



The Spire

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— Southgate —

March 2022: Lent Edition



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first of a new era for Spire Magazine. Many, many thanks on behalf of us all must go to Freya and Imogen for stepping up to take on the task of editing and producing. The magazine was a lifeline to many households during the pandemic lockdown, providing a continuing sense of being part of a prayerful community. This included the Bishop of Edmonton, who told us when he was confirming last November that we were the only people to send him a palm cross in 2020 as a free gift in Spire Magazine.

It is amazing that it is two years since the first lockdown caused by the Covid pandemic. As we remember, we started Lent 2020 with book and course in place, but never made it to Easter before we were closed. We were open under limited circumstances for Lent 2021 so this year we can go back even closer to how we set off on 2020. Ironically, as I am writing this letter, I have just had the first of my two consecutive negative Covid tests needed to come out of self-isolation after I picked up the condition over a week ago

while on holiday. Therefore, we still need to be careful to make sure that all events for Lent allow you to come as you feel comfortable to do so. It is not yet the time for a course that needs you to come every week for it all to make sense.

When we had Parish Quiet Weekends for prayer, I always included a session of following the Stations of the Cross, following a trail of 14 images, reflecting on Christ's passion. Over the centuries, there have been many different versions of both images and reflections produced to help us to draw closer to Christ at this season of the year that defines the Christian faith. The full details are later in this edition but on Wednesday evenings in Lent we will be following the Stations with a different set of reflections each week – you can either follow round the church or stay in your seat. The images will be a set of Victorian cast relief tiles that I acquired from the Convent of the Sisters of St Andrew in Edenbridge when it closed. Sadly, they were badly damaged when they were removed from the chapel walls, but Mick Meur has done a remarkable restoration with the box of bits I presented him with – so thanks to Mick we can

use them again for prayerful reflection as they were originally intended. So please come every Wednesday for a different reflection each time, or just dip in and out.

On Sunday mornings in Lent at the 8am and 10am Eucharists, we will be featuring a sermon series by our clergy team of Rev Hazel, Cathy, Jackie, Sandra and Amy, where they will each consider different Women of the Passion. I am looking forward to hearing interesting and challenging perspectives.

Finally, during lockdown I did a prayer walk around the parish boundary on each Sunday morning and Good Friday when the church was shut, which turned into a total walk of 168 miles. The map of the route is on the website, and alongside this letter. As the weather improves, can I recommend you give it a try it as well – either as a single walk of just under 5 miles or in a number of small sections as you feel happy to do so – offering to God in prayer

all that has happened in the lives of all those in our parish, in sorrow and in joy, in the last 2 years and asking for his blessing in all that we will do together to make his love part of the lives of our whole community.

Every blessing.

Fr Chrichton



Note from the Editors

Hello, and welcome to the Lent Edition of The Spire! We're delighted to be taking over the magazine, and our thanks must of course go to the outgoing editors, Clare and Patricia, who did such a fantastic job.

We've got some exciting ideas for where we're going to take future editions, but we won't be able to make them happen without YOU! So, know anything interesting about the history of church? Have a favourite hymn you feel is overlooked? Desperately wondering why Chrichton tells us to sit down for the notices when we're all already sitting? Let us know!

Copy for our next edition is due **March 28th**, and we'd love for everyone to get involved. So why not make picking up a pen your Lenten promise? Reach us on christchurchspire@gmail.com

After the Easter edition, we are anticipating publishing bi-monthly and the annual costs will be reviewed in May or June. See next edition for further details.

Happy Lent, and enjoy reading!

Freya and Imogen



DAILY HOPE a free phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as services from the Church of England. Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

Discovering Old Places

Like so many people I have found that the last two years have provided much time for prayer, thought and contemplation, at home. Just because we were not allowed out, I felt I needed to get out, so I now take every opportunity to get out and experience new places, especially different places of worship. I am always amazed that however different the style of building and worship is there are always similarities to our own, Christian, way of worshipping. In the last month I have been to an Abbey, a Victorian Evangelical church, two medieval churches and a Roman Temple. Each community has a different style of worship. Oddly it was in the oldest Church that I felt most at home in. The building has its own aura, the service kept to the book, the welcome was warm, and the worship was heartfelt.

London has more than its fair share of places dedicated to worship.

Recently I visited the temple of Mithras in the City of London, close to the Mansion House and St Stephen Walbrook. It was built in the heart of the Roman town of AD240. Its one of about 100 such Mithraea known throughout the Roman World. The site has revealed more than 14,000 individual artefacts. My favourites are the bone sewing needles, and the keys - designs haven't changed much over the years. The central icon of the Mithraen cult is an image of Mithras killing a bull. Not so very different to the image of St George killing a dragon, in our own church.



