3pm at St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Horne RH6 9LA. Free to attend.

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

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...and so much more



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Please continue to resource God's mission in our Diocese

southwark.anglican.org/giving/parish-support-fund