

[An extract] A view from The BRIDGE

Sophia Jones, Director of Communication

The last time I wrote this editorial, it was spring and the daffodils were in full bloom. Now, roses are taking centre-stage, heralding summer.

As we start to open up more, people are thinking of where to go on their holidays. Staycations are likely to be a favourite choice and I'm sure many in this Diocese will opt for the countryside. We are blessed to be a Diocese that not only includes the urban towns of South London but also the East Surrey countryside.

The new Archbishop in Jerusalem, Archbishop Hosam Naoum, was installed in a beautiful service on Ascension Day against a backdrop of conflict in Jerusalem and on the West Bank (page 10). Please keep him, his family, and everyone in our link Diocese in your prayers. Bishop Christopher travelled to Jerusalem for the service and while there and on his return did several media interviews about the situation (see page 1). Conflict is the cause of displacement for many people across the globe. Churches play a key role in helping refugees resettle. Learn more on page 8.

In May, I attended a service marking the first anniversary of George Floyd's murder. Children from two schools in the Diocese took part, as did Bishop Christopher and Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett. See page 11.

As a Black British woman, racism is a reality. It is not as overt as it was during my childhood in the 1970s, but it is still very real. I was moved listening to Chine McDonald speaking to Rosemarie Mallett at Southwark Cathedral about her book *God is Not a White Man* and other Revelations. Racial Justice should not be an add-on that we do as well as other activities, but embedded in our very core as churches. The centre-spread discusses this further. We also said farewell to the Archdeacon, Jane Steen (see page 12) and Diocesan Director of Finance, Tony Demby (page 9). Please join me in wishing them well.

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Living in Love and Faith (LLF): a message from the Bishops of the Diocese of Southwark

This year the Church is inviting us all to join in the Living in Love and Faith project which focuses on questions about sexuality, gender and relationships such as:

- how do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?
- what does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

We are all invited into a process of learning, reflecting, speaking and listening, which we hope will deepen our understanding of the faith we share, and strengthen us as the body of Christ together, united in one mission which is expressed through our diversity.

We would therefore encourage PCCs and congregations to reflect together as to how they might take up this invitation, which is for the whole Church. Lay leadership is as important as lay participation if the LLF project is to go deep in the life of the Church.

The national team is providing an online 'taster day' for us on Saturday 26 June, 2pm – 5.30pm, which will give everyone a chance to engage and to learn.

We are intending to round off our learning in November with a Diocese-wide event. Resources are also under development to make LLF more accessible for young people in our schools and congregations.

To sign up for the taster afternoon, which will be on Zoom, please e-mail Zoe Skilton on zoe.skilton@southwark.anglican.org

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



13th June 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley

Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

Second Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Parish Mass

President, Mother Susan Preacher, Mother Cordella

*Ezekiel 17.22-24 * Psalm 92 * 2Corinthians 5.6-17 * Mark 4.26-34*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Thursday 17 th June	Samuel & Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers	10am Said Mass at Holy Innocents (Selhurst Road)
Sunday 20 th June	Third Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass

CHURCH NOTICES

Today, we extend a warm welcome to Mother Cordella Dawson who is the Curate at St. Luke Woodside since 2018. She lives in the Vicarage on Albert Road, so you may have seen her and her family around the neighbourhood.

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Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or

mtrroxanne@gmail.com She is not available on Mondays or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. **For TOLWORTH, HOOK &**

SURBITON TEAM MINISTRY Helen Hancock (TR); David Nyirongo (InterimTV); Carolyn Lucas (AsstP); Anthony Geater (Reader); Becky Whiting (Reader) **St Matthew, Surbiton** Susan Kang (SPA) St Matthew's School **St George, Tolworth**

Pray for Bishops, priests & people of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

For the sick – Enid, Alec, Richard, Helen & Peter, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Sheila & Amanda, Rose, Allison, Caroline, Gillian, Sigi, Michael, Anecka, Monica, Shirley, Lynn, Dennis, Rosemary, Joanne, Melanie, Ronald, Faye, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Richard, Cyril, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Shirley, Stephanie, Leslyn.

For the bereaved – Doris and the Lawrence family; the Johnson and Franklin families, the Harman and Gadishaw families.

For the recently departed – Murphy Lawrence, Joan Johnson, Henry Harman, Hannah Gadishaw; and **Those who anniversaries of death occur at this time.**

COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are
nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most
excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all
virtues,
without which whoever lives is
counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus
Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

PSALM Psalm 92:1-4. 11-14

R *It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord.*

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,
and to sing praises to your name,
O Most High;
To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning
and of your faithfulness in the night season; **R**

On the psaltery and on the lyre
and to the melody of the harp.
For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands. **R**

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God; **R**

They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;
That they may show how upright the Lord is,
my rock, in whom there is no fault. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

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

Brothers and sisters, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. [Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything

old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

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

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

POST COMMUNION

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord.