

ST. LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW CURATE, SAMUEL

The warmest of welcomes to Samuel and Lily Rylands, as they join us this month. Samuel is to be our new curate for the coming three years, learning on the job, in order to complete his training thus far. Samuel should have been ordained a deacon by the Bishop of London at the beginning of July, but this has not been possible, so he is currently with us as a Licensed Lay Minister, which means you won't see him in clerical dress until ordination to the diaconate happens – we hope, at Michaelmas, the end of September, in St Paul's Cathedral.

Lily and Samuel will be living in 31 St Luke's Street and do please take the opportunity to get to know them, invite them, and make them feel at home here. Lily works with a TV production company and is hoping to transfer her employment to the London office.

A deacon's role is exciting and daunting in equal measure, as these words from the ordination service describe:

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.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

So it's a big role you are stepping into, Samuel! We promise we'll support you in every possible way. And parishioners, please pray for Samuel and for Lily, and enjoy their company amongst us. □

BRIAN LEATHARD



When playwrights and novelists in the coming years set a work in early 2020, they will need to attend carefully to the minutiae of what we have experienced in everyday life. Crossing the street to avoid someone else on a narrow pavement, hearing bird-song in central London, getting used to pulling your shaggy locks away from your eyes – all these have memorably marked out these odd times.

It has also been a time that we have experienced in many varied ways, and this month's magazine seeks to capture something of this range. We report, for example, on how we have adapted various church activities – the discussion group and the Dedication Festival – to these changed times. Glass Door reports on how they have provided for some of the most vulnerable in our community in recent months. We hear how the school is seeking to continue providing excellent education for all its children.

Our next edition of the parish magazine will appear in September – hopefully into your hands as well as in your inbox! ☐

'Staycation Spots'

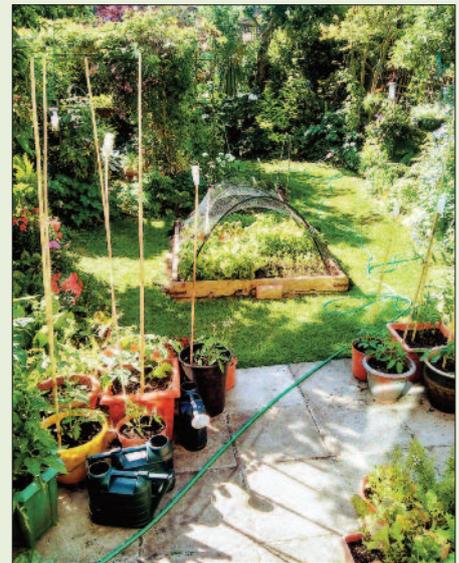
We asked you what location was helping to keep you energised during lockdown. Here are some of our favourite responses!



Helping the courgette patch to flourish.



Paddling in her wellies in the stream.



Growing vegetables in the garden.



At home, knitting for her great grandson.



Learning the piano.

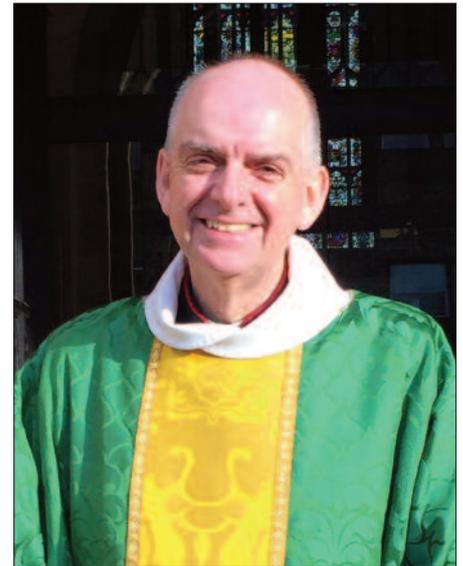
St Swithun's Day falls on 15 July each year. It's a day which has both clear religious and, if we're honest, folk tale elements, its roots being almost lost in the mists of time. Nowadays, St Swithun's Day, if remembered at all, is known because of its apparent meteorological connections:

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days will rain na mair"*

Swithun was granted lands in his native Wessex to build churches and he became tutor to Alfred the Great, the most renowned king of Wessex, before he died in 862 as Bishop of Winchester. He asked to be buried outside his cathedral so that he could be as easily visited by the people of his diocese as he could be rained upon by the goodness of God. However, he was removed from his simple grave on 15 July 971 and interred in a lavish shrine inside Winchester Cathedral (pictured below). On the day of his translation the heavens opened and the rain poured down! So it

was an easy step to interpret his re-interrment as an act that failed to please Swithun! By the later middle ages the story and the changeable English midsummer weather had become forever intertwined. Only when we came to understand the role of the jet-stream in our weather did we also start to realise the power of both fable and faith in Swithun's story.

