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The Spire



October and
November 2026

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
Southgate



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Robert Coupland

Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Autumn Edition of the Spire.

There is a particular moment in the year when we become aware that the light is changing. The long, bright evenings of summer begin to draw in. Morning light arrives later, the shadows lengthen, and there is a golden quality to the afternoons that seems to invite us to pause and notice what is around us. Leaves turn, hedgerows become richer in colour, and the first signs of winter quietly appear.

It is a season of gathering in and of remembering.

At Harvest we pause to notice the fruit of the earth, the work of human hands, and the abundance of creation. We give thanks, and are reminded that none of us lives by our own efforts alone. Yet Harvest also asks us to look beyond gratitude towards responsibility. We live at a time when the patterns of the natural world are under increasing pressure. Climate change, loss of biodiversity and the depletion of natural resources are not distant concerns. They touch the land and communities around us, and the poorest and most vulnerable often feel their effects most sharply.

Perhaps the changing light of autumn can

remind us that creation is not simply something we possess. It is something entrusted to us.

Christian faith begins with the conviction that the world is God's gift. To give thanks for creation, therefore, is also to ask how we might care for it. That care need not always begin with grand gestures. It can be found in the choices we make, in what we waste or conserve, in how we tend our gardens and green spaces, and in how we travel, consume and share what we have. It can also be found in the simple act of paying attention, noticing the beauty and fragility of the world on our doorstep.

As the season turns from Harvest towards Remembrancetide, the autumn landscape seems to draw us into a deeper kind of reflection. We think of those who came before us, their lives, sacrifices, hopes and struggles, and of the ways they have shaped the world in which we live. We remember especially those who have died in war, and hold before God all whose lives have been scarred by conflict and loss.

In this sense, Harvest and Remembrance belong together. Both are seasons of gratitude and attention, drawing us beyond ourselves and towards the responsibilities that come with being part of a larger story. Both ask us to

consider what we have been given, what we have inherited, and what we will hand on.

That question feels particularly important as we think about the care of creation. We have inherited a beautiful and generous world, but also one showing signs of profound strain. The choices we make now will become part of the inheritance we leave to those who come after us.

There is something fitting, too, about the autumn landscape itself. Leaves fall, seeds lie dormant, and the earth enters its quieter season. There is loss, but not simply an ending. The Christian story teaches us to look for hope even in the midst of darkness, to trust that God's purposes are at work even when we cannot yet see what is to come.

Perhaps this is why the changing autumn light feels so poignant. The year is turning towards darkness, yet the low sun can make the ordinary world glow with unexpected beauty. We are reminded that light is

precious, that seasons change, and that we are part of a story much larger than our own.

So perhaps, this autumn, we might allow ourselves to walk a little more slowly. To notice the changing light. To give thanks for the harvest we enjoy. To remember those who have gone before us. And to ask what kind of world we are handing on to those who come after us.

May our gratitude become generosity, our remembrance become a commitment to peace, and our love of creation become a renewed care for the precious world God has entrusted to us.

And as the days grow shorter, may we discover that even a little light is enough to remind us that we are not walking in darkness alone.

With my prayers for you and your loved ones,
Father Robert

Saturday 3rd October 7.00 pm: Harvest Quiz.

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

Please bring your own food and nibbles. A cash bar will be available.

Note from the Editors

May we take this opportunity to wish Father Paul every happiness and success in his new parish of St Michael, Camden Town!

A reminder that the deadline for copy for the December/January edition of The Spire is

Wednesday 18th November - yes it really is nearly 2027! Do contact us at

christchurchspire@gmail.com

Freya and Imogen



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

Available 24 hours a day on

0800 804 8044

Unity Exhibition

I was thrilled to receive an invitation to a reception at Leicester Cathedral, to celebrate the works of the artist Jacquie Binns.

The Cathedral has recently completed a ten year renovation and refurbishment with new flooring, repaired stonework and new, hand-carved grotesques. It is a beautiful, final resting place for King Richard III.



It was fitting for the Cathedral to host the 'Unity' exhibition of Jacquie's work, because she was the person, in 2015, who created the funeral pall used during the reinterment of Richard III, a piece which remains on display in the Cathedral.

