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The Spire



Flag at Half mast on the day after death
of Queen Elizabeth II – 9th September

October and November 2022
Harvest and
Remembrance

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— Southgate —



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Welcome to the October and November issue of Spire Magazine. The (relative) lull of the summer is over and the rapid rush to the end of the year is on. Bake-off and Strictly are back on the TV so it must be almost Christmas already.

I say there was a relative lull over the summer as there were weddings and our fantastic Oberammergau trip before we were all surprised and upset by the sudden decline and death of our Queen Elizabeth II. I think we were able to pull together some moving and appropriate services in the period of mourning to serve the community and help everyone prepare on the journey to the state funeral – led by the Dean of Westminster the Very Rev'd David Hoyle, a former Vicar of this parish.

Our prayers must be still be with all the royal family at this difficult time. Organising a funeral for a much-loved senior member of a family is hard enough at best, without the close scrutiny of every move by billions of viewers for over a week.

Before we get into Advent and Christmas, we will all be remembering in different ways those who have gone before us. We start with October 30th with All Saints in the morning and All Souls in the evening. The Requiem mass – with the music of Faure – gives us the chance to bring to mind and remember by name those we have loved and see no longer, knowing they are safe in God's loving arms. Please let Caroline in the office know the names of those you would like commemorated.

On Saturday 5th November at 2.30pm we will be holding a Memorial Service for another of the former Vicars of Christ Church, Fr Peter Jackson, who died in Nice in August. Please spread the word and come if you can to give thanks for his loving work in the parish and community.

Sunday November the 13th will be Remembrance Sunday. This has a special poignancy this year after the recent events, so we will include the Act of Remembrance within a special service starting at 10.30am to help

the whole community remember and be thankful for both our Queen and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The busy times continue with the re-arranged weekend to celebrate our Pre-Raphaelite windows as part of the Stories of Enfield Project on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November – our Patronal Festival.

There is plenty to celebrate, so come and join with the tours, art conversations, guided photography sessions, community art and craft activities, and children’s workshops. Spread the word to neighbours and friends and come yourself.

The weekend ends with the usual wonderful concert from the choir on Sunday evening on the theme of light to end the liturgical year. The whole cycle starts again with the Advent Procession on Sunday 27th, to start to retell

the story of Christ’s time on earth. There will all the usual events in December, including the journey of knitted Mary, Joseph and Donkey, Christingle, the Christmas Eve Crib Service, the Pop-Up Nativity, and the legendary Nine Lessons and carols on Friday 16th December.

Please come to support and join in the events and services at Christ Church if you can. The whole community and nation pulled together during the time of mourning, so as we approach a potentially difficult autumn and winter let us remember that we are all surrounded by God’s love and there is an absolute certainty that the Christ Child is coming among us again.

Every blessing.

Fr Chrichton

The Travelling Crib

Mary, Joseph and the donkey are hoping that they can find some shelter and visit different people on the way to Bethlehem. Please let me know if you are happy to have them stay with you and then pass them on to the next host family.

The plan is that they will be blessed at the 10am service on Advent Sunday, 27th November, and head off to stay with their first family, before arriving back at church in time for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. I hope many of you will, once again, want to host our travelling crib this Advent. It is a lovely way to highlight the real meaning of Christmas and a chance for families to meet and reflect together when the crib is handed over.

Each host should prepare a special place for Mary, Joseph and their donkey to rest.



Please speak to me to book your place on the travel itinerary. They will only set off if there are enough resting places on the long and arduous journey.

Judith Limbert
chrichton@waitrose.com
Tel: 07719 192020



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

Paying Respects

Over the last month we have more than our fair share of bereavements. Although Christians believe that when we leave this world, we will be with God our Father, the parting from our loved ones still hurts. It takes a while to adjust to losing a loved one.

As a congregation we have had to come to terms with the deaths of Fr. Peter Jackson and her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. We have two books of condolence in Church for people to write in and pay their respects.



I suspect that most people reading this will remember where they were when they heard the news of Her Majesty's death. I happened to be in central London, and soon after the news had broken, I received notice of a service being held at St Bartholomew's the Great that evening, so we went. By 7.02 pm they had managed to get an order of service printed, containing the new words of the National Anthem. I felt quite emotional singing 'God Save the King' just a few hours after Queen Elizabeth's death had been announced.

After the service we felt the need to go somewhere to pay our respects, so we got on the top deck of a bus to Buckingham Palace. It was dark and hundreds of people were there but as it was raining there was a steady flow of sad friends and families.

We seriously thought about going to Westminster Hall to pay our respects, but I didn't think I would have the stamina for the queue, so we opted to take flowers to Green Park instead. My grandson Max aged 7 wasn't familiar with the custom of placing flowers somewhere as a sign of respect. On Sunday we went as a family to Green Park to lay some garden flowers. Max wrote a card in his best handwriting. Once we had overcome the bottleneck of people trying to get into the park, we were very impressed by the organisation.

Max placed our bunch of flowers by a tree, with other, grander, bouquets. We were all fascinated to read the tributes. The Paddington bears made us smile, but sensibly the marmalade sandwiches had all been removed.

I will remember our family trip to pay our respects to the Queen and I hope my Grandson will too.

May The Revd. Peter Jackson and Her Majesty Rest in Peace.

Hazel Miall

Note from the Editors

Welcome to another edition of The Spire! Many thanks to all our contributors, both regular and new! Thanks also to all those who have sent in tributes to Father Peter Jackson - we've had so many that will be a 'part two' included in our next edition.

A reminder that copy for the next edition is due **16th November**. The theme is Christmas and New Year, so we'd love to hear about any traditions you might have to celebrate the season!

Freya and Imogen

Christ Church Oberammergau Trip 2022

The trip to Austria/Germany was almost 4 years in coming, thanks to Covid, but oh so worth the wait. Our first full day started at a crib exhibition with schnapps by 10.30 am. Then we went to the local church for a service followed by an organ and recorder recital, by the same musician at the same time! Whilst looking around the church I spotted a hand holding a crucifix, poking out of the pulpit. I thought the schnapps was working, but it was part of the decoration around the pulpit. Very strange! We spent the rest of the glorious day around the highest lake in Austria reaching it by cable car and at the Ibex centre.

Another warm and sunny day followed, and we went on a walking tour of the nearby village, including the parish church for a service. Some walked down to the 94m high Benni Raich suspension bridge, where you could go bungee jumping. Thankfully, it was closed when we went. After our delicious 5 course evening meal we were invited to the "Austrian Night". The solo musician, accompanying himself on his accordion, sang a couple of yodelling songs followed by several incomprehensible Elvis songs, but all very good fun.



Early next morning we set off for the play. As we entered Oberammergau our new tour guide pointed out a roman soldier, doing his day job... a bus driver. Later we spotted Joseph of Arimathea



speeding through the village on his motorbike with hair flowing, and were registered into our hotel by none other than Pilate himself.

Our seats at the play were on row 4.

I could almost shake hands with the conductor. Several scenes included live animals; sheep, goats, donkey, horses, camels, chickens and doves. Most of these animals left calling cards on the stage. One sheep left a rather large pile on the exact spot where a choir member was to stand and sing. Sitting so close to the front we could easily see his shock and horror. He walked forward and straddled the pile, hoisted his trousers up a notch and sang his heart out. The show must go on.

We visited many churches and monasteries in a few days. Most were in the Baroque style, really over decorated in gold and bling. Not my taste at all. Our tour guide, Denise, had a few English phrases that were not always well chosen. Her favourite word was "frigging" this and "frigging" that, but my best was when she told us we had to leave one church promptly, her phrase was "we need to get the hell out of here". Father Chrichton's face spoke volumes.

I would like to thank both Father Chrichton and Judith for getting this pilgrimage up and running. What a wonderful treat.

Briony Hadjidaniel

To witness the Passion Play in Oberammergau was an unforgettable experience. The actors, all local people, brought the story to life, and the characters they represented reflected varying attitudes



and responses to Jesus among the Jewish people and the Romans. This was certainly thought-provoking. We were blessed to experience the beautiful scenery of Bavaria and Austria, and to gain an insight into some of the local history and traditions.

Rosemary and Richard Lawson

It was so lovely to spend time and have a special shared experience with friends. The weather couldn't have been more perfect and the scenery was awe-inspiring. There is no better place to have a church service, than outdoors with nature and the mountains as the back drop. The food was amazing! We were well looked after by our team leaders (thanks Limberts) and our tour guides. The play was beautiful, moving and unforgettable. It was a privilege to share this with our lovely group of people and the new friends we made while there. When are we going on our next church holiday?

Youla Hadjidaniel

What I took most from the Passion play was having hope when we fail, and the importance of Christian community.

There was lengthy interaction between Judas and Jesus. Judas loved Jesus deeply but completely mis-understood Jesus' mission, and this led to Judas being beside himself with guilt on betraying his Lord. Peter too was full of grief for denying his Lord. However, unlike Peter who had John to console him with the hope that Jesus would forgive him, Judas had no one to turn to.

The choir sang:
 'Behold, Judas falls into the dark!
 Why does no brother catch him?
 Lord, in your grace, let the outcasts, the tormented and the restless, the desperate and traitors, the victims, and the perpetrators, the fearful and the sinful find peace and forgiveness with you!'

We all fail God but can find forgiveness and peace in Jesus. We also need each other to grow and be supported in Christ – the Church community is important.

Presanna Premachandra

Greetings from South West Scotland! A lot has happened since our adventure in Oberammergau and the Austrian Tyrol; we mourn the passing of Her Majesty the Queen and are praying for His Majesty our new King. The expedition was fabulous: the fulfilment of a childhood ambition of Barbara's, and we're grateful to Fr. Chrichton for adopting a couple of presbyterians from Dumfries as "honorary members" of Christ Church, Southgate! Blessings to you all.



Raymond & Barbara Witty



An Interview with Fr Paul Ellerby Curate of Christ Church



SPIRE: Tell us a little about yourself!

FR PAUL: I am here at Christ Church as a self-supporting part time curate. This means that I continue to work and live in my family home, but I worship and serve at Christ Church! In the first year of my curacy, I will spend Sundays in church and meet with Fr Chrichton once a month, whilst meeting other people who can help to grow my understanding of the Parish.

