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The Spire



April and May 2025

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— *Southgate* —

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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Welcome to the April and May edition of Spire magazine. This is the one which covers the rest of Lent and gives you the details of our Easter and Holy Week services. The whole nation has been remembering the fact that it is five years since the Covid Pandemic and reflecting on the effects of all the restrictions that were part of it. I can't believe that it makes it five years since we lost Holy Week completely in 2020. We did a limited version in 2021, followed by an "almost there" version in 2022, but this will be the third year that we are completely back to normal!

Even though it is now all unremarkable, I would encourage you to try and come to church a lot over Easter to walk with Jesus on his journey. The pure joy of Easter Day is much more real if we shout Hosanna with Jesus on Palm Sunday, share the last supper before we watch and pray with him on Maundy Thursday, venerate him on the cross on Good Friday, thrill with the new resurrection fire in the dark of Holy Saturday before the bursting of the tomb on Easter Day with the happiest ending of all. I say this every year, but Holy Saturday is still my favourite service. A tiny spark in the dark makes the resurrection fire, followed by a glass of prosecco to celebrate!

You may remember that during lockdown in

2020 when the church was shut, I did a prayer walk around the parish boundary on each Sunday morning and Good Friday, which turned into a total walk of 168 miles. As part of marking five years since Covid, a group of 18 of us – with a very wide age-range - repeated the walk on a brisk and (mostly) dry Saturday morning. It was interesting to lead others on a walk I know so well to see it through fresh eyes. It illustrates how diverse our parish is – there are beautiful green parts and scruffy concrete parts, there are cared for areas and neglected areas, and there are quiet spaces and very busy roads. In many ways our area is like our country in miniature – all human life is here.

If you feel like trying it yourself, I have spare copies of the route map. You can do it in sections or as a single walk of just under 6 miles – but it also proves that our parish is on the side of a hill! If you do try it, offer to God in prayer all that has happened in the lives of all those in our parish and the wider world, in sorrow and in joy, in the last five years and asking for his blessing in all that we will do together to make his love part of the lives of our whole community.

Every blessing

Fr Chrichton

Holy Week at Christ Church

Palm Sunday

Sunday 13th April, 10am

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

Said Eucharist

Monday 14th April, 7.30pm

Tuesday 15th April, 7.30pm

Wednesday 16th April, 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 17th April, 8pm

Choral Eucharist with Foot Washing, followed by the Watch, concluding with

Compline at Midnight

Good Friday

Friday 18th April, 2pm

The Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday

Saturday 19th April, 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 20th April, 8am, 10am and 6.30pm

8am for Said Eucharist

10am for a Family Friendly Choral Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt

6.30pm for Festal Choral Evensong



Note from the Editors

Wishing all our readers a very joyous and peaceful Eastertime!

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and a reminder that the deadline for copy for the June/July edition of The Spire is **Wednesday 21st May**.

Contact us at christchurchspire@gmail.com - we would 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

In search of Mr Figgins

I recently went to a fascinating exhibition about printing which was put on as part of the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's first visit to London in 1725. Franklin worked as a printer and the exhibition had a replica of the printing press that he would have used. It was in the same position in the Lady chapel of St Bartholomew the Great that the original press would have been.

The gentleman who showed us the exhibits knew a lot about the history of printing, and he knew a little bit about Vincent Figgins, to whom the Great East stained-glass window in Christ Church is dedicated. He told us that if we were interested in Mr Figgins our best bet would be to go to St. Bride's Library which has books all about printing and printers.

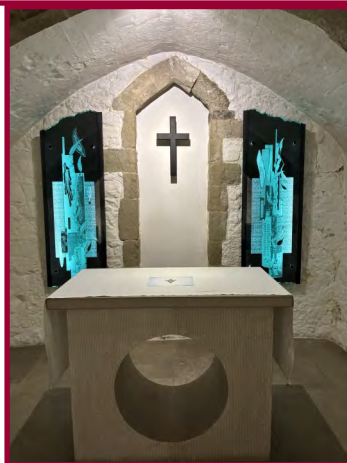
We resolved to go to the library, so having looked it up we made our way to Fleet Street. Unfortunately, we had not interpreted the website information correctly and when we arrived we were told we should have made an appointment. We decided we would do that and try again another day.

Having time to spare we went next door to St Bride's church. There was a service going on, so we were politely ushered to the small museum in the crypt. It was fascinating. The oldest remains, a Roman pavement, date back to AD 180. The association with St Bride probably dates back to the sixth century. The remains and artefacts of the churches that stood on the site between the 11th and 15th centuries are on display, including floor tiles, roof tiles, stone and glasswork.

After William Caxton's death Wynkyn de Worde bought his printing press and set it up in the churchyard. He is buried in the Church. Samuel Pepys was born in a house adjacent to St Brides and was baptised there.

When Christopher Wren rebuilt the church after the Fire of London he constructed two supporting arches, in the crypt, for the wall above. The arches form the memorial chapel to the Harmsworth family and the staff of Associated Newspapers who lost their lives in the two world wars.

After St. Bride's was bombed in the blitz the church was rebuilt, 'To the Glory of God', and Queen Elizabeth II attended the Rededication service in 1957. This fascinating church is well worth a visit.



