

## Edmonton Newsletter

April 2024

“What a Difference a Day Makes” was sung by Dinah Washington in her evocative and beautiful voice in 1959 adapted to English by Stanley Adams some 20 years after it was first composed by the Mexican songwriter Maria Grever. Maria did not live to hear Dinah take her song and give it the universal popularity it enjoys today and continues to inspire numerous cover versions by others over the years.

*What a difference a day made  
Twenty-four little hours  
Brought the sun and the flowers  
Where there used to be rain  
My yesterday was blue, dear  
Today I'm part of you, dear  
My lonely nights are through, dear  
Since you said you were mine*

As we continue to celebrate the day that made all the difference to this world, and to our lives, the day that continues to bring change to those who follow us, the words of this song capture something of the longing and desire that for many in our world cannot be met by the substitutes for God that have been embraced by so many. The poignant longing within Dinah's voice connects with the desperate longing of many in a world of violence, hopelessness and death and can be heard to be a love song for the one who in “24 little hours” changed my “yesterday's blues”.



As Mary Magdalene seeks to embrace our Lord in the early light of the first 24 hours of Easter, through the tears of her loss and grief, she is prevented by our Lord from touching him. I have always wondered how a moment so open to an interpretation of cruel indifference to the obvious distress and need of another for physical reassurance is never less recorded by St John in his account of Easter.

Surely the image of one who has lost everything, who faces a future without her Lord, and for whom her natural reaction upon realising he is now standing before her can resonate with our deep longing for a happy end to any story or drama of life but here the end is not an hope-filled embrace but with the words from the risen Jesus “Do not touch me”. How do I reconcile this with the God-in-man who touched those others scorned, who touched the unclean dead, who allowed another woman to touch him and anoint him, who took with a gentle touch, as many of us as clergy will have done on Maundy Thursday, the feet of his disciples as a sign of his love for us and gave us the commandment to do the same for one another.

The lyrics of the song “since you said you were mine” seem to mock the encounter between Mary Magdalene in the dawn of a new day, by not allowing for these words to be followed by the action encapsulating the most human of needs – an embrace when “yesterday was blue and the lonely nights were through”.

Understanding this encounter as a sign, St John's gospel is full of signs, may bring an answer to my dilemma. For what this encounter, this thwarted embrace signifies is that Mary belongs with her Lord but now in a different way. Having heard her own name spoken Mary realised that no longer is she in the presence of a gardener, or a stranger, but she is once again in the presence of Jesus who has fulfilled his Father's desire, broken the power

of evil and is now glorified as promised in the preceding chapters of the gospel. The moment of belonging is for Mary Magdalene the moment of knowing that amidst the “sun and flowers” a new relationship with Jesus is now opening before her.

It is in his commentary on John’s Gospel that Prof David Ford reflects on this encounter between Mary Magdalene and the Risen Jesus. He observes “There is a new form of relationship with Jesus, no longer based on physical contact and seeing him in the flesh. Instead, there will be an ongoing permanent relationship with him in his relationship with the father”. The evidence for this claim is in the content of the message that she is now charged with delivering to the disciples, her brothers, and for which she was viewed and described by St Thomas Aquinas as “the Apostle of the Apostles”. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Could it be that what I crave in this life is to be found in Jesus and the Father, My God and your God and the embrace, the physical reassurance of belonging is to be found in his community of believers? If this is so then it is in this embrace, this belonging that I become part of “the rainbow before me” and the truth is once again affirmed in the last halting words of Dinah Washington “What a difference a day made and the difference is you, is you, is you.”

I pray that we will continue to discover that it is the embrace and holding of each other that we best show the love of God in Christ Jesus in this world. As we continue to live in a time of deep unhappiness within the church, a time of fragmentation in our communities with competing claims for truth, I hope and pray that we can still find a way to love as we have been commanded by washing each other’s feet, as we strive to serve our Lord.

The Ven John Hawkins – Archdeacon of Hampstead

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## EDMONTON EVENTS



### 2024 Common Fund Meetings

7pm on 16 May 2024 by [Zoom](#) or 7pm on 29 May 2024 by [Zoom](#)

The Common Fund is about every parish seeing itself as part of the big picture and giving generously and sacrificially. The Diocese of London is big: we represent over 400 parishes, serving over six million people. The Common Fund pays clergy wages, their pension, their housing, their training and it even pays for the training of a parish’s next vicar. For more information about the Common Fund please click [here](#). This year there will be two online meetings to talk about the 2025 Common Fund and you are welcome to attend either meeting.

### 2024 Churchwardens’ Commissioning Ceremonies

This year there will be four ceremonies, one in each Deanery. The ceremonies will be joint events to “Celebrate Edmonton” with the Edmonton Director of Mission and **will be attended by the new Bishop of Edmonton**. All are welcome!

