



# *The Spire*

*The Parish Magazine of*  
**CHRIST CHURCH**  
*— Southgate —*

*July & August 2021*



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# Welcome!

## From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Welcome to the July/August Edition of *The Spire* magazine that sends people off on their summer break. I've just looked back at what I wrote for this issue last year and I wonder if much has changed. Here it is...

“We have started taking tentative steps to returning to normality – at the time of writing we are still on track to reopen for services under controlled conditions on the date of publication of this issue – so we all have to take what we have learnt during lockdown and work out what the new world will look like. This will need to be at a global, national, parish, family and personal level.”

Does that sound familiar? Well, we did re-open, and then closed again, and we are still waiting to know what “normality” will actually look like, and the need to work out how to go forward has still not gone away or been resolved.

We are still waiting for any hints as to what “freedom” day will actually look like on the 19<sup>th</sup> July. I will be honest and admit that being in large crowds and wedged into a packed tube train are things I'm not sure I will be ready for in a couple of weeks' time. We all have to get used to people and different spaces again, so in church we will continue to be cautious and careful so that everyone feels comfortable to keep coming, or come back, to church. Everyone will have their own different way of dealing with mixing with people again and we must all respect that there is no right thing to do – and there is no rush!

One thing this month, that is outside and we can spread out for, is the launch of the Friends of Christ Church Garden. Come at 1.30pm with your picnic and join us in the churchyard on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

In this issue you will also hear from the six Senior Choristers who will be leaving us for further education (and adventures) - Jemima Carroll, Sophie Dennis, Rolf Stevens, Emma Somerville, Lauren Somerville and Alex Rogers. We have been so fortunate to have had them all with us and

benefited from their enthusiasm and talent in leading our worship for many years. Thanks must also go to the parental support teams! The Choristers' last service with us will be on Sunday 11th July so come and hear them for the last time as a group – but I'm sure they will be back! We look forward to hearing news of their progress. As Tobias' father said to him

when sending him off on his journey: "May God in heaven bring you safely there and return you in good health; and may his angel accompany you for your safety."

Have a lovely summer and well-deserved break to return to the new world in September.

Every blessing,  
*Fr Chrichton*



## Friends of Christ Church Garden



Friends, Romans and Gardeners! Lend us your forks, spades, secateurs and ideas!

The launch picnic of **The Friends of Christ Church Garden** will take place on **Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, starting at 1.30 pm in the Churchyard.

Please come along, and bring your sandwiches, thermos flasks, and any thoughts you have about the development and future of this group. You do not have to be a gardener – being supportive and enthusiastic is enough... after all, once the Covid restrictions are behind us, we will also need tea-makers, cake-bakers and fund-raisers, in addition to the ground force. So, if you have any interest at all in how we can make the best use of our wonderful green space for the benefit of the community as a whole (not just our own parishioners), please join us and consider becoming one of our Friends.

*Sandra Anderson*

## Weekly Services

Sunday 8.00am Said Eucharist  
10.00am Choral Eucharist  
6.30pm Evensong

Thursday 12.30pm Said Eucharist  
All welcome



## Everything Changes but God Changeth Not

God is with us. We knew, deep down, that he would always be with us, and he is still there to help us through the next stage of our lives. Now the restrictions are being lifted, little by little, and our lives are gradually changing – not necessarily changing back to exactly the way things were but none the less, changing. We have all changed, and our outlook on life is now from a different viewpoint.

Using public transport may have been an everyday occurrence in the past, but now each new trip seems like an adventure into the unknown. I expect it will seem like that for sometime to come.

Many of us have braved public transport to visit familiar places, only to find the unexpected. New houses, flats, shops and office blocks have replaced familiar buildings, and new structures have appeared in familiar parks and gardens.



This week Philip and I caught two over ground trains to Kew Gardens. Although we have a season ticket we hadn't been there for 18 months. We were thrilled to find changes there in 'The Secret World of Plants'. We were able to see God's work first hand, through the hard work of the gardeners and the artist Vaughn Bell who has created six *plantscapes* around the park. Each *plantscape* has a theme: 'Green roofs', 'Meadows and marshes', 'Moorlands', 'Woodlands', 'Coastal sand dunes', and 'Hedgerows'.

Each one also had an informed curator who told us all we wanted to know about the plants and their environment. It took us a while to realise that each *plantscape* had several 'headholes', at different heights, which meant that adults and children could peep through the holes and see the plants all around them at eye level. One was obviously for giants, or a child on an adult's shoulders. They are great fun.

I find plants fascinating. I believe that God created all plants, and we have a duty to care for them for future generations. Looking at them at eye level makes it so easy to appreciate their perfection.

We continue to pray to God, asking for his help to assist us to care for his good creation so that generations to come can also appreciate what we can now marvel at.



Hazel Miall



## **My Testimony. (From my Licensing service, 24th June 2021.)**

I'm absolutely thrilled to be able to bear witness this evening to the role of God in my life. His influence has been very deep and our time here tonight is short, but these are a few of the milestones we've passed together on the journey to where I stand now.

