

As we emerge slowly from the grip of the Coronavirus pandemic with all its impact in terms of grief and loss, exhausted health and care workers, collapsed businesses, missed education, concerns for the future of our churches, and real weariness, perhaps the biggest challenge of all is yet to come.

I do not mean by this the possibility of yet another wave of infection, but rather the need to re-frame much of how we live. There has been considerable talk, thought and action under the heading of "building back better" or "re-imagining" our lives, or the "new normal".

The pandemic has undoubtedly exposed many of the deep fractures and fault lines of our lives and world and not least in the areas of economic, racial and environmental justice and equality. There is deep thinking going on about what it means for all of us to live well, what the "good life" actually consists of. This offers a tremendous opportunity which we need to embrace wholeheartedly. The whole of the month of March falls during Lent, which offers us a potentially fruitful time to do just this.

Lent is a season in our Christian year in which we are particularly called to examine our lives, seek forgiveness of God and others for our sins, and amend our lives more in line with the two great commandments to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Sometimes our Lenten practices can be reduced to a rather negative giving up of minor luxuries, but it is properly something which lies at the heart of Christian life. This is summed up by the word repentance, which not only means saying sorry but also involves a real reorientation of our lives in accordance with God's way of love. It is something we need to do not just in Lent, but each day of our lives.

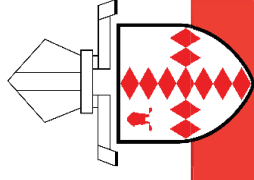
One important element of Lent is to remember the time spent by Jesus in the wilderness, which itself recalled the wilderness time of the people of Israel before they entered the Promised Land. Although it was a time of much deprivation and isolation, it was also a time to remember the primacy of worshipping God, and not the many idols we create; of trusting above all else in God's saving love working in our lives rather than simply our own human efforts; and of the importance of our spiritual life as well as our material well-being. It was undoubtedly a hard time, but also one of real growth. In short, we can learn and develop much in our "wilderness times".

This year the enormous impact of the pandemic, which in some ways might be seen as a "wilderness time", reinforces and emphasises the importance of this process of repentance and reorientation. We need to resist the very real and understandable temptation simply to revert to exactly how things used to be pre-pandemic.

There will, of course, be much we do want to regain and especially our social contact, but there are also many aspects of 21st-century life that need to change radically if we are to see a world of greater equality, justice, opportunity and flourishing, not just of human life, but of all God's creation.

Lent offers us a real opportunity to re-set our lives, and especially our relationship with God, ourselves, each other and our world. As we move through this season and into Holy Week and Easter, let us pray that our lives, and that of our Church and World, will be ever more deeply shaped by the saving love of God made known in Christ's life, death and resurrection.

+ Richard Kingston



NOTICEBOARD

News and Events from the Diocese of Southwark
MARCH 2021

Our brand new website is now live!

As you know, the new website for the Diocese has been launched.

We have sought to enable the new website to be user-friendly, giving parishes access to useful information and resources. We hope you find it easy to navigate and that you will regard it as a valuable resource.

New features include a digital, interactive map pinpointing precisely all the parishes in the Diocese, with links to those that have websites. The Bridge newspaper is interactive too and the website has many pictures illustrating the life of the Diocese. There is also greater prominence for giving and donations.

You will see that this is a vibrant and bright website reflecting the diversity of our Diocese. One of our aims as Diocesan staff is to support our parishes and clergy so that they are energised, equipped and empowered. Here is the link: <https://southwark.anglican.org>.

We are still in the early days and should you find that that some links are not working, please contact Daniel Stone at daniel.stone@southwark.anglican.org.

Diocesan Directory 2021

In accordance with our digital strategy, the **2021 Directory has been produced as a PDF** and has been sent to you. It is also available on the password-protected area of the website. An updated version will be re-uploaded every month.

Please contact at data@southwark.anglican.org if you find any information which is either out of date or not entirely accurate. We will then be able to include it in the next month's update.

The Diocese of
Southwark

Walking | Welcoming | Growing



PERSONNEL

REST IN PEACE

The Revd Iain Clavering Young, formerly Vicar of Lavender Hill (The Ascension) and Battersea St Philip with St Bartholomew, died in his sleep on 12 February 2021. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

The Revd Canon Jonathan Boardman, Vicar of St Paul, Clapham and Priest-in-Charge of St Peter, Clapham, was commissioned also as Kingston Episcopal Area's Ecumenical Adviser by Bishop Richard on 23 February.

NOTICES

Important notice regarding the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

We regret to announce that Hugh Constant, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, has now left. Moira Murray will be supporting the Safeguarding Team as Interim Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser whilst we recruit to the post. We wish Hugh well for the future.

