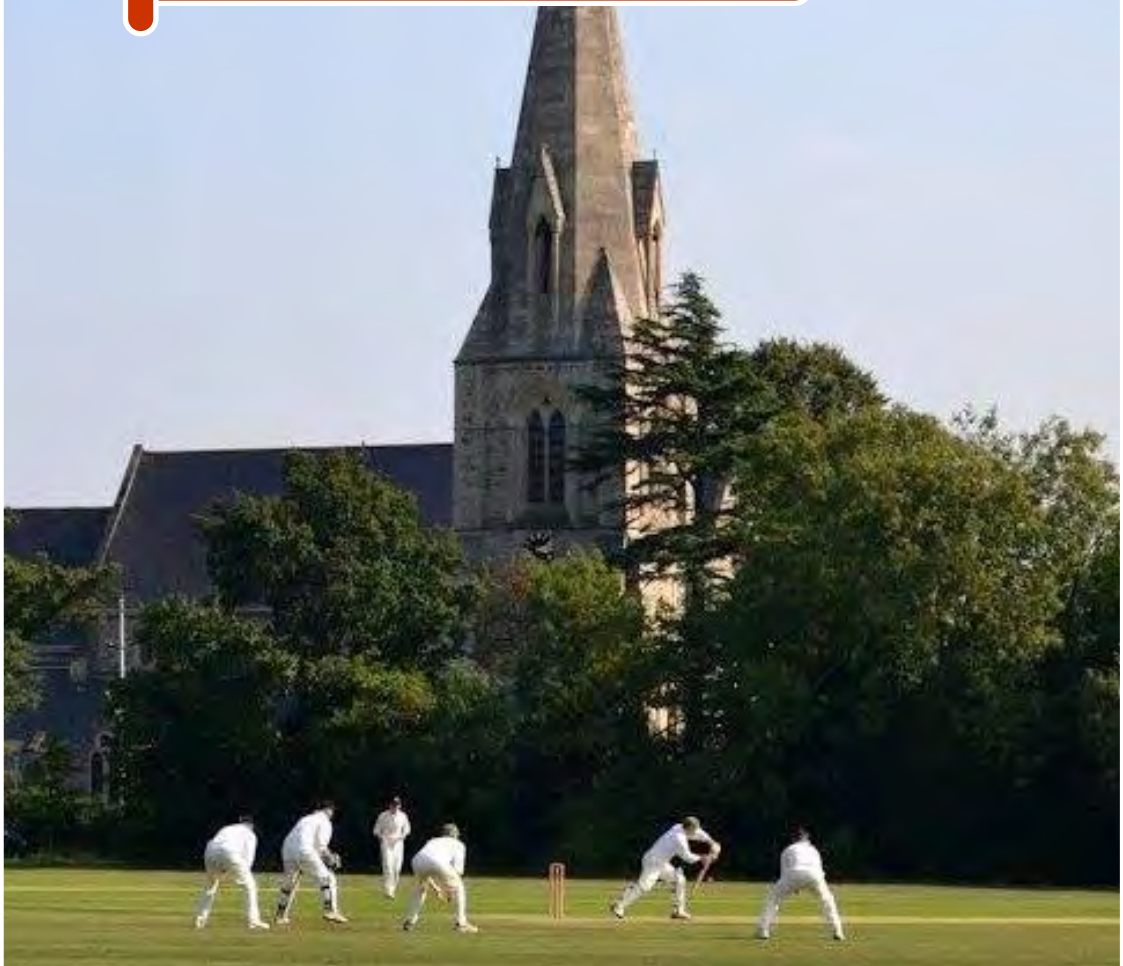


£1.50

# *The Spire*



*August and  
September 2023*

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



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**27 Station Road, New Barnet EN5 1PH**



# Welcome!

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

Welcome to the Spire Summer Special. As usual, the number of pictures of what has happened in the church community during June and July shows that we could all do with a good break!

In fact, there is no space for pictures of my recent expedition to Tuscany (with a group gathered from all over the country and including three participants from Christ Church) which will be remembered mainly for the spectacular temperatures and the number of things we did and saw – including being surrounded by the protests and shouting during the controversial opening night of La Boheme for the 2023 Puccini Festival. We can say that “we were there”!

There are no pictures yet of the upcoming trip by the choir to sing the services for a week in Truro Cathedral - they will be in the October edition I'm sure - which are always great fun events for all involved, singers and groupies alike. Particularly for the younger choristers, the adventure of singing in somewhere big will be very exciting, there will also be lots of

interesting things to see and learn from, as well as different things to eat – even if it is just trying all the different pasty shops!

I hope you manage to have some new memorable experiences over the summer, but, failing that, try and take it easier for a bit. The headlong rush to Christmas will start again all too soon in September.

We will be taking part in Open House London weekend again on the **16th and 17th September**, when we will be showing off our lovely building to visitors. There will be the usual range of crafts and refreshments to enjoy or help with. I don't want to give too much away at this stage but it will be possible for the children to become really involved with the stained-glass windows this year. Come and see!

