

The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark



Christ Centred Outward Focused

Vol.30 No.6 **July/August 2025**

Called to serve
Diocesan ordinations
See pages 8-9



Young evangelists

Young people from St John, Peckham visit Belfast See page 10



'You cannot drink from an empty cup'

Exhibition showcases care workers
See page 13





Eco-pilgrims find inspiration in our parishes

The Revd Vanessa Elston, Chaplain to Bishop Martin writes:

A small group of pilgrims, led by The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston, recently undertook an eco-pilgrimage across the Diocese of Southwark during The Big Green Week (6–14 June). We walked 60 miles, through 60 parishes, in six days.

Our tag line was 'walking into the heart of creation' and we set out to be inspired and changed, to connect with people and parishes along the way and hear stories of what is happening on the ground. We went looking for hope in local action on climate and nature, where national and global politics do not seem able to respond adequately to the challenges we face. The pilgrimage was only possible because of a small group of 'Chaldon Pilgrims' led by The Revd Helen Burnett – they have been going on pilgrimage

together since 2019. Martin Dollery mapped and pre-walked a route which linked up with established green paths like the Vanguard Way, the Wandle Trail and the Capital Ring. The Chaldon team provided the core team of stewards who helped in crossing roads and making sure

everyone who signed up to a section of the walk stayed together.

We started with an outdoor Pentecost

We started with an outdoor Pentecost service at Chaldon church, St Peter and St Paul, led by Bishop Martin preaching and presiding alongside Helen in glorious sunshine. Later we were joined by others

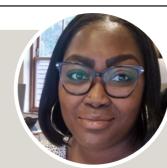


to walk across the fields to St Mary's, Farleigh where we celebrated evening compline and settled down for the night, some sleeping in the 11th Century church and some in the church hall. Thus, our pattern for the next six days was established. We were given amazing hospitality in the churches we stayed in, delicious vegetarian meals, as well as floor space to inflate our sleeping mats and settle down for the night. Every evening a gathering of local green groups from the wider community came to hear about the pilgrimage and speak about local projects for climate and nature. The talks were inspiring and highlighted the opportunity for churches to connect with those outside the church in our witness to the fifth mark of mission: safeguarding the integrity of creation.

Continued on page 12



A view from The BRIDGE



Over the past few weeks, we've been experiencing some of the hottest days on record. Often times the sunnier days are welcomed, but extreme heat can be considered dangerous and sometimes unbearable for the most vulnerable in our communities. It's especially at times like this when we are reminded to look out for each other and those who need it most – I hope you are all keeping cool in the warm weather.

A contrast to keeping cool, things have been hotting up in Southwark. Our front page depicts the joy of Pentecost – heads ablaze and hearts on fire – as we reflect on our multigenerational and interactive Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) celebration. TKC is a time where many Christian communities join together from all over the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

With the Great British Summer in full swing, you'll see that children and young people across our diocese have been busy in the lead up to their school holidays. It's inspiring to see younger generations exploring their Christian faith and sharing their gifts through mission and ministry.

This season is also a time to welcome a new round of Revs, and during Petertide, 17 Deacons and 17 Priests are due to be ordained by

our Bishops. May God bless them all in their ministry as heralds of God's Kingdom, as they pioneer and serve parishes across South London and East Surrey.

Let's also welcome The Venerable Bridget Shepherd, Archdeacon of Wandsworth, who has now been installed and collated by Bishop Christopher shortly before going to print. See page 14 to read our revamped 'Let us pray' segment where Bridget leads the way in sharing the first reflection from our Archdeacons. This continues the legacy of those who previously contributed and shared their personal testimonies.

So as many of us take a moment to reset this summer – at various times and in various ways – I hope that you will feel encouraged by the stories in this bumper edition of *The Bridge*.

See you in September!

Vernia Mengot

Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

Annual Report 2024

The South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance Annual Report for 2024 has been published on our diocesan website. Copies will be delivered to parishes and you can download a PDF here: tinyurl.com/5e96betd

Global gathering on transatlantic chattel slavery

More than 150 people from across the world attended the 'Truth Telling' gathering held in Liverpool on the Anglican Church's involvement in transatlantic chattel slavery and the contemporary legacies. The three-day event included addresses by a series of speakers from the UK, US, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, a tour and talks on the city's historical links with the transatlantic trade in enslaved people and the work to progress racial justice. Read more: tinyurl.com/572y4te7

Major step to support clergy wellbeing

The Church of England have announced significant proposals to enhance clergy pensions as part of a major step in supporting clergy wellbeing. The package of proposals – if implemented – will increase future pension benefits for existing and future pensioners. Further work is also underway to increase support and choice for clergy retirement housing, and to increase stipends and significantly improve the maintenance support for ordinands. The improvements, proposed by the Archbishops' Council, are based on analysis by the Church of England Pensions Board. Details on the proposals for pensions will be set out in the papers for July's General Synod, when members will be asked to consider these proposals, which will require changes to the scheme rules, with potential implementation after April 2026.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity to the Parish Support Fund

We are excited to have shared the 2026 Parish Support Fund (PSF) materials with parishes last month – please be encouraged by the stories of growth, challenges and God's blessing across the diocese. Our Archdeacons have been hosting Q&A sessions to help parishes understand how the PSF supports parish mission and ministry. There is still time to join an online Q&A, hosted by Kingston Area, on Wednesday 16 July, 2–3pm: tinyurl.



com/446knwuj. Everybody from all areas would be welcome. If you have questions about PSF or have not received your 2026 booklet and parish details, please contact Gabby.Parikh@southwark.anglican.org

Safeguarding audit

Earlier this year we asked parish safeguarding officers to complete an audit to help us get a better understanding of safeguarding across our parishes. A huge thank you to so many of you for your diligence in ensuring that your audits were completed comprehensively and on time. This has given us a wealth of data to broaden our picture of safeguarding across the parishes. We are exploring all your responses and look forward to developing our diocesan safeguarding strategy to best support you.

Our Safeguarding Team can be contacted for advice and support. Referrals and general enquiries: safeguarding@southwark.anglican.org, 0207 939 9441.

The Bridge is produced & published by:

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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The SEPTEMBER edition is due to be published online and in print during the beginning of the month. Material for that edition must be with Vernia Mengot by email by **FRIDAY 8 AUGUST.**

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



NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

Bishop Moira

On Tuesday 2 June, it was announced that The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, will serve as the next Bishop of Crediton.

Moira has served for nine years as Archdeacon of Reigate and her new role will see her serve the whole of Devon, with particular care for North Devon, Mid Devon and East Devon.

Reflecting on her time in our diocese, Moira said, "I am grateful for my time in Southwark Diocese, and for the ways in which I have been prepared for this next stage in ministry by all I have learnt from the people of East Surrey and South London, and from my colleagues. I am also grateful for the students on the Bishops Certificate course and at St Augustine's College of Theology, whose questions have helped me discover more of God's grace as they made me think more carefully about all God has taught us."

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun said, "Moira has been a highly effective colleague as Archdeacon of Reigate renewing mission and ministry in the parishes within her charge, particularly

among families and young people. Moira's interests in ecclesiastical law and history, especially the Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Church, allow her to take the long view in developing parishes and chaplaincies. I give thanks that her many gifts and zeal for mission will soon be bearing fruit in the Diocese of Exeter."



Bishop Moira (centre) with Southwark's bishops and archdeacons.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon said, "Reigate's loss is Crediton's gain. Moira is a passionate and effective advocate for rural mission and ministry. As Archdeacon of Reigate, the most rural part of the Diocese of Southwark, Moira devised creative ways to encourage and build partnerships between people and churches for the work of kingdom building. Her skills and talents will be sorely missed."

