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The Spire



**December 2023
and January 2024**

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— *Southgate* —



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Can I be the first to wish you a joyful new year and a blessed Christmas. The new liturgical year is about to start on Advent Sunday, which will be on 3rd December – the latest it can be, which means that we will be packing a lot into the weeks before Christmas Day as Advent 4 Sunday and Christmas Eve are the same day! There are details of the Christmas services in this edition but with only three Sundays to play with, they keep on coming, so do come and join us if you can.

This autumn, we have continued to see large numbers of school children coming into the church for harvest and curriculum visits, before we even factor in Christmas. Since September and by Christmas day we will have had over 1300 visits from children. When you add in the large number from the Uniformed Organisations that came for Remembrance and the six days that we are the ABRSM exam centre, it is a wonderful ministry for young people that is not just on a Sunday.

Our annual re-enactment of the journey to Bethlehem will start on the 3rd December, when our knitted Mary, Joseph and the donkey will be off round the parish finding sanctuary in individual homes. You may have seen or heard that they are just back from an epic circular European train journey via Rome. Look out for a different picture of their exploits

every day on our website and social media – they have seen some sights!

Given the current difficult times, as well as the continuing fallout from wars in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza, as well as many other conflicts that don't make the headlines, there will be many, many people in need of sanctuary and hospitality this Christmas. This Advent we are giving extra support to the Ark at Palmers Green in our "Keep the Ark Afloat" campaign. There are fliers in church and details in this edition (page 21) of the extensive needs they are supporting – both locally and globally. Please give as generously as you can in money or with practical items. Alternatively, take a tag or two from our gift tree to give a special gift (up to £20) to a child or teenager that has either just arrived in this country or is in serious need – and your gift may well be the only thing they get this Christmas.

As well as giving resources, we can all give our time and talents to help others and the church community. So many of you give so much commitment already but there are so many things we do that would benefit from a few hours of time and help to make such a difference. We have a new Time and Talents leaflet at the back of church and I will be talking about it at the morning services for Christ the King. We are not asking for major

commitments but the old saying “many hands make light work” is so true as we all work together.

The whole world seems to feel very tense and complicated at the moment so Christmas will be a time of anxiety or difficulty for many. However, the Christ

Child will be born among us again and the angels announce peace and goodwill to all. Come to Christ Church and “see this thing which is come to pass”.

Have a blessed Christmas and may 2024 bring joy and peace to the whole world.

Fr Chrichton



Note from the Editors

A huge thank you to all our wonderful contributors over the past year! Copy for the February/March edition of The Spire is due by **Wednesday 17th January**. Do contact us at christchurchspire@gmail.com - we would love to hear from you!

Wishing all our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

Freya and Imogen

Subscription slips

Enclosed with this edition you will find a subscription slip. We will continue to post out copies so please let us have your subscription and let us know how you would like to receive your copy of the Spire.

Hilary Meur

Children's Corner

Little donkey, little donkey

You are bound to sing about donkeys this Christmas, especially the little one that carried Mary to Bethlehem! But how much do you know about donkeys? They are really rather special. Here are some fun facts:

- ◆ There are more than 44 million donkeys in the world, of all shapes and sizes, and more than 186 breeds.
- ◆ Donkeys have good memories. They can remember places and other donkeys even 25 years after they last saw them.
- ◆ Donkeys are not stubborn, they are cautious. If they are fearful about something, they will do their best to avoid it.
- ◆ Donkeys are naturally clean. Given the chance, they are always grooming themselves and each other.
- ◆ Donkeys like to be warm and dry. They come from deserts and savannahs.
- ◆ Donkeys are social. They make deep bonds with their family and herd and get very upset if someone they love is taken from them.
- ◆ Donkeys have big ears for a good reason – it means they can hear each other at a great distance. They communicate by braying, grunting, whiffling, squealing and snorting.



Find the mouse! Walker is wishing you a Happy Christmas somewhere in this magazine - see if you can spot him! Last time he was helping Operation Christmas Child on page 22.

Family Remembrance

Unfortunately, very few lessons are learned from previous generations about not fighting. We only have to read the Bible to realise that fighting has always been prevalent. However, it's my experience that most ordinary people have no wish to be involved in wars and even those who have voluntarily joined the armed forces, have done so not to learn to kill people, but in an endeavour to promote peace.

Following the recent sad death of John Clarke, I have become aware that there are very few people left alive who were on active service during the last war so it's up to the next generation to share their family knowledge.

My family, like most, had relatives who died during the First World War. We were more fortunate in the Second World War as all our close relatives returned home, but for several the traumas they had suffered remained with them all their lives. Our family was no different to the millions of others in this country and around the world.



My grandfather's brother Tom was killed at the Somme in 1916. My father, born in 1913 met him, but had no memory of him. Our family memory of Uncle Tom was the life size photo which hung in a very ornate frame in my Grandad's front room, and the bronze "Dead Man's Penny" sent to the next of kin of those who died on active service. My grandfather survived the war, but I understand he returned a changed person.

