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The Spire



**February and
March 2024**

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— Southgate —



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

As I write this in January, we have just had the first PCC (Parochial Church Council) meeting of the year where we were discussing the timing of Easter and it was decided that the April edition of this magazine should be ready to go out on Easter day. However, the nativity cribs and the lighted branches are still in church (but I did take the Christmas tree out last week) and we are about to have the Epiphany carol service. This all means that between me writing this in festive mood and the next edition in April we will have gone through the Lenten time of preparation and self-examination before the passion and emotion of Holy Week and the joy of the resurrection. It feels like the whole of the Christian religion will happen during the time span of this edition!

So, I had better start by thanking everyone for such a wonderful Christmas season. As you may know, my wife Judith had her long-awaited foot operation at the end of November and we are still waiting for the all clear to start trying to walk again, so her regular immense contributions to support the community and me were rather limited – basically whatever she could do from the sofa or her remarkable knee scooter. Many, many people stepped in to help with hosting the hundreds of school children that came to church for nativity plays, helped with installing

the decorations and supervised craft activities and children's corner – thank you so very much. The last two months have had their moments.

Without seeming to draw breath, we are soon into Lent – with Ash Wednesday on 14th February and a Sung Eucharist service with the imposition of ashes at 8pm – and we turn to prayer, preparation and contemplation to prepare for the drama of Easter.

There will be a Tuesday evening Lent course for five weeks from Tuesday 20th February called “The Long Road to Heaven”, written by Tim Heaton. It follows the film “The Way” which stars Martin Sheen as a father who completes the pilgrimage walk to Santiago de Compostela after his son died just after he had started the route. The film and the book are both very good. In the words of Bishop Nicholas Holtam, “A pilgrimage in good company whilst reading the Scriptures prayerfully will be familiar to many groups of Christians in Lent. In this course about salvation, we are also invited to watch a film as attentively as we might look at a painting. Characters who are not knowingly on a journey to find God are found by God in a life-changing encounter. They are what salvation looks like in this imaginative, creative and enjoyable Lent course that will lead us to new

life at Easter". If you would like to join in, get in contact with me or sign up on the sheets at the back of church. It does need you to have a copy of the book so let me know if you would like me to get you one or there are plenty of pre-read copies on the usual web sources. If the demand is great enough I will arrange an evening before Lent starts to watch the film uninterrupted to get the shape of the story and the "saving" of the

different characters.

Whatever you do to prepare for Easter, make it so that you grow in knowledge and understanding of God and his son Jesus so that you can gain the full benefit the remarkable events of Holy Week.

Every blessing,

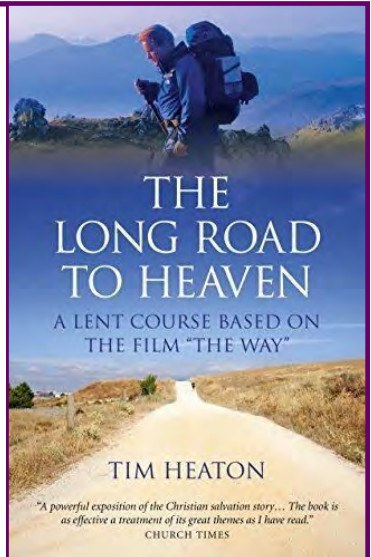
Fr Chrichton



Lent Course 2024: The Long Road to Heaven

Join us for this year's Lent course, based on the film "The Way" set on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella. It will run for five weeks on **Tuesdays evenings at 8pm**, starting on **Tuesday 20th February**.

There is a course book – The Long Road to Heaven by Tim Heaton. Let Fr Chrichton know if you are planning to come so he can order you a copy, otherwise there are plenty of pre-owned copies on Amazon and E-Bay!



Note from the Editors

Due to the early Easter this year, we will be publishing the next edition a week earlier than usual so it is ready for Easter Sunday. Therefore, this is advance notice that copy for the April/May edition of The Spire is due by **Wednesday 13th March**.

We do hope you enjoy this edition and we would be delighted to hear from you! Contact us at christchurchspire@gmail.com

Freya and Imogen



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

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me.”

Just as puppies are not just for Christmas, so it is with Children and Church. Over the Christmas period we welcomed hundreds of Children into Church, with their schools and nurseries and extended families. Many have returned to find out more about Jesus and our Christian community. Our children’s choir is going from strength to strength, and our children’s corner is being used by more and more families.



Many of you will know of the hard work Judith Limbert, our ‘Mrs Vicarage’, has put into sourcing modern and traditional wooden toys for children to play with. I realised, one coffee morning, that not everyone knows what wonderful toys there are to play with and books to read, and colouring in to do. The theme of the activities provided changes to correspond with the liturgical season. The subjects of the books vary. Some are Bible stories, or are about people in the Bible. Others are about God’s wonderful creation, including stories of animals; eco related subjects, and lots more besides.

