



The BRIDGE

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

Christ
Centred
Outward
Focused

Vol.30 No.7
September 2025

St Helier Centre of Mission

Rachel Marlow
commissioned into the
Office of Evangelists
See page 8



Final ordinations to the priesthood

Croydon and
Kingston Areas
See page 8



Interfaith

Mobilisation for
climate justice
See page 12



Go, Bishop, GO!

The Bishop of Kingston, The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, and his Border Collie Jem have raised more than £35,000 to build new schools in Zimbabwe by running 267 miles across the Pennine Way in 10 days.

Averaging a marathon a day for ten days and having started on 1 August, the energetic pair were joined by faithful friends along the way. The Pennine Way runs 267 miles, crossing some of the country's wildest terrain, from Edale in the Peak District to Kirk Yetholm just over the Scottish border, with nearly 40,000 feet of height gain. Bishop Martin was inspired to take on the challenge by the incredible children and teachers he met on a visit to Matabeleland in Zimbabwe last year.

With initial hopes to raise £30,000 to improve children's education in the region, nearly £27,500 has been given online to the cause, with more than a further £8,000 donated offline. The total raised at the time of going to print stands at £35,389.

The money raised will be used to build schools like the brand-new St Cecilia's School in Lupane – still under construction – but already offering an education to local children. St Cecilia's will allow many children to attend a local secondary school without having to make long journeys to do so. Many children currently walk up to 10km to get to their nearest school – a dangerous journey leaving many, particularly girls, unable to attend. Land has been secured and a bore hole dug by a team of local volunteers, allowing for latrines, a caretaker's house and garden, and space for livestock. This foundation is the first step towards a vision for classrooms, dormitories, a dining hall and rectory.

Fourteen-year-old pupil Ntokozo said, "Before we had hope, but now we have hope realised."

Before setting off, Bishop Martin said, "Please help make it worthwhile by giving generously to help children like Ntokozo access education that we so easily take for granted for our children here in the UK."

Keeping Jem well and safe was Bishop Martin's top priority throughout the challenge. Jem is a fit Border Collie ideally suited to mountainous terrain. Jem copes well with long distances and has done all the training runs with Bishop Martin. Making the route as flexible as possible, Bishop Martin carried extra water and food for Jem each day.

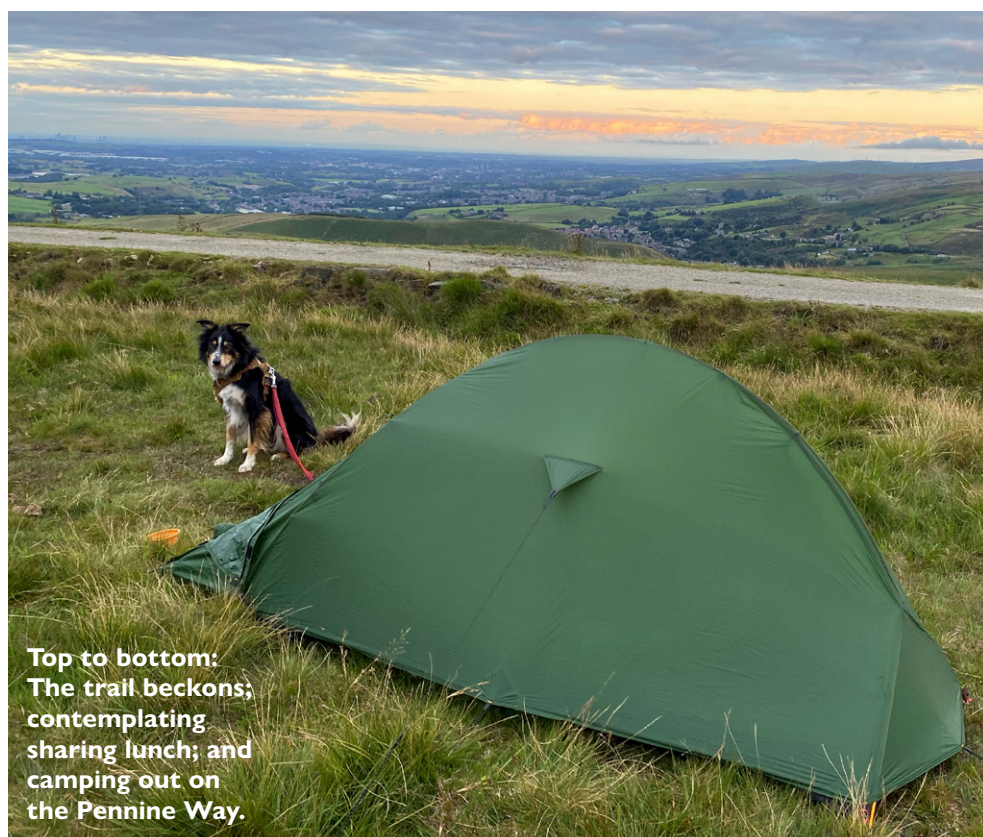
Bishop Martin said, "Running the equivalent of a marathon a day for ten days was pretty brutal as it is wild and mountainous terrain and it is quite easy to lose the path. I think it would be overstating it to say I enjoyed it but it is deeply exhilarating to have completed it in one piece! Jem, who was magnificent throughout, is now enjoying a more sedentary pace in Southfields.

"I have been amazed how my run has captured people's imagination – reflected in a huge amount of support and prayers, and incredible generosity in fundraising. To be able to make a difference to the lives of children in our Link Diocese of Matabeleland so they no longer have to walk long distances to school means more than I can say and makes all the pain and heartache worth it. Thanks be to God!"

The Kingston Episcopal Area in the Diocese of Southwark, which Bishop Martin leads, has had a link with the Anglican Diocese of Matabeleland in Zimbabwe for many years. The Link celebrates unity across the miles, helping churches and communities in both areas to grow in friendship and in faith.

Read more about the Matabeleland Link here: tinyurl.com/3jtw3mjv

You can sponsor Bishop Martin and Jem here: tinyurl.com/4zpfwa2c



Top to bottom:
The trail beckons;
contemplating
sharing lunch; and
camping out on
the Pennine Way.

A view from The BRIDGE



As many go back to work and students return to educational institutions, the busyness of our lives once again takes off. Whether you've been away or stayed at home, I hope that you have found some time for rest, refreshment and recreation over the Summer.