I live in East Finchley with my wife Catherine—also a curate, at St Anne’s in Tottenham!—and my daughter Evangeline. I have three other children: Luke and his wife Amy live in Cambridge, Grace and her husband Luke live in Birmingham, Titus and his girlfriend Meg live in Liverpool. We also have a miniature schnauzer called Otto!

SPIRE: What did you do before your calling?

FR PAUL: I was a Lay Minister for seventeen years before being ordained. My work has always been connected to travel and tourism.

SPIRE: What led you to ordination?

FR PAUL: Conversations with the vicar at St James Muswell Hill about planting a new congregation in a part of the Parish not represented in the existing congregation. We started to explore additional training with the Edmonton Area Director for Training and the journey of discernment began there!

SPIRE: Can you describe the ceremony at St Paul’s for us? How did it feel?

FR PAUL: Joyful, awesome, significant.

Having spent several days together with all of the ordinands, there was a great sense of joy as we entered the next stage of our ministry and training together. ‘Awesome’ in that in addition to making promises before the Bishop and the whole congregation, we were committing ourselves to God’s service. A very special aspect of the service was that when each Edmonton candidate was ordained, the Bishop of Edmonton also stepped forward to lay his hands on us as the Bishop of London prayed.

SPIRE: What are your first impressions of Christ Church?

FR PAUL: A welcoming and friendly church! I feel very loved and well cared for.

SPIRE: What's the strangest or most impressive pilgrimage trip you've been involved with?

FR PAUL: In June 2022, just before my pre-Ordination retreat, I spent four days in Galilee and Jerusalem with a group of seventy people from a black Pentecostal church in Woolwich. In each place we visited together we were reminded of the events from the Gospel that occurred there, and we asked the Holy Spirit to reveal to us how this should shape our lives today and into the future. At the church which had been built to commemorate the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes, I was inspired by a Nilometer (look it up!) which spoke to me of Jesus being seen in me in greater measure.

SPIRE: Do you have a favourite Bible story, quote or passage?

My favourite Bible verse is Ephesians 3:14-21. It was the reading Catherine and I chose for our wedding thirty years ago.

All the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Bible Reflections

The Bible is the inspired word of God – I'm sure you know this – beautiful, holy, and wonderful! How we love the Bible and the great God, almighty and victorious.

On Ascension Day, our blessed Lord Jesus says goodbye to his faithful followers. He promises to see them in heaven, and he tells them he will keep a place for them. He sends the Holy Spirit – his advocate, the Paraclete – to guide them and speak his will to the apostles. The Holy Ghost helps us too – third person of the godhead, the Trinity.

I know all of the Bible and can list the books in order from Genesis to Revelations – my Bible is my byword. I remember all these prophetic, wonderful, inspired by God, books.

Jesus, Lord of all, how you inspire me – one day I will see you! My work I do for you, my divine master, my royal friend. I believe in you – Amen.

Lynda Corcoran



CHRIST CHURCH WEEKEND

19th and 20th November

Guided tours and art conversations about the Pre-Raphaelite windows, including guided photography sessions 2-4pm each day, craft and collage activities, and children's activities



See <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/history/1862-building/pre-raphaelite-windows/windows-events-programme/>



Remembering Father Peter Jackson

Part 1

Memorial Service

Saturday 5th November 2.30 pm: Memorial service for Fr Peter Jackson.

For the purpose of catering for refreshments afterwards, it would be helpful if you could contact Caroline in the office 020 8886 0384 / office@christchurch-southgate.org

NOTICE FROM THE CHURCH TIMES

JACKSON. — On 30 August, the Revd Peter Jonathan Edward Jackson: Lecturer of Westminster College, Oxford (1979-80); Chaplain of Aldenham School, Hertfordshire (1982-89); Chaplain and Head of Religious Education of Harrow School (1989-2001); Lecturer of King's College, London (1992-99); Director of Christian Education, and Associate Rector of St Patrick's, Washington, United States (2001-03); Vicar of Christ Church, Southgate (2003-14); Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Nice, with Vence, since 2014; aged 69.

I will miss Peter. When I first met him, he seemed a rather posh Vicar, who had taught at Harrow school, and knew Princess Margaret. I was a parishioner. I now realise I have lost a real friend.

I got to know Peter when he was chair of the Baird Alms Houses Trustees, and I was the Clerk. He was able to conduct meetings in a business-like manner, so we got home before we were bored. After a while he asked me if I would act as church Warden, for a year. I reluctantly agreed and remained in post for many years.

I had been seriously considering how I could best serve God and the church when my term as Church Warden ended. I kept retuning to the possibility of putting myself forward for ordination. It seemed a rather farfetched idea as I was a very ordinary member of the congregation. I kept these thoughts pretty much to myself until Peter and Joe were talking about holidays, and the need for someone else to take the services. Joe said that, with training, I could do it. I thought he was joking. Peter then said, 'good idea', and the rest, as they say, is history.

Peter and Joe supported me the whole way through the application, selection, and training process. Edmonton in those days had very few women priests and the first female Vicar had yet to be appointed. Peter understood the potential difficulties and steered me through. He was a natural teacher. Peter suggested I practice before my first baptism so I asked my God daughter if I could borrow a doll from her daughter to practice with. As the baby to be baptised was her son, she offered him to practice on instead of a doll. At the practice he pulled my glasses off and managed to remove the dog collar from my shirt. The actual baptism went all the more smoothly because of the practice.