Have a lovely and restoring summer if you can, it will soon be Harvest again in October!

Every blessing.

Fr Chrichton



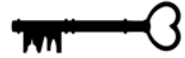
**DAILY HOPE** a free phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as services from the Church of England. Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

## Note from the Editors

Thank you to all our contributors and a reminder that copy for the October/November Spire is due by **Wednesday 20th September**. We do hope you enjoy this edition and feel free to contact us at [christchurchspire@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspire@gmail.com) - we'd love to hear from you!

*Feya and Imogen*

## Open House London



As part of Open House London which runs from 16th to 17th September 2023 we will be welcoming visitors on:

**Saturday 16th September 10am - 4.30pm**  
**Sunday 17th September 12.30pm - 4.30pm**

There will be tours on the hour and craft activities for all. Refreshments will be available.

Keep an eye on the weekly notices for more details nearer the time.

## Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

### Weekly Services

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

**Said Eucharist**  
**Sung Eucharist**  
**Evensong \***



**Tuesday 7.30 pm**

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

**Thursday 12.30 pm**

**Said Eucharist**  
*Followed by (bring your own) picnic lunch and prayer group*

**\* Choral Evensong on the following Sundays in Sept (choir on holiday in Aug):**  
 3 Sept, 10 Sept, 17 Sept, 24 Sept

### Sunday 1 October 10am Harvest Festival

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

**Morning Prayer 8.30am**  
**Evening Prayer 5.30pm**

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

## Fulham Palace

I recently joined a group of clergy on a visit to Fulham Palace the home of the Bishops of London until 1973.

The site has been occupied for centuries. There is evidence of a Roman Villa nearby and a Viking encampment. In medieval times it was surrounded by a large moat and during hot summers the outline of the demolished, Medieval chapel can be seen on the parched grass.



There is evidence from the fifteenth century that turkeys eaten there must have been among the first in this country. Timbers used in the construction of the Tudor courtyard date from that period too.

During the English reformation Church of England clergy were granted the right to marry. The first Bishop's wife arrived in 1570 when Fulham Palace became a family home.

Under the Catholic Queen Mary I, Bishop Bonner kept prisoners in the Palace and tortured Protestants in the Great Hall. During a visit of Queen Elizabeth I to the palace thieves stole her silver salt cellar. The English civil war saw the abolishment of Bishops and Bishop Juxon was expelled from the estate. He subsequently accompanied Charles I to his execution and offered him his last rites.

After the restoration of the monarchy the estate was restored to the Bishops of London.

In the 1760s the house was remodelled in the Gothic revival style, the garden was landscaped and a walled garden created. The clock in the courtyard was added with the bell coming from the same Whitechapel Bell Foundry as Big Ben, and bells at Christ Church Southgate.



In 1867 Bishop Tait commissioned William Butterfield to design the present Chapel. The reredos, depicting the Nativity, was created by the same Salviati who was responsible for the ones at Westminster Abbey and Christ Church Southgate.

In 1893 Bishop's park was created and opened to the public.

During the first world war the British Red Cross ran a 100 bed hospital for wounded soldiers and the second world war saw a barage balloon

flying above the site maintained by members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Bishop Stopford in 1973 was the last Bishop of London to live at Fulham Palace.

The site is now run by the Fulham Palace trust. Several of the rooms can be hired for weddings. After our very interesting tour we all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea. I thoroughly recommend the tour and the tea.

*Hazel Miall*

A police officer pulls over a priest and immediately smells alcohol on his breath.

The next thing he notices is an empty wine bottle lying on the passenger seat.

“Have you been drinking?” the officer asks.

“Just water,” says the priest.

“Then why do I smell wine?”

The priest looks at the bottle and shouts, “Good Lord! He’s done it again!”

## Church Readings

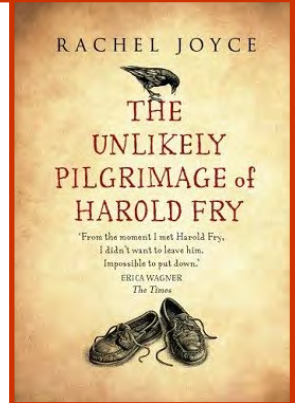
Last week, whilst visiting a Benedictine monastery. I came across a copy of **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry** by **Rachel Joyce** in their gift shop, nestled amongst rosary beads and souvenir pencils, and found myself wondering why it was there. What was it about this particular novel that made monks give it the thumbs up?

Harold Fry is about a man in his mid-sixties who receives a message telling him that his old colleague, Queenie Hennessy, has cancer and is in hospice care hundreds of miles away. He goes to post a letter to her, walks past the post box, and keeps going, ending up walking over six hundred miles. On his way he is accompanied by different people, each joining him for various reasons – publicity, belief, wanting to stretch their legs.

