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The Spire



April and May 2023
Easter

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 April and May edition of Spire magazine. This is the one where we can give you the details of our Easter and Holy Week services.

I can't believe that it is three years since we lost Holy Week completely in 2020. We did a limited version in 2021, followed by an "almost there" version in 2022, but this year we are completely back to normal! However, that is not entirely true as there is one difference that we had to adopt under distancing which I will be keeping, as it was actually better! So, on Maundy Thursday evening, the Garden of Repose will "appear" in the centre of the chancel during the stripping of the altars, so everyone can stay and watch, without having to squeeze into the Lady Chapel.

I would encourage you to try and come to church a lot over Easter – not just to feel fully normal again – but to walk with Jesus on his journey. The pure joy of Easter Day is much more real if we shout Hosanna with Jesus on Palm Sunday, walk the Way of the Cross on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, share the last supper before we watch and pray with him on Maundy Thursday, venerate him on the cross on Good Friday, thrill with the new resurrection fire in the dark of Holy Saturday

before the bursting of the tomb on Easter Day with the happiest ending of all. I say this every year, but Holy Saturday is still my favourite service of the year. A tiny spark in the dark makes the resurrection fire, followed by a glass of prosecco to celebrate!

This year we are introducing a new event on Maundy Thursday. From 10am to 12 noon there will be Family Easter Garden Making which will start with foraging for materials in the churchyard, before the children make their own Easter Gardens to decorate all the window sills in church. I'm looking forward to seeing what they come up with, bringing the garden outside into the sacred space. Please let Judith know if you want to take part and create something special.

Finally, I am able to write about an event that has not happened since 1953 – a coronation. I can assure you that we will be celebrating King Charles III with special services and a garden party on the Sunday after the main event. It will be very memorable and a genuine "once in a lifetime event," so watch the pew sheet, weekly e-mail and social media for the plans as they develop.

Have a blessed Easter!

Fr Chrichton

The Puccini Festival: Eight days in Tuscany accompanied by Revd Dr Chrichton Limbert 12-19 July 2023



Including two performances at the Gran Teatro Puccini: La Boheme & Turandot

**Fr Chrichton will be leading prayer daily –
do speak to Chrichton for more information and a brochure**

Enjoy the romance and architecture of Tuscany, experience its culture of food and wine to indulge and delight the senses. We will explore wonderful, frescoed churches, worship in a church built by under Florence's ruling Medici family as well as have a private viewing of the ornate inlaid floor in Siena Cathedral that is usually covered. Join us for this magical musical journey!

Special offer to Reverend Chrichton's parishioners

Prices are based on Settore 2 (orange) seating in the Gran Teatro Puccini. There are a limited number of seats in Settore 1 (light blue) at a £100 supplement for both performances. If booked by April 10th the supplement will be waived.

Included meals & drinks

Meals: a full buffet breakfast each morning, two lunches and all evening meals.

Drinks: welcome drink. Wine or soft drink and tea or coffee with all evening meals and both lunches.

Included excursions

Two performances at the Gran Teatro Puccini in Torre del Lago

Guided tour of Pistoia – known as the “Small Santiago de Compostela”

Guided tour of Lucca

Guided tour of Pisa and the Field of Miracles

Guided tour of Florence

Cinque Terre by train and boat

Guided tour of Siena



Included extras

Hotel Portage

Personal audio guiding system

Walking tour of Montecatini Terme

Entrance to Santa Maria della Fontenuova in Monsummano Terme

Entrance to the Cathedral and Baptistry in Pisa

Entrance to Tettuccio Terme in Montecatini with morning coffee

Wine tasting with local snacks close to Lucca

All hotel, restaurant, driver and guide gratuities



Note from the Editors

As ever, a huge thank you to all our contributors - the Spire would not exist without you. We hope you enjoy reading our Easter edition and a reminder that copy for the June and July edition is due by **Wednesday 17th May**.

Wishing you and your family a joyful Easter season!

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

London's Floating Church

Church communities can be found where you least expect them.

My husband Philip and I had planned a visit to the Museum of London, Docklands, and on our way we wondered if the floating Church was still there. We had noticed it before but it hadn't been open when we previously saw it, some years ago now. We were delighted to find that not only was it still there but it was open as well, so we ventured in.

We were warmly welcomed, shown around, and told all about it. This floating church, St. Peters, was set up at the beginning of this century. The congregation used to meet in a Pub, where the pastor gave lunchtime talks. The congregation grew and when the opportunity arose for them to buy a barge, with a working engine, they purchased it and it came from the Netherlands under its own power.

It is now moored at the north Dock, West India Quay, in the heart of Canary Wharf, surrounded by office blocks.

Originally the St. Peter's services were midweek, catering mainly for the workers from the nearby offices, but the worship increased to include Sunday worship with the addition of a church plant from St Helen's Bishopsgate. They are also associated with Grace Church in Greenwich.

The church attracts over 100 on Sundays and they have a thriving Sunday school which meets in the nearby Museum of London Docklands.

St. Peter's has two male pastors and two women's workers who support Women's work. The male pastors preach and the women give talks. I am rather hazy about the difference.

The lady who showed us round was very enthusiastic about their community. Both the midweek services and the Sunday Services are very well attended and the staff are able to offer further teaching.