Who knows what sort of summer we shall experience in 2020, and I'm not just talking climate. Every day new variants of lockdown-lifting surface, new fears of local spikes emerge, new guidance for churches and schools, for travel and industry. I certainly wouldn't want to predict where we might find ourselves as a community and nation by the time of the next parish magazine in September. So much of what we don't yet know about Coronavirus will still be fragmentary, a vaccine will still be a future prospect and more lives than ever will have been impacted, not least amongst the world's poorest peoples.

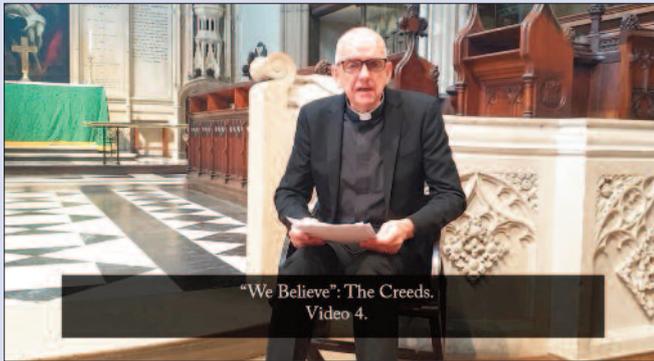


What is clear, however, is that if our future needs to be different. The last few months have shown how we can thrive with less materialism, how work needs to be justly rewarded, how we need loving contact to maintain true humanity, how people of courage and compassion are prepared to put the needs of others before their own, how the smallest deeds of neighbourliness have impact far beyond their scale. The new-normal can't be to bring back the old-normal. Let's learn again to separate out fable from faith. Our faith is in that healing grace of God which we've seen and heard and experienced in so many ways these past months. The fable that we can now pick up from where we left off is absurd.

So whether this summer brings rain or shine in climate and community, perhaps above all we need, in light of our experiences to come to know, like Swithun, what is truly important, and how we must shape our common life to mirror it. □



Discussion Group – “We believe



The closure of our churches left a huge hole in our lives so I, for one, was delighted when I heard that there was to be a Zoom-based discussion group. It proved to be a great way to keep our interactions going and to focus on our shared faith, during a time when services were not possible.

The meetings attracted regular participation from a dozen or so from the congregation, and Brian and Sam kindly recorded short talks as a catalyst to conversation, often finishing with a few challenging questions on which to reflect in preparation for the discussions.

We began with four sessions based on Christian responses to Covid-19 entitled “I am with you always”. These covered the topics of the altered rhythms of our lives, lament, preparing for death and our hope of the resurrection with unflinching directness. In the course of these discussions we often found ourselves reminded of phrases from the Creed.

In our second quartet of discussions, we began by examining the origins of the Creed and learned that there are more than our familiar Nicene Creed (and its slightly less familiar earlier cousin, the Apostles’ Creed) but in fact several other Creeds that are rarely used in Anglican worship. We also briefly examined

the historical context of their formulation, where early heresies needed to be refuted.

Many of us learned the Nicene Creed by heart as children, so it was a great opportunity to really examine these familiar words. Are they a useful reminder of fundamental beliefs? Do they serve as a mantra or manifesto? How do they inform our lives? What actions should flow from these beliefs? How can they help the church to act as “one body”?

The Creed was neatly divided into four sections: the Creator, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and, finally, the beliefs and behaviours that flow from our relationship with the triune God. Our understanding (or bafflement!) of the Trinity came up again and again and Sam shared some images which showed a range of vi-



sual representations. Did we see the three persons as different ‘modes of being’ of one God? Were analogies of a celestial dance, triangles and traffic lights a help or a hindrance? Not surprisingly, theologians have been grappling with these mysteries for centuries, so we were not able, in four hours, to solve that particular conundrum!