Many of the toys are about sharing. The wooden pizza and birthday cake can be baked in the wooden oven and a cup of imaginary tea or coffee can be provided in the toy cafe. There is a large bag of soft toys. Sometimes the train track is down, or the farmyard is out. There are also bags of books and activities that can be taken to the pews if preferred.

If you know of any young families who have been thinking about coming to Church but are not sure about the welcome they might get, please reassure them.



Occasionally children make a noise. Sometimes adults do too. Jesus made it perfectly clear to his disciples that children should be brought to him, and he spoke sternly to his disciples when they tried to stop children touching him.

Jesus understood the importance of simplicity, especially the simplicity of children. He said, **“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it”**. He took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them and blessed them.

Hazel Miall

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for ‘What would Jesus do?’, and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.

The man pondered a moment, then replied,
“I don’t think He’d pay £17.99 for that hat.”

Lenten Valentines

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love!

Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'

Canon Paul Hardingham, Source: Parish Pump



His Word is My Life

I long only to obey Thee, my blessed Saviour!
'Behold the cross of wood on which the saviour of the world was hung' - You did this

for me and I love you for enduring the cross.

Our next great festival is Easter - which is not

just bunnies, chicks and daffodils, but holy life. This is true obedience to Jesus; worship, repentance, fasting and prayer. I do a Lent fast for my charity Tearfund - what will you be doing?

How I adore the one true God - Jesus Christ - who with the Father and the Holy Spirit abides and dwells in the heavenly realms. There the angels sing to him who loves us and gave us salvation at his blessed Easter-tide. I love and cherish his words in the



beautiful Bible.

Obedience in my daily life reflects my desire to honour You. If I am not patient sometimes, then I beg for pardon, and You forgive me and know me better than I know myself. You stand for ETERNITY!

'I saw Eternity the other night, Like a great ring of pure and endless light, All calm, as it was bright' - Henry Vaughan wrote this. In the novel 'War and Peace' by Tolstoy, a

character looks up into a tree and he thinks of immortality.

Jesus brings us this. The Blessed Virgin Mary adored her beloved son and stood by Him at the cross with His beloved apostle John and some other dear people.

Let us keep praying as he wills us to.

Lynda Corcoran

How to Flip a Pancake

Many of us will be enjoying pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, a moment of indulgence before we turn to Lent, but how to ensure that our pancakes don't end up in crumpled heap in the pan or, even worse, on the floor or ceiling?



Flipping a pancake is a simple yet skilful culinary technique that requires precision and a bit of confidence. Try following these steps for a successful pancake flip:

Prepare the Batter: Mix your pancake batter until it's smooth, ensuring there are no lumps. Allow the batter to rest for a few minutes.

Preheat the Pan: Heat a non-stick pan over medium-high heat. Add a small amount of butter or oil – just enough to lightly coat the surface, but no more.

Pour the Batter: Use a ladle or measuring cup to pour the pancake batter onto the hot surface. Allow the pancake to cook until bubbles form on the surface and the edges start to set.

Check the Edges: Lift the edges of the pancake gently with a spatula to ensure it's cooked and golden brown on the bottom.

Ready for Flip: Once the bottom is cooked, it's time to flip. Ensure your spatula is slid under the pancake completely and with a swift motion, lift and flip the pancake in one smooth motion. Or if you are very brave, slightly tip the pan away from you, then flick the wrist in one decisive movement to toss the pancake in the air ... but be ready to catch it!

Confident Flip: The key is confidence - trust your motion and don't hesitate. A quick, decisive flip helps prevent the pancake from breaking.

Finish Cooking: Allow the flipped side to cook until it achieves the desired golden-brown colour.

Practice makes perfect, so don't be discouraged if your first few flips aren't flawless. Good Luck and enjoy the results!

Compiled from many sources and experience

Saint of the Month

JANANI LUWUM, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr (16 FEB 1977)

Janani Luwum was born in 1922; his father was a convert to Christianity. Janani was sent to school and eventually became a schoolteacher. In 1948 he was converted, and he became very active in the East African revival movement, becoming a lay reader, then a deacon, and then a priest in 1956. He was chosen to study for a year at St Augustine's College in Canterbury, England.



He returned to Uganda, worked as a parish priest, and then taught at Buwalasi Theological College. He made a second visit to Britain to study at the London College of Divinity, returning to Uganda to become Principal of Buwalasi. In 1969 he was consecrated bishop of Northern Uganda.

