

# PARISH Magazine

 Croydon  
**Minster** and St George's, Waddon

April / May 2020



*'Even the darkest night will end  
and the sun will rise.'* – Victor Hugo

**Letter from St George's: A Journey to Pentecost and Beyond**

**A Soldier for Christ: Patronal Festival of St George's, Waddon**

**Farewell to Mother Pat**

**Celebrating the Ministry of Mother Pat**

**'The Parable of the Great Supper' by Cicely Mary Barker**

**Memories of St George's**

**£1.00**

Note – a suggested price; 2 or more, 60p each

**At the time of publication of this issue**, all public worship has been suspended and all London church buildings closed until further notice. In place of our usual Parish Diary pages we offer some prayers, and some online resources for children and young people shared with us by our Diocesan Team for Children and Youth.

### A Prayer in Lockdown

*The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked...* (John 20.19)

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
For Jesus' sake,  
Amen.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*from 'St Patrick's Breastplate'*

*Cover image: shutterstock.com/Denis Belitsky*

God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Church of South India*

Resources for family worship at home can be found at:

**[http://www.going4growth.com/growth\\_in\\_faith\\_and\\_worship/faith-in-the-home](http://www.going4growth.com/growth_in_faith_and_worship/faith-in-the-home)**

Engage Worship are adding a new family prayer/worship activity each day:

**<https://engageworship.org/engage-at-home-daily-family-prayer-and-worship-activities>**

'1277 - Make Them Count' Facebook group – ideas and support for Church-based work with toddlers:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1277makethemcount/>**

**<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/debbieh1605/>**

Topics include: Major festivals, Under 5s, Film clips, Creative prayer, Colouring sheets, Science, Outside activities, Songs for children, Bereavement

Talking with children about coronavirus:

**<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>**

Some helpful things to say when talking with an anxious child:

**<https://lemonlimeadventures.com/what-to-say-to-calm-an-anxious-child/>**

Loving God, we know that you love all children,  
we ask that you keep our children safe and happy in these uncertain times.  
Amen.

# *Lockdown*

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
the sky is no longer thick with fumes  
but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi  
people are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading flyers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear,

but there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation,

but there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying,

but there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness,

but there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death,

but there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
the birds are singing again.

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

**Brother Richard Hendrick, OFM**

## A Tribute to Mother Pat

This edition of the Parish Magazine was always intended to be a tribute to the ministry of the Revd Patricia Vowles, whom we all know and love simply as Mother Pat. And, because she would be the first to say she didn't want it to be all about her, we have also taken the opportunity for it to focus on St George himself and other aspects of St George's Church which is situated at the heart of the community Mother Pat has been serving in. The articles reflect many aspects of Mother Pat's ministry, including tributes from three Bishops, and an interview with her. We can also read about Cicely Mary Barker's painting of the Parable of the Great Supper which hangs in St George's. A Bible study on the footwashing in John's Gospel reflects Mother Pat's call to serve those to whom she ministers. The magazine features too her own valedictory, and inspiring, letter on Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit.

This magazine is bittersweet because we were always going to be saying farewell to Mother Pat in it and also celebrating her work and legacy. It coincides with a time for all our churches which is quite bewildering and unprecedented and that is first the suspension of public worship, which was a massive blow in itself, and then the closure of churches so that they cannot be open even for personal prayer.

That is a real blow for a church like St George's which a vital hub in the life of Waddon. St George's exemplifies commitment to its community both in the offering of worship in the Eucharist for, and on behalf of, the community and also as a place known to many as a social and learning space and heart of Waddon Community Outreach, all of which is hard to disentangle from Mother Pat's ministry.

Another traumatic moment occurred when we realised, on 17th March, that with public worship suspended Mother Pat could not celebrate the Eucharist on

Mothering Sunday at St George's. The previous Sunday had therefore been her last Sunday Eucharist at St George's before retirement and, most sadly, no one could have known it.

The good news is that, when Coronavirus has died down and we are once again singing God's praises in our churches, I have asked Mother Pat to return so that she can celebrate the Eucharist one last time at St George's and so that the whole community in Waddon can say a hearty, and much deserved, farewell to a whole-hearted, good and faithful servant of the church and the community.

Fr Andrew

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Please supply 'soft copy' where possible.

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**Please note:** The views in the articles of the magazine reflect the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the editorial board.

# Letter from St George's

*Dear friends,*

Greetings from your sisters and brothers in St George's. This is my last letter, as my retirement on 3 May will come so very quickly now. For my last letter I just wanted to focus on Pentecost. I believe that it would be really great if our team knew by 31 May that final preparations were being made for the Team Ministry (whatever decision is made about the name). Also for St George's a very special moment, as they become a parish, too, at the same time. I am so very sorry to be missing the celebrations.

