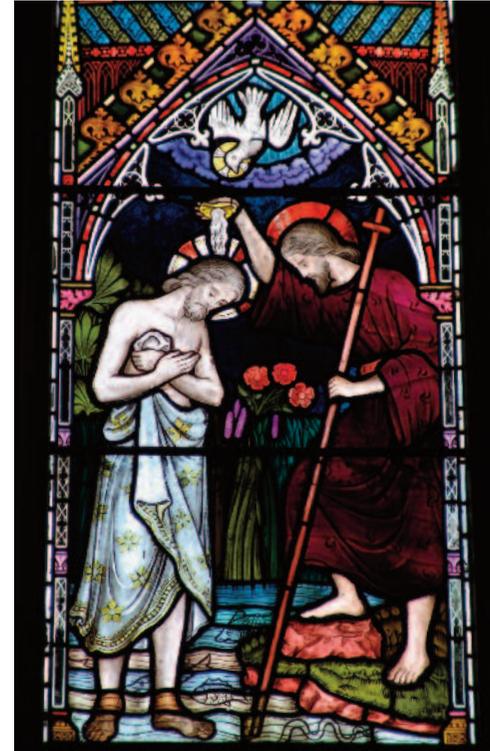


PARISH Magazine



Croydon
Minster and St George's, Waddon

June / July 2021



Feast of St John the Baptist, 24th June

New Beginnings *Fr David Adamson-Hill*

The Sound of Silence *Jon Blanchard*

Theodore Fielding, the Forgotten Artist *David Morgan*

A Moment in Time *Patricia Randall*

Good Friday Crosses *Young people of the Minster*

Croydon Minster's APCM *Sue Kibler*

Parish Diary

Croydon Minster

Sundays 10am Eucharist

You may only enter the church if you have a previously booked a (free) ticket from Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/croydon-minster-31264930179>

Tickets are made available from the Wednesday prior to each Sunday.

6.30pm Choral Evensong 13th, 20th, 27th June

Weekday Eucharists 11am Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Special events

27th June 11am Festal Eucharist
followed by a picnic in the Minster's grounds

4th July 4.30pm for 5pm Croydon's Covid-19 Memorial Service

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St George's

Services are currently restricted due to Covid-19.

Sundays 10am Eucharist

St George's Safeguarding Officers:

Anne Tanner 020 8686 3760 / 07715 581046

Christine Crawley 020 8688 0609 / 07770 613948

Cover image: Stained glass showing the baptism of Jesus

(Roger de Montfort / shutterstock.com)

A Welcome from Fr Andrew

Welcome to this edition of the Parish Magazine. There are some real gems to be discovered and read in here.

Fr David Adamson-Hill, the new associate priest (and Team Vicar designate) at St George's, introduces himself and reflects on his recent experience of 'farewells' and 'welcomes'. I have often mused that 'in all the changing scenes of life' leaving a place well is as important as arriving well. It's interesting that two English words associated with departure and arrival have the word 'well' in them: 'I trust that you will "fare-well" on your journey.' And on arrival we trust that someone has 'well-come' to their new abiding place.

Fr David is licensed at St George's on Sunday 30th May, Trinity Sunday. He will be associate priest, so working across the parish, but with special responsibility for St George's. I hope the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be a source of inspiration to him as he reflects on how the Spirit is moving both at the Minster and St George's, and with our brothers and sisters at St Andrew's.

My words cannot do justice to Patricia Randall's poem which very movingly and beautifully captures insights into precious places and God's presence within them.

Jon Blanchard takes the awareness of the importance of physical places to a meditation on prayer in the silence of the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. This is a deep and powerful form of prayer. As the psalm puts it, 'on you alone my soul in stillness waits'. Both Patricia's poem and Jon's piece chimed with my recent reading of Cardinal Robert Sarah's book *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*.

What a noisy world we live in. The Nobel prize writer Daniel Kahneman's new book is called *Noise*. I haven't read it yet, but just the title captures the noisiness of so many places. If lockdown has taught me anything it has become my increasing awareness of just how precious silence is to me. Perhaps a regular, intentionally silent prayer time in church is in order, now more than ever.