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison, a former incumbent in the Diocese of Southwark, said "I am delighted that Moira is joining the diocese as the new Bishop of Crediton. Moira brings decades of practical experience of ministry in

various roles as well as being a theologian, published author and natural teacher. Her passion for supporting parochial ministry, her pastoral gifts and her evident Christian spirituality will enrich the Diocese of Exeter and I am greatly looking forward to working with her."

Moira who studied Natural Sciences specialising in Geology at Clare College, Cambridge and trained for ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford adds, "I am particularly looking forward to getting to know some of Devon's historic churches and seeing again the amazing geology of some areas of North Devon, like the Hartland Peninsula and the Valley of the Rocks, near Lynton. I am also looking forward to discovering the places where our British Christian forebears worshipped."

On her announcement day Moira toured her new episcopal area – she visited the churches and communities of Westward Ho! Appledore, Crediton as well as St Peter's CofE Secondary School in Exeter. The day concluded with Evensong at Exeter Cathedral.

The Diocesan Secretary, Nicola Thomas said, "We are incredibly thankful for Moira's years of service in Southwark and we wish her well as she takes on this new and exciting role."

Moira was consecrated Bishop at St Paul's Cathedral on 3 July 2025.

Read more here: tinyurl.com/8afcc3b7

Welcoming a new Dean's Verger

Southwark Cathedral appoints Simon Gutwein as its new Dean's Verger.

Simon has worked as a Verger at the Cathedral for 17 years, and for 13 years he has been the Deputy Head Verger. As Head of Department, the Dean's Verger shares in the daily care of the Cathedral buildings and belongings with the Property Department, ensures the good ordering of the Cathedral's liturgies, and has important security, health and safety, and administrative responsibilities.

Simon began his new role on 7 July and succeeds Paul Timms.



L-R: Simon Gutwein and Paul Timms.

Simon said, "It is a real honour to be appointed as Dean's Verger, and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead such an incredible and dedicated team of colleagues. Following in Paul Timms' footsteps is no small task, and I want to express my heartfelt thanks to him for his unwavering support, guidance, and friendship over the past 17 years. His example has shaped so much of how I approach this work.

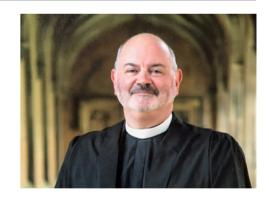
"I'm excited for the future and the possibilities ahead. I have many ideas for how we can continue to develop the department, staying true to the Cathedral's mission and spirit. I know the role will bring its challenges, but I'm looking forward to embracing them as we continue to welcome all who come through our doors with care, dignity, and respect."

The Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark said, "We all greatly look forward to working with him as he takes up fresh duties and ensures that all who come into the Cathedral, for whatever reason, are welcomed with dignity."

Dean of Southwark takes on honorary position at Whitelands' College

The Very Revd Canon Dr Mark Oakley has been appointed as **Professorial Fellow in Christian** Theology and Contemporary Issues at Whitelands College in recognition of his extensive expertise and highprofile as a theologian and academic.

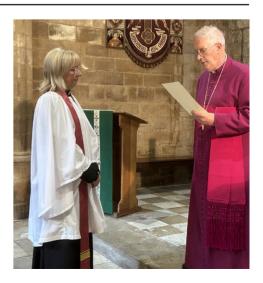
Mark will take up this honorary appointment for three years until 31 May



2028, and it is hoped his appointment will enhance the profile of Whitelands' College and the University of Roehampton as a creative and welcoming place for people to study.

Bridget Shepherd installed as Archdeacon of **Wandsworth**

On Sunday 6 July, The Revd Bridget Shepherd was installed and collated as Archdeacon of Wandsworth by Bishop Christopher and Dean Mark during a special service at Southwark Cathedral.





200 miles for 200 years

The Revd Andrew Mumby, Rector of St Peter, Walworth, is swapping his cassock for cycling shorts for a 200-mile sponsored bike ride to celebrate the church's 200th anniversary. The ride will raise vital funds for the church's restoration in a bid to cut carbon and secure the future of the church – designed by Sir John Soane in 1825.

The church has already raised £14,900 and hopes to raise an additional £15,900 to achieve match-funding for its National Lottery Heritage Fund Development Phase grant awarded earlier this year.

Father Andrew and friends, led by Ride-Lead Femi, have divided the 200-mile total into four compass rides from St Peter's, covering the dioceses of Rochester, St Alban's, Oxford and Southwark.

Each ride started and finished at St Peter's, with the parish as the heart of this fundraising adventure. Andrew even did the first 60-mile ride to Rochester Cathedral on his little Brompton. The group were met at the end of their first ride to Rochester Cathedral by Director of Music, Kev for a well-earned pub lunch. The next 70-mile ride took the team to the Church of St Peter and St Andrew,



Old Windsor, where a group – in the middle of a Bubble Church planning session – warmly welcomed them to their medieval church. At St Alban's Abbey, the group were met by St Peter's Clergy Team Personal Assistant, Mary and her family, and the final ride saw the group ride down to Godstone

St Peter's Church stands at the heart of Walworth, serving a community where 31% of children live in poverty. The church is vibrant and diverse – a hub for local groups, a meeting space, and a home to the Saint Louie Café bakery.

To find out more and follow 'Father Andrew 200 Miles' visit: tinyurl.com/4w5ezmh8
TikTok: @father...Andrew
Instagram: @fatherandrewinsta



L-R: Bai, Femi and Andrew.

A Thousand Tongues: An exhibition of UK asylum stories



'Struggle for survival' by Fateyma Jinna.

Earlier this year, St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth hosted an exhibition: 'A Thousand Tongues' featuring art by asylum seekers from around the country. The exhibition – curated by Parastoo Jafari – an art historian and independent curator – ran during April, in a bid to provide a public programme around arts and culture.

The experience of seeking asylum in the UK is rarely considered in its intimate, nuanced realities by those outside it. The exhibition was an opportunity to move beyond generalised narratives and offer a more personal glimpse into the lives of individuals whose stories have been communicated through their own artwork. The exhibition acknowledged the courage required to share vulnerable stories while urging people to rethink their assumptions about displacement and migration.

In talking about her motivations to curate the exhibition, Parastoo said, "My first thought was to do work with asylum seekers. Particularly to see how art could become a manger of hope, perseverance and endurance. I wanted the exhibition to convey a message about how artwork helps us to get through difficult situations and how art can change based on contexts."

Having studied curatorial work in the UK, Parastoo was keen to get support for the exhibition, "I contacted every charity, in every city – particularly charities specialising in working with women." She successfully gained the support of around 15 charities who helped to provide materials for the artists involved. The exhibition was a chance to showcase compositions by both professional and amateur artists – some works already created and others specifically created for the exhibition. "The exhibition provided a network for art-lovers and gave them hope to continue," she added.

In a state of uncertainty, waiting, negotiating identity, and grappling with a sense of belonging, creativity emerges as both a coping mechanism and an assertion of selfhood. The displayed works gave audiences an opportunity to reflect on questions that often remain unspoken: How does one sustain hope when the future is unpredictable? How does a forced departure from one's homeland reshape a sense of self, culture, and purpose? And how can creativity serve as both refuge and resistance — a way to confront trauma while imagining new possibilities?

Each piece shared a powerful story created by the artists – documenting their lived realities and offering the audience a chance to connect with them beyond mere written testimony.

