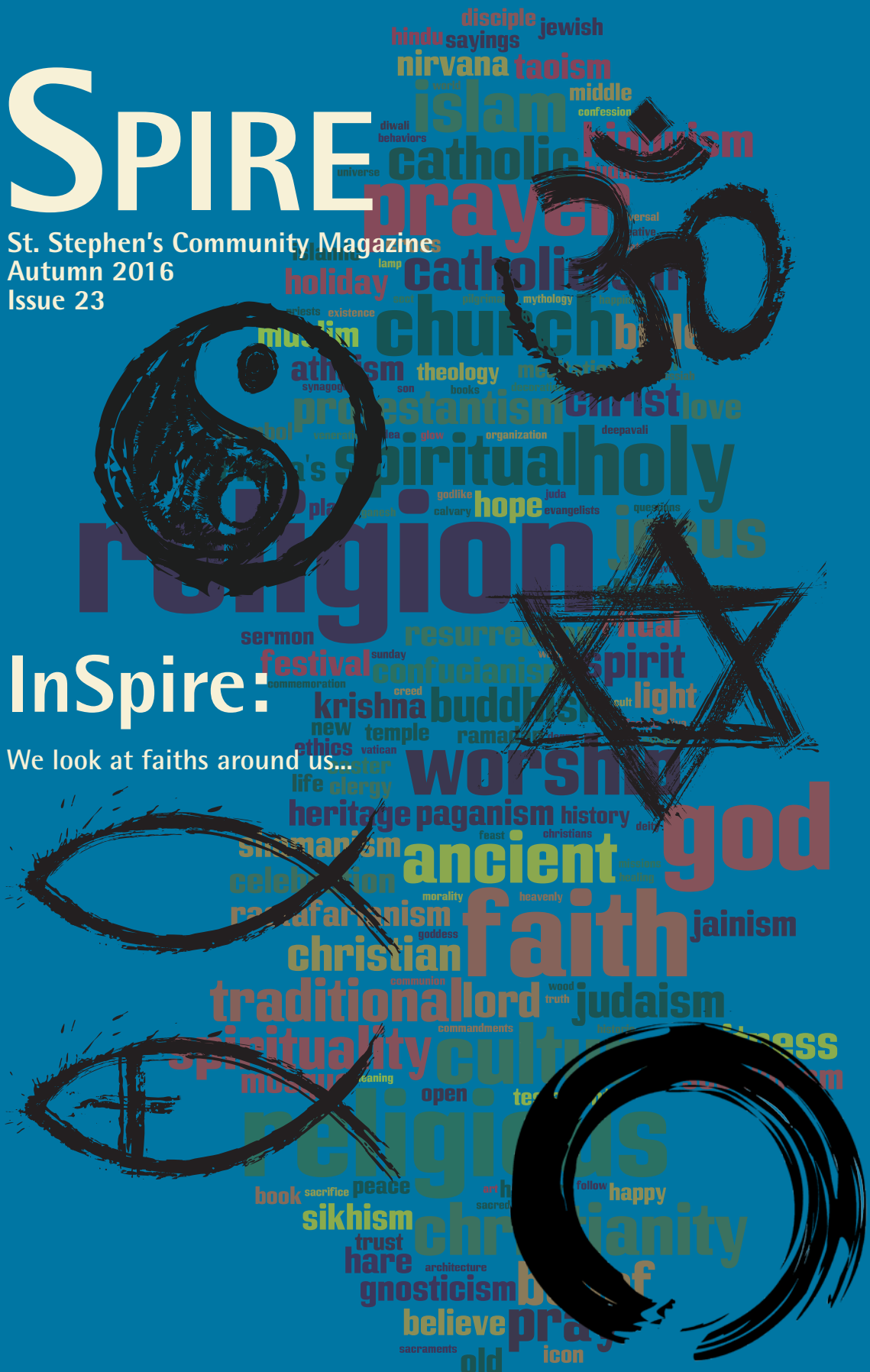
# SPIRE

St. Stephen's Community Magazine
Autumn 2016
Issue 23




## InSpire:

We look at faiths around us...

# MAGGIE'S

*The Ultimate in home cleaning*

*01293 528879 (Answerphone)*

Regular monthly, bi-weekly or weekly service to coincide with your requirements.

We also offer a spring cleaning service, a reliable window cleaning service including frames, sills and conservatories

*Maggie's* professionally trained team of ladies are here to dust your blues away. We are in your area now. We supply all our own materials and equipment.

