

# PARISH Magazine



Croydon

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

August / September 2022

Minimum donation £1.00

## Celebrations!

A Jubilee Homily

'Best day ever!'

The Minster Jubilee Celebrations

A Recipe for Success: Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of u3a

Performing in the Platinum Jubilee Pageant

A Choir Celebration

Celebration of the Church Congress, 1877

Celebration and Fellowship

Orthodoxy, heresy and John Milton

*Fr Andrew*

*Georgia and Julie*

*David Morgan*

*Mary Cox*

*Denise Mead*

*David Morgan*

*John S. Langridge*

*Jon Blanchard*

## **MARTIN HOW**

This edition of the Parish Magazine was completed for publication shortly before the sad announcement of the passing of Martin How MBE, Organist Laureate of Croydon Minster.

A tribute to Martin will be published in the October / November issue of the magazine.

# Regular service times

## Croydon Minster

Morning Prayer, Monday – Friday 8.30am

### Sunday

8.00am Said Eucharist  
10.00am Sung Eucharist  
6.30pm Choral Evensong

### Monday

11.00am Said Eucharist

### Tuesday

11.00am Said Eucharist  
5.30pm Choral Evensong (Boy Choristers – term time only)

### Wednesday

11.00am Said Eucharist  
5.30pm Choral Evensong (Girl Choristers – term time only)

### Thursday

7.00pm Choral Evensong (Men's voices – term time only)

### Friday

11.00am Said Eucharist

## St George's

### Sunday

10.00am Eucharist

### Thursday

10.30am Eucharist

# Diary dates

## Croydon Minster

### August

Fri 12	Memorial Service for Susan Cowan, 1.30pm
Sun 14	Holy Baptism, 11.30am
	Family Service, 3.30pm: 'For Mary, Mother of the Lord'
Sun 21	Parish Eucharist followed by coffee / tea, 10.00am
Sun 28	Holy Baptism, 11.30am
Mon 29	Bank Holiday

### September

Sun 4	Holy Baptism, 11.30am
Sat 10	Holy Matrimony, 2.00pm
Sun 11	Sung Eucharist with Baptism, 10.00am
	Holy Baptism, 11.30am
	Family Service, 3.30pm: 'Lift high the Cross'
Tue 13	Boys' Choir Choral Evensong resumes, 5.30pm
Wed 14	Girls' Choir Choral Evensong resumes, 5.30pm
	Deanery Synod meeting, 8.00pm
Sat 17	Holy Matrimony, 1.00pm
Sun 18	Sung Eucharist followed by coffee / tea, 10.00am
	Catechesis / Confirmation Prep begins in the church hall
Sun 25	Holy Baptism, 11.30am
	Catechesis / Confirmation Prep in the church hall
Mon 26	The Sixteen Concert, 7.30pm (Ticketed)
Thu 29	Old Palace School Founders Day Service, 2.30pm
Fri 30	Minster Junior School Harvest Festival, 9.30am

Lectio Divina takes place on Zoom at 12 noon on Tuesdays.

# 'To Life!'

---

**celebration (n).** 1520s, "honoring of a day or season by appropriate festivities", formed in English from **celebrate**, or else from Latin *celebrationem* (nominative *celebratio*) "numerous attendance" (especially upon a festival celebration), noun of action from past-participle stem of *celebrare*. Meaning "performance of a religious ceremony" (especially the Eucharist) is from 1570s; that of "extolling in speeches, etc." is from 1670s. Source: etymoline.com

Amongst other things, Covid scuppered lots of celebrations. In 2020 this included the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the present Minster Church and the 10th anniversary of the Minster Making in 2011.

On a personal level it hit the celebration of my 50th birthday and Alice and my 25th wedding anniversary.

Most of us will be able to name celebrations that never happened or were put on hold because of the pandemic.

Celebration is something human beings like to do and even *need* to do.

Celebrations remind us that we are not solitary creatures, but deeply connected. Celebrations are all about coming together. A solitary 'celebration' is really a commemoration.

In the Church we speak of the *celebration* of the Eucharist. That term reminds us that there is a celebratory aspect to the Eucharist, both as a thanksgiving but also our connectedness in the Body of Christ, the Church, and in Communion with the Divine Life of the Trinity and those who have gone before, with whom we are united through time and eternity.

The good news is that celebrations in company with others have resumed – and thanks be to God that, unless otherwise expressly forbidden, the Eucharist was celebrated in the parish at every opportunity during the pandemic.

So ‘celebration’ is a theme that we all could do with!

Celebrations are rooted in being human and enriched by the divine presence. As Psalm 104 says, the Lord ‘brings forth food from the earth and wine to gladden our hearts, oil to give us a cheerful countenance and bread to strengthen our hearts.’ (Psalm 104.14, 15).

Celebration is at the heart of the nature of God, reflected in Christ’s earthly ministry where he graced and initiated celebrations. Think of the Wedding Feast at Cana, or the images of the Kingdom of God as a great banquet and celebration.