They pride themselves on the diversity of the congregation with countries in east Asia, Canada, South Africa and many others being represented.



Each Sunday people travel from the Isle of Dogs and south East London to attend.

This church, St. Peters, in the Stepney Diocese of London, is a welcome haven of the Christian Faith, surrounded by Tower blocks, and the people who work there.

If you happen to be in the area I thoroughly recommend visiting.

Hazel Miall

Holy Week at Christ Church - All Welcome!

Palm Sunday

Sunday 2nd April, 10am

Procession of Palms and Eucharist
We start in the Vicarage garden and walk across the Green

Holy Monday

Monday 3rd April, 8pm

Stations of the Cross - led by Sandra Anderson and Jackie Anderson

Holy Tuesday

Tuesday 4th April, 8pm

Stations of the Cross - led by Fr Paul Ellerby

Holy Wednesday

Wednesday 5th April, 8pm

Stations of the Cross - led by Amy Li

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 6th April, 10am-12pm

Family Easter Garden Making to decorate the church

Thursday 6th April, 8pm

Choral Eucharist with Foot Washing, followed by the Watch, concluding with Compline at Midnight

Good Friday

Friday 7th April, 2pm

The Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday

Saturday 8th April, 8pm

The Great Vigil, with the New Fire, renewal of Baptismal Promises and First Eucharist of Easter

Followed by Resurrection Celebration party!

Easter Sunday

Sunday 9th April, 8am, 10am and 6.30pm

Join us for a quiet start to Easter at 8am, or come at 10am for a Family Friendly Choral Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt, or join in the evening at 6.30pm for Festal Choral Evensong



Ascension

Ascension Day

Thursday 18th May, 8pm

A Cross Attitude

Canon Paul Hardingham considers what happened on Good Friday and Easter

Source: Parish Pump



In this Easter season, how does Philippians 2 help us to understand more about the cross?

Paul explains what Jesus did in this way: 'He did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage... And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!'

Jesus' example (v6-8)

Paul reminds us that Jesus, although He was fully God from eternity, entered our world as a man to take on a life of service. 'He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.' He completely surrendered Himself, by identifying with all the weakness, problems, and frailties of human life. This took Him to the cross, where He rescued us from the power of sin and death, so that we might know God's eternal life.

Our Response (v3-5)

Paul says that our relationships should reflect the same attitude as Jesus: 'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.' We should look out for the needs of others before our own. This will transform our relationships at home and church. How practically can we develop a cross attitude?

God's Purpose (v9-11)

The Resurrection demonstrates how God has exalted Jesus in triumph: 'Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name' (v9). Our willingness to serve, like Jesus, will be rewarded by God, especially when we feel used or exploited.

'This is our God, The Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him, To bring our lives as a daily offering, Of worship to The Servant King' (Graham Kendrick)



What we Sing in Church

'The Lamb's High Banquet we await' NEH No 101

I feel sure we will sing this Easter hymn perhaps on Easter Day or in the Easter season that follows it. It was translated from, probably, 7th century Latin by John Milton Neale (1818- 66). Neale translated very many hymns, some of which are in our hymn book and we sing regularly.

John Mason Neale was born in London and educated at Sherbourne Grammar School Dorset and Trinity College Cambridge. He was briefly Fellow and Chaplain of Downing College Cambridge and a curate at Guildford Surrey. He had poor health and was never able to take up a living as a vicar of a parish. He was warden of Sackville College, a group of almshouses in

East Grinstead Sussex. He was a prominent member of the Oxford Movement and got into increasing trouble with the Church of England Authorities for his High Church views. I expect we would not, these days, consider them extreme at all.

The whole hymn depends on the identification of Christ's redeeming sacrifice on the cross with the delivery of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt.

In verse 1 the Lamb's high banquet refers to the passage in Isaiah 25 where the prophet describes the banquet God will prepare for all people on 'The Day of the Lord'

'On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.'

The 'snow white robes of royal state' come from the Book of Revelation

'Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. If you

conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes (Rev.3:5)

The 'Red Sea channel' clearly refers to the escape of the Hebrew people dry shod through the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

Verse 2 connects Christ's body and blood sacrificed for us on the cross with the Sacrament we receive in the Eucharist. The last line of the verse 'Our life is hid with Christ in God' links to St. Paul's letter to the Colossians: For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:3)

Verse 3 describes what happened in Exodus. And in Verse 4 Christ is identified with the unblemished Pascal lamb and also with the unleavened bread eaten by the Hebrew people at Passover and also by us at the Eucharist.

Verses 5 and 6 describes Christ's victory over hell and Satan and his regaining for us Paradise, which was lost in the Fall in the Garden of Eden.

Verse 7 is a prayer to Christ that we may share in his Pascal victory, and the hymn ends with a doxology to giving glory to the Holy Trinity.

Cathy Dallman



Music Matters

Choral Evensong – 6.30pm on Sundays

As I am sure many of you are aware, on most Sundays throughout the year at Christ Church our 6.30pm service is a full Choral Evensong, exactly in the pattern that can be heard in cathedrals and greater churches across the country. We are part of an elite club of churches which still maintain the tradition of weekly Sunday Evensong. This is sadly now quite rare and is a tragic loss to our national cultural and spiritual heritage. We are incredibly lucky at Christ Church to still be committed to this service and to recognise all

the benefits that Choral Evensong brings to our parish and liturgical life. The strength of our choral tradition at Christ Church is built on Choral Evensong, where our choir works to bind together its beautiful vocal blend and ensemble, as well as sing the most challenging and ambitious works of the repertoire.

