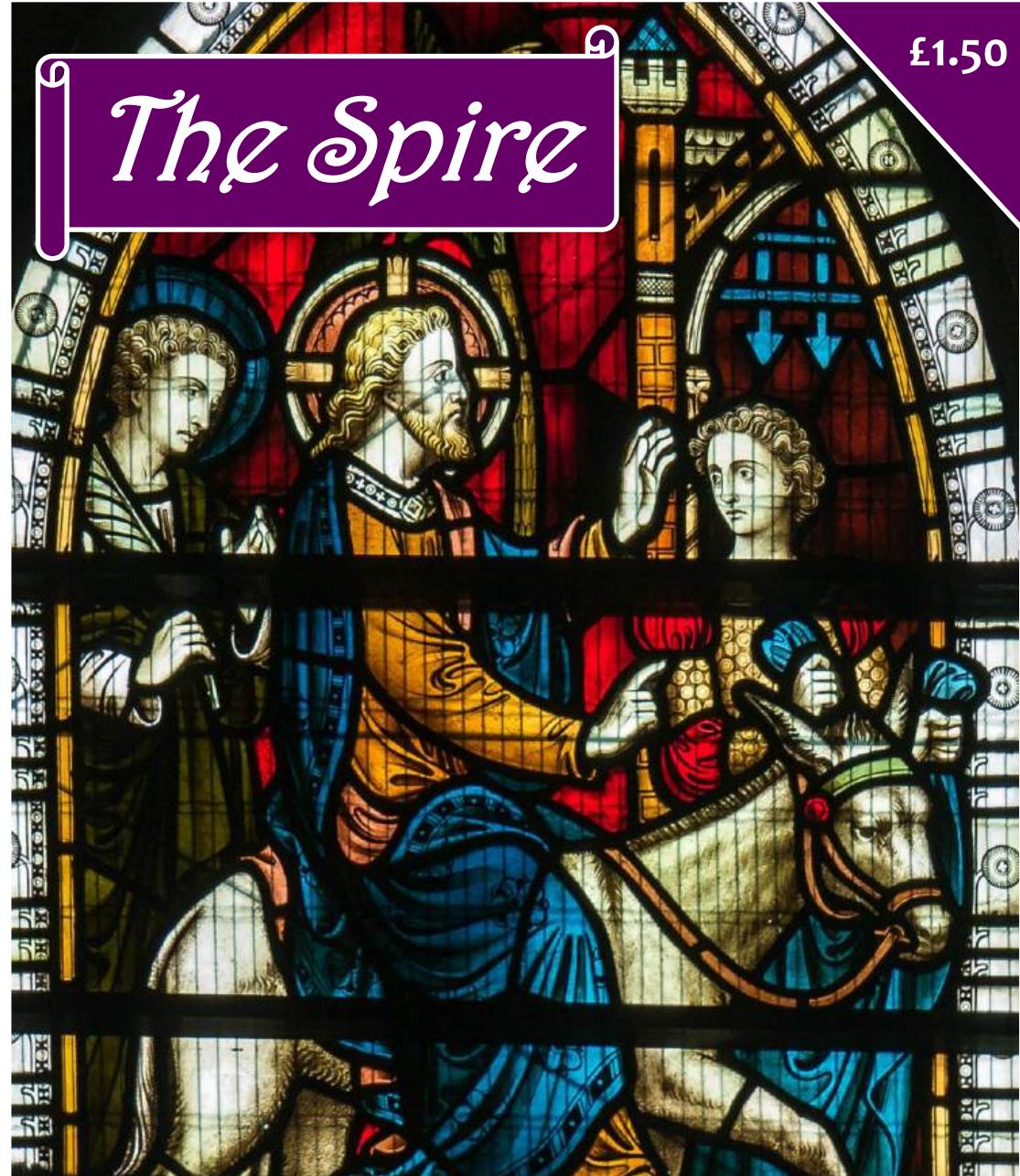


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The Spire



**February and
March 2026**

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
Southgate



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SEDDONS

MACRORY WARD SOLICITORS have as of 4 September 2023 joined

SEDDONS Solicitors

Macrory Ward have been assisting Christ Church members in legal matters since 1984, particularly in wills, property, tax planning, powers of attorney and probate matters.

Home visits to the housebound and elderly.

Please contact Martina Ward, Margaret Iwaszsyn or John Macrory

telephone: 020 7725 8020 or 020 7725 8021

Email:

martina.ward@seddons.co.uk

or

john.macrory@seddons.co.uk

27 Station Road, New Barnet EN5 1PH



Welcome!

From The Reverend

Paul Ellerby

Curate of Christ Church Southgate

February begins with Candlemas and then we have just eighteen days until the beginning of Lent. How strange to think that even before we begin Lent, those who have applied to be our next vicar will have been considered and a short list created. Then even before we get to read the next issue of The Spire, interviews will have happened and someone may have been appointed. Let this be something that motivates us to keep praying for our church community in the day and weeks ahead.

Keeping Lent in Southgate can have its own gentle rhythm. We are not in a desert or a monastery, but among buses on the High Road, school runs, coffee shops, and the steady pulse of north London life. And perhaps that is exactly where Lent belongs: woven into the ordinary.

Lent asks us to slow down and pay attention. For us, that might begin with noticing the small signs of the season as we go about our days: the bare trees in the parks, the longer evenings arriving almost unnoticed, the quiet moments on the Piccadilly line when we finally put the phone away. These ordinary spaces can become places of prayer if we let them.

Many of us think of Lent in terms of “giving something up,” and that can still be helpful.

But Lent may be just as much about making room. Making room for silence in homes that are rarely quiet. Making room for kindness when patience is in short supply. Making room for God in schedules that are already full.

We are a community of great variety: long-standing residents, newcomers, families, those living alone, people of many cultures and backgrounds. Lent invites us to notice one another anew. A friendly word after Church, a willingness to listen, an act of generosity given quietly — these are Lenten disciplines too. Almsgiving is not only about money; it is about attention, compassion, and time.