The rituals of the cult took place in a central nave with a statue of Mithras at one end. Unfortunately, there are no eyewitness accounts of how Mithras was worshipped or descriptions from members of the cult of what Mithras



symbolised. However, the Temple remains have been reconstructed in such a way that the whole, free of charge, experience helps us ponder. The free guide book says: "*Through haze and light, you will experience an ephemeral installation that compliments the reconstruction*". I agree, it does. If you find yourself with a couple of hours to spare, in the City of London I thoroughly recommend the experience.

I feel so blessed that while I find other places of worship interesting, it's Christ Church Southgate that I feel at home in.

Hazel Miall

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St Cassian of Imola

My secondary school didn't believe in detentions. Instead, whenever homework was late or we were rude to a teacher, we were given a dreaded green slip, a little piece of paper that struck fear into our hearts. Two green slips meant a call to your parents. I believe one term I managed to rack up nine. My parents were not best pleased.

There would have been many ways for me to enact revenge against my teachers for the slips. Perhaps by colouring in the back of their jacket with a highlighter pen (which did actually happen to one teacher, although I can promise you I was not the culprit), or by using my influence with the librarians to remove their favourite texts from the library. But one thought that never even crossed my mind was the actions of the students of St Cassian of Imola.

Cassian was a schoolteacher in Imola, a city in Italy near the river Santerno. At the time, the Roman Gods were still being sacrificed to, but Cassian would not participate in this practice, being a Christian. He was hauled in front of a judge, and then condemned to death.

However, it was not a standard execution for Cassian, oh no – when the judge learned that he was a schoolteacher, he devised a very special punishment.

Cassian was tied to a stake in front of two hundred of his own students, all of whom were armed with their styles, the small iron pencils they used to write with in class. The students then proceeded to stab him to death with the pencils, and according to records some even used them to work their writing tasks into his skin. It would have been understandable had Cassian been screaming in agony (or at their incorrect grammar), but instead he encouraged them to stab him harder, as he wanted to show his wish to die in the name of Christ.

After his death, St Cassian was made patron saint of parish clerks, which felt appropriate for an edition of the Spire! We can all look back on our previous experiences with teachers and be glad that, although they may have given us green slips, we never stabbed them to death with a pencil. *Freya Carroll*

Love (III)

by George Herbert

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back

Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack

From my first entrance in,

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,

If I lacked anything.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:

Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,

I cannot look on thee.

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,

Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame

Go where it doth deserve.

And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?

My dear, then I will serve.

You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:

So I did sit and eat.

Herbert's creation of a scene with characters and dialogue makes his message easy for us to relate to - rather like Christ's parables - and consequently powerful. Personified Love, clearly synonymous with God, invites a guest, representing the soul, to dinner, which one could interpret as the invitation to receive the Eucharist but Herbert's vision is actually a metaphor for our meeting with God after death. The guest, being aware that he is 'guilty of dust and sin', is reluctant to enter and presents reasons for not doing so: he is 'unkind, ungrateful' and cannot even look on God, having 'marred' his eyes by looking upon things he should not. Using rhetorical questions, God reminds him that he made his eyes and is thus aware of the human potential to use them wrongly and also that He 'bore the blame' of Man's sin through His self-sacrifice. The guest is finally persuaded to enter Heaven but retains his humility in the statement that he 'will serve'.

The guest's reluctance and God's infinite love and understanding are emphasised through the diction, punctuation and actions. The full stop in the first line underlines the guest's pause when welcomed, which is strengthened by the conjunction 'yet'. But Love is perceptive ('quick-eyed') and gently insistent: he questions 'sweetly', smiles and takes the guest's hand; he then states firmly, 'You shall be he' (the guest) and finally uses an imperative: 'You must...'

This poem, the last of the three poems by Herbert entitled 'Love' and the final poem in his collection 'The Temple', offers reassurance to us when we feel unworthy of God's love:

awareness of our sins and repentance are the only conditions for receiving it.

