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The Spire



**October and
November 2025**

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— *Southgate* —



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www.x.com/ChristChurchN14

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt, smiling broadly. He is shaking hands with another person whose arm and hand are visible on the right side of the frame, wearing a light blue shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a white wall and some papers or a screen.



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Paul Ellerby

Curate of Christ Church Southgate

Welcome to the October and November issue of Spire Magazine and the start of a new season!

We ended Summer in a very extraordinary way, with our farewell event to Fr Chrichton and Judith. After 10 years serving us and living among us, we sent them off with every blessing on all they have planned ahead of them.

Our love and generosity were evident in the messages and the gifts we sent them off with, and also in the £300 we raised for St David's Lifeboat station in the 'Awful Leftovers Raffle'. And the Awful Raffle makes its annual appearance at the Harvest Quiz – in honour of Team Vicarage.

Not only is the season changing from summer to autumn, but our season at Christ Church is changing as we enter what is known as an 'interregnum'. For those who don't recognise the word, interregnum is the word the Church of England uses informally for the time "between the reigns" of two ministers. You can read more about this on pages 7 and 8.

Whether this is our first interregnum or the latest of many will depend on how long we have been coming to church, but can I urge each one of us to pause and consider how we are feeling now that Fr Chrichton and Judith

have moved on. We all have a personal response and it will be different because of what connected us most to Fr Chrichton and Judith. What I would encourage us to do is to start with thankfulness – saying thank you often helps to open our heart to God. And when our heart is open then God can give us something to help with whatever we are feeling – loss, sorrow, sadness, uncertainty or anticipation.

King David used the psalms to share his feelings and experiences. He wrote many of them as a way to express himself, talk about his struggles, offer praise to God or expresses gratitude for God's goodness and faithfulness. In Psalm 107 he writes, "O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever." This highlights that our thankfulness is a response to God's goodness and enduring love.

If you don't know how to get started – take a look at our Parish Life in Pictures on pages 14, 15 and 16 and that is certain to stir some memories. God has been good to us.

Finally, our liturgical season is also changing as we approach what is called the "Kingdom Season", which runs from All Saints' Day to the eve of the First Sunday of Advent. The Kingdom season offers us a time to celebrate the kingdom of God, ending with our patronal

Festival on 23rd November and the great feast of Christ the King. Then the new church year begins on 30th November with Advent Sunday!

When King David wrote the Psalms he was often accompanied by music. As we journey through this season and into the next, we too

will have music to accompany us. Music to help lift our thoughts, our prayers, our thanks and our praises to the heights of heaven and God our Father.

Praying God's blessing on every one of you

Fr Paul

Patronal Festival concert

Sunday 23rd November at 6.30pm



This year, the Choir of Christ Church Southgate, directed by William Waine, and orchestra led by Liz Partridge, will perform one of the greatest pieces of choral music ever written -

J.S. Bach's St John Passion.

The drama of the passion story is delivered by three soloists playing the Evangelist, Jesus and Pilate, with the choir acting as the frenzied and devastated crowd. We have three outstanding soloists joining us, including Edward Woodhouse, nephew of Clive, as the Evangelist.

We need your support to make this concert possible, and this year are inviting you to contribute directly to the performance of our musicians:

£1000 will sponsor the orchestral strings or woodwind

£500 will sponsor the Evangelist, Jesus, Pilate or Conductor

£200 will sponsor an individual orchestral player

£100 will sponsor one of our own choir's soloists

£50 will name you as a Concert Friend

For more information, please speak to William Waine or email him on music@christchurch-southgate.org



Note from the Editors

Thank you so much to all our contributors! A reminder that the deadline for copy for the December/January edition is **Wednesday 19th November**. Please send to

christchurchspire@gmail.com

Freya and Imogen



DAILY HOPE a free phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as services from the Church of England.

Available 24 hours a day on

0800 804 8044

The Nicene Creed

This year - the 1,700th anniversary of the council of Nicaea, in 325AD - I had the privilege of joining with a group of Christian pilgrims to visit the sites of the ancient Ecumenical councils.

The Emperor Constantine wanted peace in his Empire and called for a council of the whole Church which took place in Nicaea in the year 325 AD.

This year I was able to go to modern day Iznik, in Turkey to see the ruins of the building where it is thought the council was held. On Trinity Sunday we were able to hold a Communion service on the shores of the lake adjacent to the ruins. We recited the modern day version of the Nicene Creed. It was a very meaningful service for all of us.



Some of the more adventurous in the party swam out to investigate the ruins of Constantine's Imperial Palace. Having removed their glasses to swim none of them could read the various notices!

Constantine is said to have converted to Christianity. In the year 313AD the Edict of Milan granted religious freedom throughout the Roman Empire, effectively ending the persecution of Christians. This new freedom enabled theological debates to become empire-wide.

By the second century various theological schools had developed different emphases on the *Logos* or *Word*. Arius, a priest in Alexandria, Egypt, taught that the son of God, the *Logos*, was created by the Father out of nothing, before time, and was therefore not co-eternal or co-equal with the father. His slogan was *'There was a time when the son of Man was not'*.