Our articles this month *celebrate celebration!* Those are celebrations recent and in the past: of priestly ordination anniversaries, baptism, the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, church congresses and simple but wonderful time spent with family and friends. A weighty article also looks at John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. Paradise itself is a garden of celebration in communion with God.

I hope that you feel in life that you have causes for celebration, and if you find that hard, consider the great verse of Psalm 118.24: ‘This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.’ Celebration begins in knowing life to be a gift: a gift we respond to and endeavour to savour. As the great Jewish toast at a celebration puts it: ‘L’CHAIM’, which means ‘to life’!

Fr Andrew

# A Christian with you and a priest for you

Fr Andrew's homily from the 'Jubilee Eucharist' for himself and Fr Arthur

---

Isaiah 6.1–4, 8 'Here I am: send me'

Psalms 23.1–3a, 5–6

John 17.1–2, 9, 14–26 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son'



60 years ago, in Fr Arthur's case, 25 years ago in mine, and one day ago, in this church, for three people: priests have been ordained, in service of Christ and his Church, from the time of the Apostles.

Priesthood in the Church has a deep provenance going back to the time of Abraham and the mystical priest-king Melchizedek, on to Aaron the priest and on to the Temple in Jerusalem.

The essential task of the priest is *to offer sacrifice and intercession in pursuit of reconciling human lives to God.*

Priesthood – in the Old Testament and New and into the Apostolic Age and therefore in the life of the Church – is all focused on Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest.

Jesus Christ both expands and intensifies all notions of what priesthood is.

In Jesus Christ the priestly task of the offering of sacrifice is no longer about the blood of bulls and goats and lambs; but is found in his offering of himself, once for all, upon the cross: he is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Blood and water flowed from the heart of Jesus when the centurion's lance pierced his side and he gave up his life.

That is the fulfilment of all sacrifice.

Nothing can perfect or improve the self-offering of Christ who is, as the hymn puts it, both priest *and* victim.

And today, through Christ our great High Priest, we receive the benefits of his sacrifice in the Eucharist, that's why often it is known as the Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Eucharist is not a blood sacrifice but the re-presentation of the sacrifice of Christ in which we share, in the way he promised at the Last Supper, saying, 'This is my body, this is my blood'.

The sweet incense that masked the stench of slaughtered animals in the Temple is now the fragrance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a fragrance that fills lives that will receive him, and accompanies the offering of ourselves, our souls and bodies to be a holy and lively sacrifice to him.

Incense too represents another dimension of priesthood, that of intercession, of prayer rising before the Lord; 'Let my prayer rise before you as incense', says the psalm, 'the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice' (Psalm 141).

Jesus Christ is the exemplar of prayer, that union with the Father. The intimacy of that relationship flowed through our gospel reading:

'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.' (John 17.25, 26)

This intimacy of prayer and communion of Father and Son, woven in the love of the Holy Spirit, is the fountain of reconciliation.

Drinking from that fountain brings us to life in its abundance and a clearer vision of life means we can be clear-sighted about our sin.

That's one reason why Mary is known as 'Mother of Priests'.

I have used the phrase 'mirror men', but the ancient way of putting it is that, in the Liturgy, the priest is an icon of Christ who acts *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ.

So I trust that we have been 'mirror men' in the parishes and chaplaincies in which we have served, reflecting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, interceding and reconciling in his name, not our own.

St Augustine of Hippo remarked to the people of his diocese, 'I am a Christian with you and a Bishop for you'.

A priest is both a Christian with you and a priest for you.

To be a priest in the Church of God is the most overwhelming privilege when we pause to consider it.

No doubt like me, Arthur will be mindful tonight – on this jubilee, this lovely (but ultimately artificial) landmark – of those people whom we have baptised, prepared for confirmation, married and buried; those whose vocations we have spotted and nurtured, those whose confessions we have heard and to whom we have pronounced Christ's forgiveness; those dying in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life and those who lacked that hope; the students, and others who we have endeavoured to guide through the world's machinations and the valley of the shadow of death; those people to whom we have had to speak firmly, for the sake of truth, and those who have needed a kind or encouraging word; those who have gathered at the altar as we have proclaimed Christ in word and sacrament supremely in the breaking of bread.

No doubt too, Arthur will be mindful, like me, of those priests who in their time were sources of inspiration to us, and thankful to our families, friends and congregations who have made our ministries possible and sustainable.

That is why the sacrament we call Confession is also known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in which the penitent repents and the priest declares, at Christ's word, the forgiveness of sins.

When we know the glory we can attain; we see the sin that impedes it.

Essentially, the Christian priest is to be the mirror of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest.

At its heart that's what my ministry is meant to be about, and Arthur's too: as a song of the 1980s put it: 'Here comes the mirror man'!

A mirror, in itself, hasn't got anything to show. All that I, or Arthur, or any priest can bring is our own humanity, and the honest endeavour to reflect the sacrifice, reconciliation and love of Christ to the world.

