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The Spire



Scaffolding up in the chancel in August to repair ceiling fall

October and
November 2023

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— *Southgate* —



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Welcome to the October and November issue of Spire Magazine. The (relative) lull of the summer is over and the rapid rush to the end of the year is on. We are already planning for many different events and services in the run up to Christmas - including five baptisms in October. However, looking at the number of events and occasions that are pictured in this issue it has hardly been two months of nothing since the last Spire was published.

As I write this in the run up to Harvest Festival, and the celebration of creation, the headlines are full of the change in the dates for the banning of fossil-fuel powered transport, which is raising many questions as to how much of a moral lead we should take in this country. Interestingly, this issue has a thought-provoking article by George Kounis, giving his personal view on what sort of Christian country we are, as we prepare to start a fresh liturgical year.

However, before we get into Advent and Christmas, we will have the season which is informally called the "Kingdom Season". It runs from All Saints' Day to the eve of the First Sunday of Advent which falls as late as it can be on the 2nd December. The Kingdom season offers a time to celebrate and reflect upon the kingdom of God, ending with our patronal Sunday on the great Feast of Christ the King. The season gives us opportunities to look at the past and the future before the whole mystery of the story of Jesus starts again at Advent.

On the 5th November we remember those who have gone before us. In the morning we celebrate All Saints - who from their labours rest - and celebrate their example and teaching. In the evening at All Soul's we remember the faithful departed - the men and women who have been special to us in our lives and our faith journey and who we remember with thanksgiving and prayer. This will take the form of a Requiem mass - with the music of Faure - where we will remember by name those we have loved and see no longer, knowing they are safe in God's loving arms. Please let Caroline in the office know the names of those you would like commemorated.

Sunday November the 12th will be Remembrance Sunday. The headlines are full of continuing losses to the horrors of war which gives the service a special poignancy this year. There will be the Act of Remembrance within a special service starting at 10.30am to help the whole community remember and be thankful for all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Looking to the future, the Festival of Christ the King anticipates the time when Christ will return as King and Judge, reigning on earth and in heaven. It is a special day of celebration as our Patronal Festival and will feature our traditional concert in the evening of Sunday 26th November - which this year is a performance of Handel's Messiah.

The whole cycle starts again with the Advent Procession on Sunday 3rd December, to start to

retell the story of Christ’s time on earth. As it is as late as it can be the usual events in December will come thick and fast, including the journey of our knitted Mary, Joseph and Donkey, Christingle, the Pop-Up Nativity, the Christmas Eve Crib Service, and the legendary Nine Lessons and carols on Friday 17th December.

and services at Christ Church if you can. It is good to take stock and remember those who have gone before us and know again that we are all surrounded by God’s love and there is an absolute certainty that the Christ Child is coming.

Every blessing.

Please come to support and join in the events

Fr Chrichton

Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!



Special Services in October & November

Sunday 1st October 10am

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Followed by our bee celebration



Sunday 5th November 10am

All Saints Day

Sunday 5th November 6.30pm

Feast for All Souls

Requiem mass with the music of Faure

Sunday 12th November 10.30am

Service of Remembrance

Sunday 26th November 6.30pm

Christ the King, Patronal Festival Concert

Handel’s Messiah with the Bach Sinfonia

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

*** Choral Evensong on the following Sundays in October and November:**

1 Oct, 8 Oct, 22 Oct, 5 Nov, 12 Nov, 19 Nov

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

Messages in embroidery

God has given each of us many talents, and the ability to appreciate the talents of others. One of my favourite art forms is embroidery, as you may have realised from seeing my clerical vestments embroidered by Jacquie Binns. Whenever I come across an embroidered item, I love looking at it to see how it was made and why.

I have just returned from America visiting my son and his family and while we were there, we took the opportunity to explore. We decided to visit the Colorado State Capital building in Denver and the guided tour included seeing the Women's Gold Tapestry, illustrated here.

This hand stitched embroidery and appliqué tapestry is huge, 9ftx12 ft and took 4,500 hours to make. It pays homage to the courage,

perseverance and sacrifices made by women in Colorado. It includes Mother Frances Cabrini, America's first citizen Saint. She was canonised for her work among orphans in Denver. The others represented were ordinary women who did extraordinary deeds. They include Chipeta who worked with her Indian chief husband to keep peace with the new settlers, Clara Brown a former slave who helped former slaves to relocate, Emily Griffith an educator who opened a school so that all might learn, and Dr Florence Sabin who helped reform Colorado's public health system. These are few of Colorado's inspirational women, illustrated in the Tapestry.



The other embroideries we found were on the walls of the Church of St Nicholas. This newly formed Church has an annual retreat, and the theme of the retreat is recorded as a banner kept on the wall of the Church. My favourite is perhaps 'I am the true vine' with Christian messages written on the leaves.

