

# IN THE PEWS...

APRIL-MAY 2025



THE MAGAZINE FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
WITH ST PETER'S, LEE

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The photo on the front cover was taken at the weekly Ukrainian Coffee Morning when they were painting eggs in the Ukrainian Easter tradition of Pysanky.

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**The deadline for the June/July 2025  
In the Pews magazine is  
Thursday 22 May  
Articles submitted after this date  
cannot be guaranteed to be published.**

## Around the Parish

### Bridget's Back

Bridget will be back from her sabbatical at the beginning of April. She will be with us for the month of April including Palm Sunday and the Easter week services and culminating in a special "goodbye" service and party on 27th April celebrating her ministry at the Good Shepherd and St Peter's.

### Woolwich Episcopal Area Lay Conference.

This takes place on Saturday 5th April at Ark All Saints Academy, 140 Wyndham Road, SE5 between 10am and 4pm. There will be keynote speeches, workshops, market stalls, lunch and opportunities for praise and prayer for 150 lay leaders from across the Woolwich Area.

### Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

As part of our 6-yearly schedule, we are preparing a new Electoral Roll for 2025. This means everyone who wishes to be on the new Roll, which qualifies you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, must complete a new application form.

If you wish to be on the new roll, as we hope you will, please fill out an application form and return it to the Church Office by Thursday, 15 April 2025.

You can download the form from our website, and email it back to [office@goodpeter.org.uk](mailto:office@goodpeter.org.uk).

## Ukrainian Easter Eggs

At the final session of the Easter term of the Ukrainian Coffee Morning and language lessons, we all settled down to the traditional Ukrainian craft of Easter egg decoration. Pysanky is a traditional craft in Ukraine and Poland. The method is similar to batik - patterns are drawn on the egg with hot wax, which then protects the covered areas from the dye that is applied. The results are spectacular. The front cover of this magazine shows some of the work and the picture here shows some of the results.



**Christian Guided silent Meditation**

come to me  
all who are weary and are  
heavy laden,  
and I will give you  
rest

**MATTHEW 11:29**



Meditation sessions 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month,  
9-9.30 am, in the GS Office.  
All are welcome to seek some peace and escape from our busy life  
(involves a period 20 mins of silence).

## Everyone is invited to EASTER @the Good Shepherd

### Palm Sunday Service

Sunday 13th April - 10.30 am: Palm crosses and holy communion

### Reflections for Holy Week

Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th April, 7 - 7.45 pm

Services with guided meditations and a time for quiet

### Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Thursday 17th April, 8 – 9 pm

### Good Friday Family Activities

Friday 18th April, 10 - 11.30 am

### Good Shepherd Church Hall

Easter-themed activities suitable for 3 to 11s + coffee and hot cross buns

### Good Friday Reflective Service

Friday 18th April, 2 - 3 pm

A service of readings, reflections and music exploring the Good Friday story

### Easter Sunday Celebration Service

Sunday 20th April, 10.30 – 11.30 am

Followed by sparkling wine and an Easter egg hunt!

## Our Search for a New Vicar

As we mentioned before, Bridget, our beloved Vicar, has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Wandsworth! She'll be back from her Sabbatical at the end of March for our Easter celebrations. On her last Sunday, April 27th, we'll have a farewell service and party to bid her adieu. She starts her new job on April 28th.

