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# *The Spire*



*April and May 2026*

*The Parish Magazine of*  
**CHRIST CHURCH**  
*— Southgate —*

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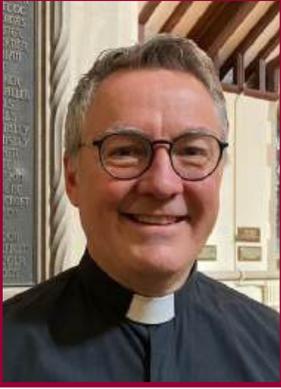
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# Welcome!

## From The Reverend Paul Ellerby

### Curate of Christ Church Southgate

Many of you enjoyed the visit of David and Janet Hoyle on Mothering Sunday. Sadly, I was away, but I had the privilege of hearing David speak at a training day for clergy earlier in the month when he talked about Christians being Easter people. One assertion he made was that as people we do Lent and Holy Week well but we are not as good at Easter. In other words, we are better reflecting on the suffering and death of Jesus but when it comes to Easter and the resurrection we might be less sure what this means for our daily lives.

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, we find the disciples on a mountain in Galilee, meeting the risen Jesus. It's a moment full of wonder and, if we're honest, a bit of uncertainty too — "some doubted," Matthew tells us. I find that strangely comforting. Even at this life-changing moment, faith and questions sit side by side.

Jesus doesn't wait for perfect faith. Instead, he comes close and says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go..." In other words, because he is risen and alive, we are sent. That's what it means to be Easter people: not just to celebrate the resurrection once a year, but to live it out every day.

Being Easter people means carrying hope into ordinary places. It's in the quiet kindness we

show, the forgiveness we offer, the patience we try to practise when it's not easy. It's in choosing life over fear, trust over cynicism, and love over indifference. The resurrection isn't just something we believe—it's something we live.

Jesus sends his followers to "make disciples of all nations," but that doesn't necessarily mean going far away. For most of us, it starts right where we are: in our homes, workplaces, and communities. It's about reflecting something of Jesus in the way we treat others and the way we face the ups and downs of life.

And then there's that final promise: "I am with you always." Not sometimes. Not just on the good days. Always. That's the heartbeat of Easter faith. We are never alone.

So as Easter people, we go forward—not perfectly, but faithfully—trusting that the risen Christ walks with us, and that his life is at work in us, bringing hope to the world around us. May we all enjoy being Easter people!

Fr Paul



# Holy Week at Christ Church

## Palm Sunday

**Sunday 29th March, 10am**

Procession of Palms and Eucharist.

**Sunday 29th March, 6.30pm**

Passiontide Sequence.

## Stations of the Cross

**Monday 30th March, 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 31st March, 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 1st April, 7.30pm**

## Maundy Thursday

**Thursday 2nd April, 8pm**

Choral Eucharist with Foot Washing, followed by the Watch until Midnight

## Good Friday

**Friday 3rd April, 2pm**

The Solemn Liturgy

## Holy Saturday

**Saturday 4th April, 8pm**

The Great Vigil, with the New Fire, renewal of Baptismal Promises and First Eucharist of Easter

## Easter Sunday

**Sunday 5th April, 8am, 10am and 6.30pm**

8am for Said Eucharist

10am for a Family Friendly Choral Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt

6.30pm for Festal Choral Evensong



## Note from the Editors

Wishing all our readers a joyful Easter filled with hope, renewal, and peace. Enjoy time with loved ones and cherish the blessings that surround you today and always.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and a reminder that the deadline for copy for the June/July edition of The Spire is **Wednesday 20th May**.

Contact us at [christchurchspire@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspire@gmail.com) - we would love to hear from you!

*Freya and Imogen*



**DAILY HOPE** a free phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as services from the Church of England.  
Available 24 hours a day on  
**0800 804 8044**

## One Faith, One Church

Every time I attend a church service, I am reminded that there is one church, one faith. Christians all worship God, albeit in slightly different ways.

Two of the memorable services I recently attended were at St Paul's Cathedral. One was a sung Eucharist in thanksgiving for the ministry of the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, DBE as Bishop of London. At the end of the service she formally placed her diocesan crosier on the high Altar, removed her mitre and chasuble and then retrieved her personal crosier from her chaplain.

Two weeks later in the same cathedral Dame Sarah was legally confirmed as the 106th Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan. The Archbishop of York and his fellow bishops (as Commissaries of His Majesty The King), with the assistance of the Vicar General of the Province, sat as a court of law. They had to decide whether the procedural steps had been properly carried out so that the election of the new Archbishop could be confirmed.

For this service the altar under the dome had been replaced by a large table which the great and the good of the Church of England could sit around and pass the various papers around the table to be signed, so in effect the Cathedral became a court room. Although I couldn't see what was going on we got the gist of it. Afterwards we could see the New Archbishop outside as she greeted well wishers.