Those who remained at home all did their patriotic best. My twin aunts both worked as Nursing Auxiliary members of the Civil Nursing reserve. They were never on the same shifts as they were identical twins and in their uniforms it

was difficult for non relatives to tell them apart. Attention to detail was, it seems, very important. I have the letter Dorothy received from the Ministry of Health. Four lines told her she was being awarded a fifth red star for five years satisfactory service. Seven lines told her where to put it, i.e. in line with the other four stars, half an inch above the Nursing Auxiliary badge. Only one line expressed the Minister's appreciation of my God Mother's fine record of service. Even in times of unimaginable stress standards had to be kept.

I am please to say that even though my family members did go though very difficult times in the wars, none of them lost their faith in God, and some even said it was strengthened.

Hazel Miall

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. - GK Chesterton

Where Did Christmas Cards Come From?

Christmas cards have a history which may surprise you: their origins are not of the Church, but of the Post Office and railways.

Of course, very early 'Christmas cards' had been around for hundreds of years, in the form of a simple exchange of Christmas greetings in private letters. The earliest such letter on record was written in England in 1534.

In 1611 a HUGE Christmas card made a one-off appearance. It measured a whopping 33" by 24" and was given to King James I of England (who was also King James VI of Scotland). It featured an illustration of a rose, four poems, a song, and a Christmas message for the king and his son.

Then in 1843 came the creation of Christmas cards as we know them today. One enterprising man was responsible for this: Sir Henry Cole, a senior civil servant who had helped launch the 'Public Record Office', now called the Post Office. Sir Henry Cole helped to introduce the Penny Post, as it was called. Until then, only rich people could afford the Post, but with the building of the railways, which carried far more packages than a horse and cart (and went much faster), suddenly the Penny Post became possible.

Sir Henry wanted to encourage 'ordinary' people to use the new service. So he came up with the bright idea of a creating a simple card that people could send each other for Christmas. His friend, John Horsley, was an artist, who designed a three-panel card. Two panels depicted people caring for the poor, and the middle panel showed a family enjoying a large Christmas dinner.

They printed about 1000 cards that first year, and advertised under the slogan: 'Just published, a Christmas Congratulations Card; or picture emblematical of old English festivity to perpetuate kind recollections between dear friends!' The cards sold for one

shilling each and could be posted to friends and family for a Penny. There was an immediate, warm response from the public.

Printing methods improved, and by 1860 Christmas cards were produced in large quantities. By 1870 the cost of posting one had dropped to half a penny, and the custom was rapidly gaining popularity. By the early 1900s, the custom had spread across Europe.

The first cards usually included a Nativity scene, and in late Victorian times, robins and snow-scenes. Robins were chosen because the postmen in those days were nick-named 'Robin Postmen', because of their red uniforms.

Christmas cards appeared in the USA in the late 1840s. They were mass produced from 1875, and in 1915 John C Hall and two of his brothers created Hallmark Cards, which today offers 2,000 different designs of Christmas card.

Charity Christmas cards began in Denmark in the early 1900s. They spread to Sweden and Norway, and then on throughout Europe and America.

Last year the Royal Mail estimated that it had delivered 150 million cards during the Christmas period!



The world's first commercially produced Christmas card, designed by John Callcott Horsley for Henry Cole in 1843

Christmas Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

Sunday 3rd December, 6.30pm.

Advent Procession

Start on the road to Christmas with our traditional Candle-lit Advent Procession, featuring beautiful music from our renowned choir and seasonal readings.



Sunday 10th December, 4pm. Christingle Service

Come for an hour of Candles and Sweets with the traditional decorated orange. Sing some carols while supporting the work of the Children's Society.

Sunday 17th December, 10am. Pop-up Nativity

Our Eucharist will include the organised chaos of our Pop-up Nativity – literally anything can happen, and usually does. Just come and be part of it all.

Sunday 17th December, 6pm. Nine Lessons and Carols

Have the full traditional Christmas experience with an evening of the carols and readings you know so well. Enjoy the singing of the choir and joining in!

Sunday 24th December, 5pm. Procession to the Crib

Follow the angels through the avenue of light to the Christmas Crib that is built as we hear the familiar words and sing our favourite carols.

Sunday 24th December, 11.15pm. Midnight Mass

Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with our sung Eucharist of the Nativity.



**Monday 25th December,
8am and 10am.
Christmas Morning
Eucharist Services**

Join us for a quiet start to Christmas Day at 8am, or come at 10am for Christmas Communion with carols.



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

Filming in Churches

I have been working on the ITV series *Grantchester*, actually in Grantchester recently. It is the little village near to Cambridge, immortalised by Rupert Brooke in his poem *The Old Vicarage, Grantchester* about a longing for home. Written while he was recovering from a nervous breakdown in Berlin, he ends the poem with the lines – *Still stands the Church clock at ten to three and is there honey still for tea?*



It took me three goes, standing in the middle of the road, to get this shot at 1450hrs. I was always either too early or was called away at the crucial moment.