A journey to PENTECOST and beyond...

'A sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.' (Acts 2:2-3)

An explosion of energy, a violent wind with fire can decimate a huge forest in a very short time. We've seen them on TV often enough. All it took was a small spark to become wild and uncontrollable fire sweeping across acres and acres of woodland, remember those pictures of Australia. Then, we have the other side of fire; contained and carefully nurtured and used in industry to drive machines, to travel, for domestic use in cooking and heating, and many other uses, too.

When fire was first created virtually at the beginning of history, human beings showed themselves as the superior being, but no matter how carefully they tried to contain fire, there was always the risk that it would escape out of control and quite literally backfire on them.

The Holy Spirit appeared like fire, leaping on to the heads of the disciples, I'm not sure how I'd feel about a flame dancing on my head! For the disciples this was

a new beginning, suddenly, having been fearful at the prospect of teaching and preaching. These flames spread throughout their spiritual body, and wow – a transformation of such magnitude that the people hearing them thought they were drunk or mad.

One minute they were scared and locked themselves in a room for days, next they were in the centre of town, not just preaching in their own language, but in others, too. They were no longer a ragbag of labourers and fishermen, but a skilled team of communicators, preaching with such energy and passion that the hearers were in no doubt about the power of the gospel message. Wow, what a scene it must have been.

I quite enjoy looking at the various styles used by advertisers, those clearer ones that have a long lasting impact because of one or two images are particularly easy to remember.

British Gas, for example ran a campaign whose image was a thumb with a flame above it... 'Don't you love being in control?' was the slogan.

Of course we love being in control, central heating, 24-hour supermarkets, cable TV, and flexitime. We want to choose, to please ourselves in as many ways as possible.

In today's world it feels like the individual is supreme. God has become smaller and smaller, contained in little boxes, like our churches. In fact we seem to make God into what we choose, and not the other way round.

When I see the news on TV about areas of the world with so little, people struggling just to 'live', when I am looking at those poor people I am looking at God, too. Their homes are a few sheets of corrugated iron, bits of wood and plastic sheets, when most of us live in a relatively comfortable house or flat – what a contrast!

So what difference does the Holy Spirit make between such extreme images? Well, the Holy Spirit is about energy... as British Gas says in its adverts, 'Energy for Life'. St Paul has seen the Spirit in action, he describes to the Corinthian Christians the way it brings to light many different gifts in different people.

Somehow we must come closer to the Spirit's flame, we have to throw out our narrow-minded views and ideas about God, and it's not easy. We grow to like the idea of God fitted into our lives, rather than our lives fitting into His life.

In a book called *Mr God This Is Anna*, a little girl called Anna believes that 'we have points of view, but God has viewing points'; in other words, God's picture and purpose is not the same as ours, it's much bigger. We are so caught up in our culture and the society we live in, that sometimes we can't hear God speaking to us.

Jesus uniquely revealed God on earth and that his Spirit abides with us – not as a destructive force like a forest on fire, but a constructive, saving force that increases our spiritual relationships and gives us the courage to be open to possibilities of service and sometimes just a tiny sacrifice or two.

If we let the tiniest divine spark in us grow, we could be in for a big surprise, we could find ourselves doing things we would never believe were possible. This tiny spark could help us ride the storms in our lives, uphold us in our deepest sorrows, even help us to speak to people who see 'church' as something quite unknown. That is why we go to our churches, to proclaim who is really in control and to join God in his mission. Each of us with our complementary gifts, we are the ones who, like the disciples before us, can together, make God known. We have the power, the energy for life... to light up the world...

Lord, help us to feel the Spirit's power in our lives as we prepare to rekindle that spark which has been dulled by earthly concerns, open our hearts to hear your call to service and sacrifice.

I wish the new Team, and especially St George's, many blessings in the journey you will take together in creating 'God spaces' within our area of Croydon. To engage with others who want to share our journey and to work with others whose journey is different, for courage in showing the love of God to all people. You will be in my prayers.

God be with you.

*Mother Pat*

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## **Michael John Randall**

To my dear brothers and sisters at the Minster. Thank you for all your love and prayers during my son Michael's illness and on 24th May 2019, his passing from this world to the next.

You may not know, but your faith and love upheld me and my family in our darkest time, but God's Grace made possible the impossible, bearing a great sorrow with great love. Being present with Michael to see his courage right to the end, and with his wife, son and siblings, to be at his bedside as he went home.

