

Edmonton Newsletter

December 2023

On Thursday 16th of November over 25 parish administrators across the Edmonton Episcopal Area gathered for an annual training day. It was a day that had a mixture of presentations alongside opportunities to network, share stories and refresh a long-standing WhatsApp group that was created a few years ago (if you wish to join ask my PA for details).

[Parish Buying](#) gave a presentation on resources that can be made available to parishes through the power of collective bargaining across the whole Church of England. Those attending felt that the resources offered around utilities and the energy basket, training courses that PCCs might find helpful such as GDPR, and charging points for vehicles were of most interest and help as parishes struggle to reduce the costs associated with ministry from office supplies to the supply of gas and electricity.



Felix Atkin, founder and CEO of [Sharesy](#), was with us along with Andrew Johnston from The Engine Room, to look at ways of generating more income from our churches and halls. Many parishes are seeking to maximise the income from their spaces, and it was good to hear first-hand the experience of The Engine Room who has done this! They also felt that each new hall and building user is a partner in the work of the parish in communicating the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Sharesy is a digital platform that seeks to build communities with the Diocese of London churches, improving and maximising income through marketing and supporting venue hire in our churches and church halls. Sharesy is number one on Google for “hall hire” in London, with 15,000 visitors to the platform per month. Felix was able to demonstrate the platform in use and share how many churches have not just increased their income from their halls but also reduced the pressure and demand to organise this either through the parish administrators or volunteers.

Graham Cook, Churchwarden at Christ Church Southgate, led an interactive session exploring the challenge that faces many of us in our parishes in terms of growing the volunteer base, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in many former volunteers no longer being available. Graham shared the experience of Christ Church who conducted an audit on the areas of church life where volunteers are needed and identified the time and talents that their parishioners have to offer. This created a culture in which a conversation can take place that has helped demystify the world of volunteers, thereby helping to build up the capacity within the church community to share the load of ministry and begin to find the joys that come from volunteering.

December is upon us and the round of extra services for Advent and Christmas will put added strain on leadership teams, volunteers and clergy, but with this also comes an opportunity to reach out into a world that has been shaken by violence and war, with acts of love that flow from the altar and pulpit of our churches. A blessed Christmas to you all!

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.

The Ven John Hawkins – Archdeacon of Hampstead

CLERGY MOVES



The Revd Lucy Winkett

Lucy studied at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and trained for ministry at Queen's College, Birmingham. She was ordained in 1995 and she served her title at St Michael and All Angels, Little Ilford, in the Diocese of Chelmsford. She then served as Canon Precentor and Chaplain of St Paul's Cathedral and has been the Rector of St James Piccadilly since 2010. **Lucy was also licensed as Priest in Charge of St Pancras Euston Road on 29 November 2023.**



The Revd Nicholas Pye

After studying history at UCL, serving as an intern in a parish in Coventry, completing a PGCE and teaching for eight years, Nicholas trained for ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. He was ordained in 1998, serving his title in Guildford Diocese. After a second curacy at Holy Trinity Wealdstone (Willesden Area), Nicholas became Vicar of St Paul's Finchley in 2003. **He will resign this post on 31 December 2023, joining the team of Educational Consultants who support church schools in the Diocese of St Albans.**



The Revd Carol Barrett Ford

Before training for priesthood, Mthr Carol worked in education for 25 years, training as a teacher in Ireland. She went on to serve two deputy headships before the call to ordination. Mthr Carol trained at Cranmer Hall, Durham, and served her curacy in inner city Newcastle upon Tyne. She then served as chaplain to St John's College, Cambridge, and has been the Vicar of St Martin Gospel Oak since 2019 as well as the Area Dean of Camden since 2022. **Mthr Carol will be licensed as the Vicar of St John at Hampstead on 21 January 2024.**

NEWS

Reflections from the Edmonton Parish Administrators' meeting

Colin Short, Parish Administrator of Christ Church North Finchley writes:

When I first arrived at the Parish Administrators' annual meeting I met Vava Tsioupra, Operations Manager at Christ Church Cockfosters, and as we chatted it didn't take us long to get onto the subject of church buildings. As he spoke of the amount of time he spends on building issues it struck me how I underplay the time spent on keeping two ageing buildings maintained and running. It made me realise that when parishes recruit Parish Administrators, their role in helping maintain the buildings has to be front and centre of any job advertisement, and that if a prospective applicant doesn't like buildings, contractors and wellies, it might not be the job for them!