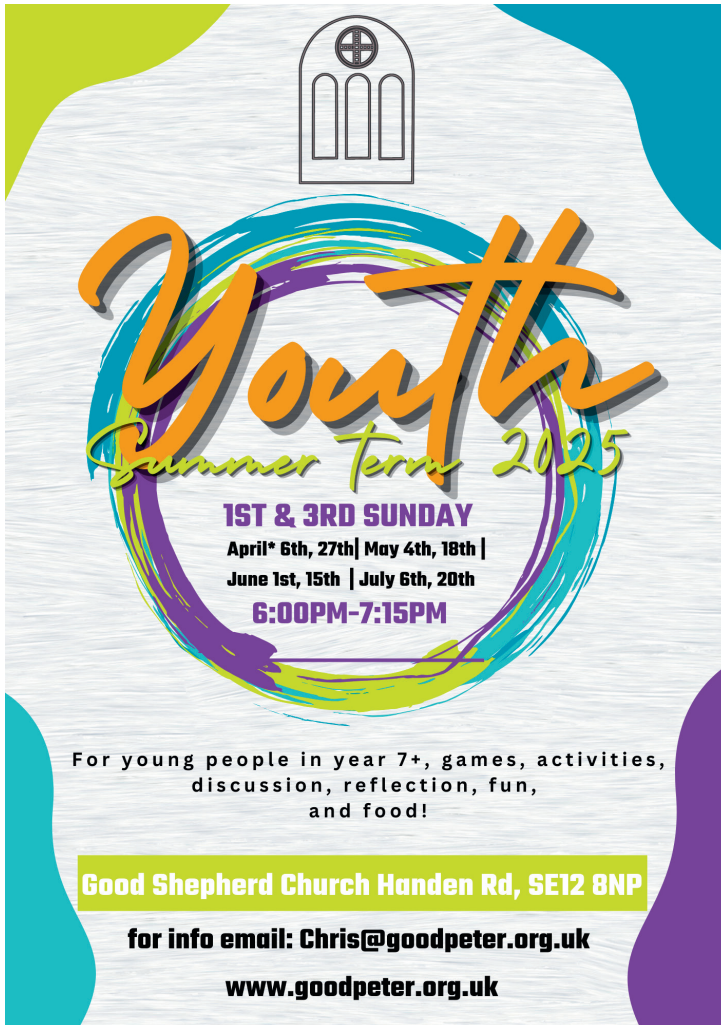
We had previously been told that we couldn't start looking for a new Vicar until Bridget is officially inducted as Archdeacon in July. But guess what? The Diocese has given us the green light to start earlier! We're planning to advertise in May. Our Mission Action Plan is all set, and Pete Burns is leading a team to write our Parish Profile. We'll discuss and

approve it by the PCC in early May.

Our main focus is still on finding a new Vicar who shares our inclusive values and builds on our recent growth.

Sue and James, our Wardens, on behalf of the PCC, want to thank everyone who's been helping us keep our mission and ministry going strong. So many of you are using your unique talents to do more than just keep things running smoothly. Take a look at this year's creative Lenten and Holy Week program - it's a true testament to the amazing gifts we have in our community.

Let us know if you have any questions or need more details. We're here to help!



The poster features a central graphic of a church window with a cross, surrounded by a circular brushstroke design in orange, blue, purple, and green. The word 'Youth' is written in large, orange, cursive letters, with 'Summer Term 2025' in smaller, green, cursive letters below it. The text '1ST & 3RD SUNDAY' is in purple, followed by dates in black: 'April\* 6th, 27th | May 4th, 18th | June 1st, 15th | July 6th, 20th'. The time '6:00PM-7:15PM' is in purple. At the bottom, a green box contains the address 'Good Shepherd Church Handen Rd, SE12 8NP' in white. Below that, 'for info email: Chris@goodpeter.org.uk' and 'www.goodpeter.org.uk' are in black.

**1ST & 3RD SUNDAY**  
April\* 6th, 27th | May 4th, 18th |  
June 1st, 15th | July 6th, 20th  
**6:00PM-7:15PM**

For young people in year 7+, games, activities,  
discussion, reflection, fun,  
and food!

**Good Shepherd Church Handen Rd, SE12 8NP**

**for info email: Chris@goodpeter.org.uk**  
**www.goodpeter.org.uk**

## Can You Help Us Repair the Church Wall?

If you've been to the Good Shepherd in the past year, you must have noticed that our boundary wall is in a poor state and badly needs some attention. Along the side of Wantage Road a 4-metre section has fallen over. Other parts of the wall need urgent repair to stop them from collapsing too.