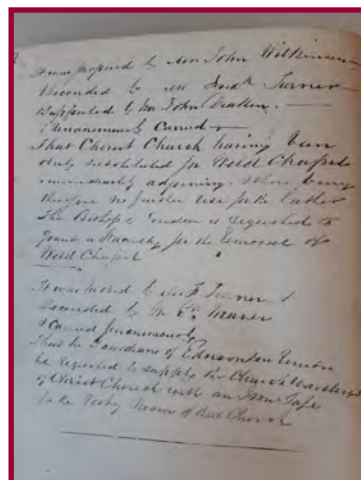
Hazel Miall

Serendipity at the Archives

I recently visited The London Archives in Clerkenwell where many of the Diocese's historical papers are safely stored. As such, there are a lot of Christ Church's papers stored there. The purpose of my visit was to see if I could find any details of the baffles (for sound reduction) we had fitted in the spire in the 1990s as I, and a number of other eco team members, are keen to see if we could house swift boxes without causing any negative impact to our beautiful church. Other churches have done it, and it is a bird with drastically reduced numbers. However, I was spectacularly unsuccessful so will have to look elsewhere!

However, my three hours at the archives were not wasted as I managed to gain access to some amazing historical documents (see images). Not least were the minutes from the first ever Vestry Meeting held in our current newly built church on Christmas Eve 1862. A Vestry Meeting was effectively the precursor to the Parochial Church Council we have now. It was chaired by the Incumbent and was often held in the Vestry (hence the name), and they usually met annually.

In many locations, in the absence of a local town council, the Vestry Meeting handled all local ecclesiastical and secular matters - at the height of their powers they accounted for 20% of all government spend in the UK. However, by 1900 in London the secular responsibility had been taken away. In this first meeting they refer to the fact that now they have the new church they needed to get a faculty (which is Diocesan approval, and which we still do today) for the removal of the Weld Chapel - the building which was here before our current church, and which was located where our Remembrance Garden is now. Clare has brilliantly been able to read and "translate" these minutes for us as I was barely able to understand a word of it as the writing is so scripted:



It was proposed by Mr John Wilkinson and seconded by Mr [?] Turner and supported by Mr John Deakin, and unanimously carried that Christ Church having been duly substituted [?] for Weld Chapel immediately adjoining, & there being therefore no further use for the latter the Bishop of London is requested to grant a faculty for the removal of [the] Weld Chapel.



It was moved by Mr [?] Turner and seconded by Mr Ed [?] and carried unanimously that the Guardians [?] of Edmonton Union [?] be requested to supply the Churchwardens of Christ Church with an iron safe for the Vestry Room of that Church.

In the picture you can see the Weld Chapel and our church being built in the background, which places the meeting notes and photo as being within a few months of each other.

I was able to find some very clear minutes from a meeting in 1863 which similarly were very hard to read and did make me think of Caroline (our brilliant PCC Secretary) as I read these documents thinking how glad I am she does not have to transcribe as we speak. We give permission for our meetings to be recorded to allow for more efficient and accurate minute taking. It is amazing to think that this meeting was chaired by the Revd James Baird (written as Jas Baird in the minutes) whose marriage into the Walker Family effectively meant our lovely church was built as it was a "wedding gift" to the couple by the bride's father.

A meeting was held at the Vestry Room of the Church on Easter Tuesday 7th April 1863

Rev Jas Baird in the Chair

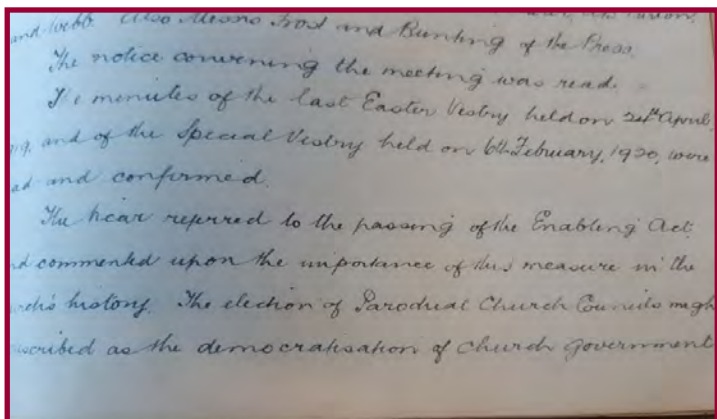
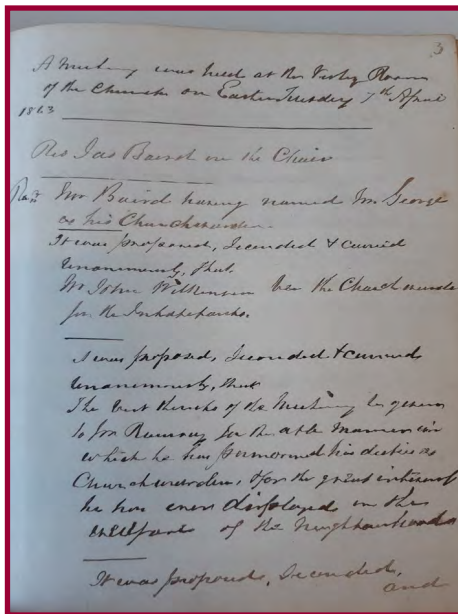
Rev Jas Baird having named Mr George as his Churchwarden. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Mr

John Wilkinson be the Churchwarden for the [?] parish [?]

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the best thanks of the meeting be offered to [??] for the able manner in which he has performed his duties as churchwarden, & for the great interest [?] he has ever deployed in the [??] of the neighbourhood. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Mr William [?] and Mr Blagden be requested to audit the accounts of the church expenses. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the thanks of the meeting be given to Rev Jm Baird for his conduct in the Chair.