Choral Evensong lies at the heart of the Anglican choral tradition, holding a special place both in terms of the liturgical practice of the Church of England and the musical development of repertoire. During the Reformation, as the monasteries were dissolved, Henry VIII created large endowments for the cathedrals of the day for the maintenance of choirs. Governing the daily offices for the new Church of England was the first Book of Common Prayer, which was published in 1549 by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. Replacing the eight old daily offices of the Monastic traditions were two new ones: Matins for the morning and Evensong for the evening. The music that has been written for these offices in the subsequent 500 years has played an important role in shaping our liturgical practices of today, as well as underpinning the larger choral identity and repertoire of the wider British choral heritage. Though Eucharist has now replaced Matins as the principal Sunday morning service, Evensong has endured as the primary focus of choral music, being sung every day in cathedrals across the country.

Evensong combined Vespers and Compline, and thus paired together two sets of Canticles which would form the centrepiece of the liturgy - the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis. The upbeat Magnificat recounts Mary rejoicing at the birth of Jesus, while the Nunc Dimittis captures both the magnificence of the fulfilment of the promise of the Messiah, and also the peaceful realisation that Simeon now gently faces death as his long-held vigil draws to a close. Together, these Canticles form the perfect vocal concerto for composers, writing two musical movements which complement each other. A few composers, including Herbert Howells and Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, took this concept a step further by creating sets of canticles for an entire day of services, including

music for BCP Communion, Matins, and Evensong, set in the same key and using musical motifs to bind them together in a similar manner to a symphony. These were Howell's Collegium Regale and Stanford's Service in B Flat.

Accompanying the Canticles in Evensong are Responses, led by the minister as cantor, and responded to by the people or choir, and the singing of the Psalms. In the book of Common Prayer, all 150 Psalms are divided up to be sung at both Matins and Evensong across the month. Psalm singing to Anglican chant is a particularly distinctive practice in the C of E, providing a unique musical idiom. Composers show enormous imagination and creativity using just 20 repeating chords to convey the drama and emotion of the Psalms. Anglican chanting teaches choirs an exceptional degree of ensemble, and at Christ Church we take Psalm singing extremely seriously. The quality of our Psalm singing is always a distinguishing factor on Cathedral visits, as it is noted that our precision and high standard of ensemble in psalm singing often matches that of the cathedral choirs we deputise for.

At the end of Evensong, comes the anthem. During midweek services in cathedrals, anthems are often simple items to draw the daily office to a close. But at weekends, they take on a whole new dimension, becoming the musical climax of the service. The anthem on Sundays are particularly special, providing the finale to the grand crescendo of a week or day's music making. That is not to say these works are always loud and grand – far from it. But they form the grand finale to the week's spiritual journey, which may bring us either to triumphant joy or a peaceful conclusion. At Christ Church, the Sunday anthem provides the conclusion to our day's spiritual expression through music.

Guy Hayward of the Evensong Trust said that, "Choral evensong is a beautiful tradition just waiting to be witnessed that can give respite and inspiration during our busy modern lives" [choralevensong.org]. It is a service that asks nothing of us but to be still and reflect. As already said, the strength of our choral tradition at Christ Church is built on Choral Evensong. The standards we work to achieve and the repertoire we cover at Evensong, feed directly into the music we hear on Sunday mornings and for special services such as our popular Nine Lessons and Carols and Christmas services. Post Covid though, our congregation numbers for Evensong are currently very modest, and I would like to invite parishioners to come along to the 6.30pm service to experience Choral Evensong at Christ Church. It is something incredibly special which we can all share in.

Truro Cathedral

A reminder that from Wednesday 26 – Sunday 30 July 2023, the Choir will be in residency at Truro Cathedral, singing services every day. Situated in the beautiful county of Cornwall, Truro Cathedral was the first Anglican cathedral to be built on a new site in England since Salisbury Cathedral in 1220. The Cathedral was built between 1880 and 1910 to a Gothic Revival design by John Loughborough Pearson on the site of the old parish church of St Mary, and it is one of only three cathedrals in the UK with three spires. The Organ at Truro is a Father Willis and is considered to be one of the finest cathedral organs in the country. The Cathedral is also the birthplace of the original Christmas Eve Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, first heard in 1880. It was designed to be held before Midnight Mass, possibly as a way to keep the parishioners out of the pub!

Richard Brain

Choir thanks

On Sunday the 19th of February I listened with delight to the Junior Choir singing during the Morning Service. Their musicality is impressive and it hard to express the emotions that pass through me as they sang. The exceptional abilities of Richard our choirmaster shines through week after week. I hope the senior choir enjoyed their stay at Hereford Cathedral and showed the people of Hereford how lucky we are to have such a wonderful choir.

John Clarke

Sinai Peninsular to Saint Catherine Monastery in the foothills of Mount Sinai



The furthest journey Nick and I had ever ventured, up until three weeks ago, was when we travelled to and across the States back in August 2011. Twelve years on and we decided we needed another adventure, why not visit Egypt? And with some trepidation we agreed to sample the country for one week only.