In 1962 Uganda became an independent country within the British Commonwealth, with the Bugandan chief as president and Milton Obote, of the Lango tribe, as Prime Minister. In 1966, Obote took full control of the government. In 1971, he was overthrown by General Idi Amin, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. Almost immediately, Amin began a policy of repression, arresting anyone suspected of not supporting him. Hundreds of soldiers from the Lango and Acholi tribes were shot down in their barracks. Amin ordered the expulsion of the Asian population of Uganda, about 55,000 persons, mostly small shopkeepers from India and Pakistan. Over the next few years, many Christians were killed for various offences. A preacher who read over the radio a Psalm that mentioned Israel was shot for this in 1972.

In 1974 Janani Luwum became Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire. It was a time of widespread terror. Archbishop Luwum often went personally to the office of the dreaded State Research Bureau to help secure the release of prisoners.

Tension between Church and state worsened in 1976. Religious leaders, including Archbishop Luwum, jointly approached Idi Amin to share their concern. They were rebuffed. But Archbishop Luwum continued to attend Government functions. One of his critics accused him of being on the Government side and he replied: "I face daily being picked up by the soldiers. While the opportunity is there, I preach the Gospel with all my might, and my conscience is clear before God that I have not sided with the present Government which is utterly self-seeking. I have been threatened many times. Whenever I have the opportunity, I have told the President the things the churches disapprove of."

On 16 February 1977, the Archbishop Luwum was arrested together with two cabinet ministers and six bishops. Archbishop Luwum was not allowed to reply but shook his head in denial. The President concluded by asking the crowd: "What shall we do with these traitors?" The soldiers replied, "Kill him now". The Archbishop was separated from his bishops. As he was taken away, Archbishop Luwum turned to his brother bishops and said:

"Do not be afraid. I see God's hand in this."

The three (the Archbishop and the two Cabinet members) met briefly with four other prisoners who were awaiting execution, and were permitted to pray with them briefly. Then the three were placed in a Land Rover and not seen alive again by their friends. The government story is that one of the prisoners tried to seize control of the vehicle and that it was wrecked and the passengers killed. The story believed by the Archbishop's supporters is that he refused to sign a confession, was beaten and otherwise abused, and finally shot.

His body was placed in a sealed coffin and sent to his native village for burial there. However, the villagers opened the coffin and discovered the bullet holes. In the capital city of Kampala a crowd of about 4,500 gathered for a memorial service beside the grave that had been prepared for him next to that of the martyred bishop Hannington. In Nairobi, the capital of nearby Kenya, about 10,000 gathered for another memorial service.

The following June, about 25,000 Ugandans came to the capital to celebrate the centennial of the first preaching of the Gospel in their country, among the participants were many who had abandoned Christianity, but who had returned to their Faith as a result of seeing the courage of Archbishop Luwum and his companions in the face of death.

Archbishop Luwum has been commemorated by a statue of him along with statues of nine other Twentieth Century martyrs on the West Front of Westminster Abbey.

Cathy Dallman

Patronal Festival Concert, 26 November 2023: Handel's Messiah

By the time you read this, the latest Patronal Festival concert may be a distant memory. But perhaps not, for it proved to be a very memorable occasion, demonstrating once again the musical qualities of Christ Church's exceptional choir, under the direction of Richard Brain who, unbelievably, has now been in post for ten years, during which he has grown in musical stature and maturity, now widely recognized through his many other appointments as teacher and conductor.

We all know *Messiah*, of course – or think we do: it is so easy to fall into the trap of merely imitating past performances we have heard and taken part in, perhaps over a lifetime, and lose sight of what the notes on the page



are actually saying, and how they are saying them. It was obvious from the start that the Christ Church performance avoided this trap, so refreshing was the approach and

delivery.

Tempi were brisk, but well judged, so that the music flowed without becoming bogged down, as can so often happen, in the groups of shorter notes that make up the longer phrases. The opening *Sinfony* sets the tone, and I make no apology for beginning this review with high praise for the orchestra, led by the indefatigable Liz Partridge. It was a small ensemble – two each of oboes, trumpets, first and second violins, violas and cellos and one double bass, with timpani and organ continuo – but perfectly proportioned for the building and for the choir, and immaculate throughout in tone and in its idiomatic delivery of the instrumental score.

My only comment would be (in ideal circumstances) to double the oboes from two to four, for oboes in Handel's time would have made a rougher and louder sound and characterized the texture rather more than today's smoother instruments; but this would perhaps have proved inordinately expensive. (No criticism of the excellent oboists who did play, however.)

'Immaculate' could also be applied to the playing of the treacherous trumpet solo in 'The trumpet shall sound' – a joy to hear, as was the firm but flexible continuo playing that underpins the entire work.

We must not underestimate the courage of so many members of the choir prepared to

undertake solo arias for, familiar though *Messiah* may be, these are demanding pieces to perform – they were originally written with opera singers in mind. And if the acoustic of the church demanded greater projection and firmer articulation of words, there was intelligence in the delivery and an impressive ability to navigate the coloratura that Handel did not write but would have expected his singers to provide, as a reflection of performance conventions of the time.

