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The Spire



**December 2025
and January 2026**

The Parish Magazine of

CHRIST CHURCH
— **Southgate** —



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Paul Ellerby

Curate of Christ Church Southgate

As I write this there is still a whole week of November left and in one sense I am waiting for a time of waiting – waiting for Advent.

Waiting too to hear the results of the latest round of discussions on peace between Ukraine and Russia, waiting to know what the UK Budget holds and waiting for the recruitment ads for our next vicar to appear in the Church Times!

Into all these aspects of life, which each hold some measure of uncertainty, we can welcome God in the person of Jesus to shine the light of his love and give us some hope and encouragement.

From the first Sunday of Advent, we will light candles on the Advent Wreath, but before we do that we pray over the wreath:

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. Bless us and accept this wreath of light made from our hands. May its ever increasing brightness be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for his humble birth in a manger and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory”

As you read this, I expect that Advent will have arrived and you might be going on a journey day by day through the windows of your Advent Calendar, you may even be doing that with Mary, Joseph and the Donkey sharing your home!

And what are those windows revealing each day? A festive chocolate, seasonal images, a scripture reading, a religious picture or perhaps you enjoy the kind of calendar that reveals a more extravagant treat every day.

We all have our own seasonal traditions and ways to celebrate, and whatever they are and however we wait through Advent and towards Christmas, and whatever fills our hearts and minds at this time, I pray that each one of us would welcome God to shine the light of his love and may its ever increasing brightness be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of his Son, as we prepare in joy for his humble birth.

God’s richest blessings on you all through this Advent and Christmas!

Fr Paul



Why does Christmas begin at midnight with Holy Communion?

The tradition of a midnight service, called Midnight Mass, dates back to the early church in Jerusalem and became established in the Western Church around the 5th century, to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of His birth.

This tradition was first chronicled by Egeria, a Galician woman who went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land around 381. She witnessed how the early Catholics of Jerusalem honoured the Christmas mystery with a midnight vigil at Bethlehem.

Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its “domestic convenience” in 1947: “for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time.”



Note from the Editors

As we approach the end of 2025 (where did the year go?), we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors this year, and we do hope all our readers have enjoyed reading the magazine.

The deadline for copy for the February/March edition is **Wednesday 21st January**. Please send to christchurchspire@gmail.com - we'd also love to have suggestions of anything you'd like to see featured.

May the joy of Christ's birth fill your heart with peace and hope. Wishing you a blessed Christmas surrounded by God's love, grace, and everlasting light. Merry Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Imogen and Freya



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

Scripture Gardens

There are many references in the Bible to God and Gardens. Isaiah 61: 11 being one of many ***“For as the soil makes the sprout come up... so the Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations”.***

Gardens illustrate God’s work in growth and goodness. I am aware that many people find that they feel closer to God when they are in a garden, or a park, because they know that they are God’s gift to us, and he seems close to us there. God has no hands but ours, so we humans do have to work at it to get the best out of our own gardens or flowerpots, but we can always go and appreciate the work that professional gardeners have done.

Earlier in the year while visiting my son and his family in Denver, Colorado we visited the Botanical Gardens and came across the Scripture Garden. It features plants mentioned in the Bible, like fruiting trees and vines as well as lilies, nigella and ‘Rue, olives palms and pomegranites and many more.

One of the most memorable features was not actually a plant but sculpted paving stones by artist William Joseph, which linked Judaism and Christianity.

Although America is home to many different places of worship, I can’t remember coming across a more poignant reminder that Jesus was born into the Jewish faith and our two religions have much in common. The photo I took illustrates features of our religions for example, The Lamb of God, the scrolls, the corn for the bread, the grapes for the wine, the menorah, the fish etc. They are side by side in a circle, with even more symbols in the centre. Although the Jewish people don’t really have symbols we can nonetheless recognise that they represent people building together, putting aside



differences to achieve a common goal. Those stones illustrate the coming together of the two faiths.

A garden is not just a home for plants; it’s for animals too. In Denver they have created ‘bug hotels’ (illustrated in the photo) which provide shelter for beneficial insects including solitary bees, ladybirds, and wasps, helping to support the local ecosystem, so the habitat can help with pollination, decomposition, and pest control within the garden.

