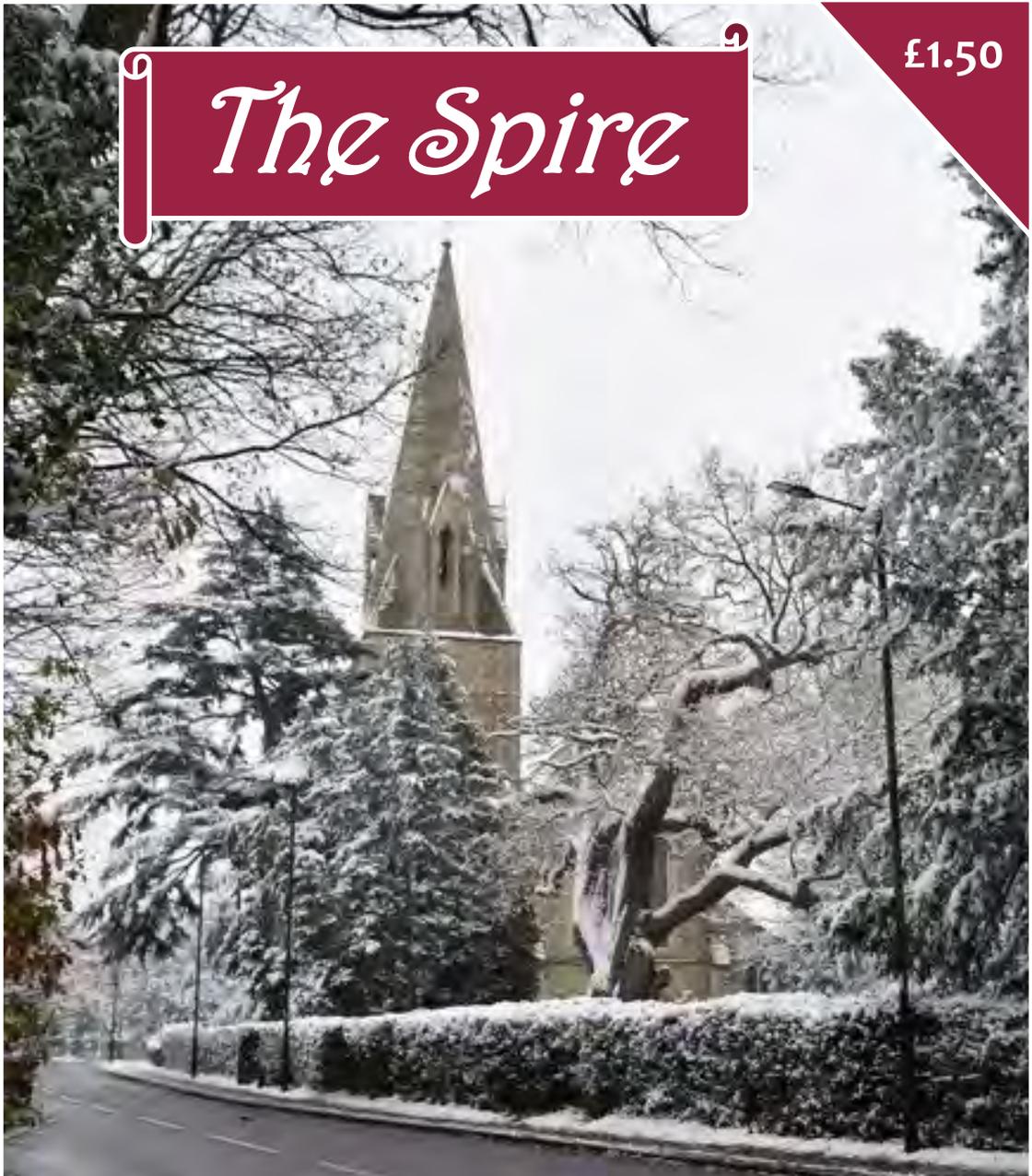


£1.50

# *The Spire*



*February and March 2023*

*Lent*

*The Parish Magazine of*

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
— Southgate —



[www.facebook.com/christchurchsouthgate](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchsouthgate)



[www.twitter.com/ChristChurchN14](http://www.twitter.com/ChristChurchN14)



### Planning some Building Work? Received a Party Wall Notice? Need Advice?

Call Forrester&Co. — we're Expert Party Wall Surveyors offering free initial consultations and quotations 'without obligation'. Call or email us today or visit our website at [www.forresterandco.com](http://www.forresterandco.com) for more information.

**Bruce Forrester** BSc (Hons), MRICS, C.Built E, FCABE, MCIArb, FFPWS, FISVA  
020 8367 7755 | 07957 541311 | [office@forresterandco.com](mailto:office@forresterandco.com)



**Forrester&Co.**



## MACRORY WARD SOLICITORS

27 Station Road, New Barnet EN5 1PH

**Macrory Ward has been assisting Christ Church members in legal matters since 1984, particularly in wills, property, tax planning, powers of attorney and probate matters. Home visits to the housebound and elderly.**

Please contact Martina Ward, Margaret Iwasyszyn or John Macrory

telephone: (020) 8440 3258

e-mail:

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

or

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

Macrory Ward is one of the sponsors of the annual May Day Fair



# Welcome!

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

This is the time of year when we have to make the largest and swiftest change in the liturgical year. We have just about become used to the amazing truth that God is incarnate as the Christ Child among us, and we very shortly have to start preparing for his death and passion. Admittedly it is not as bad as the change from Hosanna to Passion during the service on Palm Sunday, but it is still quite a shock.