Arius' bishop, Alexander of Alexandria condemned his doctrines and sought to uphold the traditional teaching of the Son's eternal generation and full divinity.

By 325AD Constantine had converted to Christianity, or at least became a patron and convened the council of Nicaea to resolve the Arian controversy and secure unity in his newly Christianised Empire. The council met in the Imperial palace under Imperial auspices. He presided at the opening session and it was conducted using the same formula as secular councils. He enabled the delegates to use the Roman transportation systems.

The outcome of the council was the condemnation of Arianism and the declaration the son *Homoousios* (of one substance) with the Father. This led to the formulation of the original Nicene creed a modern version of this is used at most Anglican Communion services.

It was a wonderful experience to be part of a pilgrimage that visited the sites of the various ancient councils.

Hazel Miall

Message from Fr Chrichton and Judith after the Farewell Day on 7th September 2025

Dear All,

As Judith said on Sunday morning – Thank-you, thank-you and thank-you. We are both still taking in all the messages, conversations, presentations and exceptionally generous gifts we have received to mark my retirement as your Vicar and the end of Team Vicarage. You have all been incredibly kind and loving.



When I was coming up to retire from the BBC and felt called to be ordained, I said that if we, as a family were going to do it, it would have to be a total commitment. So, the family home was sold and we moved to Bedfordshire starting a full new life of serving and ministry. As our son Sam summed it up, Sunday was the best validation we could have that it was the right decision.

Hearing and reading the many ways in which Judith and I have helped you in your lives and searching for God has been truly humbling, and made our all-consuming ministry feel so fulfilling and rewarding. We will soon be on the move to our new life in Dorchester taking your love and so many memories with us as we start the next chapter in our life together. You will see us again, I promise, as we still have many reasons to come back to visit Southgate.



I started retirement on a high note on Monday with a lovely family day at Legoland. The rides were amazing, including getting completely soaked on the log flume and riding my first backwards rollercoaster, but we will now take time to work out our new places in a new community. Once the 6 month wait has passed, I will apply for a fresh licence to take services, so I will have the privilege of leading the sacraments again – which I know I will miss.

You are an exceptional loving and welcoming Christian community here in Southgate. Maintain that in everything you do while the Spirit-led search goes on for my successor. They are out there, and will love and care for you just as much as Judith and I have done.

So, thank-you again and Every Blessing for the future, you will all continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

Fr Chrichton and Judith





Interregnum

After the joy and tears of Fr Chrichton and Judith's final Sunday, and as we reflect on that and the last ten years, we now need to turn our eyes forward as we enter a period known as **Interregnum**, which describes time between Incumbents.

Many in the parish have been through the process several times, but for others this is their first time and Fr Chrichton is the only Vicar they have known. To help us spiritually and practically we have plenty of resources to call upon. We have the beautiful Interregnum Prayer and angel which Fr Chrichton and Judith kindly left us. We have the commitment of our brilliant clergy team, lay readers, employees and PCC members and us both as Churchwardens. Beyond this we will receive support from the Bishop of Edmonton, Archdeacon of Hampstead, Area Dean and Patron as well as visiting clergy who will lead some Sunday services so that all our team get the rest they need. What we do know is that we will all have to step up to cover everything that Team Vicarage did for the parish. As such any help and support is appreciated from anyone in the parish who can offer their time and resources; please just speak to us or to any member of the clergy or PCC.

So what actually happens during an Interregnum? A number of us have been actively planning for many weeks and months in anticipation of this period. We, as Churchwardens, have been working with Team Vicarage for the last twelve months to understand all they do so we can try to replicate it (with the support of others) as much as possible through all the festivals and services. In addition, a small team of us have been meeting monthly, looking at day to day actions and rotas which need managing and resourcing so we can keep the parish running effectively and worship maintained. The Area Dean also supports us in these endeavours.

We are in the process of producing a Parish Profile which explains Christ Church Southgate - our worship, parish life, local area, successes and strengths, challenges and opportunities. The PCC are considering all these aspects and we will be asking everyone in the parish for their thoughts too. We want to give everyone the chance to contribute so we can have the most complete, rounded and informed document to present to prospective Incumbents.

We have also reached out and met with a number of people who play critical roles in the recruitment process. In addition to your Churchwardens and the PCC, other key decision makers are the Bishop and the Rev Roxane Liddell of All Saints Edmonton, who is the Patron of Christ Church. We are also supported by the Archdeacon and Area Dean to ensure this process is well managed and our documentation of the highest order to ensure we attract the right calibre of prospective candidates. There is a very clear timetable we need to work to as all steps are enshrined in law and Church policy and as such need to be properly completed and recorded to ensure our activity is legal as well as best practice.

As such the draft timetable we are working to at present is as below:

16 Sep: section 11 meeting at our PCC meeting to appoint Parish representatives

- 18 Nov:** section 12 meeting at our PCC meeting to review Parish Profile - attended by Bishop, Archdeacon, Patron and Area Dean
- 8 Jan:** place advert in Church Times (to run until 5 Feb)
- 19 Feb** candidate shortlist agreed
- 5 Mar:** interview day after which we hope to appoint a new Incumbent, who will then need to work out their notice period, which is likely to be at least three months.