MARIANNE ASTON



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Glass Door continues to support people facing homelessness during Covid-19



Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Glass Door Homeless Charity has helped over 200 individuals to safely self-isolate in hotels. This has been possible

because of the unwavering support of those in the local community who have been there for the charity during this very challenging period.

The government scheme to move people sleeping rough into hotels began in March when Glass Door staff and volunteers supported over 120 guests to move from shelters into private hotel rooms.

“It was a real community effort, with everyone coming together with the same goal of protecting people,” recalls Megan Preston, Glass Door’s service development manager. “I



feel really proud to have been a part of that movement,” she adds.

Glass Door staff realised back in March that people facing homelessness had nowhere to safely self-isolate. “We had to turn several guests away who exhibited symptoms, and one guest did subsequently test positive for coronavirus,” says Megan. “We had been fighting to ensure that Glass Door night shelter guests received a safe, comfortable environment where they could stay safe from COVID-19 just like everybody else.” Since the initial move of shelter guests, Glass Door caseworkers have been working hard to help a further 80 individuals into safe accommodation. They

have also stayed in touch with former shelter guests residing in hotels and have supported many of these guests into more permanent housing.

Nancy (pseudonym), a British woman in her 50s who is currently in a hotel said: “At first I slept on the floor because I felt I wasn’t worth this luxury. That’s



how low I felt. But I am slowly becoming myself again. I can turn the light off. I can do a bit of meditation. I have the space to be me now.”

However, Glass Door’s work is far from over. The hotel scheme won’t last forever and many more people are now becoming homeless as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Before the Covid-19 crisis, a common route out of homelessness was through finding work and saving money to rent in the private sector”, says Glass Door caseworker Alex Norris. “With the economy in disarray, especially the construction and hospitality sectors, this will now be much more challenging for many.”

Glass Door relies on the kindness of individuals, schools, community groups and churches to fund its services. Over the next six months, people facing homelessness will need Glass Door’s help more than ever. □

To support someone experiencing homelessness, please donate to Glass Door’s Covid-19 emergency appeal: www.glassdoor.org.uk/appeal/covid-19-emergency-appeal.

RACHAEL LINDSAY,
Glass Door

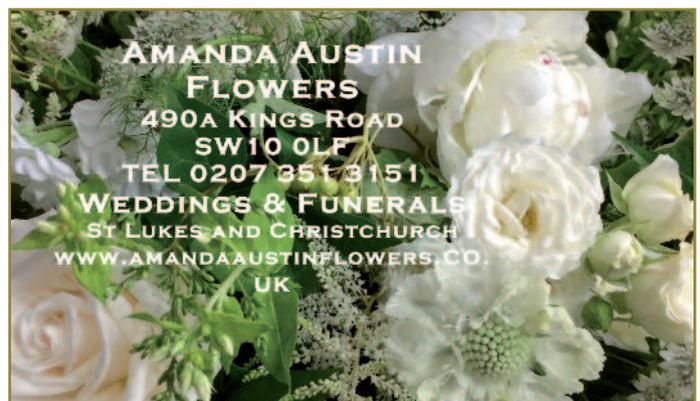


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VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL _____ ANNA STAMENOVA



“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28 v 18-20

This verse is known as the ‘Great Commission’ and was Jesus’ instructions to his disciples about how to continue the work he had begun on the earth. But it is so current today for most of us! Our lives have changed and hopefully we have valued some of the changes. I’m very glad to be part of life at the moment and be able to share parenthood with you. It makes it easy to understand what we all experiencing with the home-schooling, having being in lockdown for that long period of time. We are pioneering a new moment of history.

It was difficult suddenly for all of us to become teachers and to start studying the school curriculums all over again. We needed to create space for learning and make our own classrooms, by rearranging the house in order to be able to work and study and live together all in one place.

