

ST. LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke and Christ Church
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WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

ST LUKE'S AND CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER PROGRAMME 2020



Over three weeks from the 27th July to the 14th August the parish offered a fun-filled summer camp for children across the local community.

Even though COVID restrictions meant a slightly reduced programme, over 80 children were able to attend across the three weeks!

So with all the fun games and activities, we thought it would be best to let the children speak for themselves and tell us what they enjoyed most about it...





"I really enjoyed the fun activities planned for us every day and everyone has been really friendly!" Aya

"One of my highlights was the t-shirt making, and I loved seeing my friends again from last year!" Shannon

"I liked everything— especially the fun games and activities. Go Ape was so much fun!" Ali

"I enjoyed going outside again and playing with my friends" Yousef

"I found it really easy to make new friends because everyone is so kind" Katie

"My highlight was having a miniature waterfight and making new friends!" Yomali

"I enjoyed playing all of the different games outside and all the positive energy every day!" Kalil

"Lockdown wasn't that much fun... But this was really fun!!" Samar

"I really liked the Go Ape trip, the party and making new friends" Maliq

"I liked the party games, the food... EVERYTHING!" Luke



Thank you to everyone involved in making the summer programme possible—for all those who have supported it and for your prayers throughout! As you can tell from the comments, it really was valued by those who attended— especially during such a difficult time for many families and young people. Thank you!

SAMUEL RYLANDS

EDITORIAL

SAM HOLE



There is a lot of looking back in this month's edition. We hear of recent events such as our Summer Programme for children, and of the Coffee on the Portico initiative. We also feature our Rector Brian's Annual Report reflecting on 2019, to be presented to our (previously postponed) APCM on 2 September.

Even in these odd times, however, there is also a great deal to look forward to. We continue to livestream worship online every Sunday. On 6th September the first of our new monthly 9:30am Christ Church childrens' services takes place, with a Blessing of the Backpacks (bring your schoolbag!). From 13th September our St Luke's organist, Rupert Jeffcoat, will reflect on the relationship between music and faith in a series of videos. In October we are planning a series of afternoons showing classic films. And

on Thursday 1 October we are also beginning a new weekday eucharist at St Luke's, which will take place at 12:30 on Thursdays. Look out for more details in the weekly email, website and social media.

Our blessings, as ever, on you and those you love – and please be in touch with the Parish Office if at any point you need a tea and a chat. ☐

For many in our parish the month of September means a month of change and new beginnings. Whether it's going back to school, the return to work after a long summer— or particularly this year, the constant adjusting to changing guidelines and gradual easing of lockdown with all the change of rhythms that brings.

Perhaps some would equate September with the phenomenon of “the Sunday Blues” or “Sunday Scaries,” which can be described as the sinking feeling in the stomach when the weekend draws to a close, as people’s anxieties rise at the thought of the impending working week. Whilst for others September might represent promising and hopeful openings, the prospect of change and new beginnings, however small, often evoke a range of these feelings of excitement and apprehension.

So too this month, between Holy Cross and Michaelmas, the church celebrates the Feast of St. Matthew (21st September). Originally being a tax-collector and shunned by his fellow Jews for working for the Romans, perhaps Matthew knew something of dreading the working week ahead! More importantly though, the story of his calling reveals that Matthew knew well what it was to face the daunting prospect of change and new beginnings; turning from one way of life, towards another.

This moment is beautifully captured in Caravaggio’s famous painting ‘The Calling of St Matthew’ (pictured). In it, we see Christ pointing at a startled Matthew, who in turn seems to be pointing towards himself as if to say, “Me!?” You can almost imagine that pit of the stomach feeling of confusion and realisation, as he meets Jesus’ gaze and is called to follow him. Was it really possible for him to just leave behind his way of life and follow Christ?

And this calling to change and new beginnings, is not just for St Matthew, but is a call for all of us, each day. Indeed, the identity of Matthew in the Caravaggio’s painting has been debated, with some suggesting that the bearded man is actually pointing, not at himself, but at the young man at the end of the table with his head slumped. In this way, the painting depicts the moment just before Matthew looks up and sees the light of Christ. Whoever the real identity of Matthew, Caravaggio has perhaps



intentionally left it ambiguous enough so as to invite us to recognise that Christ calls all of us— no matter how unworthy or unable we might consider ourselves to be. In fact, Pope Francis often went as a younger man to San Luigi to contemplate the painting and commenting on the artwork remarked; ‘This is me, a sinner on whom the Lord has turned his gaze.’

