



*Divine Hospitality...*

One of my favourite prayers is the *Nunc Dimittis*, sung each night in our daily prayer. Imagine hearing those certain words of Simeon, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation..." What we see in this encounter is Simeon and Anna capturing God's generous hospitality extended towards humanity in Jesus Christ. Simeon rejoices in God's hospitality that God is still speaking, God is still with us, God is still responding to human needs and human cries and the groans of this world. Now imagine for a moment, as a Christian, have you ever heard in a church the words of Simeon, "my eyes have seen your salvation" especially when we see a stranger walk into our lives?

We live in a world of insiders and outsiders, a world where some are welcome, and others are permanently shunned. We build barriers because of ethnic, gender and racial differences. We build barriers based on economic, social, or political differences. Barriers pop up when differences of gender, physical or mental ability, education, or religion makes us hostile and inhospitable. Or we hide behind barriers on account of prejudice, grudges, unhealed hurts, or painful memories. Instead of nurturing friendship and intimacy, we foster indifference, disconnection, and estrangement. Humanity is good at exclusion because we prefer the comfortable and familiar neighbour to the "stranger" whose presence may not only challenge us, but also completely remake our world. We may not consciously construct these walls, in fact, we are probably hardly aware of them, but they are there. I have lived through it and Christian communities are not immune to such. How do we convert hostility to hospitality, exclusion to embrace?

How can we witness and embody hope and love, something truly reflective of God?

In a world that has grown frighteningly guarded and harsh, we are called to imitate God's hospitality in the world, modelled in the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus gladly sat down at table with anyone, sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes, and they were all welcome at his table. Hospitality is the most important Christian calling for our times, but it is one we easily neglect.

For instance, in Luke 25:31-46, the story of Sheep and Goats, Jesus explicitly invites us to think about hospitality to the stranger. The crux of this story is that Jesus comes anonymously, and the sheep entertain him unexpectedly. We do not know the ones in whom Christ will come to us. By coming to us hidden in the persons of a destitute, a refugee, a prisoner, and a stranger, Jesus tests our attitude towards others in general. His body, the church, must live with an open door and an open heart, because that is where Christ meets it. The spirit moves freely beyond our shallow boundaries and constantly gathers new people in. Jesus makes it clear that only by an act of limitless and unconditional hospitality can we enjoy Jesus' particular presence. But the very thought of Jesus coming to us as an anonymous stranger, as an illegal immigrant, as an abused person, a refugee, as a vulnerable child, as a prisoner, as an outcast, as a despised minority—even as our enemy—can terrify us. How can we welcome such a Jesus? Here Jesus connects the test of hospitality with divine judgment. The true character of the righteous is shaped by the act of unreserved hospitality extended to a stranger.

For us Christians, hospitality is not an occasional gesture but a whole way of being. It is not an interruption to our normal way of life but a habit, practice, or virtue that ought consistently to characterize our lives. Hospitality becomes the vehicle through which we proclaim the glory and redemption possible in Jesus Christ. Hospitality is the vocation of every Christian because it is through hospitality that we offer the most compelling witness of who God is, who we are called to be, and what the world through God's grace can become. Hospitality is the mark of a Church because it is the practice by which we continue to bring the generosity, love, and compassion of God to life in the world. God's hospitality stems from an understanding that we share in a common identity with God in whose image we are created, we share the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, we *belong* to Christ and to one another. So fundamental is the *imago dei* as an element of humanity that it ought to be the supreme value that shapes our identity, therefore our belonging to one another, because we all share in that ineffable love as the source of our being.

How is God calling us as a church to work?

Walter Brueggemann observes: "I believe we are now at a point when the church has got to recover its nerve and its energy and its courage and its freedom" (*Sojourners Lecture, June 15, 2018*)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, it is a huge privilege that I along with my family get to walk with you in proclaiming Christ's love in the Edmonton area of London diocese.

Love is the lesson. Love is all that counts. Love is all that lasts (1 Cor 13).

**The Rt Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah – Bishop of Edmonton**

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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, pension, housing, 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 Racial Justice 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](#)



## CLERGY MOVES



### **The Revd Philip Corbett**

Fr Philip trained for ministry at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, and he was ordained in 2008. He served his title at Worksop Priory in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, then returned to Oxford as Chaplain of Pusey House, and he has been the Vicar of St Stephen's Lewisham in the Diocese of Southwark since 2013. **Fr Philip will be licensed as the Vicar of St Silas w Holy Trinity Kentish Town on 8 July 2024.**