George Herbert, 1593-1633

[Poetryfoundation.org/poems/44367/love-iii](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44367/love-iii)

Margaret Gourd



Provisions for Lent 2022

Stations of the Cross

During Lent we will be offering on a Wednesday evening a weekly opportunity to follow with Christ through his passion using different reflections at each of the 13 stations. All devotions will start at 8pm using images spread round the church, which can be walked as a trail or followed in a booklet from your seat. A range of reflections have been chosen, so come to them all or choose those that appeal to you.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| March 9th | Walsingham Pilgrim reflection |
| March 16th | Bible Text reflections (followed by Healing) |
| March 23rd | Stephen Cotterell reflections
(No session for the week after Refreshment Sunday) |
| April 6th | Cardinal Newman reflections (followed by Healing) |
| April 13th | Paula Gooder reflections |



Sunday Morning Sermon Series – Women of the Passion

Our clergy team have chosen their own Women of the Passion to explore and reflect on at 8am and 10am on Sunday morning Eucharists.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| March 6th | Mary Magdalene - Cathy Dallman |
| March 13th | Mary with the Jar of Costly Ointment - Sandra Anderson |
| March 20th | The Women from Galilee - Jackie Anderson |
| March 27th | Mothering Sunday – Fr Chrichton |
| April 3rd | The Woman Who Gave All She Had - Amy Li |
| April 10th | The Wife of Pilate - Rev'd Hazel Miall |



LENT 2022

Lenten Practices

As I was brought up in a Methodist family, I didn't really understand about Lent at all - seventy years ago they didn't keep Lent. I have since enquired of my Methodist friend and she told me that now they do. When I became an Anglican, I realised that this was something important I needed to find out about!

I discovered that the word 'Lent' derives from an old English word meaning 'the lengthening of days' which of course happens in Spring. I have thought that in the Southern Hemisphere it must happen in reverse. I asked some Australian people about how they felt about observing Lent and Easter in the Autumn - as they were completely used to it, they thought it was odd to have it happening in Spring.

Then we come to the beginning of Lent; to Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. On Shrove Tuesday we eat pancakes, to use up all the butter and eggs which our ancestors would not have been eating in Lent. In Latin American countries the day is called 'Mardi Gras' literally 'Fat Tuesday' and is celebrated with a Carnival (meat eating). Shrove Tuesday comes from the old English word 'shrift' which means to confess and be absolved. People used to go to confession on Shrove Tuesday to be ready for Lent, rather as we have the Litany during our Eucharists on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday takes its name from the Ash crosses marked by the priest on people's foreheads that day as a sign of penitence and the ashes are made from burning the Palm Crosses from last year's Palm Sunday.

I remember years ago when our then curate mixed up the ashes with far too much water, and the crosses tricked down our faces and dripped off the ends of our noses! Fr. Chrichton told me that he preferred to use the ashes dry.

During the Lenten Fast our ancestors gave up meat and other foods they would have enjoyed. People still do this, but it is often suggested that a better thing to do is to take up something. A number of things I do, such as attending the weekday Eucharists, started off as a Lenten discipline. When I discovered it was a good thing to do which I enjoyed, I carried on doing it. So now I expect I shall have to give up something I enjoy.

It is important to keep quiet about your Lenten discipline, but it is OK to have what you have given up on Sundays. A member of the congregation told me years ago when he found out about Sundays not being part of Lent, he would give up Sunday Lunches! My husband Jack used to think I was cheating, but if you count up the days of Lent you will find that if you include the Sundays it amounts to more than 40, and Sunday is never a Fast day. If you don't believe me, ask the vicar!

Cathy Dallman

Pay-Back Time

Lent approaches and with it the question of how to observe it. Teetotality? No sweets or chocolate? Leaping out of bed, disgustingly early, bright and alert, to greet the new day? - something I have never been able to do! Economise on a luxury and give the money I save to charity?

One of Oliver Cromwell's generals prayed before a battle, "Lord, I will be very busy today. If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me." The last couple of years have been very difficult for everyone, with lockdown, wave upon wave of restrictions, not being able to meet people, not being allowed to go out for

pleasure and entertainment, no holidays, being banned from going to hospital with sick people we love or being allowed to visit them there or in a care home, which is traumatic and cruel for all concerned. If we went out at all, there was always a touch of anxiety: Will I be safe? Will I become ill? Will I be scolded for breaking some sanction or other? I have been tired, stressed and grumpy, and only afterwards have I realised that God's loving care has made things bearable. Frightful situations have, for some reason, not actually happened. When my own strength, stamina and courage have drained away, I have been given renewed support and energy by God through His love and care and

with the friendship and kindness of people around me.

I have decided to try and make Lent "pay-back time," to place God in the centre of my consciousness and, by focussing on Him, very inadequately, to give Him a little of the love He gives so generously to me. I can do this by worship and Bible study and by showing love and kindness to other people, rather than turning inwards and worrying about myself. If I work on it, get it right and it becomes a habit, I might even manage to carry on after Easter.

Jill Holiday

Views from the Pews



This month, we asked:

What are you giving up for Lent?

Daytime television

Wine and tea

Chocolate if possible

Chocolate :(

Daily paper

What are you taking up for Lent?

Putting money saved from daily paper in my jar of hope

I am going to read the Chronicles of Narnia

What does Lent mean to you?

A period of calm before the storm

Meditate on God's word.

Draw closer to God

A time of reflection

A time to try and learn a new skill

A time to forget chocolate

Also a time to hope my sight soon improves!

More prayer

Drawing closer to God

Deeper awareness

It's a time of self-denial and thinking of others

A time to reflect and to do something positive to improve

One of the most important ways we join together in spiritual journey, at a specified time and that our devotional lives are united in Christ, with each other—a pilgrimage through time together

John Clarke

Amy Li

Yvonne Woodthorpe

Sandra Anderson

Anon

Anon

Anna H

Music in Lent



On Wednesday 2nd March, will once again journey through the season of Lent together. It will be particularly special this year following our separation last year because of the lockdowns. The music of Lent and Passiontide contains some of the finest works in our repertoire as we explore themes of penance, repentance, and atonement. The hymns and choral works we sing provide an emotive form of vocal self-expression and prayer. During Lent, we initially sing music which follows the themes of self-examination and repentance, changing in focus towards the Passion of Our Lord from Passion Sunday (Lent V).

We will begin our Lenten music by singing the 17th century Italian composer's setting of Psalm 51, *Miserere mei, Deus* ("Have mercy on me, O God"). Although it possesses sublime harmonies, it is essentially a penitential psalm. Allegri's masterpiece was supposedly guarded by Papal decree not to be sung outside of the Sistine Chapel. What is certain is that Allegri's work has evolved over the centuries, with different performance practices and also transcription errors creating the work we know today with the virtuosic high top C.

Anthems such as William Byrd's *Civitas sancti tui* extend this theme. *Civitas sancti tui*, is the second part of a longer anthem called *Ne irascaris, Domine* published in 1589. It begins in the typical polyphonic style of the time but soon come to a stop with a finishing cadence. A section of stillness then follows as the choir sing the text "Sion deserta facta est" ('Sion is made a wilderness') in block chords. There then emerges imitative phrases repeating "Jerusalem, Jerusalem", rather like a desperate cry. Following this, the words 'desolata est', are repeated 54 times, despondent at the captivity of God's people in Babylon, ending with a sense of calm and tranquility (see James Anderson-Besant [2020] on the Hyperion Record Label website for further notes).

Mothering Sunday provides a change of tone during the penitential season as the themes of motherhood and the Blessed Virgin Mary allow for lighter more cheerful musical choices. The Choir will sing a setting of *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by John Rutter and Andrew Carter's *Mary's Magnificat*. The latter work helps link us back to themes of Advent and Christmas often featuring in those season's carol services.

The Fifth Sunday of Lent (3 April) is Passion Sunday when in the evening we shall once again sing our Passion Sequence, which offers parishioners the opportunity to hear the entire story of the Passion interspersed with hymns and choir anthems. The Choir will be singing words from Psalm 42 *Like as the Hart* by Herbert Howells, *Christus factus est* by Anton Bruckner, *A Litany* by William Walton, *Crux fidelis* attributed to King John IV of Portugal and *Ruht wohl* from J. S. Bach's St John Passion.

Palm Sunday always presents an interesting musical occasion, with the Procession of the Palms starting at the Vicarage and finishing with the procession into the church. The objective of coordinating the singing of *Ride on, ride on in majesty*, always presents an enjoyable challenge. This year the Choir will sing Franz Schubert's Mass in G No.2 and Thomas Weelkes' *Hosanna to the Son of David*.

Richard Brain



What We Sing in Church

Forty Days and Forty Nights NEH No.67

The three synoptic gospels tell us that Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness which is why we observe 40 days of Lent each year. The forty days mirrors the forty years the Israelites spent in the Wilderness after escaping from slavery in Egypt (Numbers 32:13). The forty days also reminds us the rain fell for forty days to cause Noah's flood (Genesis 7:4) We don't need to think of the time Jesus spent in the Wilderness as literally forty days - it was a term used by biblical writers to mean a few weeks.