Handel also made various versions of *Messiah* to suit different circumstances, of which the conductor took full advantage in choosing suitable options for his singers, including certain omissions, particularly in Parts II and III, but without affecting the continuity of the literary and musical narrative. His choice of the 12/8 version of 'Rejoice greatly' gave particular pleasure.

But the best moments, perhaps unsurprisingly, belonged to the choruses, which were quite splendid in their tone and delivery – full, rich and flexible, but capable of effective and expressive pianissimos when required.

This was a splendid performance over all and well deserved the ovation – long and loud – of the audience at the end. A courageous venture – not to be underestimated – but fully justified and hugely appreciated.

© GARRY HUMPHREYS

The Laodicean church is described in Revelations as being 'lukewarm'. So, if the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, here are some of the hymns it might contain:

Precious Lord, Take My Finger

Sit Up, Sit up for Jesus

Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me

Have You Ever Felt the Trickle?



Canon Anderson Jeremiah to be Area Bishop of Edmonton



The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Associate Dean (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and People) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Lancaster University, and Associate Priest at St Paul's Scotforth, in the Diocese of Blackburn, has been announced as the Diocese of London's next Bishop of Edmonton, covering the London Boroughs of Camden, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Anderson grew up in Tamil Nadu, the southernmost state in India, as a Dalit Christian. He is the first Dalit, and the first clergyperson ordained in the Church of Southern India (CSI), to be appointed Bishop in the Church of England. He has lived across five Anglican provinces and served across rural to urban contexts and amongst deprived and affluent communities.

Anderson will formally take up his post in spring 2024 and will join the College of Bishops in the Diocese of London. He succeeds the Rt Revd Rob Wickham as Bishop of Edmonton, who stepped down in August to become Chief Executive of the Church Urban Fund.

The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah, the next Bishop of Edmonton, said:

"I am humbled to be called to be the next Bishop of Edmonton. I look forward to ministering alongside the people of God in the Edmonton area to share the inclusive mission of God's love and justice. I am particularly excited to take responsibility for racial justice as a portfolio amongst the bishops in London. My personal experiences of exclusion and discrimination have formed my life, research, and ministry, and inspires me to embody the expansive hospitality of God. The Edmonton Area is blessed by being a thriving diverse mixture of communities, whom I look forward to serving and shepherding. As an international family, we look forward to finding a home in the London diocesan family."

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, said:

"Today's announcement is a blessing for the Church in North London, which I am sure will thrive under Anderson's leadership and ministry. He brings a combination of experience – pastoral, academic, theological and strategic – which is a great gift to the Diocese of London as a whole. The perspectives he has gained through living and working in a breadth of cultures and roles will enrich the senior staff team and the life of the church in this city. My congratulations go to him and to his family, with whom it was a pleasure to celebrate today."

"London's Diocesan 2030 Vision sets out our ambition for racial justice: how we plan to move forward to truly representing the body of Christ in all its richness – and grow healthily. To reach every Londoner we need to be active in combatting racism and racial injustice. The contributions made by the Racial Justice Priority Group have been invaluable, and I'm in no doubt that Anderson will help lead this transformative work as we continue to tackle the evil of racism here in London."

Source: Diocese of London

<https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/new-bishop-for-north-london-and-for-racial-justice/>

Who needs the Incarnation?

Hellmakers

“Hell is other people” exclaims Sartre. He might have been referring to me. I could be the one that is oppressive; or subservient; or worships fame and fortune: or covets or wants to be coveted. I could be the one that has ... at the expense of those who have not. The one that supports one group, one nation one bloc over another; that categorises those deserving and those undeserving; those who are one of us and those who are other. I could be the one that will not do anything or give anything without getting paid; or the one that is a burden on those around me; the one that lives in hell or the one that creates hell for others. Hell is not created by the lack of resources and the distribution of wealth but by my behaviour. Arguably, even nature reacts to my behaviour and shows it’s disapproval from time to time.

Land of milk and honey

But all this could change overnight. Someone could make available downloadable software kits to make a nanofabricator. According to James Burke, the renowned British science historian, the nanofabricator would sit in the back garden or a spare room somewhere and use dirt, air and water and a bit of cheap, carbon-rich acetylene gas, manipulate atoms and molecules to produce anything anyone wanted for free. Each ‘fabber’ could make copies of itself, so within a short period everyone could have one.

In less than a century, people could have adapted to the new abundance and be living in small, no-pollution, autonomous communities, anywhere. The American dream could become a reality for all. And it need not stop with all we desire.

