

“SLEEPING IN” FOR GLASS DOOR

Like so much this year, the annual Glass Door Sleep Out was rather different from how it has been in previous years. For obvious reasons, it wasn't possible for this important event to take place in its usual format - gathering 300 - 400 people in Duke of York's Square was simply not possible. Therefore, a small group of us (11 members of the congregation and clergy, plus one dog) bedded down in the vestry and PFFA chapel at St Luke's, on a wet October night, to take part in our Sleep In for Glass Door. It was particularly special to have such a range of ages from across our church community involved. It shows that this issue is one that



impacts us all, and one that we can all do something about. In the past few years when some of us have done the Sleep Out, we have been very lucky with the weather - never having a rainy sleep out. This year, as the night of the sleep out drew nearer, a look at the weather forecast made us rather grateful that although this year we were giving up the comfort of a night in our own homes and beds, we would still have a roof over our head - a luxury which is not available to the homeless people Glass Door supports. (In the end, 2 October turned out to be the wettest day since records began!) This is not about pretending that we could ever know what it's like to be homeless, rather it is a small step in helping to keep the issue of homelessness at the forefront of peoples' minds.

We began to gather at around 9pm in the church and vestry to set up our mats and sleeping bags, then some of our group spent part of the evening playing a game of monopoly.

Half of us slept in the PFFA chapel and the rest in the Vestry, with windows opened for ventilation.

Particular congratulations are due to Sarah and her dog, Annie, who not only slept out in the Church, but set off early on Saturday morning to walk a marathon distance along the Thames Path, to raise further funds for Glass Door.

Our fundraising page will remain open for a short while yet, and we would be very glad of support for Glass Door's important work: <https://www.glassdoor.org.uk/fundraisers/st-luke-and-christ-church-sleeping-out-for-glass-door> □

JANE ELLARD (with thanks to Stephen and Fr Samuel for their contributions)





This month has been filled with gratefulness and giving. With Harvest Festival and the St Luke's Patronal Festival it has put things into perspective. COVID has caused many cancellations and postponements but it has proven that the most important things are our community, and support. Our new socially distanced movie afternoons, the 'sleep in' for Glass Door and coffee afternoons for the local police only reinforce how important it is to support one another, even if it is from a distance.

In gathering articles for this newsletter there seems to be a running theme of things having to slightly change due to the current circumstances. There are daily updates on the looming Christmas, and questions on how things can be done or adapted to fit the new guidelines. But in the end everyone wants the same thing, to be able to enjoy the little things. Enjoy the magazine! ☐

Local charity Glass Door launch new services to shelter and support people during the pandemic.

Government guidelines say rotating night shelters – where a different venue is used each night and people move each day – should not open due to the increased risk of transmitting Covid-19. However, the new guidelines recognise that risks must be

“We will do all we can to keep everyone safe while Covid-19 is still at large,” says Abraham, “but what will happen to all those who would normally find a space in a shelter run by faith groups or charities such as ours?”



Glass Door are converting services to minimise risk of spreading Covid-19, but volunteers will continue to be involved in dinner preparation.

balanced. Night shelters, when modified to minimise risk of infection, may still be allowed to help meet need in local areas.

Glass Door, which runs the largest open-access network of homeless shelters in the country, say the restrictions will leave many out in the cold.

“The combination of fewer shelter spaces at a time when more people are expected to face homelessness this winter is a crisis in the making,” says Lucy Abraham, CEO of Glass Door.

The charity was able to provide shelter for 829 individuals last winter, with up to 170 spaces available every night.

This winter, Glass Door will provide single rooms in hostels. Glass Door staff will be on-site around the clock, meals will be provided, and guests will also have access to advice and support from caseworkers.

“This model will provide a safer and more stable emergency solution for someone who would otherwise be on the street, but it’s also more expensive,” Abraham says. The hostels will provide less than half the available sleeping spaces provided by the night shelters last winter.

Glass Door plans to use its network of volunteers and churches that usually provide shelters to create a dinner-only service. “At least people in need will be able to find a hot meal and a kind word,” Abraham says. “If and when we are able to do so safely, we hope to allow people to stay overnight and find shelter out of the cold.”

The charity’s new services will also provide a way that people in need can connect with the charity’s advice and support services. Caseworkers will be on hand to work with people to find routes out of homelessness. ☐

MELISSA KERSCHEN

Change pervades November. As a nation this month we mark Guy Fawkes Day and the threat to parliamentary government which that attempted terror attack signified. On Remembrance Sunday we come to mark the huge changes which war and peace make to our nation, and to the world in human, social and economic terms. Much of our government’s language around Coronavirus has been styled in dramatic, war like terms, so that changes to our individual and communal life are seen, wrongly, I believe, in an attempt to defeat this new and ‘silent enemy’.