The priest's vocation starts with the holiness of God, as Isaiah found in the Temple.

Before being commissioned to be sent by the LORD, Isaiah, in the midst of the sacrifice and incense of the Temple cries out:

'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' (Isaiah 6.5)

The priest is first a human being, a sinner, falling short of God's glory, yet by God's grace we can be sent by the Lord. One of the Articles of Religion is entitled 'Of the unworthiness of the ministers, which hinders not the effect of the sacrament' (Article 26). Even human unworthiness cannot dim the divine light.

The Church Fathers often speak of the Blessed Virgin Mary – who said, 'How can this be?' – as the moon reflecting the light of the sun: s-u-n and S-o-n.

Ultimately the task of each priest, and each Christian, is to turn to Christ and walk with him the path of life.

With fellow priests, not least in this season of life here, I trust that Arthur and I mirror and show to you the sacrificial love of Christ that reconciles us to the Blessed Trinity.

Please pray for your priests, and all priests, mindful of the words the priest says at the end of a Confession to the person forgiven:

‘The Lord has put away your sins.

When you pray, please pray for me, a sinner too.’

## Parish Magazine Committee

Magazine Editor: Liz Watkins, 07973 172807

Commissioning: Fr Andrew, Liz Watkins

Liaison with advertisers: Deborah Miller

Proofreading: Alice Bishop

Please email contributions to [liz.watkins@intermain.org.uk](mailto:liz.watkins@intermain.org.uk)

**Deadline for the October / November 2022 issue:**

**Thursday 15 September**

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

# 'Best day ever!'

---

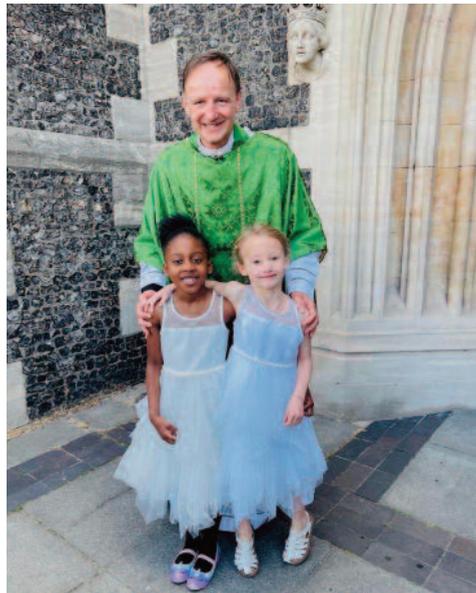


*Georgia and Julie were baptised during the 10am Sung Eucharist on 3rd July.*

*Georgia's mother Angela writes: Georgia and Julie's baptism was a very joyful celebration indeed. They both said how much they loved the service and how special it made them feel to do it surrounded by so many of their 'church family' along with friends and members of our families who had travelled from different ends of the country to share in the moment.*

We were very touched by the kind words and wishes we were given by many people at the end of the service. Georgia told me it was her best day ever!

*Many thanks to the families of Georgia and Julie for permission to share these lovely photographs with our readers.*





# The Minster Jubilee Celebrations

David Morgan

---

What a weekend of church celebrations we had. Wonderful liturgy and prayers, inspiring music and Marmite sandwiches.



To be clear, the Marmite sandwiches were mine, made especially for the picnic. Not everyone's choice, I know, but a favourite one of mine. It was a shame that we couldn't be outdoors but it was still great to eat and chat together in the hall. It was good to meet with people for the first time and lovely to be reacquainted with one or two of St George's congregation whom I haven't seen for ages. And we had the Salvation Army band playing favourite hymns for us all to join in with. It isn't easy to warble 'Dear

Lord and Father of Mankind' when you have had a nibble of your sandwich, though. I must learn to be more patient. It is always a delight to hear the Salvation Army. The musical partnership with our Salvationist friends is such



*The vibrant Jubilee bunting on Minster Green was created by members of the congregations, schools, care homes and almshouses of the parish*

a treat. You just have to watch feet tapping and heads nodding in time with the music to know how much folk enjoy their contribution.

For me, singing in the choir is special, particularly for special services like the Jubilee celebration. Music is such a central part of Minster worship. The choice of the Coronation Anthem ‘Zadok the Priest’ for Evensong was predictable, but one which was hugely anticipated by both choir and congregation. The most well-known introduction in the choral repertoire rarely fails to draw in the listener and was certainly special on that evening. The ‘Z’ of ‘Zadok’ burst onto the eardrums in an electrifying fashion. Mr Miller smiled. All he had to do was to get the singers to build on that start. The choir responded and the anthem was a triumph. As indeed it was at the coronation of our Queen, whose Jubilee we were celebrating. “I could have been in Westminster Abbey,” commented one of the guests.