Technological advances could provide a self-service automated system to replace all systems and medical advances could make us free of ailments, overcome ageing and in due course,



Guido Reni -
Massacre of the
Innocents (1611)

even make us immortal.

Voila! An Eden-like paradise most of us dream of could potentially be achieved by human ingenuity, arguably, without divine intervention.

But what would I be doing stuck in Eden forever? I cannot even endure a luxury resort for more than a few days before I want to move on!

Creatures are captive

Creatures are constrained to certain parameters. On a clean slate or in wide space, a creator is free to create anything. But with each brush stroke, each mark of the chisel, each pillar erected, the creation acquires definition. What defines it, however, is also what confines it. If I was conceived a human, I cannot be a dog or a tree or a river.

Apart from being confined to a type of creation, I cannot opt out of being a creature altogether unless I commit suicide. Even this option, however, may not be available if my soul is immortal. I am, therefore, left with two choices: either to dismiss the possibility that my soul is immortal and that a purposeful God exists and will set me free (and sing Psalm 14:1 to myself all the way to the pearly gates); or to conclude that God cannot be a loving God if he created me to leave me captive to this existence (albeit it in an Eden-like garden).

The ‘eva angelion’ (Gr = good news)

God is uncreated and, therefore, not constrained by any of the parameters of human existence. The point of departure between Trinitarian theology and other worldviews (including the Old Testament) is the belief that the New Testament is the opportunity to become like God. From this view, an Eden-like garden can only be a staging post and my ultimate destiny is intended to be freedom from my createdness.

The eva-angelion is the promise of *theosis*, being set free by becoming like God. To miss the opportunity means to remain captive forever. I can, therefore, neither miss the opportunity of eternal heaven nor ignore the possibility of eternal hell.

The truth will set you free (John 8:32)

I will begin, therefore, by exploring the meaning of John 8:32.

There are many facts but only one truth. It is a fact that I can see the moon at the bottom of a well,

but the truth is that it is a reflection, and it is also true that the moon could be a hologram from another dimension. As more facts are discovered, the truth changes. Mystery writers play this game with our minds, until the very end, when they reveal the last fact which changes completely our perception of all the other facts before us. When in John 18:38 Pilate asks Jesus "What is truth?", Jesus does not reply. Because before Pilate stood the ultimate truth, the incarnate *logos* (Gr = reason) for our creation. Only Pilate, could not recognise it. The truth that overshadows all our other worldly truths is that if we all trust in God, we will be set free. That is the promise. I now need to see how it may work in practice.

The possibility of the impossible

My mind is shaped by my conditioning. The idea of God being uncreated and the idea that I can get rid of my createdness, sound impossible in today's scientific mindset. I have been conditioned to think of existence in terms of objects (nouns) and that it is nouns which cause actions (verbs).

The reality, however, is that until the first brush stroke goes on a blank canvas, a painting only exists in my head and my head is only the conduit for the inspiration. Until then, the painting is free to be anything my imagination can uncover. The cause of the painting, therefore, is the inspiration, not me. The inspiration resides within the infinity of the uncreated even if the painter does not exist. Until formed, the inspiration is absolutely free.

So it is with God. The uncreated creator is an ever-existent perpetual act: the loving communion between the three persons of the trinity. The reference to 'I am' (Exodus 3:7-8, 13-14) identifies a verb (not a noun). It is the verb that causes the noun to be. It is loving communion which would allow me to exist as a communion being which is free, instead of a physical being which is captive. The difference between an individual and a person is that we identify individuals by their physical characteristics, whereas we identify persons by their relationship to others. The New Testament is careful to identify the trinity as persons by referring to their relationships and their attributes: the love of the father, the obedience of the son, the communion of the Holy Spirit (see for example 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Where the persons of the trinity manifest themselves, they take a created form: an angel, a burning bush, a dove, a voice or a human being. To enter creation, God takes form. To enter heaven, I

need to get rid of my form.

I will not be lost without form. I will continue to exist as a person having a loving relationship as one body with humanity (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). With the grace of God, I would then be able to let go of my physical form and allow myself to float like a drop in a wide ocean, identified by my loving relationship to others.

The Incarnation

To fulfil the promise, the *logos* became man. The incarnation was not necessitated by the fall of Adam and Eve. Jesus would have come even if they had not fallen. But the fall, necessitated the suffering, the crucifixion and the resurrection which Jesus endured as a man so that I could become like God.

Even without the fall, Jesus would still have come to be the head of the church. The church is his body held together by the loving relationship man has for man, akin to the loving relationship, which is what God is. This is what would enable me to be part of that relationship and become free like God. The key to the formation of such a body is willing submission and communion. It takes each cell in the human body to submit to the will of the whole to become whole. It takes communion to have one mind that would hold the body together. In the same way, the church needs the self-sacrifice of Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit for the church to be the vehicle of salvation. I am called to give meaning to the incarnation by humbly complying with the will of the father for humanity to become one body.