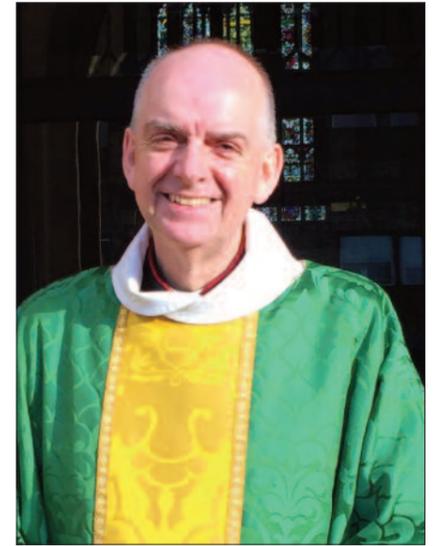
Yet, for the Church, November begins with All Saints and ends with Advent Sunday. For Christian people this progress through the month envelops change and affirms that the only constant is God who is present in every circumstance of human life yet also still to come in fullness.

We cannot know what changes will be introduced in our Chelsea community in the month ahead to slow down the rate of Covid infection, to keep people safe, to protect the vulnerable. But what we do know is that God doesn’t change. Of course, we may well need to change the way we mark Guy Fawkes Day and Remembrance Sunday, we may

well need to change, once again, our patterns of worship and prayer, of service and care. And that is OK, providing that we hold to the essentials. We don’t need to fear the ‘New Normal’ and, in attempt to avoid it, cling on to old ways and old habits by our fingertips.

I think what is crucial is to adapt, knowing that the Church is masterful at adaptation. In so many ways an institution, the Church, which has existed for over 2000 years, is very good at adapting- to a spread from its roots in Jerusalem to include foreigners like us, to develop a spirituality of prayer and monasticism over against a world view of success being about material gain in the 4th Century, in adapting to new technologies- like printing- in the 16th Century, to moving to abolish slavery in the 19th Century, to ordaining women in the 20th Century. The Church is masterful at adapting, yet at heart remaining the same.

So too whether we have to reinvent our strategies of care with weekly food drops, telephone calls to neighbours, parish buddy schemes and virtual worship we are simply another link in a long chain of Christian people who, in the light of changing reality, have learned to adapt their practice to new contexts. The ‘New Normal’ has never, neither in times of



evolution or revolution, entailed going back to an old normal, but must be about re-interpreting for our times, for our world, our community, the love of God ‘who was made flesh and dwelt among us’. How we do that we must decide both as the local Body of Christ and as individuals.

We will not succeed if we attempt to hold on to things which no longer have value in the light of our changed circumstances, but we should come to a common mind on how best to witness to the love of God in the world for our own day. Closing churches in attempt to contain the virus will not work, but opening hearts and minds to the God who goes on loving his creation and his children sacrificially and imitating that love in our living, may just banish the fear that constant change can so easily exacerbate. ☐

THE YOUTH GROUP

Every other week on a Thursday this term our youth group has been gathering at St Luke's vestry. This has been a space for young people aged school Year 8 and above to hang-out and have fun- whilst also exploring questions about life and the Christian faith in a relaxed environment.

There's been plenty of games and activities, and so far we've had lots of fun (and pizza!). Here is what our young people have had to say about it...

"I like youth group because I can be confident without being judged. I meet new and old friends, we play games, eat, and just have fun." ~ Sophie

"I love playing games and chatting about the Bible. I also love eating the food!" ~ Aveline

"For me youth is love, family and happiness" ~ Selma

"I like the games, also the food is good. We start by playing games, talking together, and then eat pizza" ~ Arabella

"I love the food!" ~ Ollie

"Youth church is a great place to learn about Jesus in a fun way and helps us make friends outside of school." ~ Amelie

"I like eating food and playing games! Yum!" ~ Yanna

"Pizza is Holy!" ~ Tom (We couldn't agree more Tom!)