Jacquie is a sculptor as well as an embroiderer, but it was just works from her embroidery collection that were on show at the 'Unity' Exhibition. Much of her work is on a religious theme, and every one of those works are

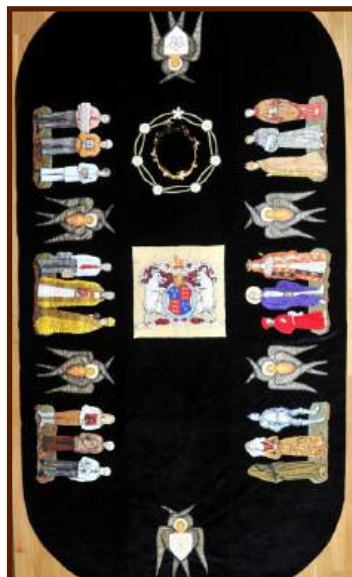
created to the Glory of God. Angels feature in her work and an excellent example of this can be seen on the white altar frontal of our Lady chapel, which is used for 'High days and Holidays'. The chasubles, and several stoles, that I wear in church are made by Jacquie.

Jacquie always does a lot of research before starting a design. For instance, one of the green chasubles I wear has a representation of the Minchenden Oak on the front of it. She came and took numerous photos of the tree from all angles, to make her embroidery look just like the living tree, in all its seasons.

The funeral pall of Richard III is a true work of art. A small photo cannot do it justice. The Arms of King Richard III are in the centre, and there are images of the great and the good of Richard's time including Queen Anne Neville, St. Martin (representing the Cathedral Church) and a Grey friar with the Greyfriars church model. Perhaps my favourite part is the representations of the people involved in the discovery of King Richard's remains under a Leicester car park including the archaeologists, Leicester Civic leaders, the Bishop and Dean at the time of the interment in 2015. Each person involved could be recognised by their facial features alone and each has a symbol of their identity.

Jacquie is a wise, Christian, lady and lives her life trying to keep to her own words '*Believe in yourself, work very hard, and persevere*'. If we were all able to strive to do those things I am confident the world would be a better place.

Hazel Miall



The Journey from Camden and Back

When I shared that my faith journey actually began on the High Barnet branch platform of Camden Town Station, I didn't expect so many people to ask me about it. So here is something of what happened that day.

I was on my way home from work; the person I was standing next to turned to me and asked if I knew Jesus. 'Oh no!' I thought, if I strike up a conversation now, he will get on the train, talk to me, and everyone in the carriage will hear.

That is exactly what happened! He talked until we reached my stop. He got off at the same stop and talked until we reached the cross roads. He talked about love, forgiveness and eternity.

Once home, I called my one Christian friend. I had seen her a week earlier - I told her what had happened. She wasn't surprised and confessed that she had been praying for me for the past week. I asked her what to do and she told me to talk to God. I hadn't done that since primary school!

I had a conversation with another friend who told me to do nothing. She suggested that I wait to see if God knocked at my door again. I decided that I could not take that chance with almighty God, so I talked to God. I actually knelt down and prayed.

Thirty-two years later, I was preparing to be Ordained as Curate at St Paul's Cathedral (in the presence of Father Robert!) and on my way to Christ Church.

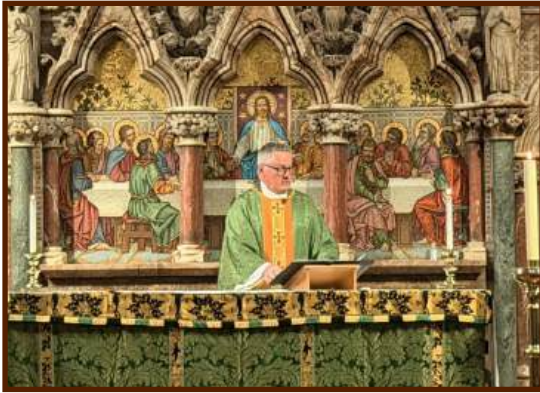
As a person I like to be prepared, but there were many things about the Anglo Catholic tradition that I was not prepared for, including being asked to be blessed by people immediately after becoming a Priest. I had no idea that newly anointed hands held such significance for people.

However, one of the greatest joys came on my first Sunday as a priest. As the Curate I had always set the Altar for the Eucharist but on that Sunday, I was Presiding. The Vicar was preparing the Altar. I realised that I had never really paid attention to what a Priest does at this point. So, I sat down and then wondered what to do with the next few minutes. I decided that I should pray. As I closed my eyes to pray, I sensed God whispering the words of Jesus "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17). I was overwhelmed by the sense of God trusting me to serve him and his people.