The world as a stage

Our pursuit in life is joy. Our experience of life is fear. We are building our laws, our systems, our relationships on the fear that some people may not be trusted. This is the reason no system would ever work for all, and no law would be fair for all. They are based on a relationship of mistrust for all. Our world is like a stage, and we are actors in a play. There is no script. The plot depends on my actions in reaction to what the other players do. There are two directors: the one who causes mischief and the one who tries to create peace and harmony. I can hear both. So can we all. It is up to you and me to stop acting and reacting instinctively and so bring the plot of this eternal drama to an end. I may suffer and die, but so did Jesus, and then there was the resurrection.

George Kounis



Parish Life in Pictures

December 2023 and January 2024

LLMs Jackie, Sandra and Amy at St Pauls Cathedral for relicensing



LLMs Jackie, Sandra and Amy + Cathy (reader emeritus) and Fr Paul and Fr Chrichton



Travelling Crib Setting off with Curren family

Advent Procession service



Funeral of Glenda Mensah



Ashmole Primary Reception nativity



Christingle!



Wedding of Emily Chapman and Jordan Wilson



Nine Lessons and Carols

Pop-Up Nativity



Changing to Gold ...



Christmas Eve - Crib Service



Christmas Morning Service



Epiphany service



Installing Ben as chorister



Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!



Wednesday 14th February, 8pm Ash Wednesday

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

Sunday 17th March, 6:30pm

Liturgical performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion'



See weekly notices or next edition for full details of Easter Services

Palm Sunday

Sunday 24th March, 10am

Procession of Palms and Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 28th March, 8pm

Choral Eucharist

Good Friday

Friday 29th March, 2pm

The Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday

Saturday 30th March, 8pm

The Great Vigil

Easter Sunday

Sunday 31st March, 8am, 10am and 6.30pm

Said Eucharist at 8am, 10am for a Family

Friendly Choral Eucharist, 6.30pm for Festal

Choral Evensong

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

Planet International! Let's look at International Eco Days

Thinking about the environment, one of the things we need to do as a parish is improve our awareness of and engagement with... **the world!** Wow! Sounds like a big ask!

But in fact, when you start looking, there are dozens and dozens of things out there that link us to people all over the world – from bees to switching lights off! A good place to start is offered by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) which has designated days, years, and even decades(!) of international observances. Some of these are already familiar: **International Women's Day**, coming up on the **6th March**, for example. But there are many other days in the February to March period of this *Spire* magazine that we can engage with here in Southgate, including:

World Wetlands Day, 2nd February (a walk around one of the wonderful local wetlands at Firs Farm, Bury Lodge or the Marraylne Avenue Wetlands near Enfield Wash is something we might consider to raise our understanding of this crucial, carbon capturing resource) and

International Polar Bear Day on the **27th February** (maybe you could consider adopting a polar bear via the WWF or explore the issues surrounding the controversy of polar bears held in zoos...).

Global Recycling Day, 18th March is a day when we can all review our recycling habits. Do we still throw things away that should be recycled? How about avoiding plastic packaging when we shop?



Broomfield Park Wetlands



Earth Hour – one of the easiest events to observe in the environmental awareness calendar! Towards the end of March every year, the World Wildlife Fund encourages everyone to switch off all non-essential lights and appliances for just one hour! This is an easy way to show that you care about the planet (and will also save you money!). The more people taking part, the bigger the global impact. Earth Hour this year is **28th March from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm**.

We'll explore more of these days in following magazines.

Firs Farm Wetlands

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative

Eco Dates for Your Diary

FEBRUARY

02^{FEB} WORLD WETLANDS DAY

27^{FEB} INTERNATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY

MARCH

03^{MAR} WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

14^{MAR} INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS

18^{MAR} GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY

21^{MAR} INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

21^{MAR} WORLD WOOD DAY

22^{MAR} WORLD WATER DAY

23^{MAR} EARTH



The Great Christmas Stamp Rush

Thank you to everyone who saved stamps over the Christmas period – and especially to those who cut them off with a minimum 1 cm margin all round! Not only does that mean your stamps can actually be used rather than thrown away, it also saves me hours of time, sitting at the kitchen table, snipping away to remove the excess paper and tidy the edges... so, thank you.

I have still had to throw rather a lot away, however, because there still are a few people who tear rather than cut. I actually find this heartbreaking! People have gone to so much trouble to save the stamps and bring them to church, but they are in a condition that makes them unusable.

So, let's make 2024 the "Year of the Scissors"! Snip 'em off the envelope and bring them to church. I will continue to collect them and take them to the ever-grateful RNIB.