We know that God has no hands but ours, and with God’s help we can all do our best to sustain the flora and fauna of our world for future generations.



Hazel Miall

Parochialia

A gift that Fr Chrichton left to The Spire on his retirement was a treasure trove of a book – ‘Parochialia’. Compiled by Vernon Staley in 1903, this collection gathers together articles published in various parish magazines from the previous 25 years, with such wonderful headings as ‘A Caution to Communicants’ and ‘Rules for Spoiling a Child’. Many of them are unintentionally funny to us reading today, but this lovely article speaks to us all.



Suggestions for the New Year

Every Year, through all its months, remember the Sun of Righteousness. Follow our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to save you, who gave himself for you, leaving you an example that you should follow his steps. He is your light in the darkness of the world.

Every Month, throughout its weeks, note what season the Church bids you observe; that you may learn how to follow Jesus in his sufferings and triumphs. Remember his feasts and fasts, the solemn seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Whitsuntide.

Every Week, throughout its days, note the special teachings that come to you as the saints’ days pass by. One by one the saints of old teach us to be like them. Apostles, martyrs, evangelists, and confessors lead us to Christ.

Every Day, throughout its hours, let the thought of your own weakness cause you to go for help to One stronger than you are. Make it your daily rule to pray to God in your secret chamber morning and evening. And when you can, visit the house of God, the church, seeking his Presence there.

Every Moment, you are in the hands of God. He supports your life, He gives you all you have, He is your only sure hope for time and eternity. Set him always before you, in all your work and your rest, your cares and your pleasures.

The Editors

The First Christmas Stamps in the UK

The United Kingdom issued its first Christmas stamps in 1966, much later than several other countries that had already adopted the tradition. Their introduction marked an important moment in British postal history and reflected changing attitudes toward seasonal celebrations, design, and public engagement.

In the early 1960s, there was growing public interest in special stamps for Christmas, especially as other nations such as Canada, Australia, and the United States had been producing festive issues for years. The UK, however, had long upheld a tradition of using definitive monarch stamps for most mail, and the idea of introducing a seasonal design was initially met with hesitation. Concerns ranged from religious sensitivity to practical considerations about production and distribution. Yet by the mid-1960s, demand had

become too strong to ignore.

What set the first British Christmas stamps apart was how they were designed. In a unique and charming decision, the Post Office invited children to submit artwork for the stamps through a nationwide competition organised with the *Blue Peter* television programme—an institution beloved by generations of children. Thousands of entries poured in, reflecting the excitement and creativity the competition inspired.

The winning designs came from two young artists: David Gentleman, aged five, whose painting “King with Crown” featured a bright, bold depiction of a king, and James Berry, aged six, whose design “Snowman” captured a simple and joyful winter scene. These designs formed the basis of the two stamps issued that year: a 3d stamp and a 1s 6d stamp.



The stamps were an immediate success. Millions were printed and used across the country as families posted Christmas cards, which were becoming increasingly popular. Their release also encouraged the public to see stamps as objects of design and collectability, not merely functional tools for the mail system. The 1966 Christmas stamps remain among the most loved and recognisable special issues the UK has produced.

Today, the original designs are remembered fondly, representing a combination of national tradition, childhood creativity, and festive warmth. The first UK Christmas stamps not only transformed postal history but also captured the spirit of the season in a way that remains timeless.

Putting our Stamp on Christmas

As always, thank you to everyone who is saving stamps for the RNIB.

Sadly, although people are taking the trouble to save them and bring them to church, a lot of stamps are still being just torn off the envelopes. In itself that doesn't matter, because I can trim them to avoid the weight of additional waste paper, but in practice tearing often leads to the perforations being damaged or being too close to the edge of the paper backing. I've done some counting over recent weeks and I've found that I'm often having to discard 50% or more of the stamps being donated. And on one occasion, every single stamp was damaged by tearing. This is so disappointing given the trouble being taken to save and donate these stamps in the first place.