Another significant part of worship at the Minster is prayer. The inclusive tones of the intercessory prayers speak clearly to me. Praying for the Queen on the occasion of her Jubilee was special. Praying for an individual who has dedicated



*The Salvation Army band led our singing in the church hall*

their life to the service of Christ and of others is an easier prospect than praying for those whose lives are very different to that. Learning how to pray well is a lifelong exercise. It was a privilege on that weekend – the Pentecost and Jubilee conjoined.

The church year provides us with the calendar to focus on the rhythm of worship. Colours denote the changing of the ecclesiastical season. Interspersed with regular services are the 'specials'. It was uplifting for all of us to celebrate the Jubilee. We won't get another for a while! The sound of the music, the words from the liturgy will be recalled on occasion. Give yourself time to reflect and ponder. What did the celebration say to you?

## A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



**2022 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the u3a in the UK.  
To celebrate the occasion, Croydon u3a offers this recipe  
for a satisfying and enjoyable u3a experience!**

### **Ingredients and Method:**

- Take a varied group of people who are no longer working full time;
- Mix together their different backgrounds, knowledge, interests, life-experiences and skills;
- Stir in a rich blend of activities to suit all tastes;
- Spice it up with a generous helping of good humour, friendship and fun.

### **Serve it up:**

- Make sure all can share;
- Sit back and enjoy!



If you would like to add your interests and enthusiasms to the Croydon u3a mix look us up: [www.u3asites.org.uk/croydon](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/croydon) or on Facebook

**u3a**  
Croydon



# Performing in the Platinum Jubilee Pageant

Mary Cox

---

*Long-standing members of our congregation may remember Mary as the Chair of the Friends of Parish Church Schools, choreographer for Parish productions of 'Oliver!' and 'Guys and Dolls' and a choir parent. Currently working as a dancer and choreographer, she is a founder member of Grand Gesture, a company of older dance artists based in London. We asked her about her recent experience of performing in the Platinum Jubilee Pageant.*



This fantastic day began with a post on Facebook asking for volunteers to take part in the Pageant. Two of the choreographers from the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games Ceremonies were working on the Royal Pageant too.

We were asked for photos of ourselves in authentic costumes and say which decade we'd select. I submitted three photos in all: two for the Lambeth Walk section and one for Carnival. The organisers selected my 'carnival' costume and said I'd be a Festival Goer!

We had two online training sessions in which we learnt we'd be walking alongside open-top

buses decorated according to several decades with celebrities representing each decade on board. My festivalgoers' group was accompanying the year 2000 bus.

The Saturday before the Pageant, we had to register to get accreditation at an office just off Victoria Street. We had a fabric wristband put on and were given a tag for the one bag we were permitted to take with us. (In that bag I had a complete change of clothes even down to underwear, as I had experience of the British weather misbehaving and soaking me to the skin in previous parades!)

On the Pageant morning, we had to check in to the Queen Elizabeth conference centre at 9am. We collected radios and in-ear headphones as each decade was allocated its own radio channel, so you could only hear the soundtrack for your decade. The 1990s and year 2000s casts were in a holding area on the second floor. We got instructions from our section leader which gave us our positions during the Pageant. I was to walk alongside the bus, and go through the right arch of Admiralty Arch. Then we were sent up to make up where sparkles were stuck on our faces to make us look more festive.

The choreographer and director of each decade briefed us on what they wanted us to do. We were taken out onto Birdcage Walk for a practice of our section with volunteers holding cords to represent the bus. There were problems with the sound out there and we couldn't hear the choreographer's directions, so we went back to our holding area and were taken up to an empty floor, where we could hear her and have a walk through. Afterwards we collected our vegan lunch bag and rested while we waited for the Pageant to start.

The holding area gradually emptied as each group was moved out to line up in Pageant order. We waited outside and gradually moved forward as each group joined on. Then we were on Whitehall and we could see our bus for the first time. Our celebrities included Mo Farah, Bradley Walsh, Gok Wan and money saving expert, Martin Lewis. There were enthusiastic crowds cheering all the way down to Trafalgar Square as we smiled and waved, then everyone's performance moved up a notch as we turned into Pall Mall. We'd been told the TV cameras

would be there and everyone rose to the occasion – amazing really, as we'd had minimal instruction and rehearsal.

We circled in front of Buckingham Palace and returned along Birdcage Walk. Friends and family of the volunteers in the Pageant were there. They had also had to apply for accreditation to permit them to watch.

We saw Martin Lewis as we returned to Whitehall and he said he'd be interested to see what everyone's fitness trackers had registered, as he'd clocked up 6000 steps just waving from the top of the bus! By the end of the day, mine registered 34,670 steps or 14.78 miles.

We waited alongside the celebrities' buses for the rest of the Pageant to finish. The celebrities were all very jolly and interacted with us. Basil Brush played a game of peekaboo from the top of his bus.

We followed the end of the Pageant down Whitehall again, as we were permitted to be in the crowd in front of Buckingham Palace. We played celebrity spotting

as the famous faces came onstage from their buses, we saw Ed Sheeran sing and then, most excitingly, we got a glimpse of Her Majesty through the crowd when she came out onto the balcony.