Walking can also become a Lenten practice. A reflective walk past familiar streets or simply choosing to walk can turn everyday journeys into prayerful ones. God is not distant from our streets; God is already present in them.

As we keep Lent here in Southgate, may we do so gently and faithfully, trusting that God meets us not only in great sacrifices, but in small, steady steps taken right where we are.

May God meet us all as we journey.

Fr Paul





Books of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance for those whose ashes are interred in our churchyard has now been updated. The other, with the names of those connected with our church but whose remains are elsewhere, will also be updated by a professional calligrapher.

If you would like a name added to this book, please contact Caroline in the office, ideally by email office@christchurch-southgate.org, no later than **Friday 27th February**. She will require the person's first name, surname and date of death. We do not include titles or suffixes and the charge is £25 per entry.

Thank you from Chestnut House!



Thank you to everyone who is donating plastic bottle tops in Church for the **Chestnut House Childrens' Hospice** in Arundel. At a very difficult time, when hospice care is suffering drastic cuts in funding, your kindness in this way is very much appreciated. Keep collecting and thanks



Lights for Ukraine

Chrystyna Pasicznyk, one of our choral scholars, and her family have asked us to support the Rotary Club's "**Lights for Ukraine**" campaign once again and collect candles which will provide vital light and heat for families in Ukraine during the winter power cuts. Both new and used candles are being collected as partly used ones will be melted down to make new ones, so please bring to church any spare candles you may have and leave them by the font. Thank you.

Note from the Editors

The deadline for copy for the April/May edition is **Wednesday 18th March**. Please send to christchurchspire@gmail.com - we'd love to hear from you.

Wishing our readers a reflective Lent filled with prayer, peace, and renewal, as we journey together toward Easter with hope and faith.

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

A Service to Celebrate Christian Witness in Advent

While I like taking part in services at Christ Church, I also enjoy attending services at other venues to find out how others worship God.

When I received a general invitation to apply for tickets to a service at Westminster Abbey to Celebrate Christian Witness in Advent, I applied for and received 2 tickets.

On the way to the service a friend who was going there too caught us up. He knows the

Abbey and was able to direct us to good seats. As he left us he chatted to the Honorary Stewards who were allocating seats, and we were assured that if better seats became available we would be offered them. We were very pleased with our seats.

It wasn't until we opened our orders of service that we realised that His Majesty King Charles was to be attending and he would be seated a few rows in front of us, so we might see the back of his head.

A few minutes before the start of the service we were ushered to seats in the choir stalls, which happened to be next to where Bp. Rob Wickham was sitting. We got a very clear view of King Charles' face and the lady sitting next to him, Mrs Janet Hoyle, our previous "Mrs Vicarage".

The service was a truly uplifting one. The familiar voice of The Very Reverend David Hoyle welcomed us all. The Abbey was packed with Christians from many denominations, and Christian organisations. The Coptic Orthodox Diocesan choir and the Syriac Orthodox choir sang wearing resplendent gowns. The address was given by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Radcliffe. The prayers were offered by Bishops from many different Churches based in the United Kingdom, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem.

Our service emphasised the importance of Christians from various cultures being able to come together to worship, as the whole congregation. As we united in saying the Nicene creed together, we were reminded that 2025 saw the seventeen hundredth anniversary of the council of Nicaea. It was at that council that Christians were called together, by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, to discuss their different approaches to worshipping the same God, and after much discussion the Nicene creed was adopted.

All these years after Constantine the Great had called the council of Nicea, this service at Westminster Abbey celebrating Christian witness was endorsed by one of the foremost Christian Rulers of our time, King Charles III, Defender of the Faith.



Hazel Miall

Treasures of Darkness

Discipleship in Times of Mystery and Unknowing

A Course for Lent

"I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name." Isaiah 45:3



This Lent, join us to explore the journey of discipleship amid uncertainty, mystery, and unknowing. Drawing on lived experience and the wisdom of disability and suffering theologies, we will reflect on what it means to follow Christ – not in spite of life's struggles, but as we encounter God's grace and guidance within them.

We will be following the Diocese of London Lent Course live on Zoom on **Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm** in church. Together, we will seek the treasures hidden in darkness and mystery, nurturing a faith that trusts beyond sight and clarity. There is no need to sign up as this has been done that on behalf of the church and there is no course booklet to buy in advance as there will be weekly handouts. Do come if you can to one or all of the sessions as we travel to the cross together this coming Lent.

4th February Beginning, Hosted by Bishop Emma, with guest speaker John Beauchamp

3rd March Mystery, Hosted by Archdeacon Peter, with guest speaker Lia Shimada

10th March Shadow, Hosted by Archdeacon Katherine, with guest speaker Chris Cook

17th March Pain, Hosted by Bishop Anderson, with guest speaker Sharon Prentis

24th March Dawn, Hosted by Bishop Lusa, with guest speaker Grace Thompson

Winnie the Pooh and Lent 2026

Remember the Winnie the Pooh stories? And Kanga's insistence on Baby Roo's taking his Strengthening Medicine? It's 'really quite a nice taste when you get used to it', she explained, although I'm not convinced Baby Roo always agreed.

It can be helpful to think of Lent as a sort of medicine; an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, rein in other facets of our personality, and reset the compass to the true North of following Jesus. A Spring-clean of the soul, if you like.

Baby Roo (and Piglet on the one occasion he was subject to it) found Strengthening Medicine not to their liking, and we may groan inwardly at the thought of 'giving up something



for Lent'. Think of what lies behind this 'giving up'. It's so that we may be strengthened, our character refined, our prejudices examined, our junk thrown overboard, and we may come to Passontide and Easter more fit to walk the way of the Cross, and rise in new life with Jesus at His Resurrection.

