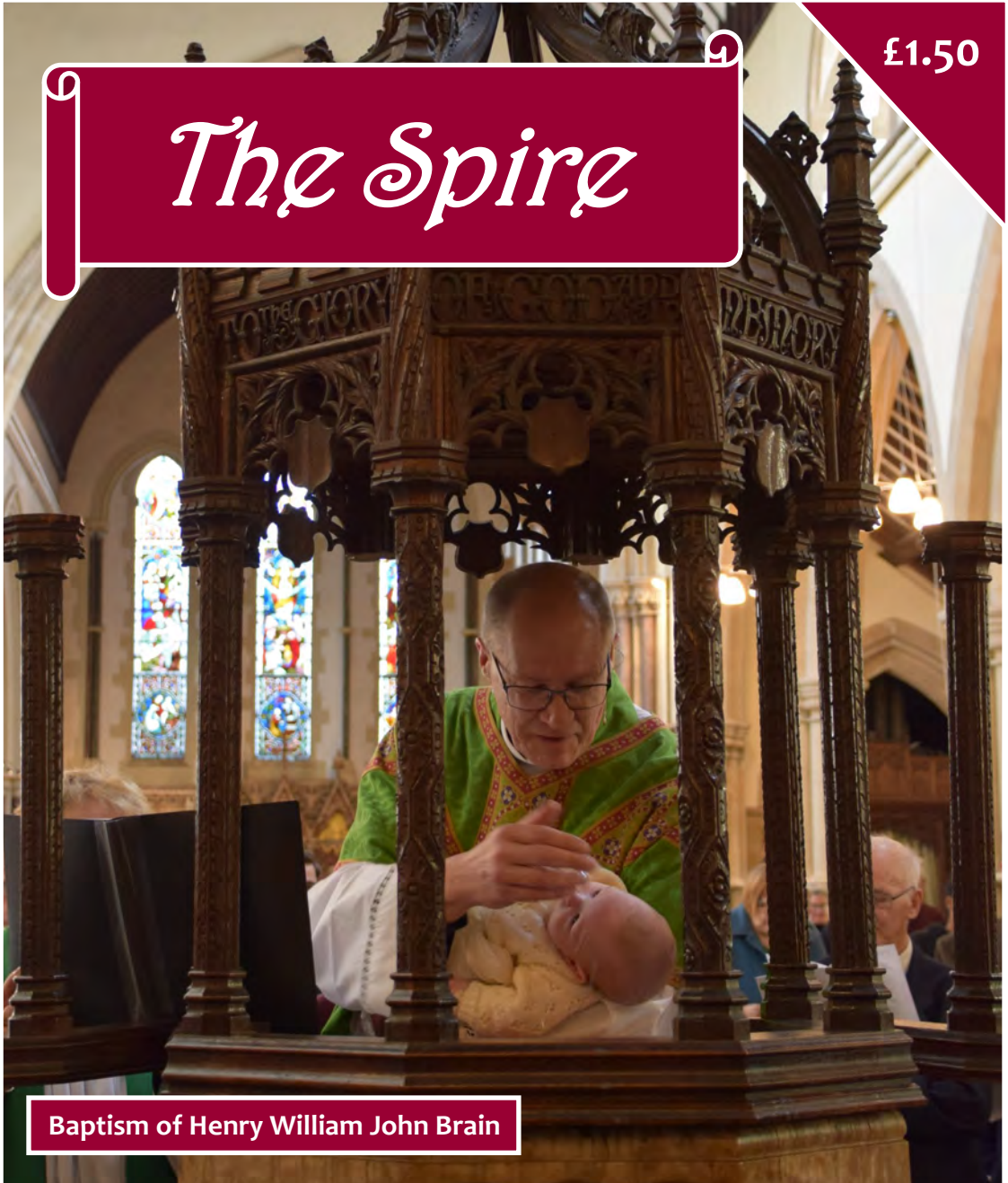


£1.50

The Spire



Baptism of Henry William John Brain

April and May 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 first say a very happy Easter season to you all – Jesus has entered Jerusalem with all the palms waving to mark the start of Holy Week and the Spire magazine has been published! I hope you all kept a holy Lent and will keep a good Holy Week to be fully prepared for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the completion of the wonderful story of salvation that we are all part of.

I have no doubt that during the next week we will offer to God some wonderful worship, thanks to our dedicated teams of clergy, servers, musicians and everyone else who contributes to the day-to-day life of the church. Can I say a huge personal thank-you for all that you do that makes Christ Church so special.

April and May will see some significant events in the life of the church, not least the consecration (in Canterbury) of the new Bishop of Edmonton, Rev'd Dr Anderson Jeremiah, before he is installed as our new Bishop over the Summer.

He will be coming to see us for the first time on November 24th, when he will be celebrating our Patronal Festival of Christ the King and Confirming our candidates in their

faith, so they will be able to join in the Eucharist as full members of Christ's Body.