I continue to be delighted in the people of Southgate as you come weekly, annually or for the seasons and celebrations to gather around the Eucharist. You come alone, as couples and as entire families. You come to be fed and to be blessed.

There has been great joy in being able to walk alongside you in your journeys of faith. I have enjoyed the great privilege of journeying with you through life's events and towards Baptism,





Confirmation and Ordination. The other great joy I have experienced is the love expressed by you as a congregation for your priests. Something else I was not prepared for.

During my time at Christ Church, many unexpected and unplanned life events have happened to challenge me and my family. I hope that I have navigated these challenges with good grace and still been able to serve the people of Christ Church with authentic love.

I am thankful to God for sending Jesus to save us. I am thankful to God for his faithfulness and thankful for those he places alongside us to encourage us, to teach us and to love us.

As I look towards the future beyond the next year in Camden, I know that God is working his purpose out and that I will serve Him gladly in whatever he calls me to.

Thank you to everyone at Christ Church, I look forward to the next time we meet.

Father Paul

Harvest Festival Honey Sale Sunday 4th of October 2026!

Dear Bee & Honey Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that the Bee Team can now finally announce that our new nucleus of bees which were installed in April, have been extremely prolific, in fact they have been so busy we have lots of honey for sale!

Price remains the same at £8 per jar!

For those who are not so keen on honey, you could donate some money! As not all bee lovers have a taste for honey, there will be a donation box on the bee stand with other bee related items for sale!

To make the day even more fun & memorable everyone is invited to dress up/wear something BEE Related! Following the service of course!

There will be a Pre-Order Honey Form for you to fill in at the back of church, on the coffee table.

Thank you for your continued support in advance!



A Golden Flow: From the Honey Harvest to the Jar



**Checking the frames to see if the honey is ready for extraction
Well it certainly is so let's get started...**



**The bees were so prolific, we removed a total of approximately 25 full frames of honey! The transporter box weighed a ton!
It took both bee keepers to transfer the box to the car!**



De-capping the honey combs; scraping away the fine layer of beeswax sealing the honey cells



Inserting six frames at a time in a manual extractor, which uses centrifugal force from a hand- cranked turning motion to fling honey out of the frames – great workout for your biceps & triceps!



Reverend Hazel and Philip Miall popped in to see how we were getting along and to have a sample taste of our delicious honey!



Three Days Later ...

Once the honey is strained through a large sieve into a storage tank with a valve, it is left for three days. During this time any air bubbles will have risen to the surface and the honey will be ready for bottling.

Preparation ready for bottling...

We then wash all the glass jars & lids in hot soapy water and rinse, leave to dry and then lay them out a few at a time, placing the jars & lids in an oven at 180 degrees for 10 minutes to sterilise them; any hotter and the glass jars could crack.

The honey surface is then skimmed to get rid of any foam that has risen to the top by simply skimming it off with a flattish ladle.

Now the honey is ready to pour into the jars from the honey storage tank which is fitted with a valve!

Once in sealed and lidded glass jars, the honey is ready for labelling. They are then boxed and put into store, all ready for the Harvest Festival!



Our thanks to Alice who volunteered her help on the day! Look forward to your support at this coming Harvest Festival which falls on Sunday October the 4th!

Patricia Harper and The Bee Team!

Late - excuse notes

Would trousers be OK or should it be the summer frock?
Sunday and late already, service is at 10 o'clock.

Walking my stick across the road,
Thinking as the traffic slowed, about the latest Highway Code.

And in the lull I caught that sound,
Glimpsed the windows lit by sun,

Doors wide open, they've begun.

The choir is back, with joyous news.
"Love Divine " just called to me, before I'd even reached the pews.
Garden flowering, leaves, birds, trees,
perfect little cooling breeze.

Being late had seemed a crime until I felt
that Love Divine,
Was running out to welcome

Me?

Angela Parker

The Church Bells

'Summoned by Bells' is the title of John Betjeman's poetic autobiography, where he describes how bells summoned him to school and to church. Bells announcing the joy of weddings and Sunday services; and also marking out times of sadness and the death of loved ones.