For the first time since the pandemic took us all by surprise in 2020, life in church is really starting to feel like we have come out the other side. From my perspective, the whole Christmas season was a joy as we were able to welcome so many people to worship at the manger. Many old faces are back, and we are welcoming new individuals and families. As you may have heard in church or read in the weekly e-mail, we had over 700 school children from different local schools into church in the run up to Christmas to talk about Christianity and act out the Nativity Story.

I really feel that so many young people being warmly welcomed into church directly led to our record number of people coming to the Christmas Eve Crib service. We ran out of candles and service books as the record from 2019 was exceeded by over 50, as we welcomed a total of 347 people – including 125 children. This pattern of attendance is being repeated in churches across the country – a need to search for something deeper in life is growing.

As a result, this year in Lent we will be focusing on deepening personal prayer. The details are to be found later on in this edition of Spire, but we will be joining the online sessions on Tuesday evenings, led by the Bishops of the London Diocese, to discover ancient ways of Christian Prayer and explore their continued relevance to us today.

This will be backed up by the re-introduction of Morning and Evening Prayer in church. Please come and join me for Morning prayer from Wednesday to Saturday at 8.30 am and

Evening Prayer from Wednesday to Friday at 5.30pm. The daily pattern of the lectionary and well-known canticles is a wonderful way to take time out to just be with God.

So, in this Lent of 2023, let's try and encourage each other to build up our patterns of personal prayer, so that we arrive

at Holy Week even closer to God than before. If we approach Easter in true penitence and faith, the joy of the resurrection will be even greater.

Every blessing.

Fr Chrichton

## Thank you!

Early in 2015, the Reverend Hazel Miall let a friend she met during priesthood training aware that Christ Church Southgate was looking for a new leader. The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert put his name forward and was chosen to become the new vicar in September that year.



The Reverend Hazel, after an impressive amount of successful work, was able to step back and take a well-earned rest. The support by her husband, Phillip, was also special.

As parishioners, my wife and I were naturally anxious to see how the new incumbent would shape up. It was soon clear that Father Chrichton was being accepted and his wife Judith had great ideas to bring children back into the church.

Looking back, I feel to Christ Church that our own Star appeared and transformed the Church. Open and welcome to everyone, rich in wonderful music, eco-friendly, and a community of wonderful people whom I see as my second special family.

Thank so much for making our church so special.

*John Clarke*

## Note from the Editors

Welcome to the first edition of The Spire in 2023!

Thanks to all those who contributed last year, and to those who wrote for our newest edition. Enjoy reading about French museums, Valentine's Day, the season of Lent, an appeal from the servers, and much more.

A reminder that copy for the Easter edition is due by **Wednesday 15th March**.

Happy 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

## In search of Salviati

For over 2,000 years, thousands of artists and artisans have created religious images to the Glory of God.

We at Christ Church are extremely fortunate in having many such images, several of which were created by people at the beginning of their careers. William Morris and the Pre Raphaelite brotherhood had just started the company which created stained glass windows when Gilbert Scott, our Architect, approached the firm to provide our Windows.



Gilbert Scott also favoured the religious, glass mosaic, work of Salviati and commissioned him to create a reredos, behind the altar, for Christ Church. It bears a strong resemblance to the one in Westminster Abbey, where Gilbert Scott was also employed.

While in Venice, we attended a service at St Georges Anglican Church, where our choir was singing, and found ourselves in the very premises used by Salviati.

Salviati's reputation grew in England, and he set up shop in Regent Street. Fortunately, the subsequent owners of the premises kept the external decoration and it is now the Apple store, not that far really from the William Morris shop, near Selfridges.



Knowing that the Victoria and Albert Museum houses a plethora of Victorian artifacts it seemed a good place to find out more about Salviati's mosaic work. Unfortunately, the computerised system there was not able to tell us where in the museum we might see his mosaics, but the very helpful, human, guide on our tour was able to think laterally, and suggested various galleries where we might be able to find some of his work. She knew of one panel, outside in the courtyard, but she also knew it was under plastic wrappings while restoration work is going on. She suggested the gallery entitled Britain. En route, we found some mosaic panels by the staircase, and sure enough there were several by Salviati. The light wasn't that good for photos but the one of Bishop Wykeham came out best.

The more familiar we become with our reredos the easier it is to recognise Salviati's style. Over the years I have become fascinated with our reredos. If you can stretch your time in church to have a closer look at the decorations there, please do.

I think you will agree with me that whatever the medium used, whether it be glass, fabric or paint, the master craftspeople of their generation have worked for the glory of God.

*Hazel Miall*

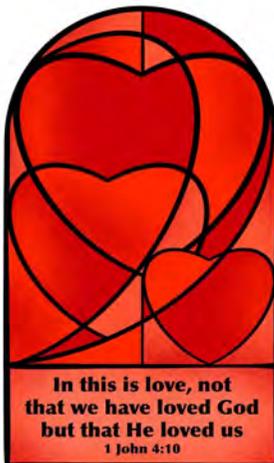
## Valentine's Day: 14th February

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14th February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

*Source: Parish Pump*



### It's all in the VALENTINE

“For God so lo**V**ed the world,  
That He g**A**ve  
His on**L**y  
Begot**E**n  
So **N**  
**T**hat whoseever  
Believes **I**n Him  
Should **N**ot perish,  
But have **E**verlasting life.”