We need your help to make this happen. We are blessed with this wonderful open lawn, which we love using for things like the Good Friday community event, and which is used by many other groups like the Scouts and Guides. But the state of the wall means the space is not secure for children's activities, while fallen bricks could present a trip hazard to people walking along the pavement. The church needs to rebuild the wall to make our space, and our local area, safer again.

Because of the age and structure of the wall, and because the church is in a Conservation Area, this does not come cheap. Rebuilding the wall and dealing with the foundations in Wantage Road will cost about £44,000 in total. There

are additional repairs we'd like to do on the Handen Road side costing £9,000, but that's not our initial focus.

We've used Good Shepherd Church funds to cover professional fees for around £5,000 to win the permissions, and the Church has been able to put aside a further £20,000 for the building work. As for the other £24,000, we hope to approach some Trusts for grants, but grants for a project like this are limited, and grant funders tend only to get involved in projects where there is already community support.

And so we're asking for your help. We've set up a donation site at [gofundme.com](https://gofundme.com), and we're asking you, our church community, to support the project as much or as little as you can.

The donation website has more details about the process and the costs, and a way to give by credit or debit card.

Very usefully, it also has a box you can tick to add Gift Aid to your donation, which raises our income by 25p from the tax man for every £1 given by you.

You can find the page at <https://gofundme.com/a2d29be4> or by using the QR code below. Thank you so much!

**gofundme**



Scan to donate to Nathan's fundraiser  
"Help us rebuild the Church of the Good Shepherd Garden Wall"

## Good Shepherd Youth Group

The Good Shepherd Youth Group meets on the first and third Sunday of each month and is for young people in transition to year 7 up to their 18th birthday. Youth is about owning our own faith, journeying in faith, and finding support from peers and the youth team. The highlights of this year have been our trip to the Reach climbing wall back in September 2024 and our youth church sleepover (think camping but inside and with a run of the church building) in March 2025. Before I became a priest, I had been a youth worker both inside and outside the Church, and so I find this time with the young people very



special. Still, you don't have to be a trained youth worker to walk alongside young people as they explore faith. It can be as easy as not taking yourself too seriously and being willing to say, "I don't know, but what do you think?"

Looking forward, we have the Bishop of Woolwich coming to lead our Pentecost service on the 8th of June which

will be a confirmation service, so we will start preparing our young people and any adults who want to be confirmed.

**Chris**

## Lay Ministry

Since 2019, the range of lay ministries has been significantly expanded in response to the Church of England's Report "Setting God's People Free" and Southwark Diocese's mission to be "Christ centred/ outward focused."

There are two new lay ministries: Pioneer ministers who work in the community - on estates, schools and in my own parish. Chris is a pioneer curate. Children's, Youth and Family Ministers work primarily in churches to nurture and grow the numbers of children and young people attending church.

Pastoral lay ministry has been expanded. As well as SPAs, now called Commissioned Pastoral Ministers, we have Licensed Pastoral Ministers who work either in or out of churches. And we still have Reader training.

The Diocese has also developed a third category of ministry- affirmed ministry - where lay people are chosen from within the local parish and trained by the parish or Deanery. The basic training includes pastoral care, listening skills and confidentiality. This is definitely the area that will be developed most in the future.

Cherry Murdoch is the Deanery Lay Champion. The task of Lay Champions is to encourage Lay Vocations and Lay Ministry generally, but the number one priority at present is to promote the range of training opportunities for lay ministry. If you think you might be interested, do have a word with Cherry.

## Pioneering

As a Pioneer Curate, part of my role is to reach out from the Church gathered in the building on Sunday and seek opportunities to join in with the wider community and with God. Then we might see what God is already doing and join in. By doing this we might just perhaps see an expression of Christian community form outside the church building.

In my wondering and listening, the church was approached by F.U.S.S (friends and users of Staplehurst shops) and the Station pub to start a charity pub quiz, which raises money for Afril (Action for Refugees



Lewisham) and the Helping Hands food bank. Because of the strong relationship, we have been able to run two lent book groups and a carol service in the pub, alongside starting an open mic night which brings joy through music and community.