I was disappointed that I could not be there in person to be part of the crowd wishing

Archbishop Sarah well on her pilgrimage, from London to Canterbury. I decided that the next best thing would be to attend a church service that she would be attending along the route. I guessed correctly that she would be at Evensong at Rochester Cathedral. The service was an ordinary Thursday Evensong. It was a complete contrast to the services at St. Paul's. There were a couple of dozen in the congregation, mostly Rochester regulars. It so happened that Archbishop Sarah choose to lead her group of pilgrims into the row in the choir, where I was sitting. There were no reserved seats. She and her happy band of pilgrims just formed part of the congregation, no cameras, no fuss.

With God's help I am convinced that Archbishop Sarah has started her new job as she means to go on, as one of us, as our leader.



*Hazel Miall*

## The Cross of Jesus

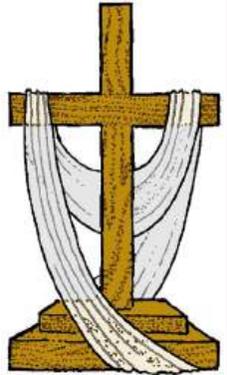
The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;  
 a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;  
 a picture of death, yet the key to life;  
 a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;  
 a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;  
 a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;  
 a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of God's love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As Peter writes, 'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed' (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order 'to bring us to God' (1 Peter 3:18).

The idea of substitution lies at the heart of understanding what Jesus did on the cross: 'For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.' (John Stott).

*Canon Paul Hardingham, Parish Pump*



## Rogation Sunday

In the Anglican Church, Rogation is celebrated on the fifth Sunday after Easter. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

In about 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and

their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At some point beer and cheese would be waiting.

Rogation processions continued in the post-Reformation Church of England much as they had before, and Anglican priests were encouraged to bring their congregations together for inter-parish processions. At specific intervals, clerics were to remind their congregations to be thankful for their harvests. Psalms 103 and 104 were sung, and people were reminded of the curses the Bible ascribed to those who violated agricultural boundaries. The processions were not mandatory, but were at the discretion of the local minister, and were also ascribed more importance when a public right of way needed to be protected from agricultural or other expansion.

There were concerns about the lack of piety at such events. While it was officially ordered that the entire congregation attend, bishops began urging their priests to invite only older and more pious men. This, they believed, would stop the drunken revelry. Royal Injunctions concerning the practice were reinterpreted to restrict and regulate participants of the festivities. Robert Herrick penned a piece to capture the mood of the celebrations before their repression:

*Dearest, bury me  
Under that Holy-oak, or Gospel Tree  
Where (though thou see'st not) thou may'st think upon  
Me, when you yearly go'st Procession.*

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds.' It was still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria.

*Parish Pump plus various sources*

## A Pithy Classification

The Reverend Charles Kingsley divided the human race into the following classes:

**HONEST PEOPLE** – who mean to do right, and do it.

**KNAVES** – who mean to do wrong, and do it.

**FOOLS** – who mean to do whichever of the two is the pleasanter.

He further divides **FOOLS** into –

Those who would rather do right, but dare not unless it is the fashion; and

Those who would rather do wrong, but dare not unless it is the fashion

*From Parochialia, a 1903 collection of articles for parish magazines*

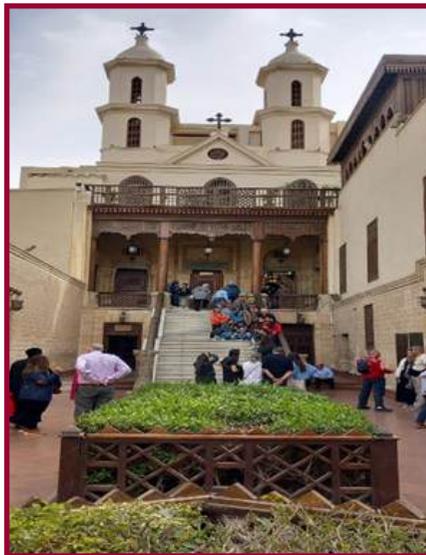
**When I was a kid and getting put to bed at 9:00pm, I couldn't wait until I was a grown-up and could stay up until whatever time I wanted.**

**That time is, apparently, 9:00pm.**

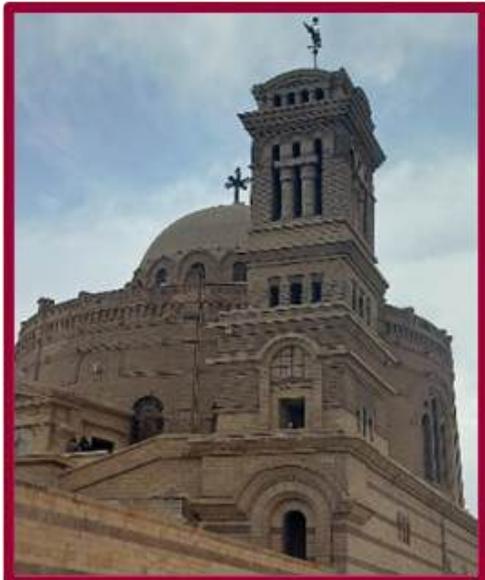
## The Hanging Church (Church of the Virgin Mary)

Situated in the heart of the Coptic quarter of Old Cairo, close to the Nile, lies the magnificent Hanging Church.