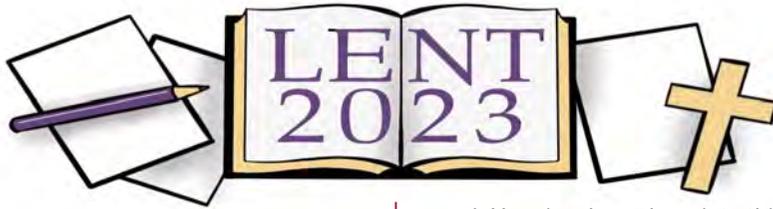
*John 3:16*

## Snow and Ice and Good Samaritans

During the wintery conditions before Christmas, a neighbour I have only met once called and gave all these fruit and vegetables. She was anxious about me venturing out to shop in such dangerous conditions. I was overcome by such care and concern and gratefully accepted her generous gift. I was feeling a little depressed prior to her call, but since then, life could hardly be sweeter.



*John Clarke*



## Forty Days and Forty Nights

*The Revd Michael Burgess looks at 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions' by Stanley Spencer  
Source: Parish Pump*

At the end of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

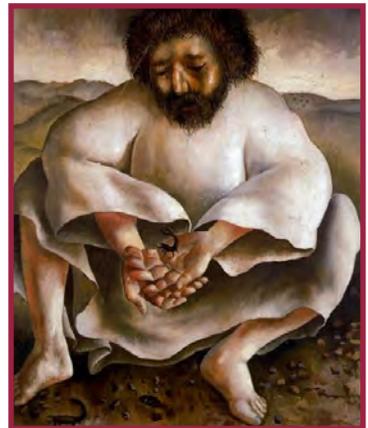
Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with His head, His hands and His feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about Him, apart from His tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills

around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert?

During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.



*The copyright on use of the picture is now in the 'Fair Use' domain at Wikiart.org:  
<https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion>*



The emphasis for Lent 2023 will be personal prayer, with two different elements being added to our week in Christ Church.

The first element will be sessions called “Prayer Practices for Lent”, exploring ancient ways of Christian prayer that are still relevant today. The sessions are being hosted online by the Bishops of the London Diocese every Tuesday evening during Lent from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in church.

The dates are as follows:

- 28th February The Examen
- 7th March Lectio Divina
- 14th March Centering Prayer
- 21st March Imaginative Contemplation
- 28th March Visio Divina  
(Praying with Pictures)

Each evening will be opened and closed with a short liturgy by one of our London Bishops. The prayer practice will be introduced and we will have a go at the practice together. A time of optional sharing will be offered at the end for those who wish to reflect on the practice with others. We will have a screen set up in church to share the evening together as group.

The second element will be the return of Morning and Evening prayer in the Lady

Chapel in church, following the Common Worship Daily Prayer liturgy and the Daily Lectionary readings.

As there are sessions on Tuesday evening the pattern of Daily Prayer will be as follows:

- Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am and Evening Prayer 5.30pm
- Thursday Morning Prayer 8.30am and Evening Prayer 5.30pm
- Friday Morning Prayer 8.30am and Evening Prayer 5.30pm
- Saturday Morning Prayer 8.30am

This pattern is the same one that we had before the pandemic, so depending on the demand the services may return permanently after Easter.

Lent starts on Wednesday 22nd February, with the Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at 8pm. The first Morning Prayer will start the following morning at 8.30am on Thursday 23rd February.

Please use these resources being offered to allow you to try different ways of drawing closer to God or to establish a regular pattern of prayer – a period of self-examination and devotion before the joys of Easter is always a positive experience.

*Fr Chrichton*

## What We Sing in Church



### **My Song is Love Unknown New English Hymnal No. 86**

This hymn is usually sung in Lent and in Passiontide as it is based on the last week of Jesus' earthly life. It was written by Samuel Crossman who lived from 1624 to 1683. He was educated at Cambridge University and spent many years as Prebendary of Bristol Cathedral, becoming Dean a few months before he died - so he was a distant predecessor of our own Dr David Hoyle. The poem was written more than 300 years ago but has only been widely sung in the last 50 years. This seems to have been due to the well-known and appropriate tune written for it by John Ireland shortly after the First World War. The tune was first published in 1919.

I have been puzzled by the first line of the hymn but have realised that the writer is deploring the fact that many people in this country and the world, both in his time and ours, do not understand our Saviour's love for us. And how he was prepared to give his own life that we might live. The writer thinks of himself as a poor helpless creature that does not deserve Christ's sacrifice.

In verse 2, the writer refers to the Incarnation and that, although Christ came to the people he had created, they did not know him and many did not accept him as Messiah. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. (John 1:11)

Verse 3 refers to Jesus' procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they

had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Mark 11:8-10)

And also to the shouts of the crowd outside where Pilate was sitting in judgement on Jesus.

Pilate spoke to them, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" (Mark 15:11-14)

Verse 4 refers to Jesus' miracles of healing which at the time caused crowds to flock to him and of course points to the fact he is the Messiah. But this did not endear him to the Temple authorities.

In Verse 5 the author writes about the crucifixion and how it leads to the atonement for sins for all even his enemies.

Verse 6 recalls the laying in the tomb of Jesus' body after his death by Joseph of Arimathea who was a member of the council but a secret follower of Jesus.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. (Matt. 27:57-60)

In Verse 7 we hear the voice of the writer praising Christ and his redemptive actions and saying that he would gladly spend all his days in praise, which of course is what he did.

*Cathy Dallman*

**We know how God would act if He were in our place  
– He has been in our place. A W Tozer**

## Become a Server

I can't quite remember when I began serving at church, but I think I must have been around ten years old. I remember my training day very well; Philip Miall showing me where to stand and what to do and letting me try holding the cross (I couldn't lift it at ten, and to be honest, I still can't lift it now). The serving team has changed over the years, and now we're in need of new recruits!