The exhibition was conceptually inspired by One Thousand and One Nights, a collection of folkloric tales rooted in centuries-old Middle Eastern traditions. Central to these stories is Shahrazad's strategy to prevent King Shahryar from executing her and other women – using storytelling as a means of survival, delaying violence through captivating narratives. Similarly, the exhibition embraced the power of storytelling as a way to communicate the complex and often hidden experiences of asylum seekers, using art to make visible what is frequently silenced or misunderstood.

Parastoo said, "Because of their change in circumstance, many artists have not been able to pursue art here in the UK. It was good to see how proud each participant was — using art as an instrument to tell their story."

In sharing her hopes for the future, Parastoo said, "This network will hopefully build on consultation for artists and provide them with more opportunities to broaden their support network. Not many charities are willing to support and help grow their art and share in a space within the community, like the Church."

A glorious gathering for Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It's a time when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

At St Matthew, Croydon, Pentecost Sunday was an opportunity to bring

worship outside of the church. The congregation gathered for a celebratory service in the church gardens with streamers in the trees and balloons on display. They joined together in prayer and sang hymns accompanied by a keyboard and other musical instruments.

The Revd Ruth Chapman, Vicar at St Matthew's said, "St Matthew's strives to embody the Southwark Vision of being Christ Centred and Outward Focused. On Pentecost Sunday this year we gathered around the Lord's table but outside of the church in the glorious sunshine to be a visible witness to Christ in this community. It was a wonderful service to lead looking out at the congregation but also to the parish beyond."



St Matthew's congregation gather for outdoor worship.

Sharing the love

Meet John. A member of St George, Morden. A retired salon owner. A great character. And he'd like to give you a card.

Some years ago, John (pictured) wrote an account of his Christian faith with his wife, Juliet, which he gave to people. This A4 sheet explained why he started to go to church. In short, his wife wanted to go. John said, "I thought to myself: if I love Juliet, then what is an hour a week?"

It was at church that John heard the good news of Jesus. Eventually, "I accepted Jesus, knowing that he died for me, so that I can have eternal life... The cross defeated sin and death, so we are at peace," says John.

"What was the effect on me?" – After I had given my life fully to Jesus and accepted the change in me, my life became peaceful. I found contentment, and a real peace within my soul."

However, it was not long after writing those words that John's wife, Juliet, became terminally ill. John cared for her through the illness. It was tough. And it was a great loss for him when she died. But this didn't destroy his faith. John said, "In every difficulty we have faced, Jesus has



been there holding us and supporting us and – more importantly – loving us."

This inspired John to come to church one Sunday with a batch of cards. "I want the congregation to help me deliver these to the local houses," he said. The card was entitled: What's the meaning of love? John had written these based on 1 Corinthians 13, a passage about God's love. He printed the cards himself, and he's been busy sharing them all over the place.

After church over coffee, he said, "I've lost my wife and my son. But God's love has got me through. If one person reads this and comes to church and discovers Jesus's love for themselves, then I will be pleased.

"Can you get people to help me deliver it?" he asked.

John would like to share his card here: tinyurl.com/2sx9v7yj. This piece has been adapted for *The Bridge*. Read the original story here: tinyurl.com/ydp9w3dz

Thy Kingdom Come

Continued from page 1

This family-friendly event took place at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 8 June. Uniting Christians across generations – it was an opportunity to engage with children, young people and families in an exciting programme of activities for all ages. It was also a multi-sensory celebration, specially designed by The Revd Rachael Gledhill, Associate Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood and The Revd Sharon Moughtin, Vicar of St Mary in the Wilderness and author of Diddy Disciples.

Attendees on the day included a group from Timperley Messy Church, who travelled from the parish of Holy Trinity, Redhill. The group were excited to experience a family day out and were inspired to learn more about the Christian faith, hearts aflame as they journeyed home. One parent said:

"The service was lovely. It was such a good day."

Isabella Shepherd, writes:

When I was invited to the *Thy Kingdom Come (TKC)* service at Southwark
Cathedral, I was a little apprehensive.
I have to admit, taking two very small children to a Cathedral service felt like

it could be a recipe for disaster. How would I keep them quiet and still in such a beautiful, formal place? But I couldn't have been more wrong! The service made the Cathedral feel like a warm, welcoming space, where little ones could enjoy God's house as the little noisy wrigglers they are.

The sensory stations across the Cathedral enabled children to explore the different meanings of Pentecost using all their senses. The leaders of each station were encouraged not to tell them how to use the materials but to let them use their own creativity. I loved watching how children of all ages interacted with the materials, creating flames or instruments to represent the coming of the Spirit and the beginning of the Church. It wasn't like traditional craft time where everyone is told what to make - everyone did something different or did it in their own way. My two year old could have spent all day playing with the rice or pouring lentils on the ground while making her shakers. Messiness was encouraged and the children were free to explore just as they were.

We came together at the end to sing songs and hear the story of Pentecost, using the things we had made to worship. We then all marched out of the building singing songs, reminding us that when the Spirit came, He sent them outside to meet those in the world.

At the end, we all shared a delicious spread of food together, which on a very practical level was very useful as it meant



I didn't then need to rush home to feed the children.

I would love to come back to this type of service again, and would definitely invite my friends and family too. Everyone was so friendly, the creativity was brilliant and my children loved it.

And for me, it was a very moving reminder that Jesus wants me to be as open-hearted and creative as the littlest among us.

More information and resources are available on our diocesan website: tinyurl.com/bdhnjxfb





New books on the block

This month we caught up with The Revd Canon Gary Jenkins and The Revd Jonathan Macy as they share useful insights about mission and estates ministry with their new book releases. They tell us why they wrote their books to address key issues and growing faith within the most socially deprived communities.

SOWING SEEDS

WITH SONGS

OF JOY

Sowing Seeds with Songs of Joy

By Jonathan Macy, Vicar of the Church of the Cross, Thamesmead and Chair of the National Estates Churches Network.

Why I wrote the book...

Back in 2023 I was asked to write a paper on privilege, class and poverty to help wealthier churches better understand the challenges churches in low-income areas face, and how they might better support them. My creative juices flowing, — 13,000 words were written, but I knew there was more to say. Over my sabbatical the paper became a book and the focus broadened to also try and speak to those saints ministering in these areas.

The two big themes I explore are, first, why areas of poverty are poor, remain

poor, and struggle to be anything else without specific large-scale vision and

intervention to reverse generational decline. Endemic under-resourcing in local infrastructure and negative spirals within the community compound issues to a point where they are difficult to unpick and address. However, my second theme is that we have a God who not only transforms lives but uses these lives to provide the foundation for His church, locally found

and locally grown to bring its own local flavour and shape. It may well look and feel different to your expectations, and it may well not be how you envisaged ministry to be, but it is what God has given to you, and with the courage for it to look different, you will see God's blessing on you, your church and your parish as you minister.





L-R: Jonathan Macy and Gary Jenkins who share insights about mission and estates ministry in their new books.

A Forgotten People: Mission, Evangelism and the working class

By Gary Jenkins, Dean of Estates Ministry

Why I wrote the book...

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of the seminal report *Faith in the City*: a call for action by Church and nation from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Priority Areas. It noted

then: 'The Church of England's most enduring 'problem of the city' has been its relationship with the urban working class.'

Forty years on the challenge remains, although in the last decade there have been growing signs of a renewed interest in urban mission, in work on social housing estates and low-income communities and in the issue of class.

"The mission challenge is huge."