The RNIB asks for used stamps with a clear 1cm margin of the backing paper/envelope. As well as damaged stamps, they cannot use the newish 'printed' stamps, and they don't need the full franking mark. Just a stamp with a 1 cm border round it to protect the perforations.

My apologies! I sound like a grumpy old woman! But we do need to avoid offering this charity damaged goods, which doesn't help them.



**Some stamps
we can't use**

Patricia Ashby

Christingle: a generous present from the Moravians

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle, especially one Moravian clergyman: **John de Watteville**.

On 20th December 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".



John de Watteville then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: **"Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become"**.

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: **"hereupon the children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed"**.

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that ... The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them: to Labrador, to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: **"We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."**

From Parish Pump



Christmas Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!



Sunday 30th November, 6.30pm. Advent Procession

A special service to mark the beginning of the Church's year, with a procession moving from darkness to light, including seasonal carols and readings.

Sunday 14th December, 4pm. Christingle Service

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Our music is led by our Junior Choristers.

Sunday 21st December, 10am. Pop-up Nativity

Our Eucharist will include the organised chaos of our Pop-up Nativity – literally anything can happen, and usually does. Just come and be part of it all.

Sunday 21st December, 6.30pm. Nine Lessons and Carols

The traditional service of lessons and carols telling the story of the promise of a Messiah and the birth of Jesus. Enjoy the singing of the choir and joining in!

Wednesday 24th December, 5pm. Crib Service

Follow the angels through the avenue of light to the Christmas Crib that is built as we hear the familiar words and sing our favourite carols. Our music is led by our Junior Choristers.

Wednesday 24th December, 11.15pm. Midnight Mass

Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with our sung Eucharist of the Nativity.

Thursday 25th December, 8am and 10am.



Christmas Morning Eucharist Services

Join us for a quiet start to Christmas Day at 8am, or come at 10am for Christmas Communion with carols.

**Will****Director of Music**

Will grew up in Romford, Essex, and has travelled to Australia and Antigua by himself to watch England play Test Match Cricket.

Getting to know The Choir of Christ Church Southgate

**Liv**
Soprano

Liv works as an immunology researcher. She once had her photo featured in Tatler, pictured with the ex boss of ITV.

**Dave**
Bass

Dave encountered the choir's YouTube channel during the pandemic. The services and music were just what he needed at the time, and he was really pleased to join in person.

**Stephie**
Alto

When Stephie isn't busy singing, she works on planning new infrastructure for towns and cities.

**Adrian**
Bass

Formerly a regular member, Adrian is pursuing training for the priesthood in Oxford, working at Keble College and a parish church in Oxfordshire.

**Chrystyna**
Alto

After joining the choir as a soprano, Chrystyna has recently transitioned to the "dark side" and moved to alto (or seen the light, depending on your point of view).

**Samuel**
Tenor

Samuel is currently directing Grey College Chapel Choir in Durham, where he is studying.



Susanna
Soprano

Susanna has two dogs named Stilton and Cracker! She is engaged to Matthew, our organist.



Geoff
Bass

Geoff spent most of the last decade living in Taiwan, where his main choir had weekly 8-hour rehearsals. He plays squash at the club just over the road.



Claire
Alto

Claire's favourite liturgical season at church is Advent - she loves the sense of mystery, stillness and quiet anticipation.



Ian
Bass

After more than half a century, Ian thinks he is about due for his huge Choir Pension!



Cath
Soprano

Cath learns Latin and Ancient Greek. Bella, her disabled Serbian hound, often comes along to church. She once met the composer John Tavener.



Daniel
Bass

Daniel volunteers at Parkrun most weekends and competes in the odd 10k and half marathon. Daniel works for a multi-academy trust of schools in disadvantaged communities.



Liz
Alto

Liz joined the choir 37 years ago. Her favourite piece the choir sings is 'And I saw a new heaven' by Bainton.



Tim
Tenor

Tim joined the choir as Richard Brain's dad! We are very pleased he continues to join us from time to time.



Ethan
Bass

Ethan is currently away studying engineering in Sheffield, but looks forward to singing in the holidays. He played his first ever service on the organ at Southgate in June 2025.