Nor is Lent just a case of giving up chocolate. One year I gave up Facebook for Lent, having spent far too much time scrolling through it each day. It freed me to do other, more constructive things. And instead of giving up, why not take up something you've been meaning to do but never got round to; something life-affirming, something good for God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 18th February. Many Christians go public with their intention to keep a good Lent by being 'ashed' - the sign of the Cross made on the forehead in a mixture of ash and holy oil at a special service that day. The ash is usually the burnt remains of the palm crosses from last year. Having been ashed, the intention of the 40 days of Lent is to maintain a steady course closer to God, symbolised by the giving up of something - like chocolate - which has a hold on us. We walk with Jesus on the way to the Cross, mindful of the 'riches of God's kindness, forbearance and patience' as St Paul has it, and mindful too of Jesus' choice of the Cross as a way for us to enter those riches more fully.

And to face the immensity of that sacrifice, and the immensity of God's riches made available to us in Jesus, we need all the Strengthening Medicine we can get!

Revd Roy Shaw, Parish Pump

Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!



Wednesday 18th February, 8pm: Ash Wednesday

Join us to start Lent at our Choral Eucharist with imposition of ashes

Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday

10am for Procession of Palms, 6.30pm for the Passontide Sequence



Weekly Services

Sunday	8.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong *
Tuesday	7.30 pm for or 7.00pm for	Said Eucharist Healing Service on First & Third week
Thursday	12.30 pm	Said Eucharist



* **Choral Evensong** on 1st Feb, 8th Feb, 22nd Feb, 1st March, 8th March, 22nd March, 29th March (Passontide Sequence)

The Bible Study Group:

1 Corinthians

Over the last few months, we have been studying 1 Corinthians. It does not appear to be Paul's first letter to the Corinthians though. In chapter 5, verse 9, Paul begins 'I wrote to you in my letter ...'. So, this appears to be Paul's next letter. Who knows how many more he wrote before and after? Well at least one more after!

In some ways, it was surprising that there was a Corinth to write to. It was destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC and not rebuilt again until 44 BC after Julius Caesar issued a decree to re-found and rebuild it. It held a strategic trading position, allowing ships to be rolled through the narrow isthmus between the Gulf of Corinth and the Saronic Gulf - a shorter and safer route between Rome and Asia Minor. Corinth rapidly became a prosperous and cosmopolitan city with multiple temples to Greek and Roman deities where a lot of commercial, social and religious practice took place.

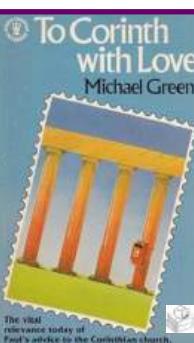
The letter addresses issues that arise from the circumstances in which the newly founded church straddles its new faith and the bustling, lively and pagan society that they live in. But there is a complication in understanding what Paul is saying in his letter. Chapter 7 begins 'Now concerning the matters about which you wrote ...'. In other words, Paul is responding to a letter that we don't have – the one that the Corinthians wrote to him. It becomes more complicated because the Greek syntax, in which Paul writes his letter, does not show where he is quoting back what the Corinthians wrote to him. This makes the letter tricky as we are only hearing one side of a conversation, but potentially there are snippets from the Corinthians' letter that we might be hearing.

There are many passages that are quite difficult to understand as a result. On the passage on head coverings for women at the start of chapter 11, one commentator points out "This passage is probably the most complex, controversial, and opaque of any text of comparable length in the New Testament. A

survey of the history of interpretation reveals how many different exegetical options there are for a myriad of questions and should inspire a fair measure of tentativeness on the part of the interpreter." So, it is tough for a small bible study group then, but we battled on! Feel free to ask what we thought!

In another baffling contradiction in chapter 14, JB Phillips decided in his translation 'Letters to Young Churches' that an earlier copyist of the manuscript had just got the words the wrong way round and swapped them back. But this in turn presents challenges as to the authority of scripture. Can we just 'correct' things we don't understand or don't like?

Suffice it to say, the Corinthian church had its problems in spades. But ultimately Paul writes to them in love seeking to correct as much as he could. He sends his letter back with one of his most trusted associates, Timothy, to help them. Michael Green's book 'To Corinth with



Love' seeks to bring that advice up to date for us. And he emphasises Paul's commitment to love in that message. After all, Paul does end chapter 13 with "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love", as our stained glass in Christ Church reminds us.

The Bible Study Group

The Threads Through the Bible Tapestries

I wrote in the August/September 2024 edition of The Spire about a travelling exhibition of large tapestries called **Threads Through Creation**, which I had seen by chance when I was visiting Leominster Priory Church. It was spectacular and thought-provoking and I wanted to share my delight in it, so I donated my beautifully illustrated guide book to the children's corner in Christ Church. I think it is still there.

Threads Through Creation is one section in a series of three sets of tapestries covering the Bible narrative, the other two being **Threads Through The Cross** and **Threads Through Revelation**. All three sets have been touring cathedrals and churches for the last few years and I have been hoping to catch up with Threads Through The Cross and Threads Through Revelation but so far have been unsuccessful

The tapestries were created by **Jacqui Parkinson**, expressing her deep Christian faith and supporting her through the joys and sorrows of life. Age 20, she married a Methodist minister, Rob. They had two sons. As a mature student she did a degree in Drama and Art, taught drama for five years and then set up the Lantern Arts Centre, which included theatre shows, school workshops, singing and dance, a cafe and a studio for professional artists and performers. It was very successful. In 1999 they established Children's Theatre Clubs for 5 - 18-year-olds, also very popular, one aim being to show children that church could be full of both fun and faith.

At New Year 2003, Jacqui's husband challenged her to do something entirely different, so she joined a textiles course followed by a degree in embroidered textiles. In 2006 the Deo Gloria Trust commissioned her to create small exhibitions of ten panels each, which toured English cathedrals for several years.

Jacqui's husband Rob died suddenly in 2007 and to help her to cope with grief she created a series of stitched handkerchiefs which became a book called "good grief."

She remarried. While travelling in France, she saw some huge paintings by Marc Chagall and realised that she wanted to create large-scale works. At the Festival of Quilts in Birmingham in 2013 she saw and acquired an enormous sewing machine which allows the user to draw using stitches. She then found a huge studio which enabled her to work on a very large scale. As a base for her work she uses old bed sheets, reinforced by padding, so that they are a little like quilting. On this foundation she draws her design which she then creates through applique, stitching and embroidery, using a whole range of fabrics - silks, gold and other threads - bright colours, some images are abstract, others are pictures, full of meaningful details and references. Each tapestry in the Threads Through The Cross series, for example, contains a picture of a bird which comments on the meaning of the

picture.