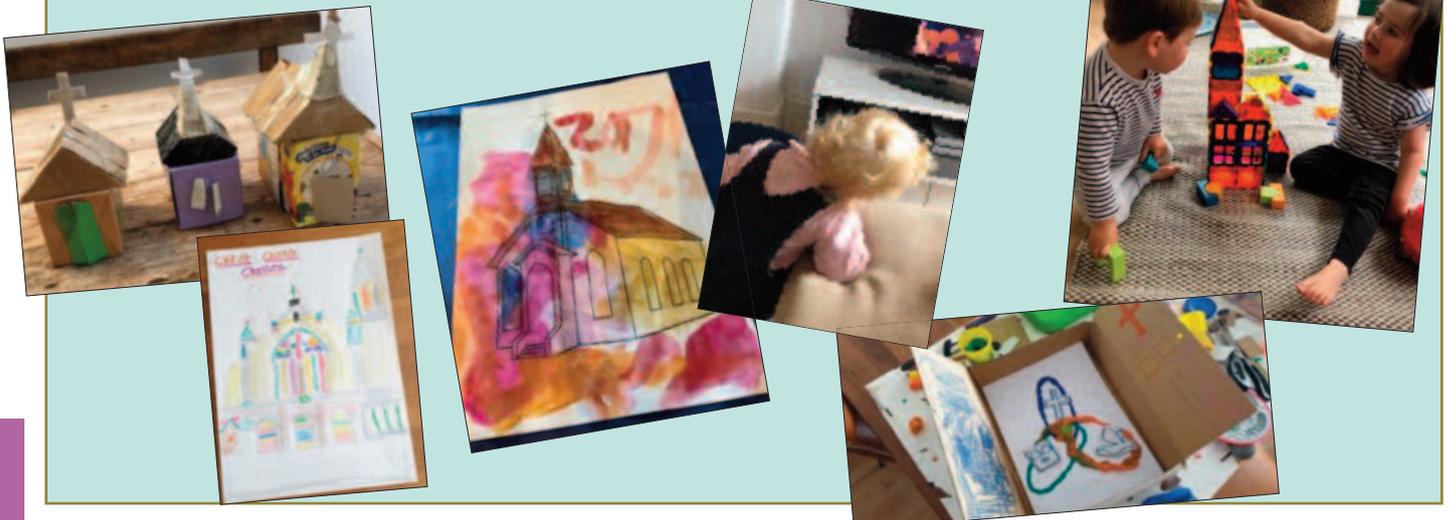
We learned to pray and hope, to be patient and to feel God’s presence more. We learned different skills and discovered our strengths and weakness. We learned how much we can give and share and to realize how important it is to pay attention to ourselves.

By sharing stories and pictures we have actually become more closer to each other than before. We have become one family who cares for each other. Our SS never had that much attendance as before – 179 to 199 children on Sunday. How amazing is that? This has become a kind of normal life, as we

gradually established our communication and routine for us and our children. Every Sunday together we are able to share the wonderful online service provided by the clergy and do activities with the children. We have been able to teach our children more about God than before. In doing so, we become a disciple of Jesus and teachers for our children. We took this difficult path, which taught us to understand, respect and follow Christian values more. We now share the Good News about God more than before – and not only that, but by doing it we become examples for our children. We not only read and just say “ok the Church Sunday is finished, let’s move on with the week.” We now follow all the week Jesus’s Gospel readings and prayer. We face the challenge of protecting and supporting each other, and so we understand what Love means.

This Groundhog Day will come to an end and we will face it with new perspective to live. We are yesterday’s not-understanding disciples of Jesus’s meaning of faith, we are today’s disciples who understand and spread the Good news and love, we are tomorrow’s disciples who made our new life full of Love and fill the presence of God by following Jesus’s Great Commission of teaching and love, by accepting the Holy Spirit with us.

*Thank you and God bless you!
Anna*





Nia and her family

10th Chelsea Guides



With lockdown and virtual presence becoming a new normal, as a Guide unit we decided to adapt our approach to keep our sessions going! We have weekly video calls with our Guides and some Brownies and welcome any who wish to join in.

The message of Girl Guiding is more relevant than ever in this lockdown. We are aiming to teach the girls to think outside the box and use their imagination to

accomplish their goals. Girl Guiding research suggests that 34% of guide age girls are feeling lonely at the moment and 49% miss learning.

In our sessions we aim to be a source of fun, learning and friendship to support our guides during this time. Throughout lockdown we have been getting increasingly creative about how to make the sessions work virtually. We began with working on our vlogging badge, doing scavenger hunts and, importantly, adding hand gestures to our end song to be

virtual friendly.