Jesus entered my life twenty years ago as I studied here in London. I was in the depths of sorrow following the death of my elder brother. In my grief, I felt Jesus' presence at my side, guiding me and my parents, and showing us the way ahead.

Since then, the journey has been miraculous. Never believe those who say miracles are just coincidence. They are God acting anonymously.

Today, my surroundings matter little to me. What matters is that I experience them with God at my side. As Jesus says in the gospel of John, *'...in the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!'* As my faith deepened at Christ Church, Southgate, the call to serve the Lord was impossible to ignore. Scripture became trapped

in my head... verses like Romans: *'So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.'* And Matthew: *'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'*

Each of these verses was a milestone marking the way ahead.

Another milestone came three years ago as I started the St. Edmund's course and Lay Minister training. But the journey doesn't end here tonight, there are many more milestones ahead. I'm looking forward with excitement to preaching for the first time, next month. I'm sure God will continue to guide me in the days to come.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my vicar, Fr. Chrichton Limbert, also Charles Carroll, Hazel Miall, Beki Rogers, Martin Carr, Sandra Anderson and everyone who has taught, interviewed and supported me, and those who have been praying for me earnestly. May God be with us all. Amen!

Amy Li

## Saint of the Month: Mary Magdalene, Feast Day July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Although there is a fair bit about Mary Magdalene in the bible, we are not quite sure of her identity. She may have been the Mary who was the sister of Martha and Lazarus and in which case it was she who sat at Jesus' feet and listened to him while her sister Martha was very busy serving the meal. And it was also Mary Magdalene who washed Jesus' feet and anointed them with precious ointment. But this is all uncertain. For one thing why would she have been called Mary Magdalene (or from Magdala) if she lived in Bethany?

Let us turn to what we do know about this lady. She is first recorded as being healed by Jesus from the possession of seven devils. That means she was seriously mentally ill. She responded to her healing by whole hearted devotion to Jesus and by supporting him with her own money. Again that doesn't sound much like Mary of Bethany.



Image by Andrea Solari [1460-1524]  
*Mary Magdalene as a myrrh-bearer*

After the Last Supper when Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, all his disciples fled – for fear of being arrested themselves, I suppose. It was the women of his band of followers who accompanied him to the cross. The number of women who were there varies between the gospels but all are agreed that Mary Magdalene was one of them. She remained until the end and was a witness to where his body was laid.

It was because of her faithfulness and devotion that Mary went with a group of other women to the tomb very early on the first Easter morning. They discovered, of course, that the stone covering the entrance had been rolled back and that the tomb was empty. The women alarmed by what they found ran off and Mary ran to find the disciples. Even after Peter and John had been to the tomb, Mary remained there to weep. She had intended as a last act of devotion to anoint her Lord's body, but even that had been denied her. And as she stood weeping outside the rock tomb, so it was that she was privileged above all people to be the first one to see the risen Lord.

At that time women were regarded not even as second-class citizens; they were not considered to be citizens at all. They were lumped together with slaves and children as of no account; they certainly could not witness in a court of law. And yet Jesus chose this woman to take the message of his resurrection to his disciples. The early church called Mary 'the Apostle to the apostles'.

I heard someone say 'if someone had invented this story they would have chosen someone else as the first witness to the resurrection'. This story is here because it is true.

*Cathy Dallman*

Image from from Wikimedia at: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f0/Andrea\\_Solario\\_-\\_Mary\\_Magdalene\\_-\\_Walters\\_37509.jpg/330px-Andrea\\_Solario\\_-\\_Mary\\_Magdalene\\_-\\_Walters\\_37509.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f0/Andrea_Solario_-_Mary_Magdalene_-_Walters_37509.jpg/330px-Andrea_Solario_-_Mary_Magdalene_-_Walters_37509.jpg)

## Extract from 'The Cross' by John Donne\*

*Who can blot out the Cross, which th' instrument  
Of God, dewed on me in the Sacrament?  
Who can deny me power, and liberty  
To stretch mine arms, and mine own cross to be?  
Swim, and at every stroke, thou art thy cross,  
The mast and yard make one, where seas do toss.  
Look down, thou spiest out crosses in small things;  
Look up, thou seest birds raised on crossed wings;  
All the globe's frame, and sphere's, is nothing else  
But the meridians crossing parallels.*

I love the electrifyingly vivid imagery of Donne's poetry. In this meditation the world is haunted by the shape of the cross. Donne emphasises how the shape appears in moments of activity – stretching, swimming, flying and sailing – reminding us that it is the shape of life. He travelled to the Azores in his youth and his writing contains many references to maps and voyages: the image of a globe crossed with the lines of latitude and longitude continues the association between the cross and movement, while also introducing the suggestion of the cross as a means of navigation.

I thought the best commentary on this poem would be pictures of cross-shaped things – and Fr Chrichton has given me these from his collection.