Safeguarding queries should now be directed to Moira using the following contact details:

moira.murray@southwark.anglican.org;
020 7939 9423; 07982 279713;
020 3874 6743 (out of hours).

The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2021

The focus of this year's Lent Call is food insecurity. Bishop Christopher would like to encourage you to make use of the material where you can. If possible use it as a part of your services, however you are worshipping. The materials and information on how to give can be found at: <https://southwark.anglican.org/lent-call>

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Robins on [wendy.robins@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:robins@southwark.anglican.org)

Online Parish Returns

The Church of England's online parish return system, which we use for capturing church membership data and parish finance information, is still open for you to put in your information. Given the difficult times that we are going through, the data asked for through the 2020 Statistics for Mission form is a bit different this year, and some questions may be more difficult to answer. We are still keen to find out anything you can tell us, and your best approximation is fine.

The online system will close at Easter for mission statistics, so please try to enter your information by the end of March, and the financial information by the end of May. The online system can be accessed here <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/> and please contact us at data@southwark.anglican.org with any queries.

Maintenance Calendar

The Church of England publishes a calendar of monthly maintenance for church buildings. The full Calendar of Care is available on its website: https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/CCB_Calendar-of-Care_Aug-2016.pdf

Extension of VAT exemption for Listed Places of Worship

The Government has [announced](#) that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be renewed this year, operating on the same terms as previously. This is the scheme which allows listed places of worship to claim a sum equal to VAT which has been paid on repairs and alterations.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

From Biology to Theology

Tuesday 9 March, 1.00-2.00pm, online, free

From Biology to Theology: How viruses challenge our perception of good and evil, led by virologist Dr Mirjam Schilling, is one of a series of seminars about science and faith from the Faraday Institute. No need to book; click here at the appropriate time: faraday.cam.ac.uk/events/seminars/

Church of England Net Zero webinars

Dates from March to May

This series of free online webinars offers practical tips for churches trying to lower their carbon footprint, from energy management and low-carbon solutions to solar panels. Find more details at: <https://bit.ly/2HRNOk5>

Questions of our Times: Christian Evidence webinars

Tuesdays 8.00pm, online, free

The Christian Evidence Society is running a series of webinars on the big questions of our times. The webinars conclude on 23 March with the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams discussing prayer. Register at christian-evidence.eventbrite.com

Keeping Young People Safe from the Risks of Exploitation

Wednesday 28 April, 11.00am-12.00pm, Zoom, free

This Children's Society webinar discusses the risks young people face from exploitation. Sign up even if you can't attend on the day to receive a recording with the presentations. Registration is essential: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/webinar/register?JWNCITruZEUWTRGqRLFFN5zycv>

GRANTS AND FUNDING

National Lottery's Community Fund reopens

The Lottery's community fund has reopened, with various funding programmes: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes>

Marshall's Church Restoration Grants

The Marshall's Charity gives generously to the Diocese of Southwark. It has changed its process for 2021 and is accepting direct applications from parishes. It is particularly interested in supporting green initiatives, although it will also fund a range of maintenance, accessibility and reordering projects. Maximum grants will be in the order of £20,000. Deadlines for applications are 7 May 2021 and 20 August 2021.

Any parishes considering an application are encouraged to speak to their Archdeacon before applying. Full details are on the Marshall's website: www.marshalls.org.uk/churches.html

Other funding sources

- The Heritage Alliance has created a funding hub of potential sources of funding for heritage organisations: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V6-GBdLYNmQnScLc4khj0HGhD3sSgicQ/view>
- The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has compiled a list of funding opportunities and news relating to Coronavirus. www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus
- The Charity Excellence website has a new, free database of funders supporting charities during the crisis: www.charityexcellence.co.uk
- AllChurches Trust grants: <https://www.allchurches.co.uk/what-we-fund/>
- Listed Places of Worship can reclaim VAT: <http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>
- National Churches Trust offers a range of grants: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>

Practical Path to Net Zero

Church House has produced a self-guided checklist which allows churches to review their buildings against the Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon. There are two versions; one for printing and one for completing on screen.

You can find the guides on its website: on the [net zero carbon church landing page](#) on the [Practical Path page](#).

DIOCESAN TRAINING

Do I need a spiritual director?

Monday 19 April, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

A session led by Spidir explaining how a spiritual director can help you and how to go about getting one. To book, e-mail: ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

The fool says in his heart: There is no God

Wednesdays 21, 28 April and 5 May, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

A short course taking Psalm 14:1 as its starting point led by the Revd Joshua Rey, who teaches Christian Doctrine at St Augustine's College. To book, e-mail ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org (you are booking for all three evenings).