We experienced for ourselves the Christian virtues of the congregation, and it inspired us to try to welcome others to our Church with the same, comfortable enthusiasm as we received. The welcome we had this year was as warm as before. The Eucharist service is very similar to our own,

although not all the hymns were familiar, but by the last verse we were more confident. The refreshments provided after the services enabled us to socialise with other visitors and regulars.

We left, with the renewed knowledge that wherever two or more are gathered together in His name there is a Christian community.



Hazel Miall

An Interview with Bishop Rob



The Spire: What's the next step for you, now you are no longer Bishop of Edmonton?

Bishop Rob: I'm now the group chief executive of a charity called the Church Urban Fund. It comprises three different aspects – the Church Urban Fund, Near Neighbours and the Just Finance Foundation. All three are there to tackle poverty at a local level.

TS: And what is the Church Urban Fund, specifically?

BR: It's a beautiful, historical reminder of the roots of our work. The church decided back in 1985 that they would do a commission called Faith in the City, which would ask the question of theologically what the church had to say to the wider society in relation to a growing sense of the 'rich' and the 'poor'. Out of this report came a number of quite high-profile recommendations both to the church and to the government. One of these was the creation of a fund called the Church Urban Fund, which launched in 1987, and was basically a fund to support parishes that had been termed 'urban priority areas'.

The diocese were asked to raise funds to put into a pot, and then the Church Urban Fund would distribute the money to the places of greatest need on the ground level. Its creation is fondly remembered as being a moment of the Church of England taking a political stance against the growing levels of inequality in this country.

The Fund has given grants for the support of Ukrainian refugees, Afghan refugees, grants that support people of different faiths working together for their local communities. The main focus is: how do we serve and support parishes to know their communities better? CUF also provides data on different parishes and resources too. A large aspect is about developing a place of welcome.

TS: And what made you hang up the hat and move on to this role?

BR: I've been on a vocational journey. I've had a real sense of wanting to go back to what for me is my primary calling; that churches are there to alleviate poverty. It's going back to what gets me up in the morning.

TS: But are you still a bishop? How are you referred to from now on?

BR: I'm still a bishop! It's like if Fr Chrichton were to go back to the BBC, he would still be called Fr Chrichton.

TS: Do you get to keep your hat?

BR: I do get to keep the hat! The thing I won't be using is my stick, the crozier. It's a mark of pastoral care amongst a group of people, and I have no designated group of people with whom I am a bishop.

TS: Looking back on your time as Bishop of Edmonton, are there any moments that you look on with pride?

BR: Gosh... I think we have a clergy and a leadership of the church, lay and ordained, that

looks more like London. You can see that particularly in the number of women who have been supported in ministry. We also have a greater proportion of UK ME clergy.

We could always do more, can't we? But what I've tried to do is alter the locus of where decisions are made. I've tried to put people first. One of the things I've shared quite regularly with clergy in our conversations that the power posture required in today's church is actually centered on powerlessness and humility. That's the kind of stance required, and I hope that's the kind of culture change that has developed over the last eight years.

TS: What's been the most fun you've had?

BR: Every confirmation was great fun; every induction was great fun. I'm really conscious of being the bishop – you get wheeled in when moments are fabulous. I opened three new churches whilst being Bishop of Edmonton, which is great because you're the one with a stick, and you're banging on the door and drawing Alpha and Omega on the floor in chalk. You think, 'this is history in the making'. It's a real privilege, and you're conscious that it's years and years of someone else's hard work. Every time I confirmed someone, it was so special to be able to play that role.

TS: What advice do you have for your successor?

BR: There's a bit in the priestly ordination prayer that says, the treasure to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. Those are the words which were seared into my heart every day, whether there was a joyful or difficult moment – the people you are dealing, working and journeying with are loved unconditionally by God. They are Christ's flock, not yours. You are no more important than the person who's got up at six o'clock that morning to clean the pews, or the person who just walked into church for the first time because they saw the doors were open. It's a prayerful, reflective thing, which I would want to share with any successor.

TS: Is there anything you would like to share with the readers of *The Spire*?

BR: One of the things I really love about Christ Church is that it is a place that loves people. It exemplifies putting people first. It's a church which says 'yes', meeting people where they are and not expecting someone to be slightly different when they come through the door. I've always been really impressed by the 'can-do' attitude, and I just want to say thank you, and keep on doing it!



We wish Bishop Rob well on his journey and hope to see him at Christ Church again in the future! If you'd like to learn more about the Church Urban Fund, please visit <https://cuf.org.uk/>



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

What We Sing in Church



'Come ye thankful people come' New English Hymnal No. 259

As we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival this month, I thought it would be good to look at a harvest hymn which I expect we shall sing on that occasion. We have to remember that our harvest hymns were written when many more people in the community would have been closely involved with agriculture and 'Harvest Home' was really important for them; it meant that food supplies for the coming winter were assured. So, they would have been very thankful to God for supplying their needs. This is much less so now of course, and our harvest festival is rather tame in comparison. We may bring to church produce from our gardens or allotments, but often we give tins or packets to charities who provide for homeless people in winter and for the food banks which unfortunately need to operate all year. The principle is the same - we are showing our gratitude for plenty.