The mission challenge is huge. Workingclass people (however defined) make up a large, neglected and unreached group in the population. Working class culture is frequently viewed in negative terms, with a focus on its problems and weaknesses, especially in the most socially deprived communities.

In my Grove booklet, drawing from my own experience of growing up in a working-class family and from ministering in estates parishes in the diocese, I set out to answer the following questions: what are the positives of working-class culture, and what are the biblical resonances with it? What methods, strategies, and presentations of the Gospel

can enable a mainly middle-class Church to engage in cross-cultural mission to and with working class people? How can working class people be equipped for leadership and mission in the Church? How can the church receive their gifts?



More information

A Forgotten People: Mission, Evangelism and the Working Class tinyurl.com/vej4eupx (RRP £10.99 New Generation Publishing) and Sowing Seeds with Songs of Joy: Growing God's Garden In Forgotten Places (RRP £4.99 Grove Books) tinyurl.com/yrpbpky3

Save the date: Standing Together Sunday

Standing Together Sunday is a day for all churches and parachurch organisations across the country to share one Sunday where they pray for young people and take action to address Violence Affecting Young People (VAYP).

Young people across the country are and can be affected by violence. Synergy Network provides online resources in support of 'Standing Together against serious young violence' Sunday.

For 2025, the Synergy Network is inviting churches, Christian organisations, and others to come together in unity, to bring our collaborative efforts towards reducing and bringing an end to VAYP. Standing Together events will take place on the weekend of the 19–20 July.

On the Saturday there will be a 'Standing Together Saturday' event, and over the weekend churches are encouraged to make an actionable pledge to support making a change to young people who are affected by violence. As well as prayer, churches may consider extending youth provision, mentoring and engaging with 'Operation Forgiveness' – an early intervention knife-crime initiative, delivered by local churches to schools, training, strengthening families work and working with local MPs. What might your church do to support lasting change?

Register here for the Standing Together Saturday event: tinyurl.com/mpwx5my7 Further information about the weekend: tinyurl.com/3j74c7wy



SYNERGY NETWORK PRESENTS

"STANDING TOGETHER SATURDAY"







ST MARK'S CHURCH, KENNINGTON

SATURDAY, JULY 19 10.30AM - 5.30PM

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

Bishop Rosemarie announced as new patron of Gatton Community Theatre

The Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, has become patron of Reigate's **Gatton Community Theatre and** its latest production - which will be performed in All Saint's Church, Merstham, later this year.

Gatton Community Theatre is a unique Christian community theatre company based in the parishes of Merstham and Gatton on the North Downs above Reigate. It is also one of Surrey's most unusual and innovative theatre groups open to all – with many of its members from churches of all denominations in the Reigate Deanery area and beyond.

Bishop Rosemarie said, "I am pleased to be the Patron of Gatton Community Theatre's 25th Anniversary production of Nativity and to support this group of skilled and dedicated performers in their endeavours to bring the Christian story to life for today's audience."

This summer, the company is looking for adults and young people aged over 10 who would like to take part in the play, written for adult audiences by the late John Durnin and directed by Libby



Last year's production of Setareh - A Journey to Remember, a story about

Egwuba, music director of St Margaret's Church, Chipstead. Participation in the play is open to all who would like to take part. There are no formal auditions. All levels of acting experience are welcomed both experienced actors and those who'd maybe like to perform for the first time. There is no membership or production fee to take part.

If you are interested in taking part you can join the company on Saturday 12 and/or Sunday 20 July at 2pm, All Saints Church, Battlebridge Lane, South Merstham, RH1 3LH. Rehearsals will begin in September.

For more information contact: info@gattontheatre.org.uk or visit: gattontheatre.org.uk

PCC Secretaries conference

The conference, which took place on Saturday 7 June, was an opportunity to welcome PCC Secretaries and Parish Administrators from across our diocese to hear contributions from Trinity House staff and speakers from Southwark Against Modern Day Slavery.

Exploring a range of topics from the roles and responsibilities of a PCC to the wider



context of diocesan activities - the day included sessions on safeguarding, lay ministries and communications. It was also an opportunity to come together in prayer and give thanks for the crucial role PCC Secretaries and Administrators play in the life of our Church.

An evening of welcome

On 14 June, Bishop Christopher welcomed newly-elected Mayors serving South London and East Surrey 2025-26 for an evening of thanks and appreciation at Bishop's House.



Outstanding leadership

On Sunday 15 June, Bishop Christopher received an award for outstanding leadership at the 13th **Annual Ministers Appreciation Ball** held at Croydon Hilton Hotel.

The annual dinner, held in partnership with London City Mission, recognises

and celebrates faithful service in Church ministry.

In a post on X, The Revd Lotwina Farodoye, Vicar, Christ Church West Wimbledon - who was also in attendance said, "Very well deserved! Huge congratulations to Bishop Christopher. We are very thankful for your leadership".



L-R: Bishop Christopher, Lotwina Farodoye, Bishop Rosemarie and David Farodoye.

"Liturgies are like belly buttons"

The Revd Joshua Rey, Vicar at Holy Trinity, Roehampton writes:

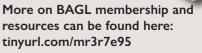
'Liturgy' is a compound of two Greek words: laos, the people, and ergon, work. 'People work' - it's what we do together when we pray and worship. From plainchant and incense to worship band and open prayer, liturgies are like belly buttons - everybody's got one! The glory of Southwark is the variety of ways we worship God, each with something to offer others.

This is the focus of the Bishop's Advisory Group for Liturgy (BAGL), set up by Bishop Christopher in 2016 and composed of around a dozen clergy and lay people from all traditions across our diocese. Its purpose is to address liturgical questions posed by the Bishop as they arise in our shared life. Who should administer

communion? Who can anoint? Can we have some prayers for the environment that make sense in inner London? Are there good ideas out there for praying into loss and trauma?

This year sees the start of the BAGL's biggest project yet: a programme of mutual parish visits to collect best practice and help one another reflect on worship. Watch out for more on this project, 'Going Deeper in Liturgy' coming to you soon.

More information



Going Deeper in Liturgy: tinyurl.com/4zj5r4th



Meet Southwark's brand new Revs...



On Saturday 28 June, The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, ordained 17 Deacons to serve in our diocese, in a special service at Southwark Cathedral.

The Revd Dr Ellen Clark-King led this year's ordination retreat and preached during the service.

In her sermon Ellen said, "Today is a day of creation, today is a day of exodus, today is a day to take God's outstretched hand and set off into the wilderness of an alternative future. These are words of Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev in his book The Liberating Path of the Hebrew Prophets which I used with this wonderful group of ordinands on our retreat together. I wanted to share these words with you because today

is a day for something new, not just for the ordinands but for the whole Church.

"Hold tight to the hand of God who has called you to this work, who will companion you through it, and who will lead you and all of us to exodus and new creation. The Christ-like God who will never desert you but be present always with you and with those you love, serve and lead. May God bless you and may each one of you be a blessing to the people of God in this diocese and beyond."

Ordained Deacons

Croydon Area

Charlotte (Charlie) Davies Springfield Church, Wallington

Peter Greenfield

lames Griffin

St Michael & All Angels with

Kingston Area

St Michael & All Angels with St Stephens, Wandsworth

All Saints, Carshalton

St Oswald, Cheam North

Antonio Joseph

St James, Croydon

Judy Douglas

St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham

Judith Fraser



"Hold tight to the hand of God who has called you to this work, who will companion you through it, and who will lead you and all of us to exodus and new creation."