We will be starting confirmation preparation in the autumn, so start to think if you would like to be confirmed yourself or have young people (Yr 6 or above) who are ready to take the step. There is plenty of time to consider! As the new Bishop is coming, there is also the option to be received into the Church of England if you are a regular member who became an adult on your Christian journey in a different tradition or denomination. Speak to me if you are interested.

There is also a lot of good music making coming up when the choir is off on a week's concert tour in Leipzig from the 2nd to the 6th April – there will be four concerts with lots of very typical English church music, as well as lot of Bach! This will be the last overseas tour by the choir led by Richard Brain but there is still plenty more to come with weekends in Canterbury Cathedral on 25th to 27th May and Westminster Abbey in August, before he and Kate leave us over the summer.

The last Sunday of the lifetime of this edition falls on the 26th May – Trinity Sunday – when there is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). This is the chance to hear about the

last year and look forward to the future by voting in new members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council). If you ever consider that being on the PCC is something you can do, speak to me or the Wardens Graham and Kate to find out exactly what

you would be signing up for – which is nothing like as bad as it sounds!

Every blessing

Fr Ch



Holy Week at Christ Church

Palm Sunday

Sunday 24th March, 10am

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

Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th March, 8pm

Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 28th March, 8pm

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

Good Friday

Friday 29th March, 2pm

The Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday

Saturday 30th March, 8pm

The Great Vigil, with the New Fire, renewal of Baptismal Promises and First Eucharist of Easter - followed by Resurrection Celebration party

Easter Sunday

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

8am for Said Eucharist

10am for a Family Friendly Choral Eucharist
Easter Egg Hunt

6.30pm for Festal Choral Evensong

Note from the Editors

Wishing all our readers a joyful Eastertime!

Copy for the June/July edition of The Spire is due by **Wednesday 22nd May**.

Do contact us at christchurchspire@gmail.com - we'd love to hear from you!

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

Canterbury Cathedral

I was recently given a gift of money so I thought I would spend it on something special and Christian, a trip to Canterbury Cathedral. I had been there a long time ago and it was on my 'to do' list. Using my travel freedom pass and Senior Rail card, it was a surprisingly easy journey.

The Highlight of the day was the tour conducted by David, a very knowledgeable guide, who knew about Christianity as well as the building. He made it clear that this iconic building was built and is maintained to the Glory of God. Indeed, it felt to us as a Holy place should, it was quiet and welcoming.

We learnt that St Augustine established the Cathedral in 597 and he became its first Archbishop. Thomas Becket was murdered there in 1170 by four of King Henry II's knights, and the Cathedral became an important place of pilgrimage. King Henry VIII put an end to the monastery at the Cathedral. During the Civil war there was significant damage to the Cathedral, and it was threatened with demolition. In 1840 the North-West tower became the first addition in over 650 years of building work. In 1942 brave firewatchers successfully saved the Cathedral during major bombing raids over Canterbury in World War II. Today the Cathedral welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year from around the world to this UNESCO World Heritage site.

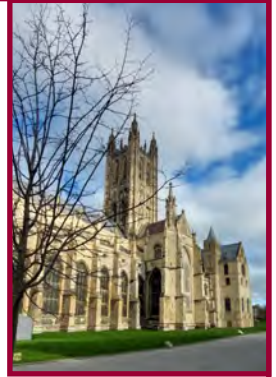
Having visited many churches, it's the aspects of the Cathedral that are different from other places of worship that especially appealed to me. After the war new stained-glass windows were installed, designed by Ervin Bossányi. He trained as an artist in Hungary before the war. Many of his contemporaries went to California and worked for Disney and we could see a definite likeness to several Disney cartoon heroines. Bossányi's windows definitely reflect his college's house style.

The other piece of modern art we really appreciated is a sculpture by Antony Gormley. It's made of nails from the roof of the Cathedral as it was undergoing repairs. It is called Transport and is in the shape of a human body, 6 ft. in length. It is suspended from the ceiling, above the

location of the first tomb of Thomas Becket. The metal nails are attracted by the earth's magnetic field and the sculpture moves round, rather like a compass needle.

There is so much more to see, and I thoroughly recommend a visit to this magnificent house of God.

Hazel Miall



Called to be Fools!

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a 'fool for Christ' (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

A foolish message:

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

A foolish community:

'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

A foolish ministry:

'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.' (2:4,5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.' (William Shakespeare).



Paul Hardingham (from Parish Pump)

Dogs in Church

Returning to Christ Church from darkest Suffolk on Mothering Sunday, to mark a family anniversary, I was delighted to find myself sitting behind Rupert, the canine companion of one of your editors. He was friendly, charming, appeared to appreciate church music, and was sufficiently discreet not to join in the hymns.