Contact us:
07860 367857 or
david_phillips18@sky.com

Cleaning in Dulwich for 25 years

## Roger Pope and Partners



Independent Opticians



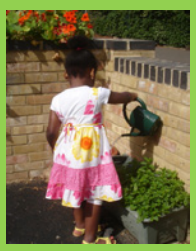
**Never Just Ordinary**



29 Dulwich Village
London
SE21 7BN
020 8299 0230
dulwich@rogerpope.co.uk
www.rogerpope.co.uk/dulwich

# DULWICH MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL

M•E•A•B ACCREDITED MONTESSORI









- Well established term time Nursery School (Holiday Club available!)
- Open 8.30am-3pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-1pm on Fridays
- Open for children aged 2 to 5 years
- Montessori learning environment and qualified staff
- Forest School
- High staff : pupil ratio
- New refurbished outdoor play area

**St Stephen's Church Hall, College Road, London, SE21 7HW**

**Tel.: 020 8766 0091, 07795 322688**

**www.dulwichmontessori.co.uk Email: office@dulwichmontessori.co.uk**

# WELCOME

**Angela Emmott**
**Editor**



The musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" has been running this summer at Regents Park outdoor theatre. This very modern, rock interpretation of the person and death of Jesus Christ has seen packed audiences with rapt attention and loud applause. Would everyone, I wonder, know the story already? Would they have gone just to see a Biblical story retold, for the haunting music, or with a sense of curiosity? Could it be the chance to listen and learn, whist seeing an iconic piece of theatre first performed in the U.S. in 1971?

In this edition of Spire, we show our interest in how others honour and practise their faiths. We offer a small insight into other beliefs and traditions in the locality around us.

From the vicar's desk we have an insight into one example of a country, Lebanon, accommodating Christian and Muslim feast days and festivals side by side. Back at home we, meet Maria, who teaches at the Dulwich Montessori School, held at St Stephen's. She shares her experience of living a Muslim life with Christian friends and colleagues.

Christine introduces us to her neighbour following the code of Amma, an Indian living Saint and humanitarian, whose life is dedicated to serving others. Amma has inspired Dr Aru, here in Dulwich, in a life of service. Stephen Weil shares his families' complex story, finally bringing him to Dulwich where he devotes much time to the Council of Christians and Jews, working with Bernhard our Vicar, and others to promote mutual understanding of faith and culture.

David has given his time voluntarily this summer to support the Diocese of Europe...read on to find out where! We learn of the Lutheran tradition upheld in nearby Sydenham by the strong German speaking community.

Revd Mae Mouk spent time at St Stephen's this summer on a training exchange with our Curate Revd Dr Rebecca Lloyd. Mae tells us of Vinod, who had been teaching 'Mindfulness' at our church this year. He also leads a life of dedication to serving those more needy. Lastly we invite you to share a little about the local Greek Orthodox Community, whose Church I often pass by, but knew nothing about until now!

So we wish you a happy and healthy, 'Harvest Time' and hope you will drop in to learn more about us, and the community at St Stephen's.



Revd Mae Mouk following her ordination here at St Stephen's last summer

## Choir

Our choir rehearses regularly (children, Friday evenings during term time and the adults on Friday evenings monthly & every Sunday before the service). If you are interested please speak to our Director of Music for further information.

## Baptisms & Wedding bookings

Please come to the church office (via the church) on Saturdays between 10.30am and 11.30am.

Keep up to date with our events! Go to
https://www.facebook.com/ststephenssouthdulwich

*Looking for a venue for your party or group?*

*St Stephen's Millennium Hall: available to hire from £40/hr.*
*To book please visit http://www.ststephensdulwich.org/millennium-hall/ or email hallbookings@ststephensdulwich.org*



**St Stephen's Church**
College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7HW
Tel: (020) 8766 7281
Office open on Saturday 10.30-11.30
**Vicar** - Revd Canon Bernhard Schünemann
vicar@ststephensdulwich.org
**Curate** - Revd Dr Rebecca Lloyd
curate@ststephensdulwich.org
**Reader** - Mrs Trot Lavelle
t.lavelle181@btinternet.com
**Director of music –** Rupert Perkins
dom@ststephensdulwich.org
**Churchwardens**
Sandra Potter & Patrick Robathan
churchwarden1@ststephensdulwich.org
**Parish administrator** - Sarah Bucknall
parishoffice@ststephensdulwich.org

*The team:*
Angela Emmott, Bernhard Schünemann, Mae Mouk, Christine & John Murrell, Linda Inniss, Caroline Sawle & Sarah Bucknall.

# Many different faiths, but one purpose

**by Revd Canon Bernhard Schünemann**



It is difficult to hear any good news from the Middle East these days; it is drowned out by the verily apocalyptic and seemingly never-ending civil wars raging in Syria and Iraq, threatening to spill over to countries hitherto regarded as stable and on the way to democracy like Turkey and other neighbours. But there is hope of recovery even from such desperate times.

Lebanon was for many years ravaged by sectarian civil war, it is now relatively stable and flourishing again. In the recently adopted constitution of the newly emerging Lebanon, 19 religious bank holidays, the most of any country in the world, were incorporated. Thus Lebanon accommodates not just holy days of Islam and Christianity but also two differing dates for Easter and two for Eid, because of long-standing differences between two streams of each of these faiths.