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

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

The field that is sown with seed is the whole world and the seeds of wheat are those who follow Jesus' teaching and the tares or weeds are people who do evil. Tares can be identified with a plant called darnel which is very like wheat when it first sprouts and is impossible to distinguish. By the time it is identifiable as a weed it has grown so entangled with the wheat that trying to pull it up would uproot the wheat. It is only possible to separate them at harvest. The lines 'First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear' is a reference to a small parable found only in Mark's Gospel (Mark 4:26-29).

Verse 3 refers to the end of the parable of the wheat and tares and relates to the end of days when angels will sort out the good from bad.

In verse 4 the hymn writer prays that the good grain - those who have followed Christ's teaching - will be safely gathered in forever, to be purified and abide in 'God's garner' by which he means heaven. He then calls on all the angels to come and raise the song of the final 'Harvest Home'.

Cathy Dallman

On 26th October, the Church of England remembers a personal hero of the editor, Alfred the Great. Alfred was never canonised by the Church, but his translation of Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius is a fitting epitaph: *I desired to live worthily as long as I lived, and to leave after my life, to the men who should come after me, the memory of me in good works.* This also seems a fitting memorial to a great friend of The Spire and of us all at Christ Church, John Clarke.

A Visit to Carlisle Cathedral



At the beginning of July, my sister Anne and I visited Cumbria for a few days' holiday, and on Sunday morning we went to Carlisle Cathedral.

When we arrived, the service had already started, but we were welcomed and found two good seats. The service was described as "The 'Plus' Eucharist". It was recognisably a Church of England service, but the language was modern and fairly relaxed. We came in during the Gospel, which was about Zacchaeus climbing a sycamore-fig tree to see Christ (Luke C19 V1-10) and was followed by a sermon from The Revd Canon Michael Manley, Interim Dean and Canon Missioner. He didn't preach from the pulpit, but walked up and down the centre aisle with a microphone, talking about individuals searching for Christ and Christ's active willingness to make contact, standing at the door and knocking. At one point he quoted the People's Postcode Lottery jingle: "Someone's knocking at the door, somebody's ringing the bell" and encouraged us to join in. Active (but not rowdy) participation by the congregation was encouraged. The hymns were cheerful and singable, including "Amazing Grace," "And Can It Be?" and "To God Be The Glory" led by the Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks with a contribution from the Carlisle Cantate Children's Choir singing "Already Home" from The Wizard of Oz. Dare I say that they sang well but that the Christchurch Southgate Choir would have sung even better?

Afterwards we walked round the Cathedral exploring its treasures and then reached the transept to find that post-service coffee was still being served. We joined in, talking to people. They were welcoming and friendly. At one point Canon Manley came and chatted to us. We told him

where we live and worship, and he put his arm round our shoulders and said a short, quiet prayer of blessing, which was nice. We enjoyed the service and our visit to the Cathedral and we left refreshed.

I have been to Carlisle Cathedral on several occasions but not for a while, and I had forgotten how odd it is. It is the second smallest Cathedral in England because it has no nave (I think the smallest may be one of the Royal Chapels).

Entering the main transept through the south door, the old nave area is blocked off a little way back by a wall, which forms the back of the Border Regiment memorial chapel. The visitor turns right towards the Choir which comprises the present Cathedral. The Cathedral was built in the 12th century, in local soft red sandstone, as part of a flourishing monastic community. There are still extensive remains of the monastic buildings. The monastic foundations were closed down by Henry VIII in the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the buildings fell into disrepair. During the English Civil War in the 17th century, the Scottish Presbyterian Army demolished part of the nave in order to use the stone to reinforce Carlisle Castle. Cumbria was always a turbulent part of Britain and the city walls are still in very good repair. The Cathedral was restored in its present form in the mid-19th century. Whenever I visit Carlisle Cathedral, I always feel that it is quietly grieving and in pain because of the amputation of the nave. If someone chopped me off at the waist and took my legs away, I would probably feel the same.

What remains is very beautiful and interesting, very much what one might expect in a typical gothic cathedral. There are carved misericord seats in the Choir, and the most beautiful vaulted ceiling panelled in blue with gold stars. There are gothic arches and monuments and tombs from many centuries. A modern Treasury can be accessed from the west corner of the north transept, containing narrative historical panels and a fine collection of silver and other ecclesiastical items from the Cathedral, surrounding churches and elsewhere, possibly taken in for safe-keeping as well as for visitors to enjoy.

The Cathedral is impressive, in spite of its mutilation. Whenever I visit, I leave feeling pleased and peaceful, and I hope I will return before too long.