I stumbled upon the most amazing minute from a Vestry Meeting in 1920 which I could read as the script was more legible and, which hopefully you can read too. It referenced the Enabling Act of 1919 and, in it, the current Incumbent (Revd Charles Frederick Peplow) states how positive he was about this as "the election of Parochial Church Councils might be described as the democratisation of Church government."

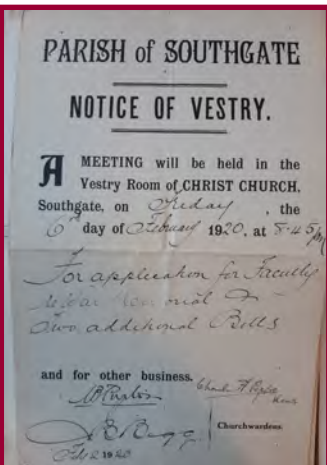
Which is the body we still have today and which gives those on the Electoral Roll the opportunity to have an active role in the leadership of our parish life.



I also found the following fascinating set of accounts from 1883 which shows the main costs the church faced then are the same 140 years later: heat, light, insurance and music. However, income is very different as there was a concept at the time of "pew rent" which had become popular in the 19th century whereby members of the congregation could secure their preferred pew for their family by paying for it. One imagines there

Receipts.			Expenditure.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.		
Balance in hand	92	11	10	Organist	45	0	0
Proportion of Pew Rents	136	15	10	Organ Tuning	5	6	0
Debitares, Gt. Northern Railway	4	17	6	Organ Blowing	6	0	0
Collection in Church Boxes	0	7	6	Insurance	0	0	6
				Archdeacon Visitation	0	18	0
				Coal and Coke	10	0	0
				Gas	9	0	10
				Clerk	10	0	0
				Wine for Communion	2	2	0
				Cleaning Church	13	0	0
				Washing	0	10	0
				Sundries for Cleaning, &c.	3	3	7
				Printing	0	10	6
				Balance in hand	£115	13	5
					88	10	8 1/2
					£174	12	8 1/2

was a hierarchy of fees and locations, but historical research shows it was not just the upper and middle classes which paid for their pews. Also, some churches still had the practice in place up to the 1960s. Something to consider for our stewardship campaign next time?



The final image is a notice calling the Vestry Meeting in February 1920 to discuss the War Memorial and two new bells in the tower.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the archives, despite failing to achieve my original objective! It was amazing to reach out and actually touch the history of our amazing church. I hope you find it as interesting as I did.

Graham Cook

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



* Choral Evensong on the following Sundays in April and May:

6th April, 13th April, 20th April, 11th May, 18 May

Church Bell Ringing at Christ Church

Church bell ringing is a long-standing English tradition, deeply rooted in the history, culture and community life of this country. The origins of church bell ringing in England can be traced back to at least the 10th century; although the development of change ringing as we know it today began around the 16th and 17th centuries. The ringing of church bells served to mark the time, call people to worship, signal significant events such as royal celebrations, funerals or warnings of danger, and to bring communities together.

At Christ Church, Southgate, we have a bell tower of 10 bells all of which sound magnificent and were made at the White Chapel bell foundry (sadly now closed). Martin Sutcliffe is the Captain of our bell tower and a very experienced bell ringer. A group of bell ringers ringing together as a team is known as a band. Sadly for a few years now, Christ Church no longer has its own band. Martin has been our Tower Captain and the only bell ringer for a while.

I approached Martin about two and a half years ago and asked him if he would teach me to ring, which he kindly agreed to do. I had never rung church bells before and was therefore a complete novice. Moreover, as a retiree, I was not exactly a youngster, but with patience and perseverance Martin taught me how to ring the bell up and down safely with the correct technique. Once I was able to that and develop my skills in bell control, I really had to start practicing with other bell ringers.

Fortunately, there is a community of bell ringers throughout the country and also more locally. Bell ringers from different towers tend to know each other and will often practice bell ringing in each other's towers. I have now rung bells at about 5 or 6 towers in North London and being able to practice with other people and get used to different bells in different towers has helped enormously to develop my bell control skills, working as part of a team.

Although I am still very much a learner, I am now just about good enough to ring for Sunday services and have even rung for the odd funeral. I am also due to ring for a wedding in a few months' time. Bell ringing is not something that can be learnt in 5 minutes: it takes time, patience and perseverance; but it is hugely rewarding and great fun once you start getting the hang of it. So we now have two bell ringers at Christ Church but we need more!



Christ Church's bell ringing chamber

We would very much like to have our own, regular, band here at Christ Church once again. If anyone is interested in learning to ring church bells, please speak to Martin Sutcliffe. He can be contacted by phone on 020 8368 1974 or by email: martin@nildram.co.uk. I am also happy to answer any questions you may have if bell ringing is something you would like to consider.

I can be contacted on christopherchessum4@gmail.com.

Chris Chessum

Bible Study on the Epistle to the Romans

For the past few months, the Bible Study Group has been looking at the Epistle to the Romans. Providentially, we finished just as the Lent Course began. Romans is the longest of Paul's letters and arguably his theological masterpiece. But that means the text can get quite dense and difficult through the whole letter. An American New Testament scholar and Anglican deacon - Scot McKnight - suggests reading Romans backwards as a way of getting to the heart of it more quickly. And so, we started with a quick look backwards from the end.

