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The Spire

June and July 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 June and July edition of Spire Magazine. As usual, the months of April and May have kept on giving, as so many things have happened in Christ Church that a summer break now would be wonderful (given the weather), but we are not quite there yet.

After finishing Lent, we had plenty of memorable music and liturgy, which started at the beginning of April when we said goodbye to a remarkable member of our community – Mabel Geeson – who died a couple of weeks after her 100th birthday. She was a stalwart member of the choir for over 60 years, but she took all the details of her amazing service during WW2 with her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Mabel's funeral came just before a very emotional Holy Week, which was very well attended throughout. Can I express my thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the week – it was very much a team effort. However, I must mention the fact that it was the first one for William Waine as our new Director of Music – many thanks to him and all the choir and musicians for all their hard work, but I do know he thoroughly enjoyed himself!

In the week after Easter, Judith and I completed on our new home in Dorset, which meant that we could finally make some major

plans. So, after consulting with Kate and Graham our Wardens, I wrote to Bishop Anderson and the Archdeacon to announce my retirement. +Anderson and his family then came to church on the next Sunday when Kate announced that my last Sunday as your Vicar will be the **7th of September**. That is still over 3 months away, but I expect the time will fly! There will be plenty of time for reflection and farewells, but we will be leaving on exactly the same week that we arrived on 10 years ago, which feels very appropriate.

However, when a door closes another one opens, which could not have been truer that day, as when Kate was announcing my retirement, I was holding our first grandchild, Eloise, on her first visit to church when she was 6 days old. She had her first blessing from +Anderson – very appropriate. Can I on behalf of Bea and Stephen thank everyone for their good wishes and generosity to them and the new family.

The summer months will have to include a lot of sorting and clearing – it's amazing how much a vicarage can fill up over 10 years of busy and diverse ministry, but sadly it won't all fit...

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

*** Choral Evensong on the following Sundays in June and July:**
 1st June, 8th June, 15th June, 22nd June, 13th July, 20th July & 27th July

How many church members does it take to change a light bulb?

What do you mean **CHANGE???** That light bulb was given in memory of my grandmother! My father installed it with his bare hands! He donated his time **AND** the use of his ladder to do it, too! My family's been members of this church for four generations! And if you think you're going to come in here and make a bunch of changes all of a sudden, Vicar, you've got another think coming!

Note from the Editors

We hope you enjoy this edition and are looking forward to Summer time! Thanks, as ever, to all our contributors - this magazine really wouldn't exist without you.

In September we will be bidding farewell to Fr Chrichton and Judith and we will be dedicating our August/September edition to them. Do you have any memories, funny stories or pictures you would like to share? What has Fr Chrichton's and Judith's ministry meant to you? The deadline for copy is **Wednesday 16th July**.

Please send to 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

God's Gift to us in Nature Conway Rec.

I am fortunate enough to live near the little park known as Conway Rec. Its footpath provides a short cut for anyone wanting to walk from Conway Road to Cannon Road, so it's used by many children on their way to St Monica's School and by me, walking to church.



It really is a place where I can sit and ponder about the wonder of God's work and his gift to us. Local people work together, and the 'Friends of Conway Rec' was formed in 2010, to enable us all to enjoy this little haven.

When the houses around were built, this piece of land was not built on because it was a swamp, known as 'the Open Space'. The locals complained about the smell and in 1911 the land was offered to the Council, but the offer was declined. Eventually in 1914 it became a Public Park. In 1916, because of food shortages, allotments were created on much of it, until the Tennis club leased the level land and the courts were laid out in 1926.

The grassy slopes make a wonderful picnic site. Like our Church garden, some of the grass is mowed, while in other parts nature has been left to take over and the plants and their seeds provide support for insects which provide food for birds and small mammals. Bees and Butterflies are abundant and birds such as Blackbirds, Robins, Dunnocks and Red wagtails, Jays, Magpies, Crows and Pigeons are often to be seen. Bats, Tawny Owls and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers are favourites too. The hedgehogs have their own 'highway'.