Facing up to change, though always daunting, is something we as followers of Christ are called to as those who are called daily to new beginnings. Of course, that’s not to say it’s easy, but knowing that it is Christ who calls us, we needn’t be fearful. So as we continue to pray for all that’s ahead— for the new beginnings of school, returning to the office, and for all of us who are getting used to the next stage of lockdown easing— let us take heart, as we are reminded of the daily change and new beginnings that Christ calls us to, as we open ourselves up to be moulded and shaped by his loving presence in us and with us. □



2019 Annual Report

Our Rector Brian delivers his annual report for 2019, as presented to the (previously postponed) APCM on 2 September.

How does one describe the life of a parish across a year? I could point to numbers, currently so beloved by church officials. 40 Baptisms, 23 candidates confirmed, 15 Weddings and Blessings, 38 Funerals and Memorial services. Morning Prayer every day, Monday-Friday with 2, 3, 4, 5 people present, Sunday Wor-



ship with 200 adults and 140 children across our two churches, six meetings of the Church Council, 500 people plus entering St Luke's each week to sit pray, rest, light a candle, 25 Carol Services with over 14,000 people through our doors.

Or I could point to the daily and weekly round of worship offered in our churches and our school. The quiet intensity of those 8am said services of Holy Communion, the regular pattern of sung eucharist in both our churches with its ability to lift the gossamer thin veil from the mundane into the divine. Evensong sung exquisitely for the glory of God, whether many or few are gathered. The Lenten evenings, the retreat

and bible study groups all offered for deepening our faith and understanding.

Or again, I could seek to describe the types of pastoral work undertaken in the name of Christ in this parish. The hospital visits, the visits in preparation for Baptism and marriage and funerals, the regular contact with our parishioners in their joy and sorrow. The excitement of confirmation classes with 11 year olds or 80 year olds! The representational roles the clergy play on School Governing Boards, Glass Door, local charities, residents associations, with the local authority, and the diocese and national church. In 2019 our outstanding parish primary school at Christ Church merged into a joint Federation with Holy Trinity Primary School thereby extending the range of excellence in church schools locally from 210 to 420 children.

However one does it, any review is bound to be partial and incomplete, but there is perhaps purpose in

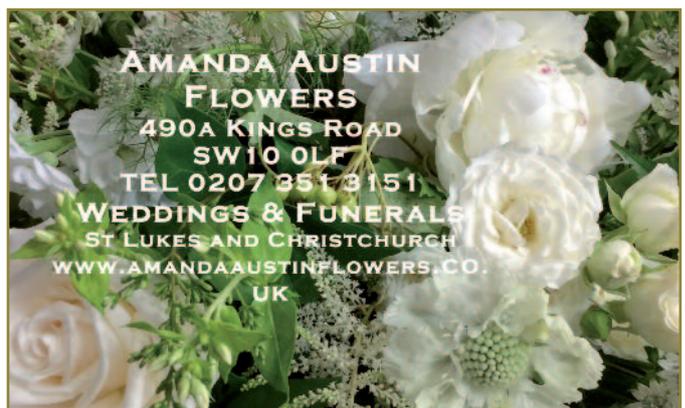


taking stock. But taking stock can never be laurel-resting, but always, with the question how are we,



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2019 Annual Report

how am I, being Christ in this place? Is busyness really our business, or is it something more about quality rather than quantity? About living in this



world but not of it, about watching and waiting, about ushering in the rule of God here through our prayers, our giving, our action.

In the last year our parish office staffing was stable and I would particularly like to thank John, Tracy, Alicia, Jane and Paul for their skill and enthusiasm, their professionalism and loyalty. Our church officers, churchwardens, Secretaries, Treasurers, vergers and council members have been assiduous in their care for our resources and in good governance. Thank you too to those volunteers who stuff envelopes, assist in leading our incredible Sunday Schools, clean our churches, sing in our choirs, act as sidespersons and assist in leading worship by reading, praying, serving. Anna, our Children and Youth Worker who is engaged on the diocesan Youth apprenticeship scheme is boundless in energy. And 2019 also saw our Associate Priest, Emma, with Jeremy, Hugo, and Guy move to the neighbouring Deanery, where she took on the incumbency of St Mary Abbots last

