

IN THE PEWS...

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2025

WELCOME
TO OUR
NEW VICAR!
Sort of

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

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Editor’s Letter

Welcome back to “In the Pews”, the magazine for the Church of the Good Shepherd with St Peter. There’s been a bit of a gap since the last issue when I haven’t been very well but we’re back now all guns blazing. This is a slightly shorter edition than usual. Apologies to those areas of church life I haven’t been able to cover. It covers the period to the end of November and the next edition will put us back on our usual schedule. Thanks as usual to Alison for all her work putting the magazine together and to Fiona for the printing.

Peter

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The deadline for the December/January *In the Pews* magazine is Thursday 20 November
Articles submitted after this date cannot be guaranteed to be published.

Around the Parish

Wonderful News

Absolutely fabulous news for our parish! The Bishop of Southwark and the Patron of the parish have announced the appointment of The Reverend Christopher Henriette as the next Vicar of The Good Shepherd with St Peter’s, Lee.



Chris made it through a super competitive selection process and emerged as our new Vicar designate. Everyone is thrilled with the decision but, we still have a bit of a transition period ahead. Chris will officially become our Vicar next Spring or early summer, so that he can focus on this vital training/development year. In the meantime, Chris will continue as a “pioneer curate-in-training”.

Chris will lead us in services and ministry/pastoral issues and other activities but he will still need our support as he takes time to complete his studies and prepare for his new role. It’s also an opportunity for us to develop our own ministries within the church. We can think about where we see ourselves and what roles we want to play

in the future of our church, not just what we can do to help during the next few months.

For the moment, please address ministry and pastoral matters in the first instance to Chris or Cherry as Licenced Lay Minister, PCC issues to Pete Burns who will continue to chair PCC/Standing committee (or the PCC Secretary, John Murray), 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.

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Back to School

Join us on 7 September for an all age back to school service where we celebrate all the pupils returning to school and all the schools in the parish. Expect a lively service with lots of input from young people.

Another good reason for coming is that our church warden, James, is having a big birthday and word is that there is going to be a celebration after the service with some pretty special refreshments.

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Welcome to Daphne

A big welcome to Daphne, our very newest church member, who was baptized during morning worship on August 10th. Our prayers go out to her, her family and godparents.



Youth News

The Youth Groups resume for the Autumn term on September 21st with a trip out. Other dates for this term are 5th October, 19th October, 2nd and 15th November and December 7th.

There's going to be a new Year 11+ bible study group for older members with meetings on September 14th, October 12th, November 9th and December 14th.

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Bridget's Installation

Many people from the parish attended the installation as archdeacon of Wandsworth of Bridget, our former vicar at Southwark Cathedral in July. It was a truly joyous occasion. You'll

see a picture attached (photobombed by a much loved member of our congregation).

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Jo McCrone



Many congratulations to Jo McCrone who was ordained priest this July. Jo came from this parish where she was a much loved warden, instrumental in setting up the food bank among many other things. Jo still lives locally and is serving her curacy at St John The Baptist, Eltham.

Exciting News to Share about the Church Garden Boundary Wall.

You might have noticed that some repairs are already underway to the infamous wall. Well, here's the story:



After the original contractor backed out, a local builder, John Walsh, stepped up and offered a competitive bid with some clever cost-saving measures. With support from the diocesan architect, the archdeacon gave his approval, and work finally started! We've been working on preventative repairs on the Handen Road section first because it turned out that we really needed to do something to prevent a collapse like the one at Wantage Road. We originally thought that the Handen Road wall was 'A stitch in time saves nine'! And we'll be starting work on Wantage Road in September.

Our thanks for all your amazing fundraising efforts, including the GoFundMe appeal, digging into church reserves and grants, we've managed to cover our original target! We're so grateful to all 47 GoFundMe donors who stepped up and supported us and to those who gave some fantastic donations directly to the church.

On top of that, we've got some incredible contributions from the Rainbows, Guides, FUSS Fair, and SMAG (a local

artists group). And to top it all off, we received a £5,500 grant from a successful application to the Benefact Trust.

All this amazing support means we can confidently go ahead with the works. We're still open for contributions to the Handen Road stretch target, but we're confident that we'll have the money by the time the project is complete.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us on this long and sometimes challenging journey. We couldn't have done it without you!

The Good Shepherd of the Hills *James and Cherry wrote from their holiday in America:*

We stopped off at Cave Creek Arizona when driving from Phoenix to Flagstaff. The nearest inclusive Episcopal Church turned out to be The Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church which felt like a sign. The Good Shepherd turned out to be a little higher than our Good Shepherd but very warm and friendly. Barbara, the chief welcomer filled us in over coffee and food. Their congregation loved bringing in food to have in coffee hour. It was quite a brunch!

The Rector has been in post for a year. Before that the Parish was in vacancy for 3 years which was a challenging time but the Church is recovering well. The Rector, Jill, sends her best wishes to The Good Shepherd Lee.

The Good Shepherd of the Hills lost some more conservative members to nearby Christ Church Anglican Church, a conservative traditional parish, part of a breakaway Anglican Province from the



Episcopal Church but had gained some from Christ Church when that church had broken away and were now seeing some other members return since the Good Shepherd vacancy was filled.