The building is one of the earliest Coptic churches in the world, founded as early as the 3rd or 4th century AD, supplanting the oldest Coptic church site, known as the Church of Alexandria, founded by St. Mark the Evangelist around 42 A.D. This was the first Christian church in Africa where St. Mark preached before establishing the first Christian community in Egypt. Hence, St Mark was wholly responsible for the birth of the Coptic Christian church in Old Cairo and Egypt.



It is called The Hanging Church as it was built on top of the first century Roman Babylon Fortress. The church is uniquely suspended over the southern gatehouse. However, a majority of the Fortress towers collapsed into ruin during the 6th century through regional instability; only two antique towers, measuring 10 metres high and 31 metres in diameter survived.



The Romans initially constructed the heavily fortified stronghold as a military camp around AD 98 – 300 to guard and control the Nile. Furthermore, it secured Roman Egypt's borders allowing them to control both land and sea traffic, including the canal linking the Nile to the

## The Original Layout of the Roman Babylon Fort



The remaining two towers of the original Roman Babylon Fortress

Red Sea. During this period Old Cairo was located on a bustling trading route. The fortress became a central hub for Roman power, guarding against civil unrest in the area, and later, for the Coptic community.

As you enter the courtyard of the Hanging Church (St. Mary's) you will come across a very peaceful and tranquil setting. The walls either side are adorned with biblical murals and modern art depicting a number of scenes from the bible. It is a shady narrow area and often planted with greenery to symbolise eternal life.



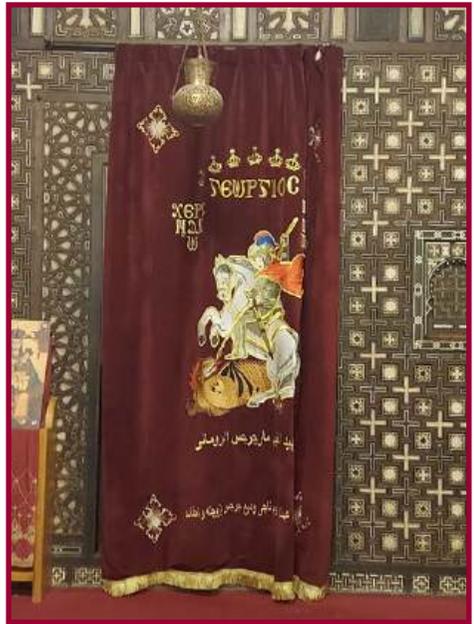
Once inside the courtyard you are led to the church's 19th-century, two-bell tower façade. At the far end of the courtyard you will reach the famous 29 steps, which symbolise the spiritual ascent to the holy place. (For those with mobility issues the entrance can be reached via a lift on the left-hand side).

The Hanging Church houses more than 110 icons which adorn each interior wall of the church. A majority of these date from the 5th century – 12th century AD and some even later. Once inside this magnificent church, there is so much to feast your eyes upon, it is difficult to decide what to look at first!

What is so obviously noticeable immediately on entering is the fact that there is no Altar in sight or Sacristy, where are they?! Both are well hidden and closed off behind a wooden, decorative, ornately designed, intricately carved screen, called an Iconostasis or sanctuary screen. Behind this lies the Alter and chapel for services which can be reached via a small side door to the church and is not accessible to general tourists unless for worship.

The iconostasis screen depicts geometrical patterns and crosses beautifully inlaid with ivory.

Hanging from above the central screen are the most uniquely exquisite banners, one

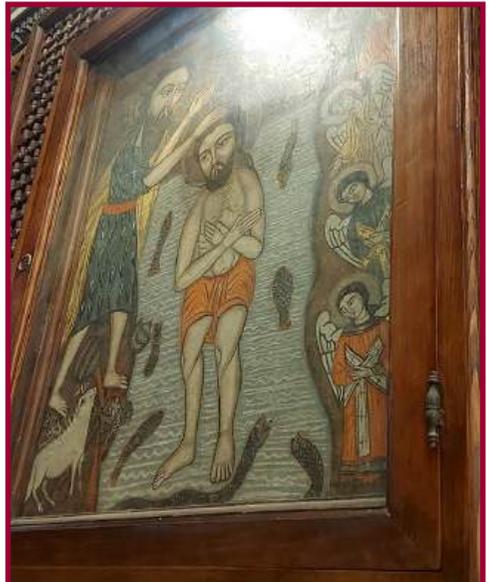


depicting a scene from the martyrdom of St. George.

Another beautiful banner depicts the Blessed Virgin Mary and her martyrs, magnificent in all its glory and richly embroidered in satin stitch; an appliqué technique is also used on a richly coloured cotton velvet background to enhance the texture.



**A further church banner portraying Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan by John the Baptist**



**A Coptic icon painting depicting the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan by John the Baptist  
Around 13th century**

Situated within the nave of the church is a historic 11th century solid marble pulpit (ambo), supported by 13-15 elaborately carved columns depicting Jesus and his apostles; the pulpit skirting is intricately adorned with decorative mosaic work.



The church held many important ceremonies for the Coptic hierarchy of Cairo. These include the selection and burial of patriarchs, the former

occurring from the 11th to 14th centuries while the latter only between the 11th and 12th, as well as the consecration of holy oil and judgement of heresy trials; selection of the date of Easter for every year was another important proceeding held within.



Well worth a visit!

*Patricia Harper*



**Butler in 1851, portrait by  
George Richmond,  
in public domain**

## Saint of the Month: Josephine Butler 30th May

Josephine Butler is the 'saint' for anyone who believes in social justice. This remarkable 19th century clergyman's wife became a renowned campaigner for women's rights and for putting a halt to human trafficking.

Josephine was born in Northumberland in 1828, the daughter of a wealthy family of liberal politics and committed Christian faith. They had already been deeply involved in the abolition of slavery and the extension of the franchise. Such notions of equality instilled into Josephine a passionate desire to combat social injustice.

In 1852 Josephine married George Butler, the son of the Headmaster of Harrow, who shared her views. George was ordained in 1854, and they moved first to Oxford and then to Cheltenham. In 1863 tragedy struck when their daughter Eva fell to her death.

Josephine's grief found expression a few years later, when in 1865 George had become Headmaster of Liverpool College, and the couple were settling in Liverpool. Josephine was horrified at the lives of destitute women in Liverpool, and so she founded a 'home' to care for them, as well as a hostel to train them for suitable work. In 1869 she agreed to head a campaign against the Contagious Diseases Act of 1866, and by 1871 she had addressed a Royal Commission, explaining how this Act brutalised these women, already trapped in the slavery of prostitution. She got the Act rescinded.

By 1882, when George had become a Residentiary Canon of Winchester Cathedral, Josephine had not only founded a refuge for recovering prostitutes in Winchester, but she had also begun to fight sex trafficking across the world. This included freeing British girls from Belgian brothels. By 1885 Josephine had exposed the white slave trade in London and had persuaded Parliament to increase the age of consent for girls from 13 to 16, and to penalise those engaged in the transport of women for profit.

In 1890 her husband George died, but Josephine continued her work until retirement to Northumberland, where she died in 1906.

Josephine wrote more than 90 books and pamphlets over the course of her career, most of which were in support of her campaigning, although she also produced biographies of her father, her husband and Catherine of Siena. Her Christian feminism is celebrated by the Church of England with a Lesser Festival, and by representations of her in the stained glass windows of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and St Olave's Church in the City of London. Her name appears on the Reformers' Memorial in Kensal Green Cemetery, London, and Durham University named one of their colleges after her.

All in all, Josephine Butler's deep Christian compassion transformed the lives of many tens of thousands of suffering women. She has been described as one of the most important early members of the feminist movement, with the feminist leader Millicent Fawcett hailing her as "the most distinguished Englishwoman of the nineteenth century".

## Church Think - Very Revd David Hoyle on Mothers Day

Took Communion today  
 The wafer from the celebrant  
 The wine from the chalice  
 Slide left or right depending on the queue  
 So What - you say?

Today, the hand and fingers which gave me life and bread,  
 Had held King Edwards crown to place on a new King's head.

Bishops down the ages confirmed in post by Paul  
 Just a touch of skin on skin is what unites them all.

Thinking then of Mothering which starts with skin on skin,  
 Just a touch confirming new lives can begin.

(Then: Strangely sad to find that the crown used for Charles 3rd isn't original. That was melted down when the monarchy was abolished in the Civil War.)

Iona Penn



## Lynda's Life in Jesus

***Now it is Spring  
 The flowers appear on the earth,  
 the time of singing has come,  
 and the voice of the turtledove  
 is heard in our land.***

From Song of Songs written by King Solomon – this is after Ecclesiastes in the Holy Scripture.

***The fig tree ripens its figs,  
 and the vines are in blossom;  
 they give forth fragrance.  
 Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
 and come away.***



My birthday is this month. This is all my life in HIM – wonderful Lord Jesus, my holy friend and beautiful saviour. Dear King and royal brother, you I love with all my soul.