As we were going for a short duration, we decided to play it safe and fly to Sharm El Sheikh, situated on the southern Sinai Peninsula; the idea of a pool holiday was thought to be what we both needed! Nick reminded me that the longest period of time I had ever sunbathed beside a hotel swimming pool was around thirty minutes! Unable to stay still and ever eager to sample the local culture.

Following our five-and-a-half-hour flight, we entered customs, whereby passports and visas were checked. We were then photographed, our fingers and baggage scanned and we were body searched - which took all of forty minutes and a further forty-five minutes transfer time to our hotel. We had left Gatwick at 12.30pm and by the time we reached our hotel it was 9pm local time - the security checks in Egypt are exceptionally tight. Too tired to even eat, we slumped on our bed as we had a message on arrival at the hotel, from our local guide Ahmed, that he wanted to meet us after breakfast the following morning at 10.30am.

Ahmed was dutifully waiting for us at

10.30am promptly, a very pleasant young man eager to show off all the trips that were available for us in the Sinai region.

Nick and I were pleasantly surprised and excited when the photo book page display, recognisable to us, was actually St Catherine Monastery, a pilgrim and UNESCO world heritage site, listed in 2002, and located at the foot of Mount Sinai. "You can actually take us there?!", I exclaimed, asking enthusiastically. "Yes," replied Ahmed. "We have a mini bus that travels there once a week every Thursday. We collect you at 4am in the morning, as it is a four- hour journey; and we stop on route at a café stop near Dahab for breakfast, I will arrange with the hotel for you to collect your breakfast box from reception on the day". Ahmed also informed us that the monastery closes at 10.40am for services and prayers, hence the early start, and was not open to tourists until 9am.

As our flight to Sharm El Sheikh was completely full, I expected our minibus to be packed, but it wasn't. Nick and I were the first tourists to be collected and our guide for the day introduced us to our driver and his 'friend' who was coming along for the 'ride'. He was a heavily built, friendly, pleasant man with a smiley face, suited and booted. We further picked up a young Ukrainian couple and their young son from their hotel, a German couple, (of a similar age to us) followed by a lone Frenchman, who I realised half-way through our trip, wished to remain so. Fifteen minutes into our journey

our guide informed us we would have to join a convoy of mini buses, (safety in numbers?). The German couple were let off to join a bus which had a German speaking guide and was full of German tourists. Then there was just six of us, it had crossed my mind that they may know something that we didn't!

We proceeded to join the convoy of three other minibuses, and four-armed military and armed police-check points later, we arrived at our breakfast stop, by this time it was 7.00am.

We were now in the middle of the remote and rugged landscape of the Sinai desert, the sun was just starting to rise above the mountain tops, creating shadows of purplish, to pinkish tones on the face of the rocky, cragged face of the mountainside. Even on the bus it still felt extremely cold and we were glad we took our guide's advice to dress up in warm clothing.

As we arrived outside the periphery of St Catherine, it was now 9am, we had to walk some fifteen minutes to a security check point. I needed to visit the rest room and Nick, along with our driver's friend, waited outside. To our surprise, our new acquaintance, who was now beginning to perspire heavily due to the heat from the sun, began to unbutton his suit jacket; Nick noticed that he was displaying his foldable sub-machine gun on one side and pistol in holster on the other. It turned out our driver's friend was our own personal police escort all along. We learned later, that there

had been a terrorist attack in 2017.

We finally arrived at St Catherine Monastery, outside the monumental, massive fort-like structure with expansive 12m high x 2.5m thick granite walls; and as we

queued for the main gate outside, we had one last security check point to pass...well not really a gate, just a simple small archway below the old wooden pulley lift used for the purpose of supplying provisions for the monks and the guardians of the monastery.



Inside St Catherine Monastery, was an earlier chapel (since destroyed), known as 'Virgin Mary' and now rebuilt and renamed the Church of Transfiguration, it was the original chapel commissioned by Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great in 342 AD. It is of great religious significance and dedicated pilgrims visit annually to see one of the oldest 6th century Byzantine monasteries, now a UNESCO world heritage site.

The chapel was the first to be built on holy ground, encompassing the site of the

Burning Bush, at the foot of Mount Sinai.



**The
Burning
Bush today**

Nick and I standing under the burning bush with a 6th century Byzantine mosaic in the centre depicting the hand of God reaching through the bush to speak to Moses.



Since the original chapel, over the last few centuries, several other chapels have been built inside the monastery, along with additional accommodation, refectory, icon gallery and library, (presumably where the codex is kept), for the thirty-six or so Greek Orthodox monks who currently reside there. Sadly, and unfortunately not all these areas are open to the public.

St Catherine's Monastery also encompasses the 'Moses well' which is approximately 100m from the burning bush. In Exodus, chapter 2, Moses was resting by the well when he drove off the shepherds to rescue



The Well of Moses

the seven daughters of Reuel so they could draw water from the well for their flocks. He later married one of the daughters called Zipporah.

During the 6th century (548 - 565AD), the Byzantine Emperor Justinian ordered the construction of a church to be built over the ruined remains and foundations of the original chapel. Justinian also commissioned a 12m high x 2.5m thick perimeter granite wall with towers and a phylakterion (a keep) to be built around the monastery in order to add additional protection for the monks from the Bedouin threat; who at the time were spread out throughout the Sinai desert and renowned nomadic raiders, and hence feared among the inhabitants of the monastery.