Activities since then have ranged from our very entertaining bad jokes game and story cubes to learning sign language and even doing a virtual tour of the science museum and building our own rockets!

A highlight of mine was during our camp mystery task where deduction and teamwork were required to solve a mystery. Each guide was given a unique clue and as a team they had to independently piece together the information to deduce the answer to the puzzle.

Our upcoming plans include task master type games where we design inventive and exciting tasks and the guides need to think outside the box to find a fun solution. We hope to continue to challenge and inspire our guides and be something that they look forward to.



ABBIE WATSON
Unit Leader



CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a very eventful year at Christ Church School.

In September 2019 we formed the Federation of Christ Church and Holy Trinity. We now work very closely together as two schools with many shared staff, training, initiatives and even uniform!

We have welcomed three new teachers, Miss Adams, Miss Kennedy, and Miss Houghton. It feels like they have been with us forever and are already an integral part of our team bringing new energy and ideas.

We have had many special events such as the Christmas Assembly, Christingle, Grandparents Day, and Science Week the school continues to be a vibrant and dynamic place to learn.

Like every other school, we had to close our doors to all but vulnerable and Key Worker children in March, which was necessary, but certainly very sad. We have since made a supreme effort to provide families with the best possible home learning these difficult times. It has certainly meant we have learnt new skills and thought in innovative ways about how best to teach at a distance.

Welcoming back year groups since June 1st in our "Rainbow Groups" has really complicated but worth the effort. Our last four weeks of the school year have seen all children invited back into school at least once a week. Let us hope we achieve full-time on-site education for all in September.

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30,000 gowns made for Royal Brompton Hospital

In the middle of April, in the response to a national shortage of PPE, a team of volunteers set up in the Kensington and Chelsea college in Hortensia Road to produce hospital gowns for the front-line staff at Royal Brompton Hospital. We work on four floors of the college and have been able to work safely with 50 people a shift. It has been the most wonderful display of



petite for volunteering. We have had great support from other areas of the local community, too – from donations of thread (miles and miles have been needed) and scissors to the most delicious cakes delivered by Julie and Tracy from St Luke’s and Christ Church. It has meant a great deal to be able to give our volunteers a treat and they do seem to sew a lot faster after some sugar!



determination and enthusiasm from our very generous volunteers. The production line involves pattern cutters, machinists, folders and packers working 7 days a week. Amazingly, we have had over 300 volunteers involved with this project, with some of them coming in every day and walking or cycling considerable distances to get here. New friendships have been formed and there is definitely a renewed ap-

To date 30,000 gowns have been produced and we will close our doors on the 30th June. Our huge thanks to everyone involved and we will miss seeing them everyday but look forward to seeing some of them volunteering in the hospital in the future.

You can learn more about the Friends on Instagram @friendsroyalbrompton, or contact Elizabeth by email: E.Henderson@rbht.nhs.uk

ELIZABETH HENDERSON
Charity Director
Friends of Royal Brompton



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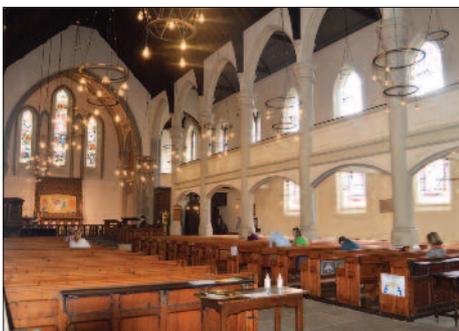
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Christ Church Dedication Festival

We were delighted to open Christ Church for private prayer on Sunday 28 July, to mark the 181st anniversary of its dedication. Many came to pray and to enjoy seeing friends again – with everyone who came being encouraged to take a rose home with them to mark the day.



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

Curate: Samuel Rylands
samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

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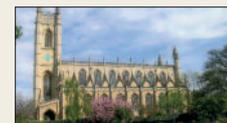
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Enquiries re baptism, confirmation (adults and children), marriages, funerals and home communion visits please contact the clergy via the Parish Office. Also for the Planned Giving Schemes for both churches.

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Charles Combe 07747 796 124
Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly 07956 801 223

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