The most encouraging of these spiritual holidays is 15 August, the Christian feast of the Dormition of the mother of God which is celebrated in the Western calendar as the feast of the Assumption of our Lady. Muslim and Christian theologians have discovered a great common devotion to Mary the mother of Jesus; in the Quran a whole chapter is devoted to her, here named "Seidatna Maryam" in Arabic. The Christian Marinate Archbishop and leading Muslim leaders celebrate this day together either at the Christian Shrine to our Lady, the famous Harissa, or at one of the significant mosques in the country. There are examples of this kind of deep sharing and friendship also in other countries such as for example in Northern Ghana, which has a 50-50 Muslim-Christian split in its population. In London inter-faith relations are also really rather good and for me personally it is a privilege to be able to chair the local Council for Christians and Jews (CCJ), which is one the oldest inter-faith bodies modelling respect, sharing and friendship between these two faiths. I can only say that my own Christian faith has become deepened and more colourful through the many conversations I have shared with Rabbis and Jewish thinkers over the years, despite the misuse that is sometimes made of the holy texts of all of our major faith traditions, what all of these faiths have in common, is a deep desire for peace: the Hebrew word for peace, 'shalom' shares a root with the Semitic/Arabic word 'Islam'. It is therefore imperative for all our faith traditions that have learned to live together peacefully in this city, and indeed in this parish area of South Dulwich, to model this for the wider world.



It's a serious but not impossible challenge, as Emily Dickenson wrote:

*I MANY times thought peace had come,*
*When peace was far away;*
*As wrecked men deem they sight the land*
*At centre of the sea,*
*And struggle slacker, but to prove*
*As hopelessly as I,*
*How many the fictitious shores*
*Before the harbor lie.*

# Maria's story

**by Revd Mae Mouk**




As we grow up, we all experience the reality of memory. From birth until our last breath, life ticks by; a series of moments, conversations, pictures, sounds, and people. We rarely recall the news from when we were toddlers, and likewise the children at Dulwich Montessori Nursery School are unlikely to remember the great burkini scandal of the summer of 2016. But, I suspect many of them will hold firmly in their mind a picture of their deputy teacher, Maria Asghar.

Maria is the sort of person who smiles not just with her lips, but with a sort of force of character that seems to start at her toes and end about a metre over her head. This infectious joy seems to be very related to her experience as a Muslim woman living in Dulwich. In a time when it is unfortunately not always straightforward or welcomed for a woman to wear a head scarf and publically observe her faith, Maria stands out as an advertisement for what good, basic neighbourliness and kindness can manifest.

After receiving her Montessori Diploma and Masters Degree in her home country of Pakistan, Maria moved to the United Kingdom in search of new opportunities in 2013. Despite her considerable education and training, she was still nervous about speaking English and felt like a newborn baby in this different environment. Within ten days of moving to the UK she gained a job at Dulwich Montessori, a credit to her own skill and determination. She and her husband moved to share a home owned by a Christian family; the two families have co-existed there ever since. They care deeply for each other and not only respect, but support the development of each other's faith and lives. Each year, Maria and her husband join them for Christmas dinner!

When she became pregnant and gave birth to her son, her parents could not come from Pakistan. Maria was deeply moved to find that so many colleagues and neighbours wanted to help her providing, kindness and support, even watching her son for her when she needs to pray.

Maria speaks of the family she lives with and her colleagues in a way that most people speak of their actual relatives, because she has deep affection and care for them, as they do for her and her husband. She is overcome by a sense of gratitude for the kindness she has received, which has strongly shaped her outlook on the United Kingdom. She feels "loved as a human being", supported and respected, commenting, "All religions are compatible if it comes from gratefulness and goodness – because it comes from love."

Despite working in a predominantly Christian environment, she has a strong sense of being one with her colleagues; not feeling different, but instead being honoured and cared for. Her family in Pakistan are also supportive and encourage her in her job, so much so that when she was pregnant and considered stopping work, her parents urged her to stay at the school because they saw how happy she is there.

During our interview, Maria repeatedly commented on how happy she is where she lives and works and how grateful she is to the people she has met here in the UK. Given the chance, she would make the decision to move and work here, all over again!

*Revd Mae Mouk, Curate, St Christopher's Church & Pembroke House 80 Tatum Street, London SE17 1QR (on exchange to St Stephen's summer 2016)*



# HARVEY & WHEELER

ESTABLISHED LONDON 1855




**Harvey & Wheeler are a long established professional independent Estate Agent concentrating on the upper end of the market for both sales and rentals in Dulwich and the surrounding areas.**

We have sold some of the largest and most valuable houses to have come to the market here in the last thirty five years. Originally established in Belgravia in 1855 we also specialise in the sale of period property in South East London.

**Come and visit us**
**Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm**
**Saturday 9.30am - 4pm**
**Or contact mail@harveywheeler.com**

27 Dulwich Village • London • SE21 7BN • 020 8693 4321 • www.harveywheeler.com

# NICHOLAS & CO.

## SOLICITORS

Nicholas & Co is proud to support the Spire Community Magazine. Based in the West End of London, we have been providing the best possible service to our clients efficiently, effectively and professionally since 1969. Our expertise covers a wide range of legal areas including property (commercial and residential), dispute resolution, employment, company law, family & matrimonial, Wills, Probate & Trusts. We are highly experienced in the acquisition of sites for development, the sale of developed sites, and matters relating to leases. We assist both commercial and private clients seeking a swift resolution to disputes whether involving land, contracts, construction, or negligence.

Home visits in Dulwich are available, and we can also provide Greek speaking solicitors upon request.