Grantchester is in its ninth series and is currently set in the 1960's. We spend a lot of time hiding, covering or removing the trappings of Church worship in the 21st Century – speakers, microphones, modern lighting systems and occasionally quite sophisticated Audio-Visual systems.

Luckily the pews have not been removed from the Church of St Andrew & St Mary and its interior is still that of a small country village church – albeit with a display for visitors commemorating the fact that the series is filmed there.

It is perhaps surprising exactly how much equipment, people and vehicles are needed to record the scenes.



Hundreds of metres of cable and heavy lamps, stands and scrims to soften and mask the lighting to make it look natural.

But the effect can be quite magical and effective, whatever the weather decides to do on the day.

We have been lucky with the weather for our visits to the village this year and the residents have been very welcoming, despite having to move cars, have their bins hidden and modern alarm boxes on their period properties covered. It is easier nowadays with sophisticated post production processes that can hide or change pretty much anything, to make any changes that we cannot do on the day, in the Edit.



I was thinking of the number of churches I have been lucky to work in over the years. It started with productions in Hawksmoor's beautiful church in Spitalfields. The church was undergoing a full restoration at the time and I was working for the National Youth Theatre. We created a theatre within the space for the 1987 season and produced *Troilus and Cressida* and a production of *Murder in the Cathedral*, which subsequently toured to St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh as one of the main Edinburgh Festival theatre productions. The performances were seen by officials from Russia and we were invited to take the production to Moscow under the umbrella of the British Council.

One of the issues, especially when creating a theatre space, is where the lighting equipment goes. For the performances in St Giles' Cathedral we had to work overnight every night for a week, getting the equipment and scenery into place but then cleaning and clearing up at 6.00am every morning so that the Cathedral could open for services and visitors during the day. We were not allowed to fix anything to the walls of course so our rigging solutions had to be carefully worked out. It's become a habit whenever I am in a church to look up and see where I might hang some lights or a piece of lighting truss.

Eastenders have used both St. John's in Palmers Green and St. James' Church in Bushey. They love a traditional wedding and funeral on Eastenders and so I have spent a lot of time setting up both. St James also has a useful (well useful for film makers) cemetery with space where we can dig our own grave if necessary.

So, if you see me in rapt contemplation of the ceiling of Christ Church, it is of course because I am thinking about the Gospel reading, enjoying our fabulous choir or concentrating on the sermon. But it might also be because I am wondering how I can rig four lengths of 40 foot Trilite and half a dozen moving lights...

Richard Godfrey

Jesus asked His disciples who men said that He was.

And one of His disciples replied: "Master, thou art the supreme eschatological manifestation of omnipotent ecclesiastical authority, the absolute, divine, sacerdotal monarch."

And Jesus said, "er - What?"

My Trip to the Houses of Parliament

In September 2023, I went on a visit to the Houses of Parliament with two other pupils from Walker School. We were selected to go as we had been part of our school council and I am also a Walker representative at our Academy Parliament.



My mum and I met the other two students and the teacher we were going with at Southgate Station, and we traveled to



Westminster Station on the London Underground. It was a beautiful day, and we got a brilliant sight of Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and the London Eye!

When we got there, we were split into two groups, and each group was given a tour guide.

First, we went to the central lobby, which is an octagonal hall designed by Charles Barry. It is where the corridors to the house of Commons, the house of Lords and Westminster Hall meet. The arches have detailed statues of the past Kings and Queens, and each of the four exits have mosaics of the patron saints of the United Kingdom: St George for England, St Andrew for Scotland, St Patrick for Northern Ireland, and St David for Wales. The lobby even has its own Post Office! Members of the public can go there to talk to their MPs.

Next, we watched a debate in the House of Commons. There were green leather

benches where all the MPs sat. We sat in the Viewing Gallery, where we got the privilege of being able to watch it live as well as on TV! The MPs were debating whether you should require an ID to vote. Unfortunately, we could not go to the House of Lords on that day as it was not in session. We watched the debate in the House of Commons for approximately ten minutes before moving on to the next room.

After that, we went back downstairs to Westminster Hall. This part of the building is over one thousand years old, the oldest room in the Houses of Parliament! It was built in the eleventh century and is where monarchs have made speeches for centuries. It is also where Queen Elizabeth II laid in state. We were there a year to the day since the Queen's coffin was brought there, which felt very special as I am a big fan of the royal family.

At the entrance to Westminster Hall is a beautiful sculpture called "New Dawn" by Mary Branson. It was installed in 2016 and is over 6 meters high and made from hand blown glass scrolls. It commemorates the

150 year long campaign for women's suffrage.

The colors in the sculpture are controlled by the tide of the Thames. The discs will all light up when the tide is high, while the lights will all dim or turn off when the tide is low. In my opinion, it was the best piece of art I've ever seen!