Coincidentally, the previous week's Church Times had reported on a move by some English cathedrals to make dogs welcome, in many cases reversing a 'no dogs' policy, and Sarah Morris had decided to put this to the test by visiting several cathedrals with her black labrador, Daisy (see picture), and discovered that it was no longer necessary for Daisy to go in disguise. In fact the cathedral staffs, having been liberated by this change of rule, went

out of their way to make Daisy and Sarah welcome with, in several cases, bowls of water and free dog biscuits (for the dog).

A number of cathedrals still don't allow dogs - York Minster is one - and Sarah and Daisy have several more to visit on one of their 'dogrimages'. I know that they will be made particularly welcome at Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire, where I was born and grew up; Southwell's 'pets welcome' policy is not new, has been in place for many years and visitors should not be put off by the fact that at Southwell there is a vergere who also bears the ancient title of 'dog whipper'! A previous dean of Southwell commented some years ago that the Southwell vergers were 'all softies when it comes to dogs'.

Interestingly, almost without exception there have been no reports of untoward incidents with dogs in cathedrals. Come to think of it, they are probably better behaved than the average party of school children. In my experience anyway.

Garry Humphreys



Daisy Morris at Winchester Cathedral
(from the Church Times)

Lenten devotional talk on Angels, at Christ Church



Stephen Miller delivered his Lenten talk on the 'Tradition of Angels in Religion and the Visual Arts' at the February Deanery Synod, hosted at Christ Church, based on his 2019 book, *The Book of Angels: Seen and Unseen* (Cambridge Scholars' Pub.).

He spoke of an ancient and abiding fascination with angels that have recurred in scripture and apocryphal and mystical writings, as well as in literature, poetry and the visual arts. Certain writings have had an influential bearing on our

understanding of angels and celestial hierarchies, proposed in a number of influential texts, such as those by Pseudo-Dionysius, St. Thomas Aquinas, and others. Like us they are created beings coexisting as part of creation.

The talk was supplemented by a number of slides of paintings and carvings, including by William Blake, Botticelli, Caravaggio and Frans Floris, as well as a four-winged carved spirit from an Assyrian palace at Khorsabad.

The talk concluded in describing humans and angels as inhabiting very different parts of reality and of angels as a powerful symbol for those dimensions of the cosmos about which we have no real idea. Yet several passages in the Bible hand a decisive and significant role to 'the angels of God' indicating that they take some part in the outcome of salvation

history. Consequently, it stands to reason that they are deeply and richly invested in human life.

The visual arts have celebrated this relationship - helped us to see angels with fresh eyes, as fellow creatures bound up in the mystery of creation. In such celebration is a recognition that our own creative essence springs eternally from God. If we try to rationalise all of this away we miss out on something vital to do with the exuberance and extravagance of the work of God.

Caravaggio, *The Inspiration of Saint Matthew*, 1602, Contarelli Chapel, San Luigi dei Francesi, Rome



Stephen Miller is a theology and art scholar and author of four books, including *The Book of Angels: Seen and Unseen* (Cambridge Scholars' Pub., 2019) and *The Word made Visible in the Painted Image* (2016). His Masters, in *Christianity and the Arts*, was gained at King's College London (in association with The National Gallery, London). His research interests focus on the theology of images. Formerly a research editor in the City of London, he is a freelance writer and columnist who lives in North London

Link to book: <https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-5275-3434-6>



William Blake, *When the Morning Stars Sang Together*, pen & ink and water colour over traces of graphite, ca. 1804-1807, The Morgan Library and Museum, New York

Julian of Norwich, a voice from a distant cell

Julian is remembered in the Church of England with a Lesser Festival on **8th May**. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise.

She is honoured in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is '**All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.**' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

Canon David Winter (Parish Pump)



The Short Way to Heaven

You may have heard the story of the business consultant who took a short break in a quiet seaside town where he got talking to an angler who was fishing on the pier every day. The consultant was surprised to learn that the angler only fished enough for himself and gave any surplus to his neighbours. The consultant could not resist the challenge. Why not have two rods and start selling fish to passers-by, he suggested. "What good would that do?" the angler retorted, and the consultant explained that this way, he could earn enough to buy a fishing boat and start supplying local restaurants. In due course, he could get more boats, perhaps even a fishing fleet and distribution vans delivering all over the country. He could then float the company and become very rich.

At each stage, the angler responded with the question "what good would that do?" and at the end of these exchanges, the consultant concluded triumphantly: "You would then be able to have everything you need, and do anything you want".

The angler was unmoved: "but I already have everything I need, and I am doing precisely what I want" he said.

If you die before you die you will not die when you die

This is the inscription at the entrance of the Stavrovouni monastery in Cyprus. It was established in 325AD by Santa Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine where she also left a piece of the Holy Cross on her return journey from Jerusalem to Constantinople. The inscription is a call to abstinence, kenosis (emptying) and fulfilment.

The inevitability of death and the possibility of an afterlife calls us to reflect on our lives. There are two benchmarks: one uses what happens in this life and the other what we believe may happen in an afterlife.