For more information contact:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Property matters: | Nick | – | nick.nicholas@nicholassolicitors.com |
| Dispute resolution: | Philip | – | philip.philippou@nicholassolicitors.com |
| Family and matrimonial: | Liz | – | liz.tillyer@nicholassolicitors.com |
| Wills and Probate: | Rodney | – | rodney.emmott@nicholassolicitors.com |

**Alternatively call us on 020 7323 4450 or visit our website: www.nicholassolicitors.com**
Nicholas & Co Solicitors Ltd, 18-22 Wigmore Street London W1U 2RG
Registered in England and Wales No. 09835541
Authorised and Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority No. 626022

# The Church of England?

**by Revd David Emmott**



The Italian Riviera! Perhaps it calls to mind elegant ladies sipping cocktails in the warm evening sun; James Bond zipping along the corniche in his Alfa Romeo; five-star hotels surrounded by palm trees.

Many years ago this scene from an Art Deco travel poster bore some resemblance to the truth. The coast of Liguria, that narrow sweep of Italy between the French border and Tuscany, attracted the wealthy from all over Europe, but especially Britain. Many of them bought villas in resorts like Bordighera or Alassio. The more devout or respectable among them would flock to the English Church for Morning Prayer every Sunday. But no longer.

Genoa (Genova) is quite different from the rest of the region. It is a large port city, which extends along the coast for 30 kilometres, crammed into a narrow strip between the sea and the mountains. Docks and industrial buildings dominate to the west; more affluent suburbs to the east. The city centre is a rabbit warren of narrow alleys lined with crumbling stone dwellings, interrupted here and there by a magnificent palace or a tiny church full of baroque splendour.

The Church of the Holy Ghost is now the only Anglican church in Liguria. Founded in 1871 by expatriate merchants and shipping magnates, it was designed by English architect George Edmund Street, to resemble a typical mediaeval church of the region. Recently it has struggled as the tiny congregation, no longer wealthy, has been faced with building repairs and paying a priest. So nowadays, instead of employing a full-time, paid chaplain, the pastoral and liturgical care is supplied by a succession of volunteer clergy who fill slots of a month at a time.

I have just done duty there for most of July, and in several years before. Dreams of lazy afternoons on a palm-fringed patio, sipping prosecco and dozing off while pretending to read a novel, are soon dispelled. There is a lot to do even if in theory the only requirement is to celebrate the Eucharist and preach on Sunday and take one midweek service.

There are many migrants and asylum seekers from Africa, especially Nigeria. Mostly young, male and vulnerable, often they have endured traumatic journeys to reach Italy. It is very frustrating as a temporary chaplain trying to help them, because we're not familiar with their legal status and entitlements in Italy, and because we only stay a few weeks there is no continuity of pastoral care. Two of them are hoping to be baptised shortly.

Occasionally there are weddings. A couple from London, with Genoese connections, were married there the other week; it was good to welcome them and to provide a bilingual order of service so that all felt at home. Concerts (mostly to raise funds) and very British jumble sales are regular occurrences and sadly funerals too.

It is however a great opportunity to see Italy as a quasi-insider rather than as a tourist, to explore a great city and practise speaking Italian. The Diocese in Europe (fully part of the Church of England even though outside the UK) is a very exciting place to work just because it is no longer primarily a ministry to rich expatriates. Though further challenges loom, not least of course the consequences of Brexit.

Please pray for the Anglicans of Genoa and throughout Europe.

*David Emmott is a retired priest whose last full-time job was on the staff of Liverpool Parish Church, Our Lady and St Nicholas. He keeps busy helping out in parishes between the Mersey and the Mediterranean, and helping with the diocesan spirituality network.*



# An interview with Aru in Dulwich

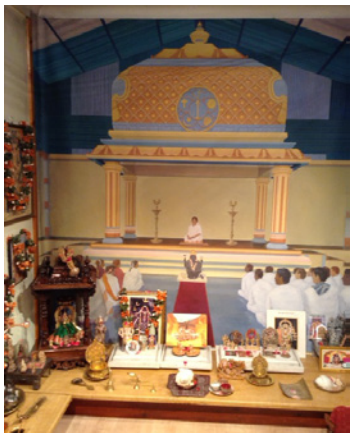
**by Christine Murrell**

Several years ago I came home one summer's day to find rose petals strewn down my next door neighbour's front path and at least 20 pairs of sandals lined neatly beside the pathway. Of course, I was intrigued. Later I noticed several yellow clad figures like monks standing silently on the pavement waiting for transport to take them to see "Amma" who was on her annual visit to the UK.