Chapter 16 introduces us to the cast of characters that Paul is writing to. First, we meet Phoebe. Phoebe is a deacon from the church in Chenchrae, near Corinth. Paul entrusts her with bringing the letter to the church in Rome and answering their questions when they read it. We also read that she has also been a benefactor to Paul - all of which commends her as a leading figure. Phoebe is engraved in the stained-glass windows of our church (as Phebe from the King James Version). That is rather fitting for an inclusive church.

Next, we meet Priscilla and Aquila. And here is an important clue - Paul had first met them in Corinth. Acts chapter 18 says that they had 'recently come from



Italy ... because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome ... and because he (Paul) was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.' So, we know that all Jews were expelled from Rome by the emperor Claudius in 49AD. And a strong bond seems to have forged between Priscilla and Aquila and Paul; he lives in their house for a year and a half. They are fellow Jewish converts to the Christian faith, and they have a common trade. Now, though, Priscilla and Aquila are back in Rome and it's likely that their news has returned to Corinth where Paul visits, when he is heading back to Jerusalem after his third missionary journey and after Claudius had died in 54AD and his decree no longer applied. Surely, Paul would have wanted to hear news about his close friends?

Chapters 14 and 15 of Romans gives us a clue as to what that news might be. The different traditions on food were being used to provoke argument. It seems that the Gentile traditions had become dominant during the expulsion of the Jews, and on their return, the Jewish converts faced judgement by the Gentile Christians. Paul implores them to respect each other's traditions and not fall out over 'disputable matters'. Paul reminds the church that he is God's minister for the Gentiles. So, he is clearly emphasising to them that they - the Gentiles - need to tone it down as the dominant or 'stronger' group.

Reading further backwards in chapter 13, Paul says love is the fulfilment of the law. Hence the strong should bear the failings of the weak and build each other up. And in chapter 12, he talks about living lives as sacrifices to God with minds transformed to see the church as one body, in mutual cooperation. He begs them to put each other first and harbour no grudges. And going further backwards through chapters 11, 10 and 9, Paul expresses his heartfelt anguish and prayer that all his fellow Jews might be saved. He is desperate that the news he is

hearing is not excluding any Jews from joining the church there in Rome.

And so, we reach the middle of the letter. This is significant. Jewish literary tradition puts the key point in the middle of the work. Before that, the first eight chapters are Paul's 'basic Christianity' or Alpha course to the Romans. Unlike the other churches that Paul writes to, he has not been to Rome. In the other letters, the readers have heard Paul preach and tell them his gospel message. Not so the Romans. It is a lengthy discourse covering Adam, his disobedience and the death that brings. It contrasts Jesus, his obedience and the life that brings. Paul argues that Abraham's model of faith is the access to righteousness and God's forgiveness and justification through Jesus. He talks personally of the impossibility of trying to follow the law. Towards the end of Chapter 7, he says 'For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.' Quite a confession!

And so, we reach the climax in Chapter 8. It is the culmination of Paul's theological message that he has not yet been able to tell the church in Rome. And it is the place from which he unpacks his practical advice to find accommodation between the Jewish and Gentile believers. And what is that central point?

'... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything

else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

The Bible Study Group



As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

I think this to be so right!

I strive to serve Jesus Christ in every part my life - through work, achievements, and acts of love. It is for HIM alone that I dedicate my efforts, seeking to honour and glorify His name in all I do. In my devoted prayers, private prayers and those in church, along with worship, singing, and fellowship - all are acts of love and reverence for Him.

In my charity work; campaigning, supporting and representing for Tearfund, Compassion UK, and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), among others. This I love to do for HIM who loves me; who created me; and who saved me on the cross at Calvary. The beautiful Jesus Christ!

In an Easter play I wrote, Simon of Cyrene - who helped carry Jesus' cross - asks: "What has this beautiful man done?" This question echoes the innocence and sacrifice of Christ, who bore suffering for our salvation.

We have such a lovely choir in Christ Church - their beautiful singing makes the service special for me as I sing for my holy Lord God. Our dear priests take the service and lead the worship; they give communion and instruct in their sermons, and sometimes the lay preachers give sermons and take the prayers too. How I would love to take communion up at the altar again!

I read the bible in church and love to do this - I am a trained speech teacher and actress. There are many ways to help contribute to our life of worship - some people serve the coffee; there is cleaning and gardening to do, and I have helped with this; and I write often for the magazine.

Blessed be His name forever.

Lynda Corcoran

What We Sing in Church



**Ride on! ride on in
majesty!**

NEH No 511

I expect we shall sing this hymn on Palm Sunday (April 13th) so I thought it would be a good one to write about this month.

This hymn was written by Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868) who was successively vicar of St. Mary's Reading, St. Margaret's Westminster and Dean of St. Paul's. He was born in Westminster the son of Sir Francis Milman who was physician to George III. He was educated at Eton and Brasenose College Oxford.

Ride on! ride on in majesty! was written in 1821 when Milman was at St. Mary's Reading. Reginald Heber, a fellow student at Brasenose College and rector of Hodnet in Shropshire, was at the time preparing a book of hymns to cover all the Sundays and festivals of the Christian year. Milman sent him a copy of the hymn which was received with enthusiasm. It has been a regular feature of worship on Palm Sunday ever since. For some unknown reason the third line of the first verse (Thy humble beast pursues his road) was regarded as unacceptable by several hymn book editors and 'O saviour meek, pursue thy road' was substituted.