Serving requires no special skills or attributes, just a willingness to pitch in and the ability to hold a candle (and occasionally a sense of humour)! It's very easy to learn the routine, and don't worry, everything will be taught to you!

If you've been wondering about how to deepen your relationship with God, or want to know how you can help during services, or even want to come and spend time with a fun group of people, serving is for you!

If you're interested, please speak to any of the clergy or serving team. After all, if ten-year-old Freya can do it, so can you!

*Freya Carroll*



## Christ is Redemption

You saved us at Calvary, Golgotha – lead us on. You gave us life in you - your eternal love is so precious. We go on our knees before you – we can't thank you enough.

I love taking communion in church by the altar – you are always with me, helping me and guiding me.

Dayspring from on high, bright morning star – your divine will be done, oh God. It is only your will I seek, praise you forever! My master and my king, your throne is established on high. With love and devotion, your humble servant.

*Lynda Corcoran*

## Parish Walk Saturday 4th March 2023



Please save the date for a walk and a nice day with friends. All are welcome.

All interested should contact Ronald Lo  
Tel: 07789933544, or  
email: [ronald@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:ronald@christchurch-southgate.org)

Details nearer the date.

## Friends of the Christ Church Garden gardening morning Saturday 11th February 2023

Weather permitting.

Please come and help care for God's creation by waking up the garden in preparation for the spring.

Jenny and I look forward to seeing you all.

Sandra Anderson:  
07947 027265  
Jenny Wootten:  
07944 406137



## A Trip to Paris

The period between Christmas and New Year is often an anti-climax after the excitement of December and the lead up to Christmas Day. It seems so flat with only the fun(?) of inventing meals from turkey and Christmas pudding leftovers and cramming the recycling bin with copious amounts of paper, cardboard boxes and (ahem!) empty Prosecco bottles to look forward to. It is, however, a period when Cathy and I can almost guarantee that we will both be on holiday with the schools and the film industry on a two-week hiatus and so a good time for a short break somewhere. Before the Covid-19 lockdowns we had enjoyed trips to Berlin and Barcelona where three or four days in a different city was just the thing to rejuvenate us.

This year, with travel nearly back to normal, we decided at pretty much the last minute, to go to Paris, a city we love and where Cathy worked as a *jeune fille au pair*.

We particularly wanted to visit the Musée du Carnavalet, which re-opened in 2021 following an extensive renovation and with an expanded collection and new rooms. The *musée* occupies two neighbouring 16th century mansions in the *3rd Arrondissement*. They were purchased by the Municipal Council of Paris in 1866 and turned into a museum dedicated to the history of the city. The museum was initially opened to the public in 1880.



Today the museum tells the story of the creation of the city of Paris from its earliest beginnings in the era 6500 BCE until the late 20th Century through its huge collection of individual artifacts, artwork and furniture. It is all thoughtfully displayed in a variety of settings including the recreation of whole rooms from the 18th and 19th centuries.

One of our favourites was a recreation of Marcel Proust's bedroom where he wrote, amongst other ground-breaking work,

the monumental novel *A la recherche du temps perdu* (Remembrance of Things Past). Proust used to complain about the noise and traffic outside and so his mother had his room lined in cork to deaden the sound and allow her precious son to work. We were delighted to find a sample of the actual cork!

As well as this fabulous recreation of the interior of the jewellery shop of Georges Fouquet from 1901

One of the first things the visitor encounters is a display of shop and street signs. They all illustrated the profession or the product of the shopkeeper. We enjoyed photographing some of our favourites.

The black cat is from the original sign for the *Le Chat Noir*, one of the first risqué cabaret bars in Paris.





We also found a statue of Louis XIV in Roman costume and one of the very few statues of the King to survive the Revolution.



There is an awful lot to see on its four floors and basement. Just as we thought we had seen everything we would turn a corner and another room or recreation was revealed. In the end it took us two days to

see all the galleries and spaces. We had to retreat for coffee and reviving croissants and cakes before returning the following morning to complete the upper floors. Luckily the museum is free to enter and so allows for plenty of time to really enjoy the exhibits.

The last day was wet (we had enjoyed fine weather until then) and so we thought we might go to the Louvre. Clearly, so had everyone else in Paris. The queue stretched from the main entrance by the inverted pyramid and snaked around the shopping area underneath the main square before ending up on the Metro station platform itself. It was like a version of the Lying-in-State queue. A harassed looking young lady was checking whether everyone had tickets

for the day. Apparently, this was just the queue to buy tickets for the following days. The museum was full. It is of course reputed to be the world's most visited art museum, they didn't all have to come on the same day though!

So, we decided to visit the Basilica of Saint-Denis, situated on the outer reaches of the metro system and handy for the Stade de France, which is nearby. Emerging from a grimy 1960's concrete version of the Paris Metro's famed stations and skirting a small Christmas Market we quickly arrived at one of the very earliest examples of Gothic Church architecture in France. It seemed somewhat incongruous set within the surrounding housing estate. The exterior beneath the West window and main entrance is quite plain looking with a medieval tympanum set over the central door. Originally carved in the early 12th Century and restored in the 19th.



However, the inside is a completely different story and takes your breath away.

The basilica was completed in 1144 and is considered to be the first structure to employ all the elements of Gothic architecture. It became a place of pilgrimage and importance to the Kings of France



and now contains the remains of nearly every King from the 10th Century until the death of Louis XVIII in the 19th. The Queens of France were all crowned at Saint-Denis and the Sword and Sceptre used for the coronations were kept at Saint-Denis.

During the French Revolution, the church was ransacked, the tombs of former Kings and Queens were broken open and the bones flung into a pit. The lead was removed from the roof to make bullets and the church fell into a state of disrepair before being reconsecrated and restored under Napoleon who designated it as the future site of his own tomb and those of his intended dynasty.