We walked back to collect our belongings. As we entered our holding area, we were given a Pageant tote bag and a souvenir booklet – a lovely keepsake. The TV cameras saw me, and my neighbours managed to capture the moment and got a screen shot of me (*left*) which was another souvenir of an exciting and important celebration. I am so very proud

to have been part of this special day. It was worth the tiredness, and the aching muscles the following day. As a bonus, it had stayed fine and I didn't need my change of clothes!



## Family Services in August and September

Sunday 14 August, 3.30pm 'For Mary, Mother of the Lord'

Sunday 11 September, 3.30pm 'Lift high the Cross'

# A Choir Celebration

*Denise Mead*



*Thanks to choir parent Antonia Majekodunmi for this photograph*

On Sunday 10th July we celebrated the last Choral Sunday of the academic year 2021–2022. During the service we admitted two choristers, Toby and Denith, and thanked leaving chorister Logan, leaving choral scholars Anton, Joshua and Sami, and our two graduate music assistants Oliver and William. Justin Miller, our Director of Music, was also thanked for his hard work this term.

Following the service, a picnic for the whole Choral Foundation was held outside the west doors of the church. The weather was glorious, the food plentiful and a good variety.

Thanks were given to the choristers and their parents, to the choir chaperones and in particular to the two choir matrons Diane Edwards and Denise Mead. The proceedings ended with a cake kindly decorated by Jodie-Anne Richards.

# Celebration of the Church Congress, 1877

*David Morgan*

---

The biggest celebration ever seen in the Croydon Parish Church happened in October 1877. This was the Church Congress of the Anglican Church. This was what the original gathering was called. Nowadays it is the Synod.

It was a great honour for Croydon to be chosen for the event. In the years preceding the event in Croydon, the Congress was held in Plymouth in 1876, Stoke in 1875 and Brighton in 1874. 720 people were recorded as attending the closing service in our church. Engravings of the service show the church absolutely packed, but without all the pews. Over 4000 members of the Anglican church attended the Congress for at least one session and over 700 day tickets were issued.

One newspaper quoted, 'The Church Congress has attracted multitudes to its usually quiet streets. Those interested in ecclesiastical art may spend a few hours profitably in the improvised exhibition of church-furniture and decoration now on view at the skating rink.'

The Congress was a huge affair. A public breakfast for the week of the Congress was organised at the Parish Hall, which was situated between St Michael's Church and West Croydon Station and was 10 minutes' walk from the Congress Hall. Breakfast was served between 8am and 9.30am, consisting of tea and coffee, bread and butter, cold meat and eggs. The price was one shilling and sixpence.

The guide books for the Congress cost one shilling and the booklet was put together by Revd Wilkes, curate here at the Parish Church.

Special services were planned throughout the week. On Sunday 7th October at St Michael's, there was a Eucharist at 7am, 8am and 11.15am. This was interspersed by Matins at 10.30am. Evensong was at 7pm. Again, at St Michael's, there was a special service on Monday 8th at 7.30pm which was for men only. As far as I could see there were no special women-only services.

At our church, on Sunday 7th at the 11am Mattins and Holy Communion the preacher was the Bishop of Oxford, at the 3.30pm Choral Litany and Sermon the preacher was the Bishop of Dover and at the 7pm Evensong the preacher was the Bishop of Argyll. I think the choir might have been tired at the end of that Sunday!

Another newspaper wrote, 'Even the commonplace town of Croydon was attractive on the bright October mornings of the Church Congress week and in spite of the ugliness of the Congress Hall.' They didn't mince their words!

This temporary hall, constructed especially for the Congress, was built on land near to East Croydon station called Fairfield. It could accommodate up to 4500 people. The costs ran to over £2500, which was a significant outlay. Built of wood, it was described as 'an elongated octagon-ended structure with a projecting platform at one end.'

The Congress was considered a success in virtually every area. Attendances were high, the debates lively and there was no huge controversy!

The celebratory service here must have been a very special service. The illustration opposite shows how the church looked. It was a celebration that was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for those Croydonians who attended.

---

*Illustration from the 20 October 1877 edition of 'The Graphic'*



# eldon housing

*passionate professional caring*

**Are you, or someone you know, considering Sheltered Housing?**

Eldon Housing Association specialises in the provision of sheltered housing. We welcome enquiries from anyone currently living in the London Borough of Croydon (or with a Croydon connection). Applicants must be over 60 years and in need of sheltered housing (younger applicants who are registered disabled will be considered)

### **Our Ordinary Sheltered schemes offer:**

- 1-bedroom self-contained flats with the benefit of alarm pull chords in all rooms
- regular visits from our Welfare & Support Officer
- a Premises Officer on site Monday-Friday
- social spaces for activities (lounge and garden)
- laundry facilities



### **Our Extra Care schemes offer:**

- 1-bedroom or studio self contained flats with the benefit of alarm pull chords in all rooms
- dedicated on-site staff team including House Manager
- freshly cooked midday meals 7 days a week
- on-site Carers 24 hours a day
- domestic and laundry services
- social spaces for activities (lounge and garden)

If you would like make an enquiry please contact us on **020 8655 6724**, **[sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk](mailto:sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk)**.