Another way of paying deep attention is in art. David Morgan introduces us to Theodore Fielding, the 'forgotten artist' buried in the churchyard. David speculates on a missing painting of the church. If it ever existed I like to think it would capture what many of us find at the Minster, in Patricia's words:

Here Holy peace holds every space
As wonder tiptoes in to find,
Time blesses this forgotten place.

Fr Andrew



During the Minster's Good Friday service for children and families, the children were given cardboard crosses to decorate. In this edition of the magazine we feature some beautiful artwork that the children created and shared with us.

If any more families would like to share their creations, please send these to:

connect@croydonminster.org



SAVE THE DATE!

Patronal Festival Picnic

Sunday 27th June

(the first Sunday after the legal lockdown restrictions are due to end)



We will celebrate the feast of St John the Baptist, our patron saint, with a Festal Eucharist at the later time of 11am, then we'll be having a bring-your-own picnic in the Minster grounds, with games for children (young and old!).

As we don't know exactly what will be happening about Covid guidance after 21st June, the picnic will be outside unless it's raining, in which case it will have to be cancelled.



New Beginnings

“I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I have been. When you face the sun, shadows will always be behind you.”

At the moment, these wise words from Winnie the Pooh seem particularly poignant. As I write I am sat in an unrecognisably empty flat, waiting for the final instalment of removal men who will take me from Southwark and Borough, where I have been, to Waddon and Croydon.

Saying goodbye, moving, and beginning to get to know a new group of people is very much a double-sided coin. The nature of priestly ministry is such that when you are in a parish, you throw yourself wholeheartedly into the life of that community, without holding anything back. With God's blessing, this makes for a wonderful time; the joy of new friends, the intimacy of praying together, and a deep sense of belonging.

To have to leave all of that behind is of course gut-wrenchingly sad. I can't believe how quickly my four years in Borough have passed, and how suddenly they seem to have come to an end.

Happily though, the sad side of the coin has, as Pooh says, a sunny side too – a sunny side that I've got firmly in my sights.

As I'm yet to start in Waddon, and more widely in the Minster Parish, it doesn't feel like there's a great deal I can say, other than everyone I've met so far has been very generous with their welcome to me, and my wife Amanda. We're both (and I'm sure our soon to be born baby) very much looking forward to sharing in the abundant life of Christ with you.

Whilst I don't yet know much about Croydon, I thought I might take this opportunity to give you a head start, and tell you something about me. I suppose the first thing to say is that I'm actually feeling particularly sorry for our removal men; my wife and I share a love of books. There are quite a few of them to be moved; novels (we love a crime thriller), to my vast collection of cookbooks, and naturally the room full of theological works. I'm sure you can tell a lot about a person from their books, and if mine say anything about me, I think I'm verging on the eccentric.

I trained for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, which has at its heart a 'working' monastery. Being a student there involves rubbing shoulders with the monks, and learning from them. One of the particular delights for me there was coming into heavy contact with the soul of St Dominic, particularly in the writings of his followers in the Dominican order. Aquinas, Schillebeeckx, Chenu, Kerr, McCabe; these are my theological heroes, and involving oneself with them involves dipping one's toes into their motto *contemplata aliis tradere* which roughly translates as 'to hand down to others the fruits of contemplation'.

I hope over the years you will find my contemplative fruits enjoyable, as I'm sure I will yours.

Fr David Adamson-Hill

The Church Times

Price **£2.95** (of which £1.50 goes to the church)

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Contact Denise for further details

PARISH RECORDS

Croydon Minster

Holy Baptism

Kinsleigh Anderson

Peter Gibson

R.I.P.

Wyn Harpur

Ray Jewkes

Year's Mynde

June Hawke

Harold Blacquire

Jane Davey

Paul Mead

Jennifer Paris

George Mitchell

Brian Lown

Albert Botton

Congratulations to Dr Ronny Krippner
on his appointment as Director of Music at Ripon Cathedral.
Ronny's last service here will be on Christmas Day.

The Sound of Silence

One Lent when I was in work I decided as a Lent discipline that one lunch hour each week I would visit a church and spend some time there. In particular I was being quiet before the reserved sacrament, the consecrated bread of the eucharist.