There is therefore much to do, and everyone is invited and respectfully asked to contribute so that we can both maintain the life of the parish as well as prepare the path for the appointment of our new Incumbent. Prayers and practical support will help us all through what can be a challenging period for many but we have the excitement to look forward to of

welcoming our new Vicar to Christ Church Southgate and experiencing all the gifts they will bring. As Fr Chrichton said, "All will be well".

*Graham Cook and Kate Carroll,
Churchwardens*



Christ Church Southgate Interregnum Prayer

As we get ready for a new normal and the business of finding a new vicar, Fr Chrichton has prepared a prayer for us which you will find below. We will be including this in our intercessions when we are together.



Heavenly Father, you have drawn us all into this church and community, and filled us with your love.

In our time without a Vicar, help us all to share the responsibility of continuing to offer your welcome and love to all, so that we will care for all those in need. Lord Jesus, help us to love one another and to grow in faith as we serve you together.

Guide those who are seeking to find the right Vicar, who will help us follow your way for the future and grow your Kingdom in Southgate.

We ask this for your love's sake.

Amen.

Fr Chrichton

Mayday Fair Ten Years Ago: An Ode

As far as I remember there
was a Mayday Fair,
The teams were there,
Nicole and Frances Phillips
three, three Johns or maybe
four, Tombola, Cakes and
China, Plants, Jigsaws
Jewels and Toys.
Bar with Pat, and Scouts
with Steve cooked Godfrey's
meat on a BBQ.

Hilary did strawberry teas once the cakes sold out.
Was Ron cars and Judith ducks,
A stall staff saviour with the drinks.
Cashing-up upstairs,
Mick and Clare everywhere.
A Raffle at the door.
Clive - Fully dressed and wielding bell crying out
the Maypole times,
Stalls and spaces packed with stuff to buy and
sell.

A tall guy with a smiley wife had walked about the
place, looked all through the offerings and kept a
cheerful face.

At Clearing Up a car was seen with two engrossed
in thought.
Hazel's friend from college wondering if he ought
To take the job on offer with all the trials it brought.

How would the KIDS adapt?

The cure of souls a burden to take up at your peril
Guts and years of extra work to get to tipping point
From here step up together,
Decision must be joint.

IT IS a Limbert family calling,
FOLLOWING footsteps,
Giving back,
BUT opening wide your Doors?
Think carefully together what might be the flaws?

A Grade Two listed building
(with STAR and future plans)
A grade One thriving choir ...

Could they bear that Vicarage and battle cold and
mould?

Could they nourish and inspire.



Are congregation demographics just too too dire.

They DID take up the challenge and now a decade
on do they look back and wonder where the time
has gone?

Marriages - A baby -
Career in chancel song.
A decade on - the cat - is gone.

Some months ago a Poundbury House popped up
To be forever home.
Who knew that Saint Birinus was posted there
from Rome?

TO CONTEMPLATE.
A SIMPLE LIFE.
HEAD THE FAMILY TEAM.
LARKING IN THE GARDEN.
GET TO LIVE THE DREAM!
JOIN REMIX ON THE TUESDAYS
AFTER SINGING HOME FOR TEA
DORSET KNOBS AND STRAWBERRIES,
AND DAYS OUT BY THE SEA .

NO Deanery to listen to
NOT forced to toe a line
AND that dreaded PCC
NOT even ONE more time.

No quotes to choose or Matins say
In Winter when it's cold
No worries for the local sick , the dying or the old.
No needy ones to meet and greet when out in local
parks.

Remember us in Southgate through changing
Covid times.
Walking round the parish with all those dips and
climbs?
PRAY no more plastered ceilings drop and no more
floors collapse.

The choir hasn't missed a beat,
the organ pipes are clean.
The mice have lost their biscuits
And bees and birds now seem,
To love the flowery garden and the neat and tidy
Church.
With toys and lots to make and do more children
now can stay,
Judith lets her magic loose on lights and dressing
up,
Lovely modern microphones take sound to every
pew,
High bulbs don't blow so often and now they're
ECO too!

The schools use up our spaces at the special
times of year,

More artists found the windows and the polling booth comes here.
There are gaps in several rotas but on the whole it works.
Choir tours to High-End venues among the many perks.

We hope you've had some fun here as well as all the stress.
You'll get to wear those chinos
And forgo the fancy dress.

Find how to be your proper selves
Tend your wall of trees
Take care to choose your working times
Just do the things that please

Don't frost the bathroom windows tho' or let the cleaning lapse.
Only use hydraulic lime and lead to slim those hips,
No trellises or planters ...
The Code book's quite a tome
But follow all the guidelines,
You'll quickly feel at home.

We thank you for this decade of sweating, tears and prayers,
pulling out the tables and putting back the chairs,
Competing with the organ and grumbles from the pews
Taking note of everything to soothe conflicting views.