Further, Justinian also commissioned a large number of dwellings to be constructed so that '200 men with their families and guardians could be installed as servants of the monastery (PG 111, 1071 1072),'

Eutychios, Patriarch of Alexandria writing in the tenth century. Justinian died in Constantinople in the year 565 AD.

In the year 641AD, the Romans ceased to occupy Egypt which was part of the Eastern Roman Empire and therefore it was no coincidence when the monastery was abandoned completely around the time of the caliphate of Abd al Malik ibn Marwan (685-705).



The interior passageway encircling the monastery

*Patricia Harper
January 2023*

Parish Walk to Waltham Abbey via the Lee Valley Country Park

Members of the congregation made a visit to Waltham Abbey Church via the Lee Valley Country Park on Saturday 4th March 2023. The sky was overcast but it was pleasant and dry.

We started at Cheshunt and divided into two groups, one taking the long route with a visit to the Wildlife Centre and Bittern Information Centre while the other went directly to Waltham Abbey. Both groups made their way back to Cheshunt along the Lee River Navigation.

Both routes were interesting and enjoyable. The longer walk went past the Dog Agility Course (where dogs can be exercised and trained). There were sightings of birds such as herons, mute swans, cormorants, tufted ducks, great crested grebes, greylag geese, Canadian geese, magpies, pigeons, etc. It was a pity that the bitterns had left the park by the time of our visit to the Wildlife Centre. We even spied a muntjac deer in the woods! The shorter walk went through a wood henge, past wood sculptures and the Lee Valley White Water Centre.



Both groups met up for a pub lunch at Waltham Abbey and we even managed to have a foot in each hemisphere by straddling the Prime Meridian in the centre of town! If you have not been to Waltham Abbey Church, the church ceiling with signs of the Zodiac was an additional attraction to the memorial to King Harold of 1066 fame who was buried there.

Some of us even enjoyed part of a Saturday lunchtime organ recital in church! We observed human life along the canal and narrow boats negotiating locks on returning to our starting point. It was an easy walk on well-maintained paths on the level and highly recommended.

We would like to thank Chris and Angela for photographs and giving lifts to walkers

Ronald Lo



It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"



Parish Life in Pictures

February and March 2023

Candlemas - 29th January



Anna Hughes' Candle Making
Meditation - 4th February



Ashmole Primary School Year 4
Visit - March 10th





Choir Trip to
Hereford
Cathedral
25th-26th
February



The Good and the Holy

Lucifer must have been very happy. He was the brightest of all celestial beings. He was self-sustaining, knowledgeable and immortal.

Then God created the earth and every living creature and saw that it was good. Living creatures were ranked by degree of awareness: from stones that have no awareness at all, the vast vegetable kingdom which enjoys limited awareness through the tactile sense, worms and shell creatures that can also taste, ants and similar creatures, that can also smell, butterflies and the like that can also see and the higher animals that have all five senses and full awareness of physical reality.

Lucifer watched and despaired. He and the angels had been at the pinnacle of God's creation. They were not bound by spacetime, and their degree of awareness was far superior to anything else God had created so far. But their supremacy was soon to disappear because God intended to create man in his image and after his likeness.

This creature made of earth would have the potential of going to heaven and not merely be a celestial being like the angels, but could become a partaker in God's energies. Man was to take a place above all the angels and above Lucifer.

But the journey from earth to heaven, from physical to celestial, from time to eternity would involve the transformation of man from a being of flesh and blood to a communion being like God. A communion being does not carry its own definition. It is a verb not a noun. It is not a thing but an act, the act of loving communion. This is what makes it uncreated and free. It is its relationship with others that defines it. A being that is not defined by its physical characteristics but by its relationships to others. A drop in the ocean that is defined by



its relationship with all the drops in the ocean around it.

This relationship was meant to be between gods; humanity in one body, a body that could achieve anything, so long as it remained one. Every one of us was meant to be god for others: loving them, serving them and caring for them as if they are our own children. We were meant to be an *ecclesia* (an assembly) in which we were the givers and the receivers. In this way, we would become holy like God is holy.

God had created the universe full of stars to capture man's imagination and the earth like a beautiful garden with trees and rivers running through it and animals that spoke. It was a stage set for love to flourish and for the body of humanity to grow.

But just like the inevitable consequence of light shining on an object is a shadow, so the inevitable opposite of created order is disorder. The opposite of the good God created had evil as its opposite. Just like a shadow, evil has no independent existence. It is a *parypostases*. It exists only as the opposite of good.

Knowledge of good and evil was knowledge of creation not knowledge of God. Knowledge of God in the garden of Eden was represented by the tree of life. Knowledge of good and evil would blur the image of God and impede progress to the likeness of God. In searching for good to fight evil, we would

miss the pursuit of holiness.

Man's mission was to become a communion being like God. It was not to replace God as the almighty creator and for man to preoccupy himself with the building and preservation of civilisations.

The consequence of such pursuits is fear of God for sinning and fear of evil that could destroy what is good. Eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil meant that hitherto man would spend his life fighting evil and thinking that he was doing good when all along he would be missing his path to deification.