Verse 1 links in very closely with the account in all four Gospels of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey. Jesus was also fulfilling a prophecy in the book of Zechariah:

***Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!***

***Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.***

(Zechariah 9:9)

The rest of the verse links with the account in Matthew's gospel and all the others too.

***A very large crowd spread their cloaks on
the road, and others cut branches from
the trees and spread them on the road.***

***The crowds that went ahead of him and
that followed were shouting,***

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

***Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord!***

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

(Matt 21:8-9)

Verse 2 looks forwards to the cross and the salvation that will be accomplished there.

Verse 3 is referring to angels in 'the winged squadrons of the sky' implying that they don't understand it any more than we do.

In **Verse 4** 'the last and fiercest strife is nigh' is I think looking back at Jesus' fight with temptation in the wilderness and forward to his fight with temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane which will be the most difficult temptation of all. I have to confess myself baffled by the picture of the Father on 'his sapphire throne'. I can find no reference to this. In the book of Revelation God is portrayed as sitting on an emerald throne surrounded by a rainbow. I think it might be a fanciful thought linking an idea of heaven being above 'the bright blue sky' with the colour of the gem. But please if you know better pass it on.

Verse 5 looks forwards to the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension.

Cathy Dallman



Planet International!

Keeping International Eco Days in Mind



We've looked at a full year of international events focusing on the environment and sustainability.

The crucial thing now is to keep all this in mind and to continue trying to adapt our own lives in such a way that we contribute to the future health and well-being of our planet. **Trying** is the operative word here. It is often very difficult to change the habits of a lifetime, to start doing something we've never done or something we find a bit inconvenient or annoying. Nonetheless, it's important to try, and it's important to help and support each other as we make the effort. In so doing, it's always motivating to think that people all over the world are doing their best to accomplish the very same thing: while we are trying something in Southgate, people in Seattle, Santorini, Sydney and maybe even at the South Pole are also trying alongside us!

To kick start the review, we've added a new one that we didn't spot last year. A new start for April is good for our health, too, as well as making sure we give the car a rest: **Walk to Work Day**. Even if you aren't going to work, you could still walk or cycle to the shops, perhaps, instead of driving – or maybe just have a little walk down the road which could be good for your own general well-being. And this April, we can also expand our conscious attempt not to waste food. Why just the 27th of April? Surely, this can become part of everyday life for all of us now? Maybe join OLIO, too, and use food saved by local volunteers ([go to https://olioapp.com/en/](https://olioapp.com/en/) where you can extend your saving way beyond just food).

Another lifestyle choice which affects more than a day is observing **No Mow May**... tricky if you regularly pay someone to cut your lawn because you would be impacting their income unless you can find another job for them to do, but this is easy enough if you cut your own. This also contributes to **World Bee Day** on the 20th – a day close to our hearts in Christ Church with our resident bees in the back garden. Not mowing our grass encourages flowers that will provide an essential food source for bees... dandelions, for example. You can also make sure you have a safe water source for them – pebbles in a water dish, for example, so they have somewhere safe to perch while they drink.

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative

APRIL

02 APRIL WALK TO WORK DAY

22 APRIL WORLD EARTH DAY/MOTHER EARTH DAY

27 APRIL STOP FOOD WASTE DAY

MAY

01 MAY – 31 MAY "NO MOW MAY!"

20 MAY WORLD BEE DAY

22 MAY WORLD TURTLE DAY

23 MAY ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY



Parish Life in Pictures

February and March 2025

Visit of Bambos Charalambous MP



Christ Church Team "Choral Invaders" win at inaugural St Marks and St Stephens Bush Hill Park Quiz Night



Parish Boundary Walk

Evelyn Leach admitted to the choir





Police “Community Safer Neighbours Team” visit



Choir Trip to Winchester Cathedral





Cleaning and Gardening morning



Confirmation Group Lent reunion

Cakes and Ale



One of the more endearing traditions of the Stationers' Company in the City of London is that of Cakes and Ale, which is held every Shrove Tuesday. In accordance with the bequest of Alderman John Norton, Master of the Stationers' Company in 1607, 1611 and 1612 during the reign of King James I, cakes and ale and other victuals were provided free of charge to the members of the Company, provided they attended Divine Service first on Shrove Tuesday. Accordingly, the Master, the Wardens of the Court, together with Liverymen and Freemen, attended the John Norton service in Saint Faith's chapel in the crypt of the nearby St. Paul's Cathedral.

This custom has continued faithfully ever since. On the stroke of 11 o'clock the Master and Court of the Stationers' Company, all duly attired in black and blue caps and gowns and bedecked with the chains of office, lead the procession of some eight liverymen, freemen and guests from the Stationers' Hall. We then cross Ave Maria Lane, holding up the traffic, into Pater Noster Square and turn right into the crypt of St. Paul's. Inside the cathedral we pass by the tombs of Wellington and Nelson and into St. Faith's Chapel, directed by the wandsmen resplendent in their morning dress with scarlet facings.

Often the choir on these occasions is provided by the Crown Woods Academy. This new academy, south of the river, stands in direct line to the Stationers' Company's School for Boys, which once stood in Bolt Court, off Fleet Street, and then Mayfield Road, Hornsey. This year Wisbech Grammar School provided the choir. Wisbech Grammar School were hosts to the Stationers' Company School when masters and boys were evacuated to the safety of the countryside during the Second World War, away from London.