**Chris**

## Our Fairtrade Stall - The Fairtrade Kitchen Cupboard

The Fairtrade stall at the Good Shepherd is part of our commitment to sustainable and fair trading relationships with individual and third world producers



**FAIRTRADE**

We hope to be running stalls after the morning service at the Good Shepherd on the following dates: Sundays 6 April, 27 April, 4 May and 18 May

Don't forget to stock up on fairtrade chocolate for Easter.

**Gail**

## Key Dates for the Period after Easter

**Sunday 27th April.** Farewell service and party for Bridget.

**Saturday 17th May.** Christian Aid Quiz.

**Thursday 9th June.** Ascension Day Service and confirmation with the Bishop of Woolwich.

## Sponsoring Church Flowers



Had you thought about sponsoring church flowers? This might be in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a particular event or maybe to remember an anniversary. The PCC decided that the cost of flowers should be no barrier to members of the congregation donating flowers. You need to send an email to Fiona the church administrator with your date and your message or dedication. Fiona handles the reminders about your donation which is entirely up to you as to how much you can afford. Fiona's email is [office@goodpeter.org.uk](mailto:office@goodpeter.org.uk)

If you want a particular type or colour of flowers this can be added to the email. You can always have a chat in church with one of us on this point as well. The flower team buy flowers either from a supermarket that sells British flowers in line with the Good Shepherds eco position or if your request is for a particular

flower that cannot be sourced from the supermarket we go to Tom Browns the wholesaler.

In order to keep the cost of flowers down we also use greenery from people's gardens so if you have a garden full of fantastic greenery let one of us know and we can give you a bucket that you can fill and bring back to church.

We have moved away from the large formal flower arrangements because the foam used takes years to break down and is not environmentally friendly but should you feel that you would like a large formal arrangement please let us know, as we still have everything we need to do some of these.

There is a team of us who work together to do the flowers, we are always open to extra hands especially if one of us is unable to do one week.

**The flower team Catrin, Jean and Pat**

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## Christian Aid Week

So much is changing in the world at the moment, but Christian Aid Week remains in its usual May slot. With international development and aid funding by governments of rich countries being slashed it's more important than ever to support the work Christian Aid does through its local partners around the world.





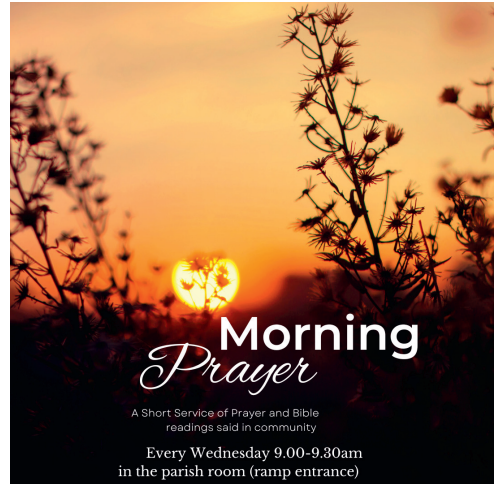
On Saturday 17th May we will hold a fundraising quiz at the Good Shepherd, starting at 7pm. As usual, teams of up to 6 people will vie for the top spot while enjoying bring-your-own snacks and drinks. No charge to take part, but plenty of opportunities to donate. All ages welcome, individuals, complete teams or anything in between. We'll aim to finish by 9.30. Reserve the date, register your interest without commitment by emailing [quiz@goodpeter.org.uk](mailto:quiz@goodpeter.org.uk), and/or maybe start setting aside items to offer as raffle prizes.

**John**

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### **Who to Contact While We Don't Have a Vicar**

Many people will know that Bridget, our Vicar, is currently on sabbatical and soon after her return will be leaving us to become the next Archdeacon of Wandsworth. It will be a while until a new vicar is appointed. In the meantime, there are strong teams in place such as the Ministry Team, the St Peter's



Management Group, the Eco Group, the Music Team, the Childrens' Church, the Youth Group and there are established or developing communication channels with the leaders of most of these teams. However, the Vicar was often the initial channel for communication so, for the moment, please address ministry and pastoral matters in the first instance to Chris as an Assistant Curate in Training or Cherry as Licenced Lay Minister, PCC issues to Pete Burns who will now chair PCC/Standing committee (or the PCC Secretary), and any other general issues to the wardens, Sue and James. Otherwise feel free to make contact via Fiona, our Parish Administrator, who can direct you to the right person.