So why was this book in a monastery? There’s very little reference to Christianity of any denomination in it. But that reference to a pilgrimage in the title immediately brings faith to mind. Harold’s belief that his walk will save Queenie sustains him through his journey, and so we as Christians are sustained in our own belief on our individual journeys. As people Harold meets on the way help him as best they can, so we are charged with bettering the lives of others on whatever paths they are on. And although Harold claims that he ‘never quite got the hang of [religion]’, it is undeniable that a quiet spirituality rings throughout the story.

Coincidentally, a film version was released earlier this year, with Jim Broadbent starring (the trailer of which reduced me to tears – Fr Chrichton would be proud!). If you’re looking for something to pass the time with over the summer, I urge you to give this book a try – although you may have more luck finding it in a bookshop than with any local monks.

*Freya Carroll*



I have found in the Bible words for my inmost thoughts, songs for my joy, utterance for my hidden griefs and pleadings for my shame and feebleness.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

## Ordination in the Church of England

Recently at Christ Church, we've celebrated Fr Paul's Priesting and First Eucharist, along with bidding farewell to Claire Betts as she was ordained and took up her curacy, so we thought it was a good time to reflect on the journey priests in the Church of England undertake.

The process of ordination in the Church of England begins with a deep sense of vocation. Individuals who feel called to ministry undergo a period of spiritual reflection and exploration, seeking guidance from mentors, clergy, and their local church community. This period of discernment is essential to ensure that the calling to ordained ministry is genuine and well-suited to the individual's gifts and talents.

Once the sense of calling is affirmed, the candidate proceeds to formal theological education and training. A candidate for ordination typically pursues a degree in theology or divinity at a recognised theological college or seminary. This educational period not only equips the candidate with theological knowledge but also fosters personal and spiritual growth, pastoral skills, and an understanding of the Church of England's liturgical and sacramental traditions.

Throughout the training period, candidates are closely mentored by experienced clergy members and undergo various assessments to evaluate their progress and readiness for ministry. These assessments include written examinations, interviews, and practical placements in parish settings, allowing candidates to gain hands-on experience in pastoral care, preaching, and leading worship.

The selection process for ordination is rigorous and involves a detailed exploration of the candidate's faith journey, academic qualifications, and emotional and spiritual maturity. The discernment and selection process is overseen by the relevant diocese's vocations team, ensuring that the right candidates are ordained to serve the Church of England effectively and with dedication.

The two main orders of ministry in the Church of England are Deacon and Priest. Candidates are ordained as Deacons first and will then go on to a curacy within a parish, serving alongside an experienced vicar. Deacons can perform weddings and baptisms.

After a year of curacy, Deacons can then be ordained as Priests, provided this is the type of ministry they have been training for. Only Priests can preside over holy communion.

The actual ordination ceremony is a solemn and awe-inspiring event. The ordination service is presided over by the bishop, who lays hands on the candidates, invoking the Holy Spirit's blessing and consecration. This act symbolises the continuity of apostolic succession, tracing back to the earliest Christian communities.

During the service, candidates make vows of commitment to uphold the faith, to teach and preach the Word of God, and to administer the sacraments faithfully.

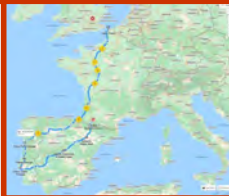


## Mariolatry

In June 2023, Maria and I accompanied by another couple, drove through France and Spain to visit Fatima (which is located between Lisbon and Porto) and back through the Pyrenees to visit Lourdes. It was a combination of an excursion and praying for several miracles for friends who were facing serious illnesses.



Via Francigena



Via Maria and George

The main Catholic pilgrimages in the Middle Ages were via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome and onto ports in Apulia from where they sailed to the Holy Land. The Catholic Church then went on to add the Camino de Santiago in Spain (the Way of St James) as the third major pilgrimage of the Christian west.

The Marian apparition at Lourdes in 1858 gave a different message and purpose to the traditional pilgrimage. It was not just a blessing but a doctrinal statement. Since then, there have been several 20th century apparitions which were later investigated and formally recognised by the Catholic Church: Fatima in Portugal in 1917, Beauraing and Banneux in Belgium in 1932/1933 and more recently, Medjugorje in Bosnia in 1981.

Each of these apparitions involved messages from the blessed virgin followed by healings as people flocked to these shrines. Fatima has become well known due to the three prophecies/secrets, the third of which was the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II in 1981 which was kept secret until it happened. The assassin was pardoned at the

request of the Pope and deported to Turkey, he converted to Catholicism and various stories circulated since as to who put him up to it including a Vatican, an Iranian and a Kremlin plot to choose from. The three secrets disclosed at Fatima were the two world wars, the fall of communism and the attempted assassination. Lourdes, however, was all about the blessed virgin Mary declaring herself to be the “*immaculate conception*”, which had become a doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church in 1854 by the Papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*.

Mariolatry has been one of the characteristics differentiating the three denominations of the Christian church. The Christian east recognises the blessed virgin as being above all the angels and the saints, but worship and veneration does not reach the level which is reserved for God in Trinity. The Protestants on the other hand may be somewhat lukewarm on this level of veneration. The Catholics, however, have gone beyond worship to develop two controversial doctrines: The Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of the blessed virgin Mary before she died.