Man, therefore, was prohibited from eating from that tree and all man had to do to attain holiness, was to obey. The first sign of disobedience was shame. Man would go on to use good as a fig leaf to cover his shame.

Lucifer, therefore, set out to entice man to sin. The Hebrew word for sin is "*khata*", meaning "to fail" or "to miss the goal." Lucifer used man's desire to be like God and told him that the knowledge of good and evil would open his eyes and make him like God. Effectively, Lucifer sent man up the wrong ladder and we have been climbing it ever since.

What happened next is a story of man creating chaos through fear of man and man overcoming his fear by doing good and taking control of God's creation. But it is a very different creation than God created. God's creation was for a purpose (a *logos*) whereas man's has no purpose. God's creation was for man to attain holiness. Man's creation is to ensure that man remains supremo and never attains holiness.

And the more physical knowledge man acquires the more he becomes convinced, that there is no God and that he can be God. And the more good man does the more he becomes convinced that he can be just like the creator and dominate God's universe while all along, man is creating an anti-universe, a shadow of its true purpose.

There is a mention of the fallen angels in Genesis 6 but it is not the full story. The story can be found in the *Book of Enoch* which embodies the whole or fragments of at least six separate documents and it is classed as an apocryphal book.

Today, comparatively few people on earth believe this mystical theology. Science has cast a shadow over it and has made it appear mythical. Even 'believers' may in fact be doubters.

But just like a cloud passes and lets the light shine through, so has science (after 5,000 years of civilisation), has come to confirm the cosmic event described in Genesis 1 as the 'Big Bang', the likelihood of a 'Big Rip' that will bring the universe to an end and that the world we know may be a hologram.

What we are witnessing is a battle of conversion. Lucifer has converted each of us from the path to holiness to a path to goodness. God on the other hand, has a plan of salvation which is also based on conversion.

The story of Lucifer is only one chapter of our story. The story of our salvation which followed our fall it is another story, perhaps the Greatest Story of them all.

George Kounis

The cross of Jesus Christ is a two-way street; we have been brought to God and God has been brought to us. - Donald Grey Barnhouse

Children's Corner

Colour in

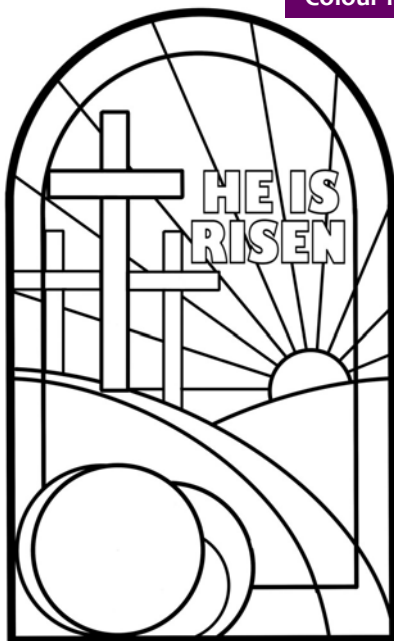
Anagrams

Presbyterian	becomes	Best in prayer
Slot machines	becomes	Cash lost in me
Astronomer	becomes	Moon starter

What's a perfect gift for a person who has everything? Storage space.

Find the mouse!

Did you find Walker in the last edition? He was sitting on Marcel Proust's bed, holding a heart balloon on page 11. See if you can find him giving out daffodils in this magazine!



Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

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 April and May:**
9th April, 23rd April, 14th May, 21st May

Morning and evening prayer in the Lady Chapel, following the Common Worship Daily Prayer liturgy and the Daily Lectionary readings:

Morning Prayer 8.00am
Evening Prayer 5.30pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

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 normally on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. Because Good Friday falls on 7th April, when the bar will be closed, the next such occasions are Fridays **31st March** and **5th May**.

The celebration of Burns' Night in January was very well attended and we are most grateful to Steve and Frances Wyatt for their excellent organisation.

Friday Foodie evenings continue with Fish & Chips on **21st April** - we will be taking advance orders for Fish & Chips. There is a charge to cover the cost of food and we aim to serve around 9:15 pm.

On **Sunday 23rd April**, we look forward to welcoming members of the Hatters Explorer Scout Unit who will be giving a Top Step Talk in the bar after Evensong (about 8 pm) on their forthcoming Expedition to the Himalayas.

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 (closed Good Friday)
- Early opening at 6 pm on the first Friday of every month (31st March instead of 7th April)



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)

**In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma
- but never let him be the period**

News from the Committees



The next meeting of the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is scheduled to take place just after the deadline for this edition of *The Spire*. However, reports already submitted for that meeting enable me to provide a fair summary of recent activity.

As always, the **Vicar's Report** to the PCC provides a window on Outreach activities at Christ Church, and – as always – things have been very busy ... in fact, Fr Chrichton notes there has been no evidence this year of “respite before the run into Lent after the madness of Christmas”. As well as the usual ‘early year’ services, which can sometimes involve wider congregations than the average Sunday (Epiphanytide Carol Service, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday), there has been a renewed series of heritage and school visits, including groups from Westgrove and Ashmole primary schools to learn about Christianity, a church tour for the Enfield Society, and a talk about our windows for a local sports club. Additionally, the choir has once again put Christ Church on the national map as choir in residence for a weekend at Hereford Cathedral.