*Anna Hughes*

\* Extract from the *Poetry Nook* Website where you can read the whole poem:  
<https://www.poetrynook.com/poem/cross-13>



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## Prayer of the month

Since the last summer holiday period we've been through a lot. Almost every one of us will have spent time at home (many of us alone, some of us with too many others and not enough space), we will have been touched by loss (either personally, or through knowing someone else who is grieving), we will have experienced illness (our own, or the illness of another – whether or not this was Covid-related), we will have thought about the freedoms we used to enjoy, we may have anguished over the restrictions we now live under, many will have felt that everything is just so very busy (if only because more of what we have to do is now done within the same four walls). We've also lived through new discoveries – most recently, a new understanding of the Cosmic Dawn, and the discovery of a new form of sentient life, Dragon Man. But whatever life puts in our path, and whatever our experiences have been, it will not always have been easy to find time to pray, time to be still, and time to consider.

Now, then, with two months before the next magazine, two months before the September start of the new academic year and all that that entails, maybe we can find a window in which to reflect. The prayer this month is perhaps more of a meditation. Poets throughout history have written religious poetry of one kind or another – some as believers, others as non-believers. Many, many of these poems are prayer-like, and many offer food for thought... The hint of summer and open country in this poem by e.e. cummings is one such – a staycation meditation. Cummings's wording can be unusual, but don't feel you have to be able to make immediate sense of the whole. Just take a phrase and let the words hold you, as you hold the words. Reflect and pray:

*I thank You God for most this amazing  
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*

*(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)*

*how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no  
of all nothing—human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

[e.e. cummings, 1894–1962]

Poem from

<https://www.americanpoems.com/poets/eecummings/i-thank-you-god-for-most-this-amazing/>

## Au Revoir to the Upper Sixth Choristers and the Choir Chaperone

When I arrived at Christ Church in 2013, I was greeted by 12 very enthusiastic and friendly choristers. In the years that have followed, it has been my immense privilege to direct these children, and the new recruits that followed, seeing them nurture their talent as singers and mature as musicians. They were all so young when I arrived (so was I for that matter), and I can hardly believe that six of them are now leaving for university. I am not really sure where the time has gone! We have had an enormous amount of fun along the way and there are so many happy memories that I could share. However, I thought it much better if our six upper sixth leavers shared their memories instead. I wish to extend a big thank you to all our “leavers” and express my sincere gratitude to them for their dedicated service to the choir and church. As an all-age choir there is always a place in the choir for each of them. But life does move on and higher education beckons, so I simply say to Alex, Emma, Jemima, Lauren, Rolf, and Sophie – *au revoir!*

### Jemima Carroll

I joined the choir when I was around 6 or 7 years old, meaning I’ve now been singing here for just over a decade. It’s been a massive mainstay of my life for the entirety of my childhood. I’ve not only loved the singing aspect of the choir, but it has led me to make life-long friends in the other choristers. The insider jokes, the choir meet-ups and weekly rehearsals are all reasons as to why I have stayed at this choir for such a long time.

Being in the choir has given me a support system through not only my friends who are my age, but also the adults, such as Richard and Kate who are always there to lend a helping hand. My favourite memory of the choir

would definitely have to be the choir trip to Venice. Exploring the city with the other choristers was so much fun.



### Alex Rogers

Since joining the choir at the age of 6, I’ve cherished the opportunity of doing something I love with people that I love. A paragraph isn’t enough to convey what this choir has given me.

Musically, being a chorister has not only exposed me to a wide range of repertoire but has also enhanced my theoretical knowledge, singing voice, and performance skills. These were also developed during various trips we’ve had, my favourite being St Paul’s Cathedral. I feel grateful to have sung Christmas pieces (my favourite type!) in such a renowned religious building. However, one of my favourite memories was singing my favourite carol *O Holy Night* in our own church stalls. Singing as a full choir that evening made it all the more special and combined with this stunning arrangement by Rutter, the talent everyone has, and the serene atmosphere Christ Church created for the performance, I experienced the most exhilarating feeling.

This wouldn’t be a realistic summary of my choir experience without mentioning the

lifelong friendships I've formed with the rest of the choristers. I'm extremely appreciative of having grown up with such amazing people in a place that holds a special place in my heart, that is, Christ Church.



### Sophie Dennis

I have been in the choir for about 6 years on and off. The thing I have enjoyed the most is singing amazing music with my friends and the 'family' atmosphere within the choir. Being a chorister at Christ Church has helped build my confidence. It also exposed me to a huge array of classical music which was helpful during my music GCSE and led us to the 'banging tunes' we nag Richard to sing every week.

One of my favourite memories in the choir is the annual Christingle service. It's a family friendly service and it's magical to see the church lit by candlelight. I'll always remember Judith standing on a pew at the back and clapping during *Shine, Jesus, Shine* and the choristers trying to see how many marshmallows they can toast on their Christingle before Richard notices. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard, Kate, Dave, Fr Chrichton, Judith and everyone else at Christ Church that have put up with our antics and made memories with us that will last a lifetime. I can't wait until we can all sing together normally again and look forward to coming back during my uni holidays. 😊

### Emma Somerville

For 12 years, choir has been a very important part of my life. I have so many great memories and by seeing everyone each week I have forged long lasting friendships. This choir has such a welcoming atmosphere and great support so people can sing with confidence regardless of prior musical aptitude. Also, the trips are incredible!

My favourite choir memory occurred while processing out of church after a Sunday morning service. A strong gust of wind blew my copy of *O Taste and See* out of my hands. A shout of "Fly away 'O Taste and See'!" from Sophie resulted in a mad scramble for the music (don't worry, we caught it). The choir has given me some unforgettable experiences, including singing in St Mark's Basilica and St Paul's Cathedral, all of which have been so much fun.

I will miss singing all of the banging tunes (viva la *Jazz Mass*!) and I hope that when we come to visit, Richard will finally be able to tell Lauren and I apart.



### Lauren Somerville

Choir has been an important part of my life for a long time, having been a member for 12 years. I've enjoyed so much of my time here and made so many fun memories and truly amazing friends. You'd be surprised at how many absolute 'Tunes' there are in traditional choral music (shout out to Chilcott's *Jazz Mass*!)

The most special thing about being a chorister at Christ Church is the sense of

community in the choir, and the fact that you can bond with anyone, regardless of age, through shared experiences and services. Second to this, no matter your (lack of) musical knowledge or sight-reading abilities, you'll soon be able to get the hang of singing and enjoy it fully!

Venice was undoubtedly my favourite choir trip - singing in St Mark's Basilica was incredible! However, what sticks in my memory is the performance at San Zanipolo church, where we all breathed a heavy sigh of relief after finishing *Easter Hymn*, and then gratefully collapsed afterwards in a side corridor after standing for so long – now that's what I call a bonding experience!

### Rolf Stevens

I have sung in the choir for almost three years now. I enjoyed all the loud and dramatic pieces we sang like the Mozart *Requiem* or Stainer's *The Crucifixion*. The benefits of being a chorister are the social aspect and of course the pay. My favourite memory of the choir is when we were recording the Christmas CD and I arrived 15 minutes late and had to sing a low D with Clive while everyone else waited in silence.



And finally, *au revoir* and thank you to our Chaperone to the Junior and Senior Choristers, who is standing down after seven years' loyal service. In her own words:

### Anita Somerville

Since moving back to London in May 2014 I have been chaperoning the Junior and Senior Choristers, firstly, for 3 years unofficially and officially since November 2017.

I very much enjoy listening to choral singing and have had such pleasure in witnessing the development of their singing voices, particularly of my three granddaughters Emma, Lauren and Holly who have been choristers since the age of 7 and are now in the adult choir. I have also had great joy in seeing the depth of friendship and camaraderie that has existed between the choristers - always pleased to meet up for rehearsals and church services and sharing their news and educational journeys.

It has also been a joy to be with the choir on trips to sing in other places of worship. The trip to Venice I will never forget, a magical experience and amazing to hear the talent of every member of the choir. In addition, singing at St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, St George's Chapel at Windsor and Gloucester.

My family have also had such wonderful experiences with the choir - the music, the tours - it's a real community and family choir and I have been very privileged to be part of.

The credit for the success of the choir has to go to Richard Brain. Richard is exceptional in his role showing such dedication, teaching skills, and patience nurturing youngsters to reach their full potential. Christ Church is very fortunate to have Richard as Director of Music.

We are a very close family – in Southgate, in the Peak District and in Cornwall – and I need to spend more time with them, so it is with a very heavy heart that I will be stepping down as chaperone after the summer break.

*Richard Brain*, Director of Music



## Christchurch Association News

The Christchurch Association (CCA) provides a social centre for the parish, and runs the “Top Step Bar” which serves soft and alcoholic drinks upstairs in Church House.

We are delighted to announce that, after a prolonged period of closure due to COVID-19, the bar will re-open on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** and will be open every Friday in July from 8 to 11 pm. In accordance with government guidelines some restrictions will be in place for the time being, for example table service, social distancing and no more than 6 seated at a table, and these will be clearly communicated to customers. We are very grateful to the Parish Centre Management Committee, the vicar and church wardens for their guidance and support in helping us to re-open.

As is customary the bar will be closed during August, and we hope to return to our previous pattern of opening from **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**.

*The CCA is a Registered Club with membership open to anyone who worships at Christ Church, lives in the parish or uses the church halls. Membership costs just £2 per year and new members are always welcome. Please call in at the bar during opening hours or contact Clive for more information, or if you would like to become a member.*

Clive Woodhouse  
(Chairman, Christchurch Association)



# *Parish Life in Pictures*

## *June 2021*



**Wedding of Marlon Leigh and Chandrani Rakshit**

**Welcoming visitors again for our first tour after lockdown**



Images from Amy's licensing  
Joyful hymn singing in the sun accompanied by Kate from the West Door

## Social Responsibility Committee

Sales in our small way have recently raised £100, and we hope they will increase over the next few weeks. I have been given some gooseberries which I will make into jam and at the same time make some lemon curd, which is always popular. I will advertise when they are available on the notice sheet.

The Quince I was given last autumn were really large. I made and sold Quince jelly, but I also I planted some of the seeds. I now have several plants which I am happy to share for a donation. Please ask me.

If you would like to try your hand at making preserves, I also have a spare large preserving pan!!



Our knitters continue to be busy. Hats, scarves and gloves for shoeboxes and lovely jumpers which usually go overseas. However, finding somewhere to send them just at the moment, with Covid still raging around the world, is proving difficult. If you know someone who can send them to a charity, please let me know.

Now, last month I said watch this space...

... and on the opposite page, you can now read the details of our first initiative. Over the last few weeks, we have had large amounts of rain and when we turn on the tap, we have an endless supply of fresh water. Get involved and let's see how much money we can raise to help bring clean water to families elsewhere in the world who have none.

Hilary Meur

tel. 020 8360 2362

Email [ccsoces@gmail.com](mailto:ccsoces@gmail.com)

## Note from the Editors

Another double-edition for the summer break – we hesitate to mention holidays...

As usual, we are grateful to all the contributors who have helped make this edition. Again – as usual – we would love to hear from more of you. If you are wondering whether what you have to say is actually something we could include in *The Spire*, please do get in touch with one or other of us. We're very happy to talk things over. Anything that touches on our lives as Christians is probably good to go – an inspirational moment, a caring thought, a beautiful photograph, a journey, even tragedy and sadness are all part of our shared experience. It would be great to expand our team of writers, young and old alike. And if you do manage to visit another church or perhaps a cathedral over the coming weeks, take a picture or two, tell us about it – other people would love to hear of your experience.

We send you our very best wishes for the next couple of months. Whatever you plan or hope to do, we hope you manage it and do it safely! Take care, and enjoy the summer.

The deadline for the September edition of *The Spire* is Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

Clare & Patricia

## St. Swithun's Fundraiser



### Proceeds to Water Aid



*St. Swithun's day, if thou dost rain,  
For forty days it will remain.  
St. Swithun's day, if thou be fair,  
For forty days 'twill rain na mair.*

Legend has it, that if it rains on St Swithun's day, it will rain every day for the next 40 days!

We are going to test that theory at Christ Church this year while pledging money for  
**Water Aid.**

On or before St Swithun's Day, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, we are asking you to choose to donate for:

**Either** every day that is WET  
**Or** every day that is DRY  
for the following 40 days.

Simply choose WET or DRY and pledge a daily amount e.g. £1 or 50p, or a sum of your choice, to pay if rain falls or doesn't on Christ Church Southgate until Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

There will an official rain gauge to measure the actual rainfall on the church building.

Because I am optimistic about the weather, I have chosen DRY; and because he is pessimistic, my husband, Mick, has chosen WET!! We will see who donates most money!

We will publish weekly the official days of rain on the website, in the notice sheet and in the weekly newsletter.

Whatever the truth of the legend of St Swithun, we are so privileged in London to have a guaranteed supply of clean water. Please join in to raise money to truly transform other communities by giving them clean water for the first time.

Please let us know your intentions so we can keep a spreadsheet and predict the total amount of money raised. Register your details; name, WET or DRY and daily donation by leaving me a phone message on 020 8360 2362, or with a written note in church, or at our email address:  
[ccsocrates@gmail.com](mailto:ccsocrates@gmail.com)

Many thanks, *Hilary Meur.*

## Announcing the Revd Canon Abigail Thompson

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, Sheffield Cathedral announced the appointment of the next Dean of Sheffield. Those who remember Abi Smetham (as she was then), a youth worker here at Christ Church prior to her ordination in 2007, will be delighted to read the following extracts from the media release.



The Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox said:

“I am delighted to welcome the Revd Canon Abi Thompson to be the next Dean of Sheffield. As those of us who know her and who know the needs of the Cathedral and Diocese will immediately be able to see, Abi has exactly the blend of character and gifts to rise to the challenges and to make the most of the opportunities that we face. Having served previously in this Diocese until 2018, Abi knows our local communities well, from Sheffield to Goole, from Rotherham to Barnsley. So, she will be able to hit the ground running. I look forward very much to the coming months and years, confident that Abi will greatly enrich us and will help us to mobilise the whole people of God still more effectively for the whole mission of God, so that we can serve our city and region in the name of Jesus Christ and for the sake of the coming Kingdom of God. This is an outstanding appointment.”

Abi, a freelance singer and music graduate from Kings College London, studied theology at Westcott House (Cambridge) and went on to serve her curacy at Sheffield Manor Parish before becoming the vicar of St James, Clifton in Rotherham, where she remained for eight years. Then, in 2018 she moved back south to St Albans Cathedral where for the past three years she has been Sub-Dean.

The last words here are Abi’s own, spoken ahead of the public announcement of her appointment:

“Sheffield Cathedral is the place where I was ordained deacon in 2006 and I got married here in 2010. I’ve made vows here, I’ve wept into the stone floor, I’ve rejoiced here and I’ve lit candles here for people I have loved and lost. I share these very personal connections with you because I know that I am only one of thousands of people who have experienced the deepest of emotions and sought sanctuary within these old walls. Sheffield Cathedral is a holy place because of the people who have come here to find peace, to pray, to worship and to seek the true and living God. I am blessed and honoured and totally thrilled that this is the place where I will soon daily say my prayers and get to love and serve the people of this great city, this wonderful Cathedral and the whole Diocese of Sheffield.”

(It is hoped that Abi will be installed to her new role in a service at Sheffield Cathedral in October 2021. The date will be confirmed shortly).

## Support a great cause today



"So to mark my 40th year on this lovely planet I've decided to complete the Wainwright Coast to Coast path in the space of 5 days. It's an average of 37 miles(59.2km) per day across the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. I'm definitely going to try to enjoy the challenge but your donations for this will go **Friends of the Earth** and spur me along. There are so many great causes out there I just feel that all of us as a collective are suffering because of the knock-on effect of the inharmonious relationship we have with our life support systems, the planet. The rivers, seas, forests are all in a very dangerous and in some instances dire place as a direct result of human greed and selfishness and disconnect from our place as separate from nature rather than being part of it.

**Friend of the Earth** fights for a more healthy and just world.

Together we speak truth to power and expose those who endanger the health of people and the planet for corporate profit. We organize to build long-term political power and campaign to change the rules of our economic and political systems that create injustice and destroy nature.

Makes sense to me.

Also very much open to other forms of help for this challenge and feel free to join me for a leg or buy me a beer/meal along the way, I set off on August 30th 2021"

My son Paul and I completed Wainwrights *Coast to Coast* path in 1998. I kept a daily diary which was great to read all these years later. One paragraph read as follows:

*The morning started wet at 6.30 a.m. but we were fortunate and the wind blew the clouds away ending up with a beautiful sunny day. After descending the East side of Dent we cut through forest and then lost our tracks, fortunately to meet a man waiting for the racing fell runners who arrived and were able to explain to us where we should go. We descended a steep slope and then gently walked and climbed the slope leading to Ennerdale bridge. The scenery was beautiful - mountains, streams, rivers, forests - all God's handiwork.*

I am sure God walked with us then and pray he will walk with my son as he completes this extraordinary challenge.

All donations appreciated, big or small! Thank you.

*Jackie Anderson*

To donate, follow the link to Paul Ranson's *JustGiving* page at <https://tinyurl.com/nx4cmdzw>

## Audrey Marie Luterbacher R.I.P



The parishioners of Christ Church Southgate are sorry to have lost one of its longest serving members, Audrey Luterbacher, who died on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Audrey attended services at Christ Church every Sunday for as long as anyone can remember. For the last two years she lived in a nursing home, Hugh Myddelton House, where she was well cared for by the devoted staff. It was there that she died, shortly after being discharged from hospital following a fall. The attentive nursing staff were of the opinion that her life was drawing to a close, so she was able to be visited by her oldest friends, and I was able to anoint her just before her death

Audrey was born in what was then known as Edmonton Middlesex on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1928. Her father Ernest, and mother Constance were married in Bucharest by the British Chaplain in 1913. Audrey grew up with her parents and sister Phyllis in this locality and went to Palmers Green High School. Unfortunately her mother Constance died when Audrey was in her teens. Audrey finished her education in Switzerland where she went to improve her French.

On her return to England Audrey followed in her father's footsteps working in a bank. It was the Midland bank that she worked in. It was at the bank that Audrey met Jean who was to become the mother of her God daughter Anne.

Anne has fond memories of visits to Audrey, visiting for lunch in town near Audrey's work place and of receiving Lindt chocolate bunnies every Easter. After Anne's mother Jean died, Anne looked upon Audrey as a mother figure.

She visited Audrey in the home, when regulations permitted, and made regular phone enquiries about her health.

Most of those present at her funeral got to know Audrey as an older lady. My memories are of a little lady with a pleasant smile, who took a pride in her appearance, and would always wear a hat to Church. She was an independent lady who knew her own mind. In her own home she was hospitable and would offer tea or coffee in china cups and saucers. The cat would always make an appearance. Latterly it was Bobbi, and Audrey made provision for Bobbi to go back to Battersea.

Audrey belonged to several friendship groups such as the Women's fellowship, and the Lunch Fellowship groups here at Christ Church, and the Townswomen's guild.

They say you can tell a person by their friends, and I know she had many loyal friends. During lockdown several of them sent cards to let her know they were thinking of her. Those cards must have given her solace in the difficult times we have all been through.

Unfortunately, Audrey's physical and mental health declined over the last few years, but her loyal family and friends stood by her, through the difficulties. She brought out the best in others.

Audrey gradually got to feel at home at Hugh Myddelton House. At first she told her visitors that she would be going home 'tomorrow', but eventually, during my weekly visits she told me that she couldn't think of anywhere she would rather live, as she didn't think she could manage at home by herself any longer.

We Christians believe that Audrey is now with God the father and his son Jesus. I remind you of the words we heard read at Audrey's funeral from John's gospel. *'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'*

May she Rest in Peace.

*Hazel Miall*

## Remembering Audrey Luterbacher

She was the little lady at the lunch.  
A dainty, tidy wren she packed a punch.  
Long stick stretched out, she owned the table.  
Enjoyed her main, a smaller portion.  
Then desserts, with so much choice.

The driver – Holding open door –  
The frantic squawk from one inside –  
“Wait!  
Audrey!  
You forgot your stick!”

Animated chatting later,  
Always came to say goodbye  
To thank us for the food and laughter.  
Back to cat and own front step.

Audrey, we miss you at the Christ Church teas.  
Remember please, to keep us space  
On your table at God’s Place.  
RIP

Her taxi coming, bang on time

*Angela Parker*

## This is my *Evangelical Times*

Here we are in all our splendid days.  
Don’t we really live for our great Jesus Christ – in everything we are doing for Him.

Summer is beautiful, isn’t it? The sun is shining in Evangelism bringing people to Christ.  
Time for Him!

Don’t we love singing the great hymns in our beautiful Christ Church? Here we worship and honour our holy Jesus Christ.  
Everything we do is of him – we obey and love our wonderful Jesus, certainly.

Are we at the seaside reading this? The lovely sea! God made this for our enjoyment, and lovely sandy beaches to walk on. We can make sand castles and really bask in the sun, while we think of how lovely the Creator is.

Now I exhort you to really open your minds to Him who loves us and bring us in to His royal presence. This is for our sake as well as His. It is every Christian’s duty to preach the word – not just the ministers.

By the way I love you very much and care about your welfare. I hope you have an ecstatically wonderful summer, renewing and refreshing. Thank you for being so wonderful always. See you soon to discuss how we are all getting on with our Evangelism in these times.

With my dedication and devotion to the brilliant and supersonic Jesus Christ, Amen.

*Lynda Corcoran*

[Photo by Dan Dumitriu on Unsplash](#)



## Stewardship

It is a couple of months now since my last report and I thought that a summary of the stewardship income would be of interest in this double issue of *The Spire*.

Collections in church and other donations remain low – about 75% only of last year's total. And last year's total was in turn much lower than a normal year. This will most likely result in a significant deficit in our Parochial Fund income in 2021. So, it looks like another challenging year for our finances.

Unfortunately, there has also been a reduction of donations via the contactless machine that I mentioned in my May Spire article. This is a really simple way of donating and avoids the use of cash which – as I have explained before – costs us money to bank.

This all reinforces the argument that I have been writing about for many a long year that regular donations should be made directly into our bank. Ideally, this should be using our preferred method via the **Parish Giving Scheme** (PGS). But there is some good news: two more people have recently commenced using the PGS. I am grateful for this and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. As ever, though, every year we lose regular donors for one reason or another, so new donors are constantly needed even to enable us to stand still.

It goes without saying that donating only when you attend church in person means that you are not supporting Christ Church financially all year round. The only way to do that is by joining our Stewardship Scheme and making a regular commitment, ideally by joining the PGS. Please do consider taking this step to help support the worship and music of Christ Church and also the local community.

With the recent addition of a simple and secure online process, it really could not be easier now to set-up regular donations through the PGS. You can set up your Direct Debit online, or by telephone, or you can fill in a gift form and post it to PGS. If you would prefer the latter option, please let me know and I will let you have the form. My contact details are in The Directory at the back of the Spire or email me at [mikestatistics@gmail.com](mailto:mikestatistics@gmail.com)

### HOW YOU CAN HELP!

**Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme now, this can be set-up easily over the telephone. All you needed to do is make one call to their dedicated helpline number 0333 002 1271.**

When calling please quote our parish code 230623352

**or online using the following link:**

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/southgate-christ-church-london/>

*Mick Meur*, Stewardship Recorder  
[mikestatistics@gmail.com](mailto:mikestatistics@gmail.com)

## News from the Committees

Reports during months when the **Parochial Church Council** has not met tend to be brief, and this time is no different.

As always, **Social Responsibility** activities are reported in full by Hilary Meur elsewhere – their fundraising never stops and you can also read about their latest drive to raise money for Water Aid. Do please consider taking part in this – we can so easily take for granted how fortunate we are here... *you never miss water until the well runs dry.*

Other news consists in the main of progressing activities you have already heard about in previous magazines.

**Plant and Fabric** has been able to report one significant development since the last meeting of the PCC, and that is that a faculty has now been granted to lift, preserve and then replace two areas of tiling in the chancel floor. This activity will enable the drilling of two 100mm bore holes, in order to observe and analyse the substructure. Hopefully, we will then be able to determine the action needed to repair the floor and prevent further sinking.

**Outreach** continues in many guises, but maybe the most notable activity to mention here is the formation of *The Friends of Christ Church Garden* group, spearheaded by Sandra Anderson. The launch picnic will take place later this month, on 24th July and membership is hoped to include not just regular parishioners, but also other members of the wider community in which we live.

The **Parish Centre Management** is still working hard to bring about the safe re-opening of the premises as the various activities move gradually back to what we've always thought of as normal. And in connection with the Parish Centre, it's important to note that our bar will have reopened at the beginning of July. (See the notice from the Christ Church Association elsewhere in this magazine.)

*Patricia Ashby*

## Virtual Church

Please visit <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/virtual-church> where you will find a range of resources, including activities for children, that you may find helpful at this time.