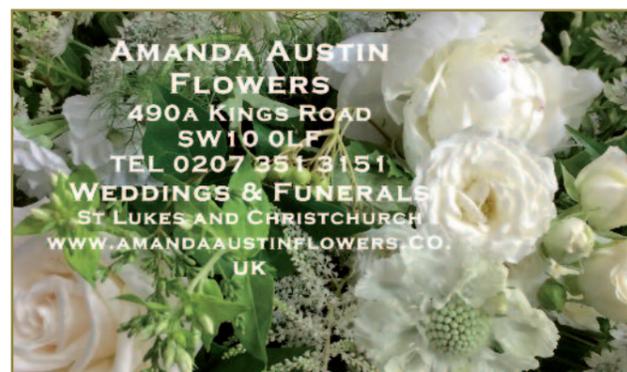
COVID guidelines permitting, we will continue to run fortnightly on Thursdays this term, 5-7pm. The remaining dates are; 5th November, 19th November, 3rd December, and 17th December (Christmas Party!).

So if your child or anyone you know would like to attend, they'd be very welcome! If so, please do contact me (samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org) or Anna (annastamenova@chelseaparish.org) for further details.



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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

ANNA STAMENOVA



"Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times." Romans 12 v 12

In our current life in which we are learning to live with constantly adapting our life to new situations and rules we can learn some lessons from Joseph. He knew a lot about emotional rollercoasters and a life full of ups and downs. He had a big dream, but all was not going so well for him and even in his darkest time Joseph trusted in God and his promises. He knew that God was with him whatever happened! We can do the same and choose to draw even closer to God in these challenging times knowing that He is always with us by following Paul's advice in his letter to the Roman church. Be encouraged by his words of hope, patience and trust in God. If we are faithful in prayer, we will find the patience to endure, and the joy promised in Christ. Why not offer to pray for friends who are sad or struggling? Even if you cannot meet in person you can send a message of love and support.

Half term children activities

With the social distancing, sanitizers at hand we still managed to have exciting and interesting



children's activities, but unfortunately, we are unable to offer only very limited spaces. Children from our local community enjoyed art and craft candles making and biscuits decoration for All Saint's Day and finishing with delicious pizza for lunch. And the sport's day was full of lots of games, football, running and play.

New Children's Service 9.30am at Christ church

As you already know in September we started our new children's service at 9:30 am at Christ Church. Thank you to all of you who have attended so far – it has been a great success. For your diaries, future services will take place on the first Sunday of each month 1 November and 6

December - though parents and children also remain very welcome to the other services at St Luke's and Christ Church on these dates.

ABC toddler's group on Thursday is renamed Pray and Play

Recent Church of England guidance about toddler groups is stricter than government guidelines, and so we need to make some changes to Thursday



morning. The changes are fairly minor, but they are large enough that we have decided temporarily to rename the group. So,

for now, we will not be calling it ABC but Pray and Play. The session will have less free play. It will begin with a structured activity inspired by the day's Bible story, after which we will gather for a story from the Bible and end with a short prayer. So, to make it fair for all of you we have decided to have two sessions:

9.30am - 10.20am
10.30am - 11.20am.

We can only have a limited number, so please email me as soon as possible if you like to attend, telling me what time is best for you. ☐

Thank you and believe and trust in God!
Anna



What is a deacon?

On Sunday 27th September I was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England at St Paul's Cathedral. It was a very special occasion, though made slightly surreal by there being so few of us in such a large space! Normally the 40 of us London ordinands would have been ordained altogether, but due to COVID concerns we were split up across 8 services over the weekend with 5 guests per deacon. And although this was slightly strange, in some ways, this intimacy made it all the more special.

But many people have asked me in the last few weeks, what exactly is a deacon?

There are few things I remember from having studied New Testament Greek at university, but one of the things I can recall is that the word deacon comes



from the Greek word *diákonos*, meaning servant. A deacon then is called to follow the pattern of Christ, who came, not to be served, but to serve (Matt. 20.28).



One of the markers of this calling is the stole that I now wear across my shoulder during worship. The origin of these stoles are the towels that were worn around the necks of servants and slaves. When kneeling they would use these towels to wash the feet of their Master and guests, just as Jesus wore a towel around his waist as he washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper.

This calling to service is emphasised in the Ordinal (the Church of England's Liturgy for the service of Ordination of Deacons). In one section, the Bishop addresses the congregation with the words;

"Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world that the love of God may be made visible."