Greetings from Fr Chrichton and Judith

Greetings to you all from Poundbury! Judith and I can't really believe that it is almost 3 months since our last day with you in September, when you sent us on our way with so much love and affection.

We are all unpacked and (mostly) sorted in our new home in Dorset. There has been so much to explore already – with a lot more to come as we find our new place in the community. We had no idea that there was so much history in Dorchester. We have already found the largest and best-preserved Iron-age fort in Europe (the size of 48 football pitches), a Roman Amphitheatre (also used as a gun emplacement in the Civil War), the courtroom where the Tolpuddle Martyrs were sentenced, as well as various sites of execution for Royalists, Catholics and others. We are also a couple of miles from the Cerne Abbas Giant, the Swanage Steam Railway, the largest Tank Museum in Europe, and of course the sea – plenty to do!

I've also joined the local church choir that sings for one Evensong and one Eucharist a month, so that will keep my hand in. I will also be singing the Nine Lessons and Carols service here in Dorchester the evening before we come back to Christ Church on December 21st for the Pop-Up Nativity and the Nine Lessons and Carols. So, we will be able to say hello and celebrate Christmas together.

Another thing that we have done since we left is to buy a new set of knitted nativity figures, as Judith was missing the original Mary, Joseph and Donkey after all our travels

together. They are also settling in well and are looking forward to learning about what their London cousins got up to when we do the fabulous Advent Calendar jigsaw you all gave us.

If we don't see you on the 21st December, have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Fr Chrichton and Judith



A Single Rose

**What can I compare with a single rose,
Your joy and beauty uplift me so in life
You are an emblem of your Mother Nature
Your beauty leads to action, not to strife**

This poem, dear reader, I wrote many years ago. I include it again here, for your love in Jesus and our work that we do for Him and the Church.

Now it is Advent and we look forward with joy to a holy blessed Christmas. I do my Advent fast for TearFund and thank you to everyone who sponsors me.

We hope and pray and act for peace in the holy land. Here's to Shalom for Jesus' sake, and peace to everywhere in the world. Poor teenager Leah Sharibu was abducted from school years ago and is in captivity for her faith – please pray for her at Christmas.

From your Christian sister, Lynda Corcoran

Parish Walk – Palmers Green to Enfield Town along New River Path

Although the temperature was a bit crispy, the sky was bright and the sun was out and it promised to be a good day for walking. Nine intrepid walkers assembled outside Morrison's supermarket in Palmers Green and started in good spirits. This is the third section of the New River Path that our Parish Walks would be walking, the first two being from Islington to Finsbury Park to Palmers Green.



The New River is an aqueduct completed in 1613 before our Weld Chapel was built, over 400 years ago. Considering that it was over 40 miles long when built (and now shortened to around 28 miles by subsequent straightening and underground pipes), it was an engineering marvel of the time. It still carries about 8% of the fresh water used by Londoners, from the Lea River near Ware in Hertfordshire, and from more recently accessed underground aquifers along the route.



The New River Path follows the New River as closely as possible, walking beside it along some sections but diverted to the roadway when it ducks behind buildings or when underground. The route today being "in our own backyard" provided some surprises in the unexpected views that we saw. Such tranquillity only a stone's throw from the familiar hustle and bustle of Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill. Further from our home territory as we near

Enfield Town was the scenic New River Loop near the Town Park where we encountered water birds like shovelers and mute swans in addition to the ever-present coots, moorhens, mallards, and Canadian geese.

It was a shame that it started raining when we were nearing the end of our walk, contrary to the weather forecast that led us to believe that we would have a dry time! The walk ended when we emerged onto Church Street in Enfield Town and went our separate ways. It was indeed a very enjoyable and leisurely half day walk.

Ronald Lo and the Parish Walking Group

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."



Parish Life in Pictures

October and November 2025



The Harvest Quiz



Harvest Service



Monkfrith's Year 6 Visit



Walker School Harvest Festival



Little Oaks Harvest visit



All Souls

Junior choristers presented with their latest RSCM medals



Bishop Rob preaches and Bishop Anderson visits LLM event hosted by Christ Church



Welcome to Julian after confirmation



Remembrance





Lagging
boiler
pipes



Repaint-
ing
Church
House



The Church
Cleaning Crew!



