



## Edmonton Newsletter

November 2023

I don't know if you have seen the marvellous "[Way of Life](#)" materials that Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage has produced in her role as Diocesan Discipleship enabler. One of the tools that many have found useful down the centuries to develop their own spiritual growth has been the use of the Examen prayer at the end of the day. Reflecting on the day and the three questions to ask oneself:

- 1) Where have I seen glimpses of God's glory?
- 2) What is troubling me? (And what do I need to confess?)
- 3) What are my hopes and dreams? (And what do I want to ask from God now?)



The principle seems to go back to Genesis 3, in that well-known passage we will be hearing again at carol services next month:

*"They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees in the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"* Gen 3:8-9 NRSV

It comes after they have eaten the fruit they were commanded not to eat, and they have discovered they are naked – instead of wise as the serpent had promised, one of the first jokes in the Bible – but the setting implied is that this evening stroll was when the Lord God came to enjoy fellowship with the people He had made. And on this occasion the first question he asks of anyone recorded in the Bible is the spiritual question, "Where are you?" It is not as though the Lord doesn't know, but He is inviting Adam to articulate what has been going on in his life and invite him to come out of hiding and into openness with Himself.

But this idea of having a conversation with God at the end of the day – the time of the evening breeze, especially pertinent in a hot climate – suggests that God is interested in our days, and He comes looking for us – what have we done by way of work or otherwise, has there been a sense of achievement or disappointment, and what have we noticed in his creation, what is troubling us? It may be sometimes we hide from God; we are so busy we don't take time to be with him; it may be shame or guilt because of disobedience has made us hide from the joy of being with our Creator, but He comes looking for us. He asks us, "Where are you?" not because he doesn't know, but he wants us to know, that we have been so busy we have missed out on tipping out our day to the One who wants to hear, the One who wants to share life with us, the One who wants us to enjoy the world he has created, and notice and name the beautiful diversity of all He has made.



One of the ways I feel closest to God is when I go birdwatching, and sense that God enjoys my delight in the birds – and rest of nature – that He has created. I recently travelled on a day off to South Wales, to Briton Ferry, near Swansea, where an American Magnolia Warbler had turned up on a disused industrial estate, one of a large influx of American birds to western parts of Britain, blown across the Atlantic by some of the autumn storms. How this little bird survived a three-thousand-mile trip and ended up in South Wales will continue to amaze me.

I will be the first to admit that I don't spend time every evening like this with God. But He is inviting me to answer the question each day, "Where are you?" Have I been so immersed in working *for* God, that I haven't spent time *with* Him? Or have I not noticed what is around me, in nature and other people, as I have been too wrapped up in my own agendas?

We may not be in a position to go for a walk with God each evening in the cool of the day, but as part of our Way of Life, as individuals, and as churches, can we develop some practices that will enable us to notice God more, and that he is the One who is seeking us out. As we prepare for Advent and then celebrating the coming of our Saviour can we find in "Way of Life" some practices that will enrich our spiritual journey? And if God were to ask us, "Where are you?" what would we reply?

**The Revd Nigel Taylor – Area Director of Ministry**

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## EDMONTON EVENTS

### The Recovery Course

9.30am-4.30pm on 4 November 2023 at [St George the Martyr Holborn](#)

The Recovery Course Conference is the place for anyone passionate about making a difference in the lives of those who are struggling with addiction. Ignite your passion for addiction recovery with inspiring speakers, interactive workshops, and unparalleled networking opportunities. Whether you're exploring recovery ministry, already involved, or a curious learner, this conference is tailored to elevate your knowledge and connections. Tickets £10 – book [here](#).



### Licensing and Induction of Phil Ritchie

7pm on 30 November 2023 at [St Mary the Virgin Primrose Hill](#)

You are cordially invited to a Eucharist for the licensing and induction of Fr Philip Ritchie as Vicar in the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, followed by a reception. For members of the clergy wishing to robe, please bring a red stole for St Andrew and arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of the service. RSVP by 20 Nov 2023 to [office@smtvph.org.uk](mailto:office@smtvph.org.uk) or phone 020 7722 3238.

