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# *The Spire*

Bidding Farewell to  
Fr Chrichton and Judith!

**August and  
September 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 last Spire magazine with a leader from me, as I will have retired, and Judith and I will have moved away to Dorset, before the October edition is with you.

My last day will be on Sunday 7th September, almost exactly 10 years since I was installed as Vicar, and Judith became Mrs Vicarage, in September 2015. It has been a very eventful 10 years spent with you all at the centre of the community. If I tried to list everything that has happened, this issue would be inches thick! However, our time here has been so much more than just a collection of hundreds of separate events.

As many of you will know, I came to ordained ministry as a second career after retiring from the BBC after 30 interesting and challenging years. I promised to God (and the family) that I would fulfil a minimum of 10 years to make it all worth doing, but the final total will be over 13, so some time off is probably overdue.

If I have to summarise our time here, we will both remember most being a part of such an inclusive and welcoming community. We have had so much fun, joy and laughter over the years, with plenty of music, special events and

the legendary quizzes. However, I have also had the privilege of being alongside you at the most difficult moments of your lives – sharing with you the love of God. It has almost been like the marriage vows – for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till retirement do us part.

We have had to face together the unexpected and difficult events of Covid. There was no historical or legal precedent for a Vicar not being allowed to even enter their church building, while still being expected to actively keep the community worshipping and have the cure of souls. Through a range of different ways – one of which was this magazine – we did keep together and we are in better shape than before - the church has grown bigger in terms of attendance, younger in age, and deeper in the faith.

Judith and I would like to assure you that as the parish moves forward you will all continue to be in our prayers. I know we will definitely see you again!

Every blessing,

Fr Chrichton.

## 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**

\* Please note that the choir will be on holiday during August

### Dates for your diaries

**The Harvest Quiz will be on Saturday 11th October**

**Harvest Festival on Sunday 12th October at 10am**

### Note from the Editors

There is a quote from Abraham Lincoln that reads “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power”. Surely we have seen this proved by Fr Chrichton and Judith over the last ten years - fewer positions hold such a unique power over a community as the vicar and their partner. We have all been witness to their faithful service, inspiring leadership, and the kindness they have shown to us all.

You both have been true shepherds to this church family — guiding, comforting, and encouraging us in faith and fellowship. We will miss you!

A reminder that the deadline for copy for the October/November edition is **Wednesday 17th September**. Please send to [christchurchspire@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspire@gmail.com)

Wishing all our readers a lovely Summer - stay cool!

*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**



## Fr. Chrichton

I met Chrichton in September 2010 when we were both Ordinands training for the priesthood at St. Melitus college. There were six of us in the class I was assigned to. Three middle-aged men, including Chrichton, knew each other because they had been at college for a year already. I joined them for the last 2 years.

Most of the other Ordinands and students were from a more evangelical background than I was used to. Fortunately for me, the men in my class came from a similar Church background to me and soon realised that I wasn't that comfortable waving my hands in the air during worship songs. My other colleagues explained that they waved their hands when the spirit moved them. My face must have said it all, because it didn't take long for the gentlemen to invite me to be an honorary 'Grumpy Old Man', with them. In those two years I learnt a lot from those 'Grumpy Old Men' and our fellows, including how diverse the Church of England is.

When Fr. Chrichton finished his curacy, he was looking for a job. He tentatively asked me if I thought it worth him applying. The rest is history.

Fr. Chrichton has always been so kind to me. When he was installed as Vicar I was made Associate priest. It was his day, but I was included.

Fr. Chrichton has always been totally supportive of me as a woman priest, and for sharing his opinions on how to best tackle a task that I was apprehensive about.

As Vicar, Fr. Chrichton has supported me and my family during all our 'Hatched, Matched and Dispatched' episodes. He baptised two of my grandchildren, so that I could enjoy the service. When Philip and I celebrated our Golden Wedding with those who had been at the wedding service 50 years ago, he graciously let Fr. Guy Pope, who had officiated at our wedding, officiate again at the renewal of vows service, while he was there to support and pray. When my beloved Auntie Sis died, it was Fr. Chrichton who officiated at her funeral, having said the 'last rites' a short time before.

Fr. Chrichton and Judith are both excellent listeners and shared my anxieties and happy times, especially when my Grandchildren were born.

Judith and Fr. Chrichton are an excellent team and will be sorely missed. They are both able to talk to and listen to anyone who chooses to walk through our church doors, whether it's a homeless person at the night shelter or the Deputy Lieutenant who represents the King. Most people will leave the building feeling that they have been listened to because they matter.

*Hazel Miall*



**Rev Hazel, Fr Chrichton and Judith with the Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Ann Cable MBE DL**

## Happy Retirement to Fr Chrichton and Judith!

After 10 glorious years, Fr Chrichton and Judith move on to a well-deserved retirement. They leave behind a lasting legacy of love, hope, and devotion. Though we will miss them dearly, we pray that God blesses their journey ahead with joy and peace!

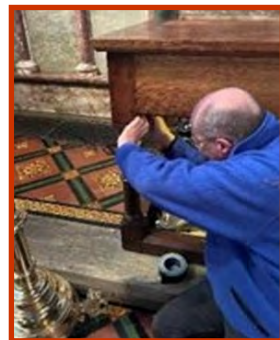
Several years ago, when Fr. Peter had left us and gone to work in Nice and we were looking for a new vicar, Hazel told me about a priest she had met when they were both training a St. Mellitus College and their tutor had thought they would work together well. So she urged Fr. Chrichton to apply. He planned to come to Christ Church to see what we were like.

A week or so later, one Sunday morning I saw a couple sitting a few pews in front of me that I did not recognise but who were clearly very familiar with the service. So at the end I went and asked them if they were visitors. The reply was 'we are friends of Hazel's' so I knew at once who they were.

Later when we knew Fr. Chrichton was to be our vicar but not yet installed, I invited him and Judith to tea in my flat to meet a few parishioners so that they would have got to know a few people. This was such a lovely occasion and we all enjoyed it very much, I thought as they left, 'I think I could begin to love this two'. And so it proved.

Several years later I had to have surgery on an eyelid and arrived at church on Sunday morning with a very bruised face. Fr. Chrichton took one look at my black eye and said, 'You know Cathy, I have told you this before, you are NOT to get into fights with the Catholics!'

*Cathy Dallman*



As well as the endless support, what I will remember most is the laughter. Fr Chrichton and Judith have the gift of making even the most mundane tasks fun.

*Kate Carroll*

### Memories, memories ...

It's January 2019 and I'm standing in the kitchen at the Vicarage, arms outstretched as Judith gets started with the tape measure - it's time to order my new lay ministry robes! I remember feeling scared and nervous, but at the same time allowing myself to begin to feel excited.

It was in 2016 after casually chatting to Father Chrichton that he said to me very quietly 'I think you want to be a lay reader' - I had told no one of my wishes. The rest is history as they say but Father Chrichton was positive from the start and he believed in me when I hardly believed in myself.

After the measuring up that day it all started to become real very quickly. We chatted over tea (it was too early for gin) and I still had to pinch myself, but after leaving Chrichton and Judith I felt supported and loved. What more could one ask of one's vicar and his lovely wife? Thank you both so very much.

*Sandra Anderson  
LLM - and so proud of it!*



**June 7th 2019 - just after my  
licensing service**



**On the parish pilgrimage to  
St Albans - fun in the rain and mud!**

Some of my favourite things about Father Chrichton and Judith are the confirmation classes that we all had as they were both so caring and we always had lots of fun.

My favourite service of the year is Christingle because of the music, great art activities and the wonderful sermon.

*Phoebe*

Some things that I like about Chrichton and Judith is that they are always kind and caring and funny.

*Katerina*

Things I like about Father Chrichton and Judith: they're funny, kind, and have funny stories, are creative, caring, relatable, welcoming and interesting.

*Zach*

I love Father Chrichton and Judith being a part of our church because they have added a great sense of community to the congregation and take a lot of pride in the church.

*Ellie*



I love Father Chrichton and Judith because of their welcoming spirits and care/love for others. They have a real sense of community. They're funny as well, and look after the church.

*Ana Isabel*

My favourite thing about Chrichton and Judith is that they are the perfect comedy team. My favourite memory of Judith is definitely when I complained that I had no paper and she gave me a whole mountain of paper that has only just run out.

*Lissie*



## Parish farewell party! Sunday 7th September

**There will be a 'bring and share' farewell party for Fr Chrichton and Judith following their last 10 am service.**

Everyone is welcome but please can you use the sign-up sheets at the back of church or email Caroline at [office@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:office@christchurch-southgate.org) to confirm that you will be there and to let us know what you are able to bring. Look forward to seeing you there!



## Beware of these contagious diseases in church

**Frontophobia:** A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

**Sermonic Throat:** A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

**Accelerated Vocal Response:** A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

**Retarded Vocal Response:** A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

**Theexits:** A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

Southgate  
Sessions

Free  
Sunday afternoon  
Concerts at Christ Church  
The Green, Southgate, N14 7EG

14th September

**Jordan & Emily Wilson**

Tenor/Soprano

19th October

**Matthew Warbis**

Organ, Organist at Christ Church

Concerts start at 3.30pm and are free to attend. All welcome.

## Pilgrimage Walk St Peter's Way, Essex

### 19th to 24th May 2025



What a wonderful week we shared together on Pilgrimage, walking St Peter's way! As well as enjoying each other's company, the week allowed us to enjoy and delight in the many wonders of nature and of God's creation.

We took great pleasure in taking time to observe the animals, birds and insects along the route ... fallow deer; horses and their foal; sheep and lambs; hares, rabbits, caterpillar nests and a very busy, and loudly humming, bees nest, in the hollow of a tree. The bird song

was joyous as we wandered through tree tunnels and hedgerows. We saw a variety of birds which included heron, and numerous red kites and heard the distinctive call of peacocks and cuckoos.

In some of the pretty (and generally affluent) villages, we admired and were inspired by the gardens – splendidly filled with beautiful roses of every colour, clematis, poppies, rhododendron, iris, red hot pokers, cornflowers and more. The walk took us through Chipping Ongar, Blackmore, Mill Green, Stock, Bicknacre, Purleigh, Maylandsea and finally to Bradwell on Sea where we at last came to the lovely ancient 7th century Chapel of St Peter on the wall.

We marvelled at how vegetation growth had continued to thrive despite the ground being so incredibly dry (following weeks of not having rain). We saw field after field of barley, rapeseed, fava/broad beans, alfalfa and peas. Many walking miles were spent making our way through these crops which were sometimes the same height as us (Well definitely the same height as Judith!)

We visited several ancient churches where we found rest and quiet and bathed in the stillness and calm and the overpowering sense of generation of Christians coming to worship God and pray through the centuries. We also enjoyed drinks and good food in country pubs and restaurants. Unfortunately we didn't make it to the night clubs – never mind – next time!

Each day we prayed together and we talked together about God, His graciousness and goodness. Through prayer and reading the Psalms together we reflected



on the greatness of God's grace, His nourishment and provision; His giving and care; His love for us all. We recognised and acknowledged how God blesses us; how we were blessed on our pilgrimage and how God blesses all of his creation.

We had a great leader in Ronald and it is thanks to Ronald and Judith that the walk was so well organised and planned. Thanks also to Chris our wonderful photographer and sign post spotter!

On the last day of pilgrimage the group was joined by Fr Chrichton and Sandra. Fr Chrichton led a service and we shared in Holy Communion together which was a wonderful way to end our 42 miles and six days of walking!

And so let's end by praising God in the words of the final Psalm:

**Praise the Lord**

**Praise God in his sanctuary**

**Praise him in his mighty heavens.**

**Praise him for his acts of power,**

**Praise him for his surpassing**

**greatness**

**Praise him with the sounding of the**

**trumpet,**

**Praise him with the harp and lyre;**

**Praise him with tambourine and**

**dancing,**

**Praise him with the strings and pipe,**

**Praise him with the crash of**

**cymbals'**

**Praise him with resounding cymbals,**

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.**

**Praise the Lord!**

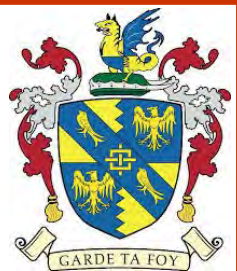


## Evensong at the Abbey

So it happened that at half past four on Friday 25th April, and in front of the Great West door of Westminster Abbey, the alumni of Magdalene College, Cambridge, had assembled. At the behest of the Master, Sir Christopher Greenwood, we were all to join the College choir for Evensong at the Abbey.

The choir of Magdalene College, it should be said, are all undergraduates and amateur singers. They are inevitably enthusiastic and in good voice after having made many trips to Cathedrals far and wide and after having given widely acclaimed live performances. The Dean of Westminster Abbey, Dr David Hoyle, was once a student at Magdalene during the 1980s and it was he who invited the College choir to sing at Evensong instead of the usual Abbey choir.

As a congregation we numbered over 100 and were composed of old and young, men and women, those up from the country, and those fresh from toiling in the City and Canary Wharf but all united by the College motto "Garde Ta Foy" – Keep Your Faith – and we did!



All were talking excitedly before entering the Abbey. We were all conducted to our seats by sidesmen magnificently clad in bright scarlet cassocks, row after row was filled up as the congregation expanded beyond the Quire.

Three points struck me about the service. The first was the overwhelming atmosphere of history cloaking us all. So many reminders of saints and martyrs and of statesmen and poets. The beauty of the stained-glass windows and the delicate grace of perpendicular pillars ascending heavenwards leaving the rich mahogany of the Quire stalls below. Forty kings crowned in the Abbey. Memories of weddings, coronations and funerals. A visual history of the nation at war and at peace or to quote Kipling, "Where the Abbey makes us We!".

The second point was the dramatic impact of technology. Everybody was able to follow the service on their smartphones! There was no immediate need for service sheets. How remarkably has technology aided communication by leap-frogging the beautifully hand painted Latin bibles of the Middle Ages as well as Caxton's printing press. Today the printed word is available everywhere and at any time. We have but to click and the written word is there at our command.

The third point was the presence of the High Commissioner of South Africa who read the second lesson himself. It was altogether appropriate that all the peoples of South Africa were remembered in our prayers.

So close were we sitting to the High Altar that I was vividly reminded of the coronation of King Charles III, and before that of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. This was the very spot that the monarch is anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury with holy oil and receives the allegiance of life and limb. I well remembered Prince William swearing allegiance to his father and the Duke of Edinburgh doing the same to Queen Elizabeth many years before.

At the end of the service we all repaired to the shelter of the cloisters for a glass of wine and to talk of happy memories of faces and places many years ago on the banks of the Cam. Of course, we all toasted the Magdalene College choir who had acquitted themselves so well in coping with the change from the small chapel at home to the vaulted spaces of Westminster Abbey!

*John Partridge*

## **Walking into the history of water for Londoners**

A few brave souls from the parish took a walk down history in north London during the beginning of the second heat wave of the summer by following the last stretch of the New River to its original terminus in Islington from Manor House tube station.

The New River, which is neither new nor a river, is a 28 mile waterway constructed between 1609-1613 in the reign of James I, led by chief engineer Hugh Myddelton, to bring potable water into central London from a spring near Ware, Herts (Chadwell Springs). It was later extended to New Gauge on the River Lea.

We followed the New River Path that runs as close as possible to the New River along its course from near Manor House to visit the Woodbury Nature Reserve. This is converted from the East Reservoir of the New River at the Woodbury Estate (while the West Reservoir



is now a water sports centre) and had our morning tea enjoying nature at the same time. Then we strolled through Clissold Park where the New River runs pass Clissold House before disappearing underground again. We visited St. Mary's Church, Stoke Newington next to the park.

The New River then runs underground, having been covered up over the years by later city developments, while we could only walk along its course overground. It later emerges like a brook for a little while before disappearing underground again near New River Head, the original termination of the waterway, where the former pond and water treatment facilities have long gone, though the water testing laboratory can still be visited when it is open. The headquarters building of the water company (Thames Water in recent years) exists but is no longer used for that purpose since it has been sold. Part of its campus seems to be the parking lot for Saddlers Wells! Thames Water HQ is now in Reading.



New River Head garden, engine house and coal stores from Wikipedia Commons

We marvelled at this engineering feat of the early 17th century considering the engineering resources available at that time. We dispersed after a well-deserved afternoon tea in Islington, having learnt a few things about the history of our water supply and noting a few memorials to Myddelton along the way (one might think differently of Myddelton House in Enfield?). Look out for future walks along the other sections of the New River!

## Our Wonderful Bible

How I love the Bible! It's God's inspired word to us – precious beyond belief. What a privilege it is to have a Bible in your possession, and we must treasure it. Historically, there have been periods where owning Bibles was prohibited or restricted, and even today in some countries owning, importing, or distributing Bibles can be illegal and carry severe penalties.



In this country we are free to practice our religion. How great it is to be able to go to church on Sunday and at other times, where we can pray and worship in God's holy house! We must value our Christian life together. In this world, things are not always good – to say the least! – however, there are still many good people working for others.

I read the Bible every day, together with books about the Christian faith. There is such beautiful poetry to be found there – especially in the Psalms – and I sometimes read them to my friends. I love the Hebrew language and Latin too! I hope that you enjoy reading your Bibles and profit from it. A happy Summer to you all!

*Love from your Chrisitan sister, Lynda Corcoran*

**“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8**



## *Parish Life in Pictures*

### *June and July 2025*



Wedding of Harriet Beattie and Joshua Phillips



Scholars "Southgate Session" Concert -  
Kristyna Rasova, Martha Dowland and Samuel Board



Claire Coles on the organ for  
the first time



Baptism of Eloise Ann  
Limbert-Mason



Informal  
Choir  
Concert



Warden Licensing at St James Enfield Highway



Walker School Leavers Service



Walker School Leavers Service  
Headteacher Raakhee Taylor (prior to leaving the school) with the House Captains



Confirmation Crew reunion lunch



“Southgate Session” Concert by William Waine  
(Countertenor and Director of Music)



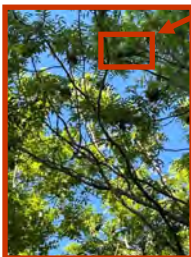


## Children's Corner

### Find the mouse!

Last time, Walker the mouse was sitting on the church wall at the top of page 12. See if you can find him hiding somewhere in this magazine

Did you find the parakeet in the photo in the last magazine? Here she was, in case you didn't. They are very well camouflaged in the green leaves!



### Colour-in the hedgehog in the leaves

... and find out more about them below!

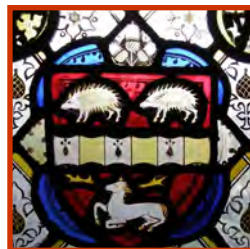


### Hedgehogs can run really fast - up to 6 miles per hour!

That's as fast as a person jogging. Even though they look small and round, hedgehogs love to zoom around, especially at night when they go hunting for tasty bugs!

## Hedgehogs!

On Sunday 13th July, after the morning service, we enjoyed a super talk from Charles Carroll on hedgehogs in our area of North London, their lifecycles, and how we can help them to flourish. I learnt many things – perhaps the most important that if you see a hedgehog in daytime, there is probably something wrong with it and it may need medical attention. I also wasn't aware how much hedgehogs did not like each other!



The life cycle of a hedgehog follows a seasonal rhythm closely tied to the changing weather. From tiny newborn hoglets to solitary adults, hedgehogs experience distinct life stages over the course of a year.

### Breeding Season

#### How does a hedgehog mate? Very carefully!

Hedgehogs mate during the warmer months, typically between May and September. Males compete for the attention of females through courtship rituals known as "circling," where they walk around the female, often for hours. Hedgehogs are solitary animals and only come together to breed. After mating, the male leaves and takes no part in raising the young.

### Birth of Hoglets and Growing Up

After a pregnancy lasting about 4-5 weeks, the female gives birth to a litter of 4 to 5 young,

called hoglets. This usually happens between June and August. The young are born blind, deaf, and without visible spines. Within hours, soft white spines emerge, followed later by darker protective spines. At around three weeks old, the hoglets' eyes and ears open, and they begin to explore the nest. By four to five weeks, they start foraging with their mother and quickly learn to find food such as insects and worms. By six weeks, they are weaned and ready to become independent.



### Preparing for Hibernation

By autumn, young hedgehogs must gain enough weight — ideally at least 500 grams — to survive hibernation. This involves intense foraging to build up fat reserves, and sadly late litters may not have enough time to be able to achieve this. Hedgehogs enter hibernation between October and December, depending on weather conditions.

### Hibernation

During hibernation, hedgehogs seek sheltered spots, such as piles of leaves, compost heaps, or specially built hedgehog houses. Their body temperature drops dramatically, their heart rate slows, and they live off stored fat. Hibernation can last until March or April.

### Adulthood

On waking in spring, adult hedgehogs immediately begin feeding and restoring lost weight. They live up to 3-5 years in the wild, though many sadly die younger due to hazards like traffic or lack of food. If they survive the winter, the cycle begins again with breeding in the spring.

Historically, hedgehogs were a common sight across the UK, including suburban and rural areas. However, over recent decades their numbers have declined dramatically, with population drops of up to 50% since the year 2000. In London, pressures from urban development, loss of habitat, busy roads, and fenced gardens have made life increasingly difficult for these small mammals. Fragmentation of green spaces means hedgehogs often struggle to find food, mates, and safe nesting areas.

Yet, London has become a surprising stronghold for hedgehogs in some areas. Parks, cemeteries, and well-connected gardens offer vital refuges. Community-led conservation efforts have also made a significant impact, raising awareness and encouraging wildlife-friendly gardening practices, including the creation of 'hedgehog highways' — small gaps in fences that allow hedgehogs to roam freely between gardens.



Simple actions — like providing fresh water, leaving areas of wild vegetation, reducing pesticide use, and building log piles — can make gardens hospitable to hedgehogs. Providing food, such as meaty dry cat or dog food, and being careful and aware when using gardening equipment such as a strimmer, so as not to disturb or injure a sleeping animal.

Monitoring hedgehog populations in London remains crucial. Citizen science projects, where members of the public report sightings, help map where hedgehogs are surviving and where further conservation work is needed. If you see a hedgehog in your garden, or local green space, report your sighting at <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/looking-for-london-hedgehogs/>. This website is also a great resource for information about how you can help.

While the overall outlook for British hedgehogs is worrying, London offers a glimmer of hope. By transforming our urban spaces into wildlife-friendly habitats, Londoners are playing a vital role in protecting one of the nation's favourite creatures.