Patricia Ashby

Christchurch Association News

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

The CCA Top Step bar opens early **at 6pm** on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next such occasions are **Fridays 2nd February** and **1st March**.

Friday Foodie evenings continue in 2024. 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 9:15pm. The next **Friday Foodie** will celebrate the Chinese Year of the Dragon, with **Chinese Snacks** on **16th February**.

Recent News: We are delighted to welcome Angela Smith as the new Honorary Secretary of the CCA in succession to Steve Wyatt. Bar facilities were provided in church for the Choir Concert on 26th November and after both the Advent Carol Service on 3rd December and the Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17th December. We made donations of £300 to the charities supported by the pre-Harvest Quiz, and £80 to the DEC Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal Fund, both via the SRC.

All CCA memberships became renewable on 1st January, and membership costs just £2 per year. Please check your membership status with Steve Smith or Clive, and renew at the bar if necessary.

The Top Step Bar is open on a regular basis as follows:

Sundays from 7:30 to 10:30 pm

Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 11 pm

Early opening at **6pm** 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*

**Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.**

News from the Committees



16 January saw the first **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** meeting of 2024. Committee reports revealed an eye-watering amount of work and activity across the Christmas and New Year period – a timely reminder, in fact, that if you would like to join in and take part, you will be very welcome! (Just speak to a warden or to Fr Chrichton to volunteer.)

Starting with the **Outreach**, as well as going out and about (speaking to the Palmers Green Community Forum about care for the planet and supporting Revd Julie at St John's after the fire), Fr Chrichton reported welcoming many visitors into church (including groups from Monkfrith, Ashmole, Little Oaks and the whole of Walker School) in addition to the large congregations for the Patronal Festival, and for the many and varied Christmas services.

The congregation as a whole also reached out as we campaigned to 'Keep the Ark Afloat' at St John's with gifts and donations. And, of course, in the wider community our regular collection of items for the Food Bank also continues. These fund-raising activities were led by the **Social Responsibility Committee**, and a full account is provided by Hilary Meur elsewhere in this magazine. Our church building also hosted another round of ABRSM examinations.

Our property portfolio extends beyond the church building itself and maintaining all this was the focus of the most recent meeting and discussions of the **Finance and Standing Committee**. Thanks to a modest increase in income for the period, our finances overall are secure for now. However, a number of unavoidable but costly works this year need to be kept in mind. Proposals to replace the windows in our Oakfield Road house and to repair the Lady Chapel roof – both urgently needed –

were agreed to by the PCC. Both will go ahead as soon as possible. Church security is also now under review.

Planning for all this (identifying and approaching contractors, obtaining estimates, on-site meetings, applying for faculties, etc.) is the work of the **Plant & Fabric Committee**. Further updates from P&FC include news that broken lightbulbs have now been replaced and our lightning protector was certified as being in good working order. Our application for a faculty to overboard the chancel ceiling is still under consideration by the diocese, but the faculty enabling repairs to the chancel floor and choir stalls has now been granted and replacement tiles are already being manufactured!

Eco & Care Creation has also been busy. Under the leadership of Sandra Anderson, in addition to management of the garden, care of the bees, etc., the parish is now beginning to take steps that could help us to move towards the *A Rocha* gold award. This necessarily requires every single parishioner – yes, every single one of us – to be proactive, involved and committed. This is not something that somebody else can do on your behalf! It will be a slow process (and some things may, in the end, not be possible) but the hope is that this is a goal we can endeavour, together, to achieve.

The **Parish Centre Management** team reported a continued need to raise income. Hire rates for external users have accordingly been increased. A number of positives were also reported: the required electrical upgrade work has been completed, a new plumber has been found, and a new contractor to clear and clean the outside space has been engaged. However, we are still waiting for our British Gas smart meter.

Patricia Ashby



SRC Report

2023 was another good fundraising year - we sent almost **£9,700** to our chosen charities! As in previous years we carry only a small balance into the new year, feeling that the money raised needs to be in the hands of the deserving causes.

Our Christmas efforts were very well supported. Our stalls were well stocked and sales impressive. The raffle organised again by Patricia and Nick raised £400 and the hamper was won by Bea, the vicar's daughter.

The Gift Tree brought in over 150 presents for children and young people, and they went to be distributed by **The Ark at St. Johns Palmers Green**. We also gave them £1,400 for the work they do feeding, caring and supporting the needy day to day.

£350 was sent to **HAB, Homeless Action in Barnet**, and **Christian Aid** benefitted from £375. The Christingle and Crib services were well attended and we sent the £700 collection to **The Children's Society**.