Sharon Hunt

St Mary, Putney

Mariia (Mary) Kilikidi

Merton Priory Team

Kardiatou (Kadia) Ly

St Peter, Vauxhall

Wa'el Qasim

St Leonard, Streatham

Michael Stokes

All Saints, Kingston

Woolwich Area

Doris Barerra-Torrico

St Peter, Walworth

Laura Bucke

St George, Camberwell

Callum Bucke

St Mary, Newington

Winifred (Winnie) Obese-**Bempong**

Parish of Herne Hill

Marieke Sybrandi

St George the Martyr with St Alphege & St Jude, Borough

Andrew Twesigye

St Peter, Brockley



Bishop Christopher hosted a garden party at Bishop's House for this year's Ordinands.



Find out more at: tinyurl.com/4zxdnv8e

Priests ordained

Ordinations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Southwark are due to take place throughout July. Each priest will serve their curacy in the parish named, having served as deacon over the previous year.

Croydon Area

The following were ordained Priest on 5 July by The Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, at St Mary's, Reigate. Bishop Rosemarie was joined by The Revd Dr Geoff Dumbreck, who preached

Tabitha Singh

St John, Shirley

Debra Elsdon Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry

Paul Holden Victoria (Vic) Stone
Horley Team Ministry

Paul Holden
Merstham & Gatton
Team Ministry

In a separate service the following will be ordained Priest by The Bishop of Fulham, The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, who will also preach, at St Michael & All Angels, Croydon on 19 July.

Graham Hains

St Michael & All Angels with St James



Kingston Area

The following were ordained Priest by The Bishop of Kingston, The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, at All Saints, Kingston upon Thames on Saturday 5 July. Bishop Martin was joined by Archdeacon Designate of Wandsworth, The Revd Bridget Shepherd, who preached.

Daniel (Dan) GraysonSt John The Evangelist,
Angell Town

Amanda Emberley The Ascension, Balham Hill Rachel Gardner Immanuel & St Andrew, Streatham

Michael (Mike) Addis The Ascension, Balham Hill

In a separate service, the following will be ordained Priest by The Rt Revd Bishop Precious Omuku, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Southwark, at St Andrew, South Wimbledon on Tuesday 29 July. The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough will be present.

Oliver (Ollie) Butlin

St Andrew, South Wimbledon

Zimuzo (Zim) Okoli

Holy Trinity, Clapham



Woolwich Area

The following were ordained Priest by The Bishop of Woolwich, The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, at St Paul's Lorrimore Square, on Saturday 5 July. Bishop Alastair was joined by The Revd Joshua Rey, who preached after having led the pre-ordination retreat for all candidates.

Bethany Austin

St Bartholomew, Sydenham

Alexandre (Alex) Garziglia

St Christopher (Pembroke C M), Walworth

Wayne Barron
St Paul, Newington

Joanne (Jo) McCrone St John The Baptist, Eltham Anna Mills

St Mildred, Lee

Owen Morgan

Charlton (United Benefice)





Archbishop Tenison's School launches Vision 312



Archbishop Tenison's CE High School, Croydon has launched its fundraising campaign – Vision 312 – during a special service to mark the school's 312th year history at Southwark Cathedral.

On Wednesday 21 May, approximately 250 guests including former and current members of staff, school governors, pupils, students and members of the school's wider community gathered at the Cathedral to celebrate the school's anniversary and its educational vision for pupils and students now and in the future.

Over the past five years, there has been a significant increase in pupil numbers. In September 2025 Archbishop Tenison's School will have over 800 pupils for the first time in its history. Vision 312 is a bold initiative to improve the facilities and learning resources to match the increase in numbers and offer more than just the curriculum.

The service was led by Bishop Rosemarie and The Revd Les Isaac OBE, founder of Street Pastors, with music by the school's Year 7 Choir and the Gospel Choir (pictured above).



L-R: Gary Carr, Bishop Rosemarie, Richard Parrish and The Revd Les Isaac.



"It is a privilege to serve the young people of Croydon. We won't serve them well, if we keep silent about what is needed to do that."

The congregation heard from former pupils and students who reflected on their individual experiences during their time at the school and the inspiration, guidance and support the school had provided them, along with their personal journeys. Former pupil and now renowned actor, Gary Carr, reflected on his time at Tenison's and spoke of how the school had helped him nurture his interest in drama through the curriculum.

An exhibition lined the Cathedral's north and south transepts, providing a visual display of each subject's curriculum vision and aspirations for the current and future generations' educational journey through the school.

Richard Parrish, Headteacher said, "We are Thomas Tenison's last school, both the last one he founded, and the last one still remaining. It is a privilege to serve the young people of Croydon. We won't serve them well, if we keep silent about what is needed to do that."

For more information about *Vision 312* visit: archten.croydon.sch.uk

Children celebrate their culture

On Wednesday 21 May, the Junior Leadership Team (JLT) hosted a culture day at Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Wimbledon. The day was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate different cultures and the diversity of pupils at the school through food, fashion and arts.

Nic – a pupil at the school – said, "During culture day many children came to school in traditional clothing native to their culture and background. If they didn't have any traditional clothing then they wore colours of their countries' flags – it was really nice to see all the diversity we have in school. We had a fantastic fashion show in the morning, and then in class we had presentations and discussions about

cultural diversity and the importance of respecting others and learning about different cultural backgrounds. In the afternoon, each class had parents come to visit to talk about their culture, so the children were able to learn a bit more – some even brought us some traditional treats!"



Young evangelists visit Belfast

Over the past few years, children and young people from the Sunday School and youth group at St John, Peckham have taken an annual trip as part of plans to visit all four countries in the UK. In 2023 the group visited Southend on Sea and last year, Edinburgh. This year, 29 participants visited Belfast over two days.

The purpose of the trip was to give children and young people an opportunity to learn more about plants and animals in the context of evangelism.

The trip started off with evangelism at Stanstead Airport where young people gave out Christian tracts for daily Gospel inspiration. Once in Belfast, the group visited the County of Antrim where they went donkey riding at Shean's Farm, followed by trips to Belfast Botanical Garden, Ulster Museum and Queen's University Belfast. The trip was rounded





off on Ascension Day with worship at St Malachy's Church, Belfast.

One attendee said:

"I had an opportunity to evangelise for the first time. When we were given a Christian tract each to share with people at the airport, I first felt shy. But I jumped in when I saw my friends doing it. It was actually easy to do. The person I gave my tract to smiled at me and said, 'Thank you'."



A prayer for National Children's Day

National Children's Day (18 May) is a United Nations initiative held annually to celebrate, recognise and raise awareness about the importance of a healthy childhood and advocate for the rights, freedoms and flourishing of children and young people. In celebration of the day, pupils at All Saints CE Primary School, Croydon have written a prayer and invite you to join them in saying:

Loving God, thank you for creating each of us to be different.

We are all created in your image. You made us all equal.

Help us to respect each other, to be welcoming.

To celebrate our differences.
In Jesus' Name,

Athelstan celebrations



One of seven life-sized Saxon Kings embroideries on display at All Saints.

All Saints, Kingston is holding a special Athelstan Day as part of a major six-month celebration marking the 1100th anniversary of his crowning.

King Athelstan was the grandson of Alfred the Great and the first King who could rightfully claim to be ruler of the whole of England. He was crowned on the site of All Saints, Kingston. The anniversary will be commemorated by seven lifesized Seven Saxon Kings embroideries. These contemporary, intricately designed embroideries will be unveiled on the anniversary by historian Tom Holland.

All Saints, Kingston is holding two free, ticketed events on the anniversary day itself – Thursday 4 September. There will be a grand unveiling at 2pm with an Athelstan address given by Tom Holland, entitled: "The Golden Generations: The Founding Family of England".