I observed Peter during weddings and funerals but preparing for my first solo burial was very daunting. The preparation I had done over the years felt inadequate. Peter gave me the confidence I needed. He drove me to the graveyard, waited and then drove me back. I'm sure that wasn't in his job description for teaching a curate. I was honoured when Peter asked me to officiate at the funeral service, in England, of

his mother Madge, who I got to know quite well. Having entrusted this to me I felt a humble confidence. I subsequently interred the ashes of both his parents in Nice and have the privilege of being asked to do the same service for him after his funeral in Nice on 12th October.

Peter and Joe were kind and generous hosts, and I was indeed able to give them a Sunday off. We house sat for them while they were away. He now has an endless holiday, with God our father. May he Rest in Peace.

Hazel Miall



I had been licensed as a Reader (otherwise known as a Licensed Lay Minister or LLM) before Fr. Peter came to Christ Church. Malcolm, although starting training with me, was for personal reasons, unable to complete the course. He finished training before Fr. Peter came but could not be licensed until we had a vicar for him to be licensed to.

After Fr. Robert Wilkinson who was our curate at the time, left to become a vicar in Wood Green, we did not have a curate for several years. So, Malcolm and I shared the deaconing duties at the Eucharist every Sunday. I very much enjoyed doing this: standing by Fr. Peter holding the book for him and setting up the altar.

I was fortunate not to have any bereavements in my family during the time Fr. Peter was with us but many people have told me that the Pastoral care they had from him was wonderful.
May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Cathy Dallman



If asked to describe Father Peter, the word that first comes to mind is joy. Supported by his deep faith he took joy in all aspects of life. We first came to Christchurch with our

daughter prior to her deployment to Iraq; but stayed due to the sense of community that he fostered and conveyed. He married our other daughter and supported Norman so he could come to terms with his life limiting illness. Maybe sharing a meal with carefully selected wines, cheese and whisky afterwards was not quite what the palliative care team meant by seeking spiritual support, but it did the trick. Although he had a great sense of humour, he laughed with you; we never knew him laugh at anyone. We were proud but unsurprised to hear of the support he provided during the attacks in Nice.

Peter and Joe worked through the Covid lockdown keeping the church community in Nice together by seamless use of technology. Although scattered by circumstance, around the world all could join in with services, sharing the peace across time zones. In our family, Southgate, Hampshire and County Dow, found a comforting security together on Sunday mornings, rounding off with a proper ground coffee for the full Father Peter experience.

Thank you for your wise ministry, Father Peter. You provided unflinching support and friendship walking with us along our journey through life, past births, marriages and deaths, always pointing out the wonderful fun of it all and teaching us not to be afraid.

Angela, Zine and Phillipa



It was during Fr Peter's time at Christ Church that my faith began to grow. I found his sermons wise and inspiring, often with a useful practical element. I was left wanting to know more, do more and give more. He was a gentle man who looked after us well.

When his proposed departure was announced one Sunday morning I sobbed. Fr Peter had agreed to marry Paul and I, but it seemed that he was officially leaving the week before. I was delighted when he

decided to stay an extra week just to perform our marriage ceremony which was his last service in our church.



We were very lucky to have Fr Peter as our Vicar here at Christ Church and those of us who attended his licensing in Nice were happy to let the congregation there know that they should have no doubts at all and that, once they knew him, they would grow as fond of him as we had. I am sure that this was the case. We really missed him and I'm sure they are missing him terribly now.

I am very sad that Fr Peter was not in the world a little longer. I thank him for his life of dedication to our faith. God Bless you Fr Peter.

Sandra Anderson



It seems like only yesterday that I first met Fr Peter at Christ Church, but remarkably it was almost ten years ago in the December of 2012. We were meeting for an informal discussion about the Director of Music post which was then being advertised. I was very nervous and unsure of what to expect. After all, the music at Christ Church had an impressive reputation and distinguished history, and I was only a 23-year-old Conducting postgraduate at music college.

From the moment I met Fr Peter, he immediately put me at my ease. He was approachable, engaging, informative, and very encouraging. Above all, he was

extremely kind. These qualities, which I feel were the key characteristics of Fr Peter, encouraged me to make my application and join Christ Church, launching my career and my amazing journey here. It was an enormous act of faith to entrust me with that responsibility. I of course benefitted from his encouragement from a musical perspective, but I know he helped others with their different vocations as well. I am in no doubt that countless others owe him the same thanks, encouraging them to nurture their talents, or to take a leap of faith in a new venture.

During his time at Christ Church, Fr Peter had appointed a series of young and early career organists and choir directors. In each case, he entrusted the care of the Church's choral tradition to new talent, allowing each of them to develop their skills and gain experience while the Choir could feed off their energy and ambition. In appointing such young musicians, Fr Peter will have spent a lot of time guiding, nurturing, and developing us in our posts. He was a gifted teacher, explaining to each of us matters as varied as the purpose of certain music within the liturgy, to the practicalities of personnel management. In some ways, this was carrying on his work as a school chaplain, equipped and devoted as he was to teaching young people, with a natural inclination to help and inform. He was an exemplary teacher, whether it was in the field of professional education or as a preacher and parish priest.