The benchmark for this life, is that the weak get downtrodden and the strong get to the top. Were it not for our notions from beyond (community, fairness, love) to temper this experience, human life would be a dog-eat-dog jungle.

Human life, therefore, is one of contrasts. On the one hand, I am drawn by fear of what would happen if I allowed other people to make it hell for me (Spire Feb/Mar 2024 - Who needs the Incarnation). On the other, I am drawn by the belief that other people are just like me, essentially good and potentially holy, that I could have faith in and submit to, if only...

Most of us succumb to the immediacy of our fears in this life and have a good excuse ready in case there is an afterlife and in case there is judgment day. There are several such excuses that I have personally been working on. But the best one, is "I did not know" (used by the rich man in Luke 16:19-31).

The short way to Heaven

I believe the way to Heaven in Romans 12:5, for humanity to become one body in Christ. Is it not possible for me not to know that I make hell for other people and that my gain is their loss? I simply choose to ignore it. Is it not possible that I do not know that supporting one group against another, one country against another or one individual against another, I am setting us further and further away from becoming one human family? How inhumane is it to treat anyone not like my son, my mother, my siblings and think in terms of whether other humans are deserving of my love, when by giving me the opportunity to love them, even to my worldly detriment, they are bringing me closer to holiness? It reminds me of what my father told me once: "If you meet a bad person, ask yourself what we have done for them to turn out this way".

There is an easy way to Heaven: "Die before you die". Do not indulge in the rat-race. Do

not rise up to the challenge. Do not seek to punish the offender. Accept what others do to you, however unjust, as Jesus did. We should express our opinion, but we should not retaliate. Pope Leo I managed to turn back Attila the Hun by talking alone.

Do not worry how you will be fed tomorrow or worry about who is going to fix the world, if you do not take action. If persuasion does not work, we must have faith that God has a plan to fix it. Do not indulge in an eye for an eye, and eventually, everyone will come round to becoming a loving family.

For those who do not, they will eventually realise that our soul is eternal. There is nothing that will end it all. We will continue to exist at varying degrees either very close or very far away from God. In the human family, our fight must be to save the souls of those that have not come round to the will of

God, starting from ourselves.

The long way to repentance

The way to heaven was meant to be easy and short. But someone interfered and sent us the wrong way. To find our way back to “The Way”, there has to be a reversal, a *metanoia* (Gr. to view things differently) or as we say in English, repentance.

The angler in the story was not interested in the rat race, whereas the consultant glorified it. One was at a standstill and the other was on a long way to nothing. Will he ever repent? We pray that he does.

We do not know enough about the angler in our story. Apart from feeding himself and occasionally his neighbours, he could also be a “fisher of men” and be well on his way to Heaven. We pray that he is.

George Kounis

The Exsultet - the Easter song of praise

The Exsultet has been sung in Christian churches at Easter for a very long time. There are records showing it was sung in Italy in the 4th century. St. Augustine refers to it so it may very well have been sung in North Africa. It became widely used in churches throughout Europe but was sadly lost in the English church at the Reformation along with much else. It continued to be used in Roman Catholic churches through the centuries. And now it is used in many Anglican churches.

The Exsultet will be sung at Christ Church on the evening of Holy Saturday by Fr. Chrichton. The New Fire will be kindled outside and the light brought in to light the Pascal Candle. The candle will be carried up the church and placed in its stand just in front of the pulpit. Meanwhile all the small candles held by the people will be lit. So the light will spread through the church. Then Fr. Chrichton will go up into the pulpit to sing the Exsultet. The title comes from the opening word of the song which is translated as ‘Rejoice’.

The Exsultet starts with a call for all heaven and earth to rejoice. The first verse calls on heavenly powers and choirs of Angels to rejoice. And then the World and our Mother the Church is included. Then follows a brief exchange between the singer and congregation as at the start of the Eucharist prayer. In fact the whole of the rest of the Exsultet is like an extended Eucharist prayer in which the singer recounts the marvellous deeds of God. Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden is included and most importantly the delivery of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea is related to our delivery from sin by Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Exsultet ends with a prayer that the Pascal candle may represent for us both the pillar of fire which led the Jewish people in the wilderness and also the light of Christ who has risen like the Morning Star, never to set.

Cathy Dallman

Cantor: Rejoice heavenly powers, sing, choirs of angels! Exult all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour!
Radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts:

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God:

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Cantor: It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

This is our passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers. This is the night when first you saved our fathers: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin!

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

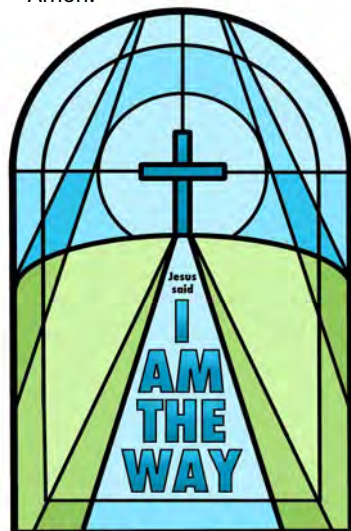
This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. What good would life have been to us, had Christ not come as our redeemer?