I am so proud to be his mother, and to know we are connected for ever in the fellowship of 'The Spirit', by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

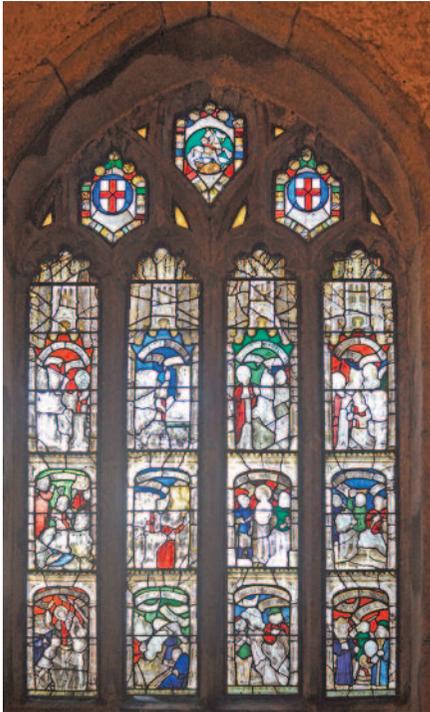
With love and gratitude

Patricia x

## A Soldier for Christ

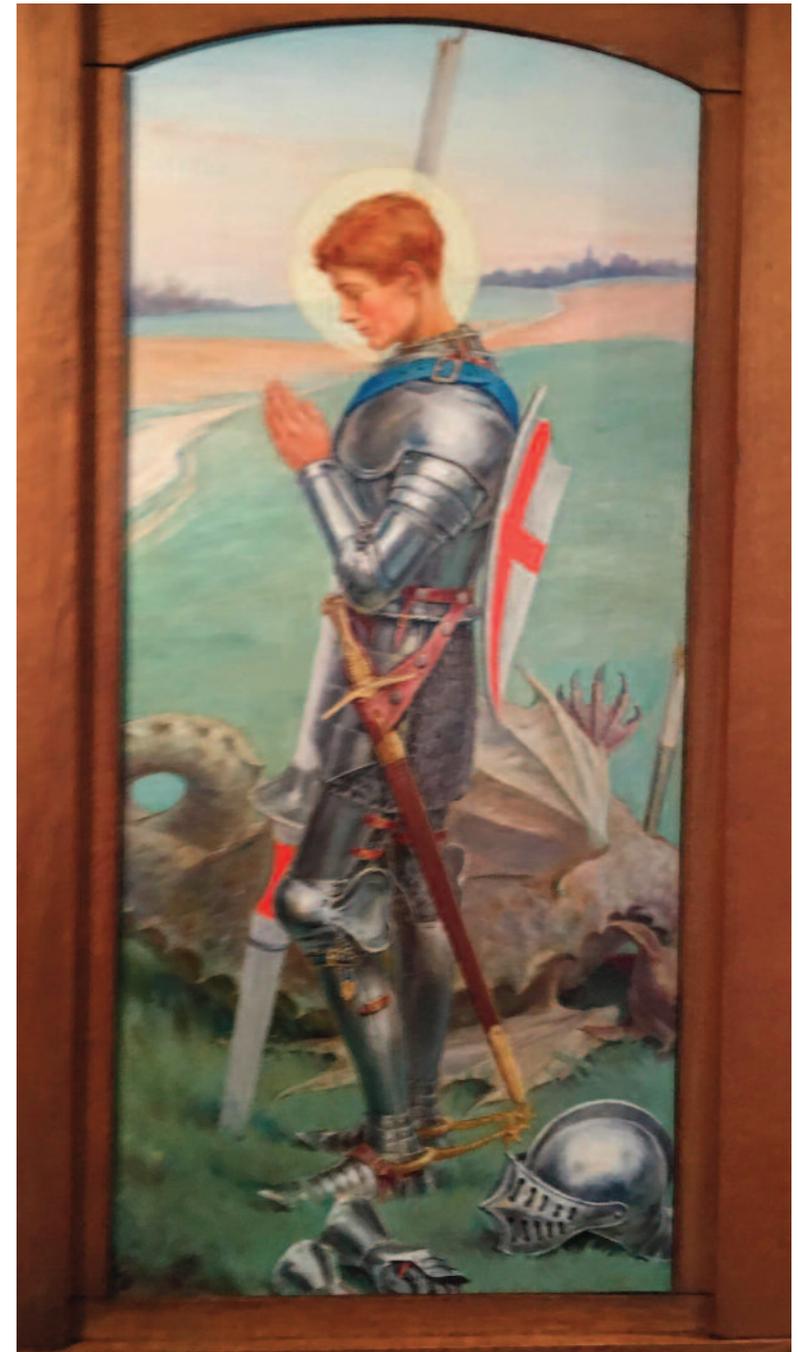
*The Patronal Festival of St George's Waddon, 23 April*

The villagers of St Neot's in Cornwall in the early 1500s knew all about St George. They knew he killed a dragon, which is what everyone thinks nowadays, but they knew a lot more as well.