One of the strangest bell-towers is at St Augustine's Church, Brookland in Kent, north-east of Rye. It was originally built in the medieval period, and now stands as a triple coned, wooden, octagonal tower detached from the church, and clad with shingles in 1936.



The story is that the tower looked down at a beautiful bride about to marry an unpleasant groom: it was such a surprise that the tower jumped off the church in shock. The truth is that the church was built on marshy ground, and a stronger foundation was needed for the bells. And so, the tower was built north of the church.

Like all belfries and steeples, it is an impressive witness to the place of bells in human life and work: as time-keepers, announcing both festive occasions and emergencies, and calling people away from more worldly pursuits to worship. That is why bells have always been blessed at their installation for their true function is to ring out the harmony of heaven.

The tenor bell at Warburton Church in Cheshire is inscribed with the words, **'I bid you to the house of prayer. St Werburgh's hallowed name I bear. Good folk draw near and humbly pray, as prayed that saint in olden day.'** As a little boy, John Betjeman would listen to the bells with his teddy bear, Archibald. 'I heard the church bells hollowing out the sky, deep beyond deep, like never-ending stars.' For him, for the people of Brookland, and for all of us, the bells were like stars lighting up the sky with faith and joy and praise.

The Revd Michael Burgess, Parish Pump

Saturday 17th October: Edwardtide Pilgrimage at Westminster Abbey

Join us for a parish pilgrimage to the shrine of St Edward at Westminster Abbey. We will travel together by Tube, making this a wonderful opportunity for fellowship as well as worship and pilgrimage.

If you would like to come, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Further details about meeting time and travel arrangements will be shared with those who sign up.

Everyone is warmly welcome!



Saint of the month: 1st October

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Many people think it stands for Eros. It does not; it stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a ‘horror’ of ‘cruelty and starvation’. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’ The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.

After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life’s work had begun.

Lunatics

In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in. Shaftesbury’s maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve conditions. He wrote: ‘By God’s blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.’ It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of ‘the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.’

Child Labour and Factory Reform

Again, reform took years. Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of 9 should work in the cotton or woollen industries below the age of 9, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

Miners

In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys

Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform

In 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, ‘I should die of a broken heart’.

Religion

Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'. One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.'

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'. He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting generation', 'friend of every living thing', 'he had a 'fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.'



The Jewish Festival of New Year

Happy New Year! It is the Jewish high holy day at this time. The birthday of the world recalls the Creation. Our great Messiah, Jesus, would have kept these holidays.

I was brought up quite strictly as a Jewish girl and our family celebrated **Rosh Hashanah**, which literally means "head of the year" and is a time of reflection, judgment, and renewal. We also kept **Yom Kippur** – this is the most important day to keep if you are Jewish – and is about repentance. We fast for 24 hours (not even water!). When I do sponsored fasts for Lent and Advent, I am allowed liquids on them.

Later in the month we have **Sukkot Festival of Booths** where we build a shelter in the garden, decorated with fruit and flowers, and have a blessing in it. Then there is **Simchat Torah** – a festival that is about the law and celebrates the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle and the start of a new one, marked by joyful dancing and singing.

These are beautiful festivals which I love to keep. I feel very close to Jesus, being a Jewish saviour, as he is.

My love to you all at Christ Church and I hope you have enjoyed reading about Jewish high holidays.

Your sister in Christ, *Lynda Corcoran*

By the way, it is traditional to eat sweet food for a sweet new year – we have honey cake and apples dipped in honey and even honey on our bread!



Parish Life in Pictures

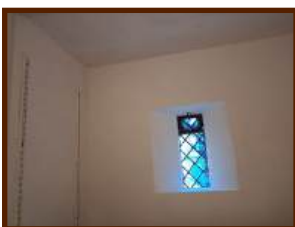
August and September 2026

Fathers Robert, Paul and Chrichton



Scything the Churchyard with Matt and Chris from Friends of Broomfield Park





Redecorating the
Vestry



Father
Paul's
last
Sunday
as our
Curate





The
Archdeacon
licenses
Father Paul
at St
Michael's,
Camden
Town

Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

Weekly Services

Sunday 8.00 am
 10.00 am
 6.30 pm

Said Eucharist
Sung Eucharist
Evensong *



Tuesday 7.00 pm

**Healing Service on First and
 Third week of the month**

Thursday 12.30 pm

Said Eucharist

* Choral Evensong on 4th October, 11th October, 8th November, 15th November



Special Services in October & November

Sunday 4th October 10am

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 1st November 10am

Feast for All Saints

Sunday 1st November 6.30pm

Commemoration of All Souls

Requiem mass with the music of Fauré

Sunday 8th November 10.30am

Service of Remembrance

Sunday 22nd November 6.30pm

**Christ the King,
 Patronal Festival Concert**

The Choir of Christ Church Southgate with
 the Bach Sinfonia, Mozart Requiem
 Tickets available online and on the door