The first series Jacqui made, the 14-panel Threads Through Revelation, took three years to complete and toured fourteen cathedrals between 2014 and 2017. This was followed by the 12-panel Threads Through Creation, completed in 2021, which toured round 21 cathedrals and great churches. Finally, between 2021 and 2024 she completed the 18-panel Threads Through the Cross section.

Having seen Threads Through Creation, I am very keen to see the other two series. When I heard, by chance, that Threads Through The Cross was reaching the last few days of exhibiting at Guildford Cathedral, I rushed to see it, only to find that it had already been dismantled to accommodate a large, important funeral, and would not return. The gift shop ladies and I watched through the shop window while a very long cortege of impeccable black limousines plus a few hundred people, all very elegantly dressed in funeral black crowded into the cathedral. However, I did learn then that all three sections of Threads Through The Bible will be in Bath, in three different churches, throughout February, and I am planning a short trip to see them all. If you are in the West Country in February, you might enjoy including them in whatever you are doing.

I strongly believe that it would be impossible to see all three sections in a single day without blowing one's brain cells. Each tapestry is colourful, complex and full of meaning. The images are bold, stunning and full of swirling movement. There may be several sections in one tapestry, each needing to be examined carefully. They take time to understand fully, and I believe a guide book is essential. I may leave my copy in Christ Church, in case anyone wants to look at it.

Over the centuries, many important series of tapestries have been created, such as the Bayeux Tapestry, or the medieval series of Apocalypse tapestries in Angers. I believe that the Threads Through The Bible series is equally interesting and important for its concept, artistry, colourful beauty and deep meanings, and I hope that as time passes, it will become well-known and appreciated as it fully deserves.

Jill Holiday

For more information visit <https://www.jacqui-textile.com/#exhibitions>

Following the Trail to Another Weld Chapel

As I'm sure you will know from the history on the website, or from a church tour, the building outline in the churchyard at the west end that is used as a memorial ground to inter ashes, was built in 1615 as the Weld Chapel. This was to serve Sir John Weld, his family and household who lived at Arnold's Grove estate – the house of which is now the Beaumont Care Home – as the walk to Edmonton to church each week was considered too arduous. I had assumed that once I had left Southgate that would be my last Weld Chapel.

However, finding a life-sized sculpture of three figures in Dorchester town centre by local artist Elizabeth Frink, set me off on a trail that led to another Weld Chapel.



**Sculpture of the Chideock
Martyrs on Gallows Hill
Dorchester
by Dame Elizabeth Frink**

The sculpture is at Gallows Hill, the place of execution in Dorchester in the 16th and 17th centuries, which was where hundreds of people were executed and is dedicated to the Chideock Martyrs. There were seven of them – three priests and four laymen – who were hung, drawn and quartered in a particularly gruesome way for their Catholic faith between 1587 and 1642. The centre of the Catholic faith in the area, when the religion was illegal, was Chideock Castle, 18 miles west of Dorchester, which was owned by the Arundell family who had remained loyal to their faith. The castle became a refuge for Catholic priests and villagers could attend mass in secret. One of the martyrs was the Arundell's chaplain John Cornelius who died with his two servants. Chideock Castle was destroyed in the Civil war, but the secret Catholic worship continued in the attic of a nearby barn on the estate.

The story jumps to 1802 when another prominent Catholic family – the Weld family – came to Chideock. This is the same family that lived in Southgate in the 17th century. Thomas Weld of Lulworth Castle bought the Chideock estate for his sixth son Humphrey who built a manor house on the site of the old farmhouse. In 1810 he formally converted the barn into a small richly decorated chapel so that worship could continue. Humphrey died in 1852 and was succeeded by his son Charles, who is described in the Chideock guidebook as “a man of culture, artistic taste and talent, and a devout Catholic.” He decided to convert the chapel in the barn to a building of “substance” and did most of the designs and the decoration himself.

I can recommend a visit to this remarkable space, which looks like an Italian Romanesque church with added Baroque and Gothic. It is exceptionally ornate and has a new dome (added in 2014) to complete the look. The martyrs are all



**Church of Our Lady, Queen
of Martyrs, and St Ignatius,
Chideock**

commemorated in paintings on the walls, all done by members of the Weld family. The church is dedicated to the Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, and St Ignatius. It is a still a centre for local Catholics and has a really interesting museum of the area – but is still not the other Weld Chapel.

The chapel was built in 1852 to another design by Charles Weld to commemorate his parents and is in the Catholic graveyard attached to the local C of E parish church of St Giles Chideock. So, another Vicar has a Weld Chapel in their churchyard! It is really quite small

but is a little architectural gem. Sadly, I have not been able to go in yet but it has been fascinating to follow the trail of the Catholic Weld family from Southgate to Chideock, via Gallows Hill in Dorchester.

Fr Chrichton

**Weld Memorial Chapel
in Grounds of St Giles**



Growing Together: A Year of Progress and Promise

2025 has been a year of steady progress, renewed energy, and deepened community involvement in the church gardens and grounds. The general feeling is one of confidence: we are increasingly on top of the work, bringing the space back under control while allowing nature to flourish.

One of the most visible improvements this year has been the installation of a beautiful new garden gate. Our heartfelt thanks go to Kate for organising this project so smoothly. The solid oak gate has enhanced the entrance to our special "secret garden" space.



photos supplied by Patricia Harper

Thanks also to the dedication of our volunteers, we have had sufficient manpower to keep the front garden looking welcoming and well cared for, while also tackling more demanding tasks such as cutting back, rewilding, and maintaining the rockery.

Gardening, of course, is an ongoing commitment, and we are always grateful for extra helping

hands. The more volunteers we can rely on regularly, the more we can achieve together. Keep an eye out for our regular gardening dates in the pew sheets, notices and of course in

the Spire. You will find a warm welcome from the Team (and there are biscuits!)

