



Edmonton Newsletter

August 2023

With so much uncertainty and fear in the church and the world it is to the prophet Jeremiah that I turn to be encouraged and inspired, to be filled with hope even when weeping and when the peace of Christ that I need for my life seems far away. He is often called the weeping prophet for a reason.



At his darkest hour, as Babylon surrounded his besieged and starving city, and while imprisoned in a cistern by his fellow Jews, Jeremiah did something amazing. He bought a tract of land from his cousin in Anathoth, a place already conquered and levelled by the Babylonian armies. Before the people, he placed the signed deed and sealed it in an earthenware jar as a kind of time capsule, declaring, "houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land" (Jeremiah 32:15). While the cities' walls were being breached by the death delivering Babylonians, he offered to the fear-filled remnant a hope that I turn to when I cannot sleep for all that troubles me in our times.

It is at this time of year that parishes are making their commitment to the Common Fund. This is never an easy thing, making a promise that is hoped will stand until the end of 2024. This year the need to make a faithful commitment to the future has been compounded by the fear generated by change. For some, this change signifies a departure from all that has been held precious over the centuries since Jesus first demonstrated his love through the suffering and pain of the cross. This change is one that threatens the very salvation of the nation. For others, the change has created a renewed sense of hope that the church can truly embody the loving reconciliation that is offered through the crucified Christ who is one with all who are excluded and oppressed as God's children made in God's image. For some, change will enable the church to work in the world seeking its transformation with integrity.

One of the privileges of being the Archdeacon is to commission those who accept the call to be Churchwardens from their congregations. This year I reminded those who were prepared to gather in these difficult times that they hold a special place in the ministry of our parishes, for theirs is a spiritual calling and one that seeks to promote unity in the church at a time such as this when there is so much brokenness and hurt, so much fear and mistrust. Their ministry is one that seeks to work to create a culture of partnership and collaboration that is essential if we are to be one body, rather than a bag of body parts.

Last month we had the joy and privilege of having the Archbishop of Canterbury visit some of the amazing churches and parishes in Enfield. He did this having come from his own mother's death bed the night before. He came with the untold grief in his heart and the heart of his family following the death of his own mother. He walked with our Lord in the streets, shopping centres, parks, and past open doors of family homes that recognised that a blessing was within their reach and came out to encounter our Lord in his people. He walked quietly, listened intently and blessed continuously.

Of this day, he wrote his thanks saying: "It was such a joy to visit churches doing what only churches can do – reaching out their local community with the love of Christ – in words and actions. I was so moved by the warmth of the welcome, the generosity of the hospitality and the depth of the community engagement. We left with such joy in our hearts at all we had been able to be involved with and all we had seen and experience of God at work among you and through you." My only regret was that he only had time to see the amazing work of our parishes in Enfield!

So for the month of August please pray for each other as together we seek to be generous and for those of you able to take some time off may this month bring refreshment and a renewed appreciation of all that God gives by way of family and loving friends without which life would not be worth living: for those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them. And for those who like me are troubled in the small hours of the night, when sleep escapes us; remember Jeremiah and his words of hope.

The Lord declared: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

The Ven John Hawkins, Archdeacon of Hampstead

EDMONTON EVENTS



Churchwardens' Training Day

10am-2pm on 7 September 2023 at London Diocesan House

Please join us for a morning of training and information sessions from 10am to 1pm, followed by lunch and a chance to meet your fellow wardens and other diocesan staff. RSVP to: maura.roni@london.anglican.org by 24 August 2023

Parish Administrators' Meeting

10am-2pm on 16 November 2023 at London Diocesan House

Edmonton Parish Administrators are meeting again for some useful information, sharing best practice as well as fellowship and refreshments.