The continuing hard work of the **Social Responsibility** committee is detailed elsewhere in this magazine and reminds us all about the ongoing need for foodbank donations. **Eco & Care Creation** reports continued routine garden work, proposes a plaque for the Queen's Jubilee acer, and describes future plans for another plant sale and for children's activities (including creating Easter gardens for the church windowsills). Volunteer gardeners are still a much-needed resource!

Parish Centre Management continues to oversee lettings and to take care of the safety and security of the premises (including a fire risk assessment and a drains survey of the outflows from Church House).

The report from **Plant & Fabric** expresses the hope that work on the chancel floor is imminently going out to tender. There is still preliminary work to be completed before floor work proper can begin, but we are definitely getting much closer to restoring the chancel to its former glory. Other ongoing work includes fitting new lighting behind the flags and the quinquennial electrical check. Finally, Plant & Fabric will also ask the PCC to approve signage for the Queen's Jubilee acer, proposed by Eco & Care Creation.

Nothing is possible without careful financial management and the **Finance & Standing** report shows that, in spite of the current economic climate and the exorbitant rise in heating costs, Christ Church is still able to record a small surplus in all funds for the current period. We are immeasurably grateful for this.

Patricia Ashby

Revision of Church Electoral Roll

Electoral Roll

-  **Belong**
-  **Participate**
-  **Contribute**

Our Electoral Roll will undergo its annual revision beginning on Sunday the 23rd of April, 2023 and ending on Sunday the 7th of May, 2023.

During this time, the Electoral Roll will be available at the back of church for checking after the principal Sunday Services. Do take

"What did you think of that Faith Healer's meeting last night?"

"Oh, it was pretty useless. The man in the wheelchair was so disgusted that he got up and walked out!"

a moment to check your entry and, if you find a mistake, please let me know.

This is also a chance to join the Electoral Roll if you are not already a member. If you would like to be added to the Roll, application forms are available to download from

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8mnsfw>

(If you cannot do this, please ask an Officer at the back of church for help.) Completed forms can be submitted electronically or left for me in the mail rack, either under A (for Ashby) or in the Church Office pigeonhole.

The revised Roll will be published on Sunday the 14th day of May, 2023, and will be available on request for a period of two weeks for further scrutiny, again at the back

of church after the principal Sunday services, until and including Sunday 28th May, 2023.

Patricia Ashby, Electoral Roll Officer

If you would like to read more about our Electoral Roll, please visit <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/home/electoral-roll/> on our website. As ever, I look forward to hearing from anybody who might want to add their name – thank you! You can download an application form from <https://tinyurl.com/2p8mnsfw>, or speak to myself or a Church Warden. (My contact details are in the Directory at the back of The Spire.)

Patricia Ashby

Use and Reuse Again: David's Story

I was so pleased to read Sandra Anderson's article about recycling etc in the last issue of Spire. You may be interested in the story of one of my family.

My youngest son, David, now aged sixty, has taken the ideas of reuse and sustainability to quite an extreme level. Having thought deeply for a long time about the well-being of people and the planet, and having read a great deal on the subject, he decided five years ago that he would never buy any more new clothes for the rest of his life, except for running shoes. (He is a serious long-distance runner and you can't wear other runners' footwear.) He also allows his family to give him underpants and socks and anything they find in charity shops for presents!

In his job he needs to look reasonably smart and manages to do so. He has one good suit for "occasions". We are all proud of him and I would put money on it that he will do what he vowed to do, although at my age I probably won't be around to see it.

Of course, this is not the way for the majority of people, but we can all make some adjustments. Everything we buy or do contributes to the damage and destruction of the planet, and thereby the degradation of many millions who live on it. Ultimately it's about our carbon footprint - we need to tread more lightly over the earth. Some very famous brands are now including pre-loved clothes on their websites. The recently-deceased Vivienne Westwood apparently was a great advocate of sustainability and spoke about climate change and over-consumption for many years, before it was the "in" thing to do so.

I am interested to hear other people's thoughts on this multi-faceted subject. There are bound to be many opinions, but they all help to keep our minds focussed. Meanwhile, I hope you will continue to produce Christ Church's excellent magazine for a long time to come!



Margaret Walker

Recycling in Church

Mick Meur,
Stewardship Recorder



In line with our Eco Church credentials we are very keen to ensure that as much of our waste as possible is recycled. Each week I check the bins and take the recycling home and take the rubbish to the Parish Centre as the church does not get a visit from the council.

At the back of church, behind the refreshment tables, are two bins, one for general rubbish and one for recyclable items. Unfortunately, there is generally a very poor understanding of what goes in each bin, so here is a reminder of what goes in where.

Recycling Bin

- Clean paper only– please do not screw it up, it takes up too much room.
- **NO** paper plates or used tissues/napkins
- Cardboard – please break up or collapse boxes to reduce size. Any large boxes should be flattened and left by the bins. Cellophane and Sellotape should be removed and placed in the general waste bin.
- Plastic packaging/boxes – **clean only**
- Compostable drinking cups only – make sure they are empty of liquid, no tea bags or used tissues left inside!
- Glass and plastic bottles – empty them out first otherwise they contaminate the whole bin
- Metal foil sheets and containers – but **not** if they are too dirty to be cleaned easily

Rubbish bin

Anything other than that listed above should be put in the rubbish bin: plastic bags, cellophane, polystyrene, thin plastic beakers, used tea light candles, used tissues/napkins/paper plates, tea bags and food waste. Anything else that looks like the rubbish you in your own bin at home.