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son. O happy fault. O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!

Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead! Of this night scripture says: This night will be clear as day: it will become my light and my joy. The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride. Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth, and man is reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Accept this Easter Candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God. Let it mingle with lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night! May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, the Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns, for ever and ever.

All Amen.



Choir Germany Tour: 2-6 April 2024

In what will be Richard's last international tour with Christ Church, the Choir are off to Germany after Easter from 2-6 April 2024 to Leipzig, Erfurt and Halle. Following our successful trips to Venice and Amsterdam, this will make a fascinating tour visiting the home of Bach and Handel.

Handel of course enjoys a connection with our Weld Chapel when he worked for the Duke of Chandos when he moved to London. Leipzig is also an important part of the story of the Protestant Reformation and we will have the opportunity to sing in the Cathedral where Martin Luther was first ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest. Leipzig was also home to the Felix Mendelssohn from 1835 where he was director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and founded the Leipzig Conservatoire (now called the *Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Leipzig*).

The Choir's programme will include singing at several beautiful cathedrals and churches, including one of the churches where the great JS Bach was Kapellmeister.

Erfurt Cathedral (Wednesday 2 April)

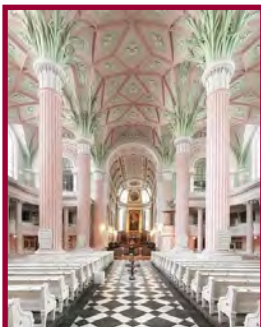
The Cathedral Church of St Mary is the largest and oldest church building in Erfurt. The late Gothic style cathedral is located directly next to St Severus Church overlooking the main town square. The two churches together form a unique landmark.

Most notably, this was where the Protestant reformer Martin Luther was first ordained as a Roman Catholic priest by the Bishop of Brandenburg on 3 April 1507.



Erfurt Cathedral

The Nikolaikirche (Thursday 3 April)



The Nikolaikirche

St. Nicholas Church (Nikolaikirche) is one of the major churches of central Leipzig, Germany. Construction started in Romanesque style in 1165, but in the 16th century, the church was turned into a Gothic hall church. Baroque elements like the tower were added in the 18th century. By capacity, it is one of the largest churches in Saxony.

Bach was the music director of both the Nikolaikirche and Thomaskirche and from 1723 to 1750. He would have been responsible for the provision of the choir every week. Most of his major choral and organ works date from his time in Leipzig, including his cycles of Cantatas, six of his motets, and the Passions.

Handel-Haus Museum, Halle (Friday 4 April)

The birthplace of Handel in 1685, this was the family home of Georg Handel from 1666 and remained in the family until 1783. This grand house is now home to a collection of 700 musical instruments as well as other important historical documents and paintings. The

Choir shall be performing as part of their recital series in the concert room.

The Marienkirche, Halle (Friday 4 April)

Handel was baptized here on the 24 February 1685. Bach also advised on the organ at one time and his son, Wilhelm Fridemann Bach was later the Organist.

Built between 1529 and 1554, the Marktkirche Unser Lieben Frauen ("Market Church of Our Dear Lady") is a church in the centre of the city of Halle. It was and is the most recent of the city's medieval churches. In German, its official name is shortened to Liebfrauenkirche but it is also referred to as Marienkirche (St. Mary's Church) and the Marktkirche (Market Church). It is considered one of the most important buildings of the late Gothic period in central Germany. Its four towers, together with the Red Tower, are the landmark of the city, hence its nickname "Stadt der fünf Türme" (City of the Five Towers).



The Marienkirche

Justus Jonas introduced the Reformation into Halle, and his friend Martin Luther preached in the church. The beginnings of both pietism and Enlightenment were connected to the church. Little damaged in World War II, the church is today a historic protected monument.

UK Choir Cathedral Visits 2024

Canterbury Cathedral: Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May.

Westminster Abbey: Friday 16, Saturday 17, and Sunday 18 August

A Message from Richard Brain, Director of Music

After 11 happy and successful years, I will be leaving Christ Church to take up a new post as Director of Music at Haileybury College in Hertfordshire. The move to Hertfordshire will be as a family, which means that my wife Kate will also be leaving her position as Organist, after 8 years in post.

We will be incredibly sad to leave Christ Church, but we are filled with happy and joyful memories of a fantastic decade at the church. It has been a particular pleasure to work with our wonderful choir, who work with such dedication and create outstanding music on a weekly basis. Christ Church is also a wonderful community, and it has been great to spend time with our lovely congregation, many of whom we count as close friends. Christ Church will hold a very special place in our lives, and we are particularly pleased that Henry was baptised at church by Father Chrichton, surrounded by his church family.

