

Knife Crime Workshop held on 17th February at Crystal Palace Football Stadium and attended by Teddy, Elizabeth and Elijah from St Mark: [here's Teddy's report](#).

The foundation which hosted this event, have been working tirelessly throughout South London to ensure that this is a safe place for both children and adults; as well as ensuring the young people of this area are aware of the situations we face today and the violence included.

The day started with a tour of the stadium followed by talks from guest speakers including the metropolitan police – they mostly explained child exploitation; the consequences of getting involved with dangerous situations; and the help we can receive if we are ever caught up in a potentially harmful situation.

Sometimes people may think that children join a gang because they want to but the thing is, children are getting exploited by adults twice their age. For example, they may use a child's vulnerability to make them perform tasks that put them or other around them in danger. Peer pressure also plays a big part in this, bearing in mind this could be through friends or bad influences. A young person involved in Child exploitation is the act of using a minor for profit, labour, sexual gratification or some other personal or financial advantage. It is something that can also happen to vulnerable adults – targets are those with mental health or addiction problems.

Another issue in Croydon and the whole of England is something called county lines - a drug line that delivers drugs or goods to a small town or different cities miles away from somebody's home. In most cases it would be delivered by children who have been pressured, blackmailed, or threatened by an older person to do their bidding.

Sometimes, the dealers will take over a local property and use it to operate their criminal activity and from there on it would be known as a trap house. Yet the main issue at hand, is that children will not see themselves as victims or realize that they have joined in a criminal activity.

The workshop effectively informed us that this is a widespread issue which can be stopped in different ways, e.g., young people when approached can analyse the situation and ask for help. The foundation is working hard to make sure children in Croydon and other local areas are informed of this issue. This situation may not be resolved yet but the best thing is to check up on siblings, friends and ensure that they are okay. Regardless of what it requires the Foundation will work hard at a resolution.

The day concluded with a questionnaire of what we had learned, so any improvements could be added to encourage enough youth engagement. This showed that the Foundation members were not embarrassed to change their services, if necessary. It will be solved, but for now, we should remain aware of the issues at hand and support young people to strive in life so they will not suffer at the hands of vile adults/people.

They also wanted to make sure that Black and other minority ethnic groups that live in England are safe with the current Police services – to knowing that they can ask for help if needed and not be discriminated against because of their ethnicity. The work is ongoing to make sure South London is safe. The Foundation also wouldn't mind receiving suggestions from the young people of this community. In conclusion, I hope this report has encouraged you to do some research into what affects the lives of young people.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



20th March 2022

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Lay Reader: Mrs Cicelyn Hinds

The Third Sunday of Lent

8am & 10am Parish Mass

President and Preacher, Mother Susan

Isaiah 55.1-9 * Psalm 63.1-9 * 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 * Luke 13.1-9

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Until further notice, both Parishes will continue to meet for worship here at Saint Mark at 8am and 10am on Sundays; and at Holy Innocents for the weekday Mass on Thursdays at 10am.

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available (except on Mondays) on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com
Mother Susan, on 07890 780572 or email fs.kiley@btinternet.com (not available on Fridays).

To hire the Church Halls, please call:
Jan on 020 8653 0447 for St Mark; and
Annette on 020 8771 5779 for Holy Innocents.
+++++

We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; **for** Bishops Christopher (currently in hospital), Richard and Karowei in this Diocese and for the appointment of the new Bishop of Croydon; **for** the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe.

For the Work with unemployed people in Peckham and the work of PECAN

For King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: Alfred Bunyan (Head of Chaplaincy); George Ochola (Chaplain). South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust: Cameron Langlands (Church of Scotland) (Lead Chaplain). **For** Bishops, priests & people of the Anglican Church of Mexico.

For the sick – Claude & Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, David, Oslene, Anthony, Adrian, Barbara, Jacqueline, Pauline, Anne, Mark, Jean and Karen. **The bereaved:** the Afare family. **The recently departed:** Stephen Afare. **Years Mind.**
+++++

A reminder of St Mark's 'Easter' fair on Palm Sunday – please start to bring in your donations of easter eggs and raffle prizes, plus other goodies for sale.

For online donations to Ukraine – please go to: DEC.org.uk

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up
to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before
he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in
the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way
of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALM Psalm 63:1-9

R *My soul thirsts for you, O my God. O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;*

my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water;
Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory. **R**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name. **R**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches. **R**

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to
withstand the temptations of the
world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to
follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.