Fr Peter was generous with his time, very knowledgeable about sacred music, and extremely thoughtful about the use of music within the liturgy. He was able to offer food for thought and wise words of advice. In addition to his wide experience, Fr Peter was of course extremely approachable. He was very much engaged with the social life of the Choir during his years as Vicar. Joe, Eliot, and Anneli all sang with the Choir, and past and present members of the Choir also have their own stories to tell of the warmth and

generosity of Fr Peter and his family.

As with everyone at Christ Church, I was deeply saddened to hear of Fr Peter's untimely passing. On behalf of the Choir, I send my condolences to Joe and the family in their loss. Fr Peter was a gifted priest and teacher, but above all, a kind and generous man who will be solely missed. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Richard Brain



My first encounter with Peter was indeed at Christ Church, Southgate. In the days when women were very rarely ordained in the Edmonton Area, Bishop Peter Wheatley graciously asked if I would ordain one Hazel Miall! It was a delight to be asked especially with our links via Stationers' School and then via Matthew and Bob Baynes, both sadly no longer with us. Peter was little short of perfect as an incumbent hosting an ordination.

His training at St Stephen's House brought with him a great dignity to worship and a clear understanding of what ordination us about. His warmth and relaxed manner made mutual working a joy. I shall never forget Hazel's ordination and so much of that was down to Peter.

While we were planning everything, Peter explained that he and Joe were soon moving to Nice, and why didn't we think of coming out there from time to time to give him a break, but also to have time together. It was a great idea, as two decades earlier, during the time of Father John Livingstone, I had led Holy Week, then a retreat and finally looked after things for three weeks during one summer - both our sons came too and, that added to their experience which would, did we but know it then, give them further insights into the vocation to which each would later be called.

So, off to Nice we went for at least three, if not four, one week or ten day stays when I looked after the Chaplaincy. Peter and Joe were great hosts - both enjoyed food and wine ... and the odd gin and tonic ... and we had sumptuous fare! We always arranged it such that not only were we useful to cover holidays, but we always overlapped so that we could enjoy each other's company. We became very good friends and Rossie, my wife, loved our visits.

I cannot believe that Peter is no longer around. His wonderful sighs and his easy company remain there with me - I often imitate those sighs! He will have left a great legacy wherever he ministered. Think of all those children passing through Harrow School, who will have been formed in their Christian life by his teaching but still more by him simply 'being who he was'. Our heart goes out to Joe and to their children for whom Peter felt so much love.

+ Stephen Platten



It was sad news to hear that Fr. Peter Jackson had passed on. What a lovely gentleman he was, a good man and a very good Priest. I visited Fr. Peter in Nice. Fr. Peter was always there for me and had a brilliant quiet sense of humour. Fr. Peter arranged my wedding in two days, and even ran out on my wedding day to buy me a wedding cake! My late husband Alan was a great Arsenal football supporter. On the day of Alan's funeral when he knew I was finding it hard to get through the Church doors, he showed me his ankle and smiled, he was wearing Arsenal socks for Alan.

Thank you for your great friendship, kindness and lovely memories and have a wonderful final journey. With love, Barbara

Barbara Clarke-Love





Parish Life in Pictures

August and September 2022



Wedding of Viv Martin and Paul Brennan - Aug 18th



Coffee Morning Restarts - Aug 19th



Our Choir at Westminster Abbey - August 21st

Remembering Her Majesty - Sept 9th



Service of Commemoration and Vigil on eve of HM Funeral (with Mthr Anna Studdart and Mayor of Enfield Cllr Doris Jiagge) - Sept 18th



Oberammergau trip August 24th to August 31st



What We Sing in Church



'Come ye thankful people come' N.E.H. No. 259

As we are celebrating our Harvest Festival, I thought it would be good to look at a harvest hymn which I expect we will be singing. We have to remember that our harvest hymns were written when many more people in the community would have been closely involved with agriculture and 'Harvest Home' was really important for them; it meant that food supplies for the coming winter were assured. So, they would have been very thankful to God for supplying their needs.

This is much less so now, of course, and our harvest festival is rather tame in comparison. We may bring to church produce from our gardens or allotments, but often we give tins or packets to charities who provide for homeless people in winter. The principle is the same - we are showing our gratitude for plenty.

In verse 1 of the hymn the writer calls people to be thankful that the harvest of the fields has been brought home and relates that to the Jewish custom of the bringing of the first sheaves of corn in thankfulness to the Temple.

The whole of the rest of the hymn is strongly related to Jesus' parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matt 13:24-30). Jesus' listeners were like our ancestors, closely involved in the production of food from the land, and Jesus' parables show us that he lived in a rural community. To really understand the hymn you will need to read the parable and also that of the Sower (Matt 13: 1-9.) Also it might be useful to read the explanation of the parables (Matt 13: 18-23 and 36: 43)

The field that is sown with seed is the whole world, and the seeds of wheat are those who follow Jesus' teaching, and the tares or weeds are people who do evil. Tares which can be identified with a plant called darnel which is very like wheat when it first sprouts and is

impossible to distinguish. By the time it is identifiable as a weed it has grown so entangled with the wheat that trying to pull it up would uproot the wheat. It is only possible to separate them at harvest. The lines 'First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear' is a reference to a small parable found only in Mark's Gospel (Mark 4:26-29).

