

The Diocese of Southwark has seen a marked increase in candidates from UKME* backgrounds being recommended for ordination training. Thirty percent of the candidates who were recommended in the year to July 2021 come from UKME backgrounds. That is five out of a total of 17 candidates. This is the highest percentage in recent years. In 2016 the number was 25%. Four out of the five candidates have also been recommended for leadership positions – incumbent status, meaning their potential to lead a parish has been recognised.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, said, “This is a very encouraging development and reflects the intentionality and hard work of the Vocations Team to this good purpose over ten years. We all have a part to play in encouraging UKME candidates to be open to God’s call and explore vocational discernment. We must not lose sight of the need for our leadership in the Church of England, and this Diocese in particular, to reflect the full diversity of our parish communities of faith.”

Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, said, “We are delighted that our dedicated, intentional work over the past nine years or so has visibly borne fruit, and our current numbers show the Diocese’s commitment to ensuring that those who go forward for ordained ministry are truly representative of the people we serve here in South London and East Surrey. Under Bishop Christopher’s leadership many people have given much energy and time to encourage vocations from the UKME community, **not least the Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley in being our UKME Vocations Champion** and our team of Vocations Advisers, Directors of Ordinands, and Examining Chaplains. There is still much work to be done, and we look forward to creating new initiatives which best serve parishes and chaplaincies in the Diocese of Southwark.”

In March this year, the Diocese’s Synod unanimously approved the Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter. Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, who is the Diocesan Lead on Racial Justice, said, “The Diocese of Southwark has committed itself to an anti-racism strategy across all aspects of our diocesan life together. A key part of the Southwark vision is the identifying and training of future church leaders, lay and ordained, so that the leadership better reflects the people and parishes we serve. Therefore, it is good news to learn that 30% of all the candidates who have been recommended for ordination training beginning in autumn 2021 come from a UKME background. This figure is close to the number of people from UKME and global majority origin and heritage in our churches and in the wider parish also. It is also good to hear that the majority of those recommended will be training for incumbency status and their gifts for leadership in the Church recognised. We are thankful for all who have encouraged and enabled these candidates and look forward to their blessing the Church through their service in years to come.”

***UKME** – The Diocese of Southwark has shifted away from the acronym BAME to UKME, which is more inclusive of colleagues who did not see themselves as falling within a Black or Asian categorisation. This includes our community members from Korea, China, Hong Kong and Singapore and Latin America, among others.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



22nd August 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley

Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Parish Mass

President and Preacher - Mother Susan

*Joshua 24.1-2, 14-18 * Psalm 34.15-22 * Ephesians 6.10-20 * John 6.56-69*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

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| Thursday 26 th August | Feria | Holy Innocents: 10.00am Said Mass |
| Sunday 29 th August | 13 th Sunday after Trinity | 8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass |

CHURCH NOTICES

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.

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

For SUTTON TEAM MINISTRY St Nicholas, Sutton Frances Arnold (PiC)

Pray for the Bishops, priests & people of The Anglican Church of South America

For the sick – Alec, Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Michael, Anecka, Monica, Shirley, Lynn, Joanne, Melanie, Ronald, Faye, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, and Marlise.

For the bereaved – the Desire family; Keith, Amanda and the Bradshaw family; the Lynch and Williams families, the Mahoney family.

For the recently departed – Jim Desire, Sheila Bradshaw, Penny Lynch, Leisha Mahoney. **Years mind.**

On Tuesday, the Church celebrates the Festival of Bartholomew the Apostle - It has long been assumed that Bartholomew is the same as Nathanael though it is not a certainty. The gospels speak of Philip bringing Nathanael to Jesus and calling him an Israelite worthy of the name. He is also present beside the Sea of Galilee at the resurrection. Although he seems initially a somewhat cynical man, he recognises Jesus for who he is and proclaims him as Son of God and King of Israel.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to
hear than we to pray
and to give more than either
we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the
abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our
conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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

Joshua 24:1-2a. 14-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

PSALM Psalm 34:15-22

R *I sought the Lord, and he answered me
[and delivered me out of all my terror].*

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,

and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against those
who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them
from the earth. **R**

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those whose spirits are crushed. **R**

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
He will keep safe all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken. **R**

Evil shall slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him. **R**

SECOND READING Ephesians 6:10-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the

mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

GOSPEL John 6:56-69

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

Jesus said to the crowd: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing;
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.