*Imogen Cooper, after Charles Carroll and including many sources*



## Late flowering Betony

Depending on the weather, July can be a month full of grassland flowers or one where many of them are now over, having peaked in June. It is certainly the month when you need to start to cut and rake your long grass, particularly if it did not receive a spring cut.

Have a look out for late flowering plants however, do you have Betony present? If so, then consider delaying the cut or cutting around the betony plants allowing them to flower, they are one of our most attractive wildflowers. Betony is a member of the woundwort family, close also to the dead-nettles. It has an angled stem, which if you were to cut it, would be square in cross section, has distinctive toothed leaves and lovely deep pink flowers.

Betony has long been prized for its curative powers, in the Medieval times it was viewed as an 'all-heal' or panacea. The Italians had a saying 'Sell your coat and buy Betony' and the Spaniards used the compliment 'He has as many virtues as Betony'. Antonius Musa, chief physician to the Emperor Augustus, wrote a long treatise, showing it was a certain cure for no less than forty-seven diseases! It is still used by herbalists for a variety of ailments including headaches.

Betony is found in ancient woodland and undisturbed grasslands so its presence may



indicate species-rich grassland. It was also planted in churchyards, in part for its medicinal uses and also because it was believed to be effective against sorcery, warding off ghosts, goblins and any other unwelcome spirits.



**Betony and lady's bedstraw in a churchyard**

**Graham Cook notes: Just so you know, we planted both of the wild flowers in the photo last autumn in the churchyard and expect them to flower next year!**

## Baby news!

Richard and Kate are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, **Elisabeth Rosanna Shelley Brain**, to be known as 'Lissie'.

Born on Ascension Day, Thursday 29 May, at 10.41pm. Everyone is doing well, and settling into life as a family of four with big brother Henry.

Many congratulations to the Brain family and we wish Lissie every happiness for the future!



## 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 5th September and Friday 3rd October**. The next Friday Foodie evening will be held in September.

**Recent News:** Friday Foodies continued with a very successful Barbecue and Pimms evening on 20th June and Pizza on 18th July. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 6th June and Friday 4th July. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

**The bar will be closed for summer break from Sunday 3rd August until Friday 29th August inclusive, reopening on Sunday 31st August.**

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:

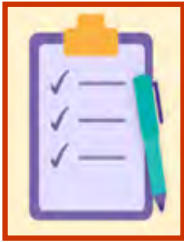
- ◆ **Sundays** from 7:30 to 10:30pm
- ◆ **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 8 to 11pm
- ◆ Early opening at **6pm** on the first Friday of every month



*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](mailto:christchurchassociation@gmail.com)) for more information or if you would like to become a member*

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





## News from the Committees

The following news was all discussed at Fr Chrichton's last **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** meeting on

15 July 2025. His own summary of **Outreach** activities included mention of the summer ABRSM exams.

The agenda for the meeting was an unusually long one including the parish's Mission Action Plan, our finances, parish safeguarding, lone working, and the newly formed Pastoral Care group, as well as all the regular committee reports and, after the departure of the clergy, initial arrangements for the forthcoming interregnum.

We learned that the **Plant and Fabric Committee (P&FC)** has applied for a further faculty to enable replacement of the wooden back garden gate. Meanwhile, the broken front gate opposite the north door which featured in the last news report has now been removed and safely stored, and the broken coping stone above the Lady Chapel has been repaired. Additionally, a faculty has now been granted to enable repair and replacement of tiles by the vestry door.

Two matters were reported by the **Finance and Standing Committee (F&SC)**: discussion of the 2026 Common Fund payment (which remains the same as the current year) and a protocol for hire of the church by outside groups. **F&SC** recommended the new Common Fund payment (keeping the figure, as always, under constant review) and also recommended a proposed fee structure for church hire. The **PCC** accepted both. Additionally on financial matters, the Treasurer informed the **PCC** that at this point

in time we have a small surplus in all funds.

**Creation Care (CC)** reported a great deal of hard work by the gardening team who keep the front of church looking so beautiful and tidy. At the same time, a small sensory garden has been created and planted in the church yard (to the left, just inside the gate), the June plant sale raised £170 for the garden funds, two bird baths have been installed, and Christ Church participated in the annual A Rocha's eco church "Churches count on nature" recording what is growing and living in the church's outdoor space (flowers, insects, birds, trees, etc.). Following the retirement of our long term gardener, Graham Cook has now assumed responsibility for maintaining/mowing the grass.

