

Edmonton Newsletter

February 2024

In the Sunday School that I lead we've been looking at parables this term. It's been really fun to be honest, I work with the years 5 & 6 (9-11-year-olds in old money) and as ever, I have been amazed at the insights that they are able to find in such familiar text. We work simply, just opening a Bible each, reading the story and working through some simple questions. Questions such as "what's your favourite part of this story", which is more than enough to get a discussion going, and off we go!



This week's discussion included the questions "Why would a good parent say yes to a ridiculous request such as 'Could I have my inheritance before you die?'" , "Have you ever felt like your sibling didn't get the telling off they deserved?" , and a really interesting thought, whether eating pig food would have been enough to make you swallow your pride and go back to the family farm. There were some bold claims made by one of the children who said they would be sticking it out much longer! To be honest I'm still thinking about some of the conversation. My understanding of the story has been deepened for having talked about it with some people who see the world differently to me, who in fact have brains that are wired differently to mine.

At times like this I am reminded of something that Jerome Berryman said. When asked what a church would be like without children he said: "It would be difficult for the adults to worship as there would be no one to show them how to enter the Kingdom of God". I've experienced this many times throughout the twenty years I've been working with children in faith settings, and my faith has been enriched by their insights and example.

I say this to encourage you to take this seriously. We are currently short of volunteers to work with children in our churches and I think part of the issue is that we've forgotten how much fun it can be and how we can encounter Jesus in those spaces just as much as in the 'adult' bit of the service. If you can I'd love for you to think about working with children in your church, not because you 'ought to' but because you might find that you love it. If you're a vicar looking for volunteers, please let them know that they are going to have a great time.

Obviously, a room full of children might be a bit daunting to start with, any new things often are but we would love to help. We can help manage the behaviour of the children well so that they listen well and contribute in an organised fashion. You'll need to tell the story well and then ask some good questions that open up conversation rather check they were listening, but we can help with that too!

All of this is on [Mighty Leaders](#): our new free online learning community for anyone volunteering or working with children and young people. Users will be able to increase their skills and confidence working with children and young people by:

- Posting questions to experienced families, youth and children's workers.
- Attending online or in-person events.
- Accessing on-demand courses from the basics to advanced aspects of children and youth ministry.
- Accessing essential guidance on running activities with children and young people.
- Sharing your experiences and learning from others.
- Accessing content written to inspire and educate.

Sam Donoghue – Head of Children's and Youth Ministry Support

Email: sam.donoghue@london.anglican.org

EDMONTON EVENTS



2024 Churchwardens' Commissioning Ceremonies

This year there will be four ceremonies, one in each Deanery. If you cannot attend the meeting in your own Deanery you are very welcome to join one of the other meetings. The ceremonies will be joint events to "Celebrate Edmonton" with the Edmonton Director of Mission – all are welcome!

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

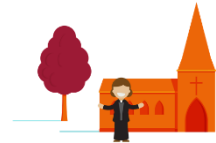
CAMDEN: [6pm](#) on Monday 1 July 2024 at [St Mary Magdalene Munster Square](#)

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

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

2024 Common Fund Meetings

This year there will be two online meetings to talk about the 2025 Common Fund: **7pm on 16 May and 7pm on 29 May 2024**. You are welcome to attend either meeting. Zoom details are available from the Archdeacon's Office.



CLERGY MOVES



New Bishop of Edmonton

The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah has been announced as the next Bishop of Edmonton. Currently Anderson is Associate Dean (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and People) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Lancaster University, and Associate Priest at St Paul's Scotforth, in the Diocese of Blackburn. He is Canon Theologian of Blackburn Cathedral and has been a member of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Concerns, the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Task Force, General Synod, the Faith and Order Commission and the Ministry Council. He has also been widely published for wide-ranging academic and theological research. He will draw on this experience as the holder of the racial justice portfolio in the College of Bishops. **Anderson will be consecrated in the spring – details TBC.**



The Revd Paul Conrad

Fr Paul was trained for ministry at St Stephen's House, Oxford, and he was ordained in 1980. He served his title in the Diocese of Chelmsford and went on to serve another curacy at St Mary Somers Town. Since then he has been the Vicar of St Martin Gospel Oak and Chaplain at the Royal Free Hospital before joining Christ Church Hampstead in 1995. **Fr Paul will retire at the end of May. His final Sunday will be 19 May 2024.**

NEWS

Race Equality Week

What is Race Equality Week?

