

Edmonton Newsletter

February 2021



As we begin the month of February with the Feast of the Presentation, Candlemas, we are reminded of the scene of Mary and Joseph with their firstborn son attending the Temple and offering their most precious gift to God to be blessed.

The blessing of God is found in the faith and obedience of Mary and Joseph and Anna and Simeon who articulate the need and desire of a nation at time of despair and loss.

I wonder what we might wish to offer God for his blessing this month. We are a nation in a time of despair and loss, and the Archbishops of this land have called us and indeed the nation to pray at 6pm every day as we continue to see the death toll caused by Covid-19 rise: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>.

The beauty of the story of the presentation is that in the persons of Anna and Simeon we see a representation and prefiguration of the church that is found in the child that is born of Mary, the priestly and prophetic; male and female; ordained and lay and as such a reminder of the need for these properties within our own church today.

As we journey with our communities in these long months of continuing restrictions, loss and for many growing despair, it is our hope in Jesus Christ that we are called to offer our world, not our strategy or ambition. Mary and Joseph were one of many hundreds of families who in obedience of the law would have brought their first born to the Temple for God to bless.

So it is the task of every one of us, baptised into the body of that child Jesus who is presented in the Temple, to bring our lives and gifts, all that we most value and cherish, to be blessed by God so that those who witness our obedience and faithfulness will be able to declare with Simon the priest: “My eyes have seen God’s salvation”, and for the world to witness redemption as those around the Temple heard testified to through the words of a woman of faith.

The Ven John Hawkins – Archdeacon of Hampstead

EDMONTON EVENTS

We have been looking forward to another **clergy conference in Liverpool** this July, but the planning team, after considerable reflection have unanimously felt that in the current circumstances and not being sure when travel might ease, let alone groups be allowed to meet together in Liverpool, it is best to **postpone the conference until 2022**. We are delighted that Liverpool Hope University agreed and reserved 5-7 July 2022 so that we can look forward to being together then. In the meantime we do not want to pause the important issues of racism and becoming more culturally competent in our parishes, so we are planning to keep **7 July 2021 as a study day**, when we can begin tackling some of these themes, in preparation for next year. Please keep 7 July in your diaries, and we will let you have further details in due course.



CLERGY MOVES



The Rev'd Andrew Gliddon

Educated at the London School of Economics and Nottingham Trent University, Andy trained for ministry at Trinity College Bristol, and he was ordained in 2017. He served his curacy at St Hugh's Luton in the Diocese of St Albans. Andy was appointed the Director of Ministry (Assistant Curate) at St Barnabas North London and he **was licensed on 16 December 2020.**



The Rev'd Timothy Miller

Timothy trained for ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham, and he was ordained in 2014. He served his curacy at St Mary the Virgin Primrose Hill and he was appointed the Priest in Charge of All Saints Edmonton in 2017. **Tim was also licensed as the Priest in Charge of St Augustine Highgate on 6 January 2021.**



The Rev'd Preb Dr Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu

Formerly the Vicar of St Mary the Virgin Harmondsworth, Amatu joins the Edmonton Area as the Priest in Charge of St Mark and St Stephen Bush Hill Park and he will also be the first Director of Mission for Racial Justice. As part of the senior team, he will help shape the Area in our new priority of becoming more racially diverse. **Amatu will be licensed on 21 April 2021.**

NEWS

Edmonton Resources

Since the beginning of 2021 the Senior Staff have been aware of how much pressure clergy may be under in their parishes, deciding whether to hold live services, or stream them, to keep people safe during the pandemic. Bishop Rob decided to commission an "Edmonton Sermon" each Sunday, using the Gospel reading for the day, so that they could be used in any streamed services on Sunday. These sermons are uploaded to the Diocesan [Vimeo account](#) on a Tuesday or Wednesday and then towards the weekend are uploaded to the Edmonton Episcopal Area [Facebook Page](#).



We would also like to have some brief (3 minute) video testimonies of what God is doing in people's lives that would be appropriate for sharing more widely. If you think you know someone who might have an appropriate story, and they could record it on camera, please contact [Nigel Taylor](#) to discuss the practicalities.

Lateral Flow Covid-19 Testing for Key Workers at St Margaret's Edgware



St Margaret's Edgware is conducting Lateral Flow Covid-19 Testing for asymptomatic key workers every Saturday morning, offering weekly testing for local nursery staff, Met Police, volunteers at vaccinations centres and church volunteers involved in delivering services. The idea is to find Covid-19 in people without symptoms who are infectious and would likely spread it to others without realising. Identifying such people helps protect the vulnerable by reducing transmission in local communities when positive cases self-isolate.

Clergy Peer Support Group

The Revd John Ryeland, Director of Christian Healing Mission writes:

You don't need telling that we are going through extraordinary times in so many different areas of our lives - families, churches and communities. Clergy, amongst others, are facing a range of challenges and so a group from the Diocese - with the backing of the Area Bishops - has arranged a means of offering peer support for any who would like it. I have been asked to co-ordinate such a group for clergy in the Edmonton Area. The group will meet at a time and regularity to suit those who wish to participate, but will be for 6 sessions initially. It will be open to around 6 people and will be entirely confidential, seeking to create a safe and supportive place. I ask that people commit to the 6 sessions and make it a priority in their diaries once they commit. If this is something you would be interested in joining, please get in touch with me: john.ryeland@london.anglican.org. I look forward to hearing from you.