Hatters Scouts help with gardening



Christ Church

Annual Traditional Christmas Raffle



As usual we will be holding our
Traditional Christmas Raffle
again this year

The **1st Prize** will be a Luxury
Hamper, also further prizes to be won

**Raffle tickets are priced at £2 per strip of
tickets**

Tickets will be available to purchase at the back of church following the
8am and 10am Sunday services up until, and including, the service of Nine
Lessons and Carols, at the end of which service the draw will take place.

All proceeds this year will go to [Dementia Club UK](#)

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 for	Said Eucharist
	or 7.00pm for	Healing Service on First & Third week
Thursday	12.30 pm	Said Eucharist



* Choral Evensong on 7th December, check notices for January dates

**Please Note: from January, healing services will continue to take place
on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, but will start at 7pm.**

Mistletoe

In Britain most mistletoe is found in the south-west Midlands, with particularly good populations in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Gwent and Somerset. There is mistletoe elsewhere, but it is only regionally abundant in that core area of the south-west midlands.



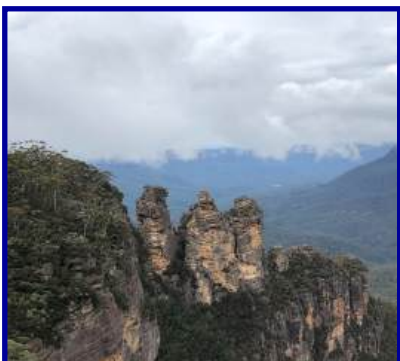
Change may be happening though – new evidence from the last 20 years suggests that mistletoe is spreading faster than it used to. This is particularly noticeable in eastern areas, where established but seemingly static mistletoe populations are now spreading. Is this change due to climate or to birds? It could be subtle hints of climate change – computer modelling does suggest that mistletoe will head east with climate change. Or it could be something else. One possibility is better spread of the seeds by Blackcaps, a bird that is particularly efficient at spreading mistletoe. British Blackcaps migrate for the winter, so they do not usually affect mistletoe here, but recently continental Blackcaps have started overwintering in Britain, with many thousands now spending their winters here and feeding on mistletoe and then spreading it.

Kissing beneath the mistletoe is a very old tradition indeed and although part of Christmas revels, mistletoe is rarely allowed inside a church because of its strong pagan associations. It is well known as the most sacred plant of the Druids, the priestly clan of the Celts.

If you have a young fruit tree in your churchyard, garden or elsewhere, how about encouraging mistletoe by smearing some berries onto the bark after Christmas is over. The thin bark of a young trees is easier for the mistletoe to penetrate and establish.



Planet International! Let's look at International Eco Days



The Blue Mountains, Australia

What goes around comes around... the international eco days from last year are here again in 2025-26. Maybe you are already planning to observe and celebrate the same day(s) again, or maybe you will pick something different. Whatever you choose, you will be coming together with the entire international community – you will not be doing this alone. International days are occasions to educate ourselves, to mobilise political will and resources to solve global problems, and to celebrate our achievements.

Here in Christ Church, for example, we have many, many volunteers among our staff and congregation.

The 5th December, **International Volunteer Day**, would be an appropriate day to offer thanks and say a prayer for the amazing work of our volunteers without whom Christ Church as we know it would cease to exist – our present clergy, lay readers, PCC members, sides-persons, cleaners, gardeners, coffee-makers... the list is almost endless... are all volunteers. Like volunteers the world over, they give freely and unstintingly of their time to others. Maybe this year you would also like to start volunteering?

Also in December, **International Migrants Day** on the 18th is especially important, encouraging us to actively celebrate the contributions and opportunities of migration. Press headlines apart, all the evidence tells us that when managed safely and strategically, migration can be a powerful force for good.