Race Equality Week is an annual UK-wide movement uniting hundreds of thousands of organisations and individuals to address the barriers to race equality in the workplace.

Purpose and Aims

Race Equality Week 2024 aims to keep the momentum going and accelerate change by uniting thousands of organisations into action to seriously address race inequality in the workplace.



Why the 2024 Theme #ListenActChange?

The theme, #ListenActChange, was selected by the Race Equality Matters community. It reflects ongoing findings and feedback. In particular:

- Only 25 % of the REM community believes their organisation focuses on action, change, and impact, and not just words.
- 63% believe that less than a quarter of allies are actually helping to tackle race inequality.
- 44% said their senior leaders and managers are committed to tackling race inequality, but only 21% said their senior leaders and managers are making an impact in tackling race inequality.

We need to make it everyone's business!

Building on the REW 2023 theme, which sent a clear message that race equality is everyone's business (#ItsEveryonesBusiness), in 2024 #ListenActChange will galvanise everyone to focus on taking action. There has been a lot of listening, and discussing, but very little action and even less meaningful change. If we all commit to #ListenActChange, then real change can take place. Everyone has a role to play in the fight for racial equality in the workplace, from the top of each organisation to the bottom. The sooner we act, the sooner change can become our reality! That is why the 2024 Race Equality Week theme is #ListenActChange.

How can my organisation get involved?

Organisations can get involved in Race Equality Week 'For Free'. You can create your own activities and/or access and implement the solutions, tools, and resources we have co-created with those with lived experience. This year, we are introducing two new solutions for organisations to access for Free. The 5-Day Challenge 2024 and #ItsNotMicro. REM also provides digital assets that your organisation can use to show that you are taking part in this year's Race Equality Week.


Race Equality Week is a positive force for action

Join us and hundreds of thousands of other organisations and individuals by participating in Race Equality Week and taking meaningful action towards tackling the barriers to race equality.

For more information, including the [5 Day Challenge](#) please click [here](#).

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Faraday Events on Artificial Intelligence



The Faraday Institute has a range of events this term which may be of interest to clergy and other church leaders in the Diocese of London. Some clergy may want to dig deeper at our summer course – this year we'll be looking at 'The Art and Science of Human Health and Spirituality'. What does it mean to be human in an age of technology? How does artificial intelligence affect healthcare? Can art help with healing? Explore these questions and many others 1-5 July 2024, click [here](#) to explore further.

Our Research Seminar Series will restart in early 2024 with a range of topics to intrigue and consider:

13 February – 'Kepler, Galileo and Aliens' by Prof. Martin Barlow (University of British Columbia)

27 February – 'Rescuing Religion from Obsolescence? John Templeton on Science and Religion' by Dr Pete Jordan

12 March – 'Science, Religion and the Material Turn: Exploring New Global Potentials through Colonial Museum African collections' by Dr Nathan Bossoh (University of Southampton)

All these will be held at 1pm in Westminster College, Madingley Road, Cambridge as well as being broadcast online via Zoom. Register [here](#). Online resources available [here](#).

Thinking Differently About Church: Understanding Autism and Neurodiversity

7-8.30pm on 15 February 2024 by Zoom for Clergy and LLMs

Neurodiversity is the idea that there are natural variations in how people think, communicate, sense, and understand the world. These differences include autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, Tourette's and more. As we seek to be church for all people, understanding Neurodiversity is important to enable the gifts, talents, and full potential of all people to be included and released within our mission and ministry.