Sunday 29th November 6.30pm

Advent Procession

**On Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th
 October, the Choir will be singing
 services in York Minster**



Planet International!

Let's look at International Eco Days

Our usual approach here is to check out the United Nations calendar of eco-awareness days and select ones that we can join in with here in Southgate – days that highlight global conservation, climate action, and sustainability. An even more extensive list can be found in Wikipedia and sometimes it's difficult to decide where our energy should be focussed. So out of interest, this time we asked AI for help! We asked for "international eco-awareness days in October and November". Interestingly, AI also took it upon itself to recommend month-long global initiatives alongside specific days.



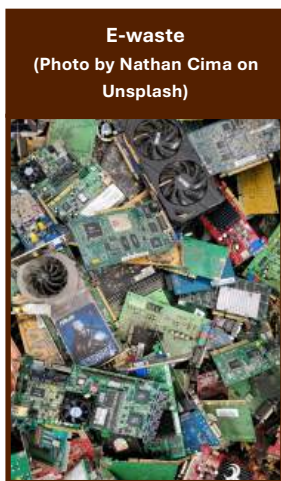
Walking to school
(Photo by Jon Torres on Unsplash)

OCTOBER is **International Walk to School Month** focussing on sustainable travel, and **Unblocktober** focussing on keeping drains and sewers in good working order. These are both things we can each keep at the forefront of our attention – trying to avoid using the car to get children to and from school, and avoiding pouring fats, oils and non-degradable solid waste down our drains. You might say we've heard it all before. That's true. But it isn't easy to make the sustained effort required to avoid using our cars, and it's also true that we aren't all perfect when it comes to dealing with household waste. We have to keep trying,

As October goes by, there are also individual days to join in with and support, including:

1st: World Vegetarian Day draws attention to the environmental and health benefits of a plant-based diet. This is especially worth keeping in mind if you are a big meat eater.

7th: Energy Efficiency Day aims to raise our awareness of the climate benefit that comes from energy-efficient practices... turning off unnecessary lights, using overnight economy cycles on washing machines, washing at lower temperatures, etc.



E-waste
(Photo by Nathan Cima on Unsplash)

14th: International E-waste Day encourages responsible recycling of all the electronic items that our lives are full of today. Don't just bin plugs, cables, phones and so forth. Take them to the nearest recycling centre with designated drop-off points. (In Southgate we have the added advantage of being able to drive to Barnet's Summers Lane Re-use and Recycling Centre where you don't need to pre-book as well as our own, bookable, Barrowell Green.)

NOVEMBER, AI tells us, is **World Vegan Month** and **International Buy Nothing New Month**.

This reinforces and develops the habits encouraged in October, and also reminds us to make routine use of charity shops (both to donate and to buy) and second-hand shops as well as online initiatives such as **Olio**, **Vinted**, **Abe Books**, etc.



Fishing

(Photo by Paul Einerhand on
Unsplash)

Again, if a month is too long, we can take one day at a time. We can, for example, join others around the world on the 1st or the 21st:

1st: World Vegan Day – we can try this for a day, if a whole month is too much to manage.

21st: World Fisheries Day is a day when we are encouraged to think about healthy ocean (lake and river) ecosystems and sustainable fish stocks. We can all take steps to minimise plastic use and waste, campaign for clean sewage disposal, and if we eat fish, we can ensure that we only buy properly

managed tinned and fresh varieties.

No one alone can hope to change everything, but together we can work to put the world back as God intended.

An Eco and Creation Care Initiative

Tu-wit-tu-woo!