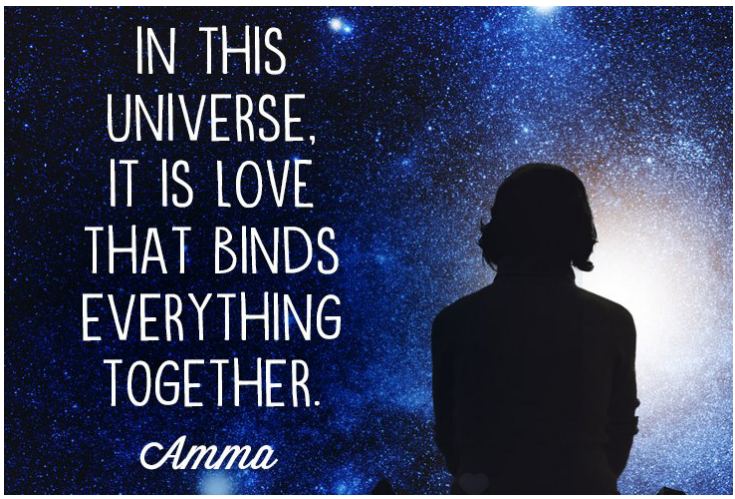



My neighbour, Aru, originally came from Sri Lanka many years ago, now a retired GP, is a follower of Amma, an Indian saint and humanitarian, known across the globe for her compassion and spiritual wisdom. She has dedicated her entire life for the benefit of other people. Through her blessing, countless hearts have been opened to a world of peace, love and service. Inspired by her, people in the UK have been coming together to provide food and help for the homeless, and to study meditation and other spiritual practices. Young and old, rich and poor, people of all faiths, nations and walks of life are taking inspiration and solace from the peace and love awoken in their hearts by Amma.

Here in the UK, there are many opportunities to get involved in activities and spiritual practices inspired by Amma. There are regular bhaijans (devotional singing), sessions which involve spiritual teaching and meditation. Amma says that the purpose



of her ashrams or centres is to provide a place where people can devote all their time and energy to the remembrance of God, doing selfless service and developing qualities such as love, patience and respect for others. Amma's first spiritual centre was established in Amritapuri, Kerala in 1981 and today her groups have spread across 33 countries worldwide. She will be visiting London on 10th and 11th October this year at Alexander Palace.




Aru first attended an event at a temple in Archway in 1990 and was immediately moved by the peace which seemed to radiate from her. Now Amma has led Aru to put his trust in God and he believes that God will help him in whatever he is doing for the good of others. He goes every day to a centre in Tooting to help mainly Tamil refugees by giving them advice and helping with their problems. His faith has helped him to work in the community here in London as well as travelling each year back to Jaffna in Sri Lanka, where he was born, to help the poor by providing a school, medical care and clothing. Aru has said that the strongest influence in his life is the tolerance, acceptance and patience that following Amma has given him. He knows that he must use whatever skills he has been blessed with to help others. Every day he and Sathy, his wife, arise at 5.30am to pray. Followers of Amma come from all religions and his beautiful prayer room reflects this in the symbols that are displayed.

In the end, Amma says, love is the only medicine that can heal the wounds of the world. In this universe, it is love that binds everything together.

# and the Council of Christians and Jews

**by Revd Mae Mouk**



Stephen Weil's life in many ways shares a path with the history of Judaism over the last century. Both have been marked by a need to survive in new places and the challenge of renewal. Is this why Stephen found himself deeply involved with the work of the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) in South East London? CCJ provides a space for people from these two faiths to learn from one another, celebrate their shared history and difference and to be changed through working together.

Perhaps for Stephen meeting with groups of people who come from different perspectives emanates more naturally than for some. His parents fled Germany right before the war; aided by the kindness of a Quaker. Stephen's father then attended a Quaker school in Waterford, so one might say that interfaith discussion is in Stephen's genes. His parents settled in Northern Ireland, where they taught at a Methodist College, which he and his brother attended. Most of the Jewish community in Belfast and Northern Ireland came from Eastern Europe and was Yiddish speaking. However the Weil family with their Western European roots, found themselves as minorities in a minority group in a province that was itself somewhat separate from the United Kingdom.

Stephen's life required adapting to his surroundings: listening, learning from, and living alongside people, different from himself and his family. Northern Ireland felt to him like any other part of the United Kingdom until the summer of 1968 when political riots in Paris spread to the student population of Belfast. Stephen's grandmother, who had lived through the terror of Nazism was frightened and depressed by the rioting, reminding her too much of the past. During this time, Stephen drew the conclusion that things can change drastically overnight and potentially be very alarming. This realisation did not immediately impact his religious views, but heralded a distrust of political violence and a desire to build something different for himself and the world around him.

In 1970, Stephen moved to Jesus College Cambridge at, first studying classics, then history. He was confronted with another diverse environment and thrived on what he refers to as a "melting pot of ideas." After Cambridge he went to work for the European Commission in Brussels, again encountering an intellectual climate different from the last. The philosophical commitment to Europe was much stronger than in the UK, and perhaps this, due to an increasingly international society and economy, influenced his future business endeavours. After a decade of working in banking in London and New York, Stephen sought to set up his own business, focussed on partnering and working together.

Partnership as a religious approach came later in life. Now, however, mutuality and partnership are very much a part of the language he uses to describe his faith and its outworking.

He began his work with the CCJ about 15 years ago, constantly pressing on, searching for meaning, focussing both on what is shared, such as the language of the psalms, but not shying away from discussing what is different. Admirably, while Stephen is a careful and kind person, he is also unafraid to share his opinion and encourages intellectually rigorous debate and discussion in the CCJ. He hopes that the South East London CCJ becomes widely known and appreciated as a meeting point for discussion and education about religious views. In a time when religion is often used as an excuse for division and intolerance, his commitment and leadership in the area of interfaith partnership brings hope to our local community and beyond.