SOOO ... We bid farewell to the Limbert clan up to eight from five,
With a Grandpa now and lovely Gran,
It's great to see them thrive.

They moved to The Green in the reign of the Queen,
And leave for a place with a King.
A Lunar Eclipse takes the place of the Pips in marking this Limbert Last Day .

It just remains to thank them all and give a rousing cheer.
So come on Christchurch Southgate - We'll Miss the Christmas Camel



*An ode composed to mark the retirement of the Reverend Doctor Chrichton Limbert and Judith his wife from the Parish of Christchurch Southgate in September 2025 after 10 years of service.
The Underbard, Angela Parker*

The Bible Study Group - Sons of Korah



Before the summer break, the Bible Study Group looked at the Psalms of the Sons of Korah. Although most of the Psalms are attributed to King David, there are other smaller groups in the Book of Psalms. This is helpful, as studying the whole book would be a severe overload!

Korah's story starts inauspiciously. He has an important position amongst the Levites, alongside Moses, taking care of the treasury of the tabernacle as the Israelites wander in the wilderness. But Korah wants more and demands to be equal to Moses and Aaron. He recruits other Levites and organises a rebellion. It touches on the tradition of the story of Satan's rebellion against God; a prized and important angel, Satan with other angels demands more. Given that, God judges Korah swiftly - a pit opens up and he is swallowed into the earth. But Moses asks God to spare Korah's family and those that move away are saved, including Korah's sons.

Generations later, by God's restorative justice, Heman – the descendant of Korah – becomes the worship leader for Kings David and Solomon, serving in the temple in Jerusalem. His fourteen sons and three daughters are part of the choir and orchestra alongside two other families. And here in the Book of Psalms we can read their compositions.

Even in these few – just twelve psalms – we see great variety. Psalm 42 is a melancholic reflection – “Why my soul are you down-cast?” – for times when we are feeling low ... well “yet will I praise him, my Saviour and my God.” Psalm 84 places the singer as an ordinary Israelite visiting the temple. He is not allowed inside, but he sees a swallow

has made a nest for its young in the building's eaves, closer to the altar than he can get! Yet he sings that it is better to have one day – outside the temple building - in God's courts than a thousand elsewhere.

Psalm 88 is particularly fascinating. It is an astonishingly painful psalm talking about facing death, being abandoned by friends, thrown into a pit, and feeling rejected by God. A copy sits in St Peter's in Gallicantu in Jerusalem. Gallicantu means the place where the cock crowed and it is traditionally the site of Caiaphas's house where Jesus is taken after his arrest at Gethsemane. It is the site where Peter denies Jesus. Inside is a dungeon cell, like a pit, where Jesus would have been held before being questioned by Annas and Caiaphas. It is where he is before being taken to be sentenced to death by Pilate a few hours later. You can imagine Jesus reciting this psalm there in that pit. Heman was a prophet, as the start of 1 Chronicles 25 tells us.

After studying these psalms every other week, we would then listen to one set to music. Somehow it changes the way we receive that psalm, hearing it as it was intended. There are many modern settings, but by far the most popular with the group was John Newton's familiar "Glorious things of thee are spoken", quoting Psalm 87. However, we can recommend others as well now!

The Bible Study Group



Vaccination season!

Vaccinations are one of the most effective public health measures for preventing infectious diseases. Common vaccines protect against diseases such as measles, polio, influenza, and COVID-19. Modern vaccines are rigorously tested for safety and

effectiveness before approval. They have dramatically reduced global illness and death rates, making them a cornerstone of modern medicine and prevention.

Many of us will be having flu and Covid boosters around this time, but if you have younger people in your household, have you heard about the **MenACWY vaccine**? This vaccine helps protect against life-threatening illnesses like meningitis and sepsis. Meningitis, sepsis and septicaemia (blood poisoning) are very serious, potentially life-threatening illnesses that can lead to life-changing disabilities, such as amputations, hearing loss and brain damage.

The MenACWY vaccine is recommended for all teenagers. It's usually given to children when they're 13 or 14 years old, but if you missed having the vaccine when you were at school, you can get it up to the age of 25 years.

Meningitis can spread very quickly in places like universities and colleges. Make sure all your vaccinations are up to date before starting university or college, including the MenACWY vaccine and both doses of the **MMR vaccine**.

You can find out more on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/menacwy-vaccine/>



As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had disturbed nothing in the vestry

Lucas Cranach's 'Adam and Eve'

In October we traditionally give thanks for the good gifts of God's creation at harvest time. In the readings for our worship, we often return to that original goodness in the Garden of Eden, described for us in the opening chapters of Genesis. We glimpse that scene of paradisaical harmony in Lucas Cranach's painting 'Adam and Eve.' It shows a wonderful menagerie of birds and animals around the couple, all unaware that the harmony will be shattered as Adam takes the apple from Eve.

One version of this painting is in the Courtauld Gallery of Somerset House in London. It is a large, neo-classical building by the Strand in the centre of the city. In the summer months 55 fountains play in the courtyard outside, while in the winter people skate on the ice rink. Somerset House was built on the site of a Tudor palace and dates from the 18th century. It is now a centre for the visual arts with an impressive collection of paintings.