BARNET: 7pm on Thursday 11 July 2024 at [St John West Hendon](#)

CAMDEN: 6pm on Monday 1 July 2024 at [St Mary Magdalene Munster Square](#)

ENFIELD: 7pm on Monday 15 July 2024 at [St Luke Clay Hill](#)

HARINGEY: 7pm on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at [St Andrew Alexandra Park](#)



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## CLERGY MOVES



### The Revd Simon Walsh

Fr Simon was educated at Manchester University and he trained for ministry at St Mellitus College. He was ordained in 2016 and he has served since as an NSM Assistant Curate at St Anne Highgate alongside his career spanning strategic communications, public relations, advertising, lobbying, and crisis management. **Fr Simon will be licensed as an NSM Assistant Curate of St Augustine with St John Kilburn on 18 April 2024.**

## NEWS

### All Saints Edmonton Attracts Funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The PCC of All Saints Edmonton is delighted to have been awarded a grant of £215,833 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to support their project 'Reviving All Saints in the Community.' The project seeks to revive and develop relationships between All Saints and wider Edmonton communities, improving the PCC's understanding of local need, and involving a wide range of people in the delivery of the NLHF project. The goal is to establish an inclusive and sustainable future for the historic Grade II\* listed church, based on local need and support.



The project will deliver a range of heritage activities, including opportunities for young people to gain transferrable skills, enhance their CVs and engage in heritage workshops on building maintenance and stonemasonry. An oral history strand will capture 'Windrush' memories, and first impressions of All Saints- its ancient fabric and light filled interior- and reflections on what the building has come to mean to that community now. Year 5 pupils will be given an opportunity to learn about migration and will receive guidance on how to confidently interview an older generation. Urgent stonework repairs will be undertaken to the South chapel parapet, during which the community will be invited to learn more about the approach.

All Saints is Grade II\* listed and included on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. Dating from the 15th century, it represents the ancient heart of Edmonton, and contains fine monuments, 19th century wall paintings and stained glass. An Open Day, Community Meal and volunteer research project will give as many as possible an opportunity to enjoy and understand its beauty, history and heritage.

The project has had welcome support from the Diocese of London Parish Property Team and attracted local funding from the Enfield Society; the Ecclesiastical Charities of John Wild of Edmonton & Others; and Untold Edmonton, a major cultural engagement initiative for communities within Enfield.

**The Ven John Hawkins, Archdeacon of Hampstead, said:** "All Saints Church is one that is committed to reaching out and working for the transformation of their community with its many challenges. The grant of £215,833 from the Heritage Fund is valuable recognition of All Saint's desire and hard work to do this. Through maintaining and celebrating the historic fabric of Edmonton this project will ensure that the valuable church building can remain open for future generations to enjoy and benefit from. It will also help to realise All Saint's vision for the lives of local people, in particular young people, to be transformed, including by honouring the contribution of those who came with their energy and hopes to this community, at a time of significant need and change - the Windrush generation."

**Mother Roxane Liddell, Vicar and Chair of the PCC, said:** "Everyone at All Saints is delighted that The National Lottery Heritage Fund has supported our project. The grant will allow us to continue to build stronger links with our partners and the community as well as creating a space where a record of the lived experiences of the Windrush generation is explored and recorded through our intergenerational project. There will also be opportunities for young people to gain life skills, which they can take with them as they move from education into the workforce, university or apprenticeships. The grant will allow us to begin addressing the urgent repairs needed to ensure All Saints continues to be a place of welcome for all living and visiting Edmonton. All Saints has been part of Edmonton for nearly 900 years and we are grateful to the National Lottery players for their help in ensuring it remains a special place for all."



**Dave Cockle, Chair of The Enfield Society, said:** "Our Society works to conserve and enhance the heritage and environment of our borough. Both the building and the community of All Saints are an important part of the heritage and social fabric of Edmonton, and we are delighted that this has been recognised by the Heritage Fund. We are very pleased to be supporting a project which will enhance the church itself and make its rich history and significance better known."

## Youth Work and Adult Art for Wellness Outreach at St Augustine Grahame Park

**Esperanza Walsh, Youth Worker at St Augustine Grahame Park writes:**

It all started five years ago, when we received a grant from the Laing Family Trusts. Owing to this generous donation, our youth work and adult art for wellness outreach has proven very fruitful for the past few years. We engaged with people in the community through art activities for children and for adults. From a small number of participants, in our after-school watercolour workshops, Sunday school and art for wellness for adults, we now have a stable number of attendees and are still growing in number. We have now good friends from Orion Primary School and Beaufort Part estate, both of them are part of our 'mission of love'. We are trying to circulate 'the Christian brand', the joy and fellowship of the Kingdom of God.



Changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic proved to be very challenging but we remained committed and quickly adapted the delivery of our programs to an online platform. At the time, we made the recordings of these workshops available online through our YouTube channel. When the lockdown eased, we migrated the programs back to face-to-face delivery to cater for the needs of the community. All this is partnership with one of the mission enablers from the diocese, Philip, who lives in Beaufort Park. We developed a good relationship with the estate management, and Saint Augustine's church became part of the local life (concerts, workshops). These activities also created a small adult community, which regularly meets in the local pub (Beaufort's Young), or in our 'Bible Mental Health Wellbeing Group'.