St Neot's is one of only two English parish churches to have a complete set of medieval stained glass windows. The other church is at Fairford in Gloucestershire with an elaborate scheme of pictures which illustrate the Christian faith. St Neot's is much more homely. Most of the dozen or so surviving windows at St Neot's show a row of saints, including some obscure Cornish saints. Two of the windows show the legends of particular saints in twelve little scenes. One of these windows shows the legend of St Neot himself and the other (*left*) the legend of St George.

What struck me when I first saw it was that only one of the scenes showed St George killing the dragon. The rest showed the various means by which the pagans tried to execute him for being a Christian. Miraculously none of these methods (including being plunged in a cauldron of molten lead, having his flesh torn by hooks, being tied to a wheel and other tortures) succeed in killing him until at last he is beheaded. I remember the guide book at the time saying this was the medieval equivalent of watching a horror film.



*Painting of St George by Cicely Mary Barker at St George's Waddon*

Although we may now not take this story seriously, it at least makes clear the principal reason why George is regarded as a saint. This is not that he killed a dragon but that he was a martyr, a witness with his life to faith in Christ. George would have been martyred in the late 200s in the period before Christianity became legal. He was widely venerated even by Muslims. For Orthodox Christians he is a Great Martyr and a patron saint of Greece.

However most people when they remember St George think of the story of how he rescued a princess by killing a dragon. It was an image of Good overcoming Evil which is always powerful and attractive. It was certainly popular in the period after the First World War when St George's Waddon was built. The gospels make it clear the Christian life will be a struggle and there are good Biblical examples describing it in military terms, such as in Ephesians 6 ('Put on the whole armour of God.')

But a big problem with this image of Good overcoming Evil is that it can be used in so many different ways. The image of St George has been used politically by extreme right-wing groups and also, surprisingly, by English socialists at least in the early twentieth century. It doesn't help us identify evil and may even encourage us to make a scapegoat of innocent people so we can feel good.

Then there is the question of how we oppose evil. Jesus tells us not to kill our enemies but to love them. He overcame evil, death and sin by his death on the cross and rising again. The Anglo Saxon poem *The Dream of the Rood* specifically describes Christ going to the crucifixion as a young warrior, but a warrior who gives up his life, not one who takes life from others. A Christian martyr such as St George is one who was completely identified with Christ though suffering for the faith. It is highly appropriate that St George's Day comes in the Easter season when the Church celebrates Christ's paschal victory over death.

St Peter Damian preaching on St George's day in the 1000s referred to this when he said:

*Our joy in today's feast is heightened by our joy in the glory of Easter, just as the splendour of a precious jewel enhances the beauty of its gold setting.*

*Saint George was a man who abandoned one army for another: he gave up the rank of tribune to enlist as a soldier for Christ. Eager to encounter the enemy, he first stripped away his worldly wealth by giving all he had to the poor. Then, free and unencumbered, bearing the shield of faith, he plunged into the thick of the battle an ardent soldier for Christ.*

**Jon Blanchard**

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# Farewell to Mother Pat

**As Mother Pat prepares for her retirement on the first Sunday in May, we thought this issue of the magazine would be a good moment to talk to her about the whole of her time at St George's. I went along to her office at Church House, next door to St George's Church, to find out more...**



Pat arrived in Waddon back in 2011, having spent the previous four years as Director of a Christian Healing Centre in Hythe, on the Kent coast. Nonetheless her background before that had been as a parish priest for a South London church which was not dissimilar to St George's in many ways.

'I've always had a 'community church' type of parish. That's how I feel comfortable: with people who come to the church mainly living in the area and being very much part of a community,' she comments.

Nonetheless, her arrival at St George's in 2011 came at a slightly difficult time for the local community in that a large chunk of public money which had funded community groups based in St George's Centre had recently been withdrawn.

Pat quickly set to work trying to re-establish the groups in a way which relied less on official funding. 'Public funding is great for three or four years, but then it evaporates and people are left high and dry,' she comments. The solution was to reconstitute a number of the groups and start up new ones based on a combination of extremely dedicated volunteers plus affordable charges where appropriate, together with some new grants. Pat says she has managed to raise a considerable amount of money

through grant applications during her time at St George's, because St George's can show those grant-making bodies the very practical work that it has done in the community.

Today, as readers from St George's will be all too familiar, the church retains a fantastic array of things happening throughout the week for people of all ages. On Tuesdays there is a morning 'Time to Share' café combined with computer club for people who might need help to use or access IT. Later in the day this morphs into a 'Lunch Club with activities'. On Thursdays there is a lunchtime knitting group. On Saturdays two church volunteers lead a group which uses the outdoor gym equipment at Purley Playing fields, while once a month there is a community breakfast combined with local councillor surgery session. For children there is a stay and play session two mornings a week (shared with Aerodrome Children's Centre), a music and movement group on Mondays after school and outside groups putting activities on at the centre such as Brownies and the 'Stepz' Dance School.