I have attended the John Newton service on quite a few occasions and have always found that the numbers of the congregation usually crowd the chapel. The Mater and Clerk of the Company read the lessons. The Bible on display in Saint Faith's Chapel was presented to St. Paul's Cathedral by a past Master of the Stationers' Company, Lieutenant Colonel H.A. Johnson TD on 23rd February 1966. The Bidding deserves repetition: **'Beloved in Christ Jesus, we are met together in this Chapel of St. Faith – under St. Paul's – upon Shrove Tuesday, to attended Divine Worship, a Bidding Prayer and Sermon, following the bequest of John Norton, Alderman of London and Master of the Stationers' Company who departed this life in the year of our Lord 1612. We commemorate John Norton, by whose forethought this annual service was established.'**

A sermon is preached by the Dean or by one of the Chapter. I remember the sermon given by Paul Boatang, a former Labour MP, which dwelt upon the good works for the poor of John Norton. So these words and prayers cascade down through the centuries until today.

Back at Stationers' Hall we all regale ourselves with a buffet lunch, wine, and pancakes. Free on this occasion! Clergy, choir and wandsmen are given a cordial welcome along with cakes and ale. The master also presents a symbolic ten shilling note to whoever preached the sermon!

As a schoolboy at Stationers' in the 1950s I often pondered over the names of the five houses – one of which was Norton. Now I know. Philip Miall is an old boy of the school, but his house was Caxton while the Reverend Hazel attended Hornsey High School for Girls – just down the road from Stationers'. It is a small world.

John Partridge



Common Lizard

Looking for Lizards

April is one of the best times of year to search for reptiles such as lizards as they are getting active in the spring but need to bask a lot to warm up and so can be quite easy to spot. Reptiles are **poikilothermic**, meaning that their internal temperature varies, depending on the weather, as opposed to **homeothermic** animals like us, who can maintain a nearly constant internal temperature. These characteristics used to be called cold or warm blooded. In the spring reptiles need to be warmed in order to be active, but later in the year, when the weather is hotter, they do not need to come out into the open where predators might find them and may actually need to shelter to cool down.

Churchyards can be brilliant for all reptiles because they contain a mixture of warm places to bask such as stones and short grass, which are usually close to places where they can shelter such as gaps and cracks within stone walls, long and tussocky grass, uneven ground with holes and also larger gaps within the joints of monuments such as chest tombs. Churchyards are also rich in invertebrate food, in part due to the absence of chemicals such as pesticides.

When searching for lizards look several metres ahead of where you are walking, going slowly and quietly. Reptiles can pick up vibrations from sudden movement and are aware of shadows falling on them. Search on flat stones and south-facing banks of short grass, close to good hiding places. First light is the best time, when they are cold and need the warmth of the sun. Lift flat stones and pieces of wood to search for slowworms (a lizard without legs), who often ‘bask’ underneath something that will transmit heat. Roofing felt is a favourite and you can put half metre squares of this out if you want to search for slowworms. Give them a few weeks to discover the felt squares then peep under them at the start and end of the day. Please let us know if you spot any of these fascinating reptiles in your churchyard.

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk



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 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 **Friday 4th April and Friday 2nd May**.



There will not be a Friday Foodie evening in **April as the CCA will be closed on Friday 18th April for Good Friday** but a further Friday foodie will be held in **May**.

Recent News: Friday Foodies continued with Chinese snacks on 21st February and Fish

and Chips on 21st March. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 7th February and Friday 7th March. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

The changes to the CCA's rules that were approved at the AGM held on Wednesday 27th November 2024 have been filed with the Enfield Council licensing committee.

In addition, **the CCA has approved donations of £150 each to two small charities that were supported by our late and much missed Chairman, Clive Woodhouse.**

All CCA memberships became renewable on 1st January, and membership costs just £2 per year. Please check your membership status with Michael Greenaway, 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 Michael Greenaway (christchurchassociation@gmail.com) for more information or if you would like to become a member

Steve Smith/Pat Collins (Chairman/Treasurer, Christchurch Association)

Safeguarding

Ensuring we all enjoy a safe and healthy culture and environment at Christ Church Southgate

As we all know, we are very grateful that we have such a lovely building in which we can worship. The fact that it remains as such is down to the work of many people not least the Fabric Committee lead by Kate Carroll and many others who care for it with regular cleaning, care for the gardens and our external advisers and specialists.

However, worshipping in a safe and healthy environment goes way beyond the physical and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) felt it would be a good idea to share with the wider parish some of the work we do to keep everyone safe. We are all painfully aware of the news last year regarding safeguarding failures. Sadly, this has led to many victims suffering abuse at the hands of perpetrators



with the issues not being properly and correctly addressed in many instances by the church.

At Christ Church Southgate we take our safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously and diligently ensure that all our obligations to protect those who work, volunteer, worship and visit here are carried out.

We describe ourselves as follows: **“We will be a vibrant centre of the community; open, welcoming and inclusive; sharing the love of God with all in accessible spaces and in stimulating ways”**. As such it is critically important that everyone who comes to our church is safe and protected ... there are many things we do to contribute to making this the case.

There are formal and informal roles within the parish beyond the clergy team, such as Churchwardens, Treasurer, Director of Music, Parish Administrator, Choir Chaperones, Eco Leader and Stewardship Recorder. The national church has made a range of excellent training courses available to us and everyone in a parish role undertakes the recommended course (or courses) for their role, they then retake the course after three years so that they are always aware of the latest information.