I remember one of these occasions very well. After I had spent some time being quiet, I realised something important. If there was no truth in belief in God, then what I was doing would be meaningless. Instead I felt the time had been worthwhile and meaningful, even if the meaning could not be put into words. It was not that I had any overwhelming religious experience – it just seemed the right thing to do.

Lots of people nowadays practise meditation without sharing any religious belief or commitment. They find it calms them and makes things easier for them, rather like being in a jacuzzi or sauna. For me the experience was different. I was not being silent in order to feel good or for it to do me good.

I had felt very unhappy with my life and the main source of hope I had was the overwhelming sense I had known when I received communion. Yet there seemed so many good arguments against any belief in God. There was far more church attendance then than there is nowadays, but that seemed so much a matter of social respectability rather than a way to contact with the deeper things of life, except in so far as it conveyed the gospel and the sacraments. However I learnt from reading C.S. Lewis that Christian faith is a matter of commitment, not relying on your own feelings so I kept on going to church: I had been given hope: But I wanted further confirmation. C.S. Lewis was not a help here as he seemed to say the Christian faith was a matter of intellectual conviction. After a while all the logical reasons did not seem very convincing. I did not realise, as Lewis seems to have forgotten, that

Christian faith is not a matter of believing statements **about** God, but believing **in** God as a matter of personal commitment, God as revealed in Christ. But I was very wary of basing belief on personal experience mainly because I did not wish it to be misled by my emotions.

When I went to university I came in contact with a far more informed presentation of Christianity. I was quite unconvinced by the evangelicals I came across but I learnt more of Christian theology and traditions of prayer, or spirituality as people say nowadays.

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Parish Magazine Committee

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Liaison with advertisers: Debbie Miller

Proofreading: Alice Bishop

Please email contributions to liz.watkins@intermain.org.uk

Deadline for the August / September 2021 issue:

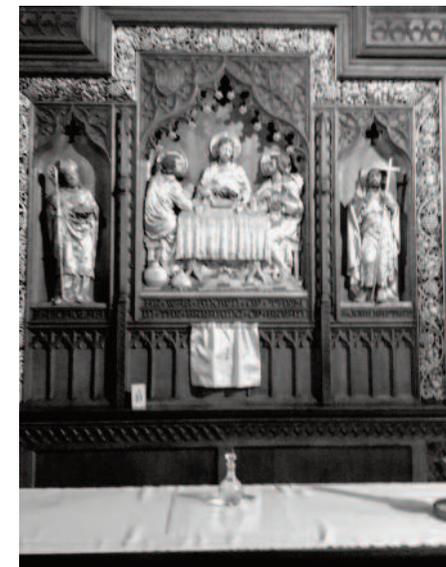
Thursday 15th July

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

One thing I learnt in particular was from the medieval spiritual classic, *The Cloud of Unknowing*. This was the simple sentence “Lift up your heart to God and mean God himself, and not what you can get out of him.” The writer goes on to recommend staying silent and repeating over and over again some word such as “God”. This is the practice known as centring prayer. The object is not to feel good or calm but to put yourself in the presence of God as God himself and not as our wishful thinking or projections. This made sense – it was recognising the reality of God without making it dependent either on theories or on emotional experience.

I mentioned that I was praying in front of the reserved sacrament. At times I have found this very moving. It is helpful for this form of prayer to be in the presence of something – whether the sacrament an icon or some other focus – just to recognise I am putting myself in the presence of something greater than I. At the Minster, the sacrament is reserved behind the altar in St Nicholas’ Chapel.

This form of prayer is not feel-good self-help therapy but a recognition I am not the centre of the universe. What I am putting myself in the presence of cannot be limited or contained by my concepts, but it is not just the Spirit of the Universe or Universal Love. It is the God whose Spirit moves me to pray and who reveals himself through Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, and made known in the breaking of bread.



Jon Blanchard

Theodore Fielding

The Forgotten Artist buried in the Churchyard

John Singleton Copley is the famous American-born artist who is buried in Croydon Minster. Many people, over the years, have visited the church in order to see the memorial of his final resting place. However, another artist lies forgotten in the churchyard, interred here after his death in July 1851. His gravestone was removed and if that stone was laid down to create a pathway, any inscription has been worn away. The forgotten artist is Theodore Henry Adolphus Fielding. Not only was he especially skilled in painting in water colour, he was also a renowned engraver and printer. He produced many impressive prints using aquatint and stipple techniques. He also wrote and published several books about art teaching and the restoration of oil paintings.