My dear prayers are for my brethren, for the animal kingdom and for the marginalised. Now I end this epistle; 'my cup runneth over' and 'surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever' Psalm 23.

Thank you Christ Church brothers and sisters, lots of love from

Lynda Corcoran



# Parish Life in Pictures

## February and March 2026

Candlemas



'Southgate Session' concert with Chrystyna and Stephan Pasicznyk



Planting replacement tree at Parish Centre



Spring Flowers in Churchyard and Front Garden

**Rev Philip Dawson returns for Evensong**



**The Big Spring Clean ... with additional garden helper!**





Appointing new Head Chorister and chorister promotions

Very Revd David Hoyle returns for Mothering Sunday



## Interregnum Update: message from the Churchwardens

In line with the timetable we outlined at the start of the interregnum, we held the interviews for the post of the Incumbent of Christ Church Southgate on 5th March. We had shortlisted two amazing candidates with the support of the Bishop, the Archdeacon, our Patron and the Area Dean.

Both candidates performed very strongly during the interviews, and it was an extremely difficult decision with much prayer and discernment asking for God's guidance. At the end we came to a decision which everyone supported and an offer was made to the successful candidate. Kate and I are delighted to announce that they have accepted the offer and so we believe we have found our next excellent vicar.

Their identity cannot be announced yet as there are some Safer Recruitment processes which the Bishop needs to undertake; once completed and dates agreed with their current role, then we can more formally announce who they are and when they will join us.

*Graham and Kate*

As this time of interregnum draws to an end, we want to offer our heartfelt thanks to our clergy Fr Paul and Rev Hazel, our lay readers Sandra, Jackie and Cathy, our wonderful church wardens Graham and Kate, and to everyone who has stepped up to ensure that the life of this church remains active and welcoming.

From organising services and supporting visiting clergy to caring for the building and congregation alike, your work has helped sustain both the spiritual and practical heart of our parish. You have helped keep us united, hopeful, and focused on our shared faith while we await new leadership. Your example reminds us that the church is not just led from the front, but upheld by the faithful service of many.

**Thank you!**

## Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

### Weekly Services

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.00 am</b> <b>10.00 am</b> <b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b> <b>Sung Eucharist</b> <b>Evensong *</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Healing Service on First and Third week of the month</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12.30 pm</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>



**\* Choral Evensong on the following Sundays in April and May:**  
5th April, 19th April, 26th April, 10th May, 17th May, 31st May

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, surrounding a small puppy, and he went to investigate. One boy explained, "We just found this puppy, and we all want him. So, we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to take him home."

The minister was taken aback. "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie? Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for a moment. The minister thought he had got through to them. Then the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

## Used Stamps, Grimaldi and Navilens

A big thank you to everyone who has donated used stamps for the RNIB over Christmas and New Year. I took a very large bagful to the RNIB's beautiful Grimaldi Building on the Pentonville Road the other day. They were surprised, delighted, and very grateful. Thank you everyone – keep the stamps coming!

There have been many, many more usable stamps recently, thanks to people now cutting them off 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. I'm extremely grateful and it's made sorting them a much quicker and easier process.

On the way into the building, I spotted a small multi-coloured sort of QR code in a flower bed! Turning round, I found the explanation on an obelisk near the gate. **Navilens** is a free app for your phone. The Grimaldi building itself is peppered with these small colourful squares and if you have the app and walk round with your phone, they describe where you are and help you to navigate where you want to go. Pure genius. You just switch on the app and the phone does the rest. These are the kinds of innovations our stamps can help pay for.



**Grimaldi's grave**

And for those who are not familiar with the location, the Grimaldi Building is located in the Joseph Grimaldi Park, a reclaimed church yard and burial ground. Most headstones are now stacked around the edges, propped against the walls, but a couple of tombs remain. One of these is Grimaldi's. The park is landscaped, with lots of trees and seats, and has a playground – a quiet haven in this busy and crowded part of Clerkenwell. It's a straight walk from Kings Cross station.



**Navilens app obelisk and  
A Navilens code in the  
flower bed, guiding you  
up the path**



*Patricia Ashby*

# Planet International! Let's look at International Eco Days

After the humongous 33 international days of observance in February and March, days in April and May seem rather thin on the ground... just 4 dates listed on the UN website, including the protection of a less widely known animal. We can probably all imagine what lies behind “mother earth”, “migratory birds” and “biological diversity”, but the markhor?

To quote from the UN’s own account: “the markhor is a wild goat species indigenous to the mountainous regions of central and south Asia”. This goat with long, corkscrew-like horns (they can grow up to 63”) is a victim of habitat loss, illegal hunting, poaching and climate change which have reduced its numbers to some 5,700 left in the wild. But the markhor is also the national animal of Pakistan and it makes a valuable contribution to many local economies. It was adopted by the UN only recently, in 2014. Although direct interaction with conservation and protection of this animal and its several sub-species (which are also crucial for biodiversity) is unrealistic, but we can definitely offer prayers asking God for help with its well-being.



Photo of a Markhor by Anton Volnuhin on *Unsplash*

**World Migratory Bird Day** is actually observed twice a year and will appear on our lists again in October. One activity recommended is bird counts (the RSPB undertakes an annual count) and many of us already try to contribute to these. We are not geographically well placed to count fly overs (migratory flights) here in the Southgate, but we can watch out and care for some of the spring/summer visitors – birds like the swallows, swifts, house martins and cuckoos –

and Christ Church will be doing its bit this year with the new swift boxes.

**Mother Earth Day** and **Biological Diversity Day** are almost two sides of the same coin. The environment (air, water, climate and land) in which everything (animals, plants, people) lives. These are indeed things that we all experience firsthand every day and which we can all continue to focus on, keep in mind, care for and pray for.

*An Eco and Creation Care Initiative*

## APRIL

22 International Mother Earth Day

## MAY

10 World Migratory Bird Day

22 International Day for Biological Diversity

24 International Day of the Markhor

## Hairy-footed Flower Bee

March and early April can be a cold period and not one we associate with insects, the majority of which will emerge a little later in the year. Bumblebees are amongst the first to appear as their hairy bodies give them some insulation against the changeable weather of early Spring; but have a look for another bee, which looks at first glance like a small bumblebee, but which is actually the delightfully named Hairy-footed Flower Bee. The males emerge first and can be found from late February onwards.



**Male Hairy footed flower bee – spot the long hairs!**

The male is a rusty brown with a yellow face and long hairs on the middle pair of its six legs. It is these long hairs that give the bee the name of 'hairy footed'. About two weeks later the females emerge, looking completely different. Females are mainly black with orange hairs on their back pair of legs which act like little brushes, collecting pollen as they visit flowers. Hairy-footed flower bees have a long tongue which they use to probe into flask-shaped spring flowers such as primrose and lungwort (or pulmonaria). It is worth checking primroses and lungworts for this little bee, they have a faster, more zippy flight than a bumblebee and also a shrill buzz.

As spring progresses, have a look at the walls of your church or churchyard if they are lime mortared or cobb. The female will nest within the mortar of an old wall, making a small hole in which to lay eggs. These are 'solitary' bees, so they do not nest in a colony like honey bees and bumblebees.

Hairy-footed flower bees are a good example of the need to provide a range of flowers for pollinators, including both spring and autumn blooms. This bee is active until June and relies on early pollen to give them energy for their brief breeding season.

Most churchyards contain primroses and perhaps you can include lungwort and comfrey in flower beds or planters as well. Please let us know if you see a hairy-footed flower bee, for those who love a phone or computer app, take a look at iNaturalist ([uk.inaturalist.org](http://uk.inaturalist.org)) to confirm your identification and make a record of your spot.



## Electoral Roll



**Belong**



**Participate**



**Contribute**

## Revision of Church Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll will undergo its annual revision beginning on Sunday the 19th of April 2026 and ending on Sunday the 3rd of May 2026.

During this time, the Electoral Roll will be available at the back of church for checking after the principal Sunday Services. Do take a moment to check your entry and if you

find a mistake, please let me know.

This is also a chance to join the Electoral Roll if you are not already a member. If you would like to be added to the Roll, application forms are available to download from <https://tinyurl.com/2p8mnsfw> (If you cannot do this, please ask an Officer at the back of

church for help.) Completed forms can be submitted electronically or left for me in the mail rack, either under A (for Ashby) or in the Church Office pigeonhole.

The revised Roll will be published on Sunday the 10th day of May 2026, and will be available on request for a period of two weeks for further scrutiny, again at the back of church after the principal Sunday services, until and including Sunday 24th May 2026.

*Patricia Ashby, Electoral Roll Officer*



## 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 10th April and Friday 1st May**.

The next **Friday Foodie** evenings will be held on **24th April at which Turkish/Greek snacks in recognition of Saint George** will be provided and on **15th May when Pizzas** will be provided. There will be a nominal charge for the food provided on both of these evenings.

**On Friday 3rd April the bar will be closed for Good Friday.**

**Recent News:** Friday Foodies continued with Chinese snacks on 27th February. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 6th February and Friday 6th March.

The annual Burns Night supper was held on Sunday 25th January and on Sunday 1st March Ian Cameron Black presented a very good illustrated talk on “The Holy Land with Marcus”. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

All CCA memberships became renewable on 1st January, and membership costs just £2 per year. Please check your membership status with Michael Greenaway, and renew at the bar if necessary.