Lucas Cranach's 'Adam and Eve, public domain

Lucas Cranach was born in 1472 in what is now Bavaria. He became a court painter to the Electors of Saxony until his death in 1553. Cranach was a close friend of Martin Luther, but also had Catholic patrons. Like the Electors, they marvelled at his mastery of landscape and animals. In this painting we are invited into the garden to look on all the beauty and wonder there. Among the animals we can see a hog, a lion (although Cranach would never have seen a lion in the flesh), a sheep, and a stag, a symbol of Christ. There are birds as well, including a pair of partridges, who traditionally represent the power of love, but also deceit. The roe deer drinking from the pool in the foreground is a reminder of Psalm 42 and the soul thirsting for God. But dominating the scene is that moment of turning from God: there is a glorious tree, laden with fruit, and in front Adam and Eve, whose hands clutch an apple, while the serpent slithers down the trunk in a moment of triumph.

The painting is reminiscent of medieval tapestries and, like them, has a beguiling quality. All is beautiful and harmonious: it is Isaiah's vision of the lion lying down with the lamb amid the fruitfulness of nature and the oneness of creation. As we look on, we know that the

defiance of God and the temptation to eat will lose this paradise. But we also know that creation will be redeemed by another fruit. Around Adam and Eve are the vine and grapes: they represent the Eucharist, the gift of Christ's body and blood.

The fruit of the tree in the painting leads to a fall from grace, but the fruit from that other tree, the vine, will redeem and lift humanity again to share in the bread and wine, the gifts of creation given at harvest and shared at every Holy Communion.

The Revd Michael Burgess

The Meadow Maker

There's a brilliant plant that can really help you to manage your wildflower meadows; it's called Yellow Rattle and September and October are good times to sow it. Yellow Rattle, or Hay Rattle is a British wildflower, also known as the Meadow Maker due to its ability to suppress grass, encouraging wildflowers to thrive.

Yellow Rattle is partially parasitic on grass, tapping into the roots of grass plants and extracting extra nutrition (as well as photo-synthesising like most plants). This weakens the grass to such an extent that an area of grassland containing Yellow Rattle has a visibly shorter sward than the neighbouring patch without. So, less chance of flowers being overtopped and squeezed out, less grass to cut and fewer heavy grass cuttings to rake up and remove. It is an annual plant so doesn't over-winter but it sets seed in June or early July so seed will have scattered by the time you cut your meadow, and once established it spreads itself. Listen for the 'rattle' of the ripe seeds in their pods.



Graham Cook notes: we have grown this in our wild flower meadow in the South Garden

Yellow Rattle can be tricky though, it needs a little care to get it established but is well worth it:

- 1) Cut the area where you will be sowing really short, giving it a firm raking to pull out any dead grass that may be lodged there. Get down to the soil!
- 2) Sow Yellow Rattle seed from now until the end of November, making sure the seed reaches bare soil by scraping away the turf in small patches. Sprinkle a few seeds onto the soil and press down with your foot.
- 3) Give the area another short mow in the spring so the germinating plants have some sunlight. March or April are good times to cut.

Yellow Rattle seed is widely available online, and it is also a component of the Wildflower Seed mix that can be purchased from the Caring for God's Acre website.





Parish Life in Pictures

August and September 2025

Setting up Church House for the Party



Fr Chrichton's last Sunday morning service





Party Time!





Southgate
Session - Jordan
and Emily Wilson
(Tenor and
Trombone /
Soprano) with
James Mark
(piano/organ)



Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

Weekly Services

Sunday **8.00 am** **Said Eucharist**
 10.00 am **Sung Eucharist**
 6.30 pm **Evensong ***

Tuesday **7.30 pm** **Said Eucharist**
 Healing on First & Third week

Thursday **12.30 pm** **Said Eucharist**



* Choral Evensong on 5th Oct, 19th Oct, 2nd Nov, 9th Nov, 16th Nov



Special Services in October & November

Sunday 12th October 10am **Harvest Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday 2nd November 10am **Feast for All Saints**

Sunday 2nd November 6.30pm **Feast for All Souls**
 Requiem mass with the music of Fauré

Sunday 9th November 10.30am **Service of Remembrance**

Sunday 23rd November 6.30pm **Christ the King,**
 Patronal Festival Concert



The Choir of Christ Church Southgate with
 the Bach Sinfonia, St John Passion Bach
 Tickets available online and on the door



Sunday 30th November 6.30pm **Advent Procession**

**On Saturday 25th and Sunday 26 October,
 the Choir will be singing services at Wells Cathedral**

Saturday 11th October 7.00 pm: Harvest Quiz.

Please see either Kate or Clare or email the office to reserve your seats. Tables of 8 are available at £10 per head, payable in advance or on the night. We also need you to donate your terrible gifts and objects for the legendary raffle!
 Please bring your own food and nibbles. A cash bar will be available.

Planet International!