This training helps to raise awareness and ability to address any concerns around safeguarding of potentially vulnerable people in the parish. Safeguarding of our young people, the elderly, infirm, those with mental health issues and all vulnerable people is very

important to us. And at Christ Church we want to make sure that everything is done to protect such groups. We also recognise that any one of us may have pastoral care needs at any time and need some support, so we aim to be of assistance with regards to any in our congregation, who may, for example, simply be going through a difficult time too.

In addition, anyone who kindly offers their time to take on a role that involves working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults within the parish must have a DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check before they start, with a repeat check every three years. DBS checks are checks of a person's criminal record and enable organisations to be sure that volunteers or staff do not have a history that makes them unsuitable for the

role they are undertaking.

It is when there is a safeguarding concern that two of the most important roles we have come to the fore. Supported by the clergy team and all those in roles within the parish (anyone on the Parish Pillar at the back of church) who have all undertaken appropriate training. Those two roles are the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Jackie Anderson, who is available to anyone who has a concern. Jackie in turn is supported by a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer dedicated to our area, Michelle Burns, who is extremely knowledgeable and helpful. Both of these people have undertaken the highest level of training to support people with concerns.

So, if anyone has a concern at any time there are many people who have undertaken training to help, and there are those with a specific role to help assist. In addition the church has ensured we promote access to many third party organisations who can support people when they need it - these are documented in the church and on our website at

<https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/safeguarding/>

Furthermore, safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting and our status and activities are discussed every time we meet to make sure we are all contributing to keeping everyone safe and we have a healthy environment for all.

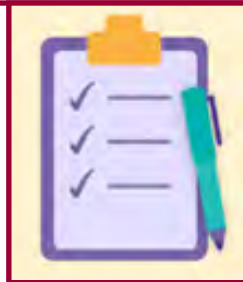
However, we will never rest on our laurels and will continually challenge ourselves to do more. We sincerely pray that you all feel safe to worship in our parish but if you have any concerns or have any ideas please do not hesitate to speak to Graham and Kate (as the Churchwardens), Jackie (as our PSO), members of the clergy team or anyone on the PCC.

*Jackie (Parish Safeguarding Office)
Clare (Lead Recruiter)*

News from the Committees

Due to how Lent and Easter have 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 ...

Renewal of the Electoral Roll



Under the Church Representation Rules, we are preparing a new Electoral Roll, beginning on Palm Sunday 6th April. The deadline for return of completed application forms is Low Sunday 27th April 2025. **Please note that the current Electoral Roll terminates on Sunday 6th April 2025.** If you wish to continue on the Electoral Roll, you must complete and return a new application form.

Nobody is automatically carried forward. Note too, that EU GDPR recommendations also advise that you complete a consent form, giving permission for us to keep your contact details and use them for the purpose of making contact with you. For more on all of this, please see *The Spire* magazine and/or the Christ Church website at <http://www.christchurch-southgate.org/home/electoral-roll/>.

Forms and pens will be available at the back of church, as will the Electoral Roll Officer, Church Wardens and other officers who can answer your questions.

Be prepared to tick a couple of boxes when you complete the form. There are one or two conditions you have to meet in order to be eligible. Electoral Roll members are people who:

- have been baptized
- are 16 years of age or older – if you become 16 within the next 12 months, you can also complete a form now and we will add you to the roll on your birthday
- have regularly attended Christ Church for at least the last six months

People on the roll usually live within the parish boundaries, but those who live outside can also be on the Electoral Roll if they meet these same requirements.

Something people often don't know is that you can be on the Electoral Roll of more than one church – some people have a weekday or 'work' church as well as their 'home' church in the place where they live. (Speak to the Vicar in each case; you will complete one form for each church, if this applies to you.)

Finally, you can also be added to the Electoral Roll if you have regularly worshipped in Christ Church during the previous six months even if you are a member of another Church, provided that your church is either in communion with the Church of England or, if it isn't in communion, it subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and you are prepared to declare yourself a member of the Church of England.

Patricia Ashby, Electoral Roll Officer

Look back, and remember He was with you. Stand still, and realise He is with you. Walk forward, and trust: He will be with you always. – Margaret Silf

Stewardship

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder



This month has seen the culmination of the Stewardship Campaign that has been running for the past six months. Letters have been written to all current church members already in stewardship, however they donate, those on the Electoral Roll not in stewardship, and any others that donate irregularly. The aim, as set out in the letter, is to increase regular givers and those using the Parish Giving Scheme. The letters have been available for collection from church on Sundays. Those remaining will be delivered.

Recently, at the 10.00 am Eucharist, Fr Paul gave the congregation some thoughts regarding Christian Stewardship using examples from The Bible. I thought it would be good to pass his message on within my normal Spire report, which normally concentrates on the purely financial aspect of giving to Christ Church.

The Old Testament sets out the principle that the people of God, in thankfulness, should return a portion of the first fruits (the best) of all the crops the Lord God blessed them with. At the end of Genesis chapter 28, Jacob made a vow to God saying **'and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you.'**

In Exodus chapter 35, when preparations were being made to build the Tabernacle (where the people of God would gather), Moses said to all the congregation of the Israelites: **'This is the thing that the Lord has commanded: Take from among you an offering to the Lord; let whoever is of a generous heart bring the Lord's offering: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and fine linen; goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, and fine leather; acacia wood, oil for the light, spices for the anointing-oil and for the fragrant incense, and onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and the breastpiece.'** And 'everyone whose heart was stirred brought what was needed.'

The Apostle Paul writes to the Christians at Corinth, encouraging them to be as exuberant in their generosity as they were in their worship. The church community had said they would participate in the collection for the churches in Jerusalem and Paul reminds them **'now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.'**

And later Paul writes to the same congregation, **'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'**

So we give in thankfulness to God for what He has done for us.

We give to provide for the needs of the place we worship in – if our hearts are stirred.

We give according to our means – out of what we have, not what we don't have. This means we can give cheerfully.

And why do we give?

Because **'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'** John 3:16

I look forward to sharing with you the results of our endeavours in the next edition of the Spire.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme now. This can be set-up easily by:

- ◇ completing a form available at the back of church, or
- ◇ making one telephone 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



SRC Report

As we have supported several overseas projects over recent times, and there are so many needy families in the UK at present, we found a charity that delivers free breakfasts to schools for around 230,000 children facing hunger every day: magicbreakfast.com/hippo



Our donation for tea or coffee and cake or biscuit is helping to give those children a good start to their school day, assisting them get the most from their morning lessons. We have a lady who comes to 10 o'clock who regularly makes cake for us. Many thanks!



Proceeds from the stall of cards and from the bookshelf are also going to this charity. There are cards for Mothering Sunday and Easter on the stall. Thank you, Mrs. Vicarage.

We continue to take contributions to The Ark at St. John's and to the Food Bank. Donations of non-perishable food and toiletries etc. which can be left just inside the main church door, continue to be much in demand.

Thank you for the continuing donations of books and goods for sale and all your support!

Hilary Meur

Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you suddenly want to give it to this man Jesus?"

Joseph: "Well it's just for the weekend!"

PARISH DIRECTORY**Parish Office**

Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2.30—5 p.m.

Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.

N.B. Notices for the Sunday pew sheets should reach the Office no later than 10 a.m. on a Friday. If possible, please e-mail them.

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

Clergy

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

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

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

Lay Readers

Cathy Dallman, 4 Greenacre Walk, Southgate, N14 7DB	8886 5918
Jackie Anderson	8245 0305
Sandra Anderson	07947 027265

Churchwardens

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

PCC

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

Music Department

<i>Director of Music</i> William Waine	
	music@christchurch-southgate.org
<i>Organist & Assistant</i>	
<i>Director of Music</i> Matthew Warbis	
<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, frch138@btinternet.com

8882 0917

Plant and Fabric Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com

07974 437966

Social Responsibility Vacancy

Electoral Roll Officer Patricia Ashby

8886 2528

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jackie Anderson

8245 0305

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 previous page for details)

Parish Centre/Church Halls

Chairman Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD

8882 6738

Secretary Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR

8367 5961

Lettings christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com

Treasurer Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET

8360 2362

Christ Church Association Bar

Contact Pat Collins

christchurchassociation@gmail.com

Friday Coffee Morning

Every Friday morning 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Church

Contact Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET

8360 2362

Scout Group The Reverend Hazel Miall, *Cubs*

07980 740587

Stephen Smith, *Group Scout Leader*

8882 0991

Bellringers *Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.*

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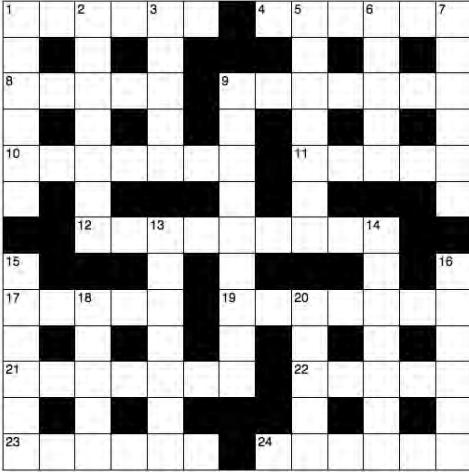
Contact Ian Cameron Black

8886 4942

Bible Study Group Jackie Anderson

8245 0305

APRIL CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 ‘Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it’ (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah’s message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America’s Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 ‘Look, here is — . Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’ (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles’ (Acts 1:26) (6)

- 24 ‘I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

DOWN

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not — ’ (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

FEBRUARY SOLUTION



Children's Corner

Colour Me In



Find the mouse!

Did you spot Walker the mouse giving you a rose on the Parish Boundary Walk on page 4 of our last edition? For Easter, he is holding a palm and a cross somewhere in this magazine ...

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? Hopscotch

What do you call a bunny with fleas?
Bugs Bunny

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? A receding hare-line

How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? Just look for the gray hares

What do rabbits say before they eat?
"Lettuce pray"

Where does Christmas come before Easter? The dictionary



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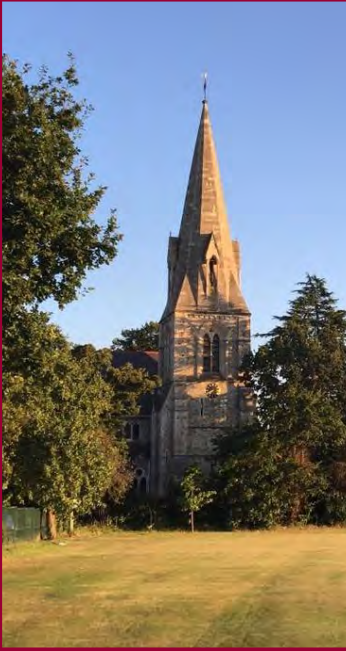
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Email: ccsocrates@gmail.com

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“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.”

Christ Church Southgate is an Eco-Church, we have 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

The Heavenly Architect

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