'Recreation' is one of those ambiguous words which carries within it the meaning of 'to make anew'. This reflection led me in turn to think about the relationship between rest and creation, and the need that many of us feel for green spaces and cool blue water to refresh our souls. Having grown up in southern Ireland, never far from a river or the sea, time near water is an important element of my family holidays. But this year, we learn that farmers across the United Kingdom have had to contend with the earliest start to the harvest season for at least 19 years. This phenomenon is a direct result of a changing climate. As we are grateful for the harvest, let us also continue our efforts to care for this beautiful world that God has given us. There are more details on the back page about how you and your parish can celebrate Creationtide.

Across our diocese, and further afield, some have taken the holiday season as an opportunity for even more activity. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Bishop Martin on his impressive achievement of

running the Pennine Way. With the start of the new academic year, it is wonderful to rejoice in the generosity of the donations which will be used to support education in our link Diocese of Matabeleland, Zimbabwe.

Sometimes in the midst of the busyness, we forget to take a step back and notice God in our daily lives. The Autumn sees lots of our parishes celebrating harvest festivals. This allows us to give thanks to God for the food we are fortunate enough to receive from his goodness. We should also take this opportunity to remember before God and pray for those that are less fortunate than us – not only around the world, but also on our doorsteps and among our congregations.

Towards the end of this month, we celebrate the feast of Michael & All Angels (Michaelmas). While not as prominent a feast as it used to be – I can recommend looking up some of the mediaeval customs and traditions if you fancy a good read – it still marks a turning point in the seasons. So, as the leaves begin to turn, I am praying for you all in this next season of mission and ministry in Southwark.

Nicola Thomas

Diocesan Secretary

NEWS IN BRIEF

Well City Church Bishop's Mission Order

On 16 July, Bishop Christopher signed the Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) for Well City Church as a Fresh Expression of Church – a new worshipping community formed of those who are not yet members of a church.



Bishop Christopher also licensed The Revd Peter Hughes (pictured), Minister in Charge of the King's Cross BMO in the Diocese of London, as Leader of Well City Church and The Revd Lois Tackie-Oblie, Assistant Curate of the King's Cross, BMO in the Diocese of London, as Assistant Curate of Well City Church.

In a post on X Will Cookson, Director of Mission said, "Lovely to be at the signing of the Bishops Mission Order for Well City Church by @BishopSouthwark and his licensing of Pete Hughes and Lois Tackie-Oblie A wonderful partnership with @ericauk Parish of Stockwell which is already seeing great fruit."

Bishop Christopher on Gaza

Bishop Christopher, as lead bishop on the Middle East, continues to call for ceasefire in response to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Israel and Gaza. He recently joined The Archbishop of York and the Bishops of Gloucester, Chelmsford and Norwich in supporting the recognition of a Palestinian state in response to the Prime Minister's announcement confirming that the UK will recognise the state of Palestine as a contribution to a sustainable and wider peace plan.

Read more here: tinyurl.com/ycy2r9xa

Churchwardens' training

On Saturday 19 July, 60 churchwardens from across the Kingston Episcopal Area (KEA) gathered for a training morning at St Andrew, Surbiton. There were seminars for new and returning churchwardens, as well as opportunities to meet and connect with each other over coffee. Churchwardens play a key role behind the scenes and their contributions to church life are invaluable. We are immensely grateful for all the hard work they do in our parishes, whether submitting faculty applications, supervising parishes in vacancy or managing the day-to-day running of churches.



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Next Issue: Submission deadline and guidance

The OCTOBER 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 **WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER.**

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

Diocesan Synod: transformational change across our diocese

Diocesan Synod took place at St Peter, Battersea on Thursday 10 July. Ninety-seven Members of Synod were welcomed to the meeting, which began in prayer, led by Adrian Greenwood, Lay Chaplain to Diocesan Synod.

Offering words of encouragement for members to both listen and contribute during their time together, Bishop Christopher introduced the discussions that were going to take place at the end of Synod concerning Living in Love and Faith (LLF) – national conversations on sexuality, relationships and identity.

He acknowledged the uncertainty and hurt that many people are experiencing and reiterated that as a diocese we should continue to speak well of one another, respecting the sincerity of those with whom we disagree.

Bishop Christopher said, “After an eight year process – in which Southwark led the

way in the number of parishes engaging with Living in Love and Faith – and by far the largest volume of feedback – this evening is an opportunity as a Synod to have an open consultation and listening exercise at the request of the national Church at last to discuss and provide feedback on two issues: first, the question of ‘bespoke’ or ‘standalone’ services using the Prayers of Love and Faith (for same sex couples) and the question of pastoral reassurance for those who do not, in conscience, wish to use the Prayers; and second, the timetable for considering the question of clergy entering same-sex civil marriages.”

Restating his commitment to the LLF process, he added, “In November 2023 after the General Synod motion on LLF, I made the following commitment to this Synod which again I continue to stand by: ‘The leadership of this Diocese will be utterly unshakeable in protecting the spectrum of conviction on this matter and

will continue to hold in high esteem and respect the sincerity of those who do not wish to use the prayers – as we will for those who do. I simply ask once again that we continue to speak well of each other as befits our calling as fellow members of the Body of Christ’.”

Members were also joined by Nick Shepherd, National LLF Programme Director and Reader in our diocese, who led the LLF consultation. You can read Bishop Christopher’s introduction to the LLF discussion here: tinyurl.com/44v5wnw5

In other Synod business, the Diocesan Registrar, Jon Baldwin, read the declaration of the promulgation of Amending the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 – the committee is responsible for preparing the Statement of Needs and electing representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission when there is a vacant bishopric. You can read the declaration and find out more on the General Synod website: tinyurl.com/5fverk98

The Synod then heard from guest speakers, Ruth Martin, Rachel Smith, and Andrew Dickinson who gave an update on the Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP) and its contribution to implementing the Southwark Vision – with each DIP project reflecting our diocesan priorities.

Other key achievements over the last year were highlighted at Synod, including the election and induction of new Synod members, the launch of the Parish Conversations initiative, an update on



Andrew Dickinson updates Synod on the Diocesan Investment Programme.

clergy wellbeing, our diocesan conference on Children and Young People Ministry, the launch of the Anti-Racism Charter Parish Study resource and feedback on the Bishop’s Certificate, completed by 55 people in 2024.

The Synod received the Diocesan Board of Finance’s Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2024. As well as the audited accounts, the report offers an overview of the mission and ministry of the diocese last year, as well as a snapshot of future plans. Hard copies of the report have been circulated to parishes.

Formal questions were taken and a facilitated group discussion on LLF took place. Synod concluded with compline.

Diocesan Synod will next meet in November 2025.