The **Social Responsibility Committee (SRC)** has continued to fundraise and support *Magic Breakfast* during the first half of this year. Proceeds from the stall and coffee sales during the second half will be donated to *Showerbox* (including donations made during Harvest Festival). **SRC** activities are, as always, fully reported elsewhere in *The Spire*. Non-perishable food and toiletries collected at the back of church continue to be taken to the foodbank.

Lastly, the **Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC)** reported that the long running dampness saga in Church House continues unresolved; reports and quotes are currently expected from two companies to combat what is now thought to be rising damp. On a more positive note, however, **PCMC** was able to report that negotiations are under way with UK Power Networks to establish an increased rent for the electricity substation on the Parish Centre site, and that the Walker Hall kitchen now has a new electric hob replacing the old gas one.

Patricia Ashby

Once asked how many people worked in the Vatican, Pope John XXIII replied: "Oh, about half."

## Open House London



Open City is a charity empowering communities to learn about, feel connected to, and have a role in shaping places where they live. Their flagship event is The Open House Festival, which is an annual celebration of London's architecture and neighbourhoods, and the people and communities that make them.

Every year, buildings and other sites across all 33 London boroughs open to the public, so that Londoners can explore and learn about them for free.

This year's festival will take place **13-21 September 2025**.

Visit <https://open-city.org.uk/open-house-festival> to find out more. If you do take the opportunity to visit a place you've never been before, perhaps you'd like to share your experience with a piece in the Spire?

As part of Open House London we will be welcoming visitors on:

**Saturday 20th September 10am - 4.00pm**

**Sunday 21st September 12.30pm - 4.30pm**

There will be tours and craft activities for all. Refreshments will be available.

Keep an eye on the weekly notices for more details nearer the time!

## SRC Report

**Magic Breakfast**, 'fuel for learning' was the charity who received the £900 raised from stall and coffee sales for the first half of this year. According to their information this will provide 3214 breakfasts. That is a great achievement!

We will donate proceeds to **Shower Box** for the second part of the year. Gifts of toiletries, toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, shower gel, towels and NEW underwear at Harvest will also go to them. The usual gifts of non-perishable food items, tins, packets, jars and bottles etc. are still requested for the **Food Bank** and **HAB**.

**The Harvest Quiz** will be held on the 11th October in Church House. Put the date in your diary, start looking for those knowledgeable team members and sort out some wonderfully/awful raffle prizes! At the time of writing we haven't chosen a charity.



As we start to think about the Autumn our thoughts turn to **Shoeboxes**. I will do a few this year but I will be more than delighted if someone else takes over this enterprise! I am happy to pass on the knowledge I have acquired.

I will close by thanking **Fr. Chrichton & Mrs. Vicarage** for all their help and support of our charity work over the ten years they have walked with us. They have run pre-Lent and Harvest quizzes, measured daily rainfall and delivered numerous Christmas gifts and Easter eggs. Chrichton has conducted tours, given talks and the background to the Hymns at Songs of Praise. Judith is always ready with a pen to write a poster or sign, and to decorate or arrange with her artistic flare. We are very grateful for her constant supply of beautiful handmade greeting cards. There is still a selection on the stall so choose a couple before they are all gone!



We are very grateful for all their generous contributions.

*Hilary Meur*

## Stewardship

*Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder*



As we move into the quieter summer period there is little to report on the Stewardship front, new additions to The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) have continued. I thank those that have responded positively as you are helping to increase in our regular giving through using our preferred method of giving..

Unfortunately alongside this, as is often the case, we have lost an equal number of donors using the PGS and so our regular giving numbers remains static.

So, if you were planning to sign up but haven't yet, if you were planning to increase your giving, but haven't yet, here is a reminder of what to do ... **Don't delay, act today, join the congregation already giving regularly using the Parish Giving Scheme.**

I am always happy to discuss such matters and can be contacted by telephone on the contact number in the Directory at the back of The Spire or email me on [mikestatistics@gmail.com](mailto:mikestatistics@gmail.com)

## 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.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/southgate-christ-church-london/>

Or scan the QR code  
on your smartphone or tablet



## PARISH DIRECTORY

### Parish Office

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

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

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

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

### Clergy

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

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

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

### Lay Readers

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

### 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

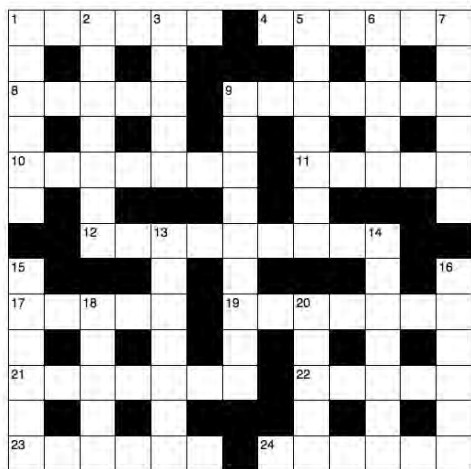
### Music Department

<i>Director of Music</i>	William Waine	
	music@christchurch-southgate.org	
<i>Organist &amp; Assistant</i>		
<i>Director of Music</i>	Matthew Warbis	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA	8882 3680



<b>Sacristan</b>	Vacancy	
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Judith Lo	8882 3335
<b>Sub-committee Chairs/contacts</b>		
<i>Outreach</i>	Fr Chrichton Limbert, frch138@btinternet.com	8882 0917
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com	07974 437966
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Vacancy	
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>	Jackie Anderson	8245 0305
<b>Parish Magazine “The Spire”</b>		
<i>Editorial Team</i>	Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper Copy to be sent to christchurchspire@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	Contact the Parish Office (see previous page for details)	
<b>Parish Centre/Church Halls</b>		
<i>Chairman</i>	Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD	8882 6738
<i>Secretary</i>	Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR	8367 5961
<i>Lettings</i>	christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362
<b>Christ Church Association Bar</b>		
<i>Contact</i>	Pat Collins christchurchassociation@gmail.com	
<b>Friday Coffee Morning</b>		
<i>Contact</i>	<i>Every Friday morning 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Church</i> Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362
<b>Scout Group</b>	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i> Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	07980 740587 8882 0991
<b>Bellringers</b>	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974
<b>Young Fogeys</b>	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Ian Cameron Black	8886 4942
<b>Bible Study Group</b>	Jackie Anderson	8245 0305

# AUGUST CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
- 11 '— thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
- 12 and 15 Down  
'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
- 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
- 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
- 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
- 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)

- 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

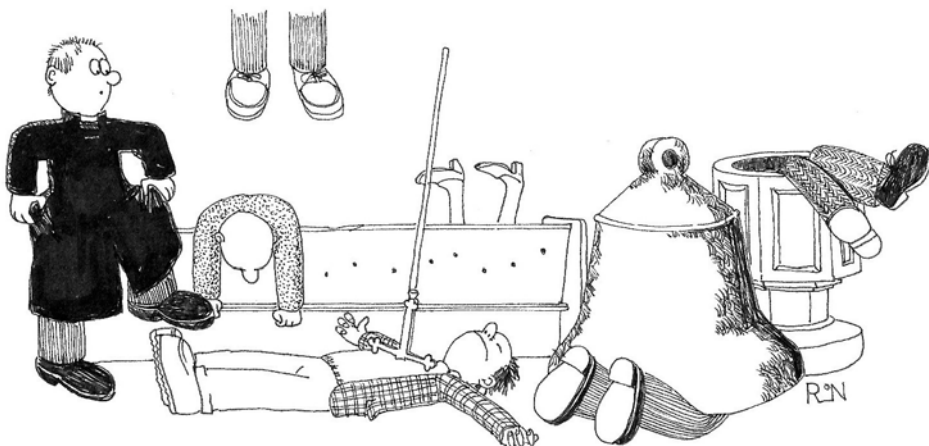
## DOWN

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
- 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
- 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
- 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
- 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
- 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
- 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
- 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
- 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
- 15 See 12 Across
- 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
- 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
- 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

## JUNE SOLUTION



**'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.' - Jeremiah 29: 11-13**



*It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church*



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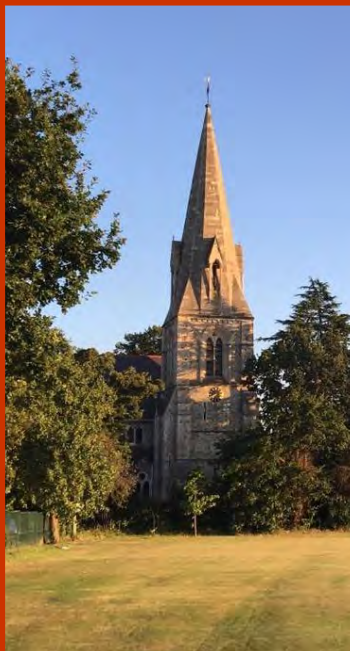
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For details and rates contact  
Hilary Meur

Tel: 020 8360 2362

Email: [ccsocrates@gmail.com](mailto:ccsocrates@gmail.com)

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**The Church on the Green N14**  
**Where everyone is welcome**



**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**



**"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**

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

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**Mendelssohn Hear My Prayer,**  
**Wesley Blessed Be The God and Father**  
**and many more!**

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**We rely on your generous donations to finance our ministry**