Verse 3 refers to the end of the parable of the wheat and tares and relates to the end of days when angels will sort out the good from bad. In verse 4 the hymn writer prays that the good grain - those who have followed Christ's teaching - will be safely gathered in forever, to be purified and abide in 'God's garner' by which he means heaven.

He then calls on all the angels to come and raise the song of the final 'Harvest Home'

Cathy Dallman

Margaret's Story



My Daughter was recently asked, by an elderly lady called Margaret, to visit her at a home for terminally ill patients. She wanted to tell her about the opening and closing of her life story. Margaret was the youngest of three girls. When she was a few weeks old, her father sadly died. Left with a family and little money her mother tearfully handed Margaret over to social care.

Margaret's story

For fourteen years, I was told when to sleep, what to eat, what to wear, when and where to go. At school, I was known as the "HOMES GIRL" and of little value by other children and teachers. Often given jobs to do around the school as other children studied. And now here I am back where I began. Awakened, put back to sleep, and washed when others decide; eat when others decide. I have very few days left now before Jesus will be answering my tearful prayers, that I might be reunited with my real family again.

My daughter thought that Margaret's story would help us all to realise how fortunate we are.

John Clarke

Bee Appeal

The 'Bee Team' have had a particularly 'challenging' past 12 months. Unfortunately, this has culminated, despite our best efforts, in the complete loss of our last colony. The good news is that we remain undaunted (!) and will rise to the challenge of purchasing another 'nucleus' of bees in the spring of next year (2023). The bad news is that bees aren't cheap, and we are anticipating expending around £300. We need your help.

In order to raise funds, we are proposing to auction twenty-five (25) 225g fully labelled jars of honey which we managed to extract this year. As we need to raise as much as possible, we think it would be great to appeal to the generous nature of parishioners by having a 'sealed bid' auction.

The way it will work is for anyone who is interested in purchasing a jar (remember it is a very 'limited-edition' Christ Church honey!) to complete the bid form below. Please fill out your full name and contact details together with your bid (minimum £8), place in a sealed envelope and return to either Nick Harper, Youla Hadjidaniel or the Church Office by **31st October 2022**. Please also note that if we receive multiple bids at the same level and there are insufficient jars, we will accept bids from a random draw of the bids received.

Once the above date has passed, we will open all the envelopes and the highest 25 bids received will be accepted and jars made available for collection (and payment made) etc at a future date which we will advise once the auction has ended. We would like to limit the number of jars to a maximum of three (3) for each bidder please so everyone can hopefully join in the fun!

Thank you, so much and good luck with your bidding!

The Bee Team



Sealed Bid Form for Christ Church Honey

Closing date 31st October 2022

Number of Jars you are bidding for (maximum three per bidder)

Maximum Bid* for First Jar:	£
Maximum Bid* for Second Jar (if applicable):	£
Maximum Bid* for Third Jar (if applicable):	£

*Must be £8 or more, lower amounts will not be accepted

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:



'Light Celestial'

Patronal Festival Concert

Sunday 20 November 2022, 6.30pm

Christ Church Southgate, N14 7EG

The Choir of Christ Church Southgate and

The Bach Sinfonia Quartet

Richard Brain *conductor* – Liz Partridge *violin* – Kate Macpherson *organ*

An evening of celebratory choral and instrumental music including:

Parry Blest Pair of Sirens – Harris Faire is the Heaven

Handel Music for the Royal Fireworks – Elgar Serenade for Strings

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office@christchurch-southgate.org - or on the door. Card and cash accepted.

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Children's Corner

What did one ghost say to the other?

Get a life!

Why are ghosts so bad at telling lies?

Because you can see right through them.

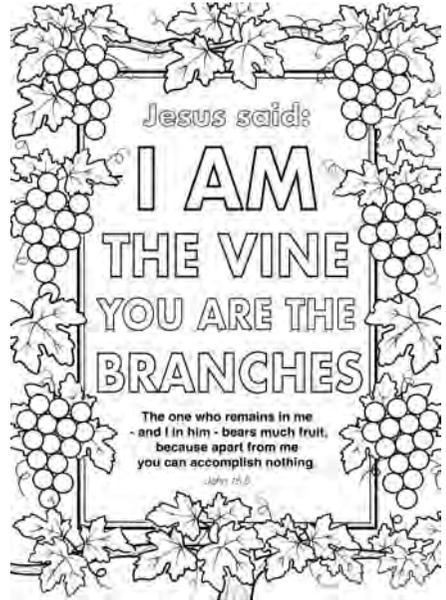
Why are skeletons so calm?

Because nothing gets under their skin.

Find the mouse!

Did you find Walker in the last edition? He was sitting at the Queen of Sheba's feet on page 10.

See if you can find him hiding somewhere in the pages of this magazine.



News from the Committees



After what has turned out to be a busy summer, this latest news is hot off the press from the recent, 20th September meeting of the Parochial Church Council (the PCC).