At 6.30pm, there will be a festival service for the 1100 anniversary with guest preacher and distinguished Athelstan scholar, The Very Revd Professor Sarah Foot. The service will feature coronation classics from the All Saints and Tiffin Boys Choir and a new *Te Deum* by contemporary composer Marco Galvani, specially commissioned for the occasion.

To read more about the project visit: tinyurl.com/4kwjjc6x.

Book a free place at either event here: tinyurl.com/2uxd5z8z

Never too late to seek confirmation

Sally Amphlett, who died in February, was a much loved member of the congregation of St Augustine, South Croydon.



Baptised as a baby in Gloucestershire, Sally returned to faith later in life, and was confirmed by the Bishop of Croydon in October 2023 at the age of 69 (pictured left). She felt that she had to apologise leaving it so long, but Bishop Rosemarie replied that it was "God's time". Sally treasured these words, and the fact that Bishop Rosemarie had allowed her to steady herself by holding her crozier 'stick'. She regularly looked back on her confirmation as the happiest day of her life. Geoff, a member of the congregation, said, "Sally taught us all so much about faith, and showed that it is never too late to seek confirmation."

A warm welcome



The Venerable Dr Chigor Chike, Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich licensed The Revd Kayleigh Magrath as Curate of All Saints, New Eltham. The licensing took place at St Edward the Confessor, Mottingham and they were joined by The Revd Richard Magrath, Vicar at St Edward the Confessor and The Revd Annette Rose, Vicar of New Eltham.

Join us, join in

On Saturday 21 June, Southwark Mothers' Union (MU) celebrated its festival service at Southwark Cathedral with The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon and The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, Bishop of Woolwich.

More than 170 people came together to support the commissioning of the Canterbury Provincial President, Comfort Fearon, the Provincial Chaplain, The Revd

Canon Roxanne Eversley, the Southwark Diocesan President, Penny Lochead and the new Trustees of the Southwark MU Diocese Board.

This years' service was themed: 'Join Us, Join In' and was an opportunity to come together in prayer and thanksgiving for members of MU – giving thanks for their work in strengthening communities and supporting families across our diocese through faith in action.

The Revd Canon Kathryn Fleming, Cathedral Precentor who helped facilitate the service said, "It was an absolute pleasure to be part of the celebration".



Bright future for combined church

The Revd Justine Middlemiss, Priestin-Charge at Kenley, All Saints and Purley, St Barnabas writes:

On Sunday 8 June 2025, we held our last service in the building of St Barnabas, Purley. Having worshipped together on that site since 1911, more than 150 members of the congregation – both past and present – gathered for one last time during an emotional and poignant service. It was wonderful to see familiar faces alongside those who hadn't seen each other in years.

The decision to close St Barnabas Church for worship was a very difficult one. Sadly, the very small regularly worshipping community was not able to undertake the significant costs of maintaining the existing church, nor the substantial work required to upgrade it and its halls.

Whilst it is a time of sadness and reflection on all those memories of St Barnabas and all those who have gone before us, it is also one of excitement and anticipation, as we look forward to where

God is leading us as one church, sharing God's love across Purley and Kenley.

Our congregations have been worshipping together for over 10 years and on Sunday 15 June, we held our first service as the church of All Saints and St Barnabas, at All Saints Church, Kenley.

The building of All Saints now proudly displays items of significance from both churches – ensuring representation within one building. The future of our new combined church is looking bright, with a dedicated congregation, youth church leaders and our vibrant and passionate ministry team.

We are working with the Church Commissioners, the diocese and the St Barnabas PCC to explore options for the St Barnabas church site. All Saints and St Barnabas will continue to look after the Memorial Gardens and much of the garden will continue to provide a quiet space in a busy area.



DISCIPLESHIP & MINISTRY

The Persian Anglican Church: A gathering of leaders and future leaders

On Saturday 14 June, a landmark conference for the Persian Anglican Network in the UK took place at St Stephen with St Paul's Church, Nottingham.

The conference was an opportunity to have conversations and explore Persian Anglican identity, growing and discipling new faith leaders and sharing discipleship resources.

The Archbishop of York, The Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell and The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford – who is herself of Persian heritage – both delivered keynote

speeches to 141 delegates, more than half of whom were Persian.

Farsi, also known as Persian, is spoken primarily in Iran, where it is the official language.

The day included discussions, seminars and prayer and worship in Farsi. Findings following the conference will be published in a report designed to drive further work to develop ministry with Persians.

The Revd Emma Lowth, Associate Vicar, Christ Church Gipsy Hill and Chair of the steering committee for the Network said, "The day was organised in response to a move of the Holy Spirit whereby the numbers of Farsi speakers in UK churches







Clockwise from top left: The Revd Emma Lowth speaking at the. L-R: Michael Ward, Shirin Ward, both from Merton Priory, Sepideh Black (Farsi Ministry Assistant at Christ Church, Gipsy Hill) and Mahtab Karami, Persian artist, from St John the Evangelist Upper Norwood. Persian worship Resources Fair at the conference. All photos courtesy of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

is growing rapidly, as is the need for the licensing of more Persians to lay and ordained ministry."

For more information about ministry among Farsi speakers visit: tinyurl.com/yzer2jwc

Blessings on the way

Continued from page 1

We also stopped at parishes along the way for morning and afternoon comfort breaks, where again we were met with cups of coffee, tea, cakes and stories about local action in and with the local community. We saw vegetable plots, a 'men's shed' project and re-wilding areas – and we heard about the impact of community meals, repair cafés, recycling projects and campaigns to save local parks. We saw the dedication of individuals in helping their churches to take steps to lower their carbon footprints in halls and church buildings.

A theme began to emerge where providing safe places for people to belong naturally extended into caring for the local environment. We experienced parishes demonstrating a deep commitment to a place, to building trusting relationships, to learning again what it means to inhabit a particular place well. We saw the church recovering a richer story of what it means to be human in relationship to God's creation, of being a priest-gardener in the land we live on.

Pilgrimage proved a powerful way of connecting across rural, suburban and urban parishes. Just as nature needs the creation of wildlife corridors, we felt we were creating a 'people corridor' between our churches, where we could meet and encourage each other. Church members walked with us and spoke about challenges in their local areas. Pam Venture from St Matthew, Brixton led



us in prayer at Brockwell Park. We felt incredibly blessed by so many encounters

like this along the way. We experienced the power of pilgrimage as opening our hearts and minds to the people we met and the places we walked through, both urban and rural. Walking 'into the heart of creation' became for us an act of prayer, of walking into God's love and desire to reconcile and restore all things in Christ.

All of us who took part want to extend a massive thanks to all the churches who showed us hospitality along the way, particularly to our evening hosts; St Mary, Farleigh, St Michael and All Angels, South Beddington, St Barnabas, Southfields, Straw Bale Hall, Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill, St Alfege Church Hall, Greenwich and Southwark Cathedral.

Let's keep walking together into the heart of creation!



A celebration of identity and belonging

Join the 18th annual Black History Month thanksgiving Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral, in partnership with the Diocesan Board of Education, on Saturday 4 October, 10.30am–1.30pm. It will be a day of fellowship, learning and celebration, exploring this year's theme "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). A workshop will follow the service.

See page 16 of this edition of *The Bridge*, for a poster to promote the event (which includes a QR code to book ticket) to be displayed in your church. Find out more here: southwark.anglican.org/bhm



NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

'You Cannot Pour From an Empty Cup'

A portrait exhibition entitled: 'You Cannot Pour From an Empty Cup', showcasing photographic portraits of care workers was recently on display at Southwark Cathedral to coincide with National Carers Week (9-15 June).