The training consists of a 90-minute introduction to Neurodiversity, dispelling many of the common myths and misunderstandings. It will offer a modern understanding of autism and neurodiversity and practical strategies for effective communication and collaboration. Attendees will also gain insight into how simple adaptations to buildings and to team approaches can yield excellent outcomes for all. Each event will have a maximum of 30 participants. Sessions will be led by neurodivergent training specialists with a range of insight and experience of church, working in partnership with St Martin in the Fields. For more information, please contact [John Beauchamp](#) or click [here](#).



Disability and Diversity

10am-4pm on 16 February 2024 at [London Diocesan House](#) for Clergy Churches are recognizing the diversity of disability and aiming to create inclusive environments for disabled individuals. Professor Brian Brock, a professor at the University of Aberdeen, will lead a study on the theological implications of this diversity and its connection to the Christian gospel. The

event is open to ordained and lay ministers in London, as well as those working to improve access and inclusion in churches. The day will include theologian-based discussions, personal stories, and opportunities to examine participants' presuppositions about disability. The event is accessible via a platform lift, PA, and hearing loop. To register click [here](#)

Lent Listening Groups

7.30pm from 20 February 2024 online

With Lent and Easter taking place very early in the new year, we wanted to flag our 2024 Lent offering. You are invited for a deep dive into the theme of listening as a tool for deepening discipleship organised by our Discipleship Enabler and hosted by our Bishops. The sessions can be used as part of a church, small group, or other friendship group. Explore how listening can help create space to pay attention to what God is doing in our lives. In groups of three to four people we will be encouraged to listen, notice, lean into discomfort, discern and respond. Book [here](#)



Multiply – Estates Mission

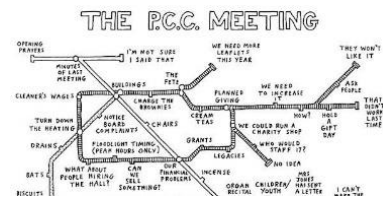
9am-2pm on 12 March 2024 at [St Barnabas North London](#)

We are called to belong to Christ, to become one family united in him - yet millions living on social housing estates don't have a local church that they belong to, to find Jesus and find rest. Multiply Estates Mission 2024 is an opportunity to explore what it takes to build estates churches for those searching for a sense of belonging and home. We want this to be a conference where everyone can experience the belonging we all find in Jesus. It's for practitioners with a deep love for estates communities and those new to the call - it's for everyone. Tickets are £10, with lunch included. More details and booking please click [here](#).

Chairing Meetings/ APCMs

10am-4pm on 14 March 2024 at [London Diocesan House](#) for Clergy

A day for clergy looking at good practice in chairing meetings and exploring how to get the best out of an Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The day combines looking at the practicalities and processes with insights into how to work effectively with others. Book [here](#)



CMD Clergy Law – Facilitating Faculties

10am-12pm on 21 March 2024 by Zoom for Clergy

The talk will look at the overriding objectives of the Faculty Jurisdiction regime; Lists A & B where a full faculty is not required; temporary licences for minor re-ordering and how to apply for a faculty, including the petition and consultation, licences under faculty for events and film locations. It is led by our Diocesan Registrar, Stuart Jones, Kevin Wilson (Deputy Registrar), and the Priest in Charge at Grosvenor Chapel Mayfair, the Revd Stephen Coleman (who is also the deputy course director of the LLM in Canon Law at Cardiff University). Book [here](#)



LLM Discernment & Vocations

Are you considering licensed lay ministry?
Want to know how it could benefit your church?
Have questions about the role, selection or
training?

Join us on zoom for a short session to
explore licensed lay ministry in the Diocese
of London; what it is, how discernment and
training happens, and an opportunity to ask
questions and find out more.

19 FEBRUARY • 7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
ADMIN.STEDMUNDS@LONDON.ANGLICAN.ORG
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