I was also blessed by the quiet, gentle presence of Wilson Haagen, Operations & Development Manager at St Mary Kilburn and St James West Hampsted, who sat next to me at our table. We spoke about CCTV, and he showed how he could access the CCTV cameras at his church from his phone. This engendered two immediate responses in me, the first was my brain saying, "Yes, I want that", yet at the same time my heart was shouting, "NOOO!" One of my first jobs when I took up my post in the midst of the Covid epidemic was to move all church systems online and, seemingly by default, onto my phone, thus the work of the church moved out of the office and into my life. No more closing the office door and leaving it all behind at the end of the day as, if I forget to silence my CloudPhone at the end of the day, the calls will keep getting through.

I love my role as Parish Administrator but I know that I can easily forget to stop, and in this job there is never enough time to do everything that needs to be done! I am slowly rebuilding boundaries where I can. I also realise that having the office on my phone has affected how I holiday. I now choose a place without WIFI, or a place such as a retreat house where WIFI is available but the use of a phone seems irrelevant. Food for further reflection there.

It was also good to hear a second presentation from Andrew Johnston, Operations Director at The Engine Room. When I was first given one of his brochures at a previous meeting, I was hit by a wave of shame at what I felt was the meagre amount I was able to achieve at work. Time and reflection have changed my view and I accept that I am doing my best with the time and resources available to me. So, a trip to Tottenham to look, learn and share from all that is being achieved at The Engine Room now feels like an exciting possibility!

Spare Pew Bibles Needed



Pew Bibles Needed for Bible Studies! St Michael at Bowes Church is looking for spare pew bibles ideally NIV, NRSV or ESV versions. Any number of available bibles are appreciated. Thank you! If you have any to spare please contact Fr Engin Yildirim, Team Vicar of St Michael at Bowes on engin.yildirim@veritas-account.com.

The Revd Anthea Carmichael Opens London Gala Celebrating Nation of Grenada

The Revd Anthea Carmichael, Vicar of St Catherine's Church, Neasden, who is of Grenadian descent, led the opening prayer at a London Gala celebrating the nation of Grenada. The Grenadian Prime Minister's Gala showcased the talent and achievements of Grenadians living in the UK, highlighting the historical ties between the two nations. The event began with a prayer which demonstrated the importance of faith to the Grenadian community, before the Prime Minister of Grenada, The Honourable Dickon Mitchell gave his keynote speech.



The event brought together Grenadians across a variety of fields including art, literature, music and business. Attendees included ministers, ambassadors, high commissioners and business leaders, with live performances from a variety of Grenadian singers and bands including the Metronomes Steel Orchestra and Saxman Justyn.

The Revd Carmichael said: "I am humbled and honoured to have led the prayer at the Prime Minister's UK Gala for Grenada. As the daughter of two Grenadians and someone who embodies the fusion of two distinct cultures, this event held great significance in celebrating a sense of belonging for the Grenadian community in the UK. Faith has played an essential role in uniting both British and Grenadian communities, and through prayer we can embrace our shared values and aspirations."

Roy McEwen, Chair of the UK Gala Committee commented: "The Revd Anthea Carmichael's presence symbolises the strong bonds second and third generation Grenadians have with Grenada and the untapped power of individuals to bridge cultures. This event is a celebration of shared heritage and a testament to the contributions of Grenadian individuals like Reverend Carmichael to the UK and Grenada."

TRAINING AND EVENTS



Exploring Worship – Diverse People Inhabiting Praise

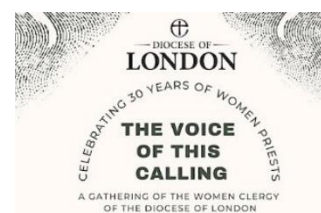
10am-4pm on 11 January 2024 at [Church House](#), Westminster

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](#)

Gathering of London Women Clergy

6.30-9pm on 24 January 2024 at [St Mellitus College](#)

An evening organised by the Deans of Women's Ministry in the Diocese of London. Join us in celebrating 30 years of women priests! Welcome and worship by Bishop Sarah, celebration and fellowship, with Paula Gooder talking about hearing the voices of women in the Bible and the Church. Book [here](#)





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faith

STRATEGIC LEADERS' PROGRAMME

Cohort 3 January 2024

£549 (+VAT)

Watch the video here



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Any questions?

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