summer after six years labouring in this vineyard, for which we owe her huge thanks. On October 2nd we welcomed Sam Hole as our new Associate Priest, receiving him across the river, from St George's Borough- and with Emily, what a delight it has been to see Sam flourish in skills and confidence, finding a home here so readily and completely. John Russell continued his curacy throughout the year, both giving and receiving in unexpected ways.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings can all too often seem like an Annual General Meeting of a club, society or small business. They can be very functional, business-like, addressing what the church sometimes refers to as 'temporalities'- buildings and finance, but if they are to be distinctive and truly to be parochial meetings, they need both the cold facts of finance, property, maintenance and staffing, as well as a taste of something beyond this, a taste of what we are really about as a parish. We are to be the Body of Christ for the community in which we are set. Like Christ himself, that body has to be offered in prayer, in service, and risk for God's sake. A risk which leads to the cross and beyond, to new life and hope. That's our calling as a parish- nothing less, for there is nothing more. □



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Refurbishing Dovehouse Green

On the King's Road opposite the Ivy can be found the parish's old burial ground, Dovehouse Green. The land is still owned by the church, but maintained by the council. The area was laid out by the Chelsea Society in 1977; unfortunately, in recent years it has not been a very attractive area to sit in. It is therefore excellent news that the council has chosen to refurbish the space using part of a neighbouring development's Section 106 contribution. It consulted local residents in July about their preferred

Dovehouse Green Proposed Improvements - the land is owned by the church and was laid out by the Chelsea Society in 1977 so the fundamental design won't change

New brick pillars

New litter bins

Choose Style of planters?

Interpretation signage

© Crown.co

designs, and has now revealed the consultation results.

78% of respondents were in favour of the overall improvements to the outdoor space, with 7% opposed. 51% preferred option 2 for refurbishment (visible on the above diagram), with 33% selecting option 1. Faced with the choice between different themes for the western border and for raised planters, most respondents preferred a 'wildlife' theme (see below).

Any final decisions need to be approved by faculty (the church legal processes); it is hoped that work may be completed in 2021. □

BRIAN LEATHARD

Dovehouse Green Planting Schemes

Theme 2 Wildlife

This scheme has been designed to provide maximum benefits for pollinators and wildlife. Nectar-rich flowers, bug jels, insect hotels, and berry-producing shrubs will support a wide range of invertebrate lifecycles providing food and shelter.

Plants in this scheme will be chosen from BugLife, Butterfly Conservation Trust and Bee Conservation Trust plant lists.

This scheme gives an indication of the theme only. The plants on this board may not all be used in the scheme and more plants will be added to the design of this theme to come.

THE KING'S AND CHURCH AND CHELSEA

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL _____ ANNA STAMENOVA



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

God gives us hope, because we are strong and through the suffering and difficulties from the past few months, He is there for us, but His rescue is not going to come immediately, it takes hard work, so we need to prepare our own hearts to receive Jesus. God has a plan for our lives and regardless of our current situation, He can work through it to prosper us and give us a hope and a future. If we invite Jesus into our lives and give ourselves over to him, we will experience his healing, and discover that we have hope for the future.

So, I hope you all had a lovely and restful Summer holiday. It is hard to put away summer clothes and children to start school again after so much fun. Before you know it, however, they'll make good friends and new, wonderful memories. Going back to school is a reason for celebration because it means a new step towards a wonderful future! May it be all you hope it will be!

Sunday School

With the Churches open, SS will resume on 13 September as usual online. Please do continue sending me pictures, which we will use for the magazine and children's presentations. I love to see as many as possible and especially from your summer holiday. Thank you!

NEW all-age service

With physical Sunday School and creche not possible for the time being, we have been considering

how we can best enable parents and children to worship in the coming weeks. We are always delighted to welcome children and parents to our 10:30am and 11am Sunday services, but realise that it can be difficult when children get restless during this time.

We are pleased to say that from September we will trial a new monthly all-age service. The service will take place at Christ Church at 9:30am and last 30-45 minutes. That will take place on the first Sunday of each month: **6 September, 4 October, 1 November and 6 December.** Weather permitting, our first service will be outside! It will be a 'blessing of the backpacks' service, so please can children bring their school bags to the 6 September service. Please put the dates in your diaries. We look forward to welcoming you then.