Jill Holiday

"Adam," said Eve, one winter's day, when all the trees were bare.
 "Adam," said Eve. "I can't go out! I haven't a leaf to wear!"

Your Kingdom Come

'God is working His purpose out, as year succeeds to year.'

We believe His kingdom will come, in His perfect time. He is gathering His people for the Harvest. Every little good word and action we can do supports his will - to obey him is perfect freedom. He knows what's good for us, better than we can do. He is the truth.

I certainly believe this – and I always try to hold fast to it. Jesus is our sure salvation and by his cross, we are saved. When we say the 'Our Father' we pray for Your kingdom to come - on earth as it is in Heaven. Let us all work for this, like your beloved disciples, the saints and the many great Christians who followed you, and please help us in our task to serve you. We know You are always with us, gentle friend and deliverer, Holy Christ. Your heart is for the poor and you deserve for your kingdom to be established.

Lynda Corcoran

Εν τούτῳ νικά (By this sign you shall win)

In her recent interview on TalkTv, Ann Widdecombe claimed that Britain remains "culturally" Christian. I do not agree. It is hard to believe that any of these, so called Christian countries, can have the audacity to call themselves Christian, culturally or otherwise.

The New Testament tells the story of the Logos becoming man so that man may become like God. This is the logos for our existence. It talks of humanity becoming one body; of the pursuit of spiritual unity for the whole of humanity; and of the first Christian communities giving up all their possessions to live in loving communion with one another. It is in this context, that I am questioning in what way is Britain "culturally" Christian or for that matter, whether any other country is Christian? Are we simply referring to external appearances (institutions, building, rituals and pageantry)? Should the measure not be the degree we embrace human unity in pursuit of the logos?



WIKIPEDIA: Detail from *The Vision of the Cross* by assistants of Raphael, depicting the vision of the cross and the Greek writing "Εν τούτῳ νικά" in the sky, before the Battle between the Roman Emperors Constantine I and Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge in 312CE.

Christianity in its various guises, has been condoning wealth accumulation, separatism, and bigotry. Alleged heretics have been burned to the stake and religious leaders have been blessing arms and justifying wars on the pretext of defending

the freedom of one people against another, only for those freedom fighters to become the tyrants of tomorrow. The true Christian faith asks us to give up our worldly possessions and follow the logos of our creation; to love our neighbour as ourselves; and refuse to take-up arms against anyone, no matter what. The past and present history of Britain (as of many 'Christian' countries) is one of warmongering and exploitation. These are not Christian values.

All countries now see it as their duty to pursue their own interests over those of other people in the world. It has been indeed an eye for an eye until we have all gone blind.

There was a very short time (before 312) when Christianity was on the right course. Until then, the early Christian church was a persecuted church producing saints through martyrdom. But on 28th October 312 all that changed.

Emperor Constantine I (a pagan Emperor with a Christian mother who went on to put his wife and his son to death) defeated Maxentius at Milvian Bridge and became sole emperor of the Roman Empire. Allegedly, he had a vision which prompted him to use the cross as his call to arms. With the cross on their pennants, his army defeated the army of Maxentius which was far superior in numbers. Constantine became the sole Emperor of the Roman Empire. The following year, the Edict of Milan gave Christians religious toleration and in due course, the empire became predominantly Christian, because Christians enjoyed imperial favour. Apart from a short spell under Julian the Apostate, the Christian Empire lasted for

1,000 years until the fall of Constantinople to Islam in 1453. Constantine is venerated by the Church as a saint.

Since then, the cross was used to defeat one enemy after another, set one Christian country against another and to endorse wars, looting and enslavement. Even if Constantine had that vision, it was more likely to have been a call to peace not war. Peace would have left Christianity a persecuted church, a church of saints, until the logos prevailed. Instead, a pseudo-Christianity developed, sometimes embracing the worst of evil but claiming intellectual rights over the brand of Christianity. We may believe that we are following the vision of the cross when meddling in the affairs of the rest of the world; we may think that we are justified to interfere when it suits us and stand idle when it does not; we may claim that we are culturally Christian, but the only true measure of Christianity is the logos: being one loving human community. This is not what Britain and many so called, Christian countries have been embracing. The Christian brand has been tainted.

By contrast, many non-Christians and atheists have lived a Jesus-like existence, sacrificing themselves for humanity. The distinction to be made, therefore, is not between Christian and non-Christian but between working for humanity and working for ourselves; between seeing the rest of the world as enemies or as potential friends; between humanity as a single unit or as other races and other countries.

George Kounis

Note from the Editors

Thank you as ever to all our contributors and a reminder that copy for the December/January edition of The Spire is due by **Wednesday 15th November**. As Christmas approaches and we turn to the new year, what memories will you take from 2023 and what are you looking forward to in 2024? Do contact us at christchurchspire@gmail.com - we'd love to hear from you!