The census is taking place on 21 March 2021

It's a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It helps plan and fund public services, like transport, education and healthcare. Find out more at @Census2021 or www.census.gov.uk

Eco Church Surgeries

Last Monday of every month, 1.00-2.00pm, Zoom, free

Online drop-in sessions to ask questions about Eco Church. To receive a Zoom number and password, e-mail laura.baggaley@southwark.anglican.org

Praying at night

Wednesday 10 March, 8.00-9.30pm, Zoom, free

Andrew Bishop, Priest-in-Charge at Croydon Minster and author of Theosomnia: A Theology of Sleep, will discuss traditions of night prayer. To book, e-mail: ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

The Prodigal Son in Art

Tuesday 30 March, 7.30-9.00pm, Zoom, free

A reflection for Holy Week on the love of the Father, who calls us as prodigals back to himself. Led by Sally Munns, a Reader at St John's Church, West Wickham.

To book your place, e-mail: ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

NOTICEBOARD is published by the Communications Department,
E-mail: communications@southwark.anglican.org

Next Issue: April 2021, Copy date: 22 March 2021

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Kingston MEACC Presentation on Sickle Cell

Sunday 7 March at 5.30 - 7.00pm, Zoom, free

Inform your friends and family members about the event and encourage them to attend.

Please contact Olufunke Ogbede for Zoom details at fundunmi@aol.com

Vocations Forum

Saturday 13 March, 9.00am-1.00pm, online

Do you think you may have a calling? Would someone in your congregation be interested? This event, delivered by the Vocations Department, offers participants the chance to explore their vocation in a welcoming and friendly environment. For information, e-mail vocations@southwark.anglican.org

A morning to explore Franciscan community life in the Church of England

Saturday 20 March, 9.30am-1.00pm, Zoom

Could a life as a Franciscan Sister or Brother be for me? Franciscan sisters and brothers share their stories of God's call and their life in community, alongside a film about Franciscans today to help us reflect. Contact Sister Maureen CSF at noviceguardianscf@franciscans.org.uk for booking, before 18 March.

Modern Slavery webinar by Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus

24 April, 9.30-11.45am

This webinar hopes to bring together people to help raise awareness of the issues around modern slavery being faced in the Surrey area.

Speakers include Carolyn Thom of Their Voice, Jennifer Hyde and Jenny Rayner of Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus, Ross Spanton of Reigate and Banstead Council, Chief Superintendent Clive Davies and Detective Constable Bex Davies of Surrey Police, the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark and the Archdeacon of Reigate, the Venerable Moira Astin.

For more info or questions e-mail rasocialjustice@gmail.com. Book on EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rasjf-modern-slavery-webinar-tickets-139172339213>

Croydon Episcopal Area training for new churchwardens

Saturday 17 July 2021, 10.00am-12.00pm, free

To be held at Christ Church, Purley (conditions permitting), this training session is aimed at newly elected churchwardens in CEA. Contact the Croydon Episcopal Area office for further details on booking.

Fill your street with friendliness

Generating street associations is a tried-and-tested catalyst for enabling like-minded people to get to know their neighbours. It doesn't require signing up to an organisation. This programme has brought together local authorities, businesses, churches and other places of worship to run it in their local area.

Feel free to contact the Archdeacon of Reigate, The Venerable Moira Astin at moira.astin@southwark.anglican.org if you have queries.

Find full details here:

https://mcusercontent.com/93d78026f4ce1cbc8277537f4/files/5892247b-1c48-4083-a7d3-2d5d0e2122dd/CT_e_news_article.pdf

The Diocesan Spirituality Day: Wells of Salvation

Saturday 9 October, 10.00am-4.00pm, Southwark Cathedral

A day of prayer, worship and restoration in many styles and traditions. The event may move online depending on Coronavirus restrictions.

The Croydon Area Lay Conference: Inside Out

Saturday 6 November 2021, 9.30am-4.30pm, St Bede's School, Reigate

Keynote speaker, Andrew Graystone, author of *Faith, Hope and Mischief*, heads a day for lay people about being people of active faith. The event may move online depending on Coronavirus restrictions.

The Diocesan Clergy Study Day

Tuesday 19 October 2021, 10.00am-4.00pm, Southwark Cathedral (if conditions permit)

Clergy are urged to save the date for the annual Diocesan Clergy Study Day. Theme and speakers to be confirmed nearer the time.

The Bereavement Journey

The Bereavement Journey is a six-session self-help course of films and discussion groups hosted by volunteers. During this time of national loss, it has been made available online with all the resources and support needed to make it easy for any church to run, with accompanying training.

See the Loss and Hope website for more information: www.lossandhope.org/

DIOCESAN EVENTS