In Verse 2 we get a picture of the conditions in which Jesus was living: baking hot by day, freezing cold at night. In his account of Jesus's temptations Mark tells us that there were wild beasts in the wilderness. (Mark1:13) Verses 3, 4, 5 and 6 are really a prayer to Jesus to keep us his followers away from sin this Lent and that we might share his sufferings. Verse 4 refers to Jesus' temptations by the Devil which we are told about in Matthew's and Luke's gospels (Matthew 4:3-10 and Luke 3-10) where we learn how he resisted them. Verse 5 refers to the Angels who ministered to Jesus after his temptations (Matthew 4:11). In verse 6 at the end of the prayer the writer asks our Saviour to keep us by his side that we may be with him at the Eternal Eastertide.

Cathy Dallman

Help Save the Planet with OLIO

Last year, I joined OLIO. You do need a phone in order to download and use the free app, but this international organisation is saving the planet, a slice of bread at a time. And we can all

contribute to the effort. I actually thought everyone must know about this, but that doesn't seem to be the case. *The Spire* seemed an ideal place for a bit of publicity. OLIO does five things:

- it helps to reduce food waste;
- it enables gifting of unwanted household goods, clothing, etc;
- it is a platform for finding things you need which other people in your neighbourhood might want to give away;
- it allows you to sharing things by loaning them to others living nearby;
- it provides an outlet for selling handmade goods (including home cooked items).

The most valuable for me are the first two. And it's important to be clear: you are not taking food (or other things) away from those who need it but can't afford it; you are stopping things from going to landfill. The big Supermarkets and other food outlets are already signed up to programmes sending food surplus to foodbanks, etc. OLIO is trying to re-purpose everything else.

In my immediate neighbourhood (I live on the Lakes Estate) there are over four thousand active members of OLIO. I try to limit myself to journeys I can do on foot (to save carbon pollution) but you can choose to travel further (bike, drive or use public transport). You set your homepage to cover your chosen radius – I look at posts that are approximately within a mile of where I live... always remembering that if I go to collect something, I then have to carry it home! I often collect bread, pastries, salad and vegetables from a nearby Food Waste Hero (FWH) in Leigh Hunt Drive. Everything

is food heading for landfill from a nearby Tesco, Costa Coffee or Prêt a Manger – the FWHs collect this when the shelves are cleared of ‘reduced’ goods around 9pm each evening; things like sandwiches which have ‘Use by’ dates have to be picked up from the FWH by midnight, but other stuff with ‘Best before’ dates can be picked up the next day, or even later. The FWHs list everything on the app when they collect it, and you click on the image to request it. If you are lucky, it will then be allocated to you and you can go to pick it up at whatever time you’ve agreed.

As for gifting household items or clothes that you no longer have a use for, I’ve been doing this for years on a number of platforms. OLIO is the best yet. The occasional item fails to find a home, but generally, things are requested within minute of posting, and an OLIO-er will fix a time with you to come and pick it up. I prioritise my ‘gifts’. If something will raise money, I take it to a charity shop. But other items, often things I would, pre-Covid, have given to a jumble sale, I post on OLIO. ‘No shows’ are rare on this platform and users are reminded to thank the giver after pick-up. Yes, the app can sometimes be annoying, but the advantage to the planet far outweighs any momentary irritations.

Patricia Ashby



Parish Life in Pictures *February 2022*



Lent Planning Meeting with Clergy



**Installation of New Head Choristers:
Balthazar Eyi and Claire Coles**





The First Coffee Morning in Two Years!



Candlemas



Chorister Medal Presentations



SRC Report March 2022

Although 2021 was another challenging year almost £7,000 was sent from Christ Church to charities through this committee.

By the time you read this that we will be serving coffee, tea & biscuits after the Sunday morning service. Proceeds from this and our stall sales in Lent will go to the Diocese of London Lent Appeal; Cultivating Compassionate Communities. Other money raised this way, until the end of June, will go to Grief Encounters. This is a bereavement counselling charity in Mill Hill who we have supported before and from whom members of the congregation have received help: <https://www.griefencounter.org.uk>

Again, through Lent we request that we all have a 'Jar of Hope'. Please save any spare coins, money that you save by giving something up, or just what you can afford for the Diocese of London Lent Appeal (**see opposite**).

Mrs Vicarage has been busy again making lovely eco-friendly cards, including some for Mothering Sunday- please take a look on the stall. At present we have many books & some DVDs. Please buy one for just £1 & read or watch and return to give someone else pleasure. If you have any unwanted presents or saleable goods, please get in touch.

We try to support local charities and recently in particular The Ark run by St John's church in Palmer Green. We donated about 200 presents, mainly for children and teenagers at Christmas and in February baby clothes and blankets, mainly for new born. When they take a removal lorry of homemaking goods to Afghan refugees, in the midlands, we will let you know what they require. They are extremely grateful for our generous gifts.