Freya and Imogen



Truro Tour Report by Richard Brain

Monday 24 – Sunday 30 July 2023

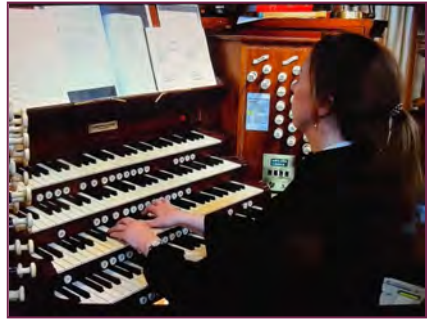
Earlier this summer, the Choir enjoyed a musical and fun filled week in Cornwall, singing at Truro Cathedral and Falmouth Parish Church. Despite some questionable weather on a couple of days, Choir members and their families ventured out and about across the county, visiting Land's End, Marazion beach and St Michael's Mount, the Bodmin Steam Railway, and Falmouth beach. Along the way, many Cornish Pasties were sampled and one or two pints of St Austell's Beer may have been consumed too.

It was a pleasure not only to have the Adult Choir on tour, but also several members of the Junior Choir attending as well. For all of them, this was their first choir tour, and I think it is fair to say that they enjoyed themselves, either singing in the cathedral or running around at the beach. Many of the Choir stayed in boarding accommodation at Truro High School for Girls, where we were treated to daily feasts by the catering staff who prepared such delights from fresh baked croissants and Danish pastries to fish and chips and a full roast dinner. No one starved, that was for sure! After dinner, the Choir enjoyed time in the common room playing board games, pool, table football, or just enjoying a good chat.

The music of course took centre stage during the week, and it is fair to say that the Choir made some of the best standard of music making as I have heard in my ten years at Christ Church. The Choir's finesse and attention to detail paid off when singing in the spectacular Truro Cathedral, with its exceptionally fine acoustic. While the Choir basked in the resonance of the building, Kate Macpherson was able to enjoy playing the magnificent Father Wills cathedral organ, which alongside Hereford which she was also able to play earlier this year, is considered one of the best in the country.

Each day's service brought its own special highlights, but everyone saved the fireworks for the two Sunday services which were lived streamed and are still available to watch. At the Eucharist, the Choir sang Mozart's *Sparrow Mass* as well Sir Edward Bairstow's *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* and Elizabeth Poston's *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*. The Choir demonstrated a high level of expressive and dynamic contrast with all the works, with the Mozart proving a particular success showcasing superb solos by Emily Chapman, Minna Jeffrey, Jordan Wilson, and Clive Woodhouse. At Evensong, the Choir brought the week's music to a suitably spectacular performance that I maintain would not be out of place on a BBC broadcast. We sang Howell's glorious *Collegium Regale* Canticles, with a lovely solo by Stephen Mason, and another Bairstow anthem, his epic *Blessed City* with a captivating solo by Sarah Gomersal.

Pictures from the Choir's Truro Tour



Handel's Messiah

Patronal Festival Concert



Sunday 26 November 2023, 6.30pm

Christ Church Southgate, N14 7EG

The Choir of Christ Church Southgate

The Bach Sinfonia

Richard Brain *conductor* – Liz Partridge *leader*

Tickets: £15, £10 (Students), under 16's free

Available online at www.wegotickets.com/event/594391/

- reserve at office@christchurch-southgate.org - or on the door.

Card and cash accepted.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - @SouthgateChoir

www.christchurch-southgate.org – Registered Charity (1131606)



Parish Life in Pictures

August and September 2023

23rd July – Baptism of
Nathaniel Francis



5th August – Quiet afternoon on the eve of the
Transfiguration, led by Anna Hughes



10th August – Visit by
Palmers Green U3A

Fr Paul's
first
baptism:
of
Jonathan
Ariyaratne



16th and 17th September – Open House London
Stained Glass Crafts **Visitors on a tour**



**17th
September
– Chorister
admissions
and
promotions**



The choir at Marazion Beach, Cornwall



**10th September – Sideman’s Lunch at
the Vicarage**



**15th September
– AgeUK falls
workshop**

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 or speak to him directly.

Concert profits in aid of the Choir Fund



Firstly, welcome to our new bee keeping recruits!
Katie, Sam & Alexander

To all our Dear Bee Lovers,

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 but as previously mentioned, were running out of space to create more honey!

As a result of our extremely busy and happy bees and the extra 'Super', we have been able to extract more honey than anticipated. We have set a date to sell this delicious, and almost organic product, on the day of the Harvest Festival which will be on **Sunday 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, Fr. Chrichton will carry out his usual blessing of the bees, 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 hand – crafted products to help raise funds towards our second hive and any additional equipment we may need. Please bring lots of change on the day as the price of the products on sale will range from: **£1.50 - £10, THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Look forward to seeing you all on the day – remember to bring lots of change

*Patricia Harper
 (Bee Team)*

**Preparing the work surface
 (Honey extraction is a very sticky business)**



Our new manual honey extractor machine showing all the delicious honey we have managed to take off. Certainly makes light work of it!