Information is also available from our website – **[www.eldonhousing.org](http://www.eldonhousing.org)**

# Celebration and Fellowship

*John S. Langridge*

---

Celebrations with friends and family are to me both unique and special occasions, and to share food, drink, laughter and good conversation with others is the opportunity to share joy and companionship with one's fellow man. Over many years I have entertained family and friends in my home and in their homes, I have enjoyed so many such occasions. Added to which, in restaurants and pubs much enjoyment has been shared, as we have enjoyed so much happiness together.

It inevitably puts me in mind of the times Christ our Lord spent on earth with His disciples and the sharing of hospitality with others He took part in. This reminds me of the importance that the sitting down and sharing of food and drink with friends and family is what Christ Himself did, as He shared His complete self, with the meaning of togetherness, as part of God's Holy Kingdom, here on earth – celebrations with others!

From my earliest days as a young child, I can remember people coming to our home, as my parents opened up in warmth and hospitality to others. This became a part of my life, and I have continued in that self-same vein, in the continuance of such hospitality, to share in celebrations.

In fact, over birthdays, anniversaries, at Christmas, Easter and in general, with family and friends, there have always been many celebrations in my home, with fun and laughter, good food and excellent conversation. I have made it a particular intention to also invite others to my home to celebrate over food and wine at Christmas time and Easter, if I know they are on their own. As mine is a Christian home, I always begin each meal with The Grace, in thanksgiving to God for the joy of companionship with others in celebration. Even those of other faiths,

or no faith at all, know that the meal cannot start until I have said The Grace. This is a humble thanksgiving to God for the joy and privilege of celebration!

One lady from America, who was last year visiting her elderly father in Croydon and staying nearby, I looked after for three months, as she regularly came to my home for food and hospitality. They were celebrations of joy in a very difficult time for her with her father's failing health, and I made it my duty and my joy to look after her. The first time she came into my home, she said, "This home has been a place of love, joy, happiness and celebrations over the years!"

I asked her, "How do you know this – you have never been here before?"

She replied, "The atmosphere of love and celebratory joy is within your home."

What a lovely thing to be told! And, yes, she was spot on the money too!

This is a Christian evangelical lady who has preached the Gospel to hundreds of thousands of people live all over the world, and on one such occasion she preached to 350,000 people live in Uganda. What an honour for me to be thanked for my sharing of celebrations with her in my humble home! I just saw the power of celebrations to reach right out there – far and wide.

That lady also came with me one Sunday last year when I happened to be the intercessor, and so much loved the Minster. After she returned to America, I received from her the most wonderful card thanking me for my hospitality, friendship and the many evenings and days out we had shared together in celebrations. It was one of the most touching pieces of prose I have ever received, which I will keep forever. It will always remind me of the importance of taking every opportunity to share in the value of celebrations with others.

In conclusion, let us open our hearts and homes to celebrate, as Christ did, our lives in thanksgiving in joy and celebrations with others. Let us sit down together, as Christ Himself did, and celebrate our unique faith, as we take part in celebrations with our families and friends.