The natural, spring-fed pond has been there for centuries. A wide range of plants and weeds flourish there. Children and adults alike enjoy searching for their favourite creatures. Most years a Grey Heron seems to give the impression that it is in charge. The Mallards, Moorhens, Tufted Ducks and Egyptian Geese may not think so. The Frogs, Toads and Newts, along with the Dragon flies, provide hours of entertainment to passing children.

This year a little family of Egyptian geese has become a firm favourite with many locals visiting almost daily to see how the two goslings are growing.



When I visit out little park. I can't help thinking about Jesus' words in Luke 12. V 27,

'consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these'.

With acknowledgment to the writers of the information panels in Conway Rec.

Hazel Miall

PENTECOST



We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ – because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which marks a vital event in Christian history. Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. The remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church!

With its focus on God’s Spirit being poured out on believers, Pentecost is one of the most

popular days for baptisms and confirmations in the Church’s year. Priests often wear red vestments, and churches may use red banners, flowers, or decorations.



...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...

In the northwest of England, traditional parades called Whit Walks take place, often featuring brass bands. In some Western European cathedrals, a small opening in the roof, called a "Holy Ghost hole", was traditionally used to symbolize the descent of the Holy Spirit and on Pentecost, red rose petals or other symbolic items would rain down from the hole. In some countries trumpets are blown during Mass to recall the sound of the mighty wind that accompanied the Holy Spirit's descent.

What We Sing in Church



**'Hail the day that
sees him rise'**

**New English Hymnal No.130
An Ascension tide Hymn**

I expect we could have sung this hymn on Ascension Day and, as it is packed full of biblical references, I thought it would be a good idea to look at them. To start off with 'Alleluya', which is used as a refrain at the end of every line, is a Hebrew phrase meaning 'Praise to God'.

The hymn uses the convention that heaven, the dwelling place of God, is up above the sky, and conflates the word 'heaven' with 'the heavens' meaning the sky. We know, of course, that cannot be literally true and we must think of heaven in another dimension altogether. It's true however that Jesus' first disciples would have believed that heaven was up there and would have seen Jesus rise at his Ascension. So, the first verse assumes that the Ascension takes this form.

Verse 2 is a reference to Psalm 24;

**Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.**

This psalm would be sung by the people going in procession to the temple, perhaps carrying the Ark to the Holy of Holies. So, it is very appropriate for Jesus assuming his rightful place at the right hand of God

Verse 4 refers to the wounds of crucifixion, which we know Jesus continues to carry for all time. He showed them to the disciples when he appeared to them after the Resurrection.

Verse 5 is a reference to St. Paul's letter to the Romans;

'It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.'

Romans 8:34

It also refers to Jesus telling his disciples that he goes to prepare a place for them:

'In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?'

John 14:2

The term 'harbinger of human race' is referring to Jesus as the forerunner, the 'first born of the human race';

'He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.'

Col.1:18

St Paul tells us that Jesus is the first person to really be as God intended people to be.

The hymn ends with a prayer to our Lord asking that our hearts may rise to the heights to which he has ascended and that we might remain there with him for ever.

Cathy Dallman



Evelyn Underhill

15th June

For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good place to begin – she is honoured on 15 June in the Church of England liturgical calendar.

She died on 10th June 1941 after a life full of remarkable achievements: author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical; the first woman ever to lecture to the CofE clergy; the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church; the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches; and one of the first women theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.



Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean – both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went, until in 1921 she became an Anglican - with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counselling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of "abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality - like the 'still desert' of the mystic - in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation". Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the first half of the 20th century. Her greatest book, ***Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness***, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. While writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away from mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality.

More than any other person, she was responsible for introducing the forgotten authors of medieval and Catholic spirituality to a largely Protestant audience and the lives of eastern mystics to the English-speaking world.

During World War I Evelyn worked in naval intelligence, but in later years became a Christian pacifist. Surviving the London Blitz of 1940, her health disintegrated further and she died in the following year. She is buried with her husband in the churchyard extension at St John-at-Hampstead in London.