Sam & Alexander scraping off the wax cappings



THE END PRODUCT BOXED AND READY TO SELL!



The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

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 6th October** and **3rd November**.

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 next event will feature **Indian snacks** on **Friday 20th October**.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the bar on **Wednesday 8th November at 8:30 pm**. This is an important meeting, and I encourage all members to attend (non-members are also welcome). We need new people to serve on the committee so please contact Clive if you would be interested.

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)



Creation Care – Your Efforts Matter!



This is an invitation, to all who read this, to contribute to a feature page dedicated to the care of God's creation, that is, our world and all that's in it. I invite you to tell us about your eco activities and share your experiences. It can be absolutely anything - here are some suggestions:

- ♦ Tell us about what you're growing in your garden including edibles - what do you do with home grown food?
- ♦ Do you have any recipes including leftovers?
- ♦ Do you have any gardening tips? What wildlife do you have and how do you care for it?
- ♦ Have you discovered any new eco alternatives e.g. cleaning products, toiletries, anything plastic free?
- ♦ How are your three R's going - reducing, reusing and recycling - any useful repurposing tips?
- ♦ Do you have any website recommendations for eco shopping - toys, clothes, anything?
- ♦ Who's buying/using Fairtrade?
- ♦ Have you worked out your carbon footprint?
- ♦ Do you have an electric or hybrid car? Pros and cons?
- ♦ Have you read any relevant books/articles that you can review?
- ♦ Have a go at writing a prayer about creation.
- ♦ Ideas for talks/presentations/speakers/events.
- ♦ What about net zero?

To start the ball rolling:

Book Review

I recently purchased a book: **An opinionated guide to 'Eco London' Enjoy the city, love the planet.** Hoxton Mini Press. www.hoxtonminipress.com.

Apparently London is one of the world's most sustainable cities. It's refreshing to know that there are shops, cafes, restaurants, community gardens, secret gardens and even gyms that are categorised as sustainable, prioritizing what's right for the planet. It's a well presented little guide, easy to read.

Secondly, what do you all think about hosting a **Green Fair**? Not a big event like the May Fair - a smaller event at the back of church and outside church with green stalls only - homemade, homegrown, recycled, repurposed. Would you help? Is it a good or bad idea?

Have your say and don't forget to send pics too if you'd like.

CREATION CARE - HAVE YOUR SAY. OVER TO YOU CHRIST CHURCH ...

Sandra Anderson, Creation Care Champion



**Perhaps the straight and narrow path would be wider if more people used it -
Kay Ingram**

News from the Committees



In his report to the 19th September meeting of the **Parochial Church Council (the PCC)**, Fr Chrichton noted in his Vicar's Report that the summer break had been busy – anything but the break that we usually hope for and expect. Fr Chrichton described our church's summer **Outreach** activities which extended as far as Tuscany, where he led a McCabe trip, and Cornwall, where he accompanied the choir's residency in Truro Cathedral. On the home front, events included the Walker School leavers' service, a quiet afternoon led by our ordinand Anna Hughes, and a visit from the Palmers Green U3A group to see the windows.

Good news from our Treasurer. In her update regarding **Finance**, Clare Boulton reported that all funds are showing small surpluses at the moment. She was also able to report that the Oakfield Road tenants have renewed their tenancy and we have been compensated with a small refund for problems experienced as we switched our broadband (and phone) provider to BT. The bad news is that as well as the chancel floor, we now also have outgoings to cover repairs to the chancel ceiling.

Plant & Fabric confirmed successful completion of the repairs to the chancel ceiling but advised that steps may have to be taken to secure the rest of the plaster. The committee chair, Kate Carroll, explained that this was similar to steps taken some years ago in the nave. Lots of more routine work was also completed over the summer period: the organ blower and the clock were both serviced, the septic tank emptied, and a new radiator installed in the church toilet. Additionally, the alarm system had its annual service, a new smoke alarm was fitted in the organ blower cupboard, a sensor was replaced in the vestry, and a carbon monoxide detector installed in the boiler room. Our gas safety inspection will take place on 29th

September and the five yearly electrical check and PAT testing is in the process of being arranged.

Sandra Anderson's report details a busy summer for **Eco & Care Creation** too: ongoing gardening in the church gardens, liaising with the Friends of Broomfield Park, bee-keeping news (including busy bees, lots of honey, two new additions to the bee-keeping team, and plans for honey cake and bee-blessing at Harvest Festival). Plans are also being made for a children's foraging session, and the steady – if slow and difficult – progress towards the 2030 net zero goal. Sandra noted that we are still hopefully expecting the arrival of the plaque for the Queen's Jubilee acer (which is looking healthy and growing well).

The **Parish Centre Management** team reported that they are following Diocese practice in checking for RAAC in the buildings. This is an ongoing process and there is no further news at this stage. They reported briefing a new plumber, and undertaking work to comply with recommendations following the earlier fire risk assessment. Importantly, they are now searching for new tenants for daytime lets for the Walker Hall following loss of the previous tenants.

The **Social Responsibility Committee** has continued to collect and deliver goods for The Ark and the Food Bank and reported sending a £240 donation to Christian Aid. SRC activities are as always numerous. Hilary Meur lists current coffee and stall donations being sent to the Noah's Ark Hospice, Twiddle Muffs and blankets being donated to Age UK at their 'Falls Prevention' talk, Hymns of Praise raising funds for the Kinship.org.uk charity, proceeds from the Harvest Quiz being donated to the RNLI and The Seafarers Charity in memory of John Clarke, plans for making preserves to sell from the fresh fruit and vegetables at Harvest, Christmas shoeboxes again being assembled for a mid-November deadline, and the usual stalls and gift tree at Christmas.

Patricia Ashby

SRC Report

Age UK Enfield came to the Friday coffee morning on 15th September and gave an informative talk on 'Falls Prevention'. Sophie and Christine initiated discussion, passed on useful advice, and distributed hand-outs. The morning was well attended, and people felt it was very worthwhile.



We gave them some crocheted blankets and twiddle muffs that our crafters have made. Christine was so impressed with our MUFFS that she 'ordered' TEN more! So please if you are able, get your needles out or find us a few balls of wool, bells buttons or things to sew on to twiddle with!!

Another plea comes for **Christmas Shoeboxes**. This will be the nineteenth year we have donated them, and I know we have sent over 1200. As before we are asking for empty or completed boxes and Christmas paper; contents (see flyer below) and/or money towards postage - £5 for each box. If anyone would like to assemble and send them next year, I will be happy to pass on relevant information.

At **OPEN HOUSE** weekend we held our second **TOP TEN HYMNS** fund raiser. There were only two repeated from last year and the top hymn was new to many of us; "In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer" tune St Catherine's Court. Richard Brain assured us we will sing all TEN at services this term. The proceeds of £1000 will be sent to **kinship.org.uk**. This charity cares for & celebrates the family members who step up to raise children when their parents can't.

Plans are well in hand for the **Vicars Harvest Quiz**. We plan to divide the proceeds between **RNLI and Merchant Navy Fund (The Seafarers Charity)**.

We hope to make preserves from fruit and vegetables from the Harvest gifts to be sold on

Operation Christmas Child 2023

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Last year we sent 21! I would be grateful as ever for any contributions towards the postage costs (£5 per box), or any of the items below...The closing date is 12th November.

- crayons
- hair accessories
- gloves
- notebooks
- stickers
- car
- purse
- doll
- jigsaw
- jewellery
- sunglasses
- hat
- ball
- skipping rope
- wind up torch
- slinky
- recorder
- water bottle
- harmonica

Alternatively you can fill your own box online for £20 at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Thank you, Hilary Meur



the stall. Non-perishables, tins & packets will be donated as usual to the **Foodbank, The Ark and Housing Action in Barnet.**

If you have any more unwanted gifts, Christmas goods or saleable items please let us have them for our Stall. Many thanks for your continuing support.

Hilary Meur

Stewardship

Mick Meur,
Stewardship Recorder



I am pleased to report that the past couple of months have shown some changes in membership of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) perspective as two long-standing donors switched from payment by standing order to the PGS. We have also we have gained two new members of Stewardship that have also signed up for donations in this way. I thank those parishioners on behalf of Christ Church. As ever though unfortunately we lost a couple of donors in September, so the numbers in the scheme only increase very slowly, the need for new members of Stewardship remains a priority.

Our preferred method for receiving donations is via the PGS, as it combines so many elements, membership is free to set up and there is no ongoing cost to us and there are no bank charges either. All the administration is all carried out by the scheme and so the running of it at our end is simple as well as free. So, if you are considering making regular donations to Christ Church for the first time, please let me know. 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

One part of the scheme that we recommend is signing up for the feature whereby your donation can be automatically increased annually in line with inflation. This is something we particularly welcome as this helps to offset the ever-increasing costs we face and avoids the need for donors to actively review their gifts. 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 donors are sent an annual letter two months before the anniversary of the scheme thanking them for their donation, if they elected for the inflationary increase, it will advise them of the increased amount. At this stage there are several options, if no action is taken the increased amount will be paid as indicated, the amount can be amended to suit your individual circumstances including suspending the increase for a year, all it takes is a telephone call or email to the administrators to advise them of the change you require. So there really is no reason not to take this aspect on board as you continue to be in complete control of the amount you pay.