No small task then! And certainly one I shall need all your prayers and support in fulfilling, just as I hope to support and serve you all during my time here. In July, I will be ordained a priest, but this will not alter my foundational calling as a deacon. This lifelong vocation to servanthood will remain the bedrock of my ministry throughout my life, and it is this calling which was affirmed and celebrated last month at St Paul's. ☐

SAMUEL RYLANDS

Harvest Festival

On 29th September Father Brian led a service for the reception class and Year 6 where beautiful hymns were sung, readings were read and goods were donated. Years 1,2,3,4 & 5 each had a Harvest offering during of their special mention assemblies. A wonderful quantity of food and clothes were generously donated. We have given

these to SMART, a mental health charity who during lockdown began to deliver food to people around Chelsea who were struggling. They are continuing this indefinitely so they can help those in need in our community. They have said "The requests for help for food are growing so every single item will be put to very good use and will make a difference to someone's life". ☐



Alastair Rellie Day: Celebrating Grandparents



Around this time of year our CCHT community celebrate Grandparents – their support and inspiration alongside their cherished memories. This tradition was the idea of Alastair Rellie, a respected member of our community, a long serving Governor and a very much loved grandparent himself.

posted to their grandparent or a special family member.

It allowed for the children to reflect about the older generations of our community and how they support us. ☐



This year, sadly, we were unable to open our school to the 80 or so Grandparents who usually attend. However, as a small way to celebrate, on Thursday 15th October we asked the child to draw and write a post card that was



Bishop of London visits St Luke's

As reported in last month's magazine, this October was 200th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for St Luke's church. To mark this special moment, we were delighted to welcome the Bishop of London on St Luke's Day, 18 October. The service was also attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea – Cllrs Gerard Hargreaves and Sof McVeigh. Bishop Sarah celebrated the eucharist and preached at the service. Her sermon drew on the Bible's account of Saint Luke as a physician (Colossians 4.14). She stated that the current pandemic has reminded us that health is not simply a matter of an absence of illness. The Hebrew concept of shalom speaks of our need for fullness in our bodies, minds and spirits. As we seek to respond to the pandemic, we should also seek this shalom.

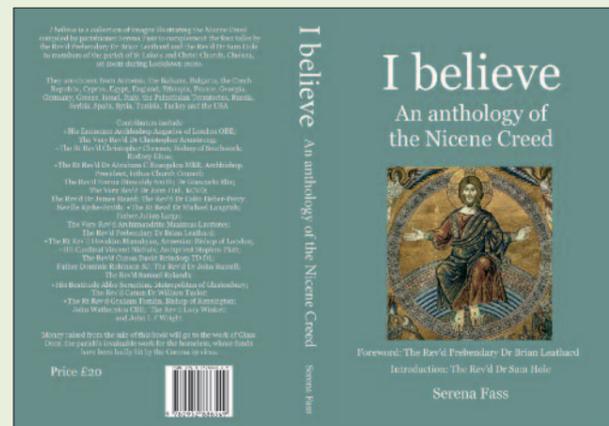
We are grateful to Bishop Sarah for joining with us on this special day. The livestream of the service can still be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2Hb6R9m>. □



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I believe: an anthology of the Nicene Creed

Alas because of Covid 19 restrictions of no more than 6 people meeting, I am unable to have my usual book launch in St Luke's. As this new book **I believe: an anthology of the Nicene Creed** is expressly produced to raise funds for Glass Door, it is extremely frustrating!



Mother Teresa showed me how important it was to care for the destitute in her homes in Calcutta in 1971 and the plight of the homeless here this coming winter will be different, but just as bad as it was in India. With your help, I hope to raise a lot of money for them through the sale of this book.

The idea for the book emerged from the videos and Zoom discussions of the creed that Fr Brian and Fr Sam led during lockdown. Numerous contributors have offered reflections on parts of the creed, which

Beautiful, beautiful photography and the parts of the text I have dipped into are all very moving.
+The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark.

I have set alongside fitting pictures. It is, all in all, a meditation on this crucial part of our faith – a wonderful coffee table book for yourself or your friends and family this Christmas!

I have been fortunate to launch all 4 of my books at St Luke's with contributors including Field Marshall Lord Guthrie representing HRH The Prince of Wales who wrote the foreword for **The CROSS**, +The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, who wrote the foreword to **The Magi**, +His Beatitude Abba Seraphim, Metropolitan of Glastonbury representing +HH Moran Baselios Mar Toma Paulos II, The Catholicos of the East, who could not be there from Kerala and +Archbishop Angaelos of London who wrote the foreword to **St Mark the Evangelist**.

Books are available for £20 cash from the Portico of St Luke's on Thursdays after the weekly Eucharist; from Daunt Books, 83-84 Marylebone High Street, London W1U 4QW. Telephone Rose on Cole 020 7224 2295 or by post from Colette Willers at Aid to the Church in Need colette@acnuk.org 12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4DA. Or telephone 020 8661 5159.