In addition to all this is the annual calendar of social events such as barbeques, quiz nights, cream teas and karaoke, to name but a few!

'It's all about stability and continuity as well as compassion,' remarks Pat, who stresses that much of what is achieved is the result of a small band of incredibly committed members of the congregation who have a very high profile within the community – 'absolute diamonds' as Pat describes them. As a result of their hard work, St George's activities draw in many members of the local community who are not regular members of the congregation as well as those who are.

Behind the fun and bustle of all these activities, the work of proclaiming the word of God and leading people in worship continues at St George's. During her time at St George's, Pat has overseen the printing of new service books for each feast of the church's year in order to make services as easy to follow as possible. She also likes to maximize the congregation's participation in each service, for instance by ensuring that children lead the Ministry of the Word during the family service.

After experimenting with different types of healing service, Pat has ended up by incorporating an anointing and laying on of hands on one or two Sundays of the month during the communion service. She has trained up four pastoral assistants who help with this, with two more 'in the pipeline'. The pastoral assistants also take communion to people who are housebound every Sunday, as Pat wants absentees to realise that they are still very much a part of the St George's family, fully included in the principal worship of the week even if they cannot be there in person.

Children at St George's continue to be prepared for their first Holy Communion at the age of about 7, something which Pat takes very seriously. They have about six months of preparation and are currently using a course which Pat herself helped to put together in conjunction with Canon Michael Hart. Pat likes to wait for the service of confirmation until people reach adulthood, although she will confirm from 16 years of age where people particularly ask for this and are ready for it.

In fact, asked for a 'stand-out' memory of her time at St George's, Pat cites the time when she was able to put forward five adult candidates for confirmation at one go. She also has very happy memories of admitting children who have grown up in the church to first Holy Communion.

Also there is the wonderful relationship between St George's and Aerodrome Primary Academy. Pat has been Chair of Governors there for over four years, and members of the congregation have been Governors, too. This relationship will surely last and grow.

What will she miss least about St George's? 'Paperwork, grant applications and all the hoops I have to jump through in terms of raising money for the church's activities,' is the answer.

Looking to the future, Pat plans to move to South Wales, an area her father originally came from and where she has some friends already. She envisages continuing to contribute to a church in the area, perhaps a couple of days a week, but with a

quieter overall pace of life than has been possible in Croydon. But she will miss the community spirit and wonderful people of Waddon just as they will no doubt miss her and her ministry.

'And there's no question of what will happen when I leave here,' comments Pat. 'I know it's not going to collapse. This is a church where I've never had to clean gutters, change the light bulbs or anything like that, because there is a commitment that lives on in this church and the congregation do it for themselves.'

**Tiffany Willmer**

**Some events planned at St George's later this year...**

- 20th June** Karaoke Night 6.30pm, £7
- 18th July** Cream Tea and Table Sale 3–5pm, £4
- 15th Aug** BBQ and Table Sale 2–5pm
- 26th Sept** Race Night with Fish/Chicken & Chips, £7
- 17th Oct** World Food Day and other activities
- 14th Nov** Christmas Fair with lunch 11am–3pm
- 20th Dec** 'Journey to Bethlehem' (adults' Nativity) with Christmas party
- 24th Dec** Crib Service (children's Nativity) 5pm, with refreshments

# Celebrating the Ministry of Mother Pat

## **The Bishop of Croydon writes:**

Pat arrived in the Croydon episcopal area, and at St George's Waddon, the year before I did. But whereas for me it was an adventure in a new diocese, for Pat it was a return to her roots. Pat began her ministry in Nunhead while also working with USPG, but soon moved into stipendiary ministry and was parish deacon and then, after the ordination of women to the priesthood, Vicar of St Michael & All Angels, Camberwell. Croydon has reaped the fruit of all her previous experience in ministry, and I am so grateful to her for her unwavering commitment to the community of Waddon.

Waddon is a place with its own identity, and its own needs. Pat has been a great champion of Waddon as a place in its own right, and equally dedicated to meeting the needs of the whole community. She is an example of a truly parish-centred priest, concerned for all the people of her area, and not only those who are part of the church community. As we look back and celebrate her ministry here, we look to the future, wishing her a long and happy retirement, and knowing that she has fostered a community of faith at St George's which will continue to serve the community of which it is part.