Keeping International Eco Days in Mind

Back in the weekly routine, what sticks in your mind from the holidays? Different foods? New cities? Wildlife? The sea? Or maybe the global news – wildfires, famines, conflict? Whatever it is, October and November offer international days of action when we can help to ensure that positive memories can still be made by many generations to come.

“**Unblocktober**” concentrates on drainage, sewage systems, water courses and the sea, reminding us not to flush wet-wipes or block our drains with fat, to use more sustainable loo paper, and not to pour contaminants into water run-offs feeding local streams, eventually reaching the sea. October is also **International Walk to School Month**, encouraging use of public transport or ‘walking buses’. Or, if we have to use a car, parking further away to reduce pollution at the school gates and walking the last few hundred yards.

On the 1st are **Energy Efficiency Day** and **World Vegetarian Day**. We can turn off unnecessary lights and maybe have a cheese omelette instead of a steak!

We can also contribute to **World Wildlife Day** and **Habitat Day** (the 4th and 6th). Urban foxes,

hedgehogs, and water birds all need our care and attention. Foxes are not the blight that many think –

without them, rats and other rodents would run unchecked. Hedgehogs need us to ensure their habitat remains viable, with a clear run under fences – just scoop out dips below the gravel board – and piles of leaves, logs or other protective cover to help them over-winter safely. Just don’t give them milk – they are super-allergic; it will definitely kill them off.

Likewise, feeding bread to water birds in our parks negatively affects both their health and the water quality. Bread fills them up, stopping them from eating their natural, nutritious diet; it also attracts vermin, and pollutes the water.



Fox in The Mall, March 2025

World Food Day, 16th October, reminds us local produce is available at the Forty Hall Farm Shop (we can order weekly deliveries to *Holtwhites* on Alderman’s Hill) and at the weekly Farmers’ Market on Sundays, a short bus-ride away, at Alexander Palace. Local food is world food – it’s not all about prickly pears and udon noodles! Carrots and cabbages count, too. Crucially, whatever food we buy or grow: eat it, don’t waste it.

On 17th October, the UN promotes **International Eradication of Poverty Day** focussing on being an inclusive society. People with little are often disparaged and ignored by those who have more. But eradicating poverty is not just the rich giving more to the poor. It is also about treating everyone equally in today’s very unequal society. This is something which, as a Christian community, we should be doing routinely as we work to help eliminate the



New signage in Grovelands
Park, August 2025

inequalities around us.

Finally, **World Cities Day** (October 31st) focuses attention on the urban environment, keeping it clean, sustainable and liveable. We can all do this – trimming back shrubs overhanging our fences, moving bits of litter from the pavement outside our homes. Yes, we have streetcleaners, but we also need to take care individually of our neighbourhood (How does this look?) and neighbours (How is their eyesight, their balance?). Our cities will only be sustainable and liveable if we all work to achieve this.

November is **World Vegan Month** (there's so much delicious plant-based choice out there now!) and **World Buy Nothing** month. The 6th, **Preventing Exploitation of the Environment through War and Armed Conflict Day**, reminds us of the urgent

need to love our neighbours as ourselves. The horrific images on our screens are a daily reminder of this.

On a small scale we can help mend things on **World Kindness Day** (the 13th) by doing something helpful or nice for someone else.

Rounding off the month on the 28th and coinciding with Black Friday is **Buy Nothing Day** – a day specifically intended to limit excessive consumerism. Give it a try! We all tend to buy things we don't really need...

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative

OCTOBER - UNBLOCKTOBER & INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH

01_{OCTOBER} **ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY & WORLD VEGETARIAN DAY**

04_{OCTOBER} **WORLD WILDLIFE DAY**

06_{OCTOBER} **WORLD HABITAT DAY**

16_{OCTOBER} **WORLD FOOD DAY**

17_{OCTOBER} **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

31_{OCTOBER} **WORLD CITIES DAY**

NOVEMBER – WORLD VEGAN MONTH & BUY NOTHING NEW MONTH

06_{NOVEMBER} **PREVENTING EXPLOITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH WAR & ARMED CONFLICT**

13_{NOVEMBER} **WORLD KINDNESS DAY**

28_{NOVEMBER} **BUY NOTHING DAY**



News from the Committees

The last **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** on 16th September was the first since Fr Chrichton's

retirement, proving that parish life must and does go on. It was a full agenda including next steps in the Interregnum (see page 7), the parish profile, the harvest events coming up, the continuing **Safeguarding** activities, as well as the regular committee reports. We noted the written message from Fr Chrichton and Judith which expressed thanks for a such a successful and fitting send-off.

The **Plant and Fabric Committee (P&FC)** were able to report that the faculty request for the replacement of the wooden back garden gate has been granted, so work on this will commence on 22nd September and the work on repair and replacement of tiles by the vestry door is also underway. An additional alarm system keypad is being investigated, so that people leaving later at night can do so by the most visible door. Much work has been undertaken in Church House, which has allowed our tenants to continue using the hall.