# Orthodoxy, heresy and John Milton

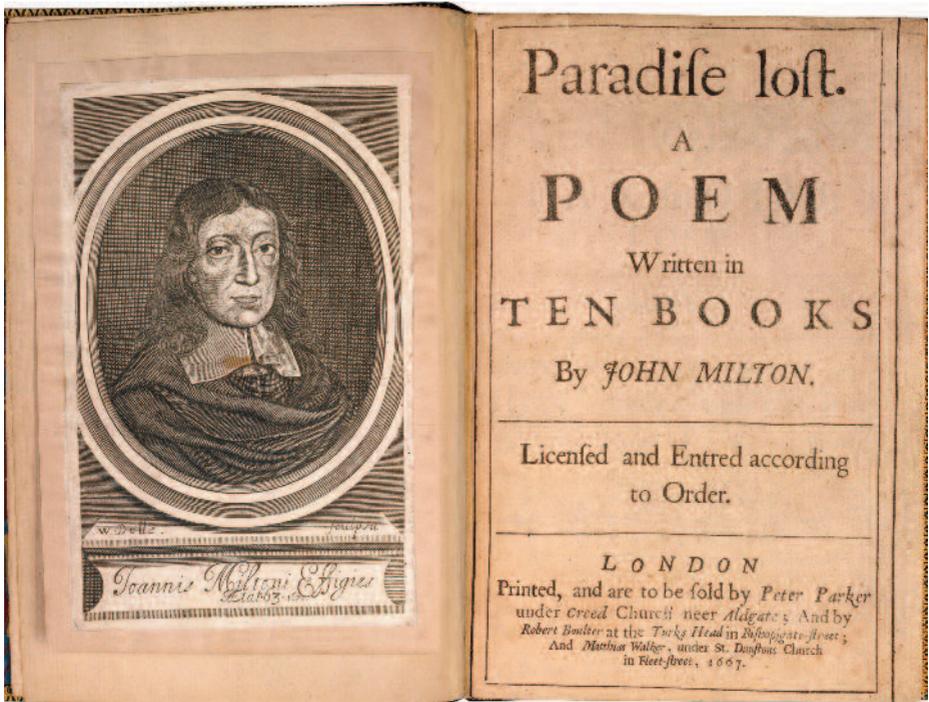
*Jon Blanchard*

---

In the 1660s John Milton's life was in ruins. Among the leading scholars, poets and political thinkers of his day he believed that the monarchy and bishops were major obstacles to human freedom and religious belief. In 1660 he had seen King Charles II and the bishops restored and he had narrowly escaped punishment for his support of the previous regime. He had also gone blind leaving him to rely on his daughters for reading and writing.

So he got on and dictated the long Christian epic poem he had always meant to write. This was *Paradise Lost* and for a long time it was often regarded as the greatest work of English literature after Shakespeare. Its reputation does not stand so high now. Milton's language has been criticised as being high flown, elaborate and owing more to Latin than spoken English. This is a matter of taste and I have come to appreciate it at its best, as in the opening prayer to the Holy Spirit which concludes:

And chiefly Thou, O Spirit, that dost prefer  
Before all Temples th' upright heart and pure,  
Instruct me, for Thou know'st; Thou from the first  
Wast present, and with mighty wings outspread  
Dove-like satst brooding on the vast Abyss  
And mad'st it pregnant: What in me is dark  
Illumine, what is low raise and support;  
That to the highth of this great Argument  
I may assert th'Eternal Providence,  
And justifie the wayes of God to men.



*Title page for the first edition, 1667*

“What in me is dark illumine” refers movingly to Milton’s blindness. After the lengthy language of the passage the last one-syllable words, “the ways of God to men”, come down as the triumphant conclusion, thump, thump, thump. But though it is effective as poetry, unfortunately the poem fails to provide the Christian justification of God’s ways, which is in the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ.

Milton models his poem on the classic epics of Homer and Virgil, with heroic figures and actions. This has the effect that for many readers the most interesting character in the poem is not God or Adam or Eve but Satan. It is often the case in many works that the baddies are more interesting than the goodies and Satan is a magnificent, tragic figure, “confounded but immortal”, claiming, “Better to

reign in Hell, than serve in Heav'n". He is however malicious and evil, which romantic readers have often overlooked. Of the goodies Adam is at his most sympathetic when he agrees to eat the forbidden fruit out of love for Eve. Unfortunately the goodie who does not come over as sympathetic is God.

God the Father is presented as just another character in the story, talking, acting and thinking like anybody else. There are plenty of examples in the Bible where God is compared to a human being – notably Jesus' description of God as Father. This language is not literal. God is more than any human being. Christian orthodoxy has recognised this in talking of God as Trinity.

But in portraying God as just another individual Milton goes seriously wrong. Not only is God the Father an individual character in the poem but so is God the Son, with no mention of the Holy Spirit as another character. Neither is there a sense that the Father and Son are one. After Adam and Eve fall, God the Son offers himself to die to redeem them and God the Father is very pleased that he does so, as though the Father and the Son were separate individuals.

Here Milton comes dangerously close to the teaching of Arius. Arius was a popular Egyptian preacher in the early 300s. He certainly believed Christ was divine, but that he was a lesser part of God than God the Father. After all, he argued, a son is bound to come into existence after his father. This was the belief that was condemned at the Council of Nicea in 325. God the Son is fully equal to God the Father. The relationship is not the same as that between a biological father and son. There can never have been a time when the Son was not – he is eternally begotten.

Arius is often called the first heretic. This is a word that has a bad press nowadays in many quarters – questioning received opinion is seen as brave and liberating and the opposite of heresy – orthodoxy – is seen as stuffy and

conventional. But in this case Arius' heresy came first and was only recognised as such later. The orthodoxy of the creed was only defined in opposition to Arius' ideas which were seen as inadequate to the depth of the Christian faith. Arius was suggesting a simple and straightforward understanding of the relationship of Jesus to God – orthodox Christianity sees it as much richer and complex.