We then participated in a workshop, where we learnt all about debates and how a bill becomes a law. We had a mock debate and pretended that we were MPs, and I was chosen to be the Prime Minister! We debated

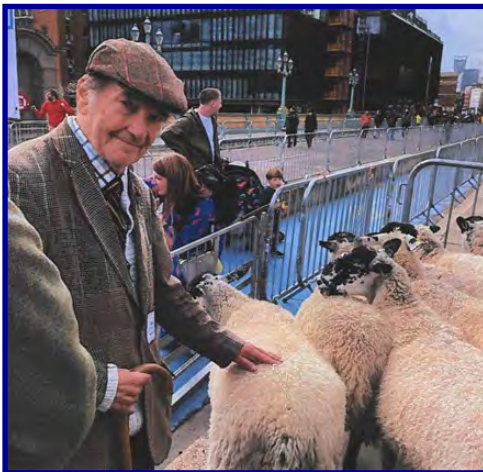
whether we should have homework or not, but the supporters of homework continuing got the majority vote!

Finally, we had a picnic lunch on College Green by the Thames and then we set off for home. I had fun, learnt a lot and who knows, maybe one day I will even become a Member of Parliament!

By Phoebe Cox, age 9



Bonus Pastor



I have always been much heartened by the concept of the “Good Shepherd”. Did not Our Lord tend His flock of sheep with loving care so as to rescue His lost sheep? Would he not have used the traditional Shepherd’s Crook?

Not for nothing did Bishops adopt the shepherd’s humble crook as a symbol of their pastoral office. The crozier symbolised

the tending of those of us who have strayed. As Handel’s aria in the Messiah has it, “We are all like sheep ... have gone astray”. In the 24th Psalm we praise “The Lord is my shepherd”. Scripture teaches us of how the Good Shepherd would seek out the lost lamb, drape it around His shoulders and bring it down from the hill rejoicing all the while in having restored it to the safety of the flock.

So it was that on Sunday the 24th of September this year I sallied forth to exercise my right as a freeman of the City of London to drive sheep across the River Thames via Southwark Bridge. There were nine ewes but fortunately no ram which may have proved more wayward!

Freeman from the City have driven sheep by tradition since the Middle Ages so as not to pay the wool tax. I felt honoured to walk in their footsteps and so did the Lord Mayor of London!

John Partridge



The Kingdom of God is simply God’s power enthroned in our hearts. Faith in the Kingdom of God is what makes us light of heart and what Christian joy is all about. - John Main



Giving of Time and Talents

What can I give him, poor as I am?

Have you ever wondered about assisting in the various activities and services that make our church a warm and welcoming place for all?

There are numerous opportunities for you to help others and the church community – look out for the new **Time and Talents leaflet** at the back of church!

I am treasurer of SRC. Apart from the usual money handling aspects of the role, there is also the contacting of the various charities who we are supporting. It is very satisfying to receive emails and letters from them and to know how much our support is appreciated.

I have also over the years volunteered in the church garden to help keep it tidy, although recently this has mainly been just pruning and dead heading. When the flowers are in bloom it is good to know I have been a small part of this.

Pat Hawkins



I can't quite remember when I began serving at church, but I think I must have been around ten years old. Serving requires no special skills or attributes, just a willingness to pitch in and the ability to hold a candle (and occasionally a sense of humour)! It's very easy to learn the routine, and don't worry, everything will be taught to you!

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

Freya Carroll

To me, participating in the first reading at the Communion service is a privilege. To read from the various passages of the Bible is a joy to share with all in the church – a very uplifting experience.

Sue Lockwood



We are always happy to welcome new readers – everyone is eligible! In terms of practicalities every 8 weeks or so an email is sent out with the list of services for the next two months (or you can sign up on a form at the back of church) and you are asked to tick which services you are available and wish to read so that the rota can be compiled. The aim is that you will only be asked to read a couple of times at most. And be reassured, you will never have to read out anything unseen as all readings are emailed out well in advance. **Caroline Robertson**



I am pleased to say that Christ Church plays a very big part in the heart of our community, and none more so than in our local schools. Easter, Harvest Festival, and of course Christmas, are all milestone events in the Church calendar, and children are made welcome at all times.

As with any organisation, we rely on individuals playing a part, this doesn't have to involve huge amounts of time, but every little helps; I have had the enjoyment and privilege of helping Judith dress many of our young friends as Jesus, Mary, Joseph, wise men, shepherds, angels, sheep and donkeys, for the Nativity and the Easter story. It can be chaotic at times but immense fun. Everyone is welcome to join in, so why not give it a try, all it takes is a little of your time.

There are many opportunities to get involved. **Kate Leach**

I became aware of the choir through the online services during the pandemic. So, I visited Christ Church when the churches reopened and rather nervously enquired about opportunities for singers and was made very welcome from the start.

It's a real pleasure and privilege to be part of such a supportive team and presented with opportunities to develop and use musical gifts way beyond my expectations. We all volunteer willingly because we can see how much high musical standards are appreciated in worship by the congregation, and those we meet on visits and tours, which means all our Friday evening rehearsal efforts and individual preparation are worthwhile.

David Cater



The Big Clean - Saturday 11th November





Parish Life in Pictures

October and November 2023

SCHOOL VISITS!

Monkfrith Yr6 study William Morris patterns



West Grove Primary Yr4 study
Christianity



Walker School
Harvest

Little Oaks Harvest



Ashmole School
Yr5 study
Christianity



The Legendary Harvest Quiz



HARVEST SUNDAY

Young people
leading prayers,
bee talk and
blessing, and
game of
“Ready, Steady,
Cook”



All Soul's Requiem 5th November



BAPTISMS!

Max Hartley-Booth (baby) and Sarah Miles (mother)



Robert Excell



Gabriel Moretto



Leonardo
Carroll

REMEMBRANCE

Service in Broomfield Park

Remembrance
Sunday



What We Do in Church and Why

Liturgical Colours

I expect you will have noticed that the colours of the hangings in church and what the priest wears changes from time to time. This is not just at the vicar's whim or what they fancy will look nice! Certain colours are specified for different seasons of the church's year, and it does all make sense.

It wasn't until the 12th century that people began to wear special clothes in church and then it was very individual. Priests wore the colours that they thought was best for a particular occasion, and very often wore the best vestments they had for special festivals like Christmas regardless of colour.

In the 16th century Pope Pius V, as part of his reformation for the organisation of the church, codified the use of colours of hangings and vestments for specific seasons of the Church's year and this usage has been adopted throughout the Western church. The main colours used are white or gold; red; green and purple.

White or gold, which is the colour of light and purity, is used mainly at Christmas and Easter, the most important festivals of the Christian year. White is also used for Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary; for Trinity Sunday; for the Transfiguration; for St. Michael and All Angels; for All Saints; and for feasts of Saints who were not martyred.

Red, which is the colour of fire and blood, is used to honour the Holy Spirit and so is always used at Pentecost. We use it on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week; also for the feasts of saints who were martyred. It has recently come into use during the Kingdom season, which is between All Saints and Advent Sunday, reaching its climax at our Patronal Festival of Christ the King.

Green, which is the colour of the earth, is used in Ordinary time which are the Sundays after Candlemas and Ascension. We are in Ordinary time now and so are using green. You will see a lot of green at Christ Church and other churches too. It is worn for almost half the year.

Purple, which is the colour of penitence, is used during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. Some churches, and Christ Church is one of them, have a set of hangings and vestments in unbleached linen which is called 'the Lenten Array'. This can be used during the first half of Lent to represent the sackcloth of mourning and penitence mentioned in the bible.

We are also fortunate at Christ Church to have a set of vestments in **rose pink** colour. These can be worn on two Sundays a year - on the third Sunday of Advent and the fourth Sunday of Lent which we usually keep as Mothering Sunday. This is to provide some relief from the penitential mood as pink is considered to be a lighter shade of purple. I don't think a church would go to the expense of buying a set, but these were a gift to us.

Black can sometime be worn but it is kept for Funeral Eucharists.

Abbot Cabrol writes 'Colours have their own symbolism and speak to the eye; black tells of grief and mourning; purple is a sign of penance, red reminds us of the blood of the martyrs; white denotes purity and green exuberant life. How much more expressive and lively the liturgy becomes when we discover the meanings of its formulas and rites.

Cathy Dallman



POEMS

by Maura Kelly

THE UNNAMED GRAVE

As I walk gently upon the grass
 And move between the stones
 A minor tremor disturbs my feet
 From a person who's unknown

And as I look down on the earth
 I wonder to myself
 Is this the grave of someone dear
 Whose life had limited wealth

No cross, no border, no headstone
 To show who lies beneath
 This piece of un-kept sacred ground
 Now lost to those who weep

What life did they once live I ask
 The family that they knew
 The age of their untimely death
 Their appearance as they grew

But as my thoughts begin to fly
 To imagine who they must be
 A sadness fills my aching heart
 For the stranger I long to see

Forgotten and lost to everyone
 No sentiment of prayer
 No loved ones visiting with kindness
 To show how much they care

Instead they sleep amongst us
 As we talk and walk on by
 Until another unnamed grave
 Reveals the place where someone died

Let us not lament their peace and quiet
 For within these graves they rest
 Their lives now over, their voices still
 All memories now have left

For they are always remembered
 By the others who have died
 As their journeys were made together
 To a world on the other side

THERE IS NO GOODBYE

There are moments on this planet
 Periods of special time
 That connects us with our loved ones
 By revealing certain signs

For when the vibrations of the earth
 Disturb the balance in the air
 A message will reveal itself
 For you to act upon with care

Then the forces will surround you
 To help you if you ask
 And smooth a path for you to walk
 Unhindered in your task

For your loved ones will be watching
 Each day when you awake
 To assist you in your struggles
 And the errors you might make

Pay attention to their presence
 And listen with both ears
 For the whisper that will call to you
 And the advice that you will hear

Have courage in your footsteps
 And use their wisdom without fear
 To settle all your worries
 From life's troubles that are near