We are not leaving just yet! – we will be in post until the end of August 2024 – and we are looking forward to all the exciting opportunities for the church and choir over the next few months.





Parish Life in Pictures

February and March 2024



Crafts in Childrens Corner

Baptism of George Arthur O'Donnell



Baptism of Henry William John Brain





Hosting Enfield Deanery Synod

Choristers rehearsing at piano



Chris Limbert representing St Davids at RNLi 200 year service at Westminster Abbey



The Big Clean

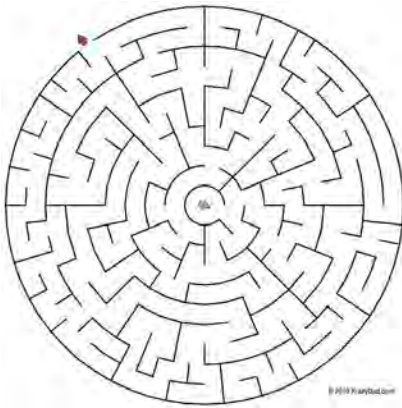


Mothering Sunday



Children's Corner

Solve the Maze



Find the mouse!

Last magazine, Walker the Mouse was enjoying pancakes in the garden on Page 22. See if you can spot him giving out tulips somewhere in this edition

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus...



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

Planet International! Let's look at International Eco Days

Carrying on from Earth Hour on the 28th of March (when we were encouraged to switch off all non-essential appliances for an hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm), the 2024 calendar offers us a further range of topics to think about during April and May.



Image by Michael Reichelt from Pixabay

From an hour at the end of March, a whole day is devoted to the planet in April. Triggered by a massive oil spill in California, **World Earth Day** was first held in 1970. Then in 2009, the United Nations General Assembly established **International Mother Earth Day** (on the same date). The focus of both is similar: climate change, science and education, people and communities, conservation and restoration, plastic and pollution. This year, World Earth Day focusses on reducing plastic waste. The Earth Day Network wants a 60% reduction in the manufacture and use of all plastics by 2040.



Many online companies and local retailers (including Morrisons, Asda and Aldi) are now selling 'wonky veg'. (Image grabbed from the 'Oddbox' website at www.oddbox.co.uk)

Stop Food Waste Day on 24th April is in response to completely crazy statistics about food! The Stop Food Waste website tells us 33% of *all food* produced globally (including 45% of all root crops, other vegetables and fruit) is wasted every year... while there are 795 million undernourished people who could be fed by it! Initiatives like 'wonky veg' and the Olio food distribution network are attempts to combat this waste.

We can all help by buying and using only what we need. (Waste food also contributes 8% annually to greenhouse gas emissions.) Here at Christ Church, we can make our contribution to the worldwide community by using April to minimise our use of plastic and take greater care when buying perishable foodstuffs.

As well as the month long "**No Mow May**" which encourages us to leave our lawns to produce nutritious plant life for insects, May also sees **International Walk to School Week** (20th-24th May), **Water Saving Week** (20th-26th May) and **National Children's Gardening Week** (starting 25th May). There is even International **Compost Awareness Week** (5th-11th May). There are also some specific days listed for May (see the calendar), so there is plenty here for all of us in Christ Church to get involved with – and many of us will feel a particularly close affinity with **World Bee Day** on May 20th.

All this continues to show us how we are part of the global community. Every effort we make is being matched by thousands of others around the world – and every little helps. We are never alone.

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative

Eco Dates for Your Diary

APRIL

22^{APRIL} WORLD EARTH DAY & INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

24^{APRIL} STOP FOOD WASTE DAY

MAY

20^{MAY} WORLD BEE DAY

23^{MAY} WORLD TURTLE DAY

24^{MAY} ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

Praying for Creation

You will have noticed that we have begun to include an overseas environmental conservation programme in our weekly prayer intentions.



Environmental conservation is the practice of preserving the natural world to prevent it from collapsing as a result of human activities, such as unsustainable agriculture, deforestation and burning fossil fuels. Side effects of these practices include toxic air, plastic pollution, destruction of natural habitats and most urgently climate change. Scientists warn us that if we don't act soon, this will lead to an even further increase in natural disasters, rising sea levels and extreme weather, resulting in collapsed eco system, mass extinction of wildlife, food scarcity and global displacement of people.

We hold a deep appreciation for the beautiful, natural world that God has given us, and we want to experience it in a way that is responsible, sustainable and meaningful. Our prayers are much needed as well as our actions. We must continue to do all that we can to preserve all that we have been given, for future generations.

God our Creator,

We thank you for our wonderful world, for the beauty that surrounds us and for all living things;

Bless those who are dedicated to conserving what we have now, and who devote their lives to trying to reverse the damage that mankind has inflicted, mainly through ignorance and greed.

Let them have patience, strength and hope for successful projects and a bright future for all those around them, and the wider world.

Amen.