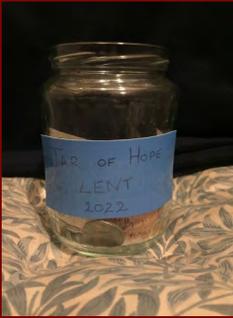
The North Enfield Food Bank is still requesting donations of non perishable food, tinned fish or chicken, custard rice pudding, long life milk, jam, sugar, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shower gel & shampoo, etc. Our collection box is still on the left just inside the main doors.

Please help us make this another generous year of charitable giving.

Many thanks,



Hilary Meur
Tel 02083602362
Email ccs ores@gmail.com



The Diocese of London Lent Appeal for 2022 will focus on raising awareness around issues of mental health & wellbeing for adults and young people, along with domestic abuse.

Hosted by the Compassionate Communities team, the aim of the appeal is to cultivate more compassionate communities by equipping churches to create safe spaces for those in their parish and promoting holistic wellbeing for all staff and church members too.

We will be raising money to support three partner charities <https://www.london.anglican.org/lent-appeal-2022/>



Friends of Christ Church Garden: Caring for Creation

In August 2021 the **Friends of Christ Church Garden** came together for the first time after PCC approval. The garden at the front of the church, which usually looks wonderful, was in great need of some care and attention after the Covid lockdowns. The usual gardeners had not been able to look after it as regularly as they were accustomed to for a variety of reasons. Our main priority at this stage had to be returning it to its usual standard of well-maintained loveliness, pleasing to the eye and for all to enjoy. There was much work to be done but, after a number of gardening sessions, I now feel that we are on top of it again, though of course garden maintenance is an ongoing necessity.

We have also identified an area to begin growing some vegetables. Very exciting!

A couple of weeks ago we began clearing an area in the back garden. There is a huge amount to be done before any of our special-ised project work can begin. We hope to begin planting a sensory garden and to designate a family and children's area and an area for prayer. We would like a small wildflower meadow for the butterflies and our bees, and we are thinking about some fruit trees/bushes. These

are long term projects that will take years to develop but our hope is that we can make a start and encourage those with an interest to join in. Ultimately, we hope to promote our garden as a healthy space for the local community where those who need an outdoor activity to relax them and those with mental health issues such as depression and/or anxiety can come and find a little peace, whether it be through actively joining in with the gardening or just being present in the garden.

Our next gardening days are **Saturdays 5th March and 2nd April**, which I've designated as 'Bring a friend to the garden day'. The gardening team are invited to introduce someone new to our work. Anyone can join the team and no previous gardening experience or knowledge is necessary. We are looking for sponsorship and fundraising ideas too.

The Christ Church garden is beautiful. It has always been so. Come and help us keep it that way and be part of an exciting adventure to develop it for the benefit of all!

Sandra Anderson, Project Team Leader

News from the Committees

The first meeting of the **Parochial Church Council** (the **PCC**) this year was held on Tuesday 18th January, via Zoom. In fact, this precaution against rising Covid numbers around Enfield was to our advantage and the turnout for this meeting was excellent. Probably the three most interesting agenda items were the Vicar's report, the finance report and fabric news.

In terms of wider news from the committees, Fr Chrichton's update embraced **Outreach**. Describing the success of the Patronal Festival and confirmations back in November 2021, Fr Chrichton reported that Amy Li had afterwards been interviewed by the Diocesan online news outlet about her ministry in the Chinese community. This was followed by a number of pre-Christmas visits by local schools and extremely successful Christmas services with big congregations, although numbers were not yet quite back to pre-pandemic levels. One high point was the journey of Mary and Joseph when they arrived in church, in search of the crib... this was reported daily on social media and using the official Church of England hashtag it attracted a phenomenal 26,000 views on Twitter alone!

Plant & Fabric news included updates on the floor, the plaster, the boundary walls and the organ. Application for the faculty to begin work on repairing the chancel floor is still in preparation, but the faculty enabling repairs to the south and east boundary walls had been granted and work was scheduled to start on 24th January. The same company, Fullers, would also make good the south aisle plaster fall. Finally, the annual inspection of the organ blower and humidifier had revealed the need for work on the humidifier which would be carried out as soon as possible.