The exhibition explored perceptions of the caring profession, often mischaracterised as 'unskilled' or 'lowskilled'. Through photographic portraits of six carers, presented in a style inspired by religious icons, Ruth Samuels conveyed the sacredness of care work - a profound human vocation centred on love, dignity, and connection.

Care work is chronically underpaid and undervalued in our society. In policy analyses, care is often reduced to a series of tasks, and carers to economic units. This series of photographic portraits of carers tells a different story; that care work can be beautiful and also deeply, particularly human. The portraits were previously displayed in the Houses of Parliament.

This exhibition was informed by a recent report from Theos, the religion and society think tank, entitled Love's Labours: Good Work, Care Work and a Mutual Economy. The report argues that Christian concepts of love and dignity can enrich and broaden policy discussions on care and care work. The report's author Hannah Rich argues that, "Far from being unskilled, the reverse is true if we consider the depth of emotional intelligence, the complex and sophisticated skills of relationship, empathy and intuition which are rendered invisible when care work is reduced to physical

The title of the exhibition centres on a quotation in this report, which speaks to the sources and resources that carers draw on in their work, both paid and unpaid. Emotional labour may not have an economic value, but it is not without cost.

For more information visit: tinyurl.com/dnrn3wfn



Claudia, one of six carers, portrayed in the exhibition.

"I have always felt my vocation was to chaplaincy"

Chaplains live and share in the story of God's love by offering spiritual care to people who need it most. They serve in our schools and colleges, hospitals and hospices, prisons, armed forces and police, courts and places of work and leisure.

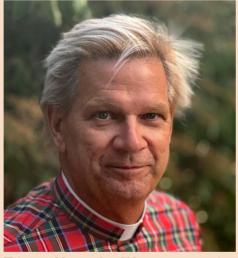
In this edition, Bridge Editor, Vernia Mengot, caught up with The Revd Tristan Alexander-Watts who has recently been appointed as Community Chaplain with the Suicide Bereavement Service (SBS) at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM).

Each of us are given gifts for ministry. Can you tell us how you were called to ministry?

I have always felt my vocation was to chaplaincy - the ability to provide direct pastoral care appeals to me. Coming to work at SLAM is a bit of a homecoming, I was ordained in the diocese in 2002, and I started my career in NHS chaplaincy in the diocese as a chaplain in Greenwich. Before joining the Suicide Bereavement Service I spent over 20 years as a hospital chaplain, the last six years as lead chaplain for NHS mental health services for all of Kent.

SLAM specialises in mental health and supports clients across six boroughs. Can you tell us a bit more about your role as Community Chaplain with the suicide bereavement service?

The Suicide Bereavement Service provides support to anyone affected by suicide. It



Tristan Alexander-Watts, supporting all those affected by suicide.

is a joint project between SLAM and Mind - the mental health charity. The service is for anyone who lives in the six boroughs of southeast London or who has been affected by the suicide of someone in our area. We offer referrals to other services for those outside of our catchment. We support friends and families of those who have died, but we also support those who have witnessed suicide - often the bystanders or those who find someone - they can be overlooked, so we are there for them too. As a Community Chaplain with SBS, I offer both pastoral and practical support. In addition to pastoral and spiritual care we can provide support around inquests, information about wills and probate, wellbeing advice, benefits advice, support with funerals and more. We can also refer people on to our counselling service which provides

trauma-informed counselling. With our service we are available to help people almost immediately - we do not require a waiting period between the death and offering support like most other services. We meet people in their homes, in parks, community settings, or wherever is best for the individual.

How important is chaplaincy and spiritual care, and the support that Chaplains provide within health services?

NHS chaplains support patients and their families, but equally importantly chaplains support the staff. Chaplains are also part of Multi-Disciplinary Teams and are involved in all aspects of healthcare serving on a wide range of committees.

On 5 July, the NHS marks 77 years of service. How will you be recognising the NHS's birthday at SLAM?

The majority of my SBS colleagues are employed by Mind, but our team is based in the grounds of Bethlehem Royal Hospital. We will celebrate the anniversary of the NHS with cake.

Are there any things you want to highlight ahead of Suicide Prevention Week later this year (7-13 September)?

Every year the SBS in partnership with SLAM holds a conference and a service of remembrance for World Suicide Prevention Day. This year's service - on 10 September - is online, and everyone is welcome to attend. Joining details

can be found on the SBS webpage. The service includes readings and poems from service users, and there will be a time to remember those who have died by suicide.

Can you share one of your favourite scriptures and the reason you

Every NHS chaplain feels connected to the gospel of Matthew chapter 25, where Jesus reminds us "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." As chaplains we almost always use this at our licensing service as it sums up our vocation. I find the words in chapter 8 of the letter to the Romans has been a useful tool in supporting people in distress. In that chapter we are reminded that nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God. This is a great comfort when things look bleak.

More information

For further information and to download a booklet for anyone supporting someone bereaved through suicide visit: tinyurl.com/36bt8589 and: tinyurl.com/yjj5h6y6



SOUTHWARK VISION

Lifting Young Voices at All Saints, Kingston

In our series unpacking the priorities of the Southwark Vision, The Revd Joe Moffatt writes:



Like many churches after the Covid-19 pandemic, we looked around and said, "Where are the children?". Numbers attending our Sunday School were down to one or two. But what we did have were 15 enthusiastic teenagers in our traditional robed choir, singing three services a week. Many of these were getting confirmed and clearly growing in faith. So, it seemed obvious that we should make the most of our choral tradition when planning our missional engagement with younger children and their families.

In 2023, the PCC agreed to invest in a programme that we called *Lifting Young Voices*. This involved offering free whole-class singing lessons to primary schools, a

termly concert in church and the creation of a Junior Choir for children aged 6 to 11. We started in two schools who loved having someone with singing expertise coming in once a week and working consistently with a year group for a term at a time. The concerts in church proved to be very popular and the Junior Choir quickly grew to just under 20.

During this first year, we were invited to consider scaling up the programme and bidding for funding from the Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP). When this came through, we were able to expand the music team to include more parttime staff: an Assistant Director of Music, three Choral Trainers and a Music Intern. This enabled us to increase the number of schools from three in the autumn of 2024 to seven in the summer of 2025. The Junior Choir is growing as result, with new children replacing those who have 'graduated' to the main Choir.

The main aim of the project is Growing faith through singing. A mix of sacred and secular songs are used in all the schools. Teaching about the Christian faith is woven into every Junior Choir session. And they are now singing once a month in our main

Sunday morning service, putting them at the centre of our worshipping community.

The diocesan funding enables us to offer the Lifting Young Voices programme to other parishes who are interested in this model of choral mission. Would you be interested in a Choral Trainer coming to work alongside your Director of Music for a term or two? If so, please register for an Information Session via this link: tinyurl.com/ymdu5sh2

- Friday 19 September, 3–5pm at All Saints Kingston, including performance and Q&A with the Junior Choir.
- Tuesday 30 September, 4-5pm, online.

Needless to say, we are not the only church doing this kind of thing and there are shining examples elsewhere in the diocese that we have learned from, notably St John the Divine, Kennington. Indeed, there is now a national network called *Music for Growing Faith* that is coordinated by the *Growing Faith Foundation* (part of the National Society). The meetings are generally online, but we are pleased to be hosting their first in-person day conference on Wednesday 1 October.

To join the network and receive booking information, please email hannah. persaud@churchofengland.org for further information.