You can find their contact details on the back page.

## Choral Evensong with the Hithertones

On February 9th we had a service of Choral Evensong at the Good Shepherd. The service was taken from the Book of Common Prayer (the Prayer Book) which in its current form has been with us since 1662. The original version was written in 1549 by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. Cranmer did not resign as Archbishop but he was burnt at the stake as a heretic during the reign of Mary I (1553 – 1558). However, his prayer book was reinstated by Elizabeth I only to be removed again by Oliver Cromwell during the Commonwealth (1649 – 1660). Cranmer's prayer book was again reinstated in 1662 following Charles II's restoration with minimal amendments and it has been with us ever since.

During the 1960s and 70s modern versions of the liturgy have been introduced in the Church of England and they have largely replaced the regular use of the Prayer Book.

However, in Cathedrals and at significant festivals the Prayer Book is still used, not least because the language is beautiful but also because many of the words and phrases have become familiar expressions in everyday language – think of till death us do part; cause or just impediment; for better for worse from the marriage service and man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live; earth to earth, ashes to ashes dust to dust; in sure and certain hope from the burial service.



But perhaps the main reason for the continued use of the Prayer Book is the fact that over the centuries much of it has been set to the most glorious music and for many the pinnacle of this combination of music, praise, worship and prayer is Choral Evening Prayer or Evensong.

We are fortunate at the Good Shepherd that not only do we have our very own band of musicians and singers but locally we have the Hithertones who practice regularly in our church. Many of us are familiar with them. They are a chamber-choir in size and their music is an eclectic mix. Founded in 2023 by Charlotte Brennan their sessions are dynamic, fast-paced events with varied music programming which enables them to perform in a variety of spaces... breweries, parks, cathedrals, pubs, churches, galleries, parties. Their eclectic mix includes liturgical singing and on three occasions now they have joined with the Good Shepherd singers to render Choral Evensong in all its glory. The latest of these was at 5.00pm on Sunday 9th February and was preceded by tea and home-made cakes.

The service lasted about 45 minutes and began with the choir processing in to Standing in the Need of Prayer a joyous African-American spiritual. This was followed by music from the 16th century (Thomas Tallis 1505 - 1585), the 17th century (Richard Ayleward 1626-1669), the 18th /19th century (Thomas Attwood

1765-1838) and the 20th century (George Dyson 1883-1964) Two of the prayers, said or sung at every service of Evensong are worth repeating. They are beautiful prayers and have a special relevance and resonance in today's troubled times:

The Collect for Peace

*O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

The Collect for Aid Against All Perils

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

Evensong is a service which can be enjoyed on many levels. The music, of course, is a big draw but the serenity of the language and its seeming timelessness gives it a truly spiritual dimension.

Our thanks to Charlotte and the Hithertones and our Good Shepherd singers and musicians. Please come again!

**Richard**

## Services at the Good Shepherd

Sunday morning service -  
10.30am

Wednesday morning service -  
9.00am Morning Prayer

Youth Group -  
First and Third Sundays - 6pm

Meditation Group - Second and  
Fourth Saturdays 9 - 9.30am



## CONTACTS

**Church Office** ..... 8318 5809..... [office@goodpeter.org.uk](mailto:office@goodpeter.org.uk)

**Revd Chris Henriette** .... 07300 223595..... [Chris@goodpeter.org.uk](mailto:Chris@goodpeter.org.uk)

### Parish Safeguarding Officer

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### Licenced Lay Minister

Cherry Murdoch..... [cherrymurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:cherrymurdoch@gmail.com)

### Wardens

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**For all other contact details please call the Church Office 8318 5809**