The Top Step Bar is open on a regular basis as follows:

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

*The CCA is a Registered Club with membership open to anyone who worships at Christ Church, lives in the parish or uses the church halls. Membership costs just £2 per year and new members are always welcome. Please contact Michael Greenaway ([christchurchassociation@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchassociation@gmail.com)) for more information or if you would like to become a member*



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



## News from the Committees

The year is rushing past – already our second

**Parochial Church Council (PCC)** meeting on 17th March. In direct competition with the Lent Course, the meeting was re-scheduled to the earlier start-time of 6 o'clock.

Fr Paul provided the third **Clergy Report** of the interregnum. **Outreach** activities are understandably quieter at the moment, but the important contact with care homes and the housebound through the endeavor of the clergy, readers and members of the **Community & Wellness Committee (C&W)** is unaffected and Fr Paul expressed his thanks to everyone concerned. At this meeting, the **PCC** also approved a comprehensive *Emergency Evacuation Policy and Plan* for the church building and site.

The meeting, as usual, received reports from all the various subcommittees. The amount of work everyone puts in is breathtaking. Do please speak to a Warden if you think you could help in any way. **Finance and Standing Committee (F&SC)** this time reported an end to the current Places of Worship Grant Scheme which will negatively impact our finances. But they also discussed the successful interviews for our new Vicar as well as recently incurred and upcoming expenditures, including installation of the new alarm system, tile replacement, drainpipe repairs, gutter clearing, Parish Centre repairs, etc. And **F&SC** asked the **PCC** to approve a quote for repairs to the front boundary wall.

**Plant and Fabric Committee (P&F)** also discussed the new alarm system, gutters, and some of the repair work noted above, reporting that that work had been completed as well as hinge adjustments to the garden gate, servicing of the organ blower and humidifier, a couple of small plumbing jobs, and assessment of the paint problems in the

choir vestry, kitchen and toilet. They also reported damp visible on the south aisle wall which will be monitored and evaluation of the boundary wall crack which will now be repaired.

An earlier than usual start has been made to gardening this year. **Creation Care (CC)** reported a successful morning's work taking place in February with another scheduled for March. Fundraising for installation of swift boxes on Church House has been successful, and our new bees will be arriving soon. Future projects include an eco-Easter card for everyone to sign at the back of church, a talk about foxes and their place in our urban environment, a plant sale, and maybe even a summer "Green Fair" outside church.

A steady flow of book sales, the sale of other items from the stall, and tea, coffee and cake sales were reported by the **Social Responsibility Committee (SRC)**. **SRC** also noted that they continue to deliver donated items to the Foodbank and Homeless Action Barnet. Their fundraising for the first half of 2026 is for the North London Hospice.

Finally, the **Parish Centre Management Committee (PCMC)** have been extremely busy over the past couple of months, finishing installation and decorating of the new kitchen, repairing the flat roof, planting a tulip tree to replace the three dead trees removed earlier in front of Church House, and planning installation of the swift boxes (plus a sound system – recordings of swift calls helps to attract new birds), and a further small amount of asbestos removal. **PCMC** has also secured a new regular let – the 6th Southgate (Christ Church) Scout Group has moved to the Parish Centre from the Walker Ground. Financially the Centre's income now exceeds running costs. This will help to replace reserves spent on the work carried out over the last 9 months. The Committee notes that the premises are now in better shape than they have been for very many years – the expenditure has been extremely worthwhile.

Patricia Ashby

## SRC Report

Donations to the stall over the last few weeks have been excellent. We must have hit decluttering spring!!! Many thanks.

For the first six months of the year we are collecting for the **North London Hospice**. Hospices are struggling for cash at present and several of our community have been supported by them over recent times. We like to support locally when we can. We also have Easter cards, local history books and marmalade for sale.

We continue to collect & deliver non-perishable goods, nappies & toiletries to Enfield Food Bank and Homeless Action Barnet.

HILARY MEUR

Tel 02083602362 Email ccsocres@gmail.com

## Stewardship

*Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder*



As we move into the quieter summer period there is little to report on the Stewardship front, there have no new additions to The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

Unfortunately, alongside this, as is often the case, we have continued to lose a number of our long standing regular donors, undoing much of the good work from the Stewardship Campaign last year.

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

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

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme now.