My Story by Monica Bolley - Golden Opportunity to Tackle Racism



"I write this narrative – which I am content to be passed to others – as a black woman. I hope that as a reader, you do not only feel sadness at what I impart of the pain and difficulties that arise as a result of the affliction of racism on black people. My hope is that, particularly if you are white, you will feel that you have a key part to play in the demise of racism. I do believe that we all have a contribution to make in this endeavour, and that in order for change to occur, it is as much about the efforts of individuals as it is about anything that happens at organisational and institutional levels.

My hope is that my story will inspire you as a reader, and lead you to seek out what your contribution might be, or give you fresh impetus in what you are already doing. I hope that my courage in writing this narrative might encourage you in the steps you take or are already taking." Monica's story can be read in full [here](#).

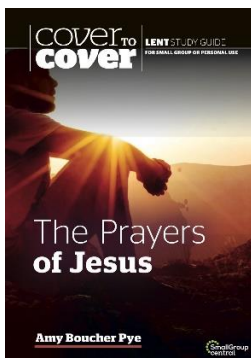
North London Pastoral Assistants

North London Pastoral Assistants are Ministry Experience Volunteers serving in some of London's most vibrant, challenging and diverse parishes. We seek to appoint Pastoral Assistants to serve in Camden Town, Hornsey and Crouch End from September 2021. Accommodation, as part of an Intentional Community, and all living expenses provided. Closing date for applications is Wednesday 10th March 12 noon. For more details and how to apply please contact [Lynn Trigg](#).



North London
Pastoral Assistants

New Small-Group Resource for Lent



Amy Boucher Pye, wife of Revd Nicholas Pye, vicar of St Paul's Finchley, has produced a small-group resource for Lent, The Prayers of Jesus (Waverley Abbey). Covering six of the seven prayers of Jesus in the gospels, it culminates with his prayers on the cross. The guide is interactive, with background material, activities, discussion questions, and prayer exercises based on Jesus' prayers.

Amy is the author of several books including the forthcoming 7 Ways to Pray (SPCK, autumn). She's a speaker and retreat leader who writes Bible reading notes for New Daylight, including others. She'd be happy to give a talk at your church during Lent if that would be helpful, and has copies of The Prayers of Jesus available at a discount.

[Contact Amy](#) if interested.

TRAINING AND EVENTS



Generous Giving Webinars

The Church of England National Giving Team is proud to offer a series of free webinars to help churches encourage giving and grow generosity. In these webinars you will be guided through ways to encourage giving; ranging from the theology of giving to the practical aspects, such as online, contactless and legacy giving, as well as how to save money with Parish Buying. To register visit [here](#).

The Learning Hub

An online learning experience for those working in churches across the Diocese of London and beyond, from the Children and Youth Ministry Support team.

<https://learning.london.anglican.org>



Relevant, self-paced online learning

Build the skills and knowledge you need to do ministry well, wherever you like, whenever you like.

Answers for your context

If our content doesn't cover something, you're able to ask our team questions from within the platform.

Anytime anywhere coaching

Book a 1-to-1 call and get personal support with whatever questions and challenges you have.



CHURCH MEETINGS ARE BRILLIANT

Chairing Meetings/APCMs: Thursday 4 March 2021

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 session combines looking at the practicalities and processes with insights into how to work effectively with others.

[Online via Zoom.](#)

Getting hitched without any hitches - key legal issues in Marriage Law: Tuesday 9 March 2021 (1000-1200)

This seminar will look at the legalities around marriage, including the right to marry in a particular place, marriage preliminaries (banns, common licences, SRCs etc), and current developments in marriage law including the effect of Brexit and the proposed new registration process. It is led by our Diocesan Registrar,

Stuart Jones and the Vicar of St Peter Grange Park, the Revd Stephen Coleman (who is also the assistant director of the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff University). [Book online](#)



St Mellitus lecture - A God called 'Truth' for a Post-Truth Era:

Wednesday 10 March 2021 (1000-1200)

Part of the programme of lectures (currently taking place on Zoom) enabling clergy and lay ministers to re-energise and re-explore their passion for theology. This lecture examines the Old Testament and Augustine on Truth as a Divine Name and will be given by Dr Emily Kempson. [Book online](#)

Lost Christianities Lent Course

The course is suitable for anyone who wishes to deepen their theological reflection. On this course we explore the diverse faiths of the early Christian centuries, and how the Church we know today emerged from competing interpretations of the life and death of Jesus. We ask what such study might teach us about the nature of our own faith and how we live with diversity in today's Church. The cost of the course is £50. To apply please email: admin.stedmunds@london.anglican.org.



The Guild of Health & St Raphael
proudly presents

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S FAITH AND MENTAL HEALTH ONLINE LECTURE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST LOCKDOWN



On this anniversary of the first lockdown, Bishop Sarah explores themes around mental health in the light of the pandemic.

What is the likely fall-out of Covid-19? What has it taught us about vulnerability? Might it precipitate a step-change in addressing issues of stigma and shame and normalising conversations around mental wellbeing?

**23RD MARCH 2021
7.00PM - 8.30PM**

**FREE ADMISSION
BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW**



GOHEALTH

gohealth.org.uk

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.