The **Finance** report covered interim items in the build up to the end of year report that will be required in April. Clare Boulton explained that in spite of the fact that we are financially in a much stronger position than many parishes at the moment, there will almost certainly be a small end-of-year deficit overall. However, thanks to the immense generosity of donors over the Christmas period, she was also able to report that our day-to-day expenditure could show a surplus in excess of £10,000. The unusual building style of the flats and the Parish Centre means that, as always, there are ongoing expenses for urgent repairs, and the gas bills for church heating continue to rise... let's hope the warmer weather comes soon!

There was no other specific committee news at this meeting, although the hard work over Christmas of **Social Responsibility**, enabling really quite considerable charitable giving of both money and presents, was recognized by Fr Chrichton who thanked Hilary Meur and everyone concerned.

Patricia Ashby

As we return to Sunday morning coffee ...

A visiting priest was filling in at a small country church while the Vicar was away on holiday. He asked if he had conducted the Communion Service to their entire satisfaction. "Only one problem," said the Churchwarden. "When you were consecrating, you didn't lift the chalice high enough." Apparently that was the signal for someone to turn on the coffee urn.



Christchurch Association News

The **Christchurch Association (CCA)** provides a social centre for the parish and runs the "Top Step Bar", serving soft and alcoholic drinks upstairs in Church House. We are now able to take contactless payments as well as accepting cash.

The CCA Top Step bar is once again opening early **at 6pm** on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next occasions are **Fridays 4th March and 1st April**.

Our Chinese Snacks evening to celebrate the Year of the Tiger was very well attended, and on **Friday 25th March** we will be hosting a **Pizza Evening** in the bar. The bar will open at 8 pm, with a selection of pizzas - meat and vegetarian - served at around 9:15 pm. There is no need to book or order in advance and there will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of food.

On **Saturday 19th March** the bar will be open from 4pm onwards for the men's rugby **Six Nations Finale**. We will be showing the Ireland v Scotland game at 4:45 pm followed by France v England at 8 pm. There may well be an impromptu take away meal between the games.

Membership subscriptions became due for renewal on 1st January. Many members have 5-year subscriptions or pay by standing order - please ask at the bar or contact Clive to check if your membership has expired or if you wish to become a new member.

The Top Step Bar is open on a regular basis as follows (except during August):

Sundays from 7:30 to 10:30 pm
 Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 11 pm
 Early opening at 6 pm on the first Friday of every month

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 contact Clive for more information or if you would like to become a member

Clive Woodhouse (Chairman, Christchurch Association)

Stewardship

Well, here we are at the start of another year and I thought that I would share some information on the position of our Stewardship income for last year and a look ahead at this year.



The overall picture at the end of 2021 in respect of Stewardship income was of a very small increase in regular giving, just under £1,000 compared to 2020. This equates to an increase of just over 1%, given the present rate of inflation in real terms this should be seen as not keeping up with rising costs.

At the end of 2021 I was projecting a more robust increase, however the early indications are that this will not be the case. So far this year we have already lost three long standing, regular givers. Whilst we have welcomed a couple of new Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donors there is still a significant loss overall. It is also noticeable that most of the new PGS donors over the last few months have not elected for the annual inflationary increase. This is something I thought might happen as I do not get the opportunity to discuss Stewardship with the new donors as they use the direct application method.

The actual number in Stewardship has remained stable, but we are still vulnerable to those donors that no longer attend regularly and it shows the necessity of constantly attracting new donors. If you are new to Christ Church please consider joining Stewardship, using the PGS. If you want to know more about this please see my contact details in the Directory in the back of The Spire - email address is shown below.

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder
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/>

Or scan the QR code below on your smartphone or tablet



Update on Used Postage Stamps



Very many thanks to everyone who saved stamps over the Christ-
mas period. This is hugely appreciated by the RNIB (the charity to
which we donate our stamps). I have just had an email from one
of the RNIB's support care officers who wrote:

*We would like to once again take this opportunity to thank
you for your continued support of our appeal. Last year thanks to our very generous
supporters and the amazing work of our volunteers, we raised over £30,000 from
stamps. Something that most people would just throw away!*

This is a fabulous amount of money, and **your used stamps** have contributed to it. Can
we keep this up? If every single one of us remembers to cut the stamp off every single
envelope that has one in the corner, right through the year, this would probably more
than double the number we give them. So please, please, never throw a used stamp in
the bin again! Cut them off with a 1 cm border (just cut the corner off the whole enve-
lope if the stamp is stuck right at the edge) and leave them at the back of church for me
to collect.