The Virtual Church YouTube Playlist is at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchN14/>

Our weekly pre-recorded service and other new resources are publicised via the weekly email newsletter. If you do not already receive this you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/do5wlv>

## Support

If you need, or know anyone who needs, support at this time please get in touch by emailing [churchwardens@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:churchwardens@christchurch-southgate.org) or via the contact details for the Churchwardens in the Parish Directory.

**PARISH DIRECTORY****Parish Office**

*Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2.30—5 p.m.  
Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.  
N.B. Notices for the Sunday pew sheets should reach the Office no later than  
10 a.m. on a Friday. If possible, please e-mail them.*

*Mail* 1 The Green, London N14 7EG  
*Phone* 8886 0384  
*Email* office@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Website* www.christchurch-southgate.org

**Clergy**

*Vicar* The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert  
*Address* 1 The Green, Southgate, London, N14 7EG  
*Phone* 8882 0917  
*Email* frch138@btinternet.com

*Assistant Priest* The Reverend Hazel Miall  
*Address* 85 Conway Road, Southgate, London, N14 7BD  
*Phone* 07980 740587  
*Email* hazelhmiall@btinternet.com

**Lay Readers**

Cathy Dallman, 4 Greenacre Walk, Southgate, N14 7DB 8886 5918  
Jackie Anderson 8245 0305  
Sandra Anderson 07947 027265

**Churchwardens**

Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR 8367 5961  
Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com 07974 437966

**PCC**

*Secretary* Caroline Robertson 8886 0384  
office@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Treasurer* Clare Boulton (as above)  
*Stewardship* Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

**Music Department**

*Director of Music* Richard Brain 07979 850546  
music@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Assistant Director of Music* David Hinitz, 19 Mercia Rd, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6RZ 07734 209662  
*Treasurer* Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

**Sacristan** Vacancy

**Sidesmen** Judith Lo 8882 3335

**Sub-committee Chairs/contacts**

*Outreach* Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)  
*Plant and Fabric* Kate Carroll (as above)  
*Social Responsibility* Jackie Anderson (as above)  
*Resources* Ronald Lo 8882 3335  
*Pastoral* Cathy Dallman (as above)

**Electoral Roll Officer** Patricia Ashby 8886 2528

**Parish Magazine “The Spire”**

*Editorial Team* Copy to be sent to the Parish Office (see above)  
*Treasurer* Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

**Flower Arrangers** Contact the Parish Office (see above)

**Parish Centre/Church Halls**

*Chairman* Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD 8882 6738  
*Secretary* Clare Boulton (see above)  
*Lettings* christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com  
*Treasurer* Michael Meur (as above)

**Christ Church Association Bar**

*Contact* Clive Woodhouse, 41b Osborne Road, N13 5BT 8882 0014

**Friday Coffee Morning** *Every Friday morning 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in Church*

*Contact* Hilary Meur (as above)

**Lunch Fellowship** *Usually on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month at noon in Church*

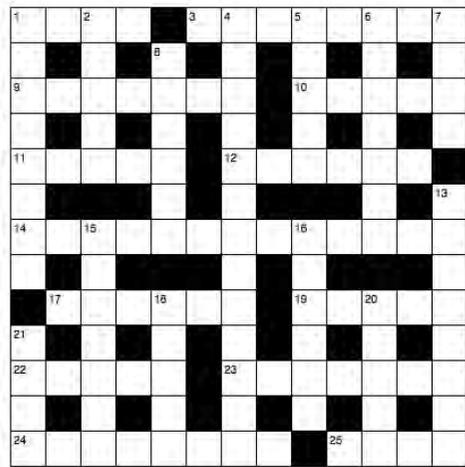
*Contact* Cathy Dallman (as above)

**Scout Group** The Reverend Hazel Miall, *Cubs* 07980 740 587  
 Stephen Smith, *Group Scout Leader* 8882 0991

**Bellringers** *Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.*  
*Captain* Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN 8368 1974

**Young Fogeyes** *For the active and retired, though you need not be either!*  
*Contact* Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH 8882 8133

# JULY CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8-12) (4)
- 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 26

- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in —' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day —' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

## JUNE SOLUTION





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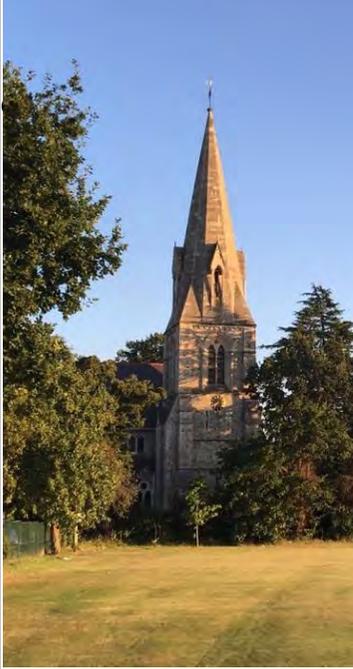
[martina@macroryward.co.uk](mailto:martina@macroryward.co.uk)

or

[margaret@macroryward.co.uk](mailto:margaret@macroryward.co.uk)

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**Christ Church Southgate is an Eco-Church, we have recently achieved the Silver Award.**

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