What makes a visit to Saint-Denis particularly special is the enormous number of monuments and tombs of the former Kings and Queens of France. Some of them are quite gruesome. The tomb of Louis XII and his Queen, Anne de Bretagne, shows them naked and in agony while on top they are shown again calmly praying, showing their victory over death as a result of their virtues.



We found the tombs of Louis the XVI and his Queen, Maire Antoinette. They had originally been interred in an unmarked grave in Paris. While Napoleon was exiled to Elba (which always reminds me of the palindrome – able was I ere I saw Elba) the restored House of Bourbon (and founders of a biscuit empire?) ruled France and ordered a search for the remains, which were placed in the crypt under the church in January 1815.

In all, all but four of the Kings and Queens of France are buried or entombed at Saint-Denis as well as their families and other nobility.



And then it was time to return to normality and the scrum of the Gard du Nord and the Eurostar Terminal. As always seems to be the case when we are returning to the UK, a train was late arriving and so the area designated for the Eurostar travellers was overcrowded and confusing with the passengers for two, completely full trains competing for seating room and queuing for coffee and the toilets. However, finally we were able to board our train and were whisked in amazing comfort, back to the UK and the reality of the Piccadilly Line, London Transport buses and home.

It had been a fabulous and rejuvenating break.

*Richard & Cathy Godfrey  
December 2022*

## Chocolate in Lent



*"But look", said Martin, "Maltasers have hardly any chocolate on"*



# Parish Life in Pictures

## December 2022 and January 2023

Stories of Enfield Windows Project  
Colouring in Stained Glass - 20th Nov



Advent: The Travelling Crib Sets Off with  
the Brewer Family - 27th Nov

School Visits to Christ Church



Monkfrith Primary School



Little Oaks  
Playgroup

Ashmole  
Primary  
School



Walker  
Primary  
School



Baptism of Torvi Ashby

**Christingle Service – 4th Dec**



**Nine Lessons and Carols - 16th Dec**



**Pop Up Nativity - 18th Dec**



**Christmas Eve Crib Service - 24th Dec**



**Christmas Day 2022**

**Wedding of Bea Limbert and  
Stephen Mason - 7th Jan**



**Celebration of Epiphany - 8th Jan**

## RNIB Stamps Update!

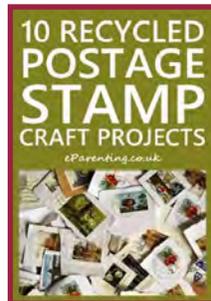
Many thanks to everyone who is bringing in their Christmas stamps. The postal strikes may have delayed this, but we've collected a fair number already which I will drop off at the RNIB the next time I go up to Kings Cross. And thank you, too, to people who are cutting off stamps with a neat 1 cm border – that is so much appreciated.

We have also recently been able to make a significant donation of First Day Covers which were gifted by a parishioner. These went directly in a special box (which they supply) to the RNIB's stamp auctioneers in Glasgow from where their eventual sale will raise funds which will benefit the charity. The fund-raising office in the London headquarters have already expressed their grateful thanks for this generosity.

People ask me, sometimes, what on earth can they do with thousands of ordinary 1st and 2nd class stamps? My understanding is that the stamps are carefully sorted by the auctioneers who sell the best specimens to dealers in an international market. The rest are also sold, but usually in bulk batches to be used (along with other everyday stamps from all over the world) for arts and crafts – decoupage, collage, etc. (You can see some of these uses illustrated at

[https://www.eparenting.co.uk/activities\\_for\\_kids/postage\\_stamp\\_craft\\_projects.php](https://www.eparenting.co.uk/activities_for_kids/postage_stamp_craft_projects.php) – covering everything from bookmarks and plant pots to tins and pictures.)

So, thank you again. Please keep up the good work – keep the stamps coming and I will keep passing them on to the RNIB.



Patricia Ashby

## Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

**Wednesday 22nd February, 8pm. Ash Wednesday**

Join us to start Lent at our Choral Eucharist with imposition of ashes

### Weekly Services

**Sunday 8.00 am**  
**10.00 am**  
**6.30 pm**

**Said Eucharist**  
**Choral Eucharist**  
**Evensong \***



**Tuesday 7.30 pm**

**Said Eucharist**  
*(Healing on First & Third week)*

**Thursday 12.30 pm**

**Said Eucharist**

**\* Choral Evensong on the following Sundays in Feb and March:**  
5th Feb, 19th Feb, 5th March, 12th March, 19th March, 26 March

## Twiddle Muffs

The other day, I came across Twiddle Muffs when a contact put out an appeal for unwanted buttons, small zips, ribbons, beads and pom-poms! Some of you will already know about them, but I thought they were worth a quick word in *The Spire* because they are welcomed and distributed by Age Concern and others in Enfield.

A Twiddle Muff is a small, double thickness, knitted or crocheted muff, with up to twelve firmly attached tactile objects. They are used by dementia sufferers whose hands are often very restless (so they can ‘twiddle’ with the attachments) or cold (so they can put their hands inside... where they will find one or two more little attachments to fiddle with at the same time!). Muffs are perfect for using up left over knitting wools. Different colours and textures are both good for stimulation

### Knitting pattern

A pair of 6.5 mm straight needles (or 8mm circular) plus beads, buttons, small zips, ribbons, etc. – anything that can be ‘twiddled’ with but which can be firmly attached, will not break, which is not brittle, and which does not have any sharp points or edges.