Finance and Standing Committee (F&SC) informed the PCC that the £3k Church Decarbonisation grant has now been received, which will allow work including lagging the boiler pipes and insulating the windows to proceed, which will not only help improve our heating costs, but keep the church warmer in winter too. The other item of note was the progress on the website - an upgrade to WordPress conflicted with some of our existing plug-ins. Clare has created a mirror site in order to test their fixes, which appears to be successful, so we hope this will be resolved shortly. Much thanks go to Clare for her continuing hard work on this! 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 garden looking particularly lovely. Graham has maintained the lawns and done much watering. Sadly, the sensory garden planted has not thrived, with most of the plants suffering in the very hot weather. We will clear the area and try again in the spring. Graham planted a crab apple tree in the front garden, given to us by Linda Fullick, in memory of her late husband Garry. We also oversaw the planting of a new rose bush by sisters Clare and Sarah Tear, in memory of their parents, who were married in Christ Church. We anticipate the Hatters scouts joining in the next gardening session again.

The **Social Responsibility Committee (SRC)** raised £900 for Magic Breakfast from stall and coffee sales. At present they are raising money for Shower Box and, as The Ark is no longer functioning, our donations of non-perishable goods and toiletries are going to the Food Bank at present. SRC activities are, as always, fully reported elsewhere in *The Spire*.

Lastly, the **Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC)** reported on the extensive corrective work done to remove the damp walls in the south-east corner of the Church house building. Walls have been stripped back to the brickwork, treated with damp-proofing material and replastered. Some flooring and many cupboards attached to the walls were rotten and also had to be removed. At the time of writing, a number of works still need to be done, including reflooring the kitchen, ladies toilet and storeroom and also rebuilding the kitchen with new cupboards.

We have several new regular bookings for the Walker Hall. After school "Abacus Maths classes" on Tuesday afternoons and the 6th New Southgate Guide Company on Tuesday evenings, while their Friern Barnet Road hall is rebuilt.

SRC Report

The plans for the **Harvest Quiz** are coming together. It will be held on the **11th October** and tables of eight can now be booked. Please let us have your unwanted gifts for the usual 'awful raffle'. This year the proceeds will be divided between the **Hatter Explorer Scouts** who are planning their Kenya26 trip. They are going to give support to the help preserve wildlife in Kenya, and improve the livelihoods of communities in Maasai Conservancy areas, and **One-to-One Enfield**. This local group work with people with learning difficulties helping them lead lives on an equal footing to others and making the community more accessible to them.

Harvest gifts of non-perishable tins and packets will go to the **Food Bank** and **Homeless Action Barnet**. We are also asking again for contributions for **SHOWERBOX**. Showers are available on Saturday mornings at St Giles in the Fields for those in need. They require hygiene supplies, clean towels and new underwear.

Noah's Ark have their annual campaign 'From that Moment 2025' through until 13th October. Donations during this time will be priced matched. There is a bucket in church or you can donate on line at www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk

I have agreed to send Shoebox presents overseas again this year. We have supported **Operation Christmas Child** for over twenty years and I think this will be my last. As usual you will find flyers in church and in the Spire. The cost of postage is again £5. Gifts of boxes, wrapping paper and contents all welcome, as are complete boxes. Last date is Sunday 9th November. Or you can donate a box on line at www.samaritians-purse.org.uk for £25.

Sales from the stall are continuing. There are a few of Mrs Vicarage cards left and we will find something to fill the space when they are gone. We hope to have more stalls in December so if you have saleable items please sort them out.

Thank you for your continuing support!

Hilary Meur
Tel.02083602362 Email
ccsoces@gmail.com

Operation Christmas Child 2025

This will probably be my last year of sending shoeboxes!

Last year we sent 66 boxes! I would be grateful as ever for any contributions towards the postage costs (£5 per box), or any of the items below...
The closing date is 9th November.

crayons hair accessories gloves
notebooks stickers puzzle scarf
doll jigsaw jewellery sunglasses
hat ball skipping rope wind up torch
slinky recorder water bottle harmonica

Alternatively you can fill your own box online for £25 at:

www.samaritians-purse.org.uk

Thank you, Hilary Meur



There is no better proof of friendship than to help our friends with their burdens. – Augustine

Thank you from ShowerBox!



ShowerBox



Hot showers. Fresh essentials. Human dignity.

Following the SRC support of ShowerBox from proceeds from stall and coffee sales, we received the following thank you card:

To Angela and all at Christ Church Southgate

Thank you so much for raising awareness of our work – we are incredibly grateful for your support.

From Lisa, Sarah and everybody at ShowerBox

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 3rd October and Friday 7th November**.

The next **Friday Foodie** evening will be held on **17th October** and is a **German beer and food evening**.

Recent News: The bar re-opened after its normal summer closure on Sunday 31st August. Friday Foodies resumed with a Fish and Chips supper evening on 19th September. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 5th September and after the talk on the Parish Pilgrimage on Sunday 27th July. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

The CCA also supported Father Crichton’s farewell lunch on Sunday, 7th September.

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)

Stewardship

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder



As we move into Autumn it seems that everything slows down, unfortunately that does not apply to the need to think about your finances. This equally applies to the running of Christ Church as we enter the interregnum following the retirement of Father Chrichton after 10 successful years.