Through our new Oak Gate and into the garden on Christchurch's southside, you will find the new rockery. Let's look back at the photos of its beginning to present day.

The original site ...



Clearing the ground ...



Put your back into it!



To let - reasonable terms, quiet neighbourhood - available immediately



A welcome place for wildlife - bird baths donated by Marjory Piper in memory of her sister, Nancye



Several generous contributions have enhanced the garden's beauty and biodiversity. Hazel kindly provided stunning pots, while Nick and Patricia have done wonderful work on the rockery. They also sourced and installed two bird baths, purchased using funds donated by Marjory Piper in memory of her sister, Nancye — a thoughtful addition that supports both wildlife and remembrance.

This year, we reaffirmed our commitment to rewilding. Wildflowers, scything routines, and carefully cut paths through the churchyard are all part of a long-term plan to encourage biodiversity and support local wildlife. The parish arborist also made a significant contribution, cutting back a large number of conifers in the back garden and removing unsafe trees. This work reclaimed a strip of lawn, which has since been planted with new wildflowers. We will keep you posted as the different species emerge. Also - Look out for the raised planter by the West door, once again thanks to Nick and Patricia. This is also planned for the Spring.

Community support has continued to play a vital role. The Hatters Scouts returned for a second visit and provided invaluable help with clearing work at both the church and Church House. We also joined Churches Count on



Nature for the first time and are now proudly listed on the Ancient Burial Grounds website — an important step in recognising the ecological value of our site.



Education and engagement were also highlights of the year. A fascinating talk on hedgehogs by Charles Carroll was warmly received although, despite our best efforts, we have not yet been able to create a clear hedgehog run through the garden, and none have been spotted so far.

In recognition of the ongoing needs of the gardens, it was agreed that gardening days will continue throughout the winter. We also decided that memorial planting would focus on low-maintenance rose bushes for those wishing to plant in memory of a loved one.

Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2026

Planning is already underway for the year ahead. Key priorities include maintaining the front garden, with the possibility of transforming the bed around the flagpole into a sensory garden. We hope to continue cutting back behind the memorial garden and may introduce bluebells and snowdrops to enhance seasonal interest.



Further clearance is planned in the south (back) garden on both sides of the entry gate, after which we will assess how best to use the newly available space. Improving composting arrangements using pallets is also on the agenda.

April will bring the arrival of new bees, and they will be installed in the empty bee hives in the Wild Life garden. Hopefully the new bees will stay and become part of our community.

Swift Boxes Fundraising Appeal

A new and exciting project in the form of attracting swifts by installing swift boxes on Church House is planned for the Spring. We are hoping to raise £150 to cover the cost of buying the boxes and a possible sound system to play swift calls to attract them to the nesting boxes. Please contact Graham or Sandra if you would like to contribute or donate money to get the project underway.

Please also make a note in your diaries that **Helen Shore** from **Swift Conservation** will be coming to give a talk after the 10 am service on **Sunday 15th February**. We hope to continue building interest and awareness by hosting more wildlife talks in the church, and we would be



Proposed site for the Swift boxes on the wall above the Church Halls carpark with detail



delighted to welcome the Hatters Scouts back once again.

Proposed Swift Box & sensors for calling to swifts



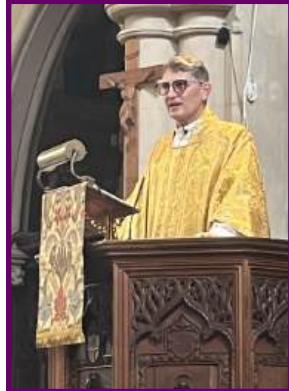


Parish Life in Pictures

December 2025 & January 2026



Patronal
Festival
Concert



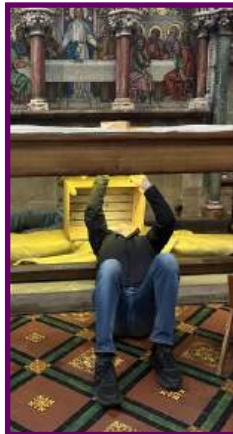
Archeacon John
visits for our
Patronal Service



Parish Walk



Monkfrith School Visit

Setting up for Christmas!**Advent Procession Service****Christingle**

The Pop Up Nativity



Christmas Eve



Fr Paul and Patricia celebrate their birthdays in church after morning service



The Bowes String Quartet

Southgate Sessions

Free Sunday afternoon concerts at Christ Church Southgate return for 2026

Join us one Sunday afternoon each month at 3.30pm for a short concert (just 45 minutes to an hour) in the peaceful setting of our church. Featuring a mix of talented musicians from our own choir and beyond, it's the perfect way to unwind at the end of your weekend.

Free to attend – all are welcome. A retiring collection will be taken to support the performers and the music at Christ Church.

8 February - Ukrainian Songs with Stepan's English translations

Christ Church Choral Scholar Chrystyna Pasicznyk is joined by her father Stepan on the accordion to perform a selection of Ukrainian Songs

22 March - William Waine and Jordan Wilson - countertenor / tenor

Stabat Mater - Vivaldi; Abraham and Isaac - Britten

William Waine sings as a countertenor with various ensembles and has been Director of Music at Christ Church since 2024. Jordan Wilson is a gifted oratorio soloist, and also enjoys his work as the tenor lay clerk at Chelmsford Cathedral.

26 April - Susanna Farrell and Matthew Warbis - soprano / piano

17 May - The Choir of Christ Church Southgate - Rome & Florence Tour Concert

Choir tour to Rome and Florence -

24th to 26th May 2026

The Choir are excited to be going on tour to Rome and Florence in May 2026. Arrangements are still being finalised but we will be singing for Eucharist (24/5) at St Paul's Within the Walls, the first non-Catholic church to be built within the city walls with mosaics by Burne-Jones; an afternoon concert (24/5) at the Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, the burial site of Paul the Apostle and the second-largest church in Rome; an evening concert (25/5) at the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, which was consecrated in c.325 AD to house various relics of the Crucifixion; and a day trip to Florence (26/5 - tbc) to sing at the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence where many significant Italian cultural figures are buried (Michaelangelo, Galileo).