### The Immaculate Conception

By the 4th century general ideas about the blessed virgin’s sinlessness were current in popular Christian piety. The Franciscan monk Duns Scotus went on to argue that the blessed virgin was conceived by her parents in original sin, but a special act of grace prevented the actual effects of original sin from being transmitted to her, therefore she was conceived immaculately. The Dominicans (Thomas Aquinas’ order) strongly opposed this doctrine but the Franciscans won the day.

The doctrine arises from the Augustinian understanding of original sin as original guilt, for how could someone guilty of a serious transgression against God, become the means of His conception? The doctrine is not supported by Scripture. In fact, it makes Luke 1:38 “let it be to me according to your



word”, of no real consequence. But the most serious effect of this doctrine is that it removes the need to defeat Satan, which is understood to be one of the reasons for the Incarnation. If God could do this for the blessed virgin, why not do it for the whole of humanity without the need for the Incarnation?

### The Assumption of the blessed Virgin Mary before she died

The traditional view (which arises from piety not scripture), is that the blessed virgin was assumed after her death by a special act of grace in order to preserve, free from decay, the temple of the conception of the Incarnate Logos. This understanding, however, is a consequence of the resurrection by which the blessed virgin is sanctified by grace.

Although the *Munificentissimus Deus* of 1950 (which defines *ex cathdra* the dogma of the Assumption of the blessed virgin) does not specify whether or not the blessed virgin died before her assumption, the conclusion that she was assumed prior to her death, inevitably arises from her immaculate conception because if she was free from original sin, death could not corrupt her body.

The problem, however, is that the doctrine of

assumption prior to death removes the second reason for the Incarnation, which was to defeat death. It is correct that the assumption of Enoch and Elijah were also before they died, but unlike the blessed virgin, they will die their own appointed death on earth as the two witnesses of the future tribulation period (Zech 4:11-14; Mal 4:5-6; Rev 11:3-12).

Pilgrimages are also common in the Orthodox east, but they usually involve an icon which is buried in the ground or in the trunk of a tree or a cave, or which attracts snakes and makes them harmless for its feast day or has tears running down its eyes. Many miracles are attributed to these icons and there is no doubt that a crying icon does put an obscure church on the map and no doubt are a good source of income.

How far one should take the sinister view depends on one’s disposition. For those who do not believe, no proof is sufficient. For those who do, no proof is necessary. That will not change. But doctrinal differences have split and continue to split the one catholic church we all profess we believe in. They have not been used to bring us to a closer understanding but to create differences that should make no difference.

George Kounis

## Homes for Ukraine



Nadiia and her 11-year-old son came to the UK in July 2022 to escape the Russian invasion of Ukraine. They have lived very happily with their current host family for the past year but as this arrangement comes to an end, they are looking for a new host in the Southgate / Winchmore Hill / Palmers Green area. Both mother and son speak good English and have settled into life in the UK very well. Mum works in retail and her son starts secondary school in September. They have proved to be very considerate and easy guests to host. If you may be able to host, please contact Daniel, who’s in our choir at [danielburton23@gmail.com](mailto:danielburton23@gmail.com).

Daniel Burton



A huge thank you to everyone who has supported me with kind messages and help following the recent passing of my dear sister, Nancey, whose funeral took place on 7th July.

Thanking you, Marjorie Piper

## What We Sing in Church

**Teach me my God and King**  
**NEH No. 456**



This hymn is based on a poem by George Herbert (1593-1633) who was an Anglican priest. In 1630 he became rector of the village of Bemerton in Wiltshire. Sadly, he only enjoyed three years there before he died of tuberculosis at the age of forty. The hymn has only been sung in church in the last 100 years.

It is a fine expression of what is now called incarnational theology. George Herbert had a strong sense of the metaphysical dimension of ordinary material things and mundane tasks. This hymn positively affirms the goodness and oneness of God's creation and reminds us that the smallest task if performed in the right spirit and offered to God can be a noble work.

This is the first hymn that I, as a child of about 7 or 8, really understood when I met it first in a school assembly. I suddenly realised what the second verse meant. I understood the idea of being able to look at a pane of glass in a window and focus on the glass. And then by a change of focus look beyond and through the glass and see the sky. And I then understood what the poem was saying about seeing material things as pointers to God. The language is simple but embodies a very profound truth. Ever since I have been a child it has spoken to me of what I believe and the way I should try to live my life.

The meanings of the first and second verses are very clear and really need no explanation. In the third verse George Herbert expresses his belief that anything we do - if it is honest - is part of our worship. The word 'tincture' that we think of as meaning a small dash or part, in this case derives from alchemy where it was used to mean the very essence of something.

As we don't have servants in the way people did in George Herbert's time, we have to sweep our own floors, but the same principle applies. Any everyday ordinary task, especially if done for someone else, is a work for God.