I do hope you will enjoy the books and want to give it to lots of people as a present – which will help raise much needed funds for Glass Door! ☐

SERENA FASS

It looks wonderful Serena – well done! I hope the publication spreads far and wide!
+The Rt Rev'd Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington.

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Childrens' service for All Saints:
9:30am, Christ Church.

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day: 10:30am, outside
the west end of St Luke's

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Advent Carol Service: 6:30pm, St Luke's
(ticketed: details to come)
St Luke's Hall

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FROM OUR REGISTERS

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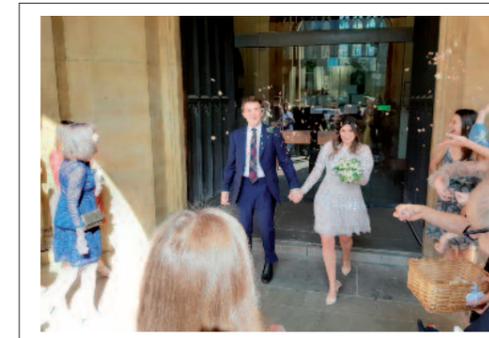
Julian Price and Olympia Warrick

We congratulate on the occasion of their wedding:

Zsolt Illés and Veronica Zhan, Edward Eban and Emily Woolgrove, Thomas Jordan and Emma Harling-Phillips

We pray for the soul of

Claire Brutus, Winifred Davison, Emad Jerrard and Izad Jerrard



Thomas Jordan and Emma Harling-Phillips



Edward Eban and Emily Woolgrove



Baby Julian with Jonathan and Louisa



Zsolt Illés and Veronica Zhan

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Golden Charter
Small print text below logo

○ Come all ye faithful...to our Christmas services

Christmas may not be cancelled this year, but it will certainly look different. In light of the current restrictions, we have taken two decisions with regard to our Advent Procession and Christmas Carol services. First, these services will be ticketed. This is the fairest solution to avoid disappointment on the door. Tickets will be free. Details of ticketing arrangements will be given in the weekly email and Sunday notices in the coming weeks. Second, to maximise the number of people able to attend, the Christ Church choir will this year sing their carol service in St Luke's church.

Of course, we hope that our services will remain as beautiful, dignified and uplifting as ever, so that we can all come, 'joyful and triumphant', to join with the herald angels in praise of our new-born King.

The full service schedule is of course subject to change at short notice, so please check our website and social media for full details. Sunday services – 8am and 10:30am at St Luke's, and 11am at Christ Church – will continue in addition to the below.

As we go to press our schedule of special Christmas services is as follows:

Sunday 29 November at 6.30pm – St Luke's Advent Carol Service (Ticketed)

Sunday 6 December 9:30am Christ Church Children's Advent Service

Tuesday 15 December at 6.30pm – Carols on Chelsea Green

Sunday 20 December

8.00am Holy Communion at St Luke's

10.30am Sung Eucharist at St Luke's

11.00am Sung Eucharist at Christ Church

3:00pm – Nine Lessons and Carols Sung by

Christ Church Choir at St Luke's (Ticketed)
6.30pm – St Luke's Nine Lessons & Carols Service, Sung by St Luke's Choir, at St Luke's (Ticketed)

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service in both Churches

11.30pm Parish Midnight Eucharist at St Luke's

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion at St Luke's

10.30am Christmas Eucharist at St Luke's

11.00am Christmas Eucharist at Christ Church

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE : 020 7351 7365

Rector: The Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard
brianleathard@chelseaparish.org

Associate Vicar: The Revd Dr Sam Hole
samhole@chelseaparish.org

Curate: The Revd Samuel Rylands
samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

Operations Manager and Bursar: John McVeigh
johnmcveigh@chelseaparish.org

General Enquiries

Parish Administrator/ receptionist: Tracy Best
parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

Property Administrator: Alicia Hilliard
(Direct Line: 020 7351 6133)
hallbookings@chelseaparish.org

Children's Administrator: Anna Stamenova
annastamenova@chelseaparish.org

Enquiries re baptism, confirmation (adults and children), marriages, funerals and home communion visits please contact the clergy via the Parish Office. Also for the Planned Giving Schemes for both churches.

ST. LUKE'S

Sydney Street,
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Churchwardens: Jamie Gibbs 07803 596 256
Charles Combe 07747 796 124
Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly 07956 801 223

CHRIST CHURCH

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London SW3 4AS



Churchwardens: Aidus McVeigh 020 7223 8591
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