25 years of Southwark Cathedral Girls’ Choir

On Friday 11 July, Gloria! a concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Southwark Cathedral Girls’ Choir took place.

The summer concert, directed by Simon Hogan, Sub Organist and Assistant Director of Music featured performances of works including John Rutter’s Gloria and Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms.

In his introductory remarks at the concert, Bishop Christopher said, “It has been my happy lot to have experienced

twenty of those years at first hand, firstly as Bishop of Woolwich and then as Bishop of Southwark and the decision and efforts



of those first pioneers was never in doubt in the lives, the vocations and the voices of succeeding generations of girl choristers here at this Cathedral.

“As with the boys’ choir, there is something pure that carries, something beyond words, from the voices of the girls to the soul of the listener. There is something in the register of the voice, something, that operates in a frequency above the normal range of speech that combines with the acoustic of a building to speak to our subconscious. Their gift

is enormous, a skill honed by hard work and training. And their collective gift to us has much to do with Simon Hogan’s leadership, too.”

Over the years, the Girls’ Choir have toured the Czech Republic, Paris, Rome and Belfast and have been heard at the BBC’s Sir Henry Wood Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall.

For more information visit:
tinyurl.com/75avnkka

Stitching for good

On Saturday 26 July, Southwark Cathedral welcomed keen crafters to join a knitting and crochet marathon workshop led by Craft Forward to help knit and crochet blankets for people experiencing homelessness across London.

A day of fun and creativity, all ages were invited to come together, connect, learn more about the crafts and their radical history and enjoy the company of fellow knitting and crochet enthusiasts.

Established in 2021, *Craft Forward* is a not-for-profit that provides accessible, creative, experiences suitable for everyone, regardless of their skills and background.

Knitters produced 20x20cm knitted and crocheted squares to go towards *Blankets for London* – *Craft Forward*’s seasonal project – where they assemble blankets to donate to unhoused individuals in London through partner charities.

For more information about Craft Forward visit: craftforward.com

Music grant for Southwark Cathedral

Southwark Cathedral is one of the recipients of this year’s grants from the Cathedral Music Trust.

Cathedral Music Trust is a national charity which supports the valuable work of musicians who enrich so many lives through the power of cathedral music. Since its foundation in 1956, its made a positive difference to the lives of many thousands of children, young people and adult musicians across the UK and Ireland.

The Cathedral will receive £30,000 over the next two years to keep providing

opportunities for people from all walks of life to experience the life-transforming power of cathedral music.

The Revd Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor, said, “We’re incredibly excited at this generous award, which will enable us to make some of our dreams real and help sustain the life of the music department in a context which, in the absence of cathedral admission charges or an independent feeder school, can sometimes feel fragile. Singing for joy!”

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES



Butterflies, blessings and biodiversity

St Mary the Virgin, Horne recently transformed its grounds for an environmental celebration hosting two nature-focused initiatives in appreciation of God's creation.

The church came alive with colour and wonder on *Butterfly Awareness Day* (7 June), as people gathered to learn about butterflies.

Having transformed into a butterfly paradise, the church welcomed visitors to see wooden butterflies adorning the churchyard and paper butterflies floating throughout the church building. The display was created by children from the aptly named *Butterfly Nursery*, as well as dedicated parishioners and Ukrainian refugees.

Local enthusiast and parishioner Lauma Kazuša gave a talk, revealing native plants that attract butterflies and explaining how

everyone can embrace wildlife-friendly gardening to create a sanctuary for these important pollinators.

Talking about the gift of God's creation, Lauma said, "This isn't just about pretty butterflies and interesting plants – it's about something much bigger. When faith communities roll up their sleeves and embrace their role as creation's guardians, magic happens and the environment thrives, and everyone discovers something wonderful about the world around them. As those wooden butterflies continue to catch the sunlight in the churchyard and the paper ones dance inside the Church – they're reminders of what we can achieve when we celebrate the incredible gift of creation together."

Discovering hidden treasures, the Church also took part in the nationwide, Churches Count on Nature project, which encourages faith communities to



St Mary the Virgin, Horne – butterflies at home.

survey and celebrate the biodiversity on their grounds. The project was an opportunity for visitors to wander around the St Mary's churchyard and discover a variety of plants on display.

Lauma added:

"Some volunteers armed with clipboards and plant guides, seriously focused on their botanical detective work, while others took the more relaxed approach – appreciating the churchyard's hidden beauty with a cuppa and slice of cake in hand."

"For the less confident plant-spotters, there was a 'Can you spot?' trail that turned the whole experience into a delightful treasure hunt. No pressure, just pure enjoyment of the natural world around us."

"While the final tally is still being compared to 2021 figures, one thing is crystal clear – leaving some areas 'wilder for longer' has been a game-changer for plant and insect diversity. Nature knows what it's doing when we give it the chance!"

God at work 'outside the pews'

Earlier this year, the congregation of St Margaret, Chipstead launched its Faith Outside the Pews project – putting faith into action by supporting Welcare in and its outdoor spaces.

Welcare is a child and family support charity working across South London and East Surrey, which provides practical and emotional support to families facing challenges, offering one-to-one help and

group work programmes. The charity works alongside parents and carers, empowering them to build on their own strengths and skills to raise secure, resilient children.

Inspired by a reflection from The Revd Hannah Gordon, the church community took part in a project designed to make a real difference beyond their church walls. Drawing on the biblical examples of Abraham and Rahab – both of whom

acted boldly because of their faith – the congregation was asked: "What are you going to do?" Their answer came in the form of service, love, and dedication.

A group of 20 volunteers from St Margaret's gathered at Welcare House in Redhill to restore and revitalise its outdoor play area – a key space for the children and families they support. Volunteers planted flowers, painted equipment and created a welcoming, colourful environment filled with hope and joy. It was a multi-generational project that involved 41 members of the Church and included 11 young people who offered their energy, creativity, and compassion.

Welcare Family Centre Manager, Catherine Adeji, said, "It was a wonderful encouragement to us and a reason to thank God for His awesomeness. We have truly seen God at work through the people of St Margaret's."

Anna Khan, Chief Executive at Welcare said, "At Welcare, we believe faith is especially powerful when put into action and earlier this year, the congregation of St Margaret's Church, did exactly that through their inspiring project. What was once a tired, weathered outdoor space has become a vibrant area for children to play, explore, and flourish. We are so grateful to everyone who took part – your time, energy, and prayers are a blessing to the families we serve."

For more information visit: welcare.org



Volunteers from St Margaret, Chipstead revitalise the outdoor play area at Welcare House in Redhill.

"Hurrah, Bravi!"

Mary Lucille Hindmarch, member of the congregation at St Paul, Clapham and opera lover writes:

Now in its 13th year, St Paul's Opera's Summer Festival goes from strength to strength. The festival brings together young professional singers and musicians, alongside imaginative creative teams to showcase their talents – bringing first class, affordable opera to the local community's doorstep.

On 3–5 July, we experienced Donizetti's comic love story, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, translated with great aplomb from the social hierarchy of 19th Century rural Spain to that of post-war South London. Set in the defunct South London Hospital for Women, great ensemble singing and two splendid protagonists: Adina (Matron) and Nemorino (naïve medical student) – sung respectively by Fiona Hymns and Martins Smuksetelis – made for effervescent entertainment in the handsome early 19th Century interior of St Paul's Rectory Grove. All while the churchyard garden – plus great weather, provided the perfect place to picnic before the show.

Hurrah and bravi to all!

Celebrating 130 years

This year, the Mothers’ Union (MU) branch St Mary, Lewisham celebrates its 130th anniversary. On Saturday 5 July, the Church held a service of thanksgiving with MU members from across the Woolwich Area. Sue Steel, MU branch leader writes:

The Mothers’ Union at St Mary’s Church has celebrated 130 years since its first meeting in 1895. Yes, we existed before the Diocese of Southwark was formed. As part of the celebrations, we held a service of praise and thanksgiving. We invited branches from the Lewisham Deanery and wider Woolwich Area. About 70 people came to worship God and enjoy fellowship with our MU Diocesan President, Penny Lochhead, fellow members and friends.

Penny enrolled three new members and commissioned the new MU Deanery Leader. The choir provided a wonderful and uplifting musical rendition of Vivaldi’s *Gloria*.

The church was festooned with MU banners made by a talented member and there were exhibitions showcasing the history of the branch from its early years to present day. There were stalls at the back of church, with members selling souvenirs and hand-crafted items, MU cards and gifts, and, of course, cakes. All the proceeds from the sales went to the *Seeds of Hope* campaign – supporting women in Congo to provide hope for them and their children in many ways including education.

Praise the Lord, indeed!



On the frontline of climate change

In 2022, the church community at St Alfege, Greenwich started working in earnest towards its bronze Eco Church Award. Since then, the Church has taken steps to become more involved in climate justice and supported a tree planting programme in the Diocese of Lake Malawi.

The Eco Church Award Scheme involves completing a questionnaire – which provides a framework for environmental action a church can take. Keith Ison, Admin Coordinator for the Eco Group said, “Questions in the ‘Community and Global Engagement’ section of the questionnaire stimulated

us to get more involved in justice and environmental issues. We joined a local community network in southeast London and heard about a film highlighting climate injustice through previously unheard voices. We were able to screen the documentary ‘The Ants and the Grasshopper’ at our church and it encouraged us to look for a project to support in Africa.

“Through a personal connection to Green Anglicans – an environmental movement started by The Anglican Church of Southern Africa to encourage care for creation – we found a tree planting programme in the Diocese of Lake Malawi that we were interested in supporting. In June 2024, we invited one of their coordinators, who was studying in the UK, to talk to our church. After that we raised enough money to enable three parishes in Lake Malawi to buy and plant 400 fruit and nut trees in February this year. This initiative was oversubscribed, with scope to do a lot more.

“These actions have shown us how difficult things are for those on the front line of climate change, but also that we can help and support them at a community level. It also shows that a small first step can result in actions that are encouraging and life-giving to ourselves and others.”

For more information about caring for creation, please visit: tinyurl.com/2ja7as93



Honouring servers

On 22 June, the congregation at St John Chrysostom Church, Peckham welcomed the Bishop of Woolwich, The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting, to preside and preach for a special service to celebrate servers.

After the service Bishop Alastair presented plaques and certificates to people who have significantly served the Church, as well as volunteers in the Southwark community. A long service award was also presented to Linda Smith, PCC Secretary, who has served for over 40 years in various capacities.

The Revd Emmanuel Adeloye, Vicar said, “We were all delighted to welcome Bishop Alastair on the First Sunday after Trinity.

“Bishop Alastair preached a spiritually uplifting sermon on the Gospel for the day. In his exhortation, he spoke at length about issues of mental health, even in biblical times, as well as healing and the call to witness.



L-R: Bishop Alastair and The Revd Emmanuel Adeloye.

“He reminded us that these remain vital concerns in our own day.

“Following the service, members were glad to have the opportunity to speak with Bishop Alastair personally during a reception held in his honour. We are sincerely grateful to Bishop Alastair for coming to minister among us.”

A joyful welcome

On Monday 7 July, The Revd Matt Drummond was collated and inducted by Bishop Christopher as Vicar of St Francis of Assisi and St Mary of Nazareth, West Wickham.

In a post on X, Bishop Christopher said, “A joy to collate The Revd Matthew Drummond to the benefice of St Francis of Assisi with St Mary of Nazareth, West Wickham this evening – hearty singing and wonderful food after the service – a joyful start – *Deo gratias!*”



© Rockpixon Music Photography by John Bull.

A very messy baptism

On Wednesday 11 June St Mark, Downham held its first *Messy Church* baptism. Inspired by the *Southwark Splash Messy Church* baptism service in 2019 and using a baptismal pool borrowed from St John, Blackheath, – five adults and nine children were baptised, and two adults renewed their baptismal vows after returning to faith.

The majority of those being baptised began coming to St Mark’s after a church member started chatting to them at the school gate and invited

them to get involved with *Messy Church*. Since restarting *Messy Church* after the pandemic, they have been core members, inviting their friends and family to join the community – as well as helping to plan themes and activities.

Others who were baptised had joined St Mark’s through its Thursday Mental Health Coffee Morning – a discussion group that checks in with people who are looking to improve their mental health and those on a recovery journey. It also offers activities and techniques to improve mental wellbeing. This is followed by a short, reflective act of worship and bible study.

Many others who were baptised or renewed their baptismal vows were part of the team from St Mark’s that attended the Recovery Course Conference (April 2025) – designed to equip anyone involved in addiction recovery ministry – and funded by a grant from the diocesan Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation team.