Theodore was born in Yorkshire, the eldest of six children. His father, Theodore Nathan Fielding, was a respected artist in the North, living near Halifax and painting portraits for the landed gentry. Four of the boys, taught to draw by their father, showed a talent with pencil, paper and palette. Theodore, Copley, Thales and Newton all became artists. How ironic it is that the third son was named after the great American artist buried in Croydon. I am sure that fact was not lost on Theodore when he resided in the town in his later life.

Encouraged from an early age to draw, paint and colour, the four soon began to exhibit their works. Theodore first came to the notice of British artists when he exhibited a painting 'A View of the North Tyne' in 1799 at the Royal Academy. The artistic talents of the Fieldings came to wider prominence firstly when they set up a studio in Newman Street off Oxford Street in London, and secondly, when

they joined the French artistic community by renting an atelier in Paris in the 1820s. In both of these workshops they developed an impressive network of artistic contacts and acquaintances.

In London, they employed William Callow as an apprentice. Callow went on to have a distinguished career as a leading landscape painter. Writing in his autobiography, he acknowledged the debt he owed to the Fieldings in helping him to develop the skills which brought him such success. Charles Bentley, the engraver and painter, was articled to Theodore in London in 1819, before following him to Paris. He spent much of his early apprenticeship colouring the prints created by his boss.

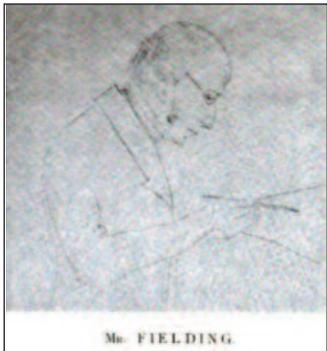
In Paris, the brothers were part of an artistic scene which included many famous painters. In 1824 Copley Fielding won the Medaille d'Or at the Salon de Paris. He shared the award with none other than John Constable as well as Richard Parkes Bonington, a talented English painter who died in his twenties from consumption. However, it was with the artist Eugene Delacroix that the brothers spent most time. Delacroix wrote in his journal that he thought Copley to be the most talented of the four. He also painted a portrait of Thales, with whom he used to fence regularly.

Theodore obviously enjoyed and benefitted from his time in Paris. Two of his landscape paintings are now in the Louvre collection and currently housed at the Eugene Delacroix Museum. 'Lac au pied d'une montagne' and 'Paysage de montagne' were both painted around 1820. After managing the French family enterprise for some years, Theodore decided on a career change. It would also mean a regular income and the promise of a pension. Although he had taught drawing on an individual basis, he formalized this aspect of his career by

successfully applying for a tutor's post at the Honourable East India Company's Military Academy in Addiscombe. At the age of 44 he became assistant to Mr. Wells as a Civil Drawing Master. Apparently, the nickname given to him by the cadets there was 'Johnny Bleu', due to his pronunciation of that colour having a decided French twang. He brought some of his years at Paris back with him!

For the next 24 years he gave loyal service to the Academy, retiring at the age of 68 with a pension of £150 per annum. For him, his last few years must have been difficult ones as his eyesight clouded due to cataracts. In his will he describes himself as 'Professor of Landscape Painting' and was living in 6 Duppas Hill Terrace when he passed away on July 11th 1851 at the age of 70. His wife, Mary Anne, was the sole beneficiary. She, too, was a water colour artist, exhibiting paintings with the Water Colour Society from 1821 until 1835. Theodore and his wife hadn't always lived in that house, as William Callow writes about visiting them at their residence in Coombe Lane.