If you would like to learn more please go to www.ccj.org.uk






# The Secret Garden has a houseplant for your home

We have plants for every room. Large or small, soft or spiky, flowering or foliage, even air purifying, lots to enjoy.

The Secret Garden is a beautiful and very individual garden centre in Crystal Palace which becomes a firm favourite with all who find it.

Come and see all the treasures that this garden centre has to offer including herbs, perennials, shrubs, trees and seeds, plus of course, houseplants.

- Knowledgeable and friendly staff
- Wild bird food • Calor gas
- Delivery service
- Open seven days a week • Free parking next to Sainsbury's

***It's not a home without a houseplant.***

the secret garden

## The Secret Garden

***Your local independent garden centre***




**The Secret Garden, Coxwell Road, Westow Street, Upper Norwood SE19 3AF**
**Tel: 020 8771 8200 www.thesecretgardencentre.co.uk**






# The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Church

**by Revd Canon Bernhard Schünemann**

It is a little known fact that Dacres Road, on the boundary between Sydenham and Forest Hill, is host to a German Lutheran faith community that takes its current name from one of the most significant, certainly most quoted Christian theologian of the twentieth century: the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Church. But this little church isn't only named after Bonhoeffer, he was also its pastor for eighteen months from 1933 to 1935.
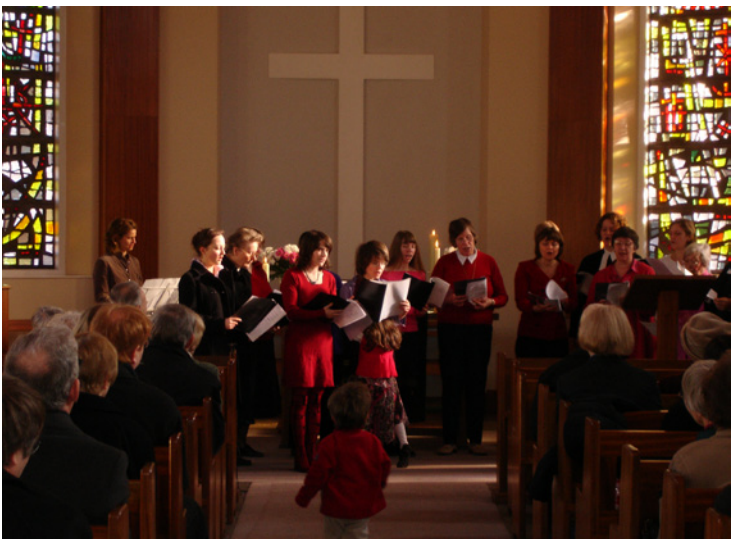
During the second half of the 19th century fashionable Sydenham was the suburb of choice for German business men and their families. For a while even the German ambassador and other embassy staff lived on Sydenham Hill and in Sydenham. In 1883 a German church was built in Dacres Road to cater for the spiritual needs of this community. Photographic records show that it was a large Victorian church, a typical church building of a kind that was built in England and in Germany at that time.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, having been a young theology professor in Berlin, arrived in 1933 to serve as Pastor of this church. During his time he encouraged the congregation to set up refugee support for those forced to flee Germany during those dark years. While abroad in London, Sweden and America, Bonhoeffer gained an outside perspective on the evil developments in the Germany of the 1930s. He also developed a deep friendship with the English Bishop Bell (Bishop of Chichester), who became famous for insisting, during the darkest period of the Second World War, that a distinction needed to be maintained between Germans and Nazis. Against the advice of all his friends, Bonhoeffer went back to Germany after his time in London, started the famous underground 'Confessing Church' and was



murdered by Hitler's regime just before the end of the war. His writings remain to this day deeply authentic and challenging about living a Christian life in impossibly difficult and evil times.

Ironically the German church in Sydenham was bombed and totally destroyed during the war and in 1959 the current new German church was built and named after this remarkable priest. Church-going Germans in London of our own day don't all worship in the German language; churches still operating all over Britain, preferring instead to mix in with the multicultural Methodist, Anglican and other churches that all have a very international 'feel' especially in London. But four German churches remain in London, including the Bonhoeffer Church. Those who attend these churches wish to worship specifically in a German Lutheran way and they wish to keep their German language and culture alive for their families. Language and spirituality tends to be deeply connected, especially as in Lutheranism 'the word' is at the centre of worship: the word from scripture (in Luther's powerful German translation), the word come alive in the long sermon and particularly also the words of hymns, the singing of which is at the heart of Lutheran worship. Germans and their families meeting at the church in Dacres Road also maintain other essentials of German civilised living such as the social consuming of coffee and cakes, celebrating Advent and Christmas with all the traditional German customs and distributing and swapping the much missed German sourdough rye bread and other delicacies.



# VINOD RAVI

## and his mindful approach to service in the community.

**by Revd Mae Mouk**



I meet Vinod Ravi at Elephant and Castle station on a humid Sunday afternoon in late summer and he lead us on a winding route through housing estates, eventually arriving at the Jamyang Buddhist Centre. It is a beautiful building, known as the "Old Courthouse" previously home to a Police court, later a magistrate's court. The notorious 'Kray Twins' appeared here, as well as several members of the IRA. Now, however, the building's purpose is entirely different.