**Bishop Jonathan**

Pat Vowles, or Mother Pat as we have come to know her since her ordination to the diaconate and priesthood, has been a radical but generous advocate of the Christian gospel both as a lay person and as an ordained minister. Former colleagues from USPG where I served as Secretary remind me of her work with the volunteers in the Society and her commitment even back then to what Vatican II called 'God's preferential option for the poor.' This focus borne out of liberation

theology gave Pat an interest and commitment to 'community' as a priority of Christian witness and mission. One of the most profound movements to emerge from liberation theology was the grassroots communities of Christian people seeking to transform the little piece of God's Acre in which they dwell. Some of that thinking has been worked out in her own unique way in St. George's. As someone who has returned to Croydon after many years away, it was a delight to know of Pat's continued faithfulness to this vision, and though our paths have crossed all too little, Mother Pat remains for me one of the true voices and practitioners of the gospel of Jesus Christ, whom she has served with joy and dedication. God bless you Mother Pat!

**Bishop Peter Price**

**'So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.' (John 13:14)**

As we look towards Holy Week and the celebration of Easter, amidst news of COVID-19 sweeping Europe and other parts of the world, there is such uncertainty and fear in our world right now. Those whom we care about, members of our family, friends, neighbours, those who are vulnerable are at the forefront of our minds. We must choose faith, not fear. Mother Pat's ministry has been one of courageous faith loving service, with the people of God at its heart.

Jesus is the ultimate model of servanthood, compassion and love as he bends with towel tied round his waist, to wash his disciples' feet. This act of humility reminds us of the call of all Christians to serve one another as we seek to become more and more Christ-like. Peter is shocked when Jesus goes to wash his feet, because he struggles to comprehend how he could offer to do something so lowly. Jesus gently tells Peter, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'

Jesus speaks life at times of confusion, perplexity and darkness. Brother Ramon SSF writes *‘that even those things which are not sent by God will be taken up into the greater good, and that the spoiled pattern upon the loom of our life will yield to a more profound interpretation in the wider knowledge of the kingdom of God.’*

Jesus washes the feet of his disciples to demonstrate that in this loving and cleansing act, we encounter a God who loves us so deeply, that longs to touch those parts of us we don't like, or hide. We must allow Jesus to act in our lives, so that we can model his love and compassion to others. In Christ, we know a God not of 'social distance', but of enduring nearness.

**Fr Joe Moore**

Thank you Mother Pat for sharing your Ministry and fellowship with us.

Your knowledge of God and your spirit and passion for the good of our church and community has helped us to more clearly understand what is meant.

You let us know how you are feeling and are always very supportive, kind, generous and a great asset to our community, especially with Waddon Community Outreach and Aerodrome School.

With you we have experienced many additional and varied services, which help us to realise that we too should always be mindful of Christ's journey in the world and his care for us.

You will be missed and we wish you well in your retirement.

**Christine Crawley, Churchwarden, St George's**

### **The Bishop of Southwark writes:**

In these strange times when things are changing from day to day, and we are naturally concerned for the health and well being of those we love and those entrusted to our care, it is good to focus on all that Mother Pat Vowles has given with love and priestly devotion to so many for so long, here and in the other communities in which she has served.

Mother Pat has of course been a pioneer among women in Priestly Orders and a role model to those who would not perhaps otherwise have considered their call. And indeed there was something historic about the ministry on which Pat embarked in 1994, as Vicar of St Michael's & All Angels, Camberwell, just six weeks after she was Ordained Priest, becoming the first woman to be Incumbent of a Parish in Southwark.

Pat was ordained by my late and much loved predecessor, Bishop Roy Williamson, who was himself a pioneer advocate for women's ministry, and who as well as Ordaining Pat and the other women of her cohort, also crossed the river to Ordain women in London that historic year, including my colleague in Stepney, Gillian Ireson.

Pat's ministry has been, first and foremost, one that has been a blessing to many. It was a ministry for which Pat was well prepared, having been Deaconed in 1987 and, after serving four years at St Anthony and St Silas, Nunhead, moved on to become Deacon in Charge in Camberwell. After twelve years as Vicar, she moved on again to the Diocese of Canterbury, on the coast at Hythe, to be Chaplain at Cautley House Christian Healing Centre, but in the Olympic year of 2012 it did not take much to lure her back to Southwark, coming here to minister at St George's Waddon, the daughter Church of the Minster.

We will all long remember her humour, kindness and unflagging zeal. Under her care St George's has become an intensely happy place, with an ever warmer relationship with the mother Church up in the Old Town. Regular and frequent church socials and outings have forged bonds of real friendship among the congregation. Pat herself has been at the centre of so many wonderful interactions, always characteristically humorous, yet soberly rooted in the Gospel. One old friend recalls her star turn in the Nativity – appearing on stage wearing long ears, to announce through the microphone “I’m a donkey”!

She also ensured that St George's has become more than a ‘holy huddle’, always seeking to point the way outward, with Christ at the centre, reaching into the surrounding community and making connections with wider society, expressing her thorough immersion in Liberation Theology.