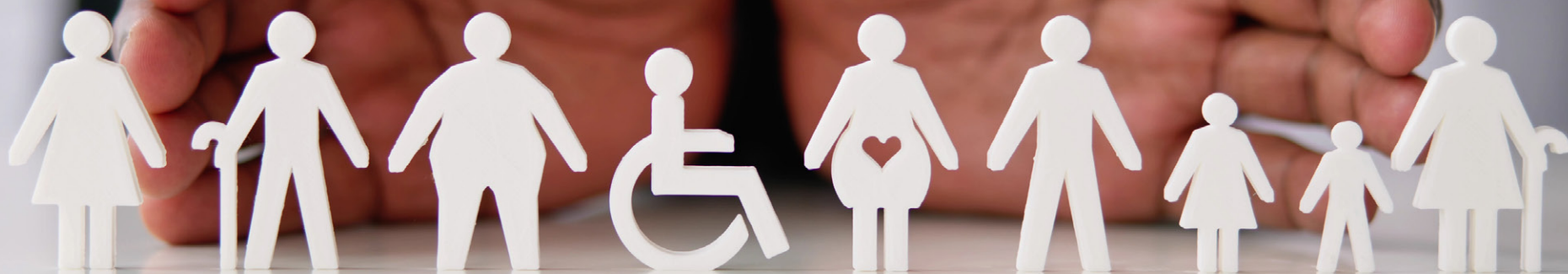
One of the candidates for baptism said:

“It feels like the start of a new beginning and an exciting step.”





IN FOCUS... Safeguarding



Making our churches safer for all

Safeguarding is an integral part of the mission and ministry of the Church. Ensuring good practice, robust policies, procedures and guidelines are all crucial in making our churches safe and welcoming places for all.

Earlier this year we asked Parish Safeguarding Officers to complete an audit to help us get a better understanding of safeguarding across our parishes. The

survey yielded a 99% return, and we are pleased to share your important feedback – which is summarised across these pages. A huge thank you to so many of you for ensuring that these audits were completed so comprehensively and submitted on time.

Additionally, over the summer, we have been piloting our new Parish Safeguarding Dashboards with a small number of parishes. The dashboards are designed to provide PCCs and Parish Safeguarding Officers with support and a framework for fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities. More information about

the dashboards will be shared this autumn and the diocesan Safeguarding Team will share plans for rolling them out across the whole diocese

Later this year, we will also be engaging with an 'INEQE audit' – an independent safeguarding audit programme for the Church of England commissioned by the Archbishops' Council and overseen by the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team. Led by the INEQE Safeguarding Group and working to a consistent framework, the audits test the sufficiency of safeguarding arrangements within CofE

dioceses and cathedrals. To make sure the audit is as comprehensive as possible, churches will be asked to encourage and support their parishioners to complete surveys between January and March 2026. These surveys will help the audit team to develop a complete picture of how our diocese is working in relation to the five National Safeguarding Standards. INEQE's report and action plan for our diocese will be published once the audit is complete.

For safeguarding support, please visit:
southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding

Audit headlines

99% response rate across our diocese

98% of parishes have insurance in place to support the work of the Church activities

97% of activities undertaken in the name of the PCC involving vulnerable adults and children are insured adequately

96% of parishes record all safeguarding incidents and keep secure records

90.8% of parishes are aware of the procedures for managing offenders in church

90.5% of parishes have updated parish information with current safeguarding information and are GDPR compliant

Work being completed

385 Parish Safeguarding Officers trained

229 Clergy & incumbents trained in safeguarding

198 Parishes provide induction training to CYP or adult workers and volunteers

185 Parishes with complaints procedures in place

180 Parishes with grievance procedures in place

120 Parishes conduct regular one-to-ones

126 Whistleblowing Policies in place

You told us about your key achievements...

- "Our culture. In a recent conversation parishioners volunteered that they felt safeguarding is a subject they are very welcome to talk about in the parish."

"We are known locally as a place to get help, which we are proud of."
- "Safeguarding concerns are looked into promptly by the Parish Safeguarding Officers and discussed with the Incumbent and with the Diocese Safeguarding Team if needed. Records are stored securely online."

"We have initiated and completed a complete range of policies and procedures and provided means to display them in church."
- "As a result of an Independent Safeguarding Review conducted by Jericho Road Consultancy, we have implemented a significant number of recommendations."

"Regular reminders on safeguarding issues in notices during the church service, contact details updated on website, regular safeguarding note on the our E-news."
- "Handling a complex safeguarding situation. Liaising with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Achieving a resolution. Reflecting after this on our ability to handle future situations."

Your feedback about diocesan support.....

- "We need better communication between the safeguarding officer and the PCC."

"The wider understanding of safeguarding in the parish needs to be strengthened to include vulnerable adults. There is still very much a focus on children."

"More online and on demand training."

"More sermons."
- "Please be clear about PCC members training and DBS requirements."

"A training tracker, automated emails from the diocese or portal for volunteers."

"Whilst the training makes sense to be online, there should be face to face options too, especially for those who struggle digitally."
- "Always available to ask questions, and they respond quickly."

"When I have received feedback it has always been very useful, however I find non-urgent emails can take a while to be answered."

"He was clear in his advice and satisfied with our response. No further action was required."
- "Tighten up and maintain procedures on handover, annual review and new volunteers."

"Parish Safeguarding Officers need to be more active in risk assessments"

"The administrator always responds to any questions in a timely manner and gets back to me with any resources that I have asked about."

How we will help you...

- ♦ If courses develop a waiting list, the Safeguarding Team can schedule additional courses to cater for demand – the training coordinator will identify this through event management tools.
 - ♦ Roll out of Parish Safeguarding Dashboards to support the national Safeguarding Standards and mandatory requirements. Further information to follow.
- ♦ The team is developing a Safeguarding Toolkit that supports needs highlighted by the Parish Audit. Further information to follow.
 - ♦ We will seek more parish feedback on our work to confirm that
- parishes are happy with the service they are receiving. This will include more PSO forums and webinars.

 - ♦ We will recruit more volunteer safeguarding trainers.

You rate our **7.8/10** Safeguarding Team

70% of churches have contacted the team for safeguarding advice

Action Speaks Louder

Safeguarding Sunday will take place on Sunday 16 November.

It's is an annual safeguarding awareness campaign led by *Thirtyone:eight* – the UK's leading independent Christian safeguarding charity. Safeguarding Sunday is an opportunity to highlight the importance of safeguarding, repent of our failings and give thanks for the good work that continues to be done.

This year the emphasis of the campaign is 'Action Speaks Louder' – encouraging

churches to not just talk about safeguarding but to take positive action.