The Tawny Owl is probably our most familiar owl; children grow up learning that tawny owls say ‘tu-wit-tu-woo’, although this is not the call of one bird. The familiar call is a duet between the female who starts with the harsh ‘kee-vik’ which is then followed by the male with the deeper ‘woo-hoooo’. At this time of year you may hear a lot of owl calls as the young are noisily driven from their natal territory by their parents. Each existing territory they pass through will elicit much calling, shrieking and hooting. This is a dangerous time for the young owls and many will die, driven from hunting grounds by resident birds before they reach their first year. Once they do find a suitable territory, which is likely to be only a few kilometres from their place of birth, they may remain in it all year round for the rest of their lives, making them one of our most sedentary birds.



Tawny owls are a bird of woodland, choosing to nest within chimney-like holes within large trees. As with many woodland species, churchyards can be good places for them, containing a range of habitats full of food as well as trees for nesting. We think of tawny owls as eating mice and voles but they have quite a varied diet, depending on what is available. They may eat small birds, rabbits, beetles, frogs and worms too.

Tawny owls do well in owl nest boxes and churchyards can be good places for these. If putting one up, keep well away from paths as owls can attack people walking too near their nests. The best place for one is within a tree with ivy or lots of branches as when the young are preparing to leave the nest they start ‘branching’ – climbing up and down the trunk using ivy and branches as footholds, sitting in neighbouring trees and generally starting to explore. During this time the parent birds are still feeding them, and a young owl found on the ground is probably not in trouble and shouldn’t be picked up in case a nearby parent attacks.

So, listen out for the tawny owls and think of the two birds duetting each other.



Patronal Festival concert

Sunday 22nd November

at 6.30pm



This year, the Choir of Christ Church Southgate, directed by William Waine, with the Bach Sinfonia, will be performing **Mozart's Requiem**.

Tickets will be available online and on the door.

For more information, and for details of how you could support the concert, please speak to William Waine or email him on music@christchurch-southgate.org

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 2nd October and Friday 6th November**.

The next **Friday Foodie** evening will be held on **23rd October** and is a **German beer and food evening**.

The **Annual General Meeting of the CCA** will be held in the Reception Room at Church House on **Wednesday, 18th November**. All members are welcome to attend if they are able. If you are a member and are interested in serving on the committee please contact one of us.

Recent News: The bar re-opened after its normal summer closure on Wednesday 2nd September. Friday Foodies resumed with a Chinese snacks evening on 18th September. Cheese and snacks were also provided on Friday 4th September. We would like to thank all those who supported these events.

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)



News from the Committees

The news begins, as always, with news from the **Vicar's Report**. In addition to beginning a review of the **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** sub-committee structure as a whole, Fr Robert describes a number of **Outreach Committee** activities, including a new partnership with Seawards Funerals. This enables a coffee morning on the last Monday of each month which will offer friendship, companionship and support to the bereaved, thus beginning to widen further our engagement with the local community and develop our pastoral ministry.

Separately from the **Finance & Standing Committee (F&SC)** news, the Treasurer's Finance Report shows that we are once again in the fortunate position of enjoying a very small surplus with our total income exceeding our outgoings by £384. Expenditure this year has included minor roof repairs, an additional alarm pad plus adjustments to the locks on the small north door and the door between the kitchen and the choir vestry, repainting the whole utility area, and the cost of advertising for our new Vicar!

The **Plant & Fabric Committee (P&F)** also reported on the utility area repainting as well as repair of the spotlight in the Lady Chapel and repairs to the boundary wall. **P&F** also reported that the Diocese has confirmed that a faculty is not required to place a planter in the churchyard unless this is to be sunk into the ground.

Redecorating and repairs feature again in the report from the **Parish Centre Management Committee (PCM)** including redecoration of the kitchen and stair well in Church House. The hall ceiling has also been repainted following water ingress. Church House toilets have been repaired and spruced up, the main Walker Hall door has been rehung, further sealing of the flat roofs has been undertaken, downpipes are in the process of being unblocked, and steps have been taken to agree a new lease for the UK Power Network substation. Montessori Start Right Nursery is clearing its belongings from the stage in Church House.

Eco & Care Creation Committee (E&CC) reported a bumper honey harvest from our new bees. And still on wildlife, the swift boxes are still vacant, but swifts flying around the area may well take up residence in the next two or three years – we need to remain positive! The gardening team has received donations of gardening equipment for which they are very grateful. The **E&CC** report emphasises the need for all of us to Reduce, Re-use and Recycle and suggests ideas for possible 'sales' to promote this and to fund-raise.