### **The Revd Angus Beattie**

Fr Angus was educated at Northumbria University and he trained for ministry at St Mellitus College. He was ordained in 2019 and he served his curacy as an NSM priest at St Mary Ruislip. Fr Angus has since served as Rector of Holy Trinity Ramsgate and St Andrew Deal in the Diocese of Canterbury. **Fr Angus will be licensed as the Vicar of St Alphege Edmonton on 22 July 2024.**



### **The Revd Canon Poppy Hughes**

A former Radio 4 producer, Poppy trained for ministry at the South East Institute of Theological Education. She was ordained in 2010 and she served her title at St Clement with St Peter East Dulwich, Diocese of Southwark. Poppy has since served as Rector of St Mary the Virgin and St Mary Magdalen Tetbury and as an Area Dean of Cirencester in the Diocese of Gloucester. **Poppy will be licensed as the Vicar of St Peter Grange Park on 11 September 2024.**

## NEWS

### Towards Net Zero

The diocesan teams are increasingly working on how best to support local churches on the journey towards Net Zero Carbon. The foundation for all of this is 'good data' - to enable us to know where we have got to and where the most urgent support should be focused.

The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is now open for churches to enter fuel and power use from 2023. The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for more targeted diocesan support for your net zero projects. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change. The easy-to-use online tool will tell your church what your carbon footprint is, based on the energy you use to heat and light your buildings.



Enter your church's energy figures from the year before. Once you have entered all the data, you will immediately receive a report and results on your computer or smartphone. This includes:

- The church's carbon footprint in CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent)
- A simple assessment of your buildings' efficiency, in graphical form – you will need your (church and hall) utility bills for the year before and an estimate of the number of person-hours that the building(s) is(are) used throughout the year. Please remember when entering this data that estimates are fine and definitely better than not completing the survey.
- The system is open until 31 July 2024 and you can find it on the online [Parish Returns](#) system
- There is more useful information, including FAQs and a walk-through video, on the Church of England website. If you need more support in filling in your EFT, please get in touch with the [Creation Care](#) support team

Thank you for taking the time to do this and the data is really important as we strive to meet our targets around Net Zero Carbon.

## New Resources to Help Churches Recruit Volunteers with Children And Young People



The Church of England has launched [JOIN](#), an exciting new suite of resources to help churches, parishes and worshipping communities recruit volunteers with children and young people. The resource toolkit, which has been piloted in five dioceses with great success, includes powerful films, free posters, social media slides and guidance on how to plan a successful recruitment campaign, recruit safely and support volunteers going forward.

The resources have been designed by the nationally funded [30k Project](#), which is chaired by the Bishop of Leicester. As part of the wider vision to double the number of children and young people in our churches by 2030, the 30k Project seeks to help churches recruit, train and support 30,000 new children and youth leaders by 2030. The aim is that 27,000 of these will be volunteers. The JOIN resources have been designed to equip churches, parishes, and worshipping communities with everything they need to run a successful volunteer recruitment campaign and inspire more people to step forward and join in with leading children and young people.

The resources have been launched in time for churches to plan ahead for June, which will see the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of [National Volunteers' Week](#) (3-9 June). However, these resources can be used whenever is appropriate. The JOIN resources are free and available to all [here](#).

## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### Unconscious Bias Training

10am-12pm on 8 May 2024 at [London Diocesan House](#) for Clergy

Unconscious Bias training provides an understanding of bias and its impact on attitudes, behaviours, and decisions within an organisation. It covers major fault lines of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, education, and social class.

Delivered by Dawn Lewinson and the Revd Canon Arani Sen, the training has been widely praised for its usefulness. Book [here](#)



### Art, Spirituality and Healing Course

10-11 May 2024 at Westminster College Studio, Cambridge

Discover the deep connection between spirituality, art, and well-being in this stimulating journey through the visual arts. Join Dr Pavlína Marie Kašparová OP as we explore how Christian spirituality and art can be gateways to healing, restoration, and self-discovery. This course is all about understanding how artists and scholars have used their practice to find this connection to harness the healing power of art.

Let's uncover their insights together and see how art can be a transformative force in our lives. Book [here](#)

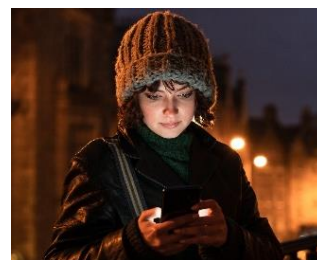
### Personal Safety & Lone Working

9.30am-12.30pm on 13 May 2024 at [London Diocesan House](#) for Clergy

The course delves into a comprehensive array of topics crucial for individuals engaged in lone and frontline working. Book [here](#)

The key areas covered include:

- Lone and Frontline Working
- Identifying and Assessing Risk
- Travelling for Work
- Setting Boundaries and Reporting
- Responding to Physical and Verbal Aggression
- De-escalation and Defusion Techniques
- Post-Incident Support





### Willesden Area Clergy Open Day

10am-2.30pm on 13 May 2024 at St Georges Church, Lancaster Rd, Southall, UB1 1NP  
We believe that the Willesden Area is a great place to minister and live and we would love to meet clergy interested in joining us to hear how we are living out the Diocesan Vision; particularly Creative Growth, Growing Younger and becoming More Racially Just. Come and pray with us, meet Bishop Lusa and his team, and hear from some of the clergy who minister here. We will have lunch together and there will be plenty of time for questions and conversations. There will also be the opportunity to hear about the exciting roles becoming available in 2024/25 in our four deaneries of Brent, Hillingdon, Ealing, and Harrow. Book [here](#)

### Spring Conference for Deaf & BSL People

17-19 May 2024 at [High Leigh Conference Centre](#)  
Theme: "The Earth is the Lord's" with the Revd Hannah Lewis giving a theological perspective on Climate Change and Eco Issues. We will have a variety of creative and prayerful activities which empower us how to take care of our world better. Cost of conference, accommodation & meals: £225.00. Book [here](#)



### Edgware Abbey Summer Festival

8 June 2024 at 94a Priory Field Drive, Edgware HA8 9PU  
Festival Eucharist at 12pm  
Celebrant: The Rt Revd Peter Wheatley  
Preacher: The Revd Graeme Rowlands  
Please bring a packed lunch – all are very welcome! Please let the Mother Abbess know you are coming on [info@edgwareabbey.org.uk](mailto:info@edgwareabbey.org.uk) or tel. 020 89587868.

### Thinking Differently About Church: Understanding Autism and Neurodiversity

(In-depth training after introduction)

10.30am-4pm on 13 June 2024 at [London Diocesan House](#) for Clergy and LLMs  
After attending the understanding neurodiversity introductory session this is a chance to explore more deeply the range of neurodivergence and how this brings enriching gifts and potential into the life and ministry of the church. This one-day training will explore the concept of neurodiversity, which refers to the natural variations in how people think, communicate, and understand the world, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and Tourette's. The training will cover topics such as welcome & belonging, worship, safeguarding aspects for neurodiversity, and theology around neurodiversity. The training will be led by Ann Memmott and Fiona MacMillan, working in partnership with St Martin in the Fields. Book [here](#)

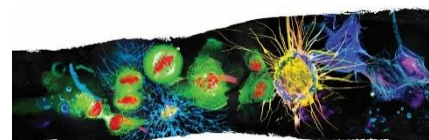


### CMD Clergy Law – Ecclesiastical Property

10am-12pm on 20 June 2024 for clergy by Zoom  
This talk explores ecclesiastical property, including churches, parsonages, and parishes, their ownership, restrictions, hiring for non-worship purposes, inviting other denominations, Canonical obligations, and Charities Act obligations as trustees dealing with charitable property. 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](#)

### The Art and Science of Human Health and Spirituality

1-5 July 2024 at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge  
Science touches every aspect of life – from how it begins and how it ends, to how it is lived in between. The same, of course, is true of religion. Looking the other way, every aspect of life touches science – from politics and power, to understanding the roots of creativity and communication. And the same, of course, is true of religion. This one-week course considers this rich interplay: how science, religion, medicine, and the arts mutually inform, illuminate, and enrich one another. Many of the speakers have a personal religious – often Christian – faith, though the talks are intended for those of any faith or none. Book [here](#)



inspire  
AT ST JUDE ON-THE-HILL

# INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

*'Be still and know that I am God.' Psalm 46:10*



**WE MEET IN THE LADY CHAPEL  
1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
7.30PM to 8.30PM - FREE  
(STARTING 7TH MAY)**

Meditation is an ancient form of prayer. Its aim is to bring the distracted mind to silence and stillness, resting in the presence of God. Even in our modern busy lives, this is possible.

*We invite you to explore this form of prayer which is simple and peaceful.*

This introductory course provides an opportunity to experience the practice of Christian meditation in a small, freindly group, to learn about its origins, and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.



**For More Information Contact  
Julia Mann: [juliaskeen84@gmail.com](mailto:juliaskeen84@gmail.com)  
[www.stjudeonthehill.com](http://www.stjudeonthehill.com)**

**ST JUDE ON THE HILL, HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, NW11 7AH  
14MINS WALK FROM GOLDERS GREEN TUBE, H2 BUS, CAR PARK**

*Events can be advertised in this publication and are done so on the understanding that they do not represent a specific view of the Edmonton Episcopal Area.*