### CUFF

- Cast on 40 - 45 stitches using two strands of double knitting wool. You can also use one strand of chunky wool.
- Work in stocking stitch (knit a line, purl a line) for 11 inches (28cm).

### MUFF BODY

- Continue with stocking stitch, using random oddments of various textures of wool (double, chunky, mohair, snuggly, eskimo, ribbon, chenille...)
- Continue in stocking stitch until work measures 23 inches (58.5cm). You can include a row of bobbles, a row of holes for threading a ribbon, textured pattern, etc.
- Cast off.



A decorated muff from the Oxford University Hospitals pattern

### FINISH & DECORATE

- ‘Invisibly’ sew the long edges together with purl & textured side facing you.
- Fold the cuff up inside the muff body and ‘invisibly’ sew together the two short ends, creating an open-ended tube with a smooth lining and a textured outside surface.
- Decorate the muff.

### HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Choose a good variety of decorations such as beads, coloured ribbons, crocheted flowers, threads or zips.
- Try to add at least six decorations on the outside and three or four on the inside. You can add more if you like.
- Make sure everything is sewn on tight so they cannot be pulled off, and that there are no loose threads.
- Attach three or four bits and bobs on the inside too – a little pocket, a button, a charm bead on a string. Agitated hands can then be soothed and kept warm at the same time.

(Hilary Meur and I will be happy to collect any muffs you make, ready for distribution locally.)

*Patricia Ashby and Hilary Meur*



A muff in use

## Use, Reuse and Reuse Again, and Again

The inspiration for me to write this came from an article in The Times on January 4th entitled 'Out with the new, in with the old'.

This article talked about how we need to look at what we already have in our wardrobe rather than rushing to buy new. Aimed at female fashionistas it urges us ladies to make do. New isn't always the answer. Many more people now buy from charity shops as well as taking them their unwanted items and some boutiques have a secondhand section alongside new items. In one shop I was in this was called the 'previously loved' section.

Reusing has become the order of the day not only with our clothes but hopefully in all aspects of daily life. Bags, jars, wrapping paper, envelopes, cartons, containers, tins, boxes, greeting cards, bottles are a few of the items that we can reuse, some of them many times over.

Obviously, there are times when we do need to buy new, whether it be clothes or anything else we use, but I now question if I really need to shop for new or buy at all. How times are changing, hopefully along with our habits. A throwaway society is not sustainable so do everything you can to save our resources, respecting all that is God given.

Lord of life and giver of hope,  
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,  
to reduce our waste,  
to live sustainably,  
and to value the rich diversity of life.  
May your wisdom guide us,  
that life in all its forms may flourish,  
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.



Amen

Sandra Anderson

## Candles for Candlemas: Led by Anna Hughes Saturday 4th February

**4.30 pm to 5 pm - meditative candle-making:** inscribe a sheet of beeswax with names or words that are important to you and then roll it up into a candle.

**5 pm to 5.30 pm - Evening Prayer for Candlemas,** lit by the beeswax candles we have just made. All materials will be supplied. Come for one or both parts.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in **Luke 2:22-40**. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



A leg lifting moment! by John Clarke

## News from the Committees



At its first meeting of 2023 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) dealt with a busy and interesting agenda.

The **Vicar's Report** again illustrated the considerable Outreach achieved within the Parish, especially among the local schools. School visits and pre-Christmas Day services saw a total of at least 875 children coming into the church and 2023 has continued the momentum with an early January visit by year 4 children from Walker School. Publicity for the Patronal Festival weekend activities also drew many visitors through our doors and – on a perhaps more prosaic level – Christ Church again acted as the host for 7 days of ABRSM music exams during December.

The **Finance** report described an overall deficit of just over £25K. Nevertheless, we have a surplus on unrestricted funds of around £10K, and a day-to-day surplus of £16K. Fortunately, while gas and electric bills continue to rise (with costs some 29% higher than expected), most other costs are under budget. There has, however, been unforeseen expense on structural repairs and then redecoration in the flats to deal with water ingress. Interestingly, though, it was also noted that while cash collections are down, there is increased use of the contactless/web facility on Sundays, and income deriving from the hire of church premises was boosted by the fee for the music exams mentioned above.

**Plant & Fabric** reported the completion of the lighting repairs and the pruning of the yew tree that were detailed in the last edition of *The Spire*. The immensely complex planning for the repair of the chancel floor,

however, is still ongoing and the PCC received a detailed summary of the architect's update on progress – progress is inevitably slow, but is nonetheless being made, and it is hoped that the work may be put out to tender by the end of January.

Reports were also received from **Social Responsibility** (which can be read in full elsewhere in the magazine) and **Eco & Care Creation (ECC)**. ECC described the first gardening session of 2023, re-iterating the need for more, regular gardeners. It also confirmed the planting of the Queen's Acer in the bed by the small north door and gave an update on the bees, confirming the imminent arrival of a second hive and advance notice of the upcoming spring plant sale. The report also pointed to the beautiful, ecologically motivated *re-use* of the natural fig branches (combined with cones, hand-made decorations and lights) to decorate the church for Christmas.

Further items on the agenda this time included an update on the continued implementation of the current **Mission Action Plan** (which is going nicely with the website being gradually renewed, a quiet day in the pipeline for later in the Spring, and plans for extending the schools' outreach with an event aimed at teachers), **Safeguarding** (where we've recently been congratulated by the Archdeacon for our achievements), and our annual **Fire Risk Assessment** (completed on schedule in November). Following recommendations from the Diocese, we also agreed a change of status to the **Elsie Bellefontaine Fund**, removing the permanent endowment status, enabling us to use the capital as well as the income in line with its restricted purpose, should this be appropriate.