The Revd Joe Moffatt, Team Rector of the Kingston Team Ministry.

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





LET US PRAY

The Venerable Bridget Shepherd

Archdeacon of Wandsworth

It seems like never a week goes by without children and young people appearing in the news headlines. Over the past week I've read or heard stories about young people vaping, the exposure of primary school aged children to

pornography, teenagers being both victims and perpetrators of murders, and the possibility of the government bringing in legislation to limit young people's access to social media. All of this follows hot on the heels of the

furore generated by *Adolescence*, the four-part *Netflix* series exploring why and how a 13-year-old boy came to murder a girl in his class.

There is - understandably - a lot of fear and anxiety about what is being done to our young people, and what our young people are doing. This climate of fear is one of the reasons why a recent report from the Bible Society has been so welcome. The report, entitled 'The Quiet Revival', outlines the growth in church attendance that's taken place over the last six years, particularly amongst 'Gen Z' – that's young adults aged 18 to 24. The research suggests that their attendance at church may be linked to community action and wellbeing; although, as with all research, it only tells part of the story.

I suspect that for many of us, childhood and adolescence was a key time in our faith development. My own journey of faith began at the age of 5 when I asked my non-church going parents if I could be baptised. At 12 I had a profound and life changing spiritual experience in Sunday School. At 16 I preached my first sermon, and at 24 I became a church youth worker in our diocese. Across the diocese today there are some fantastic examples of work with children and young people. Many are humble and simple, but they are helping to bring faith to life for young people and adults alike.

So how do we pray in response to both the bad news and the good news?

As a child I was taught to pray 'with a teaspoon' – thank you, sorry, please – TSP. As you think about what's happening amongst children today, what would you say under each of those headings? There's a lot to give thanks for, a lot to be sorry for, and a lot to ask for.

Why don't you find a teaspoon now and have a go?

Please send details of your next events for SEPTEMBER ONWARDS to Trinity House BY WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST

July

TUESDAY 15 JULY

* SOUTHWARK – Gentrification
Seminar: Gentrification is an issue that
affects many of the estates parishes
in our diocese. Dr Sharda Rozena, an
expert on the topic, will speak about
the challenges and opportunities of
gentrification. 11am–1pm, The Diocese
of Southwark, Trinity House, 4 Chapel
Court, London SE1 1HW. Free.
Register: tinyurl.com/yycdtm2c

WEDNESDAY 16 JULY

* DULWICH – War in the Holy Land: what a just peace requires – a Christian perspective. A talk by the Rev Dr Fadi Diab, Rector of St Andrew's, Ramallah, Palestine. A rare opportunity to hear from our Palestinian brothers and sisters from our link Diocese of Jerusalem. 7.30pm at St Barnabas Church, 40 Calton Avenue, SE21 7DG. Free, all welcome. Retiring collection for the Anglican-run Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

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

☐ Concerts at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

ORGAN CONCERTS: THURSDAY EVENINGS, 7.30PM

Thursday 17 July: Charles Francis

Thursday 21 August: Richard Pearce Thursday 18 September: Sarah Kim Thursday 16 October: Daniel Cook Venue: St John the Evangelist, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX Admission FREE, retiring collection.

FRIDAY 25 JULY

Details at: sjun.org.uk

■ SOUTHWARK – Ceilidh in the Cathedral. Dance in the nave to music from The Ceilidh Tree. Bring a picnic or order one from the Cathedral café to collect on the night. 7–10pm at Southwark Cathedral, SE1 9DA. Tickets: £30, family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £65, under 18's £10 from: tinyurl.com/5n6wffha

MONDAY 28 JULY

* KINGSTON – Talk: Stories from Israel-Palestine. Join this public talk on Palestine from The Very Revd Nicholas Papadopulos, Dean of Salisbury Cathedral. 7.30pm at All Saints Church, The Market Place, Kingston KT1 1JP. Free. Tickets: tinyurl.com/2wmp6wde

August

FRIDAY 22 – SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

* TATSFIELD – To celebrate 950 years of worship and music, St Mary's Church is holding a weekend flower festival, art exhibition and children's activities, music and talk, followed by

Southwark Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi: 2–9 March 2026

This Ecumenical Pilgrimage for the Diocese of Southwark and the Archdiocese of Southwark will be led by The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, and Bishop Paul Hendricks, Auxiliary Bishop for the Kent Area of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, The Very Revd Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark and Canon Michael Branch, Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark.

Tour includes four nights in Rome, three nights in Assisi and return flights from a London Airport to Rome Fiumicino. For more information please ask for details.

Costs, further details and how to book can be found here: tinyurl.com/3x99cuxy

refreshments in the Millennium Hall, St Mary's Church, Tatsfield, TN16 2JX. Friday 22, 7pm, tickets: £12 per person. View flowers and paintings in the church, free entry: Saturday 23 10am–5pm, Sunday 24 11.30am–5pm and Monday 25 from 10am-5pm. Contact Chris Hancock, 07957 273225 or Marjory Broughton 07790 241070.

September

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

* HORLEY – Lay Ministry Taster
Sessions. Come and find out more
about Lay Ministry and explore your
vocation. Hear stories of people who
have experienced Lay Ministry roles
and training. 10.30am–12.30pm, at
St Bartholomew Church, Horley, RH6
8AB, Free. Questions or to book, email
learning@southwark.anglican.org

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

☐ STREATHAM – Organ Recital: Oliver King, Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, will perform an Organ Recital at St Peter's. 4pm at St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD. Details: stpeters-streatham.org

MON 22 TO WED 24 SEPTEMBER

* SOUTHWARK – Leading Your Church Into Growth (LyCiG) Conference: The Diocese of Southwark is committed to seeing our churches flourish and grow. We are excited to partner with LyCiG – a proven catalyst for this transformation – working together to grow God's kingdom across Southwark. £130.50. Christ Church, Blackfriars Road SE1 8NY. Register: tinyurl.com/kp7tkptv

October

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER

* SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL — SAVE THE DATE: Clergy Study Day. The Bishop of Southwark very much hopes that clergy will all be able to attend. Speakers include Mark Russell, CEO of the Children's Society and a Lay Canon of Southwark Cathedral. The day will begin with coffee at 9.30am and end at 3.30pm, with lunch provided. Full details and a link to sign up will follow shortly.

November

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

* WATERLOO – SAVE THE DATE: The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team will be hosting the JPIC Conference: Jubilee at St John's Church Waterloo.



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

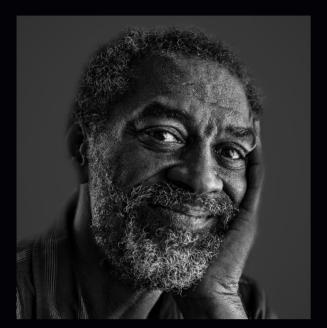


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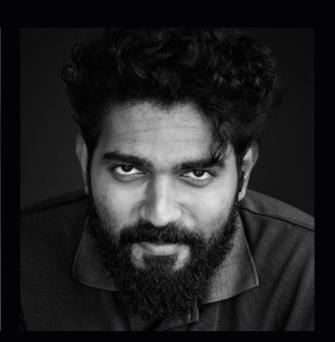
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Email your upcoming events to bridge@southwark.anglican.org

Black History Month







"Who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:15







A celebration of identity and belonging

Join this year's diocesan *Black History Month* Thanksgiving Service for an exciting day of fellowship, learning and celebration.

Saturday 4 October 2025, 10.30am–1.30pm Southwark Cathedral, SE1 9DA





Scan code to register for a free ticket.