From Parish Pump

The Dream of Gerontius

John Henry Newman was a great Victorian churchman, an inspired Anglican preacher and teacher who became a Roman Catholic in 1845. Newman was also a poet and wrote hymns that have remained perennial favourites – among them, ‘Lead, kindly Light’ and ‘Praise to the Holiest.’

The first hymn was written when, as an Anglican, Newman was ill in Sicily and his servant thought he might die. But he recovered and, anxious to return home, he wrote these words, knowing that God had important work for him to do. The light that he prayed for in Sicily was to shine out, resplendent and glorious, in that later hymn which expresses the vision of the heavenly courts in the longer poem, ‘**The Dream of Gerontius.**’

Newman wrote the poem in 1865 after the death of a 41-year-old fellow Oratorian, Fr John Joseph Gordon, who had said to him as he lay dying, “I do not say that I do not fear to die: for death must always be a fearful thing. God’s justice is very terrible; but then, in the crucifixion, God’s mercy appears so very great.” ‘The Dream of Gerontius’ is about death and judgement, but it is the judgement of a loving God.

Newman presented Dvorak with a copy of this poem when the composer visited Birmingham, and he was invited to compose a setting for the city’s 1888 Festival. Although Dvorak felt inspired by the words, the timescale was too demanding. The poem was presented to Elgar on his wedding day a year later, again with the suggestion that he set it to music. The words simmered and stirred in Elgar’s imagination to produce one of the great oratorios of all time in 1900, when it was given its first performance in Birmingham.

Elgar inscribed the score ADMG (To the greater glory of God) and wrote on the last page of the manuscript, ‘This is the best of me.’ The light of God’s glory and grace that inspired Newman shines through the music as it shone through Elgar’s own life. His funeral card of 1934 contained words from the poem, and on his own score of ‘The Dream’ he wrote these words of Virgil, ‘Whence doth so dear desire of Light on wretches grow?’

It is now difficult to separate the poem from Elgar’s setting. The composer, like the poet, leads the listener from the prayer of faith, ‘Firmly I believe and truly’ – a prayer sustained by the words of the priest, ‘Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul’ – to the judgement throne where the angels praise God in the heights.

One of the angels then leads the soul away with a beautiful setting of ‘Softly and gently,’ not to the fire of judgement, but to the cleansing, sustaining water of eternal life. The work ends with echoes of that angelic hymn, praising God who is our refuge in every generation.

Newman wrote, “I always sleep better after music.” He compared music to an electric current that passes through the body and then into the mind and heart. And Elgar’s wonderful setting can do exactly that, creating a vision of that new world of eternal glory that Gerontius expresses in the words, ‘*Novissima hora est.....*into thy hands, O Lord, into thy hands.’

The Revd Michael Burgess





A Special Day!

My Eightieth birthday – I can hardly believe it! I feel so young (about thirty – hurrah!) and people tell me I look young too.

I had a lovely few days – the day before my birthday, I went to Slimming World and a lady made me a beautiful cake with candles and singing ‘happy birthday’ – very special. On my birthday, I went out to eat with friends.

On the Saturday after my birthday, I went to the theatre to see ‘Oliver!’, which was very good with lovely music, dancing and acting. I did eat a lot of cake and made my signature bake – a carrot cake which was delicious.

Admiring all the festivities, I did keep up my resolve to renew my commitment to the amazing, wonderful Lord Jesus Christ.

This birthday marks 80 years since VE day – the end of the war in Europe. So, I am a ‘peace baby’ – my mother called me that! I’ve always tried to work hard for peace – and I met my late husband Kevin as a member of the Enfield Peace Campaign.

I always wear a white poppy on Remembrance Day. It may be that defence is valid, to combat evil in the world, but I believe working for peace is vital and the white poppy is a symbol of pacifism. I am also a strict vegetarian and have been for over 50 years, mainly because I love animals.

Thank you so much for your friendship and love over the years, dear Reader of Christ Church magazine! I hope you enjoyed reading about my life and very special birthday. God bless you always, lots of love from your sister in Christ,

Lynda Belle Corcoran

An eco garden par excellence!