The next PCC is scheduled for 21st March, during Lent.

Patricia Ashby

**Stress makes you believe everything has to happen immediately  
Faith reassures you that everything happens in God's timing**

## 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 6 pm on the first Friday of each month except August, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next such occasions are **Friday 3rd February** and **Friday 3rd March**.

We provided bar facilities in church during the interval of the Christ the King Concert and after both the Advent and Christmas carol services.

**Friday Foodie** evenings resumed on 20th January with a celebration of the Chinese New Year, with the next dates being **17th February (Indian)** and **17th March (Pizza)**. Our annual celebration of Burns’ Night takes place from 7:30 pm on Sunday 29th January with traditional Haggis, Neeps and Tatties and with Scottish music and

drinks. There is no need to book in advance for any of these evenings, although there will be a small charge to cover the cost of food.

The Top Step Bar is open on a regular basis as follows (except during August and either side of Christmas Day):

- 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)*

## Choir Residency at Hereford Cathedral Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th February



The Choir will be singing services at Hereford Cathedral over this weekend including music by William Byrd, Henry Purcell and S S Wesley.

On **Saturday 25th** the Choir will sing Choral Evensong at 5.30pm

On **Sunday 26th**, the Choir will sing for Sung Eucharist at 10am, Choral Matins at 11.30am, and Choral Evensong at 3.30pm

**At the end of the pre-Lent sermon, the vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. “Church,” she replied firmly.**

## SRC Report

Christmas has finished another very good fund-raising year for us; we donated £10,503 and we start the new year with very little cash in the bank. This is a deliberate choice as the funds raised have gone to the charities we support for them to use as required.

We gave 24 Christmas presents to the members of **Southgate Homebound** who meet monthly in Walker Hall. These have been distributed in January as Christmas meetings were postponed due to cold slippery weather.

**Winter Warmers**; hats, scarves, gloves, microwaveable wheat filled warmers etc. have been very popular. All donated and taken free. Any remaining items will be taken to **HAB** for them to distribute as needed whilst the cold weather continues.

The Christmas raffle was again supplied and organised by Nick and Patricia and was very well supported. The proceeds were divided between **'Opening Doors'** and **Britten-Pears Arts**. These were two of Fr. Peter Jackson's favourite charities and we sent £250 to each in his memory.



The **Gift tree** attracted great attention. We consider that we donated over 200 gifts to children and young people via **The Ark**. St John's are extremely grateful for our support, both for these gifts and throughout the year for the large supplies of items for packed lunches, non-perishable food and the regular

items for babies and young mothers. Collections from the Christingle and Crib services went as usual to **The Children's Society** - £750. The Christmas stalls in church raised about £1,000. £800 was sent to **CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service**. This charity gives Christmas gifts to young people with mental health issues who are under their care.

With other money we raised over the later part of the year we sent; £300 to **Cooking Champions**, £300 to **Enfield Foodbank**, and £125 to **Crisis**.

Coffee proceeds of £700, for the last six months of the year, were sent to **Nightingale Cancer Support** in Enfield. Some members of our congregation have benefited from their therapies.

**Kith & Kids**, another local charity, who we have supported in the past and where we have links, will receive the proceeds of coffee sales in the first months of the year. We have donated books and other goods to their charity shop **KLASP (Kith & Kids Lifetime Advocacy Support Project)** in Enfield. They support families who have special needs children and young people and further provide advocates who will look after these youngsters when their parents are no longer able.

As we move into 2023, we are looking for some new ideas. Please talk to us with your suggestions; perhaps we can make them work. If you have any unwanted gifts or saleable goods for our stall please leave in church or let me know. Please also look on the sales or book stall - there may just be the item you were looking for!!

Many thanks for your support over the last year and for the year just started.

*Hilary Meur*

I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be; but I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.'  
- John Newton, former slave trader and slavery abolitionist

## Stewardship

Mick Meur,  
Stewardship Recorder



It is pleasing to report that we ended the year with an increase in our stewardship members using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). We started the year with 85 participants and, despite losing three givers during 2022, we ended up with a small increase to 88 donors. This is gratifying, but still short of my target of 100 members using the PGS.

One of the excellent parts of the scheme is the inflationary increase feature that is available and recommended by us. Electing for this means that the automatically increasing donations help to keep our income increasing to offset the ever-increasing costs we face without the effort in raising the giving with an annual stewardship campaign. At present just over half of our donors have agreed for this. It is a flexible arrangement that can be taken-up or cancelled at any time to suit your circumstances.

Donations via the contactless machine or online via our website also 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. Cash attracts a charge of £1.50 per £100 and each cheque we pay in costs us £1.50, irrespective of the amount.

I will leave this article brief but reiterate that to contribute regularly to the work of Christ Church it 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. I am always happy to explain the way it works in detail and discuss the options.

My telephone contact details are in the Directory at the back of *The Spire*, and my email address is: [mikestatistics@gmail.com](mailto:mikestatistics@gmail.com)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

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

**When calling please quote our parish code 230623352  
or online using the following link:**

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

**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* hazelmiall@btinternet.com

*Curate* The Reverend Paul Ellerby  
*Address & Phone* via the office  
*Email* p.ellerby822@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**

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

**Music Department**

*Director of Music* Richard Brain 07979 850546  
 music@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Organist* Kate Macpherson  
*Associate Organist* David Hinit  
*Treasurer* Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

<b>Sacristan</b>	Vacancy	
<b>Sidesmen</b>	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

<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
-------------------------------	----------------	-----------

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Jackie Anderson (as above)

**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

<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	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 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Church</i> Hilary Meur (as above)
----------------	---