We have received a couple of donations into the new year. One from **Christ Church Association** for the **Ukraine Appeal**, and we will send these on in the next few weeks. Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries etc. continue to be taken to **The North Enfield Foodbank and The Ark** week on week. Coffee is served on Friday and Sunday mornings making time for socialising and extending a welcome to those who come through our doors. We donate coffee money to a named charity. At present we are still looking for something local to donate to from the start of the year.

On behalf of the committee **THANK YOU** for your continuing support! We are a small group who try to make the most of the goods and gifts that we are given to raise funds for charities on behalf of us all.

HILARY MEUR



The Gift Tree presents at St. John's with the Ark painting on the wall

Saturday 10th February: Friends of the Christ Church Garden



Do join us for the first gardening morning of the year! Please come and help care for God's creation.

All welcome, no experience needed.
Any time you can give is appreciated.

Thank you! Sandra Anderson: 07947027265

Stewardship

Mick Meur,
Stewardship Recorder



In the months since I wrote my last article, I am sorry to report that for various reasons we have recently lost some of the longest standing members of our Stewardship Scheme. So, I am starting this year with a plea for anyone that attends Christ Church not in stewardship to consider making their contribution regularly to Christ Church by signing up for our preferred donation method, the **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)** Details of how you can do this are in the **HOW YOU CAN HELP** box at the end of this article.

If you need any further information as to how the PGS works and to help you make your decision I am always happy to explain this in detail and discuss the options available, my contact information is set out below.

Membership of the PGS costs you nothing and also there is no cost to us. The other excellent part of the scheme is an additional feature whereby your donation can be automatically increased annually in line with inflation. This is something we recommend as this helps to offset the ever-increasing costs we face. At present just over half of our donors have agreed for this, it is a flexible arrangement that can be taken-up or cancelled at any time to suit your circumstances.

Donations via the contactless machine or online via our website also continue to increase and the blue Gift Aid envelopes from the pews are also being used more often. However, as stated before all these other methods have a cost to us. Either by a charge made by the provider of online giving or in the case of cash and cheques by our bank. Cash attracts a charge of £1.50 per £100 and each cheque we pay in costs us £1.50, irrespective of the amount.

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

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

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

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

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

Or scan the QR code
on your smartphone or tablet



PARISH DIRECTORY

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

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

Clergy

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

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

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

Lay Readers

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

Churchwardens

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

PCC

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

Music Department

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

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

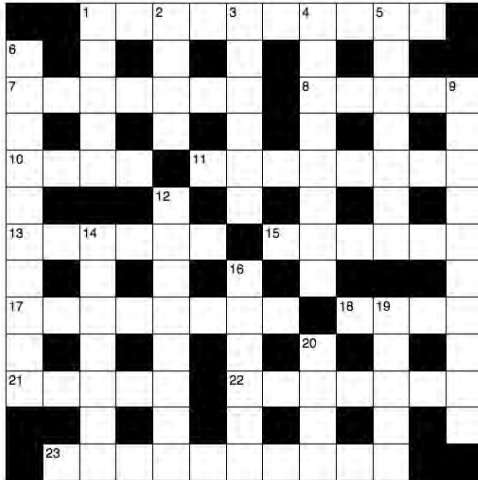
Young Fogeys For the active and retired, though you need not be either!

Contact Ian Cameron Black 8886 4942

Bible Study Group Jackie Anderson (as above)

Sue Grey 8361 8499

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’ (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul’s ‘fellow worker’, to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God’s foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 ‘The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever’ (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ’ (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 ‘On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it’ (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

DECEMBER SOLUTION



How long did Cain dislike his brother?
As long as he was Abel.

Why did the sponge go to church?
It was hole-y.

What type of lights did Noah have on the Ark?
Floodlights.

Why didn't Noah go fishing?
He only had two worms.

Scientists have finally discovered exactly how much sleep a person needs ... it's just five minutes more.



Find the mouse!

Walker the mouse is exploring this magazine - see if you can find him
Last time he was solving the crossword on page 26 - what a clever mouse!



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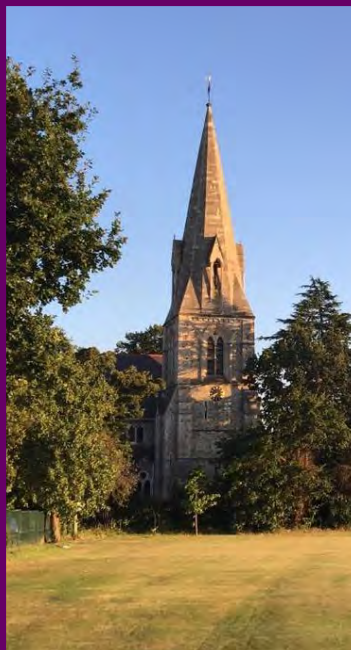
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For details and rates contact
Hilary Meur
Tel: 020 8360 2362
Email: ccsocres@gmail.com

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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’
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