The courtroom is the main temple space and contains a large Buddha statue and shrine. There is a library and café, rooms for meditation and prayer, and the cells have been converted into bedrooms that are used as a B&B. Today the centre is relatively quiet so we make tea as a cat pads around the café. One wonders if this is what Vinod imagined for himself; serving the community through mindfulness in this strange but peaceful oasis in London.



Vinod grew up Hindu in Malaysia, the grandson of immigrants from India. His experience of his home country and family were always multi-faith. He and his brother went to catholic school and both parents had attended missionary schools. His family were devout in their Hindu devotions, but there were a number of interreligious marriages in the extended family, so during his childhood and adolescence, Vinod remembers services at churches, Buddhist temples and Hindu temples. Early on, he was encouraged to see the connections between faiths, which he describes as different names of water: in Hindi, Malay, and English; but fundamentally all still $H_2O$.

Vinod's religious and personal journey is marked by a search for connection: to be attentive and serve. While he grew up in a family who attended temple and prayed very regularly, Vinod did not fully understand these rituals. It was not until he and his brother were about 15 and 16 years old that they began to explore the deeper meaning of their faith, through discussions with a family friend who was a respected elder. She taught them the Sanskrit intonations and the meanings of many of the chants used in the temple, thus he began to see the vastness of God.

Vinod continued to pursue this different approach to his faith; finding connections with other faiths. He increasingly focussed on how inner meaning could produce service and action. At college, he spent time with fellow students who were Christians and their discussions helped him reflect more profoundly on his own faith, so he began attending a local multi faith centre. Here he started to meditate more regularly; using Hindu based Bhajan prayers, searching for different ways of reaching God.

During that time, Vinod was influenced by a teacher who urged that faith must be accompanied by service, stating "the hands that serve are holier than the lips that pray." Previously, Vinod had seen this level of commitment to serving primarily in Christian circles. He saw philosophies and theories that had been produced by sages and teachers of Hinduism translated into action, thus Vinod began working in various international charities after training as a lawyer. Both personally and professionally, he searches for common ground through mindfulness and mediation as well as service to one another particularly working alongside and serving with people of a variety of faiths.

Now, his work at the community centre focuses mostly on carers and young people, attempting to help with stress reduction through mindfulness. For him, service, meditation and seeking connection are how he puts holiness into practice, encouraging the people of South London one moment at the time.



barakat
furnishings

We specialise in:

Traditional & modern reupholstery
Cushions & soft furnishings
Furniture restoration services
Custom made furniture
French polishing
Loose covers
Caning



To arrange a free no-obligation quotation call
020 8127 8274 07809 571301
www.barakatfurnishing.com

# *Out & About Club*

Sunday, 16th October 2016

25th anniversary screening of the West End musical "MISS SAIGON" at the Dulwich Picture House
followed by a light supper at Il Pomodoro Gipsy Road

Coach pick up at St Stephen's and Kingswood Drive

The cinema is fully accessible for wheelchair users and the less mobile; and there is also a 'loop' system for those with hearing difficulties.

Please contact the organiser Linda on 07508 232355

W. UDEN & SONS

FAMILY-OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
SINCE 1881

375 Lordship Lane, London SE22 8JJ
Tel: 020 8693 1526

*At your time of need, allow our family to assist your family.*

Please compare our prices, our service and our vehicles.
Private Chapels of Rest in all our premises.
Pre-paid funerals available.

www.wuden.com

*Branches also at Petts Wood, Sidcup, Eltham, Camberwell, Biggin Hill and Bexleyheath.*

# Alton Motors
London Ltd

We are an independent garage and have been based in West Norwood since 1973. We are a limited company and member of the RMI (Retail Motor industry) Federation and ServiceSure.

We are extremely proud of our local reputation in that we give good quality, good value and a friendly service.

We have the tools to pinpoint the problem!

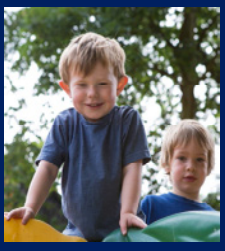
WE'RE NOT QUICK FIT. WE'RE QUALITY FIT

78 Norwood High Street, West Norwood, London SE27 9NW
altonmotors@aol.com 020 8670 4343 / 020 8778 5757
Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 5.30pm
Saturday - 8.30am to 1.00pm



# DULWICH OAKS MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL






- High quality Montessori education for children aged 2 to 5 years (term time or all year school options)
- Excellent outdoor facilities, large well equipped garden
- Funded 2 year old places available
- Open 7.45am-6pm Monday-Friday (Various sessions available)
- Montessori qualified staff
- Holiday Club

**PLACES AVAILABLE NOW!**

**St Margaret Clitherow Church Hall, 22 Dulwich Wood Park, London, SE19 1HL**
**Tel.: 020 8761 6555, 07795 322688**
**Website: www.dulwichoaks.co.uk Email: office@dulwichoaks.co.uk**

# The Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain

**by Angela Emmott**



Do you shop at Crystal Palace? Have you noticed that imposing Church building opposite Sainsbury's car park? Last Easter I saw a stream of people clutching lighted candles spilling out from here on Easter Saturday after midnight. It is the Greek Orthodox Church of Ss Constantine and Helen. I am told they were taking their holy lights out to process down the street and to take them, to continue to shine in their homes. This is done as Easter Saturday turns into Sunday, to celebrate Christ rising from the dead. As many as 1000 people attended this service here in South London and an average Sunday sees 350 people at services. Alongside participants from Greek and Cypriot backgrounds are those from Romania and Russia amongst others, who come to participate in the Greek and bilingual orthodox 'Divine Liturgy'.