If you happen to be in need of a holiday in May, we'd love to see some friendly faces in the audience!

Southgate Sessions
8th February
Ukrainian Songs
with Stepan's English Translations
Chrystyna and Stepan Pasicznyk

22nd March

William Waine &
Jordan Wilson
Countertenor / Tenor

26th April

Susanna Farrell &
Matthew Warbis
Soprano / Piano

17th May

The Choir of Christ Church
Italy Tour Preview

Free

Sunday afternoon
Concerts at Christ Church

The Green, Southgate, N14 7EG

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

Revd. Phillip Dawson is installed as Rector of St. Olave Hart Street

I recently had the honour and privilege to be able to attend the “Institution, Induction and Installation” service of Reverend Phillip Dawson as Rector of Saint Olave Hart Street, and All Hallows Staining with St. Catherine Coleman.

Most of you will remember Phillip as our Churchwarden. Since leaving Southgate, he has trained for the priesthood and served his curacy at St. Giles in the Fields, Central London.

He was Instituted as Rector of St. Olaves on 8th January by Bishop Sarah, Bishop of London, at a wonderful Evensong service. Most of Phillip’s Church Warden colleagues from Christ Church were able to attend the service to support Phillip.

The service was sung by the St. Olave Scholars, the St. Olave Singers and the members of the Hanover Choir, all under the Director of Music, Colin Spinks. The peal of the church bells was rung by the University of London Change Ringers. Before the service, the organist played a specially composed prelude by Phillip’s partner, Henry Lamprecht.

As Rector, Phillip will also have associations with Trinity House, which is the charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and

seafarers and is the light-house authority for England and Wales. He will also have close associations with several City Livery Companies.

St Olave Hart Street is one of the few surviving medieval buildings in the City of London, having



survived the Great Fire of London of 1666 and also partially survived the World War II blitz.

The Church is named after, and dedicated to, Olaf, a Norwegian, who was called upon to side with the English King Ethelred against the Danes at the Battle of London Bridge in 1014. The first church in Hart Street was built in 1050 close to the site of the Battle and the present church was built in the 15th century. Olaf was made a saint in 1030 and is the patron saint of Norway. St Olave Hart Street is the city church where Samuel Pepys worshipped and where he is buried, along with his wife.

After the service of Institution, Induction and Installation, a reception was held at Trinity House where many of the “great and the good” of the City of London welcomed Phillip.

Philip Miall



Planet International! Let's look at International Eco Days

This is the third year for Planet International where we join others the world over to focus on special celebrations of care and conservation. Following the United Nations calendar, February and March are particularly busy months with 11 named observances in February and 22 in March, and some days even have multiple celebrations.

Not all of these are strictly “eco” days, but instead of being selective this year we’ve decided to list everything. Eco days are individually identified. As always, some will be easy for us to join in and contribute to (such as

World Wetlands Day that we focused on last year), while others (like the Day of the Arabian Leopard or the World Day for Glaciers) seem very remote from The Green and Broomfield Park.

When it's not possible to participate in an actual or physical way, these are all endeavours that we can hold in our prayers, asking God to protect, inspire and give strength to the people who are actively engaged in all the work behind these events, actively caring for God's wider world



FEBRUARY

02 Eco World Wetlands Day

- 04 International Day of Human Fraternity
- 06 International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 10 Eco International Day of the Arabian Leopard**
- Eco World Pulses Day**
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 12 International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism
- 13 World Radio Day
- 17 Global Tourism Resilience Day
- 20 World Day of Social Justice
- 21 International Mother Language Day

MARCH

01 Eco World Seagrass Day

Zero Discrimination Day

03 Eco World Wildlife Day

- 05 International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness
- 08 International Women's Day
- 10 International Day of Women Judges
- 15 International Day to Combat Islamophobia
- 20 International Day of Happiness
- French Language Day
- 21 Eco World Day for Glaciers**

Eco International Day of Forests

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
World Poetry Day [UNESCO]
International Day of Nowruz and World Down Syndrome Day

22 Eco World Water Day

23 Eco World Meteorological Day [WMO]

24 World Tuberculosis Day

International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

30 Eco International Day of Zero Waste

The UN on its website summarises the reason for these international days:

International days and weeks are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. [\[https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-nowruz-day\]](https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-nowruz-day)

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative

I Love You So Much!

Thank you for saving me on the Cross at Calvary. 'My God has died for me. I adore you,' I say to my beloved Jesus, my holy sweet saviour and my blessed royal king – the Servant King.

Jesus, you are more precious than silver, more costly than gold, more beautiful than diamonds – nothing in the world can compare to you, better than roses or ice-cream! Beloved, wonderful, triumphant and victorious Jesus Christ!

I hope you enjoy this work, for him and for all of us at Christ Church – with love and prayers and much blessing, from your dear friend,

Lynda Corcoran



News from the Committees

The first **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** meeting of 2026 was held in church on 20th January and the usual

Vicar's Report was replaced by a clergy report written by our curate, Fr Paul. His summary made clear that our **Outreach** activities are flourishing. Over the Christmas period, we welcomed several local schools into church for Christmas services and events and our choir spearheaded an extremely successful evening of "Carols on the Green" where Fr Paul estimated that (choir included) there were a couple of hundred people present – so many, in fact, that the song sheets ran out!

The **Finance and Standing Committee (F&SC)** reported the encouraging news of a modest end of year surplus and expressed their indebtedness to a number of people who have left legacies. It has, however, been necessary to finance a considerable amount of repair and maintenance work over the past year. The extent and nature of the work was reported by the **Plant and Fabric Committee (P&FC)**, including: repair of tiles by the vestry door, inspections and servicing of the boiler, the alarm system and our lightning protection, and replacing a broken radiator in the choir vestry. A faculty has been obtained for the new alarm pad by the small north door, a plumber has been engaged to replace a toilet cistern, and plans are under way for redecorating the choir vestry, lobby, kitchen and toilet. Our gutters are scheduled to be cleaned at the end of January.