The last verse of the hymn is most interesting, which I did not understand as a child. The 'famous stone' also derives from alchemy and is of course the 'philosophers stone' for which many alchemists spend their lives searching. It was said to be able to turn base metal into gold and also to give eternal life. Needless to say, it was a futile search, but George Herbert tells us that anything which God touches and owns, and that includes ourselves and all we do, cannot be valued at less than gold.

*Cathy Dallman*

## Parish Walk – Saturday 17 May 2023

**Cole Green Way, Letty Green, Herts.**



The nine participants met up at the car park opposite the church and worked out a carpool to get to Letty Green. Fr Paul brought along his dog Otto. It was a straightforward drive to Cole Green Way Car Park although the drivers lost sight of each other soon after setting off due to traffic. The routes were introduced at the story board of the Cole Green Way and the group was split into the short walk group and the long walk group as planned.

Although the day started rather overcast, the sun came out by the time we started the walk. Both groups started towards Hertford on the Cole Green Way, which was converted from the former railway track that ran from Hertford to Welwyn Garden City before that service was axed. In fact, our cars were parked on the site of the former railway station of Cole Green. We noted that there were many hawthorn trees in the area that are in full bloom making a spectacular sight. The Way is lined by trees in the hedges on both sides and we were well shaded.

The Cole Green Way is part of the national cycle path network (Route No. 61 if you wish to ride on it) and we encountered many cyclists throughout the walk. We had discussions on the vegetation that we saw along the way and soon the two groups parted ways. The short walk group went back to the car park via Birch Green and Maitland Woods while the long walk group turned round near Hertingfordbury and returned to the car park via the Lee River and East End Green to join the short walk group for lunch at the Cowper's Arms. Being a Saturday, the pub was somewhat overwhelmed by the number of guests wanting food and we spent quite a bit of time there getting to know each other better before food was on the table. I guess this can be considered "not unexpected" if we do not bring our own picnic lunches!

After lunch, the short walk group left for home while the long walk group continued to walk in the opposite direction on the Cole Green Way towards Welwyn Garden City only to turn round at the A414 and return to the car park via another path.

We found that one advantage of having the two groups eating lunch together was that we were able to swap between groups halfway and turn it into walks of 2, 4 or 6 miles instead. The Lord was kind to us, and we all enjoyed the day very much!

*Ronald Lo*



## Win for Jesus

I try to win for Jesus every day by obeying him, serving him and loving him. I try to show his grace in all I do. There are many ways we can do this.



By our love for one another, giving help and prayers. I like to pray for the people in church and my friends and family, the poor, and for animal welfare is too.

By going to church – I love the Feast Days and the special services that take place – but prayer at home and bible study is good too.

By supporting charity – I've recently been campaigning for Compassion UK and TearFund, two of my favourite charities, with very good response. Volunteering at the church - the other day we did the cleaning in church with which I was glad to help. Lovely almond polish!

By loving nature provided by God – admiring the trees, birds, flowers, insects, animals. I love seeing all these when I go on walks to the parks in the neighbourhood. It's lovely to greet people!

St David said, 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.' Enjoy the summer! Peace and love from your friend,

*Lynda Corcoran*

## Thank you for your support for a school in Ghana

A few months ago, I travelled to Ghana for personal reasons and felt driven to enquire about the early years provision in the state schools in Ghana. As an early years teacher in the UK, I was very keen to find out about their curriculum and teaching in primary schools.



I visited a few schools, but was particularly touched by the passion and creativity of an incredible teacher (Evelyn) whose classroom was the school veranda which was exposed to all the elements. She also had very limited resources for her class, and the few they had was because she had purchased them herself. The children were enthused and attentive as she taught them and their level of engagement was beautiful to see. After my visit I was so touched that I decided to do whatever I could to support her class. Little did I know that the enthusiasm with which I shared this encounter would generate support from many people.

It was on one such occasion when I was telling Jackie Anderson about Evelyn, that she offered to share the story with Christ Church. I am truly blown away by the abundant contributions of resources, the funds raised by the cake sale and donations by very kind individuals. On my second visit to Ghana in June 2023, I was able to take some of the resources (books, games, stationery) and those left will be shipped at the end of July.



I just wanted to extend the thanks and appreciation of Evelyn and her class for the donations you offered. I wish I could find a more tangible way to express how happy and delighted they were.

I truly appreciate how Christ Church has embraced this project and may God truly bless you all for your love, sacrifices and kindness. I include a couple of pictures from my visit in June.

*Natasha*

### For a church school exam, young children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. These were some of the (real) results...

- In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.
- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
- Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- The seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
- Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
- The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.

# Handel's Messiah

Patronal Festival Concert - Sunday 26 November 2023

## SPONSORSHIP APPEAL



**Choir of Christ Church Southgate  
Bach Sinfonia**

We are delighted to announce that this year's Patronal Festival Concert will be a full performance Handel's magnificent and popular oratorio *Messiah*. This performance will be extra special as we welcome back a full orchestra led by the wonderful Liz Partridge.