There is also a bin in the kitchen which is purely for general rubbish, not recyclable items.

Remember: *wrong or dirty items in the recycling bin will contaminate it and make the recycling unsuitable and a waste of time.*

Of course, you could always take your own rubbish or recycling home with you, I sometimes struggle to get the recycling in my own bin at home.



Thank you!

SRC Report

Following the earthquake in Turkey and Syria we have donated £700 via our **DEC bucket appeal**. We also contributed warm clothing, blankets and toiletries through St Johns Palmers Green, our local collection centre.

We continue to collect non-perishable foods, items for packed lunches, toiletries and items for babies and young mothers for **The Ark** and the **Food Bank**. For a second year we are collecting Easter eggs for the people supported by The Ark.



Proceeds from coffee and the stall through Lent will go **The Bishop's Lent Appeal** 'Healing the Memories', funds are needed to train leaders in Mozambique who can provide pastoral care and support for people suffering trauma.

<https://www.london.anglican.org/lentappeal2023/>

Mothering Sunday cards and gifts have

brought in extra funds over the last few weeks and Easter cards and gifts are now available. After Easter proceeds will revert to the **Kith & Kids** charity.



Our bookstall has been given a clear out and we could use a few fresh books. We are grateful to everyone who buys a book or two regularly and then returns for someone else to read. This continues to bring in a few pounds.

The crafters at Friday coffee are making Twiddle Muffs (as last copy Spire). These were requested by **Age Concern** to be given to dementia patients. If you have spare wool or items for decoration, beads, buttons, ribbons etc. they will be well received.

Many thanks to everyone who donates through us in any way. The result is a great Christ Church effort.

Hilary Meur



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 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

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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

Curate The Reverend Paul Ellerby
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Jackie Anderson 8245 0305
Sandra Anderson 07947 027265
Amy Li via the office

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Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com 07974 437966

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office@christchurch-southgate.org
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Stewardship Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

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music@christchurch-southgate.org
Organist Kate Macpherson
Associate Organist David Hinit
Treasurer Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

Sacristan Vacancy

Sidesmen Judith Lo 8882 3335

Sub-committee Chairs/contacts

Outreach Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)

Plant and Fabric Kate Carroll (as above)

Social Responsibility Vacancy

Electoral Roll Officer Patricia Ashby 8886 2528

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jackie Anderson (as above)

Parish Magazine “The Spire”

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Copy to be sent to christchurchspire@gmail.com

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Flower Arrangers Contact the Parish Office (see above)

Parish Centre/Church Halls

Chairman Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD 8882 6738

Secretary Clare Boulton (see above)

Lettings christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com

Treasurer Michael Meur (as above)

Christ Church Association Bar

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

Friday Coffee Morning

Contact Every Friday morning 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Church
Hilary Meur (as above)

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

Bellringers Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.

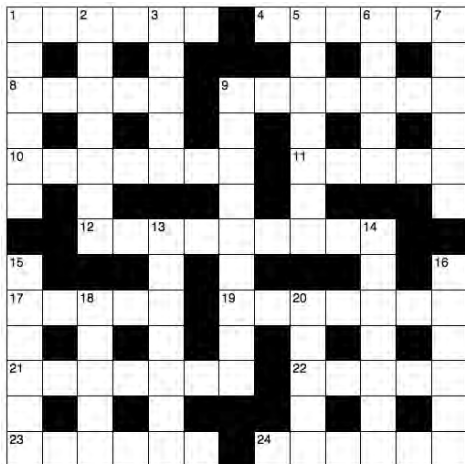
Captain Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN 8368 1974

Young Fogeyes For the active and retired, though you need not be either!

Contact Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH 8882 8133

Bible Study Group Jackie Anderson (as above)
Sue Grey 8361 8499

APRIL CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (2,3)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

FEBRUARY SOLUTION



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(John 19:17, 1:4)

Carrying the cross by Himself
He went out.
Sent out,
Yet choosing to go.

Word of life,
Choosing death,
Knowing the end from the beginning,
Carrying the cross by Himself
He went out.

The only one who could,
The only way He could,
He went out
To the Skull Place,
For me.

By Daphne Kitching



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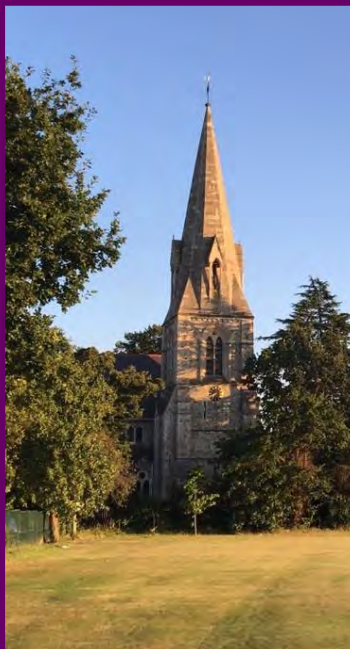
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For details and rates contact
Hilary Meur

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

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