All these words can be simply summed up by saying, “Pat, you are loved and we express our heartfelt gratitude and pray that you will be richly blessed in all that lies ahead.”

**Bishop Christopher**

### **SAFEGUARDING**

**Our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is**

**Denise Mead**

**She can be contacted on:**

**020 8688 8104 (work) or 020 8688 5971 (home)**

**07957 149005 (mobile) in emergencies**

**croydonminster@gmail.org**

**mad\_mead@tiscali.co.uk**

## **PARISH RECORDS**

### **Croydon Minster**

#### **R.I.P.**

Heather Barker

Irene Hill

Lynn Hill

Ellen Aerts

Patricia Debruslais

Damani Mauge

### **St George's**

#### **Baptism**

Kieran

#### **First Communion**

Kieran and Faith

#### **R.I.P.**

Audrey Friend

#### **Commissioning**

Dorothy and Rita, Pastoral Team (Healing and Wholeness)



### *The Parable of the Great Supper, Cicely Mary Barker, 1934*

Cicely Mary Barker is best known as the illustrator of the Flower Fairies, however to residents of Croydon, she is much more. Born on 28th June 1895 at the family home at 66 Waddon Road, Cicely Mary Barker studied at Croydon School of Art, and soon established herself as an illustrator. In the 1920s, Cicely, a devout Anglican, considered focusing solely on sacred works, a decision her family and friends persuaded her against. However, for worshippers and visitors alike at both St George's, Waddon, and St Andrew's, South Croydon, examples of those sacred works she felt so strongly about are clearly in evidence.

The congregation of St George's will be very familiar with the painting above, which hangs in their Lady Chapel. Cicely was a local resident in 1932 when the church was built, and served there as a Sunday School teacher for a while in the 1930s.

*The Parable of the Great Supper* is a three-panelled painting, known as a triptych. The smaller side panels show St John the Baptist, patron saint of Croydon Minster, on the left in his camel skin clothing, and St George the Martyr on the right. The large central panel shows the great supper, and we see some people already seated at the table, whilst others approach from the left. Jesus stands at the head of the table, welcoming all. The guests are greeted by angels in white and younger angelic figures with wings and garlands of flowers on their heads, reminiscent of

Barker's earlier flower fairies. However, what is most striking in this scene is not Christ and his angelic host, but the visitors to the banquet. They are not well-to-do people, dressed in their finery, but everyday folk of all ages and abilities, reflecting the parable.

The Parable of the Great Supper, sometimes known as the Wedding Feast or the Marriage of the King's Son, is told by Jesus in the gospels of Matthew [22:1–14] and Luke [14:15–24]. It tells of a man who prepared a great banquet, and invited many people to come. When the time for the feasting came, the invited guests, one by one, made excuses and said they could not attend. The master then tells his servant, "Go quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame".

Cicely Mary Barker's depiction of this parable is moving, not only because of her very human portrayal of the guests, but because she chose local people as models for the painting. We see an elderly couple seated in front of a pineapple, possibly something they have never tasted before, and two young boys at the left end of the table who may not have known what it was like to have a full stomach. In the centre of the painting, a lame man is being helped to his seat by an angel, and to the far left a mother with an infant in arms and a basket of lavender, next to a man carrying a walking stick and wearing a sign telling us he is 'Nearly Blind', being led by his dog and a young girl in tattered clothing.

Jesus targeted this parable at those people who claimed to be religious but who had no time for God, represented by the people who accepted an invitation, but later claimed they were too busy to attend. Whilst the parable Jesus told had meaning to his audiences then, it still has meaning for readers today. This is shown clearly in Cicely Mary Barker's *The Parable of the Great Supper*; we are all invited to join the feast, and when the time comes we must be prepared to accept that invitation.

**Derry-Anne Hammond**

## *Memories of St George's*

As the Cooper family, with our parents David and Hazel we first began worshipping at St George's in the 1960s. We have been asked to share some of our memories of our time there...

We had worshipped at the 'Little Church in the Park' (St Edmund's mission church in Wandle Park) since we had moved to Waddon New Road in the late 1950s. Mum sang in the choir, as did Elaine when she reached the age of 10, and Dad was an altar server. Susan often sat in the choir stalls with Mum, eagerly anticipating the time when she too would be old enough to join the choir.

However in 1965–66 the church was closed and its choir disbanded. Mike Parsons, a friend of David through Scouting, issued an invitation to move to St George's. The Priest in Charge Rev Pat Goodsell was looking to establish a new choir there. Three ladies needed no further incentive. Music called! And Susan

did not have too long to wait to join the choir – she was accepted as a probationer just before her 10th birthday so that she could sing in the choir at Christmas.