Venue: The Hall, London Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, SW1P 4AU

RSVP to: maura.roni@london.anglican.org by 1 November 2023



CLERGY MOVES



The Revd Preb Hugh Moore

Fr Hugh trained at St Stephen's House, Oxford, and he was ordained in 1961. He served his title at St Luke Kingston in the Diocese of Southwark, and he has been the Vicar of St Alphage Burnt Oak since 1970 – the longest serving Vicar in the Church of England! Fr Hugh has also been a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral since 1995. **Fr Hugh retired on 31 July 2023 after 53 years of service to the Edmonton Area.**



The Revd Dr Catriona Laing

Catriona studied in Cambridge and Paris and she trained for ministry at Westcott House, Cambridge. She was ordained in 2012 and she served her title at St Barnabas Dulwich in the Diocese of Southwark. She went on to serve in a parish in Washington D.C. before joining Holy Trinity Brussels as an Associate Chaplain with a particular remit for social justice. **Catriona will be licensed as the Vicar of Emmanuel Hampstead on 7 September 2023.**



The Revd Simon Morris

Fr Simon studied History at St John's College, Durham, and he trained for ministry at St Stephen's House, Oxford. He was ordained in 2008 and he served his title at St Mary Tottenham. He has been the Vicar of St Mary's since 2011 and was also made Honorary Canon of St George's Cathedral in 2022. **Fr Simon will be licensed as the Vicar of Holy Trinity Winchmore Hill on 15 September 2023.**

NEWS

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals

We are an Anglican organisation founded over 30 years ago, called to make Christians and others aware of the need to care for the whole of creation. In particular, we are concerned with the abuse of animals. Intensive farming, the food chain, experimentation, diseases associated with animals, the ill treatment of pets and the killing of animals for pleasure all raise ethical questions. Animal issues are theological issues and should be on the churches' agenda. We believe that God has given us a responsibility towards sentient beings with whom we share God's world.





The Bible teaches us that God has given us 'dominion' not 'domination' over animals (Genesis 1:26). This means 'loving care' not 'ruthless exploitation'. We teach respect for all creation and highlight the ways in which animals suffer as a result of human neglect, exploitation and cruelty. We acknowledge our own part in not caring for the environment and the need for awareness and education to bring about change.

We encourage churches to include animal welfare concerns in their prayers. Worship and Thanksgiving are at the heart of Christian life and embrace all that God has made. We encourage and help churches to hold animal blessing services and to be aware of the need to care for God's creation. Through education and lawful action we advance the conservation and wellbeing of animals and co-operate with other organisations, religious and secular, that have similar aims.

We produce a regular magazine, [Animal Watch](#), containing articles and information about animal welfare issues from a Christian perspective as well as details of forthcoming events. We arrange an annual service on [Animal Welfare Sunday](#) and encourage other churches to also celebrate this date. We provide free resources to help you do this. We promote awareness through exhibitions, meetings, talks and preaching.

It is the mission of ASWA to encourage Christians to make compassionate and responsible choices where animals are concerned. The new [Animal Friendly Church](#) scheme is an exciting development in this work. In a similar way to the initiatives encouraging communities to become Fair Trade churches, this project recognises parishes and chaplaincies which operate as 'Animal Friendly Churches'. It also gives an annual prize for an example of outstanding achievement or dedication in this area.

As with Fair Trade, a huge difference can be made by people choosing to take comparatively small steps: a commitment to use exclusively free range eggs or getting the Sunday school to do a project and build a 'bug hotel'. It isn't so long ago that people who argued that Fair Trade was for eccentrics who drank strange coffee. Christians thankfully changed that culture in the church and in wider society. The importance of economic justice and our ability to play a part is recognised and many lives have changed as a result. This is a chance for Christians to achieve the same feat with animal welfare.

ASWA awards 'Animal Friendly Church' Certificates to churches which practice and promote compassionate attitude towards God's creatures. Applicants will also be automatically entered into our annual 'ASWA Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award'. The winner will receive a hamper full of ethical and useful goodies for your Church and a plaque to display on your wall. Please use the forms at the bottom of [this page](#) to apply for Animal Friendly Church status.

Race Support Fund



Many people in Britain have experienced prejudice and discrimination because of their race. We want to improve outcomes for victims of discrimination and racial harassment. We also want every employer, service provider and educational establishment to understand their responsibilities and what the consequences of not following the law are.