To take part in the campaign you can register for a free online guide and resources to help you to make safeguarding part of your service. It includes prayers, sermon notes, activity ideas, children's resources and loads more. For more information visit: SafeguardingSunday.org





More priests ordained

Following the ordination of 14 priests in our diocese on 5 July, two additional services were held and a further three priests ordained.

Croydon Area
In a service on 19 July at St Michael & All Angels, Croydon, **Graham Hains** was ordained Priest by The Bishop of Fulham, The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker who also preached. Graham will continue to serve at St Michael & All Angels with St James.

Kingston Area
In a service on 29 July, at St Andrew, South Wimbledon, the following were ordained Priest by The Rt Revd Bishop Precious Omuku, Honorary Assistant

Bishop, Diocese of Southwark. The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough was present.

Oliver (Ollie) Butlin
St Andrew, South Wimbledon

Zimuzo (Zim) Okoli
Holy Trinity, Clapham

You can read more about this year's ordinands here: tinyurl.com/2t5fntfv



Top – Kingston: The Rt Revd Bishop Precious Omuku, Zim Okoli and Ollie Butlin.
Right – Croydon: Dr Anthony Adeloye (Sacristan), Fr Tim Pike, Fr Graham Hains and Fr Antonio Joseph.



Transformative faith

On Saturday 19 July, Rachel Marlow, Church Army Evangelist, was admitted and commissioned into the Office of Evangelists under the authority of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York during a ceremony at Sheffield Cathedral.

Rachel Marlow (pictured) is part of the team at the St Helier Centre of Mission in partnership with the Church Army based at St Peter, St Helier.

Rachel's story is one of transformation, faith, and calling. After rediscovering her connection to Jesus during her time as a

primary school teacher, Rachel embraced a new chapter in her life, leading her to become a Pioneer Evangelist with Church Army at the St Helier Centre of Mission. Her ministry focuses on youth and children, and she has seen God work powerfully through initiatives like youth groups, school outreach, and even an Alpha course tailored for new mums.

Through the Evangelist-in-Training course, Rachel deepened her understanding of God's glory and gained essential tools for her ministry, while building lasting relationships and finding affirmation in her calling as an evangelist. Following her Admission and Commissioning, Rachel



continues to serve her community with renewed faith and purpose.

One of nine candidates admitted, Rachel described her admission and commissioning as a celebration of her

incredible journey. She said, "It's a time to celebrate. To reflect on how far I've come and all that God has done in my life over the past three years. God has changed me and transformed me, and that's something to celebrate."

Rachel's story reminds us of the profound impact of a leap of faith, the power of transformation, and the joy of walking the path God has called us to follow.

Read more about Rachel's story here: tinyurl.com/mva7nae6

Join us for a day focused on social action and social justice, with speakers and workshops to inspire, challenge and encourage. We will be coming together to reflect on God's heart for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

JUBILEE: JUSTICE PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION CONFERENCE



SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WATERLOO

Register: tinyurl.com/4ccs4twp



NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

A ‘Separated Child’ in need of support

Imagine arriving in a strange country, seeking asylum, completely alone. Imagine being a child or young person and not having your parents with you because they were killed before you left – or were unable to leave with you.

The *Separated Child Foundation* offers emotional, social and practical support to children and young people who arrive in the UK alone as refugees. These young people have to flee their homelands because of war, terrorism or persecution.

The foundation’s aim is to ensure that every separated child in the UK gets the support they need in order to be able to rebuild their lives and fulfil their potential.

They work with volunteers to create arrival packs and sleep packs for newly arriving separated children, which offer much needed comfort and dignity. They also run Club Class, a weekly educational, social and cultural programme for up to 30 separated young people aged 14–18. It offers refreshments and supper to help young refugees improve their English, learn and socialise in a safe space.

More locally, the charity has been working closely with the Church and the local community in Croydon since 2022, collaborating with Croydon Minster and St George, Waddon. The Church provides practical support and a space where people can drop in and join parishioners to help assemble arrival packs and sleep packs for young people in and around the Croydon area.

Poor sleep health can be a major issue for separated children. For safety on their tortuous journeys, the children usually travel in groups at night and sleep during the day, taking turns to keep watch. When they arrive in the UK, most are completely nocturnal, unable to settle and frequently suffer from nightmares. Likewise, those who have spent time in detention centres or makeshift camps experience disturbed sleep. These children have difficulties in falling and staying asleep at night, waking up in the morning and staying awake during the day. These struggles contribute to poor concentration and a lack of emotional stability, in addition to the PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) from which many lone refugee children and young people suffer.

The sleep pack – designed by a psychotherapist specialising in children’s sleep and who has been working with



All photos © Trisha Kierzek

separated children and young people – includes recommended practical aids to provide a restful and refreshing sleep. Each pouch contains: a night shirt, a plug-in night light, a lavender bag, a specially created ‘Sweet Dreams’ card, an eye mask, ear plugs, tissues and a stress ball.

Hannah Williams, Chief Executive at *Separated Child* said, “We’ve seen a huge increase in demand for our sleep pack recently, with more and more people reaching out for support for separated children. We’re now fundraising for, creating and distributing over 2,000 sleep packs a year with over a quarter of those being given out in South East England.”

Sleep packs are currently distributed through the foundation’s 150 partnerships with NHS mental health teams, providers of accommodation for unaccompanied minors, colleges and grassroots refugee support organisations, as well as direct requests from foster-carers

Hannah said, “The partnership with Croydon Minster and St George’s has enabled us to distribute over 3,000 additional packs to separated children over the past three years.

“We’ve really felt the support of the whole parish and surrounding community and we know from feedback from our partners that the feeling of being cared for and supported makes a big difference to our young people, too.”

One of the foundation’s partners said, “When young people are placed in our accommodation they arrive with very little

and are weighed heavy with loss – loss of family, of country and of belongings.

“We find that giving the sleep packs gives our support workers the opportunity to gently bring up the subject of sleep loss, mental health and PTSD.”

Essentials and arrival packs are also distributed with the support of other charities and local authorities who children first encounter when they arrive in the UK.

The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Bishop, Vicar of, Croydon said:

“Working with Hannah and the team at Separated Child has opened our eyes to the desperate need of unaccompanied child migrants in the UK.

“Coming together to assemble the sleep packs and arrival packs has meant we have rolled up our sleeves to respond and, we hope, make a difference to these young, frightened and vulnerable lives. Our prayer for them has found a welcome practical expression.”

This month, Croydon Minster will be hosting a packing session in partnership with *Separated Child* on Sunday 21 September. The event will be an opportunity to find out more about the foundation’s work and to help create 300 sleep packs for separated children. The packing session will begin at around 11.30am in Croydon Minster, after the morning service. All are welcome to attend.

For more information visit:
separatedchild.org



International Day of Charity

On 5 September, we celebrate and recognise the International Day of Charity.

This day serves as a reminder of the importance of generosity, compassion, and speaking out against injustice. Charitable organisations, both big and small, play an important role in addressing the many challenges faced by individuals in our communities. Initiatives run and supported by our churches, such as the Sleep Packs (above), are a way of practically demonstrating God’s love to

the vulnerable. As well as this, charitable organisations and churches continue to work to address the deeper causes of hardship. This includes challenging the unjust structures, policies and systems that allow inequality and suffering to persist. In doing so, we bring together both mercy and justice and show a commitment to both immediate care and lasting change. This International

Day of Charity, let’s us take a moment to pray for those who are involved in any charitable work to alleviate poverty and suffering.

For more about International Day of Charity visit: tinyurl.com/ye2azh29



Sacramental youth ministry gathers momentum



In our series unpacking the priorities of the Southwark Vision, The Revd Fr Kieron Rowley writes...

In what has been four months of milestones, Youth Ministry in Communion Southwark (YMIC SW) has really begun to take shape as our sacramental youth ministry network comes to life. I took up my role as director only a few months ago and hit the ground racing! Over the last few months, it has been excellent to see this project grow and gather pace here in southwest London.

YMIC SW is a growing network of churches that are working together to share the love of God with young people within the sacramental, liturgical and catholic spectrum of the Church of England. We are an inclusive and exciting new initiative, made possible via the Diocesan Investment Programme – a whole transformation programme to facilitate mission and growth projects. This programme seeks to answer the call of our diocesan vision to become a younger more diverse church.

Our vision is to see young people thriving in the love of God and their parishes thriving because of them. It is our belief that teenagers and young people are not the church in waiting, they are the church of right now!

It has been wonderful to see parishes getting involved in the project. We recently held our first big gathering at St Mark, Wimbledon, where young people came together from across the area for an afternoon of fun, food, and faith. At the heart of our work is the eucharist and so gathering with young people at the altar for communion is part of every event.

‘Partner parishes’ are joining with us to build this exciting network of youth focused churches. In August, we launched applications for our first cohort of Network Youth Workers who are deployed across the southwest of London to work within partner parishes. We are thrilled at the prospect of our team growing and we really do feel that we are gathering momentum.

Looking forward, we have much to offer young people. In October, we will be taking time out to reflect together and we have lots of adventures planned for our Youth Camp. We also plan to expand the YMIC project to other areas of the diocese with new networks hopefully being planted in the next few years. Our prayer is that one day, all young people in our diocese – in the inclusive sacramental traditions of the Church of England – will be able to engage with a YMIC parish.

The Revd Fr Kieron Rowley is Director of Youth Ministry in Communion, Southwark .

Details of Southwark Vision and the core document can be downloaded at: southwark.anglican.org/southwark-vision. For more information on the YMIC project email: Kieron.rowley@parishofputney.co.uk



Top & above: Fun, food and faith at a YMIC SW gathering at St Mark, Wimbledon.



LET US PRAY

The Venerable Jonathan Sedgwick
Archdeacon of Southwark

Creationtide

For some years now, the Church has encouraged us alongside our traditional harvest celebrations to think of the season from September through to the Feast of St Francis on 4 October as the ‘Season of Creation’.

There is no more fundamental a belief than that God is our Creator and that God creates and sustains all that is. As God says to Job in v4 chapter 38 of that book, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?”

What follows from this affirmation of God as Creator is perhaps even more remarkable – it is that we are called to be co-workers with God in caring for creation. At the end of the first account of creation in Genesis 1 v28, God commands humans to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. Genesis 2 v15 strikes a different but complementary tone, the Hebrew word ‘abed’ used here is elsewhere usually translated as ‘serve’ but in this context we might think of it as ‘care for’ or ‘steward’.

A steward is one who has authority and is respected but does not own what is being cared for. So it might help to think of ourselves as gardeners in creation, tending and nurturing, or to use the precious language of safeguarding. It is clear from both these Genesis texts that human beings have a particular vocation as the ones who, with our combination of physical and intellectual attributes, can enable all that is created to live together in peace and harmony.

Never has that vocation been so vital as human violence and over-consumption are causing havoc on such a scale as to

threaten our very survival. The work of St Mary’s Eco Church, which The Revd Sharon Moughtin leads, is a wonderful response to that challenge, as it brings together worship, study of scripture and practical action. So we give thanks for that work – and the many other examples in our diocese – as we pray for God’s blessing upon our world.

*May God bless us with wonder at creation’s glory.
May God bless us with fury at creation’s spoiling.
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rest upon us and on all creation, this day and for the future to come.
Amen.*

WHAT'S ON

Please send details of your next events for OCTOBER ONWARDS to Trinity House **BY THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**

September

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

- * **DULWICH** – Summer fayre at St Clement with St Peter, Dulwich. Refreshments, bouncy castle, face painting, cakes, crafts, books, bric-a-brac, *Opal Flutes*, gardens and heritage orchard. 11.30am–2.30pm, 140 Friern Road, SE22 0AY. tinyurl.com/3btburv5

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

13 & 14 SEPTEMBER

- * **KENLEY** – All Saints Kenley is taking part in *Open House 2025*. Saturday: Guided tours of the church. Drop in time 9am–5pm, breakfast talk 9–10.30am, free. Sunday: evening music performance 6.30–8pm. All Saints, Church Rd, Kenley CR8 5DU.