The Rev Jill's sermon emphasised the need not just to keep the rules of the faith but to speak up for those who could not speak up for themselves. A brave message in today's environment in the states. She sees that the church's role is to be a place where living stones are turned to have their rough edges smoothed. In a divided society the prophetic way is possibly the middle ground.

As another inclusive church we can draw hope from their experience and perhaps pray for each other.

This could become a series of articles. Does anyone else have contacts at another Good Shepherd?

St Mary's Lewisham Open Days

St Mary's Lewisham are running a series of open church days between 13 and 21 September with a chance to visit areas that are not fully accessible to the public. Find out about the historic architecture of the church.

- As well as guided tours and static displays, presentations and recitals will also be given by other community groups linked with St Mary's Church. More information from the church website or heritageopendays.org.uk.



Saturday Meditation Sessions

- Our regular meditation sessions will continue through the autumn. They are on the second and fourth Saturdays in the month, 9 - 9.30am, in the Good Shepherd Church Office (the blue door opposite Wantage Rd). Come and join us for any session, or to find out more about it beforehand please contact Barbara (barbara.bird09@btinternet.com / 020 8463 0988). Each session includes a twenty minute period of silence. Watch out for additional sessions as we come up to Advent.

Pub Quiz

- The Church's pub quiz is back for the Autumn term at the Station pub. The next one is on Tuesday 9 September. The team of Chris, John Bramson and Simon Frewin and Phil Wood will be there running the quiz on the second Tuesday of each month fostering connections in the community, spreading the word and making sure everyone has a good time. If you haven't been there, give it a go.

Open the Doors

We are finally making some progress on the ‘Give to Go Green’ church doors project to draught proof the lobbies at the back of church and make the doors by the ramp wheelchair accessible.



The proposal is to rehang the outer doors which are draughty and to replace the inner doors with new oak veneered solid core doors with glass panels to allow visibility into the church. The lobby doors into church by the ramp will be power assisted with a push button for wheelchair users.

We have had a number of delays on this project due to issues with quotes for the work, but we now have acceptable quotes and have received a grant from the Marshall’s charity of £8,000 towards the work in addition to the £7,000 from our fund raising and the “Give to Go Green” grant matched funding.

We expect the work to start by the beginning of September with the fitting

of the doors, followed by the work on automating the accessible doors in October. Once this work is completed we can look to redecorate the lobbies, funded from the normal maintenance budget.

Lee Green Open Studios

Every November the Good Shepherd hosts ‘Lee Green Open Studios’ – an event which showcases the work of local artists, craftspeople and makers. It’s a brilliant opportunity to welcome hundreds of people into church, who wouldn’t otherwise come into our buildings.

This year Open Studios takes place on the weekends of Saturday and Sunday 15th – 16th and 22nd – 23rd November, from 12 – 5pm each day. If you’ve never been before, people display their work in both the hall and the church – even in the choir stalls and pews! To help make people feel welcome, we also offer refreshments during Open Studios. This is a way of us showing off our baking skills, generating some funds for church, and encouraging people to take a bit of time to enjoy some hospitality.

One of the best things about Open Studios, is seeing local people - who are not regular church-goers - feeling so welcome and at home in their parish church. It’s also a great opportunity to invite people to come back again at Christmas.

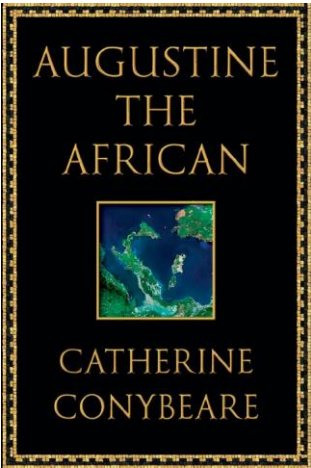
As in previous years, we'd LOVE some help over the two Open Studios weekends. We need people to donate homemade cakes, make and serve refreshments, help run the Fairtrade Stall, and to open up and lock up. Please listen out for more information in the notices, and then you can sign up via our online sign up sheet. Alternatively, let James or Sue know if you'd like to help out.

In previous years Open Studios has also been a great way for church members to get to know one another better as they've spent an hour in the kitchen serving cake and washing up. Plus, you might manage to get a bit of Christmas shopping done at the same time!

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Augustine the African by Catherine Conybeare

Augustine of Hippo is one of the world's most influential theologians, an early Christian writer whose work shaped the course of Western philosophy. Born in Numidia in 354 CE, Augustine's African



identity has long been painfully denied. But it was foundational to his thinking and faith. Now, world-renowned scholar Catherine Conybeare traces Augustine's travels from North Africa to the European continent and back again, placing his African origins firmly at the centre of his story.

What follows is a tale of exile, faith and identity. Augustine the African upends conventional knowledge about one of Christianity's most celebrated early fathers, and recentres Africa as the locus of early Catholic intellectual activity - with Europe on the periphery.

You can hear Mary Beard in conversation with Catherine Conybeare at Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday 6 September at 6pm, entry £6.

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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).

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



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