This can be set-up easily by:

- ◇ completing a form available at the back of church, or
- ◇ making one telephone call to their dedicated helpline number 0333 002 1271 - when calling please quote our parish code 230623352, or
- ◇ online using the following link:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/southgate-christ-church-london/>

Or scan the QR code  
on your smartphone or tablet



## PARISH DIRECTORY

### Parish Office

*Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.  
Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.  
N.B. Notices for the Sunday pew sheets should reach the Office no later than 10 a.m. on a Friday. If possible, please e-mail them.*

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

### Clergy

*Vicar* Vacancy

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

*Curate* The Reverend Paul Ellerby  
*Address & Phone* via the office  
*Email* curate@christchurch-southgate.org

### Lay Readers

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

### Churchwardens

Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com 07974 437966  
Graham Cook, grahamrcook@hotmail.com 07535 800741

### PCC

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

### Music Department

*Director of Music* William Waine  
music@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Organist & Assistant*  
*Director of Music* Matthew Warbis  
*Treasurer* Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

**Sacristan** Vacancy

**Sidesmen** Judith Lo 8882 3335

**Sub-committee Chairs/contacts**

*Outreach* via the office

*Plant and Fabric* Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com 07974 437966

*Social Responsibility* Vacancy

**Electoral Roll Officer** Patricia Ashby 8886 2528

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Jackie Anderson 8245 0305

**Parish Magazine “The Spire”**

*Editorial Team* Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper

Copy to be sent to christchurchspire@gmail.com

*Treasurer* Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

**Flower Arrangers** Contact the Parish Office (see previous page for details)

**Parish Centre/Church Halls**

*Chairman* Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD 8882 6738

*Secretary* Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR 8367 5961

*Lettings* christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com

*Treasurer* Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

**Christ Church Association Bar**

*Contact* Pat Collins

christchurchassociation@gmail.com

**Friday Coffee Morning**

*Every Friday morning 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Church*

*Contact* Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

**Scout Group** The Reverend Hazel Miall, *Cubs* 07980 740587

Stephen Smith, *Group Scout Leader* 8882 0991

**Bellringers** *Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.*

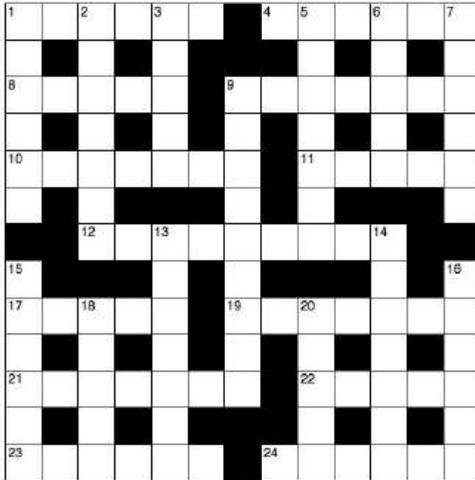
*Captain* Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN 8368 1974

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

*Contact* Ian Cameron Black 8886 4942

**Bible Study Group** Simon Walkden 07799 132656

## APRIL CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 ‘Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it’ (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah’s message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America’s Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 ‘Look, here is — . Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’ (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles’ (Acts 1:26) (6)

24 ‘I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not — ’ (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

### FEBRUARY SOLUTION



## Children's Corner

Soon we'll be seeing lots of bees in our gardens and parks - did you know ...

### Bees dance to talk!

Honeybees do a special "waggle dance" to tell other bees where to find flowers full of nectar.

### They make a LOT of honey

One bee only makes about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its whole life—but together, a hive makes plenty!

### Bees have 5 eyes!

They have two big eyes and three tiny ones on top of their head to help them see light and movement.

### Not all bees sting

Many types of bees are harmless, and even honeybees only sting if they feel threatened.

### Bees help grow our food

Bees are super important because they pollinate plants, helping fruits, vegetables, and flowers grow.

### Bees can smell with their antennae!

They use their antennae (the little feelers on their heads) to sniff out flowers and even recognise other bees in their hive.



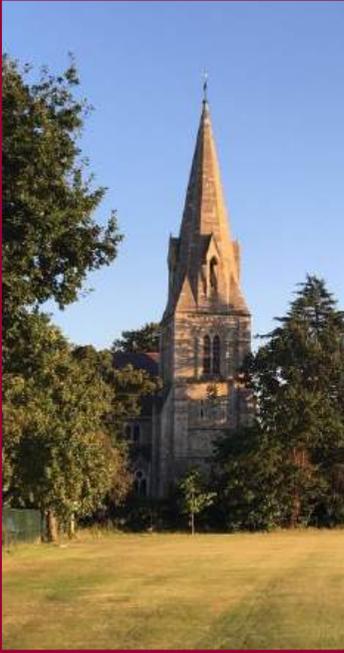
## Colour-in the bees and flowers



## Find the mouse!

Last time, naughty Walker the Mouse had fallen asleep during bible study by Michael Green's book 'To Corinth with Love' on page 8. See if you can find him scoffing Easter Eggs somewhere in this magazine ...

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



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

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

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

**The Heavenly Architect**

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

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**Southgate**

**CHOIR CD**

**‘The Heavenly Architect’**  
**Choral Classics from the Choir of Christ Church, Southgate.**

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

Christ Church Southgate is a Registered Charity (1131606)  
We rely on your generous donations to finance our ministry