Sandra Anderson

Homelessness at Easter

Let us remember this Easter those who have no home to feel safe and warm in and who struggle on a daily basis. The Church Homeless Charity helps in whatever way they are able, to help individuals get their lives back on track.

Their theme for this year is how people who are homeless can experience resurrection and new life. The Easter message is that however bleak and difficult life may be, there is always hope and the possibility of new beginnings.

Sandra Anderson

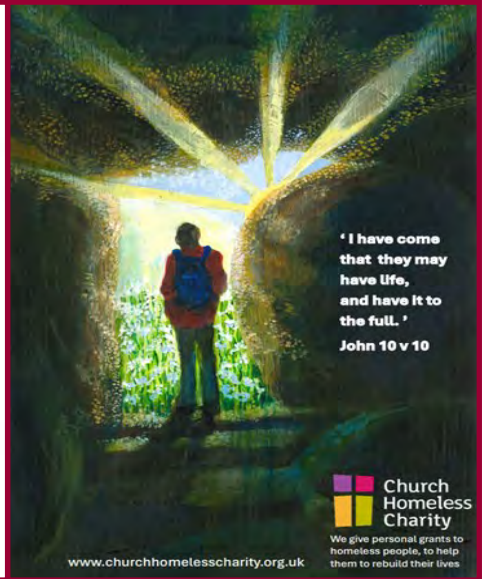
A prayer for people who are homeless

Dear God,
You love everyone that you have created,
and desire the best for all of us.
Look with compassion on those who are struggling
with poverty, trauma or illness,
and especially those without homes.

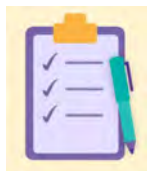
Give them the courage to hope,
the trust to seek the support they need,
and the strength to rebuild their lives.

We are all your children.
Help us to care for one another,
and support those who have many difficulties to
bear and barriers to overcome.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer



Revision of Church Electoral Roll



Our Electoral Roll will undergo its annual revision beginning on Sunday the 21st of April, 2024 and ending on Sunday the 5th of May, 2024.

During this time, the Electoral Roll will be available at the back of church for checking after the principal Sunday Services. Do take a moment to check your entry and if you find a mistake, please let me know.

This is also a chance to join the Electoral Roll

if you are not already a member. If you would like to be added to the Roll, application forms are available to download from <https://tinyurl.com/2p8mnswf> (If you cannot do this, please ask an Officer at the back of church for help.) Completed forms can be submitted electronically or left for me in the mail rack, either under A (for Ashby) or in the Church Office pigeonhole.

The revised Roll will be published on Sunday the 12th day of May, 2024, and will be available on request for a period of two weeks for further scrutiny, again at the back of church after the principal Sunday services, until and including Sunday 26th May, 2024.

Patricia Ashby, Electoral Roll Officer

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 5th April** and **3rd May**.



Friday Foodie evenings continue with a **Fish & Chips Supper** on **19th April**, as an early celebration of St. George’s Day. Please be at the bar by 8:45pm to order food or contact Clive before 6pm on the day. The next **Friday Foodie** will feature **Indian Snacks** on **17th May**.

On **Sunday 28th April** we will welcome members of the **Hatters Explorer Scout Unit** to give a **Top Step Talk** on their 2023 expedition to the **Himalayas**. The bar will open at 7:30pm, with the talk starting around 8pm. This promises to be a most interesting evening.

Recent News: Our annual celebration of **Burns’ Night** in January was well attended, and we enjoyed an excellent traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties. Thanks to Mick and Sherri Greenaway for organising the evening!



At our most recent committee meeting we agreed to make a donation of £300 to the Organ Appeal Fund, mainly from the money taken at the bar at the performance of Messiah and the two carol services.

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 10:30pm
- **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 8 to 11pm
- 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)

News from the Committees

Due to how Easter has fallen this year, we have published this edition of The Spire before the Parochial Church Council (PCC) took place, so we've no news from the Committees to report! Look out for a bumper account next edition ...

SRC Report

We have chosen to support **Save the Children** with the proceeds of coffee and the stall for the first six months of the year. Sales of cards and preserves continue to be good, and a few other items have been added. Youla has taken over the jewellery, since John Clark died, and there is a range of necklaces for sale on one of the new display stands. Perhaps too you have enjoyed a slice of cake with your cuppa on a Sunday morning; a small extra donation could make a big difference.



We have sent more money to **DEC Ukraine Appeal**. The **Christ Church Association** gave us a donation and we topped it up. We still have some money to send to a Foodbank outlet.

Through Lent we have been collecting Easter Eggs for **The Ark at St. John's** and we continue to take them the non-perishable foods and toiletries which are still desperately needed.



Numbers at coffee and chat on Friday mornings are up with several new regular visitors. Some of us are busy crafting and another bag of Twiddle Muffs is now ready to go to **Age UK**.

Why not call in for a cuppa and often a homemade biscuit or more cake? Thank you, Shirley and Julia!