The Vicar's Report, as always, summarises a lot of our Outreach activity. This time, there's been a blend of extremes: at the *joyous and happy* end of the spectrum, three weddings took place during July and August (not least the marriage of Fr Chrichton's son Sam to Maddie, conducted by the Bishop of Edmonton); and then, at the *sad* end, Christ Church was open to remember the late Queen Elizabeth II, with a book of condolence being made available for all to sign. Christ Church will also undertake a form of outreach at the "Creation Care" conference in St Pancras church (8th October), spearheaded by Fr Chrichton in his role as diocesan champion and where Youla Hajidaniel will speak about bee-keeping.

Additionally, a detailed update from Sandra Anderson on behalf of **Eco & Care Creation** gave news of progress in our gardens (which is slower than hoped, given a dropping off in the number of volunteers), plans to purchase new bees in 2023, and a display in church to coincide with Harvest Festival (the three Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle).

The detailed **Social Responsibility** report can be read elsewhere in *The Spire*. This included updates on the St Swithun's Fundraiser, the Sponsored Hymn Singing (19th October), the Harvest Quiz Raffle (1st October), plus preparations for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes which will be sent to Ukraine and Moldova. Also *à propos* of fund-raising, Clive Woodhouse reported the success of collections in a charity box at a recent Christ Church Association event.

News from **Plant & Fabric** provided an update on the chancel floor. It is hoped that a report from the heating engineer to the quantity surveyor will progress smoothly to the Archdeacon and our faculty will be approved in time to enable work to begin in

January. The quantity surveyor visited Christ Church together with the architect on 1st September. The **Finance report** was also brief: no unexpected expenditure has arisen over the summer and our financial position remains more or less stable (although still with an overall deficit of £27K). New tenants have been found for our Oakfield Road property and have now moved in.

The PCC also received a report from the **Parish Centre Management** committee (PCM) noting that all monies owed by the now closed Kindergarten Nursery have been received and that an application has been made to OFSTED by the Walker After School Club organizer to replace this with a new nursery in Walker Hall. PCM also noted that they are investigating ways to reduce water consumption in the halls and that energy price rises will probably need to be offset by increasing hire charges in future years.

Patricia Ashby

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 opens early at 6pm on the first Friday of each month except August, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next such occasions are **Fridays 7th October** and **4th November**.

We have been collecting donations at our special events to support the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, and I am very pleased

to say that we gave a sum of £200 at the end of July via the Social Responsibility Committee. Thanks to all who contributed.

Friday Foodie evenings have continued, with a particularly well attended Pizza Night in July and Chinese Snacks in September. The next event will be on **Friday 28th October** when Indian Snacks will be served.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place in the Reception Room (bar) on **Wednesday 2nd November at 8:30 pm**. This is an important meeting and I encourage all members to attend; non-members are also welcome especially if you want to find out more about the CCA. Please contact Clive if you are interested in joining the CCA or if you would like to serve on the committee.

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)*



A teacher was observing her classroom of young children while they drew. As she came to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said gently, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, the girl replied with perfect composure: "They will in a minute."

SRC Report

Shelter Box will benefit from £800 raised by our St. Swithun's fundraiser this year. We had a hot dry summer resulting in 35 DRY days and only 5 WET. This is an emergency response charity who provide practical items for families who have lost their home and contents; including tents, water carriers, cooking and eating utensils, blankets and tools etc. Thank you everyone who contributed. shelterbox.org

We have £400 for DEC Ukraine, £200 raised by The Christ Church Association and the rest from the bucket appeal in church.

Coffee and the stall have so far raised over £320 for the Nightingale Cancer Support Centre. This continues to be the charity until the end of the year. Several people have donated tins of coins. Foreign ones have gone to The North London Hospice through one of their charity shops. Some old coins and notes have been exchanged at the bank and added to our funds. We still pleased to accept any more collections.

Harvest gifts will as usual be given to local charity groups; The Ark, **Homeless Action Barnet** and the North Enfield Foodbank; who all support needy people, families and the homeless. As the cost of living continues to rise the need for supplies increases. I hope to make Chutney and Piccalilli with the fruit and vegetables used to decorate the church, and will sell it with the other preserves on the stall. Our collection box for non-perishable food donations continues to be on the left just inside the church door.



"I see the sights that dazzle the tempting sounds I hear"

A festival of the top ten sponsored hymns will now take place on Sunday the 9th October at 6.30pm. Proceeds to **Sight Savers**. Come, hear and sing our favourite hymns, led by the choir. Has yours been included?? Payment to SRC in the usual ways. sightsavers.org

Christmas Shoebox

information is now in church. The requests are as usual. New items, ball, car, doll, sunglasses, stationary goods, hat, scarf & gloves, jewellery, soap, toothbrush, sponge, etc. All to fit in a shoebox. This year



Operation Christmas Child hope to send some boxes to Ukraine and Moldova. Any contributions gratefully received by Sunday the 13th November. This is Remembrance Day and we have handmade POPPIES for sale on the stall.

We will have our Christmas stalls in church from 19th November, the CHRIST CHURCH WEEKEND highlighting our WINDOWS. If you have any saleable goods, please bring them to church or let me know and I can collect.

Winter care package for the Elderly.