🎵 Concerts at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

ORGAN CONCERTS: THURSDAY EVENINGS, 7.30PM

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.
Details at: sjun.org.uk

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

- * **SOUTHFIELDS** – Diocese of Southwark Kingston Area Lay Conference: *Confident Faith in a Changing World*. Keynote Speaker ++Rowan Williams. Bishop Martin invites all lay people in the Kingston Area to attend this day. 10–4pm, at St Cecilia's Church of England School, Sutherland Grove SW18 5JR. Free. Details & register: tinyurl.com/yxt25hwn

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 Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2SD, 4pm. Details: stpeters-streatham.org

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

- * **UPPER NORWOOD** – *Open House*: historical displays about the Church from. Guided tours by local historian, organ recitals, children's activities and refreshments available. 11am–4pm at All Saints Church with St Margaret's, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood, SE19 3EP. Info: allsaintsun.org

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

- * **CLAPHAM** – *Big Green Day* – gather for a fun family day to celebrate local action on climate change. Learn how to protect the environment and how to be more sustainable. Speakers, workshops, stalls, children's activities, seed swap, nature quiz and a bring-and-share meatless lunch. 11am–3pm, at St Paul's Churchyard and Eden Nature Garden, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DZ. Free. Details: tinyurl.com/txzybhe4 or email bgdclapham@gmail.com

Kingston Area Lay Conference – 20 September 2025



Confident Faith in a Changing World

The Diocese of Southwark

Leading your Church into Growth

Leading your Church into Growth

22-24 September
Christ Church
Blackfriars Road
SE1 8NY

Scan the QR code to book and find out more

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

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – *Southwark Against Modern Slavery*. Hear expert speakers share their knowledge and experience to learn more about Modern Day Slavery, how to spot the signs and what we can do as individuals and churches. 10am–3.30pm, Southwark Cathedral, SE1 9DA. Free event, lunch included. Booking: tinyurl.com/6uzd63sf

October

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

- * **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL** – *Black History Month Thanksgiving Service*. Join this year's diocesan event for a day of fellowship, learning and celebration. 10.30am–1.30pm at Southwark Cathedral, SE1 9DA. Free. Register: tinyurl.com/5t35e83a

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.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

- * **WATERLOO** – The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team will be hosting the JPIC Conference: *Jubilee* at St John's Church Waterloo. Register: tinyurl.com/4ccs4twp



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

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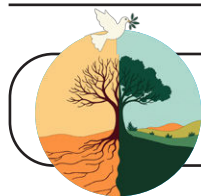


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IN FOCUS... *Season of creation*

Interfaith action for climate justice

Dr Shanon Shah, Director of Faith for the Climate, based at St John, Waterloo writes:

This September, people of faith are coming together for justice which, according to Dr Martin Luther King Jr, “is what love looks like in public”. For Christians, it is the Season of Creation – a sacred time to rejoice in God’s gift of life, to lament the harm done to the Earth, and to renew our commitment to care for our common home. This year, it also marks a key moment in the *Make Them Pay* campaign – a nationwide call for repentance and repair from the wealthiest and most powerful who profit from pollution and injustice.

On Saturday 20 September, *Faith for the Climate* will lead a faith-based presence at the *Make Them Pay* march in London, which will include participation from many of our Christian members as well as those of other faiths. Together, we seek to give public witness to a simple moral truth – those who have caused the most damage to our planet should help repair it.

This mobilisation follows an interfaith letter we sent in June to the UK government, signed by over 20 Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist faith leaders. The letter calls for

taxing fossil fuel companies and the super-rich to fund action on climate change – particularly support for communities in the Global South who suffer the gravest consequences of a crisis they did not cause.

Faith voices have continued to speak out. In July, ahead of the Climate Coalition’s Mass Lobby of Parliament, the *Church Times* published a joint article by the Bishop of Norwich, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, and Kamran Shezad from the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences. Together, as “children of Abraham”, they urged the UK to show moral leadership by paying its fair share.

The facts are stark. While extreme wealth grows – UK billionaires gained £35 million a day in 2024 – ordinary people struggle, public services are under strain, and climate disasters intensify. This is not just an economic or political issue. It is a spiritual one.

Jesus teaches us to care for the poor, share what we have, and walk humbly with God. The earliest Christians shared possessions so that no one was in need. Today, these same values inspire *Make Them Pay*’s demands: tax the super-rich,



protect workers not billionaires and hold polluters accountable.

Churches across the world are joining this call. Also in July, Catholic bishops from Africa, Asia, and Latin America released a powerful statement demanding the end of fossil fuels, a just energy transition, and fair climate finance. The World Council of Churches has produced a toolkit to help communities challenge those financing environmental destruction.

We invite people of all faiths to join us in prayer, witness, and action – for climate justice, for our neighbours, and for the generations to come.

Find out more at faithfortheclimate.org.uk and makethempay.org.uk



Top: The faith presence at the Mass Lobby, 9 July. Bottom: Left to right: Canon Giles Goddard, Dr Shanon Shah, and Suraiya Rahman (Islamic Relief UK), in front of their multifaith prayer tree.

Supporting your church during Generosity Week 2025

Generosity Week 2025 (Sunday 28 September to Sunday 5 October) offers a powerful opportunity to engage congregations in exploring and reflecting on their spiritual practice of giving.

The diocesan Giving Team is here to empower churches with a rich suite of resources. This year, the Everyday Faith app (in partnership with Preaching

Generosity) is offering six which will invite users to meditate on gratitude, generosity, and the transformative power of giving with love. Each reflection last about five minutes and is accompanied by a question and a short prayer. Churches can also engage with a special children’s and families challenge and a children’s video series on Generosity. There are also inspiring sermon outlines, creative worship ideas and digital assets to equip

churches and refresh contactless Giving Stations. All this should enable meaningful conversations around giving; so whether you’re planning a Sunday service or a bigger campaign, our tools are designed to help celebrate generosity as a joyful act of faith. If you would like us to support your church in cultivating a culture of giving at any time of year, contact the team who’ll be happy to help.

Find out more

Contact Gemma Curran for more information at: Gemma.Curran@southwark.anglican.org

You can access reflections on the Everyday Faith app here: tinyurl.com/d6b6xbfe

Children’s and families challenge here: bit.ly/4omWgbd

Cheeky Pandas videos here: cheekypandas.com

Parish Support Fund 2026

The Parish Support Fund (PSF) resources the costs of our clergy and the support given to each parish in our diocese. Each year

parishes are invited to make a pledge to the PSF which is realistic, challenging, and generous. These pledges fund our shared mission in each community in every part of our diocese.

To help parishes understand how the PSF supports parish mission and ministry, Q&A sessions were hosted by the Archdeacons in Croydon, Kingston and Woolwich over the summer. Diocesan Secretary, Nicola Thomas and Gabby Parikh, Director of Giving joined

colleagues from the Croydon Episcopal Area at Christ Church, Purley for one of the area Q&A sessions (pictured).



This year, we are celebrating 10 years of the PSF and materials – including videos which celebrate the impact of our parishes’ generosity – are available online. We hope that you have been encouraged by these stories, and that they help you to understand what your pledge pays towards. Thank you to all who have generously pledged so far. Please remember that the deadline to submit your parish pledges is 15 September.

For more information about the PSF visit our website: tinyurl.com/bdh83hnn