January's **House Plant Appreciation Day** was established to remind us of the pleasure plants can bring to our homes – greenery and even colour. House plants date back to the ancient Egyptians who are thought to have been the first people to use them to decorate their rooms. Today, we are also aware that many plants offer additional benefits – releasing oxygen, acting as air purifiers (spider plants are good at this) and humidifiers, as well as reducing stress and improving our overall well-being. Perhaps January 10th is the day to start focussing on the plants in your house, to look after them and give back some of the pleasure they give to you. Maybe even give a “Happy New Year” plant to a friend.



Image by Freepik

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative

DECEMBER

05 DECEMBER	WORLD SOIL DAY
05 DECEMBER	INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY
10 DECEMBER	INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RIGHTS DAY
11 DECEMBER	INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY
18 DECEMBER	INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

JANUARY

05 JANUARY	NATIONAL BIRD DAY
10 JANUARY	HOUSEPLANT APPRECIATION DAY
26 JANUARY	THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN ENERGY
31 JANUARY	INTERNATIONAL ZEBRA DAY

DON'T FORGET THE LONGER EVENTS SUCH AS VEGANUARY!



News from the Committees

The second **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** meeting of the interregnum took place on Wednesday

17 November 2025. The meeting was very brief, being followed immediately by a longer Section 12 meeting chaired by Bishop Anderson, to finalize details of the Parish Profile in readiness for advertising for our new incumbent. This time, therefore, although no formal reports were received, agenda items included evidence of activities which are summarised below.

Our Treasurer reported that an earlier meeting the **Finance and Standing Committee (F&SC)** had agreed draft financial projections for 2026 (which envisage a modest overall deficit for the year). The **PCC** reviewed and approved the draft. It was agreed that a close watch would be kept on all upcoming expenditure.

The **Plant and Fabric Committee (P&FC)** asked the **PCC** for approval to install a new Alarm Pad which will enable access via the small North door instead of this being only via the vestry door which is out of public view. Using the small North door would ensure greater safety for all those coming and going from the church 'out of hours'. This was duly approved and **P&FC** will now apply for the necessary permissions to enable this to happen.

Otherwise, there is visible evidence around us every day of the ongoing hard work by **Creation Care (CC)**, **Social Responsibility Committee (SRC)**, with a full report elsewhere in this magazine), and the **Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC)**. We are all beneficiaries of the recent **CC** garden tidying for winter and church cleaning in preparation for the coming Christmas season. Evidence of **SRC** activities are all around us (Foodbank collections,

shoeboxes, the gift tree, Christmas cards and gifts on the stall and Friday coffee). And the Parish Centre continues to flourish, thanks to the hard work of the **PCMC**.

Patricia Ashby



CHRISTCHURCH ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of ChristChurch Association shall be held in the Reception Room in Church House on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 8:30pm.

All members and non-members are welcome.

Voting by members only

If a member wishes to place a question at the meeting in 'any other business' then they should send their question, in writing, emailed to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting:

christchurchassociation@gmail.com.

Nominations for committee members should be advised to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting.

Copies of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024 held on 17th November 2024 are available by contacting the Hon. Secretary via the email address above.

Hon. Secretary – Angela Smith

Email: christchurchassociation@gmail.com



At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

Christchurch Association News

The Christchurch Association (CCA) provides a social centre for the parish and runs the "Top Step Bar", serving soft and alcoholic drinks upstairs in Church House. We are able to take contactless payments as well as accepting cash.

The CCA Top Step bar opens early **at 6pm** on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next such occasions are **Friday 5th December and Friday 9th January**. In addition, **mince pies and mulled wine** will be available on **Friday 19th December**.

The Annual General Meeting of the CCA will be held in the Reception Room at Church House on **Wednesday, 3rd December**. All members are welcome to attend if they are able. If you are a member and are interested in serving on the committee please contact one of us.

The CCA will be closed from Wednesday 24th to Wednesday 31st December inclusive, and will re-open on Friday 2nd January.

Recent News: Friday Foodies continued with an Oktoberfest evening of German food and beers on 17th October. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 3rd October and Friday 7th November. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

The CCA also supported the Harvest Quiz on Saturday, 11th October, and the St John Passion concert on Sunday, 23rd November.