I also learned in the same email that RNIB is happy to receive **full collector's albums**
which they are then able to auction for money. These can be of any value, but the
condition is that the album must be full. (Part-filled albums are dismantled, with stamps
then going into the regular used stamp collections.) I gave my late father's stamp albums
to another collector, but the RNIB is certainly worth keeping in mind if you are having a
clear-out and you don't want to try selling the album(s) yourself.

Patricia Ashby

Weekly Services

Sunday	8.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.00 am	Choral Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Tuesday	7.30 pm	Said Eucharist (Healing on First & Third week)
	Thursday	12.30 pm

All welcome



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 hazelmiall@btinternet.com

Lay Readers

Cathy Dallman, 4 Greenacre Walk, Southgate, N14 7DB 8886 5918
Jackie Anderson 8245 0305
Sandra Anderson 07947
027265
Amy Li via the office

Churchwardens

Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR 8367 5961
Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com 07974437966

PCC

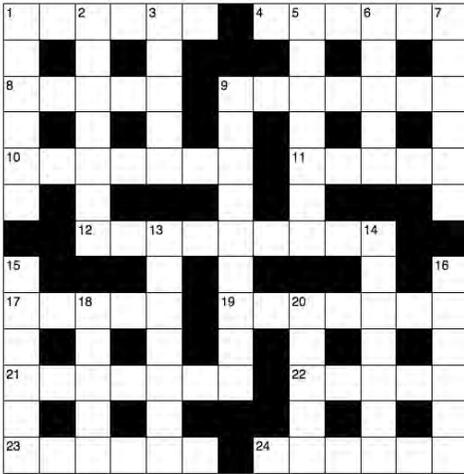
Secretary Caroline Robertson 8886 0384
office@christchurch-southgate.org
Treasurer Clare Boulton (as above)
Stewardship Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

Music Department

Director of Music Richard Brain 07979850546
music@christchurch-southgate.org
Organist Kate Macpherson
Associate Organist David Hinit
Treasurer Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

Sacristan	Vacancy	
Sidesmen	Judith Lo	8882 3335
Sub-committee Chairs/contacts		
<i>Outreach</i>	Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)	
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Kate Carroll (as above)	
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Vacancy	
<i>Resources</i>	Ronald Lo	8882 3335
Electoral Roll Officer	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
Parish Magazine “The Spire”		
<i>Editorial Team</i>	Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper Copy to be sent to <i>christchurchspire@gmail.com</i>	
Flower Arrangers	Contact the Parish Office (see above)	
Parish Centre/Church Halls		
<i>Chairman</i>	Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD	8882 6738
<i>Secretary</i>	Clare Boulton (see above)	
<i>Lettings</i>	christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Meur (as above)	
Christ Church Association Bar		
<i>Contact</i>	Clive Woodhouse, 41b Osborne Road, N13 5BT	8882 0014
Friday Coffee Morning	<i>Every Friday morning 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Hilary Meur (as above)	
Lunch Fellowship	<i>Usually on 2nd Wednesday in the month at noon in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
Scout Group	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i>	07980 740 587
	Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	8882 0991
Bellringers	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974
Young Fogeys	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH	8882 8133

MARCH CROSSWORD



Down

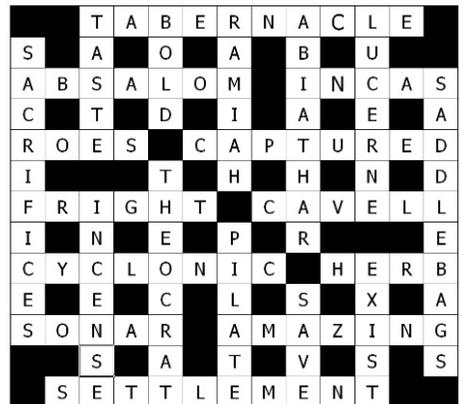
- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 "“They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”” (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

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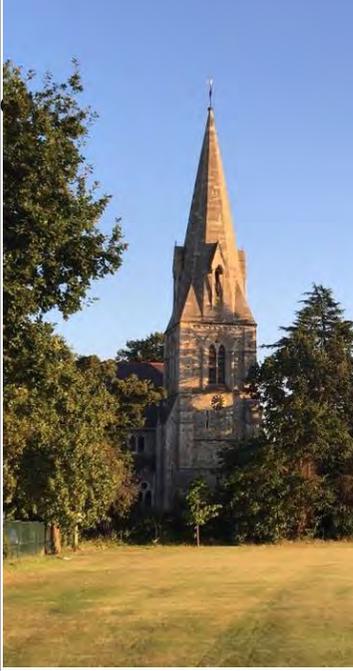
martina@macroryward.co.uk

or

margaret@macroryward.co.uk

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