We have recently moved a few books on from the book stall so a few new paperbacks will be very welcome.

Many thanks to all our supporters; those individuals who donate to help others make their contribution, and groups who pass their donations through us. We are all helping to make a difference.

Hilary Meur



Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyses life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonises it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it. - Martin Luther King

Stewardship

Mick Meur,
Stewardship Recorder



I am sorry to report that for various reasons we have lost some of the longest standing and generous members of our Stewardship Scheme. So, I am once again banging the drum with a plea for anyone that attends Christ Church regularly, but not yet in our Stewardship Scheme, to consider doing so. At this particular time we are coping with ever increasing costs for the upkeep of our beautiful church building, our wonderful clergy team and outstanding music and choir.

We currently have about 100 members of the congregation making regular donations to Christ Church, the majority of which are through The Parish Giving Scheme. Please join the others making their contribution regularly to Christ Church by signing on to this method if you possibly can. All that is needed is to complete a simple application, your donation will be collected by regular Direct Debit. Full 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

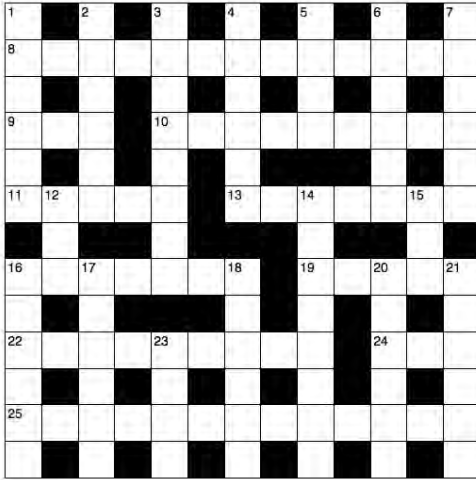
Young Fogeys For the active and retired, though you need not be either!

Contact Ian Cameron Black 8886 4942

Bible Study Group Jackie Anderson (as above)

Sue Grey 8361 8499

APRIL CROSSWORD



- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)

FEBRUARY SOLUTION



THE BROKEN SOUL by Maura Kelly

They thought that I was down and out
They thought that I was done
The more they kept me on the ground
The more I looked towards that sun

And as those rays of light shone down
To warm my aging face

I found my
shoulders
rise once
more
As I stood in
humble grace

No tears, no
regrets, no
shattered life
Will destroy my
battered
soul



In God alone my soul quietly rests,
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5

Instead I'll fight and pursue each dream
As I move towards my goal

The ridicule, the words of harm
The insults and the pain
Endured by a man whose defiant spirit
Fights back to erase his shame

When a man is lost and feels all alone
He must look within himself
And rid his thoughts of any doubt
That his life is blessed with wealth

No gold, no silver to weigh him down
Only pennies small and few
But in his heart he carries the belief
That his life can be renewed

Blows and strikes may knock you over
In a life that's tough and hard
But a winner will find inside his mind
The strength to rebuild his guard

So look towards that sun my lad
When your battles near their end
And remember this as you rise again
That a broken soul can mend



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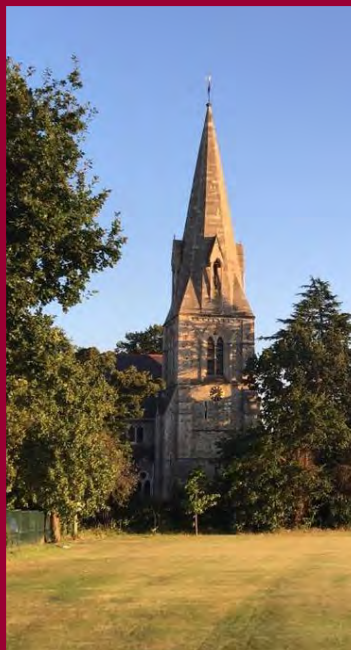
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Church

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

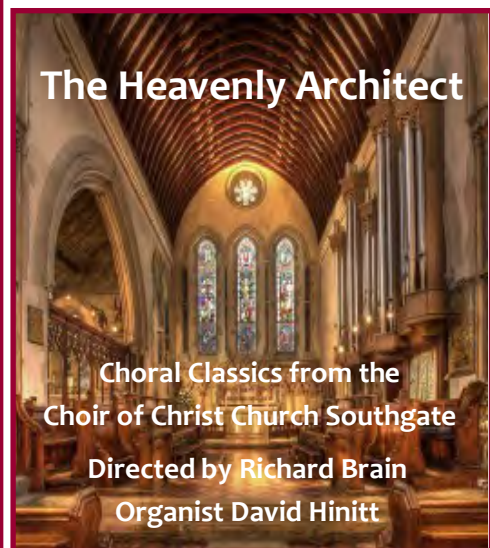
Christ Church Southgate
The Church on the Green N14
Where everyone is welcome



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 Church, Southgate.

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

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