For you travel not alone in time
 On the journey that you take
 As their spirits stand-by to guide you
 On the choices you now make

So, do not say the word 'goodbye'
 To loved ones when you part
 As they will tap you on the shoulder
 To cause a tremor in your heart

And when that movement stirs your soul
 Get up and march ahead
 As they are looking down on you
 To see where you might tread

For through your senses a light will shine
 To show you where to turn
 As the departed gently teach you
 On the lessons you must learn



Choir Carols this Christmas

Choir Music for the Advent Procession Sunday 3 December, 6.30pm

Vigilate Byrd

Angelus ad Virginem arr. Carter

Benedictus in F Dyson

Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day Gardiner

A Spotless Rose Howells

O Radiant Dawn MacMillan

E'en so Lord Jesus Manz

We Wait for Thy Loving Kindness O God McKie

Matin Responsory Palestrina

Advent Antiphons Plainsong

Choir Music for A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 17 December, 6pm

Nova! Nova! Chilcott

Lullay my Liking Holst

We Three Kings Hopkins arr. Shaw

Sir Christémas Mathias

Alleluia! A New Work is Come on Hand

Reece-Trapp

Candlelight Carol Rutter

Shepherd's Pipe Carol Rutter

God is with us Taverner

The Holly and the Ivy Walford Davies

Ding Dong! Merrily on High arr. Wilberg

Choir Music for Midnight Mass

Sunday 24 December, 11.15pm

Mass Setting: Missa Carolae Whitbourne

Silent Night Gruber

Candlelight Carol Rutter

Ding Dong! Merrily on High arr. Wilberg

Choir Music for Christmas Day

Monday 25 December, 10am

Mass Setting: St Helen's Service Forbes L'Estrange

Gaudete Anon

Away in a Manger Kirkpatrick

6.30pm Evening Services in January 2024

Sunday 7 January: Festal Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday 14 January: Choral Evensong

Sunday 21 January: Epiphanytide Carol Service

Sunday 28 January: Festal Choral Evensong for Candlemas



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...

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



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

News from the Committees



Father Chrichton, as always, reported a wide range of **Outreach** activities to the 14th November meeting of the **Parochial Church Council (the PCC)**, including the Open House weekend and three separate school visits from children at Monkfrith and Ashmole primary schools in September. Since his last report, we have also celebrated Harvest Festival – again linking with local primaries, this time Walker School and Little Oaks; and also in October, Christ Church became the venue of an awayday for the PCC of St Paul's New Southgate. The church hosted more ABRSM music exams in early November.

These activities demonstrate the value of our church building to the wider community as a whole. It's upkeep and maintenance are the focus of the **Plant & Fabric** committee who this time reported real progress on work on the chancel floor! This has finally been granted the faculty needed to enable it to go ahead. We are also in the process of asking the Diocese for an additional faculty needed for work on the choir stalls, and a further faculty application has already been submitted to overboard the chancel ceiling. As well as investigating possible new evidence of damp on the Lady Chapel ceiling, the committee has overseen the quinquennial electrical check which, although finding nothing dangerous, identified remedial work needed in church that will be carried out as soon as possible. Added together, the financial implications of all this are not inconsiderable.

Finance & Standing has held two meetings and approved the 2024 budget proposal; they proposed co-opting the Treasurer to this committee which currently consists of the Vicar, Wardens and two elected members of the PCC. This was approved by the PCC and Clare Boulton will now attend these

meetings. F&S also discussed a Time & Talents campaign to encourage new volunteers in all areas (committee membership, one-off events, short-term projects). Reporting specifically on Finance, Clare Boulton identified a modest deficit in our total all funds expenditure, although day-to-day finances show a surplus.

The Parish Centre has also undergone a quinquennial electrical check. As with the main church building, the Parish Centre Management team reported that there are recommendations for certain repairs and improvements, but again, no dangerous faults were discovered. The work is being prioritised and will be carried out accordingly. The Parish Centre is still looking for a new long term weekday tenant for Walker Hall, and for a reliable plumber.

The Social Responsibility Committee continues to fundraise for a wide range of charities and causes and Hilary Meur has reported in detail on this work elsewhere in this Magazine.

Patricia Ashby

SRC Report

Our seventy shoeboxes have started their journey with **Operation Christmas Child** to hurting children around the world. For many of them this will be the only gift they receive. £300 has been gift aided to cover the postage. We are very grateful for your generosity.

The proceeds of the **Vicars Harvest Quiz**, together with £300 from **the CCA**, have been sent to the **RNLI & Merchant Navy Fund (The Seafarers Charity)**. Our knowledge of the saints was really tested, we need to brush up on the more unusual ones if there is to be another round on them next year!!

The nonperishable produce from **Harvest** was delivered to **HAB (Homeless Action Barnet)**. We continue to collect goods for both the **Enfield Food Bank** and **The Ark**.

We sent the money raised from coffee and

the stall to **Noah's Ark** in October to be priced matched. Therefore our £450 became £900 - an excellent result!