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)

SRC Report

At the lunch for Fr. Chrichton and Judith as they left, we held a raffle and £300 was raised for the **RNLI** in St. David's where their son is part of the lifeboat crew.

Harvest seems a long time ago but has not yet been reported. The quiz raised £1,100 which has been divided equally between **The Hatter Scouts** and **One to One Enfield**. This is a charity who give support to young adults with learning difficulties. There will also be a donation from the takings on the bar.

Harvest gifts of non-perishable goods went to **HAB and the Food bank**. We continue to support both of these on a regular basis. The stall and coffee income, as well as many bags of toiletries, towels and new underwear went to **Showerbox**. Many thanks to our delivery drivers.

This year we have sent 48 shoeboxes and £350 + Gift Aid to **Operation Christmas Child**. Several boxes have also been gifted on-line. Many thanks for your continued generosity. Over the 21 years we have sent about 1700 boxes, this is a great result. This may well be my last year and if anyone is eager to take on the task I will be happy to give a little advice.



Christmas cards and Advent candles are now on sale in church, and the raffle has appeared. Our chosen charity this year is **Dementia Care UK** based in Barnet. There are some leaflets available in church. Dementia is touching the lives of many of us and some of our regular congregation are affected so a good local choice. Our stalls will be in church through December.

By the time you read this our **Gift Tree** tags will be in church. Gifts for young carers in Enfield are needed early. Please take a tag and buy an age-appropriate gift up to £20 in value and return it by

Sunday 7th December. Presents should be unwrapped and in a gift bag.

On Advent Sunday we will wrap gifts for **Southgate Homebound**. They like a box of biscuits or chocolates, some toiletries or a shawl or throw. This year they would like 24 presents. Any help with gifts and wrapping much appreciated. This group meet monthly in Walker Hall. Their presents will be distributed at a fish & chip supper on 12th December. Anyone who would like to join this group please let me know.

Our Christingle and Crib services are taking place as usual and the collections will go to **The Children's Society**.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us so well for another good year. Your generous response is much appreciated!

Hilary Meur

Tel.02083602362 Email ccsocres@gmail.com

Think not on what you lack as much as on what you have - Greek proverb

Stewardship

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder



As you are aware we carried out a successful Stewardship Campaign during the last 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.

Our preferred method of giving, **The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)**, carried out a major update from November. There is now a brand-new website, full details of how to join are at the end of this article. Unfortunately, there are no paper application forms available in church at present. I am making enquiries as to whether this facility will be introduced again in the near future.

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:**

♦ **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**



At present there is no facility to use a paper form to join the PGS

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

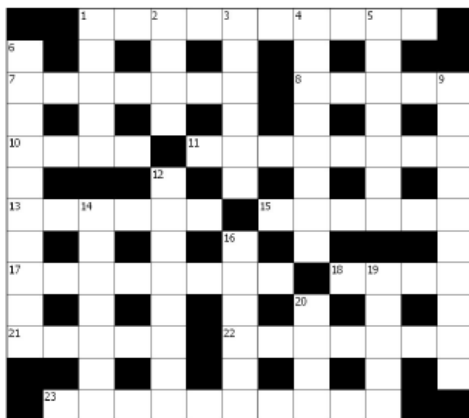
Scout Group The Reverend Hazel Miall, *Cubs* 07980 740587
 Stephen Smith, *Group Scout Leader* 8882 0991

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

Young Fogey's *For the active and retired, though you need not be either!*
Contact Ian Cameron Black 8886 4942

Bible Study Group Jackie Anderson 8245 0305

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (2)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

DOWN

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

OCTOBER SOLUTION



Children's Corner



Find the mouse!

Last time, Walker the mouse was on the wall at the top of page 2. He is wishing you a Happy Christmas somewhere in this magazine!

What is a football supporter's favourite Christmas song? *'Yule never walk alone'*

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? *Tinseltus*

What do you call Santa's helpers?
Subordinate Clauses

Christmas is weird – at what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

Colour In the Nativity Scene



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For details and rates contact
Hilary Meur
Tel: 020 8360 2362
Email: ccsocrates@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
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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