It has been suggested that we put together some bags of items to help people keep warm in the cold weather. To include, hat, scarf, gloves, lap rug and a 'wheat bag' which can be heated in a microwave. We would be grateful for donations of any of the items or wool for knitting or cotton material for sewing.

Many thanks for everyone's continuing support

Hilary Meur

Tel. 02083602362

Email ccsocrates@gmail.com

Stewardship

Mick Meur,
Stewardship Recorder



I am pleased to report that there has been some positive news on the stewardship front recently, several members of the congregation have responded to my rather repetitive messages about giving. I thank those people that have either switched to the Parish Giving Scheme or have promised to do so shortly.

Donations via the contactless machine or online via our website continue to increase and the blue Gift Aid envelopes from the pews are also being used more often. As stated before though, this latter method is the one which costs us the most to process due to bank charges.

Recently I went to Westminster Abbey to see our choir sing Evensong and was struck by the sermon given by the Canon in Residence. It was based on the second Lesson, taken from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 9. Verses six and

seven seem very apt in the sense of stewardship, they read as follows:

But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly: and he which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

I will leave this article brief but reiterate that to contribute regularly to the work of Christ Church is best done by joining our Stewardship Scheme. It is simple to sign up to regular payments via the Parish Giving Scheme. If you need any further information to help you decide how to make regular donations in this way please let me know.

My telephone contact details are in the Directory at the back of The Spire, and my email address is: 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.paritygiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/southgate-christ-church-london/>

Or scan the QR code below on your smartphone or tablet



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
Amy Li	via the office

Churchwardens

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

PCC

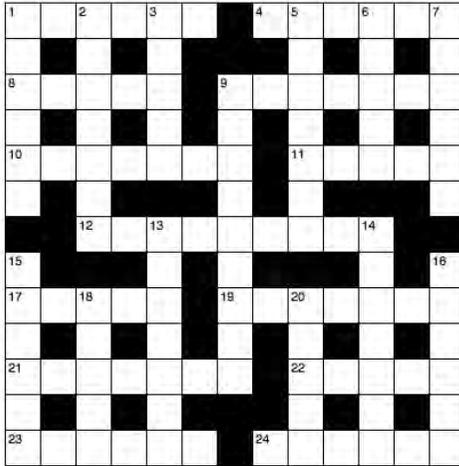
<i>Secretary</i>	Caroline Robertson	8886 0384
	office@christchurch-southgate.org	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Clare Boulton (as above)	
<i>Stewardship</i>	Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362

Music Department

<i>Director of Music</i>	Richard Brain	07979 850546
	music@christchurch-southgate.org	
<i>Organist</i>	Kate Macpherson	
<i>Associate Organist</i>	David Hinit	
<i>Treasurer</i>	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 christchurchspire@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362
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>Contact</i>	<i>Every Friday morning 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in Church</i> Hilary Meur (as above)	
Lunch Fellowship		
<i>Contact</i>	<i>Usually on 2nd Wednesday in the month at noon in Church</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>Captain</i>	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i> Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974
Young Fogeys		
<i>Contact</i>	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i> Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH	8882 8133

OCTOBER CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most —way' (1 Corinthians 12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den (anag.) (7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of —' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —, so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace (Acts 22:3) (6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark 9:43) (6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track (Job 41:30) (5)
- 20 Religious doctrine (5)

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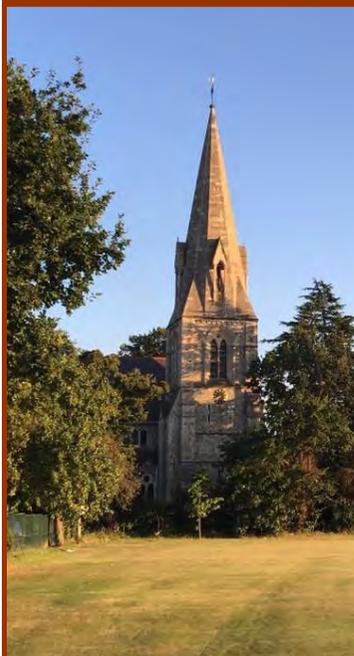
martina@macroryward.co.uk

or

margaret@macroryward.co.uk

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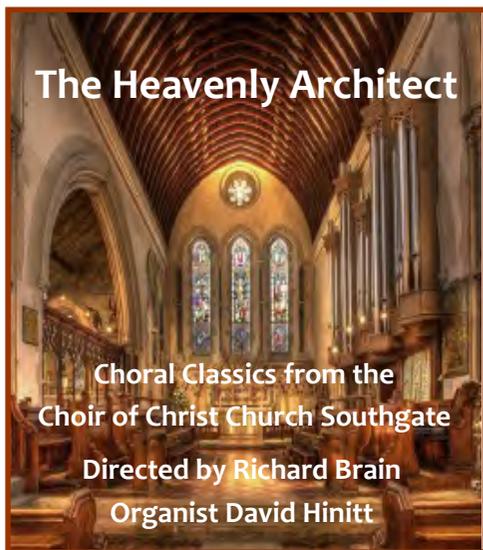
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Christ Church Southgate is an Eco-Church, we have recently achieved the Silver Award.

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"We believe in inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."



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