Heysham on the east Lancashire coast is probably best known for its two nuclear power stations, its rock cut tombs, the ruins of St Patrick’s chapel, the hogback stone in the parish church of St Peter’s... and, of course, the Radfords’ pie factory from Channel 4’s “21 Kids and Counting!” (now “22 Kids and Counting” on Channel 5).

Walking northwards along the coastline last Christmas, passing Anna Gillespie’s ‘The Ship’ sculpture in Half Moon Bay, the rock graves, and the church, we were very surprised by the number of different communal gardens we found in this relatively small but beautiful village. We were also surprised by the relative lack of sea side detritus ... locals must be assiduous litter-pickers, we thought. And then,



Decorative driftwood



Repurposed plastic bottles

heading for the steps leading down to the promenade walk back to Morecambe, we encountered the recently established Eco Garden. Suddenly we knew where some of the detritus had gone!

Once an unloved and untended sensory garden, directly exposed to the gales blowing in across Morecambe Bay, this made an extremely unattractive – even off-putting – entrance to the village. But Heysham has won many garden awards over the years and when it was decided to enter the Best Small Village competition



A winter view from the garden

again in 2022, a group of local residents took over this neglected spot and combined its sensory features with eco characteristics and the Eco-Sensory Coastal Garden was born.



St Patrick's Chapel

Everything in the garden is scavenged. A Lancaster Guardian article explains that “... nothing is new, and donations have come in the form of railway sleepers, plants, rocks from local gardens and plants from the local allotments – and even two wrecked fiberglass boats sourced from the bay by a retired sea captain”. In addition to the soil-filled and planted boats, we were immediately impressed by the creative use of dozens of plastic bottles, hanging from the wire fencing at the back and growing plants, old nylon ropes – blue and orange – woven among the plants, re-purposed

lobster and crab pots, and the most astonishing bug hotel I've ever set eyes on. The Heysham bug is a lucky bug! It was too cold and windy to sit and watch the clouds rush by, but the view is truly spectacular and this is definitely a place worth revisiting.

Talking to the vicar of St Peter's we learnt that the many of the communal gardens are all one time 'grot spots' that have been adopted by village groups, from the WI to local schools, an allotment holders' group, the church, local businesses, and even the French energy company EDF. I'd like to go back and see it in the summer.

Patricia Ashby

**A planted boat in summer
(from The Lancaster Guardian)**



Churchyard Walls for Wildlife

It is quite possible that the oldest built structure in your local churchyard will be the boundary wall. These walls may have been mended over the years but usually with the original stone, gently replacing and resetting damaged sections. Whether lime mortar or drystone, churchyard walls have built up a rich array of species over the years.



South facing walls are particularly good for invertebrates with many different creatures using the gaps and holes to nest and shelter. Look for wrens and dunnocks hopping over the stones of the wall searching for spiders to eat. There are a great many species of solitary bees and wasps to be found nesting within walls too.

Walls can be excellent for lichens unless they become covered in ivy and other shading plants in which case the lichens are lost. Walls have their own specific plants, not found elsewhere in the churchyard, and this is particularly true for lime mortared walls in an area where the soil is not particularly lime rich. Can you spot ivy-leaved toadflax, wall rue, maidenhair spleenwort, rusty back or adder's tongue fern? Some annual plants grow early in the spring, whilst the wall is still quite damp and cool; they flower, seed and then dry out as summer progresses. Others, like saxifrages, are suited to dry conditions.

As well as the wall surface, there is life within it too. Walls are cool, safe places to shelter. Whilst frogs, toads and newts make their way to ponds for breeding, they actually spend most of the year out of water. These amphibians are often found in or close to churchyard walls, as are reptiles such as lizards and slow-worm. They shelter within the wall or at its base, emerging to hunt for food such as slugs, worms and other invertebrates. Look for lizards basking in full sun whilst the slow-worm stays hidden, finding a warm place beneath vegetation or a stone or reptile mat.



So, look after your walls and try to keep them in good repair, they are very special!