Please see below for the way to join PGS, it really is very easy.

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

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

Music Department

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

Sacristan	Vacancy	
Sidesmen	Judith Lo	8882 3335

Sub-committee Chairs/contacts

<i>Outreach</i>	Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Kate Carroll (as above)
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Vacancy

Electoral Roll Officer	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

Flower Arrangers	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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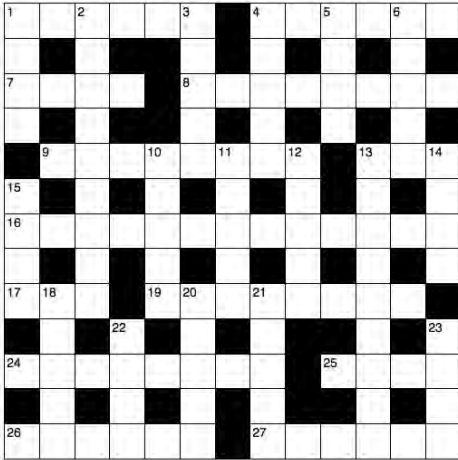
Scout Group	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i> Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	07980 740 587 8882 0991
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Bellringers	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974

Young Fogeys	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH	8882 8133

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



- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesare centurion had avision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubb. from exile inBabylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he born — '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the L (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (8)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul ' great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel whil his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8
' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

AUGUST SOLUTION



Children's Corner

Q: Where do rainbows go when they're bad?

A: Prism, but it's a light sentence.

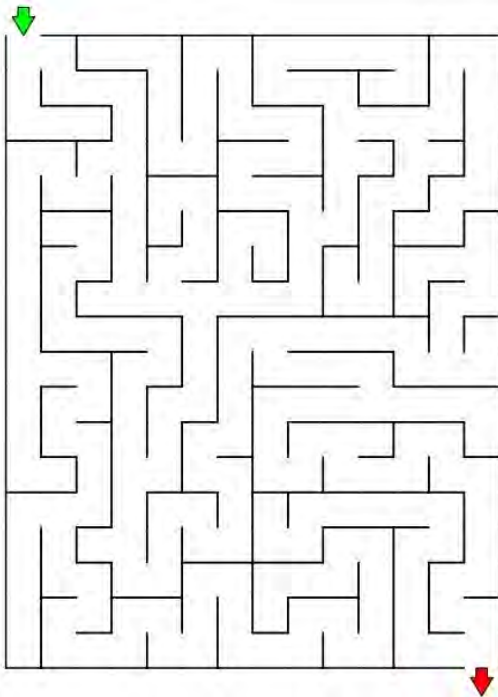
Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

A chrysanthemum by any other name would be ... much easier to spell

Find the mouse!

In the last magazine, Walker the mouse was helping the Bee Team on page 18 - did you spot him?

See if you can find him in this edition!



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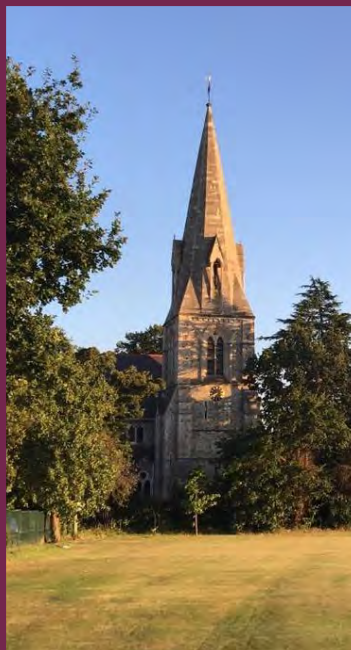
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For details and rates contact
Hilary Meur

Tel: 020 8360 2362

Email: ccsoces@gmail.com

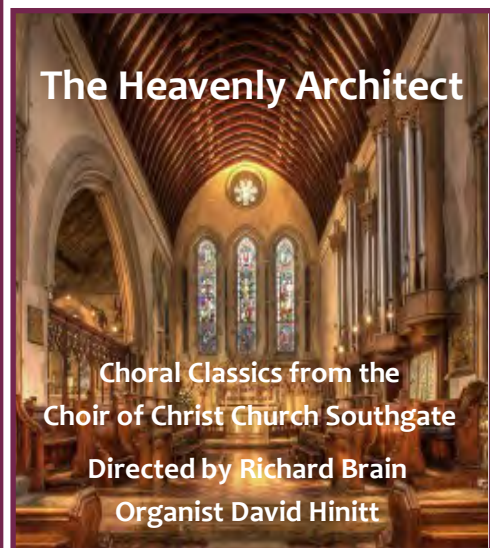
Christ Church Southgate
The Church on the Green N14
Where everyone is welcome



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

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

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



The Heavenly Architect

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

CHRIST CHURCH
Southgate

CHOIR CD

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

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

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