*However, to make this wonderful concert possible we need your help please!*

The concert expenses, including the professional orchestra, will be £2000. Please consider supporting this wonderful concert by becoming a sponsor.

Our sponsorship packages include:

**Concert Friend: £45** – Complimentary pair of concert tickets, programmes, and reserved seats

**Concert Associate: £90** – Complimentary pair of concert tickets, programmes, reserved seats and VIP interval reception

**Lead Sponsor: £150 or more** – Two pairs of complimentary tickets, programmes, reserved seats and VIP interval reception

For a concert sponsorship form please contact the Director of Music, Richard Brain, at [music@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:music@christchurch-southgate.org) or speak to him directly.

*Concert profits in aid of the Choir Fund.*



# Parish Life in Pictures

## June and July 2023



2nd June – Wedding of Sophie Batsford and Ross Ritchie



11th June – First visit to church of Jonathan Ariyaratne



4th June – Baptism of Madeleine Hinitt



11th June – Baptism of Luke Donatti-Liasis



21st June – Licencing of Kate Carroll and Graham Cook as Wardens



16th June – Bishop Rob's leaving party

24th June – Paul Ellerby Priesting at St Pancras Church



25th June – Paul Ellerby first Eucharist and farewell to Claire Betts





1st July – Ordination of Deacons at St Paul’s Cathedral – Claire Betts and Philip Dawson



9th July – Choir Barbeque



20th July – Walker School End of Term and Leavers Service





# CHRIST CHURCH — Southgate —

## DOES YOUR CHILD LOVE SINGING? OUR CHOIR IS RECRUITING

Opportunities for young singers to join the north  
London Choir of Christ Church Southgate N14



- Spaces for Primary and Secondary School aged children
- Weekly 1 hour Friday evening rehearsals during term time
- Sing two Sunday mornings a month as well as for special occasions including our renowned Christmas Carol services
- Free Membership
- Vocal tuition
- Chorister Pay and lots of biscuits!
- Regular visits to UK Cathedrals
- Ambitious and exciting repertoire
- Vibrant community spirit
- Sing in a fun and supportive environment!



For more details email: [music@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:music@christchurch-southgate.org)

Christ Church Southgate, The Green, London, N14 7EG – Registered Charity (1131606)



# BEE'Z CORNER

To all our dear Bee Lovers,



It is with great pleasure to finally bring you fantastic news of the installation of our new nucleus of bees all of which, after a few weeks, are still alive and thriving! In fact, the original colony started out as 4000-5000 in number and in just five weeks has now grown to approximately 25,000, and a lot of healthy bees produce a lot of delicious honey!

Thanks to the care of our dedicated Bee Team at Christ Church, we have had to add yet another 'Super', which is an extra box that sits on top of the original hive, in order to create more space to make honey. They have been very prolific thus far and obviously loving their new hive. The second super went on only yesterday, 11th of July, as they were running out of space to create more honey!

So, looking forward, and on an even more positive note (as we were not expecting honey so soon) we have set a date to sell this delicious, and almost organic product, on the day of the Harvest Festival which will be on **1st October 2023** at only **£6.50** a jar on a first come first served basis.

Also, to celebrate the Bees, following the 10am service on 1st October, Fr. Chrichton will carry out his usual blessing of the bees, and this will be followed by a 'Bee Party'; please dress up in fancy dress costume 'Bee Themed'! This is optional of course, not compulsory! There will be a brief informative presentation given by our lead bee keeper, Youla. We will also have a bee table selling lots of interesting bee related products to help raise funds towards our second hive.

Here are a few photos showing you some of the work that we do:



Youla opening the temporary nuc box

John 'Burning Out' the brood box



Joe waiting for his orders



Alexander ready to lend a helping hand



**Nick preparing the smoker to calm the bees down prior to checking, although as evidence suggests, he didn't stop there!**



Looking forward to seeing you all on the day!

Patricia Harper (The Bee Team)

## 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** normally on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next such occasions are **Fridays 8th September** and **6th October**.

The bar will be closed during the month of August, re-opening on **Friday 1st September**.

**Friday Foodie** evenings resume with a **Chinese Snacks Night** on **22nd September**. There is no need to book in advance, and there is a nominal charge to cover the cost of food which will be served around 9:15 pm.

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)*

# Christ Church Eco Rockery Project

Dear friends of Christ Church,

We would like to update you on the progress we are making on our new rockery (name to be decided upon completion).

In the beginning ...



We have to admit that, due to the amount of weeding and digging we had to undertake, along with unpredictable weather, it has taken us slightly longer than anticipated. The ivy was our main concern as the roots had become so strong in places, we have had to dig quite deeply in order to eradicate them.

So, not too dissimilar to an archaeological dig, we set about determined to create a more environmentally friendly eco space that will hopefully be enjoyed by the community and god's creatures for the foreseeable future! Sadly, we didn't find anything of any significant value apart from an old quite large rusty key! The next photo is self-explanatory!

This is what we discovered...