Incidentally the word 'orthodoxy' originally is very far from meaning 'conventional' – it comes from two Greek words meaning 'giving God the right glory'. To speak of justifying the ways of God to men almost sounds as if God is the client of a solicitor or accountant trying to get him off the hook. Rather than such an approach, we can give God due glory as the unimaginable source of being, of love, of justice, value and meaning in life revealed in the self giving of Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

---

Some of my previous articles for the magazine can be found on my blog 'View from the Pew' at <https://anglicanchurchlife.wordpress.com/blog/>

## **The Church Times**

Price **£3.10** (of which £1.55 goes to the church)

Monthly/Annual subscriptions available

*Contact Denise for further details*



# Caring for Croydon

## Full nursing care

Outstanding and accredited end of life care

## Residential care

Trained nursing professionals to assist with daily care and fun activities

## Respite care

For whenever you or your carer need a break

## Independent living

Self-contained apartments with on-call alarms and daily support

Book a personalised tour  
020 8256 1596  
enquiries@whitgiftcare.co.uk  
whitgiftcare.co.uk

Whitgift  
Care

Part of the  
john  
whitgift  
foundation

## Minster Records

### R.I.P.

Ewa Balon, Hazel Jacques, Pat McCarthy  
Fatouma Masikini, Karen Green, (Emmerson) David Dawson  
Patricia Scott, Efflyn Cynthia Sinclair

**Congratulations** to Ann and Dave Young  
on celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary

## SAFEGUARDING

Croydon Minster's Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is

**Denise Mead**

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

07957 149005 (mobile) in emergencies

office@croydonminster.org      mad\_mead@tiscali.co.uk

St George's Safeguarding Officers are

**Anne Tanner** 020 8686 3760 / 07715 581046

**Christine Crawley** 020 8688 0609 / 07770 613948



# Rowland Brothers

Independent Funeral Directors

*Funeral Services Managed by the Rowland Family since 1873*

## A proud tradition of care, understanding and trust



Rowland Brothers is a family business serving the needs of bereaved families since 1873. During this time we have earned an enviable reputation for excelling in the traditions of quality, service and reliability.

Our range of products and services are designed to provide you with a funeral that lets you remember your loved one with dignity and respect.

- Burials & Cremations
- Chapels of Rest for all Religions
- Specialists in Worldwide Repatriation
- All Memorial & Stone Work
- Grave Maintenance Plans
- After Care Services & Home Visits
- 24 Hours, 365 Days Service
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans
- Exhumations
- Easy payment plans available

Established in 1873

Email: [info@rowlandbrothers.com](mailto:info@rowlandbrothers.com)

[www.rowlandbrothers.com](http://www.rowlandbrothers.com)



299 - 305 Whitehorse Rd,  
Croydon CR0 2HR  
020 8684 1667

44 High Street,  
Purley CR8 2AA  
020 8660 5547

9 The Parade,  
Old Coulsdon CR5 1EH  
01737 555 202

434 Limsfield Rd,  
Waringham CR6 9LG  
01883 623 067

372 Central Parade,  
New Addington CR0 0JD  
01689 842 046

# **J.B. Shakespeare**

Limited

FAMILY FIRM OF

## **Funeral Directors**

Established 1877

Immediate Personal Service

**Head Office:**

1 Norfolk House

Wellesley Road, Croydon CR0 1LH

Telephone - 020 8688 1447 & 020 8688 2003

Fax - 020 8688 5330

**Chapel and Monumental Works:**

21/27 Sheldon Street, Croydon

Contact us for Pre-Arranged

Funeral Expenses Plans

National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD)

# Contacts

## **CROYDON MINSTER (St John the Baptist)**

Church Street, Croydon CR0 1RN 020 8688 8104

Email: [office@croydonminster.org](mailto:office@croydonminster.org) Website: [www.croydonminster.org](http://www.croydonminster.org)

## **ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

Barrow Road, Waddon CR0 4EZ

<b>Priest-in-Charge</b>	Revd Canon Dr Andrew Bishop	020 8688 8104
<b>Priest, St George's</b>	Revd David Adamson-Hill	020 8688 8104
<b>Honorary Assistant Priest</b>	Canon John Ackland	<i>on sabbatical</i>
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Revd Alan Bayes	07792 846452
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Revd Folake Makanjuola	020 8688 8104
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Elaine Cooper	020 8686 7315
<b>Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary</b>	Diana Hemmings	020 8688 8104
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Arlene Esdaile	020 8657 5187
	Pamela Hall	020 8688 8104
<b>St George's Wardens</b>	Mark Mason	07894 793243
	Carol Milgate	07984 112804
<b>Director of Music</b>	Justin Miller	020 8688 8104
<b>Verger and Parish Administrator</b>	Denise Mead	020 8688 8104
<b>Vicar's PA</b>	Angela Bond	020 8688 8104
<b>Master of the Ringers</b>	Shirley McGill	020 8406 3083
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Lynne Kerwood	020 8688 8104
	<a href="mailto:pcc.secretary@croydonminster.org">pcc.secretary@croydonminster.org</a>	
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Deborah Miller	020 8688 8104
	<a href="mailto:treasurer@croydonminster.org">treasurer@croydonminster.org</a>	
<b>St George's accounts</b>	Carol Milgate	07984 112804



Croydon  
**Minster**

Croydon Minster, Church Street, Croydon CR0 1RN

[www.croydonminster.org](http://www.croydonminster.org)

Printed by Solopress