## CLERGY MOVES



### The Revd Jamie Haith

Jamie studied at Exeter University and trained for ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. He was ordained in 2004 and he served his title at Holy Trinity Brompton. Jamie's ministry then took him to the US where he was the Lead Pastor of Holy Trinity Church in McLean, just outside Washington DC until 2019 when he returned to the UK to serve as the Priest in Charge of St George the Martyr Holborn as well as an Area Sub-dean as of 2020. **Jamie will be licensed as the Rector of St George the Martyr on 6 Nov 2023.**

## NEWS

### Holy Trinity East Finchley Leads the Way to Net Zero

Churches in the Diocese of London (together with their church halls) saved 29.1% of their energy use and 47.6% of their carbon emissions from 2005 to 2022. Warm thanks to all the hard-working church staff and volunteers who have taken the time and trouble to enter their data into the Energy Footprint Tool. The greenhouse gases we're concerned about (CO2 and several others) are the main cause of global heating and climate change, which has become a very major crisis. We need to help tackle it, urgently.



The actual figures for 2022 were 57.1 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy and 11,900 tonnes of net CO2e, which means the carbon dioxide equivalent of all greenhouse gases emitted from electricity, gas and oil used by our churches. These results have been calculated from returns submitted this year to the Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool (EFT).



It is also possible to compare 2022 with the previous year (2021). Like for like, the improvements in one year were 4.3% of energy use and 13.5% in net carbon emissions. The reason for the difference in these efficiencies is that emissions from the electricity grid are quickly reducing. Therefore there would be savings in CO<sub>2</sub>e, even if the energy use was the same. But in fact, churches are making steady savings in their energy use from year to year, adding to their savings in carbon emissions.

This is very encouraging, as the Diocese of London works towards the Church of England's target of net zero carbon by 2030. Compared to 2005 (the first year the Diocese began measuring), our churches are nearly halfway to net zero! From now on, we're going to take 2021 as the base date for measuring savings towards net zero by 2030. So even one year from that baseline, measurable savings were made. 2023 will doubtless show further improvement.

Still, there's a long way to go, but we have the encouragement of knowing that we're heading in the right direction and picking up speed. Of course, 11,900 tonnes of net CO<sub>2</sub>e is a lot of emissions still to get rid of, or else balance with green energy tariffs or electricity exported from solar panels on church roofs. That's what net zero means. When we write 'net zero carbon' or 'net CO<sub>2</sub>e' we mean the balance, the difference between emissions and savings from green energy. That balance needs to go down to effectively zero.

To get an idea of what 11,900 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e looks like, it's what we're emitting from 490 churches and other places of worship in the Diocese. All of that CO<sub>2</sub> and several other gases goes into the air. But it would be enough to fill 1,700 Olympic swimming pools with CO<sub>2</sub>! You read that right, it's like 1,700 swimming pools full of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, just from energy used in our churches in one year!

That's a sobering thought. No wonder we're changing the climate. It's causing harm to God's creation, and a lot of suffering from extreme weather, floods, droughts and fires all over the world. That suffering bears mostly on the poor and vulnerable. That's why we take net zero so seriously, to reduce the harm to people and to God's creation, by striving to reach net zero carbon.

Many churches are getting close. We already have several churches in the Diocese that are effectively net zero. The closest we know of is Holy Trinity East Finchley at 0.2 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (that's 'De Minimis' – little enough not to worry about). This church has all electric light and heat (recently installed) and uses a 100% green tariff. Well done to Holy Trinity!

## Study Leave

### *The Revd Nigel Taylor, Edmonton ADM writes:*

A number of clergy have asked about study leave, which is what the Diocese calls sabbaticals. Stipendiary clergy who have been ordained for at least ten years can apply to have study leave, if approved by the Bishop, and ideally raised in their MDR. However, there are only four grants of £1500 for each Episcopal Area per year, towards the cost of study leave, and already grants for 2024 and 2025 have been allocated. Please plan at least eighteen months in advance or flag up with me which year you are hoping to take, and I can send you guidelines, some of which are on the Diocesan website. Please do not assume a grant is available when you want to take study leave. It may be possible still to take the study leave at the time you want, but a grant may not be available.



## Church Music London



The Royal School of Church Music area team has been relaunched as Church Music London. To join our mailing list please [email](#) giving your permission for your name, email address and mobile number to be stored and used to keep you in touch with music events in London. We'd like to encourage churches of all denominations to be in touch - all are welcome to our events!