The Diocese of Central & Western Europe was established in 1922 entitled The Apostolic Church of Thyateria, though the first orthodox church was founded in London in 1677, in Soho. Thyateria was one of the original Seven Churches in western Asia Minor believed to have received Christ's message. A commercial city the Bible talks of 'Lydia from Thyateria and a dealer in purple cloth…' baptised as a Christian after hearing St Paul preach (Acts 16, 14). Here a Christian movement was established as early as the First Century AD.

There are now 125 Greek Orthodox communities in the United Kingdom, with 7 Cathedral Churches in London alone. Some communities began as Seamen's Missions as in Cardiff and Liverpool and are now established Churches. Interestingly they have independent management, run by Trustees, but overseen by the Diocese. Greek lessons and Greek cultural events are important aspects of their roles, though Greek schools also offer places to local pupils who may not be participants in the faith as the Diocese places especial emphasis on education and youth work. Much fund raising and charity work is undertaken and clergy and laity regularly visit local hospitals and prisons.

Greek weddings have their roots in ancient customs and religious ritual. Maybe you have watched that well known film about a certain 'Big Fat Greek Wedding'? In the Greek orthodox wedding service when the bride arrives at the front of the church and is presented to the groom by her father or his representative, two crowns are placed on their heads called 'stefana' (in Greek), to signify they will rule over their household together.

The bride and groom hold candles to symbolise the Light of Christ. The priest will pour wine into a 'common cup' from which they each take three sips to show that they will share their life together. They are then led by the priest in their first walk; - holding the candles, cup and bible, to emphasise their commitment to stay together and share life's journey. Though these practices differ from a wedding ceremony at St Stephen's both faiths celebrate the joining together of a loving couple in the sight of God "in sickness and in health'.

I acknowledge my thanks to Kypros Nicholas, a trustee of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateria and Great Britain. To Paul Christou a trustee of Ss Constantine & Helen. Also to J & D for sharing the photos of their beautiful wedding.



# Autumn at St Stephen's

## *Sunday 25th September*

10 am — Special Choral service with visiting preacher, The Revd Prof Dr Teresa Morgan, writer, broadcaster and Professor of ancient history at Oxford University and Fellow of Oriel College.

## *Sunday 2nd October*

10am — HARVEST FESTIVAL

This will be an All Age service with our choir, we will be collecting harvest gifts for our local refugee charity. There will also be a Holy Baptism during this service.

## *Sunday 30th October*

10am — ALL SAINTS DAY SERVICE

The twelve cellos of the cello workshop that will be practicing in the church all weekend will be providing some of the music for this service.

## *Sunday 6th November*

6pm — ALL SOUL'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

This choral service offers an opportunity to remember, give thanks and pray for the departed. This service is followed by a blessing of graves in our church garden.

## *Sunday 13th November*

10.15am — REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

This service will include an act of Remembrance around our war memorial with 2 minutes' silence at 11am. Please be in the church in good time as this service is busy.

## *Sunday 27th November*

10am — ADVENT SUNDAY

Choral Advent Sunday service, including the lighting of the first candle of Advent on our Advent wreath.

## *Advent Study Course.*

During the second half of November we will be offering a three session Advent Study Course, please look on our new website for location and timings of this.

---

## Regular Services

*Sundays*

**8am** *Holy Communion (BCP)*
**10am** *Choral Eucharist with Sunday School during term time*
**12noon** *Holy Baptisms*

*Monday to Friday*

**8.30am** *Silent Prayer followed at*
**8.45am** *by Morning Prayer*

*Tuesday*

**9.30** *Mindfulness Meditation*

*Wednesday*

**9.45am** *Holy Eucharist*

## St Margaret Clitherow RC Church

4 Kingswood Drive, SE19 1UR
Fr. Leonard Tatt
Parish Priest (020) 8670 1639
For services please visit the church website:
www.stmargaretclitherowdulwich.org

*Regular Services*

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday Mass | 10.30am |
| Portuguese Mass | 9.00am |
| Wed – Fri Mass | 9.30am |
| Holy Days: Mass | 9.00am & 7.30pm |

## Kingswood Community Baptist Church

Dulwich Wood Federation Primary School,
Bowen Drive, SE21 8NS
Pastor: Mawuli Doe
(info: Sandra Surrey 07986 002389)

*Regular Services*

Sundays 10.30am
Wednesday 7.30-9.00pm Non-denominational Bible Study Ketra Rooms
Saturday Prayer Group 10am-12noon
37 Kingswood Drive, Pastor Mawuli's home

**Photo:** *©Matt Capon*