If you think you have experienced race discrimination and don't have a legal representative, please contact the [Equality Advisory and Support Service](#) (EASS). EASS will talk to you about your complaint and provide you with advice and support. If you want to seek legal redress and your complaint is eligible for the fund, EASS may refer your case to us and we can assign one of the firms from our panel of solicitors to your case. The solicitors may then make an application to EHRC for funding so that they can help you pursue a legal claim to access justice.

Cases must meet these three criteria to be eligible for funding:

- Your client is a victim of alleged race discrimination prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- The claim is within, or has been started within, the legal time limit.
- Your client does not have access to other sources of funding for this matter. Other funding options could include legal aid, insurance or trade union support.

Our Legal Support Scheme

Our fund for race discrimination cases is part of our [Legal Support Scheme](#). People who experience discrimination can find it difficult to cover the costs of taking legal action. Our Legal Support Scheme began in 2017. It provides vital funding and legal assistance to individuals so they can access the justice they deserve. We also continue to take landmark cases that make the law clearer and set a precedent.

Royal School of Church Music London Contact

Alison Smart Fisher is Director of Music at St Mary-at-Finchley where there are two thriving choirs: an adult robed choir singing in harmony leading the worship with the mass setting, responsorial psalm, hymns and communion anthem. They rehearse every Thursday evening and sing three Sundays per month. The Youth Choir (16 members aged 7-17) sings once a month and rehearses every Thursday.



Alison has for many years been part of the Royal School of Church Music London area team, as Chair, Publicity, Events, and now as a Consultant. At this time when the RSCM structure is changing, it would be great to keep in touch so if you would like to take part in local musical events planned for church choir singers in our area, please email [Alison](#) so she can let you know about them directly. She looks forward to hearing from you!

TRAINING AND EVENTS



An Introduction to Pastoral Care

7-9pm on 3 Oct-28 Nov 2023 at The Centre for Training and Development, St Anne's Community Hall, Hemsworth Street, Hoxton, N1 5LF

Are you interested in caring for others, whether in a small group or visiting them at home or in hospital? Do you want to care for anyone at their point of need? This course will give you an insight into what pastoral care is all

about and what good practice looks like. Book [here](#).

The Churches and Reparations by Racial Justice Advocacy Forum

A conference focusing on reparations from a theological, economic and educational perspective. This gathering will take place at the Christian Aid offices in central London on 14 October 2023 from 1pm to 6pm. This free event is an opportunity to inform and equip churches with conversations linked to this important issue. Register [here](#).



RSCM Come and Sing Day with John Rutter

10am-4.45pm on 21 Oct 2023 at [St Botolph without Bishopsgate](#)

Come and sing directed by John Rutter with accompanist Alex Aitken. Music will be a range of choral music including some by John Rutter. Please [register](#) your attendance by 10 September. Sign up by 10 Sept by emailing [Jenny Dean](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

Clergy Study Day

9.30am-4.15pm on 23 November 2023 at Church House, Westminster

We warmly invite you to join us for a special Study Day on the Theme of Moving into Advent: Preparing to Welcome Christmas to provide a space for teaching, reflection and catching up with friends from across the diocese. We are delighted that Paula Gooder and Bishop Jonathan will be giving keynote talks and we shall be hosting a range of workshops for you to choose from. A hot buffet lunch will be served.





Sam Sharpe Project

for education, research and community building

Whitlands College, the University of Roehampton hosts

The Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture - 2023

**'From Sam Sharpe to Black Lives Matter:
The Continued Struggle for Black Agency and Self-Determination'**

delivered by

Professor Anthony Reddie

Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture

with

Dr Eleasah Louis - Lecture Facilitator

Wednesday 18 October - 7pm

with a Reception for all delegates afterwards

at: Whitlands College, Holybourne Avenue, London, SW15 4JD

This lecture is free, however due to limited capacity, please reserve your seat in advance at
www.baptist.org.uk/samsharpelecture

*"I would rather die upon yonder gallows,
than live in slavery."*

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