What an Eco Easter we had!

We always try at Christ Church to consider the eco principles of **Reducing**, **Reusing** and **Recycling**. So Easter time was no different.

Reduce - we tried to encourage a reduction in the number of cards that those of us in church regularly sent to each other by having one large card at the back that everyone could sign if they wished. An easy way for us all to send Easter blessings while reducing our paper/card usage.

Reuse - the palms that were used on Palm Sunday are stored and used each year. They pre-date Covid! The palm crosses come from India. The windowsills were all homemade/school creations. West Grove school's wooden crosses were made out of kindling wood and left over wool.

Recycle/repurpose - the wooden cross that was carried in by Father Chrichton on Good

Friday is made entirely of recycled domestic wood - old window frames and suchlike. The tomb garden is underneath an eco-cardboard igloo. The plants are all repurposed from those used in the Garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday and are houseplants from the Vicarage. The few plants that were bought locally have been planted in the church yard. Plants were used rather than flowers so that they could, in fact, be repurposed.

I think we did well with the three **R's** and this must form the basis of how we all operate both in church and at home. It's achievable, satisfying and fundamental in looking after our world today.

If possible, nothing should be wasted.

Sandra Anderson



OUR ECO TEAM GARDEN PLANT SALE

**WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY
8am and 10am SERVICES on Sunday the 1st and
SUNDAY the 8th of JUNE**

**Weather permitting the sale will be held in the
front garden of church, if raining, it will be
held at the back of church**

***Please bring plenty of change
on both days thank you!***



***All proceeds in aid of our
wonderful Eco church garden!***



Parish Life in Pictures

April and May 2025

West Grove School deliver
their Easter Decorations



Mothering Sunday



Palm Sunday



Maundy
Thursday



Good
Friday





Decorating the Church

Phoebe and Eloise Cox with their window



Katerina Georgiou with her window



Ruby Wedding anniversary!

Presentation
of Erin Toal
following
her
confirmation
at St Paul's
Cathedral



Gardening
team tea
break





Easter Day



Holy Saturday service



Little Oaks Playgroup
Easter visit



Birth of Eloise Ann Limbert-Mason
and her first trip to church - being
blessed by Bishop Anderson



Southgate Sessions

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

15th June

The Choral Scholars of Christ Church

Kristyna Rasova, Martha Dowland, Samuel Board

20th July

William Waine

Countertenor, Director of Music at Christ Church

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.

Planet International!

Keeping International Eco Days in Mind



We are going to begin this with **International Love Parks Week** which runs this year from 28th July – 3rd August. Our local parks rely on volunteer groups to keep them pristine and beautiful – litter-picking, planting and gardening, etc. Could 2025 see some of us taking a morning stroll armed with a grab-stick and bag for litter-picking? Friends groups can be found online: Grovelands Park @ <https://friendsofgrovelands.co.uk/friends-of-fog/>, Broomfield Park @ <https://www.fobp.uk/volunteers>, Arnos Park @ <https://www.friendsofarnospark.co.uk/>

International Plant Milk Day takes place on 22nd August when we are encouraged to try a plant-based milk. As we saw last year, plant milks derive from nuts, grain, legumes, grains and even a couple of fruits (coconut and banana). These milks are nutritious and sustainable, kinder to the environment than cows, and are lactose-free. Try them in cooking, for example.



Otherwise, August homes in on wild animals and the need to conserve habitats and prevent poaching. We didn't list everything last year, but August 2nd is **International Golden Lion Tamarin Day**, the 4th is devoted to the **Clouded Leopard**, 10th the **Lion**, 12th the **Elephant**, 13th **Wolves**, 14th **Lizards**, 19th **Orangutans**, 26th **African Wild Dogs**, and 20th **Whale Sharks**. You will all have your favourites, but what is so stunning here is just how so many iconic creatures are

endangered – we need to do everything we can to care for the world as we know it. Remotely, from the UK, a step we can all take is to make sure that at the very least that we only consume sustainable palm oil in order to ensure the decimation of environments is no longer a consequence of growing this crop.