Following the mighty dig, we then sifted out all the remaining debris and was left with plenty of fertile soil, already for the base of our new rockery.

We have also kindly had a number of rocks donated to us for when we are ready to create the rockery. As the rockery area is on a slope down to the garden, we are having to build a retaining wall out of some wonderful tree stumps that a local arborist donated to our project, once installed these will act as our supporting wall.



This project is still ongoing and we will keep you updated on our continued progress.

Our best wishes to all,

*Patricia Harper (The Rockery Garden Project Team)*



## News from the Committees



Committees reporting to the July 11th meeting of the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) had been veritable hives of activity! First, Sandra Anderson (for **Eco & Care Creation**) reported that our new bees are now in residence, buzzing around the back garden with the help of our two volunteer beekeepers. We also heard about progress with the new rockery, the imminent arrival of the plaque for the Queen's *Acer* (which is doing well), and the colourful pots by the North door (for which thanks are due to the Revd Hazel).

It's worth remembering here that these so-called committees are not stereotypical 'talk shops'. They are members of our congregation contributing their time and efforts to a common purpose. Sandra's report identified the importance of this, describing the need for more volunteers ('committee members') to maintain the beds and shrubbery around the church building, provide additional care for the bees, plan and execute new projects, and so on. Volunteering came up again later in this meeting – our church needs us all to participate... in everything... from gardening to cleaning, catering, bee-keeping, reading, serving, flower arranging, and welcoming ... you name it, we need it and everyone is welcome.

**Plant & Fabric** also reported progress and developments since last time. Kate Carroll told the PCC that based on the findings of our structural engineer and architect, we will now move to monitor the chancel floor rather than radically repairing it. Repair costs are prohibitive and there is no danger of the floor collapsing. We are safe to continue using it. We will make a limited number of small repairs to tiles and cracks before a photographic record is made which will function as a benchmark to determine any

future changes in the stability of the floor.

Reaching this position with the chancel floor has not been without financial costs, and these were reflected in the higher than usual expenditure reported by our treasurer, Clare Boulton, on behalf of **Finance & Standing**. Payment of the unavoidable professional fees have resulted in an overall deficit of just under £16K. Our day-to-day expenditure, however, continues to break even. Clare, re-appointed as Treasurer by the PCC at this meeting, also proposed that we should offer the full Parish Standard Cost again this year of just over £91K; as before we will reserve the right to keep this commitment under constant review.

More activities were reported by both **Social Responsibility** and **Parish Centre Management**. Hilary Meur gives a full Social Responsibility report elsewhere in this magazine, but briefly informed the PCC of charitable donations totalling over £900. Philip Miall's Parish Centre Management news was rather less good, focused around the impact of significant increases in heating and lighting costs.

Finally, in spite of his second brush with Covid, **the Vicar** reported a number of new Outreach activities – some happy, some sad. There have been baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Our church became a space of care, love and prayer for a day following the sudden death of a Walker School pupil. Fr Chrichton also spoke on *Creation Care* at the Enfield Climate Forum, gave a talk at Monkfrith School, and attended a Mental Health First Aid course. The choir has appeared twice on international television (these were the recordings mentioned last time). He also reported more 'parochial' events: the coronation service followed by lunch in the garden, Fr Paul's ordination and first Eucharist, our good-bye to Claire Betts, thanks to our outgoing Warden, Clare Boulton, and welcome to our new Warden, Graham Cook.

Patricia Ashby

## SRC Report

**Christian Aid** week this year was in May, and we collected and sent £240. Sales from the stall and donations for coffee, until the end of June, enabled us to send £600 to **Kith & Kids**. We are now collecting for **Noah's Ark**, the children's hospice in Barnet.



A sale of cakes and preserves plus a few donations raised £110 for the **school in Ghana**. As a church we also donated books, toys and stationery, several individuals made cash donations. We are grateful to Natasha for her direct connection with this school. We prefer to send money and goods to a 'need' where we have a personal contact (see further details and thank you elsewhere).

We hope that there will be a talk by **Age UK Enfield** on 'Falls Prevention' at the Friday coffee morning **15th September**. We will give them the twiddle muffs the crafters have made. This is the beginning of Open House weekend and we hope to incorporate a 'Songs of Praise' event similar to the one we held last year. Have another look for your favourite hymn!!

Recently we took some baby equipment to another local charity, '**Grow Baby**' at Vineyard Church in Enfield. They give out toys and equipment to needy families by appointment. While we were there a mother came looking for a buggy and clothes for her one-year-old child. She tried out and then chose one of the three buggies they had. She also received a bag of clothes and a packet of nappies.

The present financial situation pushes more and more families on to the bread line. Through the school holidays local resources will be stretched even more than usual. Please continue your generous donations to the foodbank and **The Ark** collection near the church door. Recently we have been able to give directly from here to someone asking for food.

I always try to end with a THANK YOU. All the places we donate to are very grateful for our donations, in turn we are thankful for all your contributions both in goods or purchases. Please continue with your generosity. Items we don't sell are passed on to a local charity shop or recycled.