Still on the theme of "fabric", the **Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC)** reported the conclusion of extensive (and expensive) work to correct the problem of rising damp in Church House. The damage caused has necessitated re-fitting the

Church House kitchen – cupboards and work surfaces – which had all been catastrophically affected. The cost of this work has impacted funds for replacing the leaking flat roof and less expensive options are now being investigated, such as re-sealing the roof with a waterproof paint system.

Creation Care (CC) was the group behind our eco Christmas card which was a clear success in December. In addition to this, the group has achieved "winter readiness" in the gardens, it strives to ensure eco-compatible church cleaning, and continues to plan ahead for our various outside spaces during 2026. Their work and ideas are reported in full elsewhere in this magazine.

F&SC also thanked the **Social Responsibility Committee (SRC)** for their charitable fund-raising which has enabled Christ Church to donate £5.5K to local charities. Their unwavering hard work raised a total of £2,890 over the Christmas period alone, in addition to the 90 Gift Tree presents for the Enfield Young Carers and the 25 gifts for Southgate Homebound. Both have expressed grateful thanks for the gifts.

Finally, you will remember that although all these groups are referred to as "committees", they are not necessarily characterized by sitting down and talking. When he set up the PCC sub-committee structure, Fr Chrichton's idea was that the "committees" should be groups of people who are also engaged in real, physical work!

Committee is perhaps a misnomer. Certainly, as we can see, **SRC** and **CC** are people who roll their sleeves up. But there is one more of these groups that we tend not to hear about because it doesn't have a single group leader and the **PCC** doesn't receive a regular formal report: **Community & Wellness (C&W)**. This is another group of hard-working individuals who help to make Christ Church what it is today. **C&W** is behind the Tuesday evening service with anointing and the laying on of hands for

healing, for example. It has recently revived and now manages the *Parish Prayer List* (ensuring that every individual and group, registered as part of the Christ Church family, is regularly prayed for by name by a member of the **PCC**). And it carries out the work of the *Pastoral Care Group*.

These “committees” are the life-blood that ensures the smooth running of every aspect of our church.

Patricia Ashby

SRC Report

Noah's Ark's From that Moment campaign in October raised over one million pounds. We sent £445 which was match funded. Several individuals donated directly for which we have no figures.

The proceeds of our Christmas fund raising this year amounted to almost £3,000. We have sent out most of our funds so that it is helping those in need rather than just sitting in our account.

The collection from the Crib & Christingle services went as usual to the **Children's Society**. We sent raffle, stall & coffee money to **DCUK (Dementia Care UK) Barnet** and **Showerbox**. £200 from Christ Church Association bar takings at the quiz was sent on to **The Hatters**. We sent smaller amounts to **World Vision, The Red Cross Hurricane Appeal** and to **Noah's Ark**.

We receive letters of thanks from the charities we give to and pin them up in church for everyone to read. This year I include a few lines from the recipients of our Christmas gifts. We delivered 90 Gift Tree presents to **Enfield Young Carers** for them to distribute at their Christmas party.

“a BIG THANK YOU for your incredibly generous present donations. You helped our young carers and their families to have a wonderful Christmas.”

Clare Boulton and Mick Meur took our 25 gifts to **Southgate Homebound** group's Fish & Chip supper in Walker Hall in December.

“A HUGE thank you for the most thoughtful gifts....you have a knack for giving just the right thing. The most lovely aspect, is that for many it is an experience of Christmas wonder, as well as of Christian compassion, that someone they don't know, that they have never met; and that they are never likely to meet, has thought of them in this kind and generous way at a time that is so lonely and difficult for many. For some this is the only gift they will receive and to say they are grateful is an understatement.”

Rosemary Woodall acting secretary.

We continued to deliver non-perishable goods, nappies & toiletries as well as warm clothes to **Enfield Food Bank & Homeless Action Barnet**.

Proceeds from coffee and the stall for the beginning of the year will go to **North London Hospice**. Finances are tight for hospices at present and Simon, whose funeral took place in church recently, asked for them to be supported. He benefited from their care.

Thank you to Nick & Patricia Harper for the Hamper Raffle and guess the name of the Teddy. Thank you for the saleable goods for the stall, especially Mrs. Vicarage for all her many Christmas items when she was clearing out before their move. Thank you to everyone who gave gifts, bought tickets and purchased from the stalls. Your generosity is appreciated so much!

Hilary Meur
020 8360 2362



Christchurch Association News

The Christchurch Association (CCA) provides a social centre for the parish and runs the “Top Step Bar”, serving soft and alcoholic drinks upstairs in Church House. We are able to take contactless payments as well as accepting cash. The CCA Top Step bar opens early **at 6pm** on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next such occasions are **Friday 6th February and Friday 6th March**.

The next **Friday Foodie** evenings will be held on **27th February** at which **Chinese snacks** will be provided and on **20th March** with **Fish and Chips**. We would be grateful if orders could be placed for the latter **before 8.00pm on the evening of 20th March**.

On **Sunday 1st March**, starting at **8.00 pm**, in the Reception Room in Church Hall **Ian Cameron-Black** will present an illustrated talk on his **travels in The Holy Land**.

Recent News: Friday Foodies continued with Indian snacks on 21st November and mince pies and mulled wine on 19th December. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 5th December and Friday 9th January. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

The CCA also supported the St John Passion concert on Sunday, 23rd November and has made a donation of **£200 to the Choir fund** from that evening's bar proceeds. The CCA has also made a donation of **£200 to the charities supported by the Harvest Quiz**.

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the CCA** was held in the Reception Room at Church House on Wednesday, 3rd December and Pat Collins, Martin Greenaway, Michael Greenaway, Sherri Greenaway, Ronald Lo, John Macrory, Philip Miall, Angela Smith and Steve Smith were elected to serve on the Committee for the coming year. We would like to thank all those who attended the AGM.

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)

When I was young, I was poor. But after several years of hard work, I am no longer young.