The **Pastoral Care Group (PCG)** reported that the PCC Prayer List has been re-instated, members continue to accompany people to appointments, make home visits, phone people in need of company or support, send cards to 'absentees', and deliver pew sheets and *The Spire* to people who are housebound.

The full **Social Responsibility Committee** report is, as usual, included separately elsewhere in this magazine.

Patricia Ashby

Teacher: Donald, how do you spell crocodile?

Donald: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's incorrect.

Donald: Maybe it is, but you asked me how I spell it.

Stewardship

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder



Quite a lot has happened on the Stewardship front since my last Spire article and it is not all good news. I always try and be positive but for one reason or another there have been a rather greater number of people than usual leaving Stewardship. It is now certain that donations will be lower than last year.

So, I thought I would seek some help regarding this subject and am sharing some thoughts from the Chief Executive of the Parish Giving Scheme entitled **One small step towards greater generosity**.

September has always felt like a month of fresh starts. Perhaps it's the influence of the academic year or simply the sense of renewed energy that comes with the changing season. Whatever the reason, for me, September feels like more of a "new year" than January does.

Recently, someone shared with me that they were launching an exciting new project this month. They smiled and said, "If I start in September, I'm already four months ahead of everyone waiting until January to make a New Year's resolution." That comment struck me.

It's easy to think that meaningful change only begins with a big plan, a new calendar, or a major initiative. Yet some of the most significant transformations begin with one small decision to do something differently today.

Perhaps it's sharing a story of impact during a service or thanking those who faithfully support your ministry. It may be introducing a regular prayer for generous hearts or creating space for conversations about how giving enables mission. Maybe it's simply

taking the time to review whether your church's giving opportunities are as accessible and visible as they can be. In our experience, the churches that foster strong cultures of generosity rarely arrive there overnight. They build it gradually, through clear communication, inspiring vision, and regular encouragement that connects giving with God's mission.

As we begin this new season, I encourage you to reflect on a simple question:

What is one new thing you could do this month to strengthen the culture of generosity in your church?

Not ten things. Just one.

September is a wonderful opportunity to begin. And who knows? By the time January arrives, you may find that one simple step has already started to make a lasting difference.

So, if you were planning to sign to join our Stewardship but haven't yet, if you were planning to increase your giving, but haven't yet, the text box that follows this article tells you what to do. Unfortunately, PGS Gift Aid Forms are unavailable at the back of church, this will be rectified as soon as they are available.

Please don't delay, act today, join the congregation already giving regularly using the Parish Giving Scheme.

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



HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme now.
This can be set-up easily by:

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

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

Or scan the QR code
on your smartphone or tablet



SRC Report

We will be at Harvest by the time you read this. There will be the quiz on the Saturday evening and we will send the proceeds to **Noah's Ark**. Father Robert visited them soon after he arrived in Southgate and he was moved by their care & compassion.

This year our Harvest gifts will go to the **Food Bank** and to **Homeless Action Barnet**. With the usual gifts of non-perishable, tins and packets we again ask for toiletries, towels, new underwear, socks, hats and gloves. Proceeds from coffee and the stall at present will go to **The Nightingale Cancer Support Centre**. Several members of our congregation have benefited from their services and we like to donate where we have a link.

We will pack a few shoeboxes this year for **Operation Christmas Child**. We have tried to find someone to take this over but haven't been successful. Some contributions have come in and we will work on our boxes at the Friday coffee morning. They need to be completed by Sunday 8th November.

Then we move onto our Christmas activities ...

Our usual Hamper raffle and stalls will be in church in December. There will be our Gift Tree, again for **Enfield Young Carers**. **Southgate Homebound**, who hold their monthly meetings in Walker Hall, have their Christmas meal in December. We will wrap Christmas presents for them on Advent Sunday after the 10 o'clock service. If anyone is interested in joining this group please talk to one of us.

Everything our small committee does we do on behalf of us all at Christ Church. We need as many people as possible to contribute as best they/you can to give these activities a positive outcome.

What can I give?

Something saleable; a gift for a child carer or someone house bound; a shoebox or wrapping paper or even a helping hand. Christ Church has always been very generous I am confident that will continue.

Many thanks,

Hilary Meur
ccsocres@gmail.com 01707890345

Children's Corner

Find the mouse!