It's time to say Goodbye

We are very sad to say goodbye to our wonderful and very much-loved Gemma. She and her family are moved away permanently to Ireland. She was an amazing inspiration to all our children, who were learning very beautiful songs over the lockdown as she kept the smiles on their faces. We will miss her angel voice, but I want to wish her from all of us all the best in their new home and God bless them all. Thank you, dear Gemma and Stuart! Good luck! ☐

Love,
Anna

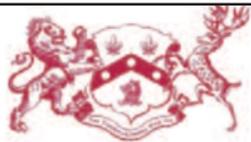


GLASS DOOR

Homeless support in West London churches

Glass Door does excellent work supporting homeless and vulnerable people in West London. Its annual sleepout fundraiser (which last year raised over £200,000) is more vital than ever this year to sustain the charity's work, given the rising homelessness likely to result from the pandemic. This year's sleepout will take place on Friday 2 October, and Glass Door are encouraging people to do a sponsored sleep-out or sleep-in, perhaps on the floor in their homes.

Fr Sam is forming a group from St Luke's and Christ Church. If it is possible to sleep in Duke of York Square as usual we will go there; if not, we plan to sleep in the St Luke's portico. For more information about joining this group and supporting those in need in our neighbourhood, please speak to Fr Sam. ☐



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Golden Charter 



Coffee on the Portico

During July and August we held a number of socially distanced coffee mornings, to help parishioners reconnect with one another. One attendee reports:

Whoever came up with the idea of organising groups of parishioners to meet up for a friendly cup of coffee at Café Portico is to be congratulated. (Was it Tracy's brainwave?) What a happy, relaxed occasion it



was, exchanging news with old friends, as well as making new ones among some of those whose church attendance does not coincide with our own. The need to seat twice the number originally invited on this particular day (safely distanced, of course!) shows the alacrity with which the invitations were snapped up. Brian, Sam and Samuel were absolutely brilliant hosts, coffee and cakes were much enjoyed, and the conversation was most animated on all sorts of topics. My resolve weakened when my neighbour took one of the rather large iced cup cakes on offer and I followed suit! After the party broke up I stayed chatting happily to a friend who had been out of earshot ear-

lier, until nearly lunchtime! It was all so enjoyable. Thank you for a splendid initiative to keep us in close touch with our beautiful church and its community. How lucky we are to be part of it. D.B.



We are exploring ways to keep our parish community safely connected over the winter months, and plan first to run a series of socially distanced film afternoons in the vestry in October. Please be in touch with the Parish Office if you would like to be invited to these. ☐

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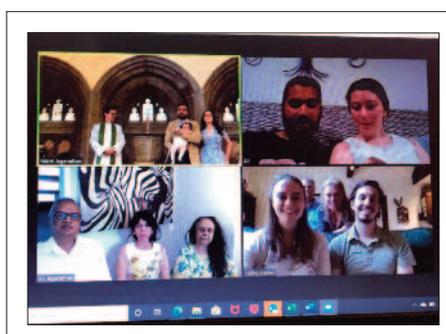
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FROM OUR REGISTERS

We welcome as members of the church through baptism:
Selina Jaganathan



Samuel Rylands Deaconing Notice



Samuel enjoying a parishioner's cake welcoming him to the parish!

'They also serve who only stand and wait' may have been Milton's response to his incapacity, but our curate Samuel Rylands has indeed been serving intensively while waiting for ordination as a deacon. As you will know he came to us at the beginning of July, clerical shirts ready to don at ordination as a Deacon on 4th July. However, Covid 19's intervention meant that churches and cathedrals were still in lockdown and social

distancing was strictly implemented. Ordination requires physical proximity, and, even if like me you have very long arms, nevertheless our Bishop must stretch out her arms and place her hands on Samuel's head in order to ordain him. Hence since early July Samuel has been working in the guise of a Licensed Lay Minister, but at last ordination as a Deacon looms and so on Sunday, 27th September Samuel will be ordained in St Paul's Cathedral, but where, alas, in compliance with government restrictions only 30 people will be allowed to support him- at least inside. Outside on the steps of the cathedral any number of socially distanced greetings can occur. We will, of course, be greeting Samuel and Lily! The whole parish assures you, Samuel, of our prayers for your long awaited diaconal ordination. We hope that by the time of your priesting next summer things may have changed for the better in terms of celebration and in the overcoming of Covid 19.

BRIAN LEATHARD

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Children's Administrator: Anna Stamenova
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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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Churchwardens: Aidus McVeigh 020 7223 8591
Nick Smith 07889 369 060
Director of Music: Gareth Wilson 07939 378 759
Organist: Samuel Ali

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