Sales of knitted poppies for **Remembrance Day** were really good again this year and we sent £100 to **The Royal British Legion**. Advent candles and Christmas cards are now for sale. Proceeds and donations from the stall and from coffee will go to **St. John's**.

The Gift Tree will be in church through

Advent. As usual please take a gift label, buy an appropriate present, and return it unwrapped in a gift bag before or on **17th December**.

The Christmas stalls and raffle will be in church from **Advent Sunday**. The draw will be after Nine Lessons and Carols on **Sunday 17th December**.

HILARY MEUR

Tel 020 8360 2362

Email ccsocres@gmail.com



ADVENT CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN KEEP THE ARK AFLOAT



For our Christmas charity this year we are focusing on the work of **The Ark at St. John's Palmers Green**. They work with refugees, the homeless, youth offenders, those with mental health issues, and families struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Over 400 people are helped each week, some of these are families. They do home deliveries for the recently bereaved, those who are housebound and lonely. In November they do a Blanket and Soup run in the local area offering a warm blanket/sleeping bag and hot soup to the homeless.

On Wednesday they run Breaking Point. In the afternoon they mentor young people, ex-gang members and those permanently excluded from school. A meal is prepared for parents and carers who come in the evening. Here bridges can be built, and appropriate social engagement happens.

Thursday is mental health day. Everyone who is finding life difficult is welcome. They can receive food, toiletries, clothes, support with housing, filing in forms, preparation for interviews, and court hearings etc.

Stay and Play also happens on Thursdays. Originally for pre-

nursery children born during the pandemic, mostly to refugee mums, this has just continued to fill a great need. Many receive food parcels, clothes, and toys, also ESOL (English as a second language) is available.

At Heart Rock Café on Fridays everyone is welcome for a hot meal, packed lunch, groceries and a listening ear.

St John's also find the time and energy to help re-settle those who have been homeless and are then offered accommodation but have nothing. Furniture and household items and groceries for the first month, while they are struggling to settle in.

Please see the flyer for the ways in which we can help.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

KEEP THE ARK AFLOAT

WHAT ARE
ST JOHN'S DOING

Breaking Point Wednesday
Mental Health Day Thursday
Stay & Play
Heart Rock Café Friday
Soup & Blanket November
Support for those
found accommodation

HOW WE CAN
RESPOND & HELP

Usual nonperishable groceries
Clean blankets & sleeping bags
New or good condition:
coats, hats, scarves, gloves,
new socks, underwear
Furniture & household
items by arrangement

CHRIST CHURCH
Southgate

Donations welcome with ref. The Ark via St Johns PCC
Sort code : 40-52-40 / Account No. : 00016300

Stewardship

*Mick Meur,
Stewardship Recorder*



Just recently we have been blessed with a number of generous donations following, in some cases, life changing events in the life of those donors. The donations followed the holding of events such as baptisms, funerals or the interment of ashes in our garden of remembrance. These one-off services give people the opportunity to thank our clergy for love and attention they bring to the services. I thank all those donors for thinking of Christ Church at the time. Such gifts are a valuable way of supporting Christ Church without the commitment of regular giving.

Regular readers of The Spire will know that our preferred method for regular donations is the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). The way we receive the money is by a single payment each month for both the total of the individual donations and another for the Gift Aid. Each month I receive a newsletter relating to stewardship matters. This month's newsletter contained some interesting points and I thought it worth communicating them to you.

Challenges of charitable giving

The PGS recently attended a conference at which a recent report indicated that charitable giving was on a downward trajectory, highlighting the ongoing challenges are facing due to inflation. This issue was explored in more detail at the conference. According to the Bank of England, services costing £50 in 2013 would now set you back £66.66, that is an increase of 33%.

Creating resilience despite trends

We are one of 5,000 churches in England using the PGS, who collectively have more than 80,000 regular givers. Almost half have opted into the inflationary scheme, in which givers are invited annually of their gift in line with inflation. Their statistics show that 90% of these opted-in givers increase annually with some choosing to super-inflate their gift. Only 2% pause or cancel the increase. However, retention of regular givers remains strong despite the cost-of-living crisis.

Christ Church Southgate experience

We introduced the PGS in 2017 and our experience to date mirrors the figures above, in the main once people that have opted-in rarely cancel it, overall we have 51% of givers opting in. However, the picture is not that quite what it seems and is something I feared would happen when the ability to join on-line was started. The figures are stark as follows: Opt-ins between 2017 and 2021 were 62%. In 2022 this dropped to 42% and in 2023 it dropped again to only 13%

It is very easy to opt in or out of the inflationary increase and if I discuss the scheme with potential donors, I always stress the value of that part and the flexibility involved which means you are always in total control of your giving.

I hope the article might persuade those donors outside of that part to change their donation in that way and new donors to take it up. Please see opposite 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.paritygiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/southgate-christ-church-london/>

Or scan the QR code
on your smartphone or tablet



Christchurch Association News

The Christchurch Association (CCA) provides a social centre for the parish and runs the “**Top Step Bar**”, serving soft and alcoholic drinks upstairs in Church House. We are now able to take contactless payments as well as accepting cash.