Last magazine, Walker the Mouse was splashing around on the flip chart music list on page 12.

This time, he is eating his fill of acorns - can you find him?

World Animal Day

World Animal Day is a special day when we celebrate animals all around the world and think about how we can care for and protect them. World Animal Day is on October 4, which is the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

Animals are everywhere. We share our world with dogs, cats, horses, birds, rabbits and many other animals. There are also wonderful wild animals such as elephants, lions, tigers, giraffes, dolphins and penguins. Every animal has an important place in our world.

World Animal Day reminds us that animals need kindness, love and respect. We should never hurt or frighten animals. Pets need food, clean water, a safe home and lots of care. Wild animals need safe places to live, find food and raise their babies.



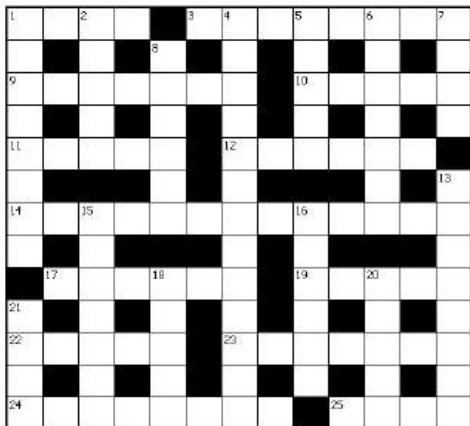
On World Animal Day, let us remember that animals are part of God's wonderful creation. Let us treat every creature with kindness and help make the world a safer and happier place for all animals.

Why don't giraffes like fast food? Because they can't catch it

Why are fish so clever? Because they live in schools!

What time does a duck wake up? At the quack of dawn!

OCTOBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

AUGUST SOLUTION



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 The Reverend Robert Coupland
Address The Vicarage, 1 The Green, Southgate, London, N14 7EG
Phone 020 3524 7402
Email vicar@christchurch-southgate.org

Assistant Priest The Reverend Hazel Miall
Address 85 Conway Road, Southgate, London, N14 7BD
Phone 07980 740587
Email assistantpriest@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, address via the office 01707 890345

Music Department

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

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	01707 890345

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	01707 890345

Christ Church Association Bar

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

	<i>Every Friday morning 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Hilary Meur	01707 890345

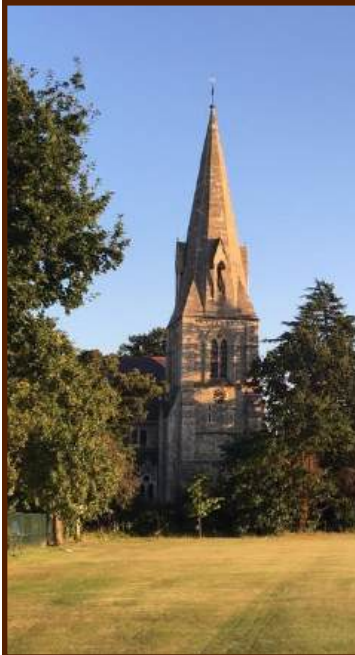
Scout Group	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i> Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	07980 740587 8882 0991
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Bellringers	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974

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	Simon Walkden	07799 132656
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Christ Church Southgate
The Church on the Green N14
Where everyone is welcome

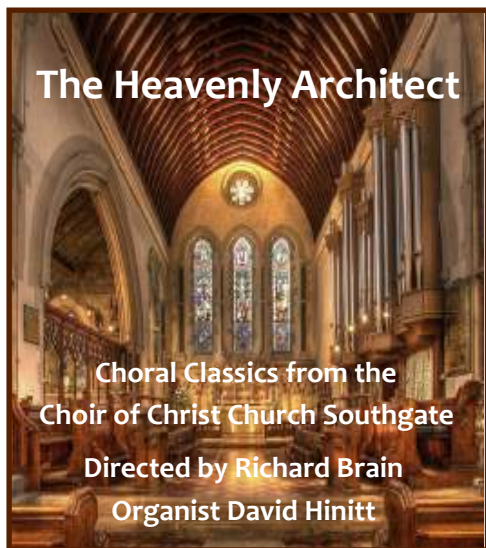


Christ Church Southgate is an Eco-Church, we have achieved the Silver Award.

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