Stewardship

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder



How time flies, by the time you read this edition of the Spire we are already one month into the new year. This has given me time to reflect on Stewardship a year on from our successful Stewardship Campaign in 2025.

Firstly, looking at the donations from the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) it comes as no surprise that the expected total will be reduced by approximately £4,000 from last year. This is because of parishioners either leaving the area or sadly passing away.

PGS giving is the main bulk of the donation, but there are still a few donations by bankers orders, these are mostly by non-regular parishioners that have kindly carried on giving, a further £1,200 has been lost here too.

Fortunately the use of our contactless card machine is holding up well and even increasing slightly. One-off gifts are, of course welcome, but are unpredictable. We continue to leave the blue gift aid envelopes in the pews and collect cash in this way, although this is now minimal.

So, if you have got this far in reading about Stewardship and if you were planning to sign up but haven't yet, please consider how you can help. It really will bolster our regular giving to make up for those givers we lost last year and will no doubt be repeated this year.

Don't delay, act today, and join the congregation already giving regularly using the Parish Giving Scheme. Please note paper application forms are once again in the rack at the back of church.

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	<p><i>Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2.30—5 p.m.</i> <i>Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.</i> <i>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.</i></p>		
<i>Mail</i>	1 The Green, London N14 7EG		
<i>Phone</i>	8886 0384		
<i>Email</i>	office@christchurch-southgate.org		
<i>Website</i>	www.christchurch-southgate.org		
Clergy			
<i>Vicar</i>	Vacancy		
<i>Assistant Priest</i>	The Reverend Hazel Miall		
<i>Address</i>	85 Conway Road, Southgate, London, N14 7BD		
<i>Phone</i>	07980 740587		
<i>Email</i>	hazelhmiall@btinternet.com		
<i>Curate</i>	The Reverend Paul Ellerby		
<i>Address & Phone</i>	via the office		
<i>Email</i>	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			
<i>Secretary</i>	Caroline Robertson	8886 0384	
	office@christchurch-southgate.org		
<i>Treasurer</i>	Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR	8367 5961	
<i>Stewardship</i>	Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362	
Music Department			
<i>Director of Music</i>	William Waine		
	music@christchurch-southgate.org		
<i>Organist & Assistant</i>			
<i>Director of Music</i>	Matthew Warbis		
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA	8882 3680	

Sacristan	Vacancy	
Sidesmen	Judith Lo	8882 3335

Sub-committee Chairs/contacts

<i>Outreach</i>	via the office	
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com	07974 437966
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Vacancy	

Electoral Roll Officer	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
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Parish Safeguarding Officer	Jackie Anderson	8245 0305
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Parish Magazine “The Spire”

<i>Editorial Team</i>	Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper Copy to be sent to christchurchspire@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362

Flower Arrangers	Contact the Parish Office (see previous page for details)
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Parish Centre/Church Halls

<i>Chairman</i>	Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD	8882 6738
<i>Secretary</i>	Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR	8367 5961
<i>Lettings</i>	christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362

Christ Church Association Bar

<i>Contact</i>	Pat Collins christchurchassociation@gmail.com
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Friday Coffee Morning

<i>Contact</i>	<i>Every Friday morning 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Church</i> Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362
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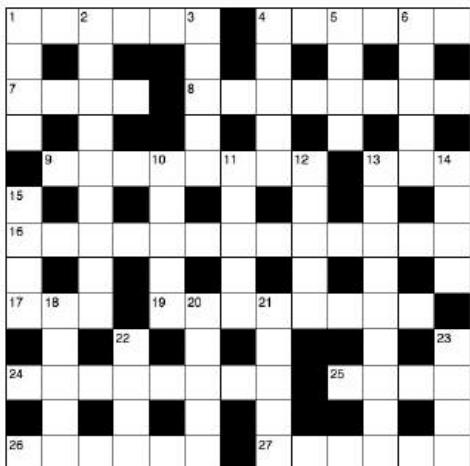
Scout Group	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i> Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	07980 740587 8882 0991
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Bellringers	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974

Young Fogeys	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Ian Cameron Black	8886 4942

Bible Study Group	Jackie Anderson	8245 0305
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FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

DOWN

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)

- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

DECEMBER SOLUTION



Children's Corner



...and yet the Church Mice still put it about that they were poor

Find the mouse!

Last time, Walker the mouse was visiting the bug hotels at the bottom of page 5. This month, he has fallen asleep on a pile of books somewhere in this magazine - see if you can spot him!



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Christmas Stamp Collection

A big thank you to everyone who has donated used stamps for the RNIB over Christmas. I have a large collection now to take to the lovely Grimaldi Building in Pentonville Road. It's on my "to do list" for February.

There were many more usable stamps this year. Thank you. A lot of people are now taking care to cut the stamps from the envelopes with the required 1 cm margin around them – more or less the width of your thumb if you are not someone who's comfortable with a centimeter.



In spite of this, however, there is also still evidence of our tendency to just tear them off and this still results in quite a bit of waste. This year, I have also received quite a number of stamps which have been neatly cut round the very edge of the perforations... unfortunately, in spite of the care that has obviously been taken to do this, these are also unusable.

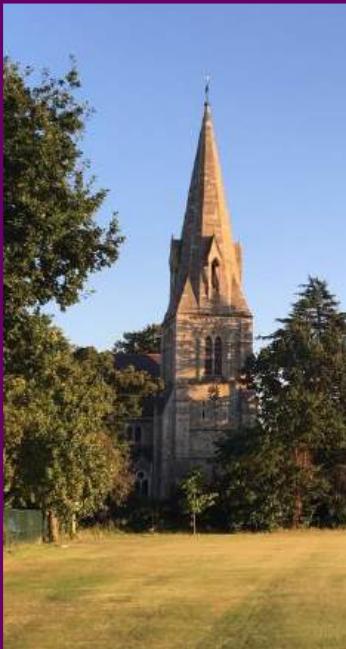
Nonetheless, I think we are doing pretty well and the RNIB is always grateful. So, thank you all once again! And please keep the stamps coming during 2026.

Patricia Ashby

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."

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