The CCA Top Step bar opens early at **6 pm** on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next such occasions are **Fridays 1st December** and **5th January**.

Friday Foodie evenings resume in 2024 with an **Indian Snacks Night** on **19th January**. 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.

Our **Annual General Meeting** took place in early November, and we made a presentation to our retiring Honorary Secretary Steve Wyatt. Steve has given excellent service to the CCA for many years, and we wish him and Frances all the best for their future life away from London. We welcomed Martin Greenaway to serve on the committee for the forthcoming year.

We will be providing bar facilities in church for the **Choir Concert** on **26th November**

and after the **Advent Carol Service** on **3rd December**.

The Top Step Bar is open on a regular basis as follows (we will be closed from **Sunday 24th December** for the Christmas break, reopening on **5th January**):

- ◆ **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)



PARISH DIRECTORY

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

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

Clergy

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

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

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

Lay Readers

Cathy Dallman, 4 Greenacre Walk, Southgate, N14 7DB	8886 5918
Jackie Anderson	8245 0305
Sandra Anderson	07947 027265
Amy Li	via the office

Churchwardens

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

PCC

<i>Secretary</i>	Caroline Robertson	8886 0384
	office@christchurch-southgate.org	
<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	07979 850546
	music@christchurch-southgate.org	
<i>Organist</i>	Kate Macpherson	
<i>Associate Organist</i>	David Hinit	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA	8882 3680

Sacristan Vacancy

Sidesmen Judith Lo 8882 3335

Sub-committee Chairs/contacts

Outreach Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)

Plant and Fabric Kate Carroll (as above)

Social Responsibility Vacancy

Electoral Roll Officer Patricia Ashby 8886 2528

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Jackie Anderson (as above)

Parish Magazine "The Spire"

Editorial Team Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper
Copy to be sent to christchurchspire@gmail.com

Treasurer Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

Flower Arrangers Contact the Parish Office (see above)

Parish Centre/Church Halls

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

Secretary Clare Boulton (see above)

Lettings christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com

Treasurer Michael Meur (as above)

Christ Church Association Bar

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

Friday Coffee Morning

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

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

Bellringers Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.

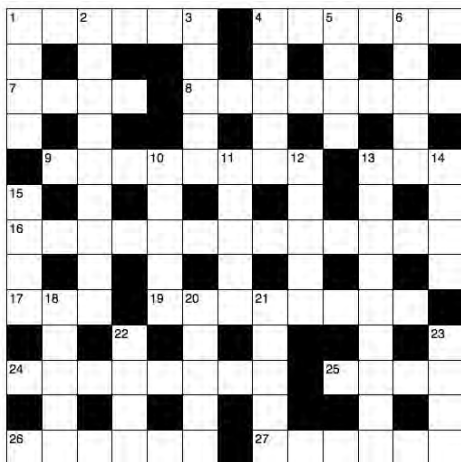
Captain Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN 8368 1974

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

Contact Ian Cameron Black 8886 4942

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

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

OCTOBER SOLUTION



Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)



**A person needs a
little place
Small as it may be
Of which he can say,
“This is mine,
here I live,
here I love,
here I find my rest.
This is my land,
This is my home.”**

This poem was recited in a 1952 speech to the UN General Assembly by **Dr Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart**, the very first United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He introduced it thus:

When my good old father died, I inherited from him a piece of cardboard to which I am extremely attached and on which a hand has written a poem of four lines in German. I have seen that piece of cardboard on the wall of my father's library for nearly thirty years and now you will find it on the wall of my private office in Geneva. I have it here because it expresses so extremely well what is the essence of our work with refugees, to provide them with a place of which they can say, “this is mine, here I live, here I love, here I find my rest, this is my home.”

I hope it reminds you of what your support means to refugee families.

Keith



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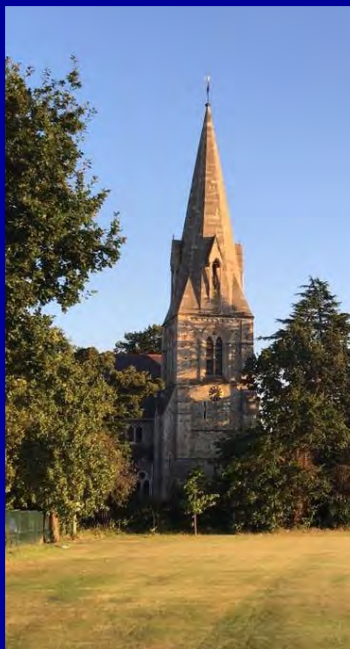
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For details and rates contact
Hilary Meur

Tel: 020 8360 2362

Email: ccsocres@gmail.com

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



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

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



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



The Heavenly Architect

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

CHRIST CHURCH
Southgate

CHOIR CD

'The Heavenly Architect'
Choral Classics from the Choir of Christ
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Music includes Parry I Was Glad,
Mendelssohn Hear My Prayer,
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