*Hilary Meur*

## Falls Prevention Talk by Age UK



Unfortunately, falling as we get older is quite common, however the good news is there are lots of things you can do to stay steady on your feet!

On **Friday 15th September** a member of **Age UK Enfield's Falls Prevention Team** will be coming to give a presentation and taster session during our usual morning coffee from **10 am till 12 pm**.

Everyone is welcome so please come and join us to get some useful tips and helpful advice!

## Stewardship

*Mick Meur,*  
Stewardship Recorder



In the two months since my last article, I am pleased to report that a couple of new donors have joined the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and I thank them for that. However, as ever, we have lost some long-standing members of the scheme for reason or another.

Membership of the PGS is free to set up and there is no ongoing cost to us. The other excellent part of the scheme is an additional feature whereby your donation can be automatically increased annually in line with inflation. This is something we recommend as this helps to offset the ever-increasing costs we face. 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.

All other donations not made electronically directly to our bank account unfortunately attract bank charges. Cash is charged at £1.50 per £100 and each cheque paid in costs us £1.50, irrespective of the amount.

Contactless machine usage or online via our website directly continue to increase and the blue Gift Aid envelopes from the pews are also being used more often. However, the latter were really intended for to encourage non-regular attenders to donate. Regular, but not weekly, attenders are encouraged to join our Stewardship Scheme so that they support Christ Church even when you are absent.

I am always happy to discuss such matters, either in person by telephone or email, my 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  
on your smartphone or tablet



**PARISH DIRECTORY**

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

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

**Clergy**

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

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

*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**

Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com	07974 437966
Graham Cook, grahamrcook@hotmail.com	07535 800741

**PCC**

<i>Secretary</i>	Caroline Robertson office@christchurch-southgate.org	8886 0384
<i>Treasurer</i>	Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR	8367 5961
<i>Stewardship</i>	Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362

**Music Department**

<i>Director of Music</i>	Richard Brain music@christchurch-southgate.org	07979 850546
<i>Organist</i>	Kate Macpherson	
<i>Associate Organist</i>	David Hinitt	
<i>Treasurer</i>	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
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**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)
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**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
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**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)
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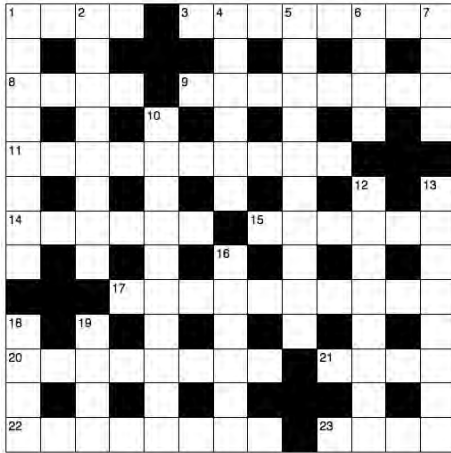
<b>Scout Group</b>	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i> Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	07980 740 587 8882 0991
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<b>Bellringers</b>	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974

<b>Young Fogeys</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
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# AUGUST CROSSWORD



## Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate choice food; — or wine touched my lip (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounc this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for ma years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be me (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its ri held —, and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

## Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

## JUNE SOLUTION

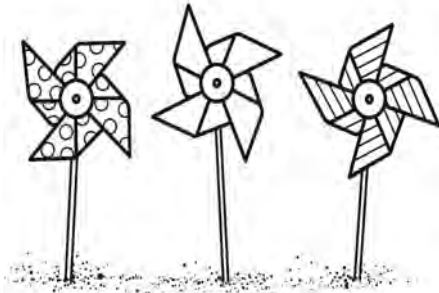


# Children's Corner

## Find the mouse!

Did you find Walker in the last magazine? He was giving out ice-llories at our Coronation Picnic on Page 11.

See if you can find him in this edition!



Colour-in the windmills

## Words and Actions



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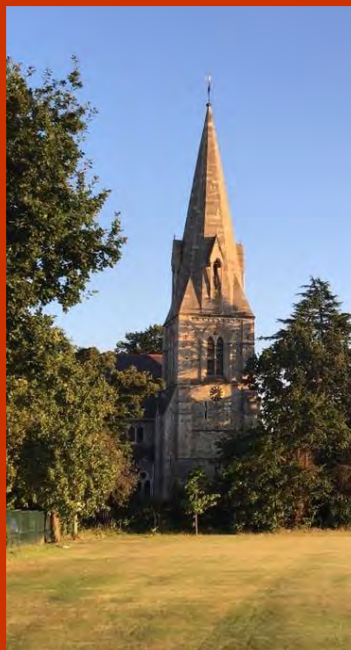
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For details and rates contact  
Hilary Meur  
Tel: 020 8360 2362  
Email: ccsocres@gmail.com

**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**

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**Southgate**

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**Directed by Richard Brain**  
**Organist David Hinitt**

**CHOIR CD**

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

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We rely on your generous donations to finance our ministry