

## Dates for your diary

<b>February 5</b>	<b>Third before Lent</b>
8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
10.30 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Evensong
7.00 pm	Reflective Service
<b>February 12</b>	<b>Second before Lent</b>
8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
10.30 am	Family Service
5.30 pm	BCP Holy Communion
7.00 pm	Communion Service
<b>February 19</b>	<b>Next before Lent</b>
8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
10.30 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Evensong
7.00 pm	Iona Service
<b>February 22</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
10.00 am	Said Communion
8.00 pm	Sung Communion
<b>February 26</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>
8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
10.30 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Evensong
7.00 pm	Reflective Service with organ music, readings and prayers
<b>March 4</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>
8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
10.30 am	Holy Communion
5.30 pm	Evensong
7.00 pm	Reflective Service

**First Tuesday at St John's:** the sermon preached at 8am and 10.30am on 5 February will be discussed in the Elm Shades pub on Tuesday 7 February at 8pm. All welcome.

## From the registers

### Baptisms

8 January  
Stanley William Cheeseman  
15 January  
Emma Mary Jane Ruffle  
22 January  
Zachary Joshua Pinto  
29 January  
Jessica Isabelle and Melissa Anabelle May

### Funerals

9 January  
Joyce Marven, aged 91  
16 January  
Mary Heighton, aged 79  
19 January  
Olive Hamilton, aged 85  
19 January  
Sheila Carter, aged 55

### ● Copy dates

The next magazine will be published on 4 March. Material can be left in the magazine pigeonhole in church, or emailed to [judith.calver@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.calver@btinternet.com) by 26 February.

## A Jubilee Year

At the heart of our national life, since her accession to the throne 60 years ago, we have been very blessed by the Queen's remarkable devoted service to her people.

To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, neighbours and friends to the Cathedral, offered the Chapter a window. It has been designed by Leifur Breidford from Iceland and will be installed in the south side of the Retrochoir, constructed in 1212 and so celebrating 800 years, another sign of remarkable continuity and change held together in place and person. It will be dedicated at the beginning of June after the Diamond Jubilee Pageant with its focus on the River Thames.

In the words of the new Dean, Andrew Nunn: 'It incorporates a large number of prisms of glass, scattered through the design – just like jewels ascending from earth to heaven and the eye is drawn from earth to heaven. It speaks to us of the way in which Her Majesty has always and in a very modest but clear way testified to her Christian faith throughout her reign.'

In one corner section of the window are the striking words: Vivat Regina! Defender of the Faith. Diamond Jubilee 2012. 'Vivat Regina' – Long live the Queen – shouted out at the Coronation, is a prayer that has very evidently been granted. The Queen has taken her Coronation promises and her role as a constitutional monarch very seriously. In her latest Christmas Broadcast the Queen spoke simply and profoundly about her Christian convictions: 'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) – but a Saviour with the power to forgive.'

The Diamond Jubilee coincides with the Olympic Games in London and other commemorations, including at Easter, the millennium of the martyrdom of Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, in Greenwich. There will be many local Diamond Jubilee celebrations throughout the Diocese. There will be an opportunity for churches, schools and parishioners to express their gratitude in messages on the Diocesan website which will be collected and presented to the Queen.

On February 6th, the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession, you may wish to join me in giving thanks to God for Elizabeth our Queen in the Diamond Jubilee Prayer:

**God of time and eternity,  
whose Son reigns as servant, not master;  
we give you thanks and praise  
that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms  
and Territories  
with ELIZABETH our beloved and glorious Queen.  
In this year of Jubilee,  
grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace  
as she continues in faithful obedience  
to her Lord and God  
and in devoted service to her lands and peoples,  
and those of the Commonwealth,  
now and all the days of her life:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

† **Christopher Southwark**

# St John the Evangelist,

**Redhill** *Revd Nicholas Calver February 2012*  
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## 'Myrrh is mine...'

### The Epiphany services focused on the wise men's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh

At the Family Service on 8 January, Nicholas spoke about the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus.

We are familiar with gold being a valuable commodity and Nicholas said that this has been so since around 4000BC. It has been valued because of its rarity and because it can be easily shaped into jewellery and ornaments and does not tarnish. Traditionally it represents the kingship of Jesus.

We may be less aware that frankincense and myrrh were as valuable as gold in the time of Jesus. Frankincense, a tree resin, has been traded since about 3000BC as a valuable commodity. It was used as a perfume and for purifying the air and the body. It therefore came to be used in religious rites as a symbol of purity and of prayers ascending to God. It has traditionally been associated with the deity of Jesus.

Myrrh, another plant resin, was also

used in perfume but also had many medicinal uses. It is good for bruises, as an antiseptic; and for pain relief – Jesus was offered myrrh to drink on the cross. Traditionally it is associated with the humanity of Jesus.

At the special service for Epiphany in the evening, people came to the crib to receive a small bottle of myrrh oil that Nicholas had made, in which myrrh resin was blended with oil, cloves and orange peel. He spoke about the oil being for healing in the broadest sense of the word, in the sense of treasuring oneself. He quoted from Phil's sermon on New Year's Day: "Our task is to awaken God within us. Why? Because God within us is our unique treasure."

Attached to the bottle of oil was a label with the following poem by Stephen Wentworth Arndt:

**With wine and oil wash pure  
The wound still oozing;**



**Spread salve and balm's liqueur  
On gash and bruising;  
Pour myrrh and aloe-cure  
God makes by using  
Life's mortar and the press  
Of Love's strong pestles.  
Soothe each who in distress  
Yet strives and wrestles,  
With treasure we possess  
In earthen vessels!**

## New Bishop of Croydon

The new Bishop of Croydon is to be the Rev Jonathan Clark, who succeeds the Rt Rev Nick Baines who is now Bishop of Bradford.

Jonathan Clark has been Rector of St Mary, Stoke Newington in the Diocese of London since 2003 and was Priest in Charge of St John's Brownswood Park from 2004 to 2011. He trained for ordination at Trinity College Bristol and was ordained deacon in the Diocese of Carlisle and served his title in Carlisle. Before becoming Rector of St Mary's he had been Chaplain of two universities: Bristol and London Metropolitan and Director of Studies, Southern Training Scheme for Christian Ministry. He is currently Chair of Affirming Catholicism, UK. He is married to Alison, who is a senior lecturer in childhood studies and they have two grown up children.

Jonathan's interests include adult and theological education, serving as a Governor of the YMCA George Williams College. He is a fan of Westray, in the Orkney Islands, which is his favourite place for walking, reading and writing. You can read his blog at <http://clarkinholymorders.wordpress.com> He is interested in the interaction between faith and contemporary culture, particularly as it affects the church's worship and witness. He follows the fortunes of Tottenham Hotspur.

The Venerable Dr Michael Igrave, Archdeacon of Southwark and Canon Missioner, has been named as the new Bishop of Woolwich, succeeding the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun who is now Bishop of Southwark. Both new bishops will be consecrated in Southwark Cathedral on 21 March 2012.

# Faith Hope Love

In launching his Call to Mission, The Bishop of Southwark has written a letter he would like handed to everyone in the congregation, inviting us to think personally about the values of Faith, Hope and Love during Lent. These letters will be given out on the first Sunday of Lent and be available at the back of the church on the following Sundays so do pick one up if you haven't been given one. The envelope also contains a prayer card and two response cards. The Bishop encourages each of us to undertake some personal action in the light of our reflection upon the values of faith, hope and love and to write down what it is on each of the response cards. We are each to keep one as a personal

reminder, and bring the other to church to symbolise the offering of our response to God. We are invited to sign the response cards; this is not to identify them as they will not be read by anyone but is rather a way of personalising our commitment before God.

There will be a box by the prayer candle stand in the Lady Chapel for people to put their cards in. The cards will remain in the box until they are burnt in the Easter Fire during the 8pm service on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). The placing of the box by the candle stand is also symbolic of the prayerful nature of the cards and you may like to light a candle at the same time.

## Bishop Christopher writes:



Bishop Christopher's Call to Mission

Throughout our Diocese, clergy and laity are together called to be:

### ■ Communities expressing faith

We witness to our faith in Jesus Christ and when many are confused or unsure, we try to help people articulate the faith for which they seek.

### ■ Communities bearing hope

We look to an imperishable hope, which will not disappoint us. While many voices speak of anxiety and despair, we try to point people to signs of real and transforming hope in their lives.

### ■ Communities embodying love

We love because He first loved us, and the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Spirit he has given us. In a world of loneliness and division, we try to give and to receive true love in all our relationships.

FAITH HOPE LOVE will have three phases in the life of the Diocese:

■ to individuals Christians, inviting reflection on faith, hope and love in our lives during Lent, bringing responses to churches in the Easter season.

■ to local churches and schools, beginning at Pentecost 2012, asking them to reflect on these values in their life together as worshipping and learning communities, bringing responses together in deaneries by Advent 2012.

■ to deaneries, inviting them to engage in the same process from Candlemas 2013, bringing responses to Bishop Christopher by Advent 2013.

## Reflections on Faith, Hope and Love

FAITH is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. [Hebrews 11:1]

One way of thinking about faith is as knowing facts with certainty and no shadow of doubt. However Christian faith is more than intellectual agreement. When we say in the Creed 'We believe in God' we are saying something more than 'We believe in the existence of atoms'. Christian faith involves trust in another: the trust that means we are prepared to go forward in the belief we are held and drawn by the God of love revealed in Jesus Christ, even though we may not entirely know where we are going, or feel held and secure, or wholly understand what is happening for us. This is the faith of Abraham, Job and Jesus, and within this faith there is room for doubt and questioning. Faith grows the more we dare to trust what is important to us into God's care and leading.

LOVE is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude ... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. [1 Cor. 13: 1-8]

Paul's words on love speak to us through time. When someone loves us in this way it is transformational: we begin to believe in ourselves more and are drawn out of negative attitudes and behaviour. It is like the sun breaking through on a cloudy day. We see the impact of such love in the Gospel accounts of people meeting Jesus. For

those open to receive what he offered life was never the same again.

Love never ends – it has no boundaries. God gives without ever considering whether it is wise to give so much or if we deserve it. Love is God's free and generous gift. As we open ourselves to receive divine love we will be made whole. But this love must also overflow freely and generously in our relations with other people. We will not always like everyone, but through the Spirit we will grow in our capacity to love them.

May the God of HOPE fill you with joy and peace by your faith in him, until by the power of the Holy Spirit, you overflow with hope. [Romans 15:13]

What is 'hope'? In everyday speech we say: 'I hope it doesn't rain today' or 'I hope my bus comes soon'. Christian hope is more than wishful thinking; it involves sharing God's vision – for ourselves, our church, and our neighbourhood. Hope flows from belief in a faithful, forgiving, creative God, who never abandons his people, and whose purpose for humanity will be fulfilled. In Christ God enters a broken, suffering and disunited world and by his life, death and resurrection makes all things new. Hope sees not just what is, but what can be; it is not blind to obstacles; it takes them seriously and is practical in addressing them. Hope is an expression of the Spirit – something we can ask God for. Through the Spirit we 'overflow with hope' and find ourselves led to act purposely and faithfully to bring about a new creation in Christ.

Reflections by Chris Chapman, Spiritual Formation Adviser in the Diocese of Southwark

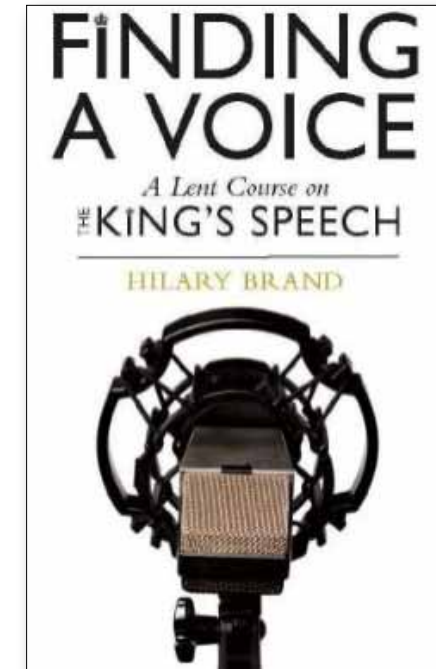
## Lent at St John's ■ Lent at St John's ■ Lent at St John's

### Lent course and groups

Our Lent Course this year will be based on the film *The King's Speech*. It is written by Hilary Brand, whose courses we have used at St John's before, and is called *Finding A Voice*. The course is based around five weekly group sessions and each session includes two extracts from the film, group discussion questions and a time of reflection. The course book also contains short introductory and follow up chapters for people to read before and after each session.

In her introduction Hilary writes: 'Speaking at the BAFTA awards, Helena Bonham-Carter pointed out that it was not just about overcoming a stammer, but about gaining self-esteem. Colin Firth said that it was about the journey not just towards becoming a King, but to becoming a human being.

'It is about a journey we all tread. In Bertie we see our own anxieties played out. In Logue we glimpse our own disappointment. In King George V, we see those who have discouraged us



and in David, Prince of Wales, those who have scorned us. But we see other things we know to be true: the power of perseverance, of courage and above all of friendship.'

The course is designed be a step on that journey, as also is the season of Lent, a traditional time of spiritual growth and reflection. Groups will be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10am and on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 8pm, starting in the week beginning 27 February. There is a list at the back of the church on which you can sign up to join one of the groups. Please don't let transport put you off attending – if you would like a lift to the group just write 'lift' in brackets by your name and we will arrange one for you.

The book is on sale at the back of the church (at the special price of £5 a copy). Please write your name on the list by the books (separate from the group list), take a copy and give the money to Nicholas, or to Chris or Susan (churchwardens).

It is not necessary to have seen the film beforehand but if you'd like to, speak to Nicholas or your group leader about borrowing a DVD.

### Bishop's Lent Projects

As usual, we shall be supporting the projects proposed by Bishop Christopher in his Bishop's Lent Call. Full details will be in next month's magazine but this year's projects are:

- Health, irrigation, ministry and education projects in Zimbabwe
- Slade Gardens Adventure Playground, Lambeth
- Esther Community Enterprise, Croydon
- Camberwell Choir School
- Neutral Ground Contact, Abbey Wood

### Lent Lunch

There will be a Bread and Soup Lunch in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal in church on Saturday 10 March from 12.30 - 2pm. Come and enjoy home-made soup and good company, for a minimum donation of £4 per person.

## Southwark 'Signs of Growth' project

The Diocese of Southwark is undertaking a 'Signs of Growth' project amongst all its churches. The aim is to provide an academically rigorous piece of research which will inform and enrich diocesan planning for mission and growth at all levels.

The Archdeacons of Reigate and Croydon send this message to the churches: 'We warmly endorse this initiative as an important contribution towards understanding the life and context of our local churches. In producing sound, statistical information and evidence, it will act as a significant resource in our thinking about and planning for mission in our Parishes, Deaneries and Archdeaconries as well as across the whole Area.'

At the heart of the project is a Church Participant Survey, a short individual questionnaire completed by

church attendees (of every age from nought upwards!) on a given Sunday. This has already been done in the Woolwich and Kingston Episcopal Areas and is now taking place in the Croydon Episcopal Area, of which St John's is a part. The date chosen for our Area is Sunday February 19th. On that Sunday at St John's there will be a shorter sermon than usual at each of the services and people will be asked to complete the questionnaire at the end of the service. It covers all aspects of our church life from how long we have been attending to areas that help or encourage us. Children can respond in pictures if they prefer.

The survey takes about ten minutes or so to fill in and is anonymous. The responses will be analysed by the Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit at the University of Warwick.