The focus in September shifts back to the environment itself again – it's all about clean air, the ozone layer, our rivers, and it reminds us that we need to rely less on private cars and use more public transport (**Car Free Day** on the 22nd), avoid flying if there is an alternative, and don't drop litter. At the end of the month, we're reminded once more to reduce food waste – use it, don't bin it ... go back to the common-sense choices of our childhoods rather than relying exclusively on the suppliers 'use by' dates and above all, remember 'best before' doesn't mean throw it away!

Finally, remember the month-long **Secondhand September** which began as a challenge to avoid buying new clothes for the month. But we can easily take this much further to include books (e.g. [AbeBooks.co.uk](https://abebooks.co.uk), etc.), household items (<https://ollioapp.com/en/>, <https://www.gumtree.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace>), clothes (<https://www.vinted.co.uk/>) and so forth, including our many local charity shops – wonderful places for a bargain!

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative



AUGUST (SELECTED)**12**_{AUGUST} **WORLD ELEPHANT DAY****19**_{AUGUST} **INTERNATIONAL ORANGUTAN DAY****22**_{AUGUST} **WORLD PLANT MILK DAY****SEPTEMBER****07**_{SEPTEMBER} **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR****16**_{SEPTEMBER} **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER****20**_{SEPTEMBER} **WORLD CLEAN UP DAY****22**_{SEPTEMBER} **WORLD CAR FREE DAY****22**_{SEPTEMBER} **INTERNATIONAL RIVERS' DAY****29**_{SEPTEMBER} **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS OF
FOOD LOSS AND WASTE**

The Renewed Electoral Roll

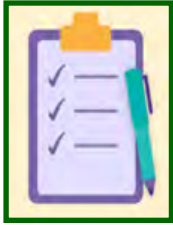
Many of you will already have heard the news. The number on the new Electoral Roll fell, but not by as many as we feared. We enrolled **187** individuals, including **47** newcomers. This is technically 45 less than I was able to report in April 2024 (and 32 less than the last time we renewed the roll in 2019), but after taking everything into account – individuals who are known to have moved away from the area or known to have changed churches but who did not ask to be removed from the roll, for example – I would estimate that we have ‘lost’ some 25 to 30 people. At least half a dozen of those are people who will almost certainly renew their membership but who were unable to do this in time to count for the current year. (In fact, we’ve already gone up to **189**.)

So, my dream didn’t come true (to match or exceed the 2024 total) but 187 was a very good starting point for the new roll and it only remains to thank all of you who completed forms and returned them in time to meet the deadline.

Note that if you have not completed a form yet, you can do this any time. Blank forms are available at the back of church or can be found online under “How do I join” at <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/home/electoral-roll/>. Leave the completed form for me in the mail rack at the back of church.

Patricia Ashby, Electoral Roll Officer

When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?



News from the Committees

Timing of **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** meetings so far this year have meant that

we are a bit out of kilter reporting the news. Additionally, at the last meeting on 29 April, the PCC focused on the upcoming APCM and so news from the sub-committees did not feature on the agenda.

Going back to March then, the Vicar opened proceedings with a summary of **Outreach** activity in his report including leading a walk round the parish boundary and the choir's first trip with our new Director of Music, Will Waine, where comments in Winchester included "the best visiting choir we've ever had". Fr Chrichton also reported on a visit from our MP, Bambos Charalambos, after he had supported VAT exemption for places of worship, and our Quiz Team winning the inaugural quiz at St Marks and St Stephens Bush Hill Park. He concluded with visits from the Police Community Safer Neighbourhoods Team to the 10 am service. Since then, we have celebrated Easter with a number of local school visits into church, further ARBSM exams, etc.

The last report from the **Finance and Standing Committee (F&SC)** updated developments with the ongoing Stewardship Campaign which had almost reached a conclusion. The report also talked about accessibility and reviewing our Disability Access Audit, and the decision to compile a comprehensive list of qualified first aiders in the congregation. We also heard about additional policies now required by the Charity Commission including preparation of a Working Alone policy. Finally, F&SC reported on application for a grant from the Church Decarbonisation Fund to cover work highlighted by our energy audit, and recommended acceptance of quotes for essential work on the Lady Chapel roof and

for replacement of the broken garden gate.

The **Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC)** reported liaising with Enfield's Tree Officer about possible replacements for the dead trees removed from the Parish Centre site. The PCMC is also looking into increasing the rent for the electricity substation located on the site; replacing the existing manual thermostat with a programmable one that should save on energy use; further investigating the Church House damp problem which is still unresolved; and coordinating with other properties on The Green to eliminate vermin from the site.

Creation Care (CC) reported an ongoing programme of gardening and clearing mornings, purchase of two bird baths from a donation, and a plant sale to be held in June. CC also initially reported on the spring awakening of the bees although we have subsequently learned that they then swarmed meaning that for this summer our hives will be empty.

And last but by no means least, the **Social Responsibility Committee (SRC)**, always fully reported elsewhere in *The Spire*, described sending income from stall sales and coffee donations to the *Magic Breakfast* charity which delivers free daily breakfast for some 230,000 UK school children facing hunger. Donations also continue to St John's and the Food Bank.

Patricia Ashby

A rare
Ragged
Robin
Wildflower
spotted in
Christ
Church's
garden



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 6th June and Friday 4th July**. The next **Friday Foodie** evening will be a **BBQ and Pimms** evening on **20th June** and a further Friday foodie will be held in July.

Recent News: Friday Foodies continued with Pizza on 17th April. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 4th April and Friday 2nd May. In addition a small wine-tasting was held on 29th March in memory of Clive Woodhouse. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

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)

GRASMERE METHODIST CHURCH

*If after Church, you wait awhile,
Someone may greet you with a smile.
But, if you quickly rise and flee,
We'll all seem cold and stiff, maybe
The one beside you in the pew
Is, perhaps a stranger too.
All here, like you, have fears and cares.
All of us need each other's prayers.
In fellowship we bid you meet,
With us around God's Mercy Seat.*

**This sweet
poem was
discovered in
a box by
Hilary Meur**

**thank you
Hilary for
sharing this
with us!**

Stewardship

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder



It is now nearly two months since the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign with the despatch of the letters. So, I am now able to let you know the results of our efforts since the campaign commenced last year.

Firstly, I must thank all those that have responded positively to make the campaign a success, it really is much appreciated. That has been a vital increase in our regular giving and an excellent foundation for an ongoing increase in our income going forward.

We have gained nine new members of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and 14 existing donors using the PGS have increased their monthly payments too. Taking into account the inevitable loss of regular donors during that time I am pleased to say that an increase in regular donations during a full year will be in the region of 10%.

All in all this must be seen as a success, but regular reviews of stewardship are always necessary even after such a positive result.

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

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



SRC Report

For the first six months of the year we have been raising money for **Magic Breakfast**. This charity delivers free breakfasts to thousands of children around the UK who are facing hunger every day. We will have raised over £1,000 - that's a good many breakfasts!



From July to November we will support **Showerbox**, we will also ask for Harvest gifts of toiletries, new socks and underwear for them, as this was so successful last year. The cost of living crisis hasn't gone away! We are still taking your generous donations of non-perishable food, items for packed lunches, nappies, and toiletries etc, to **The Ark** and the **Food Bank**. They are very gratefully received.



Sales from the stall have continued to be good. At Easter we sold two paintings, The Last Supper and The Crucifixion and a print of Christ Church. This was from a painting by Holroyd, one of 500 we sold in the 1990s. Several people were interested so if you have a copy you would like to donate, we can find a buyer. We have several other framed pictures and will try to have a 'FRAME OF THE MONTH' on offer until the end of the year. All proceeds to charity.

There have been several problems with Sunday coffee over recent weeks. We are grateful to serving volunteers and for our delicious cake makers; but we can use a few more people to make and serve the drinks. Please talk to someone on duty. Training willingly given.

We don't have any results for May **Christian Aid** week as yet, but we had envelopes in the pews and a bucket on the font, this is the on-line link: <https://christianaid.org.uk/appeals> or phone **08080 006006**.

Recently I have had several donations of goods for sale. Mrs. Vicarage has been having a big clear out in preparation for their move!! Any more saleable goods that you are clearing out always welcome.

We cannot continue to give without your generous contributions. We are very grateful for your support as are the charities that we are supporting.

Hilary Meur

tel. 020 8360 2362 Email ccsoces@gmail.com



The good neighbour looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and therefore brothers.

Martin Luther King

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

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

Music Department

Director of Music William Waine
music@christchurch-southgate.org
Organist & Assistant
Director of Music Matthew Warbis
Treasurer 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

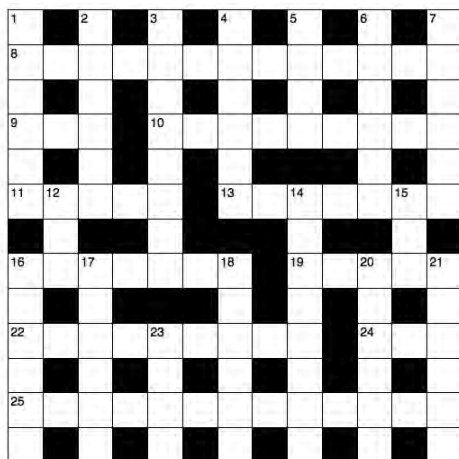
Bellringers *Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.*
Captain Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN 8368 1974

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

Contact Ian Cameron Black 8886 4942

Bible Study Group Jackie Anderson 8245 0305

JUNE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

DOWN

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — —' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

APRIL SOLUTION



Children's Corner

Spot the Parakeet!

This photo of trees in the Church's garden contains a camouflaged parakeet - can you see her?

Find the mouse!

Last time, Walker the mouse was visiting St Bride's church on page 5. See if you can find him in this edition.

Colour In
the
Pentecost
Flames



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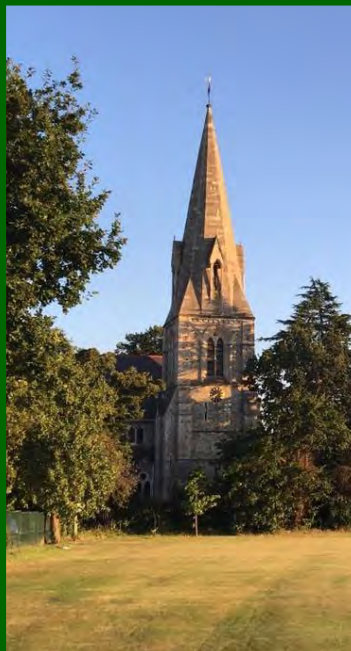
Reach your local community and contribute to the work of Christ Church

For details and rates contact
Hilary Meur

Tel: 020 8360 2362

Email: ccsocrates@gmail.com

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The Church on the Green N14
Where everyone is welcome

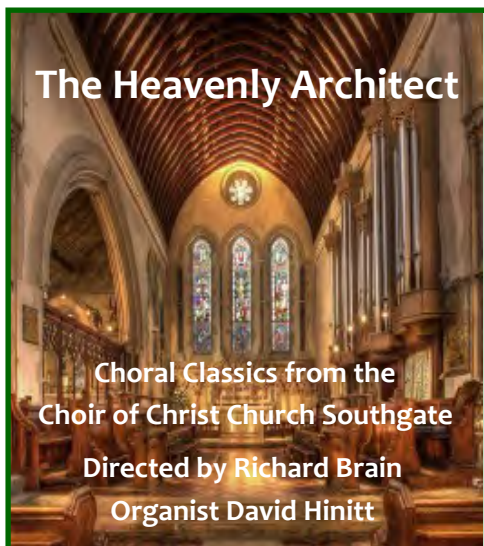


Christ Church Southgate
is an Eco-Church, we have
achieved the
Silver Award.

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

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

CHRIST CHURCH
Southgate

CHOIR CD

'The Heavenly Architect'
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