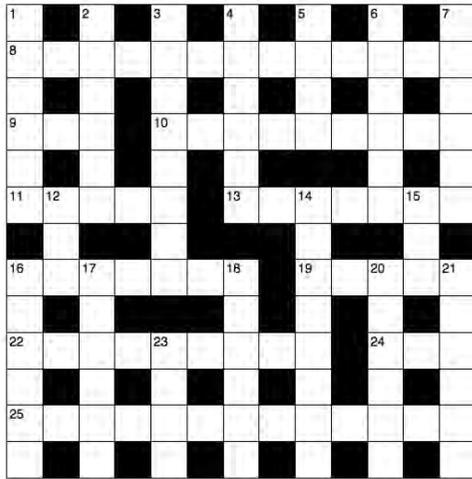
<b>Scout Group</b>	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i> Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	07980 740 587 8882 0991
--------------------	---	----------------------------

<b>Bellringers</b>	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974

<b>Young Fogeyes</b>	<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

<b>Bible Study Group</b>	Jackie Anderson (as above) Sue Grey	8361 8499
--------------------------	--	-----------

## FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



**Across**

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

**Down**

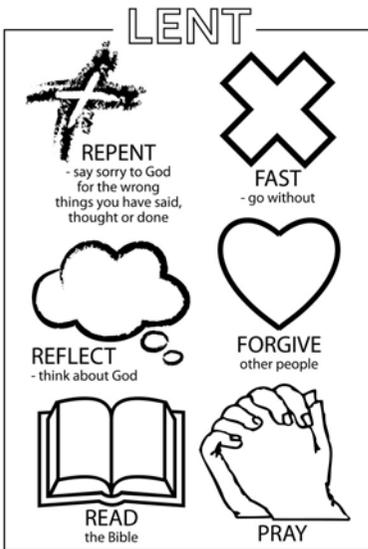
- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

**DECEMBER SOLUTION**



## Children's Corner



Colour in the pictures

## What is Lent?

Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter and it starts on **Ash Wednesday**. The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week**.

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times by Satan but was able to resist. Lent allows us to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert.

Some Christians give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes or chocolate. What could you give up? Or could you take extra time each day to pray to God?

## Find the mouse!

Last magazine, Walker the mouse was giving out presents at the bottom right-hand corner of page 19! See if you can find him in this edition.



WILLIAMSON  
DACE | BROWN

www.wdbproperty.co.uk 020 8886 4407

Independent property consultants since 1962, we have been looking after client's property for over fifty years.

We can provide clients with advice on the following:

Commercial Property	Residential Property
Professional Services	Building Insurance
Property Management	Dilapidations & Maintenance

PROPERTY  
CONSULTANTS

CHARTERED  
SURVEYORS

MANAGING  
AGENTS

CITY &  
CENTRAL

22 Cannon Hill  
London  
N14 6BY



A1003 NEW SOUTHGATE  
FINCHLEY

1000

1000

1000

1000



## Advertise here!

Do you have a business or service you would like to advertise in the Spire?

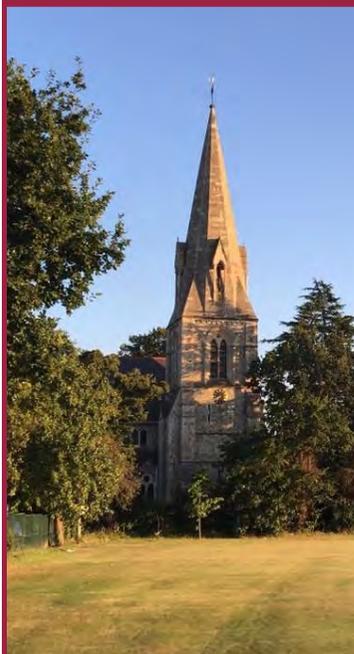
Reach your local community and contribute to the work of Christ Church

For details and rates contact  
Hilary Meur

Tel: 020 8360 2362

Email: ccsocres@gmail.com

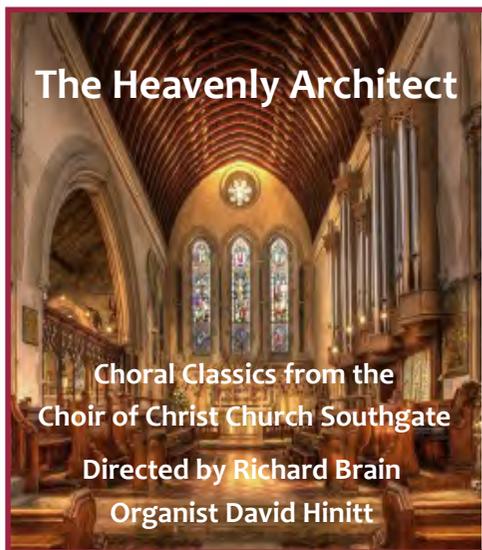
**Christ Church Southgate**  
**The Church on the Green N14**  
**Where everyone is welcome**



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

**We are committed to caring for God's earth in the different areas of our life and work and are actively working to reduce our environmental impact**

**“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.”**



**The Heavenly Architect**

**Choral Classics from the Choir of Christ Church Southgate**  
**Directed by Richard Brain**  
**Organist David Hinitt**

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**Southgate**

**CHOIR CD**

**‘The Heavenly Architect’**  
**Choral Classics from the Choir of Christ Church, Southgate.**

**Music includes Parry I Was Glad,**  
**Mendelssohn Hear My Prayer,**  
**Wesley Blessed Be The God and Father**  
**and many more!**

Christ Church Southgate is a Registered Charity (1131606)  
We rely on your generous donations to finance our ministry