Christian values are at the forefront of all of our activities. These activities are geared to encourage and support inclusivity and develop the creative gifts God has given us. It is wonderful to 'play together' as God's children. All this can give some ideas how to engage with the 'unchurched' by addressing young parents with children, or adults, living in old or modern housing estates.

## GMH/UKME Mentors Urgently Needed



Mentoring is crucial in the development and growth of individuals, regardless of vocation. The Racial Justice Unit is looking to identify GMH/UKME mentors to guide and support GMH/UKME lay leaders and ordained ministers in navigating the challenges and complexities of their vocational journey. Individuals with at least five years of ministry or lay persons with the relevant experiences are invited to apply. Those interested should contact [racialjusticeunit@churchofengland.org](mailto:racialjusticeunit@churchofengland.org) for further details. An orientation and training programme will be provided to those with the qualities that enable them to fulfil this role effectively.

## Could You or Someone You Know Become a Youth Apprentice?

The Apprentice Programme aims to develop missional activities among children and youth by training up new people from within church communities across the Diocese of London over the course of three years. Apprentices are employed by the Diocese of London, and work under the direction and support of a church's leadership team to begin, establish or develop the youth and/or children's ministry in that church. Apprentices also study Theology, Ministry and Mission with Ridley London, the London training centre of Ridley Hall Cambridge. They are paid the London Living Wage and gain valuable experience of church ministry with children and young people.



We've opened recruitment for 10 new youth and/or children's apprentices to start training this September. Apprentices receive three years of learning on the job, growing their confidence and skills whilst making an impact. The best bit is that apprentices pay nothing towards getting their Cert HE in Mission and Ministry with Ridley London. The programme is open to churches in the Diocese of London with someone already in mind from their community. You can find out more and apply [here](#) and hear a snippet from some of the current apprentices. Deadline for applications from church and candidate: Friday 26 April 2024.



## TRAINING AND EVENTS



### National Estates Churches Network Meeting

1pm on 16 April 2024 online

Join the National Estates Churches Network London Local Group Meeting at 1pm on Tuesday 16 April 2024. This is an opportunity for everyone involved in social housing estate ministry within the M25 to grab a virtual coffee and share the joys and challenges of estate ministry. Book [here](#)

### Using your Buildings for Mission

10am-4pm 17 April 2024 at [London Diocesan House](#) for Clergy

This session is designed to think through the practical realities of having a building as well as viewing its missional possibilities. Speakers: the Ven Peter Farley-Moore, the Ven Luke Miller, Diocesan registrar team, LDF property team, Diocesan Disability enabler and Alison Moulden, Westminster Churches Net Zero Officer. Please bring a packed lunch. Book [here](#)



### Not Equal Yet – A WATCH Conference

9.30am-4.45pm on 20 April 2024 at [St John Waterloo](#)

Women have been ordained as priests in the Church of England for 30 years now but churches can still say no to women applying to be their vicar and they can still say no to having a bishop who is either a woman or a man who has ordained women. We believe that it is time to find a generous way to bring the arrangements that permit ongoing institutional discrimination against women to an end. At the conference, our speakers will be reflecting on this proposition. The programme is available [here](#) and to book please click [here](#).

### Finding Home: Christian Responses to Homelessness

10am-2pm on 23 April 2024 at [St Mark Kennington](#)

Do you support those who experience homelessness, or are you interested in starting a ministry in this area? If so, you are warmly invited to this face-to-face event which provides an opportunity for church communities and chaplaincies across the Dioceses of London & Southwark to come together to reflect on provision for those who experience homelessness. This event will be hosted by the Diocese of London's [Compassionate Communities Team](#) and the Diocese of Southwark's [Together Southwark](#). There is no charge for this event, and EVERYONE is welcome. For more information and to book your place, click [here](#).



### Listening for God's Call: A Vocations Day for Women

11am-3pm (lunch provided) on 27 April 2024 at [St Botolph without Aldgate](#)

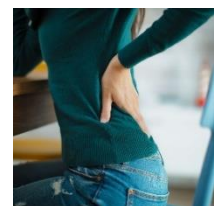
A Vocations Day for women beginning to explore the call to ordained ministry. The day will include a reflection on ministry by the Bishop of Stepney, an introduction to the discernment process and workshops. For more information and booking please click [here](#).

- Diversity in ministry
- Being single in ministry
- Motherhood and ministry
- Moving into ministry from a career elsewhere
- College life and study

### Living with Back Pain in Ministry

10am-12.30pm on 30 April 2024 at [London Diocesan House](#) for Clergy

Back pain affects one-third of the UK adult population and can lead to depression and frustration. The session will discuss strategies to live positively with back pain, including pacing daily routines, posture, ergonomics, movement, stretches, and psychological strategies. The session will also address managing back pain in ministry. Revd Cara Lovell, Director of Ministry, will lead the session, which will have a waiting list. Book [here](#)





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