**Young Voices Festival** (ages 7-18) 9 March 2024 in Finchley  
**St Paul's Evensong** in May 2024 - watch this space!



## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### Renew Wellbeing Event

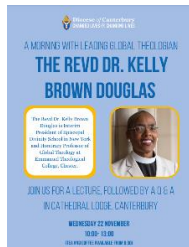
1-3pm on 9 November 2023 at Community Hall, Abercorn Place, NW8 9UT

Do you want to see mental and emotional wellbeing as a priority in your area?

Do you wish there was a quiet shared space where anyone could belong and

learn to pray? Come and find out more about setting up a simple wellbeing

space in your church. Meet others already renewing wellbeing. Hear from the founder Ruth Rice. Free training, resources and a cuppa. All Welcome! Book [here](#)



### Lecture and Q & A with the Revd Dr Kelly Brown Douglas

10am-1pm on 22 November 2023 in [Cathedral Lodge](#), Canterbury

Renowned theologian Revd Dr Kelly Brown Douglas, Ph.D. is Interim President of the Episcopal Divinity School. From 2017 to 2023, she was Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology. She also serves as the Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral and Theologian in Residence at Trinity Church Wall Street. Her academic work has focused on womanist theology, sexuality and the Black church. Book [here](#)

### 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. A hot buffet lunch will be served.



### Motherhood and Ministry - The Juggle

10.30am-12pm on 29 November 2023 online

"Early on in my ordained life, I was told by a well-meaning colleague, 'I think it's impossible to do what you are trying to do', in response to a particularly busy week that I was having - the seeming implication behind it being, I could not possibly be a wife and mum and a minister all at the

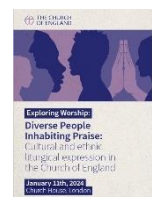
same time. Though my feminist spidy-senses were tingling, I wasn't all that surprised... That comment from my colleague, among countless others, has prompted me to write about the life of a ministry mum on many occasions... There is a place for ministry mums in the church and there are ways to make it work for you."

This is an extract from Jules Middleton's book "Breaking the Mould: Learning to Thrive as a Ministry Mum." In this seminar we will hear from Jules and Sophie Jelley (Bishop of Doncaster) about the juggle of being a mother in ministry. We will consider some of the pressure points and how to deal with them. Book [here](#)

### Exploring Worship – Diverse People Inhabiting Praise

10am-4pm on 11 January 2024 at [Church House](#), Westminster

Cultural and ethnic liturgical expression in the Church of England. This Racial Justice Unit's liturgical conference is aiming to promote dialogue between practitioners and academics on diversity and liturgy, it will offer a resource and experience-sharing platform on diversity, explore practical diversity strategies and encourage post-conference networking. Book [here](#)



### Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme

Starting January 2024

A chance for leaders and aspiring leaders from broad and diverse contexts to come together to learn how to instinctively think about children and young people in their mission and ministry. Through a careful blend of online and in person learning opportunities,

participants have the opportunity to grow in their leadership competencies and capacities, allowing God to deepen a sense of calling and future direction for local and regional contexts. Learning is embedded throughout the year-long programme in the form of 6 coaching sessions, residential and regional gatherings. Watch the video [here](#) or for more information click [here](#). You can find the application form [here](#).



# PIONEERS OF RACIAL JUSTICE

## The Church of England seeks to identify and celebrate its pioneers of Racial Justice

The struggle for racial justice remains a challenge. For centuries, campaigners have organised and undertaken important advocacy and educational work.

In more recent times, courageous churchwomen and men, along with some organisations and dioceses, have stood up and stepped forward to inspire, organise, and support activities that reflect the biblical imperative towards oneness in Christ.

Their efforts contributed much to the Church's deepening commitment to racial equality, diversity, and inclusion. Pioneers today, Black, White, brown, and otherwise, continue the work of those who paved the way with their lives, witness, and work. We should honour them.

Nominations of individuals and groups that have significantly contributed to racial justice in the Church, in any time period, should be sent by **30 November 2023** along with a 200-500-word biography including their Church-related activities to [racialjusticepioneers@churchofengland.org](mailto:racialjusticepioneers@churchofengland.org).

Events can be advertised in this publication and are done so on the understanding that they do not represent a specific view of the Edmonton Episcopal Area.