Colonel Vibart's 1894 book on the Addiscombe Academy is a source of much information about our artist-cum-professor. Thanks to this publication we even



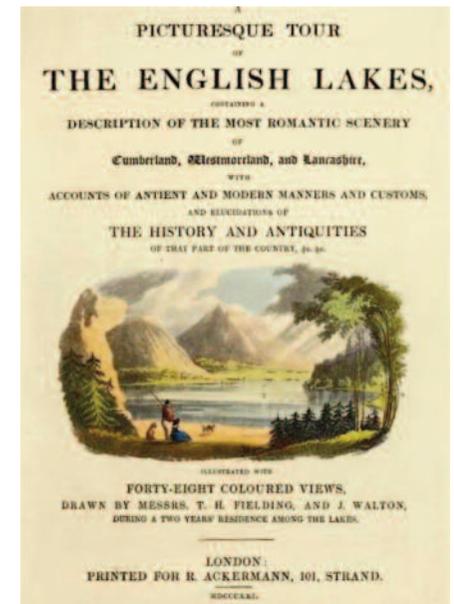
know what he looked like. He included a sketch of Theodore Fielding, completed by Cadet Maisey. The young man provides us with a pencil drawing of a bald man, with fashionable sideburns, rather sharp features and wearing spectacles. Sporting a broad collared jacket, he is bent over a sheet of paper, pencil in hand.

Vibart tells us that Fielding was a popular master and well respected by the cadets. We can assume that was an accurate statement as the writer was much less complimentary about some other staff

members. Apparently, a tradition built up at the Academy that if you wanted to get high marks in Art then you ought to avail yourself of some extra tuition. This just happened to be with Theodore's younger brother Newton who provided the support sessions. He had devised a step by step tutorial from which many cadets benefitted. There was also another attraction. Newton provided a studio lunch together with bouts of singlestick and fencing in an adjoining room. It's a good thing they brought the épées back from Paris!

The Academy attraction proved an attractive career option for another of the brothers. Thales was appointed drawing master at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1836. Copley didn't follow such a route, being immersed in art for the remainder of his life. As a witness to brother Theodore's will, he gives his address as 26 Newman Street, the premises where the brothers first set up in London around 1820.

If Theodore Fielding is remembered by anyone today it will probably be because of his books of prints. *A Picturesque Tour of the English Lakes* and *Picturesque Illustrations of the River Wye* are two of his best aquatint projects. The book on the English Lakes, published in 1821, quoted Wordsworth extensively and helped to cement his reputation as the best of the Lake poets. *Excursion sur les côtes et dans les ports de Normandie* is a book of engravings based on paintings



Crosses for Good Friday



Decorated by Georgia Raskovic Bond



Decorated by Toby Watkins



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Croydon Minster's APCM

The APCM was held as part of the 10am Eucharist on Sunday 16th May. It felt quite timely that this is the Sunday between Ascension Day and Pentecost, when the Apostles had watched Jesus ascending to heaven and were waiting for the Holy Spirit to descend. They were (a bit like us) in a place of getting their bearings after the tumultuous events of Good Friday and Easter, waiting to receive the Holy Spirit so that their new life could begin. The choir enhanced our worship by singing the beautiful setting of Palestrina's *Missa Brevis* as well as the hymns we weren't allowed to sing.

Arlene Esdaile read the Epistle from the Acts of the Apostles, which formed the basis of Fr Andrew's homily as he helped us reflect on our life as a church. I have extracted and quote the 'best bits' as a summary of what he said:

The Acts of the Apostles is a truly inspiring book. It inspires us to ponder the identity of the Church: who we are; what makes us tick; what our mission and purpose is and to whom we direct our adoration, worship and praise.

Acts tells clearly of the way the first Christians worshipped God, how they ordered their life and how they went out in the power of the Spirit to bring good news to the ends of the earth.

We should have that in mind on the day of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The life of the church is both ordered and must be open for the Holy Spirit to prompt, nudge and move us. That's very relevant on a day when we elect churchwardens, present accounts and consider our governance and the life of the Church in this parish.



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We are so blessed with many people faithfully serving the mission of the Church in this place – too many people to name now. Who is out there today who might now be pondering the call to service in this church? Could you be a churchwarden or PCC member in the future? Could you bring to bear your professional or personal skills in service of the Church? Could you serve Christ in those in need in the name of the Church? How could you be equipped to ponder this and undertake those tasks?

We have to get our life together right, but the apostles were not confined to their own holy huddle. They went out to the 'ends of the earth'. Our live streamed worship has gone out to the ends of the earth, with regular contact from Kentucky, New York, New Zealand, as well as closer to home. That is astonishing, but our first call is to bring good news to the people of Croydon.

*Reflecting on the Acts of the Apostles means we cannot be a holy huddle enjoying what we enjoy, doing what we like doing in the way we like doing it. That's not enough. The pandemic tells us what we should already know, that we are called to look outwards to bring **and to be** good news to all people.*

*With that call to worship, attention to the life of our church and our mission beyond these four walls, today we offer the past year to God. We do so lamenting the pain of this past year for individuals and households, the impact on the young, older people and the vulnerable, on businesses and community enterprises. So much has been curtailed in our life together; but perhaps we see more clearly through that reality the task, the duty and joy, we now have **to look outwards to grow inwards.***

Our annual report and accounts detail the life of this church through an unprecedented year. The church has not died off, it may be more akin to a tree that had endured a tough winter, ready to burst out with new life.

That is down to the grace of God and to your prayer and commitment.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. As we present the accounts, approved by the PCC, we have a surplus, which is remarkable given the year we've been through.

Thank you for your generous response in giving financially to the church.

The other reports showing the life of this church, our Electoral Roll and work of the Deanery Synod are presented to us as well.

Thank you for your engagement with pastoral letters and online provision of worship – tough though that has been to engage with.

It is so good to see you back in church, and we look forward to welcoming more people back as lockdown eases and confidence grows.

We have the chance to set our bearings as a church for a new season. At the moment little 'focus group' clusters are taking place online and soon in person, and do join in with those if you would like to. I detect, by God's grace, a deep and vibrant engagement with the challenges ahead and a proper sense of confidence in how we can meet them in this 10th anniversary year of being named a Minster Church.

What a thought that today the Holy Spirit is writing through us new chapters of the Acts of the Apostles as we are renewed in worship, ponder deeply the life of the church and go out to the ends of Croydon as vessels of the loving mercy of the Lord. Amen.

The folder containing all of the Reports and Accounts was presented and placed on the Altar as an offering to God of all of our endeavours as a church in 2020.

The service then continued as normal with the Preparation of the Table. After the service those who wished to were able to sing the hymn 'We Have a Gospel to Proclaim' on the Green.

To me this APCM feels like a turning point – a chance to reflect on what we have learned through enduring the pandemic, to give thanks for God's unfailing love and sustenance, and to look forward to what we are being called to become as a church as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of being a Minster.

Sue Kibler
PCC Secretary

Image: Alfira / shutterstock.com

Croydon's COVID-19 Memorial Service
for everyone who has lost a loved one due to the pandemic

Sunday 4th July

Doors open 4.30pm for a 5pm start

Tickets available on Eventbrite





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07957 149005 (mobile) in emergencies

croydonminster@gmail.org

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Advisor and Assisting Priest	Canon John Ackland	07831 516662
Assistant Priest	Revd Alan Bayes	07792 846452
Priest, St George's	Revd David Adamson-Hill	020 8688 7006
Hon Curate, St George's	Revd Peter Smith	07856 365561
Lay Readers		
Croydon Minster	Elaine Cooper	020 8686 7315
St George's	Marcia Grant-Che	07969 653110
Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary	Diana Hemmings	020 8667 0575
Churchwardens		
Croydon Minster	Arlene Esdaile	020 8657 5187
	Pamela Hall	07966 521761
St George's	Christine Crawley	07770 613948
	Carol Milgate	07984 112804
Director of Music	Ronny Krippner	020 8688 8104
Verger and Parish Administrator	Denise Mead	020 8688 5971 (home)
Vicar's PA	Angela Bond	020 8688 8104
Master of the Ringers	Shirley McGill	020 8406 3083
PCC Secretaries		
Croydon Minster	Sue Kibler	07941 744101
St George's	Lynne Kerwood	020 8688 1666
Treasurers		
Croydon Minster	Debbie Miller	020 8688 8104
St George's	Carol Milgate, Treasurer	07984 112804
	Ethel Dixon, Assistant	

Times of Services

*** REGULAR SCHEDULE 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)