Over the years we were there we worked with four Choir Directors – David Fisher, Chris Greenhalgh (the 'Maestro'), Tony Robbins and Rosemary Nayyar. We learnt classic anthems – 'O thou the central orb', 'Praise the Lord O Jerusalem', 'O Saviour of the



World', 'I was Glad' and many more. Good Friday evening was marked each year by the choir singing either Stainer's 'Crucifixion' or 'Olivet to Calvary' by Maunder. Most Sundays we sang the Evensong Canticles to a setting – Stanford was a favoured composer! Handel's 'Messiah', Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and Fauré's 'Requiem' also featured in the repertoire. We may have been small in number but we were well trained and enjoyed the challenge of some of the more difficult pieces. After transferring to the adult line at 16 Susan and her friend Georgina both sang contralto.

Every Sunday night the church Youth Club met in Blake Hall under the genial eye of Roy Champion (and Patch the dog). Badminton was played in the upper hall – retrieving shuttlecocks from the iron rafters was a regular hazard. Table tennis was played downstairs – accompanied by the strains of Roy's favourite (only?) LP record of Jim Reeves' classics!

A lift home from Roy often included a detour via either the chip shop, or even better the Chinese take-away for a greasy but delicious giant pancake roll.

The church Youth Club camps were a highlight – heading off to Bognor in Roy's minibus for a week by the sea. Rounders or French cricket on the beach kept us occupied. If it rained there was the amusement arcade or the local cinema. Elaine remembers everyone being taken to a James Bond film which she really did not want to see. She slept through it – goodness knows how!

St George's has always been renowned for its social life. Most years were highlighted by Harvest Supper with Barn Dance where we learned to 'Do-si-do' and dance the 'Gay Gordons' and Circassian Circle amidst much laughter. There was usually a concert where various members of the choir and congregation trod the stage in the upper hall to perform music, sketches and poetry interspersed with ensemble songs from Dad's beloved Ralph Reader Scout Gang shows, Gilbert



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### **ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

Barrow Road, Waddon CR0 4EZ - 020 8688 7006

<b>Priest-in-Charge</b>	Revd Canon Dr Andrew Bishop	020 8688 8104
<b>Curate in Charge of St George's</b>	Revd Patricia Vowles (until 3 May)	020 8688 7006
<b>Hon Curate, St George's</b>	Revd Peter Smith	(contact via Mother Pat)
<b>Advisor and Assisting Priest</b>	Canon John Ackland	07831 516662
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Revd Alan Bayes	07792 846452
<b>Curate</b>	Revd Joe Moore	020 8688 8104
<b>Lay Readers</b>		
<b>Croydon Minster</b>	Elaine Cooper	020 8686 7315
<b>St George's</b>	Marcia Grant-Che	07969 653110
<b>Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary</b>	Diana Hemmings	020 8667 0575
<b>Churchwardens</b>		
<b>Croydon Minster</b>	Arlene Esdaile	020 8657 5187
	Pamela Hall	07966 521761
<b>St George's</b>	Christine Crawley	07770 613948
	Carol Milgate	020 8688 7792
<b>Director of Music</b>	Ronny Krippner	020 8688 8104
<b>Verger and Vicar's Secretary</b>	Denise Mead	020 8688 5971 (home)
<b>Master of the Ringers</b>	Shirley McGill	020 8406 3083
<b>PCC Secretaries</b>		
<b>Croydon Minster</b>	Sue Kibler	07941 744101
<b>St George's</b>	Lynne Kerwood	020 8688 1666
<b>Treasurers</b>		
<b>Croydon Minster</b>	Debbie Miller	020 8688 8104
<b>St George's</b>	Carol Milgate, Treasurer Ethel Dixon, Assistant	020 8688 7792

# Times of Services

**\*ALL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED\***

## **Croydon Minster**

Morning Prayer, weekdays (excluding Tuesday), 8.30am

### **Sunday**

8.00am - Eucharist

10.00am - Sung Eucharist;

Creche (ages 0 – 4), Kingfishers (4–10) and Blue Door Group (11+)

6.30pm - Choral Evensong

### **Monday**

11.00am - Eucharist

### **Tuesday**

8.30am - Eucharist

9.00am - Morning Prayer

11.00am - Eucharist

5.30pm - Choral Evensong sung by the Boy Choristers \*

### **Wednesday**

11.00am - Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

5.30pm - Choral Evensong sung by the Girl Choristers \*

### **Thursday**

7.00pm - Choral Evensong (men's voices) \*

### **Friday**

11.00am - Eucharist

### **Saturday**

10.00am - Eucharist

\* Term time only

## **St George's, Waddon**

### **Sunday**

10.00am - Parish Eucharist, Noah's Ark (ages 5–11)

### **Thursday**

10.00am - Eucharist with Discussion (Traditional Language)