Many of you may have experienced this situation before, many of you will not. We will face a long period without the benefits of a Vicar, during which time we still have to pay our Common Fund payment to the Diocese, with the inevitable increase next year.

We carried out a successful Stewardship Campaign over the past 12 months and we are seeing the benefits of new members in Stewardship and, of course, the many generous donation increases from existing members. Unfortunately, alongside this, we continue to lose donors for a variety of reasons and so it is imperative that we continue to increase the number of regular donors, otherwise all the hard work over the last year will have been wasted.

The Parish Giving Scheme is having a major update from November, they are shutting

down their website on **13th October until 30th October**. During this time, they won't be able to manage or set up gifts as they need to allow time to move all existing data over to the new system and migrate the Direct Debit processing to GoCardless. This takes several working days to complete, and must be followed by rigorous testing to ensure that the migration was successful. Any existing givers wanting to make changes to their regular giving for the November Direct Debit collection, must do this by **Monday 13th October** to allow the PGS team to process everything ahead of the switchover period.

But, 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** and 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



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 Vacancy

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 curate@christchurch-southgate.org

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 via the office
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

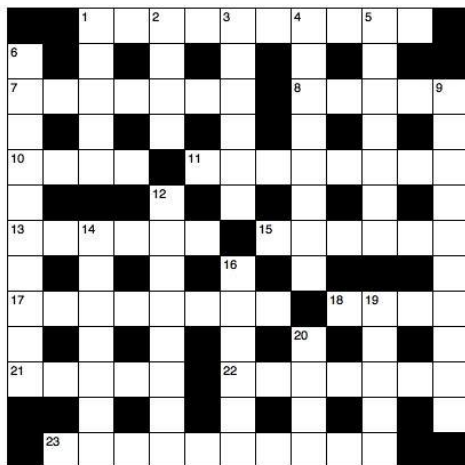
Scout Group The Reverend Hazel Miall, *Cubs* 07980 740587
 Stephen Smith, *Group Scout Leader* 8882 0991

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

OCTOBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down
'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her —' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an —, — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

DOWN

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

AUGUST SOLUTION



Children's Corner



Poppies are bright red flowers that people wear in November to remember soldiers who have fought in wars. The tradition started after World War One, when poppies grew on battlefields in France and Belgium. A famous poem called **In Flanders Fields**

described them, and they became a symbol of remembrance. When people buy and wear poppies, the money helps support veterans and their families. Poppies remind us of bravery, peace, and the hope for a better future. By wearing one, even children can take part in remembering and saying thank you to those who served their country!

Next time you are in Church, take a look at all the names listed on our World War I memorial.

Find the mouse!

Last time, Walker the mouse was praying at the altar in the Warden Licensing picture on Page 15. See if you can find him holding a sheaf of corn to celebrate harvest!



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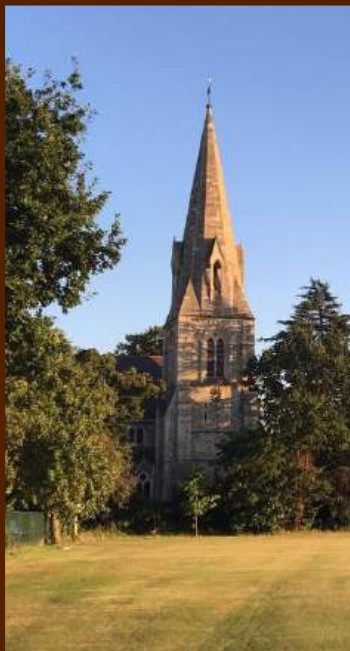
Reach your local community and contribute to the work of Christ Church

For details and rates contact
Hilary Meur

Tel: 020 8360 2362

Email: ccsocres@gmail.com

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

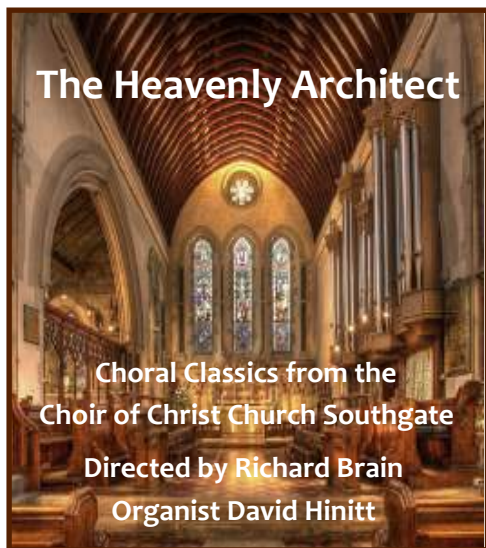


Christ Church Southgate is an Eco-Church, we have achieved the Silver Award.

We are committed to caring for God's earth in the different areas of our life and work and are actively working to reduce our environmental impact



"We believe in inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."



The Heavenly Architect

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

CHRIST CHURCH
— Southgate —

CHOIR CD

'The Heavenly Architect'
Choral Classics